



GREENPEACE



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WWF/Oxfam/Greenpeace comments on the Chairman's text on Trade and Finance Means of Implementation, Saturday 24 August 2002, 4.00pm

We are deeply concerned that the following issues are not adequately dealt with in the text:

1. There is insufficient recognition of the potential dangers associated with globalisation. We call upon governments to fully acknowledge that there is increasing concern that not all countries are reaping the benefits of globalisation, and that some are falling behind. In addition, we consider that an explicit chapter on globalisation should remain in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and that this should contain elements included in Section V of the 12 June text.
2. There is no reference to the application of the precautionary principle as established in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We call upon governments to commit to apply in decision-making the precautionary principle as established in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and further developed in international law in order to protect health and environment, while avoiding recourse to protectionist practices.
3. There is no reference to the relationship between WTO and MEA rules. We call on governments to reaffirm the authority and autonomy of MEAs and assert that international environmental rules must not be subordinated to WTO rules. This text should be included in the chapter on globalisation.
4. Para 17 (a) in the Chairman's paper should be changed in order to reflect the imperative that trade is one amongst several tools for achieving sustainable development. We would prefer the inclusion of the wording from para 85 (a) of the 12 June text: "Encourage the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and the Committee on Trade and Development to take all necessary steps to help achieve a sustainable outcome of the trade negotiations."
5. We consider that the wording in para 10 of the Chairman's text is problematic because: (i) it assumes that the existing trade system already benefits all countries and supports sustainable development; and (ii) the call for "timely completion of the workplan contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration" could be interpreted as prejudicing decisions which have yet to be taken on launching negotiations on "new issues."

In addition, we are concerned that this paper has weakened language on the following issues, which should be strengthened as follows:

6. The wording in para. 17 (b) of the Chairman's text should be amended to commit developed countries to reducing, with a view to eliminating subsidies harmful to the environment or deleterious to poverty eradication efforts.

7. The wording in para ~~11~~ of the Chairman's text should be changed to commit governments to initiating negotiations on an internationally binding framework for corporate accountability and liability.

8. The wording in para 15 of the Chairman's text should be changed to commit governments to reversing the long-term price decline of primary commodities by committing to take international action to address the commodity crisis, and by requesting the UN Secretary General with other relevant organisations to host a high-level conference on this issue in 2003.

9. The wording in para 12 (a) of the Chairman's text on special and differential treatment should be strengthened to commit governments to operationalising all special and differential treatment provisions with a view to strengthening them and making more precise and effective.

10. The wording in para 12 (c) of the Chairman's text should be strengthened by committing governments to immediately agree a clear timetable and targets for phasing out export dumping, particularly export subsidies and export credits.

11. The wording in para 22 of the Chairman's text should be strengthened to commit governments to address public health problems affecting many developing and least developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics, including through reaffirming the rights of WTO members to use to the full the provisions of the TRIPs agreement that provide flexibility for this purpose. The Agreement can and should be implemented in a manner supportive of WTO members' rights to take measures to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to medicines for all, as contained in the Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health adopted in Doha.

WWF/Oxfam/Greenpeace welcome:

12. The wording in para 17 (d) of the Chairman's text on nationally-based environmental or sustainability impact assessments.

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