

**UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force (CBTF)
on Trade, Environment and Development**

**REPORT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Luanda, Angola, 8-10 November 2004

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INTRODUCTION

The UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force (CBTF) held a seminar on Trade, Environment and Development for Portuguese-speaking African Developing Countries in Luanda, Angola, from 8 to 10 November 2004. The seminar was part of the CBTF work programme for 2004-2006, funded largely from a grant provided by the European Union, and responded to the decision taken jointly by UNCTAD and UNEP to provide high priority to Africa and LDCs in the implementation of this work programme. Its objective was to strengthen awareness of trade, environment and development linkages and start identifying priority issues and modalities for a sub-regional CBTF component. This sub-regional seminar follows a national CBTF workshop for Angola held in May 2003.

The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Environment and the Ministry of Commerce of Angola jointly organized this two-and-a-half day seminar, with the support of the Commercial Representation of Angola in Switzerland. The Ministry of Fisheries and Environment provided meeting facilities. Mr. Graciano Domingos, vice-minister of

Urban Affairs and Environment and Mr. Cruz, vice-minister of Commerce addressed the seminar in respectively the opening and closing sessions.

Around 60-70 people from Angola participated in the seminar. Two participants (one official from the ministry of trade or foreign affairs and one official from the ministry of the environment trade) of each of the following Portuguese-speaking African Countries also participated in the seminar: Cape Verde, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe. Guinea Bissau could not attend the workshop.

The UNCTAD secretariat provided two resource persons. An UNCTAD TrainforTrade expert on mission in Angola also made a presentation. In addition, the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Inmetro) in Brazil provided a resource person. Representatives of Det Norsk Veritas (DNV) in Luanda made a presentation on solid waste management and ISO 14001 certification. The seminar was conducted in Portuguese only.

This note briefly summarizes the proceedings of the seminar and assesses it based on an evaluation by seminar participants and the CBTF resource persons. It also lists recommendations for future CBTF activities for Portuguese-speaking African Developing Countries included in a communiqué issued by local authorities. CBTF should follow up on part of these recommendations. In particular, it was decided to organize annual CBTF sub-regional seminars in 2005 and 2006 with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of relevant recommendations. These are likely to be hosted by Cape Verde (2005) and Mozambique (2006).

Future CBTF activities should be closely coordinated with relevant activities in the context of other UNCTAD and UNEP technical cooperation and capacity building projects. This includes a planned multi-year TrainforTrade programme for Angola, which includes a module on Trade, Environment and Development. Participants also highlighted the benefits of further cooperation with Brazil.

SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS

The seminar covered a broad range of issues, in particular:

- CBTF, opportunities for Portuguese-speaking African Countries (*Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa*, PALOP)
- Environment in the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative
- Environmental requirements and market access
- Creating and strengthening a conformity assessment system to meet environmental and other requirements in international markets
- Briefing on the Clean Development Mechanism and LDCs

- Timber certification, Brazil's experience
- Sustainable Tourism Development
- Environmental challenges in Angola: solid waste management
- Approaches to technical cooperation and capacity building, including the TrainforTrade concept.
- Trade, Environment and Development: opportunities and challenges of Cape Verde
- Trade, Environment and Development: opportunities and challenges of Mozambique
- Trade, Environment and Development: São Tomé and Príncipe

Despite the large number of issues, it was possible to cover all issues in a generally satisfactory manner. A satisfactory balance was achieved between presentations and discussions. To achieve this, resource persons shortened prepared presentations for the second day. Discussions were participatory, to-the-point and interesting. Many participants highlighted that the issues addressed were of key interest to the countries concerned and stressed the need for continuity and follow-up activities. The complexity and cross-sectoral nature of the issues was also stressed. Apart from the above-mentioned issues, trade in genetically modified organisms (GMOs) generated considerable interest.

A total of around 70 people participated at least part of the seminar. Participants included representatives of several Government ministries as well as some (very active) representatives from civil society. Some sessions were less well attended, with participation dropping to around 40 people. Several participants mentioned that other parts of the Angolan government would have benefited from participation. There was very little private-sector participation.

The two organizing ministries had created a secretariat to prepare a short report on the seminar, in particular recommendations made by participants. These were discussed briefly during the last day.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The communiqué presented in the annex includes a long list of recommendations for implementation by CBTF and/or national governments. It will be necessary to consider which of these recommendations could be addressed by CBTF and/or other UNCTAD or UNEP projects. Some recommendations are clearly addressed to national authorities.

Recommendations for activities that could be supported by CBTF include:

- Annual Trade, Environment and Development seminars for PALOPs.
- Preparation and delivery of specific training courses on selected priority issues in the context of CBTF and the UNCTAD TrainforTrade programme.

Through these activities, CBTF could facilitate follow up to a number of issue-specific recommendations listed in the annex, where appropriate in coordination with other projects.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

UNCTAD and UNEP will prepare a work plan including further activities for Portuguese-speaking African Developing Countries, as part of the CBTF work programme for 2005-2006, in particular the sub-regional seminars in 2005 and 2006. Preparations for the first seminar will start as soon as possible. Priorities will have to be worked out further, based on the above-mentioned recommendations, consultations with PALOPs, as well as UNEP's and UNCTAD's own priorities

The different presentations will be posted on the CBTF web-site, along with this report.

UNCTAD will, on behalf of CBTF, write to the missions of the PALOP in Geneva and Brussels as well as the European Commission.

