

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE STDF WORKING GROUP MEETING
16-17 OCTOBER 2006
WTO Headquarters, Geneva**

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted as proposed. (A list of participants is provided in Annex D).

2. REPORT BY THE STDF SECRETARY ON ON-GOING PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (STDF 159)

STDF 66 rev.1: Strategy to increase capacity to comply with SPS and retailers' agri-food protocols to facilitate exports in Mozambique

2. The Secretary reported that subsequent to the last Working Group meeting, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) had decided to fund STDF 66 rev.2 through a programme in Southern Africa. The Secretary added that this was the first time a proposal developed through the STDF would be implemented by a bilateral donor.

STDF 19: Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level

3. The Secretary reported that this project was nearing completion. The contractor, Abt Associates, had requested an extension of the project until April 2007 and a budget increment of 13% of the original budget to cover additional unforeseen costs related to website hosting. The Working Group expressed concern over this type of supplementary funding request and questioned its sustainability if funding for website hosting would end with the project. It was agreed that the Secretary would obtain more information from Abt Associates on the funding request and sustainability issue. On the basis of the information received, the Working Group would examine the request and reach a decision on the budget addendum on an ad referendum basis.

STDF 20: Country based plans for SPS related development

4. The Secretary reported that the contractors were in the final stages of project implementation. However, additional work needed to be undertaken on the methodology and preliminary cost-benefit results. An extension until the end of November 2006 was approved to allow time for further explanation of the methodology used and the cost benefit scenarios.

STDF 64: Facilitating livestock trade in Djibouti.

5. The Working Group recalled that implementation of this project had been delayed for over a year, but noted recent efforts to get the project started. The Secretary reported on a national SPS workshop in Djibouti organized by the WTO in September 2006 with participation from the OIE and the FAO. Since approval of the project in September 2006, a private Saudi investor had taken over the animal quarantine centre established with USAID funding. On the basis of interviews with the investor, the veterinary authorities in Djibouti, the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade, the project Terms of Reference have been revised to focus more specifically on amending animal health legislation and strengthening veterinary services. The Secretary recalled synergy between STDF 64 and the regional action plan for strengthening veterinary services which will be undertaken in the Horn of Africa under project STDF 13. The OIE informed the Working Group that its Director-General, Bernard Vallat, had written to the Chief Veterinary Officer in Ethiopia to assuage political sensitivities on the Ethiopian side with regard to the interaction of STDF 13 and 64, notably on the question of use of port services. The Secretary informed the Working Group that subsequent to the national seminar it had become clear that the World Bank had approved an avian influenza related

project which risked duplicating STDF 64's project activities. The FAO, implementing agency for both projects, informed the Working Group that it would ensure there was no duplication in activities between the projects.

6. The Working Group requested that terms of reference for both the World Bank and STDF projects be circulated to the Group and that a decision be taken on a non-objection basis, as to whether or not to proceed. It was further decided that where delays in excess of one year had occurred, resubmission of a project to the Working Group for its consideration would be automatic..

STDF 62: Strengthening food safety in Cameroon.

7. The Secretary recalled that the project had been approved in September 2005. An agreement between FAO and WTO on implementation modalities and other cost sharing arrangements would be finalized shortly and implementation would commence soon after that. It was agreed that if no agreement was reached on implementation the project would be resubmitted to the next meeting of the Working Group.

STDF 48: Quality control for shea and cashew nut products in Benin.

8. The Secretary reported that the beneficiaries had recently submitted a revised budget including provision for use of a regional laboratory in Ghana. He informed the Working Group that a contract would be signed before the end of December.

STDF 69: Capacity building for safety of Yemeni seafood products.

9. The Secretary reported that finalization of an agreement between the World Bank and the WTO specifying the supervisory services to be provided by the Bank, overhead sharing arrangements, etc. was holding up implementation of the project. It was agreed that both agencies would look into ways to expedite this process.

STDF 68: Project preparation grant for SAARC SPS co-operation.

