



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

*BRIDGES*

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## I. AT AND AROUND THE HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIA

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### COMMENTS ON THE HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIA

The WTO's High Level Symposia on Trade and Environment, and on Trade and Development, took place in Geneva last week and provided the opportunity for representatives of governments, Inter-Governmental Organisations, civil society groups and business to gather and exchange views on a range of issues. While the WTO hailed these meetings as a success, other voices were more critical. BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development will carry full reports of both meetings in its forthcoming issue. In the meantime, detailed reports of both meetings have been produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, available on the web at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/wtohls.html> Other documents, speeches and reports of the meeting, as well as live video coverage, is accessible by the WTO's website: <http://www.wto.org>

The level and breadth of participation in the meetings were enriching and some of the ideas raised in interventions were very thought-provoking. WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero, in his

concluding remarks at the end of the second symposium said that through the symposia the WTO had shown its "more human face" by demonstrating that governments and NGOs can sit in the same room together with a willingness to engage in an open and constructive dialogue. Indeed - contrasted to the previous WTO symposia on trade and the environment which tended to get scant attention from WTO representatives - the WTO meeting room last week was full of government representatives who were listening to what NGOs had to say.

Nevertheless, there were many who voiced criticism about the events. First amongst these - already to be heard at the announcement that the symposia were taking place - was regret that the issues of environment and development were being considered separately. Many of those who had participated in the process leading to the Rio Conference on Trade and Environment in 1992 were disappointed that the clear recognition reached there that environmental issues could not be solved without addressing related issues such as poverty and development had been left aside by the WTO.

The other general criticism regarded timing. Indeed, while some welcomed the fact that the symposia were being held as negotiations on the scope of a possible new round of trade negotiations are starting, others pointed out that this timing in fact precluded any true expression of countries' positions on the different issues that arose in the course of the two meetings. In other words, there was concern amongst some that government representatives would have been expressing pre-negotiating positions in the two meetings rather than a real open-minded consideration or exploration of different options.

Although some environmentalists felt that the High Level Symposium on Trade and Environment did open up some possibilities for moving on environmental issues within the WTO in the next few months, others felt that this symposium may rather have heightened many developing countries' distrust of environmental issues in the WTO. The fact that discussions covered essentially the same issues as those considered in the Committee on Trade and Environment - where progress is almost stalled - joined with the fact that few speakers at the environment symposium gave much attention to developing countries' concerns, contributed to heightening distrust, as well as perpetuating the image of the North as the "demandeur" in a debate that pitches the environment versus income generation.

The High Level Symposium on Trade and Development sought to redress the balance in favour of developing countries' concerns, but there was little mention of "sustainable development" per se, or of the links between the issues mentioned at the two symposia.

There was a much-talked-about incident during the first panel (on linkages between trade and development policies) - it was felt that in his summing up, the chair of the session - Paul Collier of the World Bank - made some remarks directed at African and other developing countries, as well as NGOs, which were felt by many to be insulting. Added to this were the facts that Mr Collier had given more time to presenting his own views in his summing up - rather than the customary practice of providing a Chair's summary of the discussions - and had given much more time to the first speakers (from the U.S. and UK respectively) and had cut off two other speakers (from Korea and India) although they had spoken for a shorter length of time. Many NGO representatives who were present issued a strongly-worded joint statement which was presented to the symposium by Third World Network on 18 March.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **MEETINGS AROUND THE HIGH LEVEL SYMPOSIA**

A number of meetings with civil society were organised in Geneva last week around the High Level Symposia, making the best of the presence of hundreds of people concerned with trade, environment and development related issues.

ICTSD organised three meetings. BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest reported on the first of these: a dialogue with Executive Director of UNEP, Klaus Toepfer, last week. On 15 March ICTSD organised a dialogue which brought together some key governmental and non-governmental actors on the issue of fisheries. This meeting revealed that a process involving all interested stake-holders in the fisheries issue would be welcome, to identify the relationship between fisheries, multilateral trade rules and sustainable development.

