



ICTSD

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TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
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DOHA TALKS SLOWED OVER PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES

Efforts to establish the body that will oversee WTO negotiations mandated in Doha, Qatar in November 2001 hit a serious snag on 28 January as Members failed to agree formally on who would chair the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) and its sub-groups. General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson has been leading consultations for a number of weeks on how to structure the TNC (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 January 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-01-22/story1.htm>) but told Monday's formal meeting of the TNC that further consultations with some Members were necessary. The meeting was suspended, and will be re-convened on 30 January. In Doha, the WTO agreed to conclude negotiations by 1 January 2005.

A group of developing countries that includes Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and China is pushing to have the negotiations led by a Geneva-based WTO Ambassador that would be re-selected each year. These countries fear that developing country interests would not be fairly represented by the Director-General. Most of the rest of the Membership -- including India and Malaysia, who tend to align themselves with the former group -- are not opposed to having the Director-General chair the TNC, as was the case in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations from 1986-1994.

Trade diplomats said that a fix to the impasse is likely to emerge in proposed guidelines for how negotiations should be run, including how the TNC will be overseen by the General Council. One delegate said that a balance needed to be sought that afforded the negotiations proper accountability to the General Council without "freezing" the process with rigid rules that might constrain the progress of negotiations. He was "cautiously optimistic" that agreement could be reached by the end of this week.

Neither Pakistan's Ambassador Munir Akram nor WTO Director-General Mike Moore believed the delay was a bad sign. According to Akram, there was "no major block in the process", while Moore said, "this is an absolutely predictable situation. Members [of the WTO] want assurances that it will be run in a way with which they are comfortable."

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will report further on the outcome of the TNC in next week's issue.

"Trade round start delayed as poor states balk," REUTERS, 28 January 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES CONVENE; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE TABLE

CTD to revamp technical assistance (TA) plan

At its 22 January meeting, the Committee on Trade and Development's (CTD) discussions centred mainly on a draft Coordinated Secretariat Annual Technical Assistance Plan (ATAP) for 2002 (WT/COMTD/W/95, dated 3 January). The ATAP is an annual note from the Secretariat outlining its intended Technical Assistance aims for the year. In light of the pervasive presence of technical assistance commitments in the various Doha texts (see BRIDGES <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-20/story1.htm>), many Members are keen to see its final structure.

The Plan for 2002 sees itself as one out of four levels of action being taken on TA by the WTO, alongside the Integrated Framework (inter-agency plan to assist least-developed countries on trade-related matters); coordinated delivery with the OECD; and other inter-agency collaborations (especially on issues requiring such coordination - such as the 'Singapore Issues' of Investment, Competition, Government Procurement, and Trade Facilitation). Sources say that the theme that seems to prevail in TA discussions is the WTO's push to share the responsibilities of the Doha TA commitments across a wide spectrum of organisations.

While the Plan states its focus as integrating the demands of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, and specified that it is a 'demand-driven' document, the CTD agreed to perform further editing. One delegate from a developed country indicated that this move was being taken so as to "better accommodate all the elements of the Doha Declaration" and because of concerns that it was in fact not demand-driven, but rather what the Secretariat wanted to do. The delegate noted the need to "blend an operational approach with a strategic plan."

One key item that has reportedly raised concerns amongst the 'Quad' group of Canada, the EC, Japan and the US is how to deal with ad-hoc requests for TA. Reports indicate that the Quad is seeking a better balancing act of flexibilities and limitations. However, one source noted of these developments that "developed country Members, and in particular the Quad, were trying to dictate and limit the scope for developing countries to design a TA plan that was best suited to their needs, as opposed to the needs of the Quad." As evidence of this, they pointed to the heavy focus on TA for the Singapore Issues --of which many developing countries are not demandeurs -- which has an entire annex unto itself.

Another draft of the ATAP is expected in the next few weeks.

A final item of discussion was the adoption of the Future Activities of the WTO Training Institute (WT/COMTD/W/89/REV.1).

The 38th session of the CTD is to be held on 16 February 2002, at which new Chairs for both the CTD and the LDC Sub-Committee are scheduled to be elected.

LDCs put off adoption of work programme

The first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of 2002 came to a quick halt on 25 January, as no consensus prevailed on the adoption of the

proposed Work Programme for 2002 (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/23; see BRIDGES Weekly 16 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-16/story3.htm>). The current proposal includes, inter alia, seminars on Trade Policy Reviews and Technical Assistance, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), trade policy courses, and a joint seminar on the Integrated Framework - in addition to 2 more official Sessions of the LDC Sub- Committee.

One observer noted that Sub-Committee Chairperson Simon Fuller moved to postpone the adoption, such that further consultations could be taken in hopes of attaining consensus. In light of the need for the Chair to report this work programme to the first General Council meeting of the year on 13 February, the Sub-Committee is expected to reconvene sometime next week.

ICTSD Internal Files.

TRADE COMMITMENTS THIN FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT TEXT

Following lengthy informal consultations over the weekend, government delegates on 27 January agreed on a draft text of the "Monterrey Consensus" for the Financing for Development (FfD) conference scheduled for 21-22 March, in Monterrey, Mexico. The document recognises the need for greater financial assistance to raise the living standards of the poorest countries, but does not set any firm goals for increasing aid, relieving most debt burdens or removing trade barriers. The FfD event is a summit-level meeting to address key financial issues related to global development.

Except for more help for the poorest of the poor -- the officially recognised Heavily Indebted Poor Countries -- there is little in the Monterrey Consensus of what developing states requested on debt or trade, said co-chair of the consultations Ambassador Shamshad Ahmad of Pakistan. Regarding the developing states' hope that "there has to be equitable trade," Ahmad said, "There was not sufficient commitment on that."

Instead, in the section entitled "International trade as an engine for development", the Monterrey Consensus focuses primarily on supporting decisions reached by WTO Members at the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, last November. The document gives its support to a "universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system," and reaffirms countries' commitments to trade liberalisation. There is little in the way of commitments to issues of concern to developing countries in trade; instead, the text notes that the signatories "acknowledge" the issues of particular concern to developing countries -- such as technical barriers and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, tariff escalation, and non-tariff barriers -- "to enhance their capacity to finance their development."

Developed countries that have not already granted duty and quota-free access for LDC exports are "called on...to work towards" this objective, but there is no commitment to do

so. The EU on last year agreed to allow qualified duty and quota-free access to its market for LDCs, with phase-in periods for bananas, sugar and rice (see BRIDGES Weekly, 30 January 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story7.30-01-01.htm>).

Although the Monterrey Consensus recognises that "a substantial increase in ODA [official development assistance] and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives," it does not endorse UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's call for doubling ODA from \$US50 billion to \$US100 billion per year.

Near the end of the negotiations, nongovernmental organisations warned that the delegates were heading for "a lacklustre outcome." In a statement, 18 European NGOs protested that governments were "introducing precise language whenever developing countries are concerned, while insisting on vague niceties when it concerns Northern governments or international financial institutions." African NGOs said they were "deeply concerned by the developments...which are undermining the values and principles of equality, solidarity and shared responsibility of the Millennium Declaration." The Millennium Declaration was issued at the General Assembly's 55th session in September 2000.

Other topics covered by the document include: confronting the challenges of Financing for Development: a global response; mobilising international resources for development: FDI and other private flows; increasing international financial and technical cooperation; and external debt.

The concluding session of the final Preparatory Committee session will be held in the coming days to allow formal adoption of the document and its transmittal to the March Conference.

According to the FfD website, the heads of the World Bank, IMF, and WTO have agreed to co-chair the summit roundtables.

A final unedited version of the Monterey Consensus is available on the FFD website at: <http://www.un.org/ffd>.

"DEVELOPMENT: Financing Conference Committee Issues Document," UN WIRE, 28 January 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

In Brief

EU ESTABLISHES NEW FOOD SAFETY BODY

European Union farm ministers officially passed laws on 23 January to set up a new European Food Safety Authority. Designed to bolster declining public confidence in food safety in the wake of alerts such as mad cow disease and dioxin poisoning, the body will

employ up to 250 people with a budget of 40 million euros and will provide scientific advice to policy makers and give the public information on potential risks in the food chain.

"EU passes laws to set up new food safety body," REUTERS, 23 January 2002.

BASEL CONVENTION GROUP ADOPTS NEW PLASTIC WASTES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

On 18 January, the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal adopted a set of technical guidelines for protecting human health and the environment from the improper disposal of plastic wastes. The guidelines are meant to address growing concerns that many developing countries lack the resources for a proper management system for these hazardous materials and are unable to cope with increasing volumes of plastics and wastes of all kinds. The guidelines address a range of waste management issues including sorting for mechanical recycling, health and safety, shipping and transport, feedstock recycling, compaction, energy recovery and final disposal.

The most common methods of disposal, landfilling and open, uncontrolled burning, pose significant risks to human health and the natural environment but can be reduced through recycling, re-use, and rigorous disposal procedures. Burning of polyvinylchloride (PVC) plastic produces persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that are released into the air and then circulated globally. These pollutants have been classified as possible human carcinogens and are associated with such adverse effects in humans as immune and enzyme disorders and chloracne.

According to recent estimates, of the amount of plastics annually produced in developed countries (Western Europe alone produced some 19,166,000 tonnes of collectable plastic waste in 1999), approximately three quarters ends up in landfills, leaving enormous potential for increasing the amount that is re-used or recycled.

Prepared under the auspices of the Basel Convention, the Technical Guidelines for the Identification and Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes and for their Disposal have been adopted by the Convention's Technical Working Group. They will be submitted for adoption to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 6), planned for December 2002.

The Basel Convention was adopted in March 1989 on the wave of public concern for a series of cargos transporting hazardous wastes from industrialised to developing and East European countries. The agreed texts of the convention (available at: <http://www.basel.int/text/con-e.htm>) set the legal framework for the international movement of these wastes and oblige its members to ensure that such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. Governments are expected to minimise the quantities that are transported, to treat and dispose of wastes as close as possible to where they are generated, and to minimise the generation of hazardous waste at source. Due to varying methods of reporting, it is difficult to produce

reliable statistics on the generation and cross-border movements of hazardous waste, but according to statistics provided by 36 Parties to the Basel Convention, about 200 million metric tonnes of hazardous wastes were generated in their countries in 1999. 149 countries have currently ratified the convention.

18 January 2002, New Guidelines Will Reduce Hazards Posed By Plastic Wastes, UNEP Press release.

USTR CONSIDERS MODELS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN US-CHILE FTA TALKS

The Office of US Trade Representatives (USTR) informed environmental groups last week that it would be referring to the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement's environmental side accord, and the Chile-Canada trade pact as sources for current negotiations on environmental aspects of the US-Chile free trade agreement. USTR officials stressed Chile's insistence that neither labour nor environmental provisions be enforced through trade sanctions. Environmentalists have expressed concern on this issue as they see the US-Jordan FTA as containing a weak commitment to maintaining environmental protections in the face of potential gains in bilateral trade, and the Canada-Chile pact as having a weak environment regulation enforcement mechanism. Labour and environmental text in the US-Jordan FTA maintains that the two sides will 'strive to ensure' they will not lower labour and environmental standards for the purpose of attracting foreign direct investment. Green groups will also be watching the investor-state dispute provisions carefully in order to ensure that corporations do not have the potential to sue governments over their domestic regulations. The negotiations between the US and Chile are slated to end this year.

"USTR Looks for Models for Environment provision of U.S.-Chile FTA," INSIDE U.S. TRADE, 25 January 2002; "US-Chile FTA Trade Negotiations," INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION PRESS RELEASE, December 2001.

WTO In Brief

AG COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS 'DEVELOPMENT BOX' AND CONCLUDE PHASE II

The WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) will meet 4-6 February in an informal Special (negotiating) Session to address a range of topics including the 'Development Box', single commodity producers, special and differential treatment (S&D), small island developing countries, and "other issues". With the Development Box -- which would allow for special treatment for developing countries under the Agreement on Agriculture, for instance expanded domestic support commitments -- and S&D, two key negotiation issues will be back on the table, and the usual players in this field, i.e. the Like-Minded Group and India, in particular, are expected to rehash the development debate in agriculture. In this context, it should be noted that Switzerland is preparing a non-paper

on the Development Box which -- in principle -- recognises the need and advantage of such an instrument provided its measures are targeted, transparent and minimally trade distortive. Sources indicate that some Members will likely take the chance to raise further controversial points under the bullet "other issues" so as to include further topics thus far exempted from the agriculture negotiations on the agenda.

Delegates will consequently meet in a 7 February formal Special Session to conclude Phase II of the agriculture negotiations under the original Article 20 mandate. After that, the negotiations continue under the mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. For further information see the updated WTO backgrounder 'The Issues, And Where We Are Now,' at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/negs_bkgrnd00_contents_e.htm).

BRIDGES Weekly will report on the CoA meeting in its forthcoming issues.

ICTSD Internal Files.

MOORE URGES PARLIAMENTARIANS TO HELP IMPLEMENT DOHA MANDATE

WTO Director-General Mike Moore on 23 January addressed the parliamentarians of the Council of Europe, encouraging them to play an active role in the advancement of the goals of the Doha Development Agenda. Specifically, he asked for their "support and commitment to the multilateral trading system," citing it as a vital component for achieving the WTO's mission of making trade freer and based on the rule of law. Moore suggested that the parliamentarians could perform an oversight role within their respective countries, requesting that they help to clarify the importance of the Doha Development Agenda, calm public apprehension, and actively engage themselves in the critical issues of the agenda. He warned the parliamentarians to take note of the trend of "globalisation of public policy issues," and to ensure that their work at the national level complemented work at the international level. Moore did not make reference to the possible creation of a parliamentary assembly for the WTO as some legislators have urged in the past. However, he did mention future meetings between the WTO and parliamentarians of the Council of Europe in a more structured and formal setting. In November of 2001, more than 90 parliamentarians from around the world called on the WTO to add language to the Ministerial Declaration aimed at 'associating Parliaments more closely with the activities of the WTO'.

"The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 23 January 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO SYMPOSIUM ON DOHA ISSUES SET FOR APRIL

According to WTO sources, the WTO will host a symposium on various issues surrounding the Doha Development Agenda on 28-29 April and 1 May. The meeting will look at the development challenges following Doha and address topics such as trade and environment, trade and debt, trade and finance, and the impact of technology and the digital divide. Other potential topics include participation; the functioning and financing of the WTO; external relations; issues of social justice; and the social, economic,

environmental, and political impacts of globalisation. Governments, parliamentarians, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) are the target groups for the meeting. Due to resistance from some Members that the WTO finance the conference from the regular WTO budget, alternative sources are being sought to provide funding.

ICTSD Internal Files.

CANADA'S MARCHI IN RUNNING FOR GENERAL COUNCIL CHAIR

According to reliable trade sources, Canada's Ambassador to the WTO Sergio Marchi has been approached by some developed and developing country Members as a candidate for Chair of the WTO's ruling General Council. Currently, the one-year post is held by Stuart Harbinson (Hong Kong-China). Members are expected to decide on Chairpersons for the General Council and the WTO's subsidiary bodies once agreement is reached on who will Chair the Trade Negotiations Committee (see related story, this issue).

ICTSD Internal Files.

On The Move

MR. NACER BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI APPOINTED WTO D-G SENIOR ADVISOR

On 23 January, WTO Director-General Mike Moore announced the appointment of Mr. Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi (Morocco) as Senior Advisor to the Director General. As a former Ambassador to both the WTO and the United Nations, Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi has an extensive background in trade issues and international diplomacy. Additionally, he had a long and distinguished career in the Moroccan foreign service, with postings in Washington and New York, USA. Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi's functions will include coordination within the Secretariat for promoting coherence. According to the WTO, his appointment is part of a wider strategy of follow-up to the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha and is aimed at ensuring a coherent approach to WTO co-operative efforts with other agencies and governments.

"New Appointment Continues Momentum from Doha," WTO NEWS PRESS RELEASE, 23 January 2002.

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/cal/index.htm>.

Coming up this week: 29 Jan - 7 Feb

28-31 January, West Sussex, England: TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HEMISPHERE, EUROPE AND ASIA. The conference will address such questions as: Will the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) herald an era of economic prosperity and political stability in the Americas? Or would South American interests be better served by strengthening Mercosur and bilateral arrangements with the US and EU? What are the main obstacles to freer trade? Should the EU and Caribbean feel threatened by a greater US focus on Latin America? For further information contact: Ms Fran Martin, Wilton Park Conferences, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3DZ, England; tel: (44-0-190) 381-7777; fax: (44-0-190) 381-5931; email: frances.martin@wiltonpark.org.uk; Internet: <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/>.

28 January - 8 February, New York, USA: SECOND PREPARATORY SESSION FOR THE 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The meeting will review the results of national and regional preparatory processes, examine the main policy report of the Secretary-General, and convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue. For further information contact: Andrey Vasilyev; tel: (1-212) 963-4264; email: vasilyev@un.org. Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca>.

29-30 January, New York, USA: HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON ENERGY. Organised by the Global Environment Facility, this roundtable will be held alongside the second WSSD preparatory meeting. The meeting will discuss and exchange views on a background paper on sustainable energy in developing countries. For further information contact: GEF; tel: (1-202) 473-0508; fax: (1-202) 522-3240; email: kkumari@worldbank.org. >From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca>.

30-31 January, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL AID AND TRADE EUROPE 2002 EXHIBITION. Organised by The Winchester Group in partnership with UNOPS, International Aid & Trade Europe will bring together numerous representatives from UN agencies, Red Cross, NGOs, IFIs and development banks, along with officials from governments and the EU. Speakers will address issues regarding the changing nature of humanitarian aid delivery. For further information contact: Kevin Sammon, Group Sales Manager; email: kevin.sammon@aidandtrade.com or Caroline Maguire, Exhibition Manager; email: caroline.maguire@aidandtrade.com; Internet: www.aidandtrade.com.

31 January-3 February, Manhattan, New York, USA: THE PUBLIC EYE ON DAVOS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. The conference, which provides an alternative to the World Economic Forum's Vision of the Global Economy, will feature representatives of non-governmental organisations and critical economists from both developing and developed countries who will present their views of the current model for the global economy. For further information contact: Matthias Herfeldt, Berne Declaration; tel: (41-

1) 277-7006; email: publiceye@evb.ch or Alexandra Wandel, Friends of the Earth Europe, Brussels; tel: (32-2) 542-0185; email: alexandra.wandel@foeeurope.org; Internet: <http://www.publiceyeondavos.ch/>.

31 January - 3 February, New York, USA: GLOBALIZING JUSTICE. A call for a WEF Counter-Summit and National Student Mobilisation to be held at Columbia University. The conference will feature speakers, workshops on a variety of topics, and more. For further information visit: <http://www.studentsforglobaljustice.org/contact.htm>.

31 January - 4 February, New York, USA: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2002. For the first time in its 31-year history, the World Economic Forum will conduct its Annual Meeting outside of Davos, Switzerland. Experts, business and political leaders will gather for this year's annual meeting to address key economic, political and societal issues. For further information contact: Charles McLean, Communications and Public Affairs; email: public.affairs@weforum.org ; Internet: <http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Annual+Meeting+2002>. >From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

31 January - 5 February, Porto Alegre, Brazil: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM. The WSF will be an international arena for the creation and exchange of social and economic projects to promote human rights, social justice and sustainable development. The conference will consist of a series of daily plenary sessions with invited speakers, presentations of current initiatives, and meetings to develop networks and to strengthen ties among groups that engage in similar forms of organisation. For further information visit: <http://www.worldsocialforum.org>.

1 February, Geneva, Switzerland: FAO ROUNDTABLE ON SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. The Round Table will consider Special and Differential Treatment in the context of the on-going WTO negotiations on agriculture and in particular how to take into account concerns of developing countries related to the Development Box proposal, Small Island Developing States and Single Commodity Exporters. For further information contact the Commodities and Trade Division, UN Food and Agricultural Organization; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/ES/ESC/default.htm>.

4-7 February, San José, Costa Rica: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, the conference will bring together researchers and other professionals interested in documenting and measuring the impact of international agricultural research. Participants are expected to highlight experiences and case studies of impacts on agricultural productivity, equity, poverty, social health, and nutrition, the environment, as well as on institutions and human capital. For more information contact: email: impacts@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.cimmyt.org/Research/Economics/impacts/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

4-8 February, Geneva, Switzerland: 6TH SESSION OF UNCTAD COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES. The main agenda items of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting are: Item 3. "The sustainable use of biological resources: Ways to enhance the production and export capacities of developing countries of agriculture and food products, including niche products, such as environmentally preferable products (EPPs)"; Item 4. "Analysis of ways to enhance the contribution of specific services sectors to the development perspectives of developing countries: Energy services in international trade: development implications; Item 5. "Analysis of market access issues facing developing countries: Consumer interests, competitiveness, competition and development" and Item 6. "Progress report on the implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission." For further information visit the UNCTAD website at: <http://www.unctad.org>.

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.

29 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. On the agenda: Report of the Appellate Body and Panel on US - Tax Treatment for "Foreign Sales Corporations": recourse to article 21.5 of the DSU by the European Communities.

30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. Re-convened from 28 January.

1 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. On the agenda, inter alia: Surveillance of implementation of recommendations adopted by the DSB on EC-bananas (status report), and US anti-dumping act of 1916 (status report); Report of the panel in India - measures affecting the automotive sector; and Chair's statement on negotiations on improvements and clarifications of the DSU.

4-6 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

7 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE -- FORMAL SPECIAL SESSION.

13 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

14 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

Other Forthcoming Events

7 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TENTH (FORMAL) SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. The following items-inter alia-are proposed for the agenda: a) work programme for the second phase of the negotiations for continuing the reform process under article 20 of the agreement on agriculture; b) review of the negotiations and conclusion of the work programme for the second phase (G/AG/NG/9, Paragraph 5, Refers): Statements by members; c) Chairperson's outline of her report to the general council.

9-11 February, New Delhi, India: DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2002. The theme of this meeting will be "Ensuring sustainable livelihoods: challenges for governments, corporates, and civil society at Rio+10." For further information visit: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds/index.htm>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca>.

28 February - 2 March, Uttar Pradesh, India: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION. The conference will examine shaping eco-tourism for the Third Millennium. For further information contact: email: tvsingh@sancharnet.in. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca>.

25 March-5 April, New York, USA: THIRD PREPARATORY SESSION FOR THE 2002 WSSD. The meeting will aim to produce the first draft of a "review" document and elements of the CSD's future work programme. For further information contact: Andrey Vasilyev; tel: (1-212) 963-5949; fax: (1- 212) 963-4260; e-mail: vasilyev@un.org; Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

7-26 April, The Hague, the Netherlands: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY/CARTAGENA PROTOCOL MOP-1. The meeting is expected to serve as the First Meeting of the Parties (MOP-1) to the Cartagena Protocol. For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

18-20 July, Sheffield, UK: TRADING CULTURE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE THEMES OF THE 'INDIGENOUS' AND THE 'EXPORTABLE' IN FILM AND TELEVISION CULTURE. International trade in film began in the early part of the twentieth century. By the start of the twenty -first century this was extended to include an increasingly global trade in television programmes and a re-working of the concept of export in the era of satellites and the Internet. This conference will focus on the cultural dimension of these economic developments. For further information contact: Sharon Stone, AHRB Centre Administrator, Sheffield Hallam University, School of Cultural Studies, Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8UZ UK; email: ahrb@shu.ac.uk.

22-25 July, Dresden, Germany: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH. This meeting will be the third international conference in the series on water resources and environment research. The aim of the conference is to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary communication among scientists, engineers and professionals working in the fields of ecological systems, sustainable management, development of water resources and conservation of natural systems. For further information contact: Cathleen Schimmek, Conference Secretariat; tel: (49-351) 463-33931; email: icwrrer2002@mailbox.tu-dresden.de; Internet: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/fghhihm/hydrologie.html>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca>.

26 August - 4 September, Johannesburg, South Africa: WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For more information contact: Andrey Vasilyev, DESA; tel: (1-212) 963-5949; email: vasilyev@un.org; Internet: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.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 Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

ASSESSING REGIONAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS: ARE SOUTH-SOUTH RTAs MORE TRADE DIVERTING? By Lucian Cernat, published by UNCTAD, December 2001. The paper estimates for a number of regional trade arrangements (RTAs) among developing countries the gross trade creation and diversion effects resulting from RTA formation. This paper brings evidence in favour of the idea that South-South RTAs, and African RTAs in particular, are not more trade diverting than other RTAs. This evidence suggests that increased trade with both regional partners and third countries in the case of South-South RTAs might be explained by the removal of "invisible" trade barriers as a result of trade facilitation measures favoured by RTA formation. For further information contact Ms. Jenifer Tacardon, Trade Analysis Branch, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211 Geneva, tel: (+41-22) 907-4644, fax: 907-0044, email: jenifer.tacardon@unctad.org. To order, email publications@un.org.

"Rethinking WTO Trade Sanctions," in AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, VOL. 95 October 2001 NO. 4, pp. 792-833. By Steve Charnovitz. In case of noncompliance with a decision under the WTO dispute settlement system, the complaining government may be authorised to impose trade sanctions. Such sanctions suffer from numerous disadvantages, says Charnovitz, not the least being that they impede trade. This article argues that WTO dispute settlement might experiment with more nuanced responses to noncompliance that, for example, seek to influence public opinion in the target state.

"Sustainable Energy For Sustainable Development," in THE COURIER: the magazine of ACP-EU development cooperation, Nov/Dec 2001. By Philip Mann. This article suggests that energy services play a fundamental role in human development, and as such, recent international activities have heightened the profile of energy. Throughout the article, Mann highlights linkages between energy and other sectors such as poverty, gender, health, trade, rural development, transport, and the environment. For further information, visit <http://europa.eu.int/comm./development/publicat/courier>.

"Information Technologies To Serve The Poor," in DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION, Jan/Feb 2002. By Georg Caspary. Modern technologies hold great promise for development. However, if they are to benefit the poor, they must be made accessible in all regions of the world, and to all sections of society. This article demonstrates numerous models of affordable access to information technology that have been tried in developing countries. For further information, contact D+C, P.O. Box, D-60268 Frankfurt (Frankenallee 71-81), Germany, Tel: (+49 69) 7501-4366, fax: 7501-4855, email: HDBrauer@t-online.de.

ECOLOGY AND GENETICS: AN ESSAY ON THE NATURE OF LIFE AND THE PROBLEM OF GENETIC ENGINEERING. By Arjun Makhijani, published by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 2001. The central thesis of this book is that the genetic structures of living beings are internal biological expressions of the ecosystems they need to survive. Inter- species genetic engineering creates new types of living beings, which could not arise naturally and which are being introduced without a sound understanding of their ecological impacts. Price: \$US7.00 including postage and handling. To order the report, send a check for the appropriate amount, made out to IEER, a letter clearly stating the quantities and titles you would like. All prices include shipping and handling. Mail to: IEER, 6935 Laurel Ave. Suite 204, Takoma Park, MD 20912, USA.

E-Resources

WTO GATEWAY TO INFORMATION ON THE AGENDA SET BY THE DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Temporarily only in English, the WTO's site section provides official texts from the Doha Ministerial Conference together with explanations. Available at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dohaagenda_e.htm.

A NEVER-ENDING NEGOTIATION. By E. Gudynas. An evaluation of the WTO Doha Round After a Latin American Perspective. In this article, emphasis is given to the impact of the Doha agreement on agriculture and food trade, the agenda of the upcoming negotiations, and its relationships with the US proposal for a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Available at CLAES' new web site on Globalization, Development and Civil Society in Latinamerica: <http://www.globalizacion.org>. This article, as other notes and reports on the web site on globalisation, is only in Spanish and Portuguese. Also available at the web site is an option to subscribe to Globalizacion America Latina, a free electronic newsletter.

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