

TRADE HOUSE PAVILION SESSION DETAILS

Host: UNCTAD
Partners: WTO Secretariat and TESS Forum
Type: Stakeholders' dialogue
Date and time: Tuesday 5 December 13:30-14:30 p.m.
<p>Contacts: Chantal Line Carpentier, carpentier@un.org Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Division on International Trade and Commodities UNCTAD</p> <p>Claudia Contreras, claudia.contreras@unctad.org Economic Affairs Officer Division on International Trade and Commodities UNCTAD</p>
<p>Session Title (Maximum 10 words)</p>
Mitigating Climate Change with trade-related regulations
<p>Themes Type: (Please choose from the dropdown menu below)</p>
1. Making trade policy work for people and the planet
<p>Session Description (Max. 150 words with session's purpose, main topics connected to the relevant theme, and expected outcomes)</p>
<p>Trade regulations can play an important role in supporting the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Over the last few decades, countries have been increasingly using non-tariff measures (NTMs) to pursue environmental and climate-change mitigation objectives. Climate change related NTMs are commonly imposed on goods such as fuel, motor vehicles, appliances, renewable energy generation equipment, and plastic products. Given their potential impact on trade and competitiveness, they should be carefully designed and implemented to ensure their compatibility with international law, and to allow equitable market access for developing countries.</p> <p>NTMs are also widely found in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as a tool to support adaptation and mitigation efforts. A recent mapping of climate change related NTMs identified over a thousand NTMs introduced by about 100 countries. Technical barriers to trade (TBTs) account for a large majority of these climate change related NTMs. The WTO TBT Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade and the WTO provides a forum for dialogue among Members to support coherence and alignment of policies.</p> <p>Notably, climate change-related technical regulations are generally seen as facing less political constraints when compared with other measures such as carbon taxes. They might also be easier to implement in developing countries than carbon pricing mechanisms.</p> <p>Based on recent WTO research and a new UNCTAD publication on Trade and Climate Change, this session will focus on non-tariff measures and discuss their potential as a tool to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>

Speakers and Moderator

(Maximum 5 as recommended)

Moderator: Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development, UNCTAD

Panelists:

Ms. Miho Shirotori, Director a.i., Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director Trade and Environment Division, WTO

Mr. Andrey Slepnev, Member of the Board (Minister) for Trade, Eurasian Economic Commission

Ms. Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, interim co-CEO and Vice-President, Global Strategies, IISD

Ms. Carolyn Deree, Executive Director Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS)