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Technical notes

Composition of regions and other economic groupings				
Regions				
North America				
Bermuda	Canada*	Mexico*	United States of America*	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
South and Central America and the Caribbean				
Antigua and Barbuda*	Chile*	El Salvador*	Panama*	Trinidad and Tobago*
Argentina*	Colombia*	Grenada*	Paraguay*	Uruguay*
Aruba (the Netherlands with respect to)	Costa Rica*	Guatemala*	Peru*	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of*
Bahamas**	Cuba*	Guyana*	Saint Kitts and Nevis*	
Barbados*	Curaçao	Haiti*	Saint Lucia*	
Belize*	Dominica*	Honduras*	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*	
Bolivia, Plurinational State of*	Dominican Republic*	Jamaica*	Saint Martin	
Brazil*	Ecuador*	Nicaragua*	Suriname*	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
Europe				
Albania*	Czech Republic*	Iceland*	Montenegro*	Slovenia*
Andorra**	Denmark*	Ireland*	Netherlands*	Spain*
Austria*	Estonia*	Italy*	Norway*	Sweden*
Belgium*	Finland*	Latvia*	Poland*	Switzerland*
Bosnia and Herzegovina**	France*	Liechtenstein*	Portugal*	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*
Bulgaria*	Germany*	Lithuania*	Romania*	Turkey*
Croatia*	Greece*	Luxembourg*	Serbia**	United Kingdom*
Cyprus*	Hungary*	Malta*	Slovak Republic*	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including associate and former member States				
Armenia*	Georgia*	Moldova, Republic of*	Turkmenistan	
Azerbaijan**	Kazakhstan*	Russian Federation*	Ukraine*	
Belarus**	Kyrgyz Republic*	Tajikistan*	Uzbekistan**	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
Africa				
Algeria**	Congo*	Ghana*	Mauritius*	Somalia**
Angola*	Côte d'Ivoire*	Guinea*	Morocco*	South Africa*
Benin*	Democratic Republic of the Congo*	Guinea-Bissau*	Mozambique*	South Sudan**
Botswana*	Djibouti*	Kenya*	Namibia*	Sudan**
Burkina Faso*	Egypt*	Lesotho*	Niger*	Tanzania*
Burundi*	Equatorial Guinea**	Liberia*	Nigeria*	Togo*
Cabo Verde*	Eritrea	Libya**	Rwanda*	Tunisia*
Cameroon*	Eswatini*	Madagascar*	São Tomé and Príncipe**	Uganda*
Central African Republic*	Ethiopia**	Malawi*	Senegal*	Zambia*
Chad*	Gabon*	Mali*	Seychelles*	Zimbabwe*
Comoros**	The Gambia*	Mauritania*	Sierra Leone*	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				

*WTO members

**Observer governments

Middle East				
Bahrain, Kingdom of*	Israel*	Lebanese Republic**	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of*	United Arab Emirates*
Iran**	Jordan*	Oman*	Syrian Arab Republic**	Yemen*
Iraq**	Kuwait, the State of*	Qatar*		
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
Asia				
Afghanistan*	Hong Kong, China*	Malaysia*	Papua New Guinea*	Timor Leste**
Australia*	India*	Maldives*	Philippines*	Tonga*
Bangladesh*	Indonesia*	Mongolia*	Samoa*	Tuvalu
Bhutan**	Japan*	Myanmar*	Singapore*	Vanuatu*
Brunei Darussalam*	Kiribati	Nepal*	Solomon Islands*	Viet Nam*
Cambodia*	Korea, Republic of*	New Zealand*	Sri Lanka*	
China*	Lao People's Democratic Republic*	Pakistan*	Chinese Taipei*	
Fiji*	Macao, China*	Palau	Thailand*	
Other territories in the region not elsewhere specified				
Regional trade agreements				
Andean Community (CAN)				
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Colombia	Ecuador	Peru	
AFTA (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area)				
Brunei Darussalam	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand
Cambodia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Myanmar	Singapore	Viet Nam
CACM (Central American Common Market)				
Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua
CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market)				
Antigua and Barbuda	Belize	Guyana	Montserrat	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bahamas	Dominica	Haiti	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Suriname
Barbados	Grenada	Jamaica	Saint Lucia	Trinidad and Tobago
CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)				
Cameroon	Chad	Congo	Equatorial Guinea	Gabon
Central African Republic				
COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)				
Burundi	Egypt	Kenya	Mauritius	Sudan
Comoros	Eritrea	Libya	Rwanda	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Eswatini	Madagascar	Seychelles	Zambia
Djibouti	Ethiopia	Malawi	South Sudan	Zimbabwe
ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)				
Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea	Mali	Senegal
Burkina Faso	The Gambia	Guinea-Bissau	Niger	Sierra Leone
Cabo Verde	Ghana	Liberia	Nigeria	Togo
EFTA (European Free Trade Association)				
Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway	Switzerland	
European Union (28)				
Austria	Denmark	Hungary	Malta	Slovenia
Belgium	Estonia	Ireland	Netherlands	Spain
Bulgaria	Finland	Italy	Poland	Sweden
Croatia	France	Latvia	Portugal	United Kingdom
Cyprus	Germany	Lithuania	Romania	
Czech Republic	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovak Republic	

GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)				
Bahrain, Kingdom of	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	United Arab Emirates
Kuwait, the State of				
MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market)				
Argentina	Brazil	Paraguay	Uruguay	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)				
Canada	Mexico	United States of America		
SADC (Southern African Development Community)				
Angola	Eswatini	Malawi	Namibia	Tanzania
Botswana	Lesotho	Mauritius	Seychelles	Zambia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Madagascar	Mozambique	South Africa	Zimbabwe
SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Agreement)				
Afghanistan	Bhutan	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	India	Nepal		
WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union)				
Benin	Côte d'Ivoire	Mali	Senegal	Togo
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Niger		
Other groups				
ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific countries)				
Angola	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Solomon Islands
Antigua and Barbuda	Cuba	Guyana	Nauru	Somalia
Bahamas	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Haiti	Niger	South Africa
Barbados	Djibouti	Jamaica	Nigeria	Sudan
Belize	Dominica	Kenya	Niue	Suriname
Benin	Dominican Republic	Kiribati	Palau	Tanzania
Botswana	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho	Papua New Guinea	Timor-Leste
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Liberia	Rwanda	Togo
Burundi	Eswatini	Madagascar	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Tonga
Cabo Verde	Ethiopia	Malawi	Saint Lucia	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Fiji	Mali	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tuvalu
Central African Republic	Gabon	Marshall Islands	Samoa	Uganda
Chad	The Gambia	Mauritania	São Tomé and Príncipe	Vanuatu
Comoros	Ghana	Mauritius	Senegal	Zambia
Congo	Grenada	Micronesia	Seychelles	Zimbabwe
Cook Islands	Guinea	Mozambique	Sierra Leone	
Africa				
<i>North Africa</i>				
Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
Sub-Saharan Africa				
<i>Western Africa</i>				
Benin	The Gambia	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Liberia	Niger	Sierra Leone
Cabo Verde	Guinea	Mali	Nigeria	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire				

<i>Central Africa</i>				
Burundi	Central African Republic	Congo	Equatorial Guinea	Rwanda
Cameroon	Chad	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gabon	São Tomé and Príncipe
<i>Eastern Africa</i>				
Comoros	Kenya	Mayotte	Seychelles	Sudan
Djibouti	Madagascar	Reunion	Somalia	Tanzania
Eritrea	Mauritius	Rwanda	South Sudan	Uganda
Ethiopia				
<i>Southern Africa</i>				
Angola	Eswatini	Malawi	Namibia	Zambia
Botswana	Lesotho	Mozambique	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Territories in Africa not elsewhere specified				
Asia				
<i>East Asia</i>				
China	Japan	Korea, Republic of	Mongolia	
Hong Kong, China	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Macao, China	Chinese Taipei	
<i>Southeast Asia</i>				
Brunei Darussalam	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Myanmar	Singapore	Timor-Leste
Cambodia	Malaysia	Philippines	Thailand	Viet Nam
Indonesia				
<i>South Asia</i>				
Afghanistan	Bhutan	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	India	Nepal		
<i>Oceania</i>				
Australia	Tuvalu	Kiribati	New Zealand	Solomon Islands
Nauru	Fiji	Marshall Islands	Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Palau	Indonesia	Micronesia	Samoa	Vanuatu
APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)				
Australia	Hong Kong, China	Mexico	Russian Federation	Thailand
Brunei Darussalam	Indonesia	New Zealand	Singapore	United States
Canada	Japan	Papua New Guinea	Chinese Taipei	Viet Nam
Chile	Korea, Republic of	Peru		
China	Malaysia	Philippines		
BRIC				
Brazil	Russian Federation	India	China	
Developed economies				
North America (except Mexico)	European Union (28)	EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland)	Australia, Japan and New Zealand	
Developing economies				
Africa	South and Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico	Europe except the European Union (28) and EFTA; Middle East	Asia except Australia, Japan and New Zealand	

LDCs (least-developed countries)				
Afghanistan	Comoros	Kiribati	Nepal	Tanzania
Angola	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Niger	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Djibouti	Lesotho	Rwanda	Togo
Benin	Equatorial Guinea	Liberia	São Tomé and Príncipe	Tuvalu
Bhutan	Eritrea	Madagascar	Senegal	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Malawi	Sierra Leone	Vanuatu
Burundi	The Gambia	Mali	Solomon Islands	Yemen
Cambodia	Guinea	Mauritania	Somalia	Zambia
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique	South Sudan	
Chad	Haiti	Myanmar	Sudan	
Six East Asian traders				
Hong Kong, China	Malaysia	Singapore	Chinese Taipei	Thailand
Korea, Republic of				
Pacific Alliance				
Chile	Colombia	Mexico	Peru	

WTO members are frequently referred to as "countries", although some members are not countries in the usual sense of the word but are officially "customs territories". The definition of geographical and other groupings in this report does not imply an expression of opinion by the Secretariat concerning the status of any country or territory, the delimitation of its frontiers, nor the rights and obligations of any WTO member in respect of WTO agreements. The colours, boundaries, denominations and classifications in the maps of the publication do not imply, on the part of the WTO, any judgement on the legal or other status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of any boundary.

Throughout this report, South and Central America and the Caribbean is referred to as South and Central America.

Aruba; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China; the Republic of Korea; and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu are referenced as: Aruba, the Netherlands with respect to; Bolivarian Rep. of Venezuela; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; and Chinese Taipei respectively.

The data supplied in the World Trade Report 2018 are valid as of 31 July 2018.

Abbreviations and symbols

ACTA	Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement	EUR	Euros
ADB	Asian Development Bank	eWTP	Electronic World Trade Platform
AfDB	African Development Bank	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
AI	artificial intelligence	FDI	foreign direct investment
AMF	additive manufacturing file	FPD	flat panel display
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
ASYCUDA	UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data	GCA	Global Cybersecurity Agenda
AU	African Union	GCI	Global Cybersecurity Index
AWS	Amazon Web Services	GDP	gross domestic product
B2B	business-to-business	GDPR	EU General Data Protection Regulation
B2C	business-to-consumer	GI	geographical indication
BOP	balance of payments	GPS	Global Positioning System
CAD	computer-aided design	GTAP	Purdue University's Global Trade Analysis Project
CEPII	Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales	GTM	Global Trade Model
CGE	computable general equilibrium	GVC	global value chain
CPC	Central Product Classification	HDMI	high-definition multimedia interface
CPI	consumer price index	IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
CPTPP	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership	IAPP	International Association of Privacy Professionals
CVA	WTO Customs Valuation Agreement	ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
DAO	Decentralized Autonomous Organization	ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
DEA	US Drug Enforcement Administration	ICN	International Competition Network
DLT	distributed ledger technology	ICT	information and communication technology
DRM	digital rights management	ILO	International Labour Organization
DVI	digital visual interface	IMF	International Monetary Fund
EBOPS	Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification	IoT	Internet of Things
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	IP	intellectual property
ECIPE	European Centre for International Political Economy	IPR	intellectual property rights
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ESW	Electronic Single Window	ISP	internet service provider
EU	European Union	IT	information technology

ITA	WTO Information Technology Agreement	TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement
ITC	International Trade Centre	TRIMS	Trade-Related Investment Measures
ITO	International Trade Organization	TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
LAN	local area network	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
LDCs	least-developed countries	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
MaGE	Macroeconometrics of the Global Economy	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
MAU	monthly active user	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MFN	most-favoured nation	UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
MOOC	massive open online course	UK	United Kingdom
M-Pesa	"Mobile"-Pesa	UPU	Universal Postal Union
MSMEs	micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	US	United States
NASA	US National Aeronautics and Space Administration	US BEA	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
NRI	Network Readiness Index	USITC	United States International Trade Commission
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	WCO	World Customs Organization
OLS	ordinary least squares	WEF	World Economic Forum
P2P	peer-to-peer	WIOD	World Input-Output Database
PPML	Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
PTA	preferential trade agreement	WTO	World Trade Organization
R&D	research and development		
RCM	remote container management		
RFID	radio-frequency identification		
RMI	rights management information		
RTA	regional trade agreement		
SDGs	United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals		
SEC	US Securities and Exchange Commission		
SPS	sanitary and phytosanitary measures		
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility		
SWIFT	Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication		
TBT	technical barriers to trade		
TCCV	Technical Committee on Customs Valuation		
TFA	WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement		
TPMs	technological protection measures		

