



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DMFAS PROGRAMME

The DMFAS Programme is one of UNCTAD's main programmes in the area of technical cooperation. It has provided technical assistance in debt management for over 25 years and is one of the world's major providers of technical and advisory services in this area. At present, it is cooperating with nearly 100 institutions in 66 low and middle-income countries and collaborates closely with the IMF and the World Bank at the country level. The Programme's major focus is on capacity building, offering an integrated set of activities, including the implementation of an advanced computerized debt management system. In the view of our main partners, DMFAS is providing an international public good, thereby contributing to raise awareness of debt management as an important component of government policy.

Although the DMFAS Programme is partly financed through resources from the UN regular budget and other UN accounts, contributions from bilateral donors constitute the main source of funds for its central activities in Geneva. At present, its four major donors are the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Beneficiaries are also increasingly contributing funds to the Programme through its cost-sharing mechanism, which consists mainly of maintenance fees and one-time development fees, thereby implicitly recognizing the importance they attach to the Programme.

In order to channel contributions from both donors and beneficiaries through one single trust fund, and in order to secure the Programme's sustainability, UNCTAD set up a multi-donor and multi-year DMFAS Trust Fund in 2002. The initial period of validity was 2002 – 2005. This period has come to an end, and, as mentioned before, a new strategic plan has been prepared, which covers the period 2007 – 2010, the year 2006 being a year of transition.

One of the priorities of the Programme is to secure stable, adequate and, beyond all, predictable funding for its continued operations, in a setting where the Programme's customer base has considerably increased over the last few years. However, the DMFAS also seeks to obtain feedback and support from potentially interested donor countries and international organizations on the future activities of the Programme and how to stabilize its income stream in order to considerably reduce current funding risks.

Once the strategic plan is approved and funds have been committed, UNCTAD will be in a position to continue to work towards improved debt management, particularly in developing countries. It will support debtors and creditors in their efforts to make the positive impact of the recent debt relief initiatives long lasting.

The DMFAS Programme is at your disposal for any further information you might require.