EVALUATION

Evaluation by participants

At the final session of the seminar, participants were requested to fill out an evaluation form. In total, 33 forms were returned.

With regard to the overall quality of the seminar, 87.5 per cent rated the seminar as "good" or "adequate". The remaining 12.5 per cent rated it as "insufficient".

Most participants (78 per cent) considered the duration of the seminar to be adequate. However, a significant share (19 per cent) considered that the seminar was too short.

A relatively large share of participants felt that there should have been larger participation from Angola: 56 per cent felt that there should have been more participants whereas 44 per cent found the number of participants to have been adequate.

Most participants (84 per cent) considered that the coverage of the seminar had been "good" or "very good". Similarly, 73 per cent found that the depth and 76 per cent considered that the precision of the issues addressed had been "good" or "very good".

The materials (powerpoint presentations) were generally well received, with 75 per cent considering that the written materials were "good" or "very good". Similarly, 86 per cent considered that the visual presentation and 97 per cent found that the pedagogical content of the materials was "good" or "very good".

Evaluation by the CBTF team

The seminar achieved its objectives. The seminar brought together four PALOPs for a meaningful, active and participatory discussion. Participants showed string interest in the issues addressed and commitment to follow-up activities. Experts from Angola appeared well-informed and participated actively in the discussions. However, there was a feeling that a larger number of Angolan institutions and experts could have benefited from and contributed to the seminar. In part this may be explained by the fact that several meetings were going on at the same time in Luanda.

Several lessons can be learned for future activities:

- The duration of future seminars should be three full days, with a more focused set of issues. These issues have to be addressed in greater depth and precision.
- There should be closer coordination with the host country in securing participation of national experts.
- A user-friendly training course has to be written, based on the presentations prepared for the seminar as well as on additional research, in particular on the specific conditions and needs of the PALOPs.
- The cooperation with Inmetro illustrates the benefits of South-South cooperation in implementing CBTF activities. Apart from continuing the cooperation with Inmetro, other Brazilian, selected in accordance with issues that will be selected, could be involved in future activities.
- There is a need to invite UNDP, the European Union and other potential donors to CBTF meetings.
- There is a need to improved UNCTAD-UNEP coordination in preparing future CBTF activities, with one of the two institutions taking a lead in both substantive and administrative preparations, as well as in managing (and raising additional) CBTF funds. UNCTAD should take a lead in preparing future activities for PALOP, linking these with other projects as well as raising and managing CBTF funds.

ANNEX: RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNIQUE

- Support the efforts of PALOPs in the area of market access issues, for example, through participation in Inmetro's *Alerta Exportador* programme and the UNCTAD Consultative Task Force (CTF) on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries.
- Promote of South-South cooperation.
- Promote the exchange of experiences among PALOPs in the promotion of exports from relevant sectors such as fisheries and agriculture.
- Organize annual Trade, Environment and Development seminars for PALOPs on
- Carry out an assessment of the potential in PALOPS for the sustainable development of products and services deriving from biodiversity, in the framework of the UNCTAD BioTrade Initiative.
- Facilitate the exchange of national experiences in the participation of PALOPs in multilateral trade negotiations and the implementation of MEAs.
- Promote regional harmonization, as appropriate, of policies in the area of trade and environment.
- Support the elaboration of integrated national strategies concerning solid waste management.
- Prepare and conduct specific training courses on selected priority issues in the context of the UNCTAD TrainforTrade programme
- Strengthen technical assistance and human and institutional capacity building in favour of PALOPs.
- Encourage improved interaction between Brazil and PALOPs in the are of environmental policies.
- Support for the conduct of national studies on environmental goods and services with a view to improving access to clean technologies.
- Support the efforts of PALOPs to promote the sustainable development of tourism, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization.
- Encourage the inclusion of environmental education programmes in school.
- Examine mechanisms to regulate imports of genetically modified organisms.

EVALUATION BY PARTICIPANTS

How do you evaluate the meeting (good, adequate, insufficient)?

	Good	Adequate	Insufficient	Nr. of responses
Number	16 (50.0%)	12 (37.5)	4 (12.5)	32

What is your opinion on the duration of the seminar (too long, adequate or too short)?

	Too long	Adequate	Too short	Nr. of responses
Number	1 (3.1%)	25 (78.1%)	6 (18.8%)	32

How do you rate the number of participants (excessive, adequate, too few)?

	Excessive	Adequate	Too few	Nr. of responses
Number		14 (43.8%)	18 (56.2%)	32

How do you rate the technical content of the seminar?

	Very good	Good	Sufficient	Weak	Very weak	Nr of responses
Coverage	6 (19.4%)	20 (64.5%)	5 (16.1%)	1 (3.2%)	-	31
Depth	5 (15.2%)	19 (57.6%)	9 (27.3%)	-	-	33
Precision	4 (12.1%)	21 (63.6%)	8 (24.2%)	-	-	33

How do you rate the materials prepared for the meeting?

	Very good	Good	Sufficient	Weak	Very weak	Nr of responses
Written	7 (21.9%)	17 (53.1%)	7 (21.9)	1 (3.1%)	-	32
Visual	9 (31.0%)	16 (55.2)	3 (10.3%)	1 (3.4%)	-	29
Pedagogical value	9 (29.0%)	21 (67.7%)	1 (3.2%)	-	-	31