Trade in Health Services: Global, Regional, and Country Perspectives

This publication gathers some of the papers presented at the Inter-regional Meeting on Health and Trade: Toward the Millennium Round, organized by the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization in 1999. The principal objective of the meeting was to identify and explore possible cooperation mechanisms between the health services and trade sectors in order to develop effective health protection and promotion strategies. Participants included experts on trade and health issues from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United States.

The overarching conclusion emanating from the meeting is that unless the health and trade sectors develop strong linkages, health priorities will not be adequately taken into account by trade agreements currently under negotiation. In addition to being urgently needed, this cooperation is potentially feasible despite the gaps in knowledge and experience about trade and health service issues still prevailing at country, regional, and global levels. The recommendations made by the meeting’s participants offer reasonable alternatives for dealing with health priorities within the context of multilateral trade agreements.

Contents

Foreword
Juan A. Casa and Andrew Cassels

Part I. The global perspective
Globalization, global public goods, and health
David Woodward, Nick Drager, Robert Beaglehole, and Debra Lipson
Health services under the General Agreement on Trade Services
Rudolph Adlung and Antonia Carzaniga
Trade in health services
Rupa Chanda

Part II. The perspective from the trade and negotiation policies
Trade and public health in an open economy: a framework for analysis. Henryk Kierzkowski
Trade policies and export of health services: a development perspective
David Diaz Benavides
Identifying a trade-negotiation agenda.
Simonetta Zarrilli

Part III. Regional perspectives and country case studies
A. South-East Asia
Overview of the South-East Asia Region
Karim Timmermans
International trade in health services in the millennium: the case of Thailand
Wattana S. Janjaroen and Siripon Supakankunti

B. The Americas
Trade in health services in the Region of the Americas
Division of Health and Human Development, PAHO
The case of Brazil
Simonetta Zarrilli
The case of Chilean health system 1983-2000
Francisco León
The case of the United States of America.
Bernard Ascher
An approach to trade and health at Health Canada
Jake Vellinga

C. Eastern Mediterranean
The Eastern Mediterranean Region perspective
Belgacem Sabri
Health services in Tunisia in the light of World Trade Organization agreements
Hédi Achouri and Noureddine Achour

Part IV. Conclusions
Toward a positive multilateral trade agenda for developing countries: meeting conclusions and recommendations