



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

*BRIDGES*

# Weekly Trade News Digest

**8 November 1999**

**Volume 3, N°44**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Differences Cloud Process Towards Seattle, Let Deadline Slip By
- WTO Services Positions Emerge
- WTO Hosts Meeting for Non-Geneva Based Trade Missions
- FTAA Ministers Make Limited Progress
- Labour Unions Demand Linkage, Employers Reject it
- Climate Change Talks End With Optimism Toward COP-6
- U.S. Senate Passes Trade Package for Africa, Caribbean
- In Brief
- WTO In Brief
- WTO Ministerial Events
- Events & Resources

## DIFFERENCES CLOUD PROCESS TOWARDS SEATTLE, LET DEADLINE SLIP BY

WTO Members last week missed their "ambitious" 5 November deadline for completing a draft agenda for a new round of global trade talks. Agriculture remains the biggest obstacle toward reaching agreement on an agenda. Among the most contentious issues is the EU and Japanese demand to consider the multifunctional role of agriculture (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 42, 25 October 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story2.25-10-99.htm> ).

Though no official date has been set for the final draft Declaration to be sent to the Members' capitals for consideration, WTO officials expect it to be ready by approximately 12 November. Discussions have centred on the last draft Ministerial Declaration (released on 19 October and available at <http://www.ictsd.org/html/seattleministerial.htm> ), which is essentially a collection of country positions distilled from close to 200 proposals.

WTO Members are hesitant to release an updated draft unless it shows substantive progress on key issues such as agriculture, services, implementation, and Least-Developed Country (LDC) concerns. Over the course of constant meetings last week, over the weekend, and into this week, countries have been attempting to gain common ground but remain held up by continuing disagreement over the scope and terms of a potential new round of negotiations, particularly on agriculture.

The refusal of some Latin American members of the Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting countries to consider any expansion of the negotiating scope into 'new issues' (such as labour rights, environment, and investment) unless they can get acceptable declaration language on agriculture has complicated the agriculture talks. These countries oppose the inclusion of multifunctionality into the negotiations, and are demanding that the declaration identify specific aims for agricultural reforms rather than the broad-based language supported by Japan, Korea and the EU.

On the parallel issue of services (see also related article, this issue), also scheduled for negotiations as part of the built-in agenda, WTO officials are confident that there is little disagreement at this stage. Said one official, "Services is not one of those contentious areas that Members are focusing on. It's pretty much on track. It's expected that what brackets are on the draft Declaration now will be there in Seattle." Members are also closest to agreement on the issue of LDCs and technical co-operation.

Efforts to bridge differences between delegations have been convened by both the Chair of the General Council Ali Mchumo of Tanzania and by WTO Director-General Mike Moore; the latter have taken place in the so-called "Green Room," where negotiations among major WTO Members are also occurring in smaller groups. However, diplomats of many smaller delegations are expressing discontent over not being party to the Green Room discussions. "The Director-General has hijacked the General Council process," said the Ambassador of one developing country. Said another, "It is assumed that a few countries can be invited to resolve the issues and that the rest of us will accept the results as a fait accompli." Many developing countries are now concerned at the lack of transparency in the WTO process -- ironically, an issue that has traditionally been pushed by non-governmental organisations.

Meanwhile, Moore has issued an urgent appeal to governments to abandon entrenched positions and agree on an agenda for the Seattle talks. "The preparatory process is at a critical point," he said in a letter to Mchumo.

Later this week the U.S. is expected to table an Agreement on Transparency in Government Procurement that it will push to have signed in Seattle.

"Envoys miss agenda deadline," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 November 1999; "DG has hijacked the Seattle process, say diplomats," SUNS, 8 November 1999; "WTO: Director appeals for more flexibility," FINANCIAL TIMES, 8 November 1999; "News from Geneva," MARTIN KHOR, 8 November 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **WTO SERVICES POSITIONS EMERGE**

At a 2 November meeting of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky outlined the U.S.' services priorities for the upcoming WTO Ministerial and new negotiations. Renewed negotiations on Agriculture and Services are mandated for 2000 under the WTO's so-called 'built-in agenda.' The U.S. wants to launch a negotiation that, according to Barshefsky, "enables us to secure maximum liberalisation in a broad array of sectors from all WTO Members, through a broadening and deepening of the services commitments of all WTO countries."

The U.S. is world's leading trader of services, exporting \$US264 billion worth of private and public-sector services and importing \$US165 billion in private sector services. The country is looking to liberalise a broad range of service sectors, including deeper commitments in finance and telecommunications, distribution, audiovisual, construction, travel and tourism, the professions, education and training, health, express delivery, energy and environmental services.

The U.S. objectives also include examining cross-sectoral or "horizontal" methods of service liberalisation; ensuring that services rules anticipate the development of new technologies; and increasing regional participation in the Basic Telecommunications and Financial Services Agreements. According to Barshefsky, "expanding country participation is a goal in several of our regional initiatives, notably in Africa, and will also be a focus in the Round.

The U.S. is also aiming to prevent discrimination against particular modes of delivering services. Many developing countries are calling on developed country Members such as the U.S. to fully implement commitments undertaken by them in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) that facilitate the movement of natural persons in supplying services (the so-called 'Mode 4', referring to GATS Article I 2(d)).

Developed countries -- particularly the U.S. -- have met with resistance from developing Members who are averse to committing to lower tariff baselines in services. Many developing country proposals in the lead up to the Ministerial point out that developing countries have a right to open fewer sectors in forthcoming negotiations. Colombia's proposal, for instance, indicates that "there shall be appropriate flexibility for individual developing country Members for opening fewer sectors, liberalising fewer types of transactions, progressively extending market access in line with their development situation."

Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, the EU and Japan have all called for increased liberalisation in services. Turkey has called for improved market access in addition to more liberal rules on the national treatment of services firms. A number of countries have called for increased participation of developing countries in the services sector by providing flexibility for developing countries under a services agreement towards expanding developing countries' exports of services.

Under the Implementation section of the latest (19 October) draft Ministerial Declaration, section (I), on Services, states that a monitoring and notification mechanism shall be established to ensure effective implementation of Article IV -- on "Increasing Participation of Developing Countries" -- of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Article IV, *inter alia*, calls for strengthening of developing country capacity in services through access to technology, liberalisation of market access for developing countries' service suppliers, and improvement of their access to distribution channels and information networks.

Egypt, India, and Turkey have called for a "comprehensive assessment of trade in services within the Council for Trade in Services before negotiations start." This is intended for countries to understand the benefits of certain services commitments on foreign direct investment and other development indicators. The Egypt-India-Turkey position is reflected by Brazil, which wants negotiation of specific commitments and liberalisation in services to be conducted only after the drafting of disciplines for emergency safeguards, subsidies, government procurement and domestic regulation. Brazil also focuses on the aim of preserving the principles reflected in Article IV.

Indonesia, Singapore, Switzerland, and Uruguay called for negotiations to take into account the different levels of development in Member countries. Further, these three Members have called for negotiations to focus, as a priority, on service sectors of significance to developing countries. Many developing countries also want talks re-opened on Maritime Transport Services. A key area of contention revolves around a U.S. law requiring intra-U.S. marine transport to be conducted exclusively by U.S. shipping companies, thereby discriminating against foreign transport providers.

In related news, representatives from the global services community met in Atlanta, U.S. from 1-3 November for the World Services Congress 99. The meeting brought together representatives from private business services, financial services, travel and transport, wholesale and retailing, and the telecommunications sector to address the issue of "generating global growth and opportunity." The meeting was timed to bring services representatives together to form a common position in time for the WTO Ministerial meeting in Seattle.

Regarding developing countries, representatives called on governments to "Recognise that liberalisation of services markets in both developing and developed countries is critical to their economies to strengthen domestic services capacity, its efficiency, and competitiveness. Governments should extend technical assistance to developing countries to ensure their full preparation and participation in the negotiations on services," according to the statement. Further, representatives called for more transparency and openness at the WTO to "engender confidence in the WTO, proceedings, access to documents and decisions should be improved and made available to the public on a timely basis," according to the statement.

"Statement on WTO Negotiations on Services," Global Services Network, 1 November 1999; "First World Services Congress to meet in Atlanta," US NEWSWIRE, 28 October 1999; "Services: Summary of proposals for the preparations for the 1999 WTO Ministerial Conference," Centre of Concern, October 1999. ICTSD Internal Files.

## **WTO HOSTS MEETING FOR NON-GENEVA BASED TRADE MISSIONS**

The WTO from 1-5 November hosted "Geneva Week", designed to foster greater participation in the WTO process amongst non-resident delegations. These non-resident delegations included 28 WTO Members and 9 Observers who lack resources required to maintain permanent offices in Geneva. The WTO and co-sponsoring agencies established the Geneva Week event to help keep these countries informed about the work going on in the WTO in anticipation of the Third WTO Ministerial, 30 November - 3 December, and to expose them to the work of other relevant agencies in Geneva such as UN Conference for Trade and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, among others.

"I want to make sure that all countries participating in WTO work are fully aware of the situation as we approach the Ministerial, and also of the possibilities for trade-related assistance that are available through the WTO and its sister agencies", said WTO Director-General Mike Moore.

The Geneva Week sessions focused on the concerns of non-resident delegations, including capacity and information constraints relating to WTO participation; the need for longer-term assistance in establishing Geneva-based missions, as well as the need for reference centres housing computers, internet access and related information technology. More generally, non-resident delegates also

discussed the need for improved market access for their exports, and ways to address the vulnerability of small economies within the WTO.

Delegates to Geneva Week were for the most part pleased with the opportunity to bring their concerns directly to the WTO, and found the meetings assisted in preparing for Seattle. However, they expressed concern that it was too little, too late for their priorities to the table between now and Seattle. "Though the sessions have been helpful in understanding Members' positions better," stated one delegate, "they were limited in terms of bringing our concerns to the Seattle process." Another delegate pointed out that while the Geneva Week sessions were being held, other important WTO meetings (such as the General Council meetings on 3, 4, and 5 November) were being missed. "It effectively meant that we were in one room with other small country and LDC [least-developed country] representatives with similar perspectives to ours, but we weren't in the main WTO negotiating sessions where the major issues are being discussed."

Geneva Week delegates were also confident that the proposal of zero-tariffs for LDCs' products -- a potential outcome from the Seattle Ministerial -- was being taken seriously by developed country Members. "We are submitting product lists of our major exports for which we are seeking zero-tariff access," stated one Geneva Week participant, "and we expect to see significant movement on this issue, particularly with respect to LDC agricultural exports."

Also last week, World Bank President James Wolfensohn proposed that Seattle -- host to the upcoming Third WTO Ministerial meeting -- become home to a prototype development organisation, tapping into the synergies between Seattle-based non-governmental organisations and technology firms in order to create a development organisation focused on the needs of the least developed countries.

"WTO organises 'Geneva Week' for non-resident delegations," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 26 October 1999; "Mike Moore opens Geneva Week," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 1 November 1999; "L'OMC fait un geste pour ses membres les plus pauvres," TRIBUNE DE GENÈVE, 2 November 1999; "World Bank President suggests Seattle-based organisation to aid least-developed countries," UN NEWSWIRE, 1 November 1999. ICTSD Internal Files.

## **FTAA MINISTERS MAKE LIMITED PROGRESS**

Trade ministers from the 34 member countries of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) met in Toronto, Canada, from 3-4 November for the fifth FTAA Ministerial. At the meeting, delegates agreed to only limited commitments, essentially calling on countries to continue compiling data toward a draft negotiating framework. The draft would lay the groundwork for real negotiations to begin at the FTAA leaders' summit meeting in 2001.

This fell short of the U.S. and Canadian aim of setting firm goals for negotiators to create the framework of the eventual agreement. The slow approach put forward in the declaration that emerged from the meeting reflects the concerns of the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay) who felt the 2001 timeframe for completing a negotiating framework was not realistic given competing negotiations at the WTO. They also expressed concern over the Clinton Administration's lack of so-called fast track negotiating authority. Fast track is seen by Latin American trading partners as a sign of U.S. negotiators'

credibility, as it essentially allows the U.S. to negotiate an agreement subject to a simple yes/no vote in Congress, not subject to amendment.

Caribbean countries called for improved consideration of the needs of smaller economies within the FTAA. St. Vincent's Trade Minister, John Horne, speaking for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), complained that thus far smaller countries have been largely left out of the FTAA process.

"The negotiating groups that have so far been established have not addressed the question of treatment at all of smaller economies in their negotiations," Mr. Horne said. "What does that say for us in CARICOM? It says nothing, it says that we might as well not be there unless some adjustments are made and some serious considerations take place," Mr. Horne said.

Despite this, the FTAA ministerial declaration offers only modest language regarding smaller economies' demand for special and differential treatment under a hemispheric trade regime.

"We recognise the broad differences in the levels of development and size of the economies in our Hemisphere, and we will remain cognisant of those differences in our negotiations...we instruct the [FTAA Trade Negotiating Committee] to begin immediately to examine the ways in which these differences could be treated in the negotiations, taking into account the treatment given to them in other fora...," the Declaration of Ministers said. The "other fora" is taken to mean the WTO, which observers note indicates that the matter of special and differential treatment has essentially been shifted to WTO talks. Ministers agreed to continue work on the committee addressing civil society participation in FTAA negotiations.

The committee failed to provide a summary on the positions on participation submitted by about 70 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) amidst strong opposition by Mexico (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 42, 25 October 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story4.25-10.99.htm> ). The committee was directed to deliver a report on the views expressed by the 70 non-governmental organisations that by the next ministerial meeting (to be held in April 2000 in Guatemala).

A number of trade ministers met with NGOs in advance of the ministerial to hear views on civil society participation. The NGOs presented various recommendations for greater consideration of labour, environmental and social issues in the FTAA negotiating process. NGOs also complained that access to FTAA trade ministers has thus far been very limited.

Ministers also endorsed a trade facilitation package that aims to simplify customs procedures and increase transparency in trade regulatory dealings between countries.

"Caribbean ministers to put case," THE HERALD (St. Vincent-Grenadines), 5 November, 1999; "Hemispheric ministers to reject US FTAA proposal," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 4 November 1999; FTAA ministerial declaration foresees limited draft text by 2001," INSIDE US TRADE, 5 November 1999; "Free Trade Area of the Americas: Declaration of Ministers, fifth trade ministerial meeting," FTAA, 4 November 1999; "Ministers meeting in Toronto," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 3 November 1999.

## **LABOUR UNIONS DEMAND LINKAGE, EMPLOYERS REJECT IT**

On 30 October, the U.S. put forward a proposal to establish WTO working group on labour issues (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 3 No. 43, 1 November 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.01-11-99.htm> ). The proposal calls for a group to examine trade issues related to labour, specifically trade and employment; trade and social protections; trade and core labour standards; positive trade policy incentives and core labour standards; trade and forced or exploitative child labour; and trade and derogation from national labour standards. The U.S. proposed that the working group report its findings at the Fourth WTO Ministerial, likely to be held in 2001.

In its position paper, the U.S. sought to assuage developing countries' well-known concern that trade and labour linkage is a veiled protectionist mechanism sought by developed countries. "[The work undertaken] would fully conform to the commitment at [the WTO's first ministerial meeting in] Singapore that labour standards issues should not be used as a means to undermine comparative advantage or for protectionist purposes," the U.S. paper said. (At the First WTO Ministerial in Singapore WTO Members agreed that the International Labour Organisation was the appropriate agency to address trade and labour linkages.)

The EU has also just submitted a proposal for a WTO/ILO forum which it stresses will be convened at arms length from the WTO.

Developing countries meanwhile are steadfast in their opposition toward trade and labour linkage at the WTO. "If it comes to a choice between not launching a new round and accepting a WTO role on labour, then we'll choose no round," according to one Latin American trade official. "A lot of other countries feel the same way."

Meanwhile, labour unions figure to be a force to reckon with as the WTO Members consider a new round of global trade talks. The AFL-CIO, a leading U.S. labour union, issued a statement on 28 October reiterating its position that it wants "the WTO to incorporate enforceable rules protecting workers' rights and the environment, to open up its operations to give workers and other civil society representatives a meaningful voice, and to significantly overhaul its rules on safeguard protections and the overturning of legitimate national regulations on public health and the environment", AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said in a letter.

The Teamsters Union, a sister organisation to the AFL-CIO, took a strong stance against the U.S. government agenda for the WTO Ministerial, despite the proposal for a working group on labour. "There is no disputing that corporations have used the WTO rules to take jobs away from hard-working Americans. The Teamsters believe the WTO needs to be fundamentally transformed to consider the needs of all working families, not just the whims of big business", Teamsters President James Hoffa asserted.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), a grouping of 213 organisations in 143 countries, has also called for the establishment of a WTO working group on trade and labour. In Geneva last month, ICFTU launched a campaign calling for the incorporation of "the social dimension into the world economy." Further, ICFTU last month said, "the WTO General Council must establish a procedure to ensure that labour issues are appropriately reflected throughout the

relevant negotiating bodies and with a view to enhancing the links between trade, employment and respect for core labour standards."

On their part the 130 national employer federations cautioned governments "from linking trade with labour standards". "Given the complexity of trade issues faced by the WTO in the coming negotiations, employers see no value in the WTO broadening its activities into an area where the acknowledged competence lies with the ILO", declared IOE President Ashraf Tabani in Geneva. "Let the WTO deal with trade issues and let the ILO deal with labour issues. To suggest bringing [labour] into WTO deliberations ignores [the support of World employers, workers and governments to the ILO mandate]" says the IOE communiqué of last week.

"U.S. tables WTO labour working group proposal," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 3 November 1999; "U.S. formally seeks WTO working party on labour rights and trade," INSIDE US TRADE, 1 November 1999; "WTO's forward work programme: proposed establishment of a working group on trade and labour," WTO (WT/GC/W/382), 1 November 1999; "US proposes WTO working group on trade and labour," SUNS, 1 November 1999; "Teamsters Hoffa splits with AFL-CIO on Clinton WTO Plan," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 1 November 1999; "ACTPN letter on WTO," AFL-CIO, 28 October 1999; "ICFTU comments on preparations for the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation," ICFTU, November 1999; "Unions demand 'social clause' in world trade accords," IPS, 22 October 1999; "Keep trade Issues Clean," IOE Press Release, 3 November 1999.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS END WITH OPTIMISM TOWARD COP-6**

Officials from 166 countries met in Bonn 25 October - 5 November for the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-5). The meeting was part of the continuing negotiations toward implementing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol -- adopted in December 1997 but not yet in force, requires industrial nations to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The protocol allows countries to meet some of their reductions by purchasing unused greenhouse gas allowances from other industrialised nations. The Protocol also established a system for trading in greenhouse gases.

It was generally agreed by participants and observers that while COP-5 talks produced no major breakthroughs, it did end with an unexpected "mood of optimism" compared to previous Conference of Parties. There was some momentum behind a proposal made by Germany (at the urging of a number of non-governmental organisations) toward an early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002 in order to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit.

Greenpeace, a leading environmental group, welcomed the commitment to the 2002 ratification made by the EU, Japan, and New Zealand. "These commitments give the Kyoto protocol vital political momentum", according to a Greenpeace statement. The U.S. meanwhile said it would not ratify the accord without "meaningful participation" by developing countries toward limiting their emissions.



COP-5 was to address a number of issues under the so-called Buenos Aires Action Plan adopted at the last Conference of Parties (COP-4) in Buenos Aires in November 1998. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 2, No. 44, 16 November 1998.) Among the issues to be resolved were: 1) Financial mechanisms that will assist the developing world to respond to the demands of a changing climate; 2) Further work on mitigation policies and measures; 3) Development and transfer of technologies; 4) Rules governing the Kyoto Mechanisms with priority given to the Clean Development Mechanism; and 5) An undertaking to discuss supplementary, ceilings, long term convergence, and equity with respect to Kyoto mechanisms.

Regarding the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), developing countries stressed that individual countries are the best judges of their sustainable development needs. (The CDM would establish a concrete platform for emissions co-operation between developed and developing countries.) A number of developing countries proposed expanding the CDM to address the concept of emissions avoidance. For example, Bolivia proposed including forest protection initiatives under emissions avoidance. The African Group of countries stressed that projects addressing afforestation, reforestation and the preservation/reclamation of wetlands should be important components of the CDM project portfolio.

Regarding emissions trading, the issue of to what extent this mechanism could be used to meet emissions reduction goals will be taken up at the next Conference of Parties (COP-6), which will be held from 13-24 November 2000 in The Hague. Two rounds of preliminary meetings will be held in the interim, the first from 12-16 June 2000 and later from 11-15 September 2000.

"Summary of the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 8 November 1999; "Climate change: progress, but no breakthroughs, in Bonn," UN NEWSWIRE, 5 November 1999; "Momentum builds in Bonn climate talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 November 1999; "Moving forward on climate treaty," IPS, 19 October 1999; "All eyes on U.S. at global warming meet," REUTERS, 2 November 1999.

## **U.S. SENATE PASSES TRADE PACKAGE FOR AFRICA, CARIBBEAN**

The U.S. Senate on 3 November passed a trade bill that would, *inter alia*, improve access for goods from sub-Saharan African and Caribbean countries to the U.S. market. However, the Senate must still reconcile key provisions in the bill with the earlier House of Representatives' version. The key difference involves a provision under the Senate bill requiring African textiles and apparel to use U.S. fabric made from U.S. yarn if the products are to enjoy duty-free access to the U.S. market. The House bill does not carry this requirement.

The Senate approved an amendment to the African and Caribbean trade initiatives to ensure that imports enjoying preferential access to the U.S. under an expanded Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) have not been made with forced and indentured child labour in order to comply with the international Convention for the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour. However, the Senate rejected an amendment to the bill which would have linked trade benefits for Caribbean countries to their adherence to core labour standards; it also rejected an amendment to link trade benefits with agreements on labour and environment.

The sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean trade initiatives were passed as part of a larger trade bill addressing the U.S. position on agriculture in upcoming WTO talks. The proposed legislation advocates a total elimination of export subsidies worldwide and significant reform of domestic agriculture support programs that impact on international trade. The bill requires greater disciplines for state trading enterprises and restates the importance of basing national agricultural regulations on principles of sound science.

The Senate also approved an amendment that allows the U.S. Section 301 unfair trade practices law to be used against governments that rely on their state trading companies -- such as the Canadian Wheat Board -- to under-price sales in third countries in an attempt to gain market share.

"Senate approves trade bill with provision on trade retaliation," 5 November 1999; "Senate approves Africa, CBI parity bill," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY; "Etats-Unis: offensive commerciale en Afrique," LE FIGARO, 5 November 1999.

## **IN BRIEF**

Japan on 4 November announced a plan to increase duty-free access for developing countries' exports to the Japanese market. Japan extended this gesture in an effort to build support among hesitant developing countries toward a new round of global trade talks. Observers noted that the gesture would have no major impact on LDC exports to Japan since most goods already enjoy duty-free access. "Japan to expand zero-tariff goods for developing world," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 4 November 1999.

