

Dialogue on Trade Policy nexus with Climate Change and Sustainable Development Developments for the Asia Pacific Region

Working Group session 1A and 1B: Trade in Environmental Goods and Services

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The fight against climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the international community today. What role can trade play to address this challenge? Trade Liberalisation of Environmental (ie. climate friendly) Goods and Services (in the presence of appropriate regulatory framework) can and should support efforts to fight climate change, by facilitating the availability and diffusion of the relevant goods, services and technologies. This would complement the objectives of the UNFCCC process.

The *win-win-win* relationship between trade liberalization, environmental protection and sustainable development is generally accepted, including by Trade Ministers in the WTO context. The Doha impasse however frustrates WTO efforts to liberalize EGS.

- *While WTO Members seek to break the deadlock in the overall round, what other alternative option/s can we explore in the interim? What about a “standstill”, ie. Members undertaking to maintain current level of openness in trade in EGS? Can the “standstill” be pursued parallelly in both the APEC and the WTO?*
- *Is trade liberalization/”standstill” sufficient to ensure effective access for EGS exports? Wouldn’t domestic regulations (eg. burdensome/trade-restrictive licensing/qualification requirements & procedures) have the effect and potential to impede access for EGS exports? If so, what can we do to address this?*
- *Isn’t there a role for a set of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) for EGS, to facilitate access for EGS exports as well as serve as a useful “good practices” guide for regulators in their day-to-day regulatory activities?*
- *What role can APEC play? Given its experience and expertise, and making use of other related materials (eg. WTO’s draft DR disciplines), is not APEC well placed to serve as a pathfinder to develop a set of GRP for EGS?*
- *An useful complementary contribution towards climate change efforts, can we agree that it would be good if APEC can aim to adopt a set of GRP for EGS before the Copenhagen meeting in December 2009?*

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(18 Feb 2009)