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LEAD STORIES

'DEVELOPMENT' ROUND IN THE BALANCE AT WTO GENERAL COUNCIL, TNC MEETINGS

As BRIDGES Weekly went to press, the WTO General Council was in session for its final meeting of 2002, and had addressed over half of its 26- item agenda over 10-11 December. While progress was made on some smaller issues, such as accessions, the body remained stuck over major issues of concern to developing countries, notably intellectual property rights and access to medicines, special and differential treatment (S&D), and implementation concerns. Members remain divided over these contentious areas for which decisions are due by the end of the year (see related stories, this issue). General Council Chair Sergio Marchi (Canada) indicated that the body could continue meeting into the weekend in an attempt to reach agreement, with a potential resumption on 18 and 20 December. The General Council is convening one week after a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) on 4-6 December, which took stock of negotiations in the various WTO bodies and which also encountered roadblocks over similar issues, particularly on implementation concerns of developing countries.

Trade sources say that an inability to arrive at solutions favourable to developing countries, particularly with regard to the Doha mandate on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) to facilitate access to cheap medicines, would send a discouraging signal that the WTO is not taking its so-called "development" round seriously. Neither the General Council nor the TNC has thus far been able to resolve these issues.

Implementation at the TNC blocked over GIs

Chairs of the respective negotiating bodies presented their reports at the TNC, painting a limited and unbalanced picture of progress made thus far on the Doha mandate. According to TNC Chair/WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, "we need more clarity in negotiating positions so we can begin to forge consensus." 46 delegations made interventions, and

much emphasis was placed on slow progress on agriculture, TRIPs & health, and S&D.

Implementation -- the other item on the TNC agenda -- also appeared stuck. Debate around the approximately 80 implementation issues which Members agreed to address in a decision in Doha last November was polarised primarily by the EC's desire to turn geographical indications for certain products into a negotiating item. The EC, together with other mostly European countries who want to extend geographical indications (GIs) beyond just wine and spirits to other products, proposed elevating all these implementation issues to the TNC from their respective bodies, with an agreement to be reached on them by August 2003. Such a move would effectively lump implementation items together with other negotiating issues to be taken up at the Fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September 2003.

India, Brazil, and many other developing country Members who are pushing for greater emphasis on implementation, supported the EC proposal, with India saying that implementation concerns should be addressed in special sessions of the TNC.

However, the US, Australia, New Zealand and many agriculture-exporting Latin American countries disagreed with this approach, largely due to their opposition to the EC's attempt to elevate GIs. Mexico and others warned that an attempt to bring all implementation issues to the TNC could crowd the Cancun agenda and overburden ministers. Supachai, who is also wary of overloading the Cancun Ministerial, indicated he would consult on how to move the process forward and that the TNC would revisit the issue at its next session, currently scheduled for 4-5 February 2003.

General Council: LDC accession guidelines adopted

Despite continuing stalemates on TRIPs & Health and S&D, the General Council nevertheless approved on 10 December new guidelines streamlining WTO accession procedures for least-developed countries (LDCs). The simplified and accelerated accession procedures aim to assist in integrating LDCs into the global economy, which was identified as a principal objective at the WTO Ministerial Conference in November 2001. The Doha Ministerial also provided the negotiating mandate for the guidelines as part of the Work Programme on LDCs. The guidelines, which will come into effect immediately, focus on the areas of market access, WTO rules, process and trade-related technical assistance and capacity building. They exempt LDCs from making excessive concessions or commitments with regard to market access, grant transitional periods

and arrangements with regard to WTO rules, and provide for support and technical assistance both with regard to the accession process and general integration into the multilateral trading system.

The guidelines (WT/COMTD/LDC/12, accessible at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) had been forwarded from the Sub-Committee on LDCs, where they were agreed on 2 December following negotiations chaired by Ambassador Johan Molander of Sweden.

It was also announced at the General Council that the Secretariat was working on the establishment of a new division dedicated to LDC concerns. This was welcomed by LDC Members.

The General Council also agreed on the Protocol of Accession for Armenia. Once approved by Armenia's legislature, the country will become a WTO Member thirty days after the WTO Secretariat receives official notification of ratification.

Internal transparency

Following the adoption of a Chair's paper on procedures for the appointment of Directors-General (WT/GC/W/482/Rev.1), Members engaged in a lengthy debate around two issues that remain unresolved. Firstly, it remains unclear, Members say, whether or not there should be a rotation of D-Gs between developed and developing countries. Developing countries argue that this should be the "first and driving force" of D-G appointments. Secondly, countries pointed to a lack of clarity around the issue of voting, specifically the phrase "additional procedures of voting to be decided when necessary". Members say this leaves the process open to interpretation and effectively undermines the communication. A second document -- Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies (JOB(02)198/Rev.1) -- was adopted without any debate.

However, a third document forwarded by the Chair, "Internal Transparency and Effective Participation of Members - Preparatory Process in Geneva and Negotiating Procedure at Ministerial Conferences" was not approved. Some Members questioned whether their views had been fully taken into account in the paper, with Bulgaria and India expressing concerns that the process in the Chair's statement would leave the question of small-scale informal meetings too open. India said it wanted to continue consultations and come up with further guidelines. WTO sources indicated that it was unlikely this item would be resolved before Cancun.

The General Council will continue meeting through this week; BRIDGES Weekly will report on further outcomes in subsequent editions.

ICTSD reporting; "Director-General Supachai welcomes agreement streamlining LDC membership Initial," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 3 December 2002. "Pascal Lamy welcomes agreement for accelerated accession of poorest countries to the WTO," EC PRESS RELEASE, 10 December 2002.

TRIPS AND HEALTH STILL BLOCKED AS DEADLINE NEARS

Negotiations on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health are continuing at a snail's pace, with little willingness on all sides to move on the key outstanding issues. While the importance of these negotiations for the so-called "Doha Development Agenda" are generally acknowledged, some observers are starting to question whether it would be in developing countries' best interest to settle on a weak deal by the end of the year or rather continue the negotiations into 2003.

According to paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health, the TRIPs Council must find an expeditious solution to the problems countries may face in making use of compulsory licensing (i.e. allowing the use of a patent without the consent of the patent-holder under certain conditions) if they have insufficient or no pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. The TRIPs Council is mandated to report to the WTO General Council on this by the end of 2002.

Chair identifies six clusters of outstanding issues

During informal negotiations on 8 December, TRIPs Council Chair Ambassador Eduardo Pérez Motta (Mexico) identified six groups of still-contentious issues, describing them as "a fairly impressive list of problems to have at this stage". These groups include: disease coverage; eligible countries (importers and exporters); procedures for notifications and safeguards to prevent flowback of generic drugs into developed country markets; remuneration to patent holders; regional groupings and technology transfer; and a legal mechanism for a permanent solution once the waiver has come into effect.

Members continued negotiations on these six clusters in the open-ended meeting on 8-9 December and subsequently in small groups, but did not make any major headway on narrowing the remaining gaps (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-28/story1.htm>).

Chair Pérez Motta noted that Members were "still far apart" on the diseases to be covered by the solution, i.e. infectious diseases as proposed by the US and Switzerland, or public health problems more generally as favoured by developing countries. The US is coming under increasing pressure from the US Senate and pharmaceutical industries not to broaden the scope of the solution beyond infectious diseases. Some trade sources, however, believe that this stance could make it highly unlikely that the US would succeed in gaining support from developing countries and be able to finalise a deal by the end of the year.

While the Chair has not released another full draft text since the 24 November version, he has put forward proposals for individual paragraphs for discussion by Members. According to sources, Pérez Motta intends to submit a compromise text on his own responsibility that aims to strike a balance between the six issue areas.

Both TRIPs and health and special & differential treatment (S&D, see related story, this issue) remain the two key outstanding issues to be resolved by the end of the year. Trade sources speculated that if Members were to finalise only one of the two issues, the TRIPs and health negotiations were more likely to be completed, given the high public profile of the negotiations and their importance for portraying the "development focus" of the current trade round.

Some developing country Members and industry representatives, however, have raised doubts whether a rushed solution by the end of the year would actually be advisable, or whether talks should rather continue into 2003. As one Brazilian delegate noted, those countries expecting to benefit from the solution would prefer to stick to the provisions of the Doha Declaration than accept a restrictive solution such as that proposed by the US and others. There was "no momentum at all" at this stage to reach an agreement, the official added. Dr. Havery F. Bale from the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA) echoed this sentiment, saying that no deal was better than a bad deal. He added that in any case, the TRIPs and health issue was a "post-2005 contingency negotiation," as developing countries -- including major generic producers such as India -- were not required to provide full patent protection until 2005.

Both TRIPs and health and S&D have been pushed to the end of the General Council agenda. The Council is scheduled to meet from 10-13 December, but is expected to reconvene next week, possibly on 18 and 20 December (see related story, this issue).

ICTSD reporting; "TRIPs panel chairman says talks on drug issues making little progress," WTO REPORTER, 12 December 2002.

NEARING DEADLINE AGAIN, S&D REVIEW STILL SEARCHING FOR CONSENSUS

After a gruelling ten months of meeting in special sessions as part of its mandated review of special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions, the WTO's Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) met on 2-3 December to consider the first draft of a report that must be submitted to the WTO General Council by 31 December. While Members expected the draft to be circulated on 29 November (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-28/story2.htm>), difficulties in reconciling the divergent positions postponed its release until 3 December (TN/CTD/W/25, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). Despite this delay, the draft did not make "clear recommendations for action" -- as mandated in the Doha Decision on Implementation -- but rather gave three options for moving forward, indicating the inability of Members to find consensus on the issue. As a result, Chair Ransford Smith (Jamaica) was forced to request a postponement of this item to the end of the final General Council session of the year (10-14 December, see related article this issue) to continue consultations, in hopes of finding a solution. As BRIDGES Weekly went to press, Members were still considering an 11 December Chair's draft decision.

Having already missed a mandated 31 July deadline on S&D, Members postponed the date to report to the General Council "with clear recommendations for a decision", on a review of "all special and differential treatment provisions [...] with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational." to 31 December 2002.

The crux of the divergence

The last ten months has been bogged down in the consideration of, inter alia, agreement-specific proposals, cross-cutting & institutional issues, the establishment of a 'Monitoring Mechanism', and technical and financial assistance.

Most developed countries have been unwilling to accept any proposals that would either change the language of the WTO Agreements (arguing that the CTD special session is not a negotiating body) or change the 'balance of Members' rights and obligations'. They have recommended that most of the proposals be sent for further 'examination' to the subsidiary bodies that are responsible for the issue area of each respective proposal.

The large majority of developing countries, however, have been demanding that, as per their interpretation of

the Doha mandate, all the individual S&D provisions must be reviewed and operationalised by the CTD first and foremost. Only then would some be willing to consider moving ahead with the cross-cutting items (which many feel have no mandate at all). Most have been averse to referring proposals to subsidiary bodies, reportedly citing a lack of resources to follow these issues in such a dispersed manner, as well as fearing a similar fate as has occurred with many 'implementation-issues' that followed a similar route (i.e. experiencing little or no movement; see related General Council article this issue).

The draft report

Despite a fierce schedule of informal consultations leading up to the release of the first draft (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-28/story2.htm>), Chair Smith was only able to issue an inconclusive draft report with three options for action on the S&D mandate and an empty annex entitled "Agreement- Specific Proposals on Which Recommendations for Clear Decision Could be Made by December 2002". The draft essentially recognises that Members' positions diverge on almost all issues raised and that the need for more discussions persists. It contains three options for consideration:

Option one offers that "Members could not agree on whether or what recommendations to make on further work" and requests "direction" from the General Council (GC). Option two states that a "significant amount of work remains to be done" and asks the GC to take note that the CTD has as yet been unable to fulfil its mandate -- requesting an extended deadline to do so (however no deadline is suggested). Option three proposes the continuance of "its analysis and examination of Agreement- specific proposals and issues", ordering them into three baskets.

Option three's initial basket is those proposals on which recommendations may be possible in the short-term and/or which have support but require "process-related" assistance from other bodies. The second basket involves those proposals on "which substantial work is required to be carried in the CTD" post-January 2003 (no suggested timeframe given). The third is those proposals where the CTD special sessions could benefit from "ongoing discussions in other bodies, since either the issues raised are already under consideration in those bodies, or because it would be difficult to take a decision in isolation of the ongoing negotiations in those areas" (again, no timeframe suggested). Based on this option, the CTD would decide (presumably in early 2003) how to group the 85+ proposals before it into the three baskets. Work would continue concurrently on cross- cutting and institutional issues,

incorporating S&D into the architecture of WTO rules and a Monitoring Mechanism for S&D.

Of note, option three offers that the General Council would decide on the timing of the entry into force of the Mechanism, only after the special session had made recommendations on its "functions, structure, and terms of reference". This, speculated one trade expert, could allow developing countries to ensure that the Mechanism monitors the outcome of the Doha mandate, as opposed to developed countries' demands to have the General Council begin monitoring developing countries' use of S&D in early 2003 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November, link above).

Reactions to the draft report

Most developing countries favour the first option of stating that Members could not agree on recommendations. They argue that this option best demonstrates how little progress has been achieved, and does not force them to allocate further negotiating resources in early 2003 to what they view as a fruitless exercise. Developed countries and a few middle-income Latin American developing countries favour option three, which they perceive as more constructive and representing what one source termed "perceptible progress".

To that aim, a non-paper has been circulated -- allegedly from the US, EC, Canada & Japan (the 'Quad') -- suggesting items for possible agreement before the end of the year. The non-paper reportedly proposes action on some variations on 27 of the 85+ proposals currently on the table, and touches on issues such as investment measures, services, dispute settlement, technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS). Key developing countries are said to have deemed concessions forwarded by the Quad document as "insufficient". Additionally, developing countries have raised concerns that the non-paper has "no parentage", in that it has not been attributed to any country -- as are most submissions (non-paper or otherwise). One developing country delegate conjectured that this is because the non-papers' authors are concerned that if the non-paper is attributed to the Quad, it could be used to muster negative public opinion as to the sincerity of the often-touted Doha 'Development' Agenda. As a result of their concerns regarding the source of the non-paper, developing countries reportedly declined Chair Smith's request to modify it into something acceptable to them.

Despite plurilateral consultations with ambassadors after the circulation of the first draft on 3 December, little movement has since occurred. Sources indicate that the 11 December Chair's draft report, which looks at 22 agreement-specific areas, was rejected by many

developing countries, in particular by the African and least-developed country (LDC) groups.

The next informal CTD consultation is to take place on the afternoon of 12 December where, as one developing country delegate put it, "Smith will try and sell the draft to the Africans". Sources indicate that should no breakthrough come about before the end of the 10-14 December General Council (GC) meeting, Smith will request an adjournment for further consultations next week. If agreement is still not reached, the GC is expected to reconvene on 18 and 20 December, with a CTD special session scheduled for 19 December.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will provide an update on the outcome of this process in forthcoming editions.

A number of new submissions to the CTD special session can be found at <http://docsonline.wto.org>, including the Chair's report to the Trade Negotiations Committee (TN/CTD/5); a response from Egypt on a Canadian SPS Proposal (TN/CTD/W/24); a Canadian submission on 'moving forward' (TN/CTD/W/22); another Canadian submission on the objectives of S&D (TN/CTD/W/21); a formal submission of the EC's initial non-paper on 'ideas for the way ahead' (TN/CTD/W/20); and a follow-up EC non-paper on the S&D work programme, viewable at: http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/europa/2001newround/comnr_wtos.pdf.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

WTO: INDIA, OTHERS PROPOSE RULES ON CONDUCT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Following a 4-5 December meeting of the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment, developing countries remain widely noncommittal to the idea of launching WTO negotiations on multilateral rules for cross-border investment, despite efforts by the EC and Japan to convince them otherwise. India and Malaysia are strongly opposed to the idea of launching negotiations on investment at the Cancun Ministerial in September 2003. Also at the 4-5 December session, Members discussed a paper submitted by India -- co-sponsored by China, Cuba, India, Kenya, Pakistan and Zimbabwe (WT/WGTI/W/152, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) -- that calls for multilateral rules on corporate responsibility and corporate accountability.

The paper proposes obliging multinational enterprises (MNEs) to take on commitments in areas such as preventing restrictive business practices, ensuring technology transfer, providing sufficient autonomy to foreign subsidiaries, respecting consumer and environmental protection standards abroad, and ensuring transparency in financial transactions and accounting. Countries home to MNEs would also be obliged to institute measures requiring MNEs to behave and operate with full corporate responsibility and accountability in their operations in countries where they operate. Developed countries, particularly the US and Japan, objected to the paper.

At the current phase of discussions around investment, it is difficult to say whether negotiations on this issue will be launched after the Cancun Ministerial or not. According to Yoshihiko Sumi, Deputy Director-general at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "It's hard to predict how it will go but my observations so far are that a majority of developing countries...are waiting to see how others react, what the issues are, and what the implications of a multilateral investment agreement would be on their policies."

So far, India and Malaysia are the countries most opposed to the idea of WTO talks on investment, but in general, developing countries have not been supportive (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-18/story3.htm>). India played a key role in blocking an agreement to include investment in the Doha round negotiating mandate when trade ministers launched the round in Qatar last November. Instead, ministers agreed that a decision to launch negotiations on investment would be made at the Cancun Ministerial, with an agreement to proceed to be based on "explicit consensus" of the entire WTO membership.

The EU and Japan have tried to placate India and Malaysia as well as other developing countries by advocating a negotiating approach similar to that taken under the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Under GATS, countries pick and choose the areas in which they wish to make commitments (see BRIDGES Weekly, 10 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-10/story4.htm>). Adopting this approach to investment would allow governments to open up areas where they want to attract foreign investors and exclude those considered too sensitive for political, economic, or developmental reasons.

ICTSD reporting; "Developing Countries Take 'Wait And See' Attitude Towards WTO Talks on Investment," WTO REPORTER, 6 December 2002.

TRIMS REVIEW DISCUSSES BRAZIL-INDIA PROPOSAL ON SPACES FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY

At the 22 November session of the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) (its last regular session of the year), Members discussed, inter alia, a joint Brazil-India submission that seeks to re-open spaces for developing countries to use certain trade-related investment measures in their development policies (see BRIDGES Weekly, 24 October, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-24/wtoinbrief.htm>). Tabled in the context of the mandated review of the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), the proposal (G/TRIMS/W/25, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) -- which would see a significant departure from the current TRIMs disciplines -- was not looked upon favourably by the major trading powers. It was however, given warm support by a large number of developing countries.

Article IX of the TRIMs agreement stipulates that the CTG shall review the operation of the agreement and propose to the Ministerial Conference amendments to its text. It adds that the Goods Council may also consider augmenting it with measures on investment and competition policy.

Reactions to the proposal

According to one Geneva-based source, the US, in its criticisms of the Brazil-India proposal, underscored the importance of TRIMs in that it reiterates GATT disciplines -- notably, Article III and XI -- and stated that the review of TRIMs should not weaken its disciplines. The US also reportedly indicated concern regarding a number of implementation-related proposals (tires 37-40 of JOB(01)152/Rev.1, available at http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/doha/docs/imp_iss.pdf) that it said would undermine or 'water-down' TRIMs disciplines. As such, the US said it would oppose their inclusion in the mandated review. The EU similarly expressed concern that a "watering-down" of TRIMs disciplines would set a bad precedent. A source close to the negotiations reported that Canada said there was already great flexibility in TRIMs, with the possibility of granting extensions of time-periods to those who required them. Canada also cited a joint study by the WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats (G/C/W/307 & W/307/Add.1), which it felt expressed the view that TRIMs could be "costly" and "inefficient" -- a point reinforced by Switzerland.

Incidentally, Brazil and India have cited the same WTO/UNCTAD study as at best "a decisive argument" in favour of certain trade-related investment measures, and at worst, an argument "against any kind of general

assumption that TRIMs measures necessarily distort trade."

Despite this, the EC and Canada were "not convinced" that the Indian and Brazilian proposals were useful, although the EC did express that it was willing to discuss these matters in a serious manner outside the review. In response to claims in the proposal regarding developed country uninhibited use of TRIMs disciplines over past decades, the EC reportedly said that what worked ten years ago may not work now.

Among developing countries, Pakistan, supported by Colombia, Cuba and the Philippines stated that the use of local content requirements had brought down prices in the domestic sector and had helped local manufacturers to be more competitive.

There is no explicit deadline for the TRIMs review, and sources indicate that discussions will likely continue at the next meeting of the CTG, scheduled for February 2003.

Background

Some Members allege that the TRIMs review mechanism was put in place explicitly for the consideration of investment and competition policy. Others, including Brazil and India, argue that the review was included in recognition that the scope of the final agreement exceeded the mandate given to it when the Uruguay Round was launched in Punta del Este in 1986 (that of examining relevant GATT disciplines and coming up with provisions to augment them in order to deal with identified trade restrictive and distorting effects of investment measures). Brazil and India insist that instead of addressing directly alleged adverse effects of TRIMs on trade, the TRIMs Agreement has simply prohibited some investment measures presumed to be inconsistent with Articles III and XI of GATT 1994 (i.e. the principles of 'National Treatment' and 'Prohibition of Quotas').

Furthermore, Brazil and India argue that this item falls into the current negotiating mandate via tiret 40 of the "Compilation of Outstanding Implementation Issues" document (JOB(01)152/Rev.1). Tiret 40 proposes, inter alia, that provisions be added to the TRIMs agreement in order to provide developing countries needed flexibility to implement development policies.

ICTSD reporting.

LATIN AMERICA: US AND CHILE SIGN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, SOUTH AMERICAN FTA IN THE WORKS

Chile and the US agreed on a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement on Wednesday 11 December, following over ten years of negotiations. The agreement, which still has to be approved by the legislatures of the two countries, will immediately eliminate tariffs on 85 percent of goods and 75 percent of agricultural products traded between the countries. The remainder of the tariffs will be phased out in four to twelve years, with most protection granted to sensitive agricultural products. The agreement also sets some labour and environmental standards.

The pact with Chile will be the sixth bilateral free trade agreement the US signs, and the country has signalled its intention to negotiate more such deals. Having been granted 'fast track' authority by the US Congress, US President Bush is able to negotiate trade deals that can be approved or rejected, but not amended by the legislature. Some critics view the bilateral agreements as undermining the WTO, but according to US trade representative Robert Zoellick, countries will be encouraged to participate in multilateral trade agreements if their competitors adopt bilateral agreements with US, since they will want to ensure market access. Indeed, the Bush administration sees the agreement with Chile as an important step in the process towards creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in 2005.

Mercosur leaders set timetable for South American FTA

Meanwhile, Mercosur leaders -- including six presidents -- have announced a timetable for a free-trade agreement (FTA) covering most of South America. The deal was reached at the 23rd Mercosur economic summit, held from 5-6 December in Brasilia, Brazil. The agreement aims at integrating the Mercosur countries Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and associated countries Chile and Bolivia with the Andean Community nations Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as other countries that have been invited to join. Observers noted that closer cooperation among the South American nations would give them a significantly stronger position in negotiations with the US on the FTAA, but some doubt that a final South American agreement will be in place by the end of 2003 as scheduled.

"U.S. and Chile Reach Free Trade Accord," NEW YORK TIMES, 11 December 2002; "Chile, US reach agreement on free trade pact," REUTERS, 11

December 2002. "S. America Moves to Eliminate Trade Block," AP, 6 December 2002.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RAISE BIODIVERSITY CONCERNS IN WIPO

The WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) Standing Committee on the Law of Patents met on 25-29 November in Geneva to continue negotiations on a possible treaty covering substantive patent law at the international level. Among the issues discussed were proposals by several developing countries calling for flexibility to implement measures in pursuit of public policy objectives, including those related to health, environment and biodiversity.

The negotiations on the Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT), underway since November 2000, constitute one of the fundamental pillars of WIPO's patent agenda together with the reform process of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Secretariat's efforts in marketing the Patent Law Treaty (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 October 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/story1.htm>). The SPLT would cover a number of basic legal principles that underpin the granting of patents in different countries.

Developing country proposals address environment and biodiversity

In the context of general exceptions and the ground for refusal or invalidation of patents, two developing country proposals were submitted related the protection of public health, the environment and other areas of importance to them, including the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge (TK). Specifically, the Dominican Republic on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela -- supported by Brazil and Egypt -- proposed the inclusion of language stressing that nothing in the SPLT should limit countries' freedom "to comply with international obligations, including those relating to the protection of genetic resources, biological diversities, traditional knowledge and the environment" (Article 2.2). The countries thereby aimed to ensure flexibility to control access to TK and genetic resources under their jurisdiction in an effort to prevent unlawful appropriation and biopiracy.

The second proposal submitted by Brazil suggested the inclusion of public interest exceptions, stating that nothing in the Treaty should prevent countries from protecting "public health, nutrition and the environment" (Article 2.3). In addition, Brazil would like to see "compliance with applicable law on other matters" to be included as grounds for refusal of a claimed invention,

including "law on public health, nutrition, ethics in scientific research, environment, access to genetic resources, protection of traditional knowledge and other areas of public interests" (Article 13.3). The two proposals were included in the draft Treaty in square brackets (i.e. not agreed) together with a footnote specifying that the Committee had agreed to include the paragraph in square brackets "but to postpone substantive discussion on these provisions".

Civil society groups starting to arrive

While it seems that the technical character of the Standing Committee's discussions has reduced the interest of many NGOs in demanding observer status, this barrier is starting to be overcome. Civil society groups are increasingly paying attention to the possible consequences that negotiations in WIPO could have on public policy areas, such as health, human rights, environment and development. Among the interested civil society groups is the international NGO Genetic Recourses Action International (GRAIN), which was accredited as an ad hoc observer to the Standing Committee at the November meeting. GRAIN has criticised the WIPO agenda in the past, noting that, "Setting up of a world patent system has huge implications. It means the end of patent policy as a tool for national development strategies". Regarding the SPLT, GRAIN has expressed concern that the Treaty could make the TRIPs Agreement obsolete as it would set up a fixed set of rules on what could be patented and under what conditions.

Additional Resources

Standing Committee on Patents' documents and country proposals can be found at www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html

"WIPO Moves Toward 'World' Patent System," GRAIN, July 2002, <http://www.grain.org/publications/wipo-patent-2002-en.cfm>.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO: SERVICES COUNCIL ADJOURNS WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON AUTONOMOUS LIBERALISATION

Much to the disappointment of Council for Trade in Services (CTS) Special Session Chair Ambassador Jara, Members convening for a 9 December CTS negotiation meeting were again unable to agree on a Chair's proposal on the establishment of modalities for obtaining 'credits' for autonomous liberalisation (AL) in

the services sector. Jara's most recent draft was blocked chiefly by a group of developing countries demanding differentiated treatment between developed and developing countries requesting 'credits' for liberalisation measures undertaken unilaterally. Notably, least-developed country (LDC) Member Zambia submitted a new proposal on the treatment of LDCs in the services negotiations, which was received by key trading partners as "interesting" but partly too prescriptive and ambitious.

