



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
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DEVELOPMENT

# Bridges

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### LEAD STORIES

#### WTO: US SURPRISE INITIATIVE TO RE- START TRADE TALKS

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick sent a letter to the trade ministers of WTO Members on 11 January, proposing to inject momentum back into the flagging trade talks. In his letter, he said he was taking a common sense approach to re-energise the talks and to avoid 2004 becoming a "lost year" for the Doha round. He outlined his approach on the key issues of agriculture, industrial goods, services, special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries and the Singapore issues of investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation (to view the letter, see <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Zoellick-letter.pdf>).

Zoellick concluded by proposing that Members gather for their next ministerial meeting in Hong Kong by the end of 2004 -- an early date deemed unrealistic by most observers due to the slow rate of progress in trade talks -- and agree on negotiating frameworks by mid-2004. He called for more involvement from capitals to find constructive compromises, and said he would hold discussions with key Members over the next few months. He also suggested that the rotating chairmanship of the WTO General Council go to a developing country "given the importance of combining trade liberalisation with development," mentioning Brazil, Chile, Pakistan, Singapore and South Africa as potential candidates. The post had been seen as slated for Japan's WTO Ambassador, a developed country candidate, given that the current chair comes from a developing country.

Following the failed WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September 2003, Members engaged in consultations on key issues during the rest of the year. At a General Council meeting in mid-December, Members decided simply to restart negotiating groups, rather than take stronger action to ensure that the round could be completed by its January 2005 deadline (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 December 2003,

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<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-12-17/story1.htm>). The US is currently involved in a host of bilateral trade deals with smaller countries, and after the breakdown of talks in Cancun, Zoellick's immediate reaction was to insist that the US will move forward with countries that played a "constructive" role at Cancun, leaving "won't do" countries behind (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-09-25/story1.htm>).

### **Agriculture at centre stage**

In his letter to ministers, Zoellick suggested that talks focus on core market access issues in agriculture, industrial goods and services, recognising agriculture as the starting point. On agriculture, he said that a date should be set for the elimination of export subsidies -- thus returning to an earlier US position, and breaking away from a US-EC deal made in August 2003. He also reiterated a US proposal from 2002 calling for the eventual elimination of all trade-distorting subsidies and barriers to market access. On agricultural market access, he supported substantial openings in both developed and developing countries with competitive agriculture sectors. He recognised the need to address the issue of cotton from a trade perspective as a part of the agriculture negotiations as a whole, as well as from a development perspective, including through economic reforms and through technology transfer to create new opportunities.

On industrial goods, he supported an ambitious formula for cutting tariffs, while allowing developing countries some flexibility, and zero-tariff initiatives in sectors where there was critical mass to support such an approach. On services, he called for more offers, in order to allow negotiations to build on the 40 offers already on the table. On S&D, he suggested discussion of different flexibilities for different countries and regions with varying needs, rather than blanket solutions covering the over 100 developing country Members. On the Singapore issues, he supported dropping investment and competition, while going ahead with negotiations on trade facilitation and considering different options -- including a plurilateral approach -- on government procurement.

### **EC reactions**

On 13 January, EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler spoke at the European Parliament. In addition to presenting a general overview of the trade talks (see <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Lamy-comment.pdf>), Lamy welcomed Zoellick's letter as a "good move" and said that "it looks as though the two big trade blocs -- the EU and the US -- are beginning to think along the same lines". He said the EC was ready to show flexibility in a number of areas, including the

Singapore issues and geographical indications, and had shown it was ready to engage seriously on agriculture. However, he also called on other partners to show flexibility, stressing that it "is simply not enough for one or a few members to be flexible". Lamy outlined upcoming talks with members of the G-20 group, and said that the first major milestone for the WTO would be to agree on modalities for agriculture, industrial products and the Singapore issues by March/April.

