



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
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*BRIDGES*

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## HOLIDAY BREAK

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will be taking a break over the Christmas and new year period, to coincide with the slower schedule of international trade and sustainable development-related meetings and news at this time of year.

The next issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will mark the beginning of its third year. You will receive Vol. 3, No 1 on 18 January 1999. In the meantime, we wish you a restful holiday season and all the best for the new year.

## SPLIT GROWS BETWEEN EU, U.S. ON BANANAS

Last week proved perhaps the most complicated week yet in the banana dispute between the EU and U.S. It seemed early last week that the EU would extend an olive branch to the U.S. and call for a speedy review of its proposed banana import regime to the U.S. - in an effort to settle the two sides' dispute over whether the EU has gone far enough in its revised banana import regime to comply with the spirit of a 1997 WTO Panel ruling. (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol 2, No 48, December 14, 1998). What the EU actually proposed left the co-complainants in the dispute - the U.S., Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras (G-5) feeling that rather than an olive branch the EU wielded a blunt instrument of "procedural conditions" in an attempt to secure a favourable decision in the case.

In its proposal to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) December 15 the EU requested "the establishment of a panel under Article 21.5 of the DSU with the mandate to find that [the proposed revised banana import regime] must be presumed to conform to WTO rules unless their conformity has been duly challenged under the appropriate DSU procedures." Article 21.5, a provision not previously applied in a WTO dispute, specifies that if one country disagrees with another countries' approach to the implementation of a DSB ruling--in this case the EU's proposed banana import regime--the disagreement "shall be decided through recourse to these dispute settlement procedures, including wherever possible resort to the original panel." The EU proposal last week, in simple terms, challenges the G-5 to join the EU request for review under Article 21.5 if they believe the EU regime is not consistent with the WTO, and that the absence of challengers should indicate the regime is consistent.

The G-5 immediately rejected the EU proposal. The U.S. noted that Article 21.5 offers "no basis in the text for establishing a panel with the 'mandate' requested by the EC." Further, U.S. Ambassador to the WTO Rita Hayes said in a letter to the DSB chairperson last week, "I can only conclude that the EC is neither seeking to have a panel review its banana import regime to determine whether it is consistent with EC obligations under the WTO, nor providing the DSB with any legal basis for taking action at today's meeting." The December 15 DSB meeting ended without taking action on the EU request.

However, Ecuador later independently requested a panel review of the EU regime in an effort to settle the dispute. "Ecuador is putting its trust in the multilateral trade system, enough damage has been done, and we hope the step is in the right direction," Roberto Betancourt, Ecuador's Ambassador to the WTO, said. The DSB was expected to meet on this request today (December 21) as BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest goes to press. Meanwhile, the U.S.-EU summit last week in Washington yielded no progress on the matter. However, the U.S. delayed publication - due December 15 - of the list of products subject to 100 percent duties effective early next year unless the EU changes its revised regime. Observers note that beyond the specifics of this case, the dispute highlights a flaw in WTO rules, specifically, how to enforce WTO rulings.

In related news, Associate U.S. Trade Representative Ralph Ives earlier this month urged Caribbean countries to discuss alternatives to the EU banana regime. Mr. Ives addressed dispute-related questions from reporters and trade experts from the Caribbean, during which he adamantly rejected the suggestion that U.S. policy in the banana matter has been at all influenced by U.S.-based Chiquita Brands International.

"US presses ahead with sanctions against EU in bitter banana dispute," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 21, 1998; "U.S. rejects EU bid to end banana fight, delays retaliation list;" "Request for the Establishment of a Panel by the European Communities," INSIDE US TRADE, December 18, 1998; "WTO meet on EU-US banana row likely Friday - diplomats," THE HERALD (St. Vincent-Grenadines); "Banana cease-fire," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 17, 1998; "U.S., Latin Americans fume over EU banana move," REUTERS, December 15, 1998; "Improbable conciliation euro-américaine sur la banane," LA TRIBUNE, December 17, 1998.

