



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
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## BICKERING OVER MINISTERIAL DRAFT DISRUPTS SEATTLE PROCESS

Over the past week the process of drafting the Seattle Ministerial Declaration has encountered a series of snags that threaten to disrupt the ability of WTO Members to reach agreement in a broad range of sectors in forthcoming negotiations. Polarised positions between various Members and groups of Members are becoming manifested in the text of the Declaration, which has grown from 14 pages last week to its current size of 32 pages. (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3. Iss. 40, 11 October 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.11-10-99.htm> ).

On Tuesday, 12 October, General Council Chairman Ambassador Ali Mchumo --who is currently co-ordinating the drafting process -- integrated into the draft text a proposal received from a group of nine developing countries that called for greater implementation of WTO commitments to be enhanced at the Seattle Ministerial, scheduled for 30 November-3 December. The subsequent eight-page addendum to the Declaration was opposed by the U.S., the EU, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland and Norway, who stated that it was unsuitable as a basis for negotiation. Since then, the draft text has ballooned as Mchumo and the Secretariat attempt to integrate the mounting number of demands from the WTO's 134 Members into a text that can be used as a launchpad for negotiations.

To avoid an unwieldy draft Declaration that may lead to further conflicts, the EU is now proposing a "concept" text that would be a much shorter format than the current extensive "menu" style that includes lists of detailed options. A concept text would fit with the EU's desire to undertake broad-

based negotiations, as opposed to the U.S.' objective of specific commitments in certain sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and industrial tariffs. According to EU officials, the EU is also now pushing for the process to be taken over by WTO Director-General Mike Moore -- rather than Mchumo -- in order to provide a stronger political push to the preparatory discussions. Following the release of the 32-page updated draft text, ongoing talks are expected to be antagonistic as Members attempt to have their proposed trade concerns integrated onto the Seattle agenda.

In related news, Canada has filed a number of proposals relating to trade and sustainable development as part of the Ministerial process. These include proposals on the establishment of a WTO Working Party on Biotechnology (WT/GC/W/359), trade and environment (WT/GC/W/358), and transparency (WT/GC/W/350). Canada's Biotechnology proposal recommends that "it would be timely for the WTO to engage in a collective exercise aimed at establishing how trade and investment in biotechnology are covered by existing WTO provisions and whether the latter constitute a sufficiently effective regime from the WTO's perspective." Though no formal WTO disputes have yet been launched relating to differing national biotechnology legislation (including that concerning genetically-modified organisms, or GMOs), the issue stands to become a political hot potato should a trade dispute arise between Members who allow GMOs -- such as the U.S. and Canada -- and those (mostly EU countries) who are hostile to the cultivation and import of certain GMO products.

U.S. President Bill Clinton came out heavily in support of integrating broader social issues such as environment, labour, and transparency on the WTO Seattle agenda. In a speech to the Democratic Leadership Council on 12 October, Clinton outlined steps he believes the WTO should take to protect the environment, workers and others. In addition to calling for the creation of a WTO Working Group on trade and labour, he also challenged the WTO to evaluate the environmental impacts of its activities. "We need to ensure that working people everywhere feel they have a stake in global trade...that they know that spirited economic competition will not become a race to the bottom in labour standards and environmental pollution," he said.

A WTO symposium with civil society the day before the start of the Seattle talks has been set up to address a number of the concerns of non-governmental and labour groups who are expected to mount protests during the Ministerial Conference. (See related story and Ministerial Events, below)

ICTSD Files; "Clinton waves trade banner for WTO," SEATTLE P-I.COM, 14 October 1999.

## **WTO RELEASES REPORT ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The WTO Secretariat on 14 October released its Trade and Environment Report, in which it examined the economic and political economy dimensions of the interaction between trade and environment. The report can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.wto.org/wto/new/press140.htm>

Meeting with the press regarding the Trade and Environment Report, WTO Director-General Mike Moore underscored the need to address the issue of poverty as a direct route to addressing threats to the environment. "Economic activity need not be the enemy of the environment, poverty is the real enemy of the environment," Mr. Moore said.

The report acknowledged that trade does contribute in part to environmental problems -- such as pollution arising through the transportation of goods -- but that these environmental issues should be addressed at their source and not through trade-restrictive measures.

The WTO paper drew attention to the point that, contrary to popular belief, polluting industries are not migrating from developed to developing countries in order to reduce environmental compliance costs. "What the data tell us is that, to the extent developed countries are exporting their dirty industries, they are exporting them to each other, not to less developed economies. This suggests that environmental regulations are at most of secondary importance for international investment decisions," the report concluded.

The report also noted that the new round of global trade talks could positively contribute to the environment by addressing environmentally-harmful subsidies, such as those maintained by some WTO Members for agriculture, fisheries and fossil fuels. Further, a new round could help facilitate the "diffusion of environment-friendly technologies around the world," by breaking down trade barriers in relevant industries (e.g. environmental services).

The report addressed the issue of environmental protection and economic growth in poorer countries. "Countries that live on the margin may simply not be able to afford to set aside resources for pollution abatement, nor may they think that they should sacrifice their growth prospects to help solve global pollution problems that in large part have been caused by the consuming life style of richer countries. If poverty is at the core of the problem, economic growth will be part of the solution, to the extent that it allows countries to shift gear from more immediate concerns to long run sustainability issues," the report said.

The timing of the report is seen as a pre-emptive move on the part of the WTO in advance of the Third WTO Ministerial scheduled for 30 November - 3 December in Seattle, Washington -- where environmental groups are expected to converge en masse (see related story in this issue). By at least acknowledging that trade can have a negative impact the environment, the WTO report could help promote dialogue between the WTO and environmental groups rather than close off all conversation on the topic.

For their part, environmental groups had mixed reactions to the WTO report. Charles Arden Clarke, Head of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Trade and Investment Unit, a leading international environmental organisation, noted that with the report, "the WTO has taken a positive step forward in diagnosing the clash between trade and the environment, but it has failed to acknowledge that some of its rules are part of the problem. The WTO argues that to resolve the conflict between trade and the environment, international regulations protecting the environment must be strengthened," added Mr. Arden-Clarke. "It highlights the importance of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in this respect, but fails to acknowledge that its own rules are currently undermining these agreements."

"Trade liberalisation reinforces the need for environmental co-operation," WTO PRESSE RELEASE, 8 October 1999; "WTO Secretariat's Trade and Environment Report," WTO, 14 October 1999; "Embracing greenery," THE ECONOMIST, 9 October 1999; "Poverty poses greatest threat to the economy-WTO chief," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 14 October 1999; "WTO admits trade damages the environment," WWF PRESS RELEASE, 13 October 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

**DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE**

The WTO Appellate Body on 13 October upheld its earlier ruling 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, thereby constituting an export subsidy. The U.S. and New Zealand had complained that this practice violated WTO rules on dairy export subsidies. The Appellate Body also ruled against Canada's limiting of milk imports.

New Zealand's Trade Minister Lockwood Smith welcomed the Appellate Body report. "The outcome of this case demonstrates the value to a small, export-dependent country like New Zealand of the WTO which has enforceable rules, and doesn't let economic or political weight dictate," Mr. Smith said.

Also last week, Australia and New Zealand requested a dispute settlement panel be established to rule in a dispute with the U.S. over U.S. import tariff and quota restrictions against the two countries' lamb exports.

Australia and New Zealand account for at least 95 percent of all U.S. lamb imports. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 27, 12 July 1999 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story5.12-07-99.htm> ) Australia and New Zealand said consultations with the U.S. to resolve the dispute had yielded no progress. The request is expected to be taken up at the 27 October meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body.

