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the key players in that debate work to hammer out their differences.

The new chair, Luzius Wasescha of Switzerland, has held consultations with more than 47 delegations since he took over from Canadian Don Stephenson of Canada as head of the committee on non-agricultural market access, or NAMA, at the beginning of October. The new chair is scheduled to continue the meetings this week.

The "starting point" for those talks will be the draft text released on 10 July this year, Wasescha said in a 'transparency session' with WTO Members on 22 October, an approach to which no Member objected.

Sectorals left alone for now

Wasescha said that delegations on both sides of the debate on sectoral initiatives agreed that multilateral talks on the matter should be shelved to allow Members to negotiate one-on-one and in small-group settings.

"With regard to sectorals, both the proponents and the sceptics are not keen to engage in a multilateral process at this stage," Wasescha told journalists after the meeting, Reuters reported.

The controversial measures would require developed countries to eliminate all tariffs on the goods covered by the agreement, while developing countries would be allowed to retain low duties on a small number of products. Sectoral initiatives have been proposed in 14 sectors, including auto parts, bicycles, chemicals, electronic products, fish products, forestry products, gems and toys.

Developed countries have argued that sectoral tariff cuts, which would go beyond the demands of the standard tariff reduction formula, should only take effect once a 'critical mass' of countries that account for a significant proportion of total international trade in the product have signed on to the agreement. Since participating countries would extend tariff cuts to all WTO Members, proponents of sectorals are eager to avoid 'free riding' by any major economies.

LEAD STORIES

SECTORALS ON HOLD FOR NOW IN WTO INDUSTRIAL GOODS TALKS

Negotiations toward a deal to liberalise trade in the industrial sector have picked up again, the new chair of the WTO's committee on industrial goods said last week, but multilateral talks on controversial sector-specific liberalisation initiatives will be put on hold while

Indeed, developed country business groups have said that a Doha deal must require the robust participation of both developed and emerging economies in sectoral initiatives. They have also said any agreement must include an 'anti-concentration clause' that would prevent developing countries from focusing their tariff-reduction flexibilities on a limited number of industrial sectors.

But Indian industry groups have argued forcefully for a minimal anti-concentration clause, and have said that sectoral initiatives must be purely voluntary and should offer no incentives for participation. The measures, the Indian critics say, favour developed countries and would hurt small and medium enterprises in India.

'Formula and flexibilities' also on the backburner for the moment

Wasescha said he would also put off negotiations on the critical 'formula and flexibilities' in the industrial goods talks - measures that will set countries' future tariff levels and determine the extent to which developing nations will be able to shield some products from full duty cuts. These core issues would have to be addressed at a later date, Wasescha said, after he has gotten a better understanding of where Members stand.

But the chair indicated that, starting this week, consultations would be going forward on the erosion of tariff preferences and on special flexibilities for Oman, South Africa and Venezuela. Non-tariff barriers and the treatment of recently acceded Members and small and vulnerable economies would also be addressed. Wasescha further indicated that he planned to begin raising the core 'formula and flexibilities' issues in meetings with Members the week beginning 10 November.

Wasescha told Members that he is working under the assumption that he will produce a draft text before the end of the year, but that much work lies ahead.

"If the members engage and do the work, it's feasible, not easy but feasible," Wasescha told journalists after the meeting, Reuters reported.

And while the chair stressed that only the Members could produce any real progress in the talks, he did leave open the possibility that he could insert himself more forcefully into the process. "Either a solution is found among Members themselves, or the chair will have to impose one," he said.

ICTSD reporting. "WTO revises industry sector approach in Doha push," REUTERS, 23 October 2008.

OTHER NEWS

AFRICAN LEADERS AGREE TO WORK TOWARD 26-COUNTRY TRADE BLOC

The three largest African economic coalitions agreed last week to work toward establishing a free trade area that would span the length of the continent, and that might eventually be converted into a single customs union. The move, which was announced at a meeting held in Kampala, Uganda, has been welcomed by economists and development experts.

The first-ever tripartite summit of the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) brought together 26 countries and heads of state and governments, including Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and the new South African President, Kgalema Motlanthe.

Discussion at the summit revolved around how to achieve deeper regional integration, how to promote greater movement of workers and intra-regional trade, and how to lay the groundwork for a unified free-trade zone. The officials also considered the challenges that Africa faces in the current international financial crisis, as well as the positions that the continent's leaders should take in the ongoing negotiations toward economic partnership agreements with the EU.

United states of Africa?

When realised, the single trade bloc and customs union that the leaders envisage would stretch from South Africa to Egypt and from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Kenya, encompassing a population of over 527 million and a combined GDP of US\$ 624 billion. Spanning 26 countries, the new regional economic community would be just one member shy of the world's largest economic community, the EU.

Work on the matter will begin immediately. The leaders have given a special taskforce six months to develop a roadmap for the creation of the free trade area and the merger of the regional economic communities.

The leaders also asked the three economic bodies to prepare a timetable for integration; to examine the legal and institutional framework that would be necessary to underpin the free trade agreement; and to develop measures to facilitate the movement of businesspersons across the regional trade blocs.

The three regional economic communities agreed to approve a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the free trade area within six months. That document would then be up for signature by the chairs of each of the coalitions.

This tripartite arrangement is considered a crucial building bloc towards the attainment of an African Economic Community, which was first envisaged in the Treaty of Abuja in 1991. Many say that the move toward greater integration is long overdue, and that it will be a big step forward for Africa's economic development.

Analysts say that the merger of the three main trade groups will boost inter-Africa trade by creating larger markets and more opportunities for economies of scale. Trade within the continent - which accounts for only 2 percent of global trade - is considered an underexploited growth area for Africa. Although the current global financial crisis is expected to dampen growth worldwide, Africa, the world's poorest continent, is forecast to be relatively sheltered from the fallout.

Moreover, the deal is expected to strengthen Africa's voice on the world stage. "By coming together, the member states will have a strong voice in advancing our interests on the international scene," said South African President Kgalema Motlanthe, reported the BBC.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni concurred: "The greatest enemy of Africa, the greatest source of weakness has been disunity and a low level of political and economic integration," reported the BBC.

Proponents also argue the deal will bring an end to problems arising from the fact that several countries belong to multiple regional trade groups. On average, each African nation belongs to about four of the continent's 30 regional trade arrangements, Reuters reported.

Currently, all three regional groupings - COMESA, EAC and SADC - plan to create customs unions. In fact, Southern Africa just launched a free trade area in August, and plans to create a customs union in 2010. Technically, however, a country cannot belong to more than one customs union.

While the deal is likely to benefit more efficient, large producers over small businesses, increased competition could force medium-scale businesses to invest in better technologies and improve efficiency, reported Reuters.

But some analysts believe the proposed free trade zone will not come into existence easily. Challenges to the merger include security issues, protectionism and differing integration levels between the regions. Political instability, such as that in Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo, is also likely to impede integration.

The African leaders also made progress toward greater collaboration on infrastructure development. Other measures put forward for joint implementation within the zone included cooperation in communications, transport and energy.

The global financial crisis

The current global financial crisis and its impact on world economic stability were also on the agenda at the tripartite summit. In particular, it was noted with concern that the global financial crisis threatens the growth of African economies, particularly in terms of tourism, employment, global demand for African exports of goods and services, foreign direct investment, remittances of the African diaspora, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the willingness of the donor community to meet aid commitments.

As such, the summit called for a collective action to help African and other developing and least developed countries to address the adverse impact of the financial crisis and the global economic meltdown. Moreover, the leaders urged international financial institutions to adopt effective remedial measures to mitigate the risks.

The continuation of the world food crisis was also on the radar of the African leaders, who agreed to make strategic interventions to enhance African food production and increase the accessibility of all markets.

On the subject of international trade negotiations, the tripartite summit directed the leaders of the three economic coalitions to ensure that their respective secretariats coordinate their positions in the negotiations on economic partnership agreement with the EU, as well as on multilateral negotiations, including the WTO's Doha Development Round.

Taken as a whole, the summit reflected the current sentiment within the continent - that African economic unity and the status of African countries must be strengthened by prioritising economic cooperation and integration, with the hope of also addressing the commercial and economic marginalisation that has long plagued the continent.

Twenty-six African nations will be included in the new free trade zone: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, the Comoros, the DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ICTSD reporting; "Africa's giant trading bloc years in the making," REUTERS, 28 October 2008; "COMESA-ECA-SADC concerned about global financial crisis," LUSAKA TIMES, 24 October 2008; "Three African trading blocs look to join ICT governance," NETWORKWORLD, 24 October 2008; "Kampala Summit adopts trade accords programme," ANGOLA PRESS AGENCY, 23 October 2008; "African free trade zone is agreed," BBC NEWS, 22 October 2008; "African leaders meet in Kampala for summit," NEW VISION, 19 October 2008.

IN BRIEF

BUSH GATHERS G20 TO DISCUSS FINANCIAL CRISIS, DOHA

US President George W. Bush has invited the heads of 20 industrialised and developing countries to convene in Washington, DC on 15 November to discuss the current financial crisis, the White House announced last week. The world leaders will also address the ongoing push for a world trade deal at the WTO, Bush's press secretary said.

Discussion at the Group of 20 summit, the first in a series of meetings aimed at addressing the financial crisis, is set to revolve around "financial markets and the global economy," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino told reporters.

In President Bush's weekly radio address, he explained: "During this summit, we will discuss the causes of the problems in our financial systems, review the progress being made to address the current crisis, and begin developing principles of reform for regulatory bodies and institutions related to our financial sectors."

"While the specific solutions pursued by every country may not be the same, agreeing on a common set of principles will be an essential step towards preventing similar crises in the future," he said.

The meeting will also touch on ongoing - but struggling - efforts to reach a global trade deal at the WTO, the White House press secretary said.

"I'm sure Doha will be discussed," Perino told reporters. "I am sure that the leaders, when they get together, will try to talk about how do we continue to make sure that trade is open and that it's liberal so that every citizen across the world is able to benefit from free trade," Perino said.

But by the time the summit is held, the next US president will have been chosen, and Bush will be a lame-duck president, with limited influence. Whatever solutions are aired are therefore likely to serve only as recommendations for the next administration. Both of Bush's would-be successors - Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain - have been informed of the summit, but it is uncertain as to whether the election winner will attend.

Stock markets worldwide have tumbled recently, largely a result of last year's US sub-prime mortgage crisis, and fears of a global recession are widespread.

Although world leaders differ on the causes and solutions to the credit crunch, many measures have already been implemented to combat the crisis: the US has initiated a US\$ 700 billion bailout package and followed the lead of European countries in buying stocks in privately owned banks.

The 15 November meeting will include officials from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the US. Additionally, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the president of the World Bank, the United Nations secretary-general and the chairman of the financial stability forum, a group consisting of major national financial authorities and international financial bodies, have been invited to participate.

ICTSD reporting; "Bush seeks 'common principles' to solve global financial crisis," BLOOMBERG, 25 October 2008; "G20 Summit to tackle financial crisis amid recession fears," FRANCE24, 22 October 2008.

CHINA, SINGAPORE INK FREE TRADE DEAL

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong witnessed the signing of a bilateral free trade agreement, or FTA, between their countries on 23 October in Beijing. The China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement will take effect on 1 January 2009, after both parties have completed legislative requirements.

Singapore's government said that it expects the FTA to enhance economic and political ties between the two countries, and that the deal will add momentum toward the establishment of a China-ASEAN free trade zone.

"China is one of the largest and fastest growing markets in the world. The agreement will enhance Singapore companies' access to the vast Chinese market and further boost our excellent bilateral trade and investment relations," the Singaporean government said in a statement.

The comprehensive trade pact, China's first bilateral FTA with another Asian nation, covers trade in goods and services, rules of origin, trade remedies, sanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, customs procedures, economic cooperation and dispute settlement, among other things.

Under the agreement, tariffs will be eliminated on more than 85 percent of Singapore's exports to China upon the FTA's entry into force, with an additional 10 percent of goods made duty-free by the next year. According to a Chinese statement, in total, a zero-tariff policy on 97.1 percent of Singaporean imported goods will be realised before the start of 2012. Although 260 specific goods are to be excluded, key products to be covered by the agreement include petrochemicals, processed foods and electrical products.

In return, Singapore will eliminate all tariffs on Chinese exports when agreement comes into force.

Talks for the deal began in October 2006 following a China-Singapore Joint Expert Group study on the feasibility of an FTA between the two countries. Following eight rounds of negotiations, the talks concluded on 3 September this year.

According to the Singaporean Ministry of Trade and Industry, trade between the two countries reached US\$ 62 billion in 2007. China is Singapore's third-largest trade partner and largest investment destination, while Singapore is China's eighth-largest trading partner.

Beijing is currently in free trade negotiations with Australia, Japan, South Korea, Russia and various central Asian states. At the regional level, Beijing is aiming to establish the world's largest free trade area by negotiating a deal with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

ICTSD reporting; "China, Singapore sign free trade pact," XINHUA, 23 October 2008; "Singapore signs free trade agreement with China," ASIAONE, 23 October

2008; "China, Singapore sign free-trade pact: officials," ASSOCIATED FRANCE PRESSE, 24 October 2008.

WTO IN BRIEF

MEXICO REQUESTS WTO CONSULTATIONS WITH US IN ONGOING TUNA DISPUTE

Mexico has filed a request for WTO consultations with the US over its refusal to allow the dolphin-safe label to be used on Mexican tuna products. In the request, filed on 24 October, Mexico claimed that the trade restrictions are illegal and discriminatory, and have resulted in a loss of more than a third of its tuna fleet due to its hampered ability to effectively market Mexican tuna in the US.

US law dictates that the label cannot be used on tuna caught in encircling, or 'purse-seine', nets, which often trap dolphins along with the fish. Mexico, however, contends that its fishing practices are fully sustainable and comply with the guidelines accepted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), of which the US is a member. Furthermore, Mexico believes that the measures violate several WTO rules, including national treatment and most-favoured nation obligations, and create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

This latest request revives a dispute dating from 1991, when Mexico first objected to the US embargo of Mexican tuna products under its Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). At the time, the MMPA prohibited the importation of tuna harvested with purse-seine nets in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean unless US officials established that the government of the exporting country regulated the taking of marine mammals in a manner similar to that of the US, and that the rate of capture of marine mammals was comparable to that of US vessels. The embargo was also applied to intermediary countries that handled the tuna between its shipment from Mexico to the US, especially during processing and canning.

When Mexico first requested a panel under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in February 1991, the GATT ruled that while the US could not embargo Mexican tuna, it could, however, refuse to allow the application of the 'dolphin-safe' logo. The ruling on the dispute, which has become known as the 'product' versus 'process' issue, said that the US could only regulate the quality of imported products, and not the process used to create them. The labelling system, on

the other hand, was judged to be a justifiable way to prevent deceptive advertising.

But unlike the WTO, the GATT did not automatically accept a panel report after 60 days. After bilateral consultations with the US, Mexico chose not to pursue the case and the report was neither adopted nor did it become legally binding. Despite negotiations, the US did not lift the embargo until 1997.

According to a Mexican trade official, Mexico has tried various approaches to resolving the issue, but has been unable to reach a satisfactory solution. If the matter is not resolved within 30 days, Mexico may request the establishment of an arbitration panel, the official said.

ICTSD reporting.

RUSSIA STILL WORKING TOWARD WTO MEMBERSHIP, PUTIN SAYS

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has reaffirmed his country's commitment to seeking Membership in the WTO, even though as recently two months ago Russian officials said they might backtrack on some promises the country had made in its negotiations to join the global trade body.

"We will continue the negotiating process," Putin said, as reported by the Russian news agency Itar-Tass. "Such is our goal. We will conduct negotiations patiently and with arguments."

Russia's bid to join the WTO, which as of this spring was considered on track to be concluded by the end of the year, stalled after conflict flared up in neighbouring Georgia in August. With some in the West threatening to block Moscow's entry into the WTO over its role in the violence, Putin said that Russia was considering pulling back from some of the commitments it had already made in its accession process (see Bridges Weekly, 4 September 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/27680/>). The country has been negotiating its terms of entry into the global trade forum for nearly 15 years

"We don't feel or see any advantages from membership, if they exist at all," Putin said in August.

But circumstances have changed over the past two months: the conflict in Georgia has quieted, Russia has withdrawn its troops from 'buffer zones' in Georgia (though not from the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia), and the Russian Prime Minister has changed his tune on trade.

"We should take into account present-day realities, but strategically isolationism is not our choice," Putin said on Monday, Itar-Tass reported. "Our choice is further integration of Russia into the world economy."

And Russia's WTO bid has received the support of some of its major trading partners. During a visit to Moscow earlier this week, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said that Russia has China's full backing in its efforts to join the WTO.

Similar support has come from Peter Mandelson, the former EU Trade Commissioner and current UK Business Minister, who urged Russia to press on in its WTO bid in a speech in Moscow on Tuesday. "I can understand how, after 15 long years, it's hard not to experience negotiating fatigue. But when 90 percent of the work on Russia's accession has been achieved, now is not the time to give up."

Russia is the largest economy in the world that has yet to join the 153-Member global trade body.

David Merkel, the US' deputy assistant secretary of state for Russia said in an interview with The Moscow Times last week that deeper integration into the world economy could bring Russia greater stability during turbulent financial times. "Russia is not an insulated island outside the world community," he said. "With globalism, Russia is affected by things that happen outside its borders."

ICTSD reporting; "China supports Russia's membership in WTO," KOMMERSANT, 28 October 2008; "US sees double hit for Russia's economy," THE MOSCOW TIMES, 27 October 2008; "Russia still interested in joining WTO - Prime Minister Vladimir Putin," ITAR-TASS, 27 October 2008.

CONTROVERSY BREWING OVER CHINESE TEXTILES

The upcoming expiration of US and European export quotas on Chinese textiles could be the start of a new international trade dispute. China is hoping to cooperate with its trading partners on the issue, but the US has said that it "has begun to prepare a potential WTO dispute settlement request" against Chinese textile subsidies.

US and European export quotas on Chinese textiles and apparel will expire on 31 December. With that deadline quickly approaching, China is seeking to establish dialogue with these two major trading partners

to ease the shift into more liberal trade of its products beginning in 2009.

"We are going to engage in dialogue and communication with relevant countries to ensure a smooth transition and create an enabling environment for Chinese textile exports," China's Commerce Minister said in a press release on 26 October.

But the US has already shown its reluctance to eliminate its quotas and possibly face a surge of Chinese imports. Global demand for textiles is shrinking thanks to the global financial crisis.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said in a letter to Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina that she had appealed to the Chinese government to quickly remove its textile subsidies, which she said "appear to raise serious WTO issues," or face the prospect of WTO dispute settlement, for which her office was already preparing.

The prospect of a massive influx of cheap Chinese products may be daunting for textile manufacturers in the US and the EU, but China has promised to work with its domestic producers to help maintain "stable and sustainable" export levels after the quotas expire.

According to the protocol for China's accession to the global trade body, WTO Members were allowed to maintain restrictions on imports of Chinese textiles until the end of 2004. But that was not long enough for the EU and US, who claimed that dropping the quotas would do damage to their markets and domestic industries.

In 2005, the EU and the US signed independent agreements with China that established export quotas for different categories of textiles, including t-shirts, underwear, bras, and bedding fabrics. Those deals allowed for imports to grow between 10 and 17 percent per year.

Chinese textile exports amounted to US\$ 171 billion in 2007. But in the first nine months of this year, Chinese textile exports totalled only US\$ 136.94 billion - 11.9 percent lower than the same period of last year. The main markets for Chinese clothes are Hong Kong, Japan, the EU and the US.

