

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE STDF WORKING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 4 April 2008

WTO Headquarters, Geneva

Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted with the deletion of agenda item 7 on STDF 10. A list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**

Election of Vice-Chair and LDC representative

2. Ms Sofie Flensburg, Attaché, Danish Mission to the WTO, was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Working Group. The Working Group also welcomed Mr KE Sovann, Counsellor, Cambodian Mission to the WTO, to serve as the LDC representative to the STDF.

Overview of Operation of the Facility (STDF 227 and G/SPS/GEN/829)

Implementation of Operating Plan 2008-09: Status report by Secretariat

3. The Secretary noted the STDF Secretariat had been strengthened with the recruitment of Ms Kenza Le Mentec and Ms Marlynne Hopper on 3 March 2008. Mr Melvin Spreij had also been formally recruited to the STDF Secretariat. Mr Panos Antonakakis was continuing to work half-time on the STDF and Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). Mr Simon Padilla would be ending his service with the Secretariat at the end of June when STDF research work in Central America (STDF 175) was complete. Internal approvals were being sought to start the process to recruit a full time secretarial staff position – after which the strengthening of the Secretariat envisaged by the Operating Plan 2008-09 would be complete.

4. The Secretary informed the Group that the first edition of the STDF newsletter had been distributed (in English, French and Spanish) to the SPS Committee. In the spirit of enhancing cooperation, Working Group members were requested to provide suggestions or inputs, including information on relevant activities and events, for future editions of the newsletter. A logframe matrix detailing progress in implementation against targets established in the 2008-2009 Operating Plan was circulated at the meeting.

On-going and future planned STDF Aid for Trade activities in 2008 (STDF 175) - including research on good practice (G/SPS/GEN/816.add.1)

5. The Secretary updated the Working Group on regional consultation work that had been on-going since January 2008 in East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya), Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), and the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Viet Nam) under project STDF 175. Research had been carried out on existing SPS capacity evaluations and inventories of technical assistance had been compiled.

6. Once fieldwork was complete in the three regions, the Secretariat would circulate balance sheets of SPS needs and supply of technical assistance for each country for comment by national authorities and donors. The balance sheets would examine on-going SPS needs identified in the various SPS capacity evaluation studies conducted in each country and compare these needs with on-going or planned assistance.

7. Regional wrap-up events on mobilizing aid for trade for SPS-related technical cooperation were planned in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (21-22 May), Kampala, Uganda (28-29 May), and Guatemala (10-

12 June). The workshop in Guatemala would take place as part of a larger IADB Aid for Trade event. The expected outcome of the fieldwork and wrap-up events was mobilization of funds to address SPS priority needs as identified in the balance sheets.

8. The Working Group agreed that the success of follow-up to these events would depend on ensuring the participation of the right stakeholders, including representatives of regional development banks, regional economic groupings and donors, etc., as well as obtaining political buy-in from beneficiaries. The Secretariat noted that he was counting on the participation of STDF partners and donors in these events. The Working Group would review the success of these regional events at its June meeting.

Aid for Trade roadmap 2008

9. The Secretary informed the Group that the WTO Committee on Trade and Development had approved a road map for Aid for Trade activities on 25 February. Planned activities included: i) development of a basket of indicators to measure trade performance; and ii) a number of national and sub-regional reviews.

Research on Good Practice

10. The deadline for submission of information on good practice in the provision of SPS-related technical assistance in Central America, East Africa and the Greater Mekong Delta sub-region had been extended until the end of April 2008. Responses had been received from a total of seven Members with information on 11 projects. The Secretary noted that other replies were expected, and encouraged all donors and international organizations who had not yet replied to do so to ensure as representative a sample as possible was received. All the information received would be compiled by the Secretariat and presented to a wrap-up workshop planned for October 2008.

Co-operation with the Enhanced Integrated Framework

11. The Secretary stressed that the STDF was pursuing linkages with the IF to ensure that projects were developed and funded on the basis of needs expressed in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies of selected countries. The Working Group welcomed the positive synergies established between the STDF and the IF Secretariat. As of the end of March 2008, 19 projects had been developed benefiting LDCs that were part of the IF. It was noted that the appointment of Mr KE Sovann would further strengthen the ties with the Enhanced IF at a governance level.

Development of STDF training film (STDF 228)

12. The Secretary provided an update on plans to develop a film to raise awareness on the importance of SPS measures for human health, agricultural production systems, international trade, economic development and poverty reduction. He noted that the Secretariat would aim to have some filming carried out on the margins of the SPS Committee meeting in June and thereafter in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It was hoped that a DVD would be ready by the Autumn.

13. The Working Group expressed support for a DVD for advocacy and training purposes. It noted that the film should address the need for active participation of developing countries in implementation of the SPS Agreement, the role of technical assistance in solving SPS-related trade problems and the links between improved quality of food exports and domestic human health. There was agreement on the need for a high quality film in three language and recognition that this would require adequate resources.

14. Following discussions with the EC-funded PIP programme in Brussels and World Bank Institute, the Secretary noted that initial budget of CHF 100,000 for the development of two DVDs would need

to be revised. The PIP film, which could serve as a benchmark for the STDF film, included filming in one country and cost Euro 120,000. The Secretary therefore requested the Working Group to: i) make adequate budgetary provision for the development of one, rather than two, training films in 2008; and ii) increase the budget for the first DVD to Euro 120,000 in one language. The Working Group agreed to this request but noted that efforts should be made to ensure a high-quality product at a lower price. It was noted that further funding provision might have to be made to provide the DVD in all three working languages of the WTO.

15. The next steps would be to formalize agreement on the case studies, further develop the DVD outline and script, and open a tender process. The Secretary noted that it had a provisional list of companies including some suggested by Working Group members.

Compendium on technical assistance and discussion of future options for database on SPS-related technical assistance

16. The Working Group was informed of the Secretariat's plan to develop a compendium of SPS-related technical assistance. This would be a useful tool for developing country officials on the various sources of technical assistance available in the SPS area, as well as a valuable resource for the Secretariat in fulfilling its co-ordination mandate.

17. The Secretary raised three issues regarding the content of this compendium: i) whether it should include only trade-focused assistance or more general SPS flows; ii) whether it should also include technical assistance from private entities; and iii) whether it should be a one-off or an on-going exercise. The Secretariat had prepared a draft request for comment by the Working Group so that the revised request could be circulated to Members at the SPS Committee meeting in June 2008. A deadline of early May for comment was agreed.

18. The meeting was also informed about parallel discussions with colleagues within WTO and counterparts at OECD on the best way to track flows of SPS-related technical assistance. Two particular problems were highlighted. First, the future of the WTO-OECD Trade Capacity Building Database had been placed in doubt following the decision to focus data collection on the OECD's Credit Reporting System as part of the Aid for Trade initiative (this system is considerably less detailed with respect to sub-categories and text searches are difficult). Second, a decision had been made to discontinue a reporting category on SPS with a broader Trade Policy Regulation in the OECD CRS system.

Funding situation

19. The Secretariat noted that as at 4 April 2008, funds available for the operation of the facility were estimated at US\$1.1 million. This amount represented the total balance in favour of donors minus approved expenditure awaiting contracting and estimated annual costs associated with STDF human resources. Since the last meeting, new contributions had been received from Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. Discussions were on-going with the Netherlands on a renewal of their multi-annual contribution.

20. The Secretary reported that an annual report for 2007 would be circulated as a document before the end of April to all STDF Working Group members.

Planning of June 2008 session on private standards

21. The Secretary introduced the STDF's proposal to hold an information session on private standards on Thursday 27 June. An animated discussion followed with various participants providing their thoughts on the topic and highlighting ongoing work on this issue. It was agreed that the focus of a STDF event should be limited to SPS issues. It was suggested that the information event should

concentrate on: identifying which private standards schemes dealt with SPS issues, the ongoing activities of various donors to improve the voice of developing countries in private standards schemes and research on positive schemes for compliance for developing country farmers. Relevant research by ISO, OECD, UNIDO, World Bank and others could be presented in this context.

22. The Working Group agreed that the session should be open to all members of the SPS Committee and requested the Secretary to liaise with the SPS Committee Chairman to decide on the most appropriate timing in the Committee week to hold the meeting.

Deadline for receipt of PPG applications for June 2008 meeting

23. The Secretary recalled that the regional consultations in late May and June in Cambodia, Uganda and Guatemala should result in a considerable pipeline of project preparation activities. However, these proposals would not be received before the deadline for the June meeting. With a view to avoiding undue delays in funding decisions on these activities, and enable implementation of the approved activities to start before the end of this year, the Group agreed to present all such proposals at the June meeting for initial discussion, but to reserve final decisions on funding on an *ad referendum* basis, until one month after the meeting.

SPS capacity evaluation workshop, 31 March 2008 (G/SPS/GEN/821)

24. The Secretariat gave a report on the STDF workshop on capacity evaluation tools held on 31 March, which had been attended by approximately 200 participants from the Committee and 15 developing country officials whose participation had been funded by the STDF. Ten presentations had been made on sector-specific capacity tools, more general SPS-related tools and related approaches developed by international organizations. A debriefing meeting had also been organized with funded participants.

25. The workshop was regarded as useful in providing information on available tools for capacity evaluation in the SPS area. The following key issues had emerged: (i) the proliferation in approaches to SPS capacity evaluation with resulting risks for duplication in needs assessment and capacity building; (ii) recognition that much less attention had been given to monitoring the impact of capacity evaluations in generating results; (iii) acknowledgment that a large amount of data was being generated but that there was limited compilation or exchange of results; and (iv) the general need to strive towards harmonization of approaches to evaluation while respecting the needs of beneficiaries.

26. The Secretariat noted that STDF had funded a number of PPGs and projects focused on development and/or use of capacity evaluation tools and that it would continue to share information on these through its website. The Secretariat further suggested a number of areas where the STDF could play a greater role in encouraging coordination in the development and application of SPS-related capacity evaluation tools and the sharing of results:

- Provide information on existing capacity evaluation tools on the STDF website including information on completed evaluations, findings and results where available and web links to partner's websites, etc. Collating this information would facilitate more systematic monitoring of the impact of capacity evaluations;
- Produce a short document or CD-ROM on the various tools that exist, their scope, approach, etc. to guide beneficiaries in their selection of tools;
- Share information through the Working Group on planned evaluations;
- Work with International Organizations and others involved in development of capacity evaluation tools to develop guidelines on best practice in capacity evaluation. In this context, a Working

Group session and/or special meeting could be organized on best practice in evaluation (given the availability of additional resources); and

- Organize regional workshops to increase understanding and skills on the use of different SPS-related capacity evaluation tools, experiences in their use, results and follow-up, etc.

27. The Working Group concurred that the STDF was in a unique position to take on board efforts to promote harmonization in SPS-related capacity evaluation activities and agreed that the STDF should work on the above-mentioned activities.

Indicators of SPS capacity

28. The Secretary informed the Working Group of plans to develop a basket of indicators under the Aid for Trade Initiative and proposed that STDF consider developing indicators of SPS capacity to contribute to this work. He commented that SPS indicators would be useful to facilitate comparison and harmonization of capacity building approaches and activities, and noted that such indicators could have a wider focus than trade performance (e.g. food-borne disease, disability-adjusted life years, etc.).

29. The Working Group expressed support for STDF involvement in the development of SPS indicators and commented that it would be important to ensure synergies with related on-going efforts of international organizations and donors (including the IPPC's PCE tool, the OIE PVS tool, the World Bank's "doing business in agriculture" indicators, IICA's work under STDF 108, etc.). The Secretary encouraged collaboration in the development of SPS-related indicators and proposed including an item on indicators at the next Working Group meeting. He also suggested that STDF work closely with the World Bank in their ongoing work in developing Aid for Trade indicators.

Investment in laboratory capacity workshop, 15-17 November 2007 (G/SPS/GEN/810)

30. The World Bank provided a summary of the workshop on investment in laboratory capacity, organized on 15-17 November 2007 in Geneva by the World Bank and UNIDO, under the STDF umbrella. Some 40 participants representing both public and private sector laboratories had attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to feed into the development of a guide for investment in laboratory infrastructure. The results had been published on CD-ROM.

31. The World Bank was also drafting a report on investment in laboratory capacity, which would address investment decisions in laboratories, the use of regulatory impact assessment, etc. This report would be circulated for informal feedback by the end of June 2008. An electronic support tool for decision-makers would be produced on the basis of this report.

32. The Secretary noted that cost-benefit analysis work carried out in Peru under STDF 20 had recently been updated by PromPeru. He further proposed that STDF should continue to work in this area. One option could be for the STDF to examine on-going work related to cost-benefit analysis in different sectors and produce a background document, which could form the basis of a proposal to carry out further research and work in this area.

33. The meeting was informed that GTZ had developed a cost-benefit analysis tool to assist the private sector to decide on investment decisions in private standards. The Working Group agreed to GTZ's suggestion that cost-benefit analysis be the thematic focus of a Working Group meeting in early 2009.

SPS-related technical assistance activities

Forthcoming initiatives of partners and observers

STDF 225: Initiatives to control the spread of fruit fly in West Africa

34. The Working Group agreed to support a meeting bringing together key stakeholders to discuss initiatives to combat fruit flies in West Africa. It was suggested that the meeting should enjoy high level participation from both beneficiaries, donors, national and regional institutions with expertise in the area of fruit flies and involve experts from other regions, such as South America. The Group agreed to provide funding for this workshop as part of STDF's coordination mandate.

STDF 226: Initiatives to control the spread of fruit fly in East Africa

35. The FAO representative noted that similar issues to the ones faced in West Africa were faced in East Africa, and that fruit fly problems had restricted fruits and vegetable exports from East Africa to lucrative markets in Europe, the US, Middle East and Japan. Following requests from the governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the FAO, in collaboration with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*ICIPE*) had formulated a project which built on a recently completed FAO-TCP project on surveillance of the new invasive fruit fly species (*Bactrocera invadens*) in East Africa. The proposed 5-year project, entitled: "*Management of Bactrocera invadens and other target pests that constrain the production of fruits and vegetables in East Africa*" would cost approximately US\$9 million to implement. The Group welcomed this initiative and encouraged donors to mobilize resources to fund it.

Other SPS-related technical assistance activities

36. The Codex representative suggested that Codex regional committee meetings planned for October 2008 and February 2009 be used for advocacy on the STDF. The Secretary noted that the STDF would seek to participate in these regional meetings as far as possible.

37. The representative of IICA informed the meeting that the Initiative of the Americas, which had enabled 23 out of 24 IICA member countries to participate in meetings of the international standard-setting bodies, was expected to end this year. He noted that IICA had developed a new capacity evaluation tool for SPS systems with STDF funding and that more detailed information on this tool and its use in countries would be provided at the June meeting. IICA was also developing training courses on standard-setting in Codex, IPPC and OIE through IICA's new distance learning centre. This work aimed to support coordination in standard-setting at the national and regional levels.

38. The ITC representative provided information on an SPS information system for fish exports to the EU and a training-of-trainers workshop in Bangladesh for horticulture and agro-processing products. Information on the latter would be provided to the STDF for dissemination on its website. The meeting was also informed that the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association (STDF 69, supervised by ITC) would attend a trade fair in Brussels in April, providing an opportunity to increase the visibility of the STDF. The Secretariat noted that the Natural Resources Institute (UK) was currently involved in work in Bangladesh and that it could be useful for the ITC and NRI to exchange information on their activities. ITC also offered to share information with UNIDO on activities it had been undertaking in Malawi.

39. The OECD representative stated that the OECD was planning a study on non-tariff barriers, SPS measures and certification procedures which would include case studies from developing countries.

40. The World Bank shared its plans for a study on South-South trade under its Partnership Programme with the Netherlands (which would include case studies from two African and two Mekong countries). The World Bank agreed to collaborate with the OECD on its case studies given the similar scope of both

activities. Attention was drawn to the Bank's recent publication on African groundnut exports to Europe. Information was provided on the Bank's Trade Standards Practitioners Network. The Bank requested Working Group members to serve as online moderators in the e-learning initiative under this network, and requested that the STDF become a member of the Network.. The Working Group agreed to STDF participation in the TSPN.

41. The OIE representative shared information on the use of the OIE-PVS tool. To date, 66 requests for evaluations of veterinary services had been received and 50 missions had been concluded (17 of these countries have agreed to release the evaluation reports to OIE partners and donors). The OIE was working closely with FAO to develop projects for consideration by donors based on the identified gaps. The OIE is developing a project to update veterinary legislation in francophone and Anglophone African countries and expected to complete its work on regional export strategies for Africa in June 2008. The OIE also noted plans to open a regional representation in Tunis.

42. UNIDO provided an update on implementation of STDF 52 in Malawi and Zambia. UNIDO and the Commark Trust had recently carried out a joint mission to Malawi. Activities in Zambia were being carried out under a larger UNIDO project, which Norad had agreed in principle to fund. Information was shared on a joint UNIDO-Egyptian project establishing a regional centre of excellence on traceability. In East Africa, UNIDO was involved in a trade capacity building project focusing on food safety that aims to help finalize SPS protocols. Legislation would be addressed as part of this work and UNIDO was interested to collaborate with other partners involved in related work.

