



CSEND & CUTS PANEL ON TRADE GOVERNANCE

Monday, the 30th November 2009 from 10.00-12.00 hrs

Room A

**Official WTO NGO Centre, Centre de Conférence Varembe (CCV)
9-11 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland**

Access to the venue is possible only for those who have been accredited to attend the WTO Ministerial Conference.

TRADE GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE INTER-MINISTERIAL TRADE POLICY COORDINATION, AND CONSULTATION WITH TRADE POLICY STAKEHOLDERS



The Purpose of holding this Panel

Reports from the field and relevant research indicate that despite international efforts to provide support for trade capacity building, developing, transition and least developed countries are often not able to improve their trade performance due to deficient policy coordination at the inter-ministerial level and limited trade policy consultation with key stakeholders from private sector and civil society organisations.

This joint panel between CSEND and CUTS offers key insights into how countries can improve their trade policy governance. Both are research and development NGOs and have conducted research, capacity building and networking projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The two organisations will present findings of their recent research on trade policy making processes and role of relevant stakeholders. They will also offer solution sets to participants interested in how trade policy governance can be organised in a more efficient, inclusive and effective manner.

Trade Policy Governance

Comprehensive trade policy making in general involves relevant stakeholders that can be divided into four broad groups. These are: I) government ministry primarily responsible for trade policy making and implementation; II) other relevant government ministries and agencies; III) private sector; and IV) civil society organizations (CSOs).¹

Inter-ministerial trade policy coordination

Effective Inter-ministerial trade policy coordination has many important ramifications for governments. Firstly, well organized coordination can be utilized to eliminate programmes that are redundant or duplicate actions or regulations. Secondly, coordination help governments deal with ‘cross-cutting issues’, in which case, different internal client groups should be provided with services and programmes that are comprehensive and integrated. Thirdly, the increasing international dimension of trade policies and trade negotiations at regional and global level and the expanding membership in international organizations makes coordination necessary. Case examples of effective IMC from CSEND research will be presented during this panel.²

Trade policy consultation with key stakeholders

Inclusive consultations with all relevant stakeholders for the crafting and implementation of trade policies can greatly enhance the national buy-in of these policies. Developing and least-developed countries are conscious of this and have established formal consultative mechanisms for the purpose. However, the performance of these consultative mechanisms can be greatly improved to ensure more and better feedback from and to the relevant stakeholders on trade policy issues. Key lessons of CUTS recent research under its FEATS (Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System) project will be presented.

Organisers of the Panel

CSEND

CSEND (Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development) is a 16 year old Non-Governmental Research and Development Organisation, based in Geneva. One of its research topics is Trade & Development, EIF and AfT and Trade Governance at central government level.

¹ *Towards More Inclusive Trade Policy Making: Process and Role of Stakeholders in Select African Countries*, CUTS (2009), p. 12

² *Based on R. Saner ; « Trade Policy Governance through Inter-ministerial Coordination : A Source Book for Trade Officials and Trade & Development Experts », (in press), RoL Publ, Dodrecht, NL.*

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International celebrated 25 years of its establishment in 2008. CUTS Geneva Resource started functioning in July 2008 with the mission to establish and promote a pro-trade pro-equity credible Southern NGO voice as well as the means to achieve this in the policy making circles working on trade and development and other related issues in Geneva.

For more information on CSEND and DD see: www.csend.org; www.diplomacydialogue.org

For more information on CUTS International and CUTS GRC see: www.cuts-international.org;
www.cuts-grc.org