

48. This same degree of trust exists when countries seek technical assistance from the CFTC. The Fund is relatively small, flexible and able to function with less bureaucracy than most other agencies. This enables it to respond to requests for assistance rapidly, work closely with member governments at the highest levels to define needs more precisely and mobilise the assistance required. It can collaborate easily with other development agencies providing technical assistance and play a catalytic role in mobilising donor support. Its impartiality makes the advice offered by CFTC staff and consultants a valuable source of confidential policy advice to governments.
49. In spite of the effectiveness of the CFTC, it is necessary to recognise that the funds are limited and choices have to be made in the programs that it supports. The delivery of technical assistance will consist of the normal mix of instruments, i.e., consultancy advice - both short and long-term provided by non-staff consultants; in-house consultancy services provided by staff direct to governments on economic and legal issues; training - short and long-term - containing a mixture of formal training, training attachments, seminars, workshops and international consultations; and the dissemination of publications which are most often the result of training programs.
50. Recognising the strengths of the Commonwealth and the CFTC and the areas in which assistance is being provided to promote good governance, it is suggested that the programs be focussed on four priority areas and institutions. These are the core institutions of government, promotion of the role of the private sector including an interface between the public and private sectors, law reform and development, and the promotion of democracy. Each of these priorities is discussed below and the proposed framework is presented in Table 1.

Strengthening Core Institutions

51. Core agencies such as the Ministries of Finance and Planning, Cabinet Offices, Public Service Commissions, Central Banks and Audit Offices are necessary for the functioning of governments. Repercussions are felt throughout the government administration when they do not function at an optimal level. This results in poor coordination and weak policy formulation, implementation and follow up.