

### LEAD STORIES \_\_\_\_\_ 1

FTAA MINISTERIAL SETS NEGOTIATING  
SCHEDULE DESPITE DIFFERENCES ON  
AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_ 1

WTO: DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT  
CONCERNS EMERGE IN MARKET ACCESS TALKS  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3

### OTHER NEWS \_\_\_\_\_ 4

MINI-MINISTERIAL TO FOCUS ON TOUGH DOHA  
QUESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ 4

CLIMATE CHANGE: US SIDES WITH DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES IN RESISTING ADDITIONAL CLIMATE  
COMMITMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ 5

WTO ADDRESSES CHALLENGES OF SMALL  
ECONOMIES \_\_\_\_\_ 6

HARARE WORKSHOP DISCUSSES NEPAD, AGOA,  
OTHER TRADE ARRANGEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_ 7

### IN BRIEF \_\_\_\_\_ 8

CHINA AND ASEAN TO WORK ON WORLD'S  
LARGEST FTA \_\_\_\_\_ 8

EC PLANS FUNDING TO OFFSET LOST JOBS IN  
FISHING INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_ 8

CANADA PROGRESSES ON TRADE  
ARRANGEMENTS ACROSS LATIN AMERICA \_\_\_\_ 9

### WTO IN BRIEF \_\_\_\_\_ 9

EU PROPOSAL WOULD BOOST ACCESS TO  
MEDICINES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;  
PROTECT MANUFACTURES \_\_\_\_\_ 9

WTO, UNCTAD, ITC PLEDGE COOPERATION\_\_ 10

SUPACHAI STRESSES TRADE-DEVELOPMENT  
LINKAGE \_\_\_\_\_ 10

### EVENTS & RESOURCES \_\_\_\_\_ 10

EVENTS \_\_\_\_\_ 10

RESOURCES \_\_\_\_\_ 13

### LEAD STORIES

#### FTAA MINISTERIAL SETS NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE DESPITE DIFFERENCES ON AGRICULTURE

During a meeting of the trade ministers of the 34 member states of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in Quito, Ecuador on 1 November, the US, Canada, and Latin American countries established a timeline in which to negotiate the Western Hemispheric free trade zone by 2005. Despite disputes -- over agricultural subsidies, for instance -- that some countries claim could halt the entire process, the US urged Latin American governments to continue developing the deal despite the political and economic problems gripping the region. "I recognise that this is a time of economic, and indeed political, uncertainty in this region and indeed the world. And I know the courage of many of you taking on this task...But this is the time," stated US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Zoellick.

At the conclusion on the Ministerial, the second draft consolidated text of the FTAA was released, and is publicly accessible at either [http://www.ftaa-alca.org/alca\\_e.asp](http://www.ftaa-alca.org/alca_e.asp) or at <http://www.ustr.gov/new/ftaa-quito.htm>.

It was agreed that all members must submit draft trade proposals by 15 February 2003 that outline tariff reductions. The following two years have been scheduled for revisions, with the target being to establish a final accord during a summit in Brazil at the end of 2004. While the agreement around these dates came as little surprise, ministers felt they had provided a strong signal that the trade talks were still very much in motion.

#### Agricultural subsidies: a major obstruction

During the meeting, the member countries reaffirmed the need to end export subsidies and other practices that affect agricultural products and farm trade. Venezuelan trade Minister Ramón Rosales saw the inclusion of this issue in the Quito Declaration as a major achievement, as it had been excluded from the

Buenos Aires FTAA Ministerial Declaration in April 2001. He went on to say that, "the agricultural issue is no longer part of an annex to the document. Now there is explicit recognition that we will not begin cutting farm commodity tariffs without previously resolving the problem of subsidies and other forms of domestic assistance to the farming sector." His comments were directed most explicitly at the US, which raised subsidies to its farm sector in May 2002 by 80 percent (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-05-15/story2.htm>).

Another Latin American trade minister added that the Latin American countries were prepared to "fight any agreement" that did not protect peasant farmers from unfair competition.

Responding to the farm subsidy question, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick expressed his interest in the elimination of agricultural export subsidies worldwide. He noted that the US had already proposed a plan to the WTO that would eliminate USD 100 billion in domestic agricultural subsidies globally, and in the process reduce US domestic agricultural subsidies by 50 percent. However, other countries stated that the entire FTAA process was at risk if the US did not act in accordance with these statements.

Brazil, which represents almost 50 percent of Latin American economic activity, indicated that it might not sign the FTAA if reciprocal benefits were not forthcoming. Brazilian Trade Minister Sergio Amaral said that Brazil would consider joining a free trade arrangement with other Latin American countries, excluding the US, if the Americans refused to make key concessions, including cutting import tariffs and farm subsidies. He went on to say that if such concessions were not made then "there is, obviously, no reason to have an FTAA".

### **Civil society groups bring message of dissent to ministers**

In an unprecedented sequence of events, on 2 November, following protests and pressure from civil society and campesino groups -- who were eventually joined by Ecuadorian police -- trade ministers agreed to allow a group of 50 protestors to enter the Ministerial venue, where they delivered a declaration of opposition to the FTAA. Representatives from campesino groups told trade ministers that they had no desire for their countries to become US colonies, while Peter Rossett of non-governmental organisation (NGO) Food First told US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick that he should be ashamed for pushing an agreement that would impoverish Latin Americans, not to mention many US citizens. Trade ministers also heard a speech from parliamentarians of 11 countries calling on their

respective ministers to "reject the FTAA and recall their negotiators at once."

### **FTAA IPR Chapter unbalanced**

At a 29-30 October civil society forum on intellectual property rights (IPRs) and biodiversity in the Americas in Quito, participants agreed that the draft FTAA Chapter on IPRs as currently written was essentially unbalanced for developing countries and ignored many civil society concerns in relation to IPRs. It was concluded that the chapter would run counter to sustainable development principles if issues such as the relationship between IPRs and genetic resources, the protection of traditional knowledge, and competition regulations inside intellectual property systems were not appropriately included. One participant felt that these conclusions reflected the urgent need for deep reform of the intellectual property chapter of the FTAA and the international IPR system so as to respond to environmental, developmental and public interest concerns.

### **Labour**

Previous to the Ministerial, non-governmental group Human Rights Watch released a briefing paper that demanded the FTAA include effective workers' rights protections. According to Human Rights Watch Researcher Carol Pier, "free trade won't lift lives if it rewards, rather than discourages, harmful child labour, sex discrimination and anti-union conduct". The group suggested that one way an appropriate reward system could be implemented would be to insist that the FTAA guarantee labour rights protections above and beyond those set in the US. The NGO also released a second briefing paper that demanded FTAA members not support any agreement that would strengthen HIV/AIDS drug patents and thereby degrade public health measures allowed under existing global trade rules.

### **Other Results**

In Quito, Ministers also launched Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP) meant to be a comprehensive trade capacity-building program to assist small and developing countries in the region in obtaining the potential benefits of the FTAA. USTR Robert Zoellick indicated that the US would seek a to increase the amount dedicated to this initiative by 37 percent, to USD 140 million.

It was decided that Brazil and the US would co-chair the FTAA process through to January 2005, when negotiations are scheduled to conclude. Ministers agreed that their next meeting would be in Miami in late 2003, with another meeting set for Brazil in 2004. Ministers also announced three meetings of the FTAA

Trade Negotiations Committee for next year, in Trinidad and Tobago, El Salvador, and Mexico.

For further information, visit:  
<http://www.foodfirst.org/progs/global/trade/quito2002/2002-11-01-update.php> or <http://www.ftaa-alca.org/>

ICTSD reporting, "US, Latam agree on Americas free trade zone by 2005," REUTERS, 1 November 2002; "Trade Ministers Urged to Protect Labor Rights in FTAA," HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, 30 October 2002; "Police Rebel and Anti-Free Trade Protests in Quito End on Positive Note," FOOD FIRST, 1 November 2002; 02 November 2002; "Hemispheric Trade Ministers Set Schedule for Advancing FTAA," US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2 November 2002; "Agriculture Tangles FTAA Relations," INTER PRESS SERVICE, 2 November 2002; "Quito FTAA Ministerial: Mission Accomplished," USTR, November 2002.

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## **WTO: DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS EMERGE IN MARKET ACCESS TALKS**

At a 4-5 November meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Market Access, Members considered proposals on non-agricultural market access, in which both development and environment issues emerged as occasional themes.

### **Background**

At negotiations launched last November in Doha, Qatar, WTO Members agreed to negotiations to reduce or eliminate tariffs -- including non-tariff barriers, tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariff escalation -- in particular on products of export interest to developing countries. According to the mandate, "negotiations shall take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed country participants, including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments."

On 19 July 2002, Members agreed to submit proposals on modalities by 1 November this year, with a consolidated overview scheduled for the Group's first meeting in 2003. At that time, Members also agreed to reach a common understanding on a possible outline of modalities by the end of March 2003, with a view to reaching an agreement on those modalities by 31 May 2003. Since the last meeting of the Negotiating Group on 12-13 September (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-18/story5.htm>), five proposals have been submitted: Singapore (TN/MA/W/8, searchable at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>); Canada (TN/MA/W/9), India

(TN/MA/W/10), EC (TN/MA/W/11), and Hong Kong-China (TN/MA/W/12, not yet available online).

### **Discussions**

Since most papers were submitted either just prior to the meeting or at the Negotiating Group itself, reactions to the submitted papers were few, and discussions for the most part focused on re-iterating previously stated positions (see link to BRIDGES Weekly, 18 September, above). Referring to the May 2003 deadline, most Members indicated that their preferences on modalities were still evolving, and were not yet prepared to engage in detailed substantive debates on the issue. An informal proposal by New Zealand advocating zero tariffs on all non-agricultural products met with a great deal of scepticism from most Members, particularly from developing countries, although New Zealand's Trade Negotiations Minister Jim Sutton affirmed before the meeting that the US and Australia had given "support in principle" to its proposal.

### **EC plays development card**

The EC's market access proposal (TN/MA/W/11) forwarded an ambitious suggestion that WTO Members agree to reduce all tariff duties considerably by compressing them into a flatter range, thereby eliminating tariff peaks (normally viewed as tariffs in excess of 15 percent) and high tariffs and 'streamlining' tariff rates. In an attempt to include developing country interests, the EC proposal advocated "significantly reducing tariff escalation [i.e. higher tariffs on products of higher value-added] on products of particular interest to developing countries." It also urged that Members should agree to deeper cuts for textiles and footwear, with a view to bringing these tariffs within a narrow range as close to zero as possible.

With regard to non-reciprocal commitments, the EC said that all developed countries should implement tariff and quota-free access for all products from least-developed countries no later than May 2003, and recognised that developed, developing and least-developed countries might follow different timetables for the implementation of their tariff commitments. Despite the development-related elements, the EC's paper was received with some scepticism from many developing countries, who said they feared their markets could be flooded by goods from developed countries under such a plan, and further stated that they would prefer to see the EC move more ambitiously on agricultural liberalisation.

## India advocates cautious approach to market access

India's paper (TN/MA/W/10) focused on ensuring that market access modalities and ensuing negotiations would result in substantial gains for developing countries. As such, its proposal stated that any market access approach fully integrate the 'less than full reciprocity' concept in all aspects, not merely in longer implementation periods, as specified by the EC in its paper. However, like the EC, it supported dealing effectively with tariff peaks, tariff escalation and non-tariff measures in products of particular export interest to developing countries.

In a call for developing countries maintaining development policy space in trade decision-making, India stated that provision should exist for developing countries to continue to keep certain domestically sensitive products from as unbound, or without a maximum tariff threshold. Further, India cautioned against including "legitimate instruments that developing countries may use under the various WTO agreements for development of their industries" as part of market access negotiations on non-tariff barriers.

## Environment

At the meeting, Japan submitted a list of environmental goods that was broadly similar to that already addressed by the Committee on Trade and Environment, originally conceived by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-17/wtoinbrief.htm>).

According to sources, other countries were asked to bring lists of their own products to be included on a final list to be agreed upon by the Negotiating Group at a later date. The EC indicated it would contribute to this list, and that it was likely to take into consideration goods produced in an environmentally-friendly fashion. India, supported by Malaysia and some others, disagree with this approach, saying that they are opposed to a list that would include products based on so-called 'production and process methods', or PPMs. Sources indicate that the general mood in the Negotiating Group sides more with the Indian view than with the EC on this issue. In its proposal, the EC reiterated its desire to negotiate deeper-than-average tariff cuts for goods identified as environmental goods.

## St. Lucia paper on modalities for small economies

In related news, a 29 October paper on implementation concerns by St. Lucia to the regular Committee on Market Access (G/MA/W/44) further addressed development-related areas in negotiating modalities for small and mid-sized exporting countries. St. Lucia's

concern is that none of the negotiating modality approaches employed to date -- including request-offer, across-the-board, zero-for-zero and 'cocktail' approaches -- have secured outcomes which address the particular circumstances of certain small exporting Members. As such, St. Lucia reiterated a previous comment made by Kenya on 2 August 2002 that modalities should not be in the nature of a one-size-fits-all approach or formula. Discussions will continue around this issue in the Committee on Market Access.

ICTSD reporting; "NZ Expects US To Lend Support To Non-Ag Zero Tariff Plan," DOW JONES, 4 November 2002; "EU seeks cuts in non-farm tariffs at WTO talks," REUTERS, 4 November 2002.

## OTHER NEWS

### MINI-MINISTERIAL TO FOCUS ON TOUGH DOHA QUESTIONS

An informal 'mini-ministerial' meeting of 25 ministers from key trading nations is set to take place next week on 14-15 November in Sydney, Australia. According to sources, ministers will discuss a range of issues, focusing on contentious areas on the WTO's Doha mandate -- such as intellectual property rights and access to medicines -- that are due for decision either this month or by the end of 2002. In addition to the 'Quad' group of developed countries (Canada, the EC, Japan and the US), the meeting will include 17 developing country ministers and WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi. A number of non-governmental groups will reportedly participate in certain portions of the meeting.

The Australian government, which is hosting the event, on 30 October changed the venue from downtown Sydney to the Novotel Hotel at Olympic Park, over 20 kilometres from the city (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-31/wtoinbrief.htm>).

## On the agenda

In an effort to put a 'development spin' on the mini-ministerial, officials are insisting that the meeting will emphasise the issue of compulsory licensing options for developing countries under the WTO's Doha mandate on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and public health (see BRIDGES Weekly, 24 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-24/story3.htm>). Also



on the agenda are the developing country issues of implementation and special and differential treatment (S&D), both of which are due for a decision by the end of this year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 24 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-24/story2.htm>).

According to trade sources, delegates will tackle other aspects of the Doha mandate, including environment, market access, geographical indications, review of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, investment, competition and e-commerce. These will be followed by talks on the 'Road to Cancun', or as one official put it, "strategy to avoid a crisis in December in the likely event implementation and S&D are deferred again". The next official WTO Ministerial Conference is scheduled for 10-14 September in Cancun, Mexico.

### **NGOs gather to oppose, influence meeting**

Despite the presence of the WTO Director-General, the mini-ministerial is being conducted outside the auspices of the WTO. Nevertheless, some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have called on ministers to reject such mini-ministerial, or so-called Green Room-style, meetings on the grounds that they allow a small coalition of countries to collaborate and strong-arm other WTO Members into certain positions before the actual Ministerial sessions. These NGOs -- including Focus on the Global South and Geneva-based Trade Information Project -- instead have called on WTO Members to pursue more transparent, inclusive processes that will promote consensus building among the entire organisation.

The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) has organised a seminar and a rally in the leadup to the event, and is circulating a sign-on letter emphasising the "elitist and undemocratic nature" of the ministerial meeting (see <http://www.aftinet.org.au/>). The rally, centred on alternatives to the WTO agenda, will take place on 14 November in Sydney, featuring speakers from a wide range of organisations.

Some NGOs have been asked by Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile to share their views with ministers at the meeting. Oxfam, for one, will be using the opportunity to push ministers to fulfil commitments around TRIPs and public health and tackle agricultural dumping. According to AFTINET, major domestic union (ACTU), environment (ACF) and aid agency (ACFOA) bodies which are on the Australian government's trade advisory group are also likely to be active at the meeting.

Participating countries at the mini-ministerial include: Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Egypt, the European Commission, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa,

Switzerland, Thailand, the US and one representative from the Caribbean.

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Process Sign-On," Focus on the Global South- Geneva, 1 November 2002; "Australian Government Media Release," REUTERS, 30 October 2002.

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE: US SIDES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN RESISTING ADDITIONAL CLIMATE COMMITMENTS**

A continuing division between developing and most developed countries' positions on greenhouse gas reductions became more contentious at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in New Delhi, India, on 23 October to 1 November, as the US largely sided with many developing countries in resisting further reductions. Many civil society groups accused the US of deliberately polarising the debate by supporting developing countries in their efforts to avoid additional commitments to reduce carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases.

Divisions at the Conference largely centred around whether to hold discussions regarding the need for "further action" on combating climate change, in particular after the first commitment period ending in 2012, as called for by the EU, including the role that developing countries should play in addressing climate change and what commitments they should accept. In the end, a debate on post-2012 action was postponed, and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration did not call for follow-up action, instead emphasising the need for adaptation measures, sustainable development and technology transfer.

The US was the only industrialised country to express satisfaction with the final declaration, which they regarded as "a balanced document for future course of action to deal with climate change." In contrast, the EU, backed by Canada, Japan and Switzerland, expressed disappointment with the outcome, which they saw as lacking vision and action for the future. "The Declaration is very much about the poor and poorest countries' development needs," said Steen Gade from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. "However, the message that we have a common responsibility for the state of the globe, and that that responsibility includes taking the next step towards a necessary stabilisation of the global climate, does not appear as clearly as we might have wished."

On the positive side, the EU welcomed the inclusion of references to the Kyoto Protocol in the final Declaration,

which had not appeared in the first draft. In particular, the Declaration calls on Parties that have already ratified the Protocol to "strongly urge Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner". Some progress was also made on several of the technical issues, notably the rules and procedures for the Clean Development Mechanism (i.e. collaborative projects to reduce emissions or sequester carbon in developing countries), guidelines for reporting and review, and additional guidance to the Fund for least-developed countries.

Many civil society groups blamed the US for deliberately slowing down the talks by further deepening the North-South divide and supporting the efforts of the G-77/China to postpone the debate on additional commitments. "The Bush administration, working closely with Saudi Arabia, has taken a number of steps at this meeting to obstruct the process," said Jennifer Morgan, director of WWF's climate change program. "Given that the Bush Administration cites the lack of developing country commitments as one of its main reasons for abandoning Kyoto, the US tactic gives cynicism a bad name," the Climate Action Network (CAN) added. CAN also criticised the references to the Kyoto Protocol, which they said fell short of expectations. "The wording on Kyoto is merely cosmetic," CAN noted in its statement. "The declaration fails to demand the immediate and unconditional ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all countries, especially the worlds' biggest polluter, the United States." Despite describing the limited progress on Kyoto implementation issues as "not helpful", CAN did not regard it as "a big setback as time remains to get things right before COP-9".

Measures to address climate change have recently been put onto the WTO's agenda, with Saudi Arabia's submission to the Committee on Trade and Environment regarding trade implications of energy taxation, subsidies and incentives of OECD countries on developing countries exports (WT/CTE/W/215, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>). While the Saudi proposal did not receive a great deal of attention at the 10- 11 October CTE meeting, it did put climate change issues on the table, particularly targeting potential carbon taxes that could emerge from an eventual binding agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

To date, 96 countries (55 required) have ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol accounting for 37.4 percent of CO2 emissions (55 percent required). Entry into force of the deal, expected next year, will depend on Russia ratifying the Protocol, following the US withdrawal from the deal last year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/27-03-01/story3.htm>).

Russia has declared that the country was moving towards ratification, but that the matter would need to be discussed in parliament before ratification.

COP-8 documents are available at <http://unfccc.int/cop8/>. Issues of the CAN newsletter ECO can be found at <http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/>.

ENB Vol.12 No.209, 4 November 2002; "COP8: The climate change negotiations ended with a disappointing result," EU PRESS RELEASE, 1 November 2002; "Build trust before COP-9," ECO, 1 November 2002; "Dissent clouds Delhi climate declaration," ENS, 1 November 2002.

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## **WTO ADDRESSES CHALLENGES OF SMALL ECONOMIES**

Postponed so that it could be part of 'Geneva Week' activities -- whereby Members and observers without permanent missions in Geneva attend a series of WTO meetings -- the WTO held its third dedicated session on small economies (under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development) on 4 November. Members discussed, inter alia, a submission of responses to questions put forward by the US on an earlier proposal made by a group of small economies, as well as two new WTO Secretariat papers. At the end of the session, Chair Ambassador Taoufiq Ali (Bangladesh) reportedly invited delegations to make suggestions on how to continue forward with the small economies issue at upcoming meetings.

### **Responding to questions from the US**

Mauritius and Barbados put forward a submission (WT/COMTD/SE/W/7, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) that was a compilation of questions put forward by the US delegation on an earlier submission (WT/COMTD/SE/W/3, searchable at link above) by a group of small economies -- including Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. The submission, and the discussion that ensued, touched on the use of export subsidies, how small economies' resources can be pooled at the regional level, regional trade agreements including small economies, sanitary and technical regulations, and graduation of least-developed countries.

### **Two new background papers from the Secretariat**

Two new background papers were presented by the Secretariat at the 4 November meeting. The first paper, entitled "Trade and Economic Performance - The role of economic size?" (WT/COMTD/W/5, searchable at link

above) followed up on requests from Members for greater depth in coverage of the issues relevant to trade and small economies. It built on the work done in the Secretariat's literature review (WT/COMTD/SE/W/4, searchable at link above), which identified a number of key variables that appear to be of particular relevance to small economies (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 September, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-18/story4.htm>). These variables included transport costs, openness to trade, diversification of exports and volatility of export earnings.

Notably, in the debate on this analytical piece, Members reportedly expressed surprise at the findings that small economies do not systematically experience higher volatility in their export earnings than large economies. The paper did however point out that the volatility of GDP decreases with economic size, resulting from the fact that small economies tend to be open to trade and thus any given level of variation in export earnings will have a large impact on their economies.

The second paper, entitled "WTO Provisions Potentially of Particular Interest to Small Economies" (WT/COMTD/W/6, searchable at link above), was a first attempt at compiling some provisions that could be of interest to or impact small economies. It covered WTO agreements such as GATT 1947 & 94, the Agreements on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Safeguards. While the paper did qualify that it was not an exhaustive list, and that it "merely aims to provide Members with a basis for discussion and possible future work", one trade source thought it odd that agriculture was not at least cursorily mentioned.

## Background

Paragraph 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration mandated a work programme, under the auspices of the General Council, "to examine the issues relating to the trade of small economies." It outlined explicitly, however, that the aim is "not to create a sub-category of WTO Members." The work of this body is scheduled for review at the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003.

At time of press, no date had been set for the next Committee on Trade and Development's dedicated session on small economies.

ICTSD reporting.

## HARARE WORKSHOP DISCUSSES NEPAD, AGOA, OTHER TRADE ARRANGEMENTS

On 29-30 October, more than thirty civil society representatives, researchers and academics gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe for a two-day regional workshop on "The Interface Between Trade and Regional Partnership Agreements - Cotonou, AGOA, WTO and NEPAD". The workshop was organised by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society-Africa (CUTS-ARC), Mwengo (Zimbabwe) and the Institute of Global Dialogue (South Africa). The discussions focused on the on-going negotiation processes of African trade agreements in the context of the continent's prospects for development. The aim of the workshop was to shed light on some of the issues at stake in the various negotiations in which Africa is involved and the development benefits of schemes such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

### Cotonou

The workshop noted that whereas the EU was the driving force behind new negotiations between Europe and the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries -- due to its heightened understanding of its relationship with the ACP -- the same could not be said about the ACP countries themselves. Because of this lack of clarity, workshop participants said, it has been deemed unlikely that the ACP region will draw as much benefit from eventual ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as might be expected. Negotiations for WTO-compatible EPAs under the Cotonou Agreement were launched in September between the two groups of countries (see Bridges Monthly, October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>).

