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Committee on Agriculture Special (negotiating) Session that opened the discussions, Falconer told delegates that they needed to make progress this week in order for them to meet the end-April deadline for 'full modalities' -- including formulas and figures for reducing farm tariffs and subsidies -- that they set themselves at the December Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong. Sources report that although Members expressed agreement with the chair's assessment of the situation, they did little more than re-state past positions at the meeting.

Based primarily on the July 2004 Framework (WT/L/579) and the Hong Kong Declaration (WT/MIN(05)/DEC), the questions focus on issues that Members need to finalise by the end of April. In a note sent to delegations along with the document on February 9, Falconer observed that the long list, which included all three pillars of the agriculture negotiations (i.e., export competition, domestic support, and market access), in addition to cotton, underlined the "huge amount of work" that remained to be done.

He emphasised that while Members have to cover all the issues, the list made clear that "we cannot do everything at once... We will have to accept that we need to start in depth somewhere rather than everywhere." Falconer urged Members to use the week's talks to build "working hypotheses" -- not necessarily full-blown solutions -- on individual issues that would be "without prejudice" to the final outcome of the negotiations. "The only way to swallow the elephant is to do so slice by slice," he said.

Potential for convergence on subsidy thresholds and cuts?

Falconer's 'non-exhaustive list of questions' isolates the sections of both the July Framework and the Hong Kong Declaration relevant to each issue in the farm trade talks, and asks Members about how persistent differences might be bridged, and the negotiating mandate achieved.

On domestic support, Falconer asked Members whether they could accept the threshold values referred to in the agriculture annex (Annex A) of the Hong Kong Declaration for the three bands into which overall trade-distorting domestic subsidy levels would be classified for reduction -- above USD 60 billion, USD 60-10

LEAD STORIES

MEMBERS FOCUS ON CHAIR'S 'QUESTIONS' ABOUT WTO AGRICULTURE TALKS

An 'agriculture week' is underway at the WTO, with Members discussing a set of specific questions about each issue that remains unresolved in the contentious Doha Round farm trade talks. Produced by Chair Ambassador Crawford Falconer (New Zealand), the questions were intended to focus Members' formal and informal discussions on how they might overcome their differences. At the 13 February meeting of the

billion, and under USD 10 billion. Annex A, which was based on the agriculture chair's pre-Hong Kong report on the negotiations, described the range of reductions proposed by Members for each band -- 70-80 percent, 53-75 percent, and 31-70 percent, respectively. Falconer asked Members if they could "find a basis for further convergence" on what the cuts in each band should be. Members were similarly asked if they could come closer to agreement on the percentage cuts to be made to 'amber box' support, as well as if they could resolve their differences on whether the lowest band for such subsidies should extend to USD 12 or 15 billion. According to the Hong Kong Declaration, the EU would be in the top band, the US and Japan in the second, and all other Members in the bottom band.

Members are asked if convergence could be achieved with regard to their varying negotiating positions on how to restrain 'de minimis' support -- the maximum level of exempted trade-distorting subsidisation -- as well as 'blue box' payments that are partially decoupled from production. Both are currently capped for developed countries at 5 percent of the total value of agricultural production. The US in particular wants to ensure that any new rules on the latter allow it to shelter its controversial 'counter-cyclical' grants, which rise when the market price of a product falls, in the blue box.

The list also inquires whether new criteria are necessary to ensure that 'green box' support, which is exempt from reduction commitments, does not distort trade and production.

Members asked about tariff formula, flexibilities

With regard to market access, the pillar on which Members are most deeply divided, the list asks Members how they might achieve further convergence on the thresholds and reductions for each of the four tariff bands, as well as on the level of potential tariff caps for developed and developing countries.

Falconer requested Members to consider how they might narrow their differences on the number of tariff lines that both developed and developing countries would be able to designate as 'sensitive' and thus eligible for lower tariff reductions than those required by the formula, as well as on how to fulfill their mandate to provide a 'substantial improvement' in market access even for such products.

The list also asked Members to specify how many tariff lines developing countries would be able to designate as 'special products,' along with precisely what would be entailed by the "more flexible treatment" for which they would be eligible. It also enjoined them to clarify details about the product coverage and functioning of the 'special safeguard mechanism,' which developing

countries would use to protect themselves from import surges.

Members were also asked to define what the Hong Kong mandate on tropical products and cotton would entail in practice.

