

A Globalization Glossary

Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty In December 2001, the US delivered a six month notice to Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine of its decision to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) and the CTBT in order to proceed with plans to deploy missile defenses. The Duma (Russia's lower house of parliament) described the US move as "mistaken and destabilizing" and stated that it could create "real conditions for a new round of the arms race." The US already tests Ballistic Missiles, which it argues do not violate the terms of the treaty.

AECL (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) Canadian government-owned corporation that sells nuclear power reactors, research reactors, and spent fuel storage systems.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) An economic organization of Pacific Rim countries that discuss political and economic policy cooperation and trade.

Bilateral agreement Direct nation-to-nation agreement, often related to economic or technical assistance (as opposed to multilateral agreement, which involves more than two countries/parties).

BOP (balance of payments) The total of all international transactions undertaken by a country during a given time. Sales to foreigners are recorded as credits while purchases of goods, services or assets are recorded as debits.

BWIs (Bretton Woods Institutions) The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, named for the town in New Hampshire where world leaders met in 1944 to map out a strategy for the post-WWII economy. GATT is also sometimes referred to as a BWI.

Capital Controls measures enacted to control foreign exchange transactions in order to manage capital flows.

Climate change (greenhouse effect) The increasing mean global surface temperature of the Earth caused by gases in the atmosphere (including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, and chlorofluorocarbons). The greenhouse effect allows solar radiation to penetrate the Earth's atmosphere but absorbs the infrared radiation returning to space.

Conflict diamonds or "blood diamonds" Terms which have been applied to diamonds which have been trafficked illegally and play a role in financing exceptionally brutal wars across Africa, such as in Angola and Sierra Leone. Consumers in G8 countries are the bulk of the global market for diamonds.

CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty) For over four decades, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has been viewed as a critical step to achieving nuclear disarmament. The CTBT "bans all explosive tests that lead to a nuclear chain reaction." Negotiated in Geneva by the Conference on Disarmament, the CTBT was opened for signatures in September 1996. It currently has 165 signatory states, and 89 of those have ratified the treaty. There are 44 countries with nuclear reactors that are considered capable of producing nuclear weapons and are required to sign and ratify the CTBT in order for it to enter into force. As of November 2001, 31 nations had ratified it. Most recently, the Bush Administration has announced its intention to not ratify the agreement and pursue its National Missile Defense (NMD) system and Theatre Missile Defense in East Asia, prompting fears of a new accelerated arms race on Earth and in space. India, Israel and Pakistan have not yet even signed the CTBT.

Doha Ministerial Meeting The November, 2001 meeting of the WTO which was held in the Middle East sheikdom of Qatar after protests in Seattle in 1999 shut down the WTO meeting. Negotiation tactics by northern governments at the meeting have been criticized by NGOs and southern governments.

DOT Force (Digital Opportunity Task Force) A task force of the G8 created in Okinawa in 2000 to look at the issue of the "digital divide" in international development.

EHIPC (the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative) Launched in 1999 by the World Bank and IMF which requires three years of structural adjustment and countries must also develop a poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP).

European Commission The term used after 1993 to refer to the Commission of the European Communities, the executive body that formed out of a merger of three European institutions: the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community, and the European Atomic Energy Community.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) The term for when private companies purchase land, buy or build equipment or buildings in another country. FDI also involves the purchase or take-over of existing operations or businesses.

Export Credit Agencies A state owned or supported export finance organisation which guarantees overseas debtors payment obligations in respect of export credit loans. It may also subsidize the interest payable on such loans.

Free Trade Trade arrangements intended to remove barriers to trade so that companies and individuals can move goods and services across borders without paying tariffs or duties on goods which move from one country to another; acquiring licences or permits to move goods and services across borders; quotas or limitations on the amount of goods and services which can move across borders. Examples are the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and COMESA Free Trade Area (Africa).

G5 A precursor to the G7 which first met in 1973. Made up of the United States, France, Germany, Japan, and Britain.

G7 Made up of the United States, France, Germany, Japan, Britain, Italy, and Canada. First met in 1975.

G8 Made up of the G7 countries plus Russia. First met officially in 1997 in Denver.

G8 Action Programme on Forests An G8 action plan presented at the Birmingham Summit in 1998 which recognizes the need to combat the illegal production and trade of wood and wood products and lays out a series of commitments for G8 countries in forestry.

G20 A group composed of the Finance Ministers and central bankers of the following 20 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The IMF and the World Bank also participate. The G20 was set up to respond to the financial turmoil of 1997-99 through the development of policies that "promote international financial stability".

G77 The Group of 77 is the largest Third World Coalition in the United Nations, and provides the means for the developing world to articulate and promote its collective interests within the UN. The G77 currently has 133 members.

GATS General Agreement on Trade in Services, one of the agreements of the WTO, which covers services, including such things as water delivery, healthcare, banking, and everything you can't drop on your foot.

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, an agreement to regulate trade across national borders formed in 1948. Was expanded into the WTO in 1995 after the completion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations and is now one agreement of the WTO which deals with tariffs and the trade in goods.

GDP (Gross Domestic Product) The total value of the production of goods and services in a nation measured over a year. (This includes production by non-nationals; compare with GNP). GDP is an imperfect measurement of a nation's economy because certain forms of production, especially subsistence production, are not recorded.

Global Health Fund An independent public-private partnership designed to attract, manage and disburse resources to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The fund was unanimously accepted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001.

Globalization (economic globalization) Refers to the increasing economic integration and interdependence of countries. Economic globalization in this century has proceeded along two main lines: trade liberalization (the increased circulation of goods) and financial liberalization (the increased circulation of capital).

Gold standard A financial system where a currency is tradable at a set rate for gold upon demand. This was the case with the world monetary system after WWII, until the US took their dollar off the gold standard in the 1970s.

GNP (Gross National Product) The GDP of a nation together with any money earned from investment abroad, less the income earned within the nation by non-nationals. GNP is an imperfect measurement of a nation's economy because certain forms of production, especially subsistence production, are not recorded.

HIPC (the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative) The HIPC Initiative was launched by the IMF and World Bank in 1996 to maximize 'sustainable' repayments from these countries. The Initiative is open to the poorest countries, those that: (i) are eligible only for highly concessionary assistance such as from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (formerly called Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility); (ii) face an unsustainable debt situation even after the full application of traditional debt relief mechanisms; and (iii) have a proven track record in implementing strategies focused on reducing poverty and building the foundation for sustainable economic growth. See also **EHIPC**.

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) A member of the UN system of organizations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) serves as the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It is the "international inspector" for the application of nuclear safeguards and verification measures covering nuclear energy, weapons and material programs.

IFI (International Financial Institutions) The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Regional Development Banks.

ILO (International Labour Organization) The ILO, a very successful agency of the UN, was founded in 1919. It is tripartite, with representation from national governments, employers and workers – and it has made a steady drive toward a solution of the economic and social problems that confront working people throughout the world.

IMF (International Monetary Fund) The IMF was set up by the western industrialized countries in 1944 to encourage governments to cooperate in monetary policies, stabilize the exchange rate among currencies, and pursue balanced growth in international trade. In actual fact, the IMF acts on behalf of creditors as a bank of last resort. Countries who are unable to make their loan payments have no choice but to ask the IMF for assistance. As a condition of receiving a loan, the countries must make structural adjustments to their economies.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development The original name of the World Bank which was set up to facilitate countries' access to international financial markets. Now the arm of the World Bank group which provides loans and development assistance to middle-income and credit-worthy poor countries.

International Trade Organization (ITO) A specialized agency of the United Nations that was to oversee trade and investment issues in the world. The ITO collapsed in 1947 when wealthy nations instead formed the GATT to deal with trade issues.

Jubilee 2000 An international initiative which called for the cancellation of debt for the least developed countries at the turn of the millennium. The Jubilee campaign continues in many countries around the world.

Kyoto Protocol An international agreement struck by 159 nations attending the Third Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (held in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan) to reduce worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases relative to 1990 levels.

LDC (Least Developed Country) A country with the poorest development indicators; life expectancy, perhaps the most striking indicator, is below 45 years, indicating that the physical quality of life is at a very low ebb. According to a UN classification, it is also a country where manufactured goods account for no more than 10% of GDP. The number of least developed countries grew from 24 in 1971 to 42 in 1989.

MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) An international investment treaty designed to restrict governments from regulating corporate investment, and would have allowed corporations to sue governments directly. It was defeated in 1998 by a global citizens' movement.

1996 Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit After the end of the Cold War, G7 cooperation with Russia culminated in the creation of the G8 (G7 plus Russia) in 1998. The Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit committed Russia to, among other things, promoting treaties and resolutions to encourage "safety in the use of nuclear energy," and discourage the proliferation and production of nuclear weapons. The 1996

Summit also brought Russia into a G8 program for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements International treaties which handle environmental problems which cross national boundaries. There are over 170 MEAs registered with the United Nations.

