

WELCOME TO BRIDGES!

This is the first issue of Bridges Between Trade and Sustainable Development, the newsletter of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).

ICTSD was founded in September 1996 as a link between the trade, environment and development communities. It seeks to facilitate access of interested non-governmental organizations to the multilateral trading system, to promote understanding of the issues at stake, and to keep all concerned informed about developments and events concerning sustainable development and international trade.

In addition to this newsletter, the Centre produces other publications designed to bridge communication gaps between the various actors involved in trade and sustainable development issues (see page 11 for descriptions). It also organizes regular dialogues between trade officials and non-governmental organizations in order to promote mutual understanding and interaction. ICTSD sponsors research into trade and sustainable development issues and is establishing a comprehensive documentation centre. Databases of literature and people/organizations working in the field are also under development.

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Least Developed Countries' Meeting Postponed

The High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives on Least Developed Countries' Trade Development, initially planned for June, has been postponed until 27-28 October 1997. Jointly organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), the meeting will endeavour to coordinate the trade-related technical assistance, training and capacity-building programmes of the seven major international agencies that provide such services to least developed countries. In addition to the conference organizers, these include the World Bank and its private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP). Each of the agencies has its specialized niche in the field, but in some cases efforts either overlap or contradict each other. Lack of coordination also masks gaps in the available assistance.

Among the factors prompting the organizers to start collaboration is the vast increase of WTO's

technical assistance trust funds, grown from about US\$500,000 some five years ago to US\$4.5 million in 1997. These funds are intended for the enhancement of developing countries' capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system and to implement the WTO agreements. The WTO recognizes that its present ability to make efficient use of the increased technical assistance budget is limited. Identifying, on the one hand, the needs of least developed countries in this regard and, on the other, the services provided by the different agencies involved, will enable the WTO to fill gaps and target its assistance efforts more effectively.

The 48 least developed countries of the world have a joint population 570 million (9.2% of the world total) living on an annual income of less than US\$360 per person. Together they represent 0.4% of world trade.

All least developed countries, whether members of the WTO or not, will be invited to participate in the High-Level Meeting. The conference organizers stress the need for the new approach to be demand-driven. Least developed country (LLDC) governments wishing to make use of the integrated response strategy must conduct assessments of their trade-related technical assistance needs, with help from the cooperating agencies if they so request. Some twelve countries are expected to participate in the first phase of the project. A limited number of need assessments will be "show-cased" at the High-Level Meeting during roundtable sessions (the number and provenance of the pilot studies are not yet known). Each session, chaired by the least developed country in question, will present that country's technical assistance needs to the agencies and bi-lateral donors involved. The latter can then coordinate their response to the needs identified by the "client states" according to their field of expertise, thus maximizing coherence and cost-efficiency. Further roundtables will be organized as other countries complete their need assessments. Follow-up meetings will be arranged periodically to assess the efficiency of the technical assistance provided and to respond to evolving circumstances.

Increased market access to LLDC goods is the other major item on the meeting agenda. The Dutch government is pushing the European Union to complete an offer on reducing import tariffs for LLDC exports by the time the meeting takes place, hoping the gesture will spur more reluctant countries, such as the United States and Canada, to make similar offers on market access to LLDCs. If such offers are on the table, it is hoped that some of the most significant developing country traders will also come forward with measures facilitating market entry for LLDC goods.

• An NGO Symposium is planned by the WTO Secretariat in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNDP prior to the High-Level Meeting. For more information, please turn to page 9.

Improving the Lot of the Poorest Countries?

By Pradeep S. Mehta

Although the Singapore Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation in December 1996 did not shed tears for the poor countries of the world, it adopted a plan of action for its poorest members whose total share of the world trade is below 0.4%.

The plan calls for an active WTO role in providing these countries with technical assistance, and exhorts other countries to offer them zero-tariff concessions on a voluntary basis. The spirit is strong but such an effort may not actually help the poor, unless their problems are looked at holistically and integrated solutions found.

Of the 48 poorest countries, 29 are members of the WTO. According to the WTO, their share of world trade in 1960 was 2.0%. This has now gone down to less than half a percent; in other words, there has been a decline of 80%. One can imagine the impact in absolute terms. The marginalisation is also visible in foreign investment flows. The poor receive only 2% compared to developing countries' share of 37% of current investment flows. The gross national product of all the 48 poor countries, with a population of 9.2% of the world total, in 1992 was estimated at \$80bn by UNDP. This is a measly 0.34% of the total GNP of \$23,100bn of the whole world.

Why is the situation so abysmal?

Poor countries are dependent on commodities, minerals and tropical produce, whose prices are determined by markets elsewhere in developed countries. Their own marketplace is small, not just due to populations but also purchasing power. Their economies are hamstrung by crippling debt. Politically, too, their societies are often in turmoil, and corruption is wide-spread.

Their industrial base is minimal and infrastructure insufficient. Further, due to escalating tariffs imposed by protectionist rich countries, it does not make sense to locate manufacturing industries in these countries. Thus they fail to attract foreign investment for industrial growth and jobs.

In March 1996, the WTO estimated world trade to have reached a new record of \$6,000bn in 1995. But detailed analysis was not provided to show who gained what and who lost how much.

In 1995, UNCTAD estimated that the poor would lose some \$3bn over a five-year period if the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture was fully implemented. FAO estimates indicate that 11 percent (or \$0.5bn) of the projected increase of \$4.5bn in the food-import bill of Africa between 1987-89 and the year 2000 will be accounted for by the Uruguay Round. The OECD calculated their net annual loss to the tune of \$2.6bn by the year 2002 due to the erosion of preferences.

In spite of the studies showing that the least developed countries will lose from trade liberalization, neither the World Bank nor the IMF will help poor countries unless they open their foreign trade (read import) regimes. Already people in many poor countries are suffering from cuts in social sectors due to the structural adjustment loan conditionalities of these two institutions.

Given this scenario, the plan of action adopted at Singapore to help the poorest WTO members drew heavy criticism from NGOs. "Small crumbs", howled a Christian Aid press release. Consumers International shamed the meeting for not even having discussed the built-in agenda on providing aid to net-food importers.

The Next Step

Be that as it may, the WTO has collected trust funds to the extent of \$4.5mn from concerned governments in both developed and developing countries to put meat on the skeleton of improving the trade performance of the poor through technical assistance and training.

More importantly, it will not just be the WTO implementing the programme: it will rope in the other major agencies involved in finding out the cures: World Bank, IMF, UNDP, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (a joint WTO/UNCTAD body involved in helping the private sector in developing countries).

