

BRIDGES WEEKLY

Global trade news from a sustainable development perspective

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 18, 24 MAY 2017

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GLOBAL ECONOMY

At Hanoi Meet, Asia-Pacific Ministers Debate Future Trade Integration Paths

The past weekend saw ministerial meetings of multiple configurations in the Vietnamese city of Hanoi, as officials discussed the future of various trade-related initiatives in the region.

The main event was the trade ministers' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, a regional coalition of 21 economies. The event was the first since Robert Lighthizer was confirmed as US Trade Representative (USTR) earlier this month under the Trump administration. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 May 2017](#))

The Hanoi meeting reportedly saw countries debate how to address topics such as protectionism, the definitions of free and fair trade, and the sources of trade distortions – a series of issues that has emerged in trade and finance ministers' meetings of other country groupings throughout the year, particularly in light of the new US leadership's trade agenda.

"APEC provides a great opportunity to focus energy on the barriers to its stated objective of free and open trade – a goal that cannot be met without tackling trade-distorting measures that have led to massive US trade imbalances in the region," said Lighthizer [in a statement](#) following the discussions.

Officials from the 21-country coalition ultimately signed off on a set of "[trade actions](#)" on various trade-related topics, from facilitating trade and reducing trade costs, to making progress on their efforts to create a "roadmap on the internet and digital economy." While many of the sections are similar to the May 2016 trade ministers' [statement](#) from their meeting in Arequipa, some sections have not been included in this year's version, such as last year's section on fossil fuel subsidy reform.

The trade actions document released this weekend also does not refer specifically to the commitment [reaffirmed by leaders](#) in Lima last year to "resist all forms of protectionism" and the debate over globalisation and the "emergence of protectionist trends."

Other topics raised in the “trade actions” document last weekend included pressing countries that have not yet implemented tariff cuts on an agreed list of environmental goods to do so. It also calls for making “further progress on the work plan on advancing the [Lima Declaration on FTAAP](#),” referring to the 2016 annex which reaffirmed the countries’ commitment to developing a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. (See Bridges Weekly, [12 September 2012](#) and [24 November 2016](#))

Separately, Vietnam’s Minister of Industry of Trade, Tran Tuan Anh, released a [chair’s statement](#) summarising the discussions held in Hanoi. That same statement included a qualifier saying that it represented “un-unified but prevailing views of APEC economies.”

Media reports indicate that the US was unable to sign onto this statement, which was why it was released on behalf of the meeting’s chair. The statement includes longstanding language on resisting and rolling back protectionist measures, among other pledges.

“We reaffirm our commitment to keep our markets open and to fight against all forms of protectionism by reaffirming our pledge against protectionism through a standstill commitment that we agreed to extend until the end of 2020 and to roll back protectionist and trade-distorting measures. At the same time, we need to ensure a level playing field in order to enjoy the benefits of trade,” said the chair’s statement.

The US reportedly had pushed back specifically against language on protectionism, among other areas, with Lighthizer telling reporters that Washington is instead aiming for a discussion on how to foster freer, fairer trade.

“Our view is that we want free trade, we want fair trade, we want a system that leads to greater market efficiency throughout the world,” said Lighthizer, according to comments reported by Reuters. The US trade chief has particularly raised concerns over addressing “unfair” practices by trading partners and gaining better markets for American exports overseas – issues raised by other officials in the administration.

WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo was also on hand during the Hanoi meetings, giving [an address](#) to APEC trade ministers on the preparations for the WTO’s next ministerial conference, being held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December.

“The dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region illustrate how cooperation at the regional level can have a significant impact – including for the wider multilateral trading system,” said Azevêdo.

“However, even if all regional agreements could be completed tomorrow, we would still need an effective and well-functioning WTO. Almost none of the global trade challenges we face today would be easier to solve outside of the multilateral system,” added the WTO chief.

TPP-11 to prepare options for November meet

Meanwhile, trade ministers from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries pledged to come up with options for bringing the agreement into force, with senior officials to prepare a slate of alternatives ahead of the APEC leaders’ meeting scheduled for 10-11 November in Danang, Vietnam.

“The ministers agreed on the value of realising the TPP’s benefits and to that end, they agreed to launch a process to assess options to bring the comprehensive, high quality agreement into force expeditiously, including how to facilitate membership for the original signatories,” said the [joint ministerial statement](#) released on Sunday.

The TPP-11 ministerial meeting was held on the sidelines of the APEC trade ministers’ gathering. The group has been mulling how best to proceed with the TPP, given the US’

withdrawal from the agreement earlier this year. To that end, that group already met in March in Viña del Mar, Chile, and also held a senior officials' meeting in Toronto, Canada, in preparation for this week's discussions. (See Bridges Weekly, [9 February 2017](#) and [4 May 2017](#))

The original TPP signatories included Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam – as well as the United States. While some countries in the group have already ratified the TPP, such as New Zealand, others have not, with the group said to still be debating whether to ratify the agreement as it stands or whether to revise it in order to account for losing the US.

Along with pledging to put together this “assessment” in time for the November APEC leaders' meeting, the TPP-11 ministers also referred to the prospect of bringing on additional countries into the trade agreement.

“The ministers also underlined their vision for the TPP to expand to include other economies that can accept the high standards of the TPP,” they said.

RCEP: “substantial conclusion” this year

Ministers representing another Asia-Pacific initiative known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) also met in Hanoi this past weekend to take stock of their efforts to conclude a 16-country trade agreement.

The RCEP project was formally launched in 2012, and negotiators have held 18 rounds to date, with the latest round being held from 2-12 May in the Philippines. The agreement brings together the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their free trade agreement (FTA) partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

Previous targets for concluding the RCEP talks have passed unmet. However, the group has said repeatedly in recent months that they hope to clinch a deal this year, which would include areas like goods and services market access, investment, intellectual property, dispute settlement, and competition rules, among others.

“The ministers noted that the substantial conclusion of the RCEP has been identified as a priority deliverable in this milestone year of ASEAN's 50th anniversary. The ministers noted the necessity of significant progress and committed to work together to this end,” said a [joint media statement](#) issued on 22 May.