On 16 March, ICTSD brought together over 30 people in a dialogue on the social dimension in international trade rules. The discussion touched on the effectiveness of the EU and U.S. Generalised System of Preferences' social clauses, the treatment of the social clause and labour standards in WTO-related discussions over the last few years and the chances of inclusion of social and labour standards in a possible new round of trade negotiations.

On 19 March, UNCTAD held a meeting for civil society on the preparations for UNCTAD X which will be held in Thailand in February 2000. The theme of UNCTAD X is "Developmental strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people." The preparations for UNCTAD X are taking place on three parallel tracks: the intergovernmental track, the "rethinking development" or "intellectual" track, and the civil society track. In addition to meetings with civil society in Geneva, UNCTAD is holding a series of regional preparatory briefings around the world for civil society organisations between now and July 1999. For information, contact Alisa Clarke, email: [alisa.clarke@unctad.org](mailto:alisa.clarke@unctad.org)

Also on 19 March, the UN Non-governmental Liaison Service hosted a workshop on human rights-based approaches to trade and investment. The dozen or so participants in this event explored the usefulness of the Human Rights framework for addressing trade and investment issues. For information, contact Hamish Jenkins, NGLS, email: [hamish.jenkins@unctad.org](mailto:hamish.jenkins@unctad.org)

Nearly 40 people attended the "Strategy session on how to stop the WTO "Millennium Round", " organised by the Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) with Third World Network. This meeting focussed to a large extent on development issues, and NGO statements coming out of the meeting call for a halt to further liberalisation until an assessment of the impacts of the Uruguay Round Agreements has been carried out. A joint statement will shortly be sent out by email, for NGOs who wish to sign on to. For information, contact Olivier Hoedemann, CEO, tel/fax: (31-20) 618-0297, e-mail: [paxaran@antenna.nl](mailto:paxaran@antenna.nl)

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **PRESS COVERAGE OF SYMPOSIA AFFIRM NORTH-SOUTH DIVISIONS**

International press reports on last week's High Level Symposia on Trade and Environment affirmed North-South divisions on how best to address trade and environment objectives. Much of the

regional and mainstream press reporting focused on the scepticism of South countries toward North countries' and environmental groups' proposals at the Environment meeting last week around including trade and environment provisions in the upcoming Millennium Round of global trade talks. THE HINDU of India expressed scepticism most especially with respect to possible revisions to Article XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which South countries fear would be used by the North to institute so-called green protectionism. This followed the strong position taken at the conference by India that existing GATT rules already allow for the pursuit of legitimate environmental concerns by WTO members.

Much attention was also given to India's observation that poverty was the biggest environmental issue facing the international community, and that improved market access to developed countries' markets would afford poor countries the financial resources necessary to address pollution and environmental degradation. There was also wide mention in the press regarding the position put forward by Pakistan, Honduras, Egypt and the Dominican Republic warning against WTO trade and environment linkage. Their position held in part that efforts to incorporate environmental standards into WTO rules- as called for by North countries and environmental groups, would be a "recipe for protectionism and restriction of market access for developing countries' exports."

Regarding the High Level Symposium on Trade and Development, again the press reports confirmed definite divisions between the North and South around the real development benefits thus far from trade liberalisation. THE ECONOMIC TIMES of India afforded extensive coverage to the concern expressed by India's WTO Ambassador Srinivasan Narayanan that globalisation has not resulted in developing countries securing growth in international trade commensurate with their economic development needs. Mr. Narayanan's view is shared by a number of developing countries, who again last week stressed the need for an assessment of the Uruguay Round agreement before launching a new round of global trade talks.

