

CUTS-FICCI Conference on

Global Partnership for Development

Where do we stand and where to go?

12-13 August 2008

Federation House

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

FICCI, Tansen Marg, New Delhi, India

Day One: Tuesday, 12 August 2008

0900 **Registration**

1000 – 1130 **Inaugural Session**

Global Partnership for Development: Where do we stand?

Moderator Amit Mitra, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Ransford Smith, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat

Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organisation

Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce and Industry, India

1130 – 1145 **Break**

1145 – 1315 **Session 1**

LDCs and SVEs in the International Trading System: What future for them?

This Session will deliberate on opportunities and challenges faced by the least developed countries (LDCs) and small, vulnerable economies (SVEs) in the international trading system. Possible mechanisms of the interaction of trade, growth and poverty reduction in the developing world on the one hand, and their presence or absence as well as their strength in the specific context of the LDCs and SVEs on the other, will be discussed. The scope for public policy at national and international levels will be debated.

Moderator Edwin Laurent, Adviser & Head, International Trade and Regional Co-operation Section, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat

Speaker T. N. Srinivasan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, USA

Panelists

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

James S. Kuleiye, Principal Customs & Trade Officer, East African Community Secretariat, Arusha

1315 – 1415 **Lunch**

1415 – 1545 **Session 2**

Operationalising Aid for Trade: Who is (should) doing (do) what?

There has been a growing academic and policy interest in recent years as regards how to provide additional support to developing countries to help them adjust to trade reform, achieve greater international integration, and build supply-side capacity. The aim of this Session is to review the arguments and issues surrounding, what has now come to be known as ‘aid for trade’ with a view to assessing the prospect of developing countries’ benefiting from such an initiative. .

Moderator Shishir Priyadarshi, Director, Development Division, World Trade Organisation

Panelists

Chris Milner, Professor of Economics, University of Nottingham, UK

Miguel Rodriguez-Mendoza, Senior Fellow, ICTSD, Geneva

Per Botolf Maurseth, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Rajesh Aggarwal, Senior Advisor, International Trade Centre, Geneva

1545 – 1630 **Session 3**

UK’s Aid for Trade Strategy: Lessons for future effective international trade and development architecture

Aid for trade must be an integral part of a developing country’s growth strategy. It has to be used in an integrated, strategic economic tool, not a means of providing off the shelf aid supplies. Planning such spend is complex and needs to be country-led. It needs to be focused on building capacity and capabilities for sustainable trade and development. Adding to this complexity are the bi-lateral and multi-lateral aspects of aid for trade. The Aid for Trade strategy launched here aims to show how together we can tackle such challenges to transform the economic trading infrastructure of a fast developing nation.

Moderator Rachid Benmessaoud, Acting Country Director, The World Bank, India

Speaker Claire Durkin, Director, Europe, International Trade and Development, DFID, UK

1630 – 1645 **Break**

1645 – 1815 **Session 4**

Services Liberalisation and Domestic Regulation: Why it is so important?

Domestic regulation is a very complex issue in services trade policy formulation. While it is necessary to ensure consumer protection, services standards and several other public interest objectives, ill-designed and ineffective enforcement of domestic regulations can prevent developing countries benefiting from market opening. This Session will examine various issues on services liberalisation and domestic regulation, and is expected to provide some suggestions for developing countries.

Chair G. K. Pillai, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India

Moderator Ramesh Chaitoo, Head, Services Trade Unit, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery

Panelists

B. K. Zutshi, Former Indian Ambassador to the GATT

R. S. Khemani, Principal, MiCRA (Microeconomics Consulting & Research Associates) Inc, Washington DC

Day Two: Wednesday, 13 August 2008

1000 – 1130 **Session 5**

Roundtable on Mainstreaming Development in the WTO

The launch of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in 2001 was marked by serious criticisms as there was an increasing acknowledgement that many of the Uruguay Round regulations posed serious challenges to the legal, institutional and economic capacities of the developing countries. In this backdrop, implementation-related issues and the special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing countries were accorded a high priority in the Doha Round and it came to be known as a 'Development Round'. However, after seven years of Doha talks and especially after the collapse of the latest round of talks in Geneva, most observers now think that development issues have become marginalized in the WTO. Panelists in this Session are likely to share their views on various relevant aspects of multilateral trade negotiations, including the scope of and need for development issues in different agreements and provisions and the problems of implementing and mainstreaming them in the WTO.

Moderator Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Panelists

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organisation
Kamal Nath, Commerce and Industry Minister of India
Ransford Smith, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat
Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Nitin Desai, Former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations
Magda Shahin, Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt

1130 – 1145 **Break**

1145 – 1330 **Session 6**

Trilateral Development Cooperation: How to make it more effective?

This Session will focus on projects which are jointly planned, financed and carried out by an established donor country which is a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and a partner country together with a cooperating country which, although itself a recipient of development cooperation, has either started providing aid or has accumulated expertise.

Moderator Lars-Olof Lindgren, Ambassador of Sweden to India

Speakers

Dominique Njinkeu, Executive Director, International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty
Jean-Raphael Chaponniere, Chief Economist, Asia Region, AFD, France

Panelists

Richard Carey, Director, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD Secretariat
Roger Nellist, Acting Head, Growth & Investment Group, DFID, UK
Peter Kiuluku, Executive Director, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa

1330 – 1430 **Lunch**

1430 – 1600 **Session 7**

The Future of the Global Trading System

This is a forward looking Session on the future of the global trading system. There are both continuity and considerable changes in politico-economic characteristics and institutional structure of the global trading system over the coming decades. It will focus on sustained as well as uneven transformation of the global economy, with the associated rise of new powers, heightened aspirations and considerable pockets of social discontent as its contemporary determining features.

Chair L. Alan Winters, Professor of Economics, University of Sussex, UK

Speaker Richard Higgott, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick, UK

Panelists

Debapriya Bhattacharya, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the WTO

M. Supperamaniam, Advisor, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers

1600 – 1615 **Break**

1615 – 1745 **Closing Session**

Global Partnership for Development: Where to go?

Moderator Amit Mitra, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Rapporteur

Simon Evenett, Professor of Economics, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Veena Jha, Visiting Professorial Fellow, Warwick University, UK

Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment, Kathmandu

Closing Remarks

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organisation

Ransford Smith, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat

Lakshmi Puri, Acting Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

T. N. Srinivasan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, USA

Vote of Thanks Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International