

The effects of TRIPS in this area for most developing countries will be a sharp rise in the price of such materials; few are parties to the Berne Agreement and unauthorized copying is commonplace. In terms of sustainable development this means more restricted access to software, databases, and other information-based tools used by industry and academia, which is worrying.

Of course, as with the case of patent strengthening, the impacts will vary depending on the degree of development of the domestic industry. Some countries, such as India, have a fairly high level of competence in software development and programming, and strengthened IPR systems may help foster a stronger domestic industry. It may also stimulate more foreign direct investment or joint ventures based on that domestic capacity, since foreign investors will feel secure that the intellectual property they bring with them will be somewhat protected.

The effects of strengthening IPR systems for such cultural products as music and motion pictures will again be price increases. Some would argue that the restrictions this would put on the flow of Hollywood products to developing countries would actually be beneficial in terms of sustainable development, and this author would be hard pressed to disagree.

5. Policy Recommendations

The United States, when negotiating trade policy, sets to work an enormous team of legal and industry experts who comb over the various drafts looking for or suggesting language which could be used to the advantage of their country's industries. They similarly look for such opportunities in Agreements which have already been signed, and by way of applying generous amounts of both intellect and imagination, produce interpretations which are beneficial to the U.S. economy.

This model has much to recommend it, if it is to be judged by its ultimate success, and the policy recommendations made here follow such a path, exploring every possible way in which the language of the TRIPS Agreement could be turned to the advantage of developing countries such as Pakistan. Straying somewhat from the U.S. model, which is quintessentially unilateral, it is here recommended that the measures suggested below be pursued in concert with as many like-minded countries as possible; in international trade policy, there is strength in numbers.

5.1 Agriculture:

Seven policy recommendations suggest themselves, following on the analysis presented above in the area of agriculture: