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GENERAL COUNCIL: STILL NO MOVEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION

WTO Members on 20 July met for a General Council (GC) Special Session on Implementation in an attempt to bridge some of the gaps that still remain between the different country positions on implementation issues. To advance this process, GC Chair Stuart Harbinson and WTO Director-General Mike Moore on 13 July had circulated a paper outlining so-called "do-able" implementation concerns. Many developing country Members at the 20 July meeting expressed their disappointment with the paper, saying

that it did not 'live up to expectations'. Few delegates, however, commented on its details, showing a general unwillingness to move on implementation issues.

The paper (JOB(01)/112), which is based on consultations related to a proposal submitted by a group of seven countries (G-7) at the 21 June informal GC meeting (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story2.htm>), lists a number of elements "intended to advance the effort to find broadly acceptable solutions, where possible, to outstanding implementation-related issues and concerns raised by Members". In his statement, Harbinson stressed that his paper was "not to be considered as an agreed or definitive text" and was "not an exhaustive list of elements".

Harbinson furthermore proposed eight elements for submission to the relevant WTO subsidiary bodies for further examination, which would report back to the GC by 30 September. However, despite assurances by Harbinson that referring some issues to the subsidiary bodies did not mean that they would be neglected or set aside, many developing countries appeared wary of his suggestion. In the end, only three of the eight elements (i.e. export credits; countervailing duties; and special and differential treatment provisions) did not meet with objections and will now be referred back to the subsidiary bodies. Also, responding to demands by many developing country Members to provide guidance on what is expected of the bodies, Harbinson agreed to hold consultations on the type of guidance later this week.

While Harbinson and Moore's paper provides more concessions to developing country Members than the proposal previously submitted by the Quad countries -- Canada, the EC, Japan, and the US (see BRIDGES, 17 July 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/17-07-01/story1.htm>) -- it is seen by many as a step back from the G-7 proposal, as it does not address some of the issues of primary interest to developing countries, namely anti-dumping, textiles and clothing, and trade-related investment measures (TRIMs). Many developing countries also expressed their disappointment that the paper did not address elements listed in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the G-7 proposal (such as agriculture TRQ administration, SPS equivalency agreements, TRIPs Article 27.3(b) implementation period, decision on net food-importing developing countries, and other TBT, TRIMs, and Anti-Dumping concerns).

Overall, Members showed willingness to discuss implementation concerns, but no results or suggestions were put forward, trade sources said. Many developing countries who had expected some concrete decisions to be taken at the 20 July Session voiced their frustration with the lack of progress in the consultations and the meeting. Some observers have suggested that only a crisis could move the implementation discussion forward, but others pointed out that a crisis could also come at the wrong time, referring in particular to the upcoming holiday period in August, which will make it difficult for work to proceed effectively. One observer stated that implementation is the "make or break" issue for Doha, speculating that developing countries would continue to keep it alive to enhance their bargaining position vis-à-vis the developed countries.

Many developing country Members are hoping for resolution of their implementation concerns before the Ministerial Conference in November in Doha, Qatar. However, sources indicate that a step-by-step implementation process is resisted by developed country Members, who perceive this approach as one that might not require reciprocal actions by developing countries who would benefit from implementation concessions.

Harbinson will report on progress in the implementation discussion at the informal GC stocktaking meeting on Ministerial preparations scheduled for 30 July. His report is expected to be rather critical, emphasising the lack of progress in the Ministerial preparation discussions despite almost daily informal meetings on this issue. WTO Members will also discuss papers by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat -- submitted at the 20 July meeting -- and the Like-Minded Group (including India, Malaysia and Egypt), which is expected to come out with a position paper later this week.

"WTO unveils draft list of 'do-able' elements of implementation agenda," DECCAN HERALD, 19 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

EU'S NEW STRATEGY ON LABOUR; EU-US DRAW CLOSER ON INVESTMENT

The European Commission on 18 July adopted a communication proposing a strategy to promote core labour standards and global social governance. However, the Commission warned in its paper that while it supports international efforts to secure minimum labour standards, the issue must not hamper the launch of a new WTO round. Also with a view to smoothing the way for a new round, EU Commissioner Pascal Lamy and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick met in Washington on 16-17 July in an attempt to bridge their differences on several issues concerning the agenda of multilateral trade negotiations. Rapprochement between the two trading partners was particularly clear in the area of investment, but Zoellick's position on including competition into the agenda also seemed somewhat softened, trade sources said after the meeting. The two sides however still remain far apart on issues such as agriculture and environment.

EU labour standards strategy

The EU labour strategy adopted last Wednesday proposes action at the European and international levels to support the effective application of core labour standards on a global scale. According to the EU, the developmental dimension of the strategy is essential, and aims to help developing countries apply core labour standards for social development.

But as the countdown begins to the November WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, the Commission cautioned against attempts to include labour standards in multilateral trade agreements and to enforce them through trade sanctions. "The greatest concern...is that a link between trade and social issues could be abused for protectionist purposes or open the door for increased recourse to trade sanctions," the paper warns. "A

rebalancing of the governance system should seek to strengthen global governance by taking its starting point in the International Labour Organization (ILO) mechanisms, not in the WTO." The communication also rejects using core labour standards to put into question the comparative advantage of low-wage developing countries.

The EU paper stresses the central role of the ILO, insisting it should remain the principal forum for discussing the issue (the mandate of the ILO's Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalisation was just expanded last month; see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story5.htm>).

The Commission also proposed the creation of a high-level international dialogue with the participation of the ILO and the WTO as well as development organisations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). During the WTO's Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999, the EU proposed the establishment of a joint ILO/WTO Standing Working Forum on Trade, Globalisation and Labour. This idea was opposed to at the time by several developing countries as well as by the US, albeit for different reasons (see BRIDGES Daily Update on the Third Ministerial Conference, 30 November 1999, http://www.ictsd.org/wto_daily/index.htm).

At the European level, the strategy suggests integrating core labour standards in its development policy and strengthening capacity in developing countries to apply such standards. In this regard, the Commission wants to strengthen the link in the EU's trade relations between preferential access to the EU market and the guarantee of labour standards in developing countries.

EU-US rapprochement on issues for the new round agenda

After a two-day meeting held in the beginning of last week, the US and the EU said on 17 July they had made significant progress in agreeing to the agenda for a new round of world trade talks. While the US displayed new openness on issues such as investment and competition, significant differences remain on both sides regarding, inter alia, agriculture and environment. Developing countries' implementation demands were also addressed.

Investment & competition

Despite intense senior staff-level negotiations in the lead-up to the Zoellick-Lamy meeting, the list of common agenda items they announced at the end of their talks seemed to add little to what had been announced already during last month's senior officials' meeting in Geneva, Switzerland (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story3.htm>). However, regarding investment, the US no more opposes having the WTO consider the issue provided there is widespread support among other Members. "The US...will not stand in the way of a clearly defined and sensible negotiating approach on investment that garners widespread support among the other Members and interested parties -- although we will not take on the role of an advocate," Zoellick said at a press conference on 17 July. In former discussions, the US

had been very sceptical of the merits of including investment rules in the WTO (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 June 2001, <http://ictsd.org/html/weekly/06-06-01/story1.htm>).

On competition, the US stance now also seems somewhat more flexible. According to Zoellick, his country "sees merit" in including core competition principles into the negotiating agenda, such as transparency, non-discrimination and procedural fairness.

Major areas of dissent: agriculture & environment

The two sides made little progress on agriculture, where the US wants broad talks on reducing trade-distorting subsidies, whereas the EU favours a narrow negotiating agenda. According to Zoellick, there is a need to send a clear signal to developing countries that a broad set of agriculture support schemes would be on the table in a new round. Many developing country WTO Members argue that their agriculture exports suffer from what they see as excessive subsidisation of European agricultural production.

The EU and the US also remain far apart on the issue of the environment, where Lamy insisted that the EU must have some clarification so that WTO rules would not affect national environmental standards. In reaction, Zoellick reiterated that this could lead to disguised protectionism. The EU also wants to introduce the precautionary principle into the WTO agreements, which among others effects could allow countries to block imports of bio-engineered farm products perceived as posing a possible threat to their citizens and plants, even in the presence of uncertain science. The US, which maintains significant export interests in GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), is opposed to such an approach.

Implementation

The two trade negotiators said they would in coming weeks discuss how to meet developing countries' implementation demands (see related story, this issue). These discussions will be based on a paper prepared by WTO Director-General Mike Moore and General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson. Zoellick said they would work with developing countries to move beyond the current impasse on implementation, "including through negotiations, where appropriate." He also stressed that Moore and Harbinson needed to play a key role in putting together an implementation package, and that the EU and the US must provide funds to international aid organisations to help developing countries participate in multilateral trade negotiations.

"US shifts on investment but fails to bridge key gaps with EU on WTO," INSIDE US TRADE, 20 July 2001; "Lamy upbeat on trade talks," FT, 18 July 2001; "The European Commission adopts strategy to promote core labour standards and social governance globally," EU DG1 PRESS RELEASE, 18 July 2001; "EU warns on new trade round," FT, 17 July 2001.

G-8 LEADERS SUPPORT NEW ROUND AMID VIOLENCE

Leaders from Group of Seven major industrialised countries plus Russia (G-8) met in Genoa, Italy from 20-22 July for their annual informal summit. In their final statement, the leaders asserted their determination to "make globalisation work for all our citizens and especially the world's poor". Against a backdrop of anti-globalisation protests, the G-8 maintained that, "the most effective poverty reduction strategy is to maintain a strong, dynamic, open and growing global economy [emphasis added]." Their final statement endorsed the launch of an ambitious new round of global trade talks with a balanced agenda at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha this November. The G-8 confirmed their pledge made at the May 2001 Third UN Conference on Least-developed Countries (LDCs) to work towards duty-and quota-free access for all products originating in LDCs supplemented by further assistance to LDCs.

"Lasting legacy": cooperation for African development plan

A special session with leaders from South Africa, Mali, Bangladesh, Nigeria, El Salvador, the World Bank, the WTO, the World Health Organisation, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was sponsored by the Italian government, which chaired the G-8 meeting. South African President Thabo Mbeki and other African leaders presented the New African Initiative (NAI) -- a development plan to place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development -- and appealed for the G-8's backing of the plan. (See *BRIDGES Weekly*, 10 July 2001, www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/10-07-01/story5.htm). Described as the "lasting legacy" of the summit by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, an agreement was reached for the G-8 to establish a working party consisting of representatives of eight to ten African countries and nominated officials from the G-8 to develop a concrete plan for Africa's implementation of the NAI by the next G-8 Summit in June 2002. According to President Mbeki's office, the joint mechanism would also include representatives from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the UN. However, the G8's efforts to assist Africa met with scepticism from many African press sources, which criticised the G-8 of making "appropriate noises about poverty", saying that the that G-8 leaders "promise a mountain but habitually deliver a molehill".

Health and TRIPS remains muddy

The G-8's professed outcomes were questioned on several fronts. Leaders committed to a new global health fund with the UN to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for the sum of \$US 1.3bn, which was criticised as inadequate "chicken feed" by campaigners. The G-8 failed to resolve the tricky issue related to health and the WTO's Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regime. The summit's final statement merely stated the two opposing sides: the EU position supporting that provisions in TRIPs can be used to override patent rights and deliver drugs to those who cannot afford them, and the US' position of commitment to strong and effective

intellectual property rights protection as a necessary incentive for research and development of life-saving drugs.

Debt relief and environmental protection

The G8 summit was criticised by Drop the Debt, a campaign for debt relief, for making no real progress in debt relief to poor countries by merely reiterating their desire to get more eligible countries through the existing process. During the summit, Drop the Debt advised their members not to join the mass march through Genoa on 21 July in view of the escalating violence on the street.

Regarding climate change, the G8 in their final statement "firmly agree on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions", but also acknowledged that "there is currently disagreement on the Kyoto Protocol [on climate change] and its ramifications", indirectly referring to the continued US opposition to the Protocol (see related story, this issue).

While the G-8 had agreed in last year's summit in Okinawa to develop common environmental guidelines for export credit agencies, this goal was not reached in Genoa. Instead, the G-8 committed themselves to reach such an agreement in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by the end of this year. The US is keen to establish a common standard because its own environmental tests before lending causes a competitive disadvantage for the US Export-Import Bank and domestic companies while countries such as Germany have resisted such a common standard despite calls for more stringent rules or adoption of existing World Bank standards.

Smaller venue for next year

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that the next G8 summit would be held on 26-28 June in Kananaskis provincial park area in Alberta, Canada, 60km from Calgary. He also indicated that next year's summit would be smaller and more informal.

The G-8 is made up of leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the US, and Russia.

The final summit communique is available at: http://www.genoa-g8.it/eng/attualita/primo_piano/primo_piano_13.html.

"G8: few outcomes and many hopes. See you in Canada," SUMMIT COVERAGE, 22 July 2001; "G7 lends support for trade talks," TAIPEI TIMES, 22 July 2001; "G8 supports New Africa Initiative," IAFRICA.COM, 23 Jul 2001; "Shadow Ministers Prod G8 to Give Poor a Voice," IHT, 19 July 2001; "Blair backs need for summits." BBC ONLINE, 22 July 2001; "Africa presents its big idea," BBC ONLINE, 22 July 2001. "G8 commits to 'Plan for Africa,'" SUMMIT COVERAGE, 22 July 2001; "African press accuses G8 of 'hypocrisy'," BBC ONLINE, 23 July 2001; "Disdain at G8's claims of advances at summit," FT, 22 July 2001; "G8 defensive as summit ends," BBC ONLINE, 22 July 2001; "Drop the Debt campaign becomes victim of G8 violence," FT, 21 July

2001; "What the G8 leaders have achieved," THE INDEPENDENT, 23 July 2001; "Chretien announces next year's G-8 summit to be in Kananaskis, Alta," CANADIAN PRESS, 22 July 2001; "Group of Eight pledge climate change action," ENS, 23 July 2001.

WTO GENERAL COUNCIL MEETS ON DOCUMENT DE-RESTRICTION, OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting on 18 July for a formal meeting of the General Council (GC), WTO Members addressed a range of recurring procedural elements, including document de-restriction, review of the dispute settlement understanding, technical cooperation, and organisational matters around the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November.

Document de-restriction

Deputy Director-General Miguel Rodríguez Mendoza, who is leading consultations at the WTO on de-restriction of documents, presented a report on his progress so far on the review of procedures for circulation and de-restriction of official WTO papers. A draft decision on de-restriction that advocates immediate de-restriction of WTO documents has been in the works for the past two months (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/15-05-01/story1.htm>). Country sources indicate that, while some Members maintain concerns over the proposal, most delegations are willing to do away with the current de-restriction process, which a number of Members perceive as cumbersome and complicated.

At present, WTO documents are automatically de-restricted after six months unless Members request otherwise, though many WTO bodies already release documents immediately, provided delegations do not object. Agriculture and services negotiating proposals are already issued unrestricted, as are all dispute settlement panel and Appellate Body reports. Minutes of WTO meetings prepared by the Secretariat are usually not released until they are translated into the three official WTO languages -- English, French and Spanish -- which sources say can create de-restriction bottlenecks.

The US, the EC, Japan and Canada -- as well as a number of developing countries -- have expressed their support for the draft decision. However, some countries at the GC pointed out that they maintained reservations over this issue.

Bulgaria supported the effort to simplify the process, but said that documents should go to governments first, and be translated into the WTO's three official languages, before being released to the public. The Bulgarian delegate also cautioned that faster de-restriction could be negative if it led to the proliferation of so-called JOB documents, which are non-formal papers that are not subject to the same transparency conditions as official WTO documents. India said that it would like to have a time limit of no more than two weeks for issuing meeting minutes. As in the case of the timely translation of documents, however, the proliferation of meetings and the increasing scrutiny of the minutes by Members as negotiations intensify are reported to be straining the capacities

of some operational divisions of the Secretariat to deliver such reports in a timely manner.

Chair Harbinson indicated that Doha could be a good time for Members to take a decision on this issue. DDG Mendoza said that further consultations would continue. The draft de-restriction paper is expected for the next GC, currently scheduled for 10 October.

DSU review

The group of countries known informally as "Friends of the DSU Review" submitted once again their proposal to amend certain provisions of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (see WT/GC/W/410 and Add.1, 2 and 3, and BRIDGES Weekly, 15 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/15-05-01/story1.htm>). The US, which is not a co-sponsor, feels the proposal does not go far enough in addressing external transparency, and wants provisions on amicus briefs and opening the panel process to public observers included. Other countries feel that the dispute settlement process does not need to be changed. Sources indicate that this issue will continue to be discussed both at and after Doha, as Members recognised at the GC that more work needs to be done on DSU review before agreement is reached.

Doha business

Members also addressed the selection of Vice-Chairs for Doha. Three vice-chairs will be selected to convene the plenary sessions of trade ministers. To reflect regional balance, Members agreed that one would be selected from Europe, one from Africa, and one from Latin America. No individual Vice-Chairs were chosen, but Harbinson indicated that consultations would continue on this matter.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore notified Members that the Secretariat needed to find out by 30 July how many from each delegation would be attending the Doha Ministerial. Space in the Qatari capital is limited to 4400 places for delegations, journalists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). 650 requests for NGO accreditation have been received by the Secretariat, which has indicated that it will be sending out registration forms by 10 August.

Finally, the GC agreed to the establishment of working parties on the accession of The Bahamas and Tajikistan; Iran's accession request was rejected by the US. The GC will revert to Iran's request at the next GC meeting in October.

ICTSD Internal Files.

LAST STEPS ON ROAD TO CHINESE WTO ACCESSION

On 20 July, delegates of China's Accession Working Party met anew with the purpose of ironing out the last two unsettled stumbling blocks on services and tariff rate quotas.

As a result of the meeting, the Working Party report and China's accession protocol have been drafted. The only part of the agreements still under discussion is a single sentence covering the extension, or 'grandfathering' of rights for foreign insurers already established in China (see BRIDGES Weekly, 10 July 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/10-07-01/story4.htm>).

According to sources, talks will resume on 10 September for the 18th session of the Working Party in order to formally endorse the accession package composed of the Working Party report, the accession protocol, and market access schedules for goods and services.

By that time, draft versions of the market access schedules will be circulated throughout the delegations and the WTO Secretariat will be notified about any technical corrections that need to be made in the schedules, which run to almost 1,000 pages.

Final hurdles remain over insurance

The last sticking point for negotiators to address is how to reconcile different demands for insurance services, chiefly from the EU and the US. According to the 1999 US-China bilateral agreement, China will allow 100 percent foreign ownership in non-life insurance sector shortly after accession. However, Beijing has insisted on its right to maintain a 50 percent foreign ownership cap on life ventures, as agreed previously with the EU.

Among the established foreign insurers in China, US-based American International Group (AIG) is the only one to be wholly owned by foreign investors, whereas the other companies operating in the Chinese market (primarily European) are at most 51 percent owned joint ventures.

According to the 'grandfathering' rule, arrangements concerning the present ownership structure of insurance companies would be kept upon accession. The US, however, is seeking to insert a sentence in the draft Working Party report stating that a branch or sub-branch should not be considered as a separate legal entity and therefore concessions granted through grandfathering should be extended to future branches as well. This would mean that AIG could expand its business in the life insurance sector without holding to the 50 percent cap in place for the other companies. The EC is firmly opposing such provisions, arguing that any 100 percent ownership granted to AIG must also be given to other insurers, in line with the WTO's most favoured nation (MFN) principle.

Commenting on the EU-US divergence, China's chief trade negotiator Long Yongtu commented, "I don't know whether a single company should get involved with this kind of government-to-government negotiation." Long told reporters that he does not "believe the government (should work) for one single company."

During the accession process, China has finalised bilateral agreements with all those WTO Members that have sought one (thus far, nearly 40 bilateral trade deals have been finalised).

The concessions on specific terms of accession, such as those to which China committed in its bilateral talks with US over access to Article 6.4 (b) of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 29 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/29-05-01/story5.htm>), are made applicable to the rest of the WTO Membership by the Working Party and incorporated into the draft membership treaty ("protocol of accession").

The Working Party holds plurilateral talks focusing on the remaining unsettled issues; countries particularly concerned with the matter constitute each plurilateral group. During the 4 July China Working Party session, for instance, the various plurilateral groups drafted texts on: application of antidumping and countervailing measures; industrial policy, including subsidies; judicial review, uniform administration and transparency; the application of product-specific safeguards and textiles; quantitative import restrictions, including prohibitions and quotas; China's sanitary and phytosanitary measures; trade related aspects of intellectual property rights; technical barriers to trade; trading rights; and a transitional review mechanism (see BRIDGES Weekly, 10 July, 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/10-07-01/story4.htm>).

"The Organisation: Membership, Alliances and Bureaucracy," TRADING INTO THE FUTURE, WTO, 1998; "Insurance Issue Remains Last Hurdle To China's Accession to WTO Membership," WTO REPORTER, Monday, 23 July 2001; "China's accession to the WTO and its relationship to the Chinese Taipei accession and to Hong Kong and Macau, China," WTO SECRETARIAT, March 2001; [see http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/status_e.htm]; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS PLOW THROUGH EXPORT SUBSIDIES

From 23-27 July, the WTO Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture will continue informal deliberations on issues related to export competition and food security in world agricultural trade. Specific topics to be addressed by the special session include: export subsidies, export credits, state trading enterprises, export restrictions, food security and food safety (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/29-05-01/story2.htm>). During its first day of deliberations, non-papers were received from the Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting countries, Switzerland, Japan, and a small group of developing countries. In the next edition, BRIDGES Weekly will report on the outcome of the Special Session, which observers speculate will end prematurely on 25 July.

Deliberations on export subsidies scant on substance

According to trade officials, the first day of deliberations added scant new substance to the existing agriculture debate at the WTO. For its part, the Cairns Group submitted a non-paper to the Special Session on the topic of export subsidies. In it the Cairns Group

reiterated a position clearly articulated in its 23 February 2001 negotiating proposal on export competition (G/AG/NG/W/11, available online at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>), notably an immediate 50 percent reduction in export subsidy use. But the paper adds further clarification on the implementation time frame for export subsidy reductions. It asserts that elimination of remaining export subsidies must be achieved within three years for developed countries, and within six years for developing countries.

A similar non-paper was also received by a group of developing countries -- Nicaragua, Venezuela, Panama, Peru and Zimbabwe -- which called not for an immediate down-payment in export subsidy reductions, but rather for gradual reductions with complete elimination by 2006. The paper also proposed that developing countries should be given longer time periods to eliminate export subsidies without specifying an exact date.

Also submitted to the session was a non-paper by Switzerland. In it Switzerland proposed that more flexibility be permitted in export subsidy reductions. In particular, Switzerland argued that countries should be allowed to offset deep cuts on certain product lines with more moderate cuts for other products. The Swiss proposal also suggested raising some subsidies. In response, members of the Cairns Group opposed the idea of flexible export subsidy reductions, noting that in the past this type of flexibility had been used to protect sensitive product lines while liberalising commodities of minor consequence.

Japan also submitted a non-paper on export subsidies, arguing that import disciplines should be balanced symmetrically with export disciplines. The Japanese paper posits that disciplines on the export side are not as rigorous as on the import side and should therefore be commensurately strengthened. In particular it calls for the abolition of Article 9.2 of the AoA -- which permits the roll-over of unused subsidies to subsequent years -- and favours disciplines on export subsidies on a unit value basis as opposed to an aggregate basis.

For related agriculture developments at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) -- on enhancing the production and export capacities of developing countries of agriculture and food products -- see In Brief, this issue.

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CLIMATE CHANGE DEAL REACHED AT RESUMED COP-6

After several days of marathon negotiations, delegates at the Resumed Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-6bis) in Bonn, Germany, finally clinched a deal on the implementation arrangements for the Kyoto Protocol. Environmental groups cautiously welcomed the agreement, but also emphasised that much remained to be done to combat global warming.

Compliance proved major sticking point

Delegates began their two-week negotiations on 16 July in an effort to resolve the differences that led to the failure of the last round of talks in November 2000, including the use of carbon sinks (such as forests) to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets; supplementarity (i.e. to what extent countries can reach their emissions targets using the Kyoto mechanisms); compliance; and funding (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 29 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.28-11-00.htm>). The final text outlining core elements of the Kyoto Protocol -- the international treaty designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent by 2012 -- was largely based on a proposal presented by COP-6 Chair and Dutch Environment Minister Jan Pronk on Saturday (available at http://www.unfccc.int/cop6_2/index.html).

Regarding carbon sinks (land use, land use changes and forestry - LULUCF), countries agreed to allow their use to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets during the first commitment period (2008-2012), though individual country quotas will be set, thereby ensuring that they will only account for a fraction of the emissions reductions. Delegates also adopted rules for the 'Kyoto mechanisms' (i.e. Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading) with an emphasis on domestic action as a "significant element" of industrialised countries' efforts to meet their targets. Countries furthermore agreed to establish a special climate change fund and a fund for Least-developed Countries under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and a Kyoto Protocol Adaptation fund to finance concrete adaptation projects.

Compliance turned out to be the most contentious issue, largely due to concerns by Japan, whose participation had become crucial after the US refusal to ratify the Protocol (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 27 March 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/27-03-01/story3.htm>). In the end, delegates agreed on a regime that will both facilitate and enforce compliance, and will reduce allowed emissions for non-compliant countries in the second commitment period. Further details of the compliance regime will be developed once the Protocol enters into force. "Japan is pleased to join in the consensus," Japan's Environment Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said. "Today's agreement is a vital step forward in [bringing] into force the Kyoto Protocol."

Positive and cautious reactions

Delegates greeted the final agreement with standing ovations. "We have rescued the Kyoto Protocol", said EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström. "We were capable of showing the US and our citizens and the NGOs that we could come to an agreement without the US." Despite playing only a marginal role in the complicated negotiations, the G-77/China group of developing countries welcomed the agreement as an "honourable deal" that represented a historic achievement and "the triumph of multilateral negotiations over unilateralism." For its part, the US continued to oppose the accord. According to US chief negotiator Paula Dobriansky, the fact that the US did not seek to block consensus in Bonn did not change the country's position that the Protocol was "not sound policy".

Environmental groups generally welcomed the deal -- dubbed 'Kyoto-Lite' by Greenpeace -- as a starting point for action on climate change, but also cautioned against complacency. "The Kyoto Protocol can and should be the spark that sets off the coming green revolution, leading to a world where the energy we use is both clean and renewable," Greenpeace said in a press release. While stressing that the Protocol had been "heavily diluted" and its potential effect "massively eroded", Kate Hampton from Friends of the Earth still regarded it as "triumph for citizens all over the world" and a "political disaster" for US President George W. Bush "who with the arrogance of power thought that his decision to renege on Kyoto would be enough to kill it".

Delegates at COP-6bis will continue this week to work out the remaining legal and technical points in the text. Agreement at this stage means that the Protocol might still enter into force before the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10) in September 2002. To enter into force and become legally binding, the Protocol must be ratified by at least 55 Parties to the UNFCCC, including industrialised countries representing at least 55 percent of the total 1990 carbon dioxide emissions from this group. So far, 36 countries have ratified the Protocol, with Romania being the only industrialised country to do so.

For daily coverage of COP-6bis, see IISD Linkages at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop6bis/>.

ENB, Vol. 12, No. 127; "Japan scores in Kyoto compromise play," REUTERS, 24 July 2001; "Climate deal reached in Bonn," ENS, 23 July 2001; "World clinches climate deal, US isolated," REUTERS, 24 July 2001; "Kyoto still afloat, but it's taken on water," FOE, 23 July 2001; "Agreement at Climate Talks - Now the hard work begins," GREENPEACE, 23 July 2001; "Governments adopt Bonn agreement on Kyoto Protocol rules," UNFCCC, 23 July 2001.

IN BRIEF

CARIBBEAN BANANA INDUSTRY FACES RESTRUCTURING. In anticipation of changes to the European banana import regime, Caribbean banana exporters have begun streamlining the banana industry to accommodate possible reduced banana import volumes to the EU. Sources indicate that the restructuring will permit more direct contact between the banana producers and export companies, while also directing aid towards productive farmers and establishing new quality guidelines and supply commitments. According to Ralph Gonzales, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the plan will be fully operationalised by January 2002. Gonzales also said that the EU and Caribbean countries are presently negotiating a financing arrangement to enable the restructuring. At present, it is unknown how much financial assistance will be provided by the EU. "East Caribbean Banana Industry To Have More Streamlined System," DOW JONES, 18 July 2001.

UNCTAD CULTIVATES SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND TRADE. From 16-18 July, the UN Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) convened an expert meeting on ways to enhance the production and export capacities of developing countries of agriculture and food products. The meeting was in response to persistent market access impediments that developing countries face when exporting agricultural commodities to developed country markets. In particular, it emphasised that developing country agriculture producers stand a great deal to gain by enhancing sustainable and organic agriculture production in order to take advantage of shifting consumer preferences in developed country markets. A consistent theme was that since 1970 developing and Least- developed Country world market share for agricultural commodities has been declining. One message that emerged from the meeting was that enhancing quality agriculture production would help reverse this decline. ICTSD Internal Files.

SOUTH-SOUTH SEMINAR DISCUSSES LDC INTEGRATION IN TRADE SYSTEM. Convening from 14-15 July in Nepal, 30 representatives from civil society, government, and the private sector met to discuss country specific problems faced by Least-developed Countries (LDCs) in both South Asia and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The meeting was organised by Kathmandu-based South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) in cooperation with Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS). While the meeting was intended to address strategies for better integrating LDCs into the multilateral trading system, many of the participants expressed their concern that poverty in LDCs limits effective participation in the multilateral trading system, and were sceptical of both the EUs Everything But Arms initiative and the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance sponsored by the WTO, IMF, World Bank, UNDP, ITC, and UNCTAD. In the end, it was recommended, inter alia, that LDCs should be granted preferential market access; that special and different treatment should be made binding at the WTO; and that LDCs acceding to the WTO should be given 'fast track' accession. ICTSD Internal Files.

FAO TALKS FOOD SECURITY WITH WTO MEMBERS. As part of its programme to assist the on-going process of negotiations on agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held a Roundtable in Geneva on Friday 20 July on Food Security in the Context of the WTO Negotiations on Agriculture. The specific theme of the Roundtable was how to reconcile priorities for food security and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The participants in this informal roundtable were mainly country negotiators in the WTO. Some specific proposals were considered on the type of flexibility that would enable food-insecure developing countries to pursue more effectively their food and agricultural policies. The background documents are available from the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva (FAO-LOGE@fao.org). ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO IN BRIEF

ADVISORY CENTRE ON WTO LAW FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SET UP IN GENEVA. Under the leadership of Frieder Roessler, former Head of Legal Affairs at the WTO, developing country Members to the WTO now have recourse to a new centre for

international trade designed to facilitate their participation in the multilateral trade system. Announced on 17 July, the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, located in Geneva, will provide developing countries with legal advice and training on WTO law with a special emphasis on dispute settlement matters. The centre was established in response to concerns from developing countries that they lacked sufficient resources to maximise the benefits of the multilateral trade system. Thus far, the centre has received \$US 12 million in financing from eight European countries and Canada. Further contributions are expected over the next four years. The Netherlands, Norway and Ireland have each contributed \$US 2.25 million to the centre. Contributions from the US have at present not been forthcoming. "Law Centre Opens To Help Poorer Countries In WTO," REUTERS, 19 July 2001.

LDC TRADE MINISTERS MEET IN ZANZIBAR. Officials from the world's 49 Least-developed Countries (LDCs) gathered from 22-23 July in Zanzibar, Tanzania to begin developing a common strategy in the lead-up to the WTO Doha Ministerial Conference. During the session, trade officials expressed their concern that LDCs were being forced to open their economies while developed countries had failed to offer LDCs reciprocal market access. In a draft declaration to be signed on 24 July, the LDCs are expected to call on developed countries to recognise the structural trade difficulties faced by LDCs, and will seek binding support for improved market access through simplified rules of origin and assistance for capacity building. As BRIDGES Weekly went to press, the ministerial meeting was still in progress. BRIDGES Weekly will report on the outcome of the ministerial meeting in more detail in the next edition. "WTO assures poorest countries of commitment," AFP, 23 July 2001; "Poor Nations Talk Trade in Tanzania," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 22 July 2001.

CAMBODIA PREPARES FOR WTO ACCESSION. On 19 July, the Cambodian government made public its legislative framework for joining the WTO, covering areas of domestic regulation including competition policy, patents and copyright as well as establishing a domestic commercial court. According to Cham Prasith, Cambodian Commerce Minister, "Cambodia needs to strongly to join the WTO. If we don't join then we will die in the coming five years, we will lose a lot, foreign investors will leave." Prasith also recognised that tariff reductions in neighbouring countries would place Cambodian exporters at a regional comparative disadvantage. While the Cambodian government hopes to accede to the WTO by the end of 2002, as a Least-developed Country it will not be required to fully implement the WTO agreements until 2005. In 1999, Cambodia's Gross Domestic Product was approximately \$US 8.2 billion, of which agriculture and services comprised 43 percent and 27 percent respectively. "Cambodia Unveils Legislative Framework For WTO Membership," AFP 19 July 2001.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>.

Coming Up This Week

16-27 July, Bonn, Germany: RESUMED COP-6/14 SESSIONS OF THE UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. Key issues that must still be resolved at the resumed talks include a package of financial support and technology transfer to help developing countries contribute to global action on climate change, including measures for adapting to climate change impacts; the establishment of an international emissions trading system and a "clean development mechanism"; the extent to which targets should be achieved through domestic action (vs. emissions trading and CDM); the rules for counting emissions reductions from carbon "sinks" such as forests and farmland; and a compliance regime. For further information contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn; tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815- 1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.int; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

23-24 July, Brussels, Belgium: EU AGRICULTURE COUNCIL MEETING. For further information visit: <http://www.eu2001.be/Main/Frameset.asp?reference=01-01&lang=en&sess=86382502&>.

23-24 July, Washington, USA: Seminar "Leveraging Trade and Global Market Integration for Poverty Reduction" on Agricultural Trade for Developing Countries. The Agricultural Trade Project for WTO Capacity Building for Developing Countries will be holding a seminar bringing together a wide audience of practitioners, academics, government representatives, and international organisations to discuss the issues related to developing countries and the next round of agricultural negotiations in the WTO. For further information contact: Ms. Sandra L. Chao; tel: (1-202) 458-7399; fax: 522-1142; email: schao1@worldbank.org; Internet: <http://www.worldbank.org/agtrade>.

23-25 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON ENERGY SERVICES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE": DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS. The discussions will be aimed at assisting UNCTAD member States to have a better understanding of trade in energy services and its impact on development. The Expert Meeting will consider the topic under two dimensions: (i) the development dimension, by analysing how the strengthening of the energy services sector can contribute to better and larger access to energy in developing countries; (ii) the trade dimension, by focusing on how to increase developing country participation in the globalising international markets for energy services. For further information contact: Simonetta Zarrilli, UNCTAD, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 907-5622 or 907-5870; fax: 907-0044; email: Simonetta.Zarrilli@unctad.org.

23-27 July, London, UK: 53RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION. For further information, contact: IWC, UK; tel: (44- 1223) 233-971; fax: 232-876; email: iwc@iwcoffice.org; Internet: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/iwcoffice/2001_meeting.htm.

24-25 July, Zanzibar, Tanzania: LDC TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING. Trade Ministers from about 30 Least-developed Countries (LDCs) will meet to work out a common position for the forthcoming WTO Ministerial in Doha, Qatar. For further information contact: the Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the UN, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 731-8920; fax: 732-8255.

30 July - 3 August, Hanoi, Viet Nam: 17TH MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE. For further information visit the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species website at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/AC17.shtml>.

Tuesday 31 July 2001, 16:00, WTO building, Rue de Lausanne 154, Room C: Informal meeting of the General Council on the state of play in the Doha preparations ("stocktaking exercise") on 30 and 31 July 2001. For further information contact: Bernie Kuiten, WTO External Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5676.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/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 the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland. For further information on WTO events contact: WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

PLEASE NOTE: AS OF PRESS TIME (24 JULY) THERE ARE NO FORMAL WTO MEETINGS SCHEDULED BETWEEN 27 JULY AND 10 SEPTEMBER.

23-27 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. On the discussion agenda are technical aspects related to: export subsidies, export credits, state trading enterprises, export restrictions, food security and food safety. NGO Briefing: see 30 July.

24 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. On this meeting's agenda is inter alia: status report by the EC on the implementation of the banana regime; request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel by India on US anti-dumping and countervailing measures on steel plate; request for the establishment of a panel by Peru in EC - Trade Description of Sardines; request by Australia, Brazil, Chile, the EC, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Thailand to set up a panel on the US

Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act 2000 ("Byrd amendment"); and report of the compliance panel in US - Import Prohibition of Certain Shrimp and Shrimp Products.

25 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL TRIPs COUNCIL.

27 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS -- SESSION ON TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES (TRIMs).

27 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES COMMITTEE -- SPECIAL SESSION.

30 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NGO BRIEFING ON THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (23-27 JULY). For further information contact: Bernard Kuiten; tel (41-22) 739-5676; email: Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/ngo_e/briefs_e.htm.

Tuesday 31 July 2001, 1600, WTO building, Rue de Lausanne 154, Room C: Informal meeting of the General Council on the state of play in the Doha preparations ("stocktaking exercise") on 30 and 31 July 2001. For further information contact: Bernie Kuiten, WTO External Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5676.

Other Forthcoming Events

7 August, Santiago, Chile: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION, GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT. Organised by CLAES (Latin American Center for Social Ecology) and the Alberto Hurtado University. Experts from Latin America will discuss the regional integration process (particularly Mercosur and the Andean Pact) with the globalisation processes, and their implications for sustainable development. Keynote speakers will include Jorge Larrain (Universidad Hurtado and University of Birmingham), Guillermo Gutierrez (ICEPH, Argentina), Gerardo Honty (CEUTA, Uruguay), Roberto Guimaraes (ECLAC, Chile), Eduardo Gudynas (CLAES, Uruguay), and Alicia Barcena (ECLAC, Chile). Participation is free but requires registration; contact for further information and submission of papers: Eduardo Gudynas, CLAES, claes@adinet.com.uy.

6-8 August, Santiago, Chile: WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL BUILDING. Organised by CLAES (Latin American Center Social Ecology), RENACE (Chilenean Environmental Network), ACJR (Chilean Alliance for Just and Responsible Trade), Alberto Hurtado University, and the Center of Analysis of Public Policies of the University of Chile. The workshop is directed to grassroots organisations, labour unions, and NGOs interested on the relationships of trade, integration and sustainable development. Participation is free; registration and further information with Fabián Pressaco, Universidad A. Hurtado, fpressac@uahurtado.cl. The workshop is part of the series of meetings of the Sustainable South 2025 initiative. For further information visit: <http://www.ambiental.net/sustentable2025>.

10-11 August, Temuco, Chile: WORKSHOPS ON INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES. Organised by CLAES (Latin American Center Social Ecology) and GEDES (Gestion y Desarrollo). The workshop will analyse sustainable development options under integration processes, focussing on the situation on local and indigenous communities in border areas and South Chile. Participation is free; for registration and further information contact: Pablo Gonzalez; email: gedes@ctcinternet.cl. The workshop is part of the series of meetings of the Sustainable South 2025 initiative; also see <http://www.ambiental.net/sustentable2025> for further information.

14-17 August, Brunei Darussalam: 12TH MEETING OF THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON THE ENVIRONMENT (ASOEN). For further information contact: ASEAN Bureau for Programme Coordination & External Relations; email: dhannan@asean.or.id.

17-18 August, Helsinki, Finland: UNU/WIDER DEBT RELIEF CONFERENCE. Building on recent debates, the United Nations University (UNU)/ World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) conference will review what is presently known about the relationship between debt, development, and poverty reduction, and will assess the state of progress on debt relief and its implications for the relationship between aid donors and recipient countries. Selected conference papers, together with a policy summary, will be included in a conference volume to be published by UNU/WIDER. For further information contact: WIDER, Helsinki; email: debtconference@wider.unu.edu.

3-7 September, Havana, Cuba: WORLD FORUM ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY (WFFS). The forum is co-organised by a collective of fourteen organisations and international networks and will discuss the issues of food sovereignty and the right of peoples to feed themselves two months before Rome + 5 (FAO summit) as well as the WTO Ministerial in Qatar. For further information contact: Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños (ANAP), Cuba; tel: (53-7) 320-268; fax: 328-586; email: fmsa@anap.org.cu.

4-6 September, Bonn, Germany: CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL BY 2020: FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION. This meeting is being organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in collaboration with the Government of Germany. For more information contact: Simone Hill-Lee, IFPRI, Washington DC; fax: (1-202) 467-4439; email: s.hill-lee@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org/2020conference/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

11-13 September, Trieste, Italy: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: This meeting is being co-organised by Harvard University's Center for International Development and Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and the Third World Academy of Sciences. For further information contact: Derya Honca, Center for International Development,

Massachusetts; tel: (1- 617) 495-1923; email: m_derya_honca@harvard.edu; Internet: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/r&dconf/description.htm>.

21-23 September, Lucerne, Switzerland: INCD CONFERENCE "TOWARDS A GLOBAL CULTURAL PACT". The second conference of the International Network for Cultural Diversity will be co-hosted by the NGO Suisseculture. In dialogues, discussion rounds and workshops the participants will work on the creation of an international instrument which would remove culture from the usual trade disciplines by establishing specific rules to promote cultural exchange rather than homogenisation. For more information contact: Janet Creery, INCD Secretariat, Ontario; tel: (61-3) 238-3561; email: janet.creery@ccarts.ca; Internet: <http://www.incd.net> and <http://www.ccarts.ca>.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the BRIDGES staff to Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Marc Galvin, mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

REGULATING ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING: BASIC ISSUES, LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, POLICY PROPOSALS. By Achim Seiler, Social Science Research Center (Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung) Berlin and Graham Dutfield, Oxford University, 2001. The study was commissioned by the Federal Republic of Germany in preparation for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing in Bonn, October 2001. For further information contact: Achim Seiler: Seiler@medea.wz-berlin.de or Graham Dutfield: wgtrr.ocees@mansfield.oxford.ac.uk.

GLOBAL AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. Published by the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, July 2001. The report from IIASA assesses future food production capabilities under different climate change scenarios for all countries of the world. The report identifies the hot spots where productivity is most likely to be affected by projected climate change. According to the paper, the world's 40 poorest nations are likely to be hardest hit, with more than half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, India, Bangladesh and Brazil particularly vulnerable, whereas most developed nations are likely to experience moderate to large increases in crop productivity. The paper is available at: http://www.cluster46.com/igbpmeeting/files/Mahendra_Shah.pdf. For further information contact: susannah@igbp.kva.se; Clare.Bradshaw@igbp.kva.se or Paola.Fastmark@igbp.kva.se; tel: (+46-8) 6739-556/593; fax: 1664-05; mobile: (+46-708) 346-463.

GATS AND E-COMMERCE: THE SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WTO. Published by the German NGO Forum Environment & Development, Bonn, 2001. The paper begins with a brief look at the WTO and the GATS, focusing on e-commerce and its significance in the current global economy. For further information contact: Forum

Environment & Development, Am Michaelshof 8-10, Germany; tel: (+49-228) 35-97-04; fax: (+49-228) 35- 90-96; email: info@forumue.de; Internet: <http://www.forum.de>.

ECOLOGY AND GENETICS: AN ESSAY ON THE NATURE OF LIFE AND THE PROBLEM OF GENETIC ENGINEERING. By Arjun Makhaijani, IEEP, published by The Apex Press, 2001. The central thesis of this book is that genetic structures of living beings are internal biological expression of the ecosystems they need to survive. Inter-species genetic engineering creates new types of living, which could not arise naturally and which are being introduced without a sound understanding of their ecological impacts. For further information on this publication, contact: Judi Rizzi; tel: (1-914) 271-6500; email, cipany@igc.org.

A NEW DIRECTION IN WORLD TRADE: TOWARDS A WTO ROUND FOR DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABILITY. By the Party of European Socialists (PES) Group, April 2001. The Working Group on the WTO of the PES in the European Parliament has led both a debate focused on the themes of the imbalance between rich and poor countries; democracy and transparency; socially and environmentally sustainable development; and the relationship between trade rules and human rights. The paper's central conclusion concerns the need for a new direction in world trade. The PES Group supports the call for a new trade round as the best opportunity to reshape the trade system. In the view of the PES, a new round can succeed only if the world leaders who gather in Qatar recognise the need for radical change. A copy is available at: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/pes/En/Position/WTO/WTO-shortpaper-ENfinal.PDF>.

A GUIDE TO EU FUNDING FOR NGOS IN THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES, SPECIAL EDITION. Published by European Citizens Action Services (ECAS), 2001. The ECAS guide provides an overview of the existing EU funding opportunities for the candidate countries. The aim of ECAS of the publication is to make sure that access to European funding for NGOs in the candidate countries, as well as other geographical areas is facilitated. In fact, this guide makes it possible to understand EU policies, the administration and the management of projects. Moreover, it gives the NGOs information on European projects and programmes with the goal of increasing their access to EU funding. In order to obtain a copy, contact: Ms I. Dambrun, ECAS, Rue de la Concorde 53, B-1050 Brussels, fax. (+32-29) 548-04-99; email: admin@ecas.org.

SPECIAL REPORT NO 3/2001 CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSION'S REPLIES. Report from the EC Court of Auditors, June 2001. In this paper, the Court examines the European Commission's management of the international fisheries agreements, particularly the extent to which their objectives were clearly defined and ultimately achieved. The Court concludes that the Commission still needs to establish both a system enabling an ongoing monitoring and a detailed cost-benefit analysis to be made of the international fisheries agreements. The Court finds a lack of consistency and poor coordination between these international agreements and the structural aspect of the Common Fisheries Policy. It also identifies

shortcomings in the implementation and monitoring of the checks made by the Commission and the Member States. The Commission replies in the second part of the paper. A copy is available at: http://www.eca.eu.int/EN/RS/2001/rs03_01en.pdf.

Electronic Resources

FTAA Free Trade Area of the Americas, Draft Agreement, available at: http://www.ftaa-alca.org/FTAADraft/Eng/draft_e.doc.

DATABASES ON ECO-LABELLING, CERTIFICATION SCHEMES AND OTHER RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR COFFEE, "GREEN" ELECTRICITY, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OFFICE PRODUCTS. Published by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC). NACEC has developed a series of online Green Goods and Services Databases for Canada, Mexico and the United States. The databases are intended to serve as a clearinghouse mechanism that provides transparent information on eco-labelling, certification schemes and other relevant environmental guidelines for coffee, "green" electricity, sustainable tourism and office products. The on-line databases are available at: <http://www.cec.org/databases>.

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