Negotiations in Brussels contain several proposals for the further opening up of African economies. However, according to the final communiqué from the workshop, "some of the proposals in the EPA agenda such as trade and labour standards, policies governing investment, competition and intellectual property rights are contradictory to the positions of African countries at the WTO...At the WTO, they have refused to discuss new issues such as labour standards, trade and environment and multilateral rules on investment. But they have agreed to do so under the Cotonou Agreement." According to workshop participants, this is of concern for African countries because not only are both sets of negotiations going on simultaneously, but the EU has much greater leverage and influence at the WTO, threatening to weaken the bargaining potential of African countries in the new round of WTO negotiations.



The workshop also identified some of the problems with the EU's EPA proposals, in particular that they are aimed at dividing the ACP by region and by levels of development instead of by common economic interests. As a result, meeting participants noted, African countries could be forced to take divergent positions on similar issues, lending advantage to the EU in the negotiations. According to Professor Jasper Okelo of the University of Nairobi, the geographical configurations required by the Cotonou Agreement in forming EPAs "are a difficult and complex issue that needs time and mobilisation of political will to sort out". This is partly due to overlaps in the trade and economic groupings among the ACP, he said.

For a state-of-play of the EU-ACP EPA negotiations, visit [EPAwatch](http://www.epawatch.net/general/start.php) at <http://www.epawatch.net/general/start.php>.

### NEPAD-WTO

Regarding NEPAD and the WTO, the workshop noted that there were areas of overlap and therefore a need for greater coordination. The areas of overlap were identified as springing from their underlying economic ideology, with the emphasis on trade as the preferred engine for growth in developing countries.

### AGOA

Regarding the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), see [http://www.agoa.gov/About\\_AGOA/about\\_agoa.html](http://www.agoa.gov/About_AGOA/about_agoa.html)) trade arrangement between the US and 34 African countries, there was a consensus among the experts that several issues of concern have arisen. It was pointed out that AGOA's rules of origin are in contradiction with WTO rules, and that while there are many preferences under AGOA, its time frame was seen to be too short for countries to develop the needed infrastructure so as to maximise their benefit from the trade arrangement. Further, AGOA is not a partnership arrangement, as there was little African involvement in its preparation.

The workshop concluded that: "countries in the region need to focus on developing a comprehensive national development strategy and appropriate trade policy package instead of focusing their energies on sectoral and divisive programmes such as Cotonou, AGOA and NEPAD." In this regard, the workshop called for greater advocacy and public education on the contents of and issues at stake in the various trade negotiations of which African countries are participants.

ICTSD reporting; CUTS-ARC PRESS RELEASE, 2 November 2002.

## IN BRIEF

### CHINA AND ASEAN TO WORK ON WORLD'S LARGEST FTA

On 4 November, at the conclusion of last week's ASEAN summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, members of the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China signed a framework agreement to begin negotiations next year that will create the world's largest free trade agreement (FTA) worth USD 1.2 trillion and includes 1.7 billion consumers. The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation targets 2010 for a free-trade agreement with more-developed ASEAN nations and 2015 for newer members, such as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Burma. While it is expected to take up to 10 years to implement, it is possible that as early as next year tariffs on some farms products could be cut in an "early harvest package." Some feel that as China pushes for greater integration with ASEAN, they will in turn harm the smaller countries in the region. John Tkacik, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation commented, "the only way China becomes an economic power is to suck the oxygen out of the rest of the region." He explained that China had been successful in attracting investment, often at the expense of the less-integrated ASEAN markets.

"Analysis: Asian trade pacts proliferate," UPI, 5 November 2002; China, ASEAN agree to start trade talks, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, 5 November 2002.

### EC PLANS FUNDING TO OFFSET LOST JOBS IN FISHING INDUSTRY

According to officials from the European Commission, the EC plans to allocate more than 600 million euros (USD 598 million) up to 2006 to help those fishermen likely to be hurt as a result of its plans to reform the EU's fishing sector. With stocks of several species, particularly cod, close to collapse (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-31/inbrief.htm> - 2), the EC is pushing to limit the number of vessels allowed to fish in EU waters, and says that income cuts are likely for fishermen and owners of vessels. Current negotiations on rules at the WTO are looking at 'clarifying and improving' WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies. In that context, the EU, together with Japan and S. Korea, is being asked by many other WTO Members to do away with subsidies that contribute to overfishing. Going beyond the WTO mandate, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation calls on



countries to "eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity" while completing the reform of fisheries subsidies in the WTO.

"EU earmarks funding to help struggling fishermen," REUTERS, 6 November 2002.

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## **CANADA PROGRESSES ON TRADE ARRANGEMENTS ACROSS LATIN AMERICA**

On 1 November, the Canada-Costa Rica Free Trade Area took effect, providing immediate duty free access to most industrial goods from both parties, including on products such as automotive and environmental goods. Included in the free trade agreement is the establishment of a precedent-setting framework for competition policy that, according to Canada, could serve as a model for the region. Additionally, the agreement includes a chapter on trade facilitation aimed at making trade procedures more efficient and reducing formalities and costs for business. Canada and Chile on 31 October signed a clarification of the investment provisions of their existing FTA. The clarification measures -- based on similar North American Free Trade Agreement Chapter 11 (investment) clarification measures signed on 31 July 2001 -- will permit both countries to make publicly available all documents submitted to or issued by the Agreement's investment tribunals. Canada and Chile will also be able to share all relevant investment chapter documents, including confidential information, with their respective federal and provincial officials. Both countries also made clear that the "minimal standard of treatment" refers to customary international law and that "fair and equitable treatment" and "full protection and security" do not require treatment in addition to or beyond that standard. In related news, Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced on 30 October that Canada would hold public consultations around proposed free trade agreements (FTAs) with the Andean Community countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) and the Dominican Republic. The consultations are geared at engaging business, citizen-based groups and individual Canadians, as well as provincial and territorial governments, to obtain advice and views on priorities, objectives and concerns to help define the possible scope of the FTAs. All interested parties are invited to submit their views to the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade by 20 December 2002.

See also <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/and-e.asp>, <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/Consult1-e.asp> - andean, <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/dominican>, and <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/bilateral-e.asp> - 01.

"Canada to Hold Public Consultations on Proposed Free Trade Agreements with Andean Countries and Dominican Republic," CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 4 November 2002; "Canada Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement," CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 31 October 2002; <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/bilateral-e.asp#01c>.

