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MINISTERIAL PREPARATIONS ON A BUMPY RIDE TO SEATTLE

The process around building consensus amongst WTO Members in lead-up to the WTO's Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle from 30 November - 3 December continues to experience significant ups and downs. Despite a high-level meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and EC President Romano Prodi on 27 October (see related story, this issue), differences around a number of contentious issue-areas continue to dog WTO Members less than a month away from the meeting.

Since the 25-26 informal meeting of trade ministers in Lausanne, Switzerland, one WTO source has described the ongoing Ministerial preparatory meetings "a lot more focused than they were" (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 3, Iss. 42, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.25-10-99.htm>). Members have also been meeting outside the WTO in smaller groups in a process of coalition-building and strategic planning in an attempt to build consensus around the latest (19 October) version of the draft Ministerial Declaration. However, one source warned that despite the good faith of Geneva-based delegates, "much depends now on the degree of flexibility from the capitals."

The draft Declaration was supposed to be sent to WTO Members' capitals for consideration on 5 November, though it is highly unlikely that this deadline will be met. It is now expected that the

draft Declaration will not be ready until next week, and there may even be a further draft that will be released for discussion before then.

At an informal WTO "Heads of Delegations" meeting on Saturday, 30 October, Members made progress at a principle level on implementation of Uruguay Round provisions, though they fell short of agreeing to any specific commitments. Also at the meeting, specific drafting proposals on market access for Least-Developed Countries received wide support.

The U.S. created a furor at the meeting when it submitted a formal proposal on establishing a WTO working group on Trade and Labour. The U.S. paper proposes that the working group submit a report after two years address six issues: trade and employment; trade and social protections/safety nets; trade and core labour standards; positive trade; policy incentives and core labour standards; trade and forced or exploitive child labour; and trade and derogation from national labour standards. U.S. ambassador Rita Hayes did not rule out the possibility that after a two years' study by the working group there might be recommendations for changing WTO rules.

Developing countries are opposed to the inclusion of labour within the WTO, and objected strongly to the U.S. move. One Member stated that "[the U.S. proposal] is not helpful to making good progress at this stage." Martin Khor, Director of the Third World Network, also commented, saying: "this proposal is bound to get developing countries very upset and angry and will turn the present negotiations in a turmoil."

WTO Members agreed three years ago at the first WTO Ministerial in Singapore that the International Labour Organisation should deal with overseeing global labour standards but that the two organisations should co-operate more closely.

At a 28 October meeting on "New Issues", Members discussed the "Singapore issues" of investment, competition, procurement, and trade facilitation. On the contentious topic of investment, three positions emerged. On one end of the spectrum, the EU argued that at Seattle, Members should decide to include investment as a substantive negotiating issue. On the other end, a number of developing countries (including Malaysia, Egypt, and Pakistan) were against negotiating on investment, and advocated that the study process already underway at the WTO in the working group on Trade and Investment should continue. Playing a middle ground, Australia forwarded a third option, which suggested a continuation of the working group for two more years, followed by a report that would recommend the "desirability of beginning and concluding negotiating a framework of rules and disciplines for foreign investment."

"WTO: US urges Labour study," UN WIRE, 1 November; "News from Geneva," MARTIN KHOR, 30 October 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

CLINTON, PRODI MEET ON SEATTLE, GMOS

U.S. President Bill Clinton and European Commission President Romano Prodi met on 27 October in Washington D.C., where they discussed the upcoming WTO Ministerial and other trade issues.

The two leaders agreed to co-operate with respect to addressing concerns of developing countries in a proposed next round of global trade talks. The two leaders also agreed to form a new private-sector advisory group to improve the EU-U.S. dialogue on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The advisory group will include scientists, consumers and religious leaders who will provide advice on how to address GMOs.

Presidents Clinton and Prodi issued a joint statement pledging to do more for developing countries in the new round of trade talks. "Although major players in the world economy," the statement said, "the U.S. and EU needed to do more than in previous Rounds to work with all our partners in the WTO system. The new Round should offer major opportunities to the developing countries, strengthening their role in the world economy. Particular attention needs to be paid to the least developed countries. Their concerns and interests should be fully taken into account, including through specifically targeted, enhanced, and effective market access and capacity building."

Regarding labour and environment concerns within the context of the WTO, the joint statement noted that the EU and U.S. "agreed on the goal of better addressing the social dimensions of trade by promoting a substantive dialogue with our partners, involving the WTO and the ILO, although we still differ on the modalities. The dialogue would include an examination of the relationship between trade policy...and fundamental labour rights, so as to maximise the benefits of open trade for workers," according to the statement. The two leaders also agreed that the new round should look for "positive synergies" between trade liberalisation and the environment.

However, the U.S. and the EU are being held back from fuller agreement by certain trade disputes (see related story, this issue) between them. At a meeting of European and American business leaders and senior trade officials on 31 October, U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley expressed concern over recent trade conflicts between the two Members. "Frankly," he said, "I fear the Atlantic alliance might be the greatest threat to getting these [WTO] talks off to a good start." He emphasised that it would be "crazy" for the U.S. and EU to meet in Seattle divided by "parochial" issues such as GMOs and other disputes.

Meanwhile, despite progress by the EU and U.S. Presidents toward a new round of global trade talks, developing countries -- who make up the majority of WTO Membership -- are less keen on a new round, largely because they have yet to reap many of the benefits promised them in the preceding Uruguay Round. Many developing countries have called for full implementation and review of existing trade agreements before launching into new areas for negotiation. Moreover, these countries are looking to flex their collective muscle against the trade-weighted powers of the EU and U.S.

"Clinton, Prodi agree to efforts on developing countries, GMOS;" "Clinton-Prodi Declaration;" *INSIDE US TRADE* 29 October 1999; "Poorer nations could get their way in new trade talks - or maybe not," *INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER*, 27 October 1999; "Commerce: Clinton et Prodi évitent les sujets qui fâchent," *LIBERATION*, 29 October 1999; "US-EU: rifts may threaten launch of a new round," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 1 November 1999.

EU FINALISES NEGOTIATING STANCE FOR NEXT ROUND

The EU on 26 October finalised its negotiating agenda for the proposed new round of WTO trade talks. The EU guidelines say that the overriding objective for the Seattle meeting must remain the launch of a new comprehensive round, covering agriculture, services, investment, competition, trade facilitation, market access for non-agricultural products, environment, intellectual property,

government procurement, and technical barriers to trade. The EU reiterated its call that a new round be conducted as a single undertaking.

The EU directive outlines proposals for increasing market access for developing countries' exports and also calls for greater transparency at the WTO. More generally, the EU said the next round should "ensure that liberalisation promotes sustainable development and addresses the concerns of civil society, including representatives of business and consumers," according to the EU statement.

In a move that seems aimed at building good faith with its trading partners before the Seattle Ministerial, the EU has begun to cut its budget supports for agricultural export subsidies. The latest announcement comes as the European Commission moved last week to prevent a deficit in the budget for 2000. Cuts in sugar and milk supports of up to 7 percent and amounting to \$US 192 million have been agreed to, with EU members warning of more severe cuts to come in future budgets. Many other WTO Members say the EU's agricultural export subsidies undercut the competitiveness of their own farmers and distort global trade in agricultural products.

The EU had been unable to reach an agreement on a ministerial agenda for a number of weeks due to disagreements over labour rights and protection of cultural diversity. Germany demanded that a WTO working group on labour standards be established, while a number of EU states argued that developing countries would not agree. Regarding culture, France insisted that the audio-visual sector be excluded from a new round of WTO talks in an effort to protect its cultural diversity.

Regarding specific items on the EU agenda, EU states agreed to call for the establishment of a "Joint ILO/Standing Working Forum on trade, globalisation and labour issues." The working group would comprise governments, employers, trade unions, and other international organisations. Further, the working group would prepare for a ministerial-level meeting on trade, globalisation, and labour issues for no later than 2001. The EU guidelines do not set out how labour standards would be enforced (e.g. via trade sanctions).

Regarding the issue of cultural protection, EU members reached a compromise on the issue of the audio-visual sector (see related story below). While the language adopted does not explicitly exclude the audio-visual sector from negotiations, it does leave open the possibility for implementing safeguards related to cultural protections.

