

govern traffic at these intersections remain to be clearly set out—are we talking about an overpass, an underpass, a four-way stop or a two-way stop? While public support for trade is broad (this is the case in Canada but also elsewhere), so is concern about how these intersections are regulated.

Resolving the interaction between the WTO agreements and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is one important task that will be undertaken in the Doha Round.²⁵ However, for environmentalists, this is but the tip of a much larger iceberg of issues that remain to be adequately addressed.²⁶ And, in the view of some, the attitudes of environmentalists are hardening.

On trade and labour, the International Labour Organization has been pushed to increase its profile on international labour issues in order to relieve the pressure on the WTO. While trade and labour issues thus had little profile at Doha, it was suggested at the conference that the position of labour is also hardening.

²⁵ MEAs are agreements between states which set out principles which parties are to respect when considering actions which affect a particular environmental issue (“soft law”) or which specify legally-binding actions to be taken to work toward an environmental objective (“hard law”). The major MEAs are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Some of the important “soft law” agreements include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, and the Forest Principles.

²⁶ These include the larger questions concerning the environment and the economy such as failure to account for resource depletion in measures of economic output, the validity in broader public policy terms of economic theories that underpin trade (e.g., comparative advantage), and the issue of regulation of transnational corporations. This set of issues will get a hearing at the Rio-plus-ten meetings in Johannesburg, the third major leg of the 2002 global governance tour from Doha to Kananaskis to Johannesburg.