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LEAD STORIES

SERVICES COUNCIL APPROVES MODALITIES FOR AUTONOMOUS LIBERALISATION

After more than two years of discussions, the special session of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) approved modalities for the treatment of autonomous liberalisation on 6 March. The new agreement on modalities for autonomous liberalisation entails a sign of momentum at a time when WTO negotiations in most areas are stalling. One observer noted that the services negotiations function as the engine of the Doha Round, and WTO Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi stated that "this agreement should inject new dynamism not only in the services negotiations but also in other areas of the Doha agenda". As reported last week, countries had reached near-agreement already on the subject, but needed to iron out some concerns expressed by Bulgaria, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Oman regarding newly acceded Members (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/story3.htm>).

Autonomous liberalisation measures refer to measures undertaken unilaterally by WTO Members to liberalise their services sector, as a consequence of their own national liberalisation processes or World Bank/IMF structural adjustment programmes since 1995. The negotiating mandate on autonomous liberalisation under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) was oriented toward the recognition of negotiating credits (benefits in subsequent negotiations under GATS) for national-level efforts in this regard.

During the special session of the CTS, the Kyrgyz Republic indicated that newly acceded Members -- including Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Moldova and Oman -- had already undertaken major liberalisation efforts in their WTO accession processes, and thus had little or no margin for further flexibility. The US stressed that the modalities did not affect rights and obligations under the GATS. In response, various developing countries, including Peru, Uruguay, Brazil, Thailand, and Venezuela, indicated that the negotiations on

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autonomous liberalisation were separate from other negotiations under the GATS. They stressed that autonomous liberalisation must be recognised independently of the modalities for credits according to article XIX of the GATS (which sets out the negotiating mandate for credits for autonomous liberalisation).

Autonomous liberalisation: definition and value

The recently approved modalities, or guidelines for the granting of autonomous liberalisation (JOB(02)/35/Rev3, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) define two important elements: what an autonomous liberalisation measure (ALM) is; and the criteria for assessing the value of an ALM. According to the decision, an ALM is:

- * subject to scheduling under Part III (Specific Commitments) of the GATS, and/or leading to the termination of a most favoured nation (MFN) exemption;
- * compatible with the principle of most-favoured nation (MFN);
- * undertaken by the liberalising Member unilaterally since previous negotiations, in accordance with article XIX of the GATS; and
- * applicable to any or all service sectors.

The criteria for assessing the value of an ALM may include:

- *sectoral coverage;
- * liberalising nature of the measure concerned (e.g. elimination of measures restricting market access; elimination of existing measures that are inconsistent with national treatment and/or MFN);
- * date of entry into force and duration of the measure;
- * share of the sector in the total trade of the trading partner;
- * share of the trading partner in the total trade in the sector autonomously liberalised by the liberalising Member;
- * importance and impact of the autonomous liberalisation measures on the liberalising Member's economy;
- * market potential in the liberalising Member for the trading partner; and

- * opportunities for the expansion of foreign participation in the sector after the introduction of the measure.

The granting of credit for ALMs will be advanced through bilateral negotiations. According to Chair Ambassador Jara's (Chile) statement, "the modalities do not create any legal obligations nor do they establish any automatic right to credit or recognition". This means that the modalities function as a predictable and transparent framework for bilateral procedures when seeking and consolidating credit, while there is some political control by the CTS on their general application. Nevertheless, this does not imply automatic recognition of credit for autonomous liberalisation.

Members interested in seeking credit would have to engage in bilateral negotiations and can, if they so wish, notify the CTS of this process. The type of credit that a Member can seek can take the form of: a liberalisation measure to be undertaken by a trading partner in sectors of interest to the liberalising Member under the GATS; a decision to refrain from pursuing a request addressed to the liberalising Member; or any other form that the liberalising Member and its trading partner may agree upon.

The new modalities apply to all WTO Members. Any Member that has engaged in autonomous liberalisation can request credit in the current negotiations. In the application of the modalities and in the recognition of credit, Members shall fully take into account flexibility provided for individual developing countries as well as the level of development of developing countries. Many developing countries consider this a small advancement toward recognition of the objectives of the GATS of increased participation of developing countries in the trade of services.

CTS request process slows down - developing countries remain active

Meanwhile, the end-March deadline for the presentation of requests for specific commitments in the services negotiations is rapidly approaching (the current negotiations include a request-offer approach to expand market access on a bilateral basis). At the beginning of March, only 30 WTO Members had presented requests to other Members. According to the head of the WTO Services Division, it is unlikely that the WTO would see a significant number of further offers coming in by the deadline. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, although the services negotiations are the most advanced, failures in other areas of political importance -- such as access to essential medicines, special and differential treatment for developing countries, and lack of movement in agriculture negotiations -- have undermined the motivation of many countries to keep to the deadlines. Secondly, many developing countries

are preparing their requests with care, to try to obtain actual concessions in this round of negotiations. In the previous Uruguay Round of negotiations there was no request/offer process, only an offer process, making it difficult for developing countries to obtain specific commitments in the areas of interest from their counterparts.

Developing countries have been active participants in the current request phase. At least one third of all requests presented come from developing countries. One source has indicated that Chile, China, Hong Kong-China, India, the Mercosur countries, Mexico, Panama, Pakistan, and Thailand already have presented their requests. Many of these requests have been very focused and oriented towards obtaining concessions in areas where these countries have a competitive advantage in the services field. Developing country requests basically emphasise four aspects:

- * the need to leave some horizontal limitations including residence requirements, property limitations and authorisations for foreigners, minimal participation and visa granting processes;
- * the need to reduce or eliminate restrictions for computer and related services;
- * the need for particular treatment of mode four (Movement of Natural Persons) in a multilateral manner and deep liberalisation in this mode; and
- * the need to widen the definition of professional services so as to include "occupations" according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Even if the services negotiations have been held back by the lack of will in other areas, the number, the type of focus and main aspects of developing country requests shows a raise in interest and an important level of sophistication and engagement by developing countries in current negotiations.

ICTSD Reporting; "WTO Official Says Limited Number Of Services Offers Expected by April," WTO REPORTER, 10 March 2003.

IN BRIEF

US BANS SHRIMP IMPORTS OVER CONCERNS FOR TURTLES

On 6 March, the US State Department announced that it would bar some shrimp imports from Honduras and Venezuela, saying that their exports do not meet US requirements. US law requires countries to use sea turtle "excluder devices" to prevent turtles from drowning in shrimp trawls, or to use other turtle protection programmes or show that their fishing waters do not pose a risk to turtles. Shrimp harvested by "artisanal" and other methods may still be imported. The US said it hopes that the ban against shrimp imports from the two countries will only be temporary, and added that it might send teams to confirm that adequate measures have been taken to protect sea turtles. A WTO panel upheld a US ban on shrimp imports from a group of four Asian countries in 2001 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-23/wtoinbrief.htm#1>).

The harmful effect of fishing on sea turtles made headlines when the leatherback sea turtle -- one of the oldest and widest-ranging marine animals -- was found to be under threat of extinction. Amongst other factors, these turtles are caught by gill nets and long-lines used for fishing tuna and swordfish. The leatherback turtles, which have existed for the last 100 million years, could become extinct within the next 10 to 20 years. In response to this threat, conservationists have begun to put pressure on the international fish markets through consumer information campaigns.

"Turtle hurtles towards extinction," GUARDIAN, 7 March 2003; "US raps Venezuela, Honduras for harming sea turtles," REUTERS, 10 March 2003.

UN AGENCIES RELEASE REPORT ON WORLD WATER CRISIS

In a report to be formally issued on World Water Day, 22 March, the World Water Assessment Programme addresses a global crisis in water availability. According to the report, entitled "Water for People, Water for Life", water consumption has almost doubled in the past 50 years. "Water resources will steadily decline because of population growth, pollution and expected climate change," the report predicts. Mismanagement of water resources lies at the heart of the problem. "Inertia at leadership level, and a world population not fully aware of the scale of the problem means we fail to take the needed timely corrective actions," according to the World Water Assessment

Programme, a consortium of 23 UN agencies, hosted by UNESCO. The report will be released at the 16-23 March Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan (see <http://www.world.water-forum3.com/>), a landmark event of the 2003 International Year of Freshwater.

"UN: World Water Crisis Due to Leadership Inertia," ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE, 5 March 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

US TO REQUEST PANEL ON CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

The US announced, on 6 March, its plan to request a WTO panel to examine whether the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), an entity that provides a guaranteed price complies with WTO law. The US also wants the panel to look into whether Canada's rail transportation rules favour domestic wheat shipment. This is the ninth time the US has initiated investigations of the CWB, a state trading enterprise marketing Canadian grain both domestically and abroad and providing government guaranteed payments to farmers. Domestically, the US Commerce Department assigned a provisional 3.94 percent countervailing duty on Canadian durum and hard red spring wheat imports. The US is pushing to reform or eliminate state trading enterprises in current WTO agriculture negotiations. US proposals for eliminating state trading enterprise monopoly powers and government support, and making them more transparent, have been incorporated in a draft modalities text that has emerged in the agriculture negotiations. However, the WTO farm talks are stalling, and the US Trade Representative is under pressure from his domestic farming sector to deliver a good deal (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/story1.htm>).

"US Files WTO Case Against Canadian Wheat Policy," DOW JONES, 6 March 2003; "USTR to Seek WTO Dispute Panel On Canadian Wheat Board Practices," WTO REPORTER, 7 March 2003.

CTD MEETING CONSIDERS TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) met on 7 March to discuss, among other things, technical cooperation and how sustainable development aspects can be reflected in areas under negotiation at the WTO. On technical cooperation and training, delegates heard a presentation on new ideas, such as "trade clinics" -- a service to be provided by the WTO Secretariat in response to urgent technical assistance needs. The

outsourcing of technical assistance was also considered. The Secretariat will shortly provide more information on these new ideas.

Delegates also considered actions relating to Paragraph 51 of the Doha Declaration, which mandates the CTD and the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) to "each act as a forum to identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected". While the CTE has already begun to fulfil this mandate (by considering reports from the Directors of the WTO Secretariats' Agriculture and Commodities Division and the Market Access Division on environmental aspects of negotiations in their areas), the CTD decided to follow suit and similarly ask Secretariat division Directors to report on developmental aspects of the negotiations going on in their areas.

ICTSD reporting.

RUSSIA'S WTO ACCESSION SHOWING SLOW PROGRESS

Delegates recently met in Geneva for a round of negotiations concerning Russia's membership in the WTO. After a ten-year long accession process, last week's meeting revealed that a great deal of changes would have to be made concerning agriculture, energy, and transparency issues before Russia can become a WTO Member. Russia's recent decision to implement import quotas on beef, pork, and poultry drew intensive criticism from WTO Members including the US, Canada, Japan, and Australia. Maxim Medvedkov, Russia's chief negotiator on WTO accession, contended that these quotas would only be used temporarily, or until the meat industry starts to show improvement. At the same time, he expressed his belief in Russia's right to use these instruments, as long as they are permitted to be used by other WTO Members as well.

According to Medvedkov, the Russian Duma will review issues such as tax reform and antidumping, which will bring Russia closer to adopting the final requirements needed to align its legislation with WTO provisions. In addition to its legislation, Medvedkov also claimed that Russia is preparing to slowly reduce barriers to its telecommunications, financial services, and insurance markets. All bilateral trade negotiations concerning these issues that are currently in process between Russia and current WTO Members must be concluded before the next round of accession discussions.

"Latest WTO Russia Accession Talks Terminate With Few Signs of Progress," WTO REPORTER, 7 March 2003; "Russia Fends Off Criticisms of Meat, Poultry Restrictions During WTO Talks," WTO REPORTER, 5 March 2003.

POSITION VACANCY

PROJECT MANAGER - INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY TRADE INFORMATION PROJECT (IATP). The Geneva-based Trade Information Project (TIP) is looking to hire a Project Manager to liaise with Geneva based WTO missions and civil society groups around the world with the goal of facilitating advocacy on social and economic justice issues. The Project Manager's tasks would include close monitoring of WTO debates, particularly in the areas of agriculture, services, and the so-called Singapore issues of investment, competition, and government procurement. The candidate should have at least 3-5 years of practical experience in trade, development and economic justice issues, excellent English skills and the ability to work in French/Spanish.

The deadline for applications is 28 March 2003. The Project Manager's role will be carried out in close collaboration with the current Project Manager for the first few months. For further information, contact Shefali Sharma (ssharma@iatp.org) or Sophia Murphy (smurphy@iatp.org). Correspondence should be marked "TIP Project Manager" in the subject line.

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 This Week: 13 - 19 March

10-14 March, Montreal, Canada: EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CBD SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-8): During this event the Convention on Biological Diversity's will meet. For further information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: (514-288-2220), fax: 288-6588, email: secretariat@biodiv.org, Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/>.

10-14 March, Rome, Italy: 16TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY. Organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. For further information, contact: tel: (39) 06-57051; fax: 5705-3152; email: fao-hq@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/cofo/cofo16/cofo16-e.htm>.

12-14 March, New Delhi, India: GOVERNANCE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH POVERTY REDUCTION. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is organising a Partnership Conclave to celebrate its 20th Anniversary. For more information, contact: Apurva Dayal or Mukta Srimali at tel: +91-141-2207482; fax: +91-141-220 7486/220 3998; email: 20thAnniversary@cuts.org; and internet: www.cuts.org/CUTS-Anniversary.htm.

14-15 March, Brussels, Belgium: CITIZENS' PARLIAMENT ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION. The Brussels Institute for the Management of the Environment, together with the Consumer Organisations Research and Information Centre is organising this international event, which aims to promote changes in consumer behaviour in Europe. The Citizens' Parliament will provide a platform to exchange information and learn from projects, both private and public, local and regional. For further information, contact: IBGE-BIM Secretariat; tel: (32-2) 775-7575; fax: 775-7621; email: info@ibgebim.be; Internet: <http://www.ibgebim.be/EVENTS/ENG/CitizensParliament/index.htm>.

15-16 March 2003, New Delhi, India: COMMONWEALTH TRADE SUMMIT. The Commonwealth Business Council in association with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organising this conference to bring together the trade policy community within the Commonwealth, to discuss trade issues in the context of the WTO Ministerial scheduled for Cancun in September 2003. Participation in this event is by invitation only. For further information, contact Shondeep Banerji at tel: +44 (0) 20 7024 8229; email: sbanerji@cbcnet.org; or visit: <http://www.cbcbglobal.org> or <http://www.cbcbglobal.org/events/delhi/Overview.htm>.

16-23 March, Kyoto, Japan: THE 3RD WORLD WATER FORUM. This week-long conference will address actions being taken to implement solutions to important global water problems. For more information, please visit: <http://www.worldwaterforum.org/>.

17-18 March, Montreal, Canada: GREENING THE FTAA? - TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN OUR HEMISPHERE. Environmental Law McGill (ELM) will host an international conference to highlight issues of

environmental governance and sustainable development in the context of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. For more information, visit:
<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/elmftaaconference>.

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

18 March, Geneva, Switzerland. CANCUN BRIEFING. Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Perez Motta will provide logistical information, including a question and answer session for NGOs on the upcoming WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun. The briefing will be held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, at 15:00 in room "C".

19-21 March, Orlando, US: SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. The Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) is hosting a conference on partnerships that promote sustainability. For further information, visit: <http://www.gemi.org/docs/GEMI2003conf.htm>.

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.

13 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

14 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - CANADA.

14 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK STEERING COMMITTEE.

17 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMATION MEETING ON LOGISTICS FOR CANCÚN.

18 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

18 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE – RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

19-20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES.

Other Forthcoming Events

24-28, March, Florence, Italy: ADVANCED RESEARCH AND PROCEDURES IN BIOSAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GMOs. Organised by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO). For further information, contact: Ms. Chiara Villanovich; tel: (39-040) 375-7345; fax: 22-6555; email: courses@icgeb.org; Internet: http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/TRAINING/CRS03/BSF_Florence.htm.

1 April, New York, US: BIODIPLOMACY: GENETIC RESOURCES, GMOs AND INTERNATIONAL POLICYMAKING. Organised by the United Nations University. For further information, contact: Prof A.H. Zakri; tel: (81-3) 5467-2323; fax: 5467-2324; email: zakri@ias.unu.edu; Internet: <http://www.ias.unu.edu>.

2-4 April, Dushanbe, Tajikistan: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AND REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FOR CENTRAL ASIA. Organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and the UN Conference for Trade and Development, with the Government of Tajikistan. For further information contact: Jamshed Sharipov, tel: +992-37-2-213-861; fax: +992-37-2-216-901; e-mail: wto_unit@tojikiston.com; Internet: <http://www.unescap.org/ITID/mtg/iecrtr.htm>.

4-6 April, North Carolina, US: INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC GOODS AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AFTER THE TRIPS AGREEMENT OF 1994. The Centre for the Study of the Public Domain at Duke Law School is organising a conference, which will focus on the harmonization of international intellectual property rights (IPRs) since the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). For more information, please visit: <http://www.law.duke.edu/trips/index.html>.