10. The Secretary recalled that there had been no contact with the SAARC Secretariat since the PPG had been approved. It was agreed that a forthcoming FAO mission concerning the implementation of the bio-security capacity evaluation tool in Nepal could be used to establish contact with SAARC Secretariat. It was agreed SAARC Secretariat would be invited to follow-up on the PPG.

STDF 100: Project preparation grant for Cape Verde.

11. The Secretary reported that implementation of the Cape Verde project preparation grant had been delayed for over a year. A consultant had been accepted by the Government of Cape Verde, but dates had only recently been agreed to start implementation. The Group agreed that any further delay would not be acceptable. The United States representative reported on recent technical assistance activities and it was agreed that the PPG Terms of Reference should be reflected accordingly. Note was also made of funding offered by the EU for projects to strengthen SPS controls in the fisheries sector of ACP countries.

STDF 88: Nepal training project preparation grant.

12. The Secretary reported that implementation of this project preparation grant had been delayed by the security situation in Nepal, but would commence with a mission by FAO in November 2006 to apply the bio-security capacity evaluation tool.

STDF 52: Project preparation grant on aflatoxin contamination in Malawi and Zambia.

13. The Secretary informed the Group that the PPG activities had been delayed while the outcome of a decision of a parallel EU-funded project was made. In the event this project had not been approved. As such, the STDF PPG would go ahead, but the earliest the consultant was available to start activities was early 2007. The Working Group cautioned against too great reliance on specific consultants and suggested that if similar future delays occurred, another consultant from the shortlist should be chosen.

STDF 105: Project preparation grant on compartmentalization.

14. The Secretary recalled that discussions on the concept of compartmentalization were ongoing in the OIE Code Commission, in particular with regard to application of the concept for avian influenza. It was agreed that OIE and the Secretary would seek to implement this PPG before the next Working Group meeting. One difficulty in this regard was identifying two pilot countries willing to apply the concept.

STDF 116: Establishment of animal traceability system for livestock in Costa Rica.

15. The Secretary reported that delays had been experienced in the implementation of this PPG. The OIE had submitted names of consultants to the STDF Secretary to provide to the Costa Rican authorities and implementation would begin once the consultants had been chosen and contracted.

Evaluation of completed projects

16. The Secretary stated that final reports of recently completed projects were currently being collected. With regard to STDF project 5 (STDF Database), the Secretary highlighted that a paper containing an overview of SPS-related technical assistance reported to the WTO/OECD Trade Capacity Building Database was recently submitted to the SPS Committee meeting in October 2006, and that this paper should be regarded as the project's final report (G/SPS/GEN/726). The Working Group decided that the following projects would be externally evaluated and instructed the Secretary to make the necessary arrangements:

- *STDF 37: Assistance to Developing Countries in the Implementation of ISPM 15*
- *STDF 56: Capacity building for implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Code of Good Practice for Animal Feeding*
- *STDF 14: OIE veterinary capacity evaluation project*
- *STDF 10: International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health project*

3. REPORTS BY PARTNERS ABOUT ON-GOING PROJECTS

17. FAO reported on progress made in the implementation of STDF 10 and informed the Group that the project would be completed following a regional meeting planned to take place in Turkey. On project STDF 79 (portal 2006 project), he added that funds had been transferred and that implementation would start soon. The World Bank informed the Group that it was finalizing a number of SPS action plans and work on SPS in Africa.

4. TIMELINESS OF DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

18. The Working Group agreed on the need to establish clear deadlines for document distribution. It was agreed that the Secretary would prepare a draft guideline document outlining the deadlines taking into consideration the outcome of the discussion of the Task Force. This draft guideline would

be circulated along with the minutes of the meeting. It was suggested that fixed deadlines be based on the calendar year and not on the SPS Committee meetings (see annex II).

5. REPORT BY TASK FORCE CHAIRPERSON

19. Mr. Tim Leyland, Chairman of the STDF Task Force, introduced his report which outlined a Medium Term Strategy for the STDF based on the following documents: the summary report of the first Task Force meeting (STDF 153), the Medium Term Strategy (STDF 154) and the revised Operational Rules (STDF 139 rev.3). The Chairman explained that the Medium Term Strategy would define the policy direction of the STDF and that the STDF Business Plan would be replaced by the revised Operational Rules. A further document setting out guidance for applicants would be developed from the Operational Rules.