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## **WTO IN BRIEF**

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### **EU PROPOSAL WOULD BOOST ACCESS TO MEDICINES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; PROTECT MANUFACTURES**

The EU Commission on 29 October adopted a proposal to help boost developing countries' access to critical medicines by providing them at largely reduced prices. The program would allow producers to significantly increase supplies shipped to 72 countries that are considered developing or low-income by offering the medications at prices up to 90 percent off what OECD members pay for the same goods. At the same time, measures will be put into place to prevent those medicines from re-entering the EU creating a black market for the goods. The proposal, floated to other WTO Members ahead of a mini-ministerial meeting next week (see related story, this issue), addresses the key issues dividing members, including the diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria) and products to be covered, the countries that could import or export under new flexible rules, and safeguards against diversion outside the needed markets. The Commission denied that the plan was put into place as a reaction to the Dutch authorities discovery in early October that thousands of packets of anti-AIDS pills had been smuggled back into the EU for resale (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-09/inbrief.htm>), saying that the plan had been under consideration for some time.

For further information visit:  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/csc/med.htm>.

"EU to boost access to medicines for poor," EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE, 1 November

2002; "EU plans to bust smuggling of cheap AIDS drugs," REUTERS, 30 October 2002.

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### **WTO, UNCTAD, ITC PLEDGE COOPERATION**

On 30 October the WTO, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC) agreed to enhance cooperation in various Doha mandate-related activities. ITC Executive Director Denis Belisle and UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupero supported WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi's interest in bringing the Doha round to a successful close. The three individuals also recognised the importance for WTO Members to meet deadlines in order to conclude negotiations by 1 January 2005. The three groups believe that through technical aid, private sector awareness, and better information exchange that they can cooperate to assist developing countries to improve participation in global trade talks. Supachai announced that he would continue in his attempts to solve an ongoing dispute between WTO Members over the status of international organisations' observership in WTO negotiating groups that has kept UNCTAD, ITC and other intergovernmental groups from being party to negotiations. "These are very difficult and uncertain times and the only way I see to move forward is to move forward together. I don't want this round of negotiations to be called the Doha Development Agenda for nothing. We will need real substance in these talks and I look forward to the important contributions of ITC and UNCTAD in making this a truly successful round which will bring benefits to all Members," Dr. Supachai said. Key WTO Members are meeting informally on 14 November in Sydney, Australia in an attempt to iron out some of the more intractable issues awaiting decision by year's end.

"TRADE: UNCTAD, WTO, ICT Pledge Closer Cooperation," UN WIRE, 31 October 2002; "UNCTAD-ITC-WTO chiefs agree to enhance cooperation," WTO NEWS, 30 October 2002.

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### **SUPACHAI STRESSES TRADE-DEVELOPMENT LINKAGE**

Speaking at a 1 November seminar on mainstreaming trade for development, WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi said that trade policies would only drive growth if they were tied to development and poverty reduction plans. The seminar was jointly organised and attended by the six agencies that make up the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World

Bank, WTO). Two least-developed country (LDC) representatives and two representatives of the donor community also attended the session, which was intended to better integrate trade and development efforts. Supachai went on to lay out four main objectives for the seminar: (a) to examine key issues impacting the effective integration of trade and development policies by drawing on experiences to date, and including those under the Integrated Framework (IF); (b) to understand how to increase real benefits for LDCs by more effectively managing the IF process; (c) to explore how country level coordination can be improved, in particular with agencies, beneficiaries and donors; and (d) to understand how Doha mandate benefits could be used to support trade reform and other complementary policy measures. Supachai stressed the WTO viewpoint that trade is an engine for growth and development, qualifying his statement by saying that, "[we must] be ever conscious of the fact that trade policies do not stand alone. Mutually supportive companion policies are also necessary."

To view the speech, see: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/spsp\\_e/spsp05\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spsp_e/spsp05_e.htm).

"Trade policies cannot work on their own, Supachai tells development seminar," WTO NEWS, 1 November 2002.

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## **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>. If you would like to submit an event, please email [events@ictsd.ch](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

#### **ICTSD Event**

8 November, Geneva, Switzerland: NON-VOLUNTARY LICENSING OF PATENTED INVENTIONS: HISTORY, TRIPS, AND CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES PRACTICE. An ICTSD-UNCTAD Informal Roundtable. In Doha, Ministers reaffirmed that each WTO Member has the right to grant compulsory licenses and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted. Paragraph 6 of the Ministerial Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health further recognised that WTO Members with insufficient or no

manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face difficulties in making effective use of compulsory licensing and instructed the Council for TRIPs to find an expeditious solution to this problem and to report to the General Council before the end of 2002. Regardless of the outcome of the current debate on paragraph 6, it appears that most developing countries have little experience on the use of compulsory licenses and might face difficulties in benefiting from the flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement. For further information on this roundtable, contact Marianne Jacobsen at tel: 022-917-8492; fax: 917-8093; email: [ictsd@ictsd.ch](mailto:ictsd@ictsd.ch).

### Coming Up This Week: 6-13 November

3-15 November, Santiago, Chile: CITES COP-12. A total of 54 proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II were submitted to the Secretariat and are now available on the website. Working documents for the meetings will be placed on the website as they become available. For further information, visit <http://cites.org/eng/news/meetings/cop12.html>.

8 November, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Conf. rm. XI: UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SESSION ON COMMODITY-SPECIFIC TRADE ISSUES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR COMMITMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. For further information contact: FAO liaison office with the UN, Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 917-3683; fax: 917- 0065; email: [fao-logs@field.fao.org](mailto:fao-logs@field.fao.org).

11 November, Palais des Nations, Geneva Conference Room XX: MEA-UNEP MEETING ON ENHANCING MEA AND WTO INFORMATION EXCHANGE. Organised by the secretariats of a number of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and UNEP. It will immediately precede that of the special session of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment on 12 November that will also address information exchange and observer status between MEAs and the WTO. The meeting will provide a multi-stakeholder forum in which modalities for information exchange and other issues connected to the ongoing WTO negotiations can be explored in an informal setting. For further information contact: [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch); Internet: [http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/MEA\\_WTO/11Nov2002.htm](http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/MEA_WTO/11Nov2002.htm).

14 November, Sydney, Australia: 'MINI-MINISTERIAL' MEETING OF CERTAIN WTO MEMBERS. A so-called 'mini-ministerial' meeting to discuss ongoing negotiations aimed at lowering global trade barriers. The Sydney meeting will occur one year after the

WTO launched the current round of trade liberalisation talks in the Qatari capital of Doha (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/wtoinbrief.htm>).

Topics to be discussed include TRIPs and Access to Medicines, Implementation, S&D, market access, GIs, DSU Review, Environment, Singapore Issues, E-Commerce, and the 'Road to Cancun'.

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf).

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.

6-8 November, 09:30, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - JAPAN.

7-8 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. Activities will include discussion of FMD situations in Korea, Argentina, and Paraguay. Also there will be discussion of Canada's interim marketing authorization process and the US Biosecurity Act.

8 November, 15:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

8 November, 14:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENEVA WEEK - TRADE POLICY REVIEW SEMINAR.

11&12 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION. Meetings will focus on cash distribution and outstanding contributions as well as extra-budgetary issues.

11 November, 15:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. Secretariat will report on 2002 technical assistance plan and the 2003 technical assistance plan will be discussed.

11 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

12 November, 13:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. Discussion will focus on understanding rules and procedures governing the settlement of disputes.

12 November, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL 'INFORMATION SESSION' BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT SECRETARIATS.

12-13 November, Geneva, Switzerland: 10:00 COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

12-13 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

13&14 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

### Other Forthcoming Events

21-22 November, London, England: CLIMATE POLICY FOR THE LONGER TERM: FROM HERE TO WHERE? Organised by the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA). The past 18 months have revolutionised the landscape of climate policy. The Kyoto Protocol is now widely expected to enter in to force, but in very different circumstances than originally envisaged. The rescue of the Protocol in the face of the US rejection has raised the issue to new heights and strengthened the resolve of many countries to move towards effective implementation of their commitments. At the same time, the international framework is weakened and the economics of the international trading system undermined. For further information on this conference, contact Georgina Wright at [conferences@riia.org](mailto:conferences@riia.org).

21 November, Brussels, Belgium: SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND INNOVATION CENTRE EUROPEAN BRIEFING. Events will include workshops and lectures on various areas of sustainable development with the primary focus being the European arena. For further information, fax: +32 2 539 48 15 or email: [info@epe.be](mailto:info@epe.be).

24-26 NOVEMBER, NEW DELHI, INDIA: ASIA PACIFIC SEMINARS ON INVESTMENT AND COMPETITION. Organised by CUTS Center for Trade Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE). The objectives of the seminar are to share research findings of the project with civil society and disseminate information on the various issues relating to FDI. On 25 Nov, there will be a half-day Project Interim Meeting of the project "Investment for Development". The meeting will provide an opportunity for project partners to take stock of achievements in the project so far and to plan ahead. On 26 Nov, two parallel one-day events: a Regional Seminar on Competition Issues, and Research Seminar on Foreign Direct Investment and

Development - The Policy Dimension. For further information, visit <http://www.cuts.org/>.

25-29 November, Rome, Italy: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND THE 14TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES. For further information, visit <http://www.unep.org/ozone/meet2002.shtml>.

26 November, Leuven, Belgium: THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALISATION. The aim of this conference is to launch a call for a larger development consensus within the context of the Doha round of trade negotiations. A panel of keynote speakers will initiate the debate. For further information on this event, visit <http://www.globalisationdebate.be/>.

28 November, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, BIICL, Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London, UK: WTO YEAR IN REVIEW. Organised by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL). Including presentations from Dr. Arthur E. Appleton, Beatrice Chaytor, Stephen J. Orava, Attorney and Dr. Gerrit Schohe. Admission is free. For further information contact BIICL, tel: (+44 020) 7862-5151; fax: 7862-5152; email: [info@biicl.org](mailto:info@biicl.org); Internet: <http://www.biicl.org/>.

4-5 DECEMBER, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL: LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT, organised by CUTS-CITEE. The seminar will be held under the 'Investment for Development' banner, which is being conducted by CUTS-CITEE in collaboration with UNCTAD with support from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. The objectives of the seminar are to share research findings of the project with civil society and disseminate information on the various issues relating to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The project researcher from Brazil will present his research findings. For further information, visit <http://www.cuts.org/>.

9-17 December, Geneva, Switzerland: FOURTH SESSION OF THE WIPO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE. For further information on this conference, contact WIPO; tel: +41-22-338-9111 or email: [WIPO.mail@wipo.int](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int).

9-13 December, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION. Meeting will provide an opportunity for sharing ideas and building partnerships between governments and organizations



focused on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. Exhibition stands will also be available to groups that wish to present material pertaining to the subject matter. During meetings provisions and annexes will be made to the Basel Convention concerning the monitoring and movement of hazardous wastes. For further information, visit <http://www.basel.int/>.

### Electronic Events

21 November, 18.00-20.00 CET: ONLINE CHAT "NEW WTO TRADE ROUND: TALKING TRADE - WHAT'S GOING ON?" Does trade make a difference? What's up in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)? Are trade negotiations also good for development and environment? One year after the launch of the new trade negotiations round, European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, the Egyptian Trade Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali and a representative of WWF, Dr Keith Tyrell, will debate whether this round is on track and voice their hopes and concerns. For further information concerning this discussion, visit [http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy9/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy9/index_en.htm).

### 2003 Events

3-7 February, Nairobi, Kenya: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. For further information on this event, visit <http://www.unep.org/>, or contact [beverly.miller@unep.org](mailto:beverly.miller@unep.org).

30 June - 5 July, Rome, Italy: 25TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. For further information on this conference, visit <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/timetab.htm>.

10-14 September, Cancun, Mexico: WTO FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. For further information on this conference, visit <http://www.wto.org/>, or email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

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## 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 [resources@ictsd.ch](mailto:resources@ictsd.ch). Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcomed (see mailing address below).

### ICTSD Resources

BRIDGES BETWEEN TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Monthly edition, October 2002. The lead story in this issue concerns the Doha mandate and the commitments made by governments last year to

prioritise development issues. With the Cancun ministerial fast approaching, progress on deliverables for development in the round look bleak. Other highlights include: fisheries subsidies; EC sardines; the EU's EPA proposals; and a look at CITES. To view the latest issue, visit <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES6-7.pdf>.

