

Civil Society Expert Events at the 2021 WTO Public Forum

ALL TIMES ARE Geneva-based, CEST (UTC+2). Please see <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/> for local times.

Register to participate BEFORE Sept 27 here: https://wtopf21.org/110/participation_form

ALL SESSIONS will be livestreamed at <https://wtopf21.org/>.

ALL SESSIONS will have interpretation into Spanish and French.
TOUTES LES SESSIONS auront une interprétation en espagnol et en français.
TODAS LAS SESIONES contarán con interpretación al español y francés.

5. A WTO Reform agenda in support of decent work and just development

Tuesday, 28 September 2021, 15:05 - 16:05 CEST

Speakers:

- Sharan Burrow - ITUC
- Richard Kozul-Wright - UNCTAD
- Anita Ramasastry – UN BHR
- Eric Gottwald (moderator)

The multilateral trading system is not fit for purpose and has contributed to skyrocketing inequality, along with a race to the bottom on rights and regulations. To rebuild trust, the WTO must reaffirm its commitment to sustainable development as stated in the Marrakesh Agreement, and explicitly affirm its support for human and labour rights. To tackle the challenges of the 21st century, a reformed WTO must set an enforceable minimum floor on rights and support decent work, while making sure to give countries the policy space to pursue development goals and full employment goals. Setting a floor on human and labour rights, and environmental standards will ensure fair competition and deliver on improving conditions for working people in both developing and developed countries.

Organized by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

7. Copyright, trade and a TRIPS waiver for COVID

Tuesday, 28 September 2021, 15:05 - 16:05 CEST

- Patricia Diaz, Professor and Researcher, Universidad de la Republica de Uruguay, Datysoc
- Teresa Hackett, Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager, Electronic Information for Libraries
- Dick Kawooya, Professor, University of South Carolina, Uganda, United States
- Allan Rocha, Professor and Researcher at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Sean Flynn, Director, American University, Washington College of Law, Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, United States

This session will discuss the elements of copyright policy that is needed to respond to the COVID pandemic and other emergencies, and how trade and international intellectual property law should accommodate such measures. Copyright is implicated in the treatment, prevention, and containment of COVID and in the response to other emergencies. Many countries lack express rights in their copyright laws to enable remote and digital uses of works for education and scientific research, impede the repair of medical devices requiring software, and have no provision for public health use of tools, such as computational algorithms, needed to produce vaccines. This session will discuss how countries can respond to these challenges within the confines of the WTO TRIPS agreement and whether further clarifications of such flexibility is warranted to ensure that emergency action can be taken now and in the future.

Organized by the American University, Washington College of Law, Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property (PIJIP, AU WCL)

8. Relevance and Future of the WTO: From Seattle 1999 to COVID Deadlock 2021

Tuesday, 28 September 2021, 16:35 - 17:35 CEST

Panellists:

- Jane Kelsey, Professor of Law, University of Auckland
- Sophia Murphy, Executive Director of Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- James Thuo Gathii, Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law and Professor of Law, Loyola University
- Moderator: Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch

The expert speakers from academia and civil society will explore how WTO rules recently have hampered the fight against COVID-19 after decades of WTO-directed hyperglobalization resulted in a lack of resilience in supply chains and production capacity in rich and poor nations.

Organized by Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch (GTW), US

22. Strengthening and streamlining national law responses beyond COVID- 19: Trade and intellectual property rules in the context of access to health technologies

Wednesday, 29 September 2021, 11:30 - 12:30 CEST

Panelists:

- Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre
- Marcela Cristina Fogaca Vieira, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute Geneva
- Jaume Vidal, Senior Policy Advisor, Health Action International Europe
- Sergey Golovin, Intellectual Property and Access Lead, Treatