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NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

This issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is the final pre-Cancun issue. During the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun from 10-14 September, we will be producing BRIDGES Daily Updates. We will send these to our BRIDGES Weekly subscribers, and make them available at <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial>. The first post-Cancun issue of BRIDGES Weekly will be sent to subscribers on 24 September.

LEAD STORIES

GC CHAIR ISSUES NOTE TO ACCOMPANY DRAFT MINISTERIAL TEXT AS MEMBERS PREPARE FOR CANCUN MEETING

With only few days to go before ministers meet for the fifth WTO Ministerial from 10-14 September, participants and civil society organisations are already convening in Cancun, Mexico, for a number of workshops, teach-ins, meetings and informal talks between Members. Meanwhile, WTO General Council Chair Carlos Perez del Castillo, with Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, issued a cover note to accompany the draft ministerial text at Cancun, highlighting areas where major divides persist between Members. While the process generally has moved from Geneva to Cancun, Members managed to agree on a pre-Cancun solution to poor countries' access to essential medicines in Geneva over the weekend (see related story, this issue).

Cover letter

Following the final meeting of the General Council on 27 August, Chair Perez del Castillo forwarded -- on his own responsibility -- a draft ministerial text outlining decisions for ministers at Cancun (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-28/story1.htm>). This text was not agreed by Members, and did not reflect all positions (<http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Job.03.15.0.Rev.1.pdf>). To accompany the text, Chair Perez del Castillo wrote a cover letter, dated 31 August, highlighting specific areas of contention (<http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/coverletter.pdf>). The cover letter stresses agriculture as the most sensitive area of negotiations, and notes that while a number of Members consider the current agriculture annex of the draft ministerial text as an appropriate starting point for negotiations, others do not, and maintain that their own inputs remain on the table for deliberation.

The cover letter further highlights the draft framework for modalities for negotiations on non-agricultural market access, and two paragraphs in particular, as

being the object of contention. These two paragraphs deal with the type of formula to be used for tariff reductions, and a sectoral tariff component. Some Members are looking for a more ambitious formula, and others for a less ambitious formula and a voluntary sectoral component. The four so called Singapore issues of investment, competition, government procurement and trade facilitation also stand out as areas where Members are far from reaching agreement. The cover letter notes that while the draft ministerial text lays out the options of either launching negotiations or continuing the clarification process, Members may also consider possible intermediate approaches not reflected in the current draft. The annexed modalities of the draft ministerial text represent only one possible option for modalities, which has not been agreed and is not the outcome of negotiations.

The cover letter further notes that the paragraphs on special and differential treatment for developing countries, and on implementation issues, might not fully satisfy all Members. The note highlights three new paragraphs, included in the draft text after requests at a late stage in the Geneva-process on: a sectoral initiative on cotton, commodity issues and coherence.

On timing, the note concludes that Members have suggested that deadlines be coordinated across issues.

Agenda for Cancun

The provisional agenda and proposed order of business for Cancun were set in late August (http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Cancun_MC_proposed_agenda.pdf and http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Cancun_MC_proposed_order_of_business.pdf). The agenda comprises an item on the overview of WTO activities, where ministers will base their work on the draft ministerial text covering all relevant issues. The brief agenda also proposes the election of officers and discussion of the dates and venue for the next ministerial. In addition, the proposal by four West African cotton producing countries to address problems related to cotton subsidies is listed as a separate item.

The meeting will be chaired by Mexican trade minister Luis Ernesto Derbez. He will appoint facilitators to assist him: senior ministers that carry out general functions, as well as issue-specific "friends of the chair". The Chair will announce these facilitators only as the meeting begins.

ICTSD reporting.

INDUSTRIAL MARKET ACCESS: NORTH-SOUTH SPLIT PERSISTS LEADING INTO CANCUN

During informal meetings at the WTO last week, an annex on industrial market access attached to the 24 August draft Ministerial text continued to elicit reactions from dissatisfied countries. While the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA), Pierre-Louis Girard, had submitted a revised modalities paper on 19 August, persistent lack of agreement led him to develop instead a framework for establishing modalities -- without identifying specific numeric tariff liberalisation targets -- for ministers to endorse in Cancun (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/story5.htm>). The latest text, reworked following further comments from Members, is included as Annex B to the draft Ministerial text.

The Chair's annex paper has come under fire from both developed and developing countries; the former are seeking a higher level of ambition than the latter. Developed country officials have signalled that while they can live with the Chair's text, they are unhappy with the language on the tariff liberalisation formula and the sectoral liberalisation, which they feel give developing countries too much leeway. The US and others have also said the text is too vague to lead to an ambitious outcome.

For their part, developing countries argue the Annex text is too specific, saying that it could prejudge an outcome of the negotiations. Indeed, at the last General Council meeting before Cancun (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-28/story1.htm>), Brazil demanded the removal of the few bracketed numbers still present in Annex B. India disagreed with the reference to using a non-linear formula that would harmonise duties by reducing high tariffs more than low tariffs, while others were concerned that the text called for sectoral tariff elimination / harmonisation in such a way that all countries would be required to participate. Developing countries prefer to keep sectoral tariff liberalisation voluntary.

Sources indicate that much of the stalling on the industrial tariff talks is also due to developing country reluctance to agree on deadlines or the extent of tariff cuts without concrete forward movement in agriculture.

The 19 August paper by Chair Girard (TN/MA/W/35/Rev.1, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) does lay out some specific modalities numbers for industrial tariff liberalisation

(though it requires greater commitments from developing countries than an earlier text issued in May). Due to the continuing disagreements between developed and developing countries, however, this document is on the backburner until after Cancun. The Annex text notes that Members will use the 19 August paper as a "reference" for future work of the NAMA.

What does the Annex say?

The draft Annex does not specify the exact formula to be used for tariff reduction, but affirms that the Negotiating Group "shall continue its work on a non-linear formula applied on a line-by-line basis which shall take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed country participants, including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments." The "non-linear" language is a nod to a contentious proposal submitted in mid-August by the EC, the US and Canada, which indicated a preference for a non-linear tariff reduction formula. This was resisted by most developing countries. A non-linear approach would mean that steeper reductions would be made to higher tariffs, a situation undesirable to many developing countries such as India, Egypt and most African countries, who maintain higher tariffs in general than developed countries.

Reductions would be based on bound rates. For unbound tariff lines, the basis for reductions would be twice the MFN applied rate in 2001.

Participants with a binding coverage of non-agricultural tariff lines of less than [35] percent would be exempt from making tariff reductions through the formula, but they would be expected to bind [100] percent of industrial tariff lines at an average level that does not exceed the overall average of bound tariffs for all developing countries (square brackets indicate unagreed-upon text).

Sectoral liberalisation resisted by developing countries

Some developing countries have said that they object to ambitious sectoral tariff liberalisation / elimination even more than to a non-linear tariff reduction formula. Previous drafts by the Chair and the US-EU-Canada group had proposed to eliminate tariffs in sectors of particular export interest to developing countries, such as textiles and apparel. Many developing countries -- which themselves have high duties on these tariff lines -- wanted participation in this endeavour to be voluntary. While Annex B does not specify that sectoral liberalisation will be a mandatory part of the negotiating modalities, it states that sectoral initiatives are a "key element" to achieving the Doha mandate on industrial

market access, particularly on products of interest to developing countries, and that "participation by all participants will be important to that effect". The language does allow for flexibilities for developing countries, but it does not specify which sectors are to be addressed.

Special and Differential Treatment

According to the Annex, developing countries are to have longer implementation periods for tariff reductions. In addition, "they would be given the flexibility of keeping tariff lines unbound, as an exception, or not applying formula cuts, for up to [5] percent of tariff lines provided they do not exceed [5] percent of the total value of a Member's imports". Developing countries are pushing for wider flexibilities in this area. While least-developed countries would not be required to apply the formula or participate in the sectoral approach, the Annex says they are expected to substantially increase their level of binding commitments. The Negotiating Group is also instructed to 'elaborate on' special provisions for newly acceded Members "in order to take into account their extensive market access commitments undertaken as part of their accession".

In response to major concerns forwarded by many smaller developing countries, the Annex notes that non-reciprocal preference erosion and high tariff revenue dependency "shall be further considered", though it does not specify how this is to be done.

ICTSD reporting.

S&D 'EARLY HARVEST': THE 'DEVELOPMENT' AGENDA IN ACTION?

S&D 'Early Harvest': The 'Development' Agenda In Action?

While official word was that the Geneva process was over, Chair Pérez del Castillo tried to call an informal Heads of Delegations session on Wednesday, 3 September to discuss the most divisive proposals put on the table by developing countries in the review to strengthen and operationalise special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions. A combination of the fact that most Heads of Delegation have already left Geneva for Cancun, and a sense that little could be done at this late a stage, prompted the cancellation of the meeting. Chair Pérez del Castillo had promised developing countries that he would 'take up' this category of proposals before Cancun (see BRIDGES

Weekly, 10 April 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-10/story2.htm>). It now seems likely, however, that these will only get addressed post-Cancun, and in the special sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development rather than the General Council.

With regard to any decisions that ministers may take on S&D in Cancun -- for which the latest draft Cancun Ministerial text (JOB(03)/150/Rev.1, see http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/documents_and_links.htm for all ministerial-related documents) calls -- Members remain at odds over both substance and process. Twenty-four 'decisions' (comprising 26 proposals submitted) are at the centre of the current substantive debate, while the post-Cancun S&D work programme and its timeline form the bulk of the procedural uncertainties. Generally speaking, questions abound on whether key developing countries will be willing (or forced to) pay -- for a third time they would argue -- for economically meaningful provisions on S&D, combined with a clear mandate to continue the review on a development-friendly timeframe.

On substance

The draft Cancun ministerial text forwarded to ministers on the responsibility of the Chair (i.e. not approved by Members), takes a decision on approximately 24 proposals that have, as one observer put it, "dubious value". A quick scan of the provisions shows that most 'reaffirm' decisions already taken, or rights already established - - with four proposals arguably offering what one trade source termed "anything close to meaningful economic value". This source pointed to one of the 'decisions' on the Enabling Clause (which enables developed country Members to offer more favourable treatment to developing countries) as exemplifying why the lack of real progress after more than 18 months of negotiations has left developing countries extremely frustrated. This 'decision' states "[the] General Council confirms that the terms and conditions of the Enabling Clause shall apply when action is taken by Members under the provisions of this Clause". How this "circular" provision, and many of the other 23 like it, strengthens or operationalises S&D, "puts me at a loss," a source concluded.

While three of the 24 'decisions' were agreed to 'ad referendum' (i.e. pending final approval) at the time of circulating the latest list of 'decisions', only one remained as such when Chair Pérez del Castillo's cover letter to the draft Cancun Ministerial text was released (see related story, this issue). The two clauses agreed upon pertained to the Enabling Clause -- with all three relating to providing least-developed countries (LDCs) with duty-free and quota-free market access.

On the first, Bangladesh reportedly opposed the exact wording of the title of a proposal for the review of the progress made in providing LDCs duty and quota-free market access. Japan, for its part, opposed language that committed developed countries to 'consult' with developing countries when 'taking into account' developing countries' needs in ensuring they are accorded meaningful market access for their exports. Any changes in language resulting from the dropping of these concerns remain as-yet unclear.

The proposal that remains ad referendum relates to concerns from the US on including the word 'all' when pursuing the objective of providing duty and quota-free market access to LDCs in a way that ensures security and predictability. One commentator speculated that as this was a political decision, it could only be resolved in Cancun. This is probably the case, commented another trade source, because such language could complicate the manner in which the US uses its preferential schemes -- often with an ever-shifting geopolitical aim in mind, as opposed to an economic one.

While it was reported that Chair Pérez del Castillo did not want ministers to have to get entangled in the technicalities of drafting language on the proposed 'early harvest' package, the fact that one proposal remains ad referendum points to this being a real possibility. As such, ministers will likely have the opportunity to either strengthen or weaken the early harvest package on S&D, including by adding or removing 'decisions'.

Process

Reportedly, African countries were so frustrated with what they perceived as a lack of progress, and the apparent disregard for their concerns in the language on S&D in the initial draft Cancun ministerial text, that they submitted a letter to Chair Pérez del Castillo on 20 August to that effect. Sources indicated that the Chair informally requested that the group rescind the letter, however one source noted that the request itself was retracted when non-governmental organisations and the media pressed the Chair as to why he was making such a request. In the end, Chair Pérez del Castillo reportedly held off on circulating the letter to allow for more time to achieve better results on the early harvest package.