The statement also referred to areas where the RCEP talks have seen the most progress, along with hinting at which areas still remain sticking points in the negotiations to come.

For example, the RCEP chapter on economic and technical cooperation, as well as the chapter on small and medium-sized enterprises, have both been finalised. However, on market access, the statement suggested that “more work is required to improve offers that have been tabled to date.”

ICTSD reporting; “APEC Trade Ministers Omit Protectionism Pledge in Statement,” BLOOMBERG, 21 May 2017; “Disagreements surface over China-backed trade deal,” REUTERS, 22 May 2017; “U.S. and Pacific Rim countries at odds in heated trade meeting,” REUTERS, 21 May 2017.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Farm Exporting Countries Outline Agriculture Negotiating Ideas for WTO Ministerial

The Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries has called for action on farm trade issues for the WTO's upcoming ministerial conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, this December, tabling an informal [paper](#) that notes "overwhelming" support for an outcome on agricultural domestic support.

The new paper is the first joint statement of the Cairns Group's stance after separate papers were tabled by sub-sets of its members last year. The [coalition](#) includes nearly 20 countries from both the developed and developing world, including [different world regions](#). (See Bridges Weekly, [18 November 2016](#))

The group's paper calls for action on three areas addressed under current WTO rules on agricultural trade: domestic support, market access, and export competition. The last of these covers export subsidies and similar measures.

Cairns Group members will continue to "engage constructively" in negotiations on two other farm trade areas cited by ministers at the WTO's Nairobi conference in 2015. These include finding a permanent solution to problems under global trade rules facing some developing countries when buying food at government-set prices for public stocks, as well as a new safeguard mechanism to protect developing countries from sudden import surges and price depressions.

The paper has been circulated by the sponsors ahead of informal meetings convened by the chair of the WTO's farm trade talks, which are due to take place early next month.

Concentration of support "must be addressed"

The group argues that WTO members must agree to address the concentration of domestic support on specific agricultural products in some countries.

"Excessive concentrations of product-specific support continue to impact world market prices for a range of goods, many of which are of great importance to developing and least developed countries," the paper says.

The Cairns Group singles out rice, sugar, dairy, wheat, soybeans, beef, and cotton as examples of markets which are especially affected by the phenomenon.

The group's new submission also backed a separate proposal from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for action on cotton. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 February 2017](#))

"Negotiations must lead to a significant reduction, with a view to total elimination, of all types of domestic support that have distorting effects on the cotton market," the Cairns Group paper says.

New limits on trade-distorting support

Negotiations should lead to new limits that should "meaningfully reduce" the entitlements that WTO members have today, the group has said, claiming that for just nine members these amount to over US\$625 billion in trade-distorting domestic support. The assessment

is based on permitted support levels in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, and the US.

In practice, “applied” levels of support reported to the WTO are nonetheless far lower, as most countries do not provide anywhere near the maximum permitted support that is allowed under existing rules.

The group also argues that “greater scrutiny” is needed for all forms of production and trade-distorting domestic support. Trade sources told Bridges that the group’s members had different views on what this would encompass in practice, with some favouring closer attention to a clause under WTO rules that allows developing countries to provide input and investment subsidies to low-income, resource-poor producers.

This type of aid is dubbed Article 6.2 support in trade circles, after the relevant provision under the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture.

Farm tariffs higher than industrial goods

Talks on market access also need to bring tariffs on farm goods down to the levels applied on industrial goods, the group said.

Average tariff levels for agricultural products are more than eight times higher than for manufactured products, the Cairns Group paper claims, with some farm products protected by tariffs set at over 300 percent.

Talks in this area should aim at “incremental, yet substantive steps” for the Buenos Aires conference, with a view to launching substantive market access negotiations for future ministerial meetings.

Stronger disciplines on agricultural export competition are also needed to build on outcomes from the 2015 ministerial conference in Nairobi, which agreed to eliminate export subsidies, the paper says. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 December 2015](#))

The group suggests that tighter WTO rules on export credits could build on the Nairobi outcome, and called for the current negotiations and review process in this area to continue.

Overall trade-distorting support: “analysis paper” reviews scenarios

A separate “analysis paper,” sponsored by a sub-set of eight Cairns Group members, explores the possible implications of a cap on overall trade-distorting support by looking at various options for implementing proposals put forward by other negotiating groups at the WTO.

In particular, the co-sponsors examine how proposed trade-distorting support levels could be affected by limits suggested by the group of Least Developed Countries and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 February 2017](#) and [24 November 2016](#))

The analysis paper looks at three options for capping support based on a “floating” reference period tied to the value of agricultural production in a given year, as well as a fourth which examines the possibility of a “fixed” cap defined as a share of farm output in a pre-determined historical reference period. While some Cairns Group members are believed to favour the former approach, others reportedly favour the latter.

The group looks at three options for capping trade-distorting support on the basis of a floating limit on overall support. While the first option would establish the fewest constraints on WTO members, the second would establish slightly greater restrictions on their flexibility, while the third would be the most limiting of these.

One scenario would cap this support based on existing limits, defined as the sum of trade-distorting “amber box” support as well as “de minimis” payments – essentially amber box payments that countries are allowed to make so long as they fall below a previously agreed share of farm output.

Another scenario would cut countries' existing amber box allowance in half, while maintaining existing de minimis ceilings. A third scenario limits support to de minimis spending only.

Finally, the fourth scenario, based on a “fixed” historical reference period, would mean that countries' scope to subsidise agriculture would not continue to increase as the value of their farm output grows. Most countries have seen a trend towards an increase in the value of agricultural production in successive recent years.

However, trade sources told Bridges that the most significant aspect of the analysis paper might be its two appendices. The first appendix models the implications of gradual cuts in the ceiling on overall trade-distorting support over time. The second looks at the implications of including in these cuts input and investment subsidies which developing countries are currently allowed to provide to low-income, resource-poor producers – the above-mentioned Article 6.2 support.

While China would be likely to oppose the former, India and many other developing countries would be expected to oppose the latter, sources said. The ACP and LDC groups have explicitly opposed new disciplines on Article 6.2 support, which they consider to be important for supporting low-income, resource-poor producers.

Negotiators to meet in early June

Trade sources told Bridges that the chair of the WTO agriculture talks, Kenyan ambassador Stephen Karau, was due to convene informal meetings open to all the organisation's members on 1 and 2 June.

The timing of the meeting allows around eight weeks more for negotiators to advance preparations for the ministerial ahead of the WTO's traditional break in business for the month of August.

The meetings would allow the chair to report back on his consultations with the coordinators of different country groups and coalitions since he took over the role on 7 April. (See Bridges Weekly, [13 April 2017](#))

The chair was expected to review progress on outstanding agriculture negotiating topics, as well as holding dedicated sessions on the issues of public stockholding and the “special safeguard mechanism” for developing countries.

The meetings would be “a good opportunity to see where everyone is,” one trade official told Bridges.

ICTSD reporting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

UN Climate Negotiators Work to Advance Paris Rulebook

UN climate negotiators concluded their annual mid-year meetings last week in the German city of Bonn, working to advance the development of a "rulebook" for the Paris Agreement on climate change, among other objectives.

The 8-18 May meetings sought to build on the work from the Conference of the Parties (COP) 22 last year in Marrakech, which saw parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agree to adopt a "Paris rulebook" by 2018, with a review of their progress this year, among other items. (See Bridges Weekly, [6 November 2016](#) and [20 November 2016](#))

Major topics on this month's Bonn agenda included transparency, accountability, and financing areas of the accord, in large part paving the way for the rulebook discussions for this autumn.

Thus far, 195 countries are signatories to the Paris Agreement. Of this number, 146 countries have [formally ratified](#) the landmark climate deal. The latter group accounts for approximately 83 percent of global emissions, according to an assessment by the [World Resources Institute](#).

Fiji COP presidency begins

The 6-17 November COP will be held under the Fijian presidency, though the meetings themselves will also take place in Bonn. Incoming COP23 President Frank Bainimarama [said last week](#) that his country will aim to bring its own Pacific island nation perspective to the climate talks.

"We who are most vulnerable must be heard, whether we come from the Pacific or other Small Island Developing States, other low lying nations and states or threatened cities in the developed world like Miami, New York, Venice, or Rotterdam," he told a Bonn audience on 18 May.

Among Fiji's priorities for COP23 will be to keep in place the "multilateral consensus for decisive action" on climate issues, along with supporting the Paris Agreement in this next stage; to make clearer the connection between ocean and sea health and climate change; to push for developing innovative climate solutions and financing them accordingly; and to bring together a "grand coalition" aimed at boosting climate action by the end of this decade.

Also on the Fijian priority list is to help those countries most at risk to better prepare and have financial support for their adaptation efforts. All this, he said, would involve incorporating the "Fijian '*Bula Spirit*' of inclusiveness, friendliness, and solidarity."

Rulebook progress

Advancing preparations for a future Paris Agreement "rulebook" under the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), which is the steering group that is in charge of the deal's implementation, was one of the key goals for this month's Bonn talks.

Coming to a consensus on these issues was expected to be challenging due to the technical detail involved in discussions. However, officials welcomed the move to more technical work in Bonn, pledging to push these efforts forward at this November's COP.

"The APA noted that substantive progress has been achieved at this session in making a transition from conceptual discussions to focused technical work, including, as appropriate, on textual elements. The APA emphasised the need to make progress on all items in a coherent and balanced manner and to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach regarding the related matters considered under the SBI and the SBSTA," said the co-chairs' [conclusions](#), which were adopted at the APA's closing plenary on 18 May.

The SBI refers to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the SBSTA refers to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. These are two UNFCCC negotiating tracks, which pre-date the Paris Agreement.

Response measures

Among the items on the Bonn docket was advancing work on the topic of "response measures," which involves the social or economic effects that may result from climate activities taken by other countries. At the 2015 COP which adopted the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC parties signed off on an "improved forum and work programme" for addressing these measures, which would be in place for the years 2016-2018.

The issue of response measures, as well as the forum itself, were discussed in Bonn under the SBI and the SBSTA, along with briefly under the APA. Ultimately, the two subsidiary bodies signed off on a set of [joint conclusions](#) welcoming an ad hoc technical expert group (TEG) that met earlier this month on the technical aspects of this issue.

"The SBI and the SBSTA welcomed with appreciation the summary of the meeting of the ad hoc technical expert group (TEG) held in Bonn, Germany, on 9 and 10 May 2017, presented by the co-chairs of the TEG, which provided further technical elaboration on the two areas of the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures in the context of sustainable development," said the conclusions.

They also asked that the group's co-chairs prepare a "detailed report" for the November SBI and SBSTA meetings, which would take the summary presented in Bonn and go into greater depth.

Furthermore, the conclusions note that parties and observers have been asked to table by end-September "their views on aspects related to economic diversification and transformation and just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, in the context of sustainable development." These submissions are meant to support the meetings at COP23 and next year's mid-year Bonn talks on the potential use of "modelling tools" in this area.

They also endorsed [joint conclusions](#) relating to the response measures "forum," which among other items refers specifically to developing the necessary "modalities, work programme, and functions" and ask that parties and observers table submissions on what these could entail by the end of September.

In addition, the APA will need to adopt a decision that formally designates this forum as "serving" the Paris accord, which is being developed jointly under the two subsidiary bodies and was also discussed in Bonn.

Article 6 debates

Talks in Bonn under the SBSTA also looked at various aspects of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which among other provisions lays out the possibility of countries choosing

“voluntary cooperation” for meeting their national commitments, including through “internationally transferred mitigation outcomes.” Experts say this could have implications for linking sub-national, national, and regional carbon markets. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 June 2016](#))

The discussions in this area touched upon a range of issues, including on developing “guidance” on the above-mentioned cooperative approaches, as set out under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. Under the SBSTA [conclusions](#) on this item, parties have been asked to make submissions on what might form the “content” of this guidance by early October. There will be a roundtable on the subject in November, which will be summarised in an informal document put together by co-facilitators.

Co-facilitators also released an informal “[information note](#)” aiming to capture the Bonn discussions, with the caveat that the informal “list of elements” therein are not meant to suggest that these have consensus or convergence among the parties. The document also refers to the various disagreements that arose on the subject, such as on how these elements relate to the Paris Agreement itself.

Among the various other topics relating to Article 6 that came up in Bonn is a “mechanism” that will “contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development.” The mechanism was agreed under Article 6.4 of the Paris deal, which also outlines a series of related goals that it should meet.

Negotiators in Bonn [agreed](#) to ask parties to put forward what should serve as this mechanism’s rules, modalities, and procedures by early October, while similarly asking that the UNFCCC secretariat host a related roundtable in November, which will be summarised informally by the co-facilitators. As with the Article 6.2 discussions, the co-facilitators on this topic also put forward an informal “[information note](#)” outlining the elements raised by various parties, while referring broadly to disagreements that arose in this month’s talks.

Global stocktake

Establishing a process to check, maintain, and improve the rigour of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) was another important agenda point for this month’s Bonn meetings.

Through a stocktaking process, all countries will examine and report on their climate goals every five years from 2020, identifying best practices and areas for further improvement. This accountability measure provides an avenue for revising policy in order to meet the ultimate goal of keeping the rise in global average temperatures within two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The first “global stocktake” will happen in 2023, with a 2018 “Facilitative Dialogue” to serve as a test run.

Following the Bonn talks, the APA [has asked](#) that parties table “focused submissions on the possible elements of textual outline for the identification of the sources of input to and development of the modalities for the global stocktake.”

The co-facilitators also released an [informal note](#) summarising these discussions in further depth, including a “possible textual outline” that they put together based on the views heard in Bonn, while not pre-judging the outcome or indicating any sort of agreement on the subject.

Reviewing progress

Notably, the Bonn talks also saw the US, India, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Russia, Thailand, France, and Chile among the [27 developed and developing countries](#) slated to go through the “multilateral assessment” or “facilitative sharing of views,” respectively, regarding their climate action plans.

Participating countries shared achievements alongside lessons learned, providing a chance to clarify procedural elements of the national reporting process and show what their emissions cutting efforts have meant for their respective economies. The sharing exercise also gave a chance to demonstrate how far along these countries are toward meeting their 2020 emission reduction goals.

The countries listed above were asked to describe their climate plans' progress to date, answering public questions from other parties. India and China, both countries audited in Bonn, were among those larger developing countries reporting positive news with India highlighting its National Solar Mission, and China noting its declining coal consumption.

Waiting on Washington

The United States was one of the countries under review at Bonn as well, with China and India reportedly questioning the US about its international climate finance pledges. These reviews happened under the wider concern that President Donald Trump could withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement itself.

Trump campaigned against the Paris Agreement during his presidential run last year, with his current administration still debating whether the US should remain part of the global climate pact. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 March 2017](#))

The new US leader has already indicated that he would not fulfil the previous US pledge to provide US\$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund, though the previous Obama Administration has already provided US\$1 billion to the project. The Fund which was established in order to mobilise billions of dollars in climate finance for helping poorer nations slash emissions and respond to climate change impacts.

The US president is currently out on his first foreign trip, which includes the G7 leaders' summit on 26-27 May in Taormina, Italy. Newly elected French President Emmanuel Macron along with Chinese President Xi Jinping have publicly defended the Agreement, with domestic support for the accord coming from a host of civil society groups, as well as myriad private and public sector actors.

In anticipation of the Taormina meeting, nearly 300 investors and corporations [co-signed a letter](#) this month pledging their backing to the Paris accord and calling upon leaders to do the same, including by taking steps at the national level aimed at limiting global temperature rises to 1.5-2 degrees Celsius, as well as by spurring greater investments in facilitating a transition to a low-carbon economy.

"Investors recognise the global transition to a low-carbon, clean energy economy is now firmly underway and they want to make well-informed decisions that help Paris Agreement signatories deliver their national commitments," said Stephanie Pfeifer, who serves as the CEO of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change in Europe.

ICTSD reporting; "Insider: Designing the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement: The Catalyst for Climate Action," WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, 1 May, 2017; "Setting the Rules of the Game at Bonn Climate Talks," WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, 1 May 2017; "Climate Negotiations in Bonn: The Countdown to 2018 Starts," WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, 3 May 2017; "Bonn Climate Change Conference- May 2017: Summary Highlights," IISD SERVICES, 8-18 May 2017; "India and China 'on track to exceed Paris climate pledges'," CLIMATE HOME, 15 May 2017; "Bonn Climate Talks Make Incremental Progress on the Paris Agreement Rulebook," IISD, 22 May 2017.

NORTH AMERICA

US Trade Rep Notifies Congress of NAFTA Negotiation Plans

US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer notified Congress last week of the planned renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), kicking off a 90-day period before talks with Canada and Mexico can formally begin.

The new US trade chief had spent his first few days in office consulting with key lawmakers, including the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, in preparation for the notification.

According to the USTR's [official letter](#), which was addressed to top legislators in both congressional chambers, the purpose of the talks is "to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the US economy by improving US opportunities under NAFTA."

Among the areas that Washington would like to see in an updated NAFTA include "intellectual property rights, regulatory practices, state-owned enterprises, services, customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, labour, environment, and small and medium enterprises."

Overall, the current administration has repeatedly said that NAFTA should be upgraded to reflect the shifts seen in the regional and global trading landscape since the trade deal entered into force more than two decades ago. NAFTA has been in effect since January 1994.

The North American trade deal "has been relatively successful for Americans across several sectors, including agriculture, investment services, and energy," said Lighthizer, according to comments reported by Politico.

"However, other sectors like manufacturing – particularly with regards to Mexico – have fallen behind," he added.

Borrowing from TPP?

The renegotiation of NAFTA was one of US President Donald Trump's key campaign promises last year, and the US leader has said that should the trade deal upgrade fail to yield significantly better terms for Washington, then he would withdraw the US from the decades-old accord. (See Bridges Weekly, [4 May 2017](#))

Trade experts have noted that several of the key topics referred to in the USTR letter, such as intellectual property and environmental protections, were already raised in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. The 12-country deal included all three NAFTA members, but Trump withdrew the US earlier this year. The rest of the group is now weighing how to move forward with the deal. (See Bridges Weekly, [26 January 2017](#) and related story, this edition)

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has already suggested that the TPP's terms would serve as a "starting point" for the upcoming NAFTA talks. (See Bridges Weekly, [11 May 2017](#))

American business leaders have suggested that upgrading the accord could potentially yield strong gains domestically, while cautioning that this will depend on the final outcome.

"If we all do our jobs well, the results will be a stronger agreement that spurs economic growth and job creation," said US Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donohue on Monday, according to comments reported by the Washington Post.

While several lawmakers have welcomed the move, they have also cautioned that the talks must proceed carefully, given that the regional trading network has been built largely around NAFTA's current terms – particularly when it comes to farm and industrial goods trade. Figures from the [Office of the US Trade Representative](#) suggest that the country's NAFTA partners are currently among the top export destinations for over two dozen US states. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 May 2017](#))

Ministers from Canada and Mexico have already issued their own statements welcoming the announcement.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland released a [statement](#) noting that this move has "long been anticipated," and that Ottawa was preparing internally for a renegotiation by consulting stakeholders across a range of sectors. "Nine million American jobs depend on trade and investment with Canada," she said.

"We are at an important juncture that offers us an opportunity to determine how we can best align NAFTA to new realities," she continued, pledging her country's continued commitment to free trade with its North American neighbours.

The Mexican Secretariat of the Economy also [said](#) that it was "reaffirming its willingness to update NAFTA to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The countries of North America deserve a modern instrument to regulate their trading relationships."

In a [joint press conference](#) on 18 May with US and Mexican officials, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray Caso said that the USTR notification "is something that is significant net positive for Mexico-US relationship, and we will build upon that."

Coming up

Formal negotiations between the US, Canada, and Mexico will begin by 16 August at the earliest, given that US law requires a 90-day consultation period. Lighthizer will need to submit more detailed negotiating objectives to lawmakers at least 30 days before negotiations kick off.

One looming question going forward is whether the deal will keep all three countries, or whether participants will instead proceed bilaterally. Speaking to reporters last week, Lighthizer said that the US administration hopes to keep NAFTA in its current trilateral form.

"I would note that many of these negotiations will be bilateral and many of the issues are bilateral, but our hope is that we will end up with a structure that is similar to what we have now. If that proves to be impossible, we will move in another direction," he said, according to comments reported by the Washington Post.

Videgaray told reporters on 18 May that Mexico views NAFTA as a trilateral agreement, and said that "the conversations need to be trilateral in nature."

Officials from the US and Mexico have both said that they hope to see a deal reached by year's end, partly due to general elections scheduled in the latter country for July 2018.

ICTSD reporting; "Trump launches NAFTA renegotiation," POLITICO, 18 May 2017; "Trump administration starts countdown to NAFTA talks in mid-August," REUTERS, 18 May 2017; "Trump Sends NAFTA Renegotiation Notice to Congress," NEW YORK TIMES, 18 May 2017; "Trump administration formally launches NAFTA renegotiation," WASHINGTON POST, 18 May 2017.

PUBLIC HEALTH

World Health Assembly Kicks Off, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Elected WHO Chief

The 70th annual meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the chief decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO), opened at the UN's Geneva headquarters this week with a change in leadership, after Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was [elected](#) on Tuesday 23 May to succeed Margaret Chan as Director-General.

The assembly will unfold over a nine-day period and will convene over 3500 delegates from the WHO's 194 member states, according to a [news release](#) by the agency.

Deliberations will seek to craft policies conducive to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development universally adopted by UN members in 2015, with a focus on strategies to improve health systems globally; counter falsified medical products; protect the health of migrants and refugees, and ensure access to medicines and vaccines. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 September 2015](#))

Regarding [access to medicines](#), the report by the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, which was released last year, is expected to be discussed at this year's WHA. That report aimed to help reconcile the "the policy incoherence between the justifiable rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules, and public health in the context of health technologies," and has also been discussed at the WTO's Council on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). (See Bridges Weekly, [22 September 2016](#) and [17 November 2016](#))

Discussions at the WHA will also relate to means to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases, ahead of the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on NCDs taking place in September of next year.

Participants are also due to [review](#) the executive summary of a planned report on the "evaluation and review of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation, and intellectual property." The global strategy and plan of action addresses issues such as promoting research and development and providing technical support for using TRIPS flexibilities, along with technology transfer and sustainable financing. (See Bridges Weekly, [28 May 2015](#))

Also among upwards of 80 items on the [agenda](#) is the WHO's preparedness and response to health emergencies, in terms of coordination of research and development (R&D) and controlling antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including a review of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework. In addition, delegates will be tasked with approving the UN health agency's 2018-19 budget.

"Our joint work at the global level aims for the central objective of promoting health through the life course, as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals," [said](#) Veronika Skvortsova, who was confirmed as incoming WHA President on Monday.

"The achievement of this central objective necessitates the creation of an integrated health-preserving environment that amalgamates all national, regional and global mechanisms in the public, intersectoral, and official spheres, professional medical bodies, patients' associations, and the business community," she added.

The WHO monitors trends in global health, coordinates and establishes international health regulations to mitigate public health risks, sets global priorities in response to the onset of outbreaks, and provides technical support to governments at the national level on health issues.

New leadership

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected Director-General following a three-way race in a vote on Tuesday. The Ethiopian politician, formerly health minister for seven years and foreign minister for an additional four, was backed by all 54 African Union states. Tedros becomes the first African WHO chief, defeating Pakistani cardiologist Sania Nishtar and British physician David Nabarro.

Tedros is credited with expanding the Ethiopian health infrastructure and implementing wide reforms of the nation's health system, opening 3500 health centres and 16,000 health posts according to a WHO [news release](#).

Tedros has prioritised the provision of health insurance in the poorest countries throughout his campaign, promising to address financial barriers to quality diagnosis and care as well as access to medicines, a target subsumed in the Sustainable Development Goals. "I will work tirelessly to fulfil WHO's promise of universal health coverage," he said in a statement [publicly webcast](#) prior to the election on Tuesday.

He pledged to empower countries with the means to work towards their own priorities, including through "increasing health financing, improving data and information systems using data for decision-making, and transferring the skills and knowledge to our communities so they can produce their own health."

The new Director-General will take office from 1 July for a five-year term.

Chan's final address

The incumbent Margaret Chan has served at the helm of the agency for over a decade, carrying out two terms since she was first appointed in 2006. On Monday, Chan gave a [final address](#) at the opening of the assembly, outlining progress to date and challenges remaining in line with the [report](#) released last month recapitulating developments in public health and WHO efforts under her years of leadership.

"The most contentious issue was access to medicines, especially when intellectual property and the patent system were perceived as barriers to both affordable prices and the development of new products for diseases of the poor," she said, referring to the long-standing debate within trade and intellectual property circles over how best to develop and exchange lower-cost medicines.

She also highlighted the importance of continuing innovation.

"Meeting the ambitious targets in the Sustainable Development Goals depends on innovation. Innovation that uses country experiences can be frugal and transformative," she said, citing transformative effects of the research and development partnership that produced a meningitis A vaccine for deployment across Africa.

In addition, Chan underlined the need to protect scientific evidence as the "bedrock of policy" in a "post-truth world," acknowledging that ongoing measles outbreaks in Europe and North America might have been avoided if vaccines were not refused.

Chan maintained the integral role of partnerships, both with the private sector and civil society, in finding solutions. "Civil society organisations are society's conscience," she

explained. "They are the ones who can give the people who suffer the most a face and a voice."

The address closed with some advice for the assembly going forward, cautioning members to continue to reduce inequalities as a guiding principle, to enshrine accountability in global health strategies, and to remember that "behind every number is a person who defines our common humanity and deserves our compassion, especially when suffering or premature death can be prevented."

ICTSD reporting; "WHO chooses first African to head the global health agency," THE WASHINGTON POST, 23 May 2017; "70th World Health Assembly kicks off in Geneva: Margaret Chan's mandate comes to an end," THE HEALTH SITE, 23 May 2017; "W.H.O. Elects Ethiopia's Tedros as First Director General From Africa," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 23 May 2017; "Next WHO chief is Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus," POLITICO, 23 May 2017; "The Latest: US 'disappointed' Taiwan not at WHO assembly," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 22 May 2017; "Chan's Last Speech To WHA Opening: Affordable Medicines, Innovation, Listen To Civil Society, Partner With Industry," IP-WATCH, 22 May 2017; "Longest, Biggest World Health Assembly Ever Set To Open With Election, Budget Topping Agenda," IP-WATCH, 12 May 2017.

FISHERIES

WTO Members Examine Options for Tackling Harmful Fisheries Subsidies

WTO members pressed on last week with negotiations on potential disciplines for fisheries subsidies, holding four days of intensive discussions at the organisation's Geneva headquarters.

This cluster of meetings, held from 15-18 May, aimed to address some of the substantive questions surrounding global disciplines for fisheries subsidies as part of an effort by the WTO's Negotiating Group on Rules (NGR) to reach an outcome on the topic at the upcoming Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires. (See Bridges Weekly, [4 May 2017](#))

Negotiators have met on other occasions throughout the year to discuss options for an outcome at MC11, which will be held from 11-14 December in the Argentine capital city.

To date, texts have been tabled by the EU; New Zealand, with Iceland and Pakistan; the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP); the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and a group of Latin American members. Sources suggest that updated versions, along with a proposal from Indonesia, may be in the pipeline for upcoming talks.

Sources familiar with the talks noted that these were of high intensity and saw substantial activity, including engagement from major players, though significant work remains for negotiators between now and the WTO's annual August hiatus.

Sustainable Development Goals

At last week's session, several WTO members reportedly pointed to Sustainable Development Goal ([SDG](#)) 14 and to target of SDG 14.6 in particular, which some sources noted has been a strong political driver behind moving the fisheries negotiations forward.

This SDG target sets a deadline of 2020 to "prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies." (See Bridges Weekly, [22 September 2016](#))

This SDG was one of 17 goals, with related targets, that were adopted by governments at a UN summit in September 2015. This was part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which tackles a host of economic, environmental, and social issues. (See Bridges Weekly, [1 October 2015](#))

[Experts](#) estimate that between US\$10 billion and US\$23.5 billion in economic benefits are lost due to IUU fishing activities each year, and determine that developing countries experience a higher intensity of and are the most debilitated by the negative economic and environmental effects of destructive fishing practices.

Furthermore, WTO members have reportedly highlighted SDG 14.6's recognition of comprehensive special and differential treatment (S&DT) as a key component to the greater fisheries subsidies debate at the global trade body.

[S&DT](#) can allow developing countries and LDCs to enjoy more flexible time periods for meeting WTO rules and provide them additional help as they develop the capacity to do so.

Maritime jurisdictions, subsidy prohibitions

Along with discussing in further depth a communication circulated by Iceland, New Zealand, and Pakistan in late April, which looks at a possible ministerial outcome implementing SDG 14.6, members also examined topics such as what might fall under the new disciplines.

Sources say that negotiators looked at the scope of potential disciplines, including the treatment of fishing within and beyond national maritime jurisdictions, and the flexibility of potential subsidy prohibitions given the needs of the WTO's poorest members.

With respect to the scope of the agreement, members discussed obligations to implement disciplines for fisheries subsidies within jurisdictional waters, along with the relationship between international and national rules.

Some smaller developing country members reportedly said that disciplines should focus on subsidies that support large-scale, industrial fishing outside exclusive economic zones (EEZ), with some suggesting that smaller fishing activities do not have the same negative ramifications and others emphasising national governments' role in governing activities in their own waters.

Others argued that the vast majority of global fishing takes place within national waters, with some developed country members among those noting that the relevant SDG does not make a distinction between national and international waters.

