



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

- New Doha Approach Floated as Delegates Consider Late-Autumn Ministerial 1
- WIPO Committee Sees Movement on Development Agenda Implementation 3

IN BRIEF

- Mexico, Canada Condemn Bans on Pork Exports 5
- Monsanto Sues Germany over GM Maize Ban... 6

WTO In BRIEF

- Lamy Tapped to Lead the WTO for Another 4 Years 6
- Dispute Panel Established in Tuna-Dolphin Case, Despite US Objections..... 7

EVENTS & RESOURCES

- Events..... 8
- Resources 10

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LEAD STORIES

New Doha Approach Floated as Delegates Consider Late-Autumn Ministerial

Trade officials in Geneva are considering a new approach to the Doha Round that would bypass the negotiation of modalities – the broad outlines of a deal that WTO Members have been struggling to forge for more than seven years – and move directly into scheduling countries' specific commitments on cutting tariffs and reducing subsidy levels.

Trade officials told Bridges that the Canadian ambassador to the WTO, John Gero, first suggested the idea among roughly a dozen trade delegates about two weeks ago, but only informally. Although no delegation, including Canada, has officially proposed the idea, it seems to have attracted some support.

But several developing countries have signalled some discomfort with the idea of abandoning the negotiations on modalities, on the grounds that such an approach could allow the US and other major developed countries to extract extra concessions from them. In the absence of a solid development-centred framework to guide the line-by-line negotiation of tariff cuts, some of the WTO's poorer Members fear that the existing draft modalities texts could become the starting point, rather than the endpoint, of their ultimate liberalisation commitments. Without modalities to guide the process, they worry that they would have nothing to fall back on to counter developed countries' pushes for greater market access.

One developing country trade official stressed that skipping the modalities phase is “completely outside the mandate” of the Doha Round. Such a jump could risk erasing the delicate balance that

has been painstakingly built up in negotiations thus far, the delegate said.

"We don't like the idea," one developing country trade official said.

The new approach could also allow developed countries to exploit unresolved issues in the negotiations and give less ground than they otherwise would, one delegate said.

But a jump straight into scheduling could present some real advantages, one trade source said. The new approach could accelerate the process of implementing the cuts to tariffs and subsidies that would be embodied in a world trade deal. Secondly, exporting countries could quickly determine how products of concern to them would be treated.

Some developing countries say they would then need at least a year to schedule all of their commitments; the WTO secretariat, which would likely run the scheduling process for Least-Developed Countries, or LDCs, says it would need at least six months to complete the work. If that lengthy process could begin sooner rather than later, then all the better, one insider said.

At this point, though, the new approach is still in an 'exploratory phase', as one delegate put it. Whether the idea will eventually be turned into an official proposal remains to be seen.

Ministerial tentatively set for late autumn

In other WTO news, the organisation's director-general, Pascal Lamy, suggested in an address to delegates at last week's General Council meeting that a high-level WTO summit could be coming up soon.

"We have not had a Ministerial meeting since 2005 and my own sense is that we should not close 2009 without one," Lamy said.

WTO rules call for a Ministerial conference once every two years, but three and a half years have passed since the most recent such meeting was held in Hong Kong. Other Ministerials have been held in Cancun (2003), Doha, Qatar (2001), Seattle (1999), Geneva (1998) and Singapore (1996).

One trade official said that a tentative proposal has been made to hold such a meeting at WTO headquarters in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December of this year. Delegations will have the chance to discuss the proposed dates at the next meeting of the General Council, which is set for 26 and 27 May.

But the next Ministerial could have quite a different feel from past gatherings. Unlike previous summits, the proposed Ministerial would focus on the WTO's 'regular work', not its trade negotiations, Lamy told delegates last week.

"We should de-dramatise Ministerial meetings, make them a more regular exercise, where WTO activities are reviewed across the board, to ascertain the level of satisfaction of members with the running of WTO activities and to address priorities at a political level," the director-general told the General Council.

"A regular Ministerial meeting is one thing; Ministerial involvement in negotiations is another. We should not confuse the two," he added.

One trade delegate told Bridges that not all delegations were happy with the notion of downplaying the Doha Round at a potential Ministerial meeting, but another said that the lack of emphasis on the negotiations could simply be a ploy to lower expectations for the high-level summit.

But even if Doha is not explicitly listed in the agenda of the proposed Ministerial, the Round will not necessarily be put on the backburner for good this year, delegates said. Several trade officials noted that progress on the Doha Round could come on the sidelines of upcoming high-level meetings in other forums. Ministers from the Cairns Group, a coalition of agricultural exporters, will be meeting in Bali from 7-9 June; less than three weeks later, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will be holding its annual ministerial meeting in Paris. And then in early July the world's major economic powers will gather at a G8 summit in Italy. Trade ministers meeting on the sidelines of these summits could jumpstart progress in the Doha Round, sources said.

But even with the many opportunities for sideline negotiations, a gathering of ministers at WTO headquarters to achieve a breakthrough in the Round is “not likely” to come before the end of the summer, one delegate said.

USTR Kirk to visit Geneva next week

Progress on the DDA could get a boost next week, as US Trade Representative Ron Kirk is said to be planning his first visit to WTO headquarters in Geneva. Although the trip has yet to be formally announced, a trade source suggested that Kirk is likely to meet with Lamy.

Many Geneva-based trade officials complain that the US has not been clear on its objectives with regard to the Doha Round talks. This lack of clarity from a major player has effectively stalled negotiations in Geneva, they say. Some delegates expressed hope that Kirk’s pending stopover at the WTO could shed some light on Washington’s stance in the talks.

"Everyone is waiting for the US," one trade official said.

ICTSD reporting.

WIPO Committee Sees Movement on Development Agenda Implementation

Discussions on the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda (DA) concluded on a positive note last week as delegates succeeded in adopting a new thematic approach to implementing proposed activities that are meant to integrate development concerns into the organisation’s work. The third session of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), held from 27 April to 1 May and chaired by Ambassador Trevor Clarke, from Barbados, was marked by greater momentum than the previous two sessions of the Committee.

At the outset of the meeting, many developing countries expressed their concern over the slow pace of implementation of the DA. The Director

General of WIPO, Mr. Francis Gurry reiterated his commitment to the successful implementation of the WIPO DA, stating the DA is a “wonderful opportunity for WIPO to integrate development activities into the posture of the organisation,” and assured that all sectors of WIPO would contribute to ensuring that the recommendations are mainstreamed into the organisation’s activities.

The WIPO Development Agenda was an initiative launched by developing countries in 2004 to integrate the development dimension into all of WIPO’s activities in accordance with its status as a UN agency. After two years of intense discussions, the WIPO General Assembly adopted 45 recommendations in 2007 to achieve this goal and addressing work of the organisation in areas ranging from norm setting, to technical assistance and including technology transfer and access to knowledge.

A major feature of the discussions was the new thematic project approach that was proposed by the Secretariat with the aim of helping to prevent inefficiencies and avoid the duplication of activities that might be required for multiple recommendations. Each project has a project manager who is to report to the CDIP on the implementation of the project. The themes for the projects included ones such as "IP and Public Domain," "IP and Competition," "Technology Transfer," "Patent Information," "Open Collaborative Projects" and "IP and the Brain Drain."

While there was support for this new methodology, several delegations expressed some hesitation over the approach. Nigeria welcomed the methodology but cautioned that it should be accompanied with an effective assessment and monitoring mechanism to ensure that recommendations are not ‘lost’ under this approach. Brazil also added that the thematic approach requires guidelines to ensure that the implementation of each recommendation is a member-driven process and that no recommendation is overlooked.

Many countries, particularly developing countries, underlined that projects should not be seen as an end in themselves and that any modifications to the projects that countries might like to should be

reflected in the project document. Egypt emphasised that if a project is completed, this does not mean that the recommendation is concluded.

Ultimately, delegates at the meeting agreed to proceed on the basis of set guidelines to ensure a balanced approach in the implementation of recommendations. These guidelines direct members to first discuss each recommendation and agree on the activities for implementation, then to bring together, where possible, under a single theme recommendations that deal with similar or identical subjects, and to structure the implementation in the form of projects and other activities, as appropriate.

In this context, there was 'broad agreement' on the activities for implementing thematic projects related to Public Domain and Competition Policy and IP, Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) and the Digital Divide.

Delegates agreed that the implementation of these projects would begin in January 2010, with the understanding that agreed modifications would be incorporated to reflect the changes requested by the Committee.

On the issue of the public domain, India, Brazil and Egypt expressed concern that the term 'public domain' is still rather vague and that there has not yet been any international consensus towards a precise definition of the term. Pakistan opined that the public domain is not only important for access to knowledge but for fostering creativity and innovation. There was also concern echoed by these countries about the activities in relation to the public domain and traditional knowledge.

Also with regard to the public domain, Brazil informed the secretariat of a submission it had made to another WIPO body on Amazonian biodiversity names that it considers public domain or common communal heritage.

Brazil suggested the secretariat consider this list with the "possibility of developing a database of names related biodiversity," adding that such a process could serve as a "concrete activity that can be implemented toward the preservation of the public domain." The intervention by Brazil

stemmed from the country's concern that biodiversity names specific to the Amazon region are increasingly being misappropriated by third countries.

But the US interjected that the process of Brazil's submission was objectionable under WIPO's rules of procedure, which require proposals to be submitted 30 days prior to the meeting. The DG interjected, after a lively exchange between the two countries, offering that it was the task of the secretariat to implement the requests of the member states on the development agenda and that all proposed projects are subject to the approval, modification and elaboration by member states. Ultimately, discussions on the Brazilian proposal reflected some discomfort about the effective ability of countries to introduce their own suggested activities for the implementation of the recommendations.

Stalemate on coordination mechanism for the implementation of the WIPO DA

There was also substantial discussion on potential coordination mechanisms and modalities for monitoring, assessing and reporting on the implementation of the WIPO DA recommendations. Proposals on this issue were submitted by Pakistan, the African group, and the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The Pakistan proposal, which attracted the most support, proposed that chairs of WIPO committees report to the annual General Assemblies on how their bodies have implemented the Development Agenda recommendations. The African group proposal, which included the creation of a working group, raised concerns for some members who thought that the establishment of a new body would be cumbersome.

Members were divided as to the likelihood of reaching an agreement on this issue in this session and therefore decided that interested member states should submit their proposals to the secretariat by the end of June. These submissions, along with the proposals made in this session of the committee, would then be compiled by the secretariat and presented at the fourth session of the CDIP for further discussion on the subject.

On the issue of a roster of consultants emanating from Recommendation 6 (CDIP3/2), there was a request for the methods of selection for the experts to be disclosed. Bangladesh said that there was a need to include those intellectual property experts who have previously worked with LDCs. Brazil in turn stressed the need for balance and transparency in the process, adding that the roster should be constantly updated and perhaps posted on the WIPO website.

NGOs voice their concerns

Over the course of the week, non-governmental organisations voiced their concerns and comments over the proposed new thematic methodology. There was general concern among the NGOs over the need to ensure that the project proposals reflect the essence of the recommendations. Sanjeeta Shashikant, from the NGO Third World Network, emphasised that the development agenda should reflect a “change in culture” at WIPO “The hard work by member states should not be reduced to various projects,” Shashikant said. The International Federation of Libraries Association (EFLA) warned that past WIPO activities were being retrofitted by adding the term ‘development’ to the title but in fact “are activities which were in place before the development agenda.”

The next meeting of the CDIP is scheduled for 16-20 November 2009.

ICTSD reporting; “WIPO members move ahead on Development Agenda implementation,” IP-WATCH, 4 May 2009.

IN BRIEF

Mexico, Canada Condemn Bans on Pork Exports

Mexico and Canada have spoken out against bans on their pork exports that countries from China to Ecuador have put in place in response to the H1N1 flu virus. The pork exporters maintain that

the restrictions contravene world trade rules and have no scientific basis.

"Mexico urgently requests all its trading partners to eliminate any restrictive measures established on Mexican products, which are not in accordance with the scientific information available or with their international obligations," Mexico said in a statement to the WTO's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures this week, according to a report from Reuters.

More than a dozen countries have banned Mexican pork products since the 'swine flu' shut down schools, restaurants and public venues across Mexico last month. Mexican pork exports had been growing strongly before the virus hit; the country's total value of pork exports jumped by 60 percent in the 12 months before February 2009, according to data from the US Meat Export Federation.

Over the weekend, several international organisations issued a joint statement stressing the virus is not transmitted by food. "There is currently therefore no justification in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code for the imposition of trade measures on the importation of pigs or their products," said the statement, referring to guidelines set out by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The message was released jointly by the OIE, the WTO, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Health Organization.

Canada has also reacted strongly to a new ban on its pork products. The country's agriculture minister said Monday that Ottawa "would not hesitate" to bring a WTO challenge to China's ban on imports of Canadian pork. The Chinese ban was prompted by an announcement from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on Saturday that it had identified the H1N1 virus in a swine herd in Alberta. Canada insists that its pork products are safe to eat.

"China is operating outside of sound science," Gerry Ritz told Canadian lawmakers on Monday.

"We are looking for clarification as to why it has gone as far as it has. We will have a response to that very shortly. Should China continue on, of

course there is the WTO challenge which we would not hesitate to initiate.”

Pork exports from the United States and Spain have also been hit with bans since the outbreak of the flu virus. The European Union is the world’s largest exporter of pork, followed by the US. Brazil, Canada and China are also major producers of the meat.

Additional information

Click [here](#) for the statement from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on H1N1 in an Alberta swine herd.

Click [here](#) for February 2009 information on world pork exports from the US Meat Exporters Federation.

ICTSD reporting. “Mexico says pork import bans unjustified, illegal,” REUTERS, 5 May, 2009.

Monsanto Sues Germany over GM Maize Ban

Multinational agriculture giant Monsanto has followed through with its lawsuit against the German government over its recent decision to ban the cultivation of MON810, a strain of genetically modified maize that the firm produces. Berlin claims that its ban is based on environmental concerns, but Monsanto insists that the product, which has been approved by the EU, is safe to use.

With the announcement of the ban earlier this month, Germany became the sixth European country to prohibit the cultivation of the modified seed (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 April 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/45175/>). Austria, France, Greece, Hungary and Luxembourg have also forbidden farmers from using MON810, despite pressure from the European Commission to allow its use. The EC approved the use of the GM maize, which is designed to resist pests, more than a decade ago, but the seed is cultivated in only seven of the European bloc’s 27 member

countries. Germany has allowed farmers to grow MON810 since 2005.

Brad Mitchell, a spokesperson for Monsanto, told ICTSD that the company currently has no plans to launch lawsuits against the other countries that have banned MON810, but he did not rule this out. “We reserve the right to challenge any actions taken arbitrarily that would deny farmers access to technologies that can contribute to a more sustainable agriculture,” Mitchell said. He said any future legal action would be determined “on a case-by-case basis.”

Monsanto insists that in order for the German ban to be legal Berlin would have to present new scientific evidence that puts the safety of the product in question. Mitchell says no such evidence has been put forward.

Media sources reported that the lawsuit was filed in the administrative court in Braunschweig, roughly 200 kilometres west of Berlin.

ICTSD reporting. “Monsanto sues Germany over GMO maize ban,” REUTERS, 21 April 2009.

WTO IN BRIEF

Lamy Tapped to Lead the WTO for Another 4 Years

Pascal Lamy, a Frenchman who has served as director-general of the WTO since September 2005, will continue to lead the organisation for another four years, WTO Members unanimously confirmed last week.

The announcement came as no surprise, as Lamy was running for the position unopposed. The former French bureaucrat has won many supporters at the WTO; Members often speak favourably of how he has managed the organisation, especially how he has balanced the interests of developing countries with those of the group’s rich-country Members, over the past four years.

"I am sure that the next four years will be tough, I'm sure various pillars of our system will be tested, but I am confident that we will be able to steer through these troubled waters," Lamy told trade officials when he accepted the post in a meeting of the General Council on 30 April.

The 62-year-old marathon-running Frenchman began his career as a bureaucrat, working at both the Inspection Générale des Finances and at the Treasury in Paris. He later served as chief of staff for the president of the European Commission and as CEO of the French bank Crédit Lyonnais before becoming the EU's Trade Commissioner in 1999.

Several ambassadors praised Lamy's reappointment, saying that his staying on in the post would bring critical continuity to the WTO's work.

Doha the 'Number One Priority'

The day before he accepted the reappointment, Lamy outlined his priorities for the organisation in a speech to the General Council. Concluding the Doha Round of trade talks remains a 'litmus test' for the WTO and should continue to be the organisation's first priority, Lamy stressed, noting that he believed that delegates are already 80 percent of the way to finalising the modalities for a global trade deal.

To that end, the director-general made clear that he believes that the agenda of the Doha Round, which has been progressing in fits and starts but eluding closure for nearly eight years, should not be expanded. Some have argued that the WTO should broaden its scope of work to address issues like climate change, food security, energy, labour concerns, and other issues that lie beyond the current mandate. But the director-general has no plans for such a shift.

"My own sense is that our capacity to project ourselves into the future depends on our capacity to make the present happen," Lamy said.

The status quo will also hold with regards to the WTO's consensus-based approach to decision-making, Lamy told delegates. Some observers

have criticised the consensus requirement as overly burdensome; Lamy himself famously described the WTO's approach to decision-making as 'medieval' in 2003, one year before he took the top post at the global trade body. But today the Frenchman seems to have become a consensus convert; he insisted to delegates last week that ensuring the support of all Members is critical insofar as it "increases the legitimacy of agreements" reached by the global trade body and shrinks the distance between policy-making at the multilateral and domestic levels.

Lamy also told delegates that he wanted to 'de-dramaticise' the organisation's periodic ministerial conferences, which in the past have been marked by violence and protests. The director-general stressed that the gatherings should be kept relatively low key, and that they should focus on reviewing the WTO's activities "across the board," rather than on the Doha Round negotiations. He also suggested that such a high-level meeting could be coming up soon.

"We have not had a ministerial meeting since 2005 and my own sense is that we should not close 2009 without one," Lamy said.

Additional information

Click [here](#) to view Lamy's speech to the General Council.

ICTSD reporting.

Dispute Panel Established in Tuna-Dolphin Case, Despite US Objections

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body agreed to establish a panel to hear Mexico's complaint against US rules on 'dolphin-safe' tuna at its meeting on 20 April. The move drew criticism from Washington, which argues that the case should be adjudicated in the dispute settlement system set up under NAFTA, not the WTO.

The establishment of the panel is just the latest chapter in a dispute that dates back to the early 1990s. At issue in the case is Washington's refusal to allow Mexican tuna to be certified as 'dolphin-safe' because the country's fishermen are allowed to use encircling, or 'purse-seine', nets, which often trap dolphins along with the fish.

But Mexico contends that its fishing practices are sustainable and comply with the guidelines accepted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), of which the US is a member. Mexico argues that the US restrictions violate several WTO rules, including national treatment and most-favoured nation obligations, and create unnecessary obstacles to international trade. Thanks to its inability to label its tuna as dolphin safe in the US market, the country claims that more than a third of its tuna fleet has been forced to shut down.

In October of last year, Mexico made an official request for consultations with the US, the first step of the dispute settlement process at the WTO (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 31 October 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/biores/32491/>). But the last week's establishment of a dispute panel to hear the case indicates that those consultations failed to bring about a resolution.

Washington is clearly unsatisfied with how the case is progressing. In its official statement at the 20 April meeting of the DSB, the US said that it "deeply regrets" Mexico's move to request a DSB panel, and urged the country to reconsider its position. The US delegate argued that the case should be dealt with at the regional level, in a panel set up under the North American Free Trade Agreement, not in the multilateral WTO.

The US delegate argued that, in NAFTA's Article 2005(4), the parties agreed that cases concerning the protection of the environment, or the health of humans, animals or plant life "would be heard - at the responding party's option - solely under the NAFTA's dispute settlement procedures."

"This dispute meets the criteria set out in that NAFTA provision, and the United States has the right to have this dispute considered under the NAFTA," the US delegate said.

But Mexico said it was determined to have the case heard at the multilateral level.

"This controversy has important multilateral implications that should be resolved at the WTO," the Mexican delegate said at the meeting. "Many countries have informally indicated their wish to participate in or to follow the dispute, something that would not be possible under the NAFTA. Mexico believes that the substantial concern that this dispute has generated at the international level must also be taken into account."

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

If you would like to submit an event, please email bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch.

Coming up: 6 - 13 May

4-15 May 2009, New York City, United States. SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) two-year implementation cycle will focus on identifying policy options to advance implementation in relation to the thematic cluster issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. CSD 17 will build on the "review" year discussions on the thematic cluster during CSD 16 in May 2008. Delegates will also draw on their discussions of the cluster during the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD 17, which convened in February 2009. In addition to negotiations, CSD 17 will include a high-level segment, and a Partnerships Fair, Learning Centre and side events. For more information please visit http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml

11 May, Geneva, Switzerland. DEBATE LAMY-DE SCHUTTER. This debate will feature Pascal

Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food. The experts will debate whether trade liberalisation is helping or hampering the realisation of the right to food. The event is organised jointly by the City of Geneva, and 3D → Trade – Human Rights – Equitable Economy. It will take place in the Palais Eynard at 18.30 on 11 May, and will be webcast on the websites of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the WTO. The debate, which will be conducted in French, will be open to the public and is a part of Open Doors to the Palais Eynard – conferences, debates, exhibitions series. For more information on this event please visit <http://www.3dthree.org/en/index.php>.

13-15 May, Cyprus. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING. This conference, organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, addresses the subject of regional development. It has become apparent that planners, environmentalists, architects, engineers, policy makers and economists have to work together in order to ensure that planning and development can meet our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations. In recent years, there has been in many countries, an increase in spatial problems that has led to planning crises. Planning problems are often connected with uneven development, deterioration of the quality of urban life and destruction of the environment. The increasing urbanisation of the world coupled with the global issues of environmental pollution, resources shortage and economic restructuring are leading to major crises. For more information please visit <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/sustainable-development-2009.html>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted 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.

6+8 May	TPR – Solomon Islands
7 May	Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
8 May	Committee on Anti-dumping Practices
11 May	Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration
11 May	Committee on Trade and Development
12 May	Council for Trade in Goods

Other upcoming events

16 May, Geneva, Switzerland. SEMINAR ON THE GLOBAL LAND GRAB AND HUMAN RIGHTS. The race to secure large areas of agricultural land for off-shore food production is widely reported to be accelerating, with governments, companies and private investors negotiating new deals every week. While many of these agreements are yet to be finalised, they are a worrying potential threat to human rights, particularly in the numerous least developing countries leasing their land. This seminar will analyse the global land grab through a human rights lens, assessing the trade and investment agreements that are enabling the trend, as well as its likely effects on small farmers, indigenous peoples and food sovereignty. The seminar will discuss how the actors involved in land grabbing could be held to account and explore ways to promote human rights-consistent investment in land. Participants include human rights experts, members of social movements and development professionals, relevant Special Rapporteurs and members of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The seminar is jointly organised by 3D and the Project on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. For more information, please see <http://www.3dthree.org/en/index.php>.

19 May, London, United Kingdom. SIXTH ANNUAL EMERGING MARKETS TRADE & POLITICAL RISK CONFERENCE. This conference will be held in London on 19 May, at the Willis Building in Lime Street. The event will be especially relevant this year, given the ongoing shrinkage of export and trade finance liquidity for emerging markets, and will offer a window to decision-makers to ascertain the strength and depth of the credit and political risk insurance now available to companies operating internationally. For more information please see <http://www.exportagroup.com/conferences/6th-Annual-Emerging-Markets-Trade-&-Political-Risk-Conference> 170/.

28-29 May, Montreal, Canada. TREATY REGIMES IN PRACTICE: DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Sponsored by the CISDL with the McGill University's Faculty of Law, Hydro Quebec and Oppenheimer Research Chairs and the International Law Association, this event will focus on recent trends and best practices in domestic laws to implement the sustainable development objectives of international treaty regimes. Dialogue in this event will also focus on how these experiences are shaping new rules and institutions in the treaty regimes themselves. Individuals from international environment, development, human rights and law experts, academics, professionals and students are encouraged to register. This symposium features a wide range of keynote speakers. For more information please visit http://www.cisd.org/pdf/poster_symposium2009_screen.pdf.

17-19 June, Venice, Italy. 2009 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. This workshop, jointly sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) and the International Centre for Climate Governance, represents an informal network of analysts actively working on international energy issues. The IEW provides a venue for scholars and researchers to compare quantitative energy projections and to understand the reasons for diverging views of future developments. The workshop is structured with one plenary session per day, each one hosting two key-note speeches

of international experts of the research field. Then, three parallel sessions will be held at each time slot with 3 or 4 presentations each. The aim is to select about 85 papers out of the applications. For more information please visit <http://www.iccgov.org/iew2009/2-0.htm>.

Resources

GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL – A POLICY BRIEF. By the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), March 2009. The “Global Green New Deal” presented in this policy brief has three broad objectives. It should make a major contribution to reviving the world economy, saving and creating jobs, and protecting vulnerable groups. It should promote sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of the MDGs, especially ending extreme poverty by 2015. Also, it must reduce carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation – these are key risks along a path to a sustainable world economy. The research summarised in the policy brief aims to make a strong case for the active ‘greening’ of proposed fiscal stimulus packages, although necessary changes in international and domestic policy architectures must be made for this to be possible, as the current framework is biased in favour of resurrecting an unsustainable ‘brown economy’. To access this report refer to http://www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf

A FISCAL STIMULUS TO ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. By Ray Barrell, Dawn Holland, and Dirk Willem te Velde, Overseas Development Institute, March 2009. The global financial crisis will have a major impact on developed and developing countries alike. The developed and richer developing countries have begun to address the consequences of the crisis and have announced various fiscal stimuli. The G20 countries have announced fiscal stimuli worth around 1.5 percent of GDP, or some US\$ 2 trillion, to cushion the consequences of the global financial crisis. It will matter greatly for poor countries, such as African countries, whether part of such a stimulus is provided in poor countries or whether the entire stimulus is kept in the G20. This paper examines the effects of various fiscal stimuli on growth in the world, in

developed countries, and sub-Saharan Africa and uses a calibrated macroeconomic model of the world economy. To download the report, please visit

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3225.pdf>.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE RISING IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE AGENDA. By Pedro da Motta Veiga and Sandra P. Rios, IISD, 2009. This report synthesises the findings of four national case studies – of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru – that were undertaken to identify within the thematic areas of environmental and labour regulation the most important issues for each country in terms of opportunity and/or vulnerability, as well as the forces that prompted the introduction of sustainable development topics into the countries' trade and investment agendas. The individual country reports are also available through the Trade Knowledge Network website

(<http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/>). To download the synthesis report, please click here http://www.tradeknowledgenetwork.net/pdf/tkn_trade_south_america.pdf.