



Programme of work

Background and rationale

The programme of work on globalization, trade and health is part of WHO's response to a changing international context to promote an effective health dimension to economic policies. It aims to ensure that trade and globalization work to improve the health of the poor and disadvantaged populations.¹ Much of the work is focused on increasing the capacity of those at the forefront of policy making, negotiation, and advocating change, whether as health specialists, needing to know about globalization and trade, or as trade specialists, needing to know about health. WHO's work in trade and health focuses on building the knowledge base and strengthening capacity in member states and in WHO itself to recognize and act on the public health implications of trade agreements. These agreements present both opportunities and risks for population health.

Recognizing that domestic action alone will not be sufficient to ensure health locally, the work programme also supports necessary collective action to address cross-border health risks and improve health outcomes. This includes using the Global Public Goods concept. The GPG concept offers a powerful 'lens' through which to analyze and promote the health of the poor, and will be an increasingly important tool for public health in an era of globalization.

There is an increasing recognition that the existing rules, institutional mechanisms, and forms of organization need to evolve to better respond to the emerging challenges of globalization and ensure that globalization benefits those currently left behind in the developing process. Consequently, Global Health Governance has been identified as an issue

¹ Within WHO this work is located in the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law (ETH) in the Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments Cluster (SDE) at HQ with focal points, responsible persons or units in each regional office.



that needs more detailed analysis to better inform policy makers interested in shaping the future 'architecture' for global health.

Overall goals

- Achieve greater coherence between international trade and health policy by building the knowledge base and strengthening capacity in member states and in WHO itself to recognize and act on the public health implications of trade rules.
- Promote an effective health dimension in economic policies, and ensure that trade and globalization serves to improve the health of poor and disadvantaged populations.
- Promote collective action to assess and respond to cross border risks to public health security.

Content areas and functions

Trade and health

Work focuses on

- Multilateral trade agreements and public health

The programme of work focuses on the implications for public health of four main WTO Agreements - namely the Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

The health issues most relevant to these agreements are listed in table 1 below. The priority areas are: access to drugs, traditional medicine knowledge and TRIPS; food safety, cross border spread of infectious diseases and SPS; health services and GATS, health norms/standards and TBT.

Health issues	WTO Rules			
	SPS	TBT	TRIPS	GATS
Infectious disease control	✓	✓	✓	✓



Globalization, trade and health

Food safety	✓			
Tobacco control		✓	✓	✓
Environment	✓	✓		
Access to drugs			✓	
Health services				✓
Food security	✓		✓	
Emerging issues				
Biotechnology	✓	✓	✓	
Information technology			✓	✓
Traditional knowledge			✓	

- Regional and bilateral trade agreements and their implications for health
- Trade liberalisation and the health sector

Globalization and Health

Work focuses on

- rapid assessment of the economic impact of global disease outbreaks
- international health regulations as a global public good
- assessing major cross border risks to public health security
- developing and negotiating an agenda for collective action
- analysing future developments for the global health architecture

4 main functions²:

- The development of **WHO policy and strategic approaches** in trade and health
- **Analysis and research** to better inform policy decisions, negotiations, dispute settlement and agenda setting

² Initial work of the trade and health team focused on building the knowledge base and the development of an international network of experts on trade and health issues. While normative work and knowledge building continues at HQ a substantial part of the work and the resources have now moved to supporting WHO regional offices and developing countries in their efforts to analyse, monitor and track the implications of multilateral trade agreements for population health. This evidence is used by countries to inform ongoing trade negotiations, the crafting of trade policy as well as the process of crafting other necessary complementary domestic policies to meet national growth, income distribution and health targets.



- **Tool development and training** to build capacity in Ministries of Health to analyze, track and monitoring the health implications of trade rules to enable them to best advise their Ministry of Trade in trade negotiations and to develop appropriate complementary health policies to protect and promote health in the context of increasing trade liberalisation.
- **Strategic country support** on specific globalization, trade and health issues in response to country requests.

Partners and working groups

- A Scientific Resource Group (SRG) of outside experts assists GTH in developing a research agenda, in identifying emerging issues and in peer reviewing working papers and publications.
- An internal Technical Working Group (TWG) including key programmes plus Regional Offices' senior staff, meets regularly to discuss areas of policy concern, identifies needed activities and develops WHO-wide products.
- In carrying out its work programme in this area, a small team in the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law works closely with programme staff at HQ and in regional and country offices, international agencies such as WTO, The World Bank, OECD and UNCTAD, major NGOs, foundations and other centers of excellence worldwide
- The programme relies increasingly on the use of web-based technology (<http://www.who.int/trade/en/>) and the WHO Intranet and collaborative workspaces for in-house consultation and distance learning and training as well as to disseminate products and information.

Targets of the programme of work and measuring results at country, global levels and within WHO



"Mission- critical" targets

By 2005 and in each year thereafter

- The programme will achieve its revenue targets both for required staff and activities at global, regional and country level
- The programme will have an up-to-date strategic plan and budget

By 2005/2006

- A monitoring system, consistent with the programme's primary objectives and the requirements of WHO, will be in place for tracking the achievements of the programme
- Updated regional and country plans
- National working groups on trade and health (including representatives from ministries of trade and health, business and civil society) in at least four countries in each region established. These working groups will have completed an analysis of trade in health related services and GATS and have initiated the implementing of policy recommendations of the study both in the GATS negotiation process and to improve policy coherence between trade and health
- Countries in WTO accession negotiations in AFRO, EMRO, WPRO and SEARO briefed on and conducting appropriate analyses of the health implications of WTO agreements enabling them to better inform their trade negotiations.
- Completed legal reviews of GATS, SPS and TBT from a health policy perspective
- On-line distance learning courses plus annotated PowerPoint slides in trade and health, global public goods for health available
- Published report on Recent Developments in Trade and Health - latest developments and key issues in the areas of trade in health services and GATS, access to medicines and TRIPS and food safety including GMOs and SPS and other key trade and health issues with an annex on best available data on trade in health goods and services
- Published Handbook on Trade and Health Services and GATS - will include current evidence on the health sector implications of the



liberalisation of health services trade, and current practices in selected countries in this area. This evidence is designed to inform current GATS negotiations

- Increased capacity at all three levels of WHO (Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices) to enable staff to better advise countries on trade and health issues. This includes functioning global and regional technical working groups on globalization, trade and health cooperating across regions. A task of these groups would be to develop policy coherence across WHO in trade and health issues.

Overview of Achievements to date³

Global Level

Developing and disseminating the knowledge base in globalisation trade and health

- Publications, working paper series, databases, lectures, conferences, training courses and expert meetings (see annex 2)
- Internet and intranet sites updated consistently
- Contributing to putting health higher on the global trade agenda
- More health sensitive WTO rulings in dispute settlement cases
- More references to public health issues in WTO ministerial declarations and councils/committees (Doha declaration - TRIPS and public health)
- Increased numbers of WTO technical staff and council and committee members sensitive to health and trade issues (joint WTO/WHO-missions, ministerial level briefing sessions, trade and health courses)

Country level

- Increased numbers of country Ministry of Health staff knowledgeable about trade and health issues and inputting into national level trade policy discussions and multilateral trade negotiations
- Assessments of the current and potential implications of liberalising trade in health related services ongoing in 12 countries

³ For products to date see www.who.int/trade/en



Globalization, trade and health

- Inputs -through national and intercountry workshops and missions- made to increase policy coherence between trade and health

WHO

- Partnerships with WTO, OECD, UNCTAD, ITC, international NGOs and selected centers of excellence, established and strengthened
- Functioning external scientific working group reviewing progress and identifying emerging issues for the programme of work
- Functioning technical working groups in three regions and HQ, and an increase in the number of staff knowledgeable and involved in trade and health issues at regional and country level; an increase in resources for regional/country activities in trade and health.

Suggested indicators to track progress

Country level

- Percentage of countries having national working groups to discuss and review trade and health policy issues
- Percentage of countries having national assessments of key areas of policy concern in trade and health
- Number of senior staff in Ministries of Health in developing countries briefed and trained in areas of trade and health

Global level

- Percentage of positive outcomes for health in trade disputes involving trade and health issues
- Planned publications and working papers produced and disseminated
- Hits on internet site

WHO

- Increase in the number of collaborating partners
- Increase in the number of functioning technical working groups dealing with trade and health issues



- Percentage of countries having identified trade and health as an area for cooperation in the Country Cooperation Strategy.
- Annual strategic plan developed and increase in resources

Key products/activities for 2005/2006

Knowledge base development, policy development and research

- Legal reviews: GATS from a public health policy perspective; SPS from a public health policy perspective
- Trade and Health Notes for policy makers
- Handbook on Trade in Health Services and GATS
- Handbook (and expert meeting) on the Rapid Assessment of the Economic Impact of Public Health Emergencies of International Concern - using SARS as a case study
- Workshop and handbook: towards policy coherence in trade and health for human development, best practices.
- Essential database for trade in health goods and services
- Continuation of Working Paper Series including - Implementing Para 6 of the Doha declaration - TRIPS and Public Health
- Technical support for WHO's Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Public Health

Tools and training

- Distance learning courses - Trade and Health; Global Public Goods for Health
- Development of an assessment tool to identify key cross border risks (communicable disease, macroeconomic shocks, environmental) to public health security
- Research and Training Initiative - Trade and Health - with selected universities

Country support and capacity building

- Interregional workshop on trade and health for countries in WTO accession negotiations (Delhi)



Globalization, trade and health

- Support for trade and health country analyses as inputs into ongoing trade negotiations
- Regional capacity building initiatives in trade and health services and GATS in AFRO, EMRO and SEARO



Products and description

Product	Description
Policy Development and Research	
<p>Legal reviews of MTAs from a public health perspective Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GATS ▪ SPS ▪ TBT 	<p>Detailed legal review (article by article analysis) of WTO multilateral agreements (GATS, SPS and TBT) from a public health policy perspective.</p>
<p>Trade and health notes series for policy makers⁴ Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GATS and Health Related Services ▪ SPS, food safety and infectious diseases ▪ TBT , health standards and regulations 	<p>A series of policy briefs on key trade and health issues for busy practitioners</p>
<p>Recent Developments in Health and Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly report online on current WTO agreements/negotiations relevant for health ▪ Monthly report online of WHO health and trade activities -
<p>Globalization, trade and health working paper series Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Measuring openness of country health sectors to trade ▪ Foreign direct investment in the health sector - good practices ▪ Developing policy coherence in trade and health - selected country studies ▪ International Health Regulations (IHR) as a global public good, economic (dis)incentives for compliance with the IHR ▪ Measuring trade in health related goods ▪ TRIPS para 6 : Implementation issues 	<p>A series of draft discussion papers (available on request) on current and emerging issues related to globalization, trade and health</p>

⁴ All documents and web based information should be translated into French and Spanish; translations in Russian, Chinese and Arabic should be undertaken if resources available



Globalization, trade and health

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Innovation in Public Health to reduce major health risks for developing countries (input into WHO's IPR Commission) 	
<p>Handbook on Trade in Health Related Services and GATS</p>	<p>A practical handbook for health and trade practitioners and negotiators on trade in health services and GATS. Topics include: assessing options in GATS negotiations; frameworks of analysis for assessing health implications of trade in health services; updates on current GATS negotiations and commitment; impact assessment, legal implications, data . The handbook is a joint effort among the World Bank, OECD, UNCTAD, WTO, Health Canada, IDRC and North- South Institute and WHO.</p>
<p>Trade and health - tools for country level assessment and monitoring Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trade in health services and GATS : a framework for assessment ▪ SPS and food safety: a framewok for assessment ▪ Assessing and tracking openness in the health sector and health sector performance ▪ Assessing, tracking and monitoring the implications of trade agreements (and trade in health goods and health related services) for public health (<i>Development and testing of methodologies, indicators, and tools.</i>) 	<p>Series of analytic and assessment tools to enable countries to assess, monitor and track the health implications of trade, liberalisation and trade rules for health</p>
<p>Towards policy coherence in trade and health for human development: best practices, workshop and handbook</p>	<p>This workshop, is designed to further our understanding of how to develop national and international policy coherence for human development in three key areas of trade and health: access to drugs and the TRIPS agreement; trade in health services and the GATS agreement and food safety and the SPS agreement and offer a way forward. An immediate result of the workshop will be to table current evidence and best practices in developing policy coherence in these areas in selected countries and among concerned actors at international level. This evidence and practice is designed to inform current</p>



Globalization, trade and health

	ongoing efforts in countries and at international level to ensure that health policy and trade policy interests in current trade negotiations support national and international human development goals.
Essential data trade in health services	In close collaboration with OECD, The World Bank, WTO and selected countries the development and collection of essential data in trade in health services to best inform policy decisions.
Assessing major cross border risks to public health security- developing and negotiating an agenda for collective action Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handbook on the rapid assessment of the economic impact of global disease outbreaks • Negotiating across boundaries: supporting collective action for public health security 	In collaboration with the WHO programme areas concerned with cross border risks : International Health Regulations, Food Safety, essential drugs and others to develop tools to enable Ministries of health to better set their international agenda for collective action and negotiate successful outcomes in support of this agenda.
Globalization, Global Public Goods and the global health architecture Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working paper series on Global Health Governance 	In collaboration with selected WHO regions and countries and international experts to initiate a series of papers and workshops to sketch out possible future scenarios to address current jurisdictional, participatory and incentive gaps in global health governance.
Tool development and training	
Health and Trade research and training initiative Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Health course - University of Lausanne /WHO in collaboration with WTO 	In collaboration with selected Universities to conduct annual health and trade courses and include re-entry research grants for selected project proposal from course participants
Globalization Health and Trade - Distance learning Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WTO agreements and public health - an introductory course ▪ Global Public Goods for Health: annotated slides for teaching presentations ▪ Negotiating health Development: annotated slides for teaching ▪ Health Policy in a Globalizing (proposal for a World Health Organization distance 	To make available through the internet and on CD - teaching materials and courses for public health practitioners, students, teachers and WHO staff



learning short course)	
Country support, regional/ sub regional capacity building initiatives	
Support to countries on selected trade and health issues	In response to requests by individual countries to provide advice on trade and health issues and support for capacity building.
Support to regional/subregional capacity building initiatives Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trade in health services and GATS - EMRO region project ▪ Trade in health services and GATS- AFRO region project ▪ Developing National Capacity and Policy Coherence in Trade and Health- SEARO region project ▪ Interregional Workshop on Trade and Health for Countries in WTO Accession Negotiations- Dehli ▪ Trade and health regional workshop AFRO 	In response to requests from WHO regional offices/selected groups of countries and in collaboration with global, regional and subregional organisations involved in trade issues to conduct workshops on selected trade and health issues and develop capacity building initiatives including support for research in the region/sub region



Annex II : Publications

Upcoming

Fidler D et al. *Legal review of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) from a public health perspective*. Geneva, World Health Organization.

Fidler D, Drager N. *GATS and health related services*. Geneva, World Health Organization.

Glossary of health and trade terms. Geneva, World Health Organization.

Drager N et al. *Negotiating health development: a guide for practitioners*. Geneva, Conflict Management Group and World Health Organization, 2000.

Lee K et al. *Health policy in a globalizing world*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Smith R et al, eds. *Global public goods for health. Health economic and public health perspectives*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Globalization and infectious diseases: a review of the linkages. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004 (Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases).

Trade in health services: global, regional and country perspectives. Washington DC, Pan American Health Organization, 2002.

WTO agreements and public health. A joint study by the WHO and the WTO Secretariat. Geneva, World Health Organization and World Trade Organization, 2002.

WHO Bulletin Special Theme Globalization

Drager N, Beaglehole R. Globalization: changing the public health landscape. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):803.

Feachem RGA. Globalization: from rethoric to evidence. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):804.

Dollar D. Is globalization good for your health? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):827-833.

Cornia GA. Globalization and health: results and options. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):834-841.



Fidler DP. The globalization of public health: the first 100 years of international health diplomacy. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):842-849.

Chandrasekhar CP, Ghosh J. Information and communication technologies and health in low income countries: the potential and the constraints. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):850-855.

Evans M et al. Globalization, diet and health: an example from Tonga. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):856-862.

Loewenson R. Globalization and occupational health: a perspective from Southern Africa. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):863-868.

Kaul I, Faust M. Global public goods and health: taking the agenda forward. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):869-874.

Woodward D et al. Globalization and health: a framework for analysis and action. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(9):875-881.

Adlung R, Carzaniga A. Health services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2001, 79(4):352-364.

Articles

Beaglehole R. Reinvigorating public health. *The Lancet*, 2000, 356:787-788.

Drager N. Making trade work for the public health. *BMJ*, 1999, 319:1214.

McMichael AJ, Beaglehole R. The changing global context of public health. *The Lancet*, 2000, 356:495-499.

Smith R. Foreign direct investment and trade in health services: a review of the literature. *Social Science & Medicine*, 2004, 59:2313-2323.

Smith R et al. Communicable disease control: a "global public good" perspective. *Health Policy and Planning*, 2004, 19(5):271-278.

Working papers on trade



General

- Lipson DJ. *GATS and trade in health insurance services*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2001. (Background Note WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, Working Group 4).
- Chanda R et al. *Trade in health services and GATS . A General framework for Country Analysis*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.
- Correa CC. *Implementing national public health policies in the framework of WTO agreements*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2000.
- Fidler D, Drager N. *GATS international legal implications for health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.
- Gobrecht J et al. *Measuring trade in health services*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.
- Woodward D. *Food security, nutrition and health: implications of trade liberalization and the WTO agreements*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2000.
- Nielson J. *10 steps before making commitments in health services under GATS*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Chanda R, Smith R. *Trade in health services and GATS: a framework for policy makers*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Adlung R, Carzaniga A. *Update on GATS negotiations*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Fidler D. et al. *Making commitments in health services under the GATS: the legal dimensions*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Blouin C. *Making commitments in health services under the GATS: a methodology for impact assessment*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Hollingsworth B et al. *A suggested approach for modelling the impact of GATS: an example for mode 4*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Lethridge J et al. *Trade in health services under the four modes of supply: review of current trends and policy issues*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.
- Labonte R, Schrecker T. *Making commitments under the GATS: a public health perspective*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.



Gobrecht J et al. *Measuring trade in health services*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Mashayekhi M et al. *Strategic considerations for developing countries: the case of GATS and health services*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

GATS Mode 1: Cross border supply of services

Singh AD et al. *e-Health: potential and challenge for healthcare*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

Singh AD. *Electronic commerce and health. A framework for country analysis*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

GATS Mode 2: Consumption abroad

Warner CD. *Consumption of services abroad*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

GATS Mode 3: Commercial presence

Chanda R et al. *Trade in health services and GATS. A framework for country analysis of commercial presence*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Smith R. *Trade and health services. GATS Mode 3: commercial presence, foreign direct investment and health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

GATS Mode 4: Presence of natural persons

Lethbridge J. *Trade in health services. GATS mode 4: movement of natural persons*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Country profiles

Song JK. *Trade in health services: Korea*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Working papers on Globalization

General issues

Cornia GA et al. *Income inequality in the globalisation era: counting the cost for health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.



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Labonte R, Torgerson R. *Frameworks for analyzing the links between globalization and health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

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Lee K et al. *Globalization and health: towards an HSD programme of work*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1999.

Deacon B. *Globalization and health: a social and cultural perspective*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1999.

Koivusalo M. *Globalization and trade - International trade*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1999.

Lee K. *Globalization and Health. A political perspective*. London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 1999.

McMichael AJ. *Globalisation and health: the environment*. London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2004.

Lawyers for global public health: a background paper. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Michaud C, Drager N. *International assistance for health and population*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1999.

Economic assessment of global disease outbreaks

Edmunds J, Gay N. *Epidemiological data requirements for economic modelling: the example of SARS*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Lee K. *Decision making in the face of public health emergencies of international concern*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Lethbridge J. *Sources of data and methods for its collection*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

McKibbin WJ. *Economic modelling of SARS: the G-cubed approach*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Owen JW, Ingram A. *What, and how best would, economic information assist future policy decisions?* Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Cross border risks to public health security



Lee K. *Decision making in the face of public health emergencies of international concern*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Smith DR, Sommers T. *Assessing the economic impact of public health emergencies in international concerns: the case of SARS*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

Global Public Goods

Woodward D. *Health, global public goods and externalities: some general issues*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2000.

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Global Health Governance

Dodgson R et al. *Global health governance: a conceptual review*. Geneva, World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2002.

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Loughlin K, Berridge V. *Global Health Governance: historical dimensions of global governance*. Geneva, World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2002.

Meeting Reports

2004

The rapid assessment of the economic impact of public health emergencies of international concern: the example of SARS. Toronto, 27-28 January 2004. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.

Globalization, Trade, Intellectual Property Rights and Health. New Delhi, World Health Organization, Regional Office for South East Asia, 2004 (SEA/HSM/Meet.9/7) (Policy brief presented at Ninth meeting of Health Secretaries of Countries of SEAR, New Delhi, 22-23 July 2004).

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Trade in health services: building capacity in developing countries. Ottawa, 9-11 July 2003. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

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