Aside from territorial contingencies, some members proposed other options, such as tailoring these disciplines to reflect the effect of a subsidy on fish stocks, although others said that prohibitions reflecting these ramifications could be difficult to put into practice.

Addressing special and differential treatment

The issue of S&DT has long been a key area in the fisheries subsidies negotiations. During last week's meeting, several members reportedly expressed the view that S&DT should be designed to be supportive of developing economies' ability to take on the subsidy reforms under discussion for Buenos Aires.

Members reportedly debated, for example, whether a future fisheries subsidies deal should be contingent on developing countries receiving the necessary technical assistance and capacity-building. Other ideas raised included giving these countries additional time to put new commitments in place, and whether developing countries would have the option to boost non-harmful subsidies at some stage, in light of the need to grow their relatively underdeveloped fishing activities.

Coming up

This round of talks comes just weeks ahead of the 5-9 June high-level UN Ocean Conference in New York City, which will feature opportunities for participants to discuss the implications of Goal 14.6 on the health of the blue economy and incorporate such considerations into its "Call for Action." (See Bridges Weekly, [4 May 2017](#))

Back in Geneva, further intensive WTO work is planned, with issues like transparency, a standstill commitment, implementation, dispute settlement, institutional arrangements, and definitions planned for the next cluster of rules negotiating group meetings in mid-June.

ICTSD reporting.

LABOUR RIGHTS

Governments, Agencies Review Progress on Labour Rights, Trade in Bangladesh

The governments of the European Union, the United States, Bangladesh, and Canada met with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to review progress made in improving worker rights, health, and safety in Bangladesh, four years after signing on to the "Bangladesh Sustainability Compact" after the Rana Plaza factory disaster.

Meeting on 18 May in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the event marked the third formal "follow up" to the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact, which aims to address concerns over working conditions.

According to the [joint conclusions](#) issued after their discussions, while advances have been seen in some areas, more work remains. For example, the conclusions cited trade union registrations; improvements made by the agencies which inspect factories; and investments made to support worker safety in factory settings.

However, it also made calls for additional progress in some key areas. For example, the group cited the "urgent need to further address acts of discrimination against trade unionists, and to effectively investigate and prosecute unfair labour practices in a timely and transparent manner."

Furthermore, it also raised "recent distressing events in Ashulia," in an apparent reference to worker protests late last year that led to arrests and dismissals. The compact "partners" referred to the need for the "criminal complaints pending against the concerned social partners... be reviewed urgently to ensure due process of law."

Another issue raised was ensuring that the people who work in "export processing zones" (EPZs) have legal rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, noting that legislation in the Asian country on labour rights in these zones is still pending.

Brief overview

The Sustainability Compact was launched in July 2013, following the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in 2013 which left 1129 people dead. (See Bridges Weekly, [11 July 2013](#))

The Rana Plaza tragedy called into question not only factory practices in Bangladesh, but also whether more can be done by countries and companies that purchase those products in pushing for better labour conditions. Many of the goods produced in the Rana Plaza factory was tied to retailers such as Walmart, Primark, and Mango, among others, according to the non-profit Clean Clothes Campaign.

The factory disaster prompted a series of discussions and initiatives aimed at addressing labour rights, improving building safety, and prompting more responsible company practices. [Exports](#) of Bangladeshi "ready-made garments" (RMG) total several billion dollars per year, with women making up the bulk of the sector's four million employees. The apparel industry accounts for 83 percent of total exports from the Asian economy, according to the [World Bank](#).

The Washington-based agency has also noted that the Bangladeshi apparel trade can be a major source of new jobs, so long as the appropriate safety steps are taken, along with measures to boost productivity.

Progress in trade, labour rights

Four years after the industrial tragedy, stakeholders are reflecting on what lessons to draw and how to continue building safeguards into the Sustainability Compact to protect against violations of labour rights.

In a March 2017 letter to the Bangladeshi government from the European Commission, which was [referenced](#) by the European Parliament, the Commission asked for “sufficient, substantial, meaningful progress together with a sound and time-bound strategy.”

Meanwhile, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Pierre Mayaudon has reported “quite significant progress has been made” and that Bangladesh has done “fantastic” work adopting the Sustainability Compact, according to comments cited by the Financial Express. Separately, in an ILO [newsletter](#) released in February, Director-General Guy Ryder also commented on the progress in Bangladesh following a four-day visit to the country last year.

“Since 2013, Bangladesh has come a long way to make its garment industry safer and to improve working conditions. We can be positive about the progress made but the job is not yet finished,” said Ryder.

ICTSD reporting; “Sustainability Compact: EU finds Bangladesh's ‘fantastic’ progress,” DAILY SUN, 8 May 2017; “Rana Plaza actual and potential donors listed by G7 country,” CLEAN CLOTHES CAMPAIGN, 1 June 2015; “Social dialogue key to workers’ safety: EU envoy,” THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS, 8 May 2017; “Bangladesh Apparel Exports Can Create More Jobs: World Bank,” THE WORLD BANK, 2 May 2016; “Four years after one of the worst industrial accidents ever, what have we learned?” THE WASHINGTON POST, 24 April 2017; “1,600 garment workers in Ashulia sacked over unrest,” DAILY STAR, 28 December 2016.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming Soon

25 May, Washington, US, and online. TRADE, SECURITY, AND THE U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONSHIP. This event is being organised by the Brookings Institution's Mexico Initiative and will feature a series of panel discussions that will explore the various dimensions of the US-Mexico relationship, including on trade. Please note that the event will also be webcast live. To learn more and to register, please visit the Brookings [website](#).

25 May, Geneva, Switzerland. GLOBAL HEALTH R&D: HOW CAN WE BEST SET PRIORITIES BASED ON EVIDENCE? This event is being organised by the governments of Switzerland and South Africa, as well as the European Commission, and will be hosted by the Global Health Centre. The meeting will examine research and development (R&D) activities within the context of global health, examining different initiatives that are currently in place to help in setting priorities for future R&D financing. To learn more and to register, please visit the [event website](#).

29-31 May, Dakar, Senegal. PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS. This workshop is being organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and will focus on building knowledge and exchanging views on the subjects of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. To learn more, visit the WIPO [website](#).

31 May-1 June, Almaty, Kazakhstan. WORKSHOP: EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES. This workshop is being organised by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and will examine the challenges and prospects for reforming state-owned enterprises in Asia. The event will bring together government representatives from various countries in the region. Please note that attendance is by invitation only. For more information, please visit the ADBI [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.

29 May – 2 June: Geneva Week (Non-resident members and observers)

30 May: Workshop on Aid for Trade

31 May: Committee on Trade and Development – Session on Aid for Trade

31 May: Informal Open-ended Negotiating Group on Rules

1-2 June: Informal Open-ended Committee on Agriculture – Special Session

1 June: Working Party on the Accession of Comoros

Other Upcoming Events

2 June, Washington, US. INDIA'S SEARCH FOR PROSPERITY. This event is being organised by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and will feature economist Vijay Joshi as the guest speaker. Joshi will lead a discussion based on his book, *India's Long Road: The Search for Prosperity*, which examines the evolution of the Indian economy and the roles of different actors in this context. Joshi will be part of a panel featuring speakers from the International Monetary Fund and the Carnegie Endowment. To learn more and to register, please visit the Carnegie [website](#).

12 June, Geneva, Switzerland. DISCIPLINING FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES: A CONTRIBUTION OF THE TRADE SYSTEM TO CLIMATE MITIGATION AND SDGS. This roundtable is being organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) as part of the E15 Initiative, which is jointly implemented with the World Economic Forum. The focus of this event will be looking at trade tools and how these can be used to help discipline subsidies for fossil fuels. The meeting will include both WTO negotiators and experts in the field. Please note that attendance is by invitation only. To learn more, visit the ICTSD [website](#).

14 June, London, UK. BREXIT, TRUMP AND THE FUTURE OF THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE. This Chatham House event will examine the implications of Brexit and the election of US President Donald Trump for the bilateral relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States. The event's guest speaker will be Sir Nigel Sheinwald GCMG, who is a Visiting Professor at King's College London Department of War Studies, and was previously the UK's ambassador to the United States and the UK's permanent representative to the European Union. Please note that attendance is by invitation only. To learn more, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

20 June, Brussels, Belgium. INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON WOMEN AND TRADE. This event is being hosted jointly by the European Commission and the International Trade Centre, bringing together stakeholders from a range of backgrounds with the goal of building support for empowering women through trade. A full event agenda is available online. To learn more and the register, please visit the European Commission [website](#).

30 June – 2 July, Geneva, Switzerland. FIFTH GLOBAL REVIEW OF AID FOR TRADE: "REDUCING TRADE COSTS FOR INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH." This biennial WTO event will feature over 50 sessions focusing on the Aid for Trade Initiative, as well as how to address the issue of trade costs in the context of the UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please note that registration closes on 26 June. To learn more, please visit the WTO [website](#).

26-28 September, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2017. This year's edition of the WTO's outreach event will have as its theme "Trade: Behind the Headlines." The meeting will aim to look at the real-life implications of trade, as opposed to rhetoric, and will also look at how trade can support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related issues. A call for proposals is currently open for those who wish to organise sessions at this year's forum, with a due date of 4 June 2017. To learn more, please visit the WTO [website](#).

Resources

WEBCAST: TALKING DISPUTES | THE RUSSIA – EU (PIGS) DISPUTE. Published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). This video shows the discussions which took place on the *Russia – EU (Pigs)* WTO dispute during a 19 May event co-hosted by ICTSD and WTI Advisors. The video is available in full [here](#).

INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016. Published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (May 2017). This latest edition of UNCTAD's issues note on international investment arbitration examines the various cases and decisions issued in this field over the year 2016. The full issues note is available for download at the UNCTAD [website](#).

2020 PROJECTIONS OF CLIMATE FINANCE TOWARDS THE USD 100 BILLION GOAL. Published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (22 May 2017). This new publication aims to support the efforts underway by developing economies to meet their goal of mobilising US\$100 billion in climate finance by the end of this decade for developing countries. To access the publication, please visit the [OECD's iLibrary](#).

THE PAYOFF TO AMERICA FROM GLOBALIZATION: A FRESH LOOK WITH A FOCUS ON COSTS TO WORKERS. By Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Zhiyao Lu for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) (May 2017). This policy brief calculates the gains for the United States from trade expansion during the period of 1950-2016, estimating these to be approximately US\$2.1 trillion. The authors call for increased liberalisation in trade and improved programmes for displaced workers. To download the full document, please visit PIIE [website](#).

LEVERAGING GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS. By the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (May 2017). This study examines the potential gains for India's new economic corridors in relation to global value chains and production networks, with the authors reviewing India's case relative to other economies. To download this study, please visit the ADB [website](#).

AS TRUMP WEIGHS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT 6 WAYS THE WORLD HAS CHANGED. By Nathan Hultman for the Brookings Institution (May 2017). This op-ed presents six key shifts in climate change in recent decades, presenting these as issues for the Trump Administration to consider as they weigh their approach to the UN's Paris Agreement on climate change. Hultman argues that the Paris Agreement has the best structure that could be achieved while balancing international action and national needs. To view this op-ed, please visit the Brookings Institution [website](#).

STAYING CONNECTED: KEY ELEMENTS FOR UK-EU27 ENERGY COOPERATION AFTER BREXIT. By Anthony Froggatt, Georgina Wright, and Matthew Lockwood for Chatham House (May 2017). This paper examines future energy policy negotiations between the UK and EU27 post-Brexit, including where the two sides may be able to reach convergence. The authors further argue in favour of establishing a new pan-European energy partnership. To download this paper, please visit the Chatham House [website](#).

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PUBLISHED BY



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Bridges Weekly Trade News is made possible
through generous contributions of donors and
partners including

DFID - UK Department for
International Development

SIDA - Swedish International
Development Agency

DGIS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Contributors to this issue are Sofía Alicia Baliño,
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Sofía Alicia Baliño.

The Publisher and Director is Ricardo Meléndez-
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should be directed to the [editor](#) or the [director](#).

ISSN 1563-003X

