

**Public Forum 2017**  
\*\*\*  
**"Trade: Behind the Headlines"**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**9:00-11:15**

<b>Room</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organisers</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
CR	<i>Op. plenary deb.</i>			Opening plenary debate

**11:30-13:00**

S1	<i>Workshop</i>	How Trade Can Help Achieve Sustainable Development Goal #5 - Gender Equality.	Women@theTable	As we discuss diversity and inclusion in the private and public sectors how do we apply gender perspective to economic and trade issues to ensure that economic growth benefits everyone? What are the modern frameworks on issues related to trade and gender, including women's entrepreneurship and development of gender-focused indicators? How do we encourage women's participation in national and international economies including but going beyond entrepreneurship ? How does the care-continuum fit into this equation? How can free open progressive trade be harnessed to help us achieve Sustainable Development Goal #5 on gender equality?
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Can WTO promote sustainability and trade? – looking beyond the Doha Development Agenda	BusinessEurope	With the adoption of the Doha Development Agenda in 2002, the WTO recognised that trade and development policies should work hand-in-hand, promoting inclusive and sustainable solutions for all. However, in the past few years, it has become apparent that the DDA is not able to deliver on its mandate, resulting in profound differences among WTO members on the way forward. Some are in favour of opening the way to address new issues, while others remain faithful to the idea that unless the DDA is concluded, the WTO agenda should not be loaded with more topics. Nevertheless, the reality of business, workers and consumers moves faster than WTO negotiations and, as the current anti-globalisation and pro-protectionism movements show, the WTO needs to find ways to address these concerns. Bringing together high-level participants from different fields, this session will discuss how, working on the implementation of the SDGs and promoting the principles of sustainability and inclusiveness in trade, the WTO can play a fundamental role in addressing these challenges.
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	Global Value Chains: The challenges and opportunities for developing economies	Research Centre of Global Value Chains, UIBE Brookings Institution	GVCs are truly operating behind the headlines in generating economic growth and opportunity. While many people have heard of value chains not many really understand how they have changed global trade and economic opportunity over the last 30 years. Behind your new iPhone box lies a long chain of incredible economic cooperation and opportunity. This session discusses the benefits of developing economies integrating into the global value chains (GVCs) and the associated risks it may bring. It offers the opportunity to discuss the benefits provided by trade as well as the challenges it can bring from the perspective of GVCs.
W	<i>Workshop</i>	Making trade fair: the contribution of parliaments	Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU) European Parliament	Enhanced global economic cooperation and technological progress create opportunities and challenges, hopes and fears, both in developed and developing countries. While facts show that many economies, businesses and citizens benefit from globalisation, these benefits are not automatic nor are they evenly distributed.  What can parliamentarians together with other stakeholders do to make sure that benefits from global trade are more fairly shared, in line with principles of solidarity, equity and sustainability, both within and between countries? How can parliamentarians make sure that trade contribute to the fight against poverty, climate change and economic crisis? As representatives of the people, how can parliamentarians reverse the trend of the growing mistrust of the global trading system that fuels populism – and its advocacy for retrenchment within national borders – which is gaining ground?  This workshop will discuss the role of Parliaments in promoting sustainability through trade, and concrete measures parliaments can take in order to support fair trade.

D	W. Session	Inclusive Global Trade System In The Face of Changing Trade Landscape	LDC Watch	The major programmes to push LDC development: the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both aim to build the country by doubling the share of LDC global exports by 2020. However, LDCs face several structural constraints which prevent them participating effectively in the global trade market. As a multilateral trade platform the WTO plays a crucial role in creating a global trade environment where LDCs' trade can flourish, and so, along with development partners, must work to strengthen LDCs so they can grasp trade opportunities in the ever-changing global trade landscape and an ever-changing global political environment. Similarly, they should ensure that the interests of LDCs are served through development and effective implementation of LDC trade-friendly policies. A crucial element in any multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to strengthen trade is to build on existing civil society initiatives and small businesses in the LDCs themselves.
E	W. Session	Comercio Internacional Lícito y Justo: una oportunidad para las Pymes	Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo de la República de Colombia	Colombia está convencida de que el comercio internacional contribuye al desarrollo económico y social de las naciones. En la consecución de este objetivo, las MIPYMES juegan un papel relevante. Dentro de las barreras que hemos identificado se encuentra la amenaza que representa el comercio ilícito para este tipo de empresas y como la falta de condiciones de comercio justo contribuye a este comercio ilícito; y pone en riesgo a las MIPYMES.  La sesión de trabajo nos ayudará a identificar las oportunidades y desafíos que el comercio "justo y legal" le brinda a las MIPYMES y los espacios para adoptar medidas coherentes de política nacional e internacional que promuevan la inclusión de las MIPYMES en las cadenas de valor y les ayude a enfrentar los efectos desfavorables que generan las prácticas ilícitas en sus operaciones. Ello permitirá pasar de la retórica a lo concreto, en cumplimiento del objetivo del Foro Público.
B	W. Session	Behind the Headlines – What is the relevance of the WTO in the post-Doha age?	King's University College at Western University  University of Manchester	In the age of Trump and Brexit, trade is in the headlines. Looking beyond soundbites, global trade governance is in a state of flux. Traditional powers continue directing negotiating resources to plurilateral and preferential agreements. Rising powers have become well-established actors in the international political economy. Civil society contests old and new trade governance initiatives domestically and transnationally. The rise of populist politics across the global North has placed into stark relief the balance between political legitimacy and legal authority underpinning the trading system. Bringing together academics and practitioners, this working session reflects on the systemic implications of these developments for global trade governance, and particularly the WTO. We ask what stakeholders invest in the multilateral trade system in the post-Doha period and why? What are the issues that the WTO can or cannot address post-Doha? Is the global trading system equipped for the rise of economic nationalism?

**13:00-14:00**

Atrium	Meet the Author	The Great Convergence. Information Technology and the New Globalization.  Author: Richard Baldwin.	WTO Bookshop and Library	Between 1820 and 1990, the share of world income going to today's wealthy nations soared from twenty percent to almost seventy. Since then, that share has plummeted to where it was in 1900. As Richard Baldwin explains, this reversal of fortune reflects a new age of globalization that is drastically different from the old. In the 1800s, globalization leaped forward when steam power and international peace lowered the costs of moving goods across borders. This triggered a self-fueling cycle of industrial agglomeration and growth that propelled today's rich nations to dominance. That was the Great Divergence. The new globalization is driven by information technology, which has radically reduced the cost of moving ideas across borders. This has made it practical for multinational firms to move labor-intensive work to developing nations. But to keep the whole manufacturing process in sync, the firms also shipped their marketing, managerial, and technical know-how abroad along with the offshored jobs. The new possibility of combining high tech with low wages propelled the rapid industrialization of a handful of developing nations, the simultaneous deindustrialization of developed nations, and a commodity supercycle that is only now petering out. The result is today's Great Convergence. Because globalization is now driven by fast-paced technological change and the fragmentation of production, its impact is more sudden, more selective, more unpredictable, and more uncontrollable. As The Great Convergence shows, the new globalization presents rich and developing nations alike with unprecedented policy challenges in their efforts to maintain reliable growth and social cohesion.
--------	-----------------	--	--------------------------	--

**14:00-15:30**

S1	W. Session	Sustainable and Inclusive Trade in Times of Rising Protectionism	FTA EuroCommerce ISVC	<p>Today, a wave of protectionism and unfair practices is sweeping the world (as expressed by the recent WTO World Trade Report (2016)). This development has the potential to undo a generation's worth of trade-based development, affecting all countries and especially emerging economies, both economically and socially in an export-driven global economy.</p> <p>These restrictive actions may also roll back the standardising of important and leading sustainability initiatives and policies, making it costlier for businesses to meet relevant and effective sustainability criteria. This also means that companies will not be able to promote global standards if they cannot cooperate with factories in the sourcing markets.</p> <p>This session will explore the direct and indirect impacts of protectionism on sustainability policies and operations and how it can also be linked to larger illiberal political effects.</p>
S2	W. Session	Sustainability and Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade: The case study of palm oil	Permanent Missions of Indonesia and Malaysia	<p>Palm oil had been subjected to various discriminatory treatments. Palm oil products are always associated with health problems, while palm oil production has been accused of being the main factor contributing to deforestation, climate change and indigenous rights abuses.</p> <p>At the multilateral fora, various restrictive measures in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers; particularly TBT and SPS, had been implemented by some WTO Members mostly due to these misconceptions. These measures frequently aim at restricting market access and to a certain extent, protecting their local vegetable oil industry.</p> <p>This working session aims to correct these negative perceptions on palm oil based on factual and scientific evidence. In particular, palm oil producing countries would share respective countries' compliance and private sectors experience towards fulfilling the sustainability criteria, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>
S3	W. Session	More and Better Jobs? Design and Socio-Economic Impact of Labor Provisions in Trade Agreements	World Trade Institute	<p>Many trade agreements include labor provisions (LPs). These LPs link the benefits of preferential market access to, for example, the enforcement of internationally recognized worker rights, thereby offering the prospect of more and better jobs. But much variation exists with respect to the scope and depth of these LPs as some agreements include far-reaching and highly enforceable LPs whereas others only make shallow references to labor standards. This session addresses the question of the design and socio-economic impact of LPs in trade agreements. What is the impact on economic development of the inclusion of LPs in trade agreements? Do trade agreements with enforceable LPs improve compliance with labor rights? Are trade agreements that provide external assistance as part of labor related cooperation commitments equally effective? This session will take stock on academic research and country experiences on these important issues central to forging inclusive and sustainable development.</p>
W	W. Session	Open and Inclusive Trade – a Progressive Trade Agenda for the benefit of all.	B20 Germany B20 Argentina	<p>For decades cross-border trade and investment have been fostering growth and welfare. Still, the number of trade barriers enacted by G20 members has been growing for several years. Public opposition to trade and investment agreement has increased in many countries. Governments have problems to understand and explain globalization with its complex relation between trade, foreign investment, technological progress and job creation. What needs to be done to develop an open and inclusive trading system that delivers benefits to all WTO members and groups in society? Are the G20 able to facilitate joint approaches, e.g. on WTO level, and deliver on commitments to keep markets open and resist protectionism? What are the most important elements that the German and the Argentinian G20 presidency are planning to provide to make trade more inclusive and beneficial for all? What is the business contribution to this debate?</p>
D	W. Session	No one left behind: How trade can fairly contribute to economic growth and decent work for marginalised communities	CUTS International	<p>While trade has considerably played a role in uplifting millions out of poverty, it is increasingly acknowledged that certain aspects of trade has marginalised several pockets of society around the world. As the ethical imperative of the new development agenda states that no one is left behind, it behoves the trading system at the international and national level to address the needs of those communities that have indeed been left behind in order for trade to truly help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Of particular importance related to trade policy is SDG #8 on economic growth and decent work. This Working Session will bring together experts and practitioners to identify policy strategies and mechanisms that can enable economic growth while providing equitable and safe jobs with fair income, focusing on communities marginalised by trade liberalisation.</p>

E	W. Session	The Case for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Inclusive Trade for Sustainable Development	Group of Friends of MSMEs	<p>MSMEs can be the world economy's greatest marginal opportunity for growth, but only if their trade issues are effectively addressed.</p> <p>MSMEs are crucial for trade, international production and investments. Better access to information and data, improved regulatory transparency and better interaction between MSMEs worldwide are key ingredients in enhancing their participation in global markets. Innovation within MSMEs is an impact area for improving the participation in international trade. We need to consider the special conditions of MSMEs, particularly those from developing and least developing countries.</p> <p>Building on the constructive experience of national and regional initiatives and programmes of various international organizations, the session will discuss how MSMEs are shaping the new face of trade and how the WTO could address the gaps that still persist among MSMEs and large companies. The WTO therefore must also play a role in making trade more accessible to the world's largest business community: MSMEs.</p>
F	W. Session	New tools for enhanced transparency and better trade governance: what role for the private sector organisations?	KPMG	<p>The panel will aim to answer the question of what role the private and public sector should play in the process of making trade more inclusive. It will seek to explore new and innovative ways of establishing dialogue and promoting cooperation between different actors within the global trade space. Moreover, it will also focus in particular on non-government-to-government cooperation and the importance of involving the private sector and NGOs (chambers of commerce, industry associations) in all stages of trade policy formulation and implementation.</p> <p>Combining their experience from a range of backgrounds, the panellists will present best practices derived from recent initiatives at a regional level, notably in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, and they will explore ways to create global synergies among such initiatives within the multilateral and bilateral frameworks.</p>
B	W. Session	Will Protectionism Trump Inclusive Trade? Why protectionist policies are on the rise in the developed world and the potential impact on the international economic system.	International Trade and Investment Law Society (ITILS) Program on Trade, Investment, and Development (TID) of American University Washington College of Law	<p>Since the end of World War II and the birth of the GATT, the European Union and the United States have helped author a global trading system that seeks inclusive economic growth, reduces poverty, maintains global stability, and promotes sustainable development. Major political developments in both Europe and the United States suggest these trading stalwarts may be on the verge of breaking with their traditional support for globalization and inclusive policies to focus inwardly on domestic job creation and protectionism. This panel brings together officials who have been directly involved in the legislative, regulatory, and legal development of trade agreements and disputes since the earliest days of the WTO. They go beyond the headlines and rhetoric to examine the realities of trade and why many in the developed world perceive surprisingly that trade is not working for them.</p>
<b>15:30-17:00</b>				
S1	W. Session	Trade Policy: Unlocking opportunities for women	Iceland Canada ITC	<p>Women continue to face barriers in the field of trade. This session will set out to identify those barriers and look at how they can be removed to ensure equal opportunities for women and men and to ensure economic empowerment of women.</p> <p>High-level policy makers, thought-leaders and trade experts will participate in a thought provoking and interactive dialogue on the most effective ways to ensure women fully reap the benefits that trade can generate. A woman entrepreneur, from the International Trade Centre's SheTrades initiative to connect one million women to market by 2020, will join them to share first-hand, gender-related trade obstacles she has encountered in her journey to internationalisation.</p>

S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Mitigating Economic Migration through Trade and Trade Related Capacity Building: The African Perspective	Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (trapca)	It is well known that economic and social challenges in the migrants' host countries are highly correlated with economic conditions of sending states. Many poor countries particularly in sub-Saharan Africa are struggling to fully benefit from integration into global trade regime to make trade more inclusive. With depressed economies and limited inclusive trade, the migration dilemma neither shows a sign of slowing nor reversal. One of the main channels to realise this outcome is through effective negotiation of new and implementation of existing trade agreements e.g. TFA to spur inclusive trade. This requires the requisite capacity in human resources, institutions and infrastructure to harness the opportunities arising from existing and new trade initiatives. The session will explore the correlation between capacity building, migration and inclusive trade. Success stories arising from trade-related capacity building initiatives that spur inclusive trade undertaken in Africa and the role of key stakeholders will be explored.
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	The Role of SDGs in Setting the Trade Agenda: Towards Buenos Aires and Beyond	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)	The treatment of trade across the 2030 Agenda reflects the view that trade can, when well-regulated, contribute to growth and sustainable development. In this respect, trade is not considered as an end in itself but rather as a means to support implementation. As we move forward, multilateral institutions like the WTO can play a critical role in implementing relevant trade-related SDG targets. This session will discuss how the SDG framework can inform current negotiations in the run up to the next WTO ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires and help set the agenda for future talks in the WTO. It will review among others issues around development including the need to double LDCs export or to implement effective duty free quota free schemes but also concerns around food security and agricultural trade, the commitments to tackle harmful fisheries subsidies or the need to promote access to clean energy.
W	<i>W. Session</i>	Sharing in the gains from trade -The role of social dialogue and the Global Deal	Swedish mission to the WTO World Bank Group	In many countries, real wages are stagnating, social services are faltering and feelings of insecurity are on the rise. History teaches us that when societies no longer seem capable of delivering positive change, citizens may be tempted by the siren songs of populism. This is the reason behind "the Global Deal", a global initiative whose objective is to harness the power of social dialogue in addressing ongoing challenges in global labour markets, including those linked directly to trade, whilst enabling all people to benefit from globalisation. The Global Deal marshals expertise from 16 governments from all continents, as well as 25 businesses, trade unions and other organizations. The session explores how effective trade-related social dialogue can contribute to decent work, quality jobs and increased productivity and thus to greater equality and inclusive growth.  For more information on the Global Deal, see <a href="http://theglobaldeal.com/about/the-global-deal-in-brief/">theglobaldeal.com/about/the-global-deal-in-brief/</a>
D	<i>W. Session</i>	Fisheries subsidies: from New York UN Ocean Conference to Buenos Aires MC-11. Will the WTO deliver on SDG Target 14.6?	BLOOM Varda Group	Although years of negotiations on fisheries subsidies have not yet delivered a fruitful outcome, international public attention on ocean issues is higher than ever and the subsidy question has become a central, inevitable and pressing item of the international agenda.  Will the WTO go behind June UN Ocean Conference' s headlines and deliver on fisheries subsidies at MC-11?  This working session will assess the results of the Call for Action agreed in New York in June, and discuss the potential implications it may have on the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations, especially in view of the upcoming Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference.  This interactive session seeks to give voice to all points of view to understand hurdles as well as opportunities that negotiators are facing in the preparation of the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference. A cost versus benefits analysis will steer the discussion among participants to answer the question "How can WTO Members, together with civil society, ensure a meaningful outcome in December?"

E	<i>W. Session</i>	The critical role of competition in promoting access to medicines and Sustainable Development Goal 3	International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA)	<p>There is a growing need to focus policy initiatives on increasing access to quality medicines for patients around the world. Generic and biosimilar medicines have a dramatic impact on access to medicines. The UN SDG3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", is only achievable if the highest level of competition in the pharmaceutical sector is ensured.</p> <p>The session will focus on the relevance of competition, conceived in its broader sense, on the trade of generic and biosimilar medicines. Ensuring that competition rules are included more significantly in preferential agreements is essential for a stronger access to generic and biosimilar medicines.</p> <p>Punctual enforcement of competition law and monitoring of a proper competitive dynamic on the market are essential elements to increase access to generic and biosimilar medicines for patients worldwide.</p> <p>IPR protection needs to be counterbalanced by strong competition rules. Seeking harmonisation at WTO level between IPRs and competition is fundamental.</p>
F	<i>W. Session</i>	Learning International Trade: How formal qualifications help us reap the benefits of global trade	Institute of Export & International Trade	<p>In this session we will explore how professional trade qualifications are a key to providing best practice methodologies to both employers and employees involved in international trade and how these are essential to career planning and development.</p> <p>We will discuss the benefits of such qualifications from the perspectives of businesses, employees and the national economy as a whole, with reference to the potential for business growth, trade compliance, enhanced career prospects and boosting trade opportunities.</p> <p>We will discuss the availability of professional trade qualifications around the world and examine what existing synergies or structures there may be to develop such programmes whilst looking at the potential for modern technologies to make them available to a wider international audience.</p>
B	<i>Workshop</i>	ECOWAS Trade Opportunities and Sub-Regional Sustainable Economic Objectives: An Emerging Market for Least Developed Countries and World Trade	Lagos State University	<p>The workshop paper is ECOWAS Trade Opportunities and Sub-Regional Sustainable Economic Objectives: An Emerging Market for least Developed Countries and World Trade. The paper examines liberalization of trade among member States; the adoption of common trade policies and programs that will stimulate and create enabling environment for trading and services. The main objective of the study is to investigate trade opportunities, challenges and the contribution of ECOWAS trade to World Trade. Research shows that Nigeria trade and services for example made up of 40 per cent of trading activities in West Africa countries. Ethnographic marketing research system is used together with application of questionnaire, interview and general observation for data collection. Trading in ECOWAS is made up of formal and informal self-employment trade activities. The research concludes that one in every member of a family is involved in one form of trading or another in ECOWAS sub region.</p>
<b>17:00-18:30</b>				
S1	<i>W. Session</i>	Facilitating Investment for Sustainable Development	Government of the Netherlands ICTSD WEF	<p>Private investment is crucial for achieving the SDGs. Developing countries, in particular, need to be able to better identify and facilitate the kind of investment that will contribute to their sustainable development. This session will look at practical examples of investment facilitation for sustainable development, as well as the broader mechanisms through which it can be achieved. It will focus on potential tools to measure the quality as opposed to the quantity of investment.</p>
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Harnessing multilateral rules for regional integration of LDCs: "The case of domestic regulation of services"	IDEAS Centre Geneva	<p>Research demonstrates that trade in services holds great potential for developing economies, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs). At the same, administrative and other regulatory barriers to services trade hinder those economies from fully exploiting the potential of services trade for their economic and social development. Against this backdrop, the ongoing attempt within the WTO to develop certain disciplines on domestic regulation of services, based on the general principles set forth by GATS Article VI:4, is particularly relevant for the aforementioned countries, especially in the context of their regional integration efforts. This working session seeks to explore the role multilateral disciplines on domestic regulation of services could play in this respect, and which conditions would have to be met so as to use such disciplines for fostering the regional integration of LDCs in particular.</p>