The only issue that generated controversy at the 13 February committee gathering was preference erosion. Falconer's list cited a paragraph on preference erosion taken from the draft agriculture modalities text put together by a previous chair in 2003 in preparation for the failed Cancun Ministerial Conference (TN/AG/W/1/Rev.1, commonly known as the 'Harbinson' text after the chair), and asked Members about the extent to which it could serve as a basis for addressing preference erosion. For tariff cuts on products that have benefited from longstanding trade preferences, paragraph 16 of the Harbinson text provided for a longer implementation period and a delayed phase-in, so long as the product accounted for a certain percentage of the total exports of the beneficiary country (the bracketed suggestion in the text was 20 percent). At the meeting, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua argued that the paragraph could not serve as a basis for discussions, since the Harbinson text had been rejected at Cancun. However, preference beneficiaries Jamaica, Kenya, and Mauritius countered that the July 2004 Framework, which did receive consensus support, specified that sections of the Harbinson text, including the paragraph in question, would "be used as a reference" when addressing preference erosion.

Advancing the negotiations on export competition

With regard to export competition, Falconer asked Members about precisely how they would go about fulfilling the Hong Kong mandate to ensure that "a substantial part" of export subsidies are phased out during the first half of the Doha Round implementation period, ahead of the 2013 date for their complete elimination.

The Hong Kong Declaration requires countries to agree on rules for practices such as export credits, food aid, and state trading enterprises, so that those with effects tantamount to export subsidies can be eliminated by 2013 as well. The chair asked Members about how to develop disciplines on these 'parallel forms' of export support. Specifically with regard to food aid, he requested that they define what would constitute "emergency situations," and consider parameters for the functioning of a 'safe box' through which bona fide food aid could be provided during such emergencies.

Need 'working hypotheses' for next agriculture week

Delegations are currently meeting informally amongst each other as well as with the chair in an attempt to move forward on at least some of the outstanding issues pointed to in Falconer's list of questions. The week's discussions will conclude on 17 February, with another meeting of the Committee on Agriculture Special Session.

Falconer warned Members at the outset of the discussions that if they did not have a more concrete 'working hypothesis starting point' ready in time for the next agriculture week, scheduled for 20-24 March, "all you will have is the prospect of a re-run of this meeting."

The next issue of BRIDGES Weekly will provide an update on the remainder of the agriculture week.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

RULES CHAIR CALLS FOR TEXTUAL PROPOSALS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

WTO Members resumed negotiations on rules to constrain fisheries-specific subsidies by discussing a November 2005 proposal in which nine countries seeking a broad-based ban on such grants outlined a set of "principles to guide the development" of new disciplines. At the 8 February meeting of the Negotiating Group on Rules, Chair Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmes of Uruguay urged them to put forward detailed proposals in the form of draft legal text in time for the next session in March.

Delegates from many countries engaged in discussion on the submission by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru and the US (TN/RL/W/196), which summarised progress to date in the negotiations and outlined a series of steps that they deemed necessary to fulfil the Doha mandate in the area. Apart from Brazil and Pakistan, the sponsors belong to the 'Friends of Fish' - a loosely defined group of countries that advocate for fisheries subsidies to be broadly banned, with certain exemptions.

The proposal outlines several types of fisheries subsidies-related programmes, such as initiatives for conservation, regional development, social insurance, and research, that have not yet been addressed in the negotiations. It also urges them to choose between the two options for the broad structure of the disciplines -- a

"top-down" approach that would prohibit fisheries subsidies apart from certain exceptions, or a "bottom-up" approach that would identify specific subsidies for prohibition. The co-sponsors of the submission prefer the former, as opposed to the bottom up approach that Japan, Korea and Taiwan have supported since the beginning of the negotiations. They believe that agreement on these issues is a necessary prerequisite for text-based negotiations.

According to the submission, new disciplines on fisheries subsidies should be "simple and enforceable," more transparent than existing rules, flexible enough to respond to the "dynamic nature of the fishing industry," and "must recognise the importance of this sector for developing countries through appropriate special and differential treatment."

Development must be at centre of new disciplines, say ACP countries

Barbados, speaking on behalf of a group of small and vulnerable coastal states (SVCSs), as well as the broader group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, described the proposal as a useful roadmap, though it disagreed with the sponsors' preferred approach towards the legal structure of new rules.

The SVCSs and the ACP countries, Barbados said, prefer a bottom up approach, since they believe that it would allow them greater flexibility in pursuing policies to fully utilise the resources in their waters. Pointing to the proposal's acknowledgement that a limited number of countries provide the vast majority of distorting subsidies, it claimed that the majority of developing countries do not provide trade-distorting subsidies -- indeed, instead of promoting overcapacity with grants to fisheries, they face a problem of "under-capacity" in the sector.

The SVCS and ACP groups said that though they recognise the importance of environmental issues in the fisheries subsidies negotiations, they do not see the reduction of overcapacity and overfishing as the primary goal of the talks. Their priority is rather to "ensure that developing countries and specifically least-developed countries are able to enhance their level of development and increase their integration in the multilateral trading system." In this vein, while expressing full support of the proposal's indicative list of issues that still require analysis in the negotiations, they added access fees, development assistance and assistance to artisanal and small-scale fisheries, management services, infrastructural development and port facility enhancement as issues of paramount importance to their fishing sectors.

The small and vulnerable coastal states have been active participants in the discussions, and have submitted two joint proposals of their own in the past (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 14 October 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-10-14/story1.htm>). The meeting marked the first time that the ACP countries spoke with one voice in the fisheries subsidies negotiations.

Norway made a statement in favour of moving quickly on disciplines that address capacity-enhancing subsidies, since they are directly related to over-capacity and over-fishing.

Delegates are aware that they will have to make swift progress if they are to meet an informal set of deadlines first set out by trade ministers from 25-odd Member countries after a meeting in Davos in late January. The timetable calls for Members to submit fisheries subsidies proposals in the form of detailed legal text by March, allowing for subsequent analysis by June, so that the Chair can prepare a consolidated draft agreement in July. This would serve as the basis of negotiations through the conclusion of the Doha Round.

The next rules week is scheduled for 13-17 March.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

NOVARTIS PATENT APPLICATION FOR CANCER DRUG FOUND INSUFFICIENT IN INDIA

Indian authorities have rejected Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis' patent application for the cancer drug imatinib mesylate, generally known by the brand name 'Gleevec,' thus re-opening the way for generic production. Health activists and patients' groups are celebrating the decision, anticipating dramatically reduced treatment costs. So are Indian generic drug manufacturers, who had spearheaded opposition to Novartis' application.

On 25 January, the patent controller ruled that the patent applied for by Novartis in 1998 did not qualify as an invention on the grounds that it was merely a modification of the key component in the drug -- for which a patent had already been filed in 1993. This key component, therefore, is not eligible for protection under India's new patent regime, introduced in March 2005 to comply with the WTO Agreement on Trade-

related Aspects of Intellectual Property rights (TRIPS), which only recognises patents for chemical products filed there after 1995, the year the WTO came into existence (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-03-23/story1.htm>). Civil society groups and Indian drug companies had used the 'pre-grant opposition process' provided for in the patent law to contest the novelty and inventiveness of Gleevec.

Generic production of imatinib mesylate started in India before the 2005 introduction of product patents. However, TRIPS rules for the transition period required India to grant 'exclusive marketing rights' (EMRs) to patent-seekers whose post-1995 applications were still pending for new drugs that had already received marketing approval in the country. After the patent controller granted Novartis EMRs for Gleevec in October 2003, generic production was prohibited, and the price of treatment soared from INR 10,000 per month (approximately USD 225, and already well in excess of average per capita income) to INR 120,000 (USD 2700).

The rejection of Novartis' patent application supersedes its EMRs, which means that the path is once again clear for generic production of Gleevec.

"Novartis denied patent for cancer drug," BUSINESS STANDARD, 10 February 2006; "Patent remedy for India's health," NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, 10 February 2006; "Novartis Loses India Patent Case," CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS, 2 February 2006, "Victory for Patients!" AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AND TREATMENT CAMPAIGN PRESS RELEASE, 26 January 2006.

BRAZIL, CHINA INK TEXTILE ACCORD

Officials from Brazil and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 10 February to restrain Chinese textile and clothing exports to Brazil between 2006 and 2008. The 70 products covered represent 60 percent of Brazil's imports of textiles and clothing from China and include silk, polyester, synthetics, velours, shirts, sweaters, jackets and brocade. Under the agreement, Chinese silk exports, for example, will not be permitted to increase by more than 9 percent in 2007, and by more than 70 percent in 2008.

The MoU, which was signed by Brazilian Trade Secretary Ivan Ramalho and Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng, is likely to be followed in coming weeks by a formal agreement between the two governments.

"This agreement represents a negotiated and amicable solution ending a dispute and setting a good example for other sectors," said Brazilian Trade Minister Luiz Fernando Furlan. Trade sources suggest that talks were initiated after a surge of Chinese imports in early 2005 threatened to force factory closures and job cuts in Brazil. Brazilian manufacturers welcomed the deal, with the Brazilian Association of Textile Makers saying that "the agreement wasn't ideal but we considered it positive since it affected eight categories of products that have suffered a lot with Chinese imports in the past year."

Chinese exports have increased dramatically since global trade quotas on textiles and clothing were removed at the end of 2004. China has since concluded bilateral deals to restrain exports in the sector to the EU and the US, in June and November 2005 respectively (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 June 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-06-15/story2.htm> and 9 November 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-11-09/story3.htm>). Negotiations on a similar agreement with South Africa have produced a basic draft, but a number of details remain to be resolved before the two countries can sign an accord.

"S.Africa says draft textile pact agreed with China," REUTERS, 6 February 2006; "China Agrees to Limit Textile Exports to Brazil (Update4)," BLOOMBERG, 9 February 2006; "Agreement with China can set an example for other sectors," AGENCIA BRASIL, 10 February 2006; "China cede a pressão e vai segurar exportações têxteis," VOLOR ECONOMICO, 13 February 2006.

During a short meeting of the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services on 13 February, representatives from least-developed countries (LDCs) asked other Members how they planned to implement the specific modalities for the special treatment of LDCs that they agreed to in 2003, which were repeatedly referred to in the the Hong Kong Declaration. Canada and Australia said that they would follow the EU's lead and submit written documents about steps they had taken. They did not, however, indicate specifically how they intended to provide technical assistance or market access in response to LDC priorities.

With regard to General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) rules, Members discussed how to structure informal discussions on emergency safeguard measures, which would allow countries to place temporary restrictions on already-liberalised sectors in the event of injury to domestic industry caused by excessive foreign competition.

Members asked the chair of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation to schedule a calendar of meetings through July, in order to facilitate participation by capital-based officials. They also asked him to prepare a document outlining areas of convergence and disagreement in the talks, and to identify target dates for intermediate stages in the negotiations, such as the development of a consolidated draft text.

The next issue of BRIDGES Weekly will provide further coverage of the services cluster.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO IN BRIEF

SERVICES CLUSTER UNDERWAY, PLURILATERAL REQUESTS IN THE WORKS

Several different groups of WTO Members are attempting to finalise collective requests for market access in a range of different services sectors ahead of the end-February deadline set out in the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. Trade negotiators expect plurilateral requests for market access in sectors including telecom, energy, logistics, and financial services, as well as for increased access for individual workers (so-called 'Mode 4' of the services negotiations). Informal bilateral meetings are also taking place during the ongoing 'cluster' of services talks, which kicked off on 6 February.

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.

Upcoming Events: 16 February - 22 February

20-21 February, Hanoi, Viet Nam: WORKSHOP ON INVESTMENT AND MARKET ACCESS ISSUES IN PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (APEC INVESTMENT EXPERTS GROUP). This Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) sponsored workshop will analyse the interaction between market access and investment provisions in free-trade agreements. The

session on "complexity issues in the design and implementation of investment agreements" will be covered by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). For further information contact Anna Joubin-Bret, e-mail: anna.joubin-bret@unctad.org; internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=11565&year=2006&month=2>.

21-23 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE). The ECE is the forum where North American, European and Central Asian countries come together to discuss economic cooperation. This, the 61st session of the Commission, will review the UNECE reform, focusing on the way forward, the economic context in which the changes are taking place, challenges, policy responses and the role of the UNECE. For further information contact Susan Bartolo, tel: (+41) 022-917-1469; e-mail: susan.bartolo@unece.org; internet: http://www.unece.org/commission/2006/61st_index.htm

20-24 February, Montreal, Canada: SECOND MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY'S (CBD) OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL. This meeting will further discuss the development of an effective liability and redress mechanism to address the possibility of environmental damage as a result of the international trade of living modified organisms. For further information contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1) 514-288-2220; fax: (+1) 514-288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org; internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=BSCC-02>.

WTO Events

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

15-16 February: NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TRADE FACILITATION

16 February: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - ANGOLA

16 February: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES - SPECIAL SESSION

17 February: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE - SPECIAL SESSION

17 February: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

20 February: WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE

21-22 February: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT - SPECIAL SESSION

Other Upcoming Events

27-28 February, Laung Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic: REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE 'TRAINFORTRADE' PROJECT FOR CAMBODIA/LAOS. The focus of this annual regional meeting, organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will be to align TrainForTrade Programme capacity building priorities and activities for Laos and Cambodia. For further information contact Sven Callebaut, e-mail: Sven.callebaut@unctad.org; internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=11573&year=2006&month=2>.

28 February, Washington DC: GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRADE LIBERALISATION AND AGRICULTURE. This Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) breakfast meeting will feature a presentation by Stefan Tangermann, Director of the OECD's Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, on the implications of trade liberalisation. For further information contact the OECD, tel: (+1) 202-785-6323; fax: (+1) 202-785-0350; e-mail: washington.contact@oecd.org; internet: http://www.oecd.org/document/49/0,2340,en_2649_344_87_32618737_1_1_1_1,00.html.

21-22 March, Brussels, Belgium: TRADE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: STOCKTAKING CONFERENCE. This conference, organised by the European Commission, will review various experiences and lessons in the field of sustainability assessment of trade policies. Participants are requested to register by 6 March using the on-line registration form located at <http://scic.cec.eu.int/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=TRADESIA050321&-loadframes>. For further information contact Alessandra Parisi & Giuliana Piccaluga, e-mail: SCIC-Conf-SIA@cec.eu.int or Nadia de Brito Pires, e-mail: trade-sia@cec.eu.int; internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/global/sia/seminar0306_en.htm.

RESOURCES

TRADE, AID AND SECURITY -- SIX KEY OBJECTIVES. By the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), 2006. This series of six policy briefings identifies objectives for policymakers to focus on in order to ensure that trade and aid policy support peace and security rather than increase the likelihood and longevity of violent conflict. It explains why these objectives are critical to security between and within states; assesses current initiatives that attempt to realise them; and makes recommendations for future action. Available online at http://www.iisd.org/security/tas/research_ko.asp.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN BRAZIL: THE IMPACT OF THE DOHA ROUND. By Maurizio Bussolo, Jann Lay and Dominique van der Mensbrugghe. The World Bank Group, February 2006. Over the medium-term horizon, skill upgrading, differentials in technological progress from sector to sector, and migration of labour out of farming activities are some of the major structural adjustment factors shaping the evolution of an economy and its connected poverty trends. The main focus of the authors is understanding, for the case of Brazil, how a trade shock interacts with these structural forces, and ascertaining whether it enhances or hinders medium-term poverty reduction. In particular, they consider the interactions between the migration of labour out of agriculture, a potentially important poverty reduction factor, and trade liberalisation, which increases the price incentives to stay in agriculture. Their analysis shows that trade liberalisation does contribute to structural poverty reduction. But unless increased productivity and stronger growth rates are attributed to trade reform, its contribution to medium-term poverty reduction is rather small. Further information can be found at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000016406_20060126161826.

SCIENCE ON TAP, NOT ON THE TOP. Alexey A. Vikhlyaev. UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), January 2006. Science plays an increasingly important role in trade policy and negotiations. A large number of trade agreements rely on scientific expertise for their work, including the determination of environmental and health standards. The recent extension of the phytosanitary domain to include biosafety represents the biggest challenge to the trade policy, since it takes the WTO into the area of adjudicating on the appropriateness of domestic regulations. The notion of science diplomacy refers to activities of international cooperation and compromise on issues with a heavy scientific input. These activities and resulting networks offer excellent opportunities to

share resources and hedge against diplomatic failures through exchanging experiences, opening countries up to better funding opportunities from international sources and sharing organisational capacity and expertise. Available online at http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/publications/science_diplomacy_IJTG.pdf.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT REVIEW 2006. By the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), January 2006. The TER 2006 focuses on environmental and related health requirements and their impact on developing countries' access to other markets. It examines both the opportunities and challenges presented by these requirements, which are increasingly stringent, complex and multi-dimensional. The TER includes both general and sectoral analyses of the issue, and looks at two sectors where environmental requirements are critical to market access: electrical and electronic equipment and organic agricultural products. The evidence presented in the TER supports recommendations for developing countries to adopt a more strategic and proactive approach to coping with environmental and related health requirements in export markets. Available online at http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/publications/TER2006all.pdf.

AFTER THE WTO HONG KONG MINISTERIAL MEETING: WHAT IS AT STAKE? By Ken Heydon. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), January, 2006. The WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005 made some progress in advancing the Doha Agenda. But much remains to be done, particularly in settling negotiating modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and in putting some flesh onto the bones of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Charting the way ahead will require that trade policy be seen in a broader domestic context which recognises that market opening works best when it is backed by sound macroeconomic policies, flexible labour markets, a culture of competition and strong institutions. Available online at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/40/35984888.pdf>.

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