



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
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DEVELOPMENT

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### LEAD STORIES

#### WTO MARKET ACCESS PAPER GIVES MEMBERS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On 16 May, Pierre-Louis Girard, Chair of the WTO's Negotiating Group on non-Agricultural Market Access, issued a first draft 'modalities' paper that offers a series of formulas for reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers in industrial goods as part of the Doha round of trade negotiations launched in November 2001. The compilation document (TN/MA/W/35, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) comes ahead of a 26-28 May meeting of the Negotiating Group, which is mandated to agree on modalities -- or targets for achieving the objectives of the negotiations -- by the end of May.

Observers say that the lukewarm support garnered for Girard's proposal from WTO Members, together with lack of progress in other areas of the Doha negotiations, means that the 31 May deadline is likely to be missed, as Members will require more time to respond to and adjust the draft text. This was reflected in the Chair's paper, which stated that it "is not in any way comprehensive. Rather it should be seen as a set of basic elements for possible modalities, which will need to be adjusted, completed, refined, or further expanded upon". A wide range of proposals from both developed and developing countries have been submitted since Members agreed last July to the May deadline (see BRIDGES Weekly, 30 April 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-30/story1.htm>).

The Chair's paper proposes, inter alia, across-the-board tariff cuts -- in line with US and EC desires -- and puts forward a formula that would cut tariffs on products with higher tariffs by bigger margins. This is combined with a 'zero-for-zero' sector tariff elimination, as well as the elimination of low duties, or so-called 'nuisance' tariffs.

In addition to the formula, the paper proposes a three-phase sectoral elimination approach in order to eliminate and bind all tariffs on products of particular export interest to developing and least-developed country participants. It targets liberalisation of the sectors of: Electronics & Electrical goods; Fish & Fish products; Footwear; Leather goods; Motor Vehicle parts & components; Stones, Gems, & Precious Metals; and

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Textiles & Clothing within three years for developed countries. The paper further advocates longer implementation periods for tariff reductions for developing countries and duty and quota-free access for non-agricultural goods from least-developed countries (LDCs). LDCs are nevertheless called upon to increase their level of binding commitments.

Regarding non-tariff barriers (NTBs), the paper recommends that the Negotiating Group continue with its work on identifying, examining and classifying NTBs.

Commenting on the paper, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said that, "it's frankly not as ambitious as we would like," though he said it showed the possibility of movement. The paper makes no mention of a US proposal to eliminate all tariffs by 2015. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi expressed dissatisfaction with the draft, saying its calls for eliminating tariffs on certain products were unacceptable. Japan has previously expressed a desire to keep forestry and fisheries products out of accelerated tariff liberalisation schemes.

BRIDGES Weekly will provide further coverage of the issue following the 26-28 May Negotiating Group.

ICTSD reporting.

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## OTHER NEWS

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### WTO GENERAL COUNCIL TACKLES IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The WTO General Council (GC) met from 15-16 May, where Members used the opportunity to address implementation concerns and development-related issues of the Doha Work Programme. The meeting followed a gathering of heads-of-delegation with WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi on 14 May to focus and inject momentum into negotiations.

#### Implementation-related issues and concerns

India submitted a paper (WT/GC/W/494, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) on outstanding implementation issues under Article 12(b) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, calling for their review. These are issues related to previous WTO commitments highlighted by developing countries at Doha because they were experiencing difficulties in implementing them, or because they felt developed countries had failed in implementing them. Progress on the

implementation issues has been stalling, with Members disagreeing on the exact negotiating mandate for a start (for further information see the IISD/ICTSD Doha Round Briefing Series on implementation, <http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings/doha1-implement.pdf>).

The GC agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare an informational document outlining the status of the issues. Tanzania submitted a paper (WT/GC/W/495) on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing countries calling for the review of development-related issues of the Doha Work Programme. Members provided their perspectives on the lack of progress, but no specific action was taken.

#### Members far from agreement on S&D

On special and differential (S&D) treatment for developing countries, delegates reacted to a paper circulated by GC Chair Perez del Castillo (Uruguay) in early May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-14/story2.htm>). The paper consisted of a list of agreement-specific proposals divided into three categories: category one for agreement at/before the Cancun Ministerial Conference (10-14 September 2003); category two for those to be "addressed" in relevant WTO bodies; and category three for which "wide divergences of views" existed among Members. Delegates from both developing and developed countries gave cautious responses, with the Quad -- the US, EU, Canada and Japan -- indicating that some proposals in category one were likely too far-reaching for them to support. The African group has objected to the categorisation of the proposals, as well as to the idea that some proposals would be dealt with in negotiating groups established under the current round of negotiations. The African group has argued that S&D should be dealt with by the Committee on Trade and Development, not by other groups or the GC, and that the GC should only clarify the mandate on S&D. However, the issue will remain with the GC and Chair Perez del Castillo will reportedly be conducting informal consultations at the heads-of-delegation level on the paper on agreement-specific proposals.

#### Kimberly Process waiver adopted

The GC also formally approved a request of eleven Members -- Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand, the UAE and US -- for a waiver from WTO rules, and dispute settlement proceedings alleging violations of those rules, for the Kimberley Process rough diamonds certification scheme. This waiver had already been approved on 26 February by the Council for Trade in Goods (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 February 2003,

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-27/story3.htm>). The Kimberley Process is an international initiative established to sever the link between illicit international trade in rough diamonds and armed conflict.

The next General Council meeting will be held from 24-25 July.

ICTSD reporting.

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### **SERVICES: ZAMBIA TABLES FORMAL PROPOSAL ON LDC MODALITIES**

At a negotiating session of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) on 19 May, Zambia, on behalf of the group of least-developed countries (LDCs), tabled a formal proposal (TN/S/W/13, not yet derestricted) on modalities for the special treatment of LDCs in the current services negotiations.

Complementing points made in an earlier informal submission (JOB (02)/205) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-12/story7.htm>), the LDC group further suggested that LDCs should not be required to offer national treatment to foreign service providers, and that they should not be requested to make 'additional commitments' (GATS Article XVIII) on regulatory issues -- e.g. regarding qualifications, standards and licensing matters -- that would "go beyond their institutional, regulatory and administrative capacities". Zambia further proposed that "preferential market access mechanisms" should be created so as to achieve effective market access for LDCs to the markets of their trading partners. The LDC group also strengthened their demands on movement of natural persons (mode four), suggesting that Members should open their markets to "all categories of natural persons from LDCs, particularly unskilled and semi-skilled persons" without applying a so-called economic needs test. Zambia argued that mode four of unskilled and semi-skilled persons was the most important way for LDCs to market their services globally as well as to reduce poverty.

On the issue of autonomous liberalisation (AL), the LDC group also called for "maximum credit" for their unilaterally undertaken services market openings, while LDCs should not be required to bind these AL measures in their schedules of commitments. Furthermore, the group added some proposals in the area of technical assistance (TA) and capacity building (CB), e.g. demanding that related TA/CB should be provided to LDCs "on a priority basis," and that TA should also cover "institutional and human capacity building and undertaking regulatory reform". In addition, TA should be provided to LDCs enabling them to assess whether trade liberalisation has been able to

better integrate LDC service sectors in the global services economy, and whether it takes into account "their special economic situation and their development, trade and financial needs". In their reactions, Members reportedly welcomed the proposal in general and announced their constructive engagement in the issues raised by the LDC group. Nevertheless, trade sources reported some key developing countries said they would have problems with some of the proposals as they were too prescriptive and prejudged the outcomes of the negotiations. Sources further said that several Members had suggested holding informal consultations on the issue.

The CTS will reconvene on Thursday, 22 May, in the afternoon. ICTSD will report on the full CTS special session in the next issue of BRIDGES Weekly.

ICTSD reporting.

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### **IN BRIEF**

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#### **WAKE-UP CALL TO FISHERIES MANAGERS WORLDWIDE**

On 14 May German and Canadian scientists released the findings of a long-term study, which concludes that ninety percent of all large fish in the world's ocean have been depleted over the past 50 years. The study, which was conducted over a ten year period, is based on data from all major global fisheries, in particular industrial fisheries, and shows that species such as giant blue marlin, bluefin tuna, tropical groupers and Antarctic cod will be extinct very soon if current fishing levels persist. "The findings of the [...] study should be a wake-up call to fishery managers and regulators all over the world," said Michael Hirshfield, chief scientist of the ocean conservation group Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "Without immediate action fishery managers will have nothing left to manage and fishermen will have nothing left to catch." The study, which appeared in the 15 May issue of the journal *Nature*, encourages fishing nations to reduce quotas, reduce overall fishing effort, cut subsidies, reduce bycatch, and create networks of marine reserves in order to stabilise fish stocks worldwide.

In related developments, IUCN - The World Conservation Union released a new publication on the status of the world's cetaceans - whales, dolphins and porpoises. The study conducted by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group (CSG) warns that smaller species such as the Yangtze River dolphin will be extinct within

the next ten years if fishing methods remain unchanged. Several other cetacean populations are also threatened by extinction according to IUCN due to unsustainable fishing methods and bycatch. "Some of the great whales such as the blue, humpback, sperm and right whales often receive a lot of attention. They are magnificent animals, and certainly important [...] however smaller species, often lesser-known are particularly threatened with extinction," says Dr Randall Reeves, Chair of the CSG.

To access the IUCN study visit:  
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/actionplans/cetaceans/cetaceans.pdf>.

"Great Fish Going the Way of the Dinosaurs," ENS, 14 May 2003; "Small cetacean species may not survive another decade warns new landmark publication," IUCN, 14 May 2003.

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### **US PROPOSES MID-EAST FREE TRADE AREA**

US President Bush recently proposed that the free trade agreements (FTAs) the US has in place with Jordan and Israel could be replicated in other countries in the Middle East region during a ten-year phase-in period. To qualify for FTAs with the US, countries would be subject to certain conditions, such as combating terrorism and dropping trade boycotts of Israel, as well as WTO membership. Egypt and Bahrain were the most obvious candidates, with most other countries, including Saudi Arabia and Yemen, yet to become WTO Members. According to Bush, "the Arab world has a great cultural tradition but is largely missing out on the economic progress of our time." He linked the FTA proposal to the Middle East peace process, noting that economic prosperity brought about by trade was critical to peace. The initiative received both praise and criticism in the US. Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for International Economics, said "I think it's a great goal, but it's a very steep hill," noting how undeveloped Middle Eastern economies currently were. The Gulf Times in Bahrain, on the other hand, carried an article stating that "irrespective of whether the free trade zone idea is merely an embellishment to the much-hyped roadmap to Middle East peace, the US game plan has been seen as one that is meant to achieve the economic integration of Israel into the regional structure and use it to achieve greater political stability for the US ally," and arguing that Middle Eastern countries have few products that would be competitive on the US market, while local economies could suffer serious damage if US multinationals were to enter.

"On Agenda: Free trade too simplistic a solution," GULF NEWS, 16 May 2003; "Bush Sees Free Trade Easing Middle East Problems," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 9 May 2003; "Bush Trade Pact Plan For Middle East Draws Praise," DOW JONES, 14 May 2003.

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### **SOLUTION URGED TO INTERNATIONAL COFFEE CRISIS**

The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and the World Bank held a high-level Roundtable on 19 May to address the global coffee crisis brought about by historically low prices. Raw coffee prices are at the lowest levels seen in 30 years, due to overproduction and low quality production, which has led to devastation among coffee growers while large international coffee roasters continue to increase profits. The 250 meeting participants -- including coffee producers, officials from governments and international organisations, NGOs and industry representatives -- discussed issues such as diversification, quality, value added and market development for coffee. In conclusion, they issued a statement calling on rich countries to share the burden of the coffee crisis, which affects the living standards of 125 million people in developing countries. Néstor Osorio, ICO Executive Director, said "we will need to establish the capacity of international agencies and the private sector to work on concrete actions in areas like credit and risk management, and what measures can be taken to bring producers once again into the profit-zone". Oxfam's head of advocacy Phil Bloomer urged the meeting to propose the establishment of an independent commission on coffee and commodities to the G-8 summit in Evian in June. He said that "making the coffee trade fair is a crucial test of whether globalisation can be made to work for the poor as well as the rich". The output of the meeting will be presented to the ICO Executive Board and Council.

"ICO/World Bank high-level Round-Table calls on rich countries to take responsibility on coffee crisis," ICO PRESS RELEASE, 19 May 2003; "Coffee crisis tops summit agenda," BBC, 19 May 2003.

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### **WTO MEMBERS AIR POSITIONS ON TRADE FACILITATION AT UNECE MEETING**

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), with 12 other relevant international agencies, organised a forum on trade facilitation from 14- 15 May in Geneva. The theme of the forum was how trade facilitation -- which refers to a wide range of non-economic measures to smooth the flow of international trade, including cooperation on technical standards, customs



matters, trade fairs etc -- can be enhanced in a "new security environment". Speakers agreed that current increased security measures are related to reasons outside the trading system and as such are not aimed to be protectionist, and technical improvements to control international trade flows would be supportive of trade facilitation. Developing countries would also need more technical assistance to implement trade facilitation measures.

Trade facilitation, one of the four so called Singapore issues that also include investment, government procurement and competition policy, will be on the agenda at the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September, where some WTO Members seek to launch negotiations on the issues. At the UNECE meeting, Members outlined their positions on this regard, with many in support of new rules that could "save billions of dollars to the sluggish world economy". However, not all countries agreed, with India being notably cautious with regard to a potential launch of negotiations.

"How can trade facilitation be enhanced in a new security environment? Solution may lie in adopting collaborative approach," UNECE PRESS RELEASE, 16 May 2003.

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### **ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER**

At a 15 May meeting of the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries Council of Ministers, the ACP welcomed a new member into the group, bringing the total number of membership of countries under the Cotonou Agreement to 79. The Republic of Timor Leste is now party to all the rights and obligations, consequent to its accession. As expected, the meeting also saw discussions on the status of phase one of the Economic Partnerships Agreements (EPA) negotiations between the ACP and the EU, and on the upcoming WTO ministerial at Cancun. The objective of phase one of the EPA negotiations is to yield a set of common principles on the basis of which phase two negotiations will be undertaken. These negotiations have been slow, and the Council of Ministers "expressed concern over the slow progress". To insert momentum into the negotiations, Ministers also agreed to hold a special session before the end of September.

ICTSD reporting.

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## **WTO IN BRIEF**

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### **SUPACHAI TO UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS ON GIS**

At an informal heads of delegation meeting on 14 May, WTO Members agreed to a proposal put forward by WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpadki that he would undertake informal consultations on geographical indications (GIs) and in particular on the contentious question of whether the higher level of protection awarded to wines and spirits should be extended to other products (see BRIDGES Weekly, 7 May 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-07/story2.htm>).

Supachai stressed that this way of initiating consultations would be "without prejudice to anyone's position as to the status of this issue or to the results of my consultations" or "to any delegation's position on the status of the possible approaches to any other issue". The issue of GI extensions, which had been raised as one of the 'outstanding implementation issues' at WTO Ministerial meeting in Doha, has effectively blocked progress on other implementation issues under Article 12(b) of the Ministerial Declaration. While the implementation issues had been put forward by developing country Members, the GI extension issue has also found strong backing from the EC and Switzerland who have been calling for negotiations on this issue, arguing that the Ministerial Declaration provided "a clear mandate to launch negotiations" on GI extensions (BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 6 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-06/story1.htm>).

ICTSD reporting.

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### **IF STEERING COMMITTEE ADOPTS FUNDING TOR**

The WTO Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries (IF) Steering Committee met on 16 May to adopt clarifications to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Window II Funds of the Integrated Framework. These clarifications provided for a widening scope to fund technical assistance and capacity-building projects (excluding physical infrastructure) identified by LDCs as priorities in their diagnostic trade-integration studies. The studies -- prepared for each LDC -- identify the impediments to effective integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy. Trade sources indicated that the adoption of the TORs was an important development in the IF process for LDCs, donors and agencies. The Integrated Framework Trust Fund (IFTF) provides a central point for the deposit of contributions to the IF. Financial resources pledged to

the IFTF are managed by the Trust Fund under the authority of the Administrator of UNDP. Contributions can be pledged towards two windows operating simultaneously: Window I, a general fund, for un-earmarked contributions, or Window II for contributions allocated to specific and clearly identifiable programmes.

Composed of six LDC representatives, six core agencies (WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, World-Bank, IMF and UNDP) and donors, the Integrated Framework Steering Committee was established in 2001 to oversee the management of the IF. Presently chaired by Ambassador Iversen of Denmark, its responsibilities include setting policy guidelines, coordination, and providing oversight; and assessing progress of the IF. The terms of reference provide for the Steering Committee to meet as necessary but at least once a year. The Steering Committee has so far had nine meetings since its inception (including the one on 16 May). The next meeting is likely to take place after the Cancun Ministerial in October, but no date has been set.

ICTSD reporting.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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### EVENTS

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

#### ICTSD Events

26 May, Geneva, Switzerland: DIALOGUE ON TRADE, AID AND INVESTMENT: HOW DEVELOPMENT-FRIENDLY ARE RICH COUNTRY POLICIES? The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Center for Global Development (CGD) are co-hosting this event on the occasion of the Geneva launch of the CGD/Foreign Policy Commitment to Development Index (CDI). The CDI ranks 21 of the world's richest nations according to how much their policies help or hinder the economic and social development of poor countries, looking beyond mere foreign aid flows to encompass trade, environmental, investment, peacekeeping, and migration policies. ICTSD and CGD will bring together policy-makers and stakeholders in Geneva in a high level dialogue: to

highlight how trade, aid and investment policies interact to affect the prospects for development of poor countries; and to discuss how to improve coordination and coherence between policy areas so as to be more effective and efficient in supporting global development. Space will be limited so please confirm your participation. For further information and to confirm participation please contact Marie Chamay at tel: +41 22 917 84 97; fax +41 22 917 80 93; or email: [mchamay@ictsd.ch](mailto:mchamay@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming Up: 22 - 28 May

12-24 May, New York, US: SECOND SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES: The second meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will focus on "Indigenous Children and Youth". The meeting is organised by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. For further information, contact: Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, tel: +1-917-367-5100; e-mail: [indigenouspermanentforum@un.org](mailto:indigenouspermanentforum@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/pfii/pfii2.htm>.

22 May, Washington DC, US: INVESTMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE WTO: ALLIES OR ANTAGONISTS? This event, sponsored by Friends of the Earth, Oxfam America, National Wildlife Federation, Heinrich Boell Foundation, and the Center for International Environmental Law, will focus on investment agreements and their effects on sustainable development. Please RSVP to [lwatkins@foe.org](mailto:lwatkins@foe.org). For more information, please visit: [http://www.ciel.org/Tae/Carnegie\\_WTO\\_22May03.html](http://www.ciel.org/Tae/Carnegie_WTO_22May03.html).

22 May, Centurion, South Africa: WORKSHOP ON GM FOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA. This workshop, organised by TRALAC (Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa), will focus on South Africa's trade in genetically modified food products. It is aimed at food producers, distributors and retailers, lawyers, economists and trade experts. Further information on the workshop can be obtained from Karien Bezuidenhout at: [karienbezuidenhout@tralac.org](mailto:karienbezuidenhout@tralac.org).

22-23 May, Santiago, Chile: MOBILISING SOCIAL CAPITAL AND VOLUNTEER ACTION OF LATIN AMERICA. This conference, organised by the government of Chile and the Inter-American Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics, and Development, will help bridge the gap between government and civil society in Latin America. It will also address the vast potential in Latin America for the production of social goods through volunteer organisations. For further information, please visit: <http://www.iadb.org/etica/ingles/index-i.htm>.

22-24 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: NGO MEETING ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. The Danish 92 Group is organising this meeting for NGO representatives and lobbyists in advance of the Danish high-level meeting on trade and development. The aim of the NGO meeting is to present different initiatives and options to reform the WTO and to develop common positions before the Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. The meeting will also be a space and opportunity for NGO's to make their voices heard at the high-level meeting and will aim to produce a statement as an input to be presented at the official meeting. The NGO meeting will be structured around the following themes: agriculture; trade and development; policy space; and reform and democracy. For more information contact John Nordbo, tel: +45 39 17 40 32; fax: +45 39 17 41 41; e-mail: jno@dn.dk.

26 May - 6 June, Geneva, Switzerland: THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF-3). Delegates will discuss a variety of issues, including: means of implementation; progress in implementation, specifically related to economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity, and maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs; and common items. For further information, contact: Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat, tel: (212) 963-3262, fax: 963-4260, email: unff@un.org, Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>.

27 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: MAKING TRADE WORK FOR PEOPLE - A HIGH- LEVEL MEETING FOR KEY DECISION MAKERS ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. the Danish Government is hosting a high-level meeting in order to move the dialogue on trade and development further. Key decision makers from countries and international organisations associated with the Integrated Framework for trade-related assistance to LDCs will be in attendance. Invitees include ministers responsible for development co- operation and international trade from developed countries and from least developed countries, the EU Commissioners for trade and development as well as heads of international organisations -- all associated with the Integrated Framework. For further information visit: <http://www.um.dk/udenrigspolitik/handel&udvikling/english/>.

28 May, Imperial College, London: PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW GOVERNING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES IN RELATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES. As part of the lecture series on international and European environmental law, Imperial College London is hosting a conference on international watercourses. For more information about the meeting, please contact:

Meetings Secretary, tel: +44 20 7862 5163; fax: +44 20 7862 5152; e-mail: [info@biicl.org](mailto:info@biicl.org).

### 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.

22 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

22 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES.

23 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION.

23&28 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

26-28 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS.

26 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN TRADE AND COMPETITION POLICY.

26 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

### Other forthcoming meetings

27-28 May, Geneva, Switzerland: COMPETITION POLICY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION TABLE. Organised by the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations and UNCTAD, this workshop seeks to motivate creative thinking with regard to possible global scenarios and negotiated responses to the issue of competition policy. Through the use of participatory learning techniques, including a one-day simulation, the workshop aims to improve participants' understanding of the highly complex set of issues that competition policy might raise as well as to enhance the negotiation skills of the representatives from developing countries. For further information visit: <http://www.casin.ch/gover/negotiation/caltrade.htm#competitionpolicy>.

2-3 June, Mexico City, Mexico: MEXICO ACTION SUMMIT: POVERTY, AGRICULTURE AND BIODIVERSITY - A CALL TO ACTION. The Mexico Action Summit will explore how increased food production can be compatible with natural resource management and biodiversity stewardship. It will examine how international trade and domestic subsidy policies can be reformed to make sustainable development possible. Summit discussions will provide an action program for cooperation between business, governments, multi-lateral institutions and civil society from the developing and developed world countries. For more information, contact the Monterrey Bridge Coalition, telephone: +1 202 223 1313; email: [administration@futureharvest.org](mailto:administration@futureharvest.org); Internet: <http://www.futureharvest.org>.

6 June, London, UK: FINANCIAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WTO. This event will focus on WTO services negotiations, including Members' initial "offers" currently being submitted, which outline in which areas of services trade they are prepared to undertake new market-opening commitments to the benefit of foreign services firms. Participants will consider the prospects for the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico, and whether the Doha development round of WTO negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion by the agreed deadline of 1 January 2005. Speakers will discuss their industries' objectives and assess the value of the liberalisation offers that have been put on the table thus far. For further information visit: [http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/cm.conferences/wto\\_fpsn\\_2003.html](http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/cm.conferences/wto_fpsn_2003.html).

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## RESOURCES

STOLEN FRUIT: THE TROPICAL COMMODITIES DISASTER. By Peter Robbins (Zed Books May 2003). The author argues that over the past half century it has become abundantly clear that encouraging developing countries to grow coffee, sugar, cotton and other crops has been a disaster. He stresses that: small farmers get only a tiny share of the final tag on these commodities on supermarket shelves in the North; prices have collapsed and the terms of trade between North and South have widened; and foreign exchange earnings, tax revenues, and economic growth in developing countries have plummeted. Robbins examines the way in which this situation came about, how important primary commodities still are to so many developing countries, and current trading arrangements. He looks into the possible solutions being proffered -- from ideas to exploit new niche markets and improve quality, to more radical notions like fair trade, and shows how they all fail to measure

up to the scale of the disaster facing the Third World. Instead, he argues developing countries must take a leaf out of supply side economics, and themselves take the measures required to bring supply and demand into a better balance that will secure them far higher and more stable prices than today. For further information visit: <http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk/home.htm>.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT BOX: FINDING SPACE FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS IN THE WTO'S AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS. Sophia Murphy with Steve Suppan (International Institute for Sustainable Development, spring 2003). This paper examines the so called "Development Box," in the WTO agriculture negotiations, which is a package of proposals from developing countries that describes what they would like to see in the next iteration of global trade rules. In many respects, the Development Box has been overtaken by events. It was never likely to be a stand-alone element in the new agreement, as this paper explains. At this point, what may survive from the Development Box will be individual proposals from the package. Nonetheless, all of the issues raised by the Development Box discussion are still pertinent, and some of them need urgent attention from the international community, no matter how the multilateral trade community decides to handle them in this round of negotiations. To access the report visit: <http://www.iisd.org/publications/publication.asp?pno=533>.

A WORLD WITHOUT WALLS: FREEDOM, DEVELOPMENT, FREE TRADE AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. By Mike Moore (Cambridge University Press, March 2003). Mike Moore explains how a boy, who left school at fourteen to work in a slaughterhouse, came to head an organisation charged with bringing rules and order to the world's trading system. Arriving at the WTO shortly before the ill-fated Seattle meeting, Moore details how he sought to reform the Organisation, "addressing the concerns of poorer countries and engaging in open debate with the often hostile NGOs". He is proud of the outcome of the Doha meeting in November 2001 which secured commitment to a new round of trade talks with a focus on development. Moore rebuts the attacks against the WTO arguing that the WTO's promise of rules-based free trade offers the best hope for lifting millions of the world's poorest citizens out of poverty. For further information visit: <http://uk.cambridge.org/economics/moore/book.htm>.

PUTTING OUR FEARS ON THE TABLE: ANALYSES OF THE PROPOSALS ON INVESTMENT AND COMPETITION AGREEMENTS AT THE WTO. By the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, India (February 2003). The report puts together analysis by a core group of experts from



Southern countries on the interpretation and development implications of each of the proposed elements in potential agreements on competition and investment. It is designed to facilitate the formulation of negotiating positions of developing countries on investment and competition policy. For further information and to order a copy, contact Bipul Chatterjee, CUTS-CITEE, email: [citee@cuts.org](mailto:citee@cuts.org).

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2003: FROM DOHA TO CANCUN - DEVELOPMENT AND THE WTO. North-South Institute (2003). The sixth edition of the Canadian Development Report (CDR) looks at multilateral trade arrangements from both the perspectives of the North and the South. It highlights relevant development issues such as those regarding market access and the WTO Intellectual Property Agreement (TRIPS) raised at the November 2001 WTO meeting in Doha, Qatar. The essays in the report explore how the negotiating agenda needs to include but also to go beyond improved market access and trade-related technical assistance in order to ensure that trade rules do not become obstacles for pro-development policies at the national level. To access the report visit: <http://www.nsi-ins.ca/ensi/publications/cdr/index.html#CDR2003>.

UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROCESSES: CASES FROM AFRICA. By James Keeley and Ian Scoones (Earthscan April 2003). This book seeks to answer the following questions: how are environmental policies created and once put to effect, why are they so difficult to change despite sometimes becoming detrimental to the environment they are set up to protect?; African environmental policy is largely controlled by Northern concepts of how the environment should be handled - are these Northern ideals best for Africa itself?; and what can be done to make policy making more participatory? For further information visit: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3928>.

"The Emergence of Democratic Participation in Global Governance (Paris, 1919)". By Steve Charnovitz, in the INDIANA JOURNAL OF GLOBAL LEGAL STUDIES (Vol. 10, Issue 1, 2003). Opening opportunities for people in participating on Global Governance is the theme of this article, which examines the concept of democracy at the international level and finds some indications of democratisation. The author looks for the roots of this phenomenon and argues it originates from the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, calling the event a global constitutional moment. In conclusion, the author states that issue-oriented non-governmental participation is an important step in resolving the modern problem of democratic representation, and that responding to that problem is essential if global

governance is to keep pace with the challenges of interdependence. By helping to link the public with international organisations, NGOs strengthen the democratic foundations of global governance.

EMISSIONS TRADING IN THE US: EXPERIENCE, LESSONS, AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREENHOUSE GASES. By A. Denny Ellerman, Paul L. Joskow and David Harrison (Pew Center on Climate Change, May 2003). The authors review six diverse US emissions trading programmes, drawing general lessons for the development of greenhouse gas reduction programmes. The report finds that an emissions trading programme, if designed and implemented effectively, can achieve environmental goals faster and at lower costs than traditional command-and-control alternatives. The analysis suggests that a cap-and-trade programme is especially attractive for controlling greenhouse gases because the warming effects of greenhouse gases are the same regardless of where they are emitted, the costs of reducing emissions vary widely by source, and the cap ensures that the environmental goal is attained. To access the report visit: [http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/emissions\\_trading.cfm](http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/emissions_trading.cfm).

DESIGNING A MANDATORY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PROGRAM FOR THE US. By Robert R. Nordhaus and Kyle W. Danish (Pew Center on Climate Change, May 2003). This report examines options for designing a domestic US greenhouse gas reduction programme. In addition to cap-and-trade programmes, this report evaluates greenhouse gas taxes and a "sectoral hybrid" program that combines efficiency standards for automobiles and consumer products with a cap-and-trade program applicable to large sources of greenhouse gases. Each option is evaluated according to the following criteria: environmental effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, administrative feasibility, distributional equity, and political acceptability. The report's analysis suggests that the comprehensive, upstream cap-and-trade (or similar) approach and the sectoral hybrid approach are the most viable alternatives for a domestic programme. The full text of the report is accessible at: <http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/USgas.cfm>.

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