



Global Economic Governance Programme  
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## Joint Roundtable at 2007 WTO Public Forum

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### A Governance Audit of the WTO:

#### Roundtable Discussion on Making Global Trade work for Development

The international trade regime has long faced criticism for failing to adequately respond to the needs of developing countries and the challenge of sustainable development. The roundtable will contribute to the debate on institutional reform of the WTO by presenting an 'audit' of governance in four of the key functional areas of the WTO system - negotiations, monitoring, capacity-building and research/communications. In each case, the session will explore the differences between formal principles and actual practice, the major shifts in patterns of governance since the launch of the WTO, the realities of developing country participation in the system, and the implications for debates on what kinds of institutional reforms would make the WTO system work better for developing countries and sustainable development. In so doing, we seek to analyse the challenges and prospects for institutional processes that bridge the divides between the lack of structural power and effective representation in negotiations, between lack of capacity and effective implementation of rules, and between lack of information and effective monitoring and participation in the regime.

Core questions that will be addressed include: How has the rise of developing country coalitions altered the transparency of the consensus-building process? To what extent have coalitions addressed challenges of effective participation by the weakest members of the WTO system? To what extent does the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) address the information asymmetries in the trading system? Could a reformed monitoring process improve the responsiveness of the trade system to sustainable development concerns? How have developing countries participated in this mechanism? What are the options for governing trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to ensure recipient developing countries are in the drivers seat? What should be the scope of the WTO Secretariat's role in the generation and dissemination of knowledge about the international trade system? What approaches to the governance of research and public outreach would best serve developing countries? The session's roundtable format is designed to be interactive – bringing together academics with developing country negotiators and members of the WTO Secretariat.

#### **Moderators:**

Mr. Matthew Stilwell - Fellow, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva  
Dr. Carolyn Deere - Director, Global Trade Governance Project, Global Economic Governance Programme (GEG), Oxford

#### **Joint Presentation**

Dr. Carolyn Deere, Mr. Mayur Patel, Mr. Arunabha Ghosh, and Mr. Matthew Eagleton-Pierce - Global Trade Governance Project, GEG, Oxford

#### **Roundtable Participants:**

Mr. Alejandro Jara - WTO Deputy Director General  
Mr. Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz – Chief Executive, ICTSD  
Mr. Faizel Ismail - Head of the South African Delegation to the WTO  
H.E. Mr. Mothae Maruping - Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the WTO  
H.E. Mr. Guillermo Valles - Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO  
Mr. Harlem Désir MEP - Vice Chairman of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament