



Technical Assistance Report

PUBLIC

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Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA)
December 2022

Strengthening Knowledge in Regional Trade Agreements and International Investment Agreements for Greater Regional Integration and Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals in ADB Developing Member Countries

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Asian Development Bank

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
DMC	–	developing member country
FDI	–	foreign direct investment
ICSID	–	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
IIA	–	international investment agreement
ISDS	–	investor-state dispute settlement
RTA	–	regional trade agreement
SDG	–	Sustainable Development Goal
TA	–	technical assistance
UNCITRAL	–	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	–	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO	–	World Trade Organization

NOTE

In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

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KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

1. Basic Data		Project Number: 56351-001
Project Name	Strengthening Knowledge in Regional Trade Agreements and International Investment Agreements for Greater Regional Integration and Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals in ADB Developing Member Countries	Department/Division OGC/OGC
Nature of Activity	Capacity Development	Executing Agency Asian Development Bank
Modality	Regular	
Country	REG (CAM, UZB)	
2. Sector		ADB Financing (\$ million)
✓ Industry and trade	Industry and trade sector development	0.363
	Trade and services	0.363
	Total	0.726
3. Operational Priorities		Climate Change Information
✓ OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity		GHG Reductions (tons per annum) 0
✓ OP7: Fostering regional cooperation and integration		Climate Change impact on the Project Low
		ADB Financing
		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.000
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.000
		Cofinancing
		Adaptation (\$ million) 0.000
		Mitigation (\$ million) 0.000
Sustainable Development Goals		Gender Equity and Mainstreaming
SDG 8.2		Some gender elements (SGE) ✓
SDG 9.2, 9.4		
SDG 16.3		
SDG 17.3, 17.5		
4. Risk Categorization Low		Poverty Targeting
		General Intervention on Poverty ✓
5. Safeguard Categorization Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply		
6. Financing		
Modality and Sources		Amount (\$ million)
ADB		0.725
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance		0.725
Special Fund		
Cofinancing		0.000
None		0.000
Counterpart		0.000
None		0.000
Total		0.725
Currency of ADB Financing: US Dollar		

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will assist participating developing member countries (DMCs) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) increase their knowledge about regional trade agreements (RTAs) and international investment agreements (IIAs).¹ This will improve domestic policy making to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); intra-governmental coordination, governance, and transparency; and the mitigation of dispute risk, which in turn can strengthen the coordination and implementation of such agreements.²

2. The TA is closely and synergistically aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030, including tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability (OP3); strengthening governance and institutional capacity (OP6); and fostering regional cooperation and integration (OP7).³ In particular, the TA advances the strategic thrusts of OP7—(i) greater and better-quality connectivity between economies, (ii) expansion of global and regional trade and investment opportunities, and (iii) increase and diversification of regional public goods. It will also support SDGs 8, 9, 13, 16, and 17.⁴

II. ISSUES

3. **Evolving landscape of RTAs and IIAs.** The Asia and Pacific region has experienced an increase in RTAs with the goal of liberalizing cross-border trade and promoting regional economic integration.⁵ DMCs also entered into a considerable number of IIAs as an important way of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), with IIAs becoming more numerous, varied, and complex over the years.⁶ While RTAs and IIAs have contributed to economic growth, job creation, private sector development, and technology transfer, they pose significant implementation challenges and dispute risks for DMCs. They also require more attention in light of the evolving landscape of international trade and investment regimes, and DMCs' efforts to advance the SDGs. Consequently, DMCs are facing significant questions about what to do with their existing RTAs and IIAs, many of which no longer reflect their environmental and climate commitments.⁷

4. **Insufficient expertise.** RTAs and IIAs comprise a complex web of treaties, requiring (i) a multidisciplinary lens and coordination across different levels of government; (ii) specialized knowledge on treaty-making; (iii) a deep understanding of key substantive provisions, emerging policy and legal issues related to sustainable development, and a new generation of treaties with environmental, climate change, and/or other sustainable development provisions;⁸ and

¹ IIAs comprise bilateral investment treaties and multilateral investment treaties, as well as the investment chapter of preferential trade and investment agreements.

² The TA will complement the capacity development efforts of other regional TA operations of ADB: [Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design and Implementation of Free Trade Agreements Involving Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries](#) and [Raising the Value of Regional Trade Agreements—Key Factors for Successful Implementation and Positive Economic Impact](#). The TA also builds on [ADB's toolkits on RTAs and IIAs](#) and [Research on interlinkages between trade, investment and climate change](#).

³ ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.

⁴ The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 7 December 2022.

⁵ According to the [RTA Database](#) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), 355 RTAs are in force globally as of December 2022, against 291 in January 2019. Similarly, there is an upward trend in the increase of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific, including Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership which entered into force in January 2022.

⁶ [As of December 2020, more than 3,000 IIAs have been signed by more than 170 countries](#).

⁷ Older generations of IIAs, from the 1980s until early 2010s, were often concluded with little or no attention to host states' regulatory flexibility for environmental protection and climate action.

⁸ For example, new-generation IIAs have begun to incorporate sustainable development elements, either as preambles or as discrete provisions—e.g., [Netherlands Model Bilateral Investment Treaty \(BIT\)](#), [Morocco–Nigeria BIT](#), or

(iv) ongoing reforms to dispute resolution mechanisms. While developed countries or larger economies provide government officials with continuous education and training on treaty drafting and negotiation as well as dispute settlement, which helps them protect and advance their interests, many DMCs lack sufficient numbers of officials who are experts in the intricacies of RTAs and IIAs and dispute settlement mechanisms. Therefore, many DMCs lose out on economic opportunities, and on prospects to advance their environmental and climate change goals.

5. **Misalignment of agreements and domestic policy making.** DMCs need to build their knowledge about ongoing reforms and developments in RTAs and IIAs to help devise policy options that attract environmentally and climate-friendly investments without increasing their dispute risk.⁹ In particular, government officials responsible for implementing existing treaties need a better understanding of their obligations under them,¹⁰ and how such obligations relate to domestic policy making and laws aimed at advancing their environmental protection and climate change goals. Increasing DMCs' knowledge of their commitments under the RTAs and IIAs can lead to multiple benefits, including attracting new trade and FDI opportunities especially in the context of the COVID-19 recovery; enhancing domestic policy making toward sustainable trade and investments; more effective implementation through improved intra-governmental coordination, governance, and transparency; and mitigating dispute risk.

6. **Dispute prevention and management.** DMCs need to develop competencies in available dispute resolution mechanisms available under RTAs and IIAs. For example, Uzbekistan is in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is being aided by a number of different international bodies in various aspects of these efforts, but one area that organizations such as the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have not concentrated on is the institutional aspects of liberalized trade and, in particular, dispute resolution, management, and mitigation. On the investment side, Uzbekistan has been a defendant in a number of investor-state disputes which has had significant budgetary implications given the high cost of defending an investment arbitration.¹¹ Even countries that have not yet faced investment treaty claims should seek to improve the management of risks through training programs, and create dispute prevention and management mechanisms.¹² Furthermore, as DMCs take on environmental and climate-related international and domestic commitments, concerns are growing that they will be confronted with increasing disputes.¹³ These arbitration proceedings can have significant consequences for the public finances of low- and lower-middle-income countries,¹⁴ and may act as a deterrent to the adoption of climate change measures.

7. Moreover, enabling access to appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms is becoming more essential because of a growing concern that small economies and least-developed

[Singapore–Indonesian BIT](#), contain progressive features recognizing an explicit right to regulate and investors' environmental obligations. In addition, new generation of IIAs, for instance, the Netherlands Model BIT, incentivize foreign investment that aligns with the Paris Agreement.

⁹ Tackling climate change requires hundreds of billions of investments in climate mitigation and adaptation, much of it foreign investment. [UNCTAD, Trade and Development Report 2021 from Recovery to Resilience: The Development Dimension](#). IIAs, for example, are an important tool to incorporate climate-friendly policies that create incentives for clean technologies and green sectors.

¹⁰ For example, key substantive obligations such as expropriation, fair and equitable treatment, and most-favored-nation clauses.

¹¹ <https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-dispute-settlement/country/226/uzbekistan/investor>.

¹² <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Cambodia.pdf>

¹³ The [2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report](#) highlighted the risks of investor-state dispute settlements (ISDS) being used to challenge climate policies. IPCC, 2022, Chapter 14, p. 81.

¹⁴ [The cost of bilateral investment treaties](#).

countries with their financial and capacity constraints lack meaningful access to formal dispute resolution mechanisms under the WTO¹⁵ and investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Consequently, there is a need to explore other alternative mechanisms such as mediation, which has recently gained traction especially in the investment sphere, e.g., International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) mediation framework and United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) working group on investor-state mediation. Similarly, it would be timely to explore mediation of international trade disputes for the WTO's least-developed country members that do not want to pursue the formal dispute resolution process, especially if they have smaller disputes.¹⁶ It will also be beneficial to increase DMCs' knowledge about special or expedited procedures for small-value claims under investor-state disputes.¹⁷

8. Additionally, establishing institutional mechanisms to prevent and manage dispute risk effectively and efficiently is critical for DMCs since international trade and investment disputes are often complex and typically involve multiple public entities. A key impediment to dispute prevention and management is the absence of a responsible or lead entity that centralizes and coordinates a country's activities. While the lead entity does not need to also have the ultimate authority to decide on settlements, it should streamline the decision-making process among the responsible domestic institutions so that DMCs can proactively manage disputes, create in-house expertise, and save resources.¹⁸ This is a critical area for any DMC because trade and investment obligations and the risk of disputes necessarily shape and direct implementation and affect policy development across the entire economy.¹⁹

9. **ADB's value addition.** ADB is a strategic partner in DMCs' endeavor to optimize their international trade and FDI opportunities in line with their environmental protection and climate change goals. Furthermore, ADB's work on IIAs over the years,²⁰ as well as its recent focus on the intersection of trade, investment, and climate change will further contribute to the TA's outcome and outputs.²¹ ADB is also well-positioned to leverage the latest initiatives in trade and investment dispute settlement, including mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation, when providing comprehensive capacity building to participating DMCs.²² Furthermore, ADB will leverage its partnerships with other development partners such as UNCTAD and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which have been raising awareness and providing capacity building in similar areas, although not focused on DMCs. It is vital to enhance the capacity of DMCs to navigate the complex international trade and investment treaty regimes to maximize the economic potential, as well as to assist their efforts to advance environmental protection and climate change goals. Knowledge gained through capacity building programs can be used to improve the implementation of RTAs and IIAs, prevent disputes, and improve intra-governmental coordination, governance, and transparency. That knowledge is also useful when drafting a new generation of RTAs and IIAs—it can positively influence the adjustment of international trade and investment policies and legislation to promote regional economic integration and sustainable economic development.

¹⁵ The WTO acknowledges that "[developing country Members wanting to avail themselves of the benefits of the dispute settlement system face considerable burdens.](#)"

¹⁶ The [White Paper on Conciliation and Mediation](#) proposes a new, independent facility outside the WTO that could help less-developed and developing countries gain access to the full range of dispute resolution options within the framework of the WTO.

¹⁷ DMCs should stay abreast of ongoing discussions on ISDS reforms under IIAs, including discussions on a multilateral instrument of investment reform under UNCITRAL Working Group III.

¹⁸ [Investment dispute management: The importance of the domestic dimension \(Columbia FDI Perspective No 345\).](#)

¹⁹ Additionally, DMCs should be aware of support systems available for countries facing actual or threatened claims.

²⁰ [Asia Regional Integration Center](#) and [ADB International Investment Agreement Tool Kit](#).

²¹ [ADB-ADBI Virtual Workshop: Trade, Investment, and Climate Change in Asia.](#)

²² [Trade dispute resolution in Asia and the Pacific: Insights and policy challenges.](#)

III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. Impact and Outcome

10. The TA is aligned with the following impacts: implementation capacity of DMCs improved and dispute risk under RTAs and IIAs mitigated (Strategy 2030—OP3, OP6, and OP7). The TA will have the following outcome: intra-governmental knowledge and coordination and dispute prevention and management capabilities under RTAs and IIAs strengthened.²³

B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities

11. **Output 1: Capacity building delivered to multiple stakeholders involved in RTAs and IIAs.** The TA will design and deliver tailored national training programs for multiple stakeholders who need to coordinate across different levels of government to improve their knowledge about how to maximize the economic potential of RTAs and IIAs and at the same time advance their environmental protection and climate change goals. The training programs will (i) present research on the connection between FDI and IIAs and international trade and RTAs; (ii) discuss how different treaty models and standard clauses have been interpreted and applied by international tribunals; (iii) show new trends in treaty practice including ways in which governments are increasingly seeking to revise their treaty policies and practices to meet their environmental and climate change goals; and (iv) outline different approaches to valuation and damages used in treaties and adopted by tribunals. Training manuals or handbooks will be produced and a checklist for treaty negotiators will be developed, where one purpose would be to help them negotiate or evaluate environmental or climate provisions in RTAs and IIAs. Participants will include treaty negotiators responsible for shaping the content of new and existing agreements; government lawyers; policy makers and legislators responsible for adopting implementing legislation, as well as government officials from relevant disciplines, for example, environmental and climate agencies who want a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities; and central banks and investment-promoting agencies that also shape trade and investment policies. National capacity building programs can be tailored to key sectors and other needs identified by each participating DMC. Additionally, training programs can be provided to private sector and civil society stakeholders who bring important perspectives.

12. **Output 2: Capacity for dispute prevention and management under RTAs and IIAs strengthened.** The TA will deliver customized national capacity building programs to government lawyers and other officials charged with managing and handling disputes under RTAs and IIAs. This will include training on investment arbitration and investment mediation, and their respective benefits, suitability, and differences, as well as knowledge and skills related to practical and procedural aspects. It will also cover special procedures for small-value claims in investment arbitration. The programs will highlight the experiences of various countries and practitioners; cover disputes in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing; and identify the biggest sources of risks. The TA team will produce training manuals to be provided to selected DMCs. It will also produce (i) a knowledge resource on mediation frameworks and procedures for investor-state disputes, and (ii) a study on mediation frameworks for international trade disputes that are more suitable for smaller disputes and/or selected sectors. Upon request, the TA team may assist selected DMCs develop an institutional framework for coordinating and managing disputes and decision-making, among other considerations.

²³ The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

13. **Output 3: Regional knowledge sharing on RTAs and IIAs promoted.** The TA will organize regional seminars on emerging issues relevant to RTAs and IIAs. Regional and multilateral approaches offer an opportunity to integrate investment and trade, such as alignment of treaties with recent regional approaches and consideration of inclusion of new provisions with sustainable development objectives. A TA study will discuss the commonalities between RTAs and IIAs and compare the experiences of participating DMCs in implementing these treaties.²⁴

C. Cost and Financing

14. The TA financing amount is \$725,000, which will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7). The key expenditure items are in Appendix 2.

D. Implementation Arrangements

15. ADB will administer the TA through the Office of the General Counsel's Law and Policy Reform Program. The TA will be implemented in conjunction with the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department and the ADB country teams in participating DMCs.

Aspects	Implementation Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period	January 2023–December 2025		
Executing agency	ADB		
Implementing agencies	Ministries or departments of foreign affairs, trade, and investments; ministries of justice or offices of the attorney general; and other relevant departments and agencies		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	Individual: individual consultant selection	International trade legal and policy expert: total 7 person-months, intermittent International investment legal and policy expert: total 7 person-months, intermittent	\$300,000
	Individual: individual consultant selection	National legal experts: total 6 person-months, intermittent National project coordinator: total 12 person-months, intermittent	\$135,000
Disbursement	Disbursement of TA resources will follow ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2020, as amended from time to time).		

16. **Consulting services.** ADB will engage consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.²⁵

IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

17. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$725,000 on a grant basis for Strengthening Knowledge in Regional Trade Agreements and International Investment Agreements for Greater Regional Integration and Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals in ADB Developing Member Countries, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

²⁴ This output will be implemented in collaboration with development partners such as WTO, UNCTAD, OECD, ICSID and/or UNCITRAL.

²⁵ Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Impacts the TA is Aligned with Implementation capacity of DMCs improved and dispute risk under RTAs and IIAs mitigated (Strategy 2030—OP3, OP6, and OP7) ^a			
Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
Outcome Intra-governmental knowledge and coordination and dispute prevention and management capabilities under RTAs and IIAs strengthened	By June 2026 a. Capacities of at least 6 government ministries or departments on RTAs and/or IIAs improved in selected DMCs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 3.1.1, 3.1.5; OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1) b. Training programs on RTAs and/or IIAs institutionalized in at least two government ministries or departments (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1) c. Regional dialogue on RTAs and/or IIAs increased in ADB DMCs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 7.2.1, 7.2.4, 7.3.4)	a. ADB progress reports and feedback from government officials b. ADB progress reports and feedback from government officials c. Public reports available on government websites and development partners' platforms	R: Lack of uptake or participation by selected DMCs R: High turnover of officials within government ministries or departments
Outputs 1. Capacity building delivered to multiple stakeholders involved in RTAs and IIAs	1a. At least 4 workshops delivered to policy makers, trade and investment negotiators, and government lawyers, with at least 40% women's participation (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1) 1b. At least 2 workshops delivered to private sector stakeholders on topics relevant to RTAs and/or IIAs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1) 1c. At least 50% of participants trained indicating improved knowledge about RTAs and/or IIAs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2)	1a. ADB progress reports, and training materials and reports 1b. ADB progress reports, and training materials and reports 1c. Participants' feedback, and surveys conducted by ADB and implementing agencies	R: Lack of uptake or participation by selected DMCs R: High turnover of officials within government ministries or departments

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
2. Capacity for dispute prevention and management under RTAs and IIAs strengthened	<p>1d. Training manuals or handbooks based on capacity building programs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2)</p> <p>2a. At least 4 workshops delivered to government lawyers and other officials charged with managing and handling disputes under RTAs and IIAs, with at least 40% female participants (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1)</p> <p>2b. At least 50% of participants trained indicating improved knowledge of dispute prevention and management under RTAs and/or IIAs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1)</p> <p>2c. Training manuals or handbooks based on capacity building programs (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2)</p> <p>2d. Institutional process for dispute prevention and management established in at least one DMC (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 6.1.1, 6.1.2; OP 7.2.1)</p> <p>2e. Study on mediation framework for international trade disputes published (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 7.2.1, 7.2.4, 7.3.4)</p> <p>2f. Knowledge resource on mediation frameworks and procedures for investor-state disputes published (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 7.2.1, 7.2.4, 7.3.4)</p>	<p>1d. ADB progress reports and feedback from government officials</p> <p>2a. ADB progress reports, and training materials and reports</p> <p>2b. Participant feedback, and surveys conducted by ADB and implementing agencies</p> <p>2c. ADB progress reports and feedback from government officials</p> <p>2d. ADB progress reports and feedback from government officials</p> <p>2e. Publication on ADB website</p> <p>2f. Publication on ADB website</p>	<p>R: Lack of uptake or participation from selected DMCs</p> <p>R: High turnover of officials within government ministries or departments</p>
3. Regional knowledge sharing	3a. At least 2 regional knowledge sharing events on emerging issues relevant to RTAs and IIAs	3a. Event dissemination	R: Lack of participation by

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
on RTAs and IIAs promoted	<p>convened, with at least 40% female participation (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 7.2.1, 7.2.4, 7.3.4)</p> <p>3b. Study on commonalities between RTAs and IIAs, and comparison of the experiences of participating DMCs in implementing these treaties (2022 baseline: N/A) (OP 7.2.1, 7.2.4, 7.3.4)</p>	<p>materials, report, and participants' feedback</p> <p>3b. Publication on ADB website</p>	DMCs, private sector, and other relevant parties

Key Activities with Milestones

1. Output 1: Capacity building delivered to multiple stakeholders involved in RTAs and IIAs

- 1.1 Conduct preliminary desk research of existing treaties in selected DMCs, and current developments in RTAs and IIAs (January–March 2023)
- 1.2 Field inception missions and conduct consultations and assessments to determine the particular needs in selected DMCs (April 2023–June 2024)
- 1.3 Design tailored capacity building programs for multiple stakeholders in selected DMCs (June 2023–December 2024)
- 1.4 Deliver tailored national capacity building programs in selected DMCs (September 2023–September 2025)
- 1.5 Produce training manuals or handbooks based on capacity building programs (by September 2025)
- 1.6 Develop a checklist for treaty negotiators as part of the national capacity building program, as an aid to help them negotiate or evaluate environmental or climate provisions in RTAs and IIAs (by September 2025)

2. Output 2: Capacity for dispute prevention and management under RTAs and IIAs strengthened

- 2.1 Conduct preliminary desk research on dispute resolution developments in RTAs and IIAs (January – March 2023)
- 2.2 Field inception missions and conduct consultations and assessments to determine the particular needs in selected DMCs (April 2023–June 2024)
- 2.3 Design tailored capacity building programs for government lawyers and other officials charged with managing and handling disputes under RTAs and IIAs in selected DMCs (June 2023–December 2024)
- 2.4 Deliver tailored national capacity building programs in selected DMCs (September 2023–September 2025)
- 2.5 Publish a study on mediation framework for international trade disputes (by June 2025)
- 2.6 Publish knowledge resource on mediation frameworks and procedures for investor-state disputes (by June 2025)

3. Output 3: Regional knowledge sharing on RTAs and IIAs promoted

- 3.1 Design and convene the first knowledge sharing event on emerging issues relevant to RTAs and IIAs, focused on promotion of SDGs (January–December 2024)
- 3.2 Design and convene the second knowledge sharing event on emerging issues relevant to RTAs and IIAs, focused on promotion of SDGs and with particular emphasis on advancing climate change goals (January–December 2025)
- 3.3 Publish a study on commonalities between RTAs and IIAs and a comparison of the experiences of participating DMCs in implementing these treaties (by December 2025)

TA Management Activities

Mobilize consultants by the first quarter of 2023

Inputs

ADB: \$725,000 in total, from Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7)

Note: The governments of participating DMCs will provide counterpart support in the form of office space, secretarial assistance, logistical support, domestic transportation, and/or other in-kind contributions.

ADB = Asian Development Bank, DMC = developing member country, IIA = international investment agreement, N/A = not applicable, OP = operational priority, R = risk, RTA = regional trade agreement, TA = technical assistance.

^a Defined by the TA.

Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities:

The expected values and methodological details for all OP indicators to which this TA will contribute results are detailed in Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

Source: ADB.

COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN
(\$'000)

Item	Amount
Asian Development Bank^a	
1. Consultants	
a. Remuneration and per diem	
i. International consultants	300.0
ii. National consultants	115.0
b. Out-of-pocket expenditures	
i. International and local travel	50.0
ii. Miscellaneous technical assistance administration costs	5.0
2. Training, seminars, workshops, forum and conferences ^b	200.0
3. Publications and miscellaneous TA administration costs ^c	20.0
4. Contingencies	35.0
Total	725.0

Note: The technical assistance (TA) is estimated to cost \$725,000, of which contributions from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are presented in the table. The governments of participating developing member countries will provide counterpart support in the form of office space, secretarial assistance, logistical support, domestic transportation, and/or other in-kind contributions. The value of the government contributions is estimated to account for 10% of the total TA cost.

^a Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7).

^b Includes venue rental and related facilities; and expenses for participants and resource persons, including their airfare, accommodation, per diem, honoraria, and other miscellaneous travel expenses or allowances, as applicable. ADB staff may act as resource persons under the TA, and travel and accommodation costs can be charged to the TA. Representation expenses are allowed. ADB (Budget, Personnel, and Management System Department and Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department). 2013. Use of Bank Resources: Regional Technical Assistance and Technical Assistance vs. Internal Administrative Budget, Memorandum. 26 June (internal).

^c Includes interpretation, translation, printing, and/or dissemination costs related to training materials, consultations, workshops, and external publications.

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=56351-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants
2. Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities