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LEAD STORIES

S&D REVIEW BACK UNDERWAY

The review of special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions for developing countries recommenced on 21 and 23 May, as General Council (GC) Chair Perez del Castillo (Uruguay) held informal meetings with Heads of Delegations (HOD). Following the 21 May meeting, Members were able to agree on accepting two additional proposals (based on language that differed from the original proposals), bringing up the total of proposals 'accepted for agreement' to 14, out of 88 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-14/story2.htm>). Prior to these meetings (on 20 May), Chair Perez del Castillo also circulated a letter to the various Chairs of other relevant WTO bodies, requesting that they consider 'as soon as possible' the proposals selected to be dealt with by subsidiary bodies (his category II of proposals; see full proposal at <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/development/resources/Latest-SDT-proposals.pdf>). The circulation of this letter, indicated one trade source, marked the acquiescence of a number of developing countries who had opposed sending the S&D proposals to subsidiary bodies (and thus making them part of the broader round of negotiations).

Process

The HOD process of reviewing the proposals in category I, aimed at augmenting the number and impact of those proposals to be agreed upon at/before Cancun, has already covered, inter alia, TRIPs, elements of GATT 1994, Measures in Favour of LDCs, and Import Licensing Procedures. The more contentious (and meaningful) proposals in this category -- including those on Article XVIII of GATT 1994 (dealing with active measures taken by governments for economic development), sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and the Enabling Clause (which enables developed countries to offer preferential treatment to developing countries) -- are to be tackled at an upcoming 5 June meeting. Certain key developed countries, reported one trade source, have already indicated that this latter group of proposals are generally not acceptable in their view.

One developing country delegate from Africa, commenting on the prospects for this revived process, said that most African countries are waiting until the first report back from the GC Chair (expected 15 June) before passing judgment. In the meantime, they are willing to give the Chair "the benefit of the doubt," trusting that something new and substantial can materialise. The delegate repeated the Africa Group's concerns over the nature of the Chair's process -- all informal meetings, carried out 'on the Chair's own responsibility' -- as well as the impact of sending proposals to subsidiary bodies.

On this latter concern that S&D will go the way of implementation issues (i.e. generally absorbed into the heavy mandate of the subsidiary bodies), Chair Perez del Castillo has requested the other Chairs to notify delegations in advance that S&D is being dealt with at a specific upcoming meeting. This, it is hoped, will help ensure that smaller delegations are able to keep track of S&D throughout the WTO's various arteries. In addition, Chair Perez del Castillo added as a condition that these subsidiary bodies must report to the final GC prior to Cancun, and that any of these items are open to 'early harvest', regardless of date of completion of the round.

Adding two makes fourteen

With 12 proposals arguably ready for acceptance (a few developing countries have stated they do not agree entirely on these 12), two more proposals were added at the 21 May meeting (both coming from the Africa Group's first submission TN/CTD/W/3/Rev.2, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). These two proposals both relate to Part IV of GATT 1994, which deals with trade and development.

The first touches on Article XXXVII (entitled 'Commitments'). The original proposal aimed to strengthen the binding nature of the commitments developed countries had undertaken in assisting with developing countries' economic development. The final language agreed upon offers Members the right to "initiate discussions on the basis of Article XXXVII", and that Members "shall, upon request, provide a detailed explanation [...] with a view to reaching a solution" satisfactory to all Members. This new language however limits the scope of the explanation to matters relevant only to paragraph one. The original language was stronger, and covered both paragraphs one & three, the latter dealing with, inter alia, exploring all possible constructive remedies before applying "other measures" allowed under WTO rules -- which could include market defence measures such as anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

The second proposal touches on Article XXXVIII (entitled 'Joint Action'). The final language agreed upon would see the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) receive studies and reports from relevant international agencies "that may assist Members in analysing the development plans and policies of individual developing and least- developed country Members, [...] and] measures that could be taken in the WTO framework and by other international agencies and organisations [...] to help achieve their respective development goals". The original language would have had the UN and its agencies, as well as all international and regional organisations with observer status at the WTO, provide annual studies and reports pertaining to the elements touched on in the article (including, inter alia, measures to stabilise commodity markets and the relationship between trade and aid). Most importantly, based on these reports and studies, the CTD would have been tasked with making recommendations to the General Council on the relevant issues. The issue of making recommendation has thus been removed, making the studies and reports, posited one trade source, more academic in nature and less useful as an input into trade rule formulation.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO MEMBERS MISS DSU NEGOTIATING DEADLINE

The WTO special session of the Dispute Settlement Body (BSD) missed its end-May deadline for reforming the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). Members instead agreed on 28 May to continue negotiations, based on a new draft prepared by Chair Péter Balás (Hungary). However, they did not agree on a new schedule for negotiations, nor on their scope, or on whether a new negotiating mandate was required. Delegates have been reviewing the DSU, following a mandate from the Doha Ministerial meeting in 2001 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 April 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-16/story1.htm>), and Chair Balás convened a number of informal meetings over the last few weeks in addition to the formal negotiating session on 20, 21, 23 and 28 May. Some Members had hoped that the group could have agreed on at least a limited number of provisions, providing an early harvest for the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September.

New Chair's draft

Chair Balás circulated a first streamlined Chair's draft on 16 May, providing a basis for compromise. After intensive consultations, he issued a revised version on 28 May, containing amendment proposals relating to, inter alia, consultation proceedings, sequencing, third party rights, panel and appellate body proceedings, transparency, and specific provisions for developing countries. In response to the new draft, the EU said it would like to see the draft expanded to include its proposal for a body of permanent panellists. The US said the draft was an improvement over the first negotiating draft, however it still contained "problematic elements," and needed to be expanded. The US had, inter alia, been pushing for more transparency, and flexibility with regard to negotiated settlements, and said the draft only partially addressed these concerns. A developing country delegate commented that his, and other developing country governments, considered the new text a working paper rather than the basis for further negotiations.

A new negotiating mandate?

Members disagreed on whether they would need a new negotiating mandate for the clarification of the DSU, given that the timeframe provided in paragraph 30 of the Doha Declaration had lapsed. The US, EU and Canada argued that no new mandate was needed, since that Doha Declaration said that Members should "aim" to strike a deal by the end of May 2003, and the date therefore can be seen as indicative, allowing negotiations to continue beyond the end of May. Other delegates disagreed. According to a trade source, the debate had become more muted toward the end of the session, and many delegates felt that they could not spend much time on the DSU negotiations within the next two months leading up to Cancun. Some delegates speculated that a new deadline may be set for the end of 2003 or for April 2004. However, they said their focus now would be on other, more pressing negotiating issues.

Chair Balás is expected to report on the status of DSU negotiations to the WTO Trade Negotiations Committee on 10 June, and the issue may be addressed at the General Council meeting in late July, following informal consultations on the way forward.

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Dispute Reform Talks Miss Deadline; Parties Plan to Keep Trying, but Set No Date," WTO REPORTER, 29 May 2003.

ICTSD REPORTING.OTHER NEWS

AGRICULTURE UPDATE: SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM DISCUSSED, CAP REFORM PROCEEDS

On 27 May, Members of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) met for technical consultations on a possible new special safeguard mechanism for developing countries. Reportedly, discussions were comprehensive, but only little progress was made on the form and scope of such a new instrument. Interestingly, the US was said to have -- in contrast to its usual reactions -- shown general sympathy towards the idea of creating a new safeguard mechanism solely open to developing countries. Nevertheless, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick recently stated at the US Congress Agriculture Committee that the US could only accept a new safeguard that would not be accessible to certain developing country Members, such as exporters of a specific commodity or countries with per capita incomes beyond a certain benchmark. "I can't do the same thing for Brazil, which is an exporter," Zoellick reportedly told US Congress, referring to concessions the US might to grant net food importing countries in the Caribbean.

According to trade sources, the CoA will continue technical consultations this week from 4-6 June on subjects such as tariff reduction formulas, trade preferences, treatment of vulnerable groups, and non-trade concerns (NTCs).

EU announces advanced farm offer for Cancun

During the 1-3 June G-8 summit held in Evian, France, both French President Jacques Chirac and Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, announced that the EU would be equipped with a new negotiating mandate providing the European Commission with greater leeway at the forthcoming high-level negotiations at the WTO Ministerial Conference from 10-14 September in Cancun, Mexico. Such an extended mandate would greatly depend on EU member states being able to agree on a reform package for the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) along the lines of a proposal by EU Agriculture Commissioner Fischler. However, Fischler's proposal to "decouple" CAP subsidies from production [to make them eligible for the Green Box under which Members can subsidise without any reduction commitments] is still heavily opposed by EU member state such as France, Spain and Ireland. Nevertheless, several observers of the CAP mid-term negotiations indicated that there seemed to be some movement in the French position, and France could be willing to accept at least

a partial decoupling of trade distorting EU farm support. "There's a clear consensus emerging, we will get some form of decoupling," an EU official said. He further added that, officially, the French had not yet altered their position on decoupling, but "it looks like the Irish may be moving," he said.

G-8 blamed for "hypocrisy"

Also during the G-8 meeting, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade denounced the "hypocrisy" of G-8 leaders who promoted trade liberalisation in developing countries, but continued to heavily subsidise their agricultural sectors. In his response to these accusations, Chirac stressed that "rich countries are ready to assume their responsibilities." Heads of state also confirmed their commitment to work towards providing zero-tariff, quota-free market access for products originating from least developed countries (LDCs). Moreover, they emphasised their commitment to make their preferential trade schemes more efficient and more open to developing countries.

African countries table proposal on cotton subsidies

In related news, four West and Central African (WCA) countries -- Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali -- have joined forces to put forward a sectoral initiative at the WTO to eliminate cotton subsidies worldwide in an effort to ensure the survival and development of the cotton sector in their region. Observers have described this issue as a potential "global deal" that could become a "make or break" issue at the next WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-02/story1.htm>). The submission stresses the crucial strategic position of cotton in the development policies and poverty reduction programmes in the WCA region where cotton accounts for up to 80 percent of export earnings in some countries. However, extensive cotton subsidies in rich countries, especially the US, have been displacing WCA cotton producers during the last years, the proposal argues.

To address this problem, the WCA countries are calling for an explicit recognition of cotton as a "special product" with respect to food security, rural development and/or livelihood security concerns. In addition, the countries are calling for the extension of the concept of "special products" from defensive to offensive measures, and for the total elimination of border measures, domestic support and all forms of subsidies for the export of cotton. Given the urgency to ensure the survival of the cotton sector in the WCA region, the countries propose the establishment of a mechanism to phase out support for cotton production

with a view to its total elimination ("early harvest") at the Cancun Ministerial meeting. They also advocate the use of transitional measures for least-developed countries (LDC) in the form of financial compensation paid to cotton-producing LDCs "to offset the injury caused by support of production and export".

The WCA countries' proposal is likely to be put forward at the next meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) on 10 June and be discussed in more detail by the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) during its 26-27 June and 1 July special negotiating session. ICTSD, together with Oxfam and the IDEAS Centre, will be holding a panel entitled "Can Negotiations on Agriculture Deliver Pro-development Reforms? The Case of West African Cotton" on 17 June at the WTO's Public Symposium in Geneva.

The WCA countries' submission on cotton is available at <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/ag/index.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "EU trashes out farm reform, French take to streets," REUTERS, 26 May 2003; "Global trade discussions may get a kick-start," DOW JONES, 27 May 2003; "G-8 Summit: developing countries demand better deal on trade; new EU farm offer said coming," WTO REPORTER, 3 June 2003.

G-8 LEADERS PLEDGE TO COMPLETE DOHA ROUND

The annual Group of Eight (G-8) Summit took place from 1-3 June in Evian, France to discuss issues related to promoting global economic growth, sustainable development and security. The heads of state of the G-8 countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US -- met with leaders from Algeria, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa as well as representatives of the UN, World Bank, IMF and WTO. Meanwhile, and alternative gatherings and demonstrations against the G-8 took place nearby in France and Switzerland.

Business groups send message on Doha-round to G-8

Six international business associations sent a letter to the leaders of the G-8 in advance of the Summit, urging them to "demonstrate leadership by making a strong commitment to the success of the multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organisation". The business groups were the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the US Business Roundtable (BRT), Nippon Keidanren, European Round Table of Industrialists, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives

and UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederation of Europe). John Castellani, President of the BRT, said that "at a time when the economies in Europe and Japan are stagnant and the US economy is weak, ensuring that the Doha Round remains on schedule will reassure global companies who are considering new investments". ICC Chair Jean-René Fourtou stressed that "post-Iraq, there can be no better show of multilateral cooperation than a successful outcome in Cancun".

Trade-related outcomes and reactions

The G-8 leaders took a number of decision and developed action plans on issues related to strengthening growth world-wide, enhancing sustainable development and improving security, focussing attention on the needs of the African continent. On trade, the G-8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha round of trade negotiations. In a statement, they said that "we will promote the multilateral system by providing leadership in the ongoing negotiations so that improved access to markets for all WTO members is realised, particularly for the poorest, to ensure their integration into the multilateral system," and agreed to "work toward an agreed framework for finalizing the negotiations to achieve further substantial opening of trade in all areas, including agriculture and non-agricultural goods, and in services". They also said they would seek to find a solution to the issue of developing country access to essential drugs prior to the Cancun Ministerial meeting in September, and seek agreement on launching negotiations on investment, government procurement, competition policy and trade facilitation at Cancun.

Critics, however, said the G-8 leaders failed to provide specific commitments that could move the stalled WTO negotiations forward. Development organisations from both the South and the North expressed their disappointment with the G-8 meeting. A group of six African civil society organisations noted that some progress has been made in raising the \$6 billion promised by the G8 in 2002, however "it should be noted that the G8 continues to spend less than 0.3 percent of their gross national product on aid". They also said that the G-8 Summit was "a lost opportunity" for progress developing country access to essential drugs. Oxfam International noted that the Summit failed to tackle Africa's problems, "such as US and EU dumping of subsidised farm produce, which is destroying the livelihoods of millions of people".

"Business groups unite in pressing G8 to boost Doha trade round," ICC PRESS RELEASE, 21 May 2003; "G-8 Leaders Vow to Meet 2004 Deadline for Global Trade Talks," KYODO NEWS, 2 June 2003; "Anti-G8 protests flare

before Evian summit opens," REUTERS, 3 June 2003; "African NGOs Call G8 Meeting a 'Lost Opportunity'," INTER PRESS SERVICE, 3 June 2003.

IN BRIEF

EU AGREES TIERED MEDICINE PRICING FOR POOR COUNTRIES

European governments on 26 May adopted a regulation that aims to facilitate the delivery of medicines to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis at strongly reduced ('tiered') prices to developing countries. To this end, exporters are invited to put their products -- both patented and generic -- on a European Commission-run tiered price list. To be eligible, medicines have to be made available either with a price cut of 75 percent off the average price in OECD countries or at the cost of production plus 15 percent. The cheaper medicines will have to be labelled and re-importation is prohibited from the 76 eligible countries. If successful, the Commission plans to extend the system to other medicines and countries. While noting that the tiered pricing system was not directly related to the ongoing discussions on access to medicines in the WTO (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-19/story3.htm>), the Commission argued that if countries could obtain medicines through the tiered pricing system, they would not need to invoke compulsory licenses. The charity Oxfam, however, expressed doubt that the new system would actually increase the affordability of drugs since even under the new rules, the (discounted) prices would still be too high to be affordable in most poor countries.

"EU acts to speed up flow of cheap Aids drugs," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 May 2003; EU clears plan to ensure delivery of cheap medicines to developing countries," DG TRADE, 26 May 2003.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FAVOURS TIGHTER GMO RULES

The European Parliament's Environment Committee on 22 May voted to further tighten the labelling and traceability legislation for genetically modified food and feed. The Committee agreed to lower the minimum threshold below which GMOs would be exempted from labelling requirements from 0.9 to 0.5 percent. The Committee also voted in favour of legally binding rules

to regulate the co-existence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops. European industry groups expressed concerns that these amendments, if accepted by the European Parliament in the second reading of the legislation in July, could hold up its adoption and further delay the lifting of the de facto moratorium on approvals. Criticism of the decision was also heard from the European Commission. "The Parliament has snubbed the US," said Commission spokeswoman Beate Gminder, referring to the recent US request for WTO consultations on the moratorium (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-14/story1.htm>). The Commission noted that co-existence was already being addressed as a separate issue and should not be added to the labelling bill (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-03-10/story1.htm>). The environmental group Friends of the Earth welcomed the Committee's decision, which they said "paves the way for better consumer choice and action to protect non-GMO and organic farmers from genetic contamination".

"EU lawmakers move to toughen GMO rules," REUTERS, 24 May 2003; "European Environment Committee votes for stronger GMO laws," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, 22 May 2003.

TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL MAKES PROGRESS ON FOREST CERTIFICATION

Delegates at the 34th Council of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) met from 12-17 May in Panama City, Panama. Based on a report prepared by the ITTO Secretariat on issues affecting market access for tropical timber, delegates discussed, inter alia, impacts of trade on sustainable forest management and the development of phased certification schemes. Among the most significant achievements of the meeting was the adoption of a decision on phased approaches to forest certification (PA), which authorises the ITTO Executive Director to engage consultants from both producer and consumer countries to examine the costs and benefits of PAs in certain member countries, and to develop procedures to implement PAs. In addition, an international workshop will be convened on this issue. The decision marked an important step forward in the certification debate that has long divided producer and consumer countries in the ITTO (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-21/story3.htm>). The phased approach would involve a series of interim targets or milestones, allowing limited resources to be focused on one or two tasks at a time. The system would allow producer countries that have no certification schemes in place yet to attain certification more easily and thus improve market

accessibility for their tropical timber products. Consumer countries have signalled their willingness to discuss PAs as one among several possibilities to ensure sustainable forest management, but would prefer to assess the actual costs and benefits before giving their final approval.

Regarding the relationship between the ITTO and the WTO, delegates adopted a decision mandating the Executive Director of the ITTO to report on the development of negotiations at the WTO on tariffs on tropical timber products.

Documents from ITTC-34 are available at: http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd_ses/thirty_fourth_sessions.html

For daily briefings of both meetings see: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>

ICTSD Reporting; ENB Vol. 24 No. 21, 19 May 2003; Vol. 13 No. 100, 2 June 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

COMPETITION POLICY: WG SEES NO AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS

The WTO Working Group on Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy met from 26-27 May, and discussed, inter alia, whether negotiations should be launched in this area. The EU supports the launch of negotiations on the four so called Singapore issues -- competition policy, investment, government procurement and trade facilitation -- at the fifth WTO Ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September. Many developing countries oppose negotiations and have questioned whether the WTO would be an appropriate forum (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/wtoinbrief.htm>). The Working Group meeting was the last one prior to the Cancun Ministerial, and many developing countries, including Tanzania, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, India and Nigeria, stressed that they see no agreement on launching negotiations and questioned the benefits of such an agreement for developing countries. Thailand stressed that developing country concerns had not been addressed so far, and noted that while compliance costs for developed countries would be minimal, implementing competition rules would be a burden in the developing world.

Also at the meeting, Members discussed a compliance mechanism for a possible WTO Agreement on Competition Policy, with submissions from several developed countries. The US, Japan, Korea and Australia supported a voluntary peer review system, while the EU preferred a combination of peer review and WTO dispute settlement. Canada said it doesn't see the value of dispute settlement to achieve compliance, and called for a cooperative and non-confrontational approach. India continued to oppose dispute settlement. The Indian delegate cautioned that a peer review process would be used to pressure developing countries, and said that if such a process was put in place, it should be under the auspices of UNCTAD. The EU submitted a paper on special treatment for developing countries stressing that "the only substantive provision that we envisage would be an obligation for WTO members to enact in their domestic competition law a ban on hard core cartels," and suggesting "individualised" timeframes for developing countries in setting up competition regimes.

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: 5 - 11 June

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>.

2-5 June, Brussels, Belgium: EUROPEAN GREEN WEEK CONFERENCE. The European Commission's Environment Directorate-General is sponsoring a "Green Week" conference aimed at bringing together local, regional and national decision-makers, as well as

environmental stakeholders including companies, industry associations and non-governmental organisations. Key environmental issues to be discussed include sustainable consumption and production, renewable energy, climate change and water. For further information, contact: EC/EDG; fax: +32-2-29-69560; e-mail: mailto:env-greenweek@cec.eu.int; Internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm.

4-6 June, Montreal, Canada: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS (IEDC). The conference, entitled "Global Alliances," will bring competitors together and document the successes of those businesses that have achieved economic development. It will also provide current perspectives on the EU, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Europe, and the Pacific Rim. For more information, please visit: <http://www.iedconline.org/InternationalCongress/index.html>.

5 June: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. Under the heading "Water - Two Billion People are Dying for it!" the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organising the annual World Environment Day, with activities all over the globe to stimulate awareness and enhance political action and attention. For further information contact: Elisabeth Guilbaud-Cox, UNEP; tel (+254 20) 623401/623128; fax 623692/623927; email: elisabeth.guilbaud-cox@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2003/about.htm>.

5-7 June, Raipur, India: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE. Organised by the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University. For further information, contact: email: asastri@yahoo.com.

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.

10-12 June, Carillo Puerto, Mexico: ZONA MAYA MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR CANCUN. The International Forum on Globalization (IFG) and the Organization of Communal Forest Producers of the Zona Maya (OEPFZM) are organising a meeting to prepare for the upcoming WTO Ministerial in Cancun, Mexico. The meeting's agenda will focus on two objectives: to deepen the understanding among forest groups of the potential impacts of WTO on forests and to explore what can be done to impact WTO decisions in Cancun. To better know the emerging alternatives, and truly comprehend "what's at stake," a visit to at least one forest community that has been FSC-certified will be organised. For further information contact Victor Menotti, IFG, tel: +1-415-561-3482; email: vmenotti@ifg.org.

10-13 June, St. Gallen/Geneva, Switzerland: MODEL WTO 2003. Hosted by Oikos, a University of St. Gallen student group, this simulation game is a model of the negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Students are encouraged to apply. Please visit: <http://www.model-wto.org/>.

11 June, Brussels, Belgium: WORKSHOP ON BEST PRACTICES FOR SETTING VOLUNTARY STANDARDS. The ISEAL Alliance invites participation in a workshop to further develop a Code of Good Practice for Voluntary Standard-Setting Procedures. Building on ISEAL's public consultation currently underway, this interactive workshop seeks to strengthen the credibility of voluntary standards by improving the way they are developed and applied. For more information contact Abra Brynne, ISEAL Outreach Coordinator, email: secretariat@isealliance.org; Internet: <http://www.isealliance.org/events/index.htm>.

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, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

4-6 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

5-6 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE.

10 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

10-12 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

11 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES - REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

Other forthcoming meetings

23-27 June, Trondheim, Norway: FOURTH TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY. Technology transfer and capacity building are to be major themes of the seventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity in 2004. One aim of the Trondheim Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building, focusing on biodiversity, will be to provide input to that discussion and the discussions at the SBSTTA- meeting in November 2003, while also supporting the work of UNEP and its Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building to Developing Countries. For further information contact the Trondheim Conference organisers; tel: (+47 22) 24 5700; fax: (+47 73) 801401; email: laila.saksgard@nina.no; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/abs/abswscb-01/other/abswscb-01-norway-en.pdf>.

11 June, Montreal, Canada: INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: MEETING THE HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGE. This fifth annual Think Tank on international human rights and democratic development will focus on the topic of investment and human rights in developing countries. The areas of discussion will include: the business of resource extraction; investment in the North American Free Trade Agreement and bilateral investment agreements; and multilateral debates around investment and the right to development. For further information, please contact Lucie Léveillé or Steve Smith, tel: +1 (514) 283-6073; Internet: <http://www.ichrdd.ca>.

11-13 June, Durban, South Africa: AFRICA ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2003. The World Economic Forum's Africa Economic Summit will gather leaders from business, politics and civil society. The Summit will focus on economic targets and enable the creation of new partnerships aimed at fostering development. For further information, please contact World Economic Forum; +41-22-869-1212; fax: +41-22-786-2744; e-mail: africasummit@weforum.org; Internet:

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Africa+Economic+Summit+2003>.

