



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# BRIDGES

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### LEAD STORIES

#### AGRICULTURE: ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN HARBINSON'S REVISED MODALITIES DRAFT

On 18 March, Stuart Harbinson, Chair of the special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA), issued a revision of his first draft modalities for the ongoing agriculture negotiations. The modalities, scheduled to be agreed by 31 March, are to set out the scope of the negotiations, the methodology to be followed during the actual process, and the end-results expected in the agriculture negotiations. Harbinson, who had been tasked with preparing an "improved second modalities" draft following the first draft from 17 February, found himself unable to do so due to "insufficient collective guidance" received from Members. He was only able to present "an initial, limited revision of certain elements of the first draft of modalities," he stated in the 18 March document. While the main features of the original draft remained largely unchanged, some pro-developing country modifications have been made, for example with respect to market access, a new special safeguard mechanism, and trade preferences. The US, and Cairns Group leader Australia, have rejected the revised draft as not being ambitious enough. Japan, a 'Friend of Multifunctionality,' criticised the revised paper as being too similar to the original. The EU and Switzerland underscored that it remains unbalanced, and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said that the draft is not comprehensive as it does not include non-trade concerns nor a peace clause.

#### Harbinson criticises Members' lack of guidance

In his introductory remarks to the revised modalities document (WTO document TN/AG/W/1/Rev.1, viewable at:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/agric\\_e/negoti\\_mod2stdraft\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/negoti_mod2stdraft_e.htm)), the CoA negotiating session Chair explained that, in their reactions to the original draft during the negotiations in late February, various Members had "indicated that the draft did not correspond in various ways with their vision of the modalities to be established" (BRIDGES Weekly, 5

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March, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/story1.htm>). Others, however, had "found the paper useful or expressed interest in various ideas presented," Harbinson said. Nevertheless, due to a lack of "collective guidance", he saw himself unable to "significantly to modify the first draft as submitted on 17 February 2003," he said.

Nevertheless, Harbinson called on Members to constructively engage in negotiations during the forthcoming -- and officially the last -- modalities negotiating session taking place from 25 to 31 March, so as to "create the space for establishing modalities in line with the Doha mandate". However, "we would need a wonder to have trading partners agreeing on modalities by end-March," a source close to the negotiations stated.

### **Main elements remain, S&D strengthened**

The revised first modalities draft leaves the core elements of the original approach on new commitments with regard to market access, export competition and domestic support untouched (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 February, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-13/story1.htm>). Despite hefty criticism from the 'Friends of Multifunctionality' (including the EU, Japan and Switzerland) and calls for a better reflection of non-trade concerns (NTCs) such as food safety and consumer protection in the modalities, the Harbinson draft left the question of how such NTCs could be addressed open. Instead, he pointed to the fact that NTCs have already "been taken into account in various parts of the present text (and not only in market access)". However, he recognised that further consideration would need to be given to those issues.

Several modifications have been made with respect to special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing country Members.

Regarding market access, Harbinson added a further tariff band to his original three-pronged tariff reduction model. According to the revised modalities draft, the original tariff band ranging from 120 to 20 percent (with an average cut of 33 percent, and a minimum cut of 23 percent) would be split into a 120 to 60 percent as well as a 60 to 20 percent category, with average cuts of 35 and 20 percent and minimum cuts per tariff line of 20 and 15 percent, respectively. In addition, the tariff reductions would be less in the 20 percent downwards band (25 percent average, 15 percent minimum cut) as compared to the earlier proposal (27 percent and 17 percent).

Moreover, the 'best endeavour' language in the original text requiring developed countries to provide *inter alia* "fullest liberalisation" of trade in tropical products,

"whether in primary or in processed form", has been made mandatory.

Furthermore, due to progress on a new special safeguard (SSG) mechanism for developing countries, the original proposal providing that this new SSG would be restricted to only a few "strategic products" denominated by developing countries, has been dropped. The text now states that "an outline of a possible new special safeguard... is currently subject to technical work and will be included at the appropriate stage in" an annex to the modalities draft.

On trade preferences, the revised draft gives some additional leeway with regard to developed country Members' tariff reduction commitments if they relate to the erosion of long-standing preferential trade terms for developing countries. In addition, the new text now requires preference-providing Members to "undertake targeted technical assistance programmes and other measures, as appropriate, to support preference-receiving countries in efforts to diversify their economies and exports".

### **Study sees developed countries as main beneficiaries**

Harbinson's revisions come after the release of a study prepared by the Danish Research Institute for Food Economics (viewable at <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/ag/resources/index.htm>) that analyses the balance in Harbinson's original first draft, as well as the distribution of the estimated global welfare gains resulting from further agriculture trade liberalisation along the lines of the original modalities text. The study finds that 80 percent of the expected US\$100 billion increase in global real income from the liberalisation would accrue to OECD countries, while the remaining US\$20 billion would be distributed amongst a relatively large number of developing countries, including the least-developed countries (LDCs).

The study further shows that the original modalities would result in negative welfare effects in net food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs), due to higher food import prices. Also, receivers of trade preferences would be negatively affected as "such preferences are by definition eroded in any trade liberalisation scenario".

ICTSD reporting; "Agriculture: Few changes in second Harbinson Ag draft; Chair faults Members for lack of guidance," WTO REPORTER, 19 March 2003; "Agriculture: US trade official criticises Harbinson proposal, blames EU for delay in talks," WTO REPORTER, 19 March 2003; "Japan opposes revised proposal from WTO Ag chief," DOW JONES, 19 March

2003; "Australia rejects revised WTO plan to liberalise Ag trade," DOW JONES, 19 March 2003.

## OTHER NEWS

### GOODS COUNCIL DEBATES TRADE FACILITATION

The Council for Trade in Goods, meeting from 12-13 March, spent much of its time on the issue of trade facilitation. Members also focused on the review of the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), and named the Council's subsidiary body chairs. Ambassador Milan Hovorka (Czech Republic) chaired the meeting.

On trade facilitation, the US supported the launch of negotiations after the WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September, and said this "should not be foreseen as a complex undertaking". Trade facilitation -- which refers to non-economic measures, such as cooperation on technical standards and customs matters, aimed at promoting international trade through smoothing its flow -- is one of the four so-called 'Singapore issues,' along with investment, competition policy and transparency in government procurement, for which a WTO work programme was set up in 1996. In a paper circulated shortly before the meeting (G/C/W/451, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), the US outlined a three-point approach to special and differential treatment on trade facilitation, covering transitional periods, technical assistance review and a coordination mechanism, and enforcement of commitments. The proposal contained the highly controversial notion of "graduation" among developing countries, as it argued that "rather than treating the matter of transitional periods as involving a blanket 'one-size-fits-all,' more comprehensive and detailed transitional periods should be utilised, and integrated into the matter of technical assistance efforts".

Canada presented an overview paper laying out how trade facilitation could be advanced through the development of appropriate WTO commitments (G/C/W/448). New Zealand provided an overview of its experiences at the domestic level, including an example of how its shift to computer systems had reduced customs clearance processing times from ten days to an average of 12 minutes. The EU outlined its technical assistance to developing countries in the area of trade facilitation.

According to trade sources, a number of (mainly developed) WTO Members supported advancing trade

facilitation after the Cancun meeting. However, some developing countries continued to question the need to establish new commitments in this area, which would be subject to WTO dispute settlement.

The 1996 Singapore Ministerial Declaration directed the Council for Trade in Goods to "undertake exploratory and analytical work...on the simplification of trade procedures in order to assess the scope for WTO rules in this area". Para. 27 of the Doha Declaration provides that until the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, the Council for Trade in Goods "shall review and as appropriate clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V (Freedom of Transit), VIII (Fees and Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation) and X (Publication and Administration of Trade Regulations) of the GATT 1994 and identify the trade facilitation needs and priorities of Members, in particular developing and least-developed countries".

### No movement on TRIMs

The Council continued its review of TRIMs, focusing on an earlier proposal by Brazil and India, (G/C/W/428), which seeks to re-open spaces for developing countries to use certain trade-related investment measures in their development policies. This item was last discussed in late November 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-12/story5.htm>), and had been made in the context of the mandated review of the TRIMs Agreement, as referred to in tiret 40 of the Doha Decision on Implementation. The proposal was supported by Colombia and Pakistan, while Canada, the EU and Japan said they remained unconvinced about the need to amend the Agreement. The US stressed that the proposal goes beyond the mandate of the Council for Trade in Goods. The issue remains a standing agenda item, and will be further discussed at future meetings.

### New subsidiary body chairs elected

On the subject of regional trade agreements, delegates agreed to forward the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and Costa Rica and the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Singapore to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements for examination. The Council also agreed on new chairs for 2003 for its subsidiary bodies. These include: Magdi Farahat (Egypt), Committee on Agriculture; Ivan Lee (Hong Kong), Committee on Customs Valuation; David Evans (New Zealand), Committee on Anti-Dumping; Philippa Davies (Jamaica), Committee on Import Licensing; Jo Lomas (United Kingdom), Committee on Market Access; Syed Habib Ahmed (Pakistan), Committee on Rules of Origin; Pornchai Danvivathana (Thailand), Committee on Safeguards; Paul Martin

(Canada), Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Olga Lucia Lozano (Colombia), Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures; Juan Antonio Dorantes Sanchez (Mexico), Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade; and Sivaramen Palayathan (Mauritius), Committee on TRIMs.

The next meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods will be held on 2-3 June.

ICTSD Reporting; "U.S. Rejects Facilitation Exemptions For Developing Countries from WTO Pacts," WTO REPORTER, 13 March 2003.

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### **LACK OF MOVEMENT IN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REVIEW**

On 10 and 11 March, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) special session on the review of the dispute settlement system continued discussions, in which a proposal for reform by Chile and the US featured prominently. The proposal, (TN/DS/W/28, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), suggests, inter alia, that the dispute settlement system should be more flexible and should accord parties involved the chance to review findings by panels and the Appellate Body, especially given that "the reasoning and findings of reports may at times go beyond what the parties consider to be necessary to resolve the dispute, or, in some circumstances, may even be counterproductive to resolution of the dispute". Whereas the proposal does not include specifics on a procedure by which parties could delete findings from Panel or Appellate Body reports that they do not consider helpful to resolving the dispute, it proposes that the Appellate Body should develop such procedures.

Members are currently reviewing the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), with a 31 May 2003 deadline (Doha Declaration paragraph 30). Faced with the rapidly approaching deadline for the completion of the entire review exercise, delegations have expressed increased pessimism on the possibility of completion, as important divisions remain. Even Members that have proposed similar specific changes to the DSU in separate proposals have been unable to agree to identical language. One example of this is that the EU and Japan in their informal consultations on the so-called sequencing issue -- which refers to the harmonisation of conflicting timelines of Article 21.5 of the DSU that stipulates a review of whether a country has complied with a panel ruling, and Article 22 which spells out how retaliation should be requested by a Member -- have been unable to agree.

In this context, Members have called on Ambassador Péter Balás (Hungary), Chair of the special session, to

prepare a draft framework text, possibly by mid-April, with the recommendation that unresolved issues should be negotiated beyond May, and be made part of the single undertaking in the wider Doha Round negotiations. The Chair indicated that he would conduct further consultations -- including with regional groupings such as the African Group -- before issuing the framework text.

ICSTD reporting.

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### **EU AND INDIA MEET ON DOHA ROUND ISSUES**

European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and his India counterpart discussed the current Doha Round trade negotiations during Lamy's two-day visit in India on 13-14 March. Lamy made the point that trade liberalisation needs to be gradual, and not all countries can go to zero tariffs. "We know this would be very detrimental to long-term sustainable development of developing countries," he stated. However, he wished to see substantial progress at the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September, and to narrow differences with India on issues up for negotiation. On agriculture, a main sticking point, Lamy said the EU needed to do more to open its market. On the other hand, he said "We, like India, do believe agriculture is different--intimately tied up with how we run our rural economy, our rural society, indeed the whole rural landscape--and that therefore there are limits to the international division of labour in agriculture". He called for more efforts on the part of India to live up to EU sanitary and phytosanitary standards in agriculture, and promised technical assistance to India in this regard. India's Law and Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley focussed on lowering EU agricultural subsidies as the way forward, asking "To what extent can our people compete with high-subsidy economies?"

Lamy and Jaitley disagreed on whether negotiations on the so-called Singapore issues of investment, competition policy, trade facilitation and government procurement should proceed after Cancun. While the EU is a major demandeur, Jaitley said that India opposes negotiations, stating that the issues should be further studied by a panel of developing country representatives.

At the meeting, Lamy pointed to India's use of antidumping measures as a problem in the trade relations between the EU and India. "This has gone to the point that WTO consultations have unfortunately become unavoidable," he said. India, on the other hand, opposes 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. At the request of India, a WTO panel was set up to examine the GSP scheme on 27 January this year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 29 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-29/wtoinbrief.htm#3>).

The EU is India's largest trading partner, and the two have set a target of EUR 25 billion of two-way trade in 2004 and EUR 50 billion by 2008.

"EU Lamy Expresses Concern Over Trade Issues With India," AP, 14 March 2003; "EU's Lamy Woos India for Support in WTO; India Wants More Study of Singapore Issues," WTO REPORTER, 14 March 2003.

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### **SUPACHAI: DOHA ROUND PROSPECTS DIM IN SHADOW OF WAR; EXPLOSION OF BILATERAL TRADE TREATIES A THREAT**

As the world's attention focussed on the impending war against Iraq, WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi gave a speech at the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies, warning of the negative repercussions in the area of trade that a weakening of multilateralism may bring forth. At the 17 March event, he warned that the war would further harm the already stalling talks. WTO Members would have to "redouble their efforts" after the outbreak of a war to "heal the wounds" and get the trade talks back on track, he said. Other observers have cautioned that the rift on the Iraq war between the US on the one hand and France and Italy on the other, could translate to the trade front. The US and EU are already far apart on issues such as agriculture and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Supachai also expressed concern that the war would refocus Members' attention on military affairs and away from important trade negotiating deadlines.

On the long-term effects of the current situation, Supachai hoped for more concerted action leading to results in Cancun and at the end-2004 negotiating deadline, warning that "if we're not careful and send the right signals, we might have to put up with another recession".

#### **Focus on the regions**

Supachai also drew attention to the proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements. He warned that the rise in these accords could put a damper on multilateral negotiations, and that the agreements could lead to distortions as countries of different levels of development pursue their own narrow interests. Speaking at an earlier event in Bangkok in February,

Supachai said that, "the some 270 (bilateral and regional) agreements that we have seen will probably rise to 300 in two years. No one has taken the time to see whether these accords are reached under the regulatory framework of the WTO," and warned that bilateralism and regionalism should not be pursued at the expense of multilateralism. The US recently finalised bilateral agreements with Chile and Singapore, and has started negotiations on trade accords with Australia, Morocco, the Southern African Customs Union, and the Central American Common Market.

"WTO Chief Cites Fears of Impact Of War With Iraq on Global Trade Talks," WTO REPORTER, 18 March 2003; "U.S. policy could threaten international trade, aides warn," NEW YORK TIMES, 15 March 2003; "Rise in Bilateral Trade Accords Worries WTO Chief," REUTERS, 19 February 2003.

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### **GATS CHAIR WARNS OF DEADLOCK ON ESM**

Thomas Chan (Hong Kong), Chair of the Working Party on GATS Rules (WPGR), has warned that WTO Members are reaching a stalemate in the negotiations on a possible emergency safeguard measure (ESM) for the services sector. According to the latest Chair's report (S/WPGR/9, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), it is unclear that the current mode and pace of discussions in the WPGR would enable negotiations to be finalised by the March 2004 deadline. Despite ongoing discussions in 2002 and 2003 on the elements for an ESM and its feasibility and desirability, fundamental differences remain among Members. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states are the demandeurs for an ESM, while some Members, such as the EU, have questioned its feasibility. These differences have prevented further work on common elements for an ESM in services and ultimately the preparation of a draft text. In this regard, the Chair stressed the need for Members to engage substantively in order to reach an outcome by the deadline, irrespective of its direction. In the absence of political will, it seems that the WPGR would be unable to finalise negotiations under article X of the GATS, which would also affect negotiations on subsidies and government procurement. While the original deadline for concluding negotiations on the ESM was 1 January 1998, it has been extended several times, most recently in March 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 March 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-03-19/story1.htm>).

#### **WPGR reviews checklist of subsidies issues**

According to the Services Negotiating Guidelines (S/L/93), WTO Members "shall aim to complete negotiations on services subsidies under Articles XV of

the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) prior to the conclusion of the services negotiations on specific commitments". In undertaking this work, the WPGR recently revised its checklist on issues in subsidies negotiations, so as to add focus and add new discussion elements. The new checklist on subsidies (JOB (03)/57) includes the following new issues:

\*definition of subsidy -- the need for a definition and possible way to categorise services subsidies;

\*trade distortive subsidies -- concepts relevant to what should be regarded as trade distortive subsidies, including specificity, public policy objectives, nature of subsidies and permissible or non- actionable subsidies; and

\*disciplines to be developed -- consideration of the appropriateness of countervailing procedures.

This new list of issues could provide impetus to negotiations on differentiating the types of subsidies that governments can use. It could also lead to more emphasis on the need to analyse public policy objectives when designing new disciplines on subsidies and services. The inclusion of consideration of whether countervailing procedures are appropriate or not could open the door to discussion of alternatives to the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures framework.