The draft Cancun ministerial text that has been transmitted to ministers (JOB(03)/150/Rev.1), instructs the General Council to continue monitoring the category of proposals sent to subsidiary bodies, and for those bodies to report back to it by an as-yet unspecified date. After being dormant since February 2003 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 10 April 2003,

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-10/story2.htm>), the special session of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) is to continue work on "remaining" agreement-specific proposals and "other outstanding issues". While the former refers to those Category I proposals that did not make the initial harvest, as well as Category III proposals -- it is unclear exactly what the "other outstanding issues" refers to, and why it was changed from listing explicitly the other outstanding issues (i.e. cross-cutting issues, the monitoring mechanism, and the incorporation of S&D into the architecture of WTO rules). One commentator speculated that this may effectively "downgrade" the remainder of the mandate, carrying important implications especially for considering the proposal for a Framework Agreement on S&D (WT/GC/W/442, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>).

The CTD special session is also to report back to the General Council on this work, however at an as-yet unspecified date. The lack of any specified deadlines in the S&D paragraph heading into Cancun (as for much of the rest of the draft text) lends weight to the belief that developing countries will be pressured to make concessions elsewhere in the work programme to see dates for S&D that hold faithful to the sequence of the bargain struck in Doha.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

CORRIGENDUM

In last week's story "EC Stymied In Attempt To Resolve MEA Attendance At WTO" (see <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-28/story6.htm>), South Africa should be deleted from the list of countries supporting the EC's proposal to formalise the attendance of MEA secretariats in special (negotiating) sessions of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment.

DSB UPDATE: LUMBER, QUARANTINE LAWS, BIOTECH AND SUGAR

Both the US and Canada recently claimed victory in a dispute over US import duties on Canadian softwood lumber. In the latest of series of rulings under the WTO dispute settlement body (DSB), a panel ruled that logging fees set by Canadian provincial governments constituted a "financial contribution" to the Canadian

lumber industry (see also BRIDGES Weekly, 15 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-14/wtoinbrief.htm> and BRIDGES Weekly, 28 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-28/wtoinbrief.htm>). The panel's ruling implies that under WTO law, the provincial stumpage fees were a government subsidy.

Richard Mills, spokesperson for the US Trade Representative's Office, termed the ruling as a victory for both the US lumber industry and the environment, saying that the ruling touched on the most important aspect of the case. John Allan, president of the British Columbia Lumber Trade Council considered it a win for Canada, because the WTO panel agreed that cross-border comparisons for calculating subsidies "are invalid under international trade rules" and urged Washington to change its method for calculating the countervailing duties imposed in the case to conform with international law.

The US had slapped permanent anti-subsidy and anti-dumping duties of 27.2 percent on Canadian softwood. Canada sells about US\$ 6 billion of spruce, pine and other softwood lumber to the US, which accounts for about one-third of the US market for construction timber. Ottawa has challenged the duties as illegal under both the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Mills declared that "there is no longer any question that the US can impose countervailing duties against softwood lumber exports from Canada," adding that the argument now is over the size of the fine. He further stated the US would review the entire decision before determining whether to appeal the points it lost.

Australian quarantine laws sparks EC request for WTO panel

The DSB meeting on 29 August also saw the EC requesting a panel to rule on the legality of Australian quarantine measures, which have been applied to a large number of EC agricultural products. While Australia maintains that these measures are in place to protect its citizens from potential exposure to plant and animal diseases, the EC considers them inappropriate and without scientific justification. According to the EC, pork exports have been especially targeted. The EC request follows three months of formal bilateral consultations, the first stage in the dispute settlement process. The talks were unsuccessful, prompting the EC request. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy stated that the EC would "continue to use WTO procedures to ensure that Australia lives up to its legal obligations and to its own rhetoric on open trade in agriculture". Australia -- a member of the Cairns group of agriculture exporters -- is a vocal advocate of

agricultural trade liberalisation, and critical of EC farm protectionism.

The same DSB meeting also saw the establishment of a WTO panel following a request by the Philippines on Australian measures affecting its imports of fruits and vegetables (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-07-17/story5.htm>).

China, the EC, Ecuador, India, Thailand and the US reserved their third-party rights. Two other panels were set up on 'high profile' cases. The first was in response to complaints from the US, Canada and Argentina to examine the legality of the EC's policy over imports of genetically modified (GM) foods. On the second request of the US, the panel was established at the 29 August DSB meeting (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/wtoinbrief.htm#1>).

The second panel was established to address complaints from Australia, Brazil and Thailand over EC subsidies to sugar producers, which the complainants contend are unfair and keep out competitive sugar producers from export markets. The EC had blocked an earlier request for the establishment of a panel on 21 July (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-07-28/story7.htm> and BRIDGES Weekly, 17 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-07-17/story5.htm>).

ICTSD reporting; "EU Asks WTO to Examine Australia's Quarantine Regime on Farm Products," WTO REPORTER, 3 September 2003; "US, Canada say WTO lumber ruling a victory," REUTERS, 29 August 2003; "WTO Panel To Rule On EU Biotech Import Ban, Sugar Subsidy," AP, 29 August 2003.

IN BRIEF

AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOLD PRE-CANCUN MEETING

The Global Coalition for Africa held a two-day meeting on 28 August to discuss trade issues ahead of the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Mexico from 10-14 September. Bringing together ministers of trade, parliamentarians, private sector players, representatives of regional and international organisations and of Africa's bilateral partners, the meeting examined Africa's most critical social and economic development issues. The participants focussed on Africa's export capacity and fair trade practices as a way to help Africa to develop, and on

improved access for African products to developed markets. African government representatives expressed their strong dissatisfaction vis-à-vis their developed WTO partners, which had not opened up their markets to African products. They noted that African exports still face tariff and non-tariff barriers in accessing industrialised countries' markets, despite various trade pacts signed with the US and EU to allow their products to compete on northern markets. The meeting highlighted agricultural subsidies in developed countries such as the US, EU and Japan as one of the most contentious points of the Doha Round, and participants said they expected the upcoming Cancun meeting to give a boost to the trade talks.

"Africa trade talks set in Kenya ahead of WTO meeting," BUSINESS NEWS, August 2003; "Africa Criticises Developed States," THE NATION, 29 August 2003.

LANDLOCKED LDCS MAKE GAINS AT ALMATY CONFERENCE

Landlocked developing countries won an agreement in UN-sponsored talks held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 28-29 August for increased access to the sea. Thirty landlocked least-developed countries (LDCs), 33 transit access LDCs, nine donor countries and 20 international agencies and financial institutions attended the talks, which were headed by UN Under-Secretary-General Chowdhury and Kazakh President Nazarbayev. The overall goal of the talks was to reduce transportation costs paid by landlocked developing countries from the current average of 15 percent of each landlocked country's export earnings (up to 50 percent in some African nations), to the seven percent average paid by developing countries with sea access. Developed countries with direct access to the sea pay on average three to four percent of their export earnings in transportation costs, according to UN statistics. Nine of the 12 lowest-ranking countries on the UN Human Development Index are landlocked and economists estimate these countries' landlocked status costs them 0.7 percent in economic growth annually. At the conclusion of the talks, the Ministerial Conference adopted the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Ministerial Declaration. The Almaty Programme focusses on a number of areas: emphasising and clarifying landlocked countries' right to the sea; reducing the legal red tape often faced by landlocked countries exporting their goods through transit access countries; improving transport infrastructure (rail, road, river, air and pipeline); and increasing overall market access. Chowdhury described the talks as "a grand success" and said that the Almaty agreement will be reviewed at a meeting of ministers of landlocked countries in New York in October.

Full text versions of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Almaty Ministerial Declaration can be found at: <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/imc/default.htm>.

"Landlocked Countries Win Agreement On Market Access," UN WIRE, 2 September 2003; "Plans to Bring Landlocked Countries Closer to the Seas to be Worked Out at Almaty Conference, 28-29 August," UN WIRE, 22 August 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

WTO MEMBERS REACH LAST-MINUTE DEAL ON TRIPS & HEALTH

After a flurry of eleventh hour negotiations, WTO Members on 30 August adopted the 16 December Decision on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs (Trade- related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement and Public Health together with a statement by the TRIPs Council Chair, Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon of Singapore (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-28/story2.htm>). The Decision spells out the conditions under which countries without pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity can import generic versions of drugs still under patent. The list of advanced developing countries, which have agreed not to use the system except in situations of national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency, was re-introduced into the final version of the Chair's statement. Civil society groups expressed disappointment with the deal, describing it as "a new model for explicitly endorsing protectionism," in the words of James Love of the Consumer Project on Technology. Nevertheless, they applauded developing countries for not compromising on the coverage of diseases, as called for by the US.

The final Decision and the Chair's statement are available at <http://www.ictsd.org/iprsonline/index.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

MEMBERS AGREE ON SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR LDCs IN SERVICES TALKS

On 3 September, WTO Members established modalities for the special treatment granted to least-developed countries (LDCs) under the General

Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Members noted that trade in services is important for LDCs to achieve social and development objectives, to address poverty, and to insure sustainable development. According to the draft, the modalities shall ensure maximum flexibility for LDCs and form the basis for the negotiations. Under the terms of the agreement, WTO Members "shall" take into account the serious difficulties of LDCs in undertaking negotiated commitments in view of their special economic situation and their development, trade and financial needs. In addition, LDCs will not be expected to offer full national treatment to foreign service providers. Developed Members, for their part, shall give special priority in the negotiations to provide effective market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest to LDCs.

To access the new modalities, visit http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/services/resources/LDC_modalities.pdf.

"WTO Settles on Modalities for Treatment Of Poorest Countries in Doha Services Talks," WTO REPORTER, 4 September 2003.

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

5-7 September, Cancun, Mexico: 18TH GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM - BIODIVERSITY, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This session of the GBF is jointly organised by ICTSD, IUCN, SEMARNAT, CEESP and others. The GBF is a mechanism to bring together governmental and non-governmental representatives to foster dialogue and information sharing on key biodiversity issue. Key issues to be addressed will include: The relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and CBD; risk, precaution and biosecurity; and trade and sustainable livelihoods. For further information, see: http://www.gbif.ch/present_session.asp?no=31&lg=EN.

11-12 September, Cancun, Mexico: CANCUN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM. The Conference seeks to provide a platform for intellectual enquiry and dialogue on issues related to trade and development and to address key concerns afflicting development in the trade policy arena. The main objective of the CTDS is to encourage innovative thinking on issues related to trade and development to be translated into inputs for negotiations. For further information, contact: ICTSD, Bernice Lee; tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093; email: tds@ictsd.ch; Internet: <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/tds/index.htm>.

Events at Cancun

ICTSD maintains a webpage compiling events -- organised by civil society groups, international organisations etc. -- that will take place around the fifth WTO Ministerial conference in Cancun. To access this information, visit <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/events.htm>.

Other Events Coming Up: 4 - 24 September

25 August - 5 September, Havana, Cuba: UNCCD COP-6. The Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification will consider a number of issues, including: the designation of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as a financial mechanism of the CCD; feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units; activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations; and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. For further information visit: <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop6/menu.php>. For daily updates by IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/desert/cop6/>.

4-5 September, Hamburg, Germany: CONFERENCE ON POST-2012 CLIMATE POLICY OPTIONS: EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES. Organised by the Hamburg Institute of International Economics, this conference is part of a global conference series in the framework of the project "Developing a post-2012 policy architecture". Different policy scenarios will be discussed. To register, email: climate@hwwa.de. For more information visit: http://www.hwwa.de/Projekte/Forsch_Schwerpunkte/FS/Klimapolitik/PDFDokumente/hwwa-ws9-03.pdf.

4-6 September, Honolulu, Hawaii, US: CLIMATE POLICY AFTER MARRAKECH: TOWARDS GLOBAL PARTICIPATION. The conference will bring together experts from governments, academia, business and NGOs. They will discuss recent developments in

climate policy and initiatives around the globe, as well as actions and policy frameworks to comply with the Kyoto protocol. The aim is to widen participation and to further international climate negotiations. For further information please contact Penny Higa, tel: +1 808 944-7131; fax: +1 808 944-7380; email: higap@eastwestcenter.org; Internet: <http://ewcraq1.eastwestcenter.org/~marrakech/>.

4-6 September, Geneva, Switzerland: CONGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN ACTION. Organised by the University Center of Geneva for Human Ecology and Environmental Sciences, this congress will present concepts, strategies, practical tools, technological innovations in sustainable management, as well as results, outstanding examples and future development. There will also be workshops on themes such as sustainable mobility, environmental management systems and sustainable financing. To submit abstracts and for more information, contact Beat Burgenmeier, email: Beat.Burgenmeier@ses.unige.ch; Internet: http://ecoluiinfo.unige.ch/colloques/SMIA03/Announcement5_en.htm.

6-7 September, Helsinki, Finland: UNU WIDER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SHARING GLOBAL PROSPERITY. This UN University World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) conference will focus on ways to increase the global economy's benefits to poor countries and poor people. Among the topics addressed are: innovative sources of development finance; private capital flows and foreign aid; international trade and foreign investment; and the development impact of globalisation. For further information contact: WIDER Secretariat; tel: +358-9-615-9911; fax: +358-9-615-99333; e-mail: wider@wider.unu.edu; Internet: <http://www.wider.unu.edu/conference/conferences.htm>.

8-17 September, Durban, South Africa: FIFTH WORLD PARKS CONGRESS - BENEFITS BEYOND BOUNDARIES. The congress occurs once each decade and is sponsored by the IUCN. It provides the major global forum for setting the agenda for protected areas. Previous congresses have had a tremendous impact in assisting national governments to create new protected areas, and direct more resources towards biodiversity conservation. For further information contact: Peter Shadie, IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, tel: +41 22 999 0159; fax: 999 0025; email: pds@iucn.org; Internet: <http://wcpa.iucn.org/wpc/wpc.html>.

10 September, Geneva, Switzerland: THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WTO IN CANCUN, MEXICO: WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS

AND CHURCHES BE CONCERNED? This event is organised by the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Conference of European Churches. For more information, please contact: Rogate Mshana, tel: +41 22 7916031; or Athena Peralta, tel: +41 22 7916336.

11 September, Hong Kong, China: FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This conference is organised by Global Knowledge Ventures and the Business Environment Council of Hong Kong, and seeks to find an interactive, practical and commercial approach to financing Sustainable Development in Hong Kong and China. For more information contact: Peter Castellás; tel: +613-9754-1862; email: pcastellas@gkv.com.au; Internet: <http://www.enviroseries.com/2003/fsd/index.html>.

11-14 September, Linz, Austria: LABOUR AND NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBALISING WORLD SYSTEM. At this conference, discussions will attempt to tie together the workers movement and globalisation in policies, organisation and culture. For further information on this event, please go to: http://www.ith.or.at/konf_e/call_2003_e.htm or contact Berthold Unfried at berthold.unfried@univie.ac.at.

16-18 September, Cartagena, Colombia: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. This conference is organised by the Friends of the Earth International (FOEI), the Transnational Institute (TNI), Oilwatch and Friends of the Earth Colombia (CENSAT Agua Viva). International experts on environmental issues and human rights issues will discuss inter alia: the impact of war on environmental rights and human rights; human rights violations of environmental activists; impunity for environmental crimes; and ecological debt of Northern countries to the South. For further information contact the conference organisers at tel: +571 244 24 65; fax tel +571 337 77 09; email: conferencia_ddhh@censat.org; Internet: <http://www.censat.org>, or <http://www.foei.org>.

18 September 2003, London, England: POWER AND POLITICS IN CANCUN, REACTIONS TO THE 5TH WTO MINISTERIAL. The World Development Movement (WDM) will host a conference to discuss the outcome of the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference. The meeting will bring together speakers directly from inside the negotiating rooms and outside the streets, including Yash Tandon, (African delegate to the WTO) and Carmen Diaz (Jalisco Ecologist Collective). For further information visit: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/campaign/cancun03/powpol.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.

10 - 14 September, Cancun, Mexico: WTO FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

Other Forthcoming Events

29-30 October, Rüschlikon, Switzerland: BEYOND CARBON - EMERGING MARKETS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. This initiative is organised by Forest Trends, the Katoomba Group and Swiss Reinsurance. The conference will promote the development of markets, trading and financial mechanisms that recognise the value of the environmental services of ecosystems. It will aim to expose participants to the thinking of leading practitioners and innovators in the field of environmental service finance. The conference will aim to bring together drivers of innovation from the business, financial and regulatory worlds, public opinion leaders and the NGO community. For further information, please contact James Congram, tel: +41 1 704 88 12; email: James_Congram@swissre.com.

6-8 November, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL IDENTITY. The objective of the workshop is to foster discussion of the main problems concerning environment, sustainable development, and cultural identity, in the face of the challenges of a globalised world. The workshop will cover inter alia: environment and development; tourism and cultural identity; and current problems caused by globalisation. For further information contact: Ana Victoria Knaggs, email: knaggs@fie.uo.edu.cu or universitoriente@eresmas.net.

RESOURCES

ICTSD Resources

BRIDGES DAILY UPDATES on the negotiations at the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun will be produced in English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Chinese and Russian from 9 to 14 September 2003.

They will be sent to BRIDGES Weekly readers, and also be accessible at <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial>.

