

# BRIDGES WEEKLY

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

### New Stage of Consultations Begins as WTO Deadlock Persists

WTO members are still far from a solution on the implementation of the decisions reached at their ministerial conference last December in Bali, Indonesia, with Director-General Roberto Azevêdo warning last Thursday that the impasse could be "the most serious situation that this organisation has ever faced."

Three months and many consultations since the deadlock began, "I am not in a position to tell [members] that a solution for our impasse is in the making," the WTO chief said last week. "Of course I encourage you to keep working and keep looking for a solution. And I will keep trying as well."

The situation dates back to July, after India affirmed that it would not be able to back the adoption of a "Protocol of Amendment" that would allow WTO members to incorporate the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) into their overall legal framework.

The TFA was one of the main achievements of the Bali conference, and India has taken pains to note that it has no problem with the agreement itself. Rather, New Delhi explained at the time, it was concerned that there had not been sufficient progress on implementing another one of the Bali decisions – namely, in developing a "permanent solution" to public food stockholding.

Ministers had agreed in Bali that negotiations should begin for developing such a solution in time for their 11<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference, expected in late 2017.

In the meantime, they said, an interim solution effectively committing WTO members from refraining to file legal disputes against existing public food stockholding programmes for food security purposes in developing countries would be in place, subject to certain conditions.

However, India has said that it would like to see a permanent solution sooner – suggesting December 2014 as a target – and will not back the TFA protocol until the former is settled.

The demand has pitted the Asian nation against many of its WTO members, who have argued that to link the two issues in this way essentially entails opening up the entire Bali Package, which was in itself difficult to reach.

### **New round of consultations**

The report from the Director-General last Thursday at a 16 October meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee was confirmed again at a brief meeting of the General Council on Tuesday 21 October.

At this stage, Azevêdo said at the Tuesday meeting, a new round of consultations must begin to seriously consider not only the future of the decisions reached at December's ministerial conference in Bali, but also on the post-Bali work programme.

"It is time to face up to the undeniable problems we have in this organisation and have an open and honest discussion about how we can move forward," he said.

The issues involved in these consultations, he said, would focus on "four concentric circles": resolving, or putting on hold, the TFA-public stockholding situation; addressing the implementation of the other eight decisions reached in Bali, several of which involve the WTO's poorest members; the future of the post-Bali work programme; and lastly, what this all means for the WTO itself.

These new consultations will be held "in a range of different configurations" from now until 30 October, when another meeting will be held at the level of Heads of Delegation.

### **Work programme**

The next stage is not expected to be easy, and concerns over the future of the global trade body's negotiating function – which had been quieted somewhat after the Bali deal – are now back in full force.

One of the greatest risks, Azevêdo noted, is that members will miss yet another deadline set by ministers in Bali, that of outlining a detailed work programme aimed at resolving the various outstanding issues in the Doha Round trade talks, now over 13 years old.

At this stage, he said, it will be very difficult to achieve by year's end a "detailed and precise modalities-like work programme" like the one trade ministers had asked for in Bali. Such a programme would need to be ready by the December meeting of the General Council, a mere eight weeks away.

However, if a post-Bali work programme does happen by December, he suggested, it would be up to members to determine what shape it would take, and how ambitious it might be.

Chairs of the various Doha Round negotiating groups, in their own statements last week, confirmed that discussion on any of the other Doha topics are essentially frozen, given that some members are wary of proceeding as long as the TFA-food stockholding stalemate persists.

"What we need now is to get out of this vicious circle," said EU Ambassador Angelos Pangratis at last week's Trade Negotiations Committee. "However, the solution has to be found through upholding the Bali decisions, not undermining them."

### **In or out?**

One of the major risks of a prolonged deadlock, observers and officials say, is that major players could begin to focus more on other opportunities for trade liberalisation, potentially distracting them from multilateral efforts at the WTO.

"I am not warning you today about a potentially dangerous situation – I am saying that we are in it right now," the WTO chief said on Thursday.

Speculation in Geneva has grown over lately whether some members may try to advance the TFA in a different way, with the [Financial Times](#) confirming that the US and other major trade players have been discussing the possibility of taking a “plurilateral” approach among a subset of countries should the deadlock at the WTO keep on for much longer.

“Frankly, we know that members have been talking about the other, non-multilateral options that are open to them,” the Director-General acknowledged last week. He noted, for instance, the potential for some members to disengage or explore other tracks, either inside or outside the global trade body.

In his [intervention](#) last week, US Ambassador Michael Punke acknowledged that the US has been analysing a range of avenues for moving the TFA forward.

“In considering options for preserving our work, the United States has been considering how best we might keep such an effort inside the WTO,” Punke said on Thursday. While the US official vaguely alluded to the possibility of a deal outside the global trade body, he made quite clear that this was not Washington’s idea of an optimal result.

“All of us have experience in negotiating outside the WTO, but this is a moment in which the preferred options, at least from a US perspective, would involve keeping trade facilitation inside this organisation and not being forced into a position considering an agreement out of it,” Punke said.

Long-time trade observers, such as former WTO Deputy Director-General Harsha V. Singh, have highlighted the dangers of major players losing interest in the global trade body, noting that ““India is not part of the large mega-regionals that would define many of the key rules of the game.”

Other countries not involved in these mega-regionals could too lose out on economic opportunities provided by trade and investment, he said in an [op-ed published](#) by the Business Standard, where he also offered recommendations for how to move the WTO negotiations forward. *[Editor’s note: Singh is currently a senior associate at ICTSD, the publisher of Bridges.]*

ICTSD reporting.

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## EUROPEAN UNION

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# New EU Commission Confirmed as Climate, Energy Meeting Kicks Off

The European Parliament has signed off on the proposed slate of officials who will serve in the new European Commission, paving the way for the group to take office in November. The news comes at a particularly busy time for the EU, with the bloc's leaders also aiming to finalise a new climate and energy framework for 2030 this week.

The Parliament's plenary vote in Strasbourg, which was held on Wednesday, approved the 27 commissioners by a 432-209 margin, with 67 abstentions. As a final formality, the incoming Commission must next receive sign-off by EU heads of state or government.

The 27 officials will be serving under President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker, who was previously the prime minister of Luxembourg. Speaking to the Parliament's plenary session on Wednesday, [Juncker highlighted](#) various challenges that make it important to have a strong Commission that works as "a collegiate, political body," one that serves both EU citizens and the common good.

"We cannot and will not sweep these mounting problems under the carpet," the former Luxembourg premier said, citing issues such as the Ebola epidemic and the Ukraine crisis. "That is why I insist that the time for European action is now. That is why I state loud and clear in front of this House that Europe's problems cannot be put on the back burner."

### New appointments, portfolio changes

Since Juncker's original proposal for this College of Commissioners was released in September, a series of changes have been made, with one new candidate brought in and another re-assigned to replace those who did not receive approval following their respective committee hearings. Some modifications have also been made to certain subject-area portfolios. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 September 2014](#))

Among the more notable changes was the replacement of Alenka Bratušek of Slovenia – the original nominee for the Vice-President of the Energy Union – with Maroš Šefčovič, a Slovak diplomat who is already serving in the outgoing Barroso Commission in the role of Vice President in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration.

Šefčovič had previously been nominated for the role of Commissioner for Transport and Space, only to be asked to switch to the Vice-President role after Bratušek was rejected by EU parliamentarians following her committee hearing.

The energy union position is one of the six new Vice-President roles outlined by Juncker in his restructuring of the EU's executive branch.

In the revised [mission letter](#) that Juncker issued to Šefčovič for his new role, the incoming Vice-President will be responsible for steering and coordinating the work of various commissioners, namely those for Climate Action and Energy; Transport; Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs; Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Regional Policy; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Research, Science and Innovation.

"Achieving a European Energy Union is one of the priority projects of this Commission," Juncker told Šefčovič. "Your objective will be to bring about, in the course of this mandate, a resilient Energy Union, with a forward-looking climate change policy, by steering and coordinating the delivery of key initiatives."

Violeta Bulc, who was put forward by Slovenia after Bratušek's rejection, will now be taking on the Transport portfolio, which will no longer include space policy. That has been kept in the remit of the Directorate-General for the Internal Market and Industry, Juncker confirmed this week.

Outside of these changes, most of Juncker's original set of nominees remains unchanged from when he first announced them last month, though some confirmation hearings – such as that of Miguel Arias Cañete, who is set to head the commission on Climate Action and Energy – were noticeably rocky.

However, the make-up of some portfolios has been modified. For instance, the "horizontal responsibility" of sustainable development will now fall under one of the new Vice President positions, that of First Vice-President in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

### **Investor-state dispute settlement**

Notably, Juncker devoted a significant portion of his speech on Wednesday to the topic of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), which has become an increasingly high-profile – and controversial – part of EU trade policy discussions.

The inclusion of the provision in the recently-signed EU-Canada trade pact has drawn opposition from Germany, putting into question how smoothly the ratification process will go.

Whether such a mechanism should be part of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently under negotiation between the US and EU is another open question. The investor protection part of the talks have been on hold for the past several months, after Brussels decided to hold a public consultation in order to solicit more views on the subject. (See Bridges Weekly, [23 January 2014](#))

Last month, incoming Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström of Sweden faced various questions on the subject during her individual confirmation hearing, during which she alluded to the possibility that such a mechanism could be dropped from the US-EU talks. However, removing ISDS from the Canada-EU pact would be less of an option, given the risk that it could unravel the rest of the deal. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 October 2014](#))

"I had thought my commitment on this point was very clear but I am happy to clarify and reiterate it here today as a number of you have asked me to do so," Juncker told EU parliamentarians on Wednesday. "In the agreement that my Commission will eventually submit to this House for approval there will be nothing that limits for the parties the access to national courts or that will allow secret courts to have the final say between investors and states."

Furthermore, he noted, the TTIP negotiating mandate – which was made public earlier this month – outlines a number of conditions that a potential ISDS regime would need to respect, and outlines how its relationship with domestic courts would need to be structured. (See Bridges Weekly, [16 October 2014](#))

Notably, Juncker made clear that he would defer to the recommendation of his First Vice-President in charge of the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights on the subject. That role, which will be held by Frans Timmermans of the Netherlands, involves

steering the work of the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, and the Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs.

Timmermans will also be tasked with the Commission's work regarding better regulation, relations between institutions, rule of law, and the charter of fundamental rights, as outlined in his full title. He will also be charged with fostering deeper ties between the Commission and national parliaments.

"There will be no investor-to-state dispute clause in TTIP if Frans does not agree with it too," Juncker said, highlighting the weight his vice-presidents will have in decision-making processes.

### **EU climate, energy meeting kicks off**

The approval of the new College of Commissioners comes as leaders from across the 28-nation bloc begin two days' worth of meetings aimed at approving the new EU climate and energy framework, which would take effect from the end of this decade.

The Commission has proposed a 40 percent greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target below 1990 levels and an EU-wide binding renewable energy target of at least 27 percent. It has also backed an energy savings target of 30 percent across the 28-nation bloc. (See Bridges Weekly, [23 January 2014](#) and [4 August 2014](#), respectively)

The planned framework has been the subject of intense debate among EU member states, with Eastern members such as Poland among those holding out against the current version of the framework, concerned that they will feel an undue burden of higher energy costs and decreased industrial competitiveness.

Poland, which is heavily reliant on coal for its electricity needs, has joined forces with various others, which reportedly include Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia.

As part of the final haggling, Warsaw has allegedly been pushing for more support to help the country with its transition to a low-carbon economy. Other member states remain hesitant, however, around the structure of potential sweeteners. For example, the UK, France, and Germany would reportedly like to see any modernisation funds managed by the European Investment Bank to avoid misuse.

Meanwhile the 40 percent carbon emission reduction target has been criticised by some experts, such as Professor Jim Skea, a vice-chair of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as being too weak.

"I don't think many people have grasped just how huge this task is," he said in comments reported by the BBC. "My guess is that 40 percent for 2030 is too little too late if we are really serious about our long-term targets."

While the proposal was made by the outgoing Barroso Commission, coordinating the bloc's efforts to meet both the 2020 targets and make progress toward the 2030 ones would fall to the Juncker Commission, and has been explicitly outlined as part of the remit of incoming Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič.

ICTSD reporting; "Europe emission targets 'will fail to protect climate'," BBC, 20 October 2014; "Eastern Europe attacks planned EU emissions curbs," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 October 2014; "Juncker Proposes Sefcovic for Energy in EU Team Shuffle," BLOOMBERGBUSINESSWEEK, 15 October 2014; "Analysis: Who wants what from the EU 2030 climate framework," THE CARBON BRIEF, 17 October 2014.