Meanwhile, the U.S. requested a dispute settlement panel to decide whether Australia has complied with an earlier WTO ruling against direct subsidies provided by Australia to the country's sole automotive-leather producer, Howe and Company. Australia last month informed the WTO that Howe and Co. had repaid the Australian government US\$5.2 million for funds it received in violation of WTO trade rules, and Australia said it had discontinued its subsidies agreement with the corporation. The U.S. argues that the amount of money Howe and Co. repaid represents only a portion of the subsidies it received and wants Australia to account for the entire value of the subsidies provided, estimated at US\$19.4 million.

Brazilian trade officials earlier this month said Brazil would likely seek a dispute settlement panel to address its complaint against the EU import regime for instant coffee. Brazil said the EU discriminates against Brazilian instant coffee exports in favour of instant coffee from Andean Pact and CARICOM countries in Latin America by exempting these countries' coffee exports from tariffs as a means toward encouraging a shift in production away from cocaine. Brazil, which is not a major grower or processor of cocaine, is exempted from the EU program. Brazilian coffee growers estimate that exports to the EU dropped by 47 percent between 1991 when the EU regime was introduced in 1998.

"Trade minister welcomes WTO ruling," NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE, 14 October 1999; "Australia Seeks WTO Ruling In Dispute Over Lamb Trade," CONGRESS DAILY, 12 October 1999; "US may face WTO panel," FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 October 1999; "Brazil may ask for WTO panel over EU coffee tax," REUTERS, 6 October 1999; "U.S., Australia to renew WTO battle over automotive leather export subsidies," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 13 October 1999.

## **CTE ADOPTS 1999 REPORT**

On 12 October, the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) held its third formal meeting of the year. Members discussed all ten items on the Work Programme agenda, including environment and services, relationships between intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, transparency, linkages between multilateral environment and trade agendas, and thematic clusters relating to market access. The majority of the discussion focused on the market access items, primarily those concerning agricultural and fisheries subsidies.

A paper entitled "GATT/WTO Rules On Subsidies And Aids Granted In The Fishing Industry" (WT/CTE/W/80-addendum 1 -- currently available on the WTO website) was presented by the Secretariat and discussed by the Members. Item 7 of the Work Programme -- concerning domestically prohibited goods -- also warranted some discussion. A second Secretariat paper which examined the relationship between Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) (WT/CTE/W/125) was also discussed. Both the 1999 CTE Report and the work programme were adopted, as was the meeting schedule for 2000. The CTE also agreed to extend observer status to the intergovernmental organisations of the Islamic Development Bank and the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre.

The role of the CTE and trade and environment issues are currently being discussed in the ongoing General Council sessions. As a result, the CTE committee meeting was cut short of its scheduled two days to only one half-day session and was less well-attended than is the norm. The CTE Report will be presented to the General Council on 4 November, 1999. For more information see the CTE press release at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/environ/te030.htm>

"WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Adopts its 1999 Report and Its Work Programme and Schedule of Meetings for 2000"; WTO Press Release, 13 October, 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **UNPRECEDENTED PROTESTS FORECAST FOR SEATTLE**

When ministers converge on Seattle from 30 November - 3 December for the Third WTO Ministerial, they will have plenty of company. Press reports estimate that at least 50,000 environmentalists, labour activists and other constituents from civil society will be on hand to deliver their messages on the direction the WTO should take in the coming years.

Anti-WTO protests in Seattle are expected to comprise the largest ever demonstration related to trade issues in North America. As preparations continue at the ministerial level for the Seattle Meeting and a proposed Millennium Round of trade talks, parallel preparations are taking place on protest strategies and logistics. Non-violent civil disobedience, teach-ins, caravans, and marches will together constitute the backdrop for the WTO meeting. And while the protestors expected in Seattle are not necessarily of one mind, the occasion has prompted some new-found alliances between environmental and labour organisations accusing the WTO of subverting environmental and labour standards around the world. "According to the WTO, our democratically elected officials no longer have the right to protect the environment, worker staff or jobs. We will make sure that basic American standards of fair trade, environmental protection and workers rights are on the table," said a member of the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment, an alliance of about 200 labour and environmental organisations.

Some observers have criticised the expected protests for advocating a simplistic negative message that the WTO and the free trade it advocates is destructive in every sense. However, most mainstream environmental organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International) and the Sierra Club are more interested in WTO reform than in a full stop to trade liberalisation. Meanwhile, U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley last week acknowledged that support for trade liberalisation is waning in the U.S. "Out there amongst the average people, there is a tremendous distrust and fear and negative feeling," toward global trade, Mr Daley told a recent U.S. Senate hearing.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore has warned WTO Ministers that the institution must be ready to listen to protests and address the concerns expressed. "[Some] people have chosen to focus their fury on globalism. Thus the WTO has become a target for abuse. This will necessitate new skills at governmental and at the international level to communicate and engage those citizens especially in the wealthy nations who will protest and march and call for barriers to be built to keep out products from poor countries which desperately need the opportunity to work and produce incomes for their families," Mr. Moore remarked to WTO Members earlier this year. Mr. Moore has also expressed concern over the message protestors will send to people in poor countries. "The people who march in Seattle will be marching against opportunities for poor countries to sell their products and services...the countries that have been more open have better human rights, better living standards and more commerce [than before the WTO]," Mr. Moore told the FINANCIAL TIMES in August.

The WTO has set aside 29 November for a day-long dialogue with non-governmental organisations. Mr. Moore and WTO Ministers will participate in that event.

"A simplistic show," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 12 October 1999; "Will labour fight?" SEATTLE WEEKLY, 12 October 1999; "Seattle set to welcome WTO meeting, but protestors plan rude noises," DAILY REPORT FOR EXECUTIVES, 12 October 1999; "Seattle ready for trade conference, and so are demonstrators," NEW YORK TIMES, 12 October 1999; "Environmentalists, Unions unveil new alliance," REUTERS, 5 October 1999; "Faceless in Seattle," THE GUARDIAN, 6 October 1999; "Public support lacking in upcoming Seattle trade talks," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 14 October 1999.

## **EU, S. AFRICA SIGN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

The EU and South Africa on 11 October signed a long-awaited trade, development and co-operation agreement in Pretoria, S. Africa. The deal, which is to come into force in January 2000, will encompass 90 percent of the US\$20 billion in annual bilateral trade between the EU and S. Africa. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 5, 8 February 1999.)

Under the agreement, EU markets will be open to about 95 percent of S. African exports over the next 10 years, while over the next 12 years 86 percent of S. Africa's market will be opened up to products originating in the EU. Some economists estimate that the agreement could help boost African economic growth by as much as one percent annually and could lead to an improved bond rating for South Africa -- an important component in foreign firms' investment decisions.

Negotiations on a key aspect of the EU-S. Africa agreement regarding wine and spirits continued until just hours before the document was signed. France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal had questioned S. Africa's commitment to uphold commitments it made regarding the phaseout of S.

Africa's use of certain descriptive terminology for wine and spirits. At the eleventh hour the EU demanded that S. Africa reaffirm its previously stated commitments that it would gradually cease to use the terms "port" and "sherry" on its worldwide exports. The move was seen as the handiwork of protectionist EU farm lobbies looking to block agricultural market access for S. African farm exports. S. Africa's trade and industry minister Alec Erwin called the EU negotiating tactics "disgraceful," adding that "the agricultural lobby in Europe really holds the whole European Union hostage."

The EU-S. Africa agreement has been criticised as lopsided by a number of observers within S. Africa and surrounding countries. As part of the deal, EU goods will have access to the five-nation Southern African Customs Union (SACU) markets. (SACU is comprised of S. Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland). There is also concern that while EU markets would be open to about 95 percent of S. African exports over the next 10 years, only 63 percent of S. Africa's vital agricultural exports will enjoy duty-free access to the EU market. Meanwhile, critics argue that cheap, subsidised EU agricultural exports would flood the S. African and SACU markets, which could seriously threaten small (and unsubsidised) farmers in S. Africa and SACU countries. Critics also voiced concern over the ability of S. African and SACU industrial sectors to withstand the impact of increased imports of EU manufactured goods.

"EU and South Africa sign a historic Trade and Development Co-operation Agreement," EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESS RELEASE (IP/99/735), 11 October 1999; "S. Africa and EU sign multi-billion dollar free trade accord," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 11 October 1999; "Emerging markets: pact boosts S African sentiment," REUTERS, 12 October 1999; "S. Africa and EU sign free trade pact;" "Mean traders," FINANCIAL TIMES, 12 October 1999.

## **IN BRIEF**

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Andean Community (comprising Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) on 12 October signed a declaration establishing a framework agreement on future co-operation. UNCTAD-Andean co-operation will focus on two main areas: co-ordination of the Andean countries' negotiating positions in multilateral economic forums (e.g. the WTO) and training of regional negotiators; and enhancing policies of the Andean Community in the areas of trade and investment. "UNCTAD and Andean Community strengthen co-operation," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE (TAD/INF/2828) 13 October 1999.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

A WTO dispute settlement panel last week issued an interim ruling on a U.S. complaint against Mexico's imposition of antidumping duties on U.S. high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) exports. The panel found in favour of the 1998 U.S. complaint that Mexico violated the WTO Antidumping Agreement with regards to how it carried out its antidumping investigation. The final report by the panel is expected by 3 December. "WTO panel delivers split interim decision on Mexico AD action," INSIDE US TRADE, 15 October 1999.

WTO Members earlier this month agreed that the number of WTO Deputy Director-General spots should be limited to four. (See *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 29, 26 July 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.26-07-99.htm> ) Developing countries immediately called for at

least three of those posts to be filled by representatives from developing countries -- which comprise the majority of WTO Members. Director General Mike Moore is expected have all four deputies in place in time for the Third WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle from 30 November - 3 December. The current front-runners are: Andrew Stoler, a U.S. trade diplomat to the WTO; Paul Henry Ravier, a French trade official; Nestor Osorio Londoño, Colombia's ambassador to the WTO; and Istekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, the Bangladeshi ambassador to the WTO. "Battle at WTO over number of deputy chiefs," FINANCIAL TIMES, 9 October 1999; "WTO in about-turn over Seattle draft text," BT ONLINE, 13 October 1999.

## **ON THE MOVE**

Len Good has been appointed President of the Canadian International Development Agency, commencing 26 October 1999. Mr. Good currently serves as Deputy Minister for Environment Canada, and has served previously as Executive Director for Canada at the World Bank. Mr. Good replaces Ms. Huguette Labelle who has served as CIDA President since 1993. Alan Nymark, currently Associate Deputy Minister of Health, will replace Mr. Good as Deputy Minister of the Environment, effective 26 October, 1999.

## **MINISTERIAL EVENTS**

For a more complete list of events taking place around the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Seattle in from 30 November-3 December 1999, please refer to <http://www.ictsd.org/html/seattlecalendar.htm>

20-28 November, Seattle: ACTION/STREET THEATER CAMP. Global Action has organised nine days of street theatre, giant puppets, dance and music making, skill sharing, performing, non-violent direct action training, and meetings to co-ordinate and prepare for the WTO Ministerial. For information contact GLOBAL ACTION, P.O. Box 11703, Eugene, OR. USA 97440, tel: (1-541) 302-5020, email: [pga@angelfire.com](mailto:pga@angelfire.com), web: <http://flag.blackened.net/~global>

26 November - 3 December, Seattle: FAIR TRADE FAIR: A FESTIVAL OF GRASSROOTS GLOBALISATION ALTERNATIVES. Organised by Global Exchange, this fair is designed to showcase the best of grassroots globalisation alternatives with booths selling fair trade products and networking ideas to promote fair trade. For information contact Deborah James, Fair Trade Director, Global Exchange, 2017 Mission St., Rm. 303, San Francisco, CA 94110, tel: (1-415) 558-8682, extension 245, fax: 255-7498, email: [deborah@globalexchange.org](mailto:deborah@globalexchange.org), web: <http://www.globalexchange.org>

29 November, Seattle, in Ministerial plenary hall, WTO meeting centre: SEATTLE SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE ISSUES IN THE FIRST DECADES OF THE NEXT CENTURY. This meeting will be chaired by WTO Director-General Mike Moore and will include panel discussions on "Evolving public concerns and the multilateral trading system"; "Role of international trade in poverty elimination"; "Effects of globalisation on developing country economies"; "Integration of the Least-Developed Countries into the multilateral trading system"; and "Trade and sustainable development". All 776 WTO-Accredited non-governmental organisations are invited to attend. For information contact Alain Frank, WTO External Relations, (41-22) 739-5152.



29 November, evening, at Seattle Expo Center. SEATTLE HOST ORGANISATION OPENING EVENT. For information visit <http://www.wtoseattle.org/>

29 November - 3 December, Seattle: GLOBAL ACTION FESTIVAL OF RESISTANCE - NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION - STREET THEATRE. For information contact GLOBAL ACTION, P.O. Box 11703, Eugene, OR, USA 97440, tel: (1-541) 302-5020, email: [pga@angelfire.com](mailto:pga@angelfire.com) web: <http://flag.blackened.net/~global>

30 November, Seattle: SHUT DOWN THE WTO - MASS NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION. Global Action, in conjunction with the Direct Action Network (Against Corporate Globalisation), Earth First, Global Exchange, and Rainforest Action Network, have planned a large scale, well-organised, non-violent shut down of the World Trade Organisation. Colourful and festive actions, with large scale street theatre as a major element, are planned to block delegates from meeting. For information contact GLOBAL ACTION, P.O. Box 11703, Eugene, OR, USA 97440, tel: (1-541) 302-5020, email: [pga@angelfire.com](mailto:pga@angelfire.com), web: <http://flag.blackened.net/~global>

1 December, Seattle: NO PATENTS ON LIFE: BIOTECH IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. The Council for Responsible Genetics and the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy are convening this session. For information contact Phil Bereano, tel: (1-206) 543-9037, email: [phil@uwtc.washington.edu](mailto:phil@uwtc.washington.edu)

1 December, Seattle: RESOLVING THE TENSIONS BETWEEN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The Global Environment & Trade Study is hosting this press breakfast which will include a discussion of GMOs. For information contact Susan Wueste, email: [susan.weuste@yale.edu](mailto:susan.weuste@yale.edu)

1 December, Seattle: GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS: NATIONAL SANCTIONS, BRITISH BEEF, & AMERICAN HORMONES. The European Union Trade Forum will host this session. For information contact David Hughes, President, Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, tel: (1-425) 481-3669, email: [hacofc@aol.com](mailto:hacofc@aol.com)

1 December, Seattle: NGO DISCUSSION ON TRIPs. The Consumer Project on Technology will be sponsoring this event. For information contact James Love, tel: (1-202) 387-8030, email: [love@cpotech.org](mailto:love@cpotech.org), web: <http://www.cpotech.org>

1 December, Seattle: WOMEN'S ORGANISING FOR THE SEATTLE MINISTERIAL. A small group of women in Washington, DC has facilitated the forming of an international committee of women to plan a women/gender, development and sovereignty day. The day will include briefing sessions, panels, and strategy sessions and is open to all who will be attending the Seattle events. For information contact Alexandra Spieldoch, email: [aspieldoch@coc.org](mailto:aspieldoch@coc.org). A closed listserv for accredited women's NGOs to organise and strategize for a women's caucus during the official activities will be established. Accredited women's NGOs can contact Maria Riley, email: [mriley@coc.org](mailto:mriley@coc.org)

2 December, Seattle: FOOD & AGRICULTURE DAY. The Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy (IATP), and the International Forum on Food & Agriculture (IFA) are sponsoring this strategy-sharing workshop which will be devoted to GMOs, agriculture, and the SPS Agreement. For more information contact Renske van Staveren, International Forum on Food & Agriculture, c/o

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, USA 55404, tel: (1-612)-870-3423, fax: 870-4846, email: [rvanstaveren@iatp.org](mailto:rvanstaveren@iatp.org), web: <http://www.iffah.org>

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

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

### **▪ WTO MEETINGS**

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.htm>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of different WTO bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

Note: the COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS) will be meeting this week from 20-22 October. *Inter alia*, Members will be discussing topics such as observer status for international intergovernmental organisations and review of the provisions of article 27.3(b). For information contact Peter Ungphakorn, WTO, (41-22) 739-5412.

27 October: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. The agenda includes the following items: status report from the EC on implementation of the EC-Banana Dispute; status report from the U.S. on implementation of the Shrimp-Turtle Dispute; request for establishment of panels from New Zealand and Australia over U.S. safeguard measures on lamb imports; review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding; and appointment of Appellate Body Members. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

4 November: GENERAL COUNCIL. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41 22) 739-5393.

5 November: SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL (on preparations for the Seattle Ministerial). For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41 22) 739-5393.-Please note that informal discussions on preparations for the Seattle Ministerial at the General Council are currently ongoing.

8 November: GENERAL COUNCIL. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41 22) 739-5393.

### **▪ OTHER EVENTS**

11-29 October: WTO/WORLD BANK ON-LINE FORUM The WTO in conjunction with the World Bank is organising an online forum on "Developing Countries and the Millennium Round". This forum is accessible through the joint WTO/World Bank Trade and Development website (<http://www.itd.org> ). Expert panellists from the WTO and the World Bank will participate in the forum. Registered participants will be able to download background papers. The forum is in

English. To view the program or consult background papers, see: [http://www.itd.org/wb/dc\\_milrou.htm](http://www.itd.org/wb/dc_milrou.htm). To participate in the online discussion contact [webmaster@wto.org](mailto:webmaster@wto.org) or tel: Tessa Jurin, website co-ordinator: (41-22) 739-5348

20-24 October, Rome, Italy: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION. This event is organised by La Sapienza, Roma Tre Universities and the Universidad Central de Venezuela. The Congress will provide opportunities for high-level scientific debate and communication between participants on the problems related to regional and urban management. For more information contact: EETI99, Facolta di Ingegneria, Rome; fax: (39-6) 488-3235; web: <http://www.ing.ucv.ve/ceait/eeti.htm>

1-2 November, Geneva: INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is holding a Round Table discussion meeting. For information contact Wend Wendtland, WIPO, PO Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, tel: (41-22) 338-9111, fax: 733-5428, web: <http://www.wipo.org/eng/main.htm>

14-17 November, Chapel Hill, North Carolina: GREENING 99 - SUSTAINABILITY: WAYS OF KNOWING/WAYS OF ACTING. This eighth international conference of the Greening of Industry Network is hosted by the Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina. For information contact Kurt Fischer, Clark University, tel: (1-508) 751-4607, fax: 751-4600, email: [greening99@unc.edu](mailto:greening99@unc.edu), web: <http://greening99.bs.school.unc.edu>

18 November, Budapest, Hungary: FIRST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU ACCESSION COUNTRIES. The subject of the first Conference will be "Water and Waste Management: A New Boost for the Eco-Industries in Central Europe". For information contact G. Edward Someus, tel: (36-20) 980-6996, fax: 228-6045, email: [edward@mail.inext.hu](mailto:edward@mail.inext.hu).

