

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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4. In advancing the TRIPS Agreement implementation process, Sierra Leone would like to reiterate that as an LDC, it enjoys maximum policy flexibility in building a sound and viable technological base and safeguarding public health and nutrition under the TRIPS Agreement. In this respect it re-emphasises the importance of the commitment made by developed country Members to provide technical and financial assistance on mutually agreed terms under Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement, as well as incentives for transfer of technology under Article 66.2.

5. The Republic of Sierra Leone takes at earnest its international obligations and the need to implement the TRIPS Agreement, at an appropriate time, with due consideration to the minimum standards of protection and enforcement and taking into account, among others, the objectives and principles of the Agreement. For that purpose the present statement and its annexes seek to reflect priority needs and a plan of action

private sector development and regulation including the education, agriculture, health, environment, culture and science and technology sectors.

10. In order to assess technical assistance needs, several consultations to determine priority needs were held in July 2007 with a wide variety of national stakeholders and with the technical support of independent international experts (under the ICTSD-Saana Consulting-

ANNEX A

**PRIORITY NEEDS FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION FOR TAKING
STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRIPS AGREEMENT**

1. IP policy and legal framework

- (a) Strengthening IP policy/legal development and co-ordination capacity in the Ministry of Trade & Industry (MTI)

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variety protection, integrated circuit topographies, competition policy, traditional knowledge, access to genetic resources & benefit sharing under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), and copyright in the digital environment). The focus would be on investigating the socio-economic impacts, international experiences in other countries, and the optimum legal and regulatory frameworks for their use, administration and enforcement in all areas of the economy in Sierra Leone.

2. IPR administration

(a) Modernizing the organizational status of IPR administration in Sierra Leone

There is a broad consensus amongst stakeholders that the existing legacy organizational model of the Office of the Administrator and Registrar General (OARG) for IPR administration is out-dated. The preferred option, suggested by stakeholders consulted during the needs assessment exercise and supported by international best-practice, is the eventual establishment of a small but well-run Sierra Leone Intellectual Property Office, which would operate as a self-financing, autonomous government agency accountable to Parliament through the MTI. This service

4. Innovation, technology transfer and using IP for development

(a) Development of domestic innovative and creative base

In order for Sierra Leone to establish its own innovative and creative base, it is crucial to increase access to and make use of technologies already available to Sierra Leone. An assessment is necessary to identify the technologies, human resources and supporting infrastructure necessary to support certain sectors, such as mining, agric

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES	IDENTIFIED NEEDS FOR TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED MAIN ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS NEEDS	LEAD NATIONAL AGENCIES	PROVISIONAL TARGET TIMETABLE
<p>Project 3: Strengthening IP enforcement and regulation regime</p>	<p>A. Improving business and consumer education and awareness about IPRs</p> <p>B. Human resource capacity-building of enforcement agencies in IPR concepts and national legislation</p> <p>C. Development of networked, computerised database on counterfeit products for the Sierra Leone Customs Service</p> <p>D. Enhancing co-operation with foreign enforcement agencies on combating counterfeiting and piracy (TRIPS Agreement Art. 69)</p>	<p>Design, implementation and monitoring of medium-term public education and awareness raising campaigns on IPRs targeting different audience segments and using range of media</p> <p>Design and implementation of medium-term training programmes for enforcement agencies, including classroom-based, on-the-job, training-for-trainers and study tours</p> <p>Access to networked, computerized database on IPRs for use by the Sierra Leone Customs Service in co-operation with the national IP administration agency and customs services in neighbouring countries</p> <p>Access to WCO databases that are used to identify counterfeit trademarks for the Sierra Leone Customs Service. Technical co-operation from the WCO and INTERPOL would be required to establish the system and training staff</p>	<p>Ministry of Trade & Industry</p> <p>Office of Administrator & Registrar General</p> <p>Criminal Investigation Department, Sierra Leone Police Force</p> <p>Customs Department, National Revenue Authority</p> <p>Ministry of Tourism & Culture</p> <p>Commercial Division, High Court of Sierra Leone</p> <p>Pharmacy Board, Ministry of Health & Sanitation</p> <p>Private sector associations (e.g. Music Industry Task Force)</p>	<p>All activities under Project 3 to commence by June 2008 and to be completed by July 2013</p> <p>Additional phase of technical and financial assistance may be required after July 2013</p>

