



SUMMARY

Advancing LDCs Interests in the WTO Strengthening Participation, Securing Priorities

Proposed by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)

INTRODUCTION

There is a general consensus among both experts and development practitioners that an open, rule-based trading regime benefits developing economies. The World Trade Organization (WTO) plays an important role in setting the rules that guide and inform international trade. Yet dedicated evidence-based analysis on issues of interests to the least developed countries (LDCs) in the context of WTO negotiations continue to remain under-researched, despite the increasing importance of trade for the economies of the LDCs.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Bangladesh in collaboration with the Asian Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) in Nepal, will conduct this 2 year-project to strengthen the participation of LDCs in the multilateral trading system of the WTO. This will include producing evidence-based policy recommendations in trade-related areas, stimulating knowledge-sharing in trade issues, capacity-building of relevant actors, and effective outreach to promote and secure the trade interests of LDCs.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

This study will involve a desk-based analysis, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and data analysis through trade and econometric models. Capacity-building concerning trade-related issues will be done through the organisation of a training programme for government officials as well as non-state actors. Communication of outputs will be done through a variety of means including the preparation of popular articles, TV shows, policy briefs, and blogs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

This study aims to enhance the economic and social development prospects of LDCs through their strengthened participation in international trade through the WTO. This study aims to inform policy-making in trade related areas in the context of WTO negotiations, and to inform trade discourse in media and international fora. The project further hopes to enhance the knowledge of stakeholders and the capacity of government officials and non-state actors on trade-related issues.