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WTO GENERAL COUNCIL CHAIR STARTS MINISTERIAL PREP PROCESS

In an endeavour aimed at moving preparations for the next WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar forward, General Council Chairman Stuart Harbinson (Hong Kong-China) issued a document to WTO Members last week posing six questions and urging them to determine whether there should be a "decision or a declaration" on a new round of trade talks emanating from Doha in November. Members will be responding to the questions at the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the Ministerial scheduled for 8 March, which trade sources say will be "an open discussion about what Members will do about the process."

Some developing countries were reportedly unhappy with Harbinson's approach, saying that the questions are structured in such a way that any attempt to answer them would only lead to a 'game plan' that would be difficult to reject later on. One developing country source said that instead of asking Members to spell out their positions on a variety of issues, the questions attempt at pre-determined outcomes.

In addition to the decision or declaration query, the questions include asking delegates (a) whether the General Council or a special working group should oversee preparations for the Qatar Ministerial agenda; (b) whether implementation issues should be discussed before the Ministerial (aside from an informal meeting on 16 March, no formal dates have yet been set); (c) whether ongoing mandated negotiations in agriculture and services should be linked to preparations for Doha or be conducted on a separate track; (d) whether new issues -- such as environment, transparency, investment, competition, government procurement, and labour -- should be discussed along with the old issues or reviewed on a different footing; and (e) what should be the link between various informal meetings held within the WTO and outside Geneva in preparation for the November Ministerial.

A number of developed countries were happy with the questions, saying that they help attain the 'critical mass' needed for the launch of a new round. New Zealand emphasised that it did not want to replicate the process that led to the failed Seattle Ministerial in late 1999. According to trade sources, that process was largely the outcome of the 1998 Geneva Ministerial declaration, which mandated Members to engage in an 'input-driven' procedure pursuing balance and interests of all Members in leading up to the launch of a new round of trade negotiations. Members are expected to make progress on Thursday in setting out what the process will look like for the next Ministerial.

BRIDGES Weekly will report on the outcomes of this meeting in the next issue.

"Preparing for the Doha Ministerial," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 5 March 2001.

GOVERNMENTS ADOPT PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING

114 delegates at last week's meeting of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Committee on Fisheries unanimously adopted a new 'International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing'. The initiative aims to combat pirate fishing by providing all countries with comprehensive, effective and transparent measures by which to act. Environmental groups said that the voluntary Plan was much weaker than they and some governments had argued was needed, but if implemented will nevertheless make it harder for pirate vessels to hide their ownership through fictitious names and companies, tranship their fish at sea, and trade in illegally-caught fish.

According to FAO Assistant Director General Ichiro Nomura, "the Plan of Action will make it more difficult for fishing vessels to threaten the sustainability of the world's fisheries resources." In particular, the Plan tries to ensure better control of fishing vessels flying "flags of convenience" (FOC) granted by countries that allow fishing vessels to operate under their flag without controlling their fishing activities. The Plan also calls on countries not to allow vessels to fish unless authorised; not to give economic support or subsidies to companies, vessels or individuals involved in IUU fishing; and to strictly monitor fishing, from catches through the point of landing to the final destination.

Trade measures also mandated

The Plan includes provisions for "trade-related measures" which should be implemented by States to "prevent fish caught by vessels engaged in IUU fishing being traded or imported into their

territories". These measures should be consistent with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in WTO Agreements, according to the decision. The inclusion of trade measures had been opposed by some countries, which believed that trade restrictions are the concern of the WTO. Mexico, in particular, in its comment on the draft version of the Plan of Action strongly objected to the "situation" that "certain countries have resorted unduly to conservation measures solely as a pretext to adopt and maintain market-related measures."

Greenpeace slams weaknesses in FAO plan

Environmental advocacy organisation Greenpeace, commenting on the draft, criticised the signatories for deleting paragraph 63 of the previous draft which called on states to make it a violation to trade in fish or fish products derived from IUU fishing and to adopt sanctions under domestic law. "Greenpeace finds it unacceptable to use free trade arguments to oppose such crucial provisions. In no way can free trade justify allowing the uncontrolled fishing by FOC fleets to continue unhampered." In a press release, Greenpeace criticised the plan for being only voluntary and weak in key areas, such as closing ports to pirate fishing vessels, and calls on countries to implement these and stronger anti-pirate fishing measures into national fisheries law and regional fisheries management bodies. "If governments make it illegal to trade in pirate caught fish and go after the real owners and operators of pirate fishing vessels then we are on the way to ridding our oceans and seas of these lawless fleets," Greenpeace said. It blamed mainly Mexico and Brazil for being largely responsible for undermining key parts of the plan by actively weakening proposals to close markets to pirate-caught fish and close ports and their waters to vessels engaged in IUU fishing. A number of countries, including Norway, Mauritania, Australia, Iceland, Malaysia, the EU and the US, said that they had wanted a stronger plan to combat IUU fishing, according to the Greenpeace press release.

For further information on the Plan of Action visit the FAO website at: <http://www.fao.org/fi/default.asp>.

For comments by Mexico and Greenpeace on the draft Plan of Action visit: <http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/tc-iuu/tc-iuu01/default.asp>.

"New International Plan of Action targets illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing," FAO PRESS RELEASE, 2 March 2001; "Governments agree plan to tackle pirate fishing," ENS, 2 March 2001; "Greenpeace urges governments to use new plan to tighten noose on pirate fishing," GREENPEACE PRESS RELEASE, 2 March 2001; "Cent dix Etats adoptent un plan contre la pêche pirate," LE MONDE, 4/5 March 2001.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE: ANTIDUMPING & PATENTS

Dispute Settlement Update: Antidumping & Patents

The WTO Appellate Body (AB) on 1 March issued a ruling upholding India in its complaint against EU antidumping duties on Indian bed linen, while a Dispute Settlement panel ruling found against the US in a dispute with Japan over anti-dumping duties applied against Japanese steel. Further, on 28 February a WTO arbitrator gave Canada no longer than until 12 August 2001 to comply with an earlier WTO ruling upholding a US complaint against Canadian patent protection.

EU-India anti-dumping dispute

The WTO's instance of appeal last Friday found that the methods used by the EU to calculate dumping margins on imports of Indian bed linen violated the WTO's Antidumping (AD) Agreement. Concern over the use of anti-dumping duties by developed countries is a key element of the 'implementation' agenda of developing country Members -- such as India -- who are pushing for a review and rebalancing of the WTO agreements in favour of poorer countries before the start of wider negotiations, such as a potential new trade round.

Both the EU and India filed appeal against an initial panel ruling issued last October, which stated that the so-called 'zeroing' practice used by the EU in determining the existence of dumping margins violated Article 2.4.2 of the AD Agreement. Zeroing refers to the practice in which an investigating authority makes multiple comparisons of export price and normal value of an allegedly dumped good, and then aggregates the results of these individual comparisons to calculate a dumping margin for the product as a whole. In short, where there is a positive dumping margin, there is dumping and vice versa. However, the EU practice counts as zero all negative margins -- i.e. where there is no dumping -- hence the term 'zeroing' (for a more detailed description, see Appellate Body Report, WT/DS141/AB/R, § 46).

The US filed a third party submission in the case supporting the EU's appeal on the legality of the zeroing practice, which the US itself is believed to rely on to some extent. For its part, India -- supported by Egypt who also submitted third party arguments -- contended that the panel should have gone even further in its ruling by condemning the EU's practice on determining dumping margins on the basis of just one big company, such as Bombay Dyeing.

The AB upheld the original panel's key conclusion that the EU zeroing methodology violated the WTO AD Agreement. According to Scott Anderson, a former legal counsellor for the Office of the US Trade Representative, the ruling "will produce a much fairer outcome in many dumping investigations" by requiring authorities to include both dumped and non-dumped sales in calculating the overall average margin of dumping.

A Brussels-based attorney described the AB's finding on zeroing as a "landmark" decision in the field of antidumping law that would oblige the EU to recalculate many of its existing dumping margins or face a flow of new complaints from countries, in majority developing countries, whose firms are subject to existing EU dumping measures.

Legal experts said last week that the India-EU ruling could fuel demands from WTO Member countries, particularly those in the developing world, to include a review of the Antidumping Agreement in the next round of global trade talks to clarify provisions of the Agreement that are seen as vague and give investigating authorities excessive discretion in determining antidumping margins.

Japan wins steel antidumping case, but US not required to compensate

In related developments, Japan won a complaint against US antidumping duties imposed on Japanese exports of hot-rolled steel. The WTO panel ruling, made public on 28 February, found that the US "has acted inconsistently with the provisions of the AD Agreement." However, the panel did

not suggest ways of implementing its findings and rejected a Japanese claim that the duties should be reimbursed.

The US imposed the duties in June 1999 to counter an increase in Japanese imports. At the same time, The US imposed additional duties on imports from Brazil and Russia. However, the WTO ruling does not comment on US antidumping policy as a whole, as requested by Brazil.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the panel's finding that a US antidumping provision concerning the calculation of dumping margins on Japanese firms not included in a dumping investigation was found to be in violation of WTO rules.

US antidumping and other trade remedy laws have become one of the most sensitive issues in US trade policy. Washington's refusal to allow any discussions of changes to antidumping rules as demanded by developing countries contributed to the failure to launch a new global trade round in Seattle 1999.

Canada given until mid-August to comply with WTO patent ruling

A WTO arbitrator has given Canada until 12 August 2001 to comply with a WTO ruling in a Canada-US case that faulted a provision of the Canadian Patent Act concerning the length of protection for patents filed before October 1989. Canada had requested that it be given until mid-December 2001, while the US had set a deadline on 12 April, which was qualified by the arbitrator as "unreasonably short."

The panel upheld a US complaint in a ruling issued early last year which found Section 45 of the Canadian Patent Act to be inconsistent with Article 70.2 of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) requiring WTO Members to grant a minimum of 20 years protection whereas Canadian law only grants 17.

Amendments to Canada's Patent Act introduced 20 February in the Canadian Parliament would bring the Act into compliance with the WTO ruling, Canadian Industry Minister Brian Tobin said on 20 February.

"Europe breaks WTO rules on anti-dumping," FINANCIAL TIMES, 2 March 2001; "Japan, US each claim win in hot-rolled steel ruling," WTO REPORTER, 1 March 2001; "Censure for US steel over duties," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 February 2001; "EU loses appeal over Indian bed linen imports," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2 March 2001; "WTO overturns EU decision on Indian bed linen," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 1 March 2001; "WTO Appellate Body upholds India in ruling against EU bed linen duties," WTO REPORTER, 2 March 2001; "EU loses precedent-setting anti-dumping case vs India," BRIDGENEWS, 1 March 2001; "Canada given until mid-August to comply with WTO patent ruling," WTO REPORTER, 1 March 2001.

JUDGE'S REMARKS CAST DOUBT ON OUTCOMES OF S. AFRICAN DRUGS PATENT CASE

Proceedings began on Monday 5 March at the High Court of Pretoria (South Africa) in a case between an alliance of pharmaceutical companies and the South African government over alleged

violation of patent rights by South Africa. However, what was expected to have been a landmark case that could influence developing countries' access to affordable medicines was thrown into uncertainty after the presiding judge said that the case might be outside his jurisdiction.

Judge Bernard Ngoepe said that the case might not be "in the arena of the judiciary" as the Act at the centre of the dispute had never been enforced after South Africa's Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PMA) had obtained an interim ruling in 1998 preventing the government from implementing the 1997 legislation pending the court case. The trial will nevertheless continue with a ruling not expected until the end of the year.

The alliance of 41 companies, represented by PMA, alleges that parts of South Africa's Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendment Act are unconstitutional, as they grant exclusive powers to the Health Minister, violate WTO rules and discriminate against the industry. In particular, the companies oppose the provision that would allow the Minister to "prescribe conditions for the supply of more affordable medicines in certain circumstances" to protect the health of the public. The PMA also opposes language in the Act that makes provisions for parallel imports (allowing the government to obtain a patented drug more cheaply from foreign suppliers rather than from the manufacturer's local subsidiary) and sets up a pricing committee to whom pharmaceutical companies would have to justify the prices they charge.

The dispute -- which highlights the recent furore over access to affordable AIDS medicine -- has brought new attention to the WTO, which is seen by some as a potential influencing factor in the case due to its rules on patent protection as set out in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 20 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.20-02-01.htm>). However, WTO officials point out that although TRIPs requires Members to protect patents (including drugs) for 20 years, caveats were inserted by developing nations when the accord was negotiated in the early 1990s. In particular, the Agreement allows for compulsory licensing of a patent in certain circumstances, i.e. governments can allow the use of a patent without the consent of the patent-holder "in the case of a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use" (Art. 31.b). WTO Director-General Mike Moore has insisted that it is possible to keep the patent system and give poor countries access to low-cost medicines through a system of differential or tiered pricing by pharmaceutical companies.

The pharmaceutical industry fears that if cheap drugs become widely available in poor countries, they could 'leak' back to industrialised countries. They see themselves as 'scapegoats' when the central problems, they say, related to the lack of resources, infrastructure and political will. GlaxoSmithKline, one of the companies involved in the case, says it has offered heavily discounted AIDS drugs to South Africa since 1997, but claims that the government has never shown any interest in pursuing the offer. The South African government has retorted that drugs have been offered at prices that, though discounted, are still too expensive and not sustainable for developing countries where millions are living with AIDS.

Cuba offers support to Brazil in patent dispute with US

In a related development, Cuba urged other countries on 4 March to back Brazil in a WTO dispute with the US over the rights of Brazilian drug firms to market less costly AIDS drugs, many of which are covered by US patents, because the disease constitutes a public health crisis and western

manufacturers refuse to lower their prices (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.06-02-01.htm>). The dispute also centres on the issue of parallel imports. According to the Cuban Foreign Ministry, "It is unacceptable that commercial interest, technicalities, or the desire for profit be pitted against the right of the people to find solutions to diseases that constitute a scourge of humanity." Last month, Brazilian Health Minister Jose Serra authorised production of two more of the drugs normally used to treat AIDS sufferers, both of which were originally patented in the US.

"S Africa patents case hits hurdle," FT, 5 March 2001; "Drugs groups begin fight to control sale of medicines," FT, 5 March 2001; "Drug firms in South African fight for patents," REUTERS, 1 March 2001; "S Africans support government fight against drug firms," I-NET BRIDGE, 2 March 2001; "Cuba backs Brazil in Aids drugs patent dispute," REUTERS, 4 March 2001.

ASIAN NATIONS LAUNCH REGIONAL 'WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'

Delegates from 25 Asian countries endorsed a declaration in Boao, China, last week establishing the Boao Forum for Asia -- a regional version of the World Economic Forum held annually in Switzerland. The Boao Forum is expected to become Asia's first non-governmental, non-profit organisation whose main purpose will be to increase dialogue, coordination and cooperation among Asian countries. It will be headed by Malaysian diplomat Ajit Singh, the first Secretary General of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and is intended to provide a venue for entrepreneurs and academics from industrial, commercial and academic circles to exchange views and gain mutual understanding of the development of Asia.

The Forum, which was first proposed by former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos and other Asian leaders in September 1998, is seen as a means of reaping the maximum benefit for Asian countries and avoiding their marginalisation out of the process of globalisation. Its strategies include convening conferences and workshops on a regular basis to discuss important issues related to regional economic development, population, the environment, trade and investment in the context of globalisation as well as to develop and promote closer inter-relationships between the Forum, business communities and governments. The Forum will be the first international organisation to be permanently based in China.

In his opening speech, Chinese President Jiang Zemin called on Asian countries to work towards the common development of all Asian nations and towards enhanced exchanges between Asia and the rest of the world. "We Asian countries, though with different national conditions, are faced with the common task of seizing the opportunity, standing up to the challenges and working for a steady economic and social development," Jiang said, calling the founding of the Forum a "grand moment" for Asia. He added that the Forum will be a useful complement to inter-governmental cooperation organisations such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and ASEAN.

Also speaking at the inauguration, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad suggested that industrialised countries should pay an "infrastructure tax" to help poor countries develop their infrastructure, arguing that "part of the wealth of the rich comes from the exploitation of the resources of the poor". The tax revenue could be administered by the United Nations, he proposed. "There can be no doubt that this tax on the rich countries will help spread the wealth to the poor," he said while acknowledging that the developed world may have a problem with this.

"Asia: Region Launches Its Own Version Of Global Economic Forum," UN WIRE, 28 February 2001; "China calls for closer ties among Asian countries at Boao Forum," AFP, 27 February 2001; "China hosts Asia's answer to Davos," FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 February 2001; "Remaking Asia," DAILY STAR NEWS, 28 November 2001.

LATIN AMERICAN MEETINGS ELABORATE TRADE & SD LINKAGES

Trade and SD in Latin America and the Caribbean

On 19-21 February, a group of inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) convened a conference in Mexico City on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference gathered participants from national and inter-governmental institutions, academic institutions and NGOs to discuss linkages between unsustainable natural resource use in the region and participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in international trade.

The objective of the conference was to strengthen the sustainable development positions of Latin American and Caribbean countries in ongoing negotiations towards a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

It also aimed to increase information exchange and international policy co-ordination on trade and sustainable development issues, including through the provision of spaces to widen and deepen interaction between decision-makers and relevant stakeholders from various sectors. Broad topics that were covered during the discussions included identification of key trade and sustainable development policy issues; opportunities at the national, regional and multilateral levels, including in the FTAA and Americas Summit Agenda; and building sustainable trade policies and national capacities. Among case studies and specific agricultural and biosafety issues covered were intensification of agricultural production in the Argentinean Pampean region; environmental and technological impacts of GMO liberalisation; sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; ecological risk and food security; and issues related to the control and ownership of GM technology.

Sponsoring organisations were the United Nations Environment Programme-Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP-ROLAC) in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Interdisciplinary Research Center on Sciences and Humanities (UNAM-CEIICH), the Mexican Council for Sustainable Development (COMEDS), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Economics and Trade Unit of UNEP.

In terms of outcomes, an immediate expected product is a volume compiling edited versions of the papers presented at the conference, planned for release at a Hemispheric Trade and Sustainability Symposium on 17-19 April 2001, at Musee de la Civilisation, Quebec, Canada, to be hosted by IISD, The World Conservation Union-IUCN and UNEP. For further information see: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/related/rolac.htm> or contact Mr. Mindahi C. Bastida, UNEP-ROLAC, Environmental Training Network; email: mbastida@latino.rolac.unep.mx; tels. (52) 5202-6394, (52) 5202-4841; fax (52) 5202-0950; Internet: <http://www.iisd.org/trade/qc2001>.

IPRs, Traditional Knowledge and Biological Resources in Latin America

On 22-24 February, ICTSD -- in collaboration with the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, Asociacion ANDES, the UN Quaker Office (QUNO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) --convened a regional dialogue in Cusco, Peru on "Trade, Intellectual Property and Biological and Genetic Resources." The dialogue mobilised 35 key stakeholders (from environment ministries and intellectual property offices, Geneva-based trade missions, academics, NGOs and indigenous groups) for an open exchange of views and practical experiences on International Instruments, Regional and National Access Legislation (Andean Community, Peru, Brazil and Venezuela), Bio-prospection and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK). The objective of the dialogue was to strengthen national capacity for the identification of options needed to advance public policy objectives through the implementation or review of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

Participants highlighted the importance of legal frameworks at the international, regional, national and local levels in promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity resources, protecting TK, and ensuring benefit sharing. It was argued that existing access legislation and bio trade agreements do not address adequately the concerns of indigenous peoples and that their close involvement is needed during the design and implementation of legal frameworks. It was proposed that a "Biodiversity Cartel" be used by countries to jointly set the price of access to biological resources and share benefits among members. At the international level, participants highlighted the specificities of various instruments including the WTO, WIPO, the CBD, the FAO IU and UPOV.

Following the dialogue, participants visited an agro-biodiversity project near Cusco and engaged in a discussion on biopiracy with local indigenous communities. Research papers and proposals presented at this dialogue will feed into the on-going Geneva-based QUNO process of informal discussions and seminars with developing country delegations to the WTO. This event is the first of a series of five regional dialogues in Latin America, Asia and Africa. For further information visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/dialogueweb/Dialogues/dialogue-archive.htm> or contact Christophe Bellmann, ICTSD; tel: (41-22) 917-8495; email: cbellmann@ictsd.ch.

ICTSD Internal Files.

MADAGASCAR, GHANA SHOW PROMISE AT WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW

The WTO Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) convened on 21 and 28 February to assess the trade policies of Madagascar and Ghana, respectively. Madagascar is classified under the WTO as a least developed country (LDC), while Ghana falls under the developing country category. Other Members welcomed improvements both countries had made in implementing WTO commitments, and took the opportunity to encourage the African states to address certain aspects of their trade policies more fully.

The objectives of the TPRM include facilitating the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system by enhancing the transparency of Members' trade policies. Reviews are conducted by the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB -- consisting of all WTO Members) on the basis of a policy statement by the Member under review and a report prepared by economists in the WTO

Secretariat's Trade Policy Review Division. The reports consist of detailed chapters examining the trade policies and practices of the Member and describing trade policymaking institutions and the macroeconomic situation. Members under review are questioned by other Members on their implementation of the WTO Agreements and on various aspects of their trade policy.

Madagascar

According to the WTO assessment made on Madagascar, the island state has adopted in their entirety the results of the Uruguay Round, though some Members urged the country to implement some aspects -- such as services -- more fully. The chair's report stated that Madagascar's commitments under the General Agreement for Trade in Services (GATS) -- limited to certain business activities -- do not reflect its liberalisation efforts in the services sector. Members at the review called on Madagascar to improve commitments under GATS, particularly in areas such as telecommunications, transportation and tourism, and to meet its WTO notification requirements.

As a least developed country, Madagascar benefits from the special and differential treatment afforded to LDCs in the form of exemptions or delayed implementation of certain provisions. Madagascar is currently revising its legislation to meet its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) by the implementation deadline for LDCs of 2006. Trade liberalisation in the country has reached a significant level in recent years, according to the review, with Madagascar's trade policy framework based essentially on tariffs.

In addition to its membership at the WTO, Madagascar has increasingly participated in regional trade agreements. The country is a member of Common Market for Eastern and Southern African states (COMESA), the Cross-Border Initiative (CBI) and the Indian Ocean Commission. Madagascar is also a signatory to the ACP-EU Cotonou Accord, the preferential trade agreement which is a successor to the Lomé Convention between Europe and its former African, Caribbean and Pacific colonies. Madagascar's main trading partners are the US, EU, and Japan. Its exports are mainly agricultural products, including bananas, sugar, coffee, shrimp, vanilla and cloves.

The TPRM report said that other WTO Members were encouraged by Madagascar's economic performance and were optimistic about its economic prospects. Members encouraged Madagascar to maintain both the pace and the direction of its reforms, and urged that its bilateral and regional arrangements be WTO-consistent.

The EU's new 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) initiative for LDCs (see *BRIDGES* Weekly, 27 February, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.27-02-01.htm>) is expected to give a boost to Madagascar, but only if it can increase its export base, according to the Review. Currently, all LDCs have duty-free access to the EU for all of their industrial exports and most of their primary exports. The Trade Policy Review report stated that Madagascar has not been able to take advantage of the EU's preferential treatments because of its low export base. In the case of beef, it was unable to fill its quota under the Cotonou beef protocol. Ghana and other countries such as Swaziland have complained about the EBA giving undue advantages to LDCs in the area of market access and making the non ACP-LDCs' products relatively expensive.

Ghana

According to the report on Ghana, the West African state has taken steps to ensure extensive reforms, with a view to putting its economy on good economic footing. The core of Ghana's economic woes is its large budget deficit. In spite of the corrective measures put in place, the economy's fragility has recently been exposed to external shocks resulting in a critical balance of payment position. Sharply fluctuating terms of trade, reflecting falling world prices for Ghana's main exports of cocoa and gold, and rising oil prices, drained foreign reserves to critical levels. Corrective measures put in place in 1998 led to inflation falling to 12 percent, and hit 12.5 percent in 2000.

Due in large part to preferential trade schemes with Europe, Ghana's main trading partner remains the EU -- accounting for almost half of its overall exports. Ghana's regional trade within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) accounted for 17 percent of exports in 1999, up from 13 percent in 1994. Togo matched Italy as Ghana's main single export destination for 1999, with the share of African imports rising from 23 percent in 1994 to 27 percent in 1999. Ghana has bilateral agreements with Malaysia, the Czech republic and Cote d'Ivoire, and is negotiating others with Greece, Romania, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe and Libya. Her old bilateral agreements with former European centrally planned economies are now disbanded. Ghana is also signatory to the African Economic Community (AEC), as well as the ACP-EC partnership agreements (successor to the Lomé convention).

On Ghana's compliance and implementation under the WTO agreements, the report said, *inter alia*, that steps are being taken to implement WTO-consistent policies on customs valuation and intellectual property protection. While Members welcomed Ghana's policy objective of reducing its average applied MFN tariff to below 10 percent over the next three years, they questioned the recent imposition of a "special import tax" of 20 percent on many consumer goods. Members sought clarification on the government's role in protecting industries against unfair trading practices abroad and on proposed timing for its elimination. The Ghanaian delegation reaffirmed that this was a temporary measure to save foreign exchange on "non-essential" imports and was not an anti-dumping measure.

Members of the WTO expressed their appreciation to both countries for recognising the central role to be played by trade, investment and the private sector in the restructuring of the economy and improving international competitiveness. They urged the countries to pursue further liberalisation and promised any assistance that might help them achieve these goals.

For further information visit the WTO website at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp156_e.htm; and http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm#ghana.

"The impact of the EU'S everything but Arms' proposal: A report to Oxfam," OXFAM, January 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

AG EXPORT CREDIT TALKS STALL AT OECD. Talks within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD -- an economic grouping of predominantly developed

countries) aimed at harmonising the terms of use of agricultural export credit programs have stalled and it is uncertain whether they will resume at the next OECD meeting in April, Jetty Kiely, a farm trade official with the EU's delegation, said on 16 February. Originally, the OECD had intended to reach an agreement on this issue by the end of 2000 and then take the agreement to the WTO where it could be broadened to include other countries. However, as OECD members failed to meet the deadline, they are expected to ignore the issue in the upcoming April meeting and wait for the WTO to deal with it in the next round of WTO talks. OECD negotiations had broken down at the end of last year due to differences between the US and other members of the Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting countries (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 21 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.21-11-00.htm>). Member nations had discussed limiting repayment terms for export credit programs to 18 months at their last meeting, but failed to reach an agreement when Canada and Australia demanded a 12-month limit. The US, which has repayment limits for export credit programs of three and ten years, fears that an 18-month repayment ceiling would make the US program much less effective. "Pact on reducing US farm export credit terms unclear, aide says," *BRIDGE NEWS*, 16 February 2001.

CALLS FOR TIGHTER SANCTIONS AGAINST MYANMAR. US Senator Thomas Harkin has asked for tighter legislation against Burma on textile imports. He has vowed to introduce legislation to ban all apparel and textile imports from Myanmar over the Asian country's human rights abuses. Harkin was reacting to reports from the US embassy in Myanmar revealing that US companies such as FILA, Jordache and Arrow Gulf have increased manufacturing and purchases from Myanmar, where working conditions such as forced labour, seven cents-an-hour wages, and 24 hour a day factory work are reportedly in effect. Said Harkin, "it's outrageous that 403 million dollars from American apparel imports last year alone went straight into the coffers of Burma's brutal military regime". A release from Markin's office said that garment manufacturers in Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan subcontract orders that cannot be filled under their own US quota restrictions to factories in Myanmar. In a related development, trade union leader Bill Jordan of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) told reporters that the ICFTU has urged the international community to review its relations with Myanmar so as to stop aiding forced labour practices of the military leadership. Jordan, in Japan for a meeting hosted by Japanese Trade Union Confederation on forced labour in Myanmar, said, "Myanmar has remained unrepentant despite the stance taken by the International Labour Organization (ILO) against forced labour." In November 2000, the ILO adopted a resolution noting the "persistence" of Myanmar's systematic forced labour and "severe violations of human rights". The resolution resulted from a 1998 ILO commission of inquiry that found widespread and systematic use of forced labour in Burma. "Trade union leader urges world to review trade with Myanmar," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 1 March 2001; "US Senator to file legislation banning apparel, textile imports from Myanmar," *AFP*, 1 March 2001.

EU LIFTS TEXTILES QUOTAS ON SRI LANKA AND BOSNIA. Effective 1 March 2001, the European Union removed all quotas on textile imports from Sri Lanka and Bosnia. In return, Sri Lanka has bound all tariffs for the entire textiles and clothing sector at the WTO and has lowered a number of tariff peaks from 25 to 10 percent. The agreement, which was initialled in November 2000 and approved by the EU Council of Ministers on 26 February, is the first one under negotiating directives adopted by the EU Council of Ministers aimed at seeking improved market access to the EU for exporting countries. These negotiating directives are conditioned on exporting countries similarly making improvements in access to their own markets for textiles and clothing products. However, as part of the November 2000 agreement, the EU reserved the right to grant

better terms to countries with which it negotiates bilateral agreements on textile trade. In a statement, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said, "The agreement with Sri Lanka shows that the EU is ready and willing to do more to open its market for textiles and clothing to countries that are themselves ready to make concrete and tangible improvements on market access for EU exports in the sector." "EU removes textiles quotas for Sri Lanka in market access deal", EU DG TRADE PRESS RELEASE, 1 March 2001; "EU lifts quotas on Sri Lanka, Bosnia textiles", REUTERS, 1 March 2001.

CONSUMER AND PRODUCER COUNTRIES SIGN COCOA PACT. Cocoa producing and consumer countries reached a new market-stabilisation agreement at the second session of the cocoa conference on 28 February. Both producers and consumers cleared up the issues of: how to treat alternative substances used instead of cocoa in chocolate-making; a definition of the "sustainable cocoa economy"; and how cocoa consumption can be promoted. The last gathering in November 2000 failed to agree on items needed to finalise a pact to replace a 1993 accord that runs out on 30 September 2001. The new pact does not contain provisions for market intervention or price regulation that similar commodity pacts did in the 1960s and 1970s. However, in order to ensure that cocoa markets are not caught by surprise, the pact includes mechanisms for monitoring the world development of supply and demand. The pact also establishes a special ICCO (International Cocoa Organisation) consultative group, which will include representatives from both industrialised consumer states and producers, all developing countries, to advise the ICCO on market developments and help plan projects that would give producer countries a more profitable role. Laurent N'Guessan, spokesman for the producers and a delegate for the world's biggest cocoa producer and exporter, Côte d'Ivoire, said that his group was "cautiously satisfied", and referred to the pact as "more of a moral agreement" which puts a burden on consumer countries to help producers to develop. "But we are still concerned as to how far this moral duty will be carried out by the private sector in the consumer countries," he added. "New global cocoa agreement reached," UPI, 2 March 2001; "New cocoa pact aims to help farmers, officials say," REUTERS, 2 March 2001.

G8 UNDERLINE WILLINGNESS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. At their meeting in Trieste last weekend, environment ministers from the G8 countries -- the world's seven leading industrialised countries and Russia -- unanimously expressed "concern about the seriousness" of global warming. In a formal declaration, the ministers committed themselves "to strive to reach agreement on outstanding political issues and to ensure in a cost-effective manner the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol." The Trieste statement reiterated that countries should achieve the bulk of their emissions reductions through cuts at home, rather than by buying the right to pollute from other countries and via other flexible mechanisms. "We commit to take the lead by strengthening and implementing national programmes and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said the G8 countries, which together produce more than half of the world's pollution. Christine Todd Whitman, head of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provided a clear and welcome signal to G8 partners that Washington was serious about global warming. "The president has said global climate change is the greatest environmental challenge that we face and that we must recognise that and take steps to move forward," she said. Environmental groups welcomed the ministers' final declaration. "The bridge has been built amongst the world's greatest polluters to pave the way for the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol this summer," said Jennifer Morgan, director of the World Wildlife Fund's Climate Change Campaign. As announced by COP-6 President Jan Pronk last week, climate change negotiations are set to continue on 16-27 July in

Bonn, Germany, at the resumed COP-6. "G8 renew pledge to tackle global warming," REUTERS, 6 March 2001; "G8 in new push for accord on global warming," FT, 5 March 2001.

WTO IN BRIEF

QUAD TO MEET 8-9 MARCH ON SERVICES. Senior officials from the Quad group of countries (the US, EU, Canada and Japan) are scheduled to meet in Washington on 8-9 March in an attempt to bridge differences with developing countries on negotiating guidelines for services talks at the WTO. The guidelines have met with opposition from most developing country Members -- in particular the Group of 24 developing countries (G-24) including Argentina, Brazil, India, Pakistan, and Thailand -- who perceived fundamental problems in the WTO Secretariat draft guidelines over how they address their right to special and differential treatment (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 20 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.20-02-01.htm>). According to trade sources, the Quad is looking to resolve differences ahead of a stocktaking meeting at the WTO at the end of March and will wrestle with how services talks should proceed. "Quad To Meet On Services Next Week As WTO Talks Falter," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 2 March 2001.

ON THE MOVE

Mr. Achim Steiner has been appointed as Director-General of the IUCN-The World Conservation Union, a major umbrella conservation group of approximately 950 non-governmental organisations, governmental agencies, and country members. Mr. Steiner joins IUCN after having been the Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) where he led a three-year consultation process which resulted in the global launch last November of 'Dams and Development: the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which garnered widespread media attention and acclaim. In announcing Mr. Steiner's appointment, IUCN's President, Yolanda Kakabadse stated, "I believe that his exposure to diverse professional disciplines, and the experience of different cultures and development contexts across four continents, has enabled him to develop an understanding and empathy for the issues at the heart of IUCN's mission and mandate. A German citizen, Steiner was born in Brazil and has spent much of his career in Latin America, Africa and Asia. At 39, Mr. Steiner is one of the youngest Directors General of the organisation. IUCN Press Release.

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>.

ICTSD Event

Monday, 26 March, 09:00 - 11:00, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL CAFÉ & CROISSANTS DIALOGUE ON "TRIPS REVIEW AND EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS: WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR QATAR". Guest speakers will be Mr. Leo Palma (Legal Affairs Attaché at the Permanent Mission of The Philippines) and Mr. Francisco Cannabrava (Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Brazil), both of whom will provide insights into the debate from a sustainable development perspective. The meeting will take place at the International

Environment House, 13, Ch. des Anémones, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Rooms 2 & 5. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP your intention to participate by email to ictsd@ictsd.ch or by fax at: (41-22) 917-8093.

Coming Up This Week

5-7 March, Geneva, Switzerland: BIODIVERSITÉ DE L'ACTION COLLECTIVE À LA GOUVERNANCE. Atelier de Recherche. Pour plus d'information contactez: Marc Hufty, Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement (IUED), Genève, Suisse; tel: (41-22) 906-5061; fax: 906-5947; email: Marc.hufty@iued.unige.ch; Internet: <http://www.iued.unige.ch>.

5-9 March, Trieste, Italy: INTRODUCTION TO BIOSAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. For further information contact: Giovanni Ferraiolo, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy; tel: (39-40) 375-7364; fax: 226-555; email: ferraiol@icgeb.trieste.it.

5-16 March, New York, USA: INTERSESSIONAL TO THE 9TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For further information visit: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd9/csd9_2001.htm.

8 March, ILO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is holding a panel discussion to mark this year's event, entitled, "The Glass Ceiling: Women of Power and Influence." The panel of speakers, a number of whom are high-level women managers from the public and private sectors, will make contributions evaluating progress towards gender equality in the labour market with respect to management and decision-making, identifying the obstacles that remain and proposing strategies for addressing them. The presentations will be followed by comments and discussion from participants. For further information contact: ILO, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 799-6111, fax: 798-8685.

8-9 March, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: BRIDGING GAPS AND MOVING FORWARD. Organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study (GETS) and the World Trade Institute (WTI). Discussion panels include: Subsidies, Services and Agriculture; Capacity Building and Developing Country Participation; Trade and Health: Food Safety, Drugs, and Biodiversity; and Civil Society and the WTO. Location: Graduate Institute of International Studies, Auditoire Jacques Freymond, Grand Salle, 132, rue de Lausanne, Auditoire Jacques Freymond, Grand Salle. For information, contact: Monica Araya (GETS); tel: (1-203) 432-5216, email: Monica.Araya@yale.edu ; Internet: <http://www.gets.org/Geneva2001.htm>.

11 March, Montreal, Canada: INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION. For information contact: the CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org> . From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

9 March, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland: GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORKS: PROMOTING INNOVATION IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. Sponsored by The World Bank, and based on the work of the Global Public Policy Project, this conference will explore the lessons learned and future perspectives of global public policy networks in addressing key global issues. Speaking at this conference are: Mr. Mark Halle, Director, International Institute for Sustainable

Development; Mr. Wolfgang H. Reinicke, Director, Global Policy Project/Managing Director Galaxar S.A.; and Mr. Björn Stigson, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development. For further information contact: The World Bank Group, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 799-8872; fax: 799-7694; email: ngojkovi@worldbank.org or fzarcone@worldbank.org.

12-15 March, Trinidad and Tobago: TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONVENTION 2001. TIC 2001 is a business forum bringing together Exporters, Buyers, Distributors and Investors, creating opportunities for expansion of sales to markets of more than 30 million customers. It will assist in the establishment of new business partnerships through Joint Ventures. Seminars and Conferences are planned for educating participants on doing business in foreign territories, trade and investment incentives, as well as on strategic marketing. This Convention will afford interested persons the opportunity to develop trade links with companies from South America, Central America, CARICOM, North America and Europe. For further information contact: Keri Yee, Co-ordinator TIC 2001, Trinidad & Tobago; tel: (868) 623-1029/30, 625-8862; fax: 623-1031; email: ttmagm@opus.co.tt.