"During the forthcoming WTO negotiations the Union will ensure, as in the Uruguay Round, that the Community and its Member States maintain the possibility to preserve and develop their capacity to define and implement their cultural and audio-visual policies for the purpose of preserving their cultural diversity," the EU guidelines said.

France welcomed the language, saying it proved the EU was "clearly approaching the trade liberalisation process in the WTO while refusing to deal with culture as a commodity."

In related news, Canada last month said it would call for a WTO agreement on trade in cultural goods and services. The agreement could be used to protect cultural industries, including the audio-visual sector, books, magazines, and broadcasting, by setting them apart from other goods.

"Preparation of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference: Council Conclusions," EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 25 October 1999; "EU members resolve labour, culture plans for Seattle negotiations," INSIDE US TRADE, 29 October 1999; "EU finalises negotiating position for

upcoming WTO talks," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 24 October 1999; "OMC: les Quinze arrêtent une position commune," LE FIGARO, 25 October 1999; "EU agrees position for trade talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 25 October 1999; "Ottawa seeks global deal to end cultural trade wars," GLOBE AND MAIL, 26 October 1999.

EU, ACP TO SEEK LOMÉ EXTENSION

On 19 October, the EU and 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group countries reached an informal agreement extending the current Lomé Convention for another eight years. The agreement still needs to be approved by the European Commission and WTO Members.

The Lomé IV Convention is a trade and aid agreement between the EU and ACP countries, and is set to expire in February 2000. Although the WTO has previously ruled that the favourable trade terms the EU affords ACP countries under Lomé are not in line with international trade rules, it has allowed the current Lomé Convention to operate under a temporary waiver.

The agreement calls for the current Lomé accord to be extended at least through 2002, at which time a so-called preparatory period would begin during which ACP countries will build their capacities to withstand freer trade. Commencing 2008, the EU and ACP will begin two-way free trade arrangements conforming to WTO rules.

The plan still needs to be approved by the European Commission, which may not be an easy task. Observers note that EU and ACP officials must convince sceptical EU member states that the arrangement is WTO compatible and will not give rise to trade disputes.

The agreement is also contingent on the EU and ACP securing a waiver from the WTO under which the Lomé accord could continue to operate outside WTO rules. EU and ACP officials are expected to make this request at the Third WTO Ministerial in Seattle later this month. "The EU and ACP states are almost 90 countries, and it would be surprising if the waiver were not granted," said Sir Shridath Ramphal, special trade negotiator for the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

The agreement is seen as a victory for ACP countries, which had balked at previous EU attempts to secure agreement on a framework for a future EU-ACP trade regime before going to the WTO for a waiver. With a new round of WTO talks looming, ACP countries were wary of committing to a trade agreement while at the same time trying to negotiate in WTO talks with an uncertain outcome.

EU and ACP negotiators are expected to meet again in mid-November to discuss details of the agreement.

In related news, the EU announced it would provide about US\$10.5 million to support ACP efforts toward integrating into the multilateral trading system. The funds will be made available to individual ACP countries or to the ACP block, and will cover projects such as studies on the impact of WTO rules on ACP countries, the training of civil servants or private sector representatives, fostering the involvement of ACP representatives in WTO work, funding of experts on WTO issues, and research and analysis into policy decisions around country compliance with WTO rules.

"EU and former Caribbean colonies agree on trade issues," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 26 October 1999; THE WEEK IN EUROPE, 22 October 1999; "States agree to extend Lomé Convention for eight years," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 October 1999; "Union provides 10 million euro to finance support for inclusion of ACP countries in world trade system," AGONISE EUROPE, 18 October 1999.

DSB MEETS, DISCUSSES BANANAS

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body met on 27 October where Members discussed, *inter alia*, the EU proposed import regime for bananas. The WTO ruled in April that the EU had not complied with a 1997 WTO ruling against its banana import regime (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No.13-14, 12 April 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.12-04-99.htm>). Since that time, an EU team has been working to forge a regime acceptable to all concerned parties -- specifically Ecuador, the U.S., and banana-producing countries in African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries. In the meantime, the WTO authorised the U.S. to impose US\$191 million in retaliatory tariffs to compensate for lost banana revenues resulting from the current EU regime.

The EU told WTO Members that there continues "to be wide divergence of views on both the acceptability of the possible mechanisms of such a system, and on which solutions would be considered WTO-consistent." Meanwhile, EU officials last week outlined a proposed revised plan for complying with a WTO ruling against its banana import regime. The EU plan would establish an interim tariff-rate quota for five years that would then change to a single tariff system in 2005. EU officials said the plan would give ACP countries time to adjust to a new import regime.

EU ministers are expected to debate the proposed regime at a 15-16 November meeting in Brussels. France, Spain, Italy and Portugal, however, remain opposed to changing the current import regime that favours imports from ACP producers.

The U.S. reportedly does not support the proposed EU plan. Instead, on 25 October the U.S. presented two alternative plans to the EU for complying with the ruling. The first entails reverting to a tariff-only regime immediately, while the second plan would provide for a transitional tariff rate quota system. It is not clear how the latter proposal differs from the proposed EU regime.

At the same time, Caribbean banana-producing countries will, over the next few weeks, try to build support for its proposed solution to the dispute, involving a quota and licensing system for EU banana imports. Dominica's Prime Minister Edison James last week described the Caribbean proposed regime as WTO-compliant, involving a separate quota for ACP producers. Mr. James said Caribbean officials would be meeting with U.S. trade officials to build support for the plan in an effort to persuade the EU to adopt it.

Meanwhile, Ecuador, the world's largest banana exporter and party to the WTO complaint against the EU, threatened last week to impose US\$450 million in sanctions against the EU if it does not change its import regime quickly. Ecuador complained that the EU has already had nine months to comply with the WTO ruling, and that the EU could have at least dropped its quota system while working on a revised regime. "Ecuador is calling for the [European Commission] to withdraw illegal country quotas promptly, or Ecuador will be forced to suspend its concessions granted to [EU] products, as done by the U.S.," Ecuador's Ambassador to the EU, Alfredo Pinoargote said last week.

Also at the DSB meeting, the U.S. blocked requests by Australia and New Zealand for the establishment of a dispute panel to rule over U.S. import tariff and quota restrictions against the two countries' lamb exports (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 27, 12 July 1999 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story5.12-07-99.htm>).

In related news, a list of proposed amendments to the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) has been distributed to Members for consideration by the Chair of the review group of the DSU. According to the provisions of the DSU, the review should have been concluded by the end of 1998, but was extended as the number of suggestions for changes to the DSU were larger than expected. At a 24 September 1999 DSU review meeting, Members were unable to decide on whether or even how to proceed with the review of the DSU, and it is expected that the issue will spill over into further discussions in 2000 after Seattle.

"EU threatens sanctions on EU over bananas," REUTERS, 28 October 1999; "La guerre de la banane continue de diviser," L'AGÉFI "EU mulls reform of banana import system to end US dispute," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 25 October 1999; "Commission finalising plan to end banana war," FINANCIAL TIMES, 25 October 1999; "U.S. presents two new banana proposals to EU," REUTERS, 27 October 1999; "Ecuador threatens sanctions on EU over bananas;" "Caribbean to seek US support in banana trade issues,"

REUTERS, 28 October 1999; "U.S. blocks bids for WTO panels on disputes over lamb, steel duties," REGULATION, LAW AND ECONOMICS, 27 October 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO ACCESSION UPDATE

As part of its efforts to join the WTO, Saudi Arabia has pledged to liberalise its investment laws to foster foreign investment, including investment in the oil sector. Saudi officials said they would also consider allowing foreigners to own real estate in Saudi Arabia. However, Saudi Arabia is standing firm in WTO accession talks in refusing to lift import bans on un-Islamic products such as alcohol and pork. "We will not agree to import or trade in products which are banned by our religion, and we want the WTO to understand this particular point," Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said in October. Saudi Arabia and Oman are the only two remaining Gulf Co-operation States (GCC) that are not yet Members of the WTO.

Regarding Oman's bid to join the WTO, Oman trade officials said last month that they anticipate the Sultanate's accession to occur in time for the Third WTO Ministerial at the end of November. Oman trade officials said negotiations are at an advanced stage with the WTO Members who requested them, and market access talks have been concluded with the EU, Japan and India. Trade officials also said that commercial and other legislative changes were close to being completed in order to bring Oman laws in line with WTO rules.

Jordanian officials likewise said they expected Jordan's WTO accession to be complete in time for the Third WTO Ministerial. The U.S. and Jordan last month held talks in an attempt to break an impasse over Jordan's intellectual property regime.

Accession talks between the EU and China ended late last month without an agreement, thus making China's accession to the WTO in time for the Third WTO Ministerial unlikely, according to most observers. While China has concluded talks with a number of WTO Members, it has yet to

conclude talks with the U.S. and EU, and those talks are not likely to wrap up in time for the Seattle Ministerial. The EU and U.S. disagree with China most notably over the terms of China's accession -- that is, whether China should be admitted as a developed or developing country. China strongly defends its position as a developing economy and has submitted accession bids along those lines. WTO Director-General in-waiting Supachai Panitchpakdi said last month that China should be granted observer status in the next round of trade talks if it is not a full member by the time the new talks launch.

On 21 October a WTO working group was set up to examine the accession request of the separate customs territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu. A working group on Vietnam's request was also established on 18 October. The working groups are comprised of most major WTO Members (including the "Quad" Members of the U.S., EU, Japan, and Canada) as well as Hong Kong China and other states with interests in the accessions requests.

Meanwhile, Croatia's accession to the WTO is caught in the midst of an EU-U.S. dispute over the so-called cultural exception, centred, in this case, over Croatia's market access regime for the audio-visual sector. As part of its WTO accession bid, Croatia would not place limitations on market access in the audio-visual sector and would extend national treatment to foreign distributors of motion picture and other audio-visual services. The EU, driven by France, wants Croatia to adopt a more restrictive policy geared at keeping the U.S. film and television industries from gaining a foothold in Croatia and, subsequently, in other EU markets. The larger issue at stake for France is that of protecting its cultural identity, which is expected to figure prominently at the WTO Ministerial. In the meantime, Croatia's accession will likely not be completed in time for the Ministerial as had been expected. Accession talks for Albania and Moldova, previously expected to be complete in time for Seattle, are also caught in the EU-U.S. battle.

On 18 October, Vanuatu tabled a market access offer in its WTO accession bid. Vanuatu's Deputy Prime Minister Willie Tapanga Rarua told WTO Members the bid was his country's best offer. Vanuatu would bind tariffs on imported goods at rates between 35 and 55 percent, and remove certain restrictions on foreign service providers. Mr. Rarua noted that Vanuatu relies heavily on tariffs for revenues since the country has no direct tax system.

Mr. Rurua also said that the WTO accession talks thus far have been costly for Vanuatu, having cost the small island country about US\$300,000 since talks were initiated in 1995. Mr. Rurua noted that the annual GDP of Vanuatu was only US\$300 million. "This expensive accession process will be brought to an end, one way or another this week, as Vanuatu is neither willing nor able to divert funds from its development efforts in order to join the WTO," Mr. Rurua said. The U.S. and Japan, however, are still not satisfied with Vanuatu's market access bid.

"Saudi stands firm on un-Islamic goods in WTO membership talks," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 10 October 1999; "Saudi liberalisation welcomed, details awaited," REUTERS, 28 October 1999; "Saudis promise economic reforms," FINANCIAL TIMES, 22 October 1999; "Oman on verge of joining WTO: paper," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 19 October 1999 "China WTO entry be end Nov 'difficult' - Supachai," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 11 October 1999; "Jordan says WTO membership announcement next month," REUTERS, 26 October 1999; "XXX l'adhésion de la Croatie à l'OMC au nom de l'exception culturelle," LE MONDE, 9 October 1999; "Albanian WTO accession blocked by U.S.-EU dispute over audiovisual," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 13 October 1999; "Vanuatu Tables 'Best Offer' in WTO Bid, Says Cost of Accession

Talks Prohibitive," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 27 October 1999; "OMC: le casse-tête chinois," LE FIGARO, 28 October 1999; "EU-Chinese trade talks end without agreement," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 28 October 1999.

WTO ARRANGEMENTS FOR NGOs AT SEATTLE MINISTERIAL

The WTO has set aside 10 rooms at the Madison Hotel during the Seattle Ministerial for use by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to schedule seminars upon request. Requests should be made to Bernard Kuiten, by email at: bernard.kuiten@wto.org, or by phone at (41-22) 739-5254.

