United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT REVIEW

2003



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Foreword

The Doha Ministerial Declaration, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, reiterated the major role that trade can play in achieving sustainable development and reducing poverty. At the same time, there has been growing recognition, including in the context of preparations for UNCTAD XI, of the need to integrate environmental and social aspects into development strategies.

Developing countries, however, are apprehensive that the subject of trade and environment issues is driven by developed country Governments and non-governmental organizations from the north, on the basis of developed countries' producer and consumer preferences, circumstances and visions, without sufficient heed being paid to conditions in developing countries and the later's development priorities.

A new annual publication, the *Trade and Environment Review*, addresses this concern by tackling trade and environment issues from a development perspective. It also attempts to provide developing countries' Governments and civil society with a forum, in which to discuss their most important trade and environment issues and from which to influence the international agenda.

UNCTAD was prompted to launch an annual review dealing with issues at the interface of trade, environment and development for several reasons.

First, as tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions are dismantled, there is concern that product- and process-related requirements, including environmental and health requirements, are being unwittingly or intentionally used as technical barriers to trade, complicating market access and entry for developing country exporters. In many key export markets, environmental requirements are becoming more stringent, frequent and complex. They are increasingly viewed as decisive tools in the international competitiveness race and need to be dealt with as an integral part of both business strategies in companies and economic strategies in developing countries (i.e. eco-positioning in addition to price, quality and brand positioning) in order to defend and expand international market shares. At the same time, enhanced environmental quality and sustainable use of natural resources are key elements in promoting the use of environmentally preferable products and services.

Second, there is a need to identify development-friendly solutions, including through trade incentives, to address the world's growing environmental problems.

Third, for the first time in multilateral trade negotiations, trade and environment issues were included in the round of WTO negotiations launched at Doha in November 2001. This inclusion requires a thorough analysis of those subjects and a clear vision of the objectives of the negotiations for each developing country WTO Member. Furthermore, as trade and environment will be part of the "single undertaking" at the end of the negotiations, developing countries need to examine the role that trade and environment issues could play in the final outcome of the Doha negotiations.

Fourth, although it constitutes a negotiating subject in its own right, trade and environment cuts across many WTO negotiating subjects, such as services, agriculture, non-agricultural market access and trade-related intellectual property rights. As such, these issues must be addressed in the broader context of an agenda for sustainable development, including by focusing on such issues as finance, technology and strengthening productive capacities.

Lastly, creating a mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment requires intensive policy coordination and stakeholder consultations at the national level and greater policy coherence at the international level.

It is hoped that, by addressing these and other core issues, the *Trade and Environment Review* will contribute to informed national decision-making and intergovernmental discussions on trade, environment and development.

Rubens Ricupero Secretary-General of UNCTAD

L. Charpero

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All remaining errors are the authors' own. The views expressed in this *Review* should not be attributed to UNCTAD or its member states.

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Acronyms

AB Appellate Body (WTO)

ANAM National Environmental Authority, Panama

APC air pollution control

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

APROSAC Asociación para la Promoción del Saneamiento Ambiental en Comunidad

BC Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

BOT build-operate-transfer

BTFP BioTrade Facilitation Programme
CAFTA Central American Free Trade Agreement
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

CBTF UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity-Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and

Development

CCAD Central American Commission for Environment and Development

CDM Clean Development Mechanism

CESIGMA Company Specialized in Engineering, Geographical and Environmental Solutions,

Spain

CFCs chlorofluorocarbons

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CITMA Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba

CMEC Carbon Market E-Learning Centre
CMP Carbon Market Programme
COPs Conferences of the Parties

CPC (Prov) Provisional Central Product Classification

CTE Committee on Trade and Environment (of the WTO)
CTESS Committee on Trade and Environment Special Session

CTF Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirements and Trade

CTS Council on Trade in Services

CTSSS Council on Trade in Services Special Session
UK Department for International Development

DITC Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD

DMC Doha Ministerial Conference
 DMD Doha Ministerial Declaration
 DSM dispute settlement mechanism
 EC European Commission

ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

EGS environmental goods and services
EPPs environmentally preferable products

ESM environmentally sound management of hazardous waste

ESTs environmentally sound technologies

EU European Union

Eurostat Statistical Office of the European Communities

EVSL Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FDI foreign direct investment

FIELD Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development

FTA Free Trade Agreement

GATS General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP gross domestic product
GEF Global Environment Facility

HS Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System

IDB Inter-American Development Bank

IFOAM International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements

ILO International Labour Organization

IPRs intellectual property rights

ISCO International Standard Classification of Occupation ISO International Organization for Standardization

ITA Information Technology Agreement
JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

JWPTE OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment

LDCs least developed countries

MARENA Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Nicaragua

MEA multilateral environmental agreement

MFN most favoured nation

MIFIC Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce, Nicaragua

MINCEX Ministry of External Trade, Cuba

MoP Meeting of Parties

MP Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

NGMA Negotiating Group on Market Access NGO non-governmental organization

NTBs non-tariff barriers

NWFPs non-wood forest products
ODS ozone depleting substances

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OPEC Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PIC Prior Informed Consent (Rotterdam Convention on)
PMAA Programa de Manejo y Adecuación Ambiental

POPs persistent organic pollutants
PPM process and production method
PPPs public-private partnerships
R&D research and development

S&D special and differential (treatment)

SANAA Servicio Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados

SEMARN Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

SEREX Secretaría de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores

SPS sanitary and phytosanitary measures

STOs specific trade obligations

Sui generis Option for protecting plant varieties (allowed under the exceptions to ruleson systems IPRs in Article 27.3 (b) of the WTO TRIPs Agreement) or traditional knowledge

and practices

TBT technical barriers to trade

TED TC/CB UNCTAD Trade, Environment and Development Technical Cooperation and Capacity-

Building Programme.

TK traditional knowledge TNCs transnational corporations

TRIMs trade-related investment measures

TRIPS trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights

UAE United Arab Emirates

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

USTR United States Trade RepresentativeWCO World Customs Organization

WIPO World International Property Organization
WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development

WTO World Trade Organization

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