

CALL FOR PAPERS

UNU-CRIS AND UNU-WIDER INTERNATIONAL-WORKSHOP ON

SOUTH-SOUTH AND NORTH-SOUTH TRADE AGREEMENTS: COMPATIBILITY ISSUES

In collaboration with:
ACP Secretariat,
Egmont Institute (Central Africa Programme),
FWO-WOG Globalisation, Regionalisation and Socio-Economic Inequality

Bruges, Belgium
5-6 November 2009

South-South reciprocal trade agreements continue to surge in popularity despite arguments that they are a sub-optimal trade choice relative to North-South agreements or non-discriminatory trade liberalization. S-S agreements include both new agreements as well as efforts to revive or re-design 'old' integration schemes by widening their scope and 'deepening' the integration processes. At the same time, Northern countries and regional arrangements, most notably the EU, are seeking to form trade agreements between themselves and existing South-South blocks or individual countries.

The development implications of forming S-S and N-S agreements are not yet fully understood. In addition, the legal implications of the co-existence of both types of agreements are unclear, both from a WTO and regional perspective. Within the context of a broader concern about the development potential of S-S agreements, the analytical emphasis of this workshop will be on compatibility issues of N-S and S-S agreements, both from a theoretical and an empirical perspective.

The research questions that will be addressed during the workshop include, but are not limited to:

- Are S-S and N-S agreements driven by similar or different economic and/or political logics?
- Are S-S and N-S trade negotiations linked to other agendas (Doha Round, foreign investment, political alliance building, security issues, energy, climate, etc)?
- Do N-S agreements obstruct or encourage the 'deepening' of S-S economic integration?
- How should WTO rules on PTAs be adjusted?

- What is the role and impact of European policies to support S-S integration in ACP regions and elsewhere?
- What are the implications of the existence of overlapping S-S integration schemes for N-S negotiations?
- Have South-South treaties successfully increased bargaining positions in the EPA negotiations, other N-S negotiation processes, and the WTO?
- How are legal incompatibilities between the regulatory contents of N-S and S-S agreements solved in practise?
- Do S-S agreements prepare firms for global (N-S) competition? (micro-evidence)

This workshop is part of a larger collaborative project between UNU-CRIS and UNU-WIDER on "South-South Regional Integration, Economic Partnerships and Development," and UNU-WIDER's project on South-South Development Cooperation. For further information on this workshop, please visit: http://www.wider.unu.edu/events/project-meetings/2009-project-meetings/en_GB/south-south/

Selected papers will be published.

Submission

The workshop is intended primarily for researchers and policymakers from the academic, government, and development communities. Advanced PhD students in economics or other social science disciplines may attend, but the workshop is not suitable for undergraduates or Master's Degree students.

Those interested in presenting a paper at this workshop are invited to submit an extended abstract or draft version of their full paper (preferred) together with a CV, to northsouth@cris.unu.edu. The deadline for submissions is **01 September 2009**. In the case of accepted abstracts, full papers will be required by **01 October 2009**.

Funding

There is no registration fee. Subject to UN procedures, travel expenses will also be covered for some participants, with preference given to those from developing countries.

Conference language

The official language for the workshop is English (simultaneous translation will not be available).

