

You are cordially invited by the Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) network to the following event:

Protecting the Development Mandate in Agriculture and Fisheries-Subsidies negotiations in MC11

WTO MC11 Event

Tuesday, December 12, 10:15 – 11.45am

CCK Centre Room 404, Sarmiento 151, Buenos Aires

(5 minute walk from the Hilton)

As the 11th Ministerial of the World Trade Organisation takes place between 10 -13th December in Buenos Aires, the struggle to get development-friendly outcomes on mandated issues such as agriculture and fisheries subsidies continues. Agricultural negotiations, close to the heart of developing and least developed countries, are going back and forth on key issues such as disciplining of domestic subsidies, getting the mandated permanent solution on public food stockholding and the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) without any real progress. The fisheries negotiations, on the other hand, are moving fast and look to be perhaps the only area where an outcome may be possible but how to protect small fisherfolk and retain policy space for pursuing sustainable fishing in developing and least developed countries has been a major area of challenge.

The question is how developing and least-developed countries' interests are protected in these negotiations as both these sectors are not only major economic activities for them, but are intrinsic to the social, environmental and cultural existence of their people. The recent negotiations reveal the risk of special and differential treatment being turned upside down. This event will discuss some of these key issues on the table and in particular explore why and how the development mandate needs to be protected and implemented.

Speakers (tbc):

Aileen Kwa, South Centre, Geneva

Abhijit Das, Centre for WTO Studies, India

Timothy Wise, Tufts University, USA

Sachin Jain, Right to Food Campaign, India

Sylvester Bagooro, TWN Africa - Ghana

Mukesh Bhatnagar, Centre for WTO Studies, India

Adam Wolfenden, Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG)

Moderated by: Ranja Sengupta, Third World Network-India