Fischler stressed two EC preconditions for an agreement on agriculture (see <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Fischler-comment.pdf>). First, he said any deal must lead to larger cuts in the Amber Box (trade distortive support) than the less trade distorting Blue Box (partly decoupled subsidies under production-limiting programmes). Second, on export subsidies, he said all its forms should be genuinely tackled, and tackled in parallel. As examples of export competition that need to be addressed, he mentioned state trading enterprises, differential export taxes and food aid dumping. He also highlighted an EC proposal to phase out all export subsidies on sensitive products for developing countries, but said developing country Members had not yet come forth with concrete proposals on specific products.

### **Swiss to host mini-ministerial at Davos**

Two dozen trade ministers will meet shortly in conjunction with the World Economic Forum in on 23 January in Davos, Switzerland, to discuss the Doha round of trade negotiations. Hosted by Swiss Foreign Minister Joseph Deiss, the meeting will discuss the 2004 WTO work programme, and ways out of the current deadlock.

WTO Members are expected to reactivate the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) and its negotiating bodies after a new set of chairs of the bodies have been selected. The first meeting of the General Council is scheduled for 11-12 February.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. Outlines Ideas to Revive Doha Round; Trading Partners Give Cautious Welcome," WTO REPORTER, 13 January 2004; "Mini WTO ministerial planned on sidelines of Davos economic forum," AFP, 13 January 2004; "US moves to restart stalled trade talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 12 January 2004; "Brussels prepares to negotiate with US," FINANCIAL TIMES, 12 January 2004.

## **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: LUMBER, BYRD AMENDMENT AND DSU REVIEW**

The year began without an immediate rush of new dispute settlement cases, despite the 1 January 2004 expiry of the "peace clause" (a nine-year moratorium on farming disputes at the WTO). Instead, the continuation of existing disputes -- including the Canadian-US softwood lumber case and a probable retaliation request this month on the US Byrd Amendment -- topped the agenda. WTO Members also engaged in discussion of the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) in late 2003.

### **Meeting delayed on retaliation for Byrd Amendment**

A number of countries have signalled their intention to request by 15 January a special dispute settlement body (DSB) meeting at which they will ask for WTO authorisation to retaliate against the US. Almost a year ago, a DSB panel found the US Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 -- also known as the Byrd Amendment -- to violate WTO rules. Named after US Senator Robert Byrd, the legislation allows US companies to claim money collected as antidumping or countervailing duty orders on foreign imports. The WTO ruling found the Byrd amendment a "non-permissible specific action against dumping or a subsidy" (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-23/story2.htm>). The 11 co-complainant countries had delayed the request for seeking authorisation to retaliate due to differences concerning the amount. Eight countries have said they are ready to retaliate to the tune of more than US\$ 700 million, the amount disbursed by the US government since the legislation was adopted.

The 11 co-complainants are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, EC, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mexico and Thailand.

### **Lumber dispute drags on**

On 12 January, Canada's International Trade Minister Jim Peterson met with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Commerce Secretary Don Evans in Washington in an attempt to resolve differences in the Canadian-US lumber dispute (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-08/story3.htm>). Canada turned down a US proposal aimed at ending tariffs on Canadian lumber exports. The proposal would have locked all Canadian provinces into a quota on softwood exports for at least three years, limiting Canada's access to the US market. During the meeting, the US Department of Commerce presented a new method for calculating antidumping and countervailing duties on Canadian softwood,

reducing the penalty from 27.2 percent to 21.6 percent. A North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) panel is set to review this new duty rate before it can come into effect.

Last year, both NAFTA and WTO interim panel decisions had supported Canada, finding that the US International Trade Commission (ITC) injury ruling on softwood lumber clashed with international trade rules. The ITC had found that US softwood lumber industry was threatened by allegedly subsidised and dumped imports of softwood lumber from Canada, and recommended the imposition of US countervailing and anti-dumping duties.

### **DSU Review: More debate over unresolved issues**

The DSB met for a special (negotiating) session on the review of the DSU from 18-19 December 2003. Members continued to discuss a Mexican study on DSU reform (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-11-26/story5.htm>). During the meeting, the Chair proposed a list of questions to guide an issue-by-issue discussion on: panel proceedings, the appellate body, and the compliance and implementation phase. Questions included whether an earlier establishment of panels should be facilitated and whether appointing at least one developing country panellist should be made more automatic in cases where developing country Members are party to the dispute. Most Members gave their reactions, but there were no converging views on the issues, even among developing countries. Before the meeting, Indonesia and Thailand circulated a communication (TN/DS/W/61, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), outlining a number of questions and issues, which is set to be discussed in further detail at the next meeting on DSU review.

