



**Workshop on the Implications of NAMA & GATS for Development and  
Decent Work,  
27 – 29 September 2006, Geneva**

*Jointly organized by the  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and  
Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) Geneva Office  
supported by  
GURN and Solidar*

**Background:**

The negotiation issues of Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) which will be dealt with in this workshop are crucial for both the employment situation and development strategies of developing countries. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of trade unions on these issues as well as to enable trade unions to find more effective approaches and patterns of interaction with their governments.

In the case of NAMA, the proposals currently on the table would have a serious impact on employment in developing countries, increasing already high unemployment and encouraging further competition in low-cost production sectors with extremely poor working conditions. Furthermore, the NAMA proposal would affect future industrial development by reducing substantially the already limited policy space for governments. Given the important effects of an agreement on NAMA, it is important for trade unionists to understand the significance of these negotiations and proposals, to assess what is at stake for their countries and for workers, and to develop adequate strategies on how to promote and influence a beneficial outcome from the negotiations.

In the case of GATS, current commitments would limit severely the regulatory capacity of governments in many services areas, which requires trade unions to look into the possible impacts such commitments would have on access to services, quality of services and working conditions in services. Moreover, the proposals around the regulatory framework for trade in services have to be understood and assessed. Trade unions need to identify issues in their countries that must be addressed in order to ensure services liberalization that supports development.

**Venue:** International Labour Organization (room VI)

**Language:**

English (simultaneous translation into Spanish and French might be possible)

**Objectives:**

- to provide background information on the technical issues of NAMA and GATS, including the state of play of the current negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and the issues at stake for workers;
- to exchange research results on NAMA, identify research gaps and find possibilities for joint or coordinated research;
- to discuss together with delegates what is at stake in the NAMA and GATS negotiations, the concerns of trade unions, and how these concerns could be addressed;
- to reflect on the impact of trade on decent work, including fundamental workers' rights, ways to address these impacts, and strategies for convincing governments to take action at national, regional and international levels;
- to reflect on industrial development and on options for industrial policy in a globalized world (constrained by WTO rules), and identify adequate approaches for trade unions; and
- to develop campaigns, actions and lobby work.

**Organizers:****International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)**

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is a confederation of national trade union centres and represents 155 million workers in 241 affiliated organizations in 156 countries and territories. The ICFTU priority areas include employment and international labour standards, multinationals, trade union rights, equality, women, discrimination, migrants, and trade union organisation and recruitment.

*Contact:*

Esther Busser

ICFTU Geneva Office

46 Avenue Blanc

Tel.: 0041 (0) 22 738 4202

Fax.: 0041 (0) 22 738 1082

E-mail: [esther.busser@geneva.icftu.org](mailto:esther.busser@geneva.icftu.org)

[www.icftu.org](http://www.icftu.org)

**Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) Geneva Office**

The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation is a German Political Foundation, non-profit organization and largely public funded. FES strives to promote political participation, social justice and international understanding. The FES Geneva Office works on trade and development, international labour issues and human rights, conducting policy analysis, research and capacity building measures.

*Contact:*

Steffen Grammling

Program Officer (Trade and Development)

6 bis Chemin du Point-du-Jour

1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel.: 0041 (0) 22 733 3450

Fax: 0041 (0) 22 733 3545

E-mail: [fes.geneva@econophone.ch](mailto:fes.geneva@econophone.ch)

[www.fes-geneva.org](http://www.fes-geneva.org)