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## GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

# WTO: Fewer New Trade Restrictions Among G-20 Members, Though Warning Signs Remain

The use of new trade restrictions among the Group of 20 leading economies has slowed down over the past five months, the WTO [announced](#) earlier today. However, the continued build-up of protectionist measures put in place since the onset of the economic crisis remains a source of concern, given their potential to worsen global problems. The mixed news comes amid warnings this week from French and German national leaders – as well as the heads of the world's international finance institutions – that the global economic recovery is still far from being assured.

## WTO: Slowdown in new G-20 trade restrictions, but more must be done

Despite growing headwinds, G-20 members appear to be issuing fewer trade restrictions than in previous months, the Geneva-based WTO said today, in a report issued under the responsibility of Director-General Pascal Lamy. The pace of removal of trade restrictions – 21 percent over the past five months – is also faster than the 18 percent noted in May, the global trade body said.

The report comes four months after G-20 leaders, meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico at their annual heads of state summit, extended until 2014 their earlier pledge to refrain from issuing new protectionist policies and to rollback those instituted since the start of the crisis, after months of heightened concern that economies were relying excessively on trade restrictions in an effort to stimulate recovery on a national level. (See Bridges Weekly, [20 June 2012](#))

However, the long-term build-up of trade restrictions since the start of the crisis – as well as increasing trade frictions “at a time of continuous economic difficulties” – still warrants further action from the world's major developed and emerging economies, the WTO report said.

“G-20 governments need to redouble their efforts to keep their markets open, and to advance trade opening as a way to counter slowing economic growth,” the WTO urged in its report. Furthermore, “the outlook for the global economy is worse than at the time of release of the previous G-20 monitoring report due, among other things, to budget developments and the persistent debt crises in major economies.”



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

The report found that 71 new trade restrictive measures have been imposed since mid-May 2012, when the WTO issued its last report on G-20 trade measures. The previous report had recorded 124 new restrictive measures during the seven months between October 2011 and May 2012.

The new policies outlined in Wednesday's report cover 0.4 percent of G-20 merchandise imports, or 0.3 percent of world imports. The initiation of anti-dumping investigations and increasingly stringent customs procedures were the most prevalent among the new restrictions, the WTO said.

Notably, the WTO found that fewer export restrictions had been introduced over the past five months than during previous periods, which is a topic watched closely by trade observers due to the effects on price levels that such restrictions have. Moreover, trade facilitation measures account for approximately 55 percent of the new measures recorded among G-20 members, the organisation said – outnumbering trade restricting measures, and greater than the 45 percent noted in the May 2012 report.

The WTO also urged G-20 economies, among others, to show “a stronger and renewed commitment” to reinvigorate the multilateral trading system. Even with the Doha Round of trade talks unlikely to come to a full conclusion in the short-term, the report urged that the organisation's 157 members continue to work toward negotiating progress in small steps. “This possibility should not be lost,” the report stressed.

The report is part of a joint exercise by the WTO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on G-20 countries' adherence to their pledges to resist implementing trade and investment restrictions during the ongoing financial crisis.

### **Calls for increased competitiveness, reforms as Merkel and Hollande meet with international organisation chiefs**

The WTO report comes following weeks of growing attention to how the world's advanced economies – particularly the EU, US, and Japan – will stave off further problems that many fear will prompt a renewed global economic slowdown. The eurozone crisis has been at the forefront of these concerns, dominating the recent International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank Annual Meetings that were held in Tokyo, Japan just weeks ago amid scaled back economic and trade growth forecasts. (See Bridges Weekly, [17 October 2012](#))

The recent imposition of new rounds of quantitative easing by the European Central Bank, the US Federal Reserve, and the Bank of Japan have brought the issue further into the limelight, as leaders debate how much additional monetary policy efforts will help and the possibility of adopting fiscal consolidation and structural reforms in the eurozone. Concerns over whether Greece might soon run out of funds have added further urgency to the situation, as have warnings that protectionist pressures remain strong.

