

# Chapter 8 How to Find Information about the WTO

## 8.1 WTO sources

- The official WTO website includes an on-line guide: “How to find your way around [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org).” This gives some good tips for finding information. ‘Site index’ (Alphabetical directory), ‘Site map’ (Thematic directory) and ‘Documents Online’ are the three main ways of looking up information. Putting your cursor over ‘on this site’ towards the right at the top of the homepage at [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org), you will see ‘site index’ and ‘site map.’ Clicking on ‘site map’ gives the overall structure of the site; click on ‘site index’ for an alphabetical directory of available information. You can also reach the alphabetical directory by clicking on the ‘A-Z list’ of the homepage. For a general introduction to the WTO, click on ‘Understanding the WTO’ in the alphabetical directory. Scroll down the page and click on specific areas for further information. Printed copies of the brochure are also available at the WTO Secretariat. However, it is important to bear in mind that while much of the information contained in the WTO information pack is of a purely factual basis, it is unlikely to give a full picture of how the organization operates, particularly with respect to inherent power imbalances, deficiencies in external transparency, and other aspects of the WTO’s functioning.
- Occasional email-based NGO bulletin, which can be subscribed to by sending an email to [ngobulletin@wto.org](mailto:ngobulletin@wto.org)
- External Relations Division of the WTO Secretariat (phone: +41 22 739 5254; fax: +41 22 739 5777) for additional information or specific questions.

The symbol ‘>’ used in this chapter means ‘click on’ an image or a link on the website.

## 8.2 Press sources

Regular press sources: such as the Financial Times and Reuters, publish frequent news reports on trade-related events.

Specialized press sources: such as BNA WTO Reporter ([www.bna.com](http://www.bna.com)) and Inside US Trade ([www.insidetrade.com](http://www.insidetrade.com)) are good regular sources of information on WTO meetings, though subscriptions can be expensive. These publications tend to follow more mainstream and developed-country issues.

NGO sources: ICTSD ([www.ictsd.org](http://www.ictsd.org)) publishes *Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest*, which focuses on trade and sustainable development and gives a generally balanced and easily-accessible picture of the issues at stake and different actors’ positions on trade issues, with a focus on the WTO. Obtainable free of charge, by sending an email to [bridges\\_weekly@ictsd.ch](mailto:bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch), typing the words ‘subscribe bridges’ in the message header.

Third World Network’s SUNS ([www.sunsonline.org](http://www.sunsonline.org)) is a periodic email and web-based news service with a particular focus on North-South and South-South negotiations, including the WTO. It provides a great deal of detail about country positions, and assumes at least some prior knowledge of trade and WTO issues. Annual subscription ranges from US\$150-300 for Southern NGOs to US\$500 for Northern government agencies. Some back issues are available on-line free of charge. To subscribe read back issues, email [sunstwn@bluewin.ch](mailto:sunstwn@bluewin.ch) or visit the website.

Third World Network ([www.twinside.org](http://www.twinside.org)) publishes the *Info Service on WTO Issues*, available at [www.twinside.org.sg/trade\\_11.htm](http://www.twinside.org.sg/trade_11.htm)

A number of listserves gather WTO-related news and information (see section below, as well as the end of Chapters 4, 5 and 6 for other websites and listserves).

## 8.3 Frequently asked questions on how to obtain information on the WTO

---

### → *Some WTO documents are publicly available and some are not. What kind of WTO information am I entitled to have access to?*

The ground rules are:

- All official WTO documents, meaning any document submitted by a Member or prepared by the Secretariat, shall be unrestricted (i.e. publicly available).
- These documents shall be posted on the WTO website in all three official WTO languages (English, French and Spanish).

But there are exceptions:

- Any Member may submit a document as restricted, meaning the document will not be made public before 60 days (normally) or 90 days (if the Member so requests).
- Documents relating to working parties on accession are restricted until the adoption of the working party report.
- All minutes of meetings, except those of the Trade Policy Review Body, are restricted for 45 days after the date of circulation among Members.

---

### → *Can I submit documents or position papers to be posted to the WTO website? What exposure do they get?*

The NGO papers section of the WTO website is not the most popular part of the website, so this may not be the best way to ensure exposure of NGO position papers.

NGOs wishing to send position papers to the WTO Secretariat should direct them to the External Relations Division (address above or [www.wto.org/english/forums\\_e/ngo\\_e/pospap\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/ngo_e/pospap_e.htm)).

However, some restrictions apply.

- Only position papers related to the activities of the WTO will be included in the list.
- Titles must be provided in all three official WTO languages.
- Monthly newsletters, brochures, announcements etc. will not be included.

Further, the WTO Secretariat reserves the right not to accept material which does not fulfil these requirements and to adjust these arrangements at any given time.

The list of titles of NGO position papers received by the Secretariat is circulated to WTO Members every month; it is up to Members to seek papers out on the WTO website or to request them from the respective organizations.

---

### → *How can I find out what meetings are taking place at the WTO and what is on the agenda?*

The WTO sometimes holds up to three or four separate meetings of its various committees or councils on the same day. To find out which meetings are taking place at the WTO, click on 'Meetings' in the alphabetical directory or 'WTO meetings: this week or rest of the year' from the homepage. Meeting agendas are not posted in advance on the website. To find out what is on the agenda for each meeting, you can contact the External Relations Division who may also be able to provide draft agendas. *Bridges Weekly* ([www.ictsd.org/weekly](http://www.ictsd.org/weekly) or [www.ictsd.org/calendar](http://www.ictsd.org/calendar)) provides a weekly calendar of upcoming WTO events, and occasionally flags key issues on each meeting's agenda. Although meeting agendas will outline what is to be discussed, NGOs are not authorized to attend or observe WTO meetings.

Informal meetings, of which there are many, are not officially announced or publicized. One way to find out about these is to contact country trade missions in Geneva directly: national trade

offices should have the details of their Geneva missions, or may be able to assist directly. The contact details of countries' Geneva delegations can be found on the following websites: [www.itu.int/TIES/services/missionweb.html](http://www.itu.int/TIES/services/missionweb.html) or [www.geneva.ch/missions.htm](http://www.geneva.ch/missions.htm) or [www.unog.ch/genet/permis/misset.htm](http://www.unog.ch/genet/permis/misset.htm)

Other NGOs active in the trade realm – such as CIEL, WWF, Oxfam, IATP, TWN, etc. (see list with web links below) – may also be able to help indicate upcoming meetings and their agendas.

Working through governments directly is the most effective way of influencing what is to be discussed.

After a meeting has taken place, press reports on the WTO, from sources mentioned above, provide an idea of major issues discussed in the meetings.

### Box 8.1 Some Asian countries' ministries responsible for trade

**Cambodia:** Ministry of Commerce, Norodom Boulevard, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, Tel +855 23 210365, fax +855 23 217353, [www.moc.gov.kh](http://www.moc.gov.kh)

**China:** Ministry of Commerce, 2 Dong Chang'an Avenue, Beijing, 100731  
Tel: +86 10 651 21919, fax: +86 10 65198173, <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn>

**India:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce,  
email: [commerce@hub.nic.in](mailto:commerce@hub.nic.in), [www.commerce.nic.in](http://www.commerce.nic.in)

**Indonesia:** Ministry of Industry and Trade, Jl. Gatot Subroto Kav. 52-53, Jakarta 12950, Tel +62 21 525 5509, [www.dprin.go.id](http://www.dprin.go.id)  
Dedicated website for WTO-related information, [www.wto.dprin.go.id](http://www.wto.dprin.go.id)

**Lao PDR:** Ministry of Commerce, Phon Xay Rd, P.O.Box 4107 Vientiane  
Tel +856 21 911342, fax +856 21 412434, [www.mot.gov.vn/laowebsite/](http://www.mot.gov.vn/laowebsite/)

**Malaysia:** Ministry of International Trade and Industry, (MITI), Block 10,  
Government Offices Complex, Jalan Duta, 50622 Kuala Lumpur,  
[www.miti.gov.my](http://www.miti.gov.my)

**Nepal:** Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, web: [www.moics.gov.np](http://www.moics.gov.np)

**Philippines:** Department of Trade and Industry, 385 Industry and Investments  
Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Tel +63 2 895 3611, fax +63 2 895 6487,  
[www.dti.gov.ph/](http://www.dti.gov.ph/)

**Sri Lanka:** Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, 021 Vauxhall Street,  
Colombo 02, Tel +94 1 2312312, 2435601-4, fax +94 1 2323813,  
[www.commerce.gov.lk](http://www.commerce.gov.lk)

**Viet Nam:** Ministry of Trade, 21 Ngo Quyen Str., Hanoi, [www.mot.gov.vn/en/](http://www.mot.gov.vn/en/)

### → Are all WTO agreements posted on the website? How can I find them?

The full legal texts of the WTO are available on its website. Clicking on 'Legal Texts' of the directory will lead you to the Uruguay Round Agreements (the WTO Agreement) and its ministerial decisions and declarations. Then click on the name of the agreement for its full texts. For example, if you are looking for the text of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > 'A-Z list' > 'Legal texts', scroll down to 'General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)' > 'browse text'.

The symbol '>' used in this chapter means 'click on' an image or a link on the website.

---

→ ***Some WTO provisions are potentially human rights friendly. How can I find out if they were ever interpreted that way or cited in WTO dispute decisions or in other work of the WTO?***

If you want to find out any decisions or declarations about specific WTO provisions, look up the 'WTO Analytical Index — Guide to WTO Law and Practice' [www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/analytic\\_index\\_e/analytic\\_index\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/analytic_index_e/analytic_index_e.htm), which provides a guide to the interpretation and application of the WTO Agreement by highlighting relevant decisions of panels, the Appellate Body, arbitration and other WTO bodies.

Many of the press and listserv links contained later in this chapter will help to track which disputes might be of importance from a public-interest perspective. *Bridges Monthly Review* ([www.ictsd.org/monthly](http://www.ictsd.org/monthly)) is a good source and also covers issues of public interest addressed in other areas of the WTO. For analysis of WTO dispute settlement decisions, including for human rights implications, consult [www.worldtradelaw.net](http://www.worldtradelaw.net), which also offers a number of search tools free to non-subscribers.

---

→ ***How do I find out my government's WTO commitments?***

You will have to look for the tariff schedule or schedule of commitments in services of your country.

- If it is a founding Member of the WTO, i.e., a Member in 1995 when the WTO was established, e.g. Thailand, go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > 'A-Z list' > 'tariff schedules for goods' will lead you to the 'Goods Schedules: Members Commitments' page, scroll down and > 'Thailand' on right hand side list of the page.
- If you are looking for the tariff schedules of a Member which joined the WTO after 1995, such as China, go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > 'A-Z list' > 'Accessions', scroll down the page and click on 'Protocols of accession for new Members since 1995, including commitments in goods and services', scroll down the page and > 'China'.
- If you are looking for the schedules of services commitments and exemptions of a Member, such as Malaysia, go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > 'A-Z list' > 'Services, Schedules' will lead you to the 'Services: Commitments' page, scroll down to 'All commitments and exemptions', choose 'Malaysia', and > 'Search'.

---

→ ***Do Members tell the WTO their level of agricultural subsidies? Where can I find these?***

Yes, WTO Members do have to notify the WTO of their level of farm subsidies. But these notifications tend to come in late, when they come in at all, and the figures are seldom up-to-date. You can access all notifications by consulting the 'Other official documents on Agriculture' section towards the bottom of the WTO website agriculture page, at [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/agric\\_e/agric\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/agric_e.htm)

---

→ ***How do I find dispute settlement decisions by panels or the Appellate Body?***

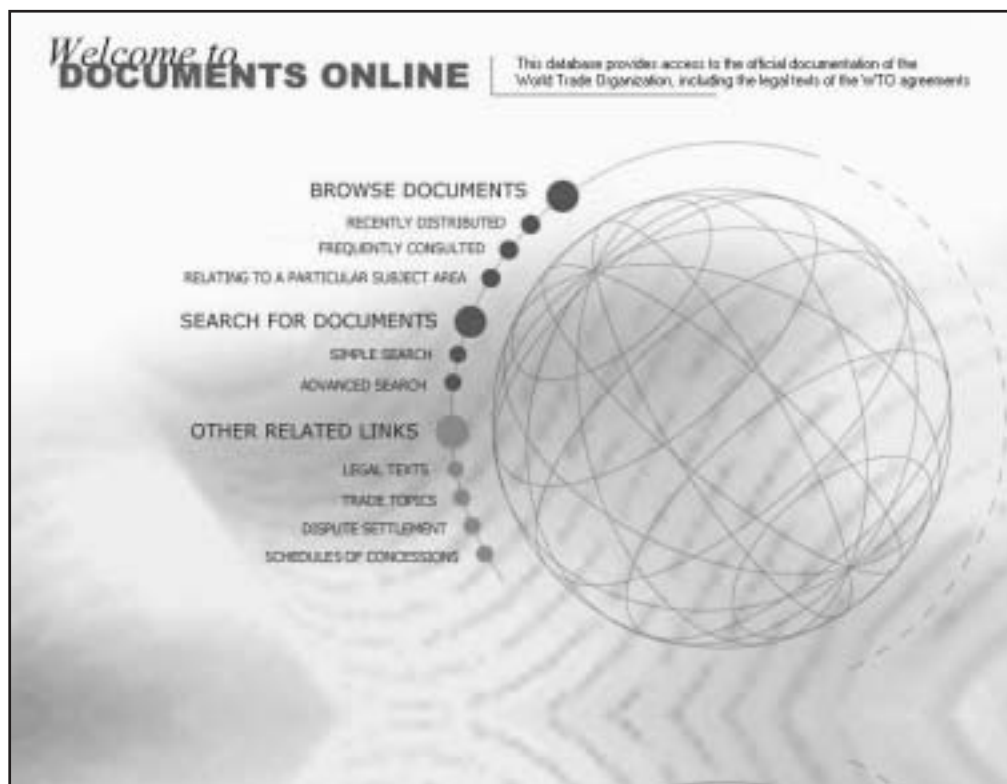
Click on 'Dispute settlement gateway page' for materials on the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, individual dispute cases and new negotiations on the DSU. Scroll down the page and you can search for panel, the Appellate Body and arbitration rulings of a specific dispute case by

date, by subject or by the country complained against. For example, if you are looking for the rulings of the steel dispute (United States – Definitive Safeguard Measures on Imports of Certain Steel Products) described in Chapter 1.7, go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > ‘Site map’, scroll down to ‘Dispute Settlement’ and > ‘Dispute by country’ > ‘Q – Z’ at the top left of the table, scroll down the page to ‘United States’ and > ‘Safeguard measures’, you will reach a new page with search results of all official documents about the US steel case, including rulings by the panel and the Appellate Body.

→ ***How can I find out if the most recent General Council discussed matters of interest to me?***

You can access minutes of official meetings from the ‘Site map.’ For example, if you are looking for minutes of the General Council meetings, go to [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) > ‘Site map > ‘General Council’, scroll down to ‘Official documents of the General Council’ > ‘Minutes of the General Council meetings’; if you are looking for its annual reports, > ‘Annual reports of the General Council’ instead.

‘Documents Online’ ([www.docsonline.wto.org](http://www.docsonline.wto.org)) provides a more comprehensive link to all official records of WTO bodies and committees. To access, type in the web address directly or from the WTO homepage, click on ‘Search WTO website’ and ‘Search Documents Online.’ Putting the cursor over ‘Frequently Consulted’, you will see ‘Official Records (WTO Bodies and Committees).’ Clicking on the link will give you access to all derestricted official documents of various WTO bodies. Otherwise, clicking on ‘Simple Search’ will take you to a page where you can search by document symbol, title, number, country, date or keyword search. To read all documents relating to agriculture submitted by the Philippines, for instance, simply specify the country in the country field and type agriculture in the keyword search. Each document also contains a document symbol, indicating its origin. For instance, any document symbol beginning with WT/DS indicates a dispute settlement submission or report. WT/CTE indicates a document



from the Committee on Trade and Environment. Searches can be refined to specific areas using this method.

Many NGOs also follow and report on important WTO documents and decisions and make easy to read summaries. These include IATP, ICTSD, IISD, Harvard Center for International Development, TWN, Oxfam, and Christian Aid. In Asia, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Sustainable Development Policy Institute – Pakistan (SDPI), CUTS-India and FOCUS on the Global South all follow the relevant debates at the multilateral trade level (see below for websites).

### → *How can I find all the documents on Members' requests and offers in the services negotiations?*

A list of NGOs following the services negotiations is given in Chapter 5.9.

Several initial offers have been made public by the Members concerned and are publicly available in the TN/S/O document series. As indicated in Box 8.2, this series concern services negotiations. However, many offers and requests have not been made public by governments; to find these, ask the concerned government, or NGOs specialized in this area.

To find the services requests and offers that have been made public, click on Simple Search from Documents Online and you will reach the main search page:

Simple Search  
(Enter criteria in one or more fields, then click on Search. For assistance on selecting criteria, click on ?)

Document symbol:  ?

Document title:  ?

Document number:  ?

Countries:  ?

Full text search criteria:  ?

Document date (dd/mm/yyyy): start  ? end  ?

On the document symbol line, type “TN/S/O”, which will lead you to all publicly available WTO documents on Members’ offers. If you are looking for documentation on specific WTO areas, searching by document symbols will lead to the specific documents in question, rather than providing general information from the web. If the countries’ offers you are looking for are not available there, try looking at governmental or intergovernmental websites such as those listed below, or the NGO websites referred to in Chapter 5.8.

#### **Governmental** (see also Box 8.1)

- **EU Directorate-General Trade, Services:**  
europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/services/index\_en.htm
- **US Trade Representative (USTR), Services:**  
www.ustr.gov/sectors/services/services.shtml

- **Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Services:**  
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/service-en.asp
- **Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Services:**  
commerce.nic.in/wtomatters.htm

## Intergovernmental

- **International Trade Centre (ITC) Services Exporting Index:**  
www.intracen.org/serviceexport/welcome.htm
- **OECD Trade in Services:**  
www.oecd.org/departement/0,2688,en\_2649\_34243\_1\_1\_1\_1\_1,00.html
- **UN – home page on Statistics on International Trade in Services:**  
unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv
- **WTO website web page dedicated to the Services negotiations:**  
www.wto.org/english/tratop\_e/serv\_e/s\_negs\_e.htm

### → *If I'm looking for a document via the WTO's Documents Online web section, how do I know what symbol I should use to search?*

You can right click '?' on the document symbol line on the search page for a thematic list of symbols for searching. Some of the most commonly used ones are listed in Box 8.2:

For example, if you were looking for documents related to the WTO accession processes for Nepal, Cambodia or Laos, type in WT/ACC/ in the Document Symbol field, then type in the country name or names in the country field. If you wanted to run a more general search for all documents containing the word accession and a specific country, simply type both into the 'Full Text Search Criteria' box.

#### Box 8.2 Some common WTO document symbols

Accession to WTO	{WT/ACC/*}
Agriculture	{G/AG/* or TN/AG*}
Dispute Settlement	{WT/AB* or WT/DS* or TN/DS*}
Intellectual Property	{IP/* or TN/IP/*}
Legal Texts and Agreements	{LT/UR*}
Market Access	{G/MA/* or TN/MA/*}
Ministerial Meetings	{WT/MIN*}
Rules of Origin	{G/RO/*}
Safeguards	{G/SG/*}
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	{G/SPS*}
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	{G/SCM/*}
Technical Barriers to Trade	{G/TBT/*}
Textiles	{G/TMB/*}
Trade and Development	{WT/COMTD/* or WT/LDC/* or WT/LLDC/* or WT/IFSC/* or TN/CTD/*}
Trade and Environment	{WT/CTE/* or PC/SCTE/* or TN/TE/*}
Trade in Goods	{G/C/*}
Trade in Services	{S/* or GATS/* or TN/S/*}
Trade Negotiations	{TN/*}
Trade Policy Review	{WT/TPR/*}

## 8.4 Other websites

- **3D -> Trade-Human Rights-Equitable Economy:** [www.3dthree.org](http://www.3dthree.org)  
Promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. The website contains many introductory documents relating to human rights and trade.
- **Bilaterals.org:** [www.bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org)  
Covers “everything that’s not happening at the WTO.” It is a collective effort to share information and stimulate cooperation against bilateral trade and investment agreements that are opening countries penetration by transnational corporations. It covers bilateral and regional trade agreements in all areas of the world.
- **Commonwealth Secretariat:** [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)  
Active in a number of areas including development, democracy, debt management, human rights and trade. It implements the decisions taken by the 53 governments that are members of the Commonwealth, including Bangladesh, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu. Its work on gender and macroeconomics could be of particular interest to human rights advocates concerned about trade liberalization. See for instance its 2003 publication: Mariama Williams, *Gender Mainstreaming in the Multilateral Trading System*.
- **Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS):** [www.cuts.org](http://www.cuts.org)  
An India-based NGO that works in several areas of public interest at the grassroots, national, sub continental and international levels. These include programmemes to empower rural people through innovative strategies of social action; consumer welfare; research and advocacy on multilateral trade and sustainable development; and South-South cooperation on trade and development.
- **Council of Canadians:** [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org)  
A citizens’ watchdog organization. Strictly non-partisan, the Council lobbies Members of Parliament, conducts research, and runs national campaigns aimed *inter alia* at safeguarding social programmes, promoting economic justice, renewing Canadian democracy, advancing alternatives to corporate-style free trade, and preserving the environment.
- **European Union Trade Directorate General:** [www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade)  
Outlines the structure and work of the European Commission on trade, and provides tools to help understand various trade topics.
- **GATSwatch:** [www.gatswatch.org](http://www.gatswatch.org)  
A joint project of two NGOs: Corporate Europe Observatory and Transnational Institute. One of the main objectives of GATSwatch is research and analysis of the role and agenda of corporate lobbies with regards to the GATS 2000 negotiations. GATSwatch supports global networking against GATS through the GATSwatch web site as well as through the GATSwatch mailing list.
- **Global Exchange:** [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)  
An international human rights organization dedicated to promoting environmental, political and social justice. It focuses on building global awareness among the US public and on worldwide partnerships. [www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/wto/](http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/wto/) contains relevant WTO-related information and campaign materials.
- **Focus on the Global South:** [www.focusweb.org](http://www.focusweb.org)  
An Asia-based NGO which aims to develop greater coherence between local community-based and national, regional and global paradigms of change. It maintains a critical stance regarding the WTO and in particular the use of market power by Northern Members vis-à-vis the South.

The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has a listserv on International Trade and Investment. To subscribe, visit [www.escr-net.org/EngGeneral/discussiongroup.asp](http://www.escr-net.org/EngGeneral/discussiongroup.asp) or send an email to [ESCR-TRADE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ESCR-TRADE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

- **Thai – US FTA Watch:** [www.ftawatch.org/eng/](http://www.ftawatch.org/eng/)  
Monitors the implementation of the US-Thai Free Trade Agreement, particularly its effects on local peoples and business and the relative power of multinational companies.
- **Harvard Center for International Development (CID) Global Trade Negotiations:** [www.cid.harvard.edu/cidtrade/](http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidtrade/)  
Centralized information on global trade negotiations. While it gathers and disseminates information and research on the multilateral trade system, it does not advocate any specific trade policies or support any particular ideology. Rather, as an academic resource, it offers an objective entry point to the many trade-related resources on the internet.
- **IBON Foundation:** [www.ibon.org](http://www.ibon.org)  
A Philippines-based independent think tank on issues of social justice.
- **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP):** [www.iatp.org/global](http://www.iatp.org/global)  
A US-based NGO providing news, information and analysis on US and international agricultural trade. IATP manage a number of agriculture and trade-related listserves, including the Geneva Update which focuses on WTO negotiations. Trade Observatory ([www.tradeobservatory.org](http://www.tradeobservatory.org)) provides a particular focus on the WTO and trade-related issues.
- **The Institute for Global Justice:** [www.globaljust.org](http://www.globaljust.org)  
Formed in 2001 by INFID and members of the Indonesian NGO Coalition on the WTO to address globalization issues. Its vision is “A Global Justice Order through Social Movements.” Its mission is “to deconstruct globalization and facilitate social transformation in order to be critical towards globalization through research, advocacy, education and networking activities”.
- **International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD):** [www.ictsd.org](http://www.ictsd.org)  
An NGO that facilitates interaction between policy-makers and those outside the system to help trade policy become more supportive of sustainable development. By helping parties increase capacity and become better informed about each other, ICTSD builds bridges between groups with seemingly disparate agendas. Its Bridges series of publications provide a non-partisan perspective on issues relating to trade and sustainable development, with a focus on the WTO.
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD):** [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)  
A Canadian NGO that contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change, measurement and indicators, and natural resources management. IISD has excellent analytical resources on trade, and on investment, interesting particularly for their sustainable development perspective.
- **International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU):** [www.icftu.org](http://www.icftu.org)  
Organizes and directs campaigns on issues such as: the respect and defence of trade union and workers’ rights; the eradication of forced and child labour; the promotion of equal rights for working women; the environment, and education programmes for trade unionists all over the world. ICFTU has a Geneva office and follows WTO issues closely.
- **International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN):** [www.igtn.org](http://www.igtn.org)  
A network of gender advocates actively working to promote equitable, social and sustainable trade. It utilizes research, advocacy and economic literacy to address the specific trade issues of the seven regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, North America and Pacific. It has a Geneva office to facilitate WTO monitoring and advocacy work.
- **International Labour Organization:** [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)  
An intergovernmental organization which formulates international labour standards across the entire spectrum of work related issues. Work of the World Commission on the Social

Dimension of Globalization, set up in 1992 to examine a wide range of aspects of economic globalization and their impact on the ILO's objectives can be accessed at [www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm).

- **Investment Watch:** [www.investmentwatch.org](http://www.investmentwatch.org)  
Designed to assist the global citizen's mobilization against an international trade treaty on investment.
- **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):** [www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)  
See in particular the sections on development and trade, at [www.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/index.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/index.htm) and [www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/trade/index.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/trade/index.htm). The trade section contains excellent introductory reports on a range of human rights subjects relating to trade, including investment, agriculture, services and the right to participate.
- **Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR):** [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov)  
Provides access to the US trade policy-making process and to documents used by the US in its trade relations with other countries.
- **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):** [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)  
The 'rich men's club' of 29 industrialized nations provides up-to-date statistics, analysis and information on trade and economics-related issues. Contains an extensive trade section at [www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,en\\_2649\\_37431\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37431,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,en_2649_37431_1_1_1_1_37431,00.html).
- **Our World is Not For Sale (OWINFS):** [www.ourworldisnotforsale.org](http://www.ourworldisnotforsale.org)  
Represents a loose grouping of organizations, activists and social movements worldwide fighting against the current model of corporate globalization embodied in global trading systems; it is committed to a sustainable, socially just, democratic and accountable multi-lateral trading system.
- **Oxfam International:** [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)  
A confederation of 12 development organizations working together with over 3000 partners in more than 100 countries to find solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice. See in particular Oxfam's 'make trade fair' campaign at [www.maketradefair.com](http://www.maketradefair.com).
- **Polaris Institute:** [www.polarisinstitute.org](http://www.polarisinstitute.org)  
Designed to enable citizen movements to re-skill and re-tool themselves to fight for democratic social change in an age of corporate-driven globalization. The Institute works with citizen movements in developing strategies and tactics to unmask and challenge the corporate power that is the driving force behind governments concerning public policy making on economic, social and environmental issues.
- **Public Citizen Trade Watch:** [www.citizen.org/trade/](http://www.citizen.org/trade/)  
Challenges corporate globalization, arguing that the current globalization model is neither a random inevitability nor "free trade." It seeks to make the measurable outcomes of this model accessible to the public, press, and policy-makers, while emphasizing that if the results are not acceptable, then the model can and must be changed or replaced.
- **Seattle to Brussels Network (S2B):** [www.s2bnetwork.org/](http://www.s2bnetwork.org/)  
A pan-European network campaigning to promote a sustainable, socially and democratically accountable system of trade. Its network includes development, environment, human rights, women's and farmers organizations, trade unions, social movements as well as research institutes.
- **South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE):** [www.sawtee.org](http://www.sawtee.org)  
A Nepal-based NGO which aims to build the capacity of concerned stakeholders in South Asia by equipping them with knowledge, information and skills to voice their concerns, particularly in the context of liberalization and globalization.
- **Sustainable Development Policy Institute – Pakistan (SDPI):** [www.sdpi.org](http://www.sdpi.org)  
Acts both as a generator of original research on sustainable development issues and as an

information resource for concerned individuals and institutions in South Asia. It has particular competence on issues relating to trade and sustainable development.

Additional sources of information are given at the end of Chapters 4, 5 and 6

- **TheNetwork for Consumer Protection – Pakistan:** [www.thenetwork.org.pk/it.htm](http://www.thenetwork.org.pk/it.htm)  
A national, public interest, non profit organization created in 1992. Its programme on International Trade deals with issues and options concerning new regimes of trade liberalization from the consumers' perspective.
- **Third World Network (TWN):** [www.twinside.org.sg](http://www.twinside.org.sg)  
Conducts research on economic, social and environmental issues pertaining to the South, publishes research and provides a platform representing broadly Southern interests and perspectives at international fora such as UN conferences and processes. It presents a pro-South perspective on WTO-related issues, and publishes trade-related listserves, SUNS and TWN WTO Info Service (see listserves below).
- **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):** [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)  
Focal point within the UN for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. It undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection in order to provide substantive inputs for the discussions of experts and government representatives.
- **World Intellectual Property Organization:** [www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)  
An intergovernmental organization which aims to maintain and further develop the respect for intellectual property (IP) throughout the world. It seeks to prevent erosion of existing IP protection, and to make enforcement of IP protection simpler and cheaper. WIPO's role on public interest matters such as access to medicines and access to seeds is contested: many NGOs say that it defends corporate interests, whilst an increasing number of developing countries criticize it for not being pro-development. WIPO provides a forum for international policy debate concerning the interplay between IP and traditional knowledge, genetic resources, traditional cultural expressions (folklore) – see [www.wipo.int/tk/en/](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/).

## 8.5 Listserves

- **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest:** [www.ictsd.org/weekly](http://www.ictsd.org/weekly)  
See description above.
- **ESCR-Net International Trade and Investment discussion group:**  
email: [ESCR-TRADE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ESCR-TRADE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com), web: [www.escr-net.org/EngGeneral/discussiongroup.asp](http://www.escr-net.org/EngGeneral/discussiongroup.asp)  
An open listserv about human rights aspects of international trade, finance and investment
- **EU Trade News Update:** email: [eu-tradenews@cec.eu.int](mailto:eu-tradenews@cec.eu.int); web: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/>  
EC D-G Trade's periodic update of its activities.
- **GATSEducation@yahoogroups.com:** see [www.gatswatch.org/educationoutofgats/](http://www.gatswatch.org/educationoutofgats/)  
A list run by GATSwatch to share information on education and the GATS negotiations.
- **IISD Invest-SD newsletter:** [www.iisd.org/trade/investsd.htm](http://www.iisd.org/trade/investsd.htm)  
Weekly newsletter tracks developments in investment-related issues, including bilateral investment treaties and their impacts on domestic policy.
- **Inter-Press Service (IPS) Terraviva newsletter:** [www.ipsterraviva.net/](http://www.ipsterraviva.net/)  
Includes periodic reporting on social and development concerns in trade.
- **IP-health:** <http://lists.essential.org/pipermail/ip-health>  
Groups news and views on IPRs and health issues.

- **Seatini Bulletin:** [www.seatini.org/bulletins/](http://www.seatini.org/bulletins/)  
Issues regarding trade and development in Southern/Eastern Africa.
- **Stop WTO Round listserve:** email: [StopWTORound@yahoo.com](mailto:StopWTORound@yahoo.com)  
A moderated list gathering news related to the WTO and social concerns.
- **TWN South-North Development Monitor (SUNS) and Info Service on WTO Issues:**  
[www.sunsonline.org](http://www.sunsonline.org)  
See description above.

## 8.6 Further reading

Association for Women's Rights in Development, *Women's Rights, the World Trade Organization and International Trade Policy*, 2002.

[www.awid.org/publications/primers/factsissues4.pdf](http://www.awid.org/publications/primers/factsissues4.pdf)

CAFOD, *The rough guide to the WTO*, 2002.

[www.cafod.org.uk/archive/policy/wto-roughguide.shtml](http://www.cafod.org.uk/archive/policy/wto-roughguide.shtml)

Christian Aid, *Highway robbery: interactive introduction to the trade campaign*.

[www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/trade/highway/launch5.htm](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/trade/highway/launch5.htm)

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) (2001) *Human Rights and International Trade: Right Cause With Wrong Intentions*, Briefing Paper No. 3/2001.

Caroline Dommen, "Raising human rights concerns in the World Trade Organization – actors, processes and possible strategies", *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 24, 2002.

Caroline Dommen, "The WTO, International Trade, and Human Rights," forthcoming in Michael Windfuhr (ed.) 2004.

[www.3dthree.org/en/page.php?IDpage=13&IDcat=5](http://www.3dthree.org/en/page.php?IDpage=13&IDcat=5)

CIEPAC, *Introduction to the World Trade Organization – Frequently Asked Questions about the WTO*, 2003.

<http://cancun.mediosindependientes.org/newswire/rate/15>

Graham Dunkley, *The Free Trade Adventure: The WTO, The Uruguay Round and Globalism – A Critique*, London and New York: Zed Books, 2000.

Hurst Hannum (ed.), *Guide to International Human Rights Practice*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Transnational Publishers, 2004.

Robert Howse and Makau Mutua, *Protecting Human Rights in a Global Economy – Challenges for the World Trade Organization*, Montreal: Rights and Democracy, 2000.

[www.ichrdd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/globalization/wtoRightsGlob.html](http://www.ichrdd.ca/english/commdoc/publications/globalization/wtoRightsGlob.html)

Bhagirath Lal Das, *The World Trade Organization – A Guide to the Framework for International Trade*.

Bhagirath Lal Das, *WTO: The Doha Agenda*, 2003.

Fatoumata Jawara and Aileen Kwa, *Behind the Scenes at the WTO – The real world of international trade negotiations*, 2003.

Roger Normand, *Separate and Unequal: Trade and Human Rights Regimes*, Background Paper for the Human Development Report, UNDP, 2000.

<http://hdr.undp.org/publications/papers.cfm>

Rights & Democracy, *Human Rights: The WTO's Missing Development Agenda*, 2003

Dani Rodrik, *Governance of trade as if development mattered*, UNDP, 2001.

Robert Rogowski, et al (eds) *Trade Liberalization: Fears and Facts*, 2001.

UN, Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, *Study on Policies for development in a globalizing world: What can the human rights approach contribute?*

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/18, June 2004.

<http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G04/144/46/PDF/G0414446.pdf?OpenElement>

Lori Wallach and Patrick Woodall, *Whose Trade Organization? The Comprehensive Guide to the WTO*, 2004.

Mariama Williams (2003) *Gender Mainstreaming in the Multilateral Trading System – A handbook for policy-makers and other stakeholders*, London: Commonwealth Secretariat.

## Online sources of related information

**Bank Information Center:** [www.bicusa.org](http://www.bicusa.org)

Dedicated to empowering citizens in developing countries to influence Multilateral Development Bank financed operations and policies in a manner that fosters social justice and ecological sustainability.

**Business and Human Rights Resource Centre:** [www.business-humanrights.org/Home](http://www.business-humanrights.org/Home)

An independent, international, non-profit organization, in a collaborative partnership with Amnesty International sections and leading academic institutions. The online library covers over 1200 companies, over 160 countries, and over 150 topics.

**International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net):**

[www.escr-net.org](http://www.escr-net.org)

A coalition of organizations and activists from around the world dedicated to advancing economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). It has a listserv on trade, investment and human rights.

**WorldTradeLaw.net, The Online Source for World Trade Law:** [www.worldtradelaw.net/](http://www.worldtradelaw.net/)

A subscription-based website but some useful sections are accessible free of charge.

