

The WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement: From Words to Action

Virtual via Zoom and in Room W

20 October 2022 14:30 – 16:00 CET

This event is being organized in the context of "Trade and Environment Week 2022".

Abstract:

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have agreed at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference to a new set of binding multilateral rules to curb the harmful subsidies provided by governments to their fishing sector. The first WTO agreement with an environmental goal, the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement aims to ensure that public funds do not support fishing activities that undermine the sustainability of marine resources and the livelihoods of fishing communities. The journey towards tangible impact, however, has just started. WTO Members now need to ratify the treaty and prepare for its implementation, so that the Agreement's provisions are turned into action.

This event will start by providing participants with a concise overview of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, helping them to understand the focus of the key disciplines in the Agreement. Reflections on the implementation of the Agreement will then be provided by WTO Member and civil society organization representatives. Finally, the event will include a presentation of a self-assessment tool produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to support WTO Members' efforts to prepare for the implementation of the new rules.

Panel:

Speakers

Alice Tipping, Lead, Sustainable Trade and Fisheries Subsidies, IISD

Sainabou Taal, Acting Head of Fisheries Subsidies, WTO Rules Division

Ernesto Fernandez Monge, Senior Officer, Conservation Support, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Assan Touray, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Tristan Irschlinger, Policy Advisor, Fisheries Subsidies, IISD

Moderation: Alice Tipping, Lead, Sustainable Trade and Fisheries Subsidies, IISD

This event is organized by: IISD

The event will be held on Zoom and in room W at the WTO premises.