NAFTA The North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico which came into effect on January 1, 1995. Seeks to reduce expand free trade between the countries and includes Chapter 11, which allows corporations to sue governments directly.

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NEPAD The "New Partnership for African Development," a plan for African economic recovery and sociopolitical reform developed by some African leaders and the G8 in 2001.

NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the most widely accepted international nuclear arms control agreement. The Treaty obligates the five acknowledged nuclear-weapon states (the United States, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, France, and China) not to transfer nuclear weapons, other nuclear explosive devices, or their technology to any non-nuclear-weapon state. Non-nuclear-weapon States parties undertake not to acquire or produce nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. They are required also to accept safeguards to detect diversions of nuclear materials from peaceful activities, such as power generation, to the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This must be done in accordance with an individual safeguards agreement, concluded between each non-nuclear-weapon State Party and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Only Cuba, Israel, India, and Pakistan are not members of the NPT.

NMD (National Missile Defense) Also known as "Star Wars," NMD is a US plan that calls for the US to weaponize space, ostensibly to guard against missile attacks, and to ensure "full-spectrum [military] dominance" on land, sea, air and space. The militarization of space, as proposed by the advocates of NMD, represents a radical departure from established international laws and customs. As an ambassador from China's ministry of foreign affairs has declared, "The US development and possible deployment of NMD poses a serious challenge to the already fragile global strategic balance. Such a move will disrupt the existing strategic equilibrium among major powers, and jeopardize the security interest of other countries. This will undoubtedly arouse suspicion and mistrust among major powers, hampering their coordination and cooperation in international security affairs." Additionally, the NMD's publication, *Vision For 2020*, is clearly a blueprint to implement a "pre-emptive strike" policy, or abandonment of the longstanding principle to use nuclear weapons only if attacked with them.

Neoliberalism An economic ideology that calls for free markets and a minimal role for the government in the economy. Free trade, privatization, cuts in social spending, controls on unions, and structural adjustment are examples of neoliberal policies.

NGO (non-governmental organization) A term which can be broadly applied to organization that is neither government nor business, though it generally refers to those involved in environmental or social issues, whether they have a domestic or international orientation.

NPR (US Nuclear Posture Review) The US Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is a periodically prepared classified document by the US Department of Defense that sets forth US policy on nuclear weapons use. The 2002 NPR provides a blueprint for the changing role of US strategic nuclear forces with as few treaty restrictions as possible, and upholds nuclear weapons as central to US national security policy. The US contingency plans map out the possible use of nuclear weapons against China, Russia, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, Libya and Syria, and plan an expanded role for nuclear weaponry to achieve US military goals. The NPR does not make a formal recommendation to resume nuclear testing; however, it calls on the Department of Energy to accelerate the time it would take to prepare a full scale test, which is currently two years. Linked to NPR is the position of the US Space Command with regard to aggressively arming outer space.

OAU (Organization for African Unity) A political and economic organization of almost all African countries created in 1963. It created the African Economic Union in 1991, and both organizations form the new African Union created in 2001.

ODA (Official Development Assistance) Direct foreign government assistance to other countries. It consists of financial aid and technical cooperation: Financial aid includes grants and concessional loans having a grant element of at least 25 percent. Technical cooperation includes grants to nationals of aid recipient countries receiving education or training, and payments to consultants, advisers, administrators and similar persons serving in the recipient countries.

OPEC (The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) A cartel of the major oil producing nations. Formed in the early 1970s.

OEDC (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) An organization of 30 advanced economies in North America, Europe, and the Pacific region which collects economic data and performs analysis. Attempted to negotiate the MAI.

Pan-Africanism A movement seeking unity within Africa. It came to the scene with the London Pan-African Conference of 1900. An international convention in the USA in 1920 was largely inspired by the Jamaican Marcus Garvey. The Pan-African Congress in Manchester in 1945 was dominated by Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah, and by the 'father of Pan-Africanism', the American W.E.B. Du Bois. In 1963 in Addis Ababa 32 independent African nations founded the Organization of African Unity, by which time Pan-Africanism had moved from being an ideal into practical politics.

Paris Club The Paris Club is an informal group of the finance ministers of the ten wealthiest creditor member States of the IMF (the "Group of Ten"): Belgium, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. They dictate terms collectively to debtor countries.

PRGF (Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility) The new name for the structural adjustment program. Without approval of the PRGF process, debt relief from the IMF, World Bank, and other creditors is halted.

PRSPs (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) National programmes for poverty reduction which are the foundation for lending programmes with the IMF and the World Bank and HIPC debt relief.

Quad (the Quadrilateral) An informal grouping of the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Union, which effectively controls the decisions made at the WTO.

Renewable Energy Task Force A G8 task force established at the 2000 Summit in Okinawa to identify barriers to renewable energy use and recommend actions which G8 governments can take to remove those barriers.

Rio Earth Summit The 1992 United Nations conference on Environment and Development which resulted in the adoption of Agenda 21, a series of commitments on the environment.

SAPs (Structural Adjustment Programs) Free-market policies imposed as a condition for new loans, imposed by the IMF and World Bank. These are often directed towards balancing the government's budget to ensure the repayment of loans, and towards attracting foreign investment. This usually means a decrease in funding to social programs, reducing subsidies and tariffs, and privatization of public sector enterprises.

SAPRIN (Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network) A global network established to expand and legitimize the role of civil society in economic policymaking and to strengthen the organized challenge to structural adjustment programs by citizens around the globe.

Security Council The main organ of the United Nations responsible for global security matters. It has five permanent members-China, France, Russia, the UK, and the United States-plus 10 members which serve two-year terms. The permanent members all hold veto power on decisions.

Subsistence A form of agriculture where almost all the produce goes to feed and support the household and is not for sale. Some of the output may be bartered.

Tariff A list of taxes or customs duties payable on imports or exports. The Customs and Excise issue tariffs stating which goods attract duty and what the rate of duty is.

TMD (Theatre Missile Defense) Rising levels of fear throughout the entire Asia-Pacific region matched the negative response of most of the European countries to the Bush Administration's National Missile Defense (NMD) stance. The introduction of Theatre Missile Defense (TMD), NMD's parallel system based in

the Asia-Pacific region, has exacerbated China's fears, increased tension in the Taiwan Straits, and sabotaged negotiations for reconciliation between North and South Korea, and brought about new complications and problems for Sino-US relations and Russian-US relations.

TRIMS (Trade Related Investment Measures) One of the agreements of the WTO which covers investment rules such as local content rules.

TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) One of the agreements of the WTO which covers intellectual property, including even things such as genes and seeds.

Umbrella Group Comprised of the United States, Canada, Australia, and Russia, who support the inclusion of carbon sinks into the Kyoto Protocol in order to reduce the amount of emissions reductions necessary.

UN (United Nations) An international body of 189 countries formed in 1945 to further international peace and security efforts.

UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS A session held June 25-27, 2001 to address issues of HIV and AIDS. The Global Health Fund received unanimous support at this session.

UN Secretary General The head of the Secretariat of the United Nations. Kofi Annan of Ghana is the seventh Secretary-General of the UN.

UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) Established in 1964 to deal with matters of international trade and development. Very involved in Africa. Some see UNCTAD as a possible alternative to the Bretton Woods institutions to manage global trade and financing.

UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) The centerpiece of global efforts to combat global warming. It was adopted in June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on March 21, 1998. The Convention's primary objective is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous man-made interference with the climate system.

UNDP (United Nations Development Program) A UN Agency that works with governments in areas such as health, education, and infrastructure development. Financed by voluntary contributions, it is the world's largest multilateral technical assistance program.

UNODCCP (UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) A major international body related to various types of crime, including terrorism, financial crime and the drug trade.

Uruguay Round The last of seven rounds of trade liberalization negotiations in the GATT. It began in 1986, concluded in 1994, and resulted in the creation of the WTO out of the GATT.

World Bank Originally known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank was set up after WWI to facilitate the reconstruction of economies in Europe devastated by the war. In later years, it took on the role of providing loans to countries of the South for economic development purposes. Also known as The Bank, it is a sister organization to the IMF. Both organizations are based in Washington.

WSSD (The World Summit on Sustainable Development) This summit will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002 to follow up ten years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. Also called Rio +10.

WHO (World Health Organization) A specialized agency of the United Nations whose mandate is to promote international cooperation in support of global health and to develop and manage programs for controlling or eliminating disease.

WTO (World Trade Organization) A Geneva-based free trade association with 144 member nations (as of January 2002). Formed in 1995 out of the GATT, and now includes some 20 sub-agreements which are expanded by rounds which expand trade liberalization. WTO closed-door panels rule on trade disputes among member nations.