In this context, leaders from five of the world's major international organisations – the IMF, World Bank, International Labour Organisation (ILO), the OECD, and the WTO – met with French President François Hollande on Monday and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday to assess ways to boost growth and competitiveness within the eurozone.

“The prospective for economic growth is not as big as we would wish,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday. “Because of modest growth prospects and considerable uncertainty, financial markets, investor, and household confidence has not yet returned to pre-crisis levels,” the chancellor said in a joint statement with the heads of the IMF and the OECD on Tuesday.

The international organisation leaders stressed that reforms are necessary for the eurozone to boost growth and become more competitive, while noting that increased trade liberalisation is another key component in stimulating such economic growth.

While Merkel has held regular gatherings with leaders from these five organisations since 2007, this was the first such meeting for France. Hollande said on Monday that he aims for these meetings to become an annual tradition.

"Today's meeting was an opportunity, first of all, to realise that the world economy is slowing down, even in emerging countries," Hollande said at a joint press conference following Monday's meeting. "It's sluggish in the United States and very weak – if not negative – in Europe," he continued, noting also the rise in "protectionist temptations."

Along with calling for changes on the currencies front, and noting the "collective responsibility" of international organisations to spark a reform of the international monetary system, Hollande warned that the crisis could continue for some time should financial markets be left to resolve the crisis on their own.

"We need to put in place regulatory mechanisms; we also need to take a certain number of resolute steps," the French President said. Despite recent signs that the eurozone could be showing some signs of recovery, "we're not out of the woods yet," Hollande told reporters.

"The idea isn't to make one more splashy announcement, to unveil yet another reform – no. Our task is to give substance to a competitiveness path,... a growth path, and a fiscal path," Hollande said. France is expected to outline a series of competitiveness measures that it plans to take in early November.

"Competitiveness requires structural reform, which touches upon every aspect of the economy," the French President continued. "Indeed, as Pascal Lamy was saying earlier, those countries who decided to bet on competitiveness are those countries which have experienced the strongest growth and who have the best employment figures."

At the same press conference, Lamy stressed the link between growth, competitiveness, and jobs.

"We... understand that unemployment rates are way too high and also, in order to create jobs, there needs to be demand. Ninety percent of the demand will come from outside of Europe – so, let's be clear about that," the trade chief said.

"This means that, in the next five years, the way to go out and create jobs is to actually seek out growth where it exists. That means in the developing countries, and in the emerging countries more specifically. This also means that markets remain open, or open up more," Lamy continued.

The comments come a week after a public back-and-forth in the international press between Lamy and French Industry Minister Arnaud Montebourg over the latter's push to promote a "Buy France" campaign in an effort to regenerate industry in his country, which the WTO chief warned could lead to "patriotic protectionism."

The French minister, in turn, argued that France cannot compete with emerging industrial powers such as China, though Lamy has said that France's competitiveness problem is not limited to Beijing but extends to its relationship with the rest of Europe.

ICTSD reporting; "G20 to urge members to act against economic uncertainty," REUTERS, 26 October 2012; "IMF chief Lagarde urges further consolidation in major economies despite 'tepid growth'," THE WASHINGTON POST, 30 October 2012; "Minister defends

'Buy French' push from critical WTO," REUTERS, 22 October 2012; "France Can't Compete With Rest of Europe: WTO Chief," CNBC, 31 October 2012.

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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# Laos, Tajikistan Approach WTO Entry

The WTO is expected to see Laos and Tajikistan officially join its ranks over the coming months, after both countries completed major steps in their efforts to join the 157-member trade body this past Friday.

### **Accession of Laos to add another LDC to WTO roster**

WTO members formally approved Laos' accession protocol on 26 October, leaving domestic ratification as the last remaining step before it can join the organisation. Once it accedes, the small Asian nation – formally known as the Lao People's Democratic Republic – will be the sixth least developed country (LDC) to finish negotiations to join the trade body since 1995.

Samoa and Vanuatu were the most recent LDCs to join the WTO, with both of their memberships taking effect this same year.

"Laos has come a long way since it embarked on the road to membership in 1997," WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said at Friday's General Council gathering. "This is never easy for any least developed country, and Laos' first steps were slow. But it is now seriously reforming its economy and its institutions, and has shown skill in its membership negotiations."

Despite being one of the most impoverished countries in the region, the small Communist nation has posted strong economic growth in recent years, with the Asian Development Bank [projecting](#) earlier this month that Laos' GDP growth for 2012 would hit a rate of 7.9 percent. The growth largely stems from a natural resources boom, specifically in hydropower and mining. However, Laos still struggles with being strongly dependent on a few industries, and faces high transport costs due to being landlocked.

The struggles Laos faced during its 15-year accession process – both in negotiations with current members, and in the reforms it has had to make at home – was referred to by various officials at Friday's General Council meeting.

"[Laos] has experienced many constraints and difficulties in the process of accession, I believe, similar to the most recently acceded WTO members," Thongloun Sisoulith, Laos' Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, told delegates. "In a country like [Laos], the accession process is not limited to changing some laws and regulations. We had to change our way of doing business."

"WTO guidelines and benchmarks for LDC accessions are essential to ease this difficult exercise," Sisoulith continued. "However, the catalyst is always the political will to undertake the required reforms and to create the necessary internal capacity across line ministries. The negotiations at home – which have to lead to a buy-in into the process – are much more important and difficult than the negotiations here in Geneva."

Earlier this year, WTO members clinched a revised set of accession guidelines for LDCs working to join the organisation. (See Bridges Weekly, [4 July 2012](#)) Though a set of guidelines was put in place in 2002, the world's poorest countries have long argued that their trading partners often ask them to undertake commitments beyond their capabilities during the WTO accession process.

The new guidelines, which WTO members were directed to negotiate following last December's ministerial conference, establish a set of quantitative benchmarks for goods, and qualitative ones for services. The revised guidelines were in place during the final months of Laos' negotiations.

Under the terms of its accession protocol, Laos will bind its tariffs – in other words, set maximum rates – at an average of 18.8 percent for all goods. Specifically, the average bound rate for agricultural goods will be 19.3 percent, with all other products having an average bound rate of 18.7 percent.

Vientiane has, in the area of services, made market access commitments in ten sectors, which together encompass 79 sub-sectors. According to the WTO, these ten sectors include business services, courier and telecoms services, construction, distribution, private education, environmental services, insurance, banking and other finances, private hospital services, tourism, and air transport.

Among other commitments, Laos also agreed not to impose quantitative restrictions, such as quotas, prohibitions, or bans, unless there are balance of payments purposes – in which case such restrictions would be applied in line with WTO rules.

Laos' Industry and Commerce Minister Nam Viyaketh, who served as the chief negotiator for his country, has said that he expects the National Assembly to complete domestic ratification this December. Under WTO rules, Vientiane has until late April to approve the accession terms.

The Asian nation will formally become a WTO member 30 days after notifying the Geneva-based trade body of ratification, making it likely that Laos' membership will take effect in early 2013.

### **Tajikistan in final accession stages**

Tajikistan, meanwhile, had its accession terms approved on 26 October by the Working Party tasked with its membership negotiations, leaving General Council approval in December and subsequent domestic ratification as the only pending steps in the process. The small former Soviet economy began its efforts to join the Geneva-based organisation in 2001.

Tajikistan's progress in its accession is "a sign of solid confidence in the WTO and in the multilateral trading system," Lamy said on Friday. "Accession to the WTO will firmly integrate Tajikistan into the global economy and the global trading system, providing an open, transparent, and non-discriminatory environment."

Under the negotiated membership terms, Dushanbe has committed to joining the Information Technology Agreement – a plurilateral deal under the auspices of the WTO whose product coverage some members are looking to expand – upon its accession to the global trade body.

The Central Asian country has also pledged to apply to join the Government Procurement Agreement – another plurilateral deal under the WTO – within a year of its accession.

WTO members, meeting in their capacity as the General Council in December, are expected to formally sign off on Tajikistan's accession terms at that time. Tajikistan will

then have until 7 June 2013 to ratify the deal; it will become a full member 30 days after notifying the WTO of ratification.

ICTSD reporting: "For Laos, WTO Vote to Mark a Coming of Age," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 25 October 2012.

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## PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

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# EU-Mercosur Trade Talks Continue, Despite Reshuffling of Southern Cone Bloc's Membership

Talks for a trade deal between the EU and Mercosur moved forward last week, according to Brazilian officials, five months after political controversy in Paraguay led to a reshuffle of the Southern Cone customs union's membership and sparked uncertainty over whether the move would slow the nearly two-decade long negotiations. An end-date for the region-to-region talks, however, remains unclear.

### Progress reported in trade, political and cooperation pillars

Meeting in Brasilia last week, delegates from the two sides "reaffirmed their commitment to move negotiations forward to reach a comprehensive, balanced, and ambitious Association Agreement," according to a [statement](#) from the Brazilian Foreign Ministry issued on Friday.

Trade negotiations during the 22-26 October meeting saw progress in areas such as services and establishment, services and investments, customs, trade facilitation, and government procurement, among other topics, the ministry said. Chief negotiators also exchanged views on trade and sustainable development, the statement read.

The talks for a region-to-region FTA are part of an effort to establish a broad Association Agreement between the two trade blocs. Brasilia also reported movement in the political and cooperation pillars of the Association Agreement negotiations last week, without providing specifics.

Negotiations for a Mercosur-EU deal were launched in 1999, only to hit repeated snags during their run that ultimately led to the talks' suspension in 2004, specifically over disagreements regarding agricultural trade liberalisation. The EU is Mercosur's top market for its agricultural exports, according to European Commission data, with Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay accounting for nearly 20 percent of total EU agricultural imports in 2009. The two sides ultimately agreed to re-launch the discussions in May 2010. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 May 2010](#))

### Talks follow recent delays, uncertainty

The suspension of Paraguay's membership in July following the impeachment of the country's president, Fernando Lugo – and the subsequent entry of Venezuela as a full member later that month – had left the short-term future of the talks with Brussels uncertain.

Early statements from the EU had indicated that the 27-country bloc was planning to hold off on negotiations until after the next Paraguayan elections. However, subsequent reports suggested that bilateral negotiations – which had been planned for that same month – would just be delayed until this autumn, and would include Venezuela now that its Mercosur membership was official.

Concerns over these internal divides among Mercosur members, as well as allegedly protectionist policies by some of its countries – such as the controversial import restrictions in place in Argentina – have also been cited by EU officials as possible risks to the difficult negotiations.

The ongoing debate over Paraguay's status in Mercosur comes shortly after Argentina found itself in its own high-profile row with the EU, after Buenos Aires announced in April that it would be nationalising its country's subsidiary of Spanish-owned oil and gas company Repsol YPF. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 April 2012](#)) Spanish officials had briefly suggested that Brussels consider continuing the Mercosur negotiations without Argentina as a response, before ultimately agreeing that the talks should continue on a region-to-region basis after the idea failed to win support within the EU.

### **Possible return of Paraguay?**

In the months since Asunción's temporary ejection from the grouping, Paraguayan officials have publicly fought against the decision by fellow Mercosur full members Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay to sideline them from the customs union and bring in Caracas. However, statements earlier this month from Paraguayan President Federico Franco, who replaced Lugo in July, suggest that Asunción is hopeful that its suspension might soon be lifted.

"This seems to be possible sooner than later, that Paraguay will be re-incorporated as full member as it should have always been; we must be recognised as a free, sovereign and independent country," Franco said earlier this month.

The comments come following suggestions from Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota that, should "full rule of democracy" be evident in Asunción, Paraguay might be reinstated into Mercosur and Unasur – another regional organisation, which brings together Mercosur and the Andean Community of Nations – ahead of next year's national elections.

### **Next steps**

A Mercosur-European Union ministerial meeting is set to be held in January 2013 which, negotiators hope, could provide an indication of what the next steps for the talks might be.

ICTSD reporting; "España pide a la UE que siga negociando con el Mercosur sin considerar a Argentina," LA NACIÓN, 23 April; "EU/Mercosur trade talks suspended until after Paraguayan elections of April 2013," MERCOPRESS, 19 July 2012; "Spain supports EU/Mercosur trade accord on a 'region to region' basis respecting WTO rules," MERCOPRESS, 17 May 2012; "EU prepared for talks with an expanded Mercosur that includes Venezuela," MERCOPRESS, 6 July 2012; "EU considering a new round of discussions with Mercosur before end of 2012," MERCOPRESS, 21 July 2012; "Paraguay expects to be back in Mercosur 'sooner than later': before April 2013," MERCOPRESS, 8 October 2012.

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## PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

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# European Parliament Votes in Favour of Possible Trade Talks with Japan

Japan and the European Union moved another step closer toward possibly launching negotiations for a bilateral trade pact last week, after the European Parliament [voted](#) in favour of a non-binding resolution regarding the talks.

The approval during last Thursday's plenary in Strasbourg came just weeks after the EU-Japan talks received a nearly unanimous vote of support from the body's international trade committee. (See Bridges Weekly [17 October 2012](#)) In approving the resolution on Thursday, the European Parliament has now called on the European Council – made up of the heads of government from the 27-member bloc – to authorise the Commission to start negotiations with Japan, "on the basis of the outcome of the scoping exercises and clear targets" to be set forth by the two parties.

Notably, the resolution also asks that the European Council insist upon a binding review clause as a condition for undertaking negotiations with Japan. This clause, which would take effect a year into the negotiations, would require an evaluation of whether Tokyo has sufficiently delivered "clear results" in trying to remove non-tariff barriers (NTBs). NTBs have been a long-standing sticking point between the two trading partners, particularly those that impact the EU's car sector.

### Crisis in the background

Citing the current economic crisis as a powerful incentive, the European Parliament [resolution](#) adopted last week stressed that "it is crucial for the EU to comprehensively deepen its economic and trade relationships with major global economies such as Japan in order to maximise ... jobs and growth potential."

Indeed, the resolution cited estimates from a Copenhagen Economics study that indicated possible increases of 71 percent for EU exports to Japan and of 61 percent for exports from Japan to the EU, if tariff and non-tariff barriers are reduced to their fullest extent.

Parliament also noted that the EU's bilateral trading volume with Tokyo is "dramatically lower" than with other major partners, such as the US, China, and Russia. In 2011, EU goods imports from Japan amounted to €67.5 billion, with Japan importing €49 billion from the EU that same year. In comparison, the EU imported €292.5 billion from China last year, exporting €136.2 billion in goods in return, according to data from the European Commission.

As Tokyo and Brussels represent together more than 20 percent of global trade, proponents hope that a trade deal could provide a much-needed boost both to the struggling eurozone and to Japan, which itself is facing its own economic difficulties as it works to recover from last year's earthquake and tsunami.

The news comes as the EU continues its push toward clinching bilateral pacts in the absence of progress in the WTO's Doha Round negotiations, which are only just beginning to show possible signs of movement after having been declared at an impasse last December. The EU is also involved in talks with Mercosur (see related article, this issue), India, Canada, and Singapore, and is looking at possibly beginning negotiations with the US sometime next year as part of its broad effort to use trade in creating growth and jobs.



Though Parliament's vote was not unexpected, the move is, nevertheless, significant given the European Council's recent showing of public support for the talks. At the EU summit earlier this month, leaders called for an agreement on the negotiating directives with Japan, with the goal of "launching negotiations in the months ahead." (See Bridges Weekly [24 October 2012](#)) Parliament had requested the chance to vote on the trade talks before the European Council gives its formal answer regarding whether to pursue talks with Tokyo.

ICTSD reporting.

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## BILATERAL TRADE TIES

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# Official: Pakistan on Track to Normalise Trade with India by Year's End

Pakistan is on track for granting its neighbour – and often political rival – India most favoured nation (MFN) status by year's end, Pakistan's commerce secretary confirmed last week. The two sides also recently outlined a timeline for reducing their sensitive lists for each others' imports under the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement, as part of their ongoing efforts to boost bilateral trade ties.

According to comments made by Pakistani Commerce Secretary Munir Qureshi on Thursday, Islamabad is well on its way to removing its 'negative list' for products from New Delhi – in other words, those items that India cannot export to Pakistan – by the end of December and give India MFN status.

Back in March, Pakistani officials announced that this negative list would be replacing Islamabad's long-standing 'positive list', which had allowed imports of fewer than 2,000 items from India. (See Bridges Weekly, [28 March 2012](#))

Required of all WTO members, MFN status mandates that each nation must treat trade with all members equally. Although India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, Islamabad had previously refused to reciprocate due to ongoing disagreements between the two neighbours over the Kashmir region. Last November, however, Pakistan's cabinet unanimously agreed to begin the process of granting India MFN treatment. (See Bridges Weekly [9 November 2011](#))

Qureshi also confirmed last week that Islamabad plans to reduce its sensitive list under SAFTA – which specifies which items a country can exclude from tariff concessions – from approximately 1000 products from India to 100 by 2017, in line with statements made by officials from both sides last month.

India, in turn, plans to bring its sensitive list of products from Pakistan down to 100 items by 2013.

Along with India and Pakistan, SAFTA also includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

### Ongoing efforts to boost bilateral trade spark scepticism among some industries

The Pakistani commerce minister's remarks last Thursday come just weeks after the two sides inked three new agreements at removing trade barriers. However, some industry officials have lately expressed concern over the possible adverse effects of boosting the currently limited trade between the two neighbours.

The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), for instance, has argued that – unless India reduces its own non-tariff barriers – the removal of the negative list and reduction in the sensitive list will lead to disastrous results for the country's auto industry.

Islamabad “has not prepared itself for phasing out the negative list,” PAAPAM Chairman Munir Bana told Pakistani newspaper The Nation last week. Furthermore, the government is not ready “to face the onslaught of Indian products” that could result from the proposed reduction to Pakistan's sensitive list, the official continued.

According to Qureshi, however, the timeline of the sensitive list reduction is meant to give Pakistani businesses five years to prepare to compete against Indian imports.

ICTSD reporting; “Trade under SAFTA: Sensitive list to have 100 items by 2017,” DAWN, 26 October 2012; “Industry asks govt to maintain sensitive list for at least 10 years,” THE NATION, 23 October 2012; “Pak to reduce sensitive list to 100 items by 2017,” DAILY TIMES, 26 October 2012; “India, Pakistan frame long-term plan to boost ties,” LIVEMINT, 2 September 2012.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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# Vacancies

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Young Professionals Programme 2013** is designed to bring entry-level professionals with diverse backgrounds into the organisation. A variety of assignments are available, focusing on topics such as development, green growth, growth and innovation, regional development, and more. Applicants for these positions must have an advanced academic degree in a subject of relevance to the OECD's work, with a minimum of two years' full-time professional experience in related fields. For the full list of position descriptions and requirements, which are all based in Paris, please visit the OECD [website](#).

The **Economics and Trade Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ETB)** is seeking a consultant for a six-month period to contribute to UNEP-ETB's work on trade and environment policy, including follow-up activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Applicants for this Geneva-based position must have an advanced degree in economics, environmental economics, or a related area, along with at least five years of professional experience working in a relevant field. For the full job description and requirements, please visit the UNEP [website](#).

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is looking for an Environment Communications Specialist for a short-term assignment. The consultant would work with environment professionals to develop high-quality messaging, briefing, and outreach materials on the

ADB's Environment, Climate Change, and Safeguards programs. For more information on applying for this Philippines-based opportunity, please visit the following [website](#).

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## Events

### Coming soon

5 November, Geneva, Switzerland. THE CHANGING WORLD TRADE ENVIRONMENT AND KOREA'S RESPONSES. Hosted by the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, this event will feature South Korean Trade Minister Taeho Bark as the main speaker. The event will focus on Seoul's responses to changes in the world trading system, with the discussion moderated by Richard Baldwin, a professor of international economics at the Graduate Institute and a visiting research professor at Oxford University. For more information, or to register, please visit the event [website](#).

5-6 November, New Delhi, India. SEVENTH IZA/WORLD BANK CONFERENCE: EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. Since 2006, the annual conference on Employment and Development has aimed to provide a platform for researchers and policy experts to discuss new findings and identify areas where further work is needed. The Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and the World Bank will organise this year's conference in partnership with the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and the Delhi School of Economics. In addition to the regular sessions in all fields of labour economics, special sessions on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship – the theme of the AFDB-OECD-UNDP-UNECA *2012 African Economic Outlook* – will be featured. More information is available on the IZA [website](#).

5 November – 14 December, online. STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This six-week web-based course from the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is geared toward groups and individuals that are interested in obtaining a general understanding of international sustainable development governance and learn about the latest developments in the field. Participants will study the current institutional architecture concerned with sustainable development; emerging policy issues requiring an effective institutional response; and political challenges in advancing reform, as reflected in the Rio+20 negotiations. For more information, please visit the event [website](#).

6 November, London, UK. BRAZIL AND AFRICA. Hosted by Chatham House, this event will focus on the question of whether Brazil's engagement in Africa is indeed driven by "southern solidarity." The speakers will assess what distinguishes Brazil from other emerging powers on the continent, looking at how their Africa strategy fits in with wider Brazilian foreign policy, and what the prospects are for trilateralism – i.e. with India and South Africa – and South-South cooperation. For more information, please visit the Chatham House [website](#).

7 November, Shanghai, China. CLEAN ENERGY: MARKET AND RULES. This event, co-organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Center, aims to enhance the exchange of views on clean energy markets and rules among Chinese and international stakeholders, including government officials, business leaders, and scholars. Event organisers hope that this exchange will, in turn, generate a better understanding of the related issues and help promote the development of clean energy in China and at a global level. To learn more, please visit the event [website](#).

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted [here](#). 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.

1 November: Trade Policy Review Body – Israel

1 November: Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products

2 November: Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

5 November: Workshop on Aid for Trade

6-7 November: Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

## Other Upcoming Events

13 November, Paris, France. TRADING FREELY WITH EAST ASIA. Hosted by the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), this event aims to summarise progress made since the 2006 launch of the European Commission's plan to conclude a new generation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Asian markets. The event will take stock of the implementation of the Commission's FTA strategy and the positions of a sampling of Asian partners, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges these FTAs create from the perspective of government, business, and independent observers. For more information, visit the IFRI [website](#).

13 November, Washington, US. THE ECONOMICS OF CARBON TAXES. Co-sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Brookings Institution, the International Monetary Fund, and Resources for the Future, this conference will focus on ideas for US carbon tax design and options for the potential use of carbon tax revenues. The event will feature four panels with presentations of policy briefs by experts, each of which will tackle a particular design or implementation issue. For more information, visit the AEI [website](#).

20-22 November, Doha, Qatar. NEGOTIATING EFFECTIVELY UNDER THE UNFCCC. Organised by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this workshop will aim to provide participants with the information, skills, and techniques needed to participate effectively in the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 18) conference and in the UNFCCC negotiation sessions thereafter. The course will provide an overview of the UNFCCC negotiations and their outcomes to date, and will also incorporate sessions focusing on key issues on the negotiation table at COP 18. The workshop will include lectures, presentations, exercises, and exposure to real world problems and policy choices confronted by diplomats. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

29-30 November, London, UK. REBALANCING THE WORLD ENERGY MARKETS. Hosted by Chatham House, this event will study the interplay of those factors shaping the world's energy markets. Examining China, Russia, and Central Asia's demand drivers, it will assess the impact of unconventional energy sources and discuss the feasibility of developing new fields in the context of oil and gas transport options. The conference will provide a platform for policymakers, governments, commentators, and key industry figures to assess the current situation and what lies ahead. For more information, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

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## Resources

**A NEOFEDERALIST VISION OF TRIPS: THE RESILIENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGIME.** By Graeme B. Dinwoodie and Rochelle C. Dreyfuss; published by Oxford University Press (2012). This book examines the interpretation of the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of International Property Rights (TRIPS). The authors review the agreement's interpretation, its impact on the creative environment, and its effect on national and international lawmaking. The book considers a vision of TRIPS as a neofederalist regime, one that will ensure the resilience of the international intellectual property system in a time of rapid change. The book is available for purchase [here](#).

**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION REPORT 2012.** Published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (October 2012). This report considers the potential of the South for bridging the technological divide as a means of promoting industrialisation within the developing world as a whole, along with contributing to inclusive globalisation. The full report is available [here](#).

**THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.** Edited by Elisa Morgera of the University of Edinburgh; published by Cambridge University Press (October 2012). This collection of essays analyses the various instruments and approaches through which the EU is forging its external environmental policy, the legal implications of these practices, and their interactions with the international environmental law. The book explains the legal and institutional framework for EU external action on environmental protection and sustainable development, identifying the changes introduced, and the challenges posed, by the Lisbon Treaty. The essays explore key tools and trends in defining and implementing EU external policy across a broad range of environmental issues, as well as linkages with trade and human rights. The full text is available for purchase [here](#).

**UNILATERAL TRADE-RELATED CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.** By Rafael Leal-Arcas for the Journal of World Investment and Trade (30 September 2012). The aim of this article is to explain the trade implications of climate change mitigation policies by analysing a couple of areas where the international regimes for trade and climate change mitigation/energy may potentially clash. These include border carbon adjustments, as well as applying subsidies and similar measures in order to encourage environmentally-friendly technologies. The full text is available [here](#).

**AFRICA CAN FEED AFRICA.** Published by the World Bank (October 2012). This report argues that Africa's farmers can potentially grow enough food to feed the continent and avert future food crises if countries remove cross-border restrictions on the food trade within the region. The continent would also generate an extra US\$20 billion in yearly earnings if African leaders can agree to dismantle trade barriers that blunt more regional dynamism, according to the publication. To learn more, or to access the publication, please click [here](#).

**AFRICA'S TRADE POTENTIAL: EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN GROWTH MARKETS.** Published by the International Trade Centre (October 2012). This paper analyses opportunities to increase export growth for sub-Saharan Africa. It recommends that sub-Saharan African countries focus on Asian and African markets and at the same time integrate deeper into value chains, increasing the share of semi-processed and processed goods. It also recommends investing in trade-related infrastructure; and trade facilitation within Africa, as well as with Asia. The report also outlines options and strategies to support these recommendations. The full text is available for download [here](#).

RECALIBRATING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: GLOBAL WARMING WILL CHANGE MORE THAN JUST THE CLIMATE. By Philip Thornton for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (October 2012). This policy brief analyses the effects of climate change on 22 critical agricultural commodities and three important natural resources in the developing world, with the author finding a number of cross-cutting themes. Stating that the world's agricultural systems face an uphill struggle in feeding a projected nine to ten billion people by 2050, the author shows that climate change introduces a significant hurdle to this challenge. The brief concludes that the recalibration of agriculture will eventually extend beyond what is grown and raised, and that the world's many cultures must adapt food production to respond to climate change. The full brief is available [here](#).

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