



# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

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## LEAD STORIES

### Pessimism Reigns as WTO Hits Easter Deadline

The WTO is, once again, facing a deadline for agreement in the long-struggling Doha Round. Delegates have been in negotiations since the beginning of the year with a view to reach key milestones by Easter in order to conclude the Round by the end of 2011. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy has asked the chairs of the various negotiating groups to provide “documents” – which could be either new draft texts or reports on the state of play – which will be circulated among the membership on 21 April (see Bridges Weekly, [14 April 2011](#)).

Geneva-based negotiators are waiting to hear the outcome of Lamy’s confessionals, one-on-one high level consultations, intended as a “reality check” to “gauge the gaps.” Many members were reportedly unaware that differences between their positions were “so large.” Lamy is also expected to comment on these confessionals in an introductory report by the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which will accompany the 21 April documents. By requesting the documents prior to the Easter holiday, delegates are expected to use the time to reflect on options for moving forward.

However, many delegates and observers say they are feeling deeply disenchanted and have little hope for a conclusion of the Round, with some describing the situations as “bleak.” Attention is now focused on a meeting of the TNC, the highest negotiating body of the WTO, which Lamy is convening on 29 April. At this meeting – which will be preceded by a “green room” meeting amongst key delegates on 28 April – the director-general is expected to explore options for moving ahead.

## Whither Plan B?

Speaking to Bridges most members of the G-11, a group of large economies, insisted on talking about and finalising a Plan A, while remaining mum on what a Plan B would look like. One delegate argued that talking about one meant “everyone will start thinking that a Plan A isn’t working.” Fearing that a “great deal” would be lost to an impasse, officials repeatedly pressed the need to conclude the Doha Round even if the current moment was a “low ebb.” Another suggested that alternatives were being discussed at “a far higher pay grade.”

Trade ministers will be meeting on the margins of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in May. Considering the stakes, the 29 May TNC meeting may give them something to talk about. Responding to questions about what the coming months hold, an official declined to enter into specifics, noting the hazards of gazing into a “crystal ball.”

Although a “soft landing” has been widely discussed, delegates are still waiting for more precise direction from their ministers and Pascal Lamy. Thus far, trade officials in Geneva seem to agree that progress made in a decade of negotiations should not be lost. Some have suggested the possibility of a “horizontal process” where tradeoffs between the different areas of negotiations could be made.

## Key members call for final push

Meanwhile, a group of countries – Australia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and Switzerland – last week circulated an open letter on the Doha Round to the full WTO membership, calling on all to do their part to push the round quickly to a successful conclusion. Despite the dire state of the negotiations, a deal is still achievable, they say, and “is also worth fighting for, both in its own right, and in the longer-term interests of the multilateral trading system upon which we all so heavily rely.”

Some observers have noted that increased ambition in Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) sought by the US from large emerging economies, such as Brazil, India and China has led to “no progress on substance” in the last few months. With a presidential election in 2012, concessions to domestic US political interests are likely to be key for an agreement in Geneva this year.

“The US wants much more ambition than what’s on the table,” one delegate from a large emerging economy told Bridges. “That level of ambition is beyond everybody.”

Using less blunt language, another such delegate, suggested that the “blame game is not productive, unless you want it to totally break down.”

New texts are expected from chairs of negotiating groups. However, in agriculture, this is likely to an “anodyne” report, according to one negotiator. Negotiations on trade facilitation may lead into June or July.

Some chairs of negotiating groups, such as New Zealand Ambassador David Walker, who had previously announced a return to capital near Easter are now likely to stay “a month or two,” depending largely on the outcome of the upcoming TNC and ministerial meetings elsewhere.

Striking a note of embittered optimism, an official told Bridges, “no one will say let’s bury the [Doha] Round but we cannot continue with business as usual.”

ICTSD will publish a special issue of Bridges Weekly next week, providing an update on the 21 April documents.

ICTSD reporting.

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## BRICS Looking to Formalise Growing Economic Influence

Heads of state from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – the so-called BRICS countries – concluded their third summit meeting in as many years on China's southern resort island of Hainan on 14 April, calling for a reshuffling of the global and financial political order.

Trade naturally featured on the agenda, with the BRICS reaffirming a commitment to a “rule-based multilateral trading system embodied in the World Trade Organization and a successful, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round.” Brazil, India, China and South Africa further extended their full support of Russia's accession to the WTO, which Russia hopes to complete by the end of this year.

### Sanya Declaration calls for reforms

The one-day summit resulted in the Sanya Declaration, named after the host city. The declaration addressed the groups “broad vision” for “shared prosperity” and echoed calls for reform made during previous summit meetings. BRICS leaders, for instance, reiterated their view that the UN Security Council should be more representative, while supporting Brazil's, India's, and newly-joined South Africa's aspirations to play a greater role in the multilateral institution. The declaration also repeated calls for reform of the Bretton Woods institutions – the World Bank and International Monetary Fund – that constitute the international monetary system. Specifically, the statement called for a larger role for emerging and developing economies in those institutions, which have been dominated by developed countries since their emergence after World War II.

Unlike previous summits, however, the group addressed specifics on changes to the world financial system other than greater representation at the IMF. Among the recommendations listed in the declaration were an agreement for development banks in BRICS countries to open mutual credit lines in local currencies and a call for “a broad-based international reserve currency system providing stability and certainty.” This constituted a knock on the current dollar-based

system and Washington's monetary policy, which the BRICS leaders think has allowed the dollar to depreciate. While failing to cite specifically what the new reserve currency would be, the members mentioned the currencies that comprise the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), the IMF's reserve asset, supporting continued debate over the composition of the SDR basket of currencies. The declaration noted that the reforms stem in part from concerns about the potential for “massive” capital flows that can have a destabilising effect on emerging economies.

In addition, the countries called for cooperation on climate change measures and support for the development and use of renewable energy. The leaders also found common ground in expressing their concern for the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, urging all parties to resolve their differences peacefully.

### Emerging economies

The five BRICS countries together represent around \$12 trillion in value, compared to the \$15 trillion US economy, but are on pace to surpass the US by 2020, economists say. More importantly, they represent the engines of growth in the global economy, with China expected to grow by 9.5 percent a year and India 8 percent, while Russia and Brazil are expected to grow at 4 percent.

Given their position as the engine for global growth, BRICS leaders have come together to demand a greater voice on the world stage. Nevertheless, the five countries represent divergent political and economic systems and are often competing instead of cooperating. Brazil and India have been worried about the negative effects of an undervalued Chinese currency on their exports. Russia, on the other hand, has been benefiting from soaring oil and commodities prices while China, a major importer, has been criticising those prices. In fact, the declaration calls for a stabilisation of commodities prices through regulation of derivatives markets for commodities, among others.

Despite their differences, the five countries, at least in statements, have agreed to “continue

further expanding and deepening economic, trade and investment cooperation” between each other.

The Sanya Declaration clearly communicates that these countries, which all share the common trait of historically being left out of the group of world economic decision makers, want to translate their growing position in the world into a more representative stake. In particular, some commentators argue that the BRICS forum provides China with a new international vehicle to push its agenda. “The economic size of BRICS countries accounts for about 18 percent of GDP,” said Jin Conrong, a professor of international studies at Beijing’s Renmin University. “But these countries are not the decision makers in the international economic system. They are only the athletes. The Western countries are the rulemakers and judges. Right now, the BRICS countries want to join the judging committee, too.”

The meeting brought together Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chinese President Hu Jintao, and South African President Jacob Zuma.

ICTSD reporting: “Full text of Sanya Declaration of the BRICS leaders Meeting,” ENGLISH.XINHUANET.COM, 14 April 2011; “China, other developing BRICS nations seek change in global economic order,” THE WASHINGTON POST, 14 April 2011; “BRICS in search of a foundation,” THE ECONOMIST, 16 April 2011.

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## Brussels Expands Grounds for Potential GM Crop Bans

The European Parliament’s environment committee has voted to include “general environmental policy objectives” onto a list of grounds for legal justification for member states to independently outlaw the cultivation of genetically modified (GM) crops. The 12 April vote amended a European Commission draft policy proposal that, if approved, would grant member states the right to ban GM crop cultivation within their borders if such bans are based on certain criteria.

Last February, the European Commission (EC) approved a list of possible grounds based on the premise that such a ban would help “maintain public order.” According to the initial draft, bans could be enacted in the face of popular opposition or on grounds of public morality, such as religious or philosophical concerns (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [7 February 2011](#)).

The public order and environmental policies additions are designed to address concerns that biotechnology policies enacted independently by European member states would leave those countries open to legal challenges at the WTO.

According to the environment Members of European Parliament (MEPs), the addition of environmental grounds to the proposal is expected to give member states better legal protection to such challenges.

“Our proposal offers states a solid, legal basis,” said the French MEP Corinne Lepage, who drafted the amendment.

According to the draft proposal, as long as all restrictions are justified, proportionate, and non-discriminatory, they would be permitted within the EU. But there are currently no plans to add the list to the GM cultivation proposals currently under consideration which some experts say calls into question the strength of any legislation derived from the draft.

## GM puzzle a difficult one for Brussels

Last year, the Commission proposed that the decision-making process on GM crop cultivation be partially decentralised in response to a deadlock in the crop approval process (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [23 July 2010](#)). Only two genetically modified seeds have been approved for cultivation in Europe: a strain of maize produced by biotech giant Monsanto and a type of starch potato from Amflora, which was approved in March 2010, but only for industrial uses (see Bridges Trade BioRes and [19 March 2010](#)).

Brussels has also been struggling with how to deal with several member states that had defied the centralised policy on the issue and unilaterally implemented GM crop bans. Member states

Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland and Luxembourg have all issued bans on the cultivation of GM seeds, citing health and environmental concerns under a safeguard clause contained in the 2001 directive (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [3 April 2009](#)). Other countries, however - including the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - appear more open to allowing their farmers to grow the altered crops.

Some member states and environmentalists have raised concerns over the push toward more liberal GM policies, arguing that it could open the floodgates for new genetically modified crops in the EU. Others, such as Italy and Spain, have said that the proposal undermines the spirit of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Council of the European Union - a body of twenty-seven national ministers - also challenged the Commission's proposal last November (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [22 November 2010](#)).

In another controversial move, the EC has recently adopted a measure that allows trace amounts - up to 0.1 percent of unapproved GM crops - to be imported into the EU for animal feed. Some countries have called for the Commission to allow the unapproved GM crops to be permitted for human consumption as well, pointing out that it would be nearly impossible to distinguish the world's crop supplies between food and feed.

### Reducing or igniting internal tensions?

For its part, the Commission says its proposed policy on GM crops aims to reduce tensions surrounding the lack of compliance on GM issues by establishing clear parameters for countries' national policies on biotech cultivation that would lessen uncertainty for farmers and agri-business across Europe.

However, opposition continues to mount against the proposal, with the UK most recently joining the faction spearheaded by France, Germany and Spain (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [21 March 2011](#)). The apprehensions stem from concern arising from the legal uncertainties internal fragmentation of biotechnology policy could create for the European agriculture industry and the unexpected trade barriers that could result.

In her statement at the EU environment ministers' meeting on 17 March, Caroline Spelman - Britain's farm minister - also cautioned that GM bans under the proposal would be in direct violation of the EU's WTO commitments.

The MEP and European green groups in favour of the position maintain that the decentralisation proposal is necessary to help avert the negative consequences that GM contamination could have on more traditional forms of agriculture.

"Environmental impacts are a major danger of GM crops," said Stefanie Hundsdorfer, Greenpeace EU's agricultural policy advisor. "Including these into law will help governments ban them from Europe's fields. Without these grounds, national bans would be in danger of being overturned by biotech companies in court."

ICTSD reporting; "MEPs back national freedom to ban GM crops," EURACTIV, 13 April 2011; "Britain adds voice to criticism of EU GM crop plans", REUTERS, 14 March 2011; "EU moves to allow traces of GMO in feed" ASSOCIATED PRESS 26 February 2011; "EU draft: States can ban GM crops for public order," REUTERS, 4 February 2011.

## IN BRIEF

### Colombia, Peru, EU Sign Trade Agreement

The EU, Colombia, and Peru have inked their much-anticipated free trade agreement, which analysts estimate will slash up to half a billion Euros in duties. EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht praised the treaty as a "milestone" in the trade relationship between Europe and the Andean region.

"It creates a foothold for European business in the area and an anchor for structural reforms in the countries concerned," De Gucht said. "This agreement also recognises that the EU partnership with Colombia and Peru is based on the respect of democratic principles and fundamental human rights."



The deal includes an overarching pact to protect human rights and a commitment to efficiently implement international conventions on labour rights. It also includes a clause guaranteeing sustainable trade and investment between all three participating economies by preserving a high level of environmental protection.

Once implemented, the trade agreement will eliminate tariffs on all industrial and fisheries products, increase market access for agricultural products and improve access to public procurement, services, and investment markets. In addition, the pact will reduce technical barriers to trade and establish common disciplines on intellectual property rights, transparency, and competition.

Analysts have predicted the pact will be a boon for Latin American countries. Imports and exports in Colombia and Peru are estimated to grow by eight per cent in the long run. GDP too will be affected in the long run, analysts say, with an expected increase of 1.3 percent for Colombia and 0.7 percent for Peru.

In 2010, bilateral trade in goods between the EU and both Colombia and Peru was €16 billion. The EU exported €3.9 billion to and imported €4.7 billion from Colombia, while they exported €2.3 billion to and imported €5.1 billion from Peru.

The agreement also looks towards the future by including an ascension clause, leaving open the possibility for increased trade cooperation between the EU and the Andean Region.

Talks for the agreement began in January 2009 and after nine rounds of trade negotiations, the three countries initialled the deal in March of this year. The next phase is translating the document into all EU languages before sent for approval to the EU Member States and the European Parliament.

ICTSD reporting; “Colombia & EU Sign Trade Agreement,” BERNAMA.COM, 14 April 2011; “EU, Colombia, Peru sign ambitious trade agreement,” MERCOPRESS, 13 April 2011; “EU signs trade deals with Peru and Colombia,” EUOBSERVER.COM, 14 April 2011.

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## World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings Highlight Worsening Food Crises

The two leading international financial institutions are calling for urgent action to restrain rising food prices as widespread hunger and economic turmoil grip several North African, sub-Saharan African, and Middle Eastern countries. Following the 16 April joint World Bank-IMF development committee meeting in Washington, World Bank President Robert Zoellick discussed the need to act quickly on the matter, referring to it as “one shock away from a full-blown crisis.” The development committee met within the setting of the 15-17 April Annual Spring Meetings of the two Bretton Woods institutions, which draws together their Board of Governors.

The magnitude of the food crisis problem is alarming. Since June 2010, 44 million additional people are now living below the poverty line set by the World Bank – US\$1.25 per day. The call for action is due to the concerns that another 10 million people may end up among the ranks of the poverty-stricken if food prices climb by a further 10 percent, and another 34 million would suffer a similar fate if prices of staples were to rise by 30 percent.

Presently, world food prices are at record highs, according to the latest report by the FAO - figures that are corroborated by the Bank, which also sees current prices surpassing those of last year by 36 percent. The prices of staple foods are of particular concern, with all easily surpassing last year's prices: 69 percent higher for wheat, 74 percent higher for corn, and 36 percent higher for soya.

These considerations aside, concrete action will be necessary to shield the poor from further suffering, says the Bank. The World Bank proposes expanding development efforts in the agricultural sector in developing countries. Among various measures outlined in a report on food security, the Bank highlights the promotion of agricultural research in view of increasing agricultural productivity – particularly for smallholder farmers. The report also brings to the fore the importance of expanding trade and

farmers' access to markets, in addition to private sector investment.

At the global level, concerted action and cooperation can mitigate further harmful effects due to price increases, the Bank says. The institution specifically urges food producing countries to remove export restrictions. It also recommends that countries halt the conversion of food grains into biofuels in the event of high food prices. Finally, the Bank promotes the creation of social safety nets, including nutritional programmes that target the poorest.

ICTSD reporting; "Food Prices: World Bank warns millions face poverty", BBC News, 14 April 2011; "At semi annual meeting, World Bank/IMF governors focus on food prices", World Bank, 16 April 2011.

## WTO IN BRIEF

### GI Wines and Spirits Register Inches forward Under Doha Pressure

World Trade Organization members met Monday and Tuesday to discuss a draft text that would create a global register for geographical indications (GIs) of wines and spirits. Members are under pressure to conclude the Doha round negotiations this year, with hopes that texts will be published in all areas, including this one, by the end of the week.

GIs apply to products named after places known for their particular characteristics, such as quality or reputation; well known examples include Champagne or Roquefort cheese.

Agreement on a multilateral register for wines and spirits has not been without difficulties since the start of these negotiations in 1997 – in accordance with Article 23.4 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). For many years, there was no single negotiating text but competing proposals mainly from two groups of countries: the Joint Proposal Group – which includes Australia,

Canada, Chile, US, Mexico, Japan, and South Africa – and a coalition of countries – such as the EU, Switzerland and India – which favours strong protection for GIs in general.

The aim of the consolidated text is to flesh out the different details for the establishment of a GIs multilateral register. The elements discussed include: notification, registration, the legal effects of registration, fees and costs, special treatment to developing countries, and whether participation in the system is voluntary or mandatory to all WTO members. Legal effects are widely considered as one of the most complex and divisive issues in these discussions.

This week's Special Session of the WTO TRIPS Council witnessed a significant reduction in the number of brackets in the consolidated text. However, fundamental differences remain, including whether the register extends beyond wines and spirits, whether participation is voluntary, and the legal effects of registration. At the last meeting in March, the document had 208 pieces of rival text (see Bridges Weekly, [9 March 2011](#)).

The coalition in favour of strong GI protection proposes a register with legal implications that would apply to all members though registration of their own geographical indications would be voluntary. The Joint Proposal Group argues that a voluntary register for wines and spirits that would act as a database of geographical indications but that would not enforce legal consequences is more appropriate. When considering trademark protection or geographical indications, national intellectual property authorities would be able to "consult" the database.

WTO Director General Lamy has been eager to push the Doha negotiations forward and as such set 21 April as the day when all the draft texts – which span from tariffs to dispute settlement – would be published. An informal Trade Negotiations Committee meeting will take place on 29 April and will give members the opportunity to respond to comments made on all documents.

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Events

#### Coming up this week

21 April, Geneva. 22ND SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE) ENERGY EFFICIENCY 21 PROJECT. This meeting will discuss financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation. It will also address: development of the renewable energy sector in the Russian Federation and in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, increasing energy efficiency for secure energy supplies, energy efficiency market formation in South-Eastern Europe, removing barriers to energy efficiency improvements in the state sector in Belarus, green procurement for smart purchasing; the Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region, modern and sustainable heat and power from woody biomass in South-Eastern Europe, and Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

27 April, Brussels. LOW-HANGING EFFICIENCY FRUIT: STILL HANGING. As part of the Institut français des relations internationales (Ifri) Energy Program, this seminar will address the considerable potential for energy savings in buildings and include an industrial perspective. Several voices have raised doubts that the EU can reach its energy efficiency objective under the current set of policies. National Energy Efficiency Action Plans have been criticized and some believe people must acknowledge the fact that Members have still not grasped the full potential for energy savings which could yield as much as 40% of the emissions reduction needed by 2050 to achieve the 450 ppm objective. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

27 – 29 April, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON LATIN AMERICA. Latin America, a thriving region of more than 600 million people, has a promising decade ahead. It is a leading global trader of agro-products with

major reserves of raw materials and immense rainforests, which are vital for the global climate and hold potential for renewable energies. Major global environment and sports events are to take place in the region in the coming years, and most countries are on the front line in attracting private investment. They offer remarkable opportunities for a growing number of modern industries to develop, while innovative reforms are being promoted to foster economic growth and improve the quality of life for the majority. More information can be found on the [website](#).

#### Upcoming Events

2 – 6 May, Geneva. INVESTMENT, ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's third session will address two main themes: first, promoting investment for development by looking at the best practices in strengthening investment in basic infrastructure in developing countries and second, enhancing productive capacities for development, including through strengthened entrepreneurship policies and improved science and innovation policies. More information can be found on the [website](#).

2 – 13 May, New York City. COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-19. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Sustainable Development will negotiate policy options related to the thematic cluster for the Commission on Sustainable Development 18 – 19 cycle: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

3 May, London. RESOURCES, RIGHTS, AND DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD. Co-organised by Chatham House and the Rights and Resources Initiative, the purpose of the event is threefold: 1) to better inform understanding on the local and global forces shaping land, forest and natural resource ownership, use, governance and development over the next two decades; 2) to explore the implications of these forces on rights and



development in rural and forest areas of the developing world, and on the broader political economy; 3) to share experiences and strategies which may help improve local regimes around these issues, as well as global policy and legal frameworks. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

3 May, Washington D.C. CORPORATE ECOSYSTEM VALUATION: WHY AND HOW? The World Business Council for Sustainable Development will look into how ecosystem goods and services (e.g. freshwater, fiber, food, flood control, water purification, waste treatment, etc.) enable business and society to function. There is continued anticipation that ecosystem values will be incorporated into public policies and considered by the finance sector and business-to-business customers in terms of risk and opportunities. For more information, please refer to the [website](#).

4 May, London. TAKING CONTROL OF ENERGY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. With oil prices spiking, unrest in the Middle East and the nuclear renaissance in trouble, Chatham House is hosting John Sauven, the Executive Director at Greenpeace, to set out the economic and environmental case for a revolution in the UK's approach to building a resilient, efficient and clean energy system. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

4-6 May, Cape Town, South Africa. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA 2011. Africa has demonstrated greater than expected resilience through the global economic crisis and has become one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. Improved political and macroeconomic stability, strengthened political commitment to private sector investment and better access to basic education and social services are drivers behind this trend. This Forum will discuss three main questions: 1) How can Africa take on a leadership role and guard against newly emerging global and regional risks? 2) How can it further attract global and regional investment, and sustain its growth path through greater industrial diversification and innovation? 3) How can inclusive growth be fostered through partnerships and the promotion of Africa's small and medium

enterprises? More information can be found on the [website](#).

10 May, Istanbul, Turkey. ISTANBUL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. This symposium, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the OECD Development Center, the Centre for Policy Dialogue Bangladesh, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation will take place in conjunction with the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDCIV). The event will bring together policy makers and experts from international organisations, civil society, private sector, and academia to identify innovative strategies for tackling the implementation challenges of the UNLDCIV outcome towards structural transformation in LDCs. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

8-10 June, Zurich, Switzerland. ISEAL ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2011: SCALING UP THE IMPACTS OF STANDARD SYSTEMS. ISEAL, the global authority on voluntary standards, is opening the door to a rare Public Day of networking that attracts leaders from business, the financial sector, NGOs, government, and academia. This year's Public Day gives a glimpse into the detail of "Scaling Up" and the new strategy to accelerate the growth into the sustainable standards movement. For more information, please consult the [website](#).

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/meets\\_public/meets\\_e.pdf](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.

21 April: Dispute Settlement Body

27 – 29 April: Trade Policy Review Body – Paraguay

29 April: Informal Trade Negotiations Committee

2 May: Council for Trade in Services

2 – 6 May: Geneva Week

3 May: Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

3 – 4 May: General Council

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## Resources

THE CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY MECHANISM: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES. Published by the International Centre for Trade and Development, March 2011. The agreement to establish a Technology Mechanism is one of the concrete outcomes of the Cancun climate change conference (2010) that requires a closer look. The main goal of the Mechanism is to enhance action for technology development and transfer, particularly to developing countries, in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is premised on the recognition that the large-scale deployment and diffusion of these technologies is pivotal to worldwide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The objective of this information note is to shed some light on the main features and functions of the Technology Mechanism and on some of these challenges. This paper is available for download [here](#).

MANAGING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS: THE ROLE OF THE WTO CHAIRMAN. Edited by Roberto Kanitz. This book is the first to bring into to limelight those that are responsible for mediating multilateral negotiations and reaching international agreements. The WTO Chairman has great powers in his hands and is the one person that is present in all the negotiation forums, formal or informal, trying to build bridges between WTO Members. This unique book gathered different perspectives from past and present Chairmen and WTO negotiators to discuss the role of WTO Chairperson, their personal stories, and how they

influenced and helped reach agreements. This book is available for purchase [here](#).

SHAPING THE GREEN GROWTH ECONOMY: A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR GREEN GROWTH. Written by Mark Huberty, Huan Gao, and Juliana Mandell with John Zysman, 31 March 2011. Co-released by Green Growth Leaders, an international alliance based in Copenhagen, Denmark, and The Pathways Project at UC Berkeley, this study warns against making very direct short-term links between green policies and e.g. job creation. The focus should be on the broader opportunities created for the economy as a whole. Confronting global warming through green investments need not harm the economy – it can drive job creation and additional economic activity. As economies all over the world are struggling to create new economic momentum, this study from leading policy experts at UC Berkeley, California concludes that creating growth through emissions reduction policies is possible. It reviews the global literature on green growth and concludes that the claim that reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> is inherently incompatible with economic growth is false. This paper is available for download [here](#).

ADAPTATION AND FOOD SECURITY. Published by CARE International Climate Change Brief, April 2011. Food insecurity is a growing concern throughout the developing world, particularly for poor women and children. Estimates suggest that in 2010, approximately 925 million individuals were undernourished. While there have been some gains in reducing hunger globally, it remains a critical challenge, and it is unlikely that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve the proportion of people from hunger by 2015 will be met. Tackling this crisis will require unprecedented efforts on the part of the humanitarian and development community, researchers, governments, private sector and civil society organisations and farmers around the world. This brief outlines CARE's understanding of the challenge and their response. This paper is available for download [here](#).