



**UNCTAD Report to the GTAP Advisory Board Meeting
June 9-10, 2008, Helsinki, Finland**

1. UNCTAD Activities

a. Technical Assistance

UNCTAD provided developing countries with technical assistance in WTO ongoing negotiations. As it was already the case last year, technical assistance has been essentially focusing on the production of simulations of the various NAMA, but also agricultural modalities currently under discussion. These exercises have been essentially country/region focused.

b. GTAP-related publications in 2007-2008

A South-South Survival Strategy: The potential for trade among developing countries, by Marco Fugazza (UNCTAD) and David Vanzetti (University of Canberra), in the *World Economy*, May 2008.

Non tariff Barriers in CGE Modeling: What use for Policy?, by Marco Fugazza (UNCTAD) and Jean-Christophe Maur (DFID), in the *Journal of Policy Modeling* May-June 2008.

2. Capacity Building at UNCTAD

UNCTAD is attempting to increase the internal use as well as the number of users of GTAP utilities.

a. Participation in GTAP short course

UNCTAD resources for individual training have been further limited due to budget restrictions. This implies that participation of any staff in external courses is still limited.

b. Internal Training

The internal use of GTAP has been promoted through collaboration between users and non-users. This has been the case for all technical assistance activities.

3. Data Issues

UNCTAD contributed to the publication with the WTO and ITC of the first “**World Tariff Profiles 2006**”. This new publication provides a comprehensive picture of bound and applied nominal tariff protection for 150 countries. The information on each country's market

access situation is presented in the form of summary tables, which facilitate cross-country comparisons, and in country pages disaggregation by sectors and duty ranges is provided. In addition, a section in the country pages highlights market access conditions faced in major export markets.

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are addressed through the multi-agency framework reported last year. In 2007-2008, this led to an agreement on the tentative new classification of NTMs. The salient features of the classification system are: the creation of two distinct categories of SPS and TBT measures and their detailed breakdowns; inclusion of measures related to government procurement, intellectual property rights, rules of origin etc; and an introduction of the new concept of "Procedural Obstacles". Procedural obstacles are those impediments to trade where, instead of a non-tariff measure itself, the way the measure is applied or administered poses a problem to the traders. For example, while a product may satisfy all conditions to obtain a certification, it may take too many days or cost too much.

The pilot project to collect NTM data based on the new classification has started in seven countries (Brazil, Chile, India, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Uganda). The project will aim at collecting data both from official sources of these countries and their major trading partners, as well as from traders' complaints. The latter information will be collected through face-to-face interviews with the traders, as well as by means of a new web portal, "Trade Barrier Reporter - <http://ntbinfo.org>". It is expected that the data collection phase of the project will be completed before the end of the year.