8 April, New York, US: The Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization. This event will comprise a discussion with Claus-Dieter Ehlermann, former Chair of the Appellate Body, focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of the WTO dispute-settlement process and the challenges it faces in the future. For further

information, contact Michael Rhee, tel: +1-212-431-2865; email: mrhee@nyls.edu; internet: <http://www.nyls.edu/content.php?ID=95>.

20-21 May, Brussels, Belgium: THE BRUSSELS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE. Arranged by CEPS and EU Conferences, this meeting will address primarily Co2 emissions and the issue of carbon trading. For more information, please visit: <http://www.euconferences.com/fracclimate.htm>.

RESOURCES

NOTE ON THE HARBINSON DRAFT ON MODALITIES IN THE WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS. Agricultural Policy Research Division, Danish Research Institute of Food Economics (11 March 2003). This report analyses the most recent draft in the ongoing WTO agriculture negotiations -- the Harbinson Draft -- aiming at assessing the consequences of such its proposed compromise proposal. The authors conclude that the draft indeed represents a fair compromise proposal, not least in the light of the very significant differences of interest that exist among the key players in the negotiations. To access the note, visit: <http://www.foi.dk/engelsk/index.htm>.

JUDICIAL APPROACHES TO TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: THE EC AND THE WTO. By Nicola Notario (Cameron May International Law Publishers). This piece compares European Court of justice (ECJ) decisions and GATT/WTO rulings regarding trade and environment issues. This publication is divided into three main areas: the treatment reserved by the ECJ to the trade and environment conflict, GATT/WTO case-law on trade and environment, and analysis built upon the first two areas. For further information visit: <http://www.jus.uio.no/lm/cameronmay/cm.html>.

THE WTO'S PROBLEMATIC "LAST RESORT" AGAINST NONCOMPLIANCE. By Steve Charnovitz, 2002. This piece looks at the WTO dispute settlement system from two perspectives, the system itself and suggests that the WTO make greater use of public opinion. For further information, see: <http://www.slaw.unisg.ch/org/slaw/web.nsf/wwwAUWlausgabe/14FD2E79A5F0195FC1256CD70047C232>.

"Global Climate," by Hermann E. Ott in the YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 13 (2002). The article provides an overview of international climate policy 2002 and the results of the climate conference in New Delhi. To view the article, see: <http://www.wupperinst.org/download/Warning-Signs-Ott.pdf>.

COMPANY-COMMUNITY FORESTRY PARTNERSHIPS: FROM RAW DEALS TO MUTUAL GAINS? By James Mayers and Sonja Vermeulen, IIED 2002. This report examines a set of partnerships between companies and communities in the area of forestry, and tries to assess whether or not there are any substantial results created through these associations. For further information, see: http://www.iied.org/psf/publications_def.html#partnerships.

INTEGRATING LOCAL AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY VALUES: A REVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT. By Sonja Vermeulen and Izabella Koziell, IIED 2002. The authors argue that there is a new awareness of the need for biodiversity assessments. The book examines some assessment tools, and examples of actual practice, to identify how biodiversity assessments do and could integrate the different values that people attach to biological variety and variability. For further information, see: <http://www.earthprint.com/go.htm?to=9100IIED>.

"Sustainable growth criteria: minimum benchmarks and scenarios for employment and the environment" by Joachim H. Spangenberg, Ines Omann, Friedrich Hinterberger in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS 42 (3, 2002). The authors argue that, despite examination of the relationship between economic growth and environmental impact, no operational set of simple criteria has been developed as of yet to assess the sustainability of a given growth pattern. This paper attempts to sketch out such criteria, and to assess them by applying them to trans-disciplinary sustainability scenarios and model simulations.

STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2002. By the UN Forestry and Agriculture Organisation 2003. This publication is released every two years with the purpose of providing policymakers, civil society and stakeholders of the fisheries sector a comprehensive, global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture. It is divided into five parts, and considers trends in production, utilisation and trade in fisheries resources, and selected issues facing fishers and aquaculture, such as: implementing the ecosystem approach to capture fisheries management; reliable statistics as an essential basis for effective fisheries management; catch certification and documentation; poverty alleviation in small-scale fishing communities; and antibiotic residues in aquaculture products. To access the report, visit: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y7300e/y7300e00.htm>.

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