



Summary

TITLE	Implementation of the WTO decisions on TRIPS Public Health
Applicant	COMESA Member States
Duration of the Project	The intended commencement date is September 2010 and the period of implementation of the contract will be 4 months from this date
Objectives of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote access to pharmaceutical products (medicines and medical equipments) in the COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) region through regional production of and trade in medicine, and through bulk purchasing and importation, and to develop a work program for utilizing flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement as amended by the Decision; and in this regard to develop a sector strategy for the pharmaceutical sector in COMESA
Purposes of the action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalise the system set by the WTO Decision and ensure the acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement by all COMESA member states; Build local capacity to produce pharmaceutical products; Facilitate access to medicines.
Target group(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pharmaceutical companies in the region, Ministries responsible for Health and Ministries responsible for Trade in the region, prospective investors, Regional Investment Agency as well as COMESA Secretariat. The estimated number of the overall participants in the workshop is 45 persons.
Expertise Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key expert 1: Team Leader, Advanced University Degree in Law, Economics, or other relevant discipline preferably with a bias in Intellectual property Rights (15 days in Lusaka and 8 days in Kampala) Key expert 2: University degree in Economics or other relevant discipline, preferably with a bias in Intellectual property Rights (2 days in Geneva and 8 days in Kampala) Key expert 3: University degree in Law, Economics, or other relevant discipline, preferably with background knowledge on Investment climate in Africa (15 Days in Lusaka and 8 days in Kampala)
Expected results	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better understanding by the line ministries, IP officials and potential investors on how to utilize the Decision and other flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement; Better coordination by health and other line ministries and departments on their procurement policies and modalities; Increased investments in the pharmaceutical sector by marketing the entire region as a single market for pharmaceutical products in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 31bis of the TRIPS Agreement; Improved access to affordable pharmaceutical products; Overall implementation of 30 August Decision on TRIPS and Public Health.

Main activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review IP laws <i>vis-à-vis</i> TRIPS flexibilities on access to medicine in COMESA region ii. Review investment regimes in the region, and studies done so far, identify incentives necessary to attract investments in pharmaceutical sector, and make initial indications of sources of investment and strategies for generating and attracting the investments into the pharmaceutical sector in the COMESA region, and prepare a sector strategy for the pharmaceutical sector in COMESA iii. Prepare seminar materials, including a sample acceptance protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement that could be used by the remaining COMESA WTO Members iv. Hold a 5-day Regional workshop on TRIPS and Public Health in Kampala, Uganda during which time, Government officials from Intellectual Property Offices will present progress made in facilitating access to medicines. The logistical organisation of the event will be undertaken by a separate consultant to be recruited. Close coordination between the two consultants will be required to ensure a smooth implementation of the conference, a timely transmission of all required information and a wide dissemination of the results. The experts will develop all documentation, sensitisation documents, agenda, press release, etc. in close coordination. v. Make recommendations on the way forward.
Budget Estimate	EUR 198.000