

Trade, Environment, and the Millennium

A Note to the Reader from UNU/IAS

Trade, Environment, and the Millennium reflects the core mission of the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS). In April 1996, the UN Secretary-General inaugurated the UNU/IAS as an in-house community of scholars, established to vigorously pursue knowledge at the intersection between societal and natural systems. The programmatic theme of the IAS was created to be dynamic and flexible, focusing on finding creative solutions to the pressing global issues arising at this nexus. As an overarching theme, the IAS adopted the concept of *Eco-restructuring*, an approach to sustainable development that envisions shifting technological and societal systems towards a greater equity between developing and developed countries, between human-kind and the environment, and between current and future generations. An integral component of the IAS Eco-restructuring dynamic involves the examination of global institutions, regimes, values, and policies relating to sustainable development. These issues are dealt with under the programmatic sub-theme of *Environmental Governance and Multilateralism*. Within this programme, in-depth theoretical research is combined with relevant policy studies and the formulation of practical policy options. A strong capacity-building component that seeks to enhance the participation of policy actors in global environmental negotiations has also been built into the programme.

This book has been put together within the framework of the Environmental Governance and Multilateralism Programme. The IAS has strategically focused upon trade and environment in the belief that this will constitute a crucial aspect of environmental policy as we enter the new millennium. The debate is synonymous with the complex tensions that exist between current societal structures that emphasize increased economic growth and prosperity, with the need to ensure that we do not degrade the environment beyond its restorative capacity, or deny its natural resources to future generations. The next round of trade negotiations could provide an opportunity to reconcile these seemingly mutually exclusive imperatives. A sustainable consensus, however, must be based on globally accepted principles such as common, but differentiated responsibility, the polluter pays principle, and the precautionary principle. It must also be recognized that the industrialization models of this century are not viable in the long term and that a more sustainable model of development must be sought.

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ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BAT	best available technology
BTA	border tax adjustment
CAA	Clean Air Act (USA)
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (EU)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFCs	chlorofluorocarbons
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CPC	Central Product Classification (UN)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CTBT	Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment
CWA	Clean Water Act (USA)
DPG	domestically prohibited good
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding
EC	European Communities
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMIT Group	Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (USA)
EST	environmentally sound technology
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GMO	genetically modified organism
ICJ	International Court of Justice

IGO	intergovernmental organization
IPOA	International Plan of Action (FAO)
IPRs	intellectual property rights
ISO	International Standards Organization
ITO	International Trade Organization
LCA	life-cycle analysis
MAI	Multilateral Agreement on Investment
MEA	multilateral environmental agreement
MFN	most-favoured nation
MRA	mutual recognition agreement
MTS	multilateral trading system
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	non-governmental organization
NPR-PPMs	non-product-related processes and production methods
ODS	ozone-depleting substances
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIC	prior informed consent
PPMs	processes and production methods
PVP	Plant Variety Protection
S&D	special and differential (treatment)
SCTE	Sub-Committee on Trade and Environment
SMEs	small and medium enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TRIPS	Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UPOV	Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
WEO	World Environmental Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature