

## **CLIMATE CHANGE COP21 AND BEYOND: BRIEFING ON SDGs, INDCs AND THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMUNITY**

### **TALKING POINTS FOR TALKING POINTS FOR GUILLERMO VALLES, DIRECTOR, DITC (OPENING SESSION: Welcome and setting of the agenda)**

**Good morning distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,**

**I welcome you to this informal briefing on UNFCCC COP 21 and beyond in the context of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, CO2 reduction commitments by countries in preparation for COP21, and the interface with international trade.**

- Early this year, UNCTAD in cooperation with the UNFCCC and WTO conducted a briefing for Geneva delegations on the interface between a possible climate agreement and international trade and trade policy matters. This was appreciated by delegations and requests made for another briefing closer to COP21. In response to this request, we are conducting today's briefing in collaboration with UNFCCC, WTO, ITC and the Geneva Environmental Network. At COP21 in Paris, the three Geneva-based trade agencies plan to hold a side event to raise awareness on the linkages between climate change and trade.
- The interplay between a climate change agreement and expanding international trade poses an important policy conundrum: behind every trade transaction there is a production process and, in turn, associated greenhouse gas emissions. Policies that modify trade (trade policies) can influence emissions, while policies for reducing emissions (climate change policies) can also influence trade. The development agenda is thus an increasingly important component of climate change mitigation. This is also

recognized by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) under the term *co-benefits* i.e., complementary benefits that are non-climate related. Examples of such *co-benefits* include economic growth and development, poverty reduction, and improved air quality, health, energy security, job creation, biological diversity and water management. Trade has an important role to play in leveraging many of the various co-benefits.

- **As I mentioned, our first briefing to delegations was** held in February this year, on the margins of the UNFCCC Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action negotiations in Geneva - the body negotiating a climate agreement. It brought into focus linkages among the three major negotiating tracks in 2015 namely: (i) the climate negotiations; (ii) the intergovernmental negotiations on post-2015 development agenda and related Financing for Development Conference; (iii) the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO. It was underlined that in all three tracks, trade serves as an enabler, contributing the implementation of any eventual climate agreement that is inclusive within and across countries.
- **The briefing** UNCTAD and its partners are holding **today** has two parts. This morning's session is meant to cover: (i) preparations for COP 21 with a *tour de table* on perspectives of the three trade agencies - UNCTAD, WTO and ITC - the main question we would like to address today is, how can the trade community support the climate negotiations on the way to Paris and in the follow up implementation phase. This session will be moderated by His Excellency **Ambassador Wayne McCook**, Permanent representative of Jamaica to the UN and the WTO. I thank Ambassador McCook for taking the time to be with us this morning.
- The second part of this briefing in the afternoon today, will be devoted to a discussion on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Intended Nationally Determined Contributions are offers on emissions reductions that countries put on the table ahead of the Paris climate talks, outlining actions they are willing and able to take to address climate change.

INDCs put forward by countries will form a key input to the negotiations leading towards the expected Paris climate agreement. As of 1st October, 114 parties to the UNFCCC had formally submitted their INDCs. The afternoon session will be moderated by Mr. Jan Ousik, UNEP Regional Director. I thank Mr. Ousik for his support.

- We are also grateful to the French mission in Geneva for their support and assistance. **Mr. Philippe Ramet from the Mission** is with us today. Mr. Ramet will provide the host country perspective on the preparations for the climate summit at this morning's session. Counsellor Ramet will also talk in the afternoon about Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, and bring these contributions into focus.
- It is my pleasure to also welcome Mr. **Anders AEROE, Director, Market Development Division at the ITC**. I take this opportunity to thank our ITC colleagues for their close collaboration.
- I am also happy to welcome Mr. **Aik KHOE LIM, Director of the Trade and Environment Division at the WTO**. I thank Mr. Khoe Lim and his colleagues for their support.
- We are happy to have with us Ms. **Katia SIMEONOVA of the UNFCCC secretariat**. We realize our UNFCCC colleagues are extremely busy at the moment and all the more appreciate your joining us for the briefing today.
- Counsellor **Andrew MARTIN of the Australian mission** also has kindly agreed to bring us up to speed with regard to the pluri-lateral negotiations on environmental goods and services.
- We will also benefit from perspectives to be offered by the Latin American Development Bank CAF, the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the World Trade Institute Advisers (WTI).

- I wish to underline the **Geneva Environmental Network** and the very special role this network, supported by the Government of Switzerland, has played in the organization of this briefing, particularly the afternoon session focused on the INDCs. We will hear from our colleagues at UNEP - **Jan DUSIK, Regional Director for Europe** and **John CHRISTENSEN, Head, of DTU, which is a leading international research and advisory institution that partners with UNEP on energy, climate and sustainable development.**
- We are fortunate to have with us other people who have been involved in providing assistance to countries in formulating their INDCs - **Jonathan GRANT, Director, Sustainability and Climate Change, PricewaterhouseCoopers,** and **Laura MERRILL, Senior Researcher at the IISD.**

As I mentioned, our briefing today is stepping stone towards a side event which UNCTAD, ITC and WTO will be holding with our partners on the margins of COP21 in Paris. **The side event**, which is entitled: "*Leveraging co -benefits: the role of markets and trade*" and scheduled for 9 December, will bring together the three trade agencies - UNCTAD, WTO and ITC and their UN and non-partners. **Fiona Harvey of The Guardian will moderate the event.**

Now I am pleased to pass the floor to Mr. Ramet to make his statement.

(Presentation by Mr. Ramet)

I thank Mr. Ramet.

I now pass the floor to Ambassador McCook to moderate the introductory session.