Trade Facts

Environment

- The Administration and Congress have agreed to incorporate a specific list of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in our FTAs for the first time.

- The list includes (with abbreviated titles) the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances, Convention on Marine Pollution, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (IATTC), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, International Whaling Convention (IWC), and Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

- The United States is a signatory to all of these agreements. The United States takes seriously its obligations under these MEAs. We have nothing to fear from taking on FTA commitments for these agreements as well and subjecting those commitments to the FTA dispute settlement process where trade or investment are affected.

- We have also agreed to alter the non-derogation obligation for environmental laws from a "strive to" to a "shall" obligation, with allowance for waivers permitted under law as long as it does not violate the MEA. For the United States, this obligation is limited to federal laws and should not affect our implementation of these laws.

- Finally, we have agreed that all of our FTA environmental obligations will be enforced on the same basis as the commercial provisions of our agreements – same remedies, procedures, and sanctions. Previously, our environmental dispute settlement procedures focused on the use of fines, as opposed to trade sanctions, and were limited to the obligation to effectively enforce environmental laws.

- In connection with the Peru FTA, we have agreed to work with the Government of Peru on comprehensive steps to address illegal logging, including of endangered mahogany, and to restrict imports of products that are harvested and traded in violation of CITES.