

The Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization is ongoing in Bali, Indonesia, until Friday 6 December 2013. WTO members are expected to advance their discussions on several important issues of the Doha round, including in agriculture, Development/LDC issues and Trade Facilitation, with the aim of concluding deals and revive the Doha Round. Events are also organised on the sidelines at an NGO centre set up for the occasion. CUTS International is there to update you every day on the highlights of the conference.

Plenary Today

On the third day of the conference, interventions by Ministers continued throughout the day.

Press Conference by India

Shortly before noon, a large number of officials deserted the plenary and rushed into the press room to hear the Indian minister of trade who had called a press conference, the first since the ministerial began.

But the announcement of a breakthrough hoped by many in the room did not happen. Anand Sharma's intention was to explain India's position which is the talk of the town here in Bali. From this rather strong and unequivocal statement, the points are and remain :

- "Our people's food security is non-negotiable, does not breach any WTO rule and is similar to that of many other countries".
- "The *de minimis* calculation is based on 1986-88 prices. What we are asking is to take this basis to the 21st century" ;
- « The four years peace period is unacceptable ! »
- "India is committed to a positive, balanced and fair outcome in Bali. And it is better to have no agreement than to have a bad agreement." He said that Ministerials before this have also been unsuccessful and WTO has survived. Hence no compromise can be asked on this pretext, but reaching consensus remains our hope.

Negotiation Insights

Reportedly, intense consultations and negotiations in various configurations were going on till the time of writing of this bulletin. Tonight may be the night of long knives...

CUTS@NGO Centre

MEDIA INTERVIEWS | BY PRADEEP S MEHTA

In this Bulletin

Plenary Today
Negotiation Insights
CUTS@NGO Centre

CUTS@Media

Press Release: "*We need a Bali accord: Friends of MTS*"
[Read here...](#)

About CUTS

Since its humble beginnings in 1983 as a local indian consumer-advocacy group of 75 activists, CUTS has grown into an international NGO champion of stakeholder empowerment in economic and development policy.

CUTS organizations in India, Kenya, Zambia, Vietnam, Ghana and Geneva have made their footprints in the realm of economic governance across the developing world. Our activities stretch from Asia to Africa, and from South America to beyond.

CUTS is also a trusted technical cooperation and knowledge partner of international organizations such as the WTO and

During the course of the day, considerable number of media across the world contacted CUTS for their views on the chances of successful outcome of Bali ministerial.

UNCTAD, where it has consultative status.

cuts-international.org

Pradeep S Mehta spoke with some of the well-known broadcasting media such as BBC News, Al Jazeera and TV Globo. In his interviews, he was optimistic about the positive outcome of the Bali ministerial and asserted that the rules made in the WTO are far more fair and equitable for developing countries.

On the food stockholding issue, he said that the deal could recognise the need to reformulate the subsidy equation within and not later than the agreed period of four years (peace clause), as the WTO farm agreement has been pegged on 1986 commodity prices, while today's prices are much higher.

SPEAKING INTERVENTION | BY RASHID S KAUKAB

Rashid Kaukab was a speaker at this dialogue on “Integrating Trade Issues in Post-2015 International Development Framework” organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue in collaboration with SAWTEE, the Commonwealth Secretariat and ICTSD.

The event focussed on the on-going process to develop the Post-2015 Development Framework and debated the ways to identify the relevant trade issues that should be integrated into the Framework. Presentations by ten eminent panellists from international organisations, NGOs, think tanks and academia outlined five key areas for deliberations and interventions. These include: content, context, framework, delivery and accountability, and coherence.

Rashid S Kaukab, Director CUTS International, Geneva argued that the trade issues in the Post-2015 Development Framework should be selected based on: the lessons learnt from the past; taking into account the changed and still changing context of the early 21st century; and to achieve inclusive growth. He also urged the CSOs to play a leading role in this regard through their national and international advocacy.

The event was moderated by Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Bangladesh.

Other Events

INTEGRATING SMES INTO VALUE CHAINS: THE PRIVATE SECTOR CASE FOR TRADE FACILITATION | BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

Moderator: Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director, ITC

The panel discussion reasserted the growing importance of regional and global value chains in international trade provides a unique opportunity to

increase SME exports through their integration into these value chains.

SMEs that play a key role in poverty reduction, income generation and job creation in developing countries can now engage in global trade flows without the need to be competent in all aspects of the production of a final output. It explored what governments and trade support institutions can do to support their exporters, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to integrate into and move up the value chain.

Among the panellists, experts from private and public sector were present. The session was moderated with dexterity by Ms Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director, ITC. Pradeep S Mehta and Archana Jatkar, CUTS also attended the panel discussion.

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