

WTO Public Forum 2011

Topics for Discussion

Geneva, 19•21 September 2011

The following four sub-themes will be at the centre of the discussions:

Sub-theme I: Food Security

Sub-theme II: Trade in Natural Resources

Sub-theme III: Made in the World and Value-Added Trade

Sub-theme IV: What Next for the Trading System?

Closing Session 46: Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges

This note provides an overview of the main topics that will be discussed during the Public Forum.

This year, the Forum has as its theme "Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges". It will focus on identifying the principal challenges for the multilateral trading system and finding solutions to ensure that the WTO responds to our fast changing world.

The political, economic, and social aspects of the world we live in today are very different to those that existed a decade ago. For instance, food security, trade in natural resources and how it affects the environment, as well as the phenomenon of international supply chains pose new global challenges. As a result, there is a widening gap between existing trade rules and the realities of the 21st century. Examining how the WTO should adapt to deal with the new challenges has become increasingly important as the organization reflects on the way forward. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss current trade rules, to identify areas for improvement and to pinpoint the scope for rule-making in the future.

The main questions that will be addressed by the panellists under each sub-theme during the various Forum's sessions are described below:

High-Level Sessions

Inaugural Session 2: Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges

Organized by: Information and External Relations Division, WTO
Monday, 19 September,

10:00-12:00

Politically, economically and socially, today's world is very different to that which existed a decade ago. Food security, trade in natural resources and its effects on the environment, and international supply chains pose new global challenges. There is a widening gap between existing trade rules and the realities of the 21st century. Examining how the WTO should adapt to deal with these new challenges has become increasingly important as the Organization reflects on the way forward.

During this inaugural session, high-level representatives from government, NGOs and international institutions will present the Public Forum's four core themes, focusing on the future of the multilateral trading system and its contribution to global governance.

The core themes and the questions to be raised are:

I. Food security

- What is the contribution of trade and the WTO rules-based system to achieving food security?
- What is the impact of food price volatility for poor countries? How much uncertainty does it generate?

II. Trade in natural resources

- What gains can be drawn from liberalizing trade in natural resources? What are the effects of trade on the sustainability of these resources?
- How can trade rules better regulate access, protection and resource management at the national level?

III. "Made in the world" and value-added trade

- How might rules of origin and the calculation of trade flows be revisited in an era of international supply chains?

- Would a value-added basis for calculation of trade figures help clarify trade balances today?

IV. What next for the trading system?

- How should the multilateral trading system respond to the rapidly changing global environment?
- How can the rules-based system take account of new realities?

High-Level Session 10: Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges: One-on-One Interview with Pascal Lamy

Organized by: Information and External Relations Division - WTO

Monday, 19 September,
16:15-17:45

Examining how the World Trade Organization (WTO) should adapt to dealing with global trade challenges has become increasingly important as the Organization reflects on the way forward. While the Doha Development Agenda remains a priority, the WTO recognizes that it needs to continue to examine all aspects of its work, and to contribute to greater cooperation across all areas of global governance.

Four main themes encompass the challenges to be discussed in the 2011 Public Forum: food security; trade in natural resources;

value-added trade and global production networks (examining how traded goods are often "made in the world" rather than originating in a single place); and the future of the multilateral trading system. During the first part of this one-to-one interview, Pascal Lamy will reflect and comment on these challenges to the multilateral trading system and on how the WTO can work with others to better address world problems and improve global governance. During the second part of the interview, he will answer selected questions submitted by participants to the Public Forum and by the general public through the Public Forum web site.

High-Level Session 14: Arab Spring - Implications for Trade and Competitiveness of the Arab World

Organized by: Information and External Relations Division - WTO

Tuesday, 20 September,
09:00-11:00

While opening a myriad of opportunities to the region, the series of uprisings known as the Arab Spring have also brought challenges and uncertainties that could threaten the regional economy. The events may have paved the way for reforming state structures, improving the management of national wealth and resources, reassessing subsidies and

fighting corruption but these opportunities need to be handled adroitly if they are to act as a positive turning point for the region's economies and their participation in global trade.

The Arab Spring and its impact on competitiveness and trade in the region are the focus of this high-level session. It will feature high-level speakers from government, international organizations, business and media, who will discuss the following issues:

- What were the political and economic causes of the Arab Spring and its repercussions in the region?
- What are its implications for the trade and competitiveness of the Arab world? How quick will recovery be, and on what factors will it depend?
- How integrated are the Arab countries in international trade? Why are so many of them outside the WTO system?
- What has been the impact of the Arab Spring on regional tourism? What are the prospects for recovery in this sector?
- What has been the impact of the Arab Spring on business in the region?

High-Level Session 30: Business Leadership on Trade in the 21st Century **Organized by: Information and External Relations Division - WTO**

Wednesday, 21 September,
09:00-11:00

With the increasing interdependence of global industries and rapidly shifting trade patterns, businesses need "global rules" and an effective multilateral rule-based trade system. The WTO provides exactly this, increasing stability, predictability, market access and information in the trade system. However, in view of today's evolving challenges to the multilateral trading system, the input and guidance of the WTO's stakeholders is essential to allow the organization to keep providing an up-to-date framework.

It is no longer sufficient for businesses to continue trading while leaving it to governments to craft the regulatory frameworks with the WTO that enable their trade relations to take place. Businesses need to keep investing in the system themselves, sharing their trade experience of what is actually happening on the ground and providing guidance on how to make things better.

Businesses are also best placed to discuss the current patterns of world trade and the benefits of market opening. They can

provide evidence of global production chains and remind decision-makers that imposing high-tariffs on products from other countries may well be hurting national producers who have located part of their production abroad.

This session will feature global business leaders with vast and invaluable experience in international business affairs. They will provide views on the way global business is done today, as well as guidance on how the WTO and the global rules-based system should adapt to the rapidly changing trade environment.



Sub-theme I: Food Security

Session 6: Building Coherent Global Governance for Food Security

Organized by: Agriculture
and Commodities Division -
WTO

Monday, 19 September,
14:00-16:00

In November 2010, G-20 leaders asked a group of international organizations to develop options on how to better mitigate and manage the risks associated with price volatility of food and other agriculture commodities, without distorting market behavior and with the goal of protecting the poor. In response, a working group of international organizations developed a policy report with ten key recommendations. The report also describes proposals for mechanisms of international cooperation to implement the recommendations and monitor progress. In June 2011 the G-20's Ministerial Declaration, "Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture", was adopted and included many of these recommendations.