## **WTO GENERAL COUNCIL PURSUES MINISTERIAL PREPARATIONS**

The WTO Special Session of General Council last week convened again in an informal intersessional meeting as part of the first phase of lead-up to the Third Ministerial, scheduled for

November-December 1999 in the U.S. The topic of this third, informal session were the Recommendations on the follow-up to the October 1997 High-Level Meeting on Least-Developed Countries. At the meeting, on 14 and 16 December, quite a number of WTO Members took the floor; many of these explained what kind of national actions they have taken in favour of LDCs. Many delegations echoed the points made in two significant and detailed presentations by Egypt on behalf of the African group, and by Bangladesh's Ambassador, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhuri, also Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development.

In his statement, Dr Chowdhuri considered why LDCs are in the state they are in, what the WTO has done so far and what more the WTO can do. Emphasising that special and differential treatment should not be viewed as an exercise in generosity but rather as a corrective measure aimed at the structural weaknesses of LDCs, in order to ensure balance in the distribution of the benefits of the international trade system. He called for radical thinking in order to improve the usefulness of WTO Agreements for LDCs. Areas mentioned for improvement included the Dispute Settlement Mechanism - which is costly for developing countries to use; the area of labour-intensive services, which are so critical for LDCs, and on safeguards, an area in which there are no rules at the moment. Dr Chowdhuri also pointed out that the difficulties developing countries were already facing in implementing the results of the last round could be exacerbated by new obligations arising from the built-in agenda, and by new issues added to the trade agenda. He insisted on the need to fully implement the results of October 1997's High-Level Meeting and on the need to give effect to market access commitments. He also raised the need to design a fast-track procedure for speedy LDC accession to the WTO.

In his statement, Ambassador Mounir Zahran touched on several of the main points raised by Ambassador Chowdhuri, including the difficulties for LDCs of implementing the results of the Uruguay Round, their concerns regarding the development of new international trade rules, and the difficulty for LDCs of exploiting their rights in the WTO. He also pointed to supply side constraints that hinder LDCs' ability to diversify their production and exports and the need for the international community to take measures in this area. Egypt went into some detail about the implementation of the results of the 1997 High-Level Meeting, relaying some countries' disappointment that the high expectations of the Meeting had not materialised into concrete measures.

In their brief statements, the EU and the U.S. talked about measures they have taken in favour of LDCs and the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the High-Level Meeting.

As a result of this informal session, the Secretariat was asked to compile a listing of the national actions taken over the last year-or-so in favour of LDCs.

Prior meetings in this series of informal sessions of the General Council's Special Session to prepare for the ministerial focussed on the Built-In Agenda and on Implementation of existing agreements and decisions. The General Council will meet again in an informal Special Session on 26-27 January 1999 when it will consider the recommendations concerning other possible future work on the basis of the work programme initiated at Singapore, recommendations arising from consideration of other matters concerning their multilateral trade relations, and organisation of future work. On 25-26 February 1999 the General Council Special Session will hold another formal meeting.

On 16 December WTO Members discussed organisation of future work. Although no clear decision was taken, it appears that there is a general convergence of views. After this "first phase" of

exchanging views, which will end with the 25-26 February General Council Special Session, Members agreed that a "second phase," to continue until the summer break, would give delegations the opportunity to make proposals on how to deal with all the issues raised so far, i.e. how these issues would be dealt with in the 1999 Ministerial and what kind of decisions could be prepared for adoption at the Ministerial. In the autumn, the "third phase" would start, which would consist of the actual drafting of the Ministerial Declaration.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **GMO CORN ISSUE REFERRED TO EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE**

The French Council of State December 11 said it could not rule in the case brought by the environmental organisation Greenpeace and farm groups against the French government's February 1998 decision to allow Novartis' Bt maize to be grown on approximately 30,000 hectares in France, referring the matter for clarification to the European Court of Justice. (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, Number 38 October 5, 1998).

The Council of State said it could not rule on the case before consulting with the European Court for clarification as to France's obligation, as an EU member, to accept a 1996 European Commission (EC) decision authorising cultivation and sale of genetically modified seed in EU states. The Council of State also questioned whether the EC allowed France all legally mandated opportunities to express its opposition to authorisation of Bt corn. The Council of State move could delay a ruling on the use of the Novartis product for a year, during which time the product would remain under ban.

In its case Greenpeace et al argue that serious scientific doubts remain about the health and environmental risks associated with the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food production, and argue that the French Ministry of Agriculture ignored the "principle of precaution" when approving Novartis' Bt corn licence. The precautionary principle - often cited in international environmental policy - is a mechanism used to allow governments to take preventive measures such as a ban before approving a product for use when scientific evidence is lacking regarding public health and environmental ramifications.

The EC corn directive has met opposition in other EU states as well. Austria and Luxembourg have both refused to co-operate with the directive: when the EC threatened to bring the two countries to the European Court to force them to comply, the EC could not win support for such a move from EU member-states. To address the reticence among some member states toward overall GMO use in Europe, the EU Council of Environment Ministers was to meet December 21 to allow member states to outline their positions on proposed revisions to the EU's 1990 directive on Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Organisms.

"French high court delays Bt-corn ruling, demands European Court of Justice opinion," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, December 16, 1998; "La commercialisation du maïs transgénique reste suspendue," LE MONDE, December 13-14, 1998; "Blow to hopes for use of genetically altered seed," FINANCIAL TIMES, December 16, 1998.

**ASEAN AGREES ON LIBERALISATION, ENVIRONMENT**

Southeast Asian leaders last week met in Hanoi for the sixth Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit, where they adopted a "Statement of Bold Measures" designed to foster investor confidence and speed economic recovery in beleaguered ASEAN countries. ASEAN members agreed to an investor-incentive package for the manufacturing sector, including tax breaks and 100 percent foreign equity ownership. Ministers also agreed to a feasibility study on establishing an ASEAN currency and exchange rate system and measures to "reduce over-dependence on bank financing and limiting risks of financial crisis."

ASEAN ministers agreed as well to move forward with tan ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) partially ahead of its 2003 implementation schedule. Under the agreement signed last week, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand agreed to implement a free trade area by 2002, while less-developed ASEAN countries have until 2006-2008 to come into the fold.

ASEAN leaders are eager to restore confidence in the region after struggling under the weight of economic catastrophe for over a year. However, observers note that changes to domestic policies that ASEAN members will have to make are politically difficult in light of the economic crisis, and would carry additional social costs at a time when local businesses are already struggling and unemployment is growing.

In related news, ASEAN environment ministers last month agreed to more regional co-operation on a number of transborder environmental issues. Ministers agreed to collaborate on issues including haze pollution caused by slash and burn forest fires, and to establish new working groups to address nature conservation and biodiversity, coastal and marine environment, and multilateral environment agreements.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"ASEAN pacts speed trade liberalisation," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, December 17, 1998; "ASEAN sets its sights on trade boom," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, December 15, 1998; "ASEAN summit to press for open markets," WALL STREET JOURNAL, December 15, 1998; "L'ASEAN veut s'ouvrir à son rythme," LE FIGARO, December 16, 1998; "SOUTH-EAST ASIA: Time for self-criticism by ASEAN," IPS, December 10, 1998; "SOUTH-EAST ASIA: After summit, time to sell prescriptions at home," IPS, December 16, 1998; "ASEAN ministers agree to co-operate on host of transborder environment issues," INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT, December 9, 1998.

**FTAA: CALL FOR FLEXIBILITY FOR SMALLER ECONOMIES; CHILE CONSIDERS NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Jamaica's Ambassador to the U.S. Richard Bernal last week called for flexibility in negotiating the hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which would link 34 economies from the Yukon to Patagonia by 2005. Mr. Bernal chairs the FTAA negotiating committee on small economies designed to give voice to Caribbean and Central American countries in FTAA negotiations. Speaking to the 22nd Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Latin America last week, Mr. Bernal outlined a negotiating approach which would allow negotiators to agree on a

core agreement between the 34 countries, but under which each nation could determine separately the speed at which it could reach FTAA liberalisation goals. This would allow developed economies to move more rapidly toward trade liberalisation while affording developing economies the necessary time to adjust to liberalisation. Mr. Bernal also called for a differentiated timetable for regional dispute resolution to account for the limited resources available to smaller economies.

In other regional news, Chilean Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat confirmed rumours that the U.S. may finally begin negotiations to bring Chile into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA, between the U.S., Mexico and Canada). The idea of NAFTA-expansion was launched four years ago at the first Summit of the Americas when the U.S. vowed to extend NAFTA to include Chile. To date, the U.S. has not been able to build domestic support for this expansion, including the Clinton Administration's inability to secure fast track negotiating authority. Meanwhile, Chile has come into its own as an economy, forging alliances with South America's trading power, the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR, which comprises Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), and separate agreements with Canada and Mexico. Chile has launched free trade negotiations with the EU.

Meanwhile, Chile's director of trade negotiations last week said that Chile and South Korea are working furiously to begin negotiating the first trans-Pacific free trade agreement early next year. Annual trade between Chile and South Korea currently amounts to US\$1.6 billion.

"Flexibility is called key to FTAA acceptance," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 15, 1998; "Chile, Korea explore trans-Pacific trade deal;" "Reports say US may talk with Chile about joining NAFTA," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 16, 1998.

## **WTO NOTES LIMITED ACCESS TO CANADIAN MARKET FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

The WTO last week conducted the obligatory "Trade Policy Review" of Canada. While Members found that Canada is a generally open economy, they noted that Canada has work to do with respect to market access for developing countries. WTO members noted that Canada still has in place significant tariff protection for textiles, clothing and footwear and food products, all sectors in which developing economies could have comparative advantage as an exporter. Some members also noted concern around Canada's dependence on the U.S. for much of its trade.

In separate news, Canada and the EU last week agreed to accept each other's sanitary measures with regard to live animals and animal products. The veterinary equivalency agreement should streamline EU-Canada trade in dairy, fish and fish products, live animals and fresh meat. These products already account for annual EU-Canadian trade worth US\$655 million. The agreement does not cover trade in genetically modified products or phytosanitary measures. The agreement was signed as part of the EU-Canada summit held last week in Ottawa. At the summit, Canada, whose farmers are struggling with troubled grain and hog markets, were expected to press the EU on agricultural subsidies, and probe the EU on its agenda for the next round of WTO trade talks.

"FOCUS: Canada's tariffs high on food, clothing- WTO," REUTERS, December 17, 1998; "EU, Canada reach agreement on sanitary rules for animals, products," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 17, 1998; EU braced for talks on agricultural subsidies at summit," OTTAWA CITIZEN, December 17, 1998.

## **CALLS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL TRADE POLICY**

Canada said it would continue to push for greater civil society participation in the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in 1999, despite rejection of a proposal for broader public participation at the APEC summit last month. Writing in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW this month, Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy said the Asian financial crises has "dramatically illustrated the interconnections between the economic, social and political realms," and called on APEC to engage new partners in forging an economic recovery program. Mr. Axworthy said APEC must "engage its sceptics" in order to win support for regional and global trade liberalisation, and to make globalisation work better. Mr. Axworthy hailed the important contributions of non-governmental organisations in the multilateral process, noting that NGO participation contributed significantly to the outcome at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the World Conference on Women in Beijing.

