



COMPAL Programme
MISSION REPORT
FOR DISSEMINATION WITHIN COMPAL STAKEHOLDERS

NAMES: Ana María Alvarez, Programme Manager. Pierre M. Horna, General Assistant to the Programme Management Committee

SIGNATURES:

SUBJECT: Meeting with the donor (SECO) to review the results of the First year COMPAL and particularly the monitoring meetings

DISTRIBUTION TO:

MISSION PERIOD: Bern 24 March 2006

PROJECT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

INSTITUTION(S)

- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
- Swiss Competition Agency (COMCO)

PERSON(S) CONTACTED

- Mr. Jean Pierre Cuendet, SECO
- Mrs. Katrin Emmenegger, Swiss Competition Agency (COMCO)

OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE MISSION:

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COMPAL Programme / UNCTAD

- The meeting aimed at discussing with SECO the major issues resulting from the annual monitoring meetings held during January and February 2006. It also dealt with the future activities for 2006 and 2007.
- The main topics discussed were the following:

1. Comments to the Annual Plans of Action (POAs) 2006 done by SECO

The donor approved the POAs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Peru and provided specific comments (sent through the COMPAL Extranet) which will be useful for the preparation of next year POAs,

As for the next year POAs, national coordinators are requested to present it with a reduced number of pages

2. Situation in Bolivia and strategy to follow

Given the new Bolivian context, the local authorities (Lic. Vladimir Ferrel Alvarez from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) sent a letter to the Programme Manager requesting an extension to submit the POA. The donor and UNCTAD agreed on the deadline requested.

3. Global Annual Report (GAR) and lessons from the Annual Meeting in Managua and La Paz

With reference to the Global Annual Report (GAR) 2005, it was agreed that the final submission of the document to the donor will be done shortly. It will also be uploaded in the COMPAL extranet for easier consultation. This document is key for disseminating the main results of the first year of the Programme and an important tool for reporting on UNCTAD's work in English and Spanish. Moreover, it was agreed that the GAR 2006 will be drafted in Spanish and will include an Executive summary in English.

As regards the lessons from the annual monitoring meeting in Managua, the donor highly praised the dynamism shown by all the participants; it was extremely useful to exchange experiences and to update the main achievements and challenges of COMPAL. With the intention to obtain better results, the donor suggested the following changes for next meetings:

- a. The title of the annual meetings will now be changed to the following: "*Monitoring and Planning Meeting (Reunión de Monitoreo y Planificación)*". The main objective of these meetings is to highlight the value added of the sectoral studies on the basis of their findings and ways the recommendations are adopted by local institutions and to facilitate the exchange of experiences amongst COMPAL beneficiary countries. During these meetings, the following background documents should be submitted: National Annual Reports (INAs) and POAs 2007 prepared by each NPC with UNCTAD support, and the Draft Global Annual Report (IGA2006) prepared by UNCTAD in coordination with the ITPA.

- b. The workflow to revise and approve the documents would be the following:
- INAs: it was agreed that a special meeting of the Strategic Direction Committee (SECO/COMCO & UNCTAD) should take place during the Annual meeting. It will discuss and approve the INAs besides discussing other important matters of interest for COMPAL as a whole.
 - IGA and POAs: Once the meeting finalizes, a short meeting will take place between the donors (SECO and COMCO) to approve these documents. New TORs of the IGA will be drafted making sure that there is an English version which allows to report COMPAL as part of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities with Latin American countries.
- c. As for the contents and the agenda of the dissemination meetings, the donor suggested the following:
- The findings and recommendations of the sectoral studies;
 - The exchange of experiences amongst COMPAL beneficiary countries.
- d. As regards the organization and contents of the dissemination events, the beneficiary countries should narrow down their presentations and adapt them to the core issues discussed in the annual meetings. It is expected that in view of the wide experience and knowledge of the International Technical Programme Advisor (ITPA), he could provide concrete recommendations. This will be facilitated through a more direct and intensive contact between the ITPA and the NPCs and consultants. As regards UNCTAD's contributions during the events, it was recommended that they should target COMPAL impact on each beneficiary country and that UNCTAD should share its experiences from other regions with COMPAL beneficiaries. With reference to logistic aspects during the events, it was recommended to have at least one working day in between two official missions, so as to prevent airplane delays and the like . This may imply some budget arrangements in order to fit the recommended changes. Finally, it was also recommended to separate the translator of the ITPA from the place of the event so as to avoid interrupting participants
- e. It was agreed with the donor that in order to achieve a better coordination of the activities to be carried out, UNCTAD will contact directly COSUDE whenever it was considered appropriate.

4. Improvement of the impact of the sectoral studies

The donor highly praised the importance of the sectoral studies and highlighted that the results from the studies should be better disseminated and taken into consideration by the local institutions. This requires a thorough selection of sectors and markets to be analyzed prior to the definition of the TORs and the preparation of the study by a national or regional consultant. The dissemination and the follow-up of recommendations, UNCTAD will do its best efforts to coordinate this with the NPC.

5. Establishing of academic programmes in Universities

A major component of the COMPAL activities for 2006 is the work with the academia. To this end, the donor suggested UNCTAD to delegate more responsibilities and prerogatives to the ITPA. He will be requested to guide the implementation of academic programmes in beneficiary countries. Currently UNCTAD is proposing a revision of his TORs and a new workflow for the ITPA, UNCTAD and NPCs This is expected to contribute to obtain better benefits from the wide academic experience of the ITPA.

6. Fostering the presence of COMPAL in Latin America

In order to increase the impact of COMPAL on other Latin American countries and other region, UNCTAD suggested to use more actively the Extranet platform. In this regard, UNCTAD will promote the following: a. to exchange information of interest to competition agencies in Latin America; b. to publicize competition and consumer protection events of interest to COMPAL stakeholders; c. to prepare two additional research studies: the first, cross-cutting lessons from COMPAL studies and second, the linkage between COMPAL and the on-going bilateral and regional trade agreements. The ways this new opening of the COMPAL site will operate will be communicated to COMPAL stakeholders shortly.

7. Budget revision

UNCTAD commented the need to introduce some changes to the COMPAL master budget in order to face the Impact Strategy for mid-2006 and to ensure some flexibility in the implementation of the Programme as a whole. The donor agreed with this flexibility provided the changes fall into the objectives of COMPAL.