

**Draft**  
**Subject to Legal Review for Accuracy, Clarity, and Consistency**  
**March 31, 2004**

[Moroccan Government Official]

Dear [Moroccan Government Official]:

I am pleased to outline U.S. plans for technical assistance to Morocco with respect to technical barriers to trade (TBT) between our countries, as we discussed during negotiations of the free trade agreement between the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco (FTA).

The objectives of such assistance are to:

- (1) Facilitate implementation of the Technical Barriers to Trade chapter of the FTA;
- (2) Help build the capacity of Morocco's institutions that formulate standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures and enhance the transparency with which they operate;
- (3) Provide support for the private sector in the United States and Morocco regarding understanding technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures in Morocco and the United States, respectively; and
- (4) Explore appropriate ways to cooperate on conformity assessment.

The governments of the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco will cooperate in the future, subject to their respective funding procedures, in the areas outlined below.

In the area of institutional capacity building and transparency, the two governments will consider cooperation in the initial areas below:

- (1) Assisting Morocco to strengthen its regulatory system and institutions charged with developing technical regulations;
- (2) Organizing training in the United States for officials from relevant Moroccan Ministries, focusing on specific sectors of export interest to Morocco and aimed at: increasing key officials' understanding of the U.S. system, including of U.S. approaches to regulating used goods; and preparing an action plan for future cooperation activities;
- (3) Providing training to and sharing U.S. expertise with key officials to strengthen Morocco's institutions responsible for standardization, certification, and

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accreditation, and improving the ability of Morocco's institutions to notify technical regulations, address public inquiries, and provide written responses to public comments;

- (4) Facilitating linkages and cooperative relationships with government and private standards development, testing, and conformity assessment bodies; and
- (5) Pursuing appropriate follow-up activities.

In the area of informational and private sector-related activities, the two governments will consider cooperation in the initial areas below:

- (1) Participating in seminars and using internet resources to educate U.S. and Moroccan companies about Morocco's and the United States' technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures, respectively;
- (2) Introducing Moroccan companies from sectors such as textiles and leather, automobile parts, electronics and food processing to U.S. regulatory approaches and appropriate methods to meet technical regulations.

I share your desire and expectation that the technical assistance outlined in this letter will complement Morocco's ongoing reforms in the TBT area and help ensure that the United States and Morocco reap the full benefits of trade liberalization under the FTA.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Novelli  
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for  
Europe and the Mediterranean