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### LEAD STORIES

#### AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS: SIGNALS OF RENEWED MOMENTUM CROPPING UP

New signs of movement in agriculture negotiations -- the key element of the Doha round -- are cropping up after a period of scant progress following the collapse of trade talks in Cancun in September 2003. Due to a number of high-level meetings between individual trade ministers and groups of ministers over the past weeks (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-02-19/story1.htm>), there are new signs that agriculture talks may be picking up speed. Key actors such as the US, the EC and the G-20 group of developing countries have signalled a renewed commitment to the round and a willingness to compromise. Recent remarks from both the EC and the US suggest that the task of reaching an agreement on at least a framework for agriculture modalities could be accomplished by August. Geneva observers have, however, cautioned against too much enthusiasm at this point, waiting to see concrete results at the next Committee on Agriculture (CoA) special (negotiating) session. The CoA's newly nominated Chair, New Zealand's Timothy Groser, has scheduled new WTO agriculture negotiations for 22-26 March in Geneva.

#### First CoA special session scheduled

Trade sources reported on 20 February that the newly designated Chair of the special session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA), New Zealand's Timothy Groser, has set 22-26 March as the dates for the first post-Cancun agriculture negotiation session, thus formally relaunching the WTO agriculture negotiations that had come to a complete standstill after the Cancun collapse last September.

In a message sent to delegations, Groser explained that he would try to strike a balance between providing opportunities for Members to consult and negotiate among themselves during the session, and the need to ensure a transparent process. Brief formal meetings will

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only be held at the beginning of the session -- mainly to formally appoint Tim Groser as Chair of the special session -- and at the very end of the session to conclude the week of negotiations. Half-day informal special sessions are scheduled for day three and day five for reporting back and stocktaking purposes. During the rest of the session, participants will be given the opportunity to discuss and negotiate in bilateral and plurilateral mode. Groser reportedly intended to limit plenary discussion to a minimum, as delegations already have made their initial negotiating position abundantly clear. "Little purpose would be served by yet more extensive formal statements addressed to the Chair," Groser told delegates. But Groser also said he was generally available to attend bilateral and plurilateral consultations, upon invitation and only as an observer.

### US putting pressure on EC

The US has recently been playing an active role seeking to move agriculture talks forward, in marked contrast to its positioning in the lead-up to the Cancun ministerial conference. In a press conference on 20 February in Geneva, US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Zoellick said that if the EC and the G-10 countries (which includes Members such as Japan, Switzerland and Norway who maintain relatively high protection for their farm sectors) accepted to eliminate agricultural export subsidies, the US could agree "tomorrow" to "eliminate the subsidy element of export credits" and to discipline its food aid programmes. Zoellick also stated that the US was comfortable with the idea of capping product-specific Amber Box support, a proposal put forward by many non-subsidising WTO Members that found its way in the Derbez agriculture framework text drafted in Cancun (see BRIDGES Daily Updates, 14 September 2004, [http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto\\_daily/ben030914.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto_daily/ben030914.htm)). "We can support that, I don't know whether Europe can," Zoellick said. On a different note, the USTR made clear that the US was still sticking to its original proposal to eliminate the Blue Box (partly decoupled support linked to production limitation programmes), but he again questioned whether the EC could agree to this point. "If Europe can eliminate the Blue Box, that is great, we don't use it," Zoellick said. In contrast, in its agricultural framework text jointly tabled with the EC prior to the Cancun meeting (BRIDGES Weekly, 13 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/story2.htm>), the US had supported maintaining the Blue Box, capping it at five percent of the total value of agricultural production.

Zoellick's remarks came as a follow-up to a letter he had sent to WTO Members on 11 January where he urged them not to let 2004 become a wasted year for

the WTO negotiations (BRIDGES Weekly, 14 January 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-01-14/story1.htm>). Zoellick has also been touring the capitals of a number of key WTO Members to discuss the Doha round (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-02-19/story1.htm>), and attended a larger gathering in Kenya -- with 15 African trade ministers and the EC's Pascal Lamy -- which wrapped up on 19 February with some cautiously positive signals of progress.

### EC still on the defensive

While EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy generally welcomed the US initiative, Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler criticised the language chosen in Zoellick's letter for giving the impression that the only "precondition" for completing the agriculture talks would be for Europe to phase out its export subsidy programmes. He replied by reiterating the general EC approach that the talks should not only focus on export subsidies, but also on export credits, state trading mechanisms and surplus disposal in the guise of food aid -- export competition tools not used by the EC, but employed by the US, Canada and Australia.

Nevertheless, there have been recent signs that the EC could show more flexibility than in the pre-Cancun agriculture negotiations. For example, Fischler, on a visit to Washington, DC from 19-20 February, noted that "without progress in agriculture, there won't be any progress". Furthermore, trade sources reported that Lamy had recently indicated -- for the first time -- that the EC would be prepared to consider the elimination of agricultural export subsidies.

### G-20 countries consulting in two directions

At an informal 12-13 February meeting in Geneva between the G-20 and EC representatives, discussions mainly focused on the agriculture negotiations. According to sources, the talks did not yield substantive results but the atmosphere was positive. The EC showed no new flexibility, reiterating its offer to eliminate export subsidies on products of interest to developing countries, while making clear that these would not, for the moment, include sensitive commodities such as sugar, dairy and beef. The G-20 coalition reiterated its call for the elimination of all export subsidies and for substantive decreases in Blue and Amber Box support. Market access was not discussed in detail. However, European sources reported that key G-20 members had indicated that they could agree to an EC demand that major agriculture exporting developing countries -- such as Brazil -- be granted less special and differential treatment (S&D) than other developing countries. On the margins, sources reported, the G-20 also held

informal talks with G-10 countries Switzerland, Norway, Japan, South Korea and Israel, which have positions close to the EC.

At a 23-25 February meeting of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters in Costa Rica, several G-20 members (the two groups partially overlap) met with key trading partners representing the more ambitious camp in agriculture negotiations. According to trade sources, Cairns Group members decided to collaborate more closely and come up with a new negotiating position. The Cairns Group, traditionally a very active alliance comprising, inter alia, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, has been less active recently, especially since the emergence of the G-20. The eight developing country Cairns Group members Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Paraguay, the Philippines and South Africa are also members of the G-20.

The most visible divergence in the two camps' positions is in the area of market access, where the Cairns Group calls for substantially increased market openings in both developed and developing countries. Countries such as India, Pakistan and South Africa would, however, only accept making much less ambitious commitments in terms of market access than what they are demanding from their developed country trading partners. In a joint communiqué released on 25 February, Cairn Group ministers agreed to continue pushing for "ambitious cuts in domestic support and the elimination of all forms of export subsidies," adding that this would "permit a more ambitious outcome on the market access pillar by developing countries". Moreover, the Group acknowledged that developing countries should be granted "special flexibility" allowing them "to take into account the particular challenges they face, such as food and livelihood security and rural development". Ministers also "agreed that the concepts of special products and a special safeguard mechanism for developing countries are to be elaborated as part of the approach in the market access area".

WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, newly-appointed Chair Groser of the special session of the WTO CoA, USTR Zoellick and Mexico's Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez also attended the closed meeting.

### **Will the political statements translate into progress in Geneva?**

In terms of timing, Zoellick, supported by the EC and others, has proposed holding a mini-ministerial or high-level General Council meeting in Geneva this summer to agree on negotiation frameworks. The proposal is making its way through the corridors at the WTO. "Our goal would be to try to get done this summer what we

didn't get done in Cancun," Zoellick told a news conference in Singapore on 13 February. Lamy said on 19 February that he saw a "window of opportunity" to resume the Doha negotiations between now and August.

Many delegations in Geneva indicate, however, that such a meeting would be premature, unless there was prior agreement on key issues between the US, EC and the G-20. A developing country source noted that the recent consultations between the three key actors had been "all but successful" and that much of the "recent statements and rumours" did not necessarily reflect the degree of convergence in Geneva-based consultations. He said Members needed to translate recent political rhetoric in new negotiation positions. Another source said that any forecasts made at this stage could only be highly misleading, and recommended waiting for the formal statements in the forthcoming agriculture week. Several delegates acknowledged that no major progress could be expected after the summer break, with the EC appointing a new commission in November, and the US largely absorbed by the upcoming presidential elections in autumn.

ICTSD reporting; "Agreement in WTO Talks This Year Unlikely, Supachai Says, but July 'Framework' Possible", WTO REPORTER, 24 February 2004; "Press briefing by U.S. Trade Representative Zoellick", Geneva, 20 February 2004; "EU will not revisit its negotiating position on farm trade before WTO talks next months", WTO REPORTER, 23 February 2004; "New WTO agriculture chair fixes March dates for next negotiating session", WTO REPORTER, 20 February 2004; "U.S. seeks to inject momentum in WTO talks", UPI, 20 February 2004; "Zoellick World tour on the Doha Round", GENEVA WATCH, 20 February 2004; "EU's Fischler urges U.S. to move in WTO talks as vital to success", WTO REPORTER, 20 February 2004; "Zoellick seeks to revive dialogue", THE WASHINGTON TIMES, 7 February 2004; "Developing countries cool to U.S.-EU plan for early WTO ministerial to spur trade talks", WTO REPORTER, 18 February 2004; "EU, G-20 hold meeting on jump starting Doha round talks, cite 'good atmosphere'", WTO REPORTER, 17 February 2004; "Lamy backs scrapping export subsidies, but EU members need push, USTR says", WTO REPORTER, 25 February 2004.

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### **CTD: DECLINING COMMODITY PRICES IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

The WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) held its 48th session on 18 February 2004, chaired by newly-elected Ambassador Trevor Clarke (Barbados). Discussions in the Committee focused

mainly on the issue of declining commodity prices, which had been introduced by Kenya. The meeting formally elected Ambassador Clarke as the Committee's new chair for meetings in regular and dedicated sessions (small economies) and Ambassador Ian de Jong (Netherlands) as chair of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries.

### **The problem of declining commodity prices**

Kenya stressed the importance of addressing the decline in commodity prices, and said it would submit a paper before the next CTD session outlining its expectations of CTD action on the issue. The paper reportedly will elaborate on and add detail to a May 2003 submission by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (WT/COMTD/W/113, accessible at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), highlighting the need for urgent action to deal with the crisis caused by the long-term price decline of primary commodities. Most developing countries, including India, Pakistan and Brazil, supported Kenya's intervention. According to one delegate, Kenya said the issue of declining terms of trade had many dimensions, including those related to tariff peaks, technology transfer and agricultural subsidies -- all of which were under the purview of various WTO negotiating bodies.

Kenya suggested that substantive discussions on the various aspects of the commodities issue could be held in CTD special sessions, or transmitted for examination in other WTO bodies. Pakistan cautioned against diffusing the issue within various bodies. Recognising the Pakistani concern, many speakers suggested inviting relevant experts from other organisations to join the discussions. An African delegate stated that aspects of the commodities issue should be discussed in other WTO bodies, with a report could to the CTD. The US reportedly cautioned against having the WTO handle non-trade issues, and added that the problem was market-related -- pointing to issues such as competitiveness, horizontal and vertical diversification and investment -- rather than a question of supply management. The US felt the commodity price decline needed to be handled by 'market-based' instruments such as commodity-risk derivatives. The EC highlighted the importance of damage verification in countries affected by declining commodity prices, and greater access to finance and capacity building.

Uganda and Tanzania also intervened at the meeting. Referring to calls for 'diversification' made by some WTO Members, they reportedly remarked that the same degree of emphasis was not being given to removing the various market access barriers that developing countries faced.

Chair requests submissions on para. 51 by next session

Discussions on para. 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (on reflecting sustainable development in the negotiations) did not make much headway within the CTD. According to a trade source, the CTD has heard reports from the groups negotiating non-agricultural market access, agriculture and services. Reportedly, the 'development' aspects in these reports were mainly focused on developing country proposals relating to market access and special and differential treatment. At the meeting, the CTD was briefed on the development aspects of the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding. The Negotiating Group on Rules and the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment have yet to brief the CTD. Chair Clarke asked Members to submit new ideas on how to operationalise para. 51 by the next CTD meeting.

Para 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration states that, "The Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Trade and Environment shall, within their respective mandates, 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".

### **EC database service to help developing country exporters**

The EC informed Members of an online service -- Expanding Exports Helpdesk, available at <http://export-help.cec.eu.int> -- created to advice and assist developing countries seeking to export to EC markets (see also BRIDGES Weekly, 4 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-02-04/inbrief.htm#1>).

Discussions on the work programme for 2004 began, and the Chair asked Members for additional proposals. Members are also set to discuss if, and how, to continue work on e-commerce at the next CTD meeting.

The Committee agreed on regional trade policy courses as part of the 2004 Technical Assistance Plan (WT/COMTD/W/123). The trade policy course for French-speaking Africa will be held at University Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco.

The next CTD meeting is scheduled for 11 May, and a meeting of the Sub-committee on Least-Developed Countries for 9 March.

ICTSD reporting.



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**OTHER NEWS**

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**UNCTAD RELEASES REPORT ON  
COMMODITY DEPENDENCE IN AFRICA**

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On 26 February, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a report entitled "Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence". As part of the revival of UNCTAD's work on commodities, the report attempts to put in perspective Africa's declining share of world trade, reviewing the structure and composition of Africa's trade and considering the various impacts of commodity dependence (which include long-term decline in export values vs. import values -- or terms of trade, and unstable foreign exchange earnings). The report notes that while trade has grown relative to gross domestic product (GDP) in African countries, as elsewhere, Africa's diminishing share of world exports has been a phenomenon that "has as much to do with the structure of international trade as with the composition of Africa's merchandise trade, the trade policies applied on the continent in the past 20 years, market access and trade policies in developed countries".

After briefly surveying previous national and international measures taken to address the commodity 'problématique' -- and the fact that the "commodity trap" has become a "poverty trap" -- the report moves on to consider possible future measures that may be adopted to overcome these problems. According to the report, a stable, predictable and transparent framework is needed, and commodities should be treated as an integral part of development policy. In particular, the report focuses on policy issues in both the domestic and international spheres for i) providing adjustment mechanisms to help Africa manage commodity dependence in the short to medium term and ii) promoting longer-run diversification and productive development in African economies. Specifically, it calls for a compensatory financial mechanism for African producers to meet short-term price shocks and declining incomes, as well as a "diversification fund" to support the diversification of production structures in African economies.

The report also advocates new international initiatives on commodities and greater institutional capacity in developing countries in areas such as research and training, transport infrastructure, information management and quality control, and the management of rationalisation schemes. It calls on the international trading system -- especially the WTO -- to accelerate negotiations on reducing and phasing out distortive agricultural subsidies in advanced economies and

strengthening technical assistance in areas such as quality control and health and safety requirements.

In conclusion, the report states that the three last decades have shown that markets alone cannot solve the problem of commodity dependence. Comparing Africa today to the newly-industrialising economies (NIEs) in South East Asia in the 1970s, the report notes that although there are similarities between the domestic conditions prevailing in Africa today and those in the NIEs in the 1970s, the international context has changed. African countries have to operate within the WTO framework, which limits the use of measures that the NIEs used in the process of development -- "special and differential measures notwithstanding". The report indicates the need for derogations from WTO rules for clearly defined development programmes. While the report stresses that African governments are shouldering the responsibility for reducing their commodity dependence themselves, the international community should support this process by providing as consistent and coherent a policy framework as possible.

The issue of declining commodities prices was also discussed at the latest meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (see related story, this issue), where Kenya followed up on an initiative by some African countries to address the negative developmental consequences of the downward trend in primary commodity prices.

The UNCTAD report is available at <http://www.unctad.org>.

ICTSD reporting; "UNCTAD Study on African Development Prospects Echoes President Chirac's Call For Ending "Conspiracy Of Silence" On Commodity Issues," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 26 February 2004.

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**SECOND CIVIL SOCIETY HEARING IN  
LEAD-UP TO UNCTAD XI**

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On 23 February 2004, the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XI organised its second hearing for civil society and the private sector, addressing all four of UNCTAD XI's sub-themes -- development strategies in a globalising world economy; building productive capacity and international competitiveness; assuring development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations; and partnerships for development. As the second of three such hearings leading up to the 13-18 June conference in São Paulo, Brazil this year, the meeting was well attended by UNCTAD member states, a broad spectrum of civil society groups from the South and North, as well as a

number of private sector representatives. One of the points most emphasised by a large number of participants was the role of UNCTAD -- and the timeliness of UNCTAD XI, post-Cancun -- in helping to catalyse a revitalisation of the WTO's Doha round negotiations and support developing countries' efforts to include a strong development dimension in the round's final outcome. On the issue of productive development and competitiveness, the need for education and human capital formation was stressed repeatedly.

### **Follow-up of civil society concerns raised at first hearing**

This session followed up on a 16 January hearing (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 January 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-01-21/inbrief.htm>), where representatives of civil society called on UNCTAD to, inter alia, continue its promotion of 'policy space' for developing countries to pursue their development goals, as well as undertake monitoring and assessment activities on the impact of trade rules at the global, regional and bilateral levels (a summary of the 16 January hearing is available at [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tdxipcd4\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tdxipcd4_en.pdf)).

These sentiments were echoed at the 23 February meeting. Participants further raised concerns over the danger of overly narrowing UNCTAD's mandate through, inter alia, attempts to remove language from the latest pre-conference negotiating text referring to UNCTAD's broader role of offering developing countries policy advice. Highlighting a selection of such language changes allegedly being promoted by the US, EU, and Canada, Goh Chien Yen, the representative from Southern-based non-governmental organisation 'Third World Network', pointed to "concerted efforts" on the part of certain developed countries to "undermine the independence and integrity of UNCTAD and its work".

On UNCTAD's mandate, a submission from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) highlighted the concern over a lack of strong and detailed language in the pre-conference text mandating UNCTAD to continue the revitalisation of its work on commodities (for example, UNCTAD's recent report 'Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence' -- see related article this issue). Other areas highlighted for UNCTAD to commence and/or continue work in included ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to trade policy analysis and evaluation (especially vis-à-vis nation poverty reduction strategies), monitoring the behaviour of transnational corporations, and providing a forum for the current competition policy debate.

The next hearing, which will aim to promote discussions via roundtable debates on specific issues within the

various sub-themes, is tentatively scheduled for the week of 19-23 April.

### **Background on UNCTAD XI**

Every four years UNCTAD holds a conference to set its priorities and guidelines, and to provide an opportunity to debate key economic and development issues. The last conference, UNCTAD X, was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 12-19 February 2000 (see <http://www.unctad-10.org/>). UNCTAD XI, to be held 13-18 June 2004 in São Paulo, Brazil, will focus on enhancing the coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly for developing countries. See <http://www.unctad.org/unctadxi> for comprehensive details, including a tentative agenda for the conference.

ICTSD reporting.

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## **IN BRIEF**

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### **AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

On 13 February nine African heads of state met in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss various programmes under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The NEPAD meeting agreed on rules for the review panel of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a self-monitoring instrument, and on which agencies would be involved in the review. The voluntary APRM aims to foster the adoption of policies and standards that lead to political stability, economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental integration. The APRM is also intended to assure international investors of political and economic stability before they commit financial resources to a particular country. Nations will be evaluated by teams of visiting experts and independent agencies such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa on issues such as democracy, human rights, corruption, corporate responsibility, social services and economic development. The teams will then compile a report for the host government, and make recommendations for improvement. If a particular government does not demonstrate the political will to comply with recommendations of the teams, and if further dialogue proves unfruitful, it risks facing NEPAD sanctions, which could hurt its ability to attract foreign investment and aid.

Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya and Mauritius will be the first countries to be evaluated. The other 12 countries that have acceded to the APRM are Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. Each evaluation will take up to nine months, and will be financed by the African Union, international donors and the countries under review. At the meeting, the African leaders also explored a common position on how to convince the US and EU to reduce or eliminate their agricultural subsidies.

A copy of the APRM base document is available at: <http://www.touchtech.biz/nepad/files/documents/49.pdf>

"African Governance Initiative Aims To Improve Investment," CNN, 17 February 2004; "African Nations to Carry Out Rigorous Self-Evaluation to Woo Foreign Investment," CNS NEWS, 17 February 2004; "NEPAD Roots for Farmers," THE EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, 16 February 2004.

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### **BIODIVERSITY BODIES DEAL WITH TRICKY TRADE ISSUES**

The seventh Conference of the Parties (COP-7) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 9-20 February. The meeting covered topics ranging from monitoring and indicators, sustainable use, invasive alien species and access and benefit-sharing to protected areas, traditional knowledge, incentive measures, and national reporting. Trade-related considerations cropped up in almost every area of discussion, including in some unlikely places such as related to mountain biodiversity and inland water systems. Many civil society groups deplored what they saw as a "sell-out" to the WTO, calling for WTO-related issues to be kept out of the CBD discussions. While delegates managed to resolve some of the more overt disagreements over trade-related language, the impact of underlying trade considerations continued to be felt in discussions and in the final outcomes.

Following COP-7, the first meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is underway, also in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting covers implementation details of the Protocol, including documentation requirements for shipments of living modified organisms (LMOs), capacity building, compliance and liability. Philemon Yang, one of the organisers, stressed that "We're only at the beginning of trying to implement the Protocol. These are issues that humankind must deal with, so that we can use biotechnology in the best way for future generations". The EC is currently at odds with big producers of biotech foods, such as the US, which

has not signed the Protocol and do not want to see strict labelling and traceability rules for GM products.

For a full report of the trade-related aspects of COP-7, see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story1.htm>. The next issue of BioRes will include an update on the outcome of the meeting on the Cartagena Protocol. For a primer on the meeting, see <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story2.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "Countries To Debate Biotech Trade At Malaysia Conference," DOW JONES, 22 February 2004.

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### **ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ENTERS INTO FORCE**

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) became legally binding on its members on 23 February. Under the convention, countries are only allowed to export certain hazardous chemicals following the importing party's prior consent. The importing country will be provided with a "decision guidance document" containing information about the chemical and its effects, and the country will have nine months to provide a final decision or an interim response. The PIC convention also requires labelling on potential health and environmental impacts of traded chemicals.

Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said developing countries now "will be able to reap benefits that chemicals and pesticides can offer while ensuring that their development is environmentally sustainable," noting that many pesticides banned in industrialised countries are used in the developing world. Implemented on a voluntary basis since September 1998, the convention includes 27 chemicals on the list for prior consent and notification, including asbestos, parathion and monocrotophos. Fifteen more pesticides are set for inclusion at the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the PIC convention, scheduled for 20-24 September this year in Geneva. The convention has been ratified by 60 and signed by 73 countries. A related pact, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants -- which bans highly toxic chemicals, including pesticides like DDT -- will come into effect on 17 May. France, which submitted the 50th ratification on 17 February, triggered its entry into force three months later.

"Prior Informed Consent for Chemical Imports Now the Law," ENS, 24 February 2004; "Toxic Chemical

Warnings Required Under New International Law," REUTERS, 23 February 2004.

Congress will sign CAFTA pact," REUTERS, 20 February 2004.

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## CAFTA DRAWS DEBATE IN THE US

US President George W. Bush notified Congress on 20 February of his intent to sign a free trade agreement that the US recently negotiated with five Central American nations -- El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 January 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-01-28/inbrief.htm>). He is aiming for a vote on the CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) by Congress before its August recess. This triggers a 90-day mandatory review period, after which the US President can sign the agreement, which subsequently must be approved by both chambers of Congress. The US is also negotiating to include the Dominican Republic in the overall agreement.

The new CAFTA treaty has had mixed reviews, including on its environment and labour provisions. Supporters of the agreement feel that its environment and labour provisions meet the guidelines of the US Trade Promotion Authority Bill of 2002, which allows the US President to sign trade treaties that Congress can either accept or reject, but not amend. A consortium of civil society organisations, including the Center for International Environmental Law and the Sierra Club, recently sent a letter to the Members of Congress indicating their discontent with the CAFTA. They criticised the treaty for its investment rules -- which allow investors to challenge existing domestic environmental laws before international tribunals -- and for its "inadequate" environmental safeguards and food safety standards. On 20 February, Democratic Congressman Sander Levin delivered a critique of CAFTA provisions requiring countries to enforce their own labour laws. He felt these provisions were inadequate, as some CAFTA countries did not effectively enforce basic labour standards recognised as by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The US sugar industry has also spoken up against the agreement, as it fears increases in imports would negatively affect the domestic sugar industry. US rice growers, on the other hand, have supported the agreement, which would open new market expansion possibilities for them.

To view the letter from the US environmental groups to Members of Congress, go to [http://www.ciel.org/Tae/CAFTA\\_18Feb04.html](http://www.ciel.org/Tae/CAFTA_18Feb04.html)

ICTSD reporting; "Sugar, rice growers square off," 2THEADVOCATE.COM, 21 February 2004; "Bush Tells Congress He Plans to Sign Central America Trade Pact," BLOOMBERG, 20 February 2004; "Bush Notifies

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## CONCERNS OVER EPAS RAISED IN ADDIS ABABA

Parliamentarians from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the EU met in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa for the 7th Session of the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly from 16-19 February. The objective of the meeting was to discuss peace and security, aid, trade and health-related issues in developing countries (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-02-19/story3.htm>). Delegates wrapped up by adopting three resolutions on the prevention and resolution of conflicts, on the intensification of the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and on economic partnership in support of poverty reduction and commerce and development.

Parliamentarians from the ACP countries raised concerns regarding the EU enlargement in May this year, and the possible diversion of EU resources to the agriculture sector of its new members. Poul Nielson, EU Development and Humanitarian Commissioner, said however that the EU's expansion to 25 member states would likely lead to increased support by "introduc[ing] new donors to the world of development cooperation". Among other topics raised, many parliamentarians expressed their concern over whether the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) really would contribute to development. Didier Rod, a Green Group Member of the European Parliament (MEP), stressed that trade increases income disparity between countries. MEP Harlem Desir called for strengthening ACP countries' production and supply capacities and infrastructure to improve the overall development of the economies. He pointed to Taiwan's and South Korea's temporary sectoral protectionism to support their growth industries, and questioned the assertion that ACP economies were lagging behind because of protectionism. In his opinion, maintaining the principle of non-reciprocity in market access as long as necessary would be important for the development of the ACP region. Pascal Lamy, EU Trade Commissioner -- present for the first days of the meeting -- stressed the importance of gradual reciprocity, citing provisions in the Cotonou Agreement, an agreement to "promote and expedite the economic, cultural and social development of the ACP States," that would provide for compensation for lost income involving exports to the EU, starting in 2008.

"MPs Voice Concerns Over Economic Partnership Agreements in Addis Ababa," EUROSTEP PROACTIVE FILE, 20 February 2004; "Ethiopia Calls to



Ease Trade Restrictions At Addis Ababa Conference," ALLAFRICA.COM, 17 February 2004.

## **CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE CONVENES IN NAMIBIA**

The 14th session of the Plants Committee (PC-14) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) met from 16-20 February in Windhoek, Namibia. Seventy-seven representatives of governments, inter-governmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations were present. CITES regulates trade in endangered species by classifying those under threat and mandating a system of permits and certificates for those most threatened. Discussions at the latest meeting of the CITES Plants Committee revolved around a 25 item-agenda comprising topics such as review of the CITES Appendices and their criteria, terminology related to medicinal plants, and follow-up on the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to CITES. The meeting set up working groups on specific issues such as review of significant trade, and regional representation and communication.

CITES, now ratified by 164 parties, was established in 1973 due to growing concern that international trade of wild plant and animal species was contributing to their decline. In discussion on the criteria for the Appendices classifying the endangered species, Plant Committee Chair Margarita Clemente noted that Appendix II, in which species are protected through quotas or permits, often was "demonised" as a tool to prohibit trade. Clemente called on delegates to provide examples showing that its function was to provide for sustainable use of species. On the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade the EC submitted a document citing three principles the Plant Committee and Animals Committees should consider: trade impacts on non-CITES species; the use of the terms "efficiency" and "cost effectiveness," and socio-economic issues that accompany wildlife trade.

Chair Clemente introduced the working programme for the Plant Committee in preparation for COP-13, to be held this October in Thailand. The Animals Committee will meet in Johannesburg in late March to draft its own recommendations for COP-13. Many delegates noted that the challenge would be for the two Committees to draft a common position to submit for COP consideration.

For a full report of the meeting see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin report at <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/CITP14/>

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

### **EU UNDER PRESSURE ON GM REGULATIONS**

The US, Argentina and Canada asked WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi on 23 February to appoint panellists to rule on their WTO complaint against the EC. The co-complainants have challenged the EC five year de-facto moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-08-25/story2.htm>). Under WTO rules, the Director has 10 days, or until 4 March, to select the panellists. According to a US official, the US delayed asking Supachai to make appointments within 20 days of the date the panel was established in August 2003 in an attempt to reach an agreement with the EC on panel selection. The co-complainants argued that this moratorium on the approval of biotech products since October 1998 violates various provisions under the WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. They argue that the prohibition or blocking of importation and marketing of GM products is not legally or scientifically justified, asserting that GMO varieties in question are perfectly safe. The EC has countered by saying that market authorisation has been granted to 18 GMOs, with 20 applications pending approval, including Monsanto's Roundup Ready corn and cotton.

In related news, China recently granted safety permits to Monsanto for the importation of bioengineered farm products. These permits, valid for three to five years for five crops including soybeans, corn and cotton, were granted in order for China to replenish grain stocks after years of harvest declines. Although China has remained cautious on the commercial planting of bioengineered crops for human consumption, billions of dollars have already been invested into research and development of growing transgenic cotton. In a statement, the Chinese ministry said it was considering applications from four other foreign companies: DuPont, Dow Chemical unit Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta and Germany's Bayer AG.

"Boost for Transgenic Foods as China Widens Imports," ENN, 25 February 2004, "US, Partners Step up Pressure on EU, Seek Selection of WTO Panel in GMO Row" WTO REPORTER, 25 February 2004.

## TALKS ON IMPROVING PLURILATERAL GPA ONGOING

A series of informal meetings among members of the plurilateral WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) took place last week. Discussions focused on forthcoming negotiations aiming at the simplification and improvement of the GPA, at the reduction of remaining discriminatory practices, as well as at the extension of the coverage of the Agreement among parties. According to a trade delegate, members of the GPA will agree on modalities for negotiations at their next formal meeting, scheduled for 23 April. The delegate indicated that additional WTO Members, including developing country Members, would join the 28-member Agreement. Bulgaria, Estonia, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Panama, and Chinese Taipei are in the process of negotiating their accession to the Agreement.

The Agreement has a built-in negotiating agenda, calling on the parties to undertake further negotiations no later than the end of the third year from the date of its entry into force (1 January 1996), "with a view to improving the Agreement and achieving the greatest possible extension of its coverage among all Parties and eliminating any remaining discriminatory measures and practices". Formal and informal consultations have taken place among Member states on the issue. Negotiations are slated to be completed by 1 January 2005. One objective of the negotiations is to make the Agreement more accessible to non-parties, in order to allow its membership to expand.

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email [events@ictsd.ch](mailto:events@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming Up: 26 February to 3 March

until 27 February 2004: EU TRADE NEWS PUBLIC CONSULTATION: IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS. All interested parties are invited to take part in an online public consultation

helping to shape EU policy. The Directorate General Trade wants to improve the current methodology used for assessing trade policy impacts on sustainable development. Written comments are invited on a draft consultation paper and may be submitted to [eric.peters@cec.eu.int](mailto:eric.peters@cec.eu.int). To see the public consultations page and download the document, see: <http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/consultations/index.cfm>

23-27 February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY. Substantive issues to be discussed include: decision procedure; information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; capacity-building; handling, transport, packaging and identification; compliance; liability and redress; and monitoring and reporting. For further information, contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: +1-514-288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/mop-01/>

29 February, Johannesburg, South Africa: ACHIEVING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURAL TRADE - A CAPACITY AND COMMUNICATION BUILDING SEMINAR. Organised by the International Food & Trade Policy Council (IPC), the seminar will bring together government officials, farmers, and other agricultural stakeholders in the region to discuss the role that agricultural trade can play in economic development and to relate that role to trade negotiations at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. For further information, or to indicate interest for limited fellowships that are available contact IPC Communications Director, Kari Heerman at [heerman@agritrade.org](mailto:heerman@agritrade.org); Internet: <http://www.agritrade.org>

1-3 March 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON SYNERGIES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT. Organised by UNITAR in collaboration with several other international organisations. UNITAR has initiated a series of thematic workshops aimed at building the capacity of countries in chemicals and waste management. For further information contact: UNITAR, tel: +41-22 917-1234; fax: 917-8047; e-mail: [cwm@unitar.org](mailto:cwm@unitar.org); Internet: <http://www.unitar.org>

2-5 March 2004, Concepción, Chile: GLOBAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FORUM. Organised by UNIDO and the Chilean Government. This event will bring together representatives from the scientific, public, private and social sectors as well as high-level decision makers to review opportunities and challenges in biotechnology for the developing world. For further information

contact: tel: +56 41 204-649; fax: 214-288; e- mail: gbf2004@udec.cl; Internet: <http://www.gbf2004.cl>

## 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.

24-26 February: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA.

26 February: WTO COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

1 March: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY - SPECIAL SESSION.

3 & 5 March: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - SRI LANKA.

## Other Forthcoming Events

15-19 March, Geneva, Switzerland: 50TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. For further information contact the CITES Secretariat, tel: +41-22-917-8139; fax: +41-22-797-3417; email: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notifs/2003/076.shtml> Events

16-19 March, Bangkok, Thailand: IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU - MEETING OF SIGNATORY STATES. The Second Meeting of Signatory States to the Indian Ocean-South East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (an Agreement under the Convention on Migratory Species) will take place from 16-19 March 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. Open to non-Signatory States, and interested IGOs and NGOs, this meeting will review implementation of the MoU's Conservation and Management Plan and will set priorities for future work. For more information contact IOSEA MoU Secretariat, tel: +66-2-288-1471; fax: +66-2-280-3829; email: [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org); Internet: <http://www.ioseaturtles.org>

22 March, Brussels, Belgium: AFTER CANCÚN AND BOMBAY: EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE ALTER-

GOBALIST MOVEMENT. MEP Pierre Jonckheer, in cooperation with the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament and the International and European Affairs Working Group of ECOLO, the Belgian French-speaking Green Party, is pleased to invite you to a conference-debate on the theme is organising a conference to -- in the wake of the World Social Forum in Bombay and also keeping in mind the collapse of the WTO negotiations in Cancún -- offer an opportunity for an exchange of views between NGOs and the academic world on the main political choices the alter-globalist movement is now facing. The meeting will discuss the current controversy about the economic re-localisation. For further information contact Pierre Jonckheer at email: [pjonckheer@europarl.eu.int](mailto:pjonckheer@europarl.eu.int).

29 March to 2 April 2004, South Africa: 20TH MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE. This meeting is organised by the CITES Secretariat. For further information contact the CITES Secretariat, tel: +41-22-917-8139; fax: +41-22-797-3417; email: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.cites.org>

1-2 April, Monterrey, Mexico: FORGING NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY. This event is organised by the North American Forum of Integration in collaboration with EGAP (Escuela de Graduados en Administración Pública). The Conference will focus on challenges and alternatives to envision North American energy security. Speakers from the political, academic and economic spheres from Mexico, Canada and the US will debate and emphasise the relevance and challenges of creating a North American Investment Fund looking to finance Mexican infrastructure projects in the energy sector while respecting the Constitution of this country. For further information contact: tel: (514) 844-8030; email: [info@fina-nafi.org](mailto:info@fina-nafi.org); Internet: <http://www.fina-nafi.org>

1-3 April, Cambridge, UK: SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DISPUTES. Cambridge University will host a high-level series of panels exploring various facets of international dispute resolution. The panels will feature discussion of international commercial arbitration, ICSID arbitration between investors and states, as well as World Trade Organisation dispute settlement. Speakers include Dame Rosalyn Higgins, of the International Court of Justice; Margrete Stevens, of ICSID; Jan Paulsson, of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Paris; and Professor Emmanuel Gaillard, of Shearman & Sterling, Paris. For further information contact Irene Bates or Sarah Roberts at the London Court of International Arbitration's International Dispute Resolution Centre, tel: +44 20 7405 8008; email: [ib@lcia-arbitration.com](mailto:ib@lcia-arbitration.com).

## RESOURCES

**CLIMATE AND TRADE RULES - HARMONY OR CONFLICT?** By the Swedish National Board of Trade (January 2004). The report seeks to clarify the relationship between UN Climate Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and WTO-rules. This in order to promote mutual supportiveness between the two sets of rules. The authors have focused on a number of trade-related measures and how they relate to WTO-rules, for example product requirements, subsidies, carbon taxes and related border tax adjustments (BTAs) and emissions trading. The overall conclusion is that friendly coexistence should be possible between trade and climate rules. However, there are some areas of concern, particularly concerning technical regulations and standards on how products are produced and BTAs on production. Here clarifications of the WTO-framework are motivated. In addition, action should be taken at the national, institutional and international level to promote mutual supportiveness. It is the first in a series of studies on the relationship between specific MEAs and WTO-rules. The report may be accessed from

[http://www.kommers.se/binaries/attachments/2501\\_Climate\\_and\\_Trade\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.kommers.se/binaries/attachments/2501_Climate_and_Trade_Rules.pdf)

**AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON GENETIC RESOURCES: A HANDBOOK ON LAWS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS.** Edited by Kent Nnadozie, Robert Lettington, Carl Bruch, Susan Bass, and Sarah King (African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, the Environmental Law Institute, and the Southern Environmental & Agricultural Policy Research Institute, 2003). The book examines the lessons learned from the legal, policy and institutional approaches that twelve African countries - Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, the Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia - have pursued in governing access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. These countries represent different legal, ecological, and cultural contexts throughout Africa. For further information, see:

[http://www.elistore.org/reports\\_detail.asp?ID=10953](http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=10953)

**PANEL REPORT: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WTO AGENDA.** By the Rights & Democracy and 3D Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy (2004). A report of a panel discussion during the WTO's Fifth Ministerial Conference is now available online. The panel examined international trade rules and practice from a human rights perspective. The panel, and the report of it, aim to depolarise discussions about human rights in trade by dispelling some of the recurring concerns expressed both by developing and developed countries. The report is available at the Rights & Democracy

website

<http://www.ichrdd.ca/frame2.iphtml?langue=0&menu=m01&urlpage=english/commndoc/publications/globalization/wto/MainWTO.html>

"Labour Rights and International Trade: A Debate Devolved", in M. Irish (ed.), *THE AUTO PACT: INVESTMENT, LABOUR AND THE WTO* (Kluwer Law International, 2004). This essay by Kevin Grey outlines some new thinking and analysis on the trade-labour relationship. It examines the utility and function of trade sanctions and labour standards, in the context of the overall economic development in developing countries. The problems with conditioning market access are raised while other options such as labelling and GSP preference regimes are explored. The essay is one of a series of essays in a published volume of perspectives on the trade-investment-labour nexus under the backdrop of the 1965 Canada and the United States Automotive Products Trade Agreement (Auto Pact). The book elucidates the main issues underlying the Pact and the relationship between international trade rules on the one hand and investment measures intended to encourage local economic activity on the other. All of these issues are brought into sharp focus by the history of the Auto Pact and the implications of its demise following the WTO Appellate Body ruling that determined that the Pact was in violation of international trading rules. For further information see <http://www.aspenpublishers.com/Product.asp?catalog%5Fname=Aspen&category%5Fname=&product%5Fid=9041122311&Mode=SEARCH&ProductType=P&cookie%5Ftest=1>

**NAFTA, FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO.** By Lyuba Zarsky and Kevin P. Gallagher (Americas Program, Interhemispheric Resource Center (IRC), January 2004). This policy brief analyses changes in foreign direct investment flows and exports following the signature of the NAFTA agreement. The main conclusions point the reader both towards the successes of the agreement as well as towards the negative impacts of the neo-liberal integration strategy arguing that it has undermined, rather than nurtured Mexico's prospects for long-term sustainable industrial development. For further information see <http://www.americaspolicy.org/briefs/2004/0401mexind.html>

**NAFTA, CORN, AND MEXICO'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION.** By Gisele Henriques and Raj Patel (Americas Program, Interhemispheric Resource Center, February 2004). The architects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) knew that in the short run there would be winners and losers under the agreement. The potential losses for Mexico were mainly concentrated in the agricultural sector --



particularly for import-competing farmers. Although agriculture accounts for less than 5% of the gross domestic product, one-quarter of the Mexican workforce still lives off the land. The geographical and social distribution of the "losers" was also predictable -- small farmers and people who were already poor, primarily in the south. For further information see <http://www.americaspolicy.org/reports/2004/0402nafta.html>

**MANUAL FOR THE PREPARERS AND USERS OF ECO-EFFICIENCY INDICATORS.** By United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2004). This is one of the first publications in the field of corporate environmental accounting to standardise the presentation and disclosure of a company's environmental performance and how this relates to financial results. It describes a method for providing systematic and consistent information on environmental performance over time. Such information cannot be assessed by the conventional accounting model but is increasingly demanded by stakeholders, especially in the post-Enron era. The guidelines meet this need by using financial and environmental performance indicators together to measure a company's progress in attaining eco-efficiency or sustainability. For further information see [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/iteipc20037\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/iteipc20037_en.pdf)

## VACANCY

**VACANCY FOR LAWYER WITH EXPERIENCE IN WTO LAW.** The Advisory Centre on WTO Law seeks to fill the position of Counsel or Senior Counsel. The Centre is a public international organisation independent of the WTO that was established in 2001 to provide legal advice on WTO law, support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings and training in WTO law to developing countries and customs territories, countries with economies in transition and least developed countries. Applicants are requested to complete the personal history form available at the Centre's website <http://www.acwl.ch>, and to send it before 27 February 2004 to The Executive Director, Advisory Centre on WTO Law, Avenue Giuseppe-Motta 31-33, C.P. 132, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. For further information see [http://www.acwl.ch/e/tools/vacancies\\_e.aspx](http://www.acwl.ch/e/tools/vacancies_e.aspx)

## GRANTS

**SMALL GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON EMERGING ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY.** What are the emerging economic, technological, environmental and social issues that will threaten human security in the decade to come, and how can these be better managed? Three winners based on the innovativeness and convincingness of their one-page proposal will

receive a US\$ 500 honorarium to develop 5-10 page concept papers on behalf of the IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative. These will be published online and disseminated electronically by the E&S Initiative. Possible topics include: Conservation and Corruption, Conservation and the Drug Trade, Conservation and Small Arms, Conflict, Natural Resource Management and Mobile Peoples, Conservation and Infectious Diseases and Impacts of Emerging Technologies on Global Biodiversity. Please send one-page entries to [asgobbi@iisd.ca](mailto:asgobbi@iisd.ca). Deadline: 15 March, 2004.

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