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## DISPUTES

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# WTO Panel Finds New US COOL Labelling Measure in Violation of Trade Rules

A WTO panel confirmed on Tuesday that the amended version of the US' country-of-origin labelling (COOL) requirements for livestock and meat imports still violates the non-discrimination requirements featured in global trade rules.

Furthermore, the panel said, the revised measure – enacted in 2013 in response to losing a WTO dispute on the subject – had also increased the “considerable degree of trade-restrictiveness” found in the original case.

Nonetheless, the panel said, the alternative measures proposed by complainants Canada and Mexico did not meet the conditions of being both less trade-restrictive than the US' amended measure while also making an equivalent contribution to the objective of providing consumer information on origin.

### 2013 revisions

In 2012, the Appellate Body – which is the WTO's highest court – determined that the original US COOL policy was inconsistent with international trade rules, confirming an earlier panel ruling on the subject. (See Bridges Weekly, [4 July 2012](#))

Under the original policy, which was actually a series of instruments enacted under the 2002 US Farm Bill and then revised in 2009, producers were required to inform consumers of meat's country of origin via a label on the sale package. The label could fall under five different categories, each divided into three sub-categories.

In order to be able to comply with the measure, which required that meat of mixed origin be labelled – even where the cattle were “mixed” right after birth – producers had to regularly monitor and segregate the different cattle and hogs. Processing only domestically-born, raised, and slaughtered meat, on the other hand, did not require such monitoring, making foreign livestock clearly less competitive, the judges found.

Following the 2012 Appellate Body ruling, United States amended the COOL statute in 2013, imposing new point-of-production labelling requirements.

For animals slaughtered in the US, there would be three labelling categories: US origin, US and other countries mixed origins, and imported for immediate slaughter. These labels would indicate where each production step – birth, raising, and slaughtering – occurred.

For animals slaughtered abroad, including specific location information related to the various production steps under the foreign origin label is voluntary, provided that records to substantiate these claims are maintained.

### Non-discrimination claims

Canada and Mexico claimed that the amended COOL measure accorded cattle and hogs imported from their respective countries less favourable treatment than that given to

American ones. This, they said, constituted a violation of certain non-discrimination provisions of WTO agreements.

The panel found that, similar to the original measure, the amended COOL measure necessitates segregation of meat and livestock according to the origin.

Moreover, the point-of-production labelling requirement in the amended COOL measure, and the removal of two flexibilities provided in the original measure, has actually caused an increase in the number of distinct labels needed for certain types of muscle cuts of mixed origins and those imported for immediate slaughter, and therefore entails more need for segregation.

The panel also said that the increase in both the number of distinct labels and in segregation logically entails a higher recordkeeping burden for US-slaughtered livestock and the resulting muscle cuts of meats.

Taken together with actual US market conditions for imported livestock, the panel said that these showed that the new COOL measure creates an increased incentive in favour of domestic livestock and therefore makes it more difficult for imported livestock to compete in the US market.

### **Accuracy questions**

In its report, the panel noted that the amended COOL measure does maintain a level of flexibility in labelling. Specifically, for label of mixed origins, if an animal is raised in the United States as well as another country or countries, the raising occurring abroad may be omitted from the origin designation.

As a result, the panel said, this does not support Washington's claim that such a label provides "entirely accurate" information to consumers.

The panel also noted that – similar to the original measure – the revised version continues to exempt from its labelling requirements muscle cuts of beef and pork that are ingredients in a processed food item, are sold in a food service establishment, or are sold in an establishment that is not a retailer. For the panel, this would cause an "informational disconnect" for consumers.

Given that there does not appear to be a rational basis that would justify this new potential for inaccurate labelling and informational disconnect – and in light of the increased recordkeeping burden that this measure involves – the panel concluded that the new COOL rule's detrimental impact could not be explained by the need to convey to consumers information regarding the countries where livestock were born, raised and slaughtered.

### **More trade restrictive than necessary?**

Canada and Mexico also claimed that the amended COOL measure creates an unnecessary obstacle to international trade, as it is more trade restrictive than necessary to fulfil a legitimate objective, taking into account the risks that non-fulfillment would create.

The panel examined the contribution that the 2013 COOL revisions made to the legitimate objective, as well as the measure's trade-restrictiveness, and what risks might be involved in not fulfilling the measure's objective. It also reviewed the alternative measures that Canada and Mexico put forward.

In light of the exemptions built into COOL's coverage, the panel found that the amended measure makes a partial, though considerable, contribution to its objective of providing consumer information on origin.



However, the panel also found the new version had increased the "considerable degree of trade-restrictiveness" found in the original dispute.

The panel assessed the consumer interest in and willingness to pay for information on different types of country of origin. However, it was unable to determine how serious the potential consequences would be in not fulfilling the amended COOL measure's objective, based on the evidence presented by parties.

The panel reviewed four alternative measures proposed by the complainants and concluded that these would either not make an equivalent contribution to the relevant objective relative to the US' COOL measure, or they were not adequately identified so as to enable meaningful comparison.

As a result, the panel was unable to conclude whether the amended COOL measure is more trade restrictive than necessary in the light of the proposed alternative measures.

### **Next steps**

Although not specifically mentioned in Article 21.5 of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), which outlines how disputes should be adjudicated at the global trade arbiter, past practice has shown that appeals against compliance panel reports are possible and even frequent.

Neither side had made clear at the time of this writing whether such an appeal would be forthcoming. However, Canada and Mexico did note in a joint press [statement](#) that they remain "committed to using the WTO process to reach a satisfactory resolution to our concern, including if and as necessary, seeking authorisation to implement retaliatory measures on US agricultural and non-agricultural products."

ICTSD reporting.

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## BIODIVERSITY

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# UN Meet Signs off on Biodiversity Roadmap Amid 2020 Target Concerns

Delegates meeting under the umbrella of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Friday closed a two-week long meet held in South Korea after agreeing to a series of 33 decisions. These form a so-called "Pyeongchang roadmap," named after the city in which the meetings were held, geared towards enhancing international efforts around biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The near 3000 delegates that made the trip to the mountains sought to tackle a wide range of issues. These included finance for biodiversity conservation, national biodiversity action plans, access and benefit sharing regarding the use of genetic resources, guidelines for tackling foreign species imported into new environments, and emerging issues such as synthetic biology.

A high-level ministerial segment held towards the end of last week also resulted in a [Gangwon Declaration](#) that calls for links between the work of the CBD and the ongoing post-2015 development agenda process.

This latest CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) took place against a backdrop of stark warnings on the current state of international conservation efforts. At a 2010 gathering, parties agreed to a strategic plan for biodiversity governance covering the period 2011-2020, and outlined a set of 20 targets. (See BioRes, [8 November 2010](#))

[The Global Biodiversity Outlook 4](#) released at the start of the latest conference disaggregates these, known formally as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, into 56 elements. The flagship UN report notes that, of the total, only five targets are on track within the 2020 timeframe, 33 are progressing at a slow rate, 10 are stalled, and 5 are moving in the wrong direction.

Conservation organisation WWF also published a [study](#) ahead of the meeting suggesting that vertebrate animal populations have declined by around 52 percent over the last 40 years. This includes a 76 percent decline in freshwater species and 40 percent decline in land-based animals.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD executive secretary and UN Assistant Secretary General, said that this latest COP had nevertheless witnessed governments respond to the dire warnings about the biosphere.

"Parties have listened to the evidence, and have responded by committing," [said](#) Dias on Friday.

"Their commitments show the world that biodiversity is a solution to the challenges of sustainable development and will be a central part of any discussions for the post-2015 development agenda and its sustainable development goals," he continued, referring to a new set of development goals that are currently being negotiated at the UN.

Those latter talks are set to conclude next year.

## National plans

Among the agenda items, the Pyeongchang meet featured a mid-term review on progress on the strategic plan and its related Aichi targets.

As part of this work, delegates discussed progress around parties' national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), with a number of countries stepping forward to showcase their efforts.

A final decision in this area urges parties to review and update their national plans, if they have not yet done so. Requests are also made for further capacity-building support, especially for developing countries, and for these nations to make clear their technical and scientific needs in this area.

Last week also saw the Korean government launch a new platform, dubbed the "Bio-Bridge Initiative," which aims to link developing countries' need for biodiversity-related science and technology with developed countries' provisions.

## Finding funds

As part of the overall Pyeongchang outcomes, a deal was eventually struck on the implementation of a biodiversity aid commitment to developing countries, and particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), after reports of a near-stalemate among representatives.

At the previous CBD biennial meet held in Hyderabad, India in 2012, governments outlined a plan to double biodiversity-related finance to be maintained at such a level until 2020. (See BioRes, [5 November 2012](#))

However, consensus on details such as the baseline year for measuring this target had remained inconclusive until last week. Parties have now agreed to use average annual biodiversity funding for the years 2006-2010 as a reference point.

The decision on resource mobilisation also calls for at least 75 percent of CBD parties with adequate resources to have prepared national finance plans for biodiversity by next year. In addition, parties are encouraged to fully mobilise domestic financial resources from all sources, in a bid to address the gap between needs and available funding.

This latter reference allegedly faced some opposition by larger developing economies, fearful that it would absolve developed countries from historic responsibilities.

An estimated US\$36-50 billion is currently spent each year on tackling biodiversity challenges across the globe.

However, a [report](#) released at the conference by a high-level UN panel tasked with examining resources for biodiversity governance confirmed that gaps remain in all countries and regions between funds needed and those available to shore up biodiversity loss before the end of the decade. The study also said that the benefits of investing in sustainable biodiversity use would outweigh the costs.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) last week warned of the costs of not stemming the rate of biodiversity loss.

"The cost of inaction to halt biodiversity decline would give rise to increasing and cumulative economic annual losses to the value of around US\$14 trillion by 2050," the UN environment chief said, while also welcoming efforts made in Pyeongchang to put biodiversity conservation on a stronger footing.

Meanwhile an annex to the Pyeongchang decision in the finance area sets out a timeline for implementing the third Aichi target, geared towards tackling economic incentives such as subsidies that are known for having a harmful impact on biodiversity. The latest text says policy or legislative action should be taken by 2016, including national studies identifying subsidies ripe for elimination, with plans for doing so finalised by 2018.

### **Nagoya Protocol**

Among the landmark events of the latest CBD meeting was the much-anticipated entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS). A total of 54 parties have now ratified the protocol and last week they held their first Meeting of the Parties (MOP).

Clinched after late-night negotiations at the 2010 CBD meet in Japan, the instrument seeks to flesh out a legally binding framework for determining how users, providers, and stakeholders each access genetic resources and how the benefits derived from their commercialisation are then shared back to provider communities.

Genetic resources are defined by the UN body as genetic material from plants, animals, and microbes that contain the functional units of heredity. These resources, along with biological compounds derived from them, are often heavily used and traded in a range of pharmaceutical, health, cosmetic, and agricultural products.

When research and development are conducted on these genetic resources, the Nagoya rules require benefit sharing from the eventual gains.

Progress was made last week towards putting in place a compliance committee for the Nagoya Protocol. This would, in theory, help countries develop effective systems of user measures to ensure their researchers have permission to access genetic resources from foreign provider countries. An annex to a decision made last week sets out compliance procedures and mechanisms, including how to evaluate cases of non-compliance.

Despite a push by a group of developing countries and indigenous and local community representatives (ILCs), an ABS ombudsman will not be created at this time.

However, it was agreed that the CBD Secretariat could review information received from ILCs about cases of non-compliance against information received from parties. Participants also called on the CBD Secretariat to help facilitate at least one meeting of the compliance committee before the next MOP.

As a further transparency measure, the MOP established an ABS Clearing House that had been in a pilot test phase in recent months. The Clearing House would receive certificates of compliance from competent national authorities of parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

These certificates will indicate when genetic resources have been accessed with permission and under what conditions, helping those researchers involved avoid claims of biopiracy – in other words, when a genetic resource has allegedly been misappropriated.

Ahead of the meeting, some experts had warned that delegates assembled for the first Nagoya Protocol meet would have their work cut out for them.

For example, the decision on the need for and modalities of a Global Multilateral Benefit-Sharing Mechanism (GMBSM) took the form of a “gap analysis” seeking further information from parties, ILCs, and experts about how to handle transboundary genetic resources, widely held traditional knowledge, and related issues. (See BioRes, [30 September 2014](#))

### **Invasive alien species**

One specific trade-related move at the Pyeongchang meet was an [agreement](#) on guidelines to help address the challenges posed by invasive alien species (IAS), specifically in relation to animals traded as pets, for aquariums, as live bait, or as food.

Various forms of fauna and flora are increasingly crossing borders and traded for a range of reasons, finding new homes in foreign habitats and presenting a threat to the ecological balance when they do so. Some estimates pin the damage to the global economy caused by invasive species, for example crop damage due to foreign pests, at US\$1.4 trillion.

The new voluntary rules will help parties towards achieving the ninth Aichi target that calls for an identification, control, and eradication of IAS introductions by 2020.

The guidelines fill a gap in the governance of IAS and offer standards that national or relevant authorities could use to develop codes of conduct in this area.

A related decision on the establishment of a Global IAS Information Partnership emphasises the need to work alongside other organisations, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), recognising several existing organisations and agreements that regulate risks associated with trade in wildlife and plants. The CBD Secretariat is also invited to explore with standard-setting partners, including those recognised by the WTO, ways to identify risks posed by IAS sold via online transactions.

### **Biodiversity for sustainable development?**

In the Gangwon Declaration, adopted during a two-day high level segment, ministers invited the UN General Assembly to consider integrating the Aichi targets into the post-2015 development agenda.

This past July, a specialised UN group put forward a list of proposed sustainable development goals for consideration by UN members as part of the new development framework.

Biodiversity, with references to CBD-relevant objectives such as ensuring access and benefit sharing in relation to genetic resources, ensuring ecosystem conservation, tackling IAS, and conservation of marine resources, are included in the proposal's draft goals 14 and 15. (See BioRes, [22 July 2014](#))

As delegates leave the Pyeongchang meet behind, much work remains on the road ahead at a number of levels. The next COP and the meetings of its protocols will be held in Mexico in 2016.

ICTSD reporting; "Summary of the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the First Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: 6-17 October 2014," ENB, IISD REPORTING SERVICES, 20 October 2014.

*Editor's note: This article has been abridged from a longer version featured in Bridges Trade BioRes, also published by ICTSD. The BioRes version, which also describes outcomes related to synthetic biology and biosafety, as well as coral reefs and marine ecosystems, is available [here](#).*

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## ENERGY

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# India Moves to End Diesel Subsidies, Increase Natural Gas Prices

The Indian government announced this past weekend that it would be allowing diesel prices to be determined by market forces, in a significant shift in policy aimed at spurring energy-related investment and reducing the fiscal burden of subsidising the industry.

"Henceforth, like petrol, the price of diesel will be linked to the market," said Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who announced the move. "Whatever the cost involved, that is what the consumer will have to pay."

With the global price of oil having tumbled in recent months, supporters of the move have said that it will help save money for the government while actually leading to a lower price in oil for consumers.

Furthermore, they say, it could serve to prop up domestic industry, which has struggled in the wake of the fall in global oil prices. India currently imports approximately 80 percent of its oil, and relies on diesel for nearly half of its fuel needs.

Along with de-regulating diesel and ending the associated subsidies, the administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi – who has been in office less than six months – has also decided to raise the price of natural gas from US\$4.2 per million metric British thermal units to US\$5.61, with the change expected to take effect at the beginning of November.

The latter move, analysts say, could lead to additional domestic exploration for gas resources. However, it is smaller than the previously proposed US\$8 rate proposed by Modi's predecessor.

Both decisions come in the wake of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winning two large industrial states in regional elections, and suggest that larger economic reforms – as had been expected when the Indian premier took office – could be forthcoming.

### Renewables

Energy has long been a point of concern for India, with over 300 million consumers lacking access to power. Along with the above-stated policy changes, increasing the share of renewables in India's energy mix has been one of the top stated priorities of the new Modi government.

The Indian premier made headlines in May, shortly before taking office, when he pledged that his government would develop the country's solar sector enough within the next five years in order to ensure every household can run at least one light bulb from the energy source. (See Bridges Weekly, [22 May 2014](#))

"Our commitment to the people of India is that we should rapidly expand this [energy] sector, reach out to every home, and make sure we can do a diesel-generator free India in our five years," Indian energy minister Piyush Goyal told The Guardian newspaper earlier this month.

Goyal has said that India aims to be a "renewables superpower," with a potential amount of US\$100 billion to invest in renewables over the next five years.

A recent [report](#) commissioned by the international New Climate Economy project looks at the financial impact of a global low carbon transition. It suggests that while gas could be a useful "bridge fuel" for some regions over the next 15 years, governments should be careful to limit their ownership in this energy source after 2030, in order to limit the loss of asset value.

### **Coal power, international shift?**

Despite efforts to move away from relying on coal, including raising coal taxes and pushing for closing older, inefficient coal plants, Indian government officials have not ruled out increasing the use of coal for meeting the country's energy needs.

Coal has the highest carbon content of all fossil fuels. A report released by UN climate scientists last April found that the proliferation of coal use in the global energy mix in the first decade of this century was a key factor behind greenhouse gas emissions growth. The report called for a beefing up of renewables worldwide in order to limit damaging economic and social consequences of climate change. (See BioRes, [14 April 2014](#))

Coal, Goyal explained to The Guardian, will be easier to fund than renewables, noting that India will likely have "to balance our developmental goals and our environmental goals." The fact that India is a major emitter, he said, should be qualified with the fact that the Asian country has a large population, and – unlike major developed economies – has not been a large emitter historically.

Indian energy policy is likely to be watched closely in the coming months, given both the domestic and international policy implications. Countries are currently aiming to negotiate a binding global climate deal under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that would take effect from the end of this decade.

The role major developing economies – who are exempt from binding emissions cuts under the current climate regime – will play has been particularly in focus.

Such a deal, officials hope, would be ready for the December 2015 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, to be held in Paris. Preparatory talks are currently underway this week in Bonn, Germany, with the goal of laying the groundwork for this year's Conference of the Parties in the Peruvian capital of Lima in December.

While the Indian premier did not attend a closely watched high-level summit convened by the UN Secretary General in September, Modi met with US President Barack Obama shortly thereafter, where the two countries agreed to [cooperate](#) closely on climate change including in the realm of advancing clean energy.

The US and India represent the world's second and third largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions and their stance will significantly affect the tone of the UN climate talks, experts have said.

ICTSD reporting; "Build bridges for Lima climate talks," THE GUARDIAN, 20 October 2014; "India Frees Diesel Prices from Government Control," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 20 October 2014; "India ends diesel controls, raises gas prices," REUTERS, 18 October 2014; "Modi to axe India's diesel subsidies," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 October 2014; "India will be renewables superpower, says energy minister," THE GUARDIAN, 1 October 2014.

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## INVESTMENT

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# EU, Singapore Finalise Investment Negotiations

Singapore and the EU [announced](#) last week that they had completed the final section of their free trade deal, specifically the investment talks that had been left outstanding when the rest of the pact was completed a year ago.

The discussions have been watched closely given the brewing controversy in other trade negotiations – particularly those recently completed with Canada – over what types of investment protection provisions should be included in such deals.

Before EU negotiators inked their trade deal with Canada (CETA) in late September, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said that his country would be hesitant to ratify CETA unless investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions are revised or removed. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 October 2014](#))

Although Germany has not yet commented publicly on the EU-Singapore deal, some observers have suggested that Berlin could take a similar stance. Neither deal will go into effect without the approval of their respective legislatures. On the EU side, this requires approval both at the level of the European Parliament, as well as within each member state.

The investor protection section of the EU-Singapore deal will first need to undergo a "legal scrubbing" before the signing and ratification processes can begin.

According to the Singaporean [Ministry of Trade and Industry](#), Singapore is the EU's 15th largest trading partner, and the largest in Southeast Asia. In 2013, bilateral trade generated over US\$75 billion.

The bilateral pact has broadly been touted as a gateway for Brussels to clinch future deals with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, given that the two sides had previously hoped to have a region-to-region agreement between them. The EU is currently negotiating trade deals with fellow ASEAN members Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### Two-track negotiations

While the investor-protection provisions of the EU-Singapore deal remained unfinished until last week, the bulk of the trade negotiations were concluded in late 2012, with the pact then being initialed in September of last year. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 December 2012](#))

The investment talks began later, however, in light of the new competence given to the EU under the 2009 Lisbon Treaty.

Under the terms of the trade agreement, Singapore and the EU have committed to slash duties on imports, and to cooperate on issues of sustainable development, environmental protection, and social development.

In a [statement](#) released Friday, the EU Trade Commission said that the investment-protection chapter would cement the benefits of the larger agreement by "ensuring a



stable and fair regime for foreign investors while preserving the rights of the parties to regulate in the public's interest."

### **ISDS mechanism**

While trade negotiators have touted the deal's potential for being a "gateway" to the Southeast Asian region, critics have focused on the inclusion of an ISDS mechanism, which they claim could put at risk hard-won public policy protections.

If the agreement is approved, investors will be allowed to file some complaints – such as in cases of allegedly unfair expropriation or discriminatory treatment – directly against host governments through international arbitration panels, rather than local courts.

Those opposed argue that EU courts are fully competent to handle disputes, and that arbitration panels cannot be trusted to fully protect domestic labour, environmental, data protection, or food standards legislation or regulations.

Trade officials, in turn, [have long stressed](#) that ISDS will protect state's rights to regulate in the public interest while ensuring "that legitimate government public policy decisions cannot be successfully challenged."

### **Long-standing practice**

Although the controversy around ISDS has reached new highs in recent months, direct investor-state arbitration is itself not new. For years, ISDS has been standard practice in most bilateral investment treaties (BITs).

EU member states currently belong to more than 1400 BITs, almost all of which include ISDS provisions. Germany has fourteen such agreements with other EU states alone.

Speaking last Friday, outgoing EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht told reporters that it would be a "disaster" if an EU member forced Brussels to kill the pacts with either Singapore or Canada over their ISDS provisions.

"We are doing our job on the basis of mandates given to us," De Gucht added. "We are not doing anything weird."

### **TTIP implications?**

With negotiations with the US on a proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) well underway, the Singapore- and Canada-EU FTAs may serve as testing grounds for the European pulse on ISDS.

The two FTAs are widely seen as templates for the larger EU-US deal, where Washington has been pushing for the inclusion of an ISDS provision. The investor protection part of the negotiations in that case are currently on hold, after the EU decided earlier this year to hold a public consultation on the subject.

ICTSD reporting; "EU, Singapore conclude investment protection talks," REUTERS, 17 October 2014; "The arbitration game," THE ECONOMIST, 11 October 2014; "Germany wants investment clause scrapped in EU-Canada trade deal," EURACTIV, 25 September 2014.

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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# Seychelles' WTO Accession Terms Finalised

After nearly two decades of negotiations, Seychelles is set to become the WTO's 161<sup>st</sup> member, with the Working Party tasked with the negotiations signing off on the island nation's accession terms on 17 October.

Seychelles' accession package will now be forwarded to the General Council, which is the WTO's highest decision-making body outside the ministerial conference.

The General Council is set to review the terms in December; upon its approval, the accession package will then need to be ratified domestically in Seychelles in order for membership to become official. The deadline for that has been given as 1 June 2015.

"It is particularly timely as the world is marking the International Year of Small Island Developing States. The WTO provides a vital platform for small economies like Seychelles to make their voice heard at the global level," [said](#) WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, acknowledging the hard work that was required to complete this accession process.

Pierre Laporte, who serves as Seychelles' Minister of Finance, Trade and Investment, similarly welcomed WTO membership, calling it "a platform [for his country] to continue to reform its trade regime."

### Seychelles' membership terms

Seychelles' accession process started nearly two decades ago, with the WTO Working Party being established in 1995. Negotiations gained momentum in 2008, when the government of the island state started to enact new legislation on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on the protection of copyright and industrial property. (See Bridges Africa, [18 September 2014](#))

Subsequently, Seychelles concluded bilateral agreements with nine interested WTO members, namely Canada, the European Union, Japan, Mauritius, Oman, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, and – as the last step on 10 September this year – the United States.

In its accession package, the Indian Ocean archipelago has committed to binding its tariff rates at an average of 9.5 percent – 16.9 percent for agricultural products and 8.3 percent for industrial goods.

Seychelles has also agreed to join the WTO's Information Technology Agreement and to initiate negotiations to join the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement within 12 months of its accession, among other commitments.

Moreover, the island state has agreed to more disciplines with respect to its state-owned and state-controlled enterprises.

"[WTO membership] will enhance investor confidence and boost our image amongst international stakeholders such as multilateral institutions and rating agencies," said Laporte in his closing remarks.

### Protracted accessions

Seychelles' integration into the WTO will move the world's multilateral trade body an inch closer to universal coverage of economic activity. After Yemen joined last June, Azevêdo [affirmed](#) that "97.1 percent of the global economy now falls under the rules-based multilateral trading system."

Notwithstanding the expanding orbit of the WTO, [experts](#) have argued that the organisation's accession process has become increasingly difficult, particularly for poorer nations, such as the least developed countries (LDC).

While Seychelles is no longer classified as an LDC, having been [promoted](#) to the middle income country category, some of those same challenges were reportedly evident in their accession process.

Recently acceded LDC members have complained that they are routinely asked to take on commitments beyond their capacity during the bidding process. These requirements are put forward in bilateral negotiation settings between the acceding country and interested WTO members.

While multilateral negotiations are conducted under the Working Party, any current WTO member can enter into bilateral talks with the aspiring member if they have a specific interest or concession they wish to address. Those, once agreed, must be extended to the rest of the WTO membership.

The conclusion of bilateral deals is a prerequisite for the formal endorsement of the accession by either the WTO General Council or the Ministerial Conference.

### Ethiopia soon?

After Seychelles' accession to the multilateral trade body, another likely new member could be Ethiopia, which is a low-income country, though not an LDC. The African country has been in talks to join the WTO since 2003. The liberalisation of Ethiopia's state-run banking and telecommunications sectors has proven controversial in the bilateral negotiations with existing members.

To enable the next and fourth Working Party meeting, Ethiopia has to submit additional documents including an offer for the services sector. Lesanework Zerfu, who is the head of the multilateral trade relations ministry for Ethiopia, suggested last year that the country would become a WTO member by the end of 2015.

ICTSD reporting; "Seychelles Agrees Terms Of WTO Accession," GLOBAL TAX NEWS, 21 October 2014; "Seychelles seals WTO entrance after 18 years," THE CHINA POST, 20 October 2014; "Seychelles seals WTO entry after 18 years," CHANNEL NEWSASIA, 18 October 2014; "Seychelles has concluded the last outstanding bilateral trade negotiations with the United States", TRALAC, 17 September 2014; "Seychelles closes in on WTO accession", SEYCHELLES NATION, 12 September 2014.

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## DISPUTES

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# Disputes Roundup: WTO Panel to Hear EU-Russia Vehicle Dispute; Canada, Brazil File New Cases

The past week has marked a particularly busy one for the global trade arbiter, with two new WTO disputes being filed in cases involving Indonesian import curbs on Brazilian chicken products and Chinese anti-dumping duties on a type of Canadian cellulose pulp used in textiles. A panel has also been established in a separate row between the EU and Russia on Moscow's anti-dumping duties on light commercial vehicles from Italy and Germany.

### Panel to hear EU complaint on Russian vehicle duties

A WTO panel was established on Monday to hear the EU's complaint ([DS479](#)) against anti-dumping duties that Moscow has imposed on light commercial vehicles from two of the 28-nation bloc's member states, after Brussels filed its second panel request on the matter.

Anti-dumping duties are imposed to counter instances where a foreign country allegedly sells products abroad at prices less than the normal value – essentially flooding domestic markets with unfairly low-priced imports, causing or threatening material injury to the domestic industry of the importing country.

Formal dispute proceedings in this case first kicked off in May, in what marked the third dispute that the EU had filed against Russia within the space of a year. (See Bridges Weekly, [22 May 2014](#))

Brussels has claimed that the duties being imposed – 29.6 percent for German vehicles and 23 percent for Italian ones – have significantly hampered access to the Russian market for these products, and violate WTO rules on both substantive and procedural grounds. Turkey, which is not an EU member and therefore not covered by the bloc's complaint, has also faced duties on the same product.

The vehicles involved in the dispute weigh between 2.8 and 3.5 tonnes, and are meant to transport up to two tonnes of cargo each, or a mix of cargo and passengers.

### Brazil files WTO complaint on Indonesian poultry restrictions

Meanwhile, Brazil [filed](#) a request for consultations last week against Indonesia at the World Trade Organization (DS484), marking the first time the Latin American country has challenged Jakarta at the global trade arbiter.

At issue are measures imposed by the Asian island nation on the imports of chicken meat and chicken products.

Brazil claims that these measures are inconsistent with a number of WTO rules, such as those involving technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and import licensing. These measures, Brazil says, effectively prevent its products from entering the Indonesian market.

As the world's largest exporter of chicken meat, the Latin American nation estimates the losses incurred as a result of the enacted measures amount to several millions of dollars.

Brazil's global exports of chicken meat and chicken products amounted to US\$7 billion last year, with its Indonesian exports making up only US\$45,000 of that amount, according to International Trade Centre statistics cited by Reuters.

The request for consultations is the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process. If consultations fail to resolve the dispute after 60 days of talks, the complaint may request the establishment of a panel to hear the dispute.

### **Canada challenges China over duties on cellulose pulp**

Also last week, Canada filed a separate request (DS483) for WTO consultations with China over its anti-dumping duties on imported cellulose pulp, which is used in textile production to make rayon.

In the request, Ottawa claims that the preliminary and final duty measures announced in November 2013 and April 2014 respectively appear to violate international trade rules, such as those under the WTO's Anti-Dumping Agreement and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The preliminary anti-dumping measures at issue, which also were imposed on imports of the same product from the US and Brazil, were put in place in November 2013 following the results of an anti-dumping investigation.

In April of this year, China's Ministry of Commerce issued a final ruling which concluded that companies from the US, Canada, and Brazil have dumped cellulose pulp on the Chinese market, causing substantial damage to the domestic industry. The ministry therefore decided to levy anti-dumping duties for a period of five years on cellulose pulp imported from the above-mentioned countries, with the Canada-focused ones ranging from 0 to 23.7 percent.

According to Canada, the duties are incompatible with WTO law on both substantive grounds and on procedural grounds.

For instance, Canada claims that China failed to calculate the costs appropriately and conducted an unfair comparison between the export price and normal value. Furthermore, Canada argues that China's determination of injury was not based on positive evidence and did not involve an objective examination.

The consultations request also raised questions regarding various procedural elements of the investigation, such as whether there had been sufficient evidence to determine individual dumping margins and whether China duly informed the interested parties and provided public notice of all relevant information.

Shannon Gutoskie, a spokeswoman for Canada's Minister of International Trade Ed Fast, has called the measures "unfounded and discriminatory," claiming that they put Canadian exporters at a disadvantage.

China, in a [brief response](#) on its Ministry of Commerce website, has said that it will "properly handle [the consultation request] according to dispute settlement procedures under the World Trade Organization," without going into further detail.

In this case as well, should consultations fail to resolve the dispute after 60 days of talks, the complainant may request that a panel be established to hear the case.

ICTSD reporting; "Brazil takes Indonesia to WTO over chicken imports," REUTERS, 17 October 2014; "Canada takes China to WTO over duties on pulp used in textiles," REUTERS, 15 October 2014; "Canada files WTO complaint against China's dumping duties on pulp," THE CANADIAN PRESS, 15 October 2014.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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# Events

### Coming Soon

27 October, Geneva, Switzerland. IDENTIFYING KEY RENEWABLE ENERGY GOODS FOR INCLUSION IN THE EGA. This event, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) will bring together WTO delegates and key experts on environmental goods trade. The goal will be to explore technical aspects related to identifying those renewable energy goods that could be suitable for inclusion in the proposed Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), which is currently being negotiated by a group of 14 WTO members, including the EU, US, and China. More information about the event is available at the ICTSD [website](#).

27 October, Washington, US and online. WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: A BRICS PERSPECTIVE. This Peterson Institute for International Economics event, which will be webcast live, will feature Mohamed A. El-Erian – chief economic adviser at Allianz – as its main speaker. The event, which is part of the annual Whitman Lecture series, will examine what may be in the pipeline for the global economy, as seen from the perspective of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, known collectively as the BRICS countries. The event will be broadcast from 12:15-1:30 PM EST. More information is available [here](#).

28 October, Geneva, Switzerland. CHINA'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND TODAY'S GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM. This annual event, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), will focus on whether – and how – China's involvement in multilateral, regional, and plurilateral trade agreements affect the nature of global trade governance. The day-long meeting is being organised in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Geneva office, and aims to provide an independent platform for frank dialogue and knowledge-sharing among experts on topics involving China, trade, and sustainable development. Please note that the event is invitation-only; more information is available [here](#).

28 October, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO INNOVATION FAIR. This event, sponsored by the US, EU, and Swiss missions to the WTO with the support of various other delegations, will bring together a range of creators and inventors to demonstrate the working of the innovation lifecycle, from research and development through to the financing and commercialisation of cutting-edge technologies. More information about the event is available [here](#).

### 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.

24 October: Committee on Customs Valuation

27 October: Committee on Safeguards

28 October: Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures – Special Meeting followed by Regular Committee

28-29 October: Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

28 October: Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

29 October: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices – Informal Group on Anti-Circumvention followed by the Working Group on Implementation

29 October: Committee on Government Procurement

29 October: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

29 October: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices – Working Group on Implementation followed by the Regular Committee

### **Other Upcoming Events**

3 November, London, UK. CLIMATE CHANGE: RAISING AMBITION, DELIVERING RESULTS. This annual Chatham House Conference on Climate Change will review developments in this field over the past year, such as the latest science, the results of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Summit in September, and the findings of various high-level commissions. In light of the upcoming UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) being held later this year in Lima, Peru, participants will examine opportunities to raise the level of ambition in climate action, with a view to yielding results. More information is available [here](#).

12 November, Kigali, Rwanda. NATIONAL SEMINAR: WHO IS BENEFITING FROM TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN RWANDA? A GENDER PERSPECTIVE. This event, co-organised by the UN Conference for Trade and Development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Rwanda, is part of a broader project aimed at enhancing developing country capacity to mainstream gender in trade policy. The workshop will focus on the findings of a recent study that reviews the ways in which trade policies may impact women's wellbeing in Rwanda, along with possible strategies to encourage the inclusion of gender considerations in establishing trade policy. More information about the workshop is available [here](#).

5 December, Tokyo, Japan. ADBI ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON OUTLOOK AND FINANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR ASIAN GROWTH. This conference, hosted by the Asian Development Bank Institute, will address recent developments in ways to facilitate the financing of Asian growth. The discussions will be organised around three topics: finance and trade issues related to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); macroeconomic and financial policy; and infrastructure investment and finance in Asia. More information about the event, including plans for a published book based on the talks, is available [here](#).



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## Resources

POST-BALI NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE: THE CHALLENGE OF UPDATING GLOBAL RULES ON TRADE. Published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) (October 2014). This information note summarises some of the findings of the ICTSD e-book "Tackling Agriculture in the Post-Bali Context: A Collection of Short Essays", edited by Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Christophe Bellmann and Jonathan Hepburn. The book builds on the most recent analysis of global trends and domestic policy reforms to inform negotiations on a post-Bali agricultural trade agenda. It features a series of concise, non-technical, and solution-oriented papers by leading experts and thinkers, covering systematically all elements of the agricultural negotiations on market access, domestic support and export competition. The brief can be downloaded [here](#).

WORLD TRADE REPORT 2014 – TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT: RECENT TRENDS AND THE ROLE OF THE WTO. Published by the World Trade Organization (October 2014). This annual WTO report examines how four recent major economic trends have affected the ways that developing countries can use trade to facilitate their development. These trends are the economic rise of developing economies, the growing integration of global production through supply chains, the higher prices for agricultural goods and natural resources, and the increasing interdependence of the world economy. The publication also looks into the role of the global trade body in this field. For more information, please visit the WTO [website](#).

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2014. Published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (October 2014). This annual report reviews family farms, with a specific focus on the role that innovation can play in helping ensure food security, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction. The publication then provides a series of recommendations in this area. More information is available at the FAO [website](#).

BRIDGING THE PACIFIC: TOWARD FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. By C. Fred Bergsten, Gary Clyde Hufbauer, and Sean Miner, with the assistance of Tyler Moran, for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (October 2014). In this new book, the authors argue that China and the US would both reap substantial benefits from a bilateral free trade and investment agreement. They note that such a deal could also help each side address its respective internal economic challenges. To learn more, or to see options for purchasing the book, visit the Peterson Institute [website](#).

"2030 CLIMATE AND ENERGY PACKAGE VITAL TO EU'S ENERGY SECURITY" STRESSES DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY TRANSITION AT EUROPEAN COMMISSION. Published by viEUws (October 2014). In this video, viEUws energy journalist Hughes Belin interviews Marie Donnelly, who serves as the Director for Energy Transition at the European Commission. The interview focuses on the EU's climate and energy goals for 2030 and examines the possible implications of the 2030 package for the 28-nation bloc's energy security. The full interview can be viewed [here](#).

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