WTO/TBT Workshop on the Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment Geneva, 16 – 17 March 2006



# Relevance of UNIDO Services to the Responses to the WTO Questionnaire G/TBT/W/178

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# **Background**

### The WTO questionnaire consists of two parts:

• First part: focusing on the current situation, specific problems/difficulties/interests and which

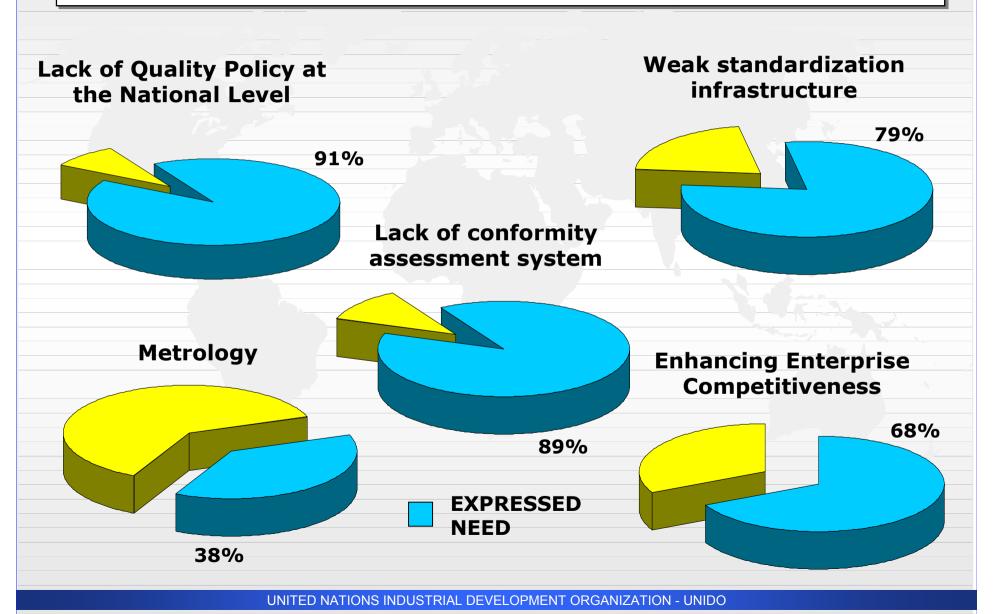
assistance or cooperation is required in relation

to different elements of the TBT-field

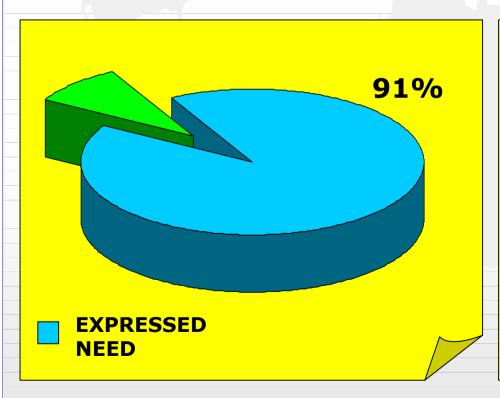
 Second part: providing a form to prioritize needs in the TBT-field

### **UNIDO** analysis:

- utilized the data of both parts of the questionnaire, with an emphasis on the first part
- is based on 53 responses (JOB(02)/99 and Add.1-52)

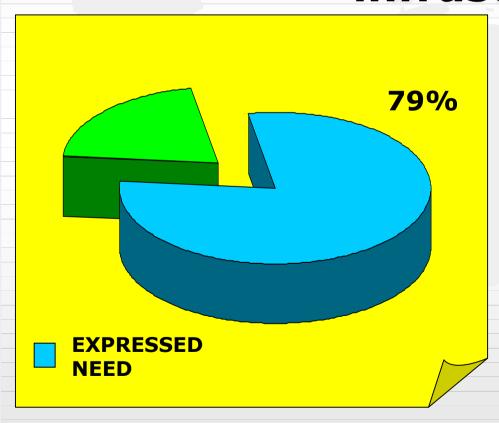


# Lack of Quality Policy at the National Level



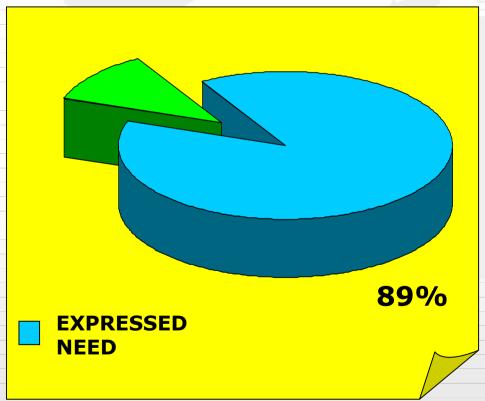
- •38%: Review and evaluation of existing <u>national quality policy</u> to comply with WTO TBT requirements.
- 66%: Elaboration and implementation of quality, standardization, metrology and productivity policies

# Weak standardization infrastructure



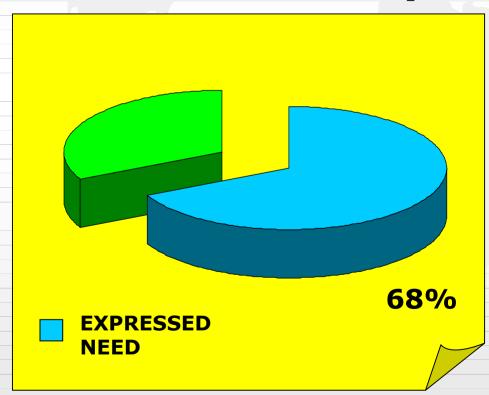
- 37%: Seminars and workshops to set up procedures and support the process of adoption / elaboration of standards
- 53%: Assistance in the process to acquire <u>membership in regional and</u> international institutions
- 37%: <u>Upgrading of standardization</u> bodies in terms of physical and human resources, cost-effectiveness and management practices.

# Lack of conformity assessment system



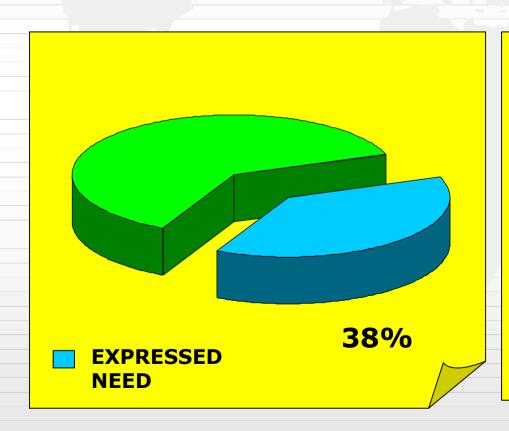
- 51%: Improving <u>effectiveness of</u> <u>services</u> through assessment of the existing situation and implementation of recommendations
- 49%: Assistance in <u>networking</u> and the establishment of <u>partnerships</u> among national and regional bodies
- 44%: Assistance to achieve international recognition

# **Enhancing Enterprise Competitiveness**



- •56%: Increasing <u>awareness on TBT</u> and their implication at government and industry level (surveys, seminars)
- •35%: Strengthening the capacity of business and industrial associations to <a href="https://example.com/overcome-to-united-to

# Metrology



#### **Examples of Required Assistance**

• 32%: Assistance to achieve laboratory accreditation according ISO/IEC 17025

• 34%: Establishment and upgrading of a national metrology laboratory or a calibration service

# Results of the Needs Assessment through the WTO Questionnaire G/TBT/W/178 are confirmed through UNIDO:

- Country/region needs assessments
- Enterprises survey of barriers to trade

UNIDO TRTA/CB is based on those assessment and on analysis of supply-side constraints of key export sectors

#### **ENTERPRISES SURVEYS OF BARRIERS TO TRADE**

- The first test of the survey (Bahrain, 2002, 25/100), then in 10 countries.....2006 Pakistan...)
- Problems faced by exporters while trading regionally and internationally assessed and cost implications of conformity estimated
- Barriers to trade strongly related to business/commercial partnerships (i.e. suppliers of larger companies, strength of importers....)

#### **ENTERPRISES SURVEYS OF BARRIERS TO TRADE**

 The most common <u>problems related to customs and</u> <u>conformity</u>

 The costs of <u>conformity assessment procedures</u> rarely allocated to product costs and tended to be <u>treated as</u> overheads.

 The costs of complying with the differing technical regulations in Europe, USA and Japan were estimated to add up to 5-10% to product cost.

### **SURVEY LEBANON 2004**

Partnership: UNIDO and INFOPRO

Sample: 100 exporting food manufacturers

Methodology: interview with high-level managers/owners

**Topics:** 

STANDARDS AND TESTING

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES** 

TRADE POLICY ISSUES

**SUPPLY CAPACITY** 

PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

**OTHERS** 

#### **TOP 4 PROBLEMS:**

- Price Competition (internal and external)
- tests certificates (recognition of local labs)
- Trade facilitation (affecting import/export)
- Tariffs

#### **LOST ORDERS**

42% of respondents (food processors) lost orders in the last few years due to barriers to trade

#### STANDARDS AND TESTING

•	Tests an	d certificates	from local lab	s: <b>52</b> %
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Access to standards information 29%

Compliance with standards (import)

# ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES (TRADE FACILITATION)

Irregular additional payments I/E: 46%

Custom formalities
37%

Improper administrative practices 31%

#### TRADE POLICY ISSUES

• Tariffs:

Import quota/prohibitions

WTO OMC

#### **SUPPLY CAPACITY**

Price Competition

Quantity

89% 17%

40%

#### **PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES**

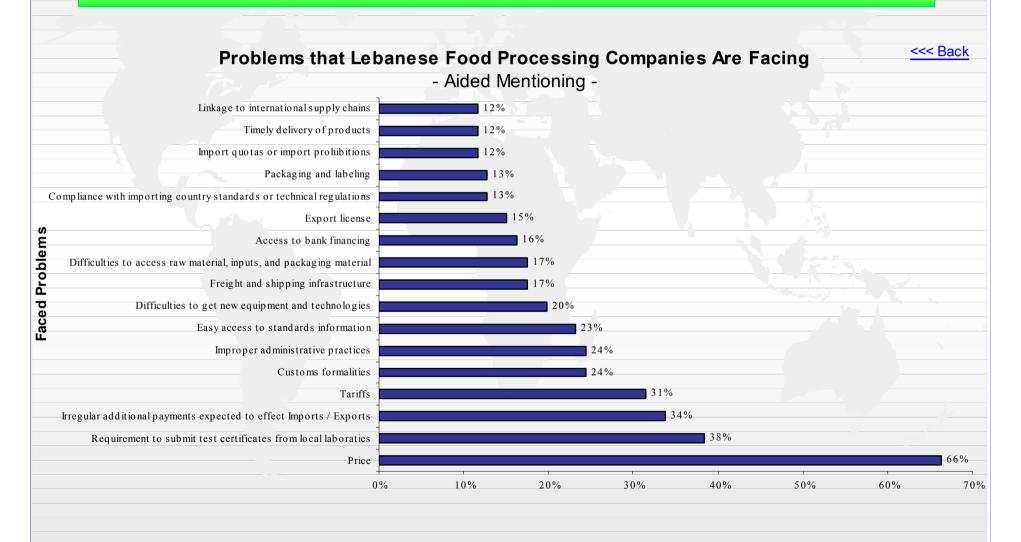
Access to new equipment/technologies: 22%

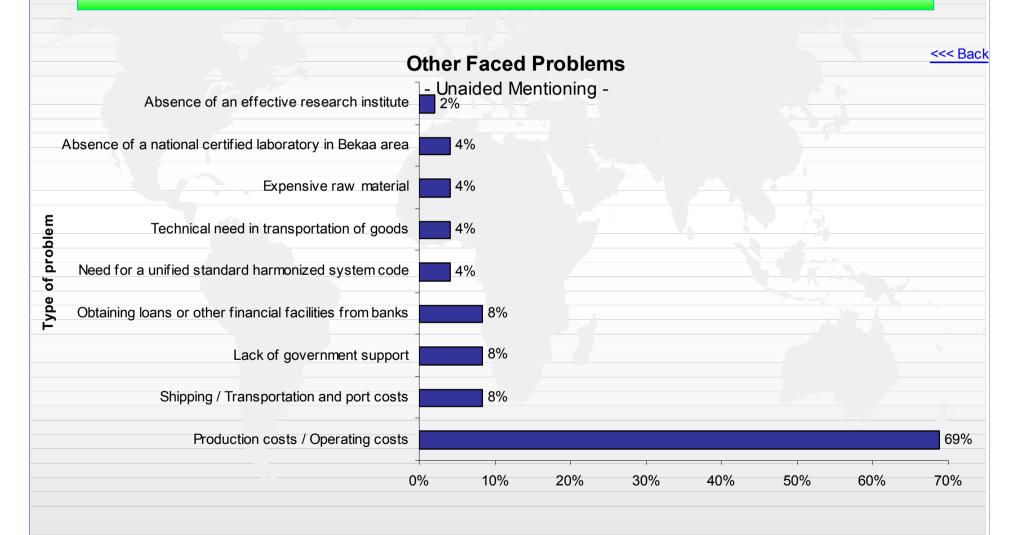
Access to raw material/inputs/packaging 20%

#### **OTHERS**

• Infrastructure 18%

Linkages to international supply chains 18%





- Estimated cost of CA as percentage of sales price: average 3.4% but for 31% of companies above 3%
- 77% aware of WTO BUT 77% and 82% not yet aware of TBT and SPS respectively;
- Problems with price competition related to high production/operating costs
- Weak conformity assessment infrastructure is seen as a key barrier to trade
- Compete on price is the challenge (internal/external costs)
- Individual versus grouping to access markets and access to supply chains

# **THANK YOU**



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