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LEAD STORIES

AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS STILL STALLING

Little headway was made in bringing various sides together at a 22-24 January special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA). The main goal of the special session was to "build bridges" to narrow the many wide gaps prevailing between Members' negotiating stances. In his concluding remarks, Chair Stuart Harbinson was said to have expressed "serious concern" about the prospects of Members reaching agreement on agriculture negotiating modalities by their scheduled deadline at the end of March. Nevertheless, he announced on 26 January at the World Economic Forum held in Davos that he was set to prepare a first draft modalities proposal prior to a forthcoming mini-Ministerial meeting set to be held from 14-16 February in Tokyo, Japan.

Furthermore, on 27 January, EU member states finally adopted a new EU proposal for the WTO agriculture negotiations, after France and Ireland dropped their objections to the draft proposal as put forward by the European Commission in December last year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/story3.htm>). However, EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler indicated that he did not expect modalities to be agreed by 31 March, hoping instead for agreement on agriculture modalities at the fifth Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September. The Cairns group of agriculture-exporting countries and the US insisted that the negotiations must stick to the original work programme as agreed by Members in Doha.

Little movement in agriculture special session

At the 22-24 January CoA special session, Members met to discuss the overview paper on the modalities negotiations that was tabled by Chair Harbinson on 18 December (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/story3.htm>). Although Harbinson had declared "building bridges" as the motto of the meeting, Members made very few concessions, and most delegations made interventions simply to underline points they wanted to include in the

modalities to be agreed. "It is clear that we urgently need to change gear and engage in serious negotiations," Harbinson urged Members. "If everyone remains camped on their current positions, the prospects for the negotiations are not encouraging". He added that "this must be a matter of concern" in the face of the fast approaching end-March deadline.

In the discussions, several members of the Cairns Group, including Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Thailand reportedly expressed consternation over the lack of proposals from developed countries such as the EU, Japan and Switzerland. For their part, these countries reiterated their concern that they were unable to table concrete numbers without prior agreement on agriculture rules as well as the treatment of non-trade concerns (NTCs) such as environment, food safety, and geographical indications (GIs).

Developing countries repeated their differing views on special and differential treatment (S&D) to be granted to poorer countries, ranging from no discrimination between developing countries (e.g. Thailand and Malaysia) to special treatment and preferences for the most vulnerable, as proposed by small-island state Mauritius. Moreover, China and other newly acceded Members, as well as economies in transition, reiterated their demands to receive differentiated treatment. The Cairns Group, India, China and some others suggested linking the three pillars under the Agriculture Agreement (market access, export competition, domestic support) so as to arrive at equitable negotiation results.

Notably, Cairns Group members Chile, Malaysia and Thailand indicated that they would be willing to agree to a new special safeguard mechanism (SSG) for developing countries, adding, however, that they were only willing to accept a formulation that would strictly limit its applicability to certain products under tight conditions.

New EU ag proposal submitted to WTO, controversy over CAP reform

After more than a month of internal negotiations, EU member states at a 27 January Council of General Affairs meeting finally approved a WTO negotiating proposal presented by the European Commission in December last year. Subsequently, the proposal was submitted to the WTO. Previously, France and Ireland had opposed the Commission's proposal, particularly due to an initiative to cut EU export subsidies by 45 percent as well as to eventually eliminate export subsidies on "products such as wheat, oilseeds, olive oil and tobacco". Reportedly, France and Ireland dropped their resistance as a result of exactly these product specifications being deleted from the revised proposal.

Despite the EU-internal agreement on a new negotiating mandate for the Commission, a new proposal by the Commission on 22 January on reforming the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) met with severe resistance, primarily from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Belgium. These countries oppose EU Agriculture Commissioner Fischler's plans to further de-couple CAP support paid to EU farmers from production requirements. While the new proposal is mostly derived from an earlier reform plan presented by Fischler in mid-2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-17/story3.htm>), it contains several modifications, including less emphasis on rural development in CAP spending as well as a ceiling of EUR 300,000 per farm in annual support being dropped. A new CAP proposal is expected to be agreed in mid-2003.

According to Fischler, the new CAP policy would have to be agreed before EU Member States could provide him with a new negotiating mandate, possibly going beyond the current mandate. "Member States would never give a mandate which is outside the present policy", he declared. The new EU proposal is based on a mandate from the year 2000. In contrast, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy reportedly said that an agreement on CAP reform was not a prerequisite for the EU to table a strong, balanced and pro-reform proposal for the WTO negotiations. "It would be the icing on the cake," he stated.

Additional resources:

The EU press release on the adoption of the Commission's proposal by EU member states can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index_en.htm.

The Commission's proposal can be found at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/external/wto/officdoc/mod.pdf>.

The 22 January CAP reform proposals presented by the Commission can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/mtr/memo_en.pdf.

A new OECD report on Farm Household Incomes can be viewed at the new Agriculture section on the ICTSD website at: <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/ag/resources/index.htm>.

"Agriculture: European Union States Approve Offer To Doha Agricultural Round," WTO REPORTER, 28 January 2003; "WTO Farm Panel Chief To Unveil Draft Prior To Tokyo Talks," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 27 January 2003; "EU Govts Approve Plan To Cut Farm Tariffs For WTO Talks," AP, 27 January 2003; "Agriculture: Harbinson Disappointed

With Latest Round Of WTO Talks, Promises Modalities Draft," WTO REPORTER, 27 January 2003; "US Insists Farm Talks Deadlines Must Be Met," REUTERS, 23 January 2003; "European Commission Lacks Courage To Reform CAP," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH PRESS RELEASE, 22 January 2003.

INFORMAL TRIPS COUNCIL RECONVENES ON DRUGS ISSUE

The Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) convened for a first informal meeting of the year on 28 January, to continue discussions on how to deal with paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health. Members discussed a proposal put forward by the EC earlier this year (available at http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/EC_para6_24-1-03.pdf) in an effort to break the deadlock in the negotiations. Little progress was made in the discussions, in which many delegations were unwilling to take a stance on the EC's proposal.

According to paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health, the TRIPs Council must find an expeditious solution by the end of 2002 to the problems countries may face in making use of compulsory licensing (i.e. the practice by a government to authorise itself or third parties to use the subject matter of a patent without the authorisation of the right holder for reasons of public policy) if they have insufficient or no pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. The perceived need to address this issue arose from concerns related to Art. 31(f) of the TRIPs Agreement, which requires that production under compulsory licensing must be primarily for the supply of the domestic market.

The EC had presented a proposal on 10 January which suggests the inclusion of a footnote to list "at least" 22 diseases, mainly endemic to Africa, to be covered by the solution on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration. In addition, Members could request advice from the World Health Organization to assess the occurrence or likelihood of other public health problems (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-15/story1.htm>). The EC stressed that the WHO would not give advice to the WTO, but would rather give its non-binding advice to governments that would then take the final decision.

During the informal meeting, several delegations took a non-committal stance on the EC proposal. The US reiterated that it would await other Members' reactions before deciding on its own response. Morocco, on behalf of the African Group, declared that it had not had sufficient time to discuss the proposal and would

comment later. As one Kenyan delegate noted, the Group was concerned about the lack of a reaction from the US. "We need [the US'] views to continue the discussions," the official noted. "The fact is that their silence probably means they won't accept it." Carlo Trojan, EC Ambassador to the WTO, echoed this concern, saying that it would be "somewhat difficult" to move the negotiations forward as long as the US did not react to the EC initiative.

While not discarding the EC proposal outright, several other developing countries, including South Africa, India, Argentina, Colombia and Thailand, voiced questions and concerns about the proposal. Argentina added that the African Group's response would provide important guidance for them. Only Brazil rejected the proposal outright on the grounds that it would narrow down the scope of the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and health.

The TRIPs Council will reconvene for an informal session on 5 February at 9 am before the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meets (4-5 February), thereby allowing officials from capitals attending the TNC to join heads of delegations in the TRIPs discussions. Chair of the TRIPs Council Ambassador Eduardo Perez Motta (Mexico) is due to report to the General Council at its 10-11 February meeting on the state of the negotiations. While Perez Motta had hoped to conclude the negotiations by that time, this prospect is now looking highly unlikely, and plans are already being made to discuss the issue at the next "mini-Ministerial" on 15-16 February in Japan.

ICTSD reporting; "Little movement for TRIPs/medicines talks as US stays noncommittal on EU proposal," WTO REPORTER, 29 January 2003.

OTHER NEWS

TWO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS DEBATE GLOBALISATION

While potential conflict in Iraq took centre stage at this year's World Economic Forum and World Social Forum -- both of which concluded this week -- participants also addressed international trade, the WTO and the next WTO Ministerial in Cancun. The World Economic Forum (WEF) took place in Davos, Switzerland from 23-28 January, while the World Social Forum (WSF), an event originally organised as a response to the former, was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on the same dates. The WEF, which brings world leaders, especially corporate representatives, together to address global citizenship and various other global challenges, was organised under the heading of "building trust." The

WSF, which aims to unite a diverse body of groups and individuals opposing neo-liberalism and the current form of globalisation -- if not the trend of globalisation itself -- focused instead on the theme of peace.

Brazil's Lula - a bridge between the forums

Brazilian new president and former union leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (also known as Lula), attended the two forums, bringing the same message to both: "another world is possible." He stressed the need to close the gap between rich and poor nations, especially through the eradication of hunger. He also said he saw no reason why parties at both events should not be able to come together and learn from one another, likening them to unions and management. He stated that once they begin a true dialogue, the challenges become less great than when the two sides refuse to talk.

On the issue of trade, Lula -- a leftist previously known for his opposition to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) -- stated that Brazil needed to make "extraordinary effort(s)" to increase the nation's international trade, particularly by enhancing exports through diversification of products and markets. He also targeted wealthier nations, however, saying that "all the export effort that [poorer nations] make will be useless if countries continue to preach free trade on one side and practice protectionism on the other side." Dealing with bilateral issues, Lula vowed to enhance the South American Mercosur agreement, create a "more positive" US-Brazil relationship, and make efforts with Europe and Asia.

War and trade

A great deal of concern was voiced this year at the WEF, as participants made links between a possible war with Iraq to higher oil prices and potential continuation of difficult global economic times. At the WSF, other economic concerns in relation to the threat of war were raised. Some activists said that the conflict could hurt developing country bargaining positions at the next WTO Ministerial in Cancun (in September 2003). Martin Khor of the Malaysia-based Third World Network said that a conflict could distract developing nations from planning for the negotiations, and could allow industrialised countries to bring in new issues. Khor felt that the US had previously used 11 September as a tool to pressure other countries to accept its proposals at the last Ministerial in Doha.

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), with delegations both at the WSF and to the 'The Public Eye on Davos' counter-conference in Davos, argued that the WEF was directly linked to the creation of the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

FoEI stressed that WSF is "vital to formulate alternatives to neo-liberal economic globalisation policies and to review ways to minimise the negative impact of a corporate-led globalisation process."

What business needs, or needs to give

At a WEF event entitled "Next Trade Round: What Business Needs," Niall FitzGerald, Chair of Unilever UK, highlighted global poverty and the necessity to responsibly address this issue. He noted that "there is a rising tide of discontent and anger in the developing world and we need to understand that and address it." FitzGerald stressed the connection between trade and growth and the dangers to trade should the discontent over global resource use and access go unchecked. He went on to say, "If we want to defend prosperity and security, we have to attack poverty. If we don't we will pay for it. This might be seen as enlightened self-interest, but for me it's a moral issue."

Other participants who were surveyed at the WEF event on the next trade round believed that for the next WTO trade negotiation round to be a success, four key areas must be addressed, including:

- Trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, especially in the EU and US;
- Markets must be opened in developed countries for textiles and other products from developing countries;
- Significant liberalisation of most major service sectors must be agreed, and this must include "the movement of natural persons" or labour mobility from developing countries to the rich economies; and
- Agreement must be reached urgently on adapting the Agreement on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) to allow poor countries to acquire cheap medicines, wherever they are available, to tackle AIDS and other health crises.

"100,000 expected at the World Social Forum," CWI BRAZIL, 23 January 2003; "WEF vs. WSF," PRAVDA, 24 January 2003; "Davos Versus Porto Alegre, Round Three," PRESS RELEASE, Friend of the Earth International, 15 January, 2003; "Brazil's Lula: 'Another World Possible,'" UPI, 23 January 2003; "Dialogue with the President of Brazil on Global Governance," WEF, 26 January 2003; "Remarks from President Lula da Silva of Brazil," WEF, 26 January 2003; "World Social Forum: War on Iraq would Affect WTO Trade Talks," IPS NEWS, 25 January 2003; "Next Trade Round: What Business Needs," WEF, 25 January 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

SURPRISE MOVE BY AFRICAN, LDC GROUPS AT INFORMAL CTD MEETING

The second informal meeting in a series of five of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) took place on 24 January. Delegates continued discussions on the 22 agreement-specific proposals on special and differential treatment (S&D), aiming to make the concept 'more precise, effective and operational' (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 January 2003 <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-23/wtoinbrief.htm>). The African and LDC Groups -- headed by Kenya and Bangladesh respectively -- surprised many Members and the Chair by indicating that they would submit new language on these proposals and a few others within a week's time.

Members of the Quad (Canada, the EC, Japan and the US) appeared concerned with this decision. The US asked if it implied restarting work from square one. The EC stated that the new language would imply a 'serious risk'. Japan's delegate warned that he could not guarantee that his country's response to new proposals would be different from previous responses. When contacted, an African trade delegate dismissed these apprehensions, saying that the attempt was only to come up with language that would help the Chair take the process forward and enable Members to reach agreement quickly. "It would still be the same proposals," the source added.

Two more CTD informal meetings will take place on this issue, with a final meeting to be held on 3 February.

ICTSD reporting.

CONSULTATIONS ON CONFLICT DIAMOND WAIVER ONGOING AT WTO

The Council for Trade in Goods met on 23 January to discuss a Canadian proposal co-sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Japan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and the United States for a WTO waiver relating to the Kimberley Process establishing a certification process preventing trade in conflict diamonds. This agenda item was however suspended, following a request by Canada, as informal consultations to refine the language of the waiver are being conducted. The proposal was first put forward on 22 November 2002 by Canada (See BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November 2002 <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-28/wtoinbrief.htm#2>).

The informal negotiations are related to the fact that some countries do not see the need for a waiver, as they consider GATT Article XXI (Security Exemptions) to cover issues such as the Kimberly Process. Progress was reported in the informal negotiations, with Chair Suppermaniam (Malaysia) hoping to reconvene an informal meeting of the Goods Council within the next few weeks. A formal session would follow on the informal one, to adopt the waiver.

ICTSD Reporting.

WTO PANEL ESTABLISHED ON EU GPS SCHEME

On 27 January the WTO agreed to set up a dispute settlement panel to determine whether provisions under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) tariff programme relating to labour rights, the protection of the environment and combating the production and trafficking of illicit drugs is compatible with WTO rules. The panel was approved following the second request by India, which made a first request on 19 December (See BRIDGES Weekly, 15 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-15/story3.htm>). A second request can only be rejected if all countries in attendance block the establishment of the panel. A number of Latin American countries affected by the EU scheme requested third-party rights in the panel proceedings. The US, which also has a drug eradication incentive scheme, requested third-party rights as well. The EU warned that the Indian challenge could end up hurting countries in great need of the assistance the GPS scheme provides, and the scheme "also aims at responding to the developmental, financial and trade needs of the developing countries." India decided to bring the complaint to the WTO after Pakistan was included in the scheme in 2001, which gave Pakistan benefits with regard to its textiles and clothing exports to the EU that India does not have.

"India wins WTO probe into EU tariff scheme," REUTERS, 27 January 2003; "WTO Panel to Rule on Indian Complaint On EU's GSP for Labour, Drugs, Environment," WTO REPORTER, 29 January 2003.

NEW CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON REVIEW OF WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

On January 23, Canada presented a new proposal (TN/DS/W/41, searchable online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) in the on-going negotiations for the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). The proposal seeks both to enhance the confidentiality of business information provided in WTO

disputes and to open hearings to the public. With regard to business confidential information (BCI) the proposal recommends permitting parties to designate sensitive information that is not in the public domain as confidential, "provided that they act in good faith and exercise restraint." It further recommends that such designations could be challenged by another party if it considers the designation to be unreasonable, and further that, "if the party fails to provide an adequate justification, in accordance with the established criteria, the panel will be permitted to decline to consider the information unless the party agrees to remove the designation."

With regard to transparency, the Canadian proposal suggests that WTO parties agree to "open all panel and WTO Appellate Body hearings to the public, except for the portions of hearings where confidential information is discussed." To overcome potential resource limitations, public access could be provided by transmitting a live telecast of hearings to a public viewing location. According to the proposal, written submissions by parties and third parties to dispute panels and the Appellate Body should generally be made available -- through a dispute settlement registry - - at the time of filing. Parties providing confidential information would be required to provide, as soon as reasonably possible, edited versions of their written submissions to be made available to the public. The negotiations on the DSU draw from the Doha mandate to clarify and improve the DSU. They have been going on since 1997, and are set to be completed by May 2003. The US and Chile submitted their proposal on the DSU in mid-December 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-12-20/wtoinbrief.htm>).

ICSTD Reporting.

ZAMBIA SUBMITS PROPOSAL ON ENHANCING THE ROLE OF TRADE IN DEVELOPMENT

The Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) met on 24 January 2003 to consider accession of LDCs, technical assistance, and mainstreaming -- as appropriate -- of trade-related elements from the Third UN Conference on LDCs (LDC-III) Programme of Action into the WTO's work. On accession, Members welcomed a 10 December decision on the accession of least-developed countries (WT/L/508, searchable online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), which lays out guidelines relating to market access, WTO rules, technical assistance, and capacity building linked to the accessions of LDCs. To monitor the implementation of the guidelines, the sub-committee agreed to keep

accession of LDCs as a standing item on its agenda, and to invite chairs of LDC accession working parties to the sub-committee to exchange views on the state-of-play.

On technical assistance, Ambassador Iversen (Denmark) provided a status report on the Integrated Framework (IF). The IF for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs is an initiative of the World Bank, UNCTAD, the IMF, the WTO, the UNDP and the International Trade Commission, seeking to integrate trade priorities into LDCs' national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. Ambassador Iversen reported on a meeting of the IF Steering Committee that had been held on 17 January. In response, members stressed the importance of completing an IF evaluation before the fifth Ministerial meeting to be held in Cancun in September. On mainstreaming the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 LDC-III Conference into the WTO's work, Zambia presented a paper (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/29, searchable online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) on behalf of all LDCs. According to the paper, the final objective of this exercise should be to transform the trade related elements of the Programme of Action into an integral and permanent part of the WTO rules and disciplines as binding contractual obligations subject to the WTO Dispute Settlement procedures. This, according to the Zambian submission, would be the only way that the LDC- III commitment to enhance the role of trade in development could be translated into concrete and tangible actions to benefit LDCs. Members agreed that the Chair would consult further on the proposal from Zambia. The next session of the Sub-Committee will be held on 28 April 2003.

ICTSD Reporting.

CANCÚN BULLETIN

LOGISTICAL UPDATE, CIVIL SOCIETY MOBILISATION

This is the first in a series of occasional updates that aim to provide information of use to those individuals and organisations who plan on attending the WTO's fifth Ministerial Conference in September.

Date

The WTO's fifth Ministerial Conference is officially scheduled for 10- 14 September at Cancún, Mexico.

Venue

While a venue for a non-governmental organisation (NGO) Centre has yet to be determined, the Ministerial Conference itself will take place in the Cancún Centro de Convenciones, located at the very tip of Punta Cancún. The Press Centre will be located approximately 50 metres away from the Ministerial venue, in the Fiesta Americana Coral Beach hotel. Sources indicate that the NGO Centre will be approximately a five- minute walk from the Convention Centre.

Accreditation

Accreditation procedures for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are slotted to be discussed at the 10-11 February meeting of the WTO General Council. Once Members have decided on the issue, further details are expected in early March, at which point they will be posted on the WTO website (<http://www.wto.org>). While a definitive number of attendees per NGO is not available as of yet, sources indicate that accreditation numbers are likely to be around four per organisation. At the last Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001, due to hotel and capacity constraints, only one person per NGO was officially allowed to attend.

Accommodation

Sources indicate that hotel bookings at Cancún are likely to be managed by a central reservation agency, though such a system is not yet established.

The Mexican government has indicated it plans to establish a website to disseminate further information regarding the Ministerial Conference in the near future.

Civil Society groups call for mobilisation

A broad spectrum of Mexican and international civil society organisations -- 142 in all -- has called for the organisation and coordination of "information exchanges, massive public education, mobilisation, and actions of protest, pressure, lobbying and repudiation" in the leadup to and around the WTO's Cancún Ministerial.

As part of this initiative, the group has launched an open Spanish/English electronic listserv, entitled acancun-l@laneta.apc.org. To sign up to the list, visit: <http://www.laneta.apc.org/mailman/listinfo/acancun-l>. Further information can be obtained from the Centro de Estudios para el Cambio en el Campo Mexicano (Ceccam) Vito Alessio Robles No. 76 casa 7 Col. Florida. México, D.F. 01030 tel: 525 6 61 19 25 y 525 6 61 53 98.

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.

ICTSD Events

30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD ROUNDTABLE ON AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This informal brainstorming session, centred around the theme "Towards Development Friendly Rules and Disciplines: Promoting Innovative Modalities for Agriculture Negotiations," will gather Geneva-based delegates dealing with agriculture, civil society groups, representatives of international organisations, and academia. The informal roundtable will provide an opportunity for frank discussion, with three brief presentations, and will encourage the development of innovative and practical approaches regarding the establishment of modalities for the agricultural negotiations. For further information, contact Alex Werth at ICTSD, tel: + 41 22 917 83 74; email: awerth@ictsd.ch.

7 February, Geneva, Switzerland: MAKING THE WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM WORK FOR DEVELOPING AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. This conference will be organised by ICTSD. For further information, please contact Victor Mosoti: tel: +41 22 917 8356; email: vmosoti@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week: 30 January to 5 February

29-30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL AID AND TRADE EUROPE 2003. This event, which consists of a Conference and Exhibition, with a series of Business Seminars on how to do business with international aid agencies, will focus on the integration of emergency preparedness and response into sustainable development programmes. Its purpose is to allow the aid agencies, donor and recipient governments and the private sector, to look at how they can work more closely to develop sustainable solutions to increase the efficiency of aid delivery. For further information, visit: <http://www.aidandtrade.com/iat/europe/ov.asp>.

30-31 January, Washington DC, US: GLOBAL LINKAGES CONFERENCE. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is organising a conference on Global Linkages to explore how economic linkages across countries have changed in recent years and what implications these changes have for policy makers in developed and emerging markets. A main goal of the conference is to bring together researchers from academia, the IMF, and other policy institutions to discuss the policy implications of new empirical research in this area. Participation in this event is by invitation only. For further information, contact Sheila Kinsella at tel: +1 202 623 7664; email: skinsella@imf.org; or visit: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/res/seminars/2003/global/index.htm>.

3-7 February, Nairobi, Kenya: 22ND UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. The 22nd Session of the UNEP Governing Council will address outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions, contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters. For further information on this event, contact Beverly Miller, email: beverly.miller@unep.org, or visit: <http://www.unep.org/GoverningBodies/GC22/>. IISD Reporting Services' Earth Negotiations Bulletin will be providing daily updates and a summary of the meeting, see: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/unepgc/22gc/>.

3-5 February, Rome, Italy: EXPERT CONSULTATION ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT - IMPACTS AND INTERACTIONS. For further information visit the FAO Forestry page at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/index.jsp>. IISD Reporting Services' Earth Negotiations Bulletin will be providing a summary of the meeting, see: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/tsfm/>.

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.

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

30 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

3 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES.

3 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION ON THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

3&5 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY – EL SALVADOR.

4-5 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Other Forthcoming Events

19 February, Geneva, Switzerland: SYMPOSIUM ON COMPETITION POLICY AND PRO-POOR DEVELOPMENT. Organised by the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE), the symposium will consider research results from a project on comparative competition regimes in seven developing countries (the "7-Up" project). The symposium will focus on three questions: how does competition policy and law help the poor?; what type of competition law should a country have?; and how do developing countries deal with cross border issues? The International Network of Civil Society on Competition (INCSOC) will also be launched at this event. The purpose of this network will be to promote and maintain a healthy competition culture amongst various stakeholders – especially between civil society and interested organizations. For further information contact Anjali Bansal, tel: +91.141.220 7482; email: 7up@cuts.org; or visit <http://www.cuts.org/forthcoming-events.htm#Symposium>.

19-21 February, Geneva, Switzerland: FARMERS, FOOD AND TRADE - HEARING ON THE DRAFT REVIEW OF THE WTO AGRICULTURE AGREEMENT. This international workshop for NGOs, farmers and church groups will analyse the draft agricultural text being negotiated under the WTO. The focus of the analysis will be on food dumping, food security and rural development, market volatility, and the right to food. For further information please contact EED (Church Development Service) at tel: +49- 30- 20355-225; email: r.buntzel@gkke.org.

26 February, New York, US: MEETING ON DISCLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: HOW TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN A FORM USEFUL TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. For further information contact Chantal Line Carpentier, tel: +1 514 350-4336; email: clcarpentier@ccemtl.org; or visit <http://www.cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1831>.

27 February, Brussels, Belgium: **FOURTH SYMPOSIUM ON MARKET ACCESS: "A NEW CENTURY OF ADVANCES IN MARKET INTEGRATION: THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MARKET ACCESS STRATEGY."** Chaired by European Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, this symposium will be a follow-up to the 1996 EU market access strategy. European institutions, Member States, and business representatives will discuss their previous market access strategies and discuss ways to improve market access for the EU in the future. For further information please visit: <http://mkaccdb.eu.int>.

5 March, Chicago, US: **NAFTA IN A WTO WORLD - THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS IN A MULTILATERAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT.** This event will include sessions on: NAFTA at 10 years - a remarkable record; trade dispute case study - softwoods; and investment -Chapter 11 and other issues. For further information please contact N. Heard, tel: +1 312 906-5134; email: nheard@kentlaw.edu.

27-28 March, Mexico City, Mexico: **UNEP CAPACITY BUILDING MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.** The meeting is organised with the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). For further information contact Chantal Line Carpentier, tel: +1 514 350-4336; email: clcarpentier@ccemtl.org; or visit <http://www.cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1821>.

28 March to 5 April, Oxford, England: **GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY - EXPECTATIONS, CAPACITIES AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS.** This event is being organised by the 21st Century Trust. It will look at the changing nature of NGOs and the role they are playing in conjunction with governments, intergovernmental organisations, and corporations. For further information, visit: <http://www.21stCenturyTrust.org>.

3-5 July, Istanbul, Turkey: **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POLICY MODELLING.** EcoMod, a research network in the area of advanced modelling for policy-making and analysis, is hosting this conference. The event aims to cover all sectors of applied modelling for economics, finance, and decision making in the government and also in the business world. Special attention will be paid to European enlargement, WTO trade negotiations, monetary policy, econometrics, and applied general equilibrium modelling. For further information, visit: <http://www.ecomod.net>.

14-15 October, Stockholm, Sweden: **STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE WITH FOCUS ON AFRICA.** This conference will focus on African development and the steps necessary to

integrate Africa into the global market. The conference will focus on the theme "NEPAD, Africa and the international community - Investing and doing business in Africa within the framework of the New Partnerships for Africa's Development (NEPAD)". For further information contact Africa Forum Publications, tel: +46-73-907-4348; email: africaforum@swipnet.se; or visit: <http://www.africaforum.org/IC-Stockholm-2003/Stockholm2003.html>

Call for Papers and Posters

22-23 October, Amsterdam, the Netherlands: **GLOBALISATION, LOCALISATION AND TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.** This congress is being organised by the Amsterdam Institute for International Development. It will focus on the effects of global-local partnerships and agreements related to climate change and the international trade in forest products -- two topical aspects of globalisation with a potential impact on forest management and forest-related livelihoods. The first encompasses processes around the certification of timber and non-timber forest products, WTO, CITES and strategies to combat illegal logging. The second centres on developments around the Kyoto protocol, such as the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and the CO2 emissions trade. Please submit abstracts by 1 March, 2003. For further information, visit: <http://www.aiid.org/frameset.htm>.

RESOURCES

IPC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MODALITIES FOR THE DOHA ROUND. The International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), 21 January 2003. The IPC has been developing recommendations on continuing trade liberalisation in the Doha Round. The IPC's recommendations on domestic support, export competition, market access and developing country concerns were discussed at the 29th IPC Plenary Meeting in Ottawa, Canada in May of 2002 and the 30th IPC Plenary Meeting in London, England in November, 2002. To access the recommendations, visit: <http://www.agritrade.org/Doha/Modalities.htm>.

THE GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT: POWER WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY? By Hetty Kovach, Caroline Neligan, and Simon Burall. One World Trust (2003). This report compares the degree to which eighteen non-governmental organisations (NGOs), inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), and transnational corporations (TNCs) can be held accountable to their stakeholders (both internal and external). Rankings are based on access to information and member control of governance, with NGOs tending

to fare the best with regard to membership control, but not so well with regard to access to information. To access the report, visit: <http://www.oneworldtrust.org/Ch99/htmlGAP/report/report.htm>.

TRADE AND LABOR STANDARDS: A STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By Sandra Polaski. Carnegie Endowment (2003). The author argues that current changes in trade relationships provide an important opportunity for developing countries to advance poverty alleviation, better working conditions, and create a more equitable income distribution through linking trade with domestic policies. To view the paper, visit: www.ceip.org/pubs.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, November, 2002. This brochure reviews the results of a 10 June 2002 UN climate change meeting and analyses current knowledge regarding links between climate change and conflict. Crisis management as well as crisis and conflict prevention are given special priority as they lend strength to the argument for a precautionary climate protection policy. The full report is available at: http://www.bmu.de/english/download/b_climges.php.

FARM HOUSEHOLD INCOMES IN OECD COUNTRIES. OECD, January, 2003. This report claims that much of the government support to agriculture does not benefit the farmers who need it most and that such support distorts trade and production. It also shows that most support aids larger farms and that small farm households are being supported to a large degree by non-agricultural revenues. To obtain a copy of the report, contact: Nicole Le Vourch, tel: +33 1 45 24 80 88; email: nicole.levourch@oecd.org.

MULTILATERAL VS. BILATERAL INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS – WHERE CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD? By Hilda Fridh and Olivia Jensen. CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, 2002. This briefing paper, produced under CUTS ongoing project "Investment for Development", analyses the attitude of developing countries on multilateral and bilateral levels, and it examines the potential benefit of a multilateral instrument. To access the paper, visit: <http://www.cuts.org/9-2002.pdf>.

sustainable development, is seeking to recruit a Programme Officer (Trade), to work on the WTO, development and human rights. The candidate should be a dynamic, creative and flexible individual with 6 - 8 years of practical experience in the area of trade and/or international development policy, with a background in economics, international relations, law or similar discipline. The candidate should have a demonstrated understanding of current governmental and civil society positions on WTO-related issues, an active commitment to economic and social justice, strong analytical capacity, and strong oral and written communication skills in English. The application deadline is 12 February. For further information, please contact Caroline Dommen, 3D Associates, email: caroline.3d@fastbird.ch.

A searchable archive of **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**© can be accessed at: http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=

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POSITION VACANCY: PROGRAMME OFFICER - TRADE

3D Associates, a Geneva-based NGO that works to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in a way that is consistent with human rights and promotes