20. The Working Group agreed that the STDF should put more focus on coordination, monitoring and evaluation. It was underlined that coordination depended on reporting to the joint OECD/ DAC trade capacity-building database and the Secretary was requested to see what action could be taken to facilitate this reporting. Another important element of the coordination strategy was further cooperation with the enhanced Integrated Framework (IF). Specifically, the STDF should be involved at the drafting stage of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and be in a position to translate priorities outlined in the IF DTIS action matrices into projects through PPGs - and be assured of funding through the IF Window II funding mechanism.

21. The representative of Denmark and the World Bank underlined their interest in seeing the STDF continue to fund projects. The Working Group agreed that while more emphasis would be given to coordination, the STDF would still maintain a funding mechanism.

22. On the issue of a strengthened Secretariat, some concern was voiced with respect to the possibility of funding fewer projects and spending more resources on the Secretariat for coordination. However, the Working Group also recognized that funds would be saved if an enhanced Secretariat could make SPS technical assistance more transparent and coordinated, and thus promote a more coherent pattern of assistance both relative to STDF funded projects but also to bilaterally funded projects in this area. It was agreed that the Secretariat would grow over time to meet the demands of the expanded role. Thus the text referring to the benefits of strengthening the Secretariat would be more clearly stated in the Medium Term Strategy text. It was agreed that the Secretary would draft an operating plan including a cost component for the strengthening of the Secretariat and would attach this as an annex to the revised Medium Term Strategy.

23. The Working Group agreed that the STDF should focus more resources on project preparation activities so as to mobilize funds for SPS-related technical cooperation projects. PPGs would be funded in three possible ways:

- (i) for PPGs in LDCs funding could come from Window II of the enhanced IF Trust Fund;
- (ii) by bilateral or multilateral donors; and
- (iii) from the STDF trust fund.

The Secretary also specified the increase in the allowance for PPGs from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 30,000 was a change in the ceiling and did not mean that every PPG would cost US\$ 30,000.

24. The Working Group discussed at length developing country participation in STDF. The Working Group recognized that developing country participation in the STDF should be enhanced. It was agreed that three representatives from different regions and each with area expertise related to animal, plant health and food safety would serve as beneficiary representatives. Further thought

would be given to expanding developing country participation in the future. It was also agreed that future beneficiary representatives would be selected by the SPS Committee chair in consultation with the STDF chairperson.

25. The Working Group discussed the importance of increasing in-kind contributions from beneficiaries and agreed to raise the in-kind contribution to 30 per cent for developing countries. The Working Group took note of discussions on this issue in the SPS Committee but noted that some cost participation by developing countries was important to ensure ownership of projects by beneficiaries. The Secretary agreed to reflect this discussion in paragraph 35 of the operational rules.

26. The Working Group discussed the issue of possible conflict of interest in project evaluation and decision making by partners and developing country representatives. It was decided to amend the Operational Rules to include language on possible conflict of interest.

27. Attention was drawn to the importance of actively marketing and publicizing the STDF. All participants agreed that both developing country representatives and partners should play a more prominent role in this regard and it was decided to amend the Operational Rules to this effect.

28. The Working Group discussed tendering procedures. The Secretary pointed out that the Operational Rules allowed the Secretariat to tender projects where applicable, but also highlighted that partners' and donors' tender procedures could be used when necessary. It was agreed to clarify this aspect in the Operational Rules.

29. The Secretary clarified that the Operational Rules provide for a 10 per cent – 3 per cent share of overhead costs and explained that this percentage was proposed on the basis of current overhead sharing arrangements by UNDP between UN organizations. WHO indicated that it would have to consider the acceptability of this percentage internally.

30. The Working Group agreed to ensure that the application form for project preparation grants in Annex I of the Operational Rules was user-friendly. It was generally felt that the requirements might become too burdensome for applicants in particular from LDCs. As to the application form for project grants, the Working Group felt that records of financial probity were not needed at the application stage but would be useful when contracting. The need to include a provision for an external evaluation in the project in the budget section was agreed. The EC suggested that the standard contract in Annex II could be subject to further review by donor experts.

6. EVALUATION OF PROJECTS RECEIVED (STDF 161)

- Projects resubmitted from previous STDF Working Groups

STDF 108 rev.1: Development of sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries of the Americas to consolidate their active participation in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) and promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

31. The application was first submitted in September 2005, at which time the Working Group meeting had been favourably disposed to the project but had raised a number of questions related to its funding. The project built on the existing SPS Initiative for the Americas and was based on a peer review of SPS compliance by countries in the IICA region. Although some participants felt that the project was ambitious, others pointed out that the groundwork for the project had already been done under the SPS Initiative. The WHO requested that more attention be paid to the public health aspects of SPS compliance. The EC announced the start of a Euro 30 million project on food safety infrastructure issues in ACP countries by the end of 2007 and reflected on the possibility of further connecting the two projects. It was agreed that follow-up projects developed under the STDF project could be taken on board by the upcoming EC project. The Working Group agreed to approve the project contingent on review comments to be taken into account.

STDF 133 rev.1: Capacity building in the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool in the Pacific

32. The revised application addressed most of the comments made by the Working Group at its meeting in June 2006. The IPPC highlighted that the output of the project would be the PCE tool applied in all participating countries. Mrs Gonzalez Arroyo stressed that application of the tool had been very useful for the countries in the Americas. Canada stated that care needed to be taken to ensure that only those Members of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community who were eligible for STDF funding should be funded. The Secretary recalled that the project would have to include provisions for the wider use and distribution of the results of the PCE tool – perhaps in the form of a public summary. The Working Group agreed to approve the project contingent on the review comments to be taken into account.

33. Following approval of the project, the discussion focused more generally on projects being approved and projects awaiting implementation after their approval due to a shortage of funding in the STDF. The Working Group felt that applicants should be informed by the Secretariat about the need to actively search for other funding possibilities in these circumstances. The UK was in favour of a mechanism in the Operational Rules to review all projects within one year from their approval if implementation had not yet commenced. Ms Shashi Sareen suggested that all approved projects should appear on the STDF website.

- Requests for project preparation grants

STDF 155: Nicaragua Market-Oriented Training Service on Standards Application

34. The PPG was well received by the Working Group though one member of the Working Group expressed concerns over the coordinator from Michigan State University (MSU). The Working Group approved the PPG but requested the Secretary to identify additional consultants in consultation with the applicants.

STDF 156: Management Capacity Building for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards in Lao PDR

35. The Secretary recalled that the proposal built on work being undertaken by the Integrated Framework (IF), which recently conducted a Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS), and by the World Bank, which recently drafted an Action Plan for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Management Capacity Building based on the DTIS. Although the PPG proposed to further develop one of the activities identified in the SPS Action Plan, the Working Group agreed that the PPG lacked specificity as to which activity that should be. It was also recognized that a major trade facilitation project was about to commence and that there was donor interest to fund SPS-related technical cooperation activities in the country.

36. FAO reported that two food safety projects in collaboration with the WHO were currently being implemented in Lao with funding from Norway. The EC referred to ongoing activities in the area of animal health. The Working Group decided to request the applicants to resubmit their application for the next Working Group meeting, and to provide more information on past, present and planned activities, to select one specific area where technical assistance would be needed so that the STDF could have added value over and above donor activities.

- Requests from or benefiting eligible organizations in LDCs and OLICs

STDF 157: Capacity Building for Farmers and Regulatory Agencies on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Compliance for Sustainable Market Access

37. The Working Group agreed with the review comments made by the Secretariat and decided that the proposal did not meet STDF eligibility criteria. The overall impression was that the proposal

was actually part of another bigger proposal and not much effort had been made to tailor it to specific public and private sector needs. The Working Group also decided not to grant a PPG in order to reformulate the proposal.

