Update on work of International Expert Group on principles for consideration in the design & implementation of trade-related climate measures & policies

11 May 2023
TESSD, WTO, Switzerland

TESSD Working Group on Trade-related Climate Measures
Principles for consideration in the design & implementation of trade-related climate measures & policies

• TESS has convened a diverse group of 20 eminent international legal experts on climate, environment, trade, and public international law to prepare a report that:
  • Identifies a core set of well-established principles of international law relevant to international cooperation on climate and trade, and to trade-related climate measures (TRCMs) & policies in particular.
  • Provides general guidance on the relevance of these principles to the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures and policies.

• The expert group is regionally diverse & all are participating in their personal capacities
• The focus is on principles that already exist in international law
• The group has adopted a broad definition of TRCMs (including range of border measures, regulatory measures and incentives)
Overarching objectives of the project

• Foster shared understandings & spur informed dialogue around principles
• Inform dialogue on trade-related climate measures at the WTO, including discussions at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, and in TESSD Working Group on Trade-related Climate Measures
• Contribute to reducing tensions and promote inclusive cooperation on climate and trade
• Inform debates and policymaking at the domestic level

Next steps

• Report to be published in June
• Proposed launch event in Environment Week alongside June CTE meeting
• Follow up briefings & roundtables on the report, including at WTO Public Forum