

THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Communication from the Secretariat of the UN  
Framework Convention on Climate Change

The following statement, addressed to the Chairman of the CTE, has been received from the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As it will not be possible for the Secretariat of the Convention to participate at the CTE meeting on 22 September, the Executive Secretary of the Convention has requested that this statement be circulated to delegations.

1. We thank you for the opportunity provided to us to share information with the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in the discussion on recent trade-related developments in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), within the context of the linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas.
2. The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994, and the Convention has been ratified by 168 Parties. The Conference of the Parties, as the supreme body of the Convention, is assisted in the implementation of the convention by two permanent committees, namely, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and by the Secretariat. There are also two *ad hoc* committees which have been established to conduct negotiations: on the establishment and design of a multilateral consultative process for the resolution of questions regarding the implementation, and, on a Protocol or another legal instrument to strengthen the commitments under the Convention. The latter negotiations are to be concluded at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, at Kyoto in December 1997.
3. The Convention, in its Article 3.5, addresses the relations with the trade regime. This Article states:

"The Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties, thus enabling them better to address the problems of climate change. Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade."
4. The Convention has no trade-related environmental measures. The nature and scope of any Protocol or another legal instrument, and the subsequent implementation of the measures enacted, would determine whether any potential trade-related developments or trade issues would arise. Speculation on the outcome in the middle of negotiations would be premature.
5. The Secretariat of the UNFCCC is happy to cooperate with the Secretariat of the WTO, and is looking forward to continue sharing information and expertise on matters of common interest.