This session will focus on the Action Plan's recommendation to strengthen international policy coordination for food security. The panelists will be invited to examine current efforts being undertaken by international

organizations to coordinate actions and enhance information-sharing. In addition, speakers will discuss ideas on how current recommendations may be implemented and what the potential benefits and challenges of particular approaches might be.

Discussions will be guided by the following main questions:

- What is the outlook for global food security, and what are the key factors determining food security outcomes at the national level?
- How can multilateral institutions contribute individually and collectively to addressing food security challenges?
- What are the priorities for action?

Session 11: Food- from Abundant and Cheap to Scarce and Expensive: Is the Global Trading System Coping with Change?

Organized by: CropLife
International

Monday, 19 September,
16:15-18:15

As the world's food demand and supply gap continue to increase, WTO member states must implement trade policies that support an uninterrupted flow of agricultural and food products, to stabilize food supplies and reduce food

price volatility, maintain open borders and facilitate food security.

This session examines the role of trade in protecting food security and the impact of international, regional and domestic trade policies and regulations, or lack thereof, on food price volatility and on the flow of agricultural and food products. Experts will highlight the international trade policies that minimize disruptions in the trade in foods and discuss how increasing regulation in the sector is creating non-tariff trade barriers and disrupting the flow of agricultural and food products.

The following questions will be addressed:

- What are the main factors in international trade that govern food security, and which elements can be influenced by trade policy?
- How can WTO member states minimize disruptions in the trade of agriculture and food products?
- What role does the multilateral trading system have in promoting coherence at the international level to better address food security and contribute towards improved global governance?

- Will further liberalization of trade and agricultural policies help or hinder food security and sustainability? Can trade policies encourage and incentivize investments in agriculture?
- Which policies ensure farmers have access to new technologies that increase productivity and lead to food stability?

Session 13: The WTO in Transition: Coping with New and Evolving Challenges

Organized by: Grey, Clark, Shih and Associates, and iPolitics.ca

Monday, 19 September,
16:15-18:15

There is an urgent need to bring the WTO more fully into the twenty-first century. Currently, one of the principal challenges for the WTO and its members is to adjust to new realities in order to achieve its goals in an increasingly uncertain global environment. The purpose of this session is to explore why the WTO has not been able to achieve its goals in an increasingly complex world and to discuss possible solutions. While agriculture and food security are an important sub-theme of this session, the speakers will also address more general problems and possible solutions.

Their approach will recognize and address the influences of the changing global environment. Natural

crises, both climactic and disease-related, price shocks, food to fuel switches and price volatility, as well as financial and geopolitical events, have changed the world dramatically, even since the time of the Marrakesh Ministerial.

The speakers will address the impacts of speculation in futures markets, export controls, currency manipulation and the disruptive impact of rich country subsidies, as well as food safety, "buy local" policies and labelling initiatives.

No matter how the WTO system is tweaked or modified, without leadership and political will from members, the necessary consensus will not be achieved. This session will feature very frank and animated presentations in a no-holds-barred approach designed to stimulate questions and audience participation.

Session 23: Rebalancing the Rights of Importers and Exporters: How to Address Agricultural Export Restrictions?

Organized by: International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council and CUTS International

Tuesday, 20 September,
14:00-16:00

Over the past four years, food prices have repeatedly jumped to crisis levels. Over two dozen

governments, all from low- and middle-income countries, have responded with policies that curtail exports of agricultural products in order to promote national food security. Such measures have been shown to trigger further price increases on the world market, and to make world markets a less reliable source of food supplies in both the short and long run.

The existing international trade rules entail few disciplines on export restrictions, and are primarily focused on the rights of exporters. There have been proposals to put into place greater rights for importers, most recently from G-20 agricultural ministers and from the group of low-income net food importing countries, as part of the Doha Round negotiations.

This session will examine the motivations behind and impacts of agricultural export restrictions in countries that impose restrictions and on food price volatility and access to food in low-income food importers. The panellists will explore whether and how international trade disciplines on agricultural export restrictions can be improved. What kinds of rules regarding notification, limitation, and special and differential treatment should the international community agree to with regard to agricultural export restrictions? A panel

of ambassadors and policy advisors will examine the political factors that must be taken into account when advocating for rules governing export restrictions. The ultimate aim is to speed up the process towards much-needed progress on this dossier.

Session 25: Are FAO/WHO Pesticide Standards Distorting Trade and Increasing Food Costs?

Organized by: AgroCare
Tuesday, 20 September,
14:00-16:00

Agrochemicals are one of the most important production inputs in modern agriculture. Their price for farmers largely depends on the level of competition in the market. Higher food production costs usually result in higher food prices. Therefore, standard-setting in this field should be science-based, and should not introduce unjustified market access barriers to competitive crop protection products.

FAO/WHO pesticide specifications are intended to serve as international standards of quality, for use in national technical regulations. Under the "new procedure", such standards are proposed by a single company for each active ingredient, contain undisclosed information on the basis that they are intellectual property, and confer global monopoly

in conformity assessment on a single entity (FAO/WHO JMPs). Changes in the specification can only be requested by the manufacturer who proposed the standard.

This panel session will address the extent to which FAO/WHO pesticide specifications are distorting trade in crop protection products and their possible effect on food production costs. The panelists will evaluate the degree to which such standards induce member states to enter into conflict with WTO Agreements (such as the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement) and will discuss the necessity of the elements and characteristics of these standards. The main objective will be to explore possible solutions to enhance food security for a growing world population.

Session 29: Controlling Food Prices in Turbulent Times: An Agenda for South Asia

Organized by: World Trade Centre Mumbai and Academy of Business Studies
Tuesday, 20 September,
16:15-18:15

World food prices rose by a steep 43 per cent in 2007, creating shock waves around the globe, especially in countries in Africa and Asia where there

is a food deficit. More such shocks have been forecast in the future.

South Asia, covering mainly India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, accounts for a quarter of the world's population. It is a key player in world food markets for wheat, rice, sugar and edible oils. This region can play a role as a market maker to control food prices and move regular supplies to food deficit countries. During periods of uncertainty and volatility arising from natural factors or an economic crisis, it can turn the direction of prices.

This session will examine the following issues:

- Commodity, currency and financial markets with regard to price discovery and control of speculation in the global food trade
- World food prices and export and import quick response (QR) codes in food trade in checking volatility
- The role of sanitary and phytosanitary measures as non-tariff barriers, the Doha Round, food security and the Agreement on Agriculture in checking food prices
- Ports, warehousing, transport, handling and trade facilitation

bottlenecks to move food in the supply chain quickly and cheaply

- Suggestions for cooperation in South Asia and the role of individual members in crafting measures to moderate turbulence.

Session 32: Food Security and Trade in Services: Risks and Opportunities for Developing Countries

Organized by: Trade Knowledge Network and South African Institute for International Affairs

Wednesday, 21 September,
09:00-11:00

The services sector is an increasingly integral part of global food supply chains, with the production, distribution and marketing of food products relying on logistics, infrastructural services, and financial and professional services. The GATS inclusion of "Services incidental to agriculture, hunting and forestry", as well as services commitments in regional trade agreements, therefore has a potentially far-reaching impact on food security. Particularly in developing countries, where these services may be lacking, it is essential to better understand the linkages between services liberalization and food security.

The session will address the following issues:

- How do services contribute to the cost and distribution of food products?
- Under which circumstances could deeper liberalization result in lowering costs and improving the distribution of food products?
- What implications do the current GATS negotiations have for food security?
- What are the potential risks for developing countries with respect to services liberalization incidental to agriculture?

Session 43: Achieving Food Security through World Markets

Organized by: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Wednesday, 21 September,
16:15-18:15

This session will tackle the sensitive question of how trade openness can contribute to food security at a global, regional and country level. Faced with growing global food requirements and the uncertainty driven by climate change, the trade system has to play a critical role in managing

both short-term and long-term imbalances. This requires multilateral policy coordination. This session will address two dimensions of the current policy status and future needs. First, it will assess compliance with the domestic support commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture and examine what is needed to improve the policy environment in order to contribute to global food security. Second, it will analyze how the recent food price increases have impacted on agricultural trade policies and trade flows and consider how to ensure stable world markets that give incentives for countries to fully incorporate trade into their food security strategy.



Sub-theme II: Trade in Natural Resources

Session 24: Trade in Natural Resources - Curse or Blessing? A Parliamentary Perspective

Organized by: Inter-Parliamentary Union and European Parliament
Tuesday, 20 September,
14:00-16:00

Natural resources underlie, directly or indirectly, most economic activities, and their share of world trade is growing. In recent years, changes in global supply and demand patterns, driven by strong global economic growth, particularly in emerging countries, have led to a surge in demand for raw materials. Access to natural resources has become a source of political tension, while increasingly volatile prices in all major commodity markets have resulted in calls for policy responses to mitigate the negative effects on both producers and consumers.

While the possession of natural resources could provide a good headstart for economic development and diversification if the right policies are adopted, countries whose economies are dominated by the extraction and export of natural resources also run the risk of being exposed to the "resource curse", whereby unbalanced

dependence hampers economic growth and could result in civil conflict. Furthermore, the extraction and use of natural resources has important environmental and sustainability implications.

Parliamentarians are regularly faced with the dilemma of making balanced policy choices in order to ensure sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. They must also respect social and environmental standards and objectives. The panellists will consider different policy responses to these challenges. This session forms part of a continuous process known as the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, which has become its de facto parliamentary dimension.

The panel is intended primarily for elected representatives, but is open to all other participants at the WTO Forum.

Session 28: International Carbon Flows: Sustainability, Trade and Climate Change

Organized by: The Carbon Trust
Tuesday, 20 September,
16:15-18:15

Current approaches to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, including target-setting and pricing mechanisms, take a production view of emissions arising from

nations and regions. This production-based approach to emissions assessment underpins international processes such as the Kyoto Protocol, and is the basis for carbon-pricing and trading schemes such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

An alternate view is that the responsibility for GHG emissions lies not with the producer, but with the final consumer of the products. This consumption view reflects the central role of demand in driving the production of goods and services, and opens new opportunities for policies and activities to minimise supply chain GHG emissions.

There is increasing interest in the implications of embodied carbon flows on domestic environmental policy. For example, a consumption view of EU emissions is about 22 per cent higher than the production approach on which the EU ETS is based. Conversely, China is the world's largest net exporter of emissions embodied in trade, with about 23 per cent of its GHG emissions being associated with goods for export.

This session will provide a lively debate on the environmental, trade, policy, equity and business impacts of addressing – and potentially pricing – embodied emissions in trade.

Session 40: International Governance of Energy Trade: WTO and Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)

Organized by: Energy Charter Secretariat

Wednesday, 21 September,

14:15-16:15

The distinctive features of energy raise the question of whether energy trade and investment can be effectively regulated by a general international legal framework or whether a more specialized framework is needed. The regulation of cross-border energy trade has to take into account the differences between energy and other internationally traded commodities. The effectiveness of an energy-specific international agreement would depend on the extent to which it could attract different types of stakeholders along the energy supply chain. However, despite clear interdependence, the interests of consuming and producing countries differ significantly and this makes negotiations of international binding rules covering energy very difficult.

To a large extent, energy relations, including trade and investment in the sector, have been subject to bilateral treaties.

However, in order to create predictability in the sector, enforceable multilateral rules are increasingly important. A multilateral legal framework can best ensure the predictability

and transparency required in conditions of increasing reliance on internationally traded energy and the need for adequate investment.

The aim of the session is to discuss effective ways, from the regulatory perspective, to address challenges related to energy trade. The session will focus on the international regulation of energy trade by the rules of the WTO Agreements and the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The session will provide an opportunity to discuss complementarities that exist between the general WTO framework and the more specialized framework contained within the ECT, given that the ECT is based on the WTO framework but contains some additional rules relevant to the energy sector, most notably investment rules and energy-specific transit rules.

Session 42: Preparing for Rio 2012: Trade Opportunities and Challenges in a Green Economy

Organized by: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Wednesday, 21 September,

16:15-18:15

With the Rio 2012 meeting coming up less than a year after the WTO Public Forum, the aim of this session is to generate a broader and deeper understanding of Green Economy issues

as they relate to trade. The session will be part of a consultative process on trade and the green economy in the lead-up to Rio 2012 and will focus on presenting new perspectives and exploring potential ways forward.

Up until now, the preparatory process for Rio 2012 has met with obstacles due to anxiety or unease among some parties with regard to the Green Economy concept, specifically due to trade-related concerns and fears of green protectionism. These issues merit more nuanced exploration, and would strongly benefit from input from the trade community, as the debate so far has been limited mainly to the environment community.

Topics for the session will comprise: the role of subsidies in greening key sectors, including sustainable energy; greening Aid for Trade; and the evolving nature of intellectual property, technology transfer and innovation with regard to environmental technologies.

Forging coherence between wider issues of trade, sustainable development, and the nexus between trade and sustainable development governance will be of key importance to the future of the trade system, and will also present a challenge to it. By seeking ways to better

understand the linkages between trade and the sustainability issues to be addressed at the Rio 2012 Conference, this session will contribute to that objective.

Session 44: Africa, Emerging Economies and Trade in Natural Resources

Organized by: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Wednesday, 21 September,
16:15-18:15

The importance of emerging economies like China, India, Brazil and Malaysia in Africa's trade and investment has increased sharply in recent years, reducing its dependence on traditional partners in Europe and the United States. About one-third of Africa's total trade is with markets in other developing or emerging countries now. This has also led to a period of sustained high commodity prices fuelling the impressive growth of African countries in recent years. Africa is now getting a better deal for its exportable due to heightened competition for resources, but this has not led to diversification of its export basket or significant increase in job creation.

There is scepticism that, despite their impressive show in recent years, African countries are yet to get into a win-win situation vis-à-vis the emerging economies in the context of trade in natural resources. On the other hand, it is

feared that the growth of the emerging economies may be slowed by the sustained high level of commodity prices, which may in turn adversely affect the African countries.

This session will critically assess the importance of trade in natural resources for sustained economic development in Africa and the emerging economies. The panel will address the following questions:

- Is the current boom in trade in natural resources sustainable? What are the implications of this for Africa and emerging economies?
- Can Africa use high commodity trade to its long-term advantage?
- Will high commodity prices threaten the growth run of the emerging economies?
- How can a win-win situation be created for African and emerging economies in the context of trade in natural resources?

Sub-theme III: Made in the World and Value-Added Trade

Session 3: Made in the World: Facts and Implications for Trade

Organized by: Economic Research and Statistics Division - WTO

Monday, 19 September,
12:00-14:00

Closer integration of the world economy, thanks to factors such as low transportation and communication costs and a favourable institutional environment, has triggered the rise of global production networks. An important share of merchandise trade now involves trade in intermediate products. The interdependency of firms internationally has increased, allowing for faster dissemination of technical innovations and increased competition in the global market place.

This process is having a direct influence on trade policy. When products are "Made in the World", trade policy requires a cooperative approach. The rise of the global manufacturing model also has important implications for the relationship between trade and development, as partner firms in developed and developing countries

have to adapt their strategy to increase their share in global value chains.

Conventional merchandise trade statistics cannot show the economic value of the multiple international transactions taking place within global value chains. Measuring trade in value added accounts for this by allocating the value added of an intermediate product according to the industrial sectors of the countries in which it was produced. It allows highlighting the productive interdependencies of firms across and within borders.

This session, organized as part of the Made in the World Initiative promoted by the WTO, will provide insights from Europe, both from individual country perspectives, and from a regional viewpoint. They will be complemented by the identification of the factors that have contributed to the "Factory Asia" model. What does this imply for developing countries in other regions? Can other countries learn from this experience and benefit from global value chains? A Latin American country experience will showcase possible implications and consequences for development, employment and related trade policy.

Session 15: The Evolving International Trade Order: The Global Sourcing and New Challenges to the WTO System

Organized by: American Society of International Law (ASIL) and International Economic Law Interest Group (IECLIG)

Tuesday, 20 September,
09:00-11:00

The trading rules established under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Agreement on Customs Valuation and the WTO Agreement on the Rules of Origin, among other agreements, are geared towards 19th and early 20th century trading patterns. They fail to take into account the critical changes in trading patterns that have been brought about by globalization, such as the nascent phenomenon of complex global supply chains. Importers now source from multiple countries, sell in multiple countries and are themselves incorporated in multiple countries. Yet the current trading rules are premised on mono-location and a linear trade flow endemic to a mercantilist structure under which state actors compete to maximize exports while containing imports and conduct trade negotiations accordingly.

Our panel aims to explore how these global supply chains challenge outmoded trading rules and exert mounting

influence within the global trading system. The panel will consider the ways in which the trading regime faces new challenges from complex global supply chains. These include the transfer of technologies, the increasing complexity of investment disciplines and the relevance of country of origin rules. The panel will also discuss how current trading rules offer a fertile ground for a perverted political debate on trade, and whether the current crisis over the Doha Round negotiations is due, in part, to such misguided political debates on trade.

Session 21: The Difficulties that Business Face as a Result of a Varying Set of Rules of Origin: Case Study of Mexico

Organized by: Chevez, Ruiz, Zamarripa y Cía, S.C.

Tuesday, 20 September,
11:15-13:15

Rules of origin are the criteria needed to determine the national source of a product. Their importance is derived from the fact that duties and restrictions in several cases depend upon the source of imports. It is desirable that a clear and predictable set of rules of origin and their application facilitate the flow of international trade, rather than being an unnecessary obstacle to trade.

Under the GATT 1994, WTO Members are allowed to apply preferential rules

of origin under the free trade agreements (FTAs) they negotiate with other countries. However, the “spaghetti bowl” of rules of origin that derives from an ever-growing number of FTAs represents a challenge for participants in the multilateral trading system attempting to take advantage of a globalized economy.

The session will take Mexico’s “spaghetti bowl” of rules of origin as an example of the consequences that the proliferation of regional or bilateral FTAs have on private businesses that try to take advantage of trade liberalization. A multidisciplinary panel composed of representatives of global companies, private practitioners and government officials with deep knowledge in the matter, will provide a good overview of the real problems businesses face at the borders and the importance of harmonizing rules of origin.

Session 27: Global Production Networks: What do they Mean for Trade and Employment?

Organized by: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Tuesday, 20 September,
16:15-18:15

The rise of global production networks and the factors underpinning this rise are major issues

in developing effective policy with respect to world trade. Until relatively recently, products were manufactured in a single country and exported. Now manufacturing is driven by global supply chains, spreading the process across several countries. This makes the tracking, and more importantly the understanding, of the impact of trade on employment much more complicated. People fear the label “Made in China” because of perceptions of what it implies for jobs and wages. However, the label “Made in the world” may be more accurate because China is often only the final assembler of goods that incorporate inputs from many countries.

In a world where outsourcing and offshoring have increased, there is a new international division of labour where trade in tasks replaces trade in goods. This session will highlight the productivity gains implied by this new paradigm (leading to higher income and higher wages) as well as the concerns of a detrimental impact on the labour markets of some economies, and will answer questions such as:

- What is the impact of the fragmentation of production on employment and wages?
- What evidence do we have on trade in tasks?

- Who benefits from and who is hurt by the rise of offshoring?
- What policies should accompany the development of global production networks?
- What is the future likely to bring – has this kind of development reached “saturation” or will it continue to intensify?

Session 36: Increasing Public Access to Sport through More Open Markets for Sporting Goods **Organized by: World Federation of Sporting Goods (WFSGI)**

Wednesday, 21 September,
11:15-13:15

The sports industry contributes to global health by promoting access to and encouraging physically active lifestyles. As the costs of health care continue to skyrocket and governments struggle to manage, sports and fitness activity are a universal, low-cost and high-benefit part of the solution. In the United States, an investment of US\$ 1 in physical activity leads to US\$ 3.20 in medical cost savings.

Whole industries have evolved which form their business models around this, providing workplaces for hundreds of thousands of employees. Nevertheless, the global sporting goods industry is faced with high tariffs and trade-defence measures worldwide.

The WFSGI is in favour of pursuing freer and fairer global trade, and seeks to highlight the benefits of more open markets, as well as the risks associated with protectionism. As the sporting goods industry is at the forefront of globalization and sporting footwear and apparel are very much “made in the world”, protectionist measures run the risk of backfiring. One way of minimizing such risks would be to have a plurilateral zero for zero agreement in place for sporting goods similar to the ITA. If tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade were eliminated, there would be significant cost savings for manufacturers, brands, consumers and society alike. Increasing participation in sport would be a “win-win” situation for society in terms of public health and for the industry in terms of economics.

The challenges for governments in the WTO negotiations will be outlined as well as the contribution that the industry can make to help move the negotiations towards a beneficial conclusion.



Sub-theme IV: What Next for the Trading System?

Session 4: Lessons Learned from Regional and Bilateral FTAs – Assessing Economic Impacts and Whether Stronger Rules Stimulate Innovation

Organized by: Global
Intellectual Property Center
(GIPC)

Monday, 19 September,
12:00-14:00

Regional and Bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) constitute active efforts to liberalize international trade. Many of these agreements include provisions to supplement the protection of intellectual property rights established in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPs) Agreement. Our diverse panel will feature: a government official from Jordan, the first country to sign and implement an FTA with the United States since entry into force of the WTO; an official from the Organization for American States, the world’s oldest regional organization; and a legal scholar and private sector attorney who has argued before the WTO Appellate Body, negotiated WTO rules, and recently completed a substantial study on this particular subject. They will provide their perspectives on how changing intellectual

property rules have affected the flow of new products and ideas in the global marketplace.

This session will address the following issues:

- Has increased intellectual property protection been a boon or a barrier for domestic industry and for development?
- What are the main challenges/opportunities for developing countries wishing to benefit from intellectual property (IP) rules in recent FTAs?
- What can developed and developing countries do in the context of the multilateral system to advance innovation-enabling IP policies?
- Should IP provisions be negotiated in the regional or bilateral context or exclusively in the multilateral context?

Session 5: A WTO Framework Agreement for Sustainable Energy

Organized by: Institut
du développement
durable et des relations
internationales (IDDRI)
and International Centre
for Trade and Sustainable
Development (ICTSD)

Monday, 19 September,
12:00-14:00

Both from the viewpoint of climate change and of energy security, the sustainable supply of energy is a critical issue.

However, the regulation of energy is currently highly fragmented, including within the WTO.

The purpose of this session is to get a sense of the challenges that the development of a sustainable energy supply are likely raise in terms of WTO rules, to raise awareness of these issues with the trade community in and beyond Geneva, and to acquire input in order to move forward with an integrated framework for sustainable energy in the WTO.

The event will feature clean energy experts and representatives from the private sector, academia and government on the state of play of clean energy support (including production subsidies and feed-in tariffs), climate-friendly goods and services, and other issues involved in the development of a sustainable energy supply.

Discussion with the public is set to fuel creative thinking on potential multilateral responses to existing challenges regarding the issue of energy in the WTO.

The following questions will be raised:

- Are current WTO rules supportive of clean energy development?
- How can current and future trade regulation encourage clean energy development?
- How would a framework agreement on energy in the WTO fit with other WTO Agreements?
- How do current WTO disputes on renewable energy support influence the political economy of negotiations on this topic?

Session 7: State aid, subsidies and competition policy - What future role for the WTO?

Organized by:
BUSINESSEUROPE

Monday, 19 September,
14:00-16:00

Multilateral and national rules on competition policy, state aid and subsidies are a logical complement to trade and investment liberalization, as markets opened by WTO disciplines can be closed off to foreign competition by anti-competitive practices. Establishing rules in these fields contributes to establishing healthy structures in domestic and international economies, and this is beneficial both to developed and to developing countries.

With Doha Round negotiations advancing painfully slowly, individual countries may shift their focus away from the multilateral approach. This session will focus on the issues of state aid, subsidies and competition policy, and the panellists will discuss the consequences of turning away from the

creation of global rules: can individual member states effectively tackle these problems?

The BUSINESSEUROPE panel will bring together leading experts in the fields of state aid, competition and subsidies. The panellists will examine different viewpoints on the benefits and challenges linked to the creation of multilateral rules on competition policy, and will discuss the role the WTO should play.

Session 8: Averting the Coming Treatment Crisis in a Changing Intellectual Property Landscape

Organized by: Medicines Patent Pool

Monday, 19 September,
14:00-16:00

HIV remains a dire threat to public health around the world. The growing need for newer, safer medicines recommended by the World Health Organization – many of which will now be patented - could cause treatment costs to skyrocket to levels that would cripple developing country health budgets or place an unbearable burden on the donor nations providing funding. A solution must be found for the over 33 million people living with HIV who need medicines to stay alive, at a price that they can afford. At the same time, pharmaceutical company business models currently rely on the intellectual property system to make life-saving drugs.

This session will ask how the needs of people living with HIV can be met in the face of dwindling health budgets and changing IP norms that are threatening the production of the cheap generic drugs which, until now, have been the main source of treatment in the developing world. It will also present the Medicines Patent Pool as an innovative new solution that could both meet the needs of people living with HIV and ensure that pharmaceutical companies get fair royalties within the existing IP system.

Panelists will discuss the role of the Medicines Patent Pool in increasing access to more appropriate and affordable medicines for the treatment of HIV, how it complements existing TRIPS-compliant flexibilities, and what additional solutions are needed to ensure that countries are able to meet the needs of their people.



Session 9: A Business Perspective on the Rules-Based Multilateral Trading System and the Role of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)

Organized by: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Monday, 19 September,
14:00-16:00

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has a key role in assessing the impact of the proliferation of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) on the rules-based multilateral trading system and in shaping their implication in the future evolution of the global trading system.

The session will address the following issues:

- Twenty-first-century regionalism and the emerging determinants of international trade policy
- The role played by PTAs in conjunction with the multilateral trading system
- Efforts to make relevant WTO provisions more explicit and comprehensive with regard to PTAs
- Effective ways for both governments and businesses to ensure complementary multilateral and preferential trade rules.

