

The TPP in the Western Hemisphere: Environmental Proposals and Doubts of a Huge Trade Agreement

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ABSTRACT

International trade between economically-rich countries of the global north and developing countries of the global south affects the environment through pollution and environmental deterioration; the limited democracy and weak capability of environmental law enforcement of the global south is a significant factor in this matter. Other factors such as lack of technical knowledge and commitment on environmental issues of the global south also play a role in this context.¹ Environmental regulations in the global north increase the cost of production of firms. Free trade agreements incentivize the relocation of multinational corporations from the global north to the global south to reduce economic costs. With the growth of transnational firms in the developing world, pollution increases in the global south while they do not substantially decrease in the global north. The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) constitutes a trade agreement between developing and developed countries or between global south and global north countries. In the western hemisphere this situation implies the United States and Canada trading with Mexico, Peru, and Chile. Given that greenhouse gas emissions doubled in the last 50 years in Latin America, this study intends to answer whether the TPP considers the whole spectrum of unequal trade in the western hemisphere and whether it would effectively prevent the environmental repercussions that occur as a consequence of free trade. This study uses the world system theory as theoretical framework. The TPP only focuses on the technical support from the global north to the global south to ameliorate the environmental repercussions due to international trade; analyzing the TPP chapter 20 that corresponds to the environment our preliminary results are that the TPP partially focuses in the environmental context and it does not account for the limited democracy and weak capability of environmentalist groups in the global south, thus tangible goals under these conditions might be far to be achieved.

¹ Gutman, Pablo. "Teoría económica y problemática ambiental: un diálogo difícil." *Desarrollo Económico* (1985): 47-70.