### Other Resources

COLLECTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY COMMENTS ON DOHA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION. October 25, 2002. With comments by American Lands Alliance, Center for International Environmental Law, Consumer's Choice Council, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Friends of the Earth US, National Wildlife Federation, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Sierra Club. These collective comments by non-governmental organisations are designed to frame many of the important issues raised and concerns regarding the Doha negotiations and agenda in the WTO. While there are specific elements of the Doha Ministerial Declaration that are potentially positive (e.g., action on environmentally harmful fisheries subsidies), on balance some remain sceptical that the negotiations launched in Doha last year will be able to deliver on the changes to the global trading system necessary to achieve development that is socially and environmentally sustainable. To obtain a copy of this paper, visit <http://www.consumerscouncil.org/>.

THE EARTHSCAN READER ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Kevin P Gallagher and Jacob Werksman. Consolidates the lessons learned thus far from international trade, and reflects concerns about the potential impacts of an unfettered global market place on jobs, social cohesion and the environment. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3805>.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS. The objective of this discussion paper is to examine in broad terms the emergence of a hemispheric movement -- or collection of movements -- opposed to the currently dominant plan for deepened economic integration in the Americas, including the proposed FTAA and regional arrangements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Plan Puebla-Panama (PPP), and United States-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). As governments in the Americas struggle to meet the challenges of economic integration, citizen movements -- both national and transnational -- are helping to chart a new course for public policy, international cooperation, and economic integration in the region. This discussion paper aims at prompting

reflection and strategic thinking about the work being conducted by these organisations. To obtain this discussion paper, visit <http://www.americaspolicy.org/reports/2002/0211soc-mov.html>.

**DEVELOPING CAPACITY THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION: COUNTRY EXPERIENCES.** Edited by Stephen Browne. Demonstrates how much technical cooperation can contribute to sustainable national capacity and what is forfeited when it is not used for capacity building. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3809>.

**DEGLOBALISATION - IDEAS FOR A NEW WORLD ECONOMY.** October 2002. By Walden Bello. This is a short history of those organisations -- the World Bank, IMF, WTO, and Group of Seven -- which have promoted economic globalisation and which are now trying to manage what the author says is in effect unmanageable. The author points to their manifest failings, seen in recurrent financial crises, the ever widening gulf between developing and industrialised countries, the persistence of gross inequalities and mass poverty. He reviews their crisis of legitimacy, examines the new ideas for reforming world economic management, and argues that a much more fundamental and radical shift of direction is required. Visit <http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk/>.

**STOP THE DUMPING!** By Oxfam According to this new publication, the European Union's agricultural subsidies are destroying livelihoods in developing countries. By encouraging over-production and export dumping, these subsidies are driving down world prices of key commodities, such as sugar, dairy, and cereals. Reforming a system in which Europe's large landowners and agribusinesses get rich on subsidies while smallholder farmers in developing countries suffer the consequences, is an essential step towards making trade fair. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/31dumping/31dumping.html>.

**CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT: NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS.** Edited by Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Carlos Lopes and Khalid Malik. The United Nations system was a pioneer in the field of technical cooperation, and capacity development is its central mandate. UNDP has long played an important leadership role in both, as a source of technical cooperation funds and advisory services and as the home of innovative intellectual research and analysis on how to make them more efficient and effective. This book [presents] a vision that builds on new possibilities for knowledge-sharing, for which the revolution in information and communications technologies offers

ample opportunities... a vision that is firmly founded on genuine ownership by the ultimate beneficiaries of development efforts: the government and citizens of developing countries. Visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3658>.

### Electronic Resources

**NEW WEBSITE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.** UNCTAD has launched its new website, featuring information about the organisation as well as major events in the field of trade and development. The site includes a press page where e-briefs, press releases and notes to correspondents are available, together with the highlights of the week and a monthly media calendar. The main sections of the website, including the digital library and online statistics, appear in English, French and Spanish. Official documents are also available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. New sitemaps and web trailers facilitate the navigation process, and there is a new search facility to handle advanced queries. Towards the end of the year, a registered- users-only newsroom will allow journalists to access embargoed press releases and documents prior to the launch of the main UNCTAD reports. The new website is located at <http://www.unctad.org/>.

**WEBSITE FOR THE UN HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.** This site is the first to address the three groups of countries, which are specifically targeted in the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>). The site contains information about the office and the three groups of vulnerable countries it was created to address. High Representative Anwarul Chowdhury's statements and UN agencies' contributions to helping the vulnerable countries are among the content of the main site, while pages on each of the three groups of countries feature general country information and statistics on subjects such as HIV/AIDS and debt relief. To view this website, visit <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/ohrls/default.htm>.

**EPA NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE: STATE OF THE PLAY AND COMMENTS.** November 2002. Released by EPAwatch. Update includes information from the most recent negotiations between the EU and the ACP concerning their hopes and concerns around Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU. Information includes structure of the delegations as well as issues that were and are currently being negotiated between the two groups. To view this release, visit <http://www.epawatch.net/general/start.php>.

## WTO Resources

These recently released WTO documents of note from a sustainable development perspective are available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

## Submissions on TRIPs

PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE DOHA DECLARATION ON THE TRIPS AGREEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH: INFORMATION ON WAIVERS (IP/C/W/387). 24 October 2002. Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Note by the Secretariat. Document provides a list of all waivers that have been granted in the WTO and describe the procedures used in reaching agreement on their adoption.

NON-VIOLATION AND SITUATION NULLIFICATION OR IMPAIRMENT UNDER THE TRIPS AGREEMENT (IP/C/W/385). 30 October 2002. Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Communication from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka and Venezuela. Paper summarises and sets out concerns that arise from the application of non-violation and situation complaints to the TRIPs Agreement.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (IP/C/W/376/ADD.3). 1 November 2002. Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Addendum. The document reproduces the information which has been received from the World Health Organisation.

MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FOR WINES (AND SPIRITS) (TN/IP/W/6). 29 October 2002. Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Special Session. Communication from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand and the United States. The communication expresses some general considerations about the multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines (and spirits).

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS (IP/C/W/377/ADD.5). Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Addendum. The paper reproduces the updated information on Canada's technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPs agreement

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