Session 12: The Post TRIPS World

Organized by: Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law (MPI) and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Monday, 19 September,
16:15-18:15

The TRIPS Agreement was finalized roughly two decades ago and has been in force for developing countries for half that time; it is timely to look ahead to its future. What has been the impact of TRIPS on innovation in general? What has been its impact on the level of worldwide intellectual property (IP) protection and on the way in which IP laws are applied in practice? What new issues and developments are critically shaping the post-TRIPS world? Are they leaving a sufficient margin for countries to carry out their policies on vital issues such as public health or cultural and educational development, and is that margin being adequately taken advantage of? How can the inherent potential of an Agreement like TRIPS be enhanced so as to offer a sound and resilient framework encompassing a range of interests?

As the post-TRIPS world takes shape, these topics have become increasingly important. First, proactive measures to ensure an adequate

calibration of international IP protection would send a strong political signal to those using bilateral or multilateral agreements as a lever to increase the standards of protection. Second, considering TRIPS in its entirety is an apt complement to efforts currently taking place under the aegis of WIPO to integrate development concerns and regulate particular types of limitations and exceptions. The session will consider all these developments and place them in the larger context of ongoing activities aiming to shape the post-TRIPS world.

Session 17: The Future of Trade in Financial Services: Safeguarding Stability

Organized by: Our World is Not for Sale (OWINFS)

Tuesday, 20 September,
09:00-11:00

With many economies still reeling from the aftermath of the financial crisis and with trade volumes only recently recovering, it is critical that the WTO explore ways to collaborate with other international organizations to prevent future financial crises. Economists, civil society organizations, government officials and some WTO members have begun to discuss practical steps towards ensuring that the WTO and its agreements support the global

consensus in favour of more robust regulation. This session will examine the changed terrain and critical global challenges that characterize the post-crisis global economy in which the WTO plays a major role.

In this session, panellists will:

- Discuss the various papers submitted by WTO members that relate to the financial crisis, and delve deeper into the concerns and proposals raised by economists, civil society advocates and WTO members.
- Explore whether governments have begun to encounter obstacles related to WTO obligations as they seek to implement financial policies ranging from bans on risky financial services to various forms of capital controls.
- Consider the future of liberalization of trade in financial services – both potential opportunities and risks – in light of lessons learned from the financial crisis and countries' responses to it.

Session 18: Advancing Trade and Environment in the Absence of Negotiations

Organized by: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Tuesday, 20 September,
11:15-13:15

When environmental issues were included in the mandate for the Doha Round, it appeared that the environment had finally been accepted as a legitimate issue in the trade context. Ten years on, the environmental negotiations have fared no better than the overall Round of which they are a part. There have been no hostilities between the trade and environment regimes, but no environmental issues have been solved and the WTO has not developed any effective mechanism for addressing trade and environmental concerns.

If the problems of the Doha Round have brought anything to light, it is that trade issues can no longer be addressed in isolation from other key public policy concerns. The search for mutual supportiveness and mutual accountability can no longer acceptably be dealt with through slogans or high-sounding aspirations. We need now to locate – or invent – suitable forums and mechanisms for sorting out the contradictions. This is a worthy task for the WTO

membership in a period of post-Round blues, and the issues at the interface of trade and environment are now sufficiently well understood.

This panel will discuss the opportunities to advance key trade and environment issues in the absence of a "round" of negotiations and will suggest that the issue is not so much technical as institutional. The panellists will look at existing vehicles for the exercise of mutual accountability between the trade and environment regimes, including existing monitoring and surveillance mechanisms, and will consider whether new mechanisms are needed.

Session 19: What Happens to Development after Doha?

Organized by: The Evian Group @ IMD

Tuesday, 20 September,
11:15-13:15

With the demise of the Doha Development Agenda, the multilateral trading system is at risk. The challenge now is to secure a global and multilateral rules-based trade system in order to prevent the rise of protectionism, and to foster a system that prevents discrimination against and that better integrates poorer countries.

Given the importance of maintaining a global multilateral trading system in order to secure worldwide economic, political and social stability and development, it is crucial to discuss "what comes next for the trading system" and how best to secure this environment.

The main questions discussed in this session will be the following:

- With Doha moribund, what happens to the second "D" of the DDA?
- How can poor countries and enterprises be integrated in the global supply chain?
- How can the business community be best involved in a pro-poor multilateral trading order?
- How can equity and justice be integrated in the trade policy agenda and system?
- What legacies will the current trade regime bequeath to the next generation?

Session 20: 21st Century Regional Trade Agreements: The Trans Pacific Partnership and its Implications for the Multilateral Trade System

Organized by: University of Melbourne and Economic Research and Statistics Division - WTO

Tuesday, 20 September,
11:15-13:15

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement aspires to provide a regional solution to the many overlapping bilateral deals that have emerged within the Asia-Pacific region in the past decade. It stands out among regional trade agreements (RTAs) in a number of ways. Firstly, it is a trans-regional agreement that will link nine countries from four continents in the Asia-Pacific region. Secondly, it aims to be a "21st-century agreement" that will facilitate global goods and services supply chains and transnational regulatory coherence across the spectrum of issues affecting trade and investment. It also seeks to innovate beyond the already extensive approach adopted in US-style RTAs towards a whole range of trade and trade-related. Finally, it aims to multilateralize regionalism by beginning to untangle the noodle bowl, being open to future accessions, and serving as a stepping stone to the long-term

APEC goal of freeing trade amongst its member economies.

The session will outline the origins of the agreement and explore what is meant by a 21st century agreement. It will explore the core motivations of its negotiating parties, the major stumbling blocks to an agreement, and the prospects for its conclusion and ratification. It will also canvas architectural issues: is the TPP a new form of networked RTA, a gap-plugging exercise, or a game-changer for the future of RTAs? The session will also explore the implications of the TPP for the Asia-Pacific region and the multilateral trade system.

Session 22: Encouraging Innovation and the Deployment of Environmental Technologies

Organized by: Trade and Environment Division - WTO

Tuesday, 20 September,
14:00-16:00

Many governments across the globe have put in place policies and measures to encourage environmentally-friendly innovation and the deployment of environmental technologies in their efforts to enhance environmental protection and foster economic development and job creation. The measures may, for example, take the form of technical requirements or

government support programmes, including support for the deployment of renewable sources of energy. Governments may also consider policies aimed at the removal of trade and other barriers to innovation.

This session will discuss different ways in which policymakers may seek to encourage innovation and deployment of environmental technologies, the objectives behind such policy approaches, and the relevance of the WTO. Aspects to be explored may include: the proliferating international landscape of measures to stimulate and support technological innovation; their economic and environmental rationale and possible trade impacts; and potential challenges and barriers to greater innovation.

Session 26: Dispelling the Myths of Developing Country Participation in Dispute Settlement Mechanism

Organized by: Development Division - WTO and Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)

Tuesday, 20 September,
16:15-18:15

One of the most significant achievements of the Uruguay Round was to make decisions by the Dispute Settlement Body binding on Members and to provide for their adoption under the principle of

negative consensus. In effect, we have moved from a series of ad hoc arbitral decisions under the GATT to a functional normative environment that builds a coherent body of case law and practices, producing a volume of decisions without parallel in the realm of international law.

The dispute settlement mechanism is especially important for the developing countries because under a rules based system, it is not the country wielding the greatest economic power that imposes its will on others but the country with the necessary legal basis of support whose case will ultimately prevail. The dispute settlement mechanism serves to level the playing field, particularly for those countries that are the weakest in economic and political terms.

Although the dispute settlement mechanism gives the developing countries the opportunity to seek redress for their complaints, it also represents a daunting challenge when it comes to ensuring their effective participation. This raises doubts as to whether the developing countries are genuinely benefiting from the rules based WTO system. This session will provide an opportunity to look into the reasons for the low level of developing country participation and to see what can be done,

or is already being done, in the negotiations to remedy the situation.

Since it is impossible to cover all the problems relating to developing country participation in the dispute settlement mechanism, the suggestion is to focus on three issues of particular importance: (1) lack of capacity; (2) difficulty in enforcing compliance with DSB rulings; and (3) non applicability in the WTO of many of the rules under which trade is conducted between the developing countries.

Session 31: Trade in an Instable Environment: the Impact of Fragility and Corruption

Organized by: FES Geneva
Wednesday, 21 September,
09:00-11:00

Trade occurs. It occurs between countries, between regions, between the small and the big ones. Trade is affected by tariffs, by non-tariff barriers, by subsidies, by export restrictions, and... by conflicts.

Political conflicts smouldering in a region or country do have an impact on their respecting trade capacity. It is not simply a question of destroyed infrastructure impeding economic recovery. Conflicts leave behind deep wounds amongst current and future trading partners; they create

and encourage black economies and illegal trade; and, last but not least, areas of conflict are attracted by corruption.

This session seeks to explore the specific environment in which trade in conflict areas takes place by raising the following questions:

- What are the major challenges for an economic recovery in conflict areas and who should deal with them?
- What are the breeding-grounds for corruption and how can they be deprived?
- Is it possible to boost trade in areas of conflict despite all the challenges? And if so, how can this be done?

Session 33: The Doha Round and Multilateralism: Stakes for LDCs and SVEs

Organized by:
Commonwealth Secretariat
Wednesday, 21 September,
09:00-11:00

The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, initially intended to be completed in 2004, is now set to reach its 10th anniversary without any realistic prospect of a successful conclusion anytime soon. This is particularly frustrating for least-developed countries (LDCs) and small vulnerable economies (SVEs), given that it was dubbed the "Development

Round" with a view to addressing their needs and interests.

The Doha deadlock is also being regarded by many as a challenge to multilateralism. Trends suggest that the multilateral trade model is moving towards smaller negotiating platforms with limited participation by the poorest and most vulnerable countries. If the experience of Doha leads to more efforts being diverted towards bilateral and regional arrangements, the interests of poor and vulnerable countries could be profoundly jeopardized.

This session proposes to bring the future of multilateralism under the spotlight to better appreciate the potential consequences for LDCs and SVEs in the light of the Doha Round and to discuss how the rules-based multilateral trading system can address these consequences. Relevant questions will include:

- How well have the concerns of LDCs and SVEs been addressed in the Doha Round and what are the key outstanding issues of interest to them?
- What are the likely costs to LDCs and SVEs of a possible failure of the Round?
- What are the implications of the rise of emerging developing countries

for multilateral trade negotiations and when promoting the interests of weaker economies?

- In the light of the Doha Round, how best can LDCs and SVEs be helped in the future to ensure their effective and enhanced participation in world trade? What can the WTO do in this respect?

Session 34: A New Trade Barrier: Blocking the Free Flow of Information

Organized by: Google and the Computer & Communications Industry Association

Wednesday, 21 September,
11:15-13:15

The information industry – not just Internet companies, but also financial institutions, broadcasters and anyone dealing with digital data – depends upon free flows of information to deliver their services across borders. The free flow of information underpins electronic commerce and trade.

Blocking information flow can be justifiable in some instances: the worldwide prohibitions on child pornography and copyright infringement, for example. Others, however, are excessive and unwarranted. When a government blocks an entire online platform such as YouTube or Yahoo news due to a handful of user-generated videos or

posts that violate local sensibilities, the net result is the same as blocking a physical product at its border.

In order to maximize the benefits of knowledge economy, trade agreements need to ensure free flow of information. The WTO should include this concept of free flow of information in its work – incrementally, agreement-by-agreement, over the coming decade and beyond.

This session will highlight a global trade challenge that is little understood and little discussed but critical to the future of world trade.

Session 35: Keeping the WTO Rulebook up to Date: Possible New Approaches?

Organized by: The European Commission
Wednesday, 21 September,
11:15-13:15

With almost a decade of negotiations required to conclude the Uruguay Round, and the Doha Round progressing from one deadlock into another, observers of the WTO have offered a number of diagnoses as to why the WTO membership finds it so difficult to update the multilateral rulebook. One proposition is that the sheer scope of the negotiating agenda makes it impossible for the membership to come to an agreement. It is also

argued that the “single undertaking” approach is not conducive to progress in negotiations as it allows the lowest (or slowest) common denominator take the whole negotiating agenda hostage.

Suggestions as to what could potentially serve as alternative, more flexible negotiating structures in the WTO include wider recourse to sectoral stand-alone agreements among a critical mass of participants, and a model whereby the membership would develop and update the rulebook incrementally through a process of continuous consultations and decisions. The panel is invited to discuss how the WTO could most effectively develop its negotiation methods rulebook in the medium term, beyond the current negotiating agenda.

Possible questions for discussion:

- Are broad single undertaking rounds still capable of updating the WTO rulebook in a rapidly evolving global economy?
- What alternatives are available for market access and regulatory issues?
- Can the WTO’s “middle pillar” of continuous monitoring and peer review offer any lessons for the negotiating pillar?

- Is the diagnosis focusing on the negotiating structures correct after all? Are the perceived problems of architecture actually about something else?

Session 37: Human Rights and the WTO: Dispute Settlement and Trade Policy Review Mechanisms

Organized by: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP)

Wednesday, 21 September,
11:15-13:15

This session will discuss possible avenues for incorporating human rights considerations into the international trading system, specifically through the WTO dispute settlement and trade policy review mechanisms, with a view to ensuring policy coherence and synergy between international trade law and international human rights law.

The key questions that will be addressed by the panel will include:

- Can we ensure policy coherence and synergy between international human rights and trade law with a view to better addressing challenges of global governance?

- What avenues exist for incorporating human rights considerations into the international trading system?
- Can WTO dispute settlement and trade policy review mechanisms provide opportunities to strengthen the coherence between international human rights and trade law?
- What are the constraints?

Session 38: Strategies for Promoting Green Innovation and Disseminating Environmentally Friendly Technologies – What Role for Intellectual Property?

Organized by: Intellectual Property Division - WTO

Wednesday, 21 September,
14:15-16:15

This session aims to discuss global efforts to encourage the development and diffusion of new, lower carbon and more energy-efficient technologies through the prism of the intellectual property (IP) system and, more particularly, in the context of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

It has been clear for some time now that dealing with climate change requires massive investment and technological efforts, including from the private sector, to disseminate existing, and develop

new, break-through low-carbon technologies. Appropriate policies are required to create enabling environments to deal with these challenges, through more effective use of existing innovation structures and the development of new and more diverse innovation models for green technologies. At the same time, there is concern that these new environmentally friendly technologies and products may not be available to or affordable for the world's poor and vulnerable countries. Some commentators have argued that IP rights could inhibit the rapid global dissemination of green technology, while others support the view that the IP system can be adapted to meet the demands of green technology diffusion. Discussion has focused on whether the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement, in particular the flexibilities provided thereunder, are adequate to meet the challenges raised by the development and diffusion of new technologies. Some have advocated a Doha-type declaration for climate change technologies, as previously undertaken in the case of public health.

The speakers in this session are from the UNFCCC negotiations, the WTO, civil society, academia and the private sector (representing both developed and developing country perspectives).

They will be asked to share their reflections on the state of play and lessons of experience on the way ahead on this issue.

Session 39: Trade and Employment: The WTO Agenda for Social Sustainability

Organized by: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Wednesday, 21 September,
14:15-16:15

The goal of this session is to prepare the ground for bringing together the WTO and ILO in order to forge synergies that will create better trade and employment conditions worldwide. The session will also discuss the potentially erosive effects of opening up trade on employment, development, labour rights and working conditions. Consideration will be given to how the impact of trade can be better anticipated before WTO trade liberalisation agreements are adopted, how changes can be made to trade-opening proposals, and what measures can be undertaken by governments to prevent trade resulting in unanticipated negative consequences.

Taking into account the results of ITUC's session last year and in light of discussions at the G20 in 2011 on coherence, this session will focus on the

WTO's role in increasing social sustainability in trade.

The questions that will be addressed during the session will focus on trade's effect on employment, changing the WTO's role and finding grounds for cooperation between the WTO and ILO:

- What is trade's effect on employment and where should research be focused?
- What do people gain from trade? Who are the "losers and winners" of trade?
- What remedies exist for those adversely affected by trade?
- How can trade agreements become more balanced?
- Can the WTO enhance its agenda to promote inclusive and fair trade?
- How can WTO expertise and mechanisms be utilized to achieve high impact results in promoting inclusion and remedial actions where trade's impact is negative?
- How can social dialogue be promoted through the cooperation of WTO and ILO?
- What are the priorities for enhanced WTO-ILO work?

Session 41: Strategies for Overcoming the African Cotton Crisis at the WTO and Beyond: Lessons from the Past and Strategies for the Future

Organized by: African Agency for Trade and Development

Wednesday, 21 September,
14:15-16:15

Ever since the African countries began to link the problems facing their cotton sector with the fall in international prices and the American subsidies, they have been trying to find solutions. Never did they question the problems inherent in the cotton industry at the local level. But at the same time, the American subsidies were always considered to be an important part of the African cotton problem. Numerous formal and informal consultations were organized. Several inter governmental and civil society organizations were involved.

In the end, a decision was taken to favour a sectoral initiative rather than recourse to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB). The negotiations have been going on for eight years now, and the Doha Round does not appear to be producing a favourable solution for the African countries. In the meantime, Brazil, which brought its case before the DSB, has been successful. An arrangement has

been found, and Brazil is receiving compensation from the United States.

The overall objective of this workshop is to take stock of the African cotton issue at the WTO. More specifically, it aims to:

- Provide the different stakeholders in the cotton issue with an opportunity to discuss practical modalities for putting an end to the African cotton crisis, at the WTO and in other relevant international forums;
- Make a diagnosis of the WTO cotton negotiations: what are the obstacles, what progress has been made, and what opportunities does the Doha Round still offer?
- Explore ways of referring the matter to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body and see what there is to be gained for the African countries.

Session 45: Proposal for a WTO Agreement on the Supply of Knowledge as a Public Good

Organized by: Knowledge Ecology/IQsensato

Wednesday, 21 September,
16:15-18:15

The global community is confronted with an undersupply of global public goods, including those involving knowledge goods. The current international trade

architecture lacks the capacity to address the general undersupply of global public goods. It has been proposed that a WTO Agreement on the Supply of Knowledge as a Public Good be created, suggesting that the WTO is the appropriate institution to host an international instrument to address the chronic undersupply of global public goods, thus providing a timely solution to a pressing global challenge.

Increasingly, there are calls for a larger supply of public goods and a variety of proposals involving government commitments to increase the supply of global public goods in specific areas, including major projects such as the Kyoto Protocol to the International Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and the proposed WHO Biomedical R&D Treaty. These agreements, and other existing and proposed agreements, are important, but are not a sufficient response to the undersupply of global public goods.

Closing Session 46: Seeking Answers to Global Trade Challenges

Organized by: Information and External Relations
Division - WTO

Wednesday, 21 September,
18:15-19:15

The closing session will summarize and highlight different aspects of the Public Forum 2011. The session will start with a brief closing video, followed by an overview of this year's event. The four core themes discussed throughout the three days of the forum, namely (i) food security, (ii) trade in natural resources, (iii) "made in the world", and (iv) "what's next for the multilateral trading system?", will be briefly revisited by WTO thematic experts.

The session will also host the award ceremony for the video contest in which participants were invited to provide their answers to global trade challenges. It will conclude with the launch of a WTO Youth Ambassador programme, which will aim to raise awareness of international economic governance issues in the public at large, encourage the engagement of young people in public policy discussion, and bring new perspectives to the debates at the WTO.

