

The Geneva Trade & Development Forum on Inclusive Globalization

Shepherds' meeting: 14th May 2008

Minutes

1. PARTICIPANTS

- Pierre Defraigne: defraigne.eurifri@ifri.org; group on commodities, governance and poverty reduction
- Karine Zufferey: Karine.Zufferey@imd.ch; group on entrepreneurship and trade facilitation
- Thomas Cottier: thomas.cottier@rw.unibe.ch; group on international governance for development
- Johannes Bernabe: jbernabe@ictsd.ch; group on trade in services
- Aïsha Pouye: Pouye@intracen.org; group on pro poor export development
- Ahmed Abdel Latif: aabdellatif@ictsd.ch; group on trade and intellectual property
- Arna Hartmann: arna@hartmann-berlin.net; group on trade building on decent work
- Paul Tacon, ptacon@iom.int; group on labor mobility
- Natacha Bogorad, natacha.bogorad@ideascentre.ch; Laurent Charlet, laurent.charlet@ideascentre.ch and Nicolas Imboden, nicolas.imboden@ideascentre.ch; IDEAS Centre

2. CHANGE OF DATES OF THE CONFERENCE: 17 TO 20 SEPTEMBER

IDEAS has decided to postpone the conference to 17 to 20 September due to the ongoing and intensification of the negotiations at the WTO to try and conclude the Doha round. There is a risk that a ministerial meeting could occur in July before the WTO break in August considering the state of the discussions today. The large consultation undertaken with different stakeholders including negotiators has encouraged IDEAS to postpone the conference (for more details please refer to the Forum's website: www.gtdforum.org). September has been selected i) to keep the momentum of the theme groups' preparatory work; ii) because there is little risk that a WTO ministerial meeting will be scheduled so close to the US presidential elections. Considering the heavy international agenda at that period and the availability of key persons for the Conference, 17 to 20 September were the best dates possible.

The Head of States caucus is now scheduled on Friday 19th September (4:30 – 6:30 pm). The date of ministerial caucus is still to be fixed but would be either the 18th in the afternoon or the 19th in the morning. It could also take place on the 20th (less preferred option).

3. THE ROAD TO THE CONFERENCE

a) Actions plans

IDEAS has prepared a sample of the structure of an Action Plan (AP) with the main points for discussion: i) how to achieve the goals, ii) the responsible parties for each action, iii) the

timeframe, (iv) calendar and (v) resource. This sample has been prepared on the request of some shepherds and is only meant as an example and to provide some guidance. Theme groups are free to choose the structure of their AP as long as the main points are covered or will be covered by the work foreseen by the AP after the Conference. The new deadline for the delivery of the AP / recommendations is 15th June.

b) Communication

Media: IDEAS is currently in contact with the newspapers Le Temps and Financial Times for the publication of articles about the Forum. Le Temps is interested in publishing a series of articles on some of the themes during the summer. If this is confirmed, shepherds of the themes selected will be contacted to help with the substance. Mr. Defraigne raised the issue of getting media from the South involved in the Forum. Mr. Imboden said that with the Presidents the national press of the countries will participate. Mrs. Zufferey mentioned that Media 21¹ could help provide journalists from developing countries. Mr. Imboden said that IDEAS was in contact with Media 21 and will follow up on this issue. Mrs. Hartmann also suggested to discuss with Inwent which could provide some help on this matter.

Video: IDEAS is working with dev.tv to get some short presentation videos on several themes. So far, short videos are available on the cotton initiative, on the issue of biofuels in Mali and on migration in Senegal. Every shepherd has the possibility to have a video made to present its theme. Dev.tv has informed us that the total cost for making a video amounts to around 17'000 CHF.

Visuals: to inform conference participants and media about the APs, IDEAS plans to use posters which will be prepared by a graphic designer with the help of the shepherds on each theme. These posters will be exposed in the conference centre.

c) Theme sessions and panels

The theme sessions foreseen at the Conference will allow shepherds to continue at the policy level the theme groups' work (undertaken at the expert and technical levels) on a country basis and in small teams. Shepherds have the liberty to organize side-events to present their group or session's findings to other countries (either potential case-studies or donors for instance). Shepherds also have the possibility to organize side-events on issues not directly linked to their theme work. Early coordination with IDEAS is required (i.e. before end of August).

Shepherds or co-shepherds are scheduled to participate in one panel to bring the results of their groups in the discussion and participate in discussions at a more general level.

d) Participants

To reach the objectives of the Conference's theme sessions, IDEAS has asked every shepherd to provide a list of key stakeholders from their case study's country comprising high-level decision makers and representatives from the private sector, business associations as well as from civil society. This will facilitate IDEAS efforts to get the appropriate attendance in the different theme sessions but also in the conference in general.

¹ Media 21 is a program designed to enhance broader public awareness of global issues through better coverage worldwide: <http://media21geneva.org/>

Ideally, the list would contain around 15 persons in order of priority. IDEAS hopes to have large delegations from countries with AP. It is expected that high-level delegations will allow for some actors from these countries to participate without paying (as part of the delegation). The Forum has a limited budget which will allow funding 3 participants from the South required for the theme sessions at the Conference who can not pay for themselves. In addition, co-shepherds from the South will be financed. The selection of the supported participants will depend on the balance of stakeholders, the high-level representation of target countries and the outputs of the groups.

Regarding theme group members, all are welcome to attend the conference but their trip to Crans-Montana will not be covered by the Forum's budget.

IDEAS aims at having a maximum of confirmation of participation by the end of July both from high-level participants such as ministers and from other key stakeholders including those for the theme sessions.

e) Extraction of general recommendations out of the actions plans

On the basis of the submitted APs, a group of experts will extract the main findings and general recommendations that will feed the high-level panels. This group has yet to be defined. IDEAS would welcome the participation of shepherds since they are at the heart of the preparation process. The group will also include actors who are not involved in the theme groups.

4. TOUR DE TABLE THEME GROUP

a) Pierre Defraigne: Commodities, governance and poverty reduction

This group focuses on ways for countries dependant on export of mineral commodities to benefit more from the current high prices for their development process. It looks at the issue of renegotiations of contracts with international mining companies, at the general and specific investments that would be required, at the issue of diversification of the economy (horizontal and vertical) and at the role of financial offshore companies.

The discussions of the group have highlighted the importance of the regional dimension: the lack of basic infrastructure, information, expertise and qualifications are common to every country of the region. It would be important to have the production of regional public goods in particular in training/education. Discussions have also highlighted the need to grasp the international dimension: role and responsibility of financial offshore companies and the transparency of the commodity sector.

The role of the civil society in the rise of awareness will be at the centre of the effort. The peer review mechanism and sharing of information as ideas to be pursued.

In terms of countries, Zambia has been selected for the case study. Zambia has experienced interesting development recently such as stabilization of its economy, the beginning of an economic diversification and an increasingly better educated work force.

b) Ahmed Latif: trade and intellectual property

The group has met for a second time on April 25th. The objective of the group is to explore how the trade system can address the technological divide between the North and the South, define how to better promote technology transfer and development of technology capacities in

developing countries and highlight the role of Intellectual property. The work of the group is based on 3 inputs: i) Prof. Foray's research paper on transfer of technology in developing country, ii) ICTSD-Saana consulting project "Uganda technical assistance needs assessment" and iii) UNCTAD DDIP report on Uganda.

The 1st draft of the recommendations based on the inputs of the groups meeting discussion will be shared with the members of the groups in the next days. It is now necessary for the group to transform these recommendations which are too static into a more dynamic AP which could become a fundable project.

c) Johannes Bernabe: group on trade and services

The group is focusing on Mozambique tourism sector as case study. It is based on the ICTSD research paper "Opportunities and Risks in Liberalising Trade in Services in Mozambique". The group has used a bottom up approach and experts in the government are supporting the endeavour. There is now a need to secure buy-in from the policy level. This is one of the September Conference roles. There is a high probability for the recommendations to be implemented by the government. The group has also included activities for non-state actors and relevant agencies. These recommendations are also valid for other sectors.

The 1st draft has been reviewed by the core group members and by the highest tourism expert of the Mozambican government. This draft will be circulated to the wider circle of the group members soon. A special focus is given to the potential role of aid for trade (for services) to help with the implementation of regulatory reforms needed and highlighted in the draft document.

d) Karine Zufferey: Entrepreneurship and trade facilitation

The group focuses on potentials of SMEs in a regional context taking Bangladesh as the case study. Jean-Pierre Lehmann (shepherd) and Karine Zufferey went to Bangladesh for a field trip in March. They have met with representatives of Nestlé, SGS, the international chamber of commerce and local entrepreneurs to discuss about the issue of the group. Different recommendations, analysis and potential actions have come out of these discussions.

To be concrete and operational, Mrs. Zufferey suggested using the case of Ghana as a basis. Ghana has experienced similar constraints and difficulties in relations to customs and was able to tackle most of them. This successful case could be used for this group: a partnership could be created between representative from Ghana who have worked at the customs and from the World Customs Organisation and Bangladeshi representatives.

e) Labour mobility

The labour mobility group has held its second meeting on the 24-25 April with several group members as well as representatives from Senegal, the case-study country. A first draft of recommendations has been prepared on the basis of these discussions and of the background study prepared for the group. The recommendations are proposed at different levels: national with Senegal and bilateral partnerships with France and Spain; regional with regional partnerships with WAEMU or ECOWAS on the one hand and the EU on the other; international/multilateral with proposal related to the WTO and other more general proposal.

This draft is currently circulated. The next step is to focus the actions on the how and complement them with financing, timing and responsibilities. Senegal is committed to

participate at the highest-level. One of the next objectives is to get countries such as France and Spain involved in the work.

f) Aïcha Pouye: Pro-poor export development

The group's work is currently based on an International Trade Centre project. A formalized group will be constituted very soon. Using Senegal as the case study, the group is looking at how public-private partnerships and SMEs can best boost pro-poor export development. The group seeks to raise decision makers' awareness on this potential and encourage SME's to engage in the business of export in key Senegalese economical sectors. Mrs. Pouye held a meeting in April in Dakar with Senegalese ministers, exporters and donors.

In the ITC project, 5 clusters have been selected to bring in the export dimension: agriculture, tourism, handicraft, creative industries and textile. ITC seeks to move forward with implementation with one of this cluster: agribusiness. The group's next steps are to get commitment from donors, widen the group beyond ITC and team up with the labour mobility group.

g) Arna Hartmann: Trade building on decent work

The group will hold its 2nd meeting on May 29th. It will focus mainly on 2 elements of this concept developed by the ILO which are the most operational set of rules: core labour standards and corporate social responsibility.

The groups will not focus on a country however it might illustrate its work with several country case studies done recently by the German ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ).

Jan Martin Witte is preparing the background paper to set the discussions for the 29th May group meeting. The final document will be a policy note of around 10 pages with a set of recommendations.

h) Thomas Cottier: international governance for development

This group has selected the cotton initiative at the WTO as its case study. This initiative represents a good basis to build on because it has allowed for smaller countries to be on the forefront of negotiation and set the agenda. The recommendations of the groups will be structured along 3 issues; i) negotiations, ii) litigation (dispute settlement mechanism) iii) governance (relation between the private sector and the government).

The group has held its second meeting in April. The 1st draft of recommendations based on the working group discussions at the meeting has been sent to group members mid-May for comments.

h) Nicolas Imboden for Sandra Polaski: trade and livelihoods

The working group on trade and livelihoods has discussed the factors linking trade and livelihoods and developed a working analytical framework. They will hold a teleconference discussion in late May that is aimed at developing a consensus on appropriate policy responses. The analysis and policy responses will provide the context for the group's work on Kenya, its focus country.

Kenya is a good entry point for many aspects of the relationship between trade and livelihoods. A separate Carnegie research project, currently in progress, is examining the impacts of

alternative scenarios of international trade negotiations upon trade, production, employment and poverty in Kenya. A meeting to present and discuss preliminary results of this project with Kenyan government officials is scheduled for the week of 23-27 June. This work will further inform the Trade and Livelihoods Theme Group's action plan for Kenya.

i) Nicolas Imboden for Marco Ferroni: food security

Based on the case of Mali, the group highlights the main problems that are responsible for food insecurity in Mali and determine what could be done by the government through policy reforms to reduce its vulnerability. They also have a particular focus on the role of the private sector in particular on how to improve investments in agriculture and the marketing of local products. Finally they will look at trade policy of the Malian government in regional and multilateral agreements. They held their 1st group meeting in February and have drafted preliminary actions plans listing the main issues that have been shared with group members for discussion.

j) Nicolas Imboden for Simon Evenett: accession and post accession

Vietnam has been selected for the case-study. Experience with Middle-East countries will be used to feed the substance. This group works in collaboration with the WTO secretariat. A one-pager paper is expected shortly and will provide additional information on the progress of this group.

5. NEXT STEPS

As discussed, although the Conference is postponed to September, time is running fast. The next steps have been identified to remain within schedule:

1. One-pager presenting the progress of theme groups for the Forum's website. Several people have asked for more information on the working groups' progress: deadline: 30 May.
2. List of participants required for the Conference's theme sessions (high-level representatives from the case-study country or key governments, from the private sector, from international and financial organisations, donor countries, civil society, academics) by order of priority: deadline: 30 May.
3. Delivery of AP: deadline 15th June.
4. Next shepherds' meeting: beginning of July.
5. Work on visuals for theme groups' outputs by graphic designer in collaboration with shepherds: 1st June – 31st August.
6. Extraction from AP of more general recommendations: 15th June – 15th August.