

Canadian Group
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Groupe canadien
Union interparlementaire

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Parliamentary Panel within the Framework of the WTO
Public Forum 2007**

Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**Geneva, Switzerland
4 October 2007**

Report

Parliamentary Panel within the Framework of the WTO Public Forum 2007¹

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

1. Background

Over recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has established a tradition of holding annual public events where participants from government, parliament, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media jointly reflect upon the functioning of the multilateral trading system and analyse the institutional state of the WTO. The Inter-Parliamentary Union has been associated with WTO public forums on a number of occasions, having organized parliamentary events within their overall programme.

2. Programme for the Parliamentary Panel

WTO Public Forum 2007 was held on WTO premises in Geneva on 4 and 5 October, under the overall theme How Can the WTO Help Harness Globalization?² As part of the Forum's overall programme, the IPU and the European Parliament organized a Parliamentary Panel entitled:

Trade and climate change: Is trade killing our planet?

3. The Canadian Delegation

Members of national parliaments, WTO members, as well as representatives of civil society organizations took part Parliamentary Panel. The following Canadian parliamentarians attended:

- The Honourable Donald H. Oliver, Q.C., Senator
- Mr. Ted Menzies, M.P, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation and the Minister of International Trade

4. The Panel

The Panel examined from a parliamentary perspective the varied effects of trade liberalization on the environment, with a special focus on the nexus between seaborne trade and climate change. It was moderated by Mr. Patrick Baert, journalist, Agence France Presse and included the following panellists:

- Ms. Ivonne A-Baki, member of the Andean Parliament, former Minister of Commerce of Ecuador
- Mr. Javier Moreno Sánchez, Member of the European Parliament (Spain)
- Mr. Shakeel Mohamed, MP (Mauritius)

¹ Source for several portions of this report: <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wto-symp07.htm>

² The full programme for the Forum included more than 40 events.

See: http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum2007_e/public_forum07_e.htm.

- Mr. Awni Behnam, President, International Ocean Institute

The panellists noted that over a relatively short period of time, the subject of global warming and climate change has ceased to be the exclusive domain of scientists and environmental activists, and has worked its way onto the political agendas of governments, parliaments and international organizations. In most countries, parliaments have a constitutional responsibility to review policy options, oversee government action and draw up the necessary legislation and budgets. Therefore, they bear their own share of responsibility for action with regard to global warming.

All told, the Parliamentary Panel provided those in attendance a unique opportunity to debate with interested parties how the WTO can best contribute to the management of globalization.

5. The Next Parliamentary Session on the WTO

The IPU has offered to host the next parliamentary session on the WTO in Geneva at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) on 11 and 12 September 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Donald H. Oliver, Q.C., Senator
President, Canadian Group IPU

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
ACTIVITY	Parliamentary Panel within the Framework of the WTO Public Forum 2007
DESTINATION	Geneva, Switzerland
DATES	4 October, 2007
DELEGATION	
SENATE	The Hon. Donald H. Oliver, Q.C.
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Ted Menzies, M.P.
STAFF	
TRANSPORTATION	\$4,052.26
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 915.46
HOSPITALITY	
PER DIEMS	\$ 485.74
OFFICIAL GIFTS	
MISCELLANEOUS	
TOTAL	\$5,453.46