The following symbols are used in this publication:	
...	not available
0	figure is zero or became zero due to rounding
-	not applicable
EUR	Euro
US\$	United States dollars
£	UK pound

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WTO members

(As of 1 August 2018)

Afghanistan	Ghana	Norway
Albania	Greece	Oman
Angola	Grenada	Pakistan
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Panama
Argentina	Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Armenia	Guinea-Bissau	Paraguay
Australia	Guyana	Peru
Austria	Haiti	Philippines
Bahrain, Kingdom of	Honduras	Poland
Bangladesh	Hong Kong, China	Portugal
Barbados	Hungary	Qatar
Belgium	Iceland	Romania
Belize	India	Russian Federation
Benin	Indonesia	Rwanda
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Ireland	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Botswana	Israel	Saint Lucia
Brazil	Italy	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Brunei Darussalam	Jamaica	Samoa
Bulgaria	Japan	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
Burkina Faso	Jordan	Senegal
Burundi	Kazakhstan	Seychelles
Cabo Verde	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cambodia	Korea, Republic of	Singapore
Cameroon	Kuwait, the State of	Slovak Republic
Canada	Kyrgyz Republic	Slovenia
Central African Republic	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Solomon Islands
Chad	Latvia	South Africa
Chile	Lesotho	Spain
China	Liberia	Sri Lanka
Colombia	Liechtenstein	Suriname
Congo	Lithuania	Sweden
Costa Rica	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Côte d'Ivoire	Macao, China	Chinese Taipei
Croatia	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Cuba	Malawi	Tanzania
Cyprus	Malaysia	Thailand
Czech Republic	Maldives	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali	Togo
Denmark	Malta	Tonga
Djibouti	Mauritania	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Mauritius	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Turkey
Ecuador	Moldova, Republic of	Uganda
Egypt	Mongolia	Ukraine
El Salvador	Montenegro	United Arab Emirates
Estonia	Morocco	United Kingdom
Eswatini	Mozambique	United States of America
European Union	Myanmar	Uruguay
Fiji	Namibia	Vanuatu
Finland	Nepal	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
France	Netherlands	Viet Nam
Gabon	New Zealand	Yemen
The Gambia	Nicaragua	Zambia
Georgia	Niger	Zimbabwe
Germany	Nigeria	

Previous World Trade Reports

Trade, technology and jobs

2017



The *World Trade Report 2017* examines how technology and trade affect employment and wages. It analyses the challenges for workers and firms in adjusting to changes in labour markets and how governments can facilitate such adjustment to ensure that trade and technology are inclusive.

Levelling the trading field for SMEs

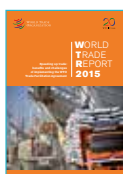
2016



The *World Trade Report 2016* examines the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in international trade. It looks at how the international trade landscape is changing for SMEs and what the multilateral trading system does and can do to encourage SME participation in global markets.

Speeding up trade: Benefits and challenges of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

2015



The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), agreed by WTO members at the Ministerial Conference in December 2013, is the first multilateral trade agreement concluded since the establishment of the WTO in 1995. This Report is the first detailed study of the potential impacts of the TFA, based on analysis of the final agreement text.

Trade and development: Recent trends and the role of the WTO

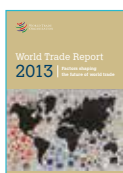
2014



This Report looks at four major trends that have changed the relationship between trade and development since the start of the millennium: the economic rise of developing economies, the growing integration of global production through supply chains, the higher prices for agricultural goods and natural resources, and the increasing interdependence of the world economy.

Factors shaping the future of world trade

2013



This Report looks at what has shaped global trade in the past and reviews how demographic change, investment, technological progress, developments in the transport and energy/natural resource sectors, as well as trade-related policies and institutions, will affect international trade.

Trade and public policies: A closer look at non-tariff measures in the 21st century

2012



Regulatory measures for trade in goods and services raise challenges for international cooperation in the 21st century. This Report examines why governments use non-tariff measures and services measures and the extent to which these measures may distort international trade.