S3	W. Session	The business case for e-commerce and development: Towards sustainable development	Permanent Mission of Costa Rica	New digital technologies have created exciting business opportunities and solutions for sustainable development. E-commerce platforms allow micro-enterprises to tap global markets. Mobile payments provide access to financial services for the previously unbanked. Paperless trade is smoothing the exchange of goods around the world. This session, in cooperation with the Friends of E-Commerce for Development and the World Economic Forum, will present e-commerce business case studies from emerging and low-income economies. It will also solicit views on best practice policies that improve the enabling environment for e-commerce – including across the seven areas of the UNCTAD eTrade for All initiative -- as well as options for public-private collaboration to tackle e-commerce and Internet access barriers.
W	W. Session	Making E-commerce work for consumers	Consumers International	E-commerce has grown at a dizzying pace in recent years and has already brought great benefit to many consumers. It also offers up new challenges around privacy, security and fairness. Levels of access and protection vary greatly between countries and region. Where access and protection levels are high, there are issues around consumer trust. E-commerce already affects the way countries think about trade and the WTO is poised to do new work on the topic. This session will explore the consumer issues in E-commerce from different country perspectives and ask how governments, consumer organisations and companies can work together through trade to ensure e-commerce grows in such a way that all it is fair, accessible, safe and secure for all consumers?
D	W. Session	Services Globalization and the Future of Work: TISA and the WTO	UNI Global Union International Transport workers' Federation (ITF)  Public Services International (PSI)	Trade in services is a dynamic centre of growth and innovation. The proposed Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) looked headed to completion last year, but talks have stalled. Many of its provisions may now be imported into other agreements, and negotiations on similar proposals are also being discussed in the WTO. New analysis indicates that the TISA – or similar provisions in other agreements – could have serious impacts on the concerns that have led to a backlash against trade agreements such as lost jobs, deregulation, increased inequality, tax evasion and financial instability, and climate change, and could constrain progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As products are becoming “servicified” and services are increasingly “going digital,” the role of trade disciplines on services will become an increasingly important aspect of the public debate over the impacts of trade agreements.
E	W. Session	Trade without Compromise: Digital Innovation, Social Impact and Regulatory Challenges	Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the World Trade Organization	<p>This working session, entitled Trade without Compromise: Digital Innovation, Social Impact and Regulatory Challenges, uses real-life case studies to explore the challenges of creating new facilitation models for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and helping women/children in local communities through digital innovation.</p> <p>Aimed at achieving fair, inclusive and sustainable trade for all, the latest platform/mechanism in the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, PKM, demonstrates innovative ways of bridging between MSME/start-ups with digital technologies and potential investors. The success of social entrepreneur IMPCT Corporation, winner of the 2015 Hult Prize with 1 million USD seed funding, demonstrates how trade (especially e-commerce) makes a positive social impact via the empowerment of women in local communities in El Salvador and South Africa.</p> <p>The session will also focus on barriers and impediments, both trade and regulatory, that potentially hinder the development of new models and prevent possible approaches from addressing these challenges.</p>
B	W. Session	Trade and regional integration for economic transformation in Africa - from policy to practice	ECDPM  ACET	<p>This session will illustrate the opportunities, incentives and challenges of trade in an African integration context, from a practical perspective using three cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Telecom services in East Africa - the One Network Area</li> <li>2. Mode IV of GATS – the case of talent mobility in West Africa, focusing on border management</li> <li>3. The dynamics in the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)</li> </ol> <p>The speakers will not only address the merits of trade integration for inclusive development in the respective sectors or integration process, but also the concrete challenges of implementation. They will bring a political economy understanding of stakeholder's interests and ideas that shape trade integration in Africa.</p>

**18:45 (reception)**

**Public Forum 2017**  
\*\*\*  
**"Trade: Behind the Headlines"**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**8:30-10:00**

<b>Room</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organisers</b>	<b>Abstract</b>
S1	<i>W. Session</i>	E-Commerce as an Engine for SME Advancement in Developing and Low Income Countries	World SME Forum (WSF)	<p>Digital technologies have become key contributors to world trade and e-commerce offers many opportunities for SMEs in a manner unprecedented by other technological advancements. SMEs in developed countries have been largely benefiting from the digital economy while the majority of SMEs in developing and low income countries have not obtained e-commerce benefits like expanding their access to markets, improving their reach or linkages to customers or suppliers, or in relation to cost savings.</p> <p>As a result, the gap between SMEs of the developed and developing/low income countries is expanding at an alarming rate. If SMEs cannot adapt to the new ways of doing business, the gap will continue to grow and multiply social, political and economic problems.</p> <p>As a result, the gap between SMEs of the developed and developing/low income countries is expanding at an alarming rate. If SMEs cannot adapt to the new ways of doing business, the gap will continue to grow and multiply social, political and economic problems.</p>
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Agricultural trade in the new era: the relevance of agribusiness and agro-industry for the 2030 Agenda and for ensuring more inclusive trade	ACP Geneva Office FAO UNIDO	<p>This session would highlight the impact of technology, targeted investments and upgrading of value chains in the agriculture; particularly in the developing countries. Agriculture production and trade is transforming through interplay between aforementioned factors.</p> <p>Deployment of new technologies in production, processing and even marketing (especially e-commerce) has transformed agriculture sector from a rural-based to a dynamic contributor of the GDP while providing new investment opportunities as well. A focus towards value addition, reduction of waste (post-harvest and consumption) and integration in regional and global value chains is resulting in commercialization of agriculture in developing countries, by including smallholder farmers and processors, and this may result in changing the global trade flows in agriculture. Different perspectives from the Member States and development partners would be shared during this session.</p>
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	What are the potential implications of recent WTO ecommerce proposals on digital industrial policy?	Centre for WTO Studies, Third World Network IT for Change	<p>A number of new ecommerce proposals have been made at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the last year. Similar rules were agreed in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and have been proposed in the Trade In Services Agreement and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. At the same time technology has been rapidly changing and countries are developing new policies to maximise its benefits for development, such as digital industrial policies.</p> <p>This Working Session will examine the potential implications of recent WTO ecommerce proposals on digital industrial policy and what impact the proposals could therefore have on SMEs, women, LDCs, SDGs etc.</p>
W	<i>Workshop</i>	How Food Security, Livelihood Security and Rural Development can be Secured by Developing Countries	Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN, the WTO and other Internatinal Organization - G33 Coordinator	<p>The nexus of trade rules and food security, livelihood security and rural development issues have become focus of discussion in the WTO. In Bali and Nairobi, Members agreed to negotiate a permanent solution for the issue of Public Stockholding for food security purposes (PSH). Nairobi Ministerial Conference also mandated Members to intensify negotiation on Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for the attainment of food security, livelihood security and rural development. While there is bold recognition on legitimate objective of two instruments to help millions of low-income populations and resource-poor subsistence farmers, Members yet to find an agreed solution on PSH and SSM.</p> <p>Panellist's in this workshop will facilitate Members to better understand some critical issues of the PSH and SSM for developing countries. WTO Member's ability to find agreed solution in Buenos Aires would be a test for multilateral trading system in achieving food security, livelihood security and rural development.</p>

D	<i>W. Session</i>	Including the most vulnerable: Where are tourism's missing links?	WTO Trade in Services and Investment Division	<p>Tourism has been recognized for its capacity to promote inclusive socio-economic growth and sustainable development -- through the sector's ability to create jobs and incomes, including for the vulnerable segments of the population -- and to support environmental stewardship. This is reflected in the references to tourism in the SDGs, and the proclamation of 2017 as the International Year for Sustainable Tourism. Yet decent work, social inclusion and sustainability are neither automatic nor guaranteed.</p> <p>The objective of this session is thus threefold: i) to highlight the "missing links" of tourism to social inclusion and sustainability, by addressing the benefits of tourism for local communities while preserving the environment; ii) to highlight that tourism can create decent work for youth, women and vulnerable groups such as the poor and migrants; and iii) to highlight the opportunities that arise from tourism within the South and within regions.</p>
E	<i>Workshop</i>	Ensure sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12): What role for trade?	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ICTSD	<p>Trade policy and trade rules can importantly shape production and consumption patterns. An agreement to reduce subsidies to fisheries could for instance substantially contribute to prevent overfishing. Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between the EU and timber-exporting countries are among newer schemes aimed at promoting trade in legal timber products. Bilateral and regional trade agreements are increasingly including sustainability provisions. At the same time, consumer awareness continues rising. Buyers increasingly seek to make informed decisions based on sustainability labels and certificates but often have a hard time judging the seriousness and scope behind the growing number of labels and seals. Producers need to comply with an ever growing number of label and standards, a challenge, especially for developing countries' SMEs. Convergence on principles to formulate and implement private standards could help meeting the targets associated to SDG 12, in particular (12.6) - encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices - and (12.8) - ensuring that the public have relevant information and awareness for sustainable development. Efforts to align the trade and sustainability agenda are multiplying. What does that mean for trade governance? How can new partnerships and approaches contribute?</p>
B	<i>W. Session</i>	Africa's Continental Free Trade Area: Achieving Human Rights-Consistent Development	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	<p>The continental free trade area (CFTA) is expected to generate significant gains for Africa in terms of growth, productivity, jobs and incomes. How these gains are divided will be key to determining whether the CFTA is inclusive and helps to accelerate Africa's poverty reduction.</p> <p>So what does it take to ensure that the CFTA promotes human rights and reduces poverty in Africa? Responding to the challenges related to agricultural livelihoods, agro-manufacturing and informal cross-border trade will not be an easy task. The CFTA process must be inclusive, consultative and participatory. Effective participation of smallholder farmers, women and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) requires a multifaceted approach.</p> <p>The objective of this session is to advance understanding of the human rights challenges of vulnerable groups in the context of the CFTA. In doing so policy options for effectively leveraging the CFTA to deliver inclusive trade and development in Africa will be highlighted.</p>
<b>10:00-11:30</b>				
W	<i>Plenary Session</i>	Launch: WTO World Trade Report 2017		
<b>11:30-13:00</b>				
S1	<i>W. Session</i>	Can gender-sensitive trade policies hinder the spread of the anti-globalisation movements?	UNCTAD Sweden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	<p>Establishing clear links between trade policy and overarching goals, including gender equality and women's economic empowerment, would further contribute to making trade a tool for sustainable development. Many countries have used and continue using trade as a means of development. However, the benefits of trade have to be assessed against its asymmetries and possible negative consequences. A way of doing so is to complement the assessment of the risks and benefits of trade for a country as a whole with an analysis of its potential impacts on different segments of the population, in particular those who risk being "left behind", including women and girls.</p> <p>The event will provide the opportunity to discuss (i) how to make a gender assessment of trade measures before their implementation, including by using UNCTAD Trade and Gender Tool Box; and (ii) how to link trade policy to the overarching goals of the 20130 Development Agenda.</p>

S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Dématérialisation des procédures du commerce extérieur au Sénégal	Ministère du Commerce, du Secteur Informel, de la Consommation, de la Promotion des produits locaux et des PME (Sénégal)	<p>La séance regroupera l'essentiel des acteurs intéressés par la dématérialisation des procédures du commerce extérieur de façon générale, pour partager une expérience avérée de collaboration entre le public et le privé pour la modernisation de l'environnement du commerce extérieur au Sénégal.</p> <p>Elle se déroulera autour des axes suivants :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction du thème de la séance par un officiel du Sénégal ;</li> <li>• Présentation introductive de la dématérialisation des procédures du commerce extérieur au Sénégal (GAINDE2000) ;</li> <li>• Intervention d'une administration privée qui intervient dans la dématérialisation ;</li> <li>• Intervention d'une administration publique qui intervient dans la dématérialisation ;</li> <li>• Intervention des importateurs/exportateurs sur les bénéfices de la dématérialisation ;</li> <li>• Echanges avec le public.</li> </ul>
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	Challenges and Opportunities for Small-Scale Fishers in International Fish Trade	FAO UNCTAD	<p>Historically, fish is the most traded food animal protein worldwide in value terms. World trade flow of fish and fisheries products shows a consistent supply trend from developing to developed countries, with small-scale and artisanal fishers playing a significant role.</p> <p>The session will present an overview of fish production, highlighting its economic importance for developing countries and small-scale and artisanal fishers. It will focus on the key problems faced by small-scale and artisanal fishers in accessing international markets, stressing how a trading system that ensures security, transparency, and predictability positively contributes for the necessary foundation to expand and to create market opportunities. Challenges on how to transform existing opportunities for small-scale and artisanal fishers into a reality will be addressed, particularly by reducing information and knowledge gap.</p> <p>Sustainable fish production is an inclusive social and economic activity by nature – also for trade, no one can be left behind.</p>
W	<i>W. Session</i>	Out of the Box: Innovative Partnerships for Inclusive Trade (Trade for Sustainable Development Programme)	ITC	<p>How to create global partnerships for 'good trade'? Truly effective collaboration is like a black box: examples are scarce, outcomes are uncertain and barriers have not yet been broken down. Sustainability is however high on today's agenda, and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) offer a platform for future partnerships among the multitude of actors in international trade as a vehicle for sustainable and inclusive economic development. The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the International Trade Centre (ITC) bring together leaders on sustainability issues around one table to propose partnership actions for sustainable and inclusive trade</p>
D	<i>W. Session</i>	Accessions Behind the Headlines: Integration of Arab Countries into the Global Economy	WTO Accessions Division	<p>In a rapidly changing trade landscape and uncertain global economy, significant efforts have been made to ensure the universality of the multilateral trading system. However, challenges still remain to address vulnerabilities of LDCs and other developing countries in light of their integration into the global economy. In this context, this session aims to go beyond headlines on WTO accessions and explore realities and opportunities that lie underneath this process.</p> <p>The proposed working session will analyse the role WTO accession and its contribution to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies in the Arab world and creation of jobs and business opportunities for all. Topics for discussion will be presented by Chief Negotiators on the accession of three Arab acceding Governments to portray different perspectives on opportunities and challenges of WTO accession and the role of WTO accession process in realization of domestic economic reforms to ensure fair trade and open markets.</p>

E	W. Session	Trade Rules for Development in the Digital Age: Reality behind the Rhetoric	Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Government of Tunisia CUTS International, Geneva	<p>E-commerce is the new buzz word in the world of international trade. Its spectacular growth and the seemingly unlimited potential excites many. No doubt that it can offer tremendous opportunities. But it can also present formidable challenges particularly to small developing countries where ground realities are very different from those in the developed and even the larger developing countries. Development and employment are the primary objectives of small developing countries and their aim would be for e-commerce to contribute to the achievement of these. The need, therefore, is to take a holistic, dispassionate and multi-stakeholder approach to e-commerce, to go behind the rhetoric and examine and address the real issues in a pragmatic and practical manner.</p> <p>This Working Session aims to do just that: provide a platform to discuss the reality of e-commerce in small developing countries with a view to finding ways to maximize its contribution to development and employment, including through appropriate policies, possible rules and regulations at the national and international levels.</p>
B	W. Session	Building an Intelligent Tech &Trade Initiative-ITTI Augmented Intelligence & the Future of Global Trade	International Chamber of Commerce – Brazil Intelligent Tech &Trade Initiative –ITTI	<p>The ITTI session will examine how cutting-edge technologies can allow for international trade transactions and negotiations to advance. It will review how "Tech &amp; Trade Facilitation Tools" (TFTs), such as blockchain, may pair up with what the WTO's "Trade Facilitation Agreement" (TFA) accomplishes in the legal framework for global transactions. The session will also weigh in on how trade negotiations can evolve over time in an ecosystem where augmented intelligence technologies are increasingly available. Some of session's reference questions will be:</p> <p>How can blockchain and augmented intelligence technologies drive trade growth?</p> <p>How can less developed countries (LDCs) benefit from tech-intensive tools?</p> <p>How can new tech tools help move beyond traditional "import substitution" or "neoliberal" policies?</p> <p>Which new industries are likely to bring about breakthroughs to trade negotiations?</p> <p>What should a tech-intensive, post-trade facilitation agenda look like for the WTO?</p>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>				
Atrium	Meet the Author	Multilevel Constitutionalism for Multilevel Governance of Public Goods. Methodology Problems in International Law Author: Ernst Ulrich Petersmann	WTO Bookshop and Library	<p>This is the first legal monograph analysing multilevel governance of global 'aggregate public goods' (PGs) from the perspective of democratic, republican and cosmopolitan constitutionalism by using historical, legal, political and economic methods. It explains the need for a 'new philosophy of international law' in order to protect human rights and PGs more effectively and more legitimately. 'Constitutional approaches' are justified by the universal recognition of human rights and by the need to protect 'human rights', 'rule of law', 'democracy' and other 'principles of justice' that are used in national, regional and UN legal systems as indeterminate legal concepts. The study describes and criticizes the legal methodology problems of 'disconnected' governance in UN, GATT and WTO institutions as well as in certain areas of the external relations of the EU (like transatlantic free trade agreements). Based on 40 years of practical experiences of the author in German, European, UN, GATT and WTO governance institutions and of simultaneous academic teaching, this study develops five propositions for constituting, limiting, regulating and justifying multilevel governance for the benefit of citizens and their constitutional rights as 'constituent powers', 'democratic principals' and main 'republican actors', who must hold multilevel governance institutions and their limited 'constituted powers' legally, democratically and judicially more accountable.</p>
<b>14:00-15:30</b>				
S1	Workshop	From the G20 Hamburg Summit to MC11 in Buenos Aires: Smooth path or bumpy road?	Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI) German Development Institute (DIE) ICTSD T20 Task	<p>Trade policy has emerged as one of the most contested policy fields during Germany's G20 presidency. This is due to deteriorating public support for world trade in many countries. One of the drivers of these outcomes is the fact that while inequalities among countries have been decreasing substantially during the past two decades, inequalities within countries, in particular the advanced economies, are increasingly leading to growing public unease with economic globalization. Against this background, this session reflects on the outcomes of the Hamburg Summit on trade-related issues such as the G20 anti-protectionist stance, trade adjustment policies and policy coherence in light of the 2030 Agenda. What are the implications of the outcomes of the Hamburg Summit for the MC11 in Buenos Aires and the future of the WTO? What are the policy considerations of Argentina which will not only host MC11 but will also take over the G20 presidency on 1 December 2017?</p>

S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Making Trade More Inclusive Through Digitally Enabled Services	Coalition of Services Industries	<p>Services trade, particularly digitally enabled services and technologies, can encourage growth, support better jobs that pay higher wages, and act as a platform to raise living standards. Critical in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, services can ultimately make trade more inclusive.</p> <p>Looking across sectors, digital services, particularly cloud services, are enabling better and more efficient practices. This is particularly important for developing economies where such technologies are being employed to improve agricultural output, reinvigorate manufacturing, and unleash new energy sources. These benefits are important in responding to the growing challenges to globalization and trade.</p> <p>In this working session, panelists will discuss how digital services can be transformative. This session will feature presentations from developing countries, think tanks, and the business community that explain what each are currently doing, and what they can do, to further advance the broad-based benefits of digitally enabled services trade.</p>
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	Making trade benefit workers	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva Office	<p>To ensure that the benefits of trade are more equally shared, special attention needs to be given to decent work in global supply or value chains (GVC). The asymmetric power relationship in GVCs leads to downward pressure on wages and working conditions as suppliers in developing countries have little control over price-setting. Research shows that the labour cost in garments and footwear production is only a tiny fraction of the retail price yet workers are in many cases not paid the minimum wage let alone a living wage. Moreover, social clauses in trade agreements have so far had little impact on the enforcement of the ILO core labour standards, let alone other legally binding ILO conventions. More robust clauses could perhaps change this. This Working Session aims to discuss how to address these challenges in order to create a virtuous circle generating benefits for all, including workers in the developing world.</p>
W	<i>W. Session</i>	Trade: Behind the Headlines: Cases studies from WTO Chairs	WTO Chairs	<p>The session will provide an academic perspective on how trade could be a powerful engine for growth and development. More specifically, selected chairs will present cases studies on how trade could be a catalyst for growth and poverty alleviation. Specific emphasises will be placed on the inclusiveness of the trade policy and how to mainstream trade into national development strategy. This session will also provide a better understanding of the mechanisms that ensure that international trade is an endogenous growth factor and ultimately contribute to reduce poverty. Targeted case studies will help to propose relevant analyzes and present these perspectives to the policy makers and others relevant stakeholders.</p>
D	<i>W. Session</i>	Fashioning a cultural shift through digital innovation by empowering SMEs, women entrepreneurs and artisans to move from 'lowest price' to 'highest value'	SPINNA Circle Ltd.	<p>The emergence of digital innovation including Blockchain and mobile payment technology, together with the growth of e-commerce platforms focused on selling independent fashion brands, has seen a slow consistent shift looking 'beyond' the price. While business to consumer (b2c) is starting to change, the larger aspect of international trade is business to business (b2b) where SMEs, women entrepreneurs and artisans are still unable to access markets. This could be explained by lack of direct market access and various costs incurred through conventional supply chains.</p> <p>Moving from 'lowest price' to a demand for 'highest value' will have great impact on making trade a reality for those who remain hidden 'behind the headlines'. The panel will discuss current trends, specific challenges that persist for SMEs, women entrepreneurs and artisans in remote locations. The multi-stakeholder panel will include representatives from digital innovators, government, procurement, e-commerce, SMEs, mobile payment and logistics, and include case studies, share insights and offer tangible solutions.</p>
E	<i>W. Session</i>	Driving inclusive growth and enhancing intra-African trade through service sector development	Trade research entity (host of the WTO Chair (WCP)), North-West University, South Africa	<p>The development of services sectors in least developed countries (LDCs) has the potential to strongly support the achievement of sustainable development objectives including by increasing the involvement of small firms and by enhancing female participation. Services are increasingly a critical ingredient in the functioning of value chains and also a vital component for enhancing intra-African trade. Given the importance of services in not only stimulating economic growth but also in terms of their ability to help governments address domestic development priorities from structural transformation to gender equality, addressing supply-side barriers is of vital importance. This session will highlight the sustainable development dimensions of services; examine the most pressing supply-side constraints faced by service sector firms in LDCs; and highlight potential solutions including regulatory evolution, targeted Aid for Trade interventions, and new investment approaches.</p>

