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LEAD STORIES

EU INITIATIVE SEEKS TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN TRIPS & HEALTH NEGOTIATIONS

Following the breakdown of talks on paragraph 6 of the Declaration on TRIPs (Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) and health late last year, the EU put forward a proposal on 10 January to involve the World Health Organization (WHO) in decisions on whether a particular disease would be covered by the solution. While not rejecting the idea outright, the US preferred to await reactions from other countries before responding to the proposal. The EU's initiative found a less than enthusiastic welcome among developing countries, while health activists strongly criticised the proposal, arguing that it might be time to move the debate out of the WTO.

According to paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health, the TRIPs Council must find an expeditious solution by the end of 2002 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 perceived need to address this issue arose from concerns related to Art. 31(f) of the TRIPs Agreement, which requires that production under compulsory licensing must be primarily for the supply of the domestic market.

EU proposes compromise on disease coverage, joins moratorium

The EU proposal aims to find a compromise on the disease coverage of the paragraph 6 solution -- the key outstanding issue in the negotiations. This question led to the breakdown of talks in the early hours of 21 December 2002 when the US was the only country to reject the TRIPs Council Chair's 16 December 2002 draft solution over concerns that reference to paragraph 1 of the Doha Declaration covering "public health problems afflicting many developing and least-developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics"

was too broad (see BRIDGES Update, 2 January 2003, http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/TRIPs_update.htm).

In its proposal, the EU puts forward a list of "at least" 23 infectious diseases. This list could be further expanded based on advice from the WHO which, when requested by a Member, should "give advice on the occurrences in an importing Member or the likelihood thereof, of any other public health problem". The US had suggested this list in a last-minute attempt to reach a deal, plus "other epidemics of comparable gravity and scale", including those that might arise in the future. Developing countries, however, had rejected this proposal, arguing that it would restrict the mandate given by the Doha Declaration, which refers more generally to "measures to protect public health" (para. 4).

The EU also announced that it would join the US and Switzerland in their decision to not initiate WTO disputes against countries that export drugs produced under compulsory licenses to countries in need. In contrast to the US and Switzerland, however, the EU's interim moratorium is not limited to HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious epidemics. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy stressed that this moratorium was "a purely stop-gap, temporary measure" which did not provide a permanent, stable solution. One US official, however, noted that the unilateral moratorium provided an adequate means to help poor countries to deal with public health crises. "What we're looking for on TRIPs is a rational middle ground, and I think we've found it in the unilateral measures we've taken," the official added. Throughout the negotiations, the US has favoured the use of a moratorium for dispute settlement or a waiver of the obligation in Art. 31(f) as their preferred paragraph 6 solution.

Developing countries not satisfied with EU initiative

Most developing countries expressed their dissatisfaction with the EU proposal, reiterating their position that the scope of the solution should not be discussed, as this would amount to a re-opening of the Doha Declaration. "It almost seems as if the Europeans hadn't listened" during the informal consultation late last year, one observer noted. One trade source pointed out that the EU was trying to merge two proposals put forward last year, i.e. the US proposal on the 23 diseases and another proposal by the EU that notifications under the solution should also be submitted to the WHO. Both of these had been rejected by developing countries and it seemed "illogical" that the EU would expect its new proposal to be accepted, the source added. Another source questioned the reasoning behind restricting the coverage of public

health problems for countries without production capacity while countries with production capacity were not subject to such limits when dealing with their health problems.

Developing countries are now watching the Second US-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA Forum), underway in Mauritius from 13 to 17 January, where they expect US high-level officials attending the summit -- including USTR Robert Zoellick and Secretary of State Colin Powell -- to put pressure on African ministers (BRIDGES Weekly will report on the outcomes of the Forum in the forthcoming issue).

Other reactions

Health activists strongly criticised the EU initiative, regarding it as an attempt to re-write the Doha Declaration. "It's a pathetic proposal," said Celine Charveriat from Oxfam, adding that the EU was "clearly breaking the promises made to developing countries in Doha by siding with the US on this issue." According to James Love from the US-based Consumer Project on Technology, the EU proposal showed that it might be time to take the medicines issue out of the WTO, which was "clearly out of its depth", and to hand it over to the WHO.