"Roundtables chaired by the poor countries' representatives will be organised with all the six agencies for proper needs assessments," said Evelien Herfkens, the ebullient Dutch ambassador to the WTO and chair of the WTO Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries.

She was speaking at an informal meeting with NGOs at Geneva organised by the International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development in early April. Earlier, in February, a jointly-elaborated informal note from the secretariats of three of the six agencies: WTO, UNCTAD and ITC put forward an agenda for:

- reviewing the priorities in LLDCs on trade efficiency including institutional development and supply side problems, and
- defining an integrated framework and launching country-specific coherent programmes.

On paper, it is a good agenda, though a tall one. The bottleneck would be the institutional capacity assessment itself. Not discounting Herfkens' optimism in addressing the issues holistically, one wonders whether we need more meetings to understand the problems of poor countries and their declining share of world trade.

Tomes of studies have conclusively shown what is needed to pull the poor out of their morass. First, get rid of the crippling debt, once and for all - after all it is their resources which have made the rich nations rich. The total debt stood at \$127bn in 1993, translating into a whopping 73 percent of LLDCs' GNP. For the poorest of the poor, i.e. countries in civil strife - three in Asia and 14 in Africa - it reached the height of 126 percent.

Second, reverse tariff escalation i.e. provide bonuses to manufactured goods from LLDCs so that capital moves there. Third, regulate investors so that we do not have countries run by rent-seeking businesses as happened in Chile or Liberia. It does not require a statesman to see the benefits. Any salesman will tell you what markets mean to his employers.

Pradeep Mehta is with CUTS, a Calcutta-based NGO working on trade policy issues.

The Committee on Trade and Development of the WTO

By H.E. Nacer Bejelloun-Touimi

Work and Priorities for 1997

The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was provided for in the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. The CTD reports to the supreme WTO body - that is, the General Council. The formal meetings of the CTD are open to representatives of all WTO Members and a number of observers (generally countries in the process of accession to the WTO and international intergovernmental organizations). The CTD follows the normal WTO rules concerning decision making - i.e. decisions are taken by consensus and, in the absence of consensus, the matter is referred to the General Council. The Chair is traditionally held by a permanent representative of a developing country in Geneva, rotating among the three groups of developing countries (Africa, Asia and Latin America). The Chairman of the CTD is appointed at the end of the year at the same time as the Chairmen of the other WTO bodies; the new Chairman conducts the work of the Committee for one year.

While the Rules of Procedure of the CTD provide for three formal meetings during one year, other formal meetings can also be held, as well as plurilateral and/or multilateral informal meetings. Last year the CTD met formally on nine occasions; a manifestation of the growing interest in trade and development in the WTO. Six months after its establishment, in July 1995, the CTD established a Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LLDCs), which aims to ensure that their problems and concerns are given special attention in the WTO. The Sub-Committee reports to the CTD and its work is conducted in a similar way as the CTD.

The Terms of Reference of the CTD guide its work; they provide for the CTD to keep under review the participation of developing country Members in the multilateral trading system and consider measures and initiatives to assist them in the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities; review the application and consider any questions which may arise with regard to either the application or the use of WTO's special provisions in favour of developing country Members; serve as a focal point for consideration and coordination of work on development in the WTO and its relationship to development-related activities in other multilateral agencies; provide guidelines for, and review periodically, the technical cooperation activities of the WTO. These Terms of Reference also provide for special attention to be given to LLDCs.

Following its 1995 "year of initiation", there was, as noted, a considerable increase in the level of activity of the CTD in 1996. This reflected the importance attached by Members to positive results in the area of trade and development at the first WTO Ministerial Conference, held in December 1996 in Singapore. In line with this, Members of the Committee identified four priority issues:

- the implementation of WTO provisions in favour of developing country Members;
- guidelines for the technical cooperation activities of the WTO;
- increasing participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system; and,
- least-developed countries.

The sections below outline the achievements in each of these areas during 1996 and the follow-up foreseen for 1997. It should be noted, however, that during 1996 the CTD was also active with respect to the other items of its Terms of Reference.

Implementation of provisions in favour of developing country Members

The Committee carried a horizontal overview of the implementation of WTO provisions in favour of developing countries and noted that, although their implementation had moved ahead during 1995-96, they had not been used in a significant manner. To counter this situation, the Committee agreed that in 1997 it would explore ways of ensuring greater disclosure of the application of the Uruguay Round provisions in favour of developing and least-developed countries - by improving the flow of information - and of increasing efforts to disseminate information relating to those provisions.



The WTO building in Geneva

Guidelines for WTO technical cooperation

During 1996, the CTD devoted considerable efforts to preparing the guidelines for WTO technical cooperation. A number of elements guided the Committee's work in this area, in particular: the major differences between the GATT and the WTO systems; the need for technical cooperation to aim at capacity-building; ensuring that WTO assistance would concentrate on its areas of competence; the need for the coordination of technical cooperation in trade-related matters activities provided by the various international organizations; and the Member's wish to be more involved in the planning and monitoring of WTO's technical cooperation activities. In October 1996, the Committee adopted the Guidelines for the WTO's Technical Cooperation, which elaborate the scope of the WTO's technical cooperation; ensure that the assistance provided will be adapted to the evolving needs of recipient countries; focus on capacity-building; and provide for an evaluation of the WTO's technical cooperation. In 1997, the Committee will need to decide how to implement these Guidelines with respect to, for example, monitoring, managing and evaluating the technical cooperation activities of the WTO.

Participation of developing country Members in the multilateral trading system

Work in this area started with the elaboration of an outline for a study addressing the reasons why some developing countries had performed better than others in integrating into the multilateral trading system. While the consideration of such a study by the Members of the Committee did not lead to unanimous conclusions, a number of points helped to identify those elements that could facilitate the integration of developing country Members into the multilateral trading system. These included appropriate domestic policies, improved market access possibilities and access to foreign direct investment. In this respect, the Committee noted that both its terms of reference as well as those of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries provide the

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In view of this year's first meeting of the WTO Trade and Environment Committee from 21-22 May, BRIDGES features a special section devoted to the subject. A one and a half-day NGO Symposium will take place before the Committee Meeting. On the opposite page, Magda Shahin, Egyptian delegate to the CTE, discusses the likely scope of the debate from the perspective of developing countries.

The Committee's Schedule of Work for 1997

All items of the work programme set out in the Marrakesh Decision on Trade and Environment of April 1994 are on the Committee's agenda in 1997 in line with the recommendations contained in the Committee's Report to the Singapore Ministerial Conference (WT/CTE/1). In order to advance the Committee's discussions this year, a thematic approach to the work programme will be followed so as to allow all items to be addressed in a systematic manner.

At the Committee's first meeting this year, from 20-22 May those items on its work programme relevant to the theme of market access will be discussed, including:

- Item 2 the relationship between environmental policies relevant to trade and environmental measures with significant trade effects and the provisions of the multilateral trading system;
- Item 3 the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and:
 - (a) charges and taxes for environmental purposes;
 - (b) requirements for environmental purposes relating to products, including standards and technical regulations, packaging, labelling and recycling;
- Item 4 the provisions of the multilateral trading system with respect to the transparency of trade measures used for environmental purposes and environmental measures and requirements which have significant trade effects; and
- Item 6 the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular to the least developed among them, and environmental benefits of removing trade restrictions and distortions.

At the next meeting, from 22-24 September, items on its work programme related to the interlinkages between the multilateral environment agenda and the multilateral trade agenda will be discussed, including:

- Item 1 the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and trade measures for environmental purposes, including those pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements;
- Item 5 the relationship between the dispute settlement mechanisms in the multilateral trading system and those found in multilateral environmental agreements;
- Item 7 the issue of exports of domestically prohibited goods; and
- Item 8 the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

At a meeting to be held from 5-7 November, the Committee will prepare a brief report on its work during the course of 1997 to be submitted to the General Council at the end of the year. The Committee will also take up the following items on its work programme:

- Item 9 the work programme envisaged in the Decision on Trade in Services and the Environment;
- Item 10 input to the relevant bodies in respect of appropriate arrangements for relations with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations referred to in Article V of the WTO.

Source: PRESS/TE/017 of the WTO

NGO Symposium on Trade and Environment

The WTO Secretariat is coordinating an NGO Symposium on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development. The Symposium will be held on 20-21 May, immediately before the Trade and Environment Committee meeting.

The Secretariat has extended invitations to more than 30 non-governmental organizations, as well as some 20 business organizations from around the world. While the organizers initially considered limiting the agenda of the symposium to the items under consideration at the May CTE meeting (see left column), they finally decided on a broader approach. The tentative agenda is divided into seven sessions, addressing the following areas:

- Globalization, Trade and Sustainable Development;
- Synergies Between Trade Liberalization and the Environment;
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the WTO;
- TRIPs and the Environment;
- Market Access: Overview;
- Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures and the Environment; and
- Relations with Non-governmental Organizations.

Each session will involve a group of speakers and several discussants from the NGO and business communities, and will be followed by a brief discussion session. The Symposium Chair, WTO's Trade and Environment Division Director Gary Sampson, has promised to do his utmost to ensure that everyone who wishes to take the floor to make a point will have an opportunity to do so. The Secretariat has prepared background documentation on the agenda items for the participants. These papers are available from ICTSD on request.

The next issue of BRIDGES will report on the meeting. The WTO will publish a report in the Trade and Environment Bulletin, and a longer version including a compilation of the presentations and documents is planned for a later date.

For more information contact Scott Vaughan, WTO Trade and Environment Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5091; fax: 739-5620; e-mail: scott.vaughan@wto.org

ICTSD Briefing on Post-Singapore WTO Progress

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development will organize an informal briefing for NGOs attending the CTE Symposium after the conclusion of that meeting. The briefing will provide an opportunity to discuss a broader array of topics than that covered by the symposium. Government representatives and WTO Secretariat officials will outline recent developments and future activities in the multilateral trading system related to sustainable development concerns, particularly as regards trade and development issues. The presentations will be followed by question and answer periods. The meeting will take place on 21 May 1997 at the Geneva Executive Centre. All NGOs in Geneva for the CTE symposium or other reasons are welcome to attend.

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OPINION

The Future of the Trade and Environment Debate in the WTO

By Magda Shahin

Let me start by raising the following questions: Is the WTO an adequate forum for a continued debate on the interface between trade, or has its glamour and relevance faded away at least for environmentalists? Are the so-called legalistic issues, such as the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO, or the production and processing methods (PPMs) issue in the framework of ecolabelling and its coverage by the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, still alive and dynamic? Is there still room for manoeuvre in seeking concrete solutions to these questions or will future debate in the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) prove a fruitless repetition of previous inconclusive discussions? Is the life cycle approach which is at the basis of environmental requirements and measures compatible with trade rules? Do we really want to integrate the environment under WTO rules and regulations or do we want to change WTO rules to accommodate the environment? In a preliminary attempt to answer some of these questions, let me stress that in my view, the WTO will continue to be seized with the issue of the relationship between trade and environment at least for the foreseeable future.

The debate may lose some of its political attractiveness and appeal of the last two years, as the CTE will now follow the regular course of work of WTO committees, which usually meet twice or three times a year at most. On the other hand, it will certainly gain by becoming an integral part of the WTO framework of rights and obligations, in the sense that, sooner or later, the Contracting Parties will see themselves obliged to go into "negotiating" clear guidelines, disciplines and criteria - if need be - for how and where to place the environment with its numerous issues in the framework of WTO rules and regulations. It may be even sooner than we expect. I believe that by 1998 and in view of the forthcoming "substantive" Ministerial meeting scheduled for late 1999 (the 1998 meeting will be a largely ceremonial affair to mark the 50th anniversary of the GATT), Trade and Environment will be part of the so-called new "mini round", which will also include negotiations in the areas of Agriculture, Services, Investment and Competition policies.

Informally, the members of the Committee have agreed to group the ten items of the agenda into two main clusters. The first cluster, to be taken up in the May meeting of the CTE, will focus on the effect of environmental measures on market access, as well as ecolabelling and the TRIPs Agreement as it refers to the transfer of environmentally-sound technology (for the topics of the other two meetings planned for 1997, please see the CTE's programme of work on page 4). A one and half-day NGO Symposium aiming essentially to promote a constructive and sensible dialogue between delegations and NGO representatives on issues related to trade, environment and sustainable development is planned in connection with the first CTE meeting.

As the next meeting of the CTE will be devoted to market access issues, I will attempt to anticipate where the focus of those discussions might possibly lie, but it should be kept in mind that to move the debate forward, environmentalists as well as "tradists" from developed and developing countries need to be willing to work together in good faith and - what is more important - be aware of each other sensitivities.

The multilateral trading system and ecolabelling

The CTE has agreed that the transparency provisions contained in the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT), including the Code of Good Practice, provide a reference point to the further work of the Committee on enhancing transparency for ecolabelling schemes/programmes. It also concluded that no modifications to WTO rules were required to ensure adequate transparency for existing trade-related environmental measures (i.e. no blank check was given for future trade-related environmental measures). Two questions remain, however: Is ecolabelling really a trade-related measure, and if it is, does it count under existing or future trade-related environmental measures? Though the transparency provisions by themselves were considered adequate, such questions remain to be settled. Compliance

Is ecolabelling really the issue at the heart of our debate, or are PPMs becoming the sole target, as is increasingly evident from the on-going debate, thus putting into question the basic criteria that have so far governed the multilateral trading system?

by Members with the notification procedures also continues to be debatable. Canada presses for notification, irrespective of the issue of coverage and application of the TBT Agreement to ecolabelling. Whether this will be confirmed is still an open question, as some are likely to continue arguing that accepting the TBT provisions for ecolabelling - if only for transparency purposes - might have its implications on the PPMs issue. In addition, the European Union can be expected to continue to push for a Code of Good Practice devoted solely to ecolabelling.

The debate on the legality of the process and production methods (PPMs) issue will continue to generate high tension. I am deeply convinced that it will be very difficult to forge any kind of consensus in this respect, as developing countries not only will resist legitimizing environmental domestic policies and preferences in the WTO, but also fear that this will have even more far-reaching implications in the future, as it could set a precedent for labour standards.

Furthermore, many think that, left to itself, ecolabelling will die a natural death, as its market potential has yet to be proved. Such a view strengthens the legitimate concerns of developing countries about the necessity of conducting this tedious debate in the CTE when issues more relevant to the interface between trade and environment are being left aside. It also raises the question whether it is really ecolabelling - as an issue - that is at the heart of our debate, or whether it is PPMs that are becoming the sole target, as is increasingly evident from the on-going debate, thus putting into question the basic criteria that have so far governed the multilateral trading system, and making ecolabelling the litmus test through which the WTO will become more and more deeply involved in the realm of domestic policy.

For future debate on this issue, it will be important for developing countries to concentrate on clarifying questions, such as: (i) the market potential of ecolabelling and its possible trade effects; (ii) the role envisaged for the WTO in ecolabelling, keeping in mind the underlying controversies on the WTO's competence regarding the PPMs issue - how could altering the very basis of the system be justified for ecolabelling - an issue whose connection with, and relevance to, the trade system remain widely questioned; (iii) equivalencies and mutual recognition of national ecolabelling schemes/programmes. I believe

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Environment and Trade Debate, continued from page 5

this is what developing countries should focus on, if ecolabelling remains high on the agenda.

The effect of environmental measures on market access

The debate on this issue from the perspective of developing countries tends to be twofold. One is to ensure that existing market access conditions are not eroded by emerging environmental requirements and the other is how can additional market access - through what can be perceived as win-win situations - help promote environmental protection and sustainable development. In addition, there is the tendency by some to bring the debate back to the internalization of environmental externalities with all its complexities. I doubt that the WTO can turn its attention to this topic before additional research and analysis are done on the issue.

In my view, developing countries would do well to focus on a sectoral approach. In the past, they have strenuously argued that environmental requirements - although their effects on market access may not be generalized - have significant impacts on certain sectors, on par with factors such as socio-economic conditions, the size of the firms, economies of scale, infrastructure, access to technology, etc. They should certainly concentrate on identifying sectors of export interest to developing countries, such as textiles and clothing, leather, footwear, furniture and other consumer goods and other labour-intensive sectors, where environmental measures could affect existing market access opportunities and thus possibly nullify or impair the Uruguay Round results. In fact, empirical studies, mostly done by UNCTAD, show that sectors of interest to developing countries are those most prone to environmental standards and requirements, often set unilaterally by the importing governments. Such standards and requirements negatively affect developing countries' market access although the environmental effects of textile production are mainly local and do not affect the final characteristics of the product. In addition, there are few - if any - transboundary externalities.

A much-quoted example is the standards imposed by the German textile industry which introduced criteria for chemical products and pollution emissions in production processes, recycling, dyeing, etc. While these criteria certainly have the advantage of favouring domestic industries, they can have negative impacts on exporters of textiles to the German market. The specific dyes mandated by the German industries discriminate against natural dyes - which are environmentally-friendly - produced in developing countries. Furthermore, such requirements put additional burdens on small and medium-sized enterprises because textile producers wishing to continue to export to Germany will find themselves obliged to import from Germany the specific type of dye mandated by German environmental standards.

Issues such as subsidies, tariff escalation and other trade distortive measures are expected to figure prominently in the WTO debate. The Secretariat has already been mandated to prepare a background paper in this respect. In this context, it would be essential for developing countries to steer the debate on sectors such as textiles and clothing where we have lately witnessed so many trade measures for non-trade purposes being regularly applied by developed importing countries. We should also raise the very sensitive question of the environmental benefits accruing from removing trade restrictions and distortions and whether this raises the need to reconsider, for instance, the pace and the way the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing has been implemented so far. In other words, should this consideration drive developed importing countries to implement the Agreement in spirit and not only in letter? Might we ask ourselves why textiles and other sectors of export interest to developing countries are the most prone

to environmental restrictions? We may further ask ourselves whether such environmental restrictive measures are based on international standards, whether there is sufficient scientific evidence for their application, and whether similar effects could be reached through other measures that are less disruptive to trade in textiles from developing countries?

In the light of additional environmental restrictions and standards imposed unilaterally and the apparent back-loading of the implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing to the final stage, developing exporting countries are getting increasingly fearful that market entry will become more difficult and cumbersome by the time the integration of the textiles and clothing sector in the multilateral trading system is completed after ten years.

I have raised these questions not knowing where they will bring us. Not very far, I assume, as they will be met with opposition and blockage by the developed countries. So, how serious is the debate on environment and market access, especially when we see developed countries every day forcing market openings in sectors of interest to them, such as telecommunications, information technology and financial services, but certainly less so in textiles and clothing or agri-culture? This, however, should not discourage developing countries from insisting on additional market access offers to promote economic growth in order to improve their capabilities to implement sustainable development, including environmental reforms and better management. I hope we can count on NGOs as close allies in such a debate.

Developing countries refuse the use of environmental protection as a new and an added "conditionality". Nevertheless, the temptation to link market access with environmental performance is great. Should that happen, the following questions need to be answered: how to do it in a non-discriminatory manner; can we think of any multilateral way of defining what is "environmentally-friendly"; and is the WTO the right forum? We must ensure that linking additional market access to environmental performance is done in a way that does not allow developed countries to impose their conditions unilaterally.

Conclusion

If we want the trade regime to keep its focus on efficiency and seeking the least trade distorting solutions to problems, and if the environmentalists opt for integrating the environment as a legitimate trade-related problem within the multilateral trading system, they will have to abide by the prevailing criteria of necessity, efficiency, proportionality and least trade restrictiveness. The GATT/WTO regime will have to respond to the environment as it always has: it will have to reduce issues to their technical core, to affirm a limited number of principles and to apply them as consistently as possible. The environment cannot be made an exception to the rule.

So far we have witnessed a debate driven by the agenda of developed countries. Developing countries have been late-comers to the complex and multifaceted relationship between environment and trade. They have shown and proven their interest and engagement in the protection of the environment. What they have constantly argued against is the inclination of some to use the environment as a protectionist device. Nevertheless, if some time in the future developing countries have to sit at the negotiating table where the real horse trading will take place - and that may come sooner than we expect - there must be something significant and meaningful for them on that table.

Magda Shahin is Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of Egypt in Geneva. This article is based on her address at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London on 11 April 1997.

Non-Governmental Organizations and the WTO

By Mark Halle

For non-governmental organizations, participation in international meetings is nothing new. Indeed, it is to some extent the bread and butter of NGO existence. They have colonised the post-Rio process (e.g. the main UN summits - Cairo, Beijing, Copenhagen, Istanbul) and are everywhere to be seen at the Conferences of Parties to the major environmental conventions. NGO presence has also been felt in other non-UN conferences and processes (e.g. the annual G7 meetings, the Global Environment Facility). They have achieved a notable impact in regional meetings and processes (e.g. the two Summits of the Americas), including regional trade negotiations, with NAFTA being the most prominent example. Increasingly, they have made their way onto national delegations and are often brought into the process of policy formulation at the national level. NGO papers, submissions, statements and recommendations are commonly part of the official or semi-official documentation considered by such meetings. And NGOs are now almost invariably invited to address international conferences, whether individually or to deliver an agreed common NGO position.

For sure, the process leading up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio (1992), and the Rio event itself, represented something of a breakthrough for the non-governmental community. For the first time, NGO participation was able to go well beyond the standard UN list of organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, and they were able to secure for themselves a recognition that didn't depend on the dry administrative process in the UN. Rio also marked a lowering of the barriers between environmental and development NGOs who came together to an impressive extent around the notion of sustainable development. And for the same reason, it helped establish confidence across the North-South divide that too often characterises at least environmental NGOs.

Many of us came to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore believing that we could trot out the standard menu of NGO activism: lobbying the delegates, securing inside information, holding motivational meetings, ensuring that the governments did not try to "get away" with ignoring broadly-held public concerns back home. But the WTO is a different ball game from the UN and it is not an easy adversary in the way that the World Bank and IMF have tended to be. It is an organisation with its own history and culture - and even its own language and arcane practices. Many of us arriving in Singapore found ourselves in new and unfamiliar territory.

So, how did NGOs do? How well did they adapt to the new circumstances? How effective were they in influencing the course of negotiations? What lessons can be learned from the NGO experience in Singapore that will make NGOs as a group more effective in dealing with WTO in future?

First, it will be necessary to revise some assumptions. The term "NGO" tends to conjure up the image of an organization working in the public interest which, whatever the organization's mandate, aims to bring forth views and perspectives that are otherwise poorly represented. In Singapore, roughly half of the 159 NGOs registered failed to meet that description. These were, instead, usually interest groups

representing an industrial sector, organised labour or commercial interests in a particular country or geographical area. These groups had little in common with the agenda of the public interest NGOs and there was very little contact between them. The lesson for those keen on influencing the course of trade negotiations is important: in pushing for a greater participation by NGOs in the work of WTO, the likely result of success would be to give even more access to special interests, whose ability to influence the course of debate is considerably greater than that of public interest NGOs.

The second observation is that, in many respects, we have lost ground when compared to NGO activism in Rio. The North-South divide has clearly not been entirely bridged, and there is no evidence that the two sides are drawing closer together. Indeed, the range of concerns in both camps had little in common in Singapore. Whether it was the analysis of the situation, the recommendations formulated or the priorities for action, there was disturbingly little overlap in the positions expressed in the oral and written statements issued by NGOs from North and South.

Similarly, the gap separating environment and development NGOs - if anything - deepened further. This observation is not intended to point the finger at any particular group. Most NGOs concerned with trade liberalization have a restricted agenda and few take on the broad range of issues linking trade and sustainable development. This was painfully evident in Singapore. Even though it is well known that Southern NGOs regard the environmental agenda with suspicion, seeing it as very much a

Northern agenda, environmental NGOs did little to allay this suspicion. Indeed, many confirmed the worst fears of Southern NGOs by demonstrating no sympathy for the development concerns that animate them.

However much NGOs may have achieved in their own meetings in Singapore, there is no denying that they had no impact at all on the course of events at the Ministerial Conference. Perhaps this was inevitable - after all, NGOs were testing the waters in a particularly unfamiliar pond. Unlike UN conferences whose relatively open negotiation processes they are accustomed to, very little takes place in public meetings in the WTO context. In Singapore, the actual negotiations were conducted in quiet rooms and corridors. Not only the NGOs were excluded from these; so too were a number of the smaller developing country delegations, who complained bitterly about the WTO's lack of transparency.

There are, however, potentially quite a number of ways in which the NGOs can have an impact on what is decided at such conferences. The first and most important, of course, is to try to influence national policy concerning the issue under negotiation. NGOs must become a great deal more effective in "penetrating" the trade policy process at the national level and throwing their support behind opening up this process to more extensive input from environment and development ministries. NGOs should take advantage of Singapore's shortcomings to lobby for greater openness in the WTO negotiation process to national delegations, many of whom were effectively excluded from important negotiation sessions.

Continued on page 8

The WTO Committee on Trade and Development, continued from page 3

possibility for these bodies to consider measures and initiatives to assist developing and least-developed country Members in the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities from a development perspective, and that this was of relevance for the CTD's work.

Least-developed countries

A review of the problems and concerns of the least-developed countries, initiated by Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries, pointed to the difficult economic situation of least-developed countries and to the risks of their marginalization in the multilateral trading system. Subsequently, the Sub-Committee identified two main contributions that the WTO could make to better integrate least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system: ensuring that technical cooperation provided to these countries would aim at institutional and human capacity-building, and drafting a WTO Plan of Action for Least-Developed Countries that would be comprehensive in nature and fully integrated with the initiatives planned or underway elsewhere.

The final version of this WTO Plan of Action for Least-Developed Countries was presented to Members in November 1996 and approved by Ministers in Singapore in December 1996. It reaffirms commitments already undertaken by WTO Members with respect to least-developed countries, proposes a coordinated strategy to assist them and identifies areas where practical measures could be adopted. At the same time, the Committee proposed - in light of the need to increase the coordination and efficiency of assistance provided to least-developed countries - to call for the organization of a high-level meeting early in 1997, to be organized jointly by the WTO, the United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), with the participation of national aid agencies, international financial institutions and other relevant organizations, to foster an integrated approach to the trade-related aspects of least-developed countries' economic development. Such a proposal has also been adopted by Ministers in Singapore.

There is no doubt that, during the first part of 1997, much of the work of the CTD and of the Sub-Committee will be devoted to the problems and concerns of least-developed countries, in particular with respect to giving operational content to the Plan of Action - for example by enhancing conditions for investment and providing predictable and favourable market access conditions for LLDCs' products - and to the organization of the high-level meeting on least-developed countries.

Nacer Bejjelloun-Touimi was Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development for the year 1996.

The EU Commission on 16 April adopted a three part proposal for improved market access to the EU for Least Developed Countries (LLDCs). The package consists of three main points:

- the extension of the commercial preferences granted by the Lomé Convention to all LLDCs, thus adding Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, the Maldives, Nepal and Yemen to the APC countries covered by the Convention.
- flexible application of rules of origin for certain LLDCs.
- a call on industrialized and more developed countries to take a closer look at preferential market access within the framework of the WTO, noting that to maintain credibility, some preferential access is necessary to assist L LDCs.

NGOs and the WTO, continued from page 7

The second is to take advantage of the modest opening accorded to NGOs by the WTO General Council last July and develop effective working relationships with the WTO Secretariat, so that NGO input is reflected in the working papers which serve as the basis for most WTO discussions. This will, however, require that NGOs move beyond generalities and start focusing their creativity on the specific matters under debate. If NGOs are to be more focused, however, the WTO will have to do a better job of letting them know what exactly is being debated, since agendas, like most WTO documents, are restricted and can usually be released only long after the meeting has been forgotten. Lobbying for more transparency and openness in WTO must, in fact, be regarded as one of the top priorities for public interest NGOs, since so much else depends on it. Perhaps, however, the initial target should concern access to information, and the ability for NGOs to contribute ideas, recommendations and written contributions to Committee meetings, negotiations and dispute settlement panels. Opening WTO negotiation sessions to NGOs is far more contentious and should perhaps be given second place.

Third, in preparing for major meetings such as the now biennial Ministerial Conferences, NGOs should focus a great deal of effort on contributing to their countries' positions and to seeking a place on delegations, if not for themselves, at least for government officials from the environment and development sectors. They should push for open forums in which their countries' positions might be discussed, and should push equally for their countries' positions and those positions that it has taken in the negotiations sessions to be as transparent and as accountable as possible.

Finally, NGOs should seek to establish and participate in forums where the WTO Secretariat, delegations to WTO or trade officials from the capitals may meet and dialogue with NGOs. Policy dialogues, seminars, capacity building programmes, all can help improve the dialogue between two worlds that are not accustomed to talking to each other and barely speak the same language.

But most of all, NGOs need to understand that the WTO is not the UN. Much of the negotiation in the WTO is in respect of agreements which, when adopted, are binding and enforceable and not, like most UN agreements, reflecting a political consensus that often possesses moral value only (and very little of that in many cases). We must learn that the WTO would not be effective if it were obliged to be fully open and transparent, and that NGOs may themselves have to face the test of legitimacy and representativeness if they are to seek a place at the table.

It seems more important, in the short run at least, to learn how the WTO operates and to seek small, incremental, but important changes in the WTO structure that leave more room for NGO opinion to be heard and taken into consideration. It is time that we put some of the tired Rio formulae behind us and started to forge a new relationship between public interests NGOs and the trade policy world.

Mark Halle is Director of Global Policy & Partnerships at IUCN - The World Conservation Union

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Please ask for your copy of **Why the WTO Needs Environmental NGOs**, a 24-page booklet by trade and environment specialist Daniel Esty. Published in the ICTSD series of booklets on Public Participation in the International Trading System.

NGOs to Meet Prior to High-Level Meeting on LLDC Trade

The WTO Secretariat plans to hold an NGO Symposium prior to the High-Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives on Least Developed Countries' Trade Development (see story on front page). The consultation is likely to take place in Geneva two weeks to a month before the High-Level Meeting (as the proposal has not yet been officially endorsed by WTO Members, the exact dates have not been set).

Although the symposium agenda has not been finalized, the Secretariat expects the meeting to be a working session, focusing specifically on enhancing least developed countries' trade development. Among other issues, NGOs from least developed countries could provide insight into:

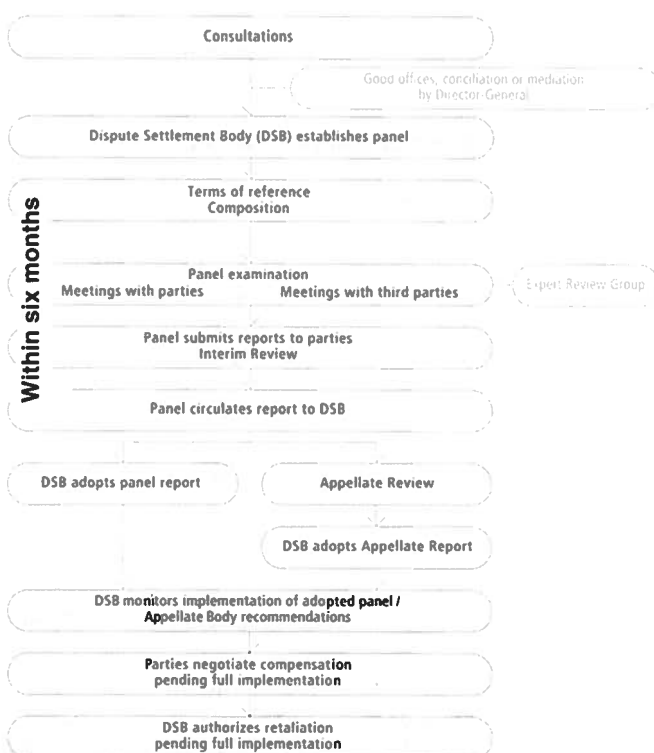
- the concrete problems their countries are confronting in their international trading efforts;
- the role that non-governmental citizens' organizations could play in enhancing their countries' trade development, particularly on the supply side; and
- the potential benefits of including NGOs and other groups such as academia in eventual technical assistance and training programmes.

Until the meeting has been formally approved by WTO Members and its budget finalized, the number of participants cannot be determined. The Secretariat hopes to invite some 20 representatives of least developed country organizations actively concerned with development, as well as several international development organizations, though funding is unlikely to be available for the latter. It is not currently envisaged to include participants from the private sector. In preparing for the meeting, the Secretariat expects to work closely with UNCTAD and UNDP, both of which have strong mandates to collaborate with non-governmental organizations. Member governments will be briefed about the symposium at a joint WTO/UNCTAD meeting on 26 June. In the event of a green light, the symposium agenda will then be finalized and invitations sent out to potential participants according to the budget available.

Contact: Peter Pedersen, WTO External Relations Division, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 739-5848; fax: 739-5777, e-mail: peter.pedersen@wto.org

U.S. Takes Steps to Comply with Venezuela Gas Ruling

On 30 April 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed revisions to the requirements for importing gasoline to the United States. The revisions reflect the recommendations of a WTO dispute settlement panel, which in May 1996 supported Venezuela's and Brazil's contention that the U.S. decision to apply a "statutory baseline" to foreign gasoline refineries while permitting domestic refineries to apply more flexible "individual baselines", amounted to unjustified discrimination and disguised restriction on international trade. The proposed regulations would, inter alia, allow foreign refiners to petition EPA for an individual baseline reflecting the volume and quality of gasoline shipped to the U.S. in 1990. The foreign refiner would then be obliged to meet the requirements that are met by domestic producers. According to EPA, the new regulations impose more equal restrictions on domestic and foreign companies than was originally planned. Comments to the new rule will be accepted for 30 days after the rule's publication in the Federal Registry. If a public hearing is requested, comments will be accepted until 30 days following the hearing. A copy of the rule can be obtained via the Internet at www.epa.gov.

Dispute Settlement Corner**The Panel Process**

Source: WTO

**Shrimp Turtle Panel News**

India has joined Thailand, Malaysia and Pakistan as a co-complainant in the trade dispute concerning the U.S. import ban on wild-caught shrimp from countries lacking what the U.S. considers effective measures to keep marine turtles from drowning in shrimp nets. The embargo, based on the U.S. Endangered Species Act, is in force since May 1996. Citing violations of several WTO provisions, the complainants are particularly concerned about the unilateral nature of the trade measure which seems to require other countries to conform to U.S. domestic environmental legislation (extraterritoriality). The ban also seems to contravene the WTO principle that production and processing methods are not valid reasons for product differentiation. Sixteen other countries and the European Communities have reserved their third party rights in the case.

A WTO dispute settlement panel was established on 25 February to decide whether the ban was compatible with WTO rules. The panel members - Michael Cartland of Great Britain, Kilian Delbrück of Germany and Carlos Cozende of Brazil - were appointed on 15 April. The panel has six months from the date of its constitution to complete its report (see chart above).

**EU Banana Panel Report Released**

The main aspects of EU's banana import regime, which favours bananas from former colonies (called APC countries), Union members and four Latin American countries, have been found incompatible with free trade rules by a WTO dispute settlement panel. The panel report was circulated on 30 April. The EU has three weeks to examine the report before deciding whether to appeal. The case was brought by Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the United States, the latter reportedly acting under pressure by Chiquita Brands International.

Border Taxes and the Climate Change Protocol

By Brennan Van Dyke

The Third Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place this December in Kyoto, Japan. The goal is to fulfill the mandate of the Geneva Declaration to create a binding Protocol that will commit the developed (Annex I) countries to establishing targets and timetables for legally binding reductions and limitations of greenhouse gas emissions.

One means for achieving the Geneva Declaration goals would be to embrace an Annex I-wide carbon tax. Another means, which currently is preferred by the United States and under consideration in the EU, would be to organize a system of tradable permits for carbon dioxide emissions.

Some such measure — whether it be a tax or trading system — must be instituted throughout the Annex I countries in order to better ensure their realization of specific target and timetable goals. These two policies are the only apparent means to address all energy-related sources of carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, an Annex I-wide measure is probably necessary to ensure that competitiveness concerns — real or imagined — do not exert a downward pressure on national efforts to control carbon dioxide emissions. (In 1992, the EU considered implementing a carbon tax but, after failing to lobby the U.S. government to coordinate efforts, was unwilling to impose one unilaterally for competitiveness reasons.)

For both trading and taxing, there are competitiveness concerns at play. A tradable permit scheme will operate like a carbon tax in that both (if properly designed and implemented) will reduce the overall emissions of carbon dioxide and raise the price to the consumer of the consumption of energy from fossil fuels. The additional costs, in turn, will increase costs to business, making their products and services more expensive and less competitive (although the actual impact on competitiveness would be low for all but about 10-20 carbon-intensive industries, such as unfabricated metals, bulk glass and others).

Despite its importance, the achievement of an Annex I agreement on any particular measure is far from being a *fait accompli*. There are a number of critical details that must be worked out satisfactorily before an international trading system or tax becomes a viable policy measure for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The appropriate use of trade measures in an Annex I Protocol could allow the rest of the international community to forge an effective Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gases in the face of minority opposition. The countries pushing for the negotiation of a Protocol binding Annex I countries to reductions of carbon dioxide emissions may want to explore using trade measures that would both make participation in the negotiated Protocol more appealing to recalcitrant countries and alleviate competitiveness concerns associated with implementing a carbon tax or marketable permit scheme without full cooperation.

The most obvious example of trade measures that would both level the playing field and provide incentives to join the Protocol would be

the promotion of a mandate in the Protocol of either a trading system with a cap that is low enough, or carbon taxes that are high enough, to achieve the target reductions, coupled with an explicit allowance in the Protocol for the use of border tax adjustments (BTAs) to compensate for either the cost of the permits that would have had to have been purchased or the tax that would have had to have been paid.

There are arguments that have been made both for and against using border tax adjustments in the new Climate Change Protocol. However, this column will not delve into them. Instead of trying to determine whether a border tax adjustment would be wise, this discussion will be limited to whether such use of a border tax adjustment would be compatible with the rules of international trade.

It is highly unlikely that any country will dare to challenge a reasonable, nondiscriminatory trade measure that has been adopted by a country under the explicit mandate of a multilateral environmental agreement as important as the new Climate Change Protocol would be. Such deference would constitute appropriate international policy; the GATT was never intended to prohibit fiscal and regulatory distinction applied so as to achieve legitimate policy goals.