Developing countries intend to put access to lower cost HIV/AIDS drugs on the table at the WTO Ministerial at the end of November. Countries such as South Africa, Thailand and others dealing with large HIV/AIDS populations want to protect their rights to price control mechanisms under the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects on Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement). These mechanisms help ensure affordable access to HIV/AIDS treatments. Pharmaceutical firms fear that mechanisms such as compulsory licensing and parallel importing would lower world prices for HIV/AIDS treatments. "Developing nations see trade battle on HIV drugs," IPS, 27 October 1999.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

In an effort to ease EU-U.S. trade tensions, the EU will next month put forward a protocol for applying the precautionary principle in trade matters. The principle, often used in environmental policy, holds that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing action. In a trade sense, the principle could be employed to allow preventive measures -- such as an import ban -- to be used when scientific evidence is lacking. Application of the principle is at the heart of trade disputes between the EU and U.S. over hormone-treated beef and genetically modified organisms. The guidelines would aim to ensure the principle is applied in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, thus complying with world trade rules. "EU seeks to ease US trade friction," FINANCIAL TIMES, 1 November 1999.

The following non-governmental organisations will be included as part of government delegations at the Third WTO Ministerial in Seattle from 30 November-3 December: the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will be part of the Canadian delegation; Action Aid Kenya will be with Kenya's delegation; and representatives from Consumers International will join various country delegations, including the U.K. Other NGOs have already signed on to the delegations of U.K., Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 43, 1 November 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.01-11-99.htm> ). ICTSD Internal Files.

## **WTO MINISTERIAL EVENTS**

26 November, 19:00-22:00, Benaroya Seattle Symphony Hall, Seattle: THE MULTIPLE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION. Sponsored by the International Forum on Globalisation (IFG). This teach-in gives presentations on the big picture: economic globalisation's grave effects on nature, culture, workers, human rights, sovereignty, and democracy. Speakers include: Maude Barlow, Susan George, Martin Khor, and Vandana Shiva. For information contact: International Forum on Globalisation, 1555 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109, USA, tel: (1-415) 771-8094, fax: 771-1121, email: [ifg@ifg.org](mailto:ifg@ifg.org), web: <http://www.ifg.org>

27 November, 8:30-18:30, Benaroya Seattle Symphony Hall, Seattle: A DAY-LONG SERIES OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS. Sponsored by the International Forum on Globalisation (IFG). This teach-in presents focused panels on: Biotechnology; Global Finance/Investment; Effects on Forests, Rivers, Oceans; Labour Rights; Corporate Power; Agriculture and Food Safety; as well as a special panel on an alternative Citizens' Millennium Agenda. Speakers include: Herman Daly, Mark Ritchie, and David Suzuki. For information contact: International Forum on Globalisation, 1555 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109, USA, tel: (1-415) 771-8094, fax: 771-1121, email: [ifg@ifg.org](mailto:ifg@ifg.org), web: <http://www.ifg.org>

27 November, 20:00-23:00, Benaroya Seattle Symphony Hall, Seattle: SPECIAL EVENT: VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH. Sponsored by the International Forum on Globalisation (IFG). This teach-in provides a rare opportunity to hear a roundtable discussion featuring the most prominent voices of Third World opposition to the new instruments of re-colonisation: globalisation, the WTO and transnational corporations. Speakers include: Walden Bello, Martin Khor, Vandana Shiva and Owens Wiwa. For information contact: International Forum on Globalisation, 1555 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109, USA, tel: (1-415) 771-8094, fax: 771-1121, email: [ifg@ifg.org](mailto:ifg@ifg.org), web: <http://www.ifg.org>

29 November, Seattle : HUMAN CHAIN AROUND EXHIBITION CENTER. Sponsored by the Jubilee 2000 Northwest Coalition. This protest calls for the cancellation of debts owed by the poorest countries of the world by the end of the year 2000 and calls for the world's attention to the ordinary people of the Global South. For information contact Bronwyn, email : [bp042@scn.org](mailto:bp042@scn.org)

29 November, 8 :00-9 :30, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle: ENVIRONMENT IN THE WTO ROUND – SETTING THE AGENDA. Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study. This briefing is moderated by Daniel C. Esty (Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy). Speakers include Maritta von B. Koch-Weser (Director General, World Conservation Union/IUCN) and Gary Sampson (World Trade Organisation / United Nations University). For information contact Mark

Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404, USA, tel : (1-612) 870-3400, fax : 870-4846, email : [mritchie@iatp.org](mailto:mritchie@iatp.org), web <http://www.iatp.org>

30 November, Seattle: MOBILISATION - WILL YOU BE THERE? This People's Rally and March for Fair Trade is sponsored by the Sierra Club and many other environmental groups. Tens of thousands of people concerned about the environment, public health, labour, sovereignty, human rights, and more will march together to the Convention Centre. For information contact Kathleen Casey, email: [kathleen.casey@sierraclub.org](mailto:kathleen.casey@sierraclub.org)

30 November, 8 :00-9 :30, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle: ACHIEVING WIN-WIN OPPORTUNITIES. Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study. This briefing is moderated by Steve Charnovitz (Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering). Speakers include : Beatrice Chaytor (Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development), Christopher Stone (University of Southern California Law Center) and Michael Meacher. For information contact Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404, USA, tel : (1-612) 870-3400, fax : 870-4846, email : [mritchie@iatp.org](mailto:mritchie@iatp.org), web <http://www.iatp.org>

1 December, 8 :00-9 :30, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle: GMO'S, TURTLES AND TREES: CAN WE AVOID TRADE TENSIONS? Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study. This briefing is moderated by Mark Ritchie (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy). Speakers include Lakshman Guruswamy (University of Tulsa Law School) and Ronnie Hall (Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom). For information contact Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404, USA, tel : (1-612) 870-3400, fax : 870-4846, email : [mritchie@iatp.org](mailto:mritchie@iatp.org), web <http://www.iatp.org>

2 December, 8 :00-9 :30, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle: WTO TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE. Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study. This briefing is moderated by James Cameron (Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development). Speakers include Ambassador Tran van Thinh (former EU GATT Ambassador) and Peter Pedersen (World Trade Organisation). For information contact Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404, USA, tel : (1-612) 870-3400, fax : 870-4846, email : [mritchie@iatp.org](mailto:mritchie@iatp.org), web <http://www.iatp.org>

3 December, 8 :00-9 :30, Renaissance Hotel, Seattle: NEXT STEPS FROM SEATTLE. Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study. This briefing is moderated by James Cameron (Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development). Speakers include Victor Lichtinger (Especialistas Ambientales S.A. de C.V., Mexico City) and Simon Tay (National University of Singapore). For information contact Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2105 First Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404, USA, tel: (1-612) 870-3400, fax: 870-4846, email: [mritchie@iatp.org](mailto:mritchie@iatp.org), web: <http://www.iatp.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.doc>. 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.

19 November: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

22 November: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

25 November: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

**▪ OTHER EVENTS**

11-12 November, San Salvador, El Salvador: JURISDICTIONAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK FOR HANDLING URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This seminar is sponsored by the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center's Environmental Law Program. For information contact Eric Dannenmaier, tel: (1-202) 986-4264, email: [elpmsn@msn.com](mailto:elpmsn@msn.com), <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/>

16 November, Washington, D.C: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY-PRIVATE SECTOR ROUNDTABLE. The discussion will focus on the recently concluded Toronto Ministerial at which trade ministers discussed critical issues pertaining to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. Leading the discussion will be Jamal Khokhar, Counsellor of Trade, Embassy of Canada and Ambassador Ambler H. Moss, Jr., Director, Dante B. Fascell North-South Centre. For information contact Antonio Garrastazu, tel: (1-202) 986-4264, email: [agarrastaz@aol.com](mailto:agarrastaz@aol.com), web: <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/>

16 November, Seattle: WHAT IS THE WTO AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND JOBS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. This is the final meeting of the year for the Seattle group of the Sierra Club. Speakers will include Patti Goldman, Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, & Ron Judd, King County Labor Council. For information contact Kathleen Casey, Sierra Club, tel: (1-206) 378-0114 x 306, email: [kathleen.casey@sierraclub.org](mailto:kathleen.casey@sierraclub.org)

24-26 November, Tilburg, Netherlands: GLOBALISATION, ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY: BRIDGING WORLDS. Organised by the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and GLOBUS-Institute for Globalisation and Sustainable Development of Tilburg University, in co-operation with IUCN-World Conservation Union and The World Business Council for Sustainable Development. This is the follow-up to the fourth Pan-European Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe designed to integrate economy, ecology, and biodiversity. For information contact the ECNC, PO Box 1352, 5004 BJ Tilburg, The Netherlands, tel: (31-13) 466-3240, fax:

466-3250, email: [gee@ecnc.nl](mailto:gee@ecnc.nl), web: <http://www.ecnc.nl> or  
[http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/ecnc/meetings/ee\\_99/index.html](http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/ecnc/meetings/ee_99/index.html)

28 November - 2 December, Kampala, Uganda: AFRO BUSINESS TRADE FAIR, 1999. This 3rd Afro Business Trade fair will provide an opportunity for companies to establish business contacts in the East African markets. The fair is designed to promote direct links between traders and business people and to facilitate direct trade between companies in Sub-Saharan Africa and their counterparts around the world. For information see web: <http://www.africa-business.com>

29 November - 3 December, Beijing, China: ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. The parties will meet concerning the international treaty on ozone-depleting substances. For information contact the Secretariat, tel: (254-2) 62-1234, fax: 62-3601, email: [ozoneinfo@unep.org](mailto:ozoneinfo@unep.org), web: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/>

30 November, Washington, D.C.: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS ANNUAL MEETING. For information contact Dr. Warren T. Doolittle, ISTF, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, email: [istfiusf@gc.apc.org](mailto:istfiusf@gc.apc.org)

30 November - 1 December, Mozambique: SOUTHERN AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT. This 5th annual trade summit, organised by the International Herald Tribune, will provide opportunities for debate, discussion, informal meetings, and networking. Speakers include the presidents of Mozambique, Botswana, and Malawi, and the Prime Ministers of Mozambique and Namibia. For information contact International Herald Tribune, 40 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9TP, tel: (44 171) 510 5704, fax: 987 3463

## ▪ RESOURCES

LOADED AGAINST THE POOR: WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION. 1999. By Oxfam U.K. This position paper on the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle contains analysis and policy proposals on upfront commitments, market access, textiles and clothing, agriculture, intellectual property, GMOs, special and differential treatment, possible new issues on investment and labour, and institutional reform. 42pp. To order contact Anni Long, email: [along@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:along@oxfam.org.uk), web: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/wto2a.htm>

GREEN POLITICS - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS-1. 1999. By the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). This report examines environment-related conventions and institutions from the Southern perspective. It provides an analysis of the interaction of rich and poor countries in the history of global environmental governance. To order contact the Centre for Science and Environment, 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi- 110 062, tel: (91-11) 698-1110, fax: 698-5879, email: [webadmin@cseindia.org](mailto:webadmin@cseindia.org), web: <http://www.oneworld.org/cse/html/eyou/eyou41.htm>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS STORIES. 1999. By the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA/DSD). These success stories in implementing Agenda 21 have been collected from governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental actors. They are presented to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to help share positive experiences, encourage information about

sustainable development, and to show the level and extent of major groups' involvement in the areas of capacity building, education, freshwater management and industry. To order contact DESA/DSD, 2 UN Plaza, Room 2220, New York NY 10017, United States, fax: (1-212) 963-4260, email: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org), web: <http://www.un.org/esa/susdev>

TURNING POINT: THE END OF THE GROWTH PARADIGM. 1998. By Robert Ayres. This book distinguishes between the symptoms and causes of the economic malaise and analyses what it describes as the flawed basis for many deeply-held orthodoxies. It argues that only a fundamental restructuring of economic activity, with emphasis on services rather than goods, will lead to a sustainable future. 288pp. £15.95 ISBN 1 85383 439 4. To order contact Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London N19JN, United Kingdom, fax: (44-171) 278-1142, email: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk), web: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL WEB SITE FOR THE WTO MINISTERIAL IN SEATTLE. Maintained by the State Department's Office of International Information Programs. This site includes updated texts from administration officials, U.S. statements to the WTO, fact sheets, press releases, briefings, congressional statements, and reports as well as U.S. government links. To view visit : <http://www.usia.gov/wto/>

## **POSITION VACANCY**

The FOCUS ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH is seeking a Senior Associate for its Paradigms Programme. The Programme covers a wide range of issues and sub-programmes under the areas of trade & financial liberalisation, the state, market & civil society, security & conflict, and culture & globalisation. This position will be primarily focused on the first two areas. The candidate should have a strong background in political economy, preferably global political economy, versatility in covering a range of topics and countries, excellent writing and speaking skills, experience as an activist and campaigner, and in working with and building coalitions. An area of specialisation that could contribute to the deepening of our programme, especially an economics and/or finance background in the framework of political economy, is an asset. Candidates from Asia, Latin America and Africa are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must send a resume and examples of recent written material by 30 November to Nicola Bullard, Focus on the Global South, c/- CUSRI, Wisit Prachuabmoh Building, Chulalongkorn University, Phyathai Road, Bangkok, Thailand, 10330, fax: (66-2) 255-9976, email: [N.Bullard@focusweb.org](mailto:N.Bullard@focusweb.org). For general information contact [soontaree@focusweb.org](mailto:soontaree@focusweb.org) or [n.bullard@focusweb.org](mailto:n.bullard@focusweb.org)

**BRIDGES** Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) with support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). This issue has been researched at ICTSD by Joe DiMauro and Dara Edmonds; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Hugo Cameron, [hcameron@ictsd.ch](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41- 22) 917- 8492; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093. Excerpts from **BRIDGES** Weekly Trade News Digest© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

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