The next meeting of the DSB is scheduled for 23 January, with a special session on the review of the DSU following from 26-27 January.

ICTSD reporting; "Softwood Lumber: Canada Pleased With NAFTA Ruling On Threat Of Injury," DFAIT NEWS RELEASE, 5 September 2003; "Canada rejects proposed softwood lumber deal with U.S.," GAZETTE TIMES, 13 January 2004; "U.S. proposes cuts to softwood lumber duty," VANCOUVER SUN, 13 January 2004; "11 Co-Complainants Delay Meeting On Retaliation for Byrd Amendment," WTO REPORTER Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

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**OTHER NEWS**

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**EU AGREES COD RECOVERY PLAN AND  
2004 QUOTAS**

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In late 2003 the European Council of Fisheries Ministers adopted a long-term recovery plan for cod and 2004 quotas for cod, hake, whiting and other fish species. Following all-night talks on 19 December, the annual three-day Council meeting agreed on more lenient quotas than proposed by fisheries scientists--who had suggested a total catch ban on cod and hake in certain areas -- given that long-term recovery measures would be in place for the most threatened species. The council also agreed to limit the days at sea of the EU fishing fleet, and to improve monitoring to ensure that the fishing industry kept to the set quotas. While cod and hake quotas were kept at 2003 levels, the quotas for prawn and haddock, deemed in better health, were increased.

The aim of the plan was to allow severely depleted stocks to recover at rates ranging from 5 percent to 30 percent per year. "The long-term aim is to keep fishing and if there are no fish, we cannot do that," said EU Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler. The 2002 EU Common Fisheries Plan reform had placed emphasis on a longer-term approach to managing fisheries, rather than short-term, annual plans (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-01-23/story2.htm>).

**Scientists, environmentalists call for stricter measures...**

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the EC Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF) had recommended a moratorium on several cod stocks, and green groups pointed to the fishery off eastern Canada where the cod became commercially extinct in the early 1990s and never has recovered. European cod stocks are now at only one-tenth of their 1970s levels. UK scientists at the Royal Society stressed that fishing quotas set by politicians were, on average, 20 to 30 percent too high and that "essentially this is condemning the fishing industry in 10 to 20 years time. Putting the short-term interests of the constituents before the long-term interests of the industry is not a solution".

Reacting to the 2004 quotas, the environmental group WWF said that "in supporting a zero catch for cod, the European Commission could have aided the recovery of the fishery, and ensured a future for fishermen," but instead "the Commission has compromised too much,

and fish stocks and fishermen will both suffer from this gross mismanagement".

**...while fishermen want less restrictions**

Prior to the Council of Fisheries meeting, fishermen across Europe organised protests and demonstrations, blocking several ports in France. Pierre-George Dachicourt, president of France's national fishers' committee, said that "Europe's fishing industry is going to collapse," stressing that the proposed quotas would "ruin the rich tradition of fishing all along Europe's coasts". According to fisher associations, the jobs of 200,000 fishermen were at stake. During the talks, Spain, Denmark, France and the UK pushed for higher quotas in the talks, while countries such as Germany and Sweden spoke up in favour of following the advice given by the scientists. In the end, no moratorium was set for cod in order to avoid the most adverse economic and social impacts. According to Fischler, "the next few years will not be easy ones for some fishermen... however, these long term plans will finally give them a clearer view of what to expect and will ensure at the end of the day that the future of the EU's fishing industry is more secure".

In related news, the EU also ratified the UN Agreement on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish in December.

To view the EU 2004 catch quotas, visit [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l\\_344/l\\_34420031231en00010119.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_344/l_34420031231en00010119.pdf)

"Europe Sets Recovery Plan, Not Ban, for Cod Fishing," ENS, 22 December 2003; "Outcome of the Fisheries Council of 17-19 December 2003," EC RELEASE, 22 December 2003; "Fish quotas aim to halt decline," BBC, 19 December 2003; "European fishery officials inching toward agreement," AP, 19 December 2003; "E.U. fishers protest protections for depleted fish stocks," AP, 11 December 2003.

