

trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) for capacity building. Indeed, the largest number of requests for TRTA has been related to services—not only for negotiations but also for the associated domestic regulatory analysis. It was noted that developing countries are taking an interest in services, sending quite a few experts from capitals to the negotiations, and looking for technical help. For example, Mauritius was cited as an example of a developing country that has indicated interest in exporting services and is looking for technical assistance. The Doha Declaration highlighted TRTA for developing countries, which has made TRTA part of the negotiating agenda. While a large portion of the TRTA budget is committed to services, questions of cost and resources are arising.

However, it is not only the developing countries that are having a tough time getting their services offers together. It was noted that Canada is co-chairing (with India) the Mode 4 working group and promoting transparency of the overall regime affecting services trade whole (including the programs of various government departments and sub-national levels of government). This forces countries to understand their own schemes and also raises awareness of coherence of policies. Canada is finding this formal discipline hard which raises questions about the experience of other countries—especially in the developing world?

One general concern raised about TRTA in the services regulatory area is that the developed countries effectively are in effect selling their own high-overhead regulatory approaches to the developing countries; this, it was suggested, might be counter-productive in the longer run. It is not out of the question that developing countries might develop more cost-effective approaches on their own (Costa Rica was cited as an example of a country which had found innovative ways to address its regulatory reforms).

Insofar as services negotiations are engaged on regulation, it was argued that participation should be on an opt-in basis; otherwise the process becomes one of establishing a common domestic regulatory framework which the Europeans have