29 November - 2 December, João Pessoa, Brazil: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS (WORLD SEMI-ARID'99). For information contact Dorival C. Bruni, President, Brazilian Society for the Environment (BIOSFERA), P.O. Box 2432, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, CEP: 20001-970, tel: (55-21) 221-0155, fax: 221-7626, email: [biosfera@biosfera.com.br](mailto:biosfera@biosfera.com.br), web: [www.biosfera.com.br](http://www.biosfera.com.br)

November 1999 - June 2000: FOOD SECURITY, SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT. The Society for International Development (SID) is launching an international campaign on "Food Security, Social Mobilisation, and Community Empowerment". The campaign will be comprised of 31 national workshops to be held in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. The first workshop will be held in Zaria (Nigeria) on November 3. It is open to organisations working at the local and national levels on food security related issues. For information contact the SID Secretariat, Panisperna, 207, 00184, Rome, Italy, tel: (39-06) 487-2172, fax: 487-2170 or email Elena Mancusi-Materi: [elenam@sidint.org](mailto:elenam@sidint.org), web: <http://www.sidint.org>

6-8 December 1999, Bonn, Germany, GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (GDN '99) CONFERENCE: BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY. For information contact Ishac Diwan or Lyn Squire, World Bank, GDN Secretariat, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, tel: (1-202) 458-9891, fax: 676-9810, email: [gdni@worldbank.org](mailto:gdni@worldbank.org), web: <http://www.gdnet.org/conference.htm>

6-10 December, Basel, Switzerland: BASEL CONVENTION ON HAZARDOUS WASTES. This will be the Fifth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the Basel Convention. For information contact the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, tel: (41-22) 979-9111, fax: 797-3454, email: bulskai@unep.ch, web: <http://www.unep.ch/basel/index.html>

▪ **RESOURCES:**

FUTURE POSITIVE: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY. 1999. By Michael Edwards. In this book, Edwards, Senior Civil Society Specialist at the World Bank, examines globalisation, international affairs and overseas development. He discusses development in the time of globalisation and sets out the case for co-operation at local, national, regional and global levels to help harness and humanise the global economy. ISBN 1 85383 631 1. £20.00. To order online see: Amazon.co.uk, Bookshop.co.uk, Waterstones.co.uk, Countrybookstore.co.uk, or contact Earthscan, Freepost 1, 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9BR, UK, fax: 44 (0) 171 278 1142, email: nmoorthy@earthscan.co.uk

THE PRICE OF WATER: TRENDS IN OECD COUNTRIES. 1999. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This book contributes to the debate concerning water shortages, degrading water quality, and the competitiveness of water-intensive economic production. It also provides the latest country-specific information on water pricing practices and trends in OECD countries, as well as comparisons of that data across the OECD Region. There is a special focus on the important water-using sectors of agriculture, industry, and households. Non-sectoral pricing topics, such as water subsidies, institutional change, and affordability are also addressed. ISBN: 9264170790. FF 170. To order see OECD Online Bookshop at <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop> or email: sales@oecd.org

"WHY GREENS SHOULD LOVE TRADE", and "EMBRACING GREENERY". The Economist, 9, October, 1999. Approaching the trade-environment topic area from a free-trade perspective, these articles discuss the relationship between trade and environment, the WTO, and environmentalists in light of the upcoming WTO Seattle Ministerial. To order visit: <http://www.economist.com>

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL STUDY. October 1999. This report by the World Trade Organisation Secretariat addresses the economic and political economy dimensions of the interplay of trade and environment. The report argues that trade is neither good nor bad for the environment, but rather a little bit of both. However, the report advocates that win-win outcomes can be attained through well designed policies in both the trade and environmental fields. Furthermore, the study argues that international economic integration and growth reinforce the need for sound environmental policies at the national and international level. To view the report visit: <http://www.wto.org/wto/new/press140.htm> (see also article in this issue).

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