43. The Codex representative indicated that standards were being translated into Arabic and Chinese, and also partly into Russian pending availability of funding. Plans were also underway to redesign and enhance the Codex website this year. Codex had produced a multi-media presentation as well as a video to encourage countries to actively contribute to the setting of Codex standards and effectively implement them. Interactive e-learning courses to strengthen participation in Codex work would be available on the internet. FAO and WHO were seeking to increase funding for the Codex Trust Fund, which was currently operating at a third of the originally anticipated level.

44. GTZ informed the Group of an upcoming workshop on group certification to GLOBALGAP to be organized jointly with the DFID-funded Africa Observer Project. The aim was to produce guidance for GLOBALGAP on how to make standards more friendly to smallholders in terms of technical compliance and certification. The Netherlands provided information on an international seminar on setting food safety standards, co-sponsored by FAO and WHO, to be held in The Hague in June 2008.

Forthcoming initiatives of donors

45. The representative from Norway provided information on a Norad-funded feasibility study on the development of an export-oriented meat industry in Uganda (STDF 224). The study was a public-private undertaking involving the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in Uganda, Nortura (a Norwegian cooperative with operations in 18 counties) and the Norwegian Government through Norad. The study concluded that there was significant potential to expand meat exports. Conclusions had been presented at a donor conference in Kampala in December 2007. The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food was seeking partners to collaborate in a project based on the study results and hoped to start the project by mid-2008.

46. Representatives of the EC and the OIE expressed their interest in this initiative, and underlined the importance of promoting linkages with related activities in the region to build on existing work and ensure synergies. The full feasibility study was available from through the STDF Secretariat.

47. The Secretary reiterated the value of sharing information on future activities and encouraged donors to actively use the STDF for this purpose. The US reported that cooperation with IICA provided a good example of activities in which the United States was involved. Canada had

distributed a report on its planned activities related to Food and Mouth Disease preparedness in South America to the SPS Committee. A report on Canadian SPS-related technical assistance activities in 2007 was under preparation and should be available by the next meeting of the SPS Committee.

48. The EC stated that it had circulated information on its technical assistance activities in the SPS area to the SPS Committee. Sweden indicated that it had been providing international training on food quality and safety for several years and that these activities in East Africa had been presented to the Secretariat as an example of good practice. Sweden was also working with ISO to support the participation of developing countries in standard-setting processes.

Overview of implementation of on-going projects and PPGs

49. The Secretary thanked FAO for taking on several outstanding STDF projects and recognized FAO's support in pushing projects through its internal systems. The Secretary briefed the Group on his meeting with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in February where a tentative agreement was reached to contract IFPRI to carry out evaluations of outstanding STDF projects. He also encouraged participants to share details of evaluation of consultants with the Secretariat.

50. The OIE provided an overview of progress in the implementation of STDF 13 in a document circulated at the meeting.

Status of evaluations of completed STDF projects

51. The Secretariat reported on progress made in the implementation of projects and project preparation grants. An overview of on-going projects and project preparation grants had been circulated in document STDF 222. The Working Group took note of the Secretariat update.

Evaluation of funding applications (STDF 218)

STDF 116rev.1: Costa Rica traceability project

52. The revised version of the project proposal had addressed comments made by the Working Group at its previous meeting in November 2008. However, it was recommended that the applicant increase its in-kind contribution to meet the 30 per cent threshold required by STDF operating rules. Concerns on the part of in-country donors as to SENASA's ability to deliver the project. It was agreed by the Working Group that funding should be sought outside the STDF in the first instance. The Secretariat would include the project in the forthcoming STDF-IADB regional workshop on SPS related technical assistance in June 2008. If no funding was found outside the STDF, the project would be retabled for discussion at the STDF Working Group in October 2008.

STDF 216: International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Training Programme

53. The Working Group requested IPPC to revise its application. In view of the amount requested (more than three times the typical amount for PPGs), it was recommended that it be resubmitted as a project document. The Working Group further agreed that the revised document should: (i) take into account the on-going evaluations of STDF 89 and 120 (expected in May 2008) given the linkages with these activities; and (ii) clearly indicate why the proposed activity could not be funded as part of the IPPC's regular work programme. The IPPC was also asked to clarify why training gaps and needs had not already been identified through the application of the PCE tool in some 60 countries and to provide a clear breakdown of its in-kind contribution.

STDF 221: Improving the competitiveness of Burkina Faso suppliers in national, regional and international markets

54. The Working Group approved the PPG request and allocated a budget of US\$ 20,000. It was agreed that the resulting project proposal would take into account existing initiatives to promote production and export of sesame. Specifically, the proposal would need to take into account existing work carried out by the World Bank's "Programme d'appui aux filières agro-sylvo pastorales" (PAFASP) and German Cooperation's "Programme Développement de l'Agriculture" (PDA) report entitled: "Promotion des chaînes de valeur ajoutée de la filière sesame".

STDF 223: Strengthening the official food control programme to support an emerging food business sector in the Republic of Moldova

55. The Working Group approved the PPG request. It was also suggested that funding for the resulting project be sought outside of the STDF. Both Millennium Challenge Corporation and Sweden were identified as potential donors. It was suggested that both should be consulted in the project formulation mission activities.

STDF 219: Improving the capacity of veterinary services to carry out their essential functions (OIE)

56. The Working Group requested the OIE to revise the proposal on the basis of the comments made in the Secretariat and independent external reviews and in light of the conclusions arising from an ex post evaluation of project STDF 15: Training of Trainers

57. Discussion of project STDF 219 provoked a broader debate within the Working Group on the Operational Rules and the eligibility criteria used for funding applications emanating from STDF partner organizations. The Secretary made reference to the relevant section of the Operational Rules, paragraph 47, which read:

For projects submitted by STDF partners, activities that would normally be undertaken as part of that partner's operations will not be financed. The STDF should not substitute for the regular budgetary resources of the partners. Project expenditure may not be used to cover core staffing and infrastructure-related costs. Projects submitted by partners must demonstrate the following characteristics:

- corresponding demand for the project from a developing country or group of developing countries;
- collaborative project ideas, i.e. benefit from the involvement of two or more partners;
- and/or an innovative approach;
- and/or contribute to better co-ordination of SPS-related technical co-ordination or the dissemination of best practice;
- and/or address gaps in the quality and accessibility of SPS information;
- and/or address gaps in available training materials.

58. The Working Group highlighted two particular concerns with respect to the OIE's application and the criteria established in paragraph 47. Questions arose as to the nature of collaboration by partners in the project. It was noted that STDF 15 was a joint project with WTO, but that the new funding application was an OIE funding proposal without any commitment to participation on the part of WTO. It was considered that collaborating partner's roles should be clearly defined and that the application should include a clear expression of support from partners involved.

59. The point was also made that STDF funding should not substitute for funding of the partner organizations themselves, particularly for activities that would normally be undertaken as part of that partner's operations. To this end, several donors made the point that alternate funding sources could be open to the OIE to fund this project, notably the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund or through funding contributions from individual donors. In this context, a number of donors questioned whether or not the STDF should provide continued funding support for follow-on projects for partner organizations, when these activities could potentially be financed through funds at that partner's disposal.

60. Against this background, the meeting agreed to the Secretary's suggestion that paragraph 47 be reviewed by the Working Group and any amendments proposed to it be submitted to the Policy Committee meeting at its meeting in December. The Working Group also requested that the OIE consider all the points made before deciding as to whether or not a revised funding application should be tabled at a future meeting.

STDF 220: Improved Capacity, Dialogue and Policy Formulation among the Public and Private Sectors Creating and Implementing Standards and Certification in Latin America (FAO)

61. The Working Group requested the FAO to revise its project. The Working Group considered that the project document should address several issues, including those raised in the independent evaluation, particularly: (i) linkages with relevant past, present and planned activities in the region; (ii) differences in levels of compliance across the region; (iii) differences in private standards in the region's two main exports markets; and (iv) the sustainability of activities, including the database, after the end of the project. Concern was expressed that the proposed activities did not reflect a detailed understanding of private standards and risked duplicating past work. There was further agreement on the need to indicate why the proposed activities could not be financed as part of FAO's regular work programme and to provide details on the in-kind contribution and budget for training activities. Clear evidence of private sector support for the proposed activities was also requested.

Other business

62. The representative from Canada enquired on follow-up on document STDF 204 on good practice. The Secretariat confirmed that the good practice component of the regional consultations would start after the meeting and that the document STDF 204 would be updated as part of that process. The Group agreed that terms of reference for the evaluation of the STDF would be circulated at the next Working Group meeting in June 2008. At that meeting, both the timing and terms of reference of the external evaluation of the STDF would be agreed.

Next meeting

63. The Group agreed that the next meeting of the STDF Working Group will take place on 27 June 2008. The information session on private standards would take place on either 23 or 26 June 2008.

Annex 1

List of Participants

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