



UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD

CSO newsletter

online edition



April 2004

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Hearings with civil society and the private sector..... 1*
- *UNCTAD XI PrepCom to hold a third hearing in April 2*
- *Civil Society Forum at UNCTAD XI 2*
- *Accreditation and registration of NGOs/CSOs to UNCTAD XI 3*
- *UNCTAD XI events 4*
- *UNCTAD Secretary-General addresses Chatham House Conference and gives lecture at London School of Economics 4*
- *Meeting with ABONG 4*
- *New Publications 5*

For further details on any information presented here please contact:

Civil Society Outreach,
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix,
1211 Genève 10 - Switzerland

Tel.: (41 22) 917 50 48 / 917 56 61
/ 917 20 89
Fax: (41 22) 917 00 56
E-mail: civil.society@unctad.org

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Hearings with civil society and the private sector

For the first time in UNCTAD's history, civil society hearings were held as part of the preparatory process for the organization's quadrennial conference. UNCTAD meets every four years at the ministerial level to address emerging issues in trade and development. The hearings, held on 16 January and 23 February, provided civil society and private-sector representatives as well as parliamentarians and academicians an opportunity to participate in and contribute to the preparatory process for UNCTAD XI, to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June. <http://www.unctadxi.org/>

Speakers addressed the four subthemes of the conference: (i) development strategies in a globalizing world economy; (ii) building productive capacity and international competitiveness; (iii) assuring development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations; and (iv) partnership for development. Each hearing was summarized in a report submitted to the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom). ([16 January Hearing Report](#)) ([23 February Hearing Report](#))

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero, addressing the first hearing, said that "the legitimacy of the outcome of UNCTAD XI would lie in a genuine consensus reached among all stakeholders".

The Chairman of the PrepCom, Sha Zukang (China), said civil society's contributions were essential to the conference, its preparatory process, and the overall work of UNCTAD. At the hearings, he encouraged participants to provide concrete suggestions and recommendations and to engage in an interactive dialogue to address issues at stake.

For further information on the issues being discussed at the PrepCom, please refer to the Chairman's pre-conference negotiating text http://www.unctad.org/en/docs//tdxipcd3_en.pdf

UNCTAD XI PrepCom to hold a third hearing in April

At the request of civil society organizations, the Preparatory Committee agreed to convene a third hearing on **22 April** at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It also agreed that civil society should feel free to provide written comments on the Chairman's pre-conference negotiating text.

Civil society organizations met and made suggestions with regard to the format and programme of the upcoming hearing. This time, round tables will focus on specific issues under the first three subthemes of the conference. The hearing will provide an opportunity for dialogue and exchange of views among officials from UNCTAD's member States, representatives of civil society, parliamentarians and the private sector.

Details of the April hearing's agenda are posted on the civil society page of the UNCTAD website. The outcome of the hearing will be finalized as a summary report to be submitted to the PrepCom.

Civil Society Forum at UNCTAD XI

As part of the official UNCTAD XI programme, a Civil Society Forum will be held on 11 and 12 June at the Anhembi Convention Centre in São Paulo. A full programme of activities will provide an opportunity for civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss priority issues relevant to the overall theme, subthemes and topics of the conference; to exchange information and build consensus among CSOs; to facilitate and support CSO advocacy and lobbying; and to raise public awareness of the issues at stake.

CSOs will use the plenary of the forum to exchange information, build consensus and finalize the preparation of their positions for advocacy work at the conference. After the final document is adopted, it will be presented to the conference.

During the conference, CSOs will be provided with meeting space at the conference site and will organize workshops, discussions and side meetings. Daily briefings will be held to update representatives on the progress of negotiations.

CSOs having observer status with UNCTAD and those accredited by the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XI will be able to participate in the forum.

More information on the programme of the Civil Society Forum will be available on the website of the Brazilian Association of NGOs (ABONG) www.abong.org.br.

ABONG is the national Brazilian NGO hosting the Civil Society Forum. ABONG is working closely with the UNCTAD secretariat, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service and a consultative group of CSOs to coordinate the activities and programme of the forum. Organizations interested in participating or holding workshops, seminars or other related activities should contact ABONG at abong@uol.com.br.

Registration of NGOs/CSOs to UNCTAD XI

Civil society organizations that already have observer status with UNCTAD and those accredited by the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XI received an official notification regarding the conference and are invited to send the credentials of their representatives to UNCTAD XI.

For registration and issuance of photo ID security badges, all representatives of civil society organizations already accredited to UNCTAD XI are invited to send to the secretariat their representatives' letter of credentials, together with a registration form for each participant and two recent passport-size photographs (with the name clearly printed on the reverse side of each photo). The registration form can be downloaded from the UNCTAD XI website <http://www.unctadxi.org>. Copies of the letters of credentials and the registration forms should be faxed to the secretariat as early as possible and no later than **28 May 2004**.

More information on registration and other arrangements is available on the UNCTAD website.

Through 28 May, communications should be addressed to:

UNCTAD XI: Accreditation and Registration

Office E-8103, Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Fax: (+41 22) 917 00 56

E-mail: register@unctad.org with a copy to cso@unctad.org

After 28 May, communications should be addressed to:

UNCTAD XI: Accreditation and Registration

Palácio de Convenções do Anhembi

Av. Olavo Fontoura 1209

02012-021 – São Paulo – SP – Brazil

E-mail: register@unctad.org with a copy to cso@unctad.org

UNCTAD XI events

In addition to the Interactive Thematic Sessions and High-Level Round Tables to be convened from 14 to 18 June, many other pre-conference, parallel and side events will be organized. Exhibitions and fairs will also be held.

For further information on these activities, please consult the [UNCTAD XI Tentative Programme of Events](#) (also posted on the UNCTAD website).

UNCTAD Secretary-General addresses Chatham House Conference and gives lecture at London School of Economics

On 23 February, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Rubens Ricupero, was a keynote speaker at a two-day conference on "Sustainable Development in the WTO: Trade, Investment and Environment after Cancún" organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London. The meeting brought together officials from international organizations, experts and academics to consider ways in which progress could be made in the WTO's Doha Round. Mr. Ricupero welcomed the apparent increase in flexibility on the "Singapore issues" by the larger players, but noted the regrettable lack of progress on agricultural liberalization.

That same day, attending a meeting organized by the London School of Economics Student Union's Brazilian Society and chaired by the school's director, Howard Davies, Mr. Ricupero gave a lecture on "Trading out of poverty – why does it happen so rarely?". Speaking to a full auditorium of students, he drew attention to the various factors that often prevent developing countries from reaping development gains from their integration into the trading system.

Meeting with ABONG

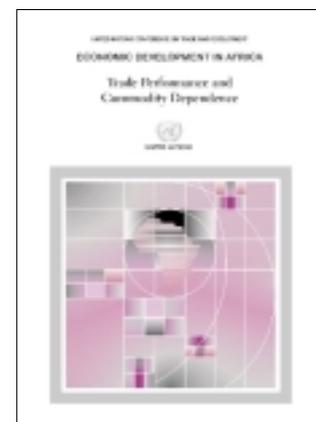
After discussions between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Executive Director of the Brazilian Association of NGOs (ABONG), Mr. Jorge Durão, during the Civil Society Hearings in February, Mr. Ricupero met with a number of NGOs at ABONG's headquarters in São Paulo on 8 March. This meeting was organized by ABONG.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Study analyses Africa's trade performance

Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence was launched in February, the latest issue of an annual UNCTAD publication. The past decade's emphasis on trade liberalization and export orientation has led to phenomenal growth in world merchandise trade, which has consistently grown faster than output. Africa has also seen an increase in its trade relative to gross domestic product (GDP). However, on the whole, Africa's share of world trade has declined. This phenomenon has as much to do with the structure of international trade as with the composition of Africa's merchandise trade, the trade policies applied on the continent in the past 20 years, market access, and agricultural policies in industrial countries.

This year's Report attempts to place in perspective the reasons for Africa's poor performance and its declining share in world trade. It reviews the structure and composition of Africa's trade, along with the associated problems of commodity dependence, and it discusses the factors influencing both Africa's competitiveness and its ability to diversify into more market-dynamic sectors. It briefly examines policy measures adopted in the past to address the "commodity problem", which is at the heart of the continent's trade performance. Finally, it discusses national and international policy measures required to help Africa overcome some of the hurdles it faces. ([Economic Development in Africa 2003](#))



Announcements

An online forum to continue discussion of the UNCTAD XI subthemes, which were the focus of the CSO hearings, can be found at talkdevelopment.info. Participation is open to all.

Upcoming events:

- Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD XI, 19 to 23 April 2004

For more information, please check [Events and Meetings](#).

NGOs enjoying observer status with UNCTAD automatically receive official notifications inviting them to participate in and contribute to the debate and discussions of Expert Meetings, sessions of the Commissions of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board and quadrennial sessions of the Conference. Competent and relevant NGOs interested in contributing to UNCTAD's programmes and activities may wish to consider applying for observer status.

For further information, please contact amel.haffouz@unctad.org.

For more information, please visit UNCTAD's website:

www.unctad.org