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**IN BRIEF**

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**LEADERS DISCUSS TRADE AT  
AMERICAS SUMMIT**

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The heads of state of 34 countries of the Americas met at a Special Summit in Monterrey, Mexico from 12-13 January to discuss, among others, efforts to combat poverty, promote social development, and achieve

economic growth with equity. Trade issues featured high on the agenda, in particular in relation to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). While US President Bush spoke out in favour of free trade and an expedient completion of the controversial FTAA, other leaders, in particular Venezuelan President Chavez, Brazilian President Da Silva, and Argentinean President Kirchner called for a focus on social issues. Chavez called for a "new moral architecture" in the region "favouring the weakest," including the establishment of a humanitarian fund and Da Silva rejected "a perverse model that wrongly separated the economic from the social, put stability against growth and separated responsibility from justice". In their final, watered-down Declaration of Nuevo León, the leaders -- on the subject of trade -- reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha round of trade talks, recognised the essential role of agricultural trade, and supported the agreement by ministers at Miami in November 2003 to conclude the FTAA "in the established timetable" (for information of the FTAA Summit see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-11-26/story3.htm>). The leaders also agreed to hold anti-graft discussions.

To access the Declaration of Nuevo León, visit <http://www.oas.org/main/main.asp?sLang=E&sLink=htt> [p://www.oas.org/documents/SpecialSummitMexico](http://www.oas.org/documents/SpecialSummitMexico)

ICTSD reporting; "Bush lays into the left at Americas summit but agrees concessions," THE GUARDIAN, 14 January 2004; "Leaders agree to back trade area for Americas - In concession to Brazil and Venezuela, accord does not include deadline," BALTIMORE SUN, 14 January 2004; "Modest gains for Bush at Summit of Americas - Sweeping promises, sharp divisions as 34-nation meeting ends," SAN FRANCISCO CRONICLE, 14 January 2004.

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### **SOUTH ASIAN NATIONS AGREE FREE TRADE DEAL**

The foreign ministers of the countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) signed a framework agreement for free trade on 6 January at their 12th summit in Islamabad, Pakistan. The seven countries involved -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka hope to improve economic cooperation and development in the region, populated by 1.4 billion of which 40 percent live on less than a dollar per day, through the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). The trade accord will enter into force in 2006, with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka cutting tariffs to between zero and five percent within seven years, and the other parties within ten years. Increased cooperation under the SAARC, which has been in existence for 18 years, has been hampered by the

tense relations between India and Pakistan. The new free trade deal was seen by observers as a sign of improved relations between these two key members, and its prospects as depending on those relations. Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, who chaired the final session of the meeting, said the signing of the SAFTA agreement represented a "historic milestone" for the South Asian region. Others were more cautious, with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga noting that "the conclusion of SAFTA may not automatically lead to enhance intra-regional trade. We need a number of trade facilitation measures in order that we achieve the benefits of SAFTA. Let us never forget that in spite of our geographic proximity and similarity of economic infrastructure, that intra-SAARC trade still remains at an extremely unsatisfactory five percent, compared for instance, with 38 percent within ASEAN".

To view a copy of the agreement, visit <http://www.dawn.com/2004/01/07/top6.htm>

"South Asian leaders ink framework agreement on free trade," HI PAKISTAN, 6 January 2004; "South Asia free-trade pact agreed," BBC, 6 January 2004; "SAFTA alone not enough to boost intra-regional trade - CBK," SRI LANKA DAILY MIRROR, 7 January 2004; "Hopes high for South Asian trade bloc to emerge from summit," CHANNEL NEWS ASIA, 5 January 2004.

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### **WORLD BANK STUDY DETAILS EFFECTS OF NAFTA AT TEN**

The World Bank released a report on the tenth anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in late December 2003, highlighting some of the agreement's impacts on Mexico. The report -- entitled "Lessons from NAFTA for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries: A Summary of Research Findings" -- estimates that although global exports, foreign direct investment and per capita income have increased, partially due to NAFTA, the agreement alone "is not enough for Mexico to achieve economic convergence with Canada and the US". The report recommends reforms to improve macroeconomic stability, the improvement of institutions and the investment climate, and the establishment of educational and innovation systems that foster technological and productivity growth. Guillermo Perry, World Bank Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean noted that "the most developed and competitive regions and sectors have clearly benefited from the trade liberalisation, while those lagging behind have not". While technologically advanced businesses and larger agricultural enterprises in Mexico were able to increase exports,



those less advanced or smaller generally reaped fewer benefits from the agreement.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace recently released a similar report (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-11-26/inbrief.htm#3>).

To access the study visit <http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/LAC/LAC.nsf/ECADocbyUnid/32E02C48D1A7695685256CBB0060CA65?OpenDocument>

"Lessons from NAFTA for Latin America & the Caribbean," WORLD BANK RELEASE, 17 December 2003; "World Bank says NAFTA gave Mexico a healthy boost," REUTERS, 17 December 2003.

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### **G8 TARGETS SOCIAL ISSUES, EMPLOYMENT**

Labour ministers from the Group of Eight (G8) industrial nations met in Stuttgart from 14 -16 December 2003 at a meeting on "Growth and Employment: The Future of the Working Society in a Changing World" to tackle social and employment issues. In a joint statement, the group recognised "the need for increased collaboration by international institutions with respect to the impact of global policy issues on employment policy" and suggested the development of an inter-institutional dialogue forum comprising the UN International Labour Organisation (ILO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the WTO, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The G8 labour ministers encouraged the WTO to continue its efforts to move forward on the Doha round of trade talks, underlining the importance of world trade and economic integration in its contribution to global growth and employment creation.

The Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US make up the G8. In addition, representatives from the ILO, the European Commission and the OECD were present at the meeting, and ministers held consultations with the business community and trade unions. The G8 Heads of State will meet this year in the US.

"ILO Director-General welcomes G8 call for stronger social and employment dimension of globalisation," ILO PRESS RELEASE, 17 December 2003; "Fair Employment Tops G-8 Labour Ministerial Meeting", UN WIRE, 18 December 2003.

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### **CLOSER TRADE LINKS IN SOUTH AMERICA**

On 16 December 2003, the MERCOSUR countries Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and three members of the Andean Community (Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela) signed an Economic Complementary Agreement envisaged to create a free trade area between both blocks, to come into effect on 1 July this year. The agreement concluded a process that began in 1995, and will include a tariff reduction schedule for goods with phase-out periods of ten to 15 years, depending on the level of development of the member countries. It also includes language referring to other trade disciplines such as antidumping, countervailing and compensatory measures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, rules of origin, and contemplates a dispute settlement mechanism.

Also on 16 December, Peru concluded its negotiations with MERCOSUR to become an associated member. Bolivia is already an associated member of MERCOSUR. These two agreements, along with the Complementary Agreement between MERCOSUR and Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela -- although limited in scope -- provide a stepping stones for South American regional integration, something Brazil actively has been supporting in the recent months.

"Nace en Montevideo el área de libre comercio de Suramérica," EL TIEMPO, 17 December 2003; "Perú es aceptado en el MERCOSUR," EL MERCURIO, 17 December 2003; "Se conformó un poderoso bloque sudamericano," LA REPÚBLICA, 17 December 2003.

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### **ELEPHANTS STILL POACHED FOR ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE**

Undercover investigators from the WWF and the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC recently discovered that Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Senegal are selling illegal ivory in record volume. The investigators found ivory that had been poached illegally equalling the amount from over 760 elephants -- more elephants than live in the wild in these three countries. The ivory came mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon, where the elephant population is being threatened. Conservation groups believe that only 400-600,000 elephants, which is between one to twelve percent of the population 70 years ago, remain in all of Africa. Passed in 1989, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) banned the sale of ivory obtained by poaching and listed elephants as an endangered species. However, CITES is being inadequately implemented in these three African nations. Susan

Lieberman, director of WWF's International Species Program, believes that "not only is there a lack of political will to implement CITES... [but] corruption is preventing effective controls on the ivory trade".