Credits' for autonomous liberalisation (AL)

The revised Chair's draft on AL modalities issued on 20 November (JOB (02)/35/Rev.2) came after a half-year logjam in the AL discussions. Members have thus far been split over four main issues left from a previous debate over how to handle countries' services liberalisations undertaken unilaterally since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-06-04/story2.htm>). The four items include: newly acceded Members; 'credits' for developed countries; concessions on trade in goods; and binding AL commitments.

Addressing the major remaining question of whether both developing and developed countries should be equally eligible for 'credits', the new Chair's draft, in general, puts both groupings on equal footing, but adds that Members, when granting 'credits', should take fully into account developing countries' flexibilities under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) (particularly those set out in GATS Articles IV and XIX:2), as well as "the lower level of development of individual developing country Members, particularly the least developed among them." This language had been added to the previous modalities draft due to pressure from a group of 24 developing countries demanding that -- at least -- no full reciprocity would be required from developing countries receiving 'credit' request from developed country trading partners (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-31/story1.htm>).

However, these countries, including Brazil, Argentina, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia and Thailand reportedly rejected the new wording, as they considered it to contain the notion of graduation (i.e. differentiated treatment) within developing countries themselves - an idea which is currently being pushed by Members such as the EC and the US in the overall framework of the Doha Round negotiations. Instead, larger developing countries said they preferred the notion of 'lower level of development of developing countries' as a whole, and not only of "individual" developing country Members.

Furthermore, some eastern European Members, including Hungary and Bulgaria -- backed by the European trade bloc -- did not agree to the proposed text as they also claimed a need for a certain degree of flexibility for economies in transition. One observer reported that the Chair of the special session had expressed "his frustration about Members' nitpicking in negotiating a political decision that is not legally enforceable anyway". Nevertheless, a trade delegate explained, developing countries would still push for a more favourable special and differential treatment language in the AL modalities to at least avoid the possibility that "the developed Members could turn the whole 'credit' issue against the developing countries."

Zambia's proposal on LDC modalities

Zambia, on behalf of the least-developed country (LDC) Members, tabled an informal proposal on modalities for the special treatment for LDCs in the current services negotiations (JOB(02)/205). Building on an earlier informal submission tabled by Uganda (JOB/(02)/30), Zambia stated that requests presented to LDCs should be "limited in terms of numbers of sectors and modes of supply and scope of commitments." In terms of detail, the LDCs *inter alia* demanded that they should not be requested to remove conditions attached to new market access commitments; they should not be requested to make "additional commitments" under GATS Article XVIII on their domestic regulation; full market access and national treatment should be granted to LDCs in sectors of interest, especially in mode four (movement of natural persons); Members shall facilitate access to LDC services through intergovernmental cooperation and through disciplining "certain business practices that restrain competition and thereby restrict participation of LDCs" in services trade; and that LDCs should not be requested to grant 'credits' for autonomous liberalisation. Additionally, the group requested Members to finance technology transfer to, and training for, LDCs and to effectively assist them to conduct national assessments, to strengthen supply capacity, to identify their export interests and to enhance their participation in the negotiations.

In their preliminary comments on the Zambian proposal, Members such as the EC, the US and Japan generally welcomed the paper as an interesting and useful contribution which showed the interest of LDCs in the negotiations and their interest in participating. However, they said that several issues raised, particularly the provision on technical assistance, would go beyond the scope of the negotiation mandate, whereas other proposals would prejudice the negotiating outcomes, as in the case of providing full national treatment. The EC argued that the modalities should help LDCs participate in these negotiations, not exclude them.

Some Members further stated that, in order to take into consideration the particular export interests of the LDCs in the offers to be drafted, they needed to know the LDCs' interests in specific sectors and modes. Consequently, they encouraged the LDCs to submit their requests to trading partners so that more help could be offered in detail. On the other hand, several major trading partners reportedly signalled their sympathy e.g. for the proposal not to seek 'credits' for autonomous liberalisation from LDC Members.

As the CTS special session was not able to address all agenda items of the 9 December meeting, the Council will resume -- after the WTO's winter break -- on 13 January.

The subsidiary bodies to the CTS submitted their annual reports to the Council. The submitted reports are:

Committee on Trade in Financial Services (S/FIN/8, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>; Committee on Specific Commitments (S/CSC/7); Committee on GATS Rules (S/WPGR/8); and Committee on Domestic Regulation (S/WPDR/4).

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

EUROPEAN AG AND ENVIRONMENT COUNCILS AGREE ON GMO REGULATIONS

The European Councils of Agriculture and Environment Ministers, meeting on 28 November and 9 December respectively, reached political agreement on the European Commission's proposed labelling and traceability regulations for genetically modified organisms (GMOs), despite objections by Luxembourg, the UK, Austria and the Netherlands. Specifically, Ministers agreed on a 0.5 percent threshold for the adventitious presence of GMOs that are unauthorised but have nevertheless been assessed as risk-free. The European Commission had proposed a threshold of one percent, which was amended to 0.5 percent by the European Parliament during the regulations' first reading (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-07-11/story2.htm>). In addition, Ministers agreed on a minimum threshold of 0.9 percent below which GMOs would be exempted from labelling requirements. Once the text has been finalised, a Common Position will be adopted at the forthcoming Council sessions, which will then be forwarded to the European Parliament for the second reading.

In related developments, a decision on whether to initiate a WTO challenge to the continued EU de facto moratorium on the approval of new GMOs -- in place since 1998 -- will reportedly be taken at the next US cabinet-level meeting. While some US officials believe that the Bush administration has a strong legal basis for a WTO challenge, others fear a possible consumer backlash in Europe and have expressed doubt that a ruling against the moratorium would result in a change in EU policy.

ICTSD reporting.

EU MINISTERS AGREE CARBON TRADING SCHEME

Meeting in Copenhagen on 9 December, EU environment ministers agreed on an EU-wide greenhouse gas emissions trading system. The system, which allows countries to comply with their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in a cost efficient way, will be the first one operating across national borders. The scheme will be operationalised in 2005 and could eventually link in with a possible global emissions trading scheme. Traders have already begun to broker deals, running at up to five EUR per tonne of CO₂. The system allocates emissions allowances to industrial plants operating in energy, steel, cement, glass, brick making, paper and cardboard. Industry sectors will be able to buy and sell credits as a block if they wish. From 2008, governments can auction off up to 10 percent of the emissions allowances, and add in new sectors under the scheme. As a concession to industry, ministers agreed to lower fines for non-compliance during the first few years of the scheme, and some companies and sectors can opt out until 2008.

In related news, on 10 December New Zealand ratified the Kyoto Protocol, while Canada's House of Commons voted in favour of ratification, thus expressing support for the government's intention to ratify by the end of the year.

"EU agrees greenhouse gas trading scheme," REUTERS, 10 December 2002; "Clark signs Kyoto Protocol," NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 10 December 2002; "Canadian Parliament Backs Kyoto Ratification Plan," REUTERS, 11 December 2002.

OZONE MEETING AGREES ON FUND REPLENISHMENT, DISCUSSES WTO LINKS

Negotiators meeting in Rome from 25-29 November agreed to replenish the Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer by USD 573 million for 2003-2005. The funds will be used to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Protocol, including cutting their use of CFCs and halons by 50 percent by 2005. The combined 14th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-14) to the Montreal Protocol and the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer also considered issues ranging from compliance and illegal trade to the transition from chlorofluorocarbons for metered-dose inhalers and interaction with the WTO.

Regarding interaction with the WTO, Colombia introduced a draft decision that sparked debate on competencies with regard to the interpretation of the Montreal Protocol's trade provisions. Delegates ended up agreeing to a US proposal that mandates the Ozone Secretariat to provide general advice to the WTO on request, while a deeper interpretation of trade-related provisions is deferred to the MOP. The final decision adopted on the issue also requests the Ozone Secretariat to report on contacts with and meetings attended at the WTO, and to inform Parties on developments at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment. The Ozone Secretariat noted that it has yet to be approved as an observer at the WTO (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-14/story1.htm>)

For further information on the meeting see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/ozone/mop14/>.

UNEP PRESS RELEASE, 29 November 2002.

DOLPHINS MIGHT STILL BE THREATENED BY TUNA FISHING, REPORT CONCLUDES

Dolphins in the Pacific are not recovering as quickly as could be expected given significant reductions in reported mortality associated with yellowfish tuna fishing, according to a report prepared by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Three hypotheses are identified to explain this finding, i.e. environmental changes, a lag period before recovery begins, and effects of purse-seine fishery (used for catching tuna) beyond the reported bycatch. The report, dated 23 August 2002 but not officially released to the public, comes just weeks before the US Department of Commerce has to decide on whether to weaken rules for labelling "dolphin safe" tuna. In 1991, Mexico challenged US regulations related to tuna fishing as incompatible with the national treatment requirement in GATT. While the dolphin-safe label was found to be compatible with the GATT, the Mexican government has continued to lobby for changes to the labelling requirements that would give its industry better access to the US market.

The report is available at http://www.earthisland.org/immep/secret_report.pdf.

"Tuna still deadly to dolphins, U.S. agency find," ENS, 6 December 2002.

AITIC BECOMES INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

The Geneva-based Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) on 9 December was granted the official status of an intergovernmental organisation at a signing ceremony was held at the WTO. AITIC's goal is to "help less-advantaged countries to benefit from the globalisation process in general and the multilateral trading system in particular by assisting them in taking a more active part in the work of the WTO and other trade-related organisations in Geneva." AITIC supports least developed countries (LDCs) and countries with economies in transition on an individual basis, free of cost. Seven developed countries are together providing initial funding of 18 million Swiss francs that will allow AITIC to meet sharply increased demands for its services. It has obtained guaranteed financing for five years. For further information, visit the AITIC website at: <http://www.acici.org/aitic/>.

"New Body to Support Poorer Countries Efforts to Negotiate Free Trade," AFP, 10 December 2002.

WTO IN BRIEF

UK LEGISLATURE LAUNCHES INQUIRY ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN WTO ROUND

On 26 November, a committee of the UK House of Commons agreed to undertake an inquiry into trade and development, particularly to aspects of the WTO's Doha agenda and Members' commitments to making the Doha round of trade negotiations a "development round". According to a press statement, the House of Commons' International Development Committee will consider the policies and practices of the UK's Department for International Development, the UK government, and relevant multilateral organisations, in relation to trade and international development. In particular, the inquiry will address agricultural reform in the context of the Doha commitments, including the impact of agricultural support on livelihoods and food security in developing countries; market access, including the EC's Everything-But- Arms initiative for least-developed countries and non-tariff barriers; special and differential treatment, development box proposals and food security; and developing countries' negotiating capacities, and productive capacities, and efforts to build these capacities. The Committee invites organisations and individuals, including from developing countries, with relevant experience and expertise to submit memoranda which address any or all of these issues, or which address issues that they regard as central to the trade and development agenda.

For further information on inputs to the Inquiry, visit <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/indhome.htm> or contact Alan Hudson, Committee Specialist, at tel: (+44) 020 7219 1522; email: Hudsona@parliament.uk.

ICTSD reporting.

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.

Coming Up This Week: 11-18 December 2002

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.

9-13 December, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION. The COP will provide an opportunity for sharing ideas and building partnerships between governments and organisations focused on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. 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>.

12 December, Brussels, Belgium: EU PUBLIC MEETING. The European Commission is hosting a public meeting to discuss the Mid-Term reports for the current Sustainability Impact Assessment studies of proposed WTO Negotiations (Sector Studies for Market Access, Environmental Services and Competition; and Preliminary Overview of Potential Impacts of the Doha Agenda). To register for this meeting, contact Ms. Kacimi via email at: fatiha.kacimi@cec.eu.int.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: 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.

10-13, possibly 20 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

12-13 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

13, 16 & 19 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.

16-18 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

17 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE.

19 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

WTO 2003 Events

The following events are provisional as the WTO is still finalising its events calendar for 2003.

15-17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

23 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

23 & 24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

27 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

27-29 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

28-30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

Other 2003 Events

15-16 February 2003, Japan: WTO MINI-MINISTERIAL. Reportedly, Egypt has also offered to host a mini-ministerial sometime between February and the Fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September.

20-21 February: SEMINARIO:¿EL ALCA, NEGOCIO PARA TODOS? Se analizarán las amenazas y consecuencias del ALCA para la soberanía, la industria, la agricultura, el mercado interior y exterior, los recursos naturales, los servicios públicos, la educación, la salud y los derechos humanos. For further information contact: Hernan Perez Zapata, email: hernanperezapata@hotmail.com.

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. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcomed (see mailing address below).

EARTHSCAN READER ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Kevin Gallagher and Jacob Werksman, 2002. In an era of globalisation, international trade is a fact of life. The increasing conflicts surrounding negotiations on trade liberalisation illustrate the breadth and depth of concern among governments, academics, activists, and civil society. The disputes focus on the potential impacts of an unfettered global market place on jobs, social cohesion and the environment. To obtain a copy of this book, visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>.

ENHANCING THE WTO'S DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDERSTANDING. By the UK Federal Trust for Education and Research Expert Working Group. This publication explores the impact of the DSU on the resolution of trade disputes, and proposes improvements to make the DSU more user-friendly and effective, in particular for developing countries. The report is available for download at <http://www.fedtrust.co.uk/dsu>.

POLICING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES: THE CITES TREATY AND COMPLIANCE. By Rosalind Reeve. Published by Earthscan, 2002. A definitive study of the 'self-policing' compliance system of CITES. Paperback 1 85383 880 2 £19.95 (full price), online discount of 10 percent. For further details visit: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3824>.

PROVIDING GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS. By the UN Development Programme, November 2002. The book addresses the issue of how to adjust the concept of public goods to today's economic and political realities. It examines a series of managerial and political challenges that pertain to the design and implementation of product strategies as well as the monitoring and evaluation of global public goods provision. Suggestions are presented on a number of policy reforms and recommendations are made on how to move in a more feasible and systematic way towards a fairer process of globalization that works in the interests of all. For further information visit: <http://www.undp.org/globalpublicgoods/globalization/thebook.html>.

"Economics of the US-Canada Softwood Lumber Dispute: A Historical Perspective." By SM Osman Rahman and Stephen Devadoss. THE ESTY CENTRE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TRADE POLICY, Volume 3 Number 1, 2002. This paper reviews the US-Canada softwood lumber dispute over the past two decades by outlining the key developments and critically appraising the arguments put forward by both countries. It also presents a welfare analysis of lumber trade distortions. Given the

importance of lumber trade between Canada and the United States, the article concludes that an expeditious resolution of this long-running trade dispute would be beneficial for both countries. To obtain a copy of this article, visit <http://esteyjournal.com>.

FAO PAPERS ON SELECTED ISSUES RELATING TO THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. Prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2002. The papers in this volume were originally prepared by FAO staff or by consultants for submission to Round Tables organised in Geneva in 2001 and early 2002. Edited for publication, they also contain comments by the panellists in some cases. The Round Tables were attended mainly by country representatives in the WTO, by representatives of interested international organisations and by policy advisors. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www.fao.org/icatalog/inter-e.htm>.

THE FUTURE OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE CURRENT ROUND OF WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. Prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2002. Trade preferences for developing countries have been a feature of industrialised countries' commercial policies for nearly 40 years. However, with overall trade liberalisation, tariff preferences are gradually losing importance. In agriculture, on the other hand, they can still be potentially valuable because MFN tariffs are extremely high in many cases, though they are also in the process of being reduced. Yet, because of the sensitive nature of their agricultural policies, developed countries have usually been reluctant to provide deep preferences for agricultural products. This topic is discussed throughout the publication and recommendations are given to provide solutions. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www.fao.org/icatalog/inter-e.htm>.

version of the report will also reflect the General Council meeting in December 2002. Available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

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WTO RESOURCES

FIRST JOINT WTO/OECD REPORT ON TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING. Published by the WTO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, November/December 2002. This document presents an overview of the technical assistance and capacity building priorities and activities of donor countries and relevant international organisations. It is supported by an online database on trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, available at: <http://tcdbdb.wto.org>.

GENERAL COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT (2002), WT/GC/W/481, 29 November 2002. The final