For their part, drug industry sources regarded the proposal as too broad and noted that it would put decision-making power in the hands of the WHO, which they claimed had in the past been hostile to drug companies' interests. Harvey Bale of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations described the proposal as a "Pandora's Box", expressing particular concern over the EU's reference to "other public health problems", which he said could seriously undermine patent rights on a wide array of medicines.

Looking ahead

At the 20 December 2002 meeting, WTO General Council Chair Sergio Marchi of Canada proposed that the TRIPs Council should restart its deliberations as soon as possible with a view to reaching agreement by the next meeting of the General Council on 10-11 February 2003. Lamy echoed the need to continue negotiations, which he expected to restart "immediately". While a US official thought that the US moratorium provided an adequate solution even if no overall agreement was reached, he did not rule out further negotiations. One developing country source, however, questioned the need to restart negotiations, arguing that no movement could be expected if countries did not change their positions, an unlikely prospect at this stage.

The Chair's 16 December draft decision is available at http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/TRIPs_par_a6_16-12-02.pdf.

ICTSD reporting; "EU outlines plan for breaking TRIPs/Drugs deadlock at WTO; targets scope of coverage," WTO REPORTER, 10 January 2002.

SERVICES: WTO MEMBERS CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON AUTONOMOUS LIBERALISATION

An informal Special Session of the WTO Council for Trade in Services (CTS) meeting on 13 January made progress on modalities for granting 'credits' for Members' autonomous liberalisation (AL) -- an issue that had been left unresolved at the last CTS meeting in December 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-12/story7.htm>). The 13 January meeting followed a set of informal consultations, and comprised an open-ended informal meeting to continue negotiations based on some new drafting suggestions circulated by the Chair, Ambassador Jara (Chile). Sources reported a commitment of the Special Session to finalise the AL modalities negotiations by February 2003. Overall, the Chair's suggestions were viewed as a "good basis for continuing the discussions" on how to seek credits for Members' unilateral liberalisation measures since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Further, Members reportedly moved forward on several issues previously raised by a group of 24 developing countries, including questions related to the treatment of developing country Members. How to resolve the treatment of newly acceded WTO Members such as China and Chinese Taipei remains an outstanding issue.

'Graduation' taken out in Chair's new suggestion

Chair Jara's revisions to the current modalities draft (JOB (02)/35/Rev.2) were made in response to the fact that 24 developing countries -- including Brazil, Argentina, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia and Thailand -- had been unable to agree to the Chair's proposal discussed at the 9 December CTS meeting. These countries were of the opinion that the draft did not address the special circumstances of developing countries as a whole in an adequate way, while it unduly took into account the concerns of newly acceded Members. In response to these reservations, the Chair presented a new version of draft paragraphs 13 and 14 of the modalities, clarifying that developing countries as such were granted special consideration in the 'credit' process, rather than "individual developing country Members" as provided for in the original modalities document. The group of 24 developing

countries had been especially concerned about this wording as they read in it the notion of graduation (i.e. differentiated treatment) within developing countries themselves.

Less of a focus on accession countries

The treatment of newly acceded Members had provided another point of contention in the earlier draft Statement annexed to the Chair's modalities proposal. Evoking pro-accession country language contained in the Doha Declaration (particularly its paragraph 9 which "note[s] the extensive market access commitments already made by these countries), Chair Jara said it was understood that Members should only direct rather modest credit requests to "most recently acceded Members" while at the same time giving "sympathetic consideration" to requests submitted by the latter. In his revised draft Statement discussed on 13 January, this second element had been deleted, with language highlighting 'credits' as an "important and sensitive issue" for recently acceded countries. However, sources reported that on the issue of accession countries, agreement was still not near, and further consultations will be needed to find language that strikes a balance between the concerns of newly acceding countries and developing country Members as such.

Addressing the overall 'credit' process, the Chair added a new passage to his draft Statement clarifying that "in fact, irrespective of the level of development of individual Members, the modalities do not, by themselves, create any legal obligation nor do they establish any automatic right to credit or recognition." At the end of the day, according to the Chair, "anything that participants may agree on bilaterally" would prevail. Nevertheless, the new suggestion for the modalities draft itself now provides that the "application of the modalities may be advanced bilaterally, plurilaterally, and multilaterally," whereas the original passage only spoke of "bilateral negotiations."

