

setting.<sup>11</sup> Many of these countries are less interested in “putting development into trade” (which is code language for relaxing WTO implementation requirements for developing countries), and would prefer to take at face value the rhetoric of “putting trade into development”, which means more trade through significantly improved market access. Can the industrialized countries deliver?

Finally, there is a large unknown due to the entry into the WTO of China in late 2001. As one of the world’s largest trading nations, with interests that to some extent coincide with more general developing country interests (although in some ways not), and with geopolitical clout unmatched elsewhere outside the OECD, China’s role in the conduct of the Doha Round remains unclear but potentially of high significance.

### *TRIPS*

In many ways, the pitched intellectual battle that rages about the TRIPS Agreement is at the heart of the debate about global governance more generally in terms of (a) the intrusiveness of international rules into domestic policy space, (b) the pressure for international harmonization, and (c) the implications for democratic processes when rules with domestic distributional consequences are adopted on the basis of, or shaped by, international agreements. It is therefore useful to focus on this particular issue in somewhat greater detail.

There are several general features of the TRIPS Agreement that have put it in the line of fire in terms of governance:

First, the economic literature shows that patent protection as a means of eliciting research is not unambiguously an optimal

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<sup>11</sup> Moreover, there is now a flood of advice on offer to developing countries from non-official sources (some civil society organizations have been described as constituting a “virtual secretariat” for developing countries) as well as from the official agencies. While some would question how effective or even desired is the support proffered by civil society organizations, others see such organizations as providing analytical support that strengthens the ability of the developing countries to choose effective strategies and to maximize their negotiating leverage.