



CUTS International, Geneva Lunch Session¹ on

“Emerging Issues and Developing Countries”

12 December 2012, 13:00-15:00, at Centre William Rappard

Background

Almost all the WTO non-resident countries i.e. the countries that are either WTO members or observers but do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, are Least Developed Countries (LDCs), developing countries, or Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs). Non-resident countries often face constraints to their regular and effective participation, information, and engagement in the WTO discussions and negotiations require a good understanding of various issues and their inter-linkages.

The world economic and trade situation is continuously evolving, making it even more important for developing countries, including non-resident countries, to improve their understanding of emerging issues from both the defensive and offensive points of view. Some of these emerging issues, e.g., exchange rates, food security, and climate change, can pose trade-related challenges, particularly for the small, least-developed, or vulnerable countries. Addressing the participation and information gaps faced by the non-resident countries, providing a development-friendly forum to discuss and analyse some emerging issues, and contributing to informed opinions so that the WTO reflects the needs and concerns of the non-resident countries, are the main objectives of this session.

During the lunch meeting, CUTS International, Geneva will give the non-resident WTO member and observer countries an overview of some of the ‘emerging issues’ in the multilateral trading system and their implications for them, and will present its ongoing project on Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC). CUTS will also carry out a needs assessment of the non-resident countries through a questionnaire to assess what needs to be done to achieve their better participation in the WTO.

¹ Sandwich lunch with soft drinks will be provided.

Programme

- 13:00 Light Lunch
- 13:15 **Welcome by the Chair**
Guillermo Valles, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD
- 13:25 **Some Emerging Issues and their Implications**
Presentation by Rashid S. Kaukab, Director of CUTS International, Geneva
- 13:40 **PACT EAC Project and Other CUTS Services**
Presentation by Krista Joosep, Assistant Programme Officer, CUTS International Geneva
- 13:55 **Comments on Presentations**
Sherwyn A.R. Naughton, Second Secretary, Embassy of Guyana, Brussels
- 14:10 Q&A and Discussion
- 14:50 Concluding Remarks by the Chair