ICTSD reporting.

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## IN BRIEF

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### US AND AUSTRALIA INITIATE TRADE TALKS

The US and Australia are holding their first round of talks, aiming at a free trade agreement, from 17 to 21 March in Canberra. The US has tabled draft text based on that in its recently completed bilateral free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore. The most contentious issues to be discussed are likely to be in the area of agriculture. While Australia's economy is much smaller than that of the US, the country is one of the world's largest agricultural exporters. "It's the area where Australian industry is highly efficient and highly competitive, and so is significantly disadvantaged because of the quota restrictions in beef, sugar and dairy in the US," said Stephen Deady, Australia's lead trade negotiator, maintaining that Australia is aiming at "nothing less than zero tariffs" on agricultural products. Australia's strict sanitary and phytosanitary rules are

also expected to be a sticking point in the talks, and an area where Australia will have to make concessions.

Australia had lobbied for the talks to begin for over two years, with US farm groups voicing strong opposition, fearing unrestricted imports in sensitive commodities such as beef, sugar and dairy. Regarding the launch at this time, US lead negotiator Ralph Ives said that "politically... there can be no question of why we are pursuing an FTA with Australia," referring to the war on Iraq. Two future negotiating sessions are planned for Hawaii in the week of 19 May and the week of 21 July this year. The countries seek to finalise their free trade agreement by the end of 2004, and plan to undertake the actual negotiations over the next 12 months.

"U.S., Australia To Begin Negotiations Next Week With Tabling Of Texts," INSIDE US TRADE, 14 March 2003; "Australia, US To Begin Intensive Year Of FTA Talks," DOW JONES, 14 March 2003.

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### CODEX TASK FORCE ADOPTS FINAL BIOTECH STANDARDS

The Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology at a 11-14 March meeting adopted a draft Guideline for the safety assessment of foods produced with rDNA microorganisms. This is the last of three draft guidelines to be adopted by the Task Force, which will be submitted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its next meeting in July 2003 for final adoption (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 March 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-21/story2.htm>). Codex Alimentarius, set up in 1963 by the World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, is the international body charged with setting food safety standards. Given the consensus expressed in the Task Force, the Commission is expected to approve the standards. As the Guidelines for microorganisms was based on the previously adopted standards, there was no significant discussion on the contentious issues, such as precaution and traceability, which had deeply divided the Task Force at its previous meetings. The divisions were resolved when the Task Force agreed to include the "tracing of products" (rather than traceability) as a risk management tool in the standards. Many observers believe that the agreement reached at the Codex meeting might mark a breakthrough in international negotiations on the use of traceability systems and at least partially vindicates the EU's insistence on introducing a labelling and traceability system for genetically modified foods.

This was the last scheduled meeting of the Task Force, even though its mandate could be extended if

necessary. Documents of the meeting are available at [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03_01e.htm). For a more detailed report, see the forthcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/index.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

## CANCÚN BULLETIN

### UPDATE ON LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

#### ICTSD Cancún Ministerial Info Page

ICTSD has posted an information section on the forthcoming WTO Fifth Ministerial Conference (10-14 September 2002) on its website. Available at <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial>, the section contains relevant news, documents, NGO activities, links, and a map of the Cancún hotel district, including the location of the Ministerial Conference Centre.

#### Ministerial Venue

As previously reported, the Fifth Ministerial Conference will take place in the Cancún Centro de Convenciones, located at the very tip of Punta Cancún. The ground floor of the Conference Centre will house the Press Centre and public spaces, and will be accessible to all accredited personnel, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Plenary sessions will also be open to all accredited personnel. Floors 1 and 2 will house the negotiation venues, and will be available only to authorised participants (i.e. members of government delegations, WTO Secretariat).

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT WHILE THE WTO MINISTERIAL IS SCHEDULED TO RUN FROM 10-14 SEPTEMBER, IN THE PAST IT HAS SOMETIMES GONE BEYOND ITS CLOSING DEADLINE. THIS MIGHT AFFECT BOTH HOTEL AND AIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

#### NGO Centre

Efforts by the Organising Committee and the WTO Secretariat at securing a venue for the NGO Centre close to the Ministerial -- specifically in the Hotel Fiesta Americana next door to the Convention Centre -- were ultimately unsuccessful. Instead, the NGO Centre will be located a 15- 20 minute walk away from the Ministerial venue, in the Hotel Sierra. A continuous shuttle bus service will be available between the NGO Centre and the Convention Centre. Meeting and

conference rooms, photocopy, telephone, fax and computer facilities will be available. A large meeting room of 400-500 person capacity will be made available for NGO briefings in the Hotel Fiesta Americana.

Conference organisers and the WTO Secretariat are expecting 1500 - 2000 accredited NGO participants to attend, out of an expected 7000 - 10 000 participants overall.

#### Organising Committee

The Conference Organising Committee has posted a website, <http://www.omcmexico.org.mx/>. For the time being it is only in Spanish, but other language versions will be available shortly. The Organising Committee is also in the process of appointing an NGO contact person who will facilitate NGO activities and enquiries.

#### Hotels

Conference organisers have identified 33 'official' hotels with preferred rates and facilities that are close to the Conference Centre. They will publish this list shortly and make it available via the WTO Secretariat. ICTSD will also post the list on its Ministerial section when it becomes available. Groups and individuals attending the Ministerial are urged to make their own hotel bookings.

#### Transport

Free shuttles between the Cancún airport and the 'official' hotels will be provided. A 24-hr. shuttle service will also be available between the hotels and the Convention Centre.

#### Security

There will not be a security perimeter that will shut down large areas around the Conference Centre. However, security checkpoints will be set up, and only those with official accreditation badges will be allowed in certain areas. Designated hotels will also have security checkpoints, including metal detectors.

Regarding demonstrations, the Mexican government has indicated that it will allow peaceful protests. It said it would adhere to its law on public demonstrations, available online on the government's website.

#### Visas

Special visa arrangements will be made for those accredited to the Ministerial Conference. Further information is available on Organising Committee's website at <http://www.omcmexico.org.mx/>. Those who

will not be accredited are urged to make appropriate visa enquiries in advance.

## Weather

Expected meteorological conditions during the Ministerial in Cancún are 27-30 degrees Celsius and humid. Conference organisers recommend wearing light clothes if moving around outdoors.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email [events@ictsd.ch](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

### Coming Up This Week: 20-26 March

16-23 March, Kyoto, Japan: THE THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM. This week-long conference will address actions being taken to implement solutions to important global water problems. For further information, please visit: <http://www.worldwaterforum.org/>.

17-20 March, Montreal, Canada: CBD OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK. During this event The Convention on Biological Diversity will hold their inter-sessional meeting on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010. For further information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: (514) 288-2220, fax: 288-6588, email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org), Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/>.

19-20 March, New York, US: NGO STRATEGY SESSION ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. In preparation for the 14 April Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Interim Facilitating Group for the Follow-up to Monterrey (IFG) is hosting an NGO strategy session on 19 March regarding the monitoring and implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development. On 20 March there will be a dialogue between ECOSOC and representatives of civil society. The theme of the meeting is "Increased coherence, coordination and cooperation for the

implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development at all levels one year after the Conference". For further information, please contact: Rosa Lizarde; e-mail: [Rosaencasa@aol.com](mailto:Rosaencasa@aol.com).

19-21 March, Montreal, Quebec: AMERICANA 2003. This environmental technologies conference and trade show, entitled "Solutions for a Healthy World," will feature cutting-edge technologies in climate change, air pollution, contaminated sites, water and wastewater treatment, solid waste treatment, renewable energies and geomatics, as well as international markets and business opportunities. For further information, please visit: <http://www.americana.org>.

19-21 March, Orlando, Florida: SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. The Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) is hosting a conference on partnerships that promote sustainability. For further information, visit: <http://www.gemi.org/docs/GEMI2003conf.htm>. 20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: MASTER CLASS AND WORKSHOP ON CSR AND LABOUR. Organised by HCInternational Ltd. The event will cover the main issues that confront managers in dealing with their employees and their suppliers. The class is meant for managers and professionals responsible for: CSR matters, sustainable development, human resources, codes of conduct, treatment of suppliers, and investor relations. For further information, contact: Jawahir Adam; tel: (41 22) 734-0308; email: [jadam@mhcinternational.com](mailto:jadam@mhcinternational.com); Internet: <http://www.mhcinternational.com/>.

20-21 March, Geneva, Switzerland: DEVELOPMENTS IN WTO LAW. This conference, organised by the International Bar Association, will cover current WTO activities, focusing in particular on issues relating to the Doha round and dispute settlement. For further information on the conference, visit: <http://www.ibanet.org/general/ConferenceOverview.asp?ID=655&Section=&Committee=>.

24-26 March, Kathmandu, Nepal: REGIONAL SEMINAR ON POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS. The seminar, focusing on "Evolving Sui Generis Options for the Hindu Kush Himalayas," is being organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Its main objectives are to help policy makers and civil society actors understand the contemporary debate on intellectual property protection and rights of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable farmers of the Hindu Kush region in general and mountain farmers in particular;



and to explore various options available under the TRIPS Agreement of the WTO to prepare a balanced "Sui Generis" legislation that would protect the rights of commercial breeders without impairing the ability of farmers to save, exchange, re-use and sell seeds. For further information please contact Mr. Dhrubesh Chandra Regmi, SAWTEE, P.O. Box 19366, 341 Alok Madhya Marg, Min Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel 977-1-482217; fax: 9771-430608; email: [dhrubesh@hqsawtee.wlink.com.np](mailto:dhrubesh@hqsawtee.wlink.com.np), or visit: <http://www.sawtee.org/forthcoming.html>.

24-28 March, Mexico City, Mexico: TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE AMERICAS 2003. This event, organised by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme will include three features, all of which focus on trade in North and Latin America from an environmental perspective. The first day will consist of a workshop (hosted by the Joint Public Advisory Committee) examining Chapter 11 of NAFTA and its implications with respect to dispute settlement over environmental protection. This workshop will be followed by "The Second North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade." During this two-day symposium, various papers with the central themes of energy and agriculture with respect to the environment will be discussed. This event will conclude with a two-day meeting during which representatives from Latin American economic and trade organizations will discuss current trade issues and prospects on improving on trade and environmental activities for the future. On 27-28 March, UNEP will organise a Capacity Building Meeting on Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development for the Latin American and Caribbean Region. For further information on this event, please visit: <http://www.cec.org/symposium/index.cfm?varlan=english>.

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

19-21 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES.

20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE.

21 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.

24-26 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

24-26 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

26 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS.

## Other Forthcoming Events

June, Dakar, Senegal: AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in cooperation with the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), is hosting a conference which will focus on the problems associated with African countries' dependence on primary commodities. The meeting will cover specific measures intended to restore the development potential of the commodities sector in Africa. For further information, please contact: Mr. Djidiack Faye; tel: + 41.22.917.63.24; e-mail: [djidiack.faye@unctad.org](mailto:djidiack.faye@unctad.org).

8-11 July, Alajuela, Costa Rica: THINK TANK & CONFERENCE III. Business Enterprises for Sustainable Travel (BEST) is hosting a conference to educate the next generation of tourism professionals on issues of sustainability in their work. The event, entitled "The Role of Tourism in Community Development, and Cultural and Environmental Stewardship," is part of BEST's ongoing commitment to sustainable tourism education and training. For further information, please visit: [http://www.sustainabletravel.org/industry/mtg\\_thinktank3\\_about.cfm](http://www.sustainabletravel.org/industry/mtg_thinktank3_about.cfm).

14-15 October, Bucharest, Romania: EASTERN EUROPEAN INVESTMENT SUMMIT - EXPANDING THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FRONTIER. The International Herald Tribune will co-host this conference with the United Nations Development Programme. The principle goal of the meeting is to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Eastern Europe, promote free trade, and strengthen cross-border cooperation. For further information, please contact: Brenda Erdmann Hagerty; tel: +44-20-7510-5707; e-mail: [Bhagerty@iht.com](mailto:Bhagerty@iht.com); Internet: <http://www.undp.ba/shnews.asp?idItem=55>.

20-21 October, Tokyo, Japan: 2003 UNEP FI GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE: SUSTAINING VALUE - A MEETING ON FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is hosting a meeting on the emergence of new governance frameworks and their potential contributions to sustainable finance, especially in the areas of good governance, reporting, and accountability. For further information, please contact: Trevor Bowden; tel: +44-20-7249-2154; e-mail: [trevor.bowden@unep.ch](mailto:trevor.bowden@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unepfi.net/tokyo>.

28-29, April, Bonn, Germany: THE CONTROVERSY ABOUT A NEW INVESTMENT AGREEMENT IN THE WTO IN THE RUN-UP TO THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCÚN: SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES. The German NGO Forum on Environment & Development and the Protestant Church Development Service are organising this conference to discuss alternatives to current World Trade Organisation (WTO) investment agreements. For further information, please contact: Antje Schultheis; tel: +49-228-3681010; e-mail: [handelsprojekt@forumue.de](mailto:handelsprojekt@forumue.de); Internet: <http://www.forumue.de/themenundags/handel/index.html>.

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## RESOURCES

ORGANIC FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM THE TROPICS: MARKET, CERTIFICATION AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR PRODUCERS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANIES. By the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This new publication gives organic producers and exporters in developing markets tools for accessing certain developed-country markets. It provides them with information on market potential and access conditions to European, US, and Japanese markets for organic products. The book also specifies production and processing requirements, as well as management tactics and useful information for contacts in Europe, the U.S., and Japan. For more information, please contact: Mr. Djidiack Faye; tel.: +41.22.917.6324; e-mail: [djidiack.faye@unctad.org](mailto:djidiack.faye@unctad.org).

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT. By Maurice Schiff and L. Alan Winters, Oxford University Press 2003. In this book, intended for trade policymakers, the authors analyse the effects of regionalism in developing countries. After examining the politics and dynamics of regionalism, issues of credibility, deep integration, and the relationship between regionalism and multilateralism from a developing country perspective, the authors contend that regional integration in developing countries has a wide range of negative and positive effects and that

there is no one standard formula that can be applied to all regions seeking to integrate. To obtain a copy of this book, please visit: [http://publications.worldbank.org/e-commerce/catalog/product?item\\_id=298960](http://publications.worldbank.org/e-commerce/catalog/product?item_id=298960).

"Liberalising Agricultural Trade and Developing Countries" by David Orden, Rashid S. Kaukab, and Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, Carnegie Endowment, 2003. The authors argue that World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations should force developed countries to limit domestic agricultural subsidies (which the authors claim are trade-distorting), lower tariffs, increase market access and eliminate export subsidies to developing markets. The brief is available at: <http://www.ceip.org/pubs>.

WTO & NAFTA RULES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION: SELECTED ESSAYS ON ANTIDUMPING, SUBSIDIES AND OTHER MEASURES. By Gary Horlick (Cameron May Press). This collection entails several articles and essays written by the author during the past twenty years. They focus on developments in international trade law during the past three decades; many concentrate on the dispute settlement mechanisms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). For further information visit: <http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/cm.books/isbn-1874698244.html>.

THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE FOR CLIMATE INVESTMENT: JOINT IMPLEMENTATION IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES. By Samuel Fankhauser and Lucia Lavric (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). As part of the Kyoto Protocol, transition countries will hold a key role in the developing market for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In this article, the authors argue that transition countries' ability to reduce emissions at a low cost will not be enough to lure investors into the market. They will also need to improve factors such as their legal and regulatory systems, levels of economic and political stability, and ability to process their emission reduction systems efficiently. To obtain a copy of this paper, please go to: <http://www.ebrd.com/>.

WATER-L (International Institute for Sustainable Development). WATER-L is an announcement list on which any subscriber can post communiqués which fall within the guidelines of the site. To obtain more information and to subscribe to the list, visit <http://www.iisd.ca/email/water-L.htm>.

CLEAN WATER, SAFE SANITATION: AN AGENDA FOR THE KYOTO WORLD WATER FORUM AND BEYOND. Edited by David Mephram (IPPR) with research support from Thames Water and WaterAid.

This collection of essays integrates the ideas of several water and sanitation experts in order to address key issues and problems for Kyoto and beyond. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ippr.org/home/index.php?table=pubs&id=339>.

**WATER AND SANITATION IN THE WORLD'S CITIES: LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL GOALS.** UN-Habitat. This publication addresses the lack of access to safe water in the world's cities, especially as this problem is being exacerbated by growing urban populations. For more information and to order a copy of the report, please visit: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3902>.

**WATER AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.** Saleemul Huq, Hannah Reid and Laurel Murray (IIED). The authors focus on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the way in which water quantity, quality, use, and management is affecting these poorest 49 countries. The report is available at: [http://www.iied.org/climate\\_change/pubs.html#waterldecs](http://www.iied.org/climate_change/pubs.html#waterldecs).

**DRAWERS OF WATER.** John Thompson, Ina T. Porras, James K. Tumwine, Mark R. Mujwahuzi, Munguit Katui-Katua, Nick Johnstone, and Libby Wood (IIED). This book presents the findings of the 30-year reassessment of a landmark study on water. The data comes from 34 sites in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, charts the trends and changes that have taken place in the last three decades, and highlights the implications for water policy and practice in this region. The report can be ordered at: <http://www.earthprint.com/go.htm?to=9049IIED>.

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