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

**INDIA CHALLENGES EU GSP SCHEME
ON ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR
STANDARDS**

On 19 December 2002, India requested the establishment of a WTO panel to determine whether provisions under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) tariff programme relating to labour rights, the protection of the environment and combating the production and trafficking of illicit drugs is compatible with WTO rules. The dispute request is the first ever to contest a trade measure used to promote respect for labour rights. The EU blocked the first request for the establishment of a panel at a subsequent meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body on the same day. However, any follow-up request from India would automatically be accepted by the DSB, and India has stated that the request will be tabled at a meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body on 27 January. The EU expressed "deep regret and surprise" over India's decision to seek a panel, maintaining that India "has chosen to ignore that the EU's GSP scheme is an autonomous regime granted on a non-reciprocal, generalised and non-discriminatory basis."

The EU GSP programme

The EU's GSP programme grants preferential access to imports from developing countries, favouring countries that apply norms for labour rights and the protection of the environment. India is contesting two provisions under the programme that offer special tariff treatment to countries identified by the EU for their efforts to combat illicit drug production and trafficking as well as countries that comply with labour and environmental policy standards fixed by the EU. In requesting the panel, India says these special tariff preferences are inconsistent with Article I of the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) requiring any advantage or privilege granted to the imports of one WTO Member to be automatically extended to all Members.

India also claims that the special preferences violates Articles 2(a), 3 (a) and 3(c) of the 28 November 1979 GATT Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, popularly known as the Enabling Clause. Paragraph 2(a) of the Enabling Clause calls for the establishment of "nonreciprocal and nondiscriminatory preferences" under GSP schemes, while paragraphs 3(a) and 3(c) require that preferences be designed to "facilitate and promote the trade of developing countries" and "respond positively to the

development, financial and trade needs of developing countries."

The EU's special preferences for combating drug production were targeted by Brazil in a complaint brought in October 2000. Brazil objected to the EU giving special concessions on soluble coffee imported from several of its South American neighbours because of their efforts to combat drugs, while at the same time "graduating" Brazil's coffee exports from the GSP scheme. The two sides later reached a deal giving Brazil duty-free access for up to 10,000 metric tons of soluble coffee.

ICTSD Reporting; "EU Blocks India's Request for Panel on GSP Labor, Environment Provisions," WTO REPORTER, 20 December 2002.

IN BRIEF

**PROPOSED US 'DOLPHIN SAFE' TUNA
LABELLING CHANGES ON HOLD**

On 31 December 2002, the US government introduced new standards for 'dolphin safe' tuna, which were immediately challenged by nine environmental and animal welfare groups. The US Department of Commerce decision sought to change the 'dolphin safe' labelling standard for yellowfin tuna to allow tuna fishing that involves pursuing and encircling dolphins, as indicators of the presence of tuna. This is the second time that the US government has tried to introduce these changes after a first attempt failed when conservation groups successfully challenged the decision in a US court. The proposed changes would pave the way for Mexican tuna to be sold under the US label and thereby end what Mexico calls a 'de facto embargo' on its tuna. Within hours of the announcement of the Commerce Department's decision to weaken the label, however, environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of Commerce in an effort to again overturn the decision, which was subsequently suspended. The forthcoming 23 January issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes will carry a full story on the tuna labelling row.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. changes meaning of dolphin safe tuna label," ENS, 6 January 2003; "Commerce Department Determines No Significant Adverse Impact Of Fishing On Dolphin Populations," NOAA PRESS RELEASE, 31 December 2002; "Lawsuit filed against Secretary of Commerce; groups seek restraining order," EII PRESS RELEASE, 2 January 2003; "Rule

weakening definition of 'dolphin safe' is delayed," NYT, 9 January 2003.

US LAUNCHES FREE TRADE TALKS WITH CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTHERN AFRICA

The US and five Central American states formally launched talks on a free trade zone on 8 January 2003. The Bush administration met in Washington, DC, with officials from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, which already share a customs union and will negotiate as a group. The talks, a further step towards a hemisphere-wide Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), are expected to conclude by the end of 2003. The launch of the talks follows shortly after the conclusion of a free trade agreement between the US and Chile (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-12/inbrief.htm>).

The US also initiated talks on a free trade agreement with five African countries -- Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland -- on 13 January. The talks will build on the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and strengthen the position of the US vis-à-vis the EU in the region. They are expected to conclude in 2004.

"U.S. Launches Talks On Free Trade Agreement With Southern States," FINANCIAL TIMES, January 14, 2003; "U.S. Begins Talks for Trade Pact With Central Americans," NEW YORK TIMES, January 8, 2003; "U.S., Central American Nations Launch Trade Talks," DOW JONES, January 8, 2003.

'SCEPTICAL ENVIRONMENTALIST' UNDER FIRE

The Danish Committee on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) has found Bjørn Lomborg -- author of the controversial publication 'The Skeptical Environmentalist' -- guilty of scientific dishonesty, concluding on 7 January 2003 that the book is "clearly contrary to the standards of good scientific practice." The book spurred avid debate at the time of its publication in 2001, with the environmental movement challenging its claims that climate change, energy, overpopulation, species loss, deforestation, water scarcity, and a host of other issues are exaggerations and not supported by a proper analysis of environmental data. However, journals such as the Economist and the New York Times embraced its message. Bjørn Lomborg went on to be appointed head of the new Danish Institute of Environmental Valuation

by the right-wing Danish government in 2002. However, criticism of his work continued, notably in an article in the Scientific American by prominent scientists and experts on climate change, energy, population and biodiversity. While scientists and environmental groups have welcomed the conclusion of the DCSD, Bjørn Lomborg himself has rebutted the ruling, alleging it is completely unfounded and based on a systematically biased selection of data. The Economist published an article on 11 January, calling the DCSD's ruling "dishonest and shameful."

"Lomborg Frenzy Takes Hold in Denmark," ENS, 9 January, 2003; "Thought Control: The Scourge of the Greens is Accused of Dishonesty," THE ECONOMIST, 11 January, 2003.

EU FISHING QUOTAS SET FOR 2003

Following difficult talks on fishing quotas for 2003, EU Ministers reached an agreement in late December 2002 that involves cutting cod catches back by 45 percent compared to 2002 levels. The compromise deal includes urgent recovery measures for cod, 2003 quotas for cod and other fish stocks, and reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Scientists had recommended a full fishing ban in order to preserve cod stocks for the future, while fishermen and nations with significant fishing fleets were seeking to save jobs and safeguard coastal economies and communities (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/story4.htm>).

Environmental groups say the current agreement is insufficient to save the cod. Germany and Sweden voted against the agreement on the same grounds. Fishermen's organisations said the cuts would devastate their economies. Scottish fishermen stressed that large concessions were made to southern EU states, while the UK fleet was hit hard by the agreement. In addition to the cod quota, hake quota are also set at 45 percent of the 2002 catch. Fishing will only be allowed for 15 days per month, and subsidies for building new fishing vessels will be gradually phased out.

"EU fisheries ministers reach deal on 2003 quotas," REUTERS, 23 December 2002; "Outcome of the Fisheries Council of 16-20 December 2002," EU PRESS RELEASE, 23 December 2002.

ASIAN SOCIAL FORUM SENDS ANTI-WTO MESSAGE

The first ever Asian Social Forum (ASF) took place from 2-7 January in Hyderabad, India where over 10,000 participants gathered at the anti-globalisation and anti-imperialism event themed 'Another World is Possible.' Prabir Purkayastha of ASF said that the Forum was meant to provide open space for debate, reflection, formulation of proposals, alliance building, and exchange of experiences, rather than to create one organisation or united front. It is affiliated with the World Social Forum, an annual event held at Porto Alegre in Brazil, held as an alternative to the World Economic Forum. Over 45 seminars and 50 workshops were held in Hyderabad, focusing on issues ranging from debt, development and trade to social infrastructure and people's movements.

A concurrent meeting, the Partnership Summit-2003, which involved the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) also took place in Hyderabad. It was addressed by WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, who stated that Doha Round negotiations were at a critical stage and that India's "constructive engagement and leadership" was needed to help move the process along.

Environmentalist Medha Patkar spoke at the ASF, claiming that globalisation was bringing ruin to India, and called on the public to fight against the WTO and other global organisations and corporations. 200 participants at the ASF staged a protest at the Partnership Summit- 2003.

"ASF meet begins in city on Jan 2," TIMES NEWS NETWORK, January 2, 2003; "ASF protests at CII meet," TIMES NEWS NETWORK, January 7, 2003; "Statement of the Asian Social, Mass and Peoples' Movements and Organisations, WORLD SOCIAL FORUM, January, 2003; "Globalisation ruining India, say activists," TIMES NEWS NETWORK, January 3, 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SETS TIMETABLE FOR TALKS ON SPECIAL & DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

The WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) special session decided in an informal meeting on 15 January on how to continue work on special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries. The group had been unable to reach a conclusion by the end of the year 2002, and Special Session Chair Ransford Smith (Jamaica) had been forced to report this fact to the WTO General Council final session, requesting more time (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/story2.htm>). According to the new timetable, the CTD special session will report to the General Council at its meeting on 10-11 February 2003. The group will hold informal meetings on 17, 14, 27, 29 and 30 January, and a formal session on 3 February. Discussions will continue to focus on the two themes considered in December: agreement-specific proposals, based on 22 proposals laid out by the Chair with the addition of a few additional proposals by the Africa Group and India; and the overall structure of future work. Responding to this plan, the Africa Group and the least-developed countries said they would like to discuss additional agreement-specific proposals. Some developing countries commented that they would prefer written responses from developed countries on all proposals made by developing countries. Developed countries countered that they already had responded orally, and that these responses were included in the minutes of the December meetings.

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: 16-22 January

13-17 January, Port Louis, Mauritius: AGOA SUMMIT. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) mandates that a ministerial-level Forum and a parallel private sector session be held every year between the

U.S. and the eligible beneficiary countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The Second U.S.-Sub-Saharan African Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum includes a government meeting, private sector workshop, trade exhibition and NGO forum. The ministerial sessions will focus on trade, conditions for investment, and investing in people. For more information on the summit visit: <http://www.agoa.mu/>.

13-17 January, Bangkok, Thailand: TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON BIOLOGICAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. Organised by UN FAO. For further information, contact: Ms. Ezzeddine Boutrif, FAO Food Quality and Standards Service, tel: (39 6) 5705 6156; fax: 57054593; email: ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org>.

21 January, Tokyo, Japan: PUBLIC FORUM ON INTER-LINKAGES - ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN 14 ASIAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES. This public forum will present results and outline future prospects and follow-up activities derived from national and regional case studies on environmental governance undertaken in Asia and the Pacific by UNU and its partners in 2001 and 2002 under the inter-linkages initiative, which aims to promote opportunities for effective and efficient implementation at national and regional levels of sustainable development instruments, particularly multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). For further information visit: http://www.unu.edu/hq/rector_office/press2002/pre54-02.html.

21-23 January, Pretoria, South Africa: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER, POVERTY, AND PRODUCTIVE USES OF WATER AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL. This international symposium focuses on practical experience, new research, and policy implications from innovative approaches to the provision and use of household water supplies. For further information on the symposium visit: <http://www.irc.nl/themes/management/prodwat/index.html>.

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.

15 & 17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - MALDIVES.

17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK STEERING COMMITTEE.

17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

22 & 24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

Other Forthcoming Events

23-28 January, Porto Alegre, Brazil: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF). This year's WSF focuses on five themes: democratic sustainable development; principles and values, human rights, diversity and equality, media, culture and counter-hegemony; political power, civil society and democracy; and emocratic world order, fight against militarism and promoting peace. For more information visit: <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/home.asp>.

23-27 January, Davos, Switzerland: THE PUBLIC EYE ON DAVOS 2003. At the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the international NGO-coalition "The Public Eye on Davos" organises an independent conference in Davos. NGO experts, academics and political representatives from the global North and South will provide a critical analysis of corporate-driven globalisation and present alternatives towards more equitable and sustainable world economic policies. Session topics include: corporate accountability - binding rules for big business; corporate PR strategies; the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; impacts of globalisation on Switzerland - cutbacks in public services?; and window to the World Social Forum; globalization and labour rights. For further information visit: http://www.evb.ch/index.cfm?page_id=1772.

13-14 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT. UNEP is establishing a Working Group to develop a framework for integrated assessment and to help guide 8 country projects to test the framework. The objective of workshop, which launches the project, is to review and provide input to the preparation of the framework and agree on a road map for the testing of the framework and selection and implementation of

country projects. For further information on the workshop visit:
<http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Integrated%20Assessment/Feb2003.htm>.

17-18 February, Geneva, Switzerland: THIRD UNEP WORKING GROUP MEETING ON ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS. At this workshop, participants will discuss two papers on "Opportunities, Prospects and Challenges for the Use of Economic Instruments in Environmental Policy Making" and, "The Use of Economic instruments to Implement Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements". For further information on the workshop visit:
[http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Economic Instruments/2003_17Feb.htm](http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Economic_Instruments/2003_17Feb.htm).

19-20 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP MEETING ON THE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF TRADE LIBERALISATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. This meeting will review UNEP country projects on trade liberalisation in the agricultural sector, as well as a Reference Manual for the Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies for the Agriculture Sector. For further information on this meeting visit:
http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Agriculture/2003_19Feb.htm.

RESOURCES

"The WTO on Trial," in FOREIGN AFFAIRS 82 (1, 2003): 130-140. By Susan Esserman and Robert Howse. The authors note that the WTO represents a dramatic innovation in international law: binding dispute resolution between sovereign countries. Their article assesses the record of the WTO dispute settlement system to date, responding to critics of the system, and making recommendations for reform.

"Productivity growth in world agriculture: sources and constraints," in JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES 16 (4, 2002): 161-184. By Vernon Ruttan. The author argues that, during the last half-century, advances in crop production came from expansion in areas irrigated from more intensive application of fertilizers and crop protection chemicals, and from crop varieties that were more responsive to technical inputs and management. Advances in animal production came from genetic improvements and advances in animal nutrition. He notes that differences among developed and developing countries in output per hectare and per worker have widened., and if these gaps are to be narrowed, agricultural research capacity in developing countries will have to be substantially strengthened.

"Bridging the digital divide: new route to development or new form of dependency?," in GLOBAL GOVERNANCE 8 (4, 2002): 443-466. By Robert Hunter Wade. The author argues that the current buzz around ICTs-for- development neglects the international context into which developing countries are being integrated. The standards and the hardware-software race tend to lock developing countries into e - dependence on western ICT suppliers. Intergovernmental bodies like the World Bank, the OECD and the G7 should certainly be promoting ICTs in developing countries, but they should do so on the basis of evidence rather than euphoria, paying attention to opportunity costs and to the dangers of lack of demand and of induced administrative paralysis.

FOREIGN AID IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST: PROMOTING FREEDOM, SECURITY, AND OPPORTUNITY. By USAID, January 2003. This policy report stresses the critical link between national security and foreign assistance and lays out the framework for development in the coming decades. It seeks to educate the broader policy community about the state of development assistance and to foster discussion about the challenges that lie ahead. The report seeks to capture accomplishments to date and the state of the art in development strategy, and outlines sector approaches and future challenges in democracy, economic development, health, and humanitarian and conflict-related assistance. In terms of agriculture, it suggests that the US may need to accept its "multifunctional role" role - referring to the social, environmental and other roles of agriculture - and stresses the importance of agricultural development in aid policy. To view the policy document, visit:
<http://www.usaid.gov/fani/>.

CALL FOR PAPERS: MONITORING REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) will hold a regional workshop in Windhoek in June 2003, sponsored by the Konrad-Adenauer- Foundation. The workshop will analyse and discuss the progress of regional integration in Southern Africa in its various economic and political dimensions. Papers on the following topics are invited: trade and investment; transport; finance; regional migration and labour markets; energy; communication; politics and governance; development and democracy; development of SADC as an institution; harmonisation of law; and

the role of donors. January 31, 2003 is the deadline for abstracts. For more information visit: <http://www.nepru.org.na/Monitoring-Regional-Integ/Introduction.htm>.

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