



**Droits et Démocratie  
Rights & Democracy**

Centre international des droits de la personne et du développement démocratique  
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development



CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY  
ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE

**in collaboration with Amnesty International Canada, Institute for Agriculture and  
Trade Policy, The North-South Institute and Social Watch**

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

***Reconciling Trade and Human Rights: The New Development Agenda***

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*A unique opportunity to explore the ways in which a human rights framework  
can inform new strategies for trade, development and the eradication of poverty*

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### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

May 28 and 29, 2007  
Ottawa

**CCIC AND RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY**  
***Reconciling Human Rights and Trade: The New Development Agenda***

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***Background***

The repeated collapses and re-starts of the WTO Doha Development Agenda underscore a crisis in the legitimacy of the international trade regime. The commitment by governments to put development at the centre of global trade negotiations has been abandoned. Fundamental differences of vision have emerged among governments and citizens around the world about the basic purposes of international trade, and the conditions under which it would serve the WTO's objectives of full employment, growing real income and sustainable development.

For civil society organizations (CSOs) active on trade and the global economy, the Doha negotiations have proven to be a unifying force, cementing a campaign for economic rights and social justice despite various differences in strategy. The struggle goes far beyond the minutiae of tariff formulas, to demands for democratic accountability and good governance both within the multilateral system and within governments' national economic policies. Central to these demands is the protection of human rights, their pre-eminence in relation to other government obligations, and the place of human rights within the corpus of international law.

The dysfunction in the WTO offers a unique opportunity for both governments and civil society to propose new approaches to building a more just international trading system – approaches that may better encompass the needs of developing countries while also respecting the interests of developed countries and government obligations to human rights. Building on the lessons of previous campaigns around global economic issues, CCIC and Rights & Democracy will co-host a two-day international conference in Ottawa in May 2007 to explore the ways in which the human rights framework could inform new strategies for trade, development and the eradication of poverty in today's world.

***Objectives***

- To deepen overall knowledge and dialogue among CSOs on the use of the human rights framework for advocacy on trade and other global economic justice issues.
  - To explore the tensions and opportunities of using a human rights framework in specific areas of global economic justice work.
  - To generate lessons and an overview of strategic entry points in the current global context for continued work on trade, investment and other economic issues using a human rights framework.
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## ***Key Issues***

- Why apply a human rights framework to trade? Tensions and opportunities.
- Overview of the relationship between trade law and human rights law.
- The place of the trade regime in global governance; putting multilateralism at work for human rights.
- Ensuring policy coherence at the national level; proposals, experiences and lessons.
- Power relations and resources in decision-making.
- The nature of state obligations and the related obligations of the private sector.
- Application of a human rights framework to specific trade and investment issues flowing from WTO agreements as well as bilaterals/economic partnership agreements (EPAs): lessons, future strategies, and alternatives.
- Conclusions about strategic entry points for future advocacy.

*Interpretation in English and French will be provided.*

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<b>DAY ONE</b> <i>Monday, May 28, 2007</i>	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY MAKING</b>
08:00 – 09:00	<b>Breakfast and Registration</b>
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Welcome</b> CCIC and Rights & Democracy
09:30 – 10:30	<b>Opening Address</b> Keynote Speaker: Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network <b>Discussion</b>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Break</b>
10:45 – 12:30	<b>Panel 1: Protecting Human Rights in the Global Economy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widney Brown, Amnesty International. <i>The nature of state obligations and related obligations of the private sector.</i></li> <li>• Peter Prove, Lutheran World Federation. <i>Human rights and the WTO: Challenge and Response. The problem posed by the WTO and how the UN's human rights system has addressed the issue of trade and development.</i></li> <li>• James Harrison, University of Nottingham. <i>Envisioning a multilateral system that prioritizes human rights. Bold proposals and strategic openings.</i></li> </ul> <b>Discussion</b>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:45	<b>Panel 2: Ensuring Policy Consistency at the National Level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iara Pietricovsky, Institute for Socio-economic Studies (INESC), Brazil for Social Watch (TBC); Saneh Chamarik, National Human Rights Commission, Thailand (TBC); <i>View from the South: tensions in addressing HR obligations and building a development agenda at the national level.</i></li> <li>• Government of Canada (TBC) <i>View from the North: accountability to HR obligations in policy formulation process and the challenge of extra-territorial obligations.</i></li> <li>• Valerie Traore, ACORD, Kenya. <i>Bilateral trade agreements/EPAs and the issue of power in bilateral relations.</i></li> </ul> <b>Discussion</b>
15:45 – 16:00	<b>Break</b>
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Closing Notes by Chair. Review of Process for DAY TWO Workshops.</b>

<b>DAY TWO</b> <i>Tuesday, May 29, 2007</i>	<b>USING THE HR FRAMEWORK TO REFOCUS KEY TRADE ISSUES</b>
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Plenary Session: Human Rights Principles for International Trade</b> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Olivier De Schutter, Secretary General, FIDH How would the application of human rights principles - indivisibility, universality, access to remedies and non-discrimination - change the way that trade policy is determined and the way in which civil society formulates its advocacy messages?
10:00 – 12:00	<b>Simultaneous Workshops: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</b> Each workshop will include two short presentations - one from a developing country and one from a developed country. Exact workshops to be determined. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Right to Food and Trade</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Right to Health and Trade</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Labour Rights and Trade</i></li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Simultaneous Workshops: Civil and Political Rights</b> Each workshop will include two short presentations - one from a developing country and one from a developed country. Exact workshops to be determined. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>Right to Participation and Right to Information</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Right to Security of the Person and Export Controls</i></li> <li>▶ <i>Access to Judicial Recourse</i></li> </ul>
15:00	<b>Break</b>
15:30 – 16:30	<b>Conclusion: Lessons for Future Strategies.</b>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Conference Closing – R&amp;D and CCIC</b>