CANCUN WEBPAGE. ICTSD maintains information online on the latest news, resources, events and logistical information around the 10-14 September meeting. The page includes relevant WTO documents, civil society documents, as well as other documents. To access the information, visit <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/index.htm> or http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/documents_and_links.htm.

BRIDGES MONTHLY -- CANCUN ISSUE. The latest issue of BRIDGES Monthly is now available at <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>.

DOHA ROUND BRIEFING SERIES -- CANCUN UPDATE, AUGUST 2003. The Doha Round Briefing Series is published by the ICTSD in collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The briefings serve as a guide to the multilateral WTO negotiations under the Doha Round. Thirteen "executive summaries" offer a progress report on the issues under negotiation. They are written for the non-expert with a strong interest in trade policy and negotiations. The first volume, published in February 2003, have been updated with a second volume for the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun, Mexico from 10-14 September. The second volume of each briefing includes a section on the prospects for Cancun. To access the briefings, visit <http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings/index.htm>.

Other Resources

BUSINESS RULES: WHO PAYS THE PRICE? HOW CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN THE WTO IMPACTS PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Friends of the Earth International and Corporate Europe Observatory, August 2003. This report reveals the key role transnational corporations play in shaping the policy of the WTO. Through powerful lobby groups, these corporations are steering decisions in powerful countries in the WTO: the US, the European Union, and Japan. The report comprises eight case studies highlighting the environmental and social impacts of the corporations on areas such as food, health and environmental standards, access to essential medicines, control over foreign investment and access to essential services. The English version is available at <http://www.foei.org/publications/trade/businessrules.pdf>. The Spanish version is available at <http://www.foei.org/esp/publications/trade/businessrules.pdf>.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS 2004 -- REALISING THE DEVELOPMENT PROMISE OF THE DOHA AGENDA. World Bank, August 2003. This annual report analyses the most critical multilateral trade issues and suggests policy options to raise living standards in developing countries and reduce global poverty. The report covers contemporary topics such as the gains from cutting agricultural subsidies and the consequences of the agreement on generic drug importation. In addition, the report forecasts trade as well as GNP growth. For more information and to view the report, see <http://www.worldbank.org/prospects/gep2004/>.

TRADE MEASURES, WTO, AND CLIMATE COMPLIANCE: THE INTERPLAY OF INTERNATIONAL REGIMES. By the Fridtjof Nansen Institute. This report examines how the potential of trade measures to induce more climate-friendly policies is affected by three aspects of interplay between the global trade rules and the Kyoto climate regime: The normative compatibility of trade-related rules of the two regimes, the participatory interplay of the two regimes, and the Millennium Round of trade negotiations. For further information, see: <http://www.fni.no/publ/climate.html>.

THE EVOLUTION OF ECOTOURISM IN EAST AFRICA: FROM AN IDEA TO AN INDUSTRY. By John Watkin (IIED, August 2003). This report is based on the proceedings of the East Africa Regional Conference on Ecotourism, held in March 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya and organised by the African Conservation Centre. The conference explored ways to ensure that all parties involved in an ecotourism enterprise benefit, and concluded that, through communication, sensitivity, transparency and realism, such an enterprise can become sustainable. Ecotourism can also prevent environmental destruction and, when managed correctly, promote community development and empowerment. The report can be viewed online at http://www.iied.org/docs/blg/ecotour_eafrica.pdf.

THE 2030 SPIKE: COUNTDOWN TO GLOBAL CATASTROPHE. By Colin Mason (Earthscan, August 2003). This book forecasts a possible new Dark Age in the 2030 decade. The author states that the convergence of depleted fuel supplies, massive population growth, poverty, global climate change, famine, growing water shortages, and international lawlessness may have potentially catastrophic consequences. The author proposes 100 priorities for immediate action in order to alter the trajectory of humanity away from catastrophe. For further information see <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=4005>.

INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE DURING THE TRANSITION. Edited by Vladimir Mikhalev (Palgrave MacMillan, July 2003). The book studies and compares emerging social structures in transitional societies and discusses the life of the large majority of workers (farmers and state- sector employees as well as the bottom of socially deprived and marginalised people). The contributors look into causes of high inequality and poverty in Russia and other CIS countries, as well as more equal income distribution and higher levels of social welfare in Central Europe. For further information see http://www.palgrave.com/catalogue/catalogue.asp?Title_Id=140390801X#Description.

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

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