

Developing Countries World Trade Organization

Developing countries comprise a two-thirds majority of the membership of the World Trade Organization, with nearly thirty of these classed by the UN as being among the 48 least-developed countries in the world. In order to ensure the equitable participation of these countries in the benefits of the global trading system, the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements that created the WTO accorded special and differential treatment to developing countries. This Guide covers these provisions of the WTO Agreements, with detailed information on how developing countries can benefit from special rules governing such areas as: access to developed country markets in all major commodities and services, the dispute settlement process, trade policy review, foreign direct investment, environmental and labour standards, and technical assistance. The Guide also offers the reader case studies on how some developing country members of the WTO (Uganda, India, and Cote d'Ivoire) are making progress in working with the obligations and the benefits provided to them by the WTO Agreements.

In recent years the relationships between trade and the environment, and trade and development, have become increasingly complex. The need to reconcile the competing demands of economic growth, economic development, and environmental protection has become central to the multilateral trade agenda. In this volume various commentators debate the role of the World Trade Organization and other institutions in addressing these challenges. The book arises from the papers presented at two High Level Symposia hosted by the World Trade Organization in March 1999, on Trade and the Environment and Trade and Development. The first section of the work focuses on the relationship between trade and the environment. The issues addressed include the need for WTO members to pursue integrated trade and environmental policies in order to achieve sustainable development, ways in which the removal of trade restrictions and distortions can lead to positive environmental and development solutions, the relationship between WTO provisions and trade measures contained in environmental agreements, and the need for transparency and effective interaction between civil society and the trade community. The second section examines the growing importance of developing countries in the global trading system over the last 30 years, and the ways in which the inequalities which persist between countries may be addressed. The papers include discussion of the need for integration of the least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system, the ways in which international institutions may work together to realize the objective of development, the complex role of trade liberalization in development, and the importance of new technologies in accelerating integration between developing and developed countries.

'The WTO and its Development Obligation: Prospects for Global Trade' presents a sound argument in favour of the WTO adhering to its long-standing development obligation. Ezeani goes further than merely highlighting the problems of developing country integration, and provides a comprehensive analysis of the underlying factors that are preventing developing countries from making meaningful gains through participation in global trade. She assesses the effectiveness of current 'development-based' programmes of the WTO as well as the DSB, and stresses the importance for developing countries of recognising the potential benefits of global trade. Through an account of the beginnings of organised global trade, Ezeani strengthens the case against treating developing countries differently by examining the fundamental constraints of applying early economic principles to the modern environment.

The WTO is one of the most important intergovernmental organizations in the world, yet the way in which it functions as an organization and the scope of its authority and power are still poorly understood. This comprehensively revised new edition of the acclaimed work by an outstanding team of WTO law specialists provides a complete overview of the law and practice of the WTO. The authors begin with the institutional law of the WTO (such as the sources of law and remedies of the dispute settlement system), then tackle the principal substantive obligations of the WTO regime (including tariffs, quotas, and MFN). They then move on to consider unfair trade, regional trading arrangements, and developing countries. In its final section the book deals with the consequences of globalization: firstly, where free trade is seen to be incompatible with environmental protection and, secondly, where WTO law confronts legal regimes governing issues of competition and intellectual property.

Hauptbeschreibung Die Mitglieder der Welthandelsorganisation (WTO) verfolgen seit der IV. Ministerkonferenz von Doha das Ziel, die Bedürfnisse wirtschaftlich schwächerer und am schwächsten entwickelter Staaten in das Zentrum einer "Entwicklungsrunde" zu stellen ("Doha Development Agenda"). Neben den Detailfragen des liberalisierten globalen Marktzugangs ist die zukünftige Behandlung dieser großen Mehrheit der WTO-Mitglieder eines der "Schicksalsthemen" für die weitere strategische und institutionelle Ausrichtung der WTO. Vor dem Hintergrund interdisziplinärer Erkenntnisse aus.

October 1998 With their wide range of concerns, developing countries cannot speak with a single voice in the World Trade Organization. But to the extent that they can present a common front and identify issues on which they can achieve gains, they will be better placed to help shape negotiations rather than react to them. The Uruguay Round agreements established the World Trade Organization (WTO), overhauled and strengthened the GATT rules on trade in goods, and added rules on trade in services and intellectual property. Individual countries made wide-ranging commitments to liberalize trade policies. A new round of multilateral trade negotiations may be launched in the year 2000 or soon after. Croome reviews the probable agenda for these negotiations and reactions thereto. Agriculture is a certainty for negotiations, with agricultural exporters insisting on liberalized markets. Net food importers fear such reforms will increase food costs and endanger food security. Trade in services is certain to be on the agenda, but some developing countries see little to gain in this area, unless their workers gain opportunities to provide services in other countries. Many developing countries could benefit from further negotiations on tariffs. Developing countries are determined to avoid opening up the Uruguay Round agreement on textiles and clothing. They also fear that any WTO agreement on

environmental issues will provide excuses to increase barriers on their exports. They all oppose WTO discussion of labor standards. They are divided about whether to reach an agreement on investment but tend to favor seeking an agreement on competition issues. Developing countries' attitudes toward further WTO negotiations are divided; they tend to be negative, but may be shifting toward support. Small and underdeveloped countries are unenthusiastic because they cannot participate effectively in negotiations in Geneva and are distracted by upcoming negotiations with the European Union. Many developing countries feel their levels of commitment are already heavy, they need more time to absorb the consequences of their commitments, and it would be counterproductive to rush into another round of negotiations. They argue that industrial countries have yet to deliver on liberalization important to their trade. Countries that favor negotiations favor a broad agenda for negotiations because they have relatively wide trade interests, best served by a single negotiation that offers something for all participants and allows tradeoffs. This paper-a product of Trade, Development Research Group-is part of a larger effort in the group to assist developing countries liberalize their trade through participation negotiations at the World Trade Organization. The author may be contacted at jcroome@compuserve.com.

Since the 1995 inception of the World Trade Organization (WTO), developing countries have become some of the most frequent users of the WTO-sanctioned antidumping trade policy instrument. This paper exploits newly available data to examine the pattern of actual industrial use of antidumping in nine of the major "new user" developing countries - Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Turkey and Venezuela. For these countries we are able to match data from two newly available sources: data on production in 28 different 3-digit ISIC industries from the Trade, Production and Protection Database to data on antidumping investigations, outcomes and imports at the 6-digit Harmonized System (HS) product level from the Global Antidumping Database. Our econometric analysis is to estimate a two-stage model of the industry-level decision to pursue an antidumping investigation and the national government's decision of whether and how much antidumping import protection to provide. First, we find evidence consistent with the theory of endogenous trade policy: larger industries that face substantial import competition are more likely to pursue an antidumping investigation, and larger and more concentrated industries receive greater antidumping protection from imports. Second, we find that industries that use antidumping are more likely to face the changing economic conditions specified by the technical evidentiary criteria of the WTO Antidumping Agreement: industries that face rapidly falling import prices are more likely to pursue an investigation, and industries that are more susceptible to cyclical dumping due to greater capital investment expenditures and that face rapidly increasing competition from imports receive greater antidumping protection.

An analysis of developing countries' current trade policies and market access problems is used as a basis for recommending positions for these countries in the new round of multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organization.

The services sector is key to economic growth, competitiveness, and poverty alleviation. Comprising more than two-thirds of the world economy, services are now commonly traded across borders, helped by technological progress and the increased mobility of persons. In recent years, a number of developing countries have looked at trade in services as a means to both respond to domestic supply shortages and to diversify and boost exports. Any country can tap into the trade potential of services, but not every country can become a services hub across sectors. The opening of the services sector potentially comes with large benefits, but also fears and costs that should not be overlooked. This book provides useful guidelines for the assessment of a country's trade potential, and a roadmap for successful opening and export promotion in select services sectors. It looks at both the effects of increased imports and exports, and provides concrete examples of developing country approaches that have either succeeded or failed to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of opening. It focuses on sectors that have been rarely analyzed through the trade lens, and/or have a fast growing trade potential for developing countries. These sectors are: accounting, construction, distribution, engineering, environmental, health, information technology, and legal services. This book is designed for non-trade specialists to understand how trade can help improve access to key services in developing countries, and for trade specialists to understand the specific characteristics of each individual sector. It will be a useful tool for governments to design successful trade opening or promotion strategies, and for the private sector and consumers to advocate sound domestic policy reforms accompanying an offensive trade agenda.

Developing countries have a great interest in pursuing active domestic competition policy but should do so independent of the World Trade Organization -- which they should use to improve market access through further reduction in direct barriers to trade in goods and services.

The WTO Agreements are rewriting the rules of economic intercourse between countries and forging a multilateral framework for world trade. This text presents the provisions in non-technical language, seeking not to detract from their legal precision. It explains technical terms, gives examples where appropriate and links widely-scattered provisions in the Agreements where they are connected in their operation. The guide seeks to be useful to both those who are not yet acquainted with the subject and to those still needing clarification of certain concepts, ideas and general provisions. It aims to foster an understanding of WTO Agreements, to help countries to know their rights and obligations, and industry and trade bodies to know the parameters within which they now operate.

The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was adopted to eliminate the illegitimate use of trade distorting agricultural subsidies and, thereby, reduce and avoid the negative effects subsidies have on global agricultural trade. However, the AoA has been fashioned in a way that is enabling developed countries to continue high levels of protectionism through subsidization, whilst many developing countries are facing severe and often damaging competition from imports artificially cheapened through subsidies. The regulation of subsidies by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been a

highly sensitive issue. This is mainly due to the fear of compromising on food security, especially by developed countries. Developing countries have suffered negatively from the subsidy programmes of developed countries, which continue to subsidize their agricultural sector. This position of developing countries in the global trade system, which has been described as weak, has drawn criticism of the WTO, namely that it does not protect the interests of the weak developing nations, but rather strengthens the interests of the strong developed nations. The green box provisions which are specifically designed to regulate payments that are considered trade neutral or minimally trade distorting have grossly been manipulated by developed countries at the mercy of the AoA. Developed countries continue to provide trade distorting subsidies under the guise of green box support. This is defeating the aims and objectives of the AoA. The study examines the regulation of WTO agricultural subsidies from the developing countries' perspective. It looks at the problems WTO member states face with trade distorting subsidies, but focuses more on the impact these have on developing states. It scrutinizes the AoA's provisions regulating subsidies by adopting a perspective to identify any loopholes or shortcomings which undermine the interests and aspirations of developing countries. This is against the background that some of the provisions of the AoA are lenient towards the needs of developed countries at the expense of developing countries.

The appointment of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi as Director-General of the World Trade Organization in 2002 reflects the changing power realities within the WTO. Coupled to this is the growing sense among developing countries that they have been cheated in the way the Uruguay Round commitments have been implemented and a return to unilateralism by the U.S.. The world trading system thus stands at a crossroads. The success of the current Doha Round of trade negotiations hangs in the balance. This volume examines various ways in which the WTO might be reformed or improved and the chances of success in the Doha Round thus enhanced. The WTO has an important role to play in managing globalisation so that its benefits are shared far more equally among individuals than is today the case. This challenge must be met if we are not to slide backwards into a less interdependent, and far poorer, world. Among the specific issues researched and analysed here are: the U.S.-led return to a unilateralist and interventionist approach to global problems; the importance of the rules-based WTO system to developing nations as a crucial alternative to power politics; the failure to achieve enhanced access to developed world markets for agricultural products, textiles, clothing, and footwear; the relevance of GATS and TRIPS to the developing world; internal WTO governance issues, including the important role of the Secretariat as negotiator and mediator; the implementation phase of the dispute settlement understanding; the continuing resistance to linking trade and environment; the place of human rights in the international trading system; and the likely impact of the double scourge of AIDS and terrorism on flows of trade, capital, people, and knowledge. It will quickly be observed that this book represents an approach to world trade theory that will not be welcome in all circles. Yet few will deny its enormous value as a 'reality check.' No concerned policy maker, official or academic can afford to ignore it.

If ever there existed a benign-sounding organisation, it is surely the World Trade Organisation. The WTO is the successor to GATT. According to the WTO itself, its mission is "dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, the legal ground-rules for international commerce and for trade policy. The agreements have three main objectives: to help trade flow as freely as possible; to achieve further liberalisation gradually through negotiation; and to set up an impartial means of settling disputes". This book seeks to illuminate some key issues related to the WTO as well as present a detailed bibliography for future reference.

With contributions from some of the leading experts in international trade, law, and economics, Joel P. Trachtman and Chantal Thomas have compiled a comprehensive volume that looks at the positioning of developing countries within the WTO system. These chapters address some of the most pressing issues facing these countries, while reflecting on Robert E. Hudec's groundbreaking book, *Developing Countries in the GATT Legal System*. In his landmark contribution, Hudec argued against preferential and non-reciprocal treatment for developing countries. He did so on the basis of a combination of economic, political and legal insights that persuasively demonstrated that non-reciprocal treatment would not benefit developing countries. It is a testament to Hudec's legacy that his analysis is still the object of scholarly discussion more than 20 years later. The first part of this book evaluates the general situation of developing countries within the WTO. The second part examines market access and competition law within these countries. Lastly, it discusses the special arrangements these countries have with international financial institutions, the developing country's capacity to litigate, and an analysis of the country's level of participation in WTO dispute settlements.

Developing countries' Participation in the World Trade Organization World Bank Publications

In this work, T.N. Srinivasan evaluates the interaction between developing countries and the multilateral trading system since World War II and describes the achievements and failures of the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in that context. Among other issues, the author addresses possible linkages between trade policies and environmental and labor standards, the opportunities and threats regionalism poses to a global trading system, and the consequences of cooperation between the World Trade Organization (WTO), the IMF, and the World Bank for developing countries. A new postscript provides information on the most current developments in multilateral economic institutions and trading.

The World Trade Organization's Doha Round of trade talks has been plagued by a lack of concrete progress toward establishing a fair and harmonious agricultural trading system. Because the results of the Doha Round could have far-reaching implications for the trade and economic prospects of developing countries in the twenty-first century, it is critical for these countries to fully understand the issues involved in the negotiations on agriculture. However, there has been no authoritative analysis of the rules and modalities on which governments of developing countries can rely. This book, coauthored by an insider to the trade talks that led to the establishment of the WTO, fills this gap. The volume begins with

a detailed analysis of the provisions of the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture and the modalities of the negotiations. It examines the implementation experience of key members of the WTO, then traces the developments in the negotiations up to the recent impasse. In light of these considerations, and on the basis of a case study of India, the authors propose various elements of a negotiating position and strategy for developing countries. The authors offer tough but realistic recommendations regarding tariffs, market access, treatment of sensitive or special products, and other aspects of international trade. This book will be of particular interest to researchers and practitioners as well as students seeking in-depth knowledge of the recent history of agricultural trade talks.

Weaknesses in the institutional capacity of many developing countries provide a rationale for continuing special and differential treatment under the World Trade Organization (WTO), but the benefits should be targeted only to low-income developing countries and those that need help becoming integrated with the international trading system. An effective system of graduation should be put in place for higher-income developing countries.

The World Trade Organisation plays the primary role in regulating international trade in goods, services and intellectual property. Traditionally, international trade law and regulation has been analysed primarily from the trade-in-goods perspective. Services are becoming an important competence for the WTO. The institutional, legal and regulatory influence of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on domestic economic policymaking is attracting increasing attention in the academic and policymaking literature. The growing importance of services trade to the global economy makes the application of the GATS to trade in services an important concern of international economic policy. The GATS contains important innovations that build on the former GATT and existing WTO/GATT trade regime for goods. This book fills a void in the academic and policymaking literature by examining how the GATS governs international trade in services and its growing impact on the regulatory practice of WTO member states. It offers a unique discussion of the major issues confronting WTO member states by analysing the GATS and related international trade issues from a variety of perspectives that include law, political economy, regulation, and business. Moreover, the role of the WTO in promoting liberalised trade and economic development has come under serious strain because of the breakdown of the Doha Development Round negotiations. The book analyses the issues in the Doha services debate with some suggested policy approaches that might help build a more durable GATS framework. The book is a welcomed addition to the WTO literature and will serve as a point of reference for academics, policymakers and practitioners.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is one of the most important international organizations in existence today. It contains a set of disciplines that affect the ability of governments to impose trade restrictions, and has helped to support the steady expansion of international trade since the 1950s. The WTO has been the focus of vociferous protests by anti-globalization activists and has experienced great difficulties in agreeing to new trade rules since its establishment. At the same time it has become the premier global forum for the settlement of trade disputes and has proven to provide a robust framework for international cooperation in the trade area. This book separates the facts from the propaganda and provides an accessible overview of the WTO's history, structure and policies as well as a discussion of the future of the organization. It also confronts the criticisms of the WTO and assesses their validity. New to the second edition: discussion of legislative amendments to the WTO Agreement, in particular Aid for Trade, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the Bali Package evaluation of case law developments and major disputes since 2007, including analysis of the WTO and the financial crisis – in particular the trade policy responses of WTO Members and institutional response reflection on recent shifts to mega-regional agreements (TPP, TISA, TTIP) and their implications what next post Bali? Fully updated throughout, this book continues to be essential reading for students of international trade, international political economy, commercial law and international organizations as well as activists and others interested in a balanced account of a key global institution.

The LDC Waiver is a legal tool that enables WTO Members to sidestep their obligation to treat all services imports equally under the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) clause through the granting preferential treatment to services and service exporters from a Least Developed Country (LDC). It is similar to the "Enabling Clause" for goods within the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), except that the Waiver only benefits LDCs, not all developing countries. It operates thus as an "LDC-only Enabling Clause for services". The Waiver only enables preferences, it does not require WTO Members to grant them, nor provide them with specific ideas or tools to facilitate LDCs' exports into their markets. This paper presents the findings of the pilot study on Senegal. Focusing on a selection of services sectors of particular export interest to Senegal, this case-study assesses, where appropriate on an anecdotal basis, whether and to what extent the preferences granted by WTO Members respond to the market access, regulatory and other barriers experienced by Senegal's services exporters in their export market(s). By converging all available sources of information, the analysis aims to identify the relevance of the notified preferences for Senegal's services exports, possible gaps and opportunities for further development of improved market access mechanisms, as well as its utilization by LDC services exporters. How can international trade agreements promote development and how can rules be designed to benefit poor countries? Can multilateral trade cooperation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) help developing countries create and strengthen institutions and regulatory regimes that will enhance the gains from trade and integration into the global economy? And should this even be done? These are questions that confront policy makers and citizens in both rich and poor countries, and they are the subject of Economic Development and Multilateral Trade Cooperation. This book analyzes how the trading system could be made more supportive of economic development, without eroding the core WTO functions.

Globalization means that today, more than ever before, growth in developing countries and the reduction of poverty depend on world trade and a well functioning trading system. This volume reviews developing countries trade policies and institutions, and the challenges they face in the World Trade Organization - where the rules that govern the

international trading system are set.

March 1998 Many developing countries are not participating in the World Trade Organization as much as they should. What can be done about it? In the 1960s and 1970s developing countries viewed UNCTAD rather than the GATT as the main institution through which to promote their interests in international trade. But beginning with the Uruguay Round in the mid-1980s, their attitude changed, many more of them became members of the GATT, and a significant number played an active role in negotiations. Michalopoulos analyzes developing countries' representation and participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as of mid-1997 to determine how developing countries can effectively promote their interests and discharge their responsibilities under the rules and agreements of the new organization. He concludes that although many developing countries are actively participating in the new process, more than half of the developing countries that are members of the WTO participate little more than they did in the early 1980s and have not increased their staffing, despite the vastly greater complexity of issues and obligations. Institutional weaknesses at home are the main constraints to effective participation and representation of their interests at the WTO. To make their participation more effective, Michalopoulos recommends that the developing countries establish adequately staffed WTO missions based in Geneva; failing that, pooling their resources and representation in Geneva; and being sure to pay their dues, which are typically small. He recommends that the international community place higher priority on programs of assistance in support of institutional development of poorer countries aimed at enhancing their capacity to participate in the international trading system and the WTO-and that the WTO review its internal rules and procedures to ensure that inadvertently they do not make developing countries participation more difficult. This paper is part of a larger effort by the World Bank to collaborate with the World Trade Organization in developing approaches for the more effective integration of the developing countries in the international trading system. The author may be contacted at cmichalopoulos@worldbank.org.

Contents: World Trade Organization, Give Developing Countries A More Favourable Deal, WTO and India, The Doha Agenda and the Uruguay Round, Is Copyright on the Wrong Track?, Add Value, Go Global, Richer or Poorer?, Challenging Traditional Economic Growth, Unemployment in the Poor and Rich Worlds, Taking a Lead in the Fight Against Poverty?, Consumption Bomb, Renewing the State, People as Hostages, Who is Responsible for Corruption in Aid?, Corruption, What was the Wrong with Structural Adjustment?, Venture Capital for Small and Medium Business, The Uruguay Round and Agricultural Reform.

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An exploration of how developing countries have shaped and been shaped by the GATT/WTO committees on antidumping, textiles, agriculture and trade in the environment. The book offers suggestions on how developing countries can improve their participation in committee meetings.

Publisher's description: Developing countries are increasingly confronted with the need to address trade policy related issues in international agreements, most prominently the World Trade Organization (WTO). New WTO negotiations on a broad range of subjects were launched in November 2001. Determining whether and how international trade agreements can support economic development is a major challenge. Stakeholders in developing countries must be informed on the issues and understand how their interests can be pursued through international cooperation. This handbook offers guidance on the design of trade policy reform, surveys key disciplines and the functioning of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and discusses numerous issues and options that confront developing countries in using international cooperation to improve domestic policy and obtain access to export markets. Many of the issues discussed are also relevant in the context of regional integration agreements. Separate sections of the handbook summarize what constitutes sound trade policy; the major aspects of the WTO from a development perspective; policy issues in the area of merchandise trade and the liberalization of international transactions in services; protection of intellectual property rights and economic development; new regulatory subjects that are emerging in the agenda of trade talks; and enhancing participation of developing countries in the global trading system.

The world trade has decelerated in recent years amidst global slowdown and COVID-19 outbreak. In the wake of the changing course of global trade, this book studies the key and emerging trade policies and negotiation issues faced by India in international trade and offers policy options for development. In 2019, World Trade Organization (WTO) celebrated 25 years of establishment. India, the founder-member of the WTO, has been forced to reverse the trade liberalization process by raising the customs duties on some products in recent years. Other countries have also been promoting protectionism. World Trade and India: Multilateralism, Progress and Policy Response discusses mitigating strategies that would help the Indian economy in building resilience to trade shocks and improve competitiveness of exports. The book unravels the complex interconnections between multilateralism and developing economies like India, and presents a detailed evaluation on where the nations stand today in global trade. It offers policy suggestions for a better future.

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their export market(s). By converging all available sources of information, the analysis aims to identify the relevance of the notified preferences for Cambodia's services exports, possible gaps and opportunities for further development of improved market access mechanisms, as well as its utilization by LDCS' services exporters.

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