



Process and Diagnostics

Overview

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Motivations

- Implications of WTO stasis for developing countries
- In light of developed country moves to bypass the WTO
- Particularly mega-regional PTAs
- But also plurilateral negotiations

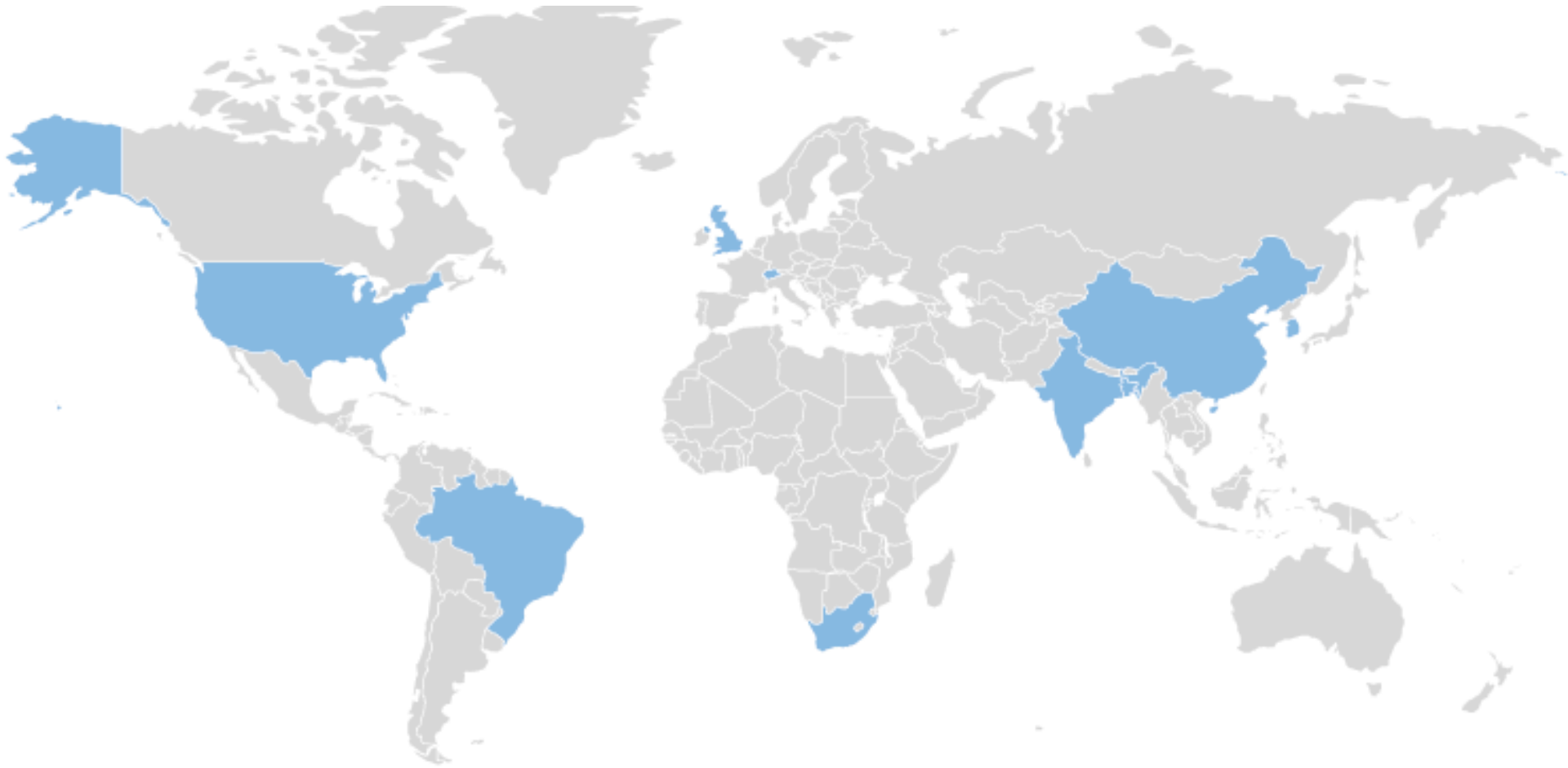
Process

- Initiated by the Cordell Hull Institute in Washington
- Coordinated by the South African Institute of International Affairs
- In partnership with an advisory group comprising:
 - The FGV in Brazil
 - ICRIER in India
 - CPD in Bangladesh
 - CID and UIBE in China
 - KIEP in Korea
 - Professor Bernard Hoekman (EUI in Italy)

Process

- Dialogues conducted in each country
 - January 2014 to April 2015
- Two consultations in Geneva and Hong Kong
- Final events in Geneva, Brussels, London, and Washington

Partner think-tanks and events coverage



Diagnosis

- Power shift and leadership transition
 - The interregnum
 - Lack of business interest
- Widely divergent interests
 - North-south on some
 - Others cross old boundary lines
 - Resulting in a bewildering array of alliances
- Decision-making processes inhibit resolution
 - Single undertaking
 - Consensus
- The world has changed since Doha began
 - GVCs

Responses

- New architecture of trade negotiations
 - Mega-regionals
 - Plurilaterals
- Implications for outsiders
 - Diversion?
 - Higher standards
 - No say in new rules
- WTO response: the Bali deal
 - TFA as a new template?
 - Consensus on need for LDC package
 - But how to cater for needs of LDCs going forward?

Prescriptions

- GVCs
 - Policy implications? Divergent views
- Therefore Plurilaterals?
 - GVC 'package' (TFA; services; IPR; investment; finance; limited market access package for goods; ?)
 - But given political economy obstacles, how to launch this?
 - How to construct plurilaterals for rules?
 - Could the TFA be a template?
 - Developing country concerns: exclusion and imposition
 - Negotiate a 'code of conduct' to govern plurilateral negotiations
 - Special arrangements for LDCs?
- Given the unique problems of agriculture, a plurilateral?

Project materials

- Content relating to all the dialogues can be found at:

<http://www.saiia.org.za/news/new-project-restoring-multilateral-trade-co-operation>

- The final stage, to be shortly concluded, is development of a brief set of recommendations
- Sign up to the email alerts to receive notification