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**Schwab Announces U.S. Contribution to WTO Technical Assistance Efforts**

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab announced today that the United States will contribute nearly \$1 million for trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) to the World Trade Organization (WTO). This latest contribution will bring total U.S. trade assistance for the Doha Development Agenda to almost \$8 million since the launch of negotiations in November 2001.

“A successful Doha Round of trade negotiations will contribute to development and lift millions out of poverty around the world,” Ambassador Schwab said. “This contribution will help many of our trading partners around the world to participate fully in these negotiations and in the global marketplace.”

The \$942,305 U.S. contribution, which was approved by Congress, will be part of a technical assistance fund that developing nations can use for assistance in analyzing issues, assessing individual country interests, and meeting their WTO obligations that result from the negotiations.

“The United States stands to benefit greatly from a successful conclusion of the Doha Round,” Ambassador Schwab said. “Yet our success would be short-lived if our partners in developing nations could not fully engage in the pursuit of an ambitious Doha Round outcome that promises to spur development and enhance economic opportunity around the globe. I am glad that we are able to provide this assistance.”

**Background**

The WTO’s TRTA program provides training for developing countries that enhances their ability to analyze issues, assess their interests and participate effectively in the negotiations. The program also provides these nations assistance in meeting their WTO obligations and ensures they fully benefit from the results of WTO negotiations.

The United States’ contribution to the WTO was appropriated by Congress as part of the funds it provides to the U.S. Department State for voluntary contributions to international organizations.

It is just one part of much broader U.S. assistance efforts. The United States is the largest single country donor of trade capacity building assistance. U.S. support for trade capacity building (or "aid for trade") since the Doha Round began in 2001, has now reached \$7 billion.

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