12-16 March, Montreal Canada: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY'S (CBD) SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-6). For information contact: the CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org ; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org> . From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

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.

7-8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT. On the agenda, inter alia: the implications of the relationship between trade and investment for development and economic growth; and stocktaking and analysis of existing international instruments and activities regarding trade and investment. For further information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL INFORMAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION. For further information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007.

8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. For further information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007.

12 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For further information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

13 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKSHOP ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. For further information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, (41-22) 739-5286.

14-15 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. On the agenda, inter alia: election of Chairperson; the SPS Agreement and Developing Countries-implementation of the provisions for special and differential treatment and equivalence; identification of technical assistance needs; and monitoring of the use of international standards. There will also be an informal meeting on 13 March on the issue of equivalence and developing countries and on criteria for the acceptance of observer organizations. For further information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

14 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. For further information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007.

Other Forthcoming Events

20 March, Brussels, Belgium: EU-US RELATIONS AT THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA: BRIDGING THE TRANSATLANTIC BUSINESS DIVIDE. Hosted by European Voice in association with APCO Europe and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. This conference will explore relations from the business community's perspective, focusing on three key issues: competition, EU-US trade relationships and corporate communications in the evolving transatlantic divide. It will provide business leaders with a platform for discussion with their peers on these challenging issues as well as the opportunity to put questions to EU and US decision-makers. For further information contact: Adrian Scally, tel: (32-02) 540-9077; fax: 540-9070; email: adrianscally@economist.com; Internet: <http://www.european-voice.com/euus>.

23-25 March, Montevideo, Uruguay. INTEGRATION, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This is the third workshop in the Sustainable South 2025 Initiative coordinated by the Latin American Center for Social Ecology (CLAES). The workshop will deal with Uruguay's challenges in the Mercosur, FTAA and WTO context. Lectures on various aspects of sustainable development, including consumers' rights (H. Villaverde, CEADU), regional energy policies (G. Honty, CEUTA), environmental strategies (E. Gudynas, CLAES), etc. The Administrative Secretariat of the Mercosur will present a lecture on the current situation of the agreement. The workshop is co-organised by CLAES together with the Uruguayan Environmental Network, CEUTA, CEADU, and several agriculture organisations. For further information contact: Gerardo Evia, email: gevia@adinet.com.uy. Information on Sustainable South 2025 is available at: <http://www.ambiental.net/sustentable2025>.

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).

TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN MEXICO: LESSONS FOR THE FTAA. By Kevin Gallagher, 2001. Published by the Global Development and Environment Institute, an economic research institute at Tufts University. This paper deals with globalisation issues focusing on the social and environmental impacts of economic integration on Mexico such as, did NAFTA and trade liberalisation lead to concentration of pollution-intensive industry in Mexico? According to the new empirical research in this paper, trade liberalisation can have both positive and negative environmental effects in developing economies. This publication is available at: <http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/WorkingPap.htm>.

THE IMPACT OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE. Edited by Antonio Tujan, Jr, 2000. This resource is a collection of impact studies on Philippine sensitive food products -- sugar, grains, vegetables, and livestock and poultry -- focusing particularly on the production and income of Filipino small farmers and farmworkers. The work is a product of IBON's peasant research agenda. For further information contact: the Expansion Department of IBON Foundation, Inc. Rm. 303 SCC Bldg., 4427, Int. Old Sta. Mesa, Manila, Philippines, tel: (63-2) 713-2729, 713-2737; fax: (63-2) 716-0108; email: orders@ibon.org, editors@ibon.org, <http://www.ibon.org>.

COFFEE WITH A CAUSE. By Equiterre, 2001, published in Spanish by Acción Cultural Madre Tierra. This book, developed and adapted for a Mexican audience by Equiterre, a Montreal-based non-governmental organisation, with financial support from the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC), tells the story of how Mexican farmers are carving a niche for shade-grown, fairly-traded coffee in the billion dollar international specialty coffee market. With the use of case studies, Coffee with a Cause shows how small-scale coffee producers in Mexico are finding ways to earn a decent income by employing 'fair trade' practices that involve forming their own cooperatives and exporting directly to foreign buyers. For further information contact: Christine Larson, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada; email: clarson@ccemtl.org, tel: (1-514) 350-4331 or Isabelle St-Germain at Equiterre, email: istg@equiterre.qc.ca, tel: (514) 522-2000 extension 22; Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

ISGN IMPACT STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION. By Naty Bernardino, International South Group Network (ISGN), 2000. The study examines the WTO negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture currently underway, particularly with respect to the interests of peasants and small agricultural producers in the third world. To obtain a copy contact: ISGN Philippines, email: rcpd@pop.info.com.ph.

"America's national interests in promoting a transition to sustainability: issues for the new US administration", by William C. Clark, in *ENVIRONMENT*, 43 (1, 2001): 18-27. This article has a vision of the future that encompasses the multiple dimensions of a global relationship between society and the environment. In urging humanity to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century, the article looks specifically at what America's role in promoting this transition should be.

Electronic Resources

TRANSNATIONALE.ORG, a new website of the French organisation Transnationale. On the site, it is possible to find reference articles on more than 40 essential topics, from GMOs (transgenic organisms) and baby milk to offshore banking, the WTO, privatisation of education, retirement pension, and human cloning. Also available is a list of transnational corporations; as of now there are already 3000 listings, with a search function. The website is available in French and English at: <http://www.transnationale.org>. A CD-ROM is available for offline browsing. For further information contact: email: tech@transnationale.org.

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