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Abbreviations and Acronyms

Words in bold in the text refer to terms explained in the glossary (Annex I)

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AFTA	Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Area
AMS	Aggregate Measure of Support
AMTC	Affordable Medicines and Treatment Campaign
AoA	Agreement on Agriculture
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APNFS	Asia Pacific Network on Food Sovereignty
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATC	Agreement on Textiles and Clothing
CAFOD	Catholic Institute for Overseas Development
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CID	Harvard Center for International Development
CIEL	Center for International Environmental Law
CPTech	Consumer Project on Technology
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CTD	Committee on Trade and Development
CUTS	Consumer Unity and Trust Society
CITEE	Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment
DDA	Doha Development Agenda
DSM	Dispute Settlement Mechanism
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
FIAN	Foodfirst International Action Network
FOCUS	Focus on the Global South
G20/G10	Group of 20 / Group of 10
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on tariffs and Trade
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
HRC	Human Rights Committee
HAI-AP	Health Action International–Asia Pacific
IATP	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IGTN	International Gender and Trade Network
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
IPS	Inter-Press Service
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LMG	Like-Minded Group
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MSF	Médecins sans frontières

NFIDCs	Net Food-Importing Developing Countries
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NT	National Treatment
NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OWINFS	Our World is Not For Sale
S&D	Special and Differential Treatment
S2B	Seattle to Brussels Network
SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
SAWTEE	South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute (Pakistan)
SDT	Special and Differential Treatment
SEATINI	Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SP	Special Product
SSG	Special Safeguard
SSM	Special Safeguard Mechanism
TNC	Trade Negotiations Committee
TNCA	Thai NGO Coalition on AIDS
TPR	Trade Policy Report
TPRB	Trade Policy Review Body
TPRM	Trade Policy Review Mechanism
TRIPS	Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights
TWN	Third World Network
UN/UNO	United Nations Organization
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization .
US	United States
USTR	United States Trade Representative
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund

A Guide to this Guide

How this *Practical Guide* can help human rights practitioners

Human rights practitioners cannot afford to neglect the World Trade Organization (WTO), because its functioning and decisions affect many human rights. This *Practical Guide* seeks to enable human rights advocates to be effective in their work relating to international trade, by describing how the WTO works, examining some examples where it affects human rights, pointing out ways to find practical information about WTO and other trade rules, and giving pointers for future advocacy work.

How to use the *Practical Guide*

The *Guide* is designed as a practical tool, and can be used

- when designing new work programmes
- for mounting campaigns
- in training programmes
- for general information on the WTO.

Readers are encouraged to use and reproduce the Guide's texts, on condition that the source is acknowledged. The material can also be adapted to your local situation.

Although a slight emphasis is put on examples from Asian countries, the Guide is relevant to groups working in any country or region.

What you will find in the *Practical Guide*

The Guide sticks to practical examples and avoids the more theoretical – albeit fascinating and important – points of discussion about human rights and the WTO.

The first two chapters describe the main features of WTO structure and mechanisms. Chapter 3 outlines the principles determining how the organization functions and explains the current international atmosphere in which it operates.

The next three chapters present issues of particular interest to human rights advocates:

- intellectual property and access to medicines
- privatization, liberalization and access to basic services
- agriculture and livelihoods.

Each of these chapters concludes with practical information on actions to take, useful contacts and further reading on the subject.

Much of the reasoning in these three chapters also applies to other questions: how intellectual property rules can affect availability of seeds, the right to food, and pose a threat to the traditional knowledge; the rights of indigenous peoples; and many other issues.

Chapter 7 highlights avenues of action open to activists wishing to improve human rights protection in trade policy, including international trade negotiations.

The last Chapter indicates organizations and literature useful for finding out more about these issues and others not covered in the Guide. Visiting the websites or reading the publications referred to is one starting point for human rights advocates wishing to undertake work on the broader factors underlying human rights-inconsistent trade liberalization.

Finally, Annex 1 explains some WTO jargon terms and the second Annex lists the Members and applicant-countries to the WTO.

Other international trade actors affecting human rights

There are three related issues that a complete analysis of the WTO and its impact on human rights cannot ignore:

- the role of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank as well as the International Monetary Fund in promoting a type of liberalization that is inconsistent with human rights
- the increasing trend towards bilateral and regional trade agreements, whose processes are often more secretive and outcomes more inequitable than those of the WTO, and thus raise serious and pressing human rights concerns
- last but not least, the role of the internationally-organized private sector, which tends to be the main beneficiary of trade liberalization, and is often behind the push to undertake further liberalization whether in the WTO context or through bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Whilst this Guide focuses on the WTO, many of the approaches it suggests are equally valid for bilateral or regional trade-related negotiations.

Although the *Practical Guide* does not explicitly cover these three important parts of the trade liberalization story, much of the analysis proposed and actions suggested also apply to these other actors. In addition, many of the organizations and information resources that the *Practical Guide* refers to also address the role of the multilateral development banks and the International Monetary Fund, regional and bilateral trade agreements, and the private sector.

WTO and NGOs: to engage or not to engage

Some groups who are against trade liberalization are also against the WTO and choose therefore not to engage with the organization and its processes. Most of the suggestions put forward in this Guide imply engaging with the organization. Others, particularly some of the human rights actions suggested in Chapter 7, do not imply engaging with the WTO, and may be of interest to those who do not wish to engage but nevertheless want to raise human rights concerns posed by trade liberalization.

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