It is true that no case examining the validity of a system of BTAs for a carbon tax has been reviewed by the WTO. However, privately, even the WTO's legal department admits that such adjustments, when taken in the context of a tax, seem to be consistent with the GATT because of a provision in the WTO rules establishing guidelines on the consumption of inputs in the production process. The provision is in Annex II of the Subsidies Agreement, and allows for certain tax rebates of inputs consumed in the production process, such as the energy used during production.

If BTAs are, in addition, undertaken within the context of a multilateral environmental agreement, the likelihood that they will be found to be consistent with the rules of international trade is even stronger. As a political matter, it would be far more difficult for a WTO dispute resolution panel to determine that an environmental measure that has been agreed upon through international negotiations involving dozens of countries is arbitrary, unjustifiable, unnecessary, etc. Consequently, such a measure should receive the protection offered by the environmental exceptions of the GATT.

The question whether a BTA taken in the context of a trading scheme would be consistent with the rules of international trade is less readily answered. No-one has really considered the issue. However, again, it is highly unlikely that any country will dare to challenge a reasonable, nondiscriminatory trade measure that has been adopted by a country under the explicit mandate of a multilateral environmental agreement as important as this Protocol would be. Such deference would constitute appropriate international policy; the GATT was never intended to prohibit fiscal and regulatory distinction applied so as to achieve legitimate policy goals.

Consequently, legal concerns should not deter the parties to the Climate Change Convention from employing or threatening to employ, a BTA for a carbon tax or trading scheme.

Brennan Van Dyke is Director of the Geneva office of the Washington-based Center for International Environmental Law.

This column will appear regularly. Contributions on the legal aspects of the trade & environment/development debate are welcome.

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BRIDGES MEETING CALENDAR

May 16	WTO Textiles Monitoring Body Contact: J.-P. Lapalme, tel: 5223, fax: 5765
May 20	WTO Committee on Trade and Development Contact: Richard Eglin, tel: 5148, fax: 5774
May 20-21	NGO-CTE Symposium Contact: Scott Vaughan, tel: 5091, fax: 5620
May 21-22	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Contact: Sabrina Shaw, tel: 5482, fax: 5620
May 21	WTO Committee on Government Procurement Contact: Vesile Kulaçoglu, tel: 5187, fax: 5790
May 26-27 Paris	OECD Council Meeting Contact: OECD Communications Division, e-mail: contact@oecd.org
May 28	WTO Dispute Settlement Body Contact: Paulo Barthel-Rosa, tel: 5191, fax: 5761
May 28-30 Geneva	Expert Meeting on Existing Agreements on Investment and Their Development Dimensions Contact: UNCTAD, Office of the Secretary of the Board, tel: (41-22) 907-4815, fax: 907-0056, e-mail: Awni.Behnam@unctad.org
June 4-6	WTO Textiles Monitoring Body Contact: J.-P. Lapalme, tel: 5223, fax: 5765
June 4-6 Washington	Intellectual Property Rights III - Global Genetic Resources: Access and Property Rights Workshops Contact: American Society of Agronomy, Web site: http://www.agronomy.org/ipr/
June 5-6	WTO Committee on Trade in Financial Services Contact: Masamichi Kono, tel: 5590, fax: 5771
June 9-20 Harare	CITES 10th Conference of the Parties Contact: CITES Secretariat, tel: (41-22) 979-9139/40, fax: 797-3417, e-mail: cites@unep.ch
June 19-20	WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade Contact: Vivien Liu, tel: 5455, fax: 5620
June 23-25 Geneva	Pilot Seminar on the Mobilization of the Private Sector in Order to Encourage Foreign Investment Flows towards the LDCs Contact: See UNCTAD contact for May 28-30 meeting
June 23-25	WTO Textiles Monitoring Body Contact: J.-P. Lapalme, tel: 5223, fax: 5765
June 23-27 New York	Special Session of UN General Assembly on UNCED Contact: Andrej Vasilyev, UNDSO, tel: (1-212) 963-5949, fax: 963-4260, e-mail: vasilyev@un.org
June 24	WTO Committee on Market Access Contact: Yvette Davel, tel: 5113, fax: 5770

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1211 Geneva, Switzerland

June 25	WTO Dispute Settlement Body Contact: Paulo Barthel-Rosa, tel: 5191, fax: 5761
June 25-26	WTO Trade Policy Review Body (Cyprus) Contact: Peter Tulloch, tel: 5089, fax: 5765
June 26	WTO/UNCTAD Special Review Meeting on the High-Level Meeting on LLDC Trade Contact: Peter Pedersen, tel: 5848, fax: 5777
July 15	WTO Council for TRIPs Contact: Matthijs Geuze, tel: 5418, fax: 5790
July 16	WTO General Council Contact: Paulo Barthel-Rosa, tel: 5191, fax: 5761
July 17-18	WTO Trade Policy Review Body (Paraguay) Contact: Peter Tulloch, tel: 5089, fax: 5765
July 17-18	WTO Committee on Trade in Financial Services Contact: Masamichi Kono, tel: 5590, fax: 5771
July 23-25	WTO Textiles Monitoring Body Contact: J.-P. Lapalme, tel: 5223, fax: 5765
July 17-18	WTO Trade Policy Review Body (India) Contact: Peter Tulloch, tel: 5089, fax: 5765
July 25	WTO Committee on Trade in Financial Services Contact: Masamichi Kono, tel: 5590, fax: 5771
July 30	WTO Dispute Settlement Body Contact: Paulo Barthel-Rosa, tel: 5191, fax: 5761

All WTO meetings take place in Geneva. See also WTO Web site <http://www.wto.org> for changes in the meeting schedule.

PUBLICATIONS/DOCUMENTS

Commission on Environmental Cooperation. (1997). "NAFTA Institutions: Their Environmental Potential and Performance"

UNCTAD (1997). "Integrating Trade, Environment and Development: Recent Progress and Outstanding Issues," document TD/B/COM.1/3

Vogel, Joseph Henry (Ed.). (1997) "From Traditional Knowledge to Trade Secrets: Prior Informed Consent and Bioprospecting," EcoCiencia (Quito, Ecuador)/Inter-American Development Bank

Ward, Halina. (1996). "Common but Differentiated Debates: Environment, Labour and the World Trade Organization," The International and Comparative Law Quarterly Vol. 45

Zarsky, Luyba and Hunter, Jason. (1996). "Environmental Cooperation at APEC: The First Five Years," The Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development

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