The WTO and preferential trade agreements: From co-existence to coherence

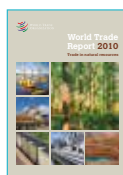
2011



The ever-growing number of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) is a prominent feature of international trade. This Report describes the historical development of PTAs and the current landscape of agreements. It examines why PTAs are established, their economic effects, the contents of the PTAs, and the interaction between PTAs and the multilateral trading system.

Trade in natural resources

2010



This Report focuses on trade in natural resources, such as fuels, forestry, mining and fisheries. It examines the characteristics of trade in natural resources, the policy choices available to governments and the role of international cooperation, particularly of the WTO, in the proper management of trade in this sector.

Trade policy commitments and contingency measures

2009



This Report examines the range and role of contingency measures available in trade agreements. It aims to analyse whether WTO provisions provide a balance between supplying governments with the necessary flexibility to face difficult economic situations and adequately defining these in a way that limits their use for protectionist purposes.

Trade in a globalizing world

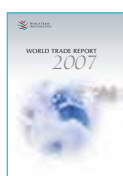
2008



This Report provides a reminder of the gains from international trade and highlights the challenges arising from higher levels of integration. It addresses the question of what constitutes and drives globalization, the benefits and challenges it brings, and the role trade plays in this world of ever-growing inter-dependency

Sixty years of the multilateral trading system: Achievements and challenges

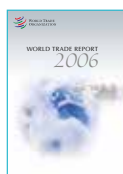
2007



On 1 January 2008 the multilateral trading system celebrated its 60th anniversary. The *World Trade Report 2007* celebrates this landmark anniversary with an in-depth look at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor, the WTO – their origins and achievements, the challenges they have faced, and what the future holds.

Exploring the links between subsidies, trade and the WTO

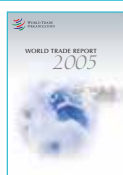
2006



This Report focuses on how subsidies are defined, what economic theory can tell us about subsidies, why governments use subsidies, the most prominent sectors in which they are applied and the role of the WTO Agreement in regulating subsidies in international trade.

Trade, standards and the WTO

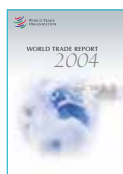
2005



This Report seeks to shed light on the various functions and consequences of standards, focusing on the economics of standards in international trade, the institutional setting for standard-setting and conformity assessment, and the role of WTO agreements in reconciling the legitimate policy uses of standards with an open, non-discriminatory trading system.

Coherence

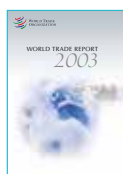
2004



This Report focuses on the notion of coherence in analysing interdependent policies: the interaction between trade and macroeconomic policy, the role of infrastructure in trade and economic development, domestic market structures, governance and institutions, and the role of international cooperation in promoting policy coherence.

Trade and development

2003



This Report focuses on development. It explains the origin of this issue and offers a framework within which to address the question of the relationship between trade and development, thereby contributing to more informed discussion.

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World Trade Report 2018

Trade has always been shaped by technology but the rapid development of digital technologies in recent times has the potential to transform international trade profoundly in the years to come. Computing, automation and data analytics are coming together in entirely new ways that deeply impact what we trade, how we trade and who is trading. What will be the consequences of the “new digital revolution” on the world economy, and in particular on international trade?

The *World Trade Report 2018* examines how digital technologies – and in particular the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, 3D printing and Blockchain – affect trade costs, the nature of what is traded and the composition of trade. It provides an analysis of the changes at play and estimates the extent to which global trade may be affected over the next 15 years. The Report discusses the opportunities arising from the development of digital technologies, in particular for developing countries and smaller firms, but also the challenges. It also examines how international trade cooperation can help governments both seize these opportunities and address the challenges.

The Report finds that one of the most significant impacts of digital technologies is the extent to which they will reduce trade costs. It also highlights that digital technologies will affect the composition of trade by increasing the services component, fostering trade in certain goods such as time-sensitive products, changing patterns of comparative advantage, and affecting the complexity and length of global value chains. A number of simulations outlined in the Report show that future technological changes are expected to increase trade growth, especially in trade in services, and that developing countries are likely to gain an increasing share of global trade. The expansion of digital trade is likely to entail considerable benefits but international cooperation is needed to help governments ensure that digital trade continues to be an engine of inclusive economic development.

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