STDF 158: Capacity Building for Improving the Fish Trade Performance of Selected African Countries

38. Concerns were raised over the effectiveness of regional training activities as opposed to training at the national level. It was felt that the project should make more use of resource people from within the region and that the project should be more specific as to its effects on poverty reduction and other benefits. It was recalled that a database was already under development within an on-going EC/ACP fisheries project and the proposal should pay much more attention to existing and ongoing efforts. The Working Group agreed that the proposal had potential but would benefit from revision on a number of issues. The Secretariat was requested to inform the applicants to take into account the comments made and resubmit their proposal for the next Working Group meeting.

7. DECISION ON PROJECT FINANCING AND PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECT FINANCING

39. Of six applications received, two projects and one project preparation grant were accepted for funding. Since sufficient funds were available to implement the approved projects and project preparation grant, no decision was necessary on prioritization of project financing.

8. CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING NEEDS – INCLUDING OTHER FUNDS OF RELEVANCE TO THE STDF

40. The Secretary agreed to draft an operating plan for the enhanced STDF – including consideration of funding needs - immediately following the meeting of the Working Group.

41. The Working Group discussed bringing forward the meeting of the Policy Committee for adoption of the Task Force recommendations. FAO expressed interest in hosting the next Policy Committee meeting and tabled the idea of issuing a joint press release together with the other STDF partner organizations once the work of the Task Force had been completed.

9. INFORMATION ON PARTNER AND DONOR ACTIVITIES

42. The EC referred to a Euro 3,5 million project with the African Union to train participants and experts in attending meetings of the Codex, IPPC and OIE. The project, which was expected to commence in the near future, would focus in particular on better preparing participants and experts for these meetings.

43. The US announced it had made a donation to the Codex Trust Fund and mentioned that it would sponsor two Associate Professional Officers (APOs) for the IPPC Secretariat.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

44. The World Bank suggested that an annual joint publication could raise the profile of the STDF. The idea was welcomed and it was decided that the Working Group revert back to this idea in the future once progress had been made in implementing the Medium Term Strategy.

45. *It was agreed that the Secretary would consult with the Chairman on the date for the next meeting of the Working Group.*

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr Ezzeddine Boutrif
Head of the Food Safety and Quality Service
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Tel: +39 06 5705 6156
E-mail: ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org

Mr Richard Ivess
IPPC Coordinator
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Tel: +39 06 570 53588
E-mail: richard.ivess@fao.org

Mr Kazuaki Miyagishima
Secretary
Codex Secretariat
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Tel:
E-mail:

World Bank

Mr Cornelis L. J. van der Meer
Senior Rural Development Specialist
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
Tel: +1 202 458 5462
E-mail: cvandermeer@worldbank.org

Mr Jimmy W. Smith
Senior Livestock Specialist
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
Tel: +1 202 458 7373
E-mail: jsmith5@worldbank.org

World Health Organization

Mr Jorgen Schlundt
Director, Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases
20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Tel: +41 22 791 34 45
E-mail: schlundtj@who.int

Ms Margaret Miller
Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases
20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Tel: +41 22 791 1979
E-mail: millerma@who.int

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

Mr Dewan Sibartie
Head of Regional Activities
12, Rue de Prony
F-75017 Paris
Tel: +33 (1) 44 15 18 94
E-mail: d.sibartie@oie.int

World Trade Organization

Mrs Gretchen H. Stanton
Senior Counsellor
Agriculture and Commodities Division
154 rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva 21
Tel: +41 22 739 5086
E-mail: gretchen.stanton@wto.org

Mr Michael Roberts
Counsellor (STDF Secretary)
Agriculture and Commodities Division
154 rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva 21
Tel: +41 22 739 5747
E-mail: michael.roberts@wto.org

Mr Melvin Spreij
Economic Affairs Officer (STDF Secretariat)
Agriculture and Commodities Division
154 rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva 21
Tel: +41 22 739 6630
E-mail: melvin.spreij@wto.org

Mr Panos Antonakakis
Economic Affairs Officer (STDF Secretariat)
Agriculture and Commodities Division
154 rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva 21
Tel: +41 22 739 5644
E-mail: panos.antonakakis@wto.org