"Chasms remain on trade-environment issue," THE HINDU, 18 March 1999; "Focus: EU, U.S. push environment link at trade body," REUTERS, 15 March 1999; "Indien lehnt neue Regeln im Handel ab," HANDELSBLATT, 17 March 1999; "Clinton calls for global trade rules to support environment," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 15 March 1999; "L'OMC veut réconcilier le commerce, l'environnement et le développement," LE TEMPS, 17 March 1999; "WTO urged to make environment checks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 17 March 1999; "Delhi rejects green-trade links in WTO," ECONOMIC TIMES, 17 March 1999; "WTO meet sees rift between US and Third World widen," ECONOMIC TIMES, 22 March 1999.

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## **II. OTHER NEWS LAST WEEK**

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### **WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY CONSIDERS IMPLEMENTATION**

The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) met on 16 March in informal session in the context of its Review of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU Review), to consider the issue of implementation of DSB decisions. The discussion last week was wide-ranging with some country positions being expressed. There was no overall conclusion, but the issue will be on the agenda again, at forthcoming informal sessions of the DSB dedicated to the DSU Review (On the DSU Review generally, see BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development, Vol.2, No. 4, p. 7).

The issue of implementation has been at the heart of the current phase of the dispute between the U.S. and the EU over bananas. This phase has brought to the fore the question of how and when a winning party in a WTO dispute can challenge the measures adopted by the losing party, if the winner considers the loser has not made the changes necessary to make the challenged measure WTO-compatible. The DSU does not specify the correct sequencing of measures that can be taken when a winning party doubts that the losing party is implementing a WTO dispute settlement decision. This question is likely to arise again in future disputes, hence the importance that this issue has achieved in the context of the DSU Review. Although the discussion focussed on specific issues that need to be resolved (set out in a paper submitted by Ambassador Nobutoshi Akao (Japan), Chair of the DSB) differences in views between the EU and the U.S. were very much present, the U.S. requiring "prompt compliance" with DSB rulings (justifying its imposition of trade sanctions on EU goods), while the EU supported following a multilateral approach which would outlaw any one country using unilateral sanctions. (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 3, Number 7, 22 February, 1999 and Vol. 3, Number 9, 8 March, 1999).

Regarding the obligation of the losing party in a WTO dispute to implement the DSB's decision, most WTO Members last week expressed the view that the losing party is not under an obligation to consult or negotiate with the winning party when devising new policies or laws to replace those that were challenged and found WTO-incompatible.

Most Members favoured the view that once the "reasonable period of time" (not specified in the DSU itself, but currently considered as being 15 months) for implementation of a DSB decision has expired, there could be an appeal for advice from the original panel - some Members had contended that such an appeal could be made before the 15 months were up.

Most Members agreed that the procedures for a panel set up under Article 21.5 of the DSU should differ from those under a normal panel request. Most also thought that there should be consultations before the 21.5 proceedings started, although the majority of Members who spoke on this point thought that the time allowed for these consultations should be less than the 60 days provided for in normal panel proceedings. Most also thought that a request for an Article 21.5 panel should appear on the agenda of the DSB, although there seemed to be agreement that to avoid delay, the panel should be set up after the first request (two requests wouldn't be necessary if the challenged Member blocks establishment of a panel after the first request, as is the case under normal panel procedures).

At the meeting last week, there was also discussion of terms of reference of 21.5 panels, some Members, for instance, thought that the 21.5 panel could look at new issues that weren't before the original panel, and almost all Members (except Hong Kong China) thought that there could be a right to appeal a 21.5 panel ruling.

There was agreement that once the DSB had adopted the ruling under the 21.5 procedure, the "reasonable period of time" for implementation of the decision would not be allowed - but at this point the challenging state could go straight to the authorisation - as set out in Article 22.6 of the DSU - to suspend concessions.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **U.S., OTHERS CALL FOR END TO FISHERIES SUBSIDIES**

The U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Iceland and the Philippines last week called for the end to subsidies to national fishing industries. The U.S., et al said that fishing subsidies lead to environmentally damaging over-fishing and distort trade by reducing harvesting costs and reducing fish prices world-wide. This in turn, the countries said, hurts the livelihoods of fishing communities especially in poor countries. In their appeal, the U.S., et al were targeting the EU and Japan, both of which provide subsidies to their fisheries sectors. Japanese officials commented that not all fisheries subsidies were harmful to the environment.