B	<i>W. Session</i>	Trade behind the Scenes: A Sporting Goods Industry Perspective	World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI)	<p>A general introduction to trade facilitation will be given first. Thereupon private sector panelists examine the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the importance of engagement and consultation of the importing business for the rule making process.</p> <p>The second part showcases the practical impact by using Latin American countries as an example and the experiences of the sporting goods sector. Panelists will explain how countries should change foreign trade to implement trade facilitation agreements.</p> <p>Thirdly the importance of speedy product introduction to markets and the impact of administrative custom requirements will be explained. While fast fashion and lean manufacture are dominating the agendas, an increasing amount of technical import requirements annihilate such endeavors.</p> <p>Lastly the session will focus on the GSP as a general concept. Panelists will explore the opportunities of policies making GSP more inclusive by expanding the product coverage and employing more liberal origin rules.</p>
---	-------------------	--	---	---

**15:30-17:00**

S1	<i>W. Session</i>	Progressive approaches to public participation in trade policy	Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)	<p>This session will examine how governments can better engage with the public on trade agreements and trade negotiations to craft more inclusive trade policies. The session will consider best practices and innovative approaches to public consultations and areas of possible improvement for the WTO and national governments. The panelists will elaborate on formal and informal avenues of public input for trade policy development and decision-making processes, as well as efforts to make trade more gender inclusive. Panelists will discuss whether more institutional openness can help tackle the contemporary shifts to protectionism..</p>
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Enabling e-commerce for developing country MSMEs – using Estonian e-Residency to access international markets	Permanent Mission of Estonia to the WTO, e-Residency	<p>Trading internationally is difficult and costly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), particularly in developing countries. While the opportunities of e-commerce have been featured prominently, behind the headlines many countries are yet to see their MSMEs to export via e-commerce. Through the government-issued digital identity by Estonia, e-Residency offers the MSMEs in developing countries access to the advanced digital infrastructure of Estonia resulting in benefits ranging from increased trust with clients, access to international payment providers and access to the European Union and global markets, making trade more inclusive.</p> <p>Estonian e-Residency and International Trade Centre (ITC) have studied the practical application for development of this opportunity, resulting in cooperation for assisting MSMEs in Rwanda. The objective of the session is to go beyond the rhetoric by looking at the practical challenges and opportunities faced in this process, the lessons learned and the replicability of the experience in other countries.</p>
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	The disintegration of the global economy? Brexit, the rise of protectionism and the future of international trade	American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU)	<p>Bringing together stakeholders from the international community, this session will look into the future for global trade in an era of both interconnectedness and instability. Using Brexit as a case study, it will explore the motivations that are driving the current backlash against globalisation, the potential for disintegration in the global system and what can be done to deliver a more inclusive global economy that works for everyone.</p>

W	W. Session	Making Trade Work for All	OECD	Against the background of rising anti-globalisation sentiment, this session will explore what is needed to help make trade work for all. It will call for an integrated policy approach across three fronts and dig deeper into what might be required to move forward on these three priorities for action: (i) domestic policies that create the environments where benefits from trade can materialise through encouraging opportunity, innovation and competition -- by cutting unnecessary trade costs and investing in people and digital and physical infrastructure. (ii) Doing more to bring everyone along, including in lagging regions where trade shocks can be concentrated. (iii) Making the international system work better, harnessing the full range of international economic cooperation tools to level the international playing field, addressing the gaps in the rules and doing more to ensure that everyone, from companies to countries, plays by the rules.
D	W. Session	Expectations of and Possibilities for the MC11 in Argentina	Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) network Third World Network - Africa (TWN Africa)	The 11th Ministerial meeting of the WTO is fast approaching. In Buenos Aires, Ministers will take decisions on a variety of issues including agriculture, fish subsidies, domestic regulation and trade facilitation in services, special and differential treatment, TRIPS, and e-commerce. What are potential outcome scenarios at this point? Among the potential outcomes, which would be most likely to promote inclusion, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)? Which mandates are consistent with fostering development to achieve the SDGs? What is the status of the Doha Round? Can WTO rules be made more consistent with achieving global food security and sustainable fishing? Is a new mandate on e-commerce in the interest of countries besides the US? Recent geopolitical shifts will have a significant impact on the outcome of the Ministerial; in this context, is a global multilateral deal possible? A variety of experts from developed and developing countries, and LDCs will ensure a lively debate on the future of the WTO.
E	W. Session	Automation, Work and the Role of Trade in Services: Understanding Transformations, Exploring Opportunities – Can Trade Policy	Kommerskollegium (Swedish National Board of Trade) WTI Advisors	Automation is in the process of transforming work, radically. Analysts may debate what percentage of today's jobs may be lost to automation by 2030, but the numbers are in any case staggering. The impact will be tremendous – and affect the struggle to achieve several of the SDGs.  This session explores what could, or should be a logical consequence, one that should be of great interest to trade (and other) policy makers: If less human work is needed for the production of goods and certain services, then more people will be free to perform additional tasks that improve overall welfare, including in sectors that may currently be 'undervalued.' Most of these new tasks will – that much seems clear - be services.  This suggests that there will be an important role for trade in services in this development. Trade in services may well be the vehicle that allows new jobs to emerge where the suppliers are, and links suppliers with their 'markets', which may be consumers, businesses and societies abroad. The threat may turn into opportunity – if we know what we're doing.  Do today's policy makers, do today's trade negotiators know what their country's trade in services interests are in 2030? Could they help create the jobs of the future? This session aims to raise key questions, consider cutting edge research, and debate possible answers.
B	W. Session	World Investment and Trade Organization: Is It Possible for Global Governance? G20, TPP and WTO.	Chinese Initiative on International Law	Based on the significance of G20 in global governance, this working session is going to analyze the trade outcomes of the G20 Hangzhou Summit, realizing that its position on strengthening the multilateral trading system, advancing negotiations on Doha issues, ratifying the Trade Facilitation Agreement, opposing protectionism on trade, and its support for plurilateral trade agreements like Environmental Goods Agreement, will be beneficial to the development of both WTO and G20. This session will discuss specifically the importance of including issues in regional trade arrangements, the possibility of establishing a World Investment and Trade Organization (WITO).

**17:00-18:30**

S1	W. Session	Domestic Regulation, Trade in Services, Jobs, and Digitalization: Challenges and Opportunities	University of Auckland Alliance Sud, Switzerland COAST, Bangladesh	WTO members agreed long ago to develop "any necessary disciplines to ensure that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements and procedures do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services". In the lead-up to the 11th Ministerial in Buenos Aires, members are now again discussing a variety of proposals on this issue, as well as a proposal on Trade Facilitation in Services. Are such disciplines "necessary?" What kind of impacts could these potential disciplines have, given the current debates on the positive and negative impacts of trade agreements? Could they help or hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Could they expand or constrain the ability of developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to expand their exports and grow their economies? What impacts could they have on labour markets, workers' rights, and jobs? How do they interact with the proposals on e-commerce in the WTO? Would they potentially constrain the right to regulate?
----	------------	--	---	---

S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Mitigating the Challenges of Sustainable Development through the Adaptation of Clean Technologies	World Trade Centre Mumbai All India Association of Industries	Progress towards sustainable development has taken centre stage in every aspect of development planning both at national and international levels across the world. Eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable consumption and production, and managing the planet's natural resource base for the benefit of all are the overarching challenges of sustainable development. Global policies in economic, social and environmental spheres have greatly influenced and prompted national action. It need hardly be emphasized that clean technology will usher in an era of integrated and systemic approach to sustainable development. At a global level, , the awakening towards achieving the goals of sustainable development for the benefit and wellbeing of mankind has prompted nations to strategize and remodel their social, environmental and economic action plans with greater reliance on clean technologies. The session will discuss various initiatives and approaches to lessen the challenges towards achieving sustainable development by creating an ecosystem supported by clean technologies.
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	Rules Behind the Headlines: using data to navigate the unseen landscape of international economic law	Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies	Trade disputes make the headlines, but it is the rules, which make trade work day-to-day.  Yet, the proliferation of hundreds of FTAs, thousands of BITs and an ever-growing body of case law rendered by WTO panels or investment arbitrators have made international economic law increasingly complicated and difficult to grasp. This session discusses how big data and new technologies can help stakeholders to better manage the growing complexity of international economic law and to more fully reap the benefits of the rules behind the headlines. Research output based on several newly-established databases on WTO disputes, FTAs, and BITs respectively will be presented. These databases pull together efforts of lawyers, economists, political scientists and computer scientists, using state-of-the-art "text as data" tools to reduce international economic law's complexity and make trade rules work behind the headlines, but for everyone.
W	<i>Workshop</i>	Technological Innovation, International Trade, and Workers in a Globalized World	World Bank Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO)	Technological change and globalization appears to raise challenges for inclusiveness for some firms, workers and countries. The rise of Global Value Chains over the last 30 years has helped increase global inclusiveness in trade, and the multilateral trading system in turn has helped facilitate rapid economic growth and poverty reduction. How might global value chains contribute to both the process of disruption but also as a solution for the challenge of greater inclusiveness in the future? What kind of policies might help at the global, regional, country and local level to enhance GVC contributions to an inclusive trading world?
D	<i>W. Session</i>	Industrial Policy and International Trade in Developing Countries: Policy Options for Latin America	Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration – SIECA	Industrial policy has seen a revival in recent years, with a focus less on market restrictions than on facilitating innovation, raising competitiveness, and coordinating interlinked productive activities. Despite this, developing countries have often overlooked the potential to combine industrial policy measures with other trade and structural policies. But as a more complex world of global value chains (GVCs) emerged in recent decades, countries need to consider the available options to improve competitiveness, precisely through a combination of trade and industrial policies. SIECA is proposing a debate on these issues, to examine ways to foster the development of regional and global value chains in higher value-added sectors, and ensure effective strategic collaboration between governments and the private sector.
E	<i>W. Session</i>	The Future of Global Trade Governance: the best defense is a good offense	European University Institute Bertelsmann Stiftung	This session will reflect on how the trading system actually works in practice ("behind the headlines") and discuss opportunities and options for WTO members to leverage existing institutional mechanisms to help realize global public policy objectives relating to inclusive growth and attainment of the SDGs. Panellists will consider the strengths/weaknesses of the WTO and the opportunities/threats confronting it. Presentations will centre on how to bolster global trade governance and enhance trust in multilateral cooperation. Specific questions for debate include the need to revise communication and advocacy strategies; increasing accountability, monitoring & evaluation of what the trade regime does; making the organization more responsive/relevant to concerns of citizens; and whether current institutional mechanisms and flexibilities are sufficient, and being used enough, to permit WTO members that wish to do so to engage in substantive discussions and eventual negotiations on new and old issues.

28 SEPTEMBER 2017

8:30-10:00

Room	Type	Title	Organisers	Abstract
S1	<i>W. Session</i>	Stories of Change: Trade Behind the Headlines	Enhanced Integrated Framework	The Stories of Change: Trade behind the headlines session will bring the behind-the-scenes trade stories in the LDCs to the fore, providing a visual indication of what's happening on the ground, showcasing the drivers of change in turning trading opportunities identified in analytical work into business realities, making trade work for the poorest communities. Trade connections will be showcased, looking at embracing the opportunities and addressing the challenges, as well as sharing the lessons learnt.
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	SDG3: Trading globally for better health	International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) take a holistic and multifaceted approach, interweaving health considerations into all of the goals. Sitting at the core of Goal #3 on health is the powerful concept of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). WTO rules are relevant to nearly every aspect on the long road from labs to patients. R&D services on a given pharmaceutical product are performed globally; active intermediate ingredients are procured in different from multiple (developing and developed) countries; finished products are traded globally and subject to stringent regulatory procedures. The modern multilateral framework of international trade has allowed the emergence of a successful innovative ecosystem in the pharma sector that has consistently delivered innovations to patients worldwide. Recent calls for renewed protectionist measures, risks jeopardizing industry's capacity to innovate and trade globally, with serious consequences on global health and the achievements of the SDGs. This panel will discuss how modern multilateral framework of international trade has contributed to an innovative ecosystem in the pharma sector and how it can further contribute to achieving the SDGs.
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	The silent engine: fostering economic recovery and fighting protectionism through trade facilitation and standardization	Federation of the Industries of the State of Sao Paulo	In the last years, trade policy lost relevance in the macroeconomic framework of emerging markets like Brazil. Policymakers were more focused on overcoming issues related to monetary management and fiscal budget than on trade policy improvements. As the financial crisis sparked in 2008, the lowering of interest rates and enhancing fiscal stimulus were not enough to boost domestic activity almost nine years later. International trade emerged once again as central to increase employment levels and corporate profitability. The main goal of the session is to discuss how the ultimate features of international trade regulation, i.e. Bali package and the rising of private standards, are quietly planting the seeds for a strong and much needed economic recovery, in spite of the strengthening of the protectionist rhetoric in the developed world.
D	<i>W. Session</i>	The Truths About Regional Integration: NAFTA As A Living Example of the Benefits and Challenges of Regional Trade Agreements	Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, ITESM)	Increasing people's living standards around the world is not solely the responsibility of the WTO. Regional integration and domestic policies also play an important role in achieving this objective. NAFTA has delivered tangible results despite the critiques it has received in recent months. Several sectors in the three NAFTA countries have experienced growth as a result of market liberalization and production-process integration. This has generated millions of jobs and other social benefits in the three NAFTA countries. Nevertheless, NAFTA has been blamed for the loss of jobs and lack of growth in several other sectors of the NAFTA partners' economies. This working session aims at providing direct testimony on the benefits and challenges of NAFTA from representatives of the meat, textile and aircraft industries located in Mexico, the US and Canada. In addition, an expert on labor issues in the NAFTA region will review the opinions of these industries.
E	<i>W. Session</i>	Global Value Chains: Potential for New Growth and Inclusion in LDCs and LICs	Policy Research in International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM)	Today, Global Value Chains (GVCs) have become a reality for most countries. Fragmented production models are a powerful transformative force that can present both opportunities and challenges for least developed (LDCs) and low-income countries (LICs). ICTSD has developed a series of innovative research studies intended to unpack the complex relationship between GVCs and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session will therefore present a synthesis of ICTSD's recent analyses on how GVCs interact with SDGs while taking into consideration the high-level of heterogeneity with regard to the sustainable development implications of value chains across the world. Looking at various sectors, geographies and types of value chains, the discussion will suggest how certain sustainable development dynamics could be fostered in value chains through targeted trade policy and trade-related policy changes. Additionally, the extent to which sustainability standards can produce positive and negative sustainable development outcomes for developing countries in the context of value chains and the related role of aid for trade will be discussed.

10:00-11:30

S1	W. Session	Testing the legitimacy of global trade: What works, what needs work?	World Economic Forum	The global trade and investment system – from the WTO to regional trade deals – has fared poorly in recent popular debate. This session will cross-examine the legitimacy of global trade in response to criticism of its value and impact. Topics to be addressed include the effect of trade on jobs, growth and MSMEs – amid major technological disruption – the space left by trade rules to pursue public policy objectives, and the extent to which trade contributes to sustainable development. Will the system pass the test?
S2	W. Session	Learning to trade globally: what should SMEs know?	Trade Pacts	Substantial evidence suggests that non-tariff measures (NTMs) have become more important in trade policies. This may be complex and costly for companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular, seeking to export. The objective of this Session is to discuss what SMEs specifically can do to overcome barriers to trade and enhance their export performance in today's globalised world. The Session will assess the extent to which current trade policies accounts for the difficulties and what experience bigger firms can share in overcoming NTMs. The representatives of SMEs, big companies and policy-makers on this Panel will present their perspectives and also seek to provide practical suggestions on how tackle the specific problems identified. The Session represents an important 'reality check' of modern trade policy making at a global, regional, and country level.
S3	W. Session	Labor rights as special cases of the sustainability chapters – how to strengthen their enforceability?	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Brussels  European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)	Against the background of evidence of considerable disillusionment with past policies, contributors to this session will debate the effects of, and alternatives to, the kind of Free Trade Agreements that have dominated the recent globalisation agenda. Questions will include how far recent FTAs have had positive or negative social consequences; whether insertion of labour provisions has served to counter possible negative effects and enhanced a decent work agenda; how far forms taken by labour provisions can be improved; whether expansion of FTAs to cover further business-related issues can still be compatible with decent work; and whether employment standards and decent work can be satisfactorily addressed in FTAs in isolation from other policy agendas
W	W. Session	Trade and the SDGs: Scaling Up the Contribution of Business	World Bank Group  WTO Trade and Environment Division  OECD	Efforts to turn the SDGs into reality create new business opportunities globally. A growing number of companies, large and small, are tapping into those opportunities by innovating in sustainable goods, services, processes, and business models. But the impact of business action on the SDGs has not been large enough, nor has it been felt evenly around the world. There is a real risk that some countries may be left behind.  This working session focuses on how trade can create conditions of transparency, competition and predictability that help sustainable, SDG-friendly business approaches to expand and flourish, especially in developing countries. It will engage a group of business leaders and experts from leading international organizations in discussing trade and other policy action in support of pioneering business solutions scaled to fulfil the SDGs and their promise of leaving no one behind..
D	W. Session	Distributive impacts of trade liberalization: challenges and mitigation policies	Centro de Estudos de Integração e Desenvolvimento Secretaria-Executiva da Camara de comércio exterior Brazil	The Session will discuss the distributive impacts of trade liberalization (and more broadly of globalization) as well as the responses given by different countries to the distributive challenges. Relying on these elements, the Session will focus on the Brazilian case – one of the most closed economies in the world. The main questions to be addressed in the debates are: (i) which are main lessons of experiences of trade liberalization as far as its distributive impacts are concerned?; (ii) what can be learned from the experience of trade adjustment programs and like-policies in developed countries?; (iii) which are the distributive challenges of Brazil's trade policy reform?; and (iv) being a late comer in trade liberalization raises specific distributive challenges to Brazil?
E	W. Session	Organic IP: How Countries Are Fostering Domestic Innovation From the Ground Up	U.S. Chamber of Commerce's lobal Intellectual Property Center	Innovation happens everywhere. Where innovators have the tools to turn an idea into a functional product or service, they can reach beyond themselves to positively transform the lives of others. While the headlines continue to focus on the macro-level policy commitments countries make to each other through trade agreements; more than 20 years post-TRIPS many countries are just now beginning to focus on providing their own citizens with the practical building blocks that enable entrepreneurs and artists to leverage intellectual property to enter the knowledge economy in their own right. Countries of diverse size, geographies, and levels of income are educating their entrepreneurs about the importance of registering their IP; streamlining IP bureaucracy to make it user-friendly; and facilitating the use of IP as collateral to mobilize financing for innovation. Can the institutions catch up with this new age of organic IP?

B	<i>W. Session</i>	Globalisation of SMEs through Trade- Opportunities for developing economies	Indo Global SME Chamber	SMEs are the largest employers in the world and play a bigger role in developing and emerging economies. However, the international trade is no reflection of their domestic performance and role. Still, most the large companies continue to dominate international trade. This is mainly due to the critical mass, organizational reach and relevant technologies that they posses, which is necessary to access and supply foreign markets. However, with the advent of new business platforms, increased role of ICT and the increasing openness of the global economy, the small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) now have the potential to play a bigger role in International trade. This session will look at the changing international trade landscape, assess the new opportunities and the ways to address the old challenges that are still remaining. It will also explore the expectation from the multilateral trading system to promote inclusive participation of SMEs in global markets.
---	-------------------	---	-------------------------	---

**11:30-13:00**

S1	<i>Workshop</i>	Making MC 11 Think Small First: the right toolkit for SME inclusion	EUROCHAMBRES (the Association of European Chambers of Commerce)	The workshop " Making MC 11 Think Small First: the right toolkit for SME inclusion" aims to identify what's desirable and also feasible for SMEs inclusion within the multilateral trading system. This encompasses both the long term dimension of this theme, but also more specifically what we could deliver for SMEs now at the upcoming ministerial in Buenos Aires. For this purpose voices from the developed but also the developing world will outline priorities and deliverables they see feasible ahead of MC11 and beyond.
S2	<i>W. Session</i>	Refreshing the Work - Trade Relationship Guided by the SDGs	Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)	While global trade necessarily produces adjustments which affect job markets, new technologies have a much greater impact as they are predicted to render many jobs obsolete. Technological innovation is not an endogenous process as it would not happen without trade, and this global phenomenon offers surprising opportunities to deepen SDG implementation. At the same time, the perceived threat of trade and technological advances upon the workforce seems to increase calls for trade protection. This panel will discuss how domestic policies implementing the SDGs can reconcile technological innovation with jobs and trade, and how the WTO and the ILO could support the implementation of such policies while promoting SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth. The panel will explore whether increased WTO-ILO collaboration on SDG implementation can address the changing dynamics of global supply chains and the challenges of technological innovation.
S3	<i>W. Session</i>	Could WTO e-commerce proposals help development?	European Digital Rights (EDRI) Public Citizen	In view of the importance e-commerce is acquiring within the WTO, it is important to have a public discussion about e-commerce proposals, There are many unknowns regarding the public discussion about e-commerce proposals, There are many unknowns regarding the technological advances ahead, and therefore the digital economy. Recognizing the uncertainty in the policy-making process, session will examine the positive and negative implications of these proposals for a variety of laws, policies and sustainable development goals (SDGs). The session will focus on the possible impact in areas including digital privacy, financial regulation, government procurement, taxation, jobs, small and medium enterprises, the environment and security, as well as development more broadly, especially in least developed countries.
W	<i>W. Session</i>	How can trade in agriculture and fisheries contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?	FAO UNCTAD	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development puts emphasis on the role of international trade in achieving food security, economic growth, development, and in reducing inequality and unfair competition among countries.  However, in order to assure that the potential of trade is optimally used to achieve sustainable development, further actions can be taken to reinforce the governance of multilateral trading system. Also, countries should ensure that trade policies and strategies are coherent with other national driven policies (such as agricultural, health and marine resources management etc.).  The session will discuss the relation between agricultural/seafood trade and the SDGs, as much as the frameworks (at national, regional and multilateral level) where agricultural and seafood trade are currently managed. The session will also raise questions on how agricultural and seafood trade can contribute to achieve the SDGs.

D	<i>W. Session</i>	The Role of Technology in Enabling Manufacturing	Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) The Federation of German Industries (BDI)	As the importance of manufacturing to societies comes into sharp relief in the current global political climate, the headlines often overlook a key aspect of the promotion of the manufacturing sector in domestic economies: the role that technology plays in making manufacturing companies globally competitive. In this working session, we will bring together experts to talk about the mutually beneficial relationship between manufacturing and technology; what policies governments can adopt to take advantage of this dynamic; how governments can attract and develop a vibrant manufacturing industry without restricting trade and investment; and what role the WTO can play to ensure that governments do not restrict data flows and digital technologies in their support for manufacturers.
E	<i>W. Session</i>	New Trade Initiatives in the OIC region: Towards Achieving SDGs	International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation Islamic Centre for Development of Trade	With the adoption of the Doha Development Agenda in 2002, the WTO recognised that trade and development policies should work hand-in-hand, promoting inclusive and sustainable solutions for all. However, in the past few years, it has become apparent that the DDA is not able to deliver on its mandate, resulting in profound differences among WTO members on the way forward. Some are in favour of opening the way to address new issues, while others remain faithful to the idea that unless the DDA is concluded, the WTO agenda should not be loaded with more topics. Nevertheless, the reality of business, workers and consumers moves faster than WTO negotiations and, as the current anti-globalisation and pro-protectionism movements show, the WTO needs to find ways to address these concerns. Bringing together high-level participants from different fields, this session will discuss how, working on the implementation of the SDGs and promoting the principles of sustainability and inclusiveness in trade, the WTO can play a fundamental role in addressing these challenges.
B	<i>W. Session</i>	Commodity trade and finance: how does it work, notably for SMEs, and what are the barriers to overcome?	WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division	Commodity trade and finance is a topic not always well known in its daily mechanics. Yet, commodity trade account for 20% of world trade. As any other trade, commodity trade requires a credit, guarantee of payment or credit insurance in most cases. This is even vital in developing countries as pre-shipment payment/credit helps pay the farmers well before importers receive the merchandise. The livelihood of many small producers may be at stake, should trading operations go right or wrong. With the withdrawal of international banks from some developing countries markets, financing has become a problem in cases. Several stakeholders, including multilaterals, private sector operator, will gather in this session to describe the mechanics and discuss the barriers involved into moving essential commodities from the area of production to that of consumption. This session fits well with the realities of trade and the efforts of the WTO and stakeholders to make the conditions of trade more inclusive for SMEs and in developing countries (trade facilitation, trade finance).

**13:00-14:00**

Atrium	<i>Meet the Author</i>	Assessing the World Trade Organization: Fit for Purpose? Authors: Manfred Elsig, Bernard Hoekman, Joost Pauwelyn.	WTO Bookshop and Library	The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently celebrated twenty years of existence. The general wisdom is that its dispute settlement institutions work well and its negotiation machinery goes through a phase of prolonged crises. Assessing the World Trade Organization overcomes this myopic view and takes stock of the WTO's achievements whilst going beyond existing disciplinary narratives. It also considers important issues such as the origins of the multilateral system, the accession process and the WTO's interaction with other international organisations. The contributions shed new light on untold stories, critically review and present existing scholarship, and sketch new research avenues for a future generation of trade scholars. This book will appeal to a wide audience that aims to better understand the drivers and obstacles of WTO performance.
--------	------------------------	--	--------------------------	--

**14:00-15:30**

S1	<i>W. Session</i>	Addressing the imbalances in the WTO rules to promote local food systems in West and Eastern Africa in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	ROPPA SEATINI -Uganda SOL	Until the WTO (1995) the GATT tolerated exceptions to free trade for agriculture – no limits on the level and types of import protection – which allowed the developed countries, particularly the EU and US, to reach the top of the ladder of agri-food competitiveness. These exceptions are more imperative today for West and Eastern Africa, given their growing food deficit, population explosion, global warming and falling prices of their exported raw materials. Forcing them to open agri-food markets, including LDCs in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), is counterproductive for the developed countries as well.  Issues addressed: given the unprecedented challenges facing WA and EAC they should use the same tools that enabled the developed countries to achieve their agri-food competitiveness; the EU must stop imposing EPAs; the WTO must recognize ECOWAS and EAC as Members and grant them bound duties at the weighted average level of bound duties of their Member States.
----	-------------------	---	---------------------------------	--

S2	W. Session	Building for success: A world trade agenda for the Buenos Aires ministerial	International Chamber of Commerce	<p>The global rules-based trading system has enabled “unprecedented progress in generating prosperity and alleviating poverty” around the world, yet growing nationalist and protectionist trends are imperilling its future, notes a new ECIPE report. The report was developed as part of the ICC World Trade Agenda initiative, which mobilises global business to help governments set key multilateral trade negotiation priorities.</p> <p>“Building for Success” argues that the WTO Members should respond to current challenges with renewed action, “deploying better defences against protectionism and crafting actions that would have a meaningful impact on trade and economic growth”—especially in the area of digital trade policy.</p> <p>Charting a path forward, the report highlights five especially important issues for the WTO to address at MC11: (1) trade in non-agricultural goods, (2) trade in services; (3) e-commerce; (4) improved rules on ‘new’ competition distortions regarding state-owned enterprises, local content requirements and export restrictions; and (5) investment.</p>
S3	W. Session	Regulation and policy diffusion of environmental/food safety standards in Asia: Challenges for inclusive trade	Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) UNCTAD	<p>This session offers information on current available regulatory data for major exporting and importing countries. Then analysis of impacts of regulations on sustainable industrial development in East Asia are presented.</p> <p>Many Asian countries have adopted regulations similar to the European Union’s policies such as RoHS and REACH chemical regulations as an effort to help domestic SMEs to adopt export market regulations. Policy adoption leads to policy diffusion. Policy diffusion is voluntary regulatory adoption from other jurisdictions without negotiations or international treaties, occurs a result of effort to make trade inclusive both for firms and consumers especially in developing countries. The session discusses two questions. First, whether diffused policy have been successful to make trade inclusive in developing countries. Second, how to coordinate diffused policies so that heterogeneous policy diffusion will not work as trade obstacles for firms and not create pollution havens in countries without regulations.</p>
W	W. Session	Increasing MSME participation in GVCs with digital technology	WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division	<p>Is the notion of transparency merely a legal requirement, or does it include functional outcomes? The truth is that the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC and other organizations provide practical information resources through a fragmented structure. Today, the world is rich in trade related data, information, and knowledge but no amount of promotion can resolve a lack of utility originating from a design flaw. The purpose of this discussion is to highlight the current opportunities with the potential to create a more inclusive global market through better integration of information assets and resources.</p>
D	W. Session	Crafting the Future of Work: The Big Impact of Microbusiness	Etsy, Inc.	<p>Etsy is a global creative commerce platform that builds markets, services, and economic opportunities for creative entrepreneurs. Within Etsy markets, millions of people around the world connect, both online and offline, to make, sell, and buy unique goods. We believe that we’re creating a new economy—the Etsy Economy—that is powered by the spirit and passion of millions of creative entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Etsy serves as an on-ramp to entrepreneurship by creating opportunities for many people who might not have started a business otherwise. Join us for a conversation with Etsy sellers from across the EU as they discuss the how running an internet-enabled microbusiness has impacted their lives. We will explore opportunities to bolster creative entrepreneurship across the globe, and find solutions for the pain points of their businesses.</p>
E	W. Session	MIPYMES en el MERCOSUR: políticas, mecanismos y normas	Misiones permanentes de Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay and Uruguay	<p>Las Micro, Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas (MIPYMES) tienen un papel clave en el crecimiento económico con inclusión social; son las principales fuentes de empleo e ingresos, en los países en desarrollo; por ello, su internacionalización otorgará beneficios que van más allá de la economía, pues fomentará la inversión en tecnología e innovación.</p> <p>La Sesión de Trabajo apunta a comprender los mecanismos que cuentan actualmente las MIPYMES en el Mercosur para su inserción en las cadenas productivas, como así también las limitaciones que enfrentan en sus operaciones comerciales. Un debate sobre políticas regionales y algunas experiencias nacionales sobre MIPYMES del Mercosur permitirá analizar su contribución directa e indirecta a las exportaciones regionales. Igualmente, en la Sesión se podrán evaluar desafíos que implican desarrollar estrategias para pasar de etapas de integración menos calificadas y de menor producción a segmentos que requieren más conocimiento y promover una mayor integración con las cadenas productivas.</p>

B	W. Session	Ending Modern Slavery in Global Supply Chains: Challenges, Strategies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	University of Sussex	Multinational corporations (MNCs) are coming under ever-greater scrutiny in relation to human rights protection. They have been often alleged of making profit from modern slaves' work, which entails an imminent need to focus on global supply chain (GSC) transparency in MNCs' home and host states. The Modern Slavery Act (MSA 2015) represents a ground-breaking step forward and classically falls under the 'Protect' pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Nevertheless, there are significant deficiencies in the legislation and continued barriers to justice for victims of modern slavery in the world trade regime. This runs contrary to the MNCs' commitment to encourage human rights due diligence and accountability of their GSCs under the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response to the global challenge, we will develop a critical discussion about the latest development in modern slavery, including, among other things, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention.
<b>15:30-17:00</b>				
S1	W. Session	Next Generation of Trade: Theory and Policy Framework of "International eTrade"	China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) AliResearch ITC	<p>The Internet revolution has led to disruptive changes in the international trade, which result in the next generation of trade - International eTrade. It is the "replacement" of traditional trade and the product of globalization, digitization and so on. International eTrade will break the time and space barriers of the traditional trade, and provide the real opportunities for the inclusive development of all nations and all peoples.</p> <p>The session will provide an overview of the theoretical and policy framework for the next generation of trade. A report on the topic, prepared by CCIEE (China Center for International Economic Exchanges), would be released and introduce the theory and policy framework of "International eTrade", aiming to provide strategic guidance and practical recommendations for policy makers and trade practitioners, particularly SMEs, to better embrace the new trend and access to global market.</p> <p>The session will also consist of a panel discussion among relevant stakeholders in trade, and close with an interactive Q&amp;A between the panellists and audience.</p>
S2	W. Session	Digital Trade Rules and SMEs: Much to Gain, especially in LDCs	Nextrade Group	Ground truth—and action on the ground—are essential to inform and generate momentum toward a digital trade agenda for SMEs at the WTO and in other negotiating venues. Although the volume of SME digital trade remains small relative to that of large companies, the effective inclusion of SMEs represents a high growth area and a tremendous potential gain for sustainable development, globally and particularly in developing countries. This session will bring together lessons learned from business and independent investigations, initiatives designed to help small businesses generate impact in markets and in the policy processes that matter to them; and the opportunity to reflect on the trade and investment policy agenda at MC11 and beyond that will be most conducive to these objectives.
S3	W. Session	Focusing on the Hidden Faces in Trade Worldwide	OWIT LAKE GENEVA	OWIT Lake Geneva Workshop will highlight amazing people who have made an outstanding contributions to Trade without ever being recognized for their achievements. Selected "hidden faces" will explain how hard work and big dreams can help anyone reach their potential and upgrade their lives. Through examples and testimonials we will bring bright hidden faces to daylight. These role models are an inspiration for all of us.
W	W. Session	Connecting SMEs: are E-Commerce platforms the answer?	Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany	Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in the creation of jobs and growth in both developing and developed countries alike. The rise of digital trade has brought about immense opportunities for even the smallest trader to operate on a global level. However, these opportunities are unevenly spread and in many developing countries, SMEs struggle to benefit from digital developments. E-Commerce platforms are seen as one part of the solution of this many-faceted problem. By taking over aspects such as shipment, payment and marketing, platforms can be a great facilitator for SMEs that lack means to do this. Some SMEs are clearly ready for this step, but after those pioneers signed up, what can be done to convince the second wave? How do we include those, who are not quite ready yet? And how can platforms help them be competitive on a suddenly vastly increased market?
D	W. Session	Gender and Trade Policy: Fostering a Virtuous Circle	Trademark Eastafrica ICTSD	This session will explore the impacts of international trade agreements and policies on gender equity, and consider how increased gender equity in trade can contribute to inclusive economic growth. In this regard, the session will feature examples of how trade policy instruments in the EAC have catalysed the participation of women in cross-border trade; will share an innovative pilot on trade facilitation for small traders which contributed to encourage more women to trade formally; and will demonstrate the significance of trade in fragile and conflict states drawing from experience in South Sudan where women constitute about 70 percent of cross-border traders.

E	W. Session	IP and other e-commerce-related legal frameworks' harmonization as a mean of inclusive trade	International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI)	<p>Global e-commerce is expanding fast. As online transactions are increasingly embraced by enterprises and consumers, the global economy landscape is rapidly changing, with developing countries assuming a more prominent role as both buyers and sellers of goods and services online.</p> <p>By connecting undertakings and consumers located at opposite ends of the world, digital economy can provide MSMEs with access to a borderless consumer base, thus facilitating their participation in the global market.</p> <p>However, different requirements set in national laws hamper cross-border e-commerce by impacting on the trust that its main players (IPRs holders, ISPs, e-commerce websites and consumers) put in online transactions.</p> <p>By opening up a discussion among the very actors of the e-commerce stage, we plan to demonstrate how developing and LDCs' MSMEs can benefit from harmonization in the 3 main fields of IPRs protection and enforcement in the digital environment, e-transactions and ISPs liability rules and consumer protection laws.</p>
<b>17:00-18:30</b>				
S2	W. Session	Public Procurement: New Facts, Figures and Way Forward for liberalized and inclusive markets	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<p>The session will bring together researchers from academia and international organizations to discuss how hard data and e-procurement can contribute to facts-based policy making in the area of government procurement, with the aim of creating liberalized, open procurement markets as essential factor for inclusive economic development and growth.</p> <p>A first roundtable will discuss three initiatives providing path-breaking new insights into the economics of liberalizing procurement markets: the OECD taxonomy of trade barriers in government procurement, the EU Commission Public Procurement Initiative and the EBRD methodology for assessing the economic impact of the GPA accession. These will have been tested inter alia on developing and transition economies from Asia, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe/the Caucasus, and first insights on the potential for and impact of procurement liberalization on fostering inclusive economic growth will be shared. Its relevance for the attainment of the UN SDGs will be touched upon on the basis of the outcomes presented.</p> <p>A second roundtable will discuss e-procurement tools as crucial factor in promoting demonstrable results in integrating small and medium sized enterprises and other disadvantaged suppliers in national and international procurement markets, and in improving overall governance. In this regard, the work of the Open Contracting Partnership in developing data standards that can be applied across different e-procurement and data collection systems will be briefly presented. The importance of transparent information and data for the fight against corruption will also be discussed, and initial results from an EBRD study on the participation of SMEs in liberalized procurement markets will be touched upon.</p>
S3	W. Session	Bridging the Digital Divide through the Information Technology Agreement (ITA)	Semiconductor Industry Association	<p>Reliable, sustainable, high quality ICT goods and services are prerequisites for economic growth and social development. The WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA), implemented in 1996 and expanded in 2016, has played a pivotal role in bridging the digital divide and achieving UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). By eliminating tariffs on hundreds of high tech goods and components, from semiconductors to smartphones, the ITA has made technology more affordable and accessible to consumers, businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs. This in turn has promoted growth and prosperity through expanded e-commerce, access to the Internet, and availability and affordability of innovative technologies used in a variety of traditional sectors, from agriculture to healthcare, construction to energy. This working session will analyse the benefits and impact joining the ITA can have on innovation, investment, exports, job creation, economic modernization, prosperity, and standard of living.</p>
W	Workshop	"Me robot, you human". Future of work: what to expect?"	University of Graz, Department of Tax and Fiscal Law	<p>According to the Frey &amp; Osborne study, in the next 20 years in the US more than 47% jobs will be automated. In Europe, a recent study shows that job losses due to automation might be estimated to about 53%. Is this really the future that the current development of technologies is going to create or do we just need to adjust our educational system and be prepared for completely different working skills? How are we going to finance the solutions needed to cope with this shifting panorama? Which impact will they have on a global scale? 6 young panellists, coming from different backgrounds (academia, entrepreneurship, politics) will try to figure out the necessary steps that our society will have to take in order to embrace new technologies in the best inclusive way. Ready for a journey into the next future of work?</p>
D	Workshop	Emerging trends in digital technology and their impact on e-commerce.	DiploFoundation Geneva Internet Platform	<p>This session aims to analyse the opportunities and challenges posed by three inter-related technologies - the Internet of Things, big data and artificial intelligence - on e-commerce. In order to do so, discussions will be guided by practical questions and concrete cases. Particular attention will be given to the consequences of the introduction of new technologies for SMEs and the potential disruption of competition.</p>

B	<i>Workshop</i>	The Evolving Nature of Trade Remedies – Challenges to and Opportunities for Development Goals	Strategic Alliance for WTO and Trade Remedies Law and Practice (SAWTR)	It is imperative to have a nuanced understanding of the objective and impact of trade remedy measures to assess their success. This Workshop proposes to do the same - to see how effective trade remedy measures have been in creating a “level-playing field”. It sets out to examine if Members are able to achieve desired results by using trade remedy measures and are such measures being imposed in consonance with their aim or are they being misused, or being used in a way that is detached from the realities of the changing nature of global trade. Additionally, the Workshop also aims to assess if the use of trade-remedy measures is giving rise to latent effects – both facilitating or distorting trade. Third, the Workshop also seeks to examine if the trade-remedy law is responsive to the social, political and economic changes around the World.
---	-----------------	---	--	---