ICTSD reporting; "No safeguards against Chinese textiles from 2009," PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE, 27 October 2008; "China wants orderly end to textile export quotas," REUTERS, 26 October 2008.

NORWAY TPR: STRONG FUNDAMENTALS, BUT FARM SUBSIDIES STILL TOO HIGH

Norway, a country that enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world, has shown strong economic performance over the past four years, but the country would do well to cut farm subsidies and lower barriers to trade outside of Europe, a review published by the WTO Secretariat concluded last week.

Norway's economy has been bolstered by strong exports of oil and gas, relatively low barriers to imports, and sound macroeconomic policies, the Trade Policy Review, or TPR, concluded. These factors, coupled with growing productivity and rising export prices for hydrocarbon products, helped the country's gross domestic product grow by an average of 5.2 percent per year between 2004 and 2007, the report said. Growth in Norway's strong services sector, which accounts for 66 percent of its GDP, has also contributed to the strong economic performance.

But Norway's domestic farm subsidies remain high, a fact that has contributed to high food prices in the country. Indeed, Norway maintains the second-highest level of agriculture support (66 percent of gross farm receipts) of all of the 30 industrialised nations that constitute the OECD, the report noted, even though the sector accounts for only "a very small percentage" of employment and GDP.

The world's second-largest exporter seafood (by value), Norway has cut subsidies in the fisheries sector and put in place a number of market mechanisms to manage fishing activity. More than 60 percent of Norwegian seafood exports go to EU countries.

And while Norway has traded actively with its fellow members of the European Economic Area, the country should extend deeper trade preferences to countries in other parts of the world. Norway would also do well to lower barriers to foreign investment, the report said.

TPRs take place on a regular basis for all WTO Members. The last TPR for Norway was conducted in 2004.

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.

Coming up: 30 October - 5 November

31 October, Copenhagen, Denmark. PUBLIC SEMINAR: WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009 - SPATIAL DISPARITIES IN DEVELOPMENT. 'Reshaping economic geography' is the title of the World Bank Report 2009 to be launched in November 2008. The overall objective of the report is to investigate how the gradual concentration of economic activities within nations relates to spatial disparities in levels of welfare. This seminar will focus on the spatial dimensions of development, in particular two central themes in the report: rural-urban relations and regional inequality. A group of key development scholars and a representative from the World Bank Report 2009 Core Group have been invited to present their views on the report. A subsequent panel session will open for a broader discussion of the pertinent issues raised throughout the day. For further information, please refer to: http://www.ddrn.dk/index.php?side_id=207.

3-4 November 2008, Paris, France. OECD POLICY DIALOGUE ON AID FOR TRADE. The OECD with the support of the European Commission and the German Marshall Fund of the United States is organising a Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade on 3-4 November 2008 in the OECD Conference Centre. The main objectives of this two-day event is to discuss between policy makers, practitioners and academics how the developing community can help developing countries to build trade capacity and address supply-side constraints, in order to realise the full benefits from their integration in the world economy. Participation to this event is by invitation only. For more information, please contact: e-mail: aft.dialogue@oecd.org; fax: : +33 1 44 30 61 59; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/trade/aftdialogue2008>.

3-5 November, Paris, France. THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY ORGANISATIONS IN PROTECTING THE CLIMATE: 2008. This meeting is organised and sponsored by the European Communities Defense Environmental Network (DEFNET), US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Defense, UNEP, Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), Ministries of Environment and Defense Ministries of France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom and others. This workshop is meant to provide a forum for leadership announcements and updates; apply lessons from ozone layer protection to climate protection; highlight challenges and progress made by developed and developing countries; summarise emerging and available climate protection technologies suitable for military and civilian applications; focus on military-unique problems not solved by technology developed for civilian applications; and present case studies of military and commercial leadership to protect the climate. A conference report will be published with

consensus findings, including proven strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving military effectiveness. For further information, please contact: Veronique Millon, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development; e-mail: vmillon@inece.org; Internet: <http://www.igsd.org/conferences/Paris2008.php>

3-4 November, Marrakesh, Morocco. SECOND ANNUAL FORUM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY INVESTMENT NEGOTIATORS. The 2nd Annual Forum will update participants on key issues in the International Investment Law regime today. This includes the changes in this field at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels; issues relating to the role of development policy space and home country and investor obligations; issues relating to the link between investment agreements and climate change; and other relevant topics. The participants for the 2nd Annual Forum come from nominated participants identified by developing country governments. For more information, please refer to: http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=853&Itemid=119

3-4 November, Paris, France. OECD POLICY DIALOGUE ON AID FOR TRADE. The event aims at bringing together available evidence on what works best in Aid for Trade in order to ensure that all key stakeholders involved in implementing and monitoring Aid for Trade are aware of the best practices in the field. In particular, the discussion will focus on the tools and instruments available to deliver Aid for Trade effectively; from the inception of an Aid for Trade strategy to the implementation of Aid for Trade programmes and the evaluation of their performance. The event will also invite the providers of South-South co-operation, the so-called emerging or non-traditional donors, to share their experiences and information on how best to support developing countries' trade capacity. For further information, please refer to: http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3343,en_21571361_40994264_41015609_1_1_1_1,00.html

3-6 November, Nanjing, China. FOURTH WORLD URBAN FORUM. The World Urban Forum, held every two years, was established by the United Nations to examine rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is a venue to discuss specific urban issues on energy, environment, land, housing, infrastructure, healthcare, education, safety and reform of ghettos; and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. For further information, please refer to: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/Fourth-World-Urban-Forum/default.asp>.

3-8 November, Yokohama, Japan. FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL. For further information, please refer to: <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=179&id=4243>.

4 November, Brussels, Amsterdam. EU COMMUNICATIONS AFTER THE IRISH "NO". Lunch debate introduced by Margot Wallström, Vice-President and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, European Commission. This debate forms part of the series 'Ifri's Tuesdays in Brussels'. For further information, please refer to

http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/d_jeuners_et_diners_d_bats_1043938397808/publi_P_mib_wallstrom_1224233618221?language=us.

5 November, London, UK. THE END OF LAISSEZ FAIRE: HOW TO GLOBALIZE GOVERNANCE OF THE WORLD FINANCIAL SYSTEM. The spread of toxic 'Frankenstein' products through global markets has precipitated a major crisis and uncovered significant and large-scale regulatory and risk management failures. This has prompted many to claim that "laissez-faire is over". This recognition presents regulators and international institutions with an unprecedented opportunity for reform, to review the systemic shortcomings of the current architecture and devise a new model of governance suitable for today's global economic realities. The results of this brainstorming roundtable should feed into the G8 agenda in 2009. For further information please refer to: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/955/>

5-7 November, Maputo, Mozambique. ECOTOURISM AND PROTECTED AREAS: CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION. The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism of Mozambique, is organising this seminar, which will focus on the contribution of ecotourism to community development, poverty reduction and financing of protected areas, as well as related social and environmental issues. For more information contact: Helder Tomas; tel: +34-91-567-81-00; e-mail: caf@unwto.org; Internet: <http://www.unwto.org/sdt/events/en/events.php>

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/meets_public/meets_e.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.

30 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

3 NOVEMBER: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

4-5 NOVEMBER: PANEL DS322 (MEASURES RELATING TO ZEROING AND SUNSET REVIEWS) PUBLIC VIEWING

5-6 NOVEMBER: COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Other Upcoming Events

6-7 November, Montreal, Canada. CBD EXPERT MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY

FOR DEVELOPMENT. Organised by the CBD Secretariat, this meeting will address a framework for a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, as a complement to the Development Platform for the South launched by the G-77, and a process of South-South Cooperation leading to CBD COP 10. For further information, please refer to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-01>

10 November, Albany, New York, US. INTERNATIONAL NGO WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCING. The John and Ann Doerr Foundation (JADF) invites you to attend the International NGOs' Workshop on Development Financing as Delegate(s) of your country. Microfinance Institutions (MFI's), Non-governmental Organisations (NGO's), Associations, donor agencies, consulting firms, government agencies, central and commercial banks, socially responsible investors and private individuals are invited to attend. The Workshop's goal is to help reduce poverty and to raise the standards of living by mobilising resources inside as well as outside the countries while providing a technical and financial assistance for development projects and programs in the concerned countries. For further information, please contact Miss Jennifer Clifford at secretariat@doerrfoundation.com.

10 November, London, UK. MAKING TRADE WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA. How can trade have a positive impact on the poorest in Latin America? Two decades of deepening trade liberalisation and expanding trade flows in Latin America have brought growth and improvements in efficiency in key sectors; but poverty remains a big issue in the region. This conference will look at ways in which trade agreements can be used to enhance development and ensure that benefits from trade reach the poorest. For further information, please refer to: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/130/>

10 - 14 November, Goa, India. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS. The objective of the workshop is to understand strategic management process in a development sector through a holistic approach. It also aims at developing an awareness and understanding of a wide variety of development intervention tools with a focus on their applicability to the social sector. This practical and output-oriented training program is intended for training executives, managers and/or planners. Project managers, program managers and executives who want to develop better project plans and results. Also ideal for project teams or key stakeholders to participate together in building a comprehensive integrated project plan. For more information, please contact Priyanka Singh at +91 011 26896151.

RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING: THE ART OF LONG TERM PERFORMANCE. By Cary Krosinsky and Nick Robins (Part of the Environmental Insights Series). As the roles of business and capital markets shift to directly address global challenges, practitioners can no longer ignore the growing momentum in sustainable investing. This book pulls together thinking from

contemporary experts and includes an overview of past notions, current best practice and future trends. For more information, please refer to:
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=4833&v=451492>

DEVELOPING COUNTRY PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM: BUILDING STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO ENHANCING MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. By The South Centre. October 2008. This study is a follow up to the initial paper on stakeholder perspectives with respect to the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) prepared by the South Centre entitled "Reshaping the International Development Cooperation Architecture: perspectives on a Strategic Development Role for the Development Cooperation Forum." The initial paper undertook a survey of various developing country governmental, intergovernmental, and civil society stakeholders involved in the DCF processes to generate perspectives on the role of the DCF. For further information, please refer to
http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_docman&ask=cat_view&qid=45&Itemid=68

MULTILATERALISM BEYOND DOHA. by Aaditya Mattoo (The World Bank) and Arvind Subramanian (Peterson Institute). October 2008. This paper advances five propositions: (1) the traditional negotiating dynamic, driven by private-sector interests largely in the rich countries, is running out of steam; (2) the world economy is moving broadly from conditions of relative abundance to relative scarcity, and so economic security has become a paramount concern for consumers, workers, and ordinary citizens; (3) international economic integration can contribute to enhanced security; (4) addressing these new concerns-relating to food, energy, and economic security-requires a wider agenda of multilateral cooperation, involving not just the World Trade Organisation but other multilateral institutions as well; and (5) despite shifts in economic power across countries, the commonality of interests and scope for give-and-take on these new issues make multilateral cooperation worth attempting. To download the paper, please refer to:
<http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/wp/wp08-8.pdf>.

ACHIEVING "GREEN GROWTH IN A CARBON CONSTRAINED WORLD." By Jodie Keane and Gareth Potts (Overseas Development Institute). October 2008. This publication offers a brief overview of emissions traded through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), followed by an analysis of the geographical distribution of CDM projects and types. Although it is difficult to assess the sustainable development benefits of the CDM, it is clear that some developing countries have gained. Despite this, the future success and continued growth of the CDM is under threat due to the uncertainty surrounding the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The second section of this Background Note outlines the current state of play of negotiations. Assuming the CDM continues beyond 2012, some of the new initiatives and reforms that are likely to shape the next climate change regime are discussed. For further information, please refer to:
<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/odi-publications/background-notes/2008/green-growth-carbon-trading.pdf>.

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