The report is available at <http://www.panda.org/downloads/species/westafricanivoryreport.pdf>

"Illegal Ivory Trade Thrives in West Africa," ENS 15 December 2003; "Green Groups Accuse Three African States Over Ivory," REUTERS, 17 December 2003.

subashini.narasimhan@unece.org; Internet: [http://www.unece.org/env/wgso/Sustainable%20Development/sd\\_forum.jan2004.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/wgso/Sustainable%20Development/sd_forum.jan2004.htm)

16 January 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR UNCTAD XI - CIVIL SOCIETY HEARING. This meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations. UNCTAD XI will be held from 13-18 June 2003 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and is seen as an opportunity for tackling the most pressing developmental challenges confronting developing countries. For questions, including future meetings and accreditation to the Conference, please contact Amel Haffouz, email: [amel.haffouz@unctad.org](mailto:amel.haffouz@unctad.org); Internet: <http://www.unctad.org>

## 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](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming Up: 15-21 January

12-16 January 2004, Gland, Switzerland: 30TH MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE. Ramsar is the first of the modern global intergovernmental treaties on conservation and wise use of natural resources. The Standing Committee meets annually to carry out interim activity between each COP on matters previously approved by the Conference; prepare documentation for consideration at the next COP; supervise implementation of policy by the Ramsar Bureau and execution of the Bureau's budget; and decide upon applications for project support from the Ramsar Small Grants Fund. For further information, contact: Dwight Peck, Executive Assistant for Communications, tel: (+41 22) 999-0170; fax: 999-0169; email: [peck@ramsar.org](mailto:peck@ramsar.org); Internet: <http://ramsar.org/meetings.htm>

15-16 January 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNECE REGION. The First Regional Implementation Forum On Sustainable Development is being organised by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Forum aims at providing substantial inputs to the Review Year of the UNECE and contribute to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) scheduled for 16-30 April 2004. For further information contact the UNECE Secretariat, tel: +41 22 917-4444; fax: 917-0107; email:

16-21 January 2004, Mumbai, India: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM. Organised by the India General Council (IGC), India Working Committee (IWC), India Organising Committee (IOC) and Mumbai Organising Committee (MOC). People's movements across the world are working to demonstrate that the path to sustainable development and social and economic justice does not lie in neoliberal globalisation but in alternative models for people-centred and self-reliant progress. WSF India offers a platform to discuss issues of concern to civil society aimed at building a society centred on the human person. For further information contact the WSF Secretariat, tel: +91-22-2421-6249; fax: +91-22-2421-6382; email: [wsfindia@vsnl.net](mailto:wsfindia@vsnl.net); Internet: <http://www.wsfindia.org/anotherworld.php>

17 January, Dhaka, Bangladesh: GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND CHALLENGES OF MULTILATERALISM. This meeting, organised by the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, will focus on trade and development agendas. For further information visit <http://www.iccbwbo.org/ibc.htm>

21-25 January 2004, Davos, Switzerland: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING. For more information on the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum contact the secretariat at tel: +41-22-869-1212; fax: +41-22-786-2744; email: [contact@weforum.org](mailto:contact@weforum.org); Internet: <http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Events+subhome>

#### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva,

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

16 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

20-22 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

21-22 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA.

### Other Forthcoming Events

4-6 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD-COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT WORKSHOP TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE. This workshop will focus on "Elements of National Sui Generis Systems for the Preservation, Protection and Promotion of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices and Options for an International Framework". The objective is to draft a menu of actions and policies which could be included in holistic national systems for the preservation, protection and promotion of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. For further information contact Sophia Twarog, UNCTAD, tel: +41 22 907 5082; email: [sophia.twarog@unctad.org](mailto:sophia.twarog@unctad.org); Internet: [http://www.unctad.org/trade\\_env](http://www.unctad.org/trade_env)

4-7 February, New Delhi, India: FOURTH DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2004. This summit, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), will focus on the theme of Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Addressing the WEHAB Agenda. For further information contact the Summit Secretariat, TERI at tel: +91-11-2468-2138; fax: +91-11-2468-2144; email: [dsds@teri.res.in](mailto:dsds@teri.res.in); Internet: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds>

25 February, Adelaide, Australia: SYMPOSIUM ON WHY HAVE A WTO? FOCUSING ON THE WELFARE EFFECTS OF WTO LAW. Sessions include Accommodating Non-economics Objectives in WTO Law; SPS, Food Safety and GMOs; and Intellectual Property. This symposium is an opportunity for lawyers and economists to hear presentations and to engage in discussion on the underlying principles of WTO law. For further information, please see the website of the Institute for International Economics, Business and Law at <http://www.iibel.adelaide.edu.au/symposium/index.html> or the website of the Sydney Centre for International and Global Law [http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/centres\\_institutes/SCI/LFutureEvents.htm](http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/centres_institutes/SCI/LFutureEvents.htm)

24-26 March, Montreal, Canada: EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. For further information contact the Ozone Secretariat, tel: +254-2-62-3850; fax: +254-2-62-3601; email: [ozoneinfo@unep.org](mailto:ozoneinfo@unep.org); Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone>

14-25 June, Bonn, Germany: TWENTIETH SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO THE UNFCCC. For further information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: +49-228-815-1000; fax: +49-228-815-1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>

4-6 November, Port Harcourt, Nigeria: SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE NIGER DELTA. Organised by the Rivers Economic Development Forum, the theme of the conference will be Capacity Building: Strategies For Poverty Reduction in the Niger Delta. For further information contact Uduak Isong Head of Administration, Rivers Economic Development Forum, tel: +234-084-485023; email: [rivforum@yahoo.com](mailto:rivforum@yahoo.com)

29 November to 10 December, Buenos Aires, Argentina: TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC. For further information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: +49-228-815-1000; fax: +49-228-815-1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>

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## RESOURCES

DEFENDING INTERESTS: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN WTO LITIGATION. By Gregory C. Shaffer (December 2003, Brookings Institution Press). This book examines the growing interaction between private enterprises and public officials to challenge foreign trade barriers. Building on more than one hundred interviews with former and current trade officials and private attorneys in the US and Europe, Gregory Shaffer calls attention to the ways in which well-organised private parties are using the WTO's legal system to advance their own commercial ambitions, and how public officials increasingly are dependent on their assistance. For further information see <http://www.brook.edu/press/books/defendinginterests.htm>

STATE OF THE WORLD 2004: SPECIAL FOCUS - THE CONSUMER SOCIETY. By the Worldwatch Institute (January 2004). This book examines how we consume, why we consume, and what impact our consumption choices have on the planet and our fellow human beings. From factory-farmed chicken to old-growth lumber to gas-guzzling cars, many of the things we buy support destructive industries. But businesses, governments, and concerned citizens can harness this



same purchasing power to build markets for less-hazardous products, including fair-traded foods, green power, and fuel-cell vehicles. For further information see: <http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/sow/2004/>

**AMERICAN PATENT POLICY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: THE CASE FOR POLICY CHANGE.** By Michael R. Taylor and Jerry Cayford. In this report the authors assert that American patent policy on bio-engineered seeds and plants may hinder adoption of these agricultural advances in many African countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where 70 percent of people are rural and heavily dependent on farm output. Electronic copies of the new report are available at: <http://www.rff.org/rff/News/Features/American-Patent-Policy-Biotechnology-and-African-Agriculture.cfm>

"Policy Discussion Forum (PDF) on the Doha Round of negotiations and its outlook post-Cancun", prepared by Centre for Global Agreements, Legislation and Trade (TERI). The setback experienced at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Cancun, Mexico from 10 to 14 September 2003, has left many wondering about the fate of developmental agenda in the ongoing, already in trouble, Doha Round of trade negotiation. This discussion paper was the background paper for the Policy Discussion Forum (PDF) on the Doha Round of negotiations and its outlook post-Cancun organized at TERI, New Delhi, India, on 20 November 2003. The current version includes the main points made by subject experts during the PDF. For further information see: <http://www.teriin.org/discussion/enviro/doha.pdf>

**UNCTAD HANDBOOK OF STATISTICS 2003.** By the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This provides a comprehensive collection of statistical data relevant to the analysis of international trade, foreign direct investment and development, for individual countries and for regional and economic groupings. Within a consistent framework, the figures are structured into eight following chapters: International merchandise trade, Trade and commodity price indices, Structure of international trade by region, Structure of international trade by product, International trade in services, International finance, Indicators of development, and Special studies. For further information see: <http://www.unctad.org/statistics/handbook>

**SURVIVAL FOR A SMALL PLANET: THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.** Edited by Tom Bigg (Earthscan/IIED) This book brings together dozens of the leading experts from around the world in a 'post-WSSD' analysis of the prospects for sustainable development on all the major policy fronts including security, finance, urban governance, radical partnerships, migration, health, access to resources

and the role of markets. The distinguished group of authors examines the contributions that governments, business and civil society can each make to improve our prospects and they set out the agenda for those working to achieve a sustainable world. For further information see:

[www.earthprint.com/go.htm?to=9286IIED](http://www.earthprint.com/go.htm?to=9286IIED)

**2003 REPORT ON UNITED STATES BARRIERS TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT.** By the European Commission. This nineteenth annual report on barriers to trade and investment in the US, details the obstacles that EU exporters and investors face in the US. It highlights those obstacles that the EU believe are affecting the legitimate rights of EU companies to conduct trade with the US. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said: "Although the vast majority of transatlantic trade passes unhindered, we need to review regularly those obstacles which exist and pursue action to remove them. This will ensure that business on both sides of the Atlantic benefit from clearer, more transparent trading conditions. This is also why we need to advance in the Positive Economic Agenda adopted in May 2002." For the report see: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/bilateral/countries/usa/pr191203\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/bilateral/countries/usa/pr191203_en.htm)

"Kicking Away the Ladder: The "Real" History of Free Trade" by Ha-Joon Chang. "Central to the neo-liberal discourse on globalisation is the conviction that free trade, more than free movements of capital or labour, is the key to global prosperity. Even many of those who are not enthusiastic about all aspects of globalisation, eg. free-trade economist, Jagdish Bhagwati, advocating capital control versus some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accusing the developed countries of not opening up their agricultural markets - seem to agree that free trade is the most benign, or at least a less problematic, element in the progress of globalisation." See full article online at: <http://www.fpif.org/papers/03trade/index.html>

## Electronic Resources

An up-to-date listing of bilateral investment treaties concluded by the United States with various foreign governments - including the legal status of such agreements - is available on the website of the US Department of State at: <http://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/fs/22422.htm>

## POSITION VACANCY

### Action Aid Food And Hunger Policy Advisor

Action Aid - Italy (Azione Aiuto), is hiring a Food and Hunger Policy Advisor, to be based in Rome. The advisor will, inter alia: develop and maintain policy-

focused relationships with the food and rural development IGOs located in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP and possibly IPGRI) and contribute to the development of a positive agenda for the AAI Thematic Programme on Food Security and Hunger; help shape the international agenda on farmers' rights, benefit sharing, plant genetic resources and agreements and allow AAI to participate in wider debates on food sovereignty beyond the trade concern; and link food & hunger agendas at the global and European levels in coordination in particular with the Milan, Brussels and London-based specialised advocacy staff. The incumbent should have, among other things, at least five years of experience at the senior level in the development or environment sector, including knowledge of major multilateral agreements and processes, fluency in English and working knowledge of Italian, and direct exposure to food & hunger issues at the international level. The application deadline is 20 January 2004. For a full description of the post, see <http://www.azioneaiuto.it/site/download/JD.ROME.pdf>. To apply, send a CV and cover letter, marked "Rome food analyst 04" to Marco De Ponte, Action Aid International (Azione Aiuto), via Broggi 19/A, 20129 Milan, Italy.

A searchable archive of **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**® can be accessed at:  
[http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin\\_ID=14&SID=](http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=)

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