26 June, London, England: TRADE, GATS & THE ENVIRONMENT - THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES. Manchester City Council will sponsor this forum. Participants will address key social and environmental issues and challenges related to GATS and sustainable development with a view to the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference. The forum will also seek to answer some specific questions regarding water and education. For further information contact Sian Slater, tel: +44 (0)20 7089 4300; fax: +44 (0)20 7089 4310; Internet: <http://www.stakeholderforum.org> and <http://www.earthsummit2002.org>.

RESOURCES

GLOBALISATION: KEEPING THE GAINS. By the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat (26 May 2003). This report assesses the challenges and the benefits of globalisation, including with regard to the need to foster growth and reduce poverty. It also emphasises the role of the government in the application of efficient policies as well as in the creation of appropriate institutions. It concludes by stating that "globalisation is, on the whole, a good thing -- but it can be made better and fairer". Based on the case of the APEC region and Australia, the report provides perspectives on conditions needed for countries to participate in the global economy. For further information, visit <http://www.dfat.gov.au/eau>.

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM U.S. TRANSPORTATION. By David L. Greene and Andreas Shager (Pew Centre on Climate Change, May 2003). This paper assesses the importance of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the US. One third of these GHG emissions come from the transportation system. The paper explains the urgent need for the US to adopt an effective climate change policy in order to reduce CO₂ emissions. The authors recommend specific actions such as investing in R&D and using existing and new emerging technologies, such as hybrid- electric vehicles. Not only are these actions the key solutions to the problem, but they also represent a way of dealing with other priorities. The paper also emphasises the lack of existing policy and stressed the need for technological improvements to be on the agenda. To access the report visit <http://www.pewclimate.org/projects>.

FINDING THE WAY FORWARD: HOW COULD VOLUNTARY ACTION MOVE MINING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT? By Jim Walker and Steve Howard (Mining, Minerals and Sustainable

Development Project, IIED, March 2003). The report examines the current challenges for mining, including the willingness of mining companies to address sustainable development and to manage environmental issues. The authors give a comprehensive explanation of the label "voluntary initiatives" and also analyse the voluntary initiatives that exist to fulfil environmental and social performance requirements. A new form of voluntary initiative -- a global voluntary initiative -- is recommended in order for a change to occur. The authors address the following questions: What are the key drivers for sustainable development in the mining industry? What could voluntary initiatives achieve in the sector? What voluntary initiatives currently exist? What form of voluntary initiative is best? The full text of this report is accessible at <http://www.iied.org/mmsd>.

MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. By Saleemul Hug, Atig Rahman, Mama Konate, Youba Sokona and Hannah Reid (IIED, April 2003). Focusing on two LDC countries, Bangladesh and Mali, this report shows the vulnerability of the LDCs to climate change. Even though their contribution to the emission of greenhouse gases is the lowest in the world, they are the first to feel the effects of climate change, including in the form of diseases, malnutrition, and climatic disturbances. They find themselves in a dilemma, as they do not have the means to adapt to these changes. So far most of the work in this area has been done to identify the potential adaptation options. Now action from the government is urgently required. To access the report visit http://www.iied.org/climate_change/pubs.html.

WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE: CONFLICT AND CONVERSATION IN MASAI MARA, KENYA. By M.J. Walpole, G.G. Karanga, N.W. Siatu and N. Leader-Williams (IIED, 2003). This publication is the summary of a three-year programme in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Through this programme, Kenyans were trained to research information on the conflict between humans and wildlife in the Masai Mara ecosystem. The results of this research have led to a better understanding, and thus to better management of human- wildlife conflict. Workshops, based on the research findings, have also been part of the dissemination process. For further information, visit <http://www.iied.org/blg/pubs/wilddev.html>.

CONCERTED ACTION ON TRADE & ENVIRONMENT (CAT&E) WEBSITE. This website is designed to provide information on the members and activities of CAT&E. It deals with issues arising from existing trade agreements, issues arising from related environmental policies and institutional issues. Members can also exchange information. Reports on various aspects of the trade and environment interface are now available

on the CAT&E website. They cover, inter alia, dispute settlement, trade and agriculture, transparency and participation and can be accessed at http://130.37.129.100/english/o_o/instituten/IVM/research/cate/reports.htm.

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http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=

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