In related news, U.S. and EU environmental groups last week pressed U.S. and EU officials to fully include civil society in developing Transatlantic trade policy. In advance of the EU-U.S. summit where the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP), an enhanced EU-U.S. trade arrangement, was to be discussed, the Transatlantic Environment Dialogue (TAED), a grouping of U.S. and EU environmental groups and NGOs, called for equal access to TEP discussions as those afforded the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), a grouping of U.S. and EU business interests. In their first declaration, TAED urged the U.S. and EU to postpone implementation of the TEP until environmental issues are added. "Our governments must immediately begin to work with civil society to revise the implementation of the TEP Action Plan to ensure that this partnership will actively promote environmental protection and sustainable development," the declaration said. Consumer and labour groups have also joined to form parallel groups to the TABD, namely, the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue and the Transatlantic Labour Dialogue. The original EU proposal on TEP called for increased EU-U.S. co-operation with respect to trade and environment linkage, and recommended increased EU-U.S. dialogue on the environment, labour and electronic commerce.

"The fifth column: managing our people," FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, December 14, 1998; "USTR highlights role of NGOs in Transatlantic trade policy," INSIDE US TRADE, December 18, 1998.

## **IN BRIEF**

A report by the wildlife-trade monitoring programme of the WWF/IUCN found that illegal trade in endangered wildlife remains high in former Soviet states since the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. A number of threatened species such as snow leopard and Tien Shan brown bear and wild sheep are poached and traded, while other non-endangered species are traded at levels that may not be sustainable. "Environment: Illegal Wildlife Trade in Central Asia Uncovered," ENS, December 4, 1998.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) earlier this month decried globalisation as "a competing religious vision," and called on churches and social movements to monitor the activities of transnational corporations, the OECD, IMF and similar bodies. It recommended a campaign for a new international financial system and said churches should review the ethics of their own dealings

with respect to investments and use of agricultural land. WCC Eighth Assembly Press Release No. 56, December 15, 1998.

Trade will be the number one focus of U.S. international policy in 1999, according to an U.S. Commerce Department official. Slower trade growth and a growing trade deficit are expected to fuel increased interest in international trade. At the forefront of the trade agenda, the U.S. is expected to push Japan and China to embrace liberalisation and do their part to help Asian countries recover from the economic crisis. "Commerce official: trade to top 1999 international agenda," DOW JONES, December 14, 1998.

Inadequate infrastructure and growing insecurity threaten Colombia's attempts to promote its biodiversity and ecotourism resources. Colombia's 46 national parks occupy about 10 million hectares and are home to nearly 14 percent of the species of flora and fauna known worldwide. Colombia hopes that a governmental Peace Plan will be a success and alleviate security issues, complemented by tax reductions designed to benefit tourism. "Colombia: Ecotourism trapped between biodiversity and insecurity," IPS, December 7, 1998.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

WTO negotiators last week again failed to meet a self-imposed deadline December 11 for reaching agreement on tariff cuts for information technology products, in a deal that would broaden the 1997 WTO Information Technology Agreement. Talks began in February 1998 and were to be concluded by June 1998. Most countries have agreed to a list of some 200 goods to be included in the agreement, a much shorter list than originally anticipated. Malaysia and India and some other developing countries remain the strongest holdouts in the negotiating process. India registered strong opposition to the agreement, saying it was drawn up by only a handful of rich members without consulting developing countries, and clearly represents developed countries interests. Negotiators are to meet again in February 1999. "WTO Information Technology negotiators miss deadline; India threatens to block deal," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, December 16, 1998; "WTO talks delayed again," FINANCIAL TIMES, December 15, 1998.

WTO members last week failed to nominate a successor to WTO Director General Renato Ruggiero. France announced that it would support Moroccan candidate Hasssan Abouyoub, thereby breaking ranks with the official silence from Brussels. Sources report that Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi leads all four candidates, who also include New Zealand Prime Minister Michael Moore and former Canadian Trade Minister Roy MacLaren. WTO members agreed Friday to target the end of January for reaching consensus on a candidate. "Race for WTO chief intensifies as France breaks EU ranks to support Moroccan candidate," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 21, 1998.

At a meeting of the working party on Russia's WTO accession last week, Russia attempted to defend recent tariff measures affecting foreign imports by outlining economic problems brought on by a sharp decline in commodity prices and noted that the price of imported food had soared since its currency collapsed. Members also asked Russia to submit more recent data on agricultural subsidies than the pre-1991 data previously submitted. "Russia pressed for farm subsidy details in WTO bid," REUTERS, December 16, 1998.



**EVENTS & RESOURCES****• EVENTS****WTO Meetings**

20-21 January 1999: Trade Policy Review Body (Argentina). For information, contact Lucie Giraud, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 50 75.

25 January 1999: Dispute Settlement Body meeting. For information, contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 53 93.

25 January 1999: Committee on Rules of Origin. For information, contact Luis Ople, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 53 74.

25-26 January 1999: Council for Trade in Services. For information, contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 53 93.

**Other Meetings**

TRADE, INTEGRATION AND ECOLOGY IN LATIN AMERICA : The Latin American Center for Social Ecology (CLAES) has started a new email information and discussion list on the environmental aspects of trade and the integration process in Latin America (EcoIntAL). The main languages of the list are Spanish and Portuguese. Furthermore, through the list CLAES distributes its electronic bulletin on trade and environment in that continent. To subscribe, send a blank message to: [ecointal-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:ecointal-subscribe@egroups.com). For further information, contact CLAES at [claes@adinet.com.uy](mailto:claes@adinet.com.uy)

SECOND MEETING OF THE POPS INC: The Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for POPS is scheduled from 25-29 January 1999 in Nairobi, Kenya. For information contact: UNEP Chemicals (IRPTC); tel: +41 (22) 979-9111; fax: +41 (22) 797- 3460; e-mail: [jwillis@unep.ch](mailto:jwillis@unep.ch); Internet: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pic/>

**• RESOURCES**

REPORT ON THE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (CEC)'S JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPAC) REGULAR SESSION. Held on 3-4 December in Washington, DC, the JPAC held its fifth Regular Session of 1998. One of JPAC's important roles is to promote public participation in the activities of the CEC. The JPAC produced advice to the Council of Ministers on the CEC Proposed Annual Program and Budget for 1999, Enforcement Issues, the selection process for the Executive Director and institutional co-operation between the CEC and the Free Trade Commission (FTC). The documents related to the December meeting in Washington, DC will be available in the three languages the first week of January 1999. The list of JPAC Meetings for 1999, the full record of discussions, advice from JPAC to Council and other documents pertaining to the Committee may be obtained through the CEC's Internet homepage under the JPAC header or requested from Manon Pepin, the JPAC Co-ordinator at the CEC Secretariat: e-mail: , fax: (514) 350-4314 or telephone: (514) 350-4366.

THE TRIPs AGREEMENT : A GUIDE FOR THE SOUTH. Published by the South Centre, this booklet is intended as an introductory overview for developing countries of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). In addition to highlighting some of the central issues for the South, the document draws attention to the aspects to which policy-makers and technical personnel should pay special attention when formulating policy and legislation in this field. To obtain copies, contact the South Centre at Chemin du Champ-d'Anier 17, Case Postale 228, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland. Tel : (41-22) 798 34 33 ; fax : (41-22) 798 85 31 ; email : [south@southcentre.org](mailto:south@southcentre.org)

REPORT OF UNCTAD CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS. This report summarises the proceedings of consultations between UNCTAD and a number of NGOs and trade unions which took place in Geneva from 11-12 June, 1998. Some issue-areas covered include a Possible Multilateral Framework Agreement on Investment ; Follow-up to the WTO High Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for LDCs' Trade Development, and Institutional Issues. The publication is available from the UN NGO Liaison Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Document #: UNCTAD/NGLS/118.

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