

The Crisis in Global Governance: Issues and Issue Linkages

Development

While governments in the industrialized countries jumped on the technical assistance/capacity building bandwagon at Doha to get developing countries onside for a launch, they now face the daunting task, as many have noted, of delivering this in sufficient quantity and quality to have a significant impact by the time of the fifth Ministerial when the outlines of the Doha Round are to be finally decided. The questions are twofold: can support on the scale that is needed to make a difference actually be mobilized, and how to avoid raising excessive expectations regarding what is feasible in terms of end results—which is not an inconsequential issue insofar as the assistance envisaged is intended, in part, to provide the developing countries most in need thereof with the capacity to negotiate effectively in the *course of* the Doha Round. The outcome will hinge, in the view of some, not so much on the availability of money⁹ as on substantive delivery—the technical assistance and capacity building that is being discussed may go well beyond what the WTO Secretariat and other international agencies have been providing.¹⁰

⁹ On March 11, 2002, in Geneva, a total of over 30 million Swiss francs (double the initial target) was pledged to what is known as the WTO Trust Fund for Doha-related technical assistance and capacity building.

¹⁰ It is not entirely clear that everyone has the same understanding as to the meaning of the trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) and the broader notion of capacity building that have been widely promised. These terms certainly include advice and training for developing country officials on the interpretation of the WTO agreements of the sort that is routinely provided by the WTO Secretariat (although the WTO has limited capacity of its own to expand this to any great extent). In addition, there is technical assistance in implementing the agreements, which can include for example help in drafting or adapting statutes or regulations (e.g., to implement the TRIPS Agreement) and training for officials in administering these regulations. This type of activity would be more in the province of the World Bank through programs under the Integrated Framework. Some developing