Canada

Ms Michelle Cooper
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Canada
5 Avenue de l'Ariana
1202 Geneva
Tel: +41 22 919 9213
E-mail: michelle.cooper@international.gc.ca

Denmark

Mr Anders Christiansen
Counsellor (Agriculture)
Permanent Mission of Denmark
56 Rue de Moillebeau
PO Box 435
CH 1211 Geneva 19
Tel: +41 22 918 0048
E-mail: andchr@um.dk

Ms Louise Johennnsen
Attaché
Permanent Mission of Denmark
56 Rue de Moillebeau
PO Box 435
CH 1211 Geneva 19
Tel: +41 22 918 0053
E-mail: soffle@um.dk

European Communities

Mr Peter Brattinga
European Commission
DG Trade, Unit 2
Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, Biotechnology
Wetstraat 170
B-1040 Brussels
Tel: +(32 2) 29 689 92
E-mail: peter.brattinga@ec.europa.eu

Ms Isabelle Rollier
European Commission
DG Health and Consumer Protection, Unit D3
International questions (multilateral)
Rue Froissart 101 – 2/58
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: + 32 2 2950374
E-mail: isabelle.rollier@cec.eu.int

France

Mr Cedric Pene
Counsellor
Délégation permanente de la France auprès de l'OMC
Rue de Moillebeau 58
1209 Geneva
Tel: +(41) 22 544 32 00
E-mail: cedric.pene@missioneco.org

Netherlands

Mr Rien Huige
Counsellor
Permanent Representation of the Netherlands
31-33 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta
PO Box 196
1211 Geneva 20
Tel.: +41 22 7481822
E-mail: rien.huige@minbuza.nl

United Kingdom

Mr Tim Leyland
Formal Product Standards Adviser
Renewable Natural Resources and Agriculture Team
Policy Division
Department of International Development (DFID)
1 Palace Street
GB-London SW1E 5HE
Tel: +44 (0)207 023 0904
E-mail: T-Leyland@dfid.gov.uk

United States

Ms Cathy S. McKinnell
Deputy Director
Food Safety and Technical Services
Foreign Agricultural Service
Food Safety & Technical Services
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 10250-1027
Tel: +(1 202)-690 4898
E-mail: Cathy.McKinnell@fas.usda.gov

Beneficiary representatives

Ms Magda Gonzalez Arroyo
Export Manager
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Servicio fitosanitario del Estado
San Jose, Costa Rica
Tel: +506 2606721
E-mail: mgonzalez@protecnet.go.cr

Ms Shashi Sareen
Director
Export Inspection Council
New Delhi YMCA Cultural Centre Building
1 Jai Singh Road
New Delhi, India
Tel: +(911 1) 2374 8025
E-mail: shashi_sareen@hotmail.com or director@eicindia.org

ANNEX II

STDF DEADLINES 2007¹

MARCH STDF WORKING GROUP:

15 January 2007	Deadline for submission of proposals
10 February 2007	Deadline for circulation of projects and review of projects received by STDF Secretary
25 February 2007	Deadline for circulation of overview of project implementation by STDF Secretary + submission of comments by partners on proposals within their areas of expertise
9 March 2007	STDF Working Group meeting

JUNE STDF WORKING GROUP:

12 May 2007	Deadline for submission of proposals
3 June 2007	Deadline for circulation of projects and review of projects received by STDF Secretary
18 June 2007	Deadline for circulation of overview of project implementation by STDF Secretary + submission of comments by partners on proposals within their areas of expertise
29 June 2007	STDF Working Group meeting

OCTOBER STDF WORKING GROUP:

2 September 2007	Deadline for submission of proposals
23 September 2007	Deadline for circulation of projects and review of projects received by STDF Secretary
8 October 2007	Deadline for circulation of overview of project implementation by STDF Secretary + submission of comments by partners on proposals within their areas of expertise
19 October 2007	STDF Working Group meeting

¹ Unlike deadlines for submission of projects which are final, dates of future STDF Working Group meetings are tentative and subject to confirmation prior to each meeting.