The Madison Hotel Ballroom will be equipped for seating NGO observers (with appropriate WTO credentials) to watch Ministerial proceedings on the large screen from 10 a.m. to the end of each session (excluding any decisions by the Ministers to close portions of sessions).

The Madison Ballroom will also be the site for daily NGO briefings from 08:00-09:30 and daily NGO debriefings on the day's activities at 18:30. In addition, the Madison Hotel will have facilities NGOs can use for computer hook-ups, faxes, and telephones.

Between now and the Ministerial, the WTO will facilitate the distribution of NGO position documents to Member missions and to the press and will post them on the NGO pages of the website as promptly as possible. Such documents should be sent to Bernard Kuiten ONLY by mail or fax with a request for distribution. NOTE: There will be no distribution of documents sent electronically because of the difficulty of confirming the authenticity of the source. Faxes should be sent to (41-22) 739-5777.

IN BRIEF

Officials from 150 countries are meeting in Bonn between 25 October - 5 November for the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Talks are focusing on the implementation of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change. *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest will report on the talks in its next issue. For updates on the Conference in the interim, please visit <http://cop5.unfccc.de/>

Trade officials from the 29 industrialised countries comprising the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) met on 20 October with business, consumer, environmental, and labour groups to discuss objectives for the Third WTO Ministerial meeting scheduled for 30 November - 3 December in Seattle. The meeting was the first time OECD trade officials met directly with NGOs to discuss concerns over trade liberalisation. "Labour, environment NGOs meet at OECD to discuss objectives for WTO Ministerial," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 27 October 1999.

The U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was pulled from consideration by the Senate on 29 October. The AGOA promotes trade, investment, and increased development in Africa, and aims to de-emphasise aid as the only means of cash flow from the U.S. to the region. (See *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 5, 8 February 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story7.08-02-99.htm>) The bill was caught in the middle of partisan wrangling over the broader U.S. legislative agenda, but is expected to be taken up for consideration

again after those disputes are settled. Meanwhile, Senator Russ Feingold is expected to reintroduce an alternative bill addressing African trade known as the Hope for Africa Act. The Hope for Africa Act focuses on debt relief and increased aid for sub-Saharan Africa, and also includes strong labour and environment provisions. "Lott pulls trade bill after cloture vote failure," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 29 October 1999; "Senate crosses first hurdle to Africa/CBI Bill," *WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY*, 28 October 1999.

ICTSD is convening next week a first regional policy dialogue on "Globalisation, Liberalisation and Sustainable Human Development" in Santiago, Chile. The meeting, hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is organised in support of the UNDP-UNCTAD's programme on globalisation. Similar meetings are also being convened in Asia and Africa. For information on participants and documentation please contact Ali Dehlavi at adehlavi@ictsd.ch and/or download the programme, list of participants and papers from <http://www.ictsd.org/html/dialogues.htm>

WTO IN BRIEF

A number of non-governmental organisations will be included in governmental organisations at the Third WTO Ministerial in Seattle from 30 November-3 December in Seattle. Among these will be a representative from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in the U.K. delegation; a representative from Diakonia in the Swedish delegation; Greenpeace NL in the Netherlands delegation; the Danish Association for International Co-operation in Denmark's delegation and a representative from ForUm in the delegation from Norway. Still others are likely to be announced. ICTSD Internal Files.

Late-Breaking News: Following weeks of intensive consultations with dozens of WTO Members, WTO Director-General Mike Moore announced on 3 November the selection of four candidates to serve as his Deputy Directors-General for the next three years. Mr. Moore announced that he had selected Ablassé Ouedraogo, of Burkina Faso; Paul-Henri Ravier, of France; Miguel Rodríguez Mendoza, of Venezuela; and Andrew Stoler, of the United States of America as his deputies. Mr. Ouedraogo is the first African and first representative of a Least Developed Country ever chosen as a Deputy Director-General of the WTO or its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. For further information and biographies on the candidates, visit the WTO website at <http://www.wto.org>

WTO MINISTERIAL EVENTS

28 November, Seattle: **THE WTO AND THE GLOBAL WAR SYSTEM**. This public forum is being organised by peace groups from the U.S. and Canada, and will examine how the World Trade Organisation and economic globalisation prevents efforts to promote peace and human security. Speakers include Susan George (Transnational Institute), David Korten (Positive Futures Network), Alice Slater (Abolition 2000/Global Resource Action Centre for the Environment), and Steven Staples (Intil Network on Disarmament and Globalisation). For information contact Steven Staples, tel: (1-206) 547-0952, email: ss Staples@randomlink.com

30 November, Seattle: **WTO & HUMAN RIGHTS**. Sponsored by the Peoples Decade of Human Rights Education. For information contact Shula Koenig, tel: (1-212) 749-3156.

30 November, Canada House, London, U.K.: **THE FIGHT TO DEFEND ABESTOS BAN STARTS HERE.** Sponsored by the Construction Safety Campaign. This is a protest against Canada, a major asbestos producer that is challenging the right for countries to ban asbestos in the WTO. For information contact The Construction Safety Campaign, email: construction.safetycampaign@talk21.com

30 November, Seattle: **A SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER AND TRADE.** Organised by the Gender and Trade Project of Centre of Concern, Washington, DC, and DAWN Caribbean. This is a panel discussion in which women representing the different regions of the world will discuss the effects of new trade regimes on women, families and communities and propose a women's perspective on trade that is people-centred and equitable. For information contact Maria Riley, 1225 Otis Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, tel: (1-202) 635-2757 ext. 134, fax: 832-9494, email: mriley@coc.org, or Mariama Williams, email: mariamaw@cwjaimaica.com

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

ON THE MOVE

Charles Arden Clarke, currently Head of the Trade & Investment Unit of WWF International, has been appointed as Senior Programme Officer at UNEP's Trade, Economics and Environment Unit. Charlie is recognised as a leading and pioneering advocate for greening the GATT/WTO system. He is the initiator of, among other endeavours, his organisation's Unit on trade, the Expert Panel on Trade and Sustainable Development (EPTSD), and the Trans-Atlantic Environment Dialogue, and has been a prolific writer and activist on trade and environment issues for WWF since 1990.

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.

12 November: **SEATTLE MINISTERIAL NGO BRIEFING.** For information contact Bernard Kuiten, External Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5676, email: bernard.kuiten@wto.org

19 November: **SEATTLE MINISTERIAL NGO BRIEFING.** For information contact Bernard Kuiten, External Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5676, email: bernard.kuiten@wto.org

▪ OTHER EVENTS

5 November, Brussels, Belgium: ICDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) conference will focus on trade, investment, competition policies, and TNCs. An overview of planned activities and lobby points at and for Seattle will be discussed. ICDA also hopes to focus the next Alternative Report on Trade-2000. For information contact ICDA, Rue Stévin 115, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, fax: (32-2) 230-5237, email: icda@skynet.be

8 November - 3 December: UNCTAD X ON-LINE DISCUSSION FORUM. The Forum will provide a virtual arena for the exchange of ideas among members of non-governmental organisations, academia, trade unions, the private sector, and individual members of the public on key issues of the UNCTAD theme: "Applying the lessons of the past to make globalisation an effective instrument for the development of all countries and of all people". Participants will be invited to contribute their viewpoints to an online dialogue guided by a moderator, with a more structured dialogue on identified days led by an UNCTAD expert. Summaries on each topic will be posted at the end of each week and an overall report will be compiled and fed into the annual UNCTAD NGO Consultations. To participate visit: <http://www.UNCTAD-10.org> and click on the WELCOME button.

8-11 November, St. Julian's, Malta: THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF FREE TRADE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION. Organised by Wilton Park. For information contact Virginia Crowe, email: virginia.crowe@wiltonpark.org.uk, web: <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/>

9-11 November, Rome, Italy: 117TH SESSION OF THE FAO COUNCIL. For information see web: <http://www.FAO.org/unfao/bodies/council/cl117/cl117-e.htm>

14-19 November, Nottingham, UK: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL AGENDA 21. This seminar will examine what is meant by Sustainable Communities and will provide delegates with an opportunity to examine how Local Agenda 21 (LA21), can assist with the preparation of national and local programmes for sustainable development and how it can develop and expand local community partnerships, facilitate community development and allow citizens to enhance and maintain the quality of life in their communities through the protection of local environment, social, and economic conditions. For information contact International Seminars, 1 Beaumont Place, Oxford OX1 2PJ, UK, tel: (44-1865) 316-636, fax: 557-368, email: rachel.lippe@britcoun.org, web: <http://www.britcoun.org/seminars/>

15-26 November, Recife, Brazil: THIRD CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CCD). For information contact the CCD Secretariat, POB 260129, Haus Carstanjen, D-53153, Bonn, Germany, tel: (49-228) 815-2800, fax: 815-2899, email: secretariat@unccd.de, web: <http://www.unccd.de/>

16-17 November, Kathmandu, Nepal: REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAARC TRADE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM - CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE. This event is organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu, Nepal and Consumer Unity and Trust Society - Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CUTS-CITEE), Jaipur, India. The Conference is expected to formulate a research agenda on identified issues in the area of international trade policy of crucial significance to countries in the region. For information contact Ratnakar Adhikari or Dhrubesh C. Regmi,

SAWTEE, P.O. Box. 14307, Gautam Buddha Marg, Anam Nagar, Kathmandu, Nepal, tel/ fax: 977-1-240746, email: propublic@wlink.com.np

RESOURCES

WHO BENEFITS? 1999. By the International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED). A social assessment of environmentally-driven trade, this report is the result of a review of existing trends in the marketplace and the commission of a series of background reports assessing the social consequences of environmentally-driven trade. Six recommendations are made for moving forward. To order contact: International Institute for Environment & Development, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK, tel: (44-171) 388-2117, fax: 388-2826, email (general enquiries): mailbox@iied.org, web: <http://www.iied.org>

WTO: THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION: THE CHALLENGES OF A NEW ROUND OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS -- TRADE FOR DEVELOPMENT? 1999. Oxfam Solidarity. The objectives of this paper are to contribute towards highlighting the implications of WTO agreements and rules in the perspective of Southern countries and to underline the strategic opportunities through which a reform of the WTO rules should be obtained during the Seattle Conference. This paper focuses on such topics as legitimacy, democracy, accountability in the WTO, the challenges facing the South in the Seattle Round, and the WTO and sustainable development. Available in English, French, and Spanish. 41 pp. To order contact Thierry Kesteloot, Oxfam Solidarity, 39, Rue du Conseil - Raadstraat, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, tel: (32-2) 501-6755, fax: 511-8919, email: thierry.kesteloot@oxfamsol.be, web: <http://www.oxfamsol.be>

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: A CITIZEN'S GUIDE. October 1999. By Steven Shrybman. A publication of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, this book provides ideas and suggestions for mounting an effective challenge to the WTO and for developing a more humane approach to world trade. 154 pp. \$CDN 19.95. To order contact: The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, tel: (1-613) 563-1341, web: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca>

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS. October 1999. By Mike Hulme and Nicola Sheard of the Climatic Research Unit. Commissioned by the WWF, this set of 17 climate change scenarios draws upon newly constructed, globally observed climate data sets, new greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, and the results from the most recent global climate model experiments. The scenarios explore the consequences of climate change on specific countries and regions and draw attention to the effects of climate change on biodiversity. To order contact Adam Markham, World Wildlife Fund (U.S.), email: adam.markham@wwfus.org or visit the WWF Climate Change website: <http://www.panda.org/climate>

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT: FROM POLLUTION HAVENS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. 1999. By the WWF-UK. This paper examines the complex link between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the environment. Topics discussed include: FDI and sustainable development; FDI in the natural resource sector; corporate responsibility; reforming international investment agreements; and international regulation of FDI. Also included are extensive and up-to-date references. 83 pp. To order contact Diana Martin, WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR, tel: (01-48) 341-2547, email: dmartin@wwfnet.org

FAO/NETHERLANDS CONFERENCE ON THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL CHARACTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND. 1999. By Chairman Hans Alders of the Fao/Netherlands Conference on the Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land held in Maastricht, Netherlands 12-17 September 1999. Submitted to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. To view this report see web: http://www.wto.org/ddf/cgi-bin/dispdoc.pl?url=/ddf/cgiin/vdkw_cgi@8001/xa6c7a5e8-8/Search/5370720680/1.

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