The five countries made their appeal in advance of the High Level Symposium of Trade and the Environment (see related stories this issue). Citing a report from the World Bank, the five countries said that national governments provided US\$14-20 billion annually to the fisheries sector. Instead, the group said, "The billions of dollars wasted on subsidising environmentally damaging activities could easily be transformed into expenditures that would make a positive difference in a world plagued by sustainable development challenges."

In related news, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation 11-12 March held a Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Ministers from 120 countries attended. Ministers expressed their concern about "overfishing of the world's major marine fishery resources, destructive and wasteful fishing practices and excess capacity." The countries declared that they would develop a "global plan of action to deal effectively with all forms of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing," while providing "efficient, equitable and transparent management of fishing capacity."

Ministers endorsed the new voluntary International Plans of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Long-line Fisheries, which the FAO said is "the first significant international document" on the management of fishing capacity.

"Five nations urge end to fishing subsidies," REUTERS, 15 March 1999; "US appeals for end to fishing subsidies," KYODO NEWS International, 12 March 1999; "Environment: FAO Concerned about excessive fishing capacity," IPS, 12 March 1999; "Governments support new international commitments to reduce over-fishing and over-capacity," FAO PRESS RELEASE, 11 March 1999.

## **PANEL ISSUES REPORT ON MEASURING NAFTA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC) last week released its report, "Assessing Environmental Effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)," on how to measure the connections between NAFTA and environmental quality in North America. The CEC was created as part of NAFTA to act as the environmental watchdog for that accord.

"The CEC is the first institution to put forward a rigorous framework for understanding the linkages between trade liberalisation and environmental quality," according to a CEC spokesperson. "We do expect that this will indeed spill into the global discussions," said Sarah Richardson, head of the CEC's NAFTA Effects program. Ms. Richardson noted that EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan has already commissioned a sustainability impact study on the likely impact on sustainable

development from the EU's proposed WTO Millennium Round agenda. The first phase of that study should be completed in time for the Third WTO Ministerial later this year.

The CEC technique for identifying and measuring environmental impacts was tested on issues within the energy and agriculture sectors: maize production in Mexico, intensive cattle feedlot production in the United States and Canada, and electricity production in the three NAFTA countries. The CEC report notes that its findings are preliminary, given that NAFTA is only in its fifth year of implementation. However, the report noted that thus far, growing reliance on imports and the use of high-yielding bio-engineered crops threaten Mexico's biodiversity and rural ecosystem. Further, under NAFTA, massive concentration of cattle production has taken place, with subsequent concentration of feed grain production. The environmental impacts thus far include increased runoff from fertilisers and pesticides in the U.S. grain belt ending up in the Mississippi River, which could be responsible for a growing offshore "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Concentrated feedlots also contribute to negative air quality problems, such as increased methane production from manure.

Separately, the CEC announced that the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are finishing a treaty that would require assessment of environmental impacts that cross national borders. The treaty under negotiation would require a NAFTA country to assess projects that are likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that are felt in another NAFTA country. According to the CEC, the treaty would allow governments and citizens in the country expected to experience transborder effects to participate in the environmental assessment process of the nation planning the project in question.

The CEC was established in 1994 to foster public participation in NAFTA affairs, including the review of U.S., Mexican and Canadian citizens' complaints of environmental infringements resulting from NAFTA. However the CEC, even if it finds basis for a complainant, cannot force compliance with its rulings.

"NAFTA panel highlights trade and environment," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 18 March 1999; "CEC Releases Report on Measuring NAFTA-Environment Links," CEC PRESS RELEASE, 17 March 1999; "Brittan Remarks To Environment Symposium," WTO: SPEECH/99/47; "Countries finishing pact on assessment of transboundary environmental impacts," INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT REPORTER, 3 March 1999.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WARN AGAINST FOREST PRODUCTS LIBERALISATION**

There have been several reports in the press last week about a U.S. push to liberalise trade in wood products, which have elicited strong reactions from environmental groups.

The reports say that the U.S. wants a WTO agreement to eliminate or reduce tariffs on global trade in wood products in time for the Third WTO Ministerial later this year. Although forestry issues are the subject of ongoing discussions in the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment, the U.S. push referred to has been made in the context of the proposal put to the WTO by the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) to reduce tariffs in nine sectors before the WTO Ministerial at the end of 1999 (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, No 44, 16 November 1998, and Vol. 3, No 5, 8 February 1999. For a copy of the APEC proposal, see WTO Document WT/GC/W/138, available via the WTO website.)

The U.S. has twice before been unsuccessful at liberalising the wood products sector. It could not get a wood products agreement included in the Uruguay Round in 1995, and an attempt to reach agreement via the APEC forum failed in late 1998 amid strong Japanese opposition. Both the EU and Japan have said they would not support negotiating an agreement in that timeframe, noting that wood products could possibly be added to Millennium Round negotiations.

While environmentalists say that liberalisation of the wood product trade will increase consumption, dilute forest management standards, and dismantle environmental regulations, U.S. officials argue that environmentalists' concerns are unwarranted. "Once we get these barriers down, countries are more likely to take an environmentally friendly approach as they look ahead in the long-term and plan domestic environmental policies accordingly," according to an U.S. trade official. Other observers note that wood products companies have a vested interest in reducing the risk of introducing devastating invasive species, for example, and would not seek to undermine protections in that area.

"Environment: Environmentalists blast WTO wood trade plans," IPS, 15 March 1999; "Global Forest Protection vs. The New WTO Agenda," INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALISATION, March 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **SUPERMARKETS SAY NO TO GMOS, AUSTRALIAN PANEL ADVOCATES LABELLING**

Seven leading European supermarket chains, including J. Sainsbury and Carrefour, last week announced they would collectively eliminate genetically modified ingredients (GMOs) from private-label food products. Meanwhile, UK food safety minister Jeff Rooker announced last week an initiative requiring fast food restaurants and pizza parlours to inform customers if their food contains GMOs. Most large pizza chains announced they would no longer use GMO tomato products. Observers within the UK warned that labelling could be irrelevant if there is no proper segregation of non-GMO products from GMO products.

Britain's outgoing Liberal Democratic leader Paddy Ashdown, rumoured to be a likely candidate for the European Commission, earlier this month said that the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) should be added to the next round of trade talks. "The WTO regulations were not set up to handle GMOs," Mr. Ashdown said.

In Australia, a citizens' panel last week concluded that the Australian government should adopt a comprehensive GMO labelling regime. The panel, sponsored by the Australian Museum, was comprised of Australians with little knowledge of GMOs and no experience in public policy. After two days of presentations by biotech industry, consumer and environmental groups, the panel recommended labelling genetically modified food, increasing public participation in the regulation of the food sector and a cautious approach toward GMOs in Australian food policy.

In its report, the panel also expressed concern over food production resources being concentrated with "a handful of multinational corporations."

"Supermarkets in move on modified food," FINANCIAL TIMES, 18 March 1999; "Migros et six distributeurs européens éliminent les produits GM," LE TEMPS, 18 March 1999; "Ashdown urges



special WTO group on genetic foods," REUTERS, 11 March 1999. "First Australian consensus council says label biotech foods," ENS, 12 March 1999.

## **UNCLEAR EFFECTS ON TRADE POLICY OF EC MASS RESIGNATION**

The entire European Commission (the EU's executive body) last week resigned amid allegations of mismanagement and irresponsibility levied by a so-called Committee of Independent Experts (CIE) in a report initiated by the European Parliament.

The upheaval has put in doubt the future of transatlantic trade negotiations between the EU and U.S. in ongoing trade disputes (e.g. over bananas, and an emerging crisis over the EU ban on hormone treated beef imports.) EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, who was not implicated in the CIE report, is reported to be likely re-appointed to his post. Sir Leon said, however, until a new Commission is in place, it will be difficult to defend EU interests in EU-U.S. trade disputes without having the necessary authority. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency until June, said he still expects the EU to bring a reform package on the Common Agriculture Policy to fruition before WTO talks on agriculture begin late this year, but officials within the EU were much less optimistic. Meanwhile, some NGOs are saying that the European Commission is without a mandate to conduct any multilateral trade negotiations.

"Business leaders, bankers unfazed by mass walkout of EU leadership," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 17 March 1999; "Eizenstat worried about trade effects of European Commission resignations," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 17 March 1999; "European Moratorium on Trade Negotiations?," Communication from the Co-ordinations against the MAI, 20 March 1999.

## **IN BRIEF**

Six African countries last week announced the establishment of an international task force to fight wildlife crime in Africa. The Republic of Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia said the task force would be established under the auspices of the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, signed in 1994, which seeks to eliminate illegal wildlife trade in Africa. "Task Force To Fight Wildlife Crime In Africa," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 7 March 1999.

Last week marked the first regional workshop for the economic and social councils of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) parliamentarians, where delegates discussed negotiations for renewal of the Lome Convention between the EU and ACP countries. Senegal's President Abdou Diouf pledged to include NGOs and civil society in Lome negotiations, and called on all ACP countries to follow suit. "Economic, social council of UEMOA meet in Dakar," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 18 March 1999.

The Spanish government was to debate last week a proposal requiring firms producing or planting GMO crops in Spain to pay into an E90 million insurance fund covering environmental accidents. The governmental proposal was drafted in response to concern over GMOs from opposition political parties, consumer and environmental non-governmental organisations. "Spain makes transgenic crop producers pay into insurance fund," SAIU NA NATURE, v397n6721

Sri Lanka and India agreed to terms for Sri Lankan tea imports into India last week as part of the India-Sri Lanka free trade treaty signed last December. "Govt allows import of 5 million kg of Lankan tea," *ECONOMIC TIMES*, 16 March 1999.

Morocco and Tunisia last week signed an accord aimed at establishing a free trade zone by 2007. Duties on around 2,000 industrial and commercial products would be eliminated immediately, with the gradual lifting of all tariffs for non-agricultural goods by 2007. The accord was signed on the sidelines of talks assessing the viability of restarting the dormant Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) comprising Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania. "Morocco, Tunisia sign free trade zone accord," *REUTERS*, 16 March 1999.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The WTO last week ruled that Canada's dairy program violates international trade rules. The WTO panel found that Canada violated WTO rules by providing low-cost milk to processors for export, constituting an export subsidy. The U.S. had complained that this practice violated WTO rules on dairy export subsidies. Canadian officials said the ruling only affects about five percent of Canada's milk production. Canadian officials said they are considering an appeal. "U.S. claims victory in Canada dairy dispute;" "Canada mulling appeal of WTO dairy decision," *REUTERS*, 17 March 1999.

Japan's Foreign Ministry 9 March met with environmental, labour and consumer rights NGOs in advance of the Third WTO Ministerial in November. The Foreign Ministry said it hoped to foster co-operation with NGOs, which government officials said would be key to the success of the next round of global trade talks although there is no guarantee that civil society comments would be utilised in the decision making process. Some NGOs reported that while the meeting was an important first step in building a consultative environment, they remained sceptical of the effectiveness of the process. "Japanese Government Met with Civil Society on the Up-coming WTO Talks," *PRESS RELEASE*, People's Forum 2001, Japan, 16 March 1999.

Canadian officials later this month are scheduled to travel cross country to receive public comment on Canada's future role in WTO negotiations and in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The Council of Canadians, a Canadian citizens' group opposed to free trade, is mobilising free trade opposition to get involved in the civil society participation process. For more information on the hearings, contact <[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)>. To contact the Council of Canadians, contact [adashtgard@canadians.org](mailto:adashtgard@canadians.org)

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## **III. EVENTS & RESOURCES**

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### **• EVENTS**

For a more complete list of events in coming months, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>

**WTO Meetings**

31 March, 8 April: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY, Informal meeting on the Dispute Settlement Review. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

19-[20] April: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

22-23 April: GENERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION (3rd MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS). For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

22-23 April: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For information contact Hans-Peter Werner, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

26-27 April: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES (Ad-hoc Group on Implementation). For information contact Luis Ople, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

28 April: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

**Other Events**

24-25 March, New York, U.S.: FIFTH EXPERT MEETING ON INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Hosted by the United Nations DESA. For information contact Birgitte Bryld, Focal Point for Indicators of Sustainable Development, tel: (1-212) 963-8400, fax: 963-1267 e-mail: bryld@un.org

6-8 April, Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire: COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL, ENVIRONNEMENT ET DEVELOPPEMENT EN AFRIQUE SUB-SAHARIENNE. For information contact Stéphane Guéneau, Solagral, Parc Scientifique Agropolis, Batiment 14, 34397 Montpellier cedex 5, France, tel: (33-4) 99 23 22 80 or 99 23 22 86, fax: 99 23 24 61, e-mail: stephane.gueneau@ensam.inra.fr, web: <http://www.rio.net/solagral>

5-9 April, Pretoria, South Africa: ENVIRONMENT QUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: PLANNING OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT? For information contact: The UPE 3-PTA Symposium Organiser, tel: (27-12) 337-4167, fax: (27-12) 337- 4158, e-mail: hneethl@gpmc.org.za, web: <http://upe3.up.ac.za/>

21-24 April, Brisbane, Australia: SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC CLEANER PRODUCTION ROUNDTABLE AND TRADE EXPO. For information contact the Queensland Cleaner Production Task Force Association (QCPTA), e-mail: [enquiry@globalgroup.com.au](mailto:enquiry@globalgroup.com.au)

22 April, Brussels: THE AGENDA OF THE EU FOR THE MILLENNIUM ROUND. This hearing is organised by the Committee on External Economic Relations of the European Parliament in order to try to create a wider debate on forthcoming WTO trade negotiations at the WTO. It will have participation of representatives of the EC and other governments (probably including Brazil and Canada) and NGOs. To participate or for information contact the Secretariat of the REX Committee (tel: (32) 284-3629) or Paul-Emile Dupret, United Left Group (GUE/NGL), European Parliament, fax: 284 9151, e-mail: [pdupret@europarl.eu.int](mailto:pdupret@europarl.eu.int)

- **RESOURCES**

BEYOND REGULATION, EXPORTERS AND VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES, Robert Kerr et al. (IISD): This report focuses on the competitive advantage that can be gained by companies and industry sectors that voluntarily implement environmental efficiency programs, although it warns that momentum to develop voluntary challenges is waning. For information or to order contact IISD at 161 Portage Ave. East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3B 0Y4, tel: (1-204) 958-7700, fax: 958- 7710, e-mail: [info@iisd.ca](mailto:info@iisd.ca), website: <http://www.iisd.ca/>

RECENT UPDATES TO UK AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY COALITION WEBSITE (as of 7 March 1999): Includes: Biosafety Protocol Negotiations page update; the Convention on Farmers and Breeders (CoFaB): an alternative treaty to UPOV presented by the Gene Campaign, India. To access, please visit: <http://ds.dial.pipex.com/ukfg/ukabc.htm>

NEW ON THE WTO WEBSITE: Trade and Environment in the GATT/WTO - Background Note by the Secretariat. Available at [http://www.wto.org/hlms/tr\\_envbadoc.htm](http://www.wto.org/hlms/tr_envbadoc.htm). This paper was circulated at the High Level Symposium on Trade and Environment on 15 and 16 March 1999. (B) The WTO/World Bank on-line forum on Regionalism has begun. You can join the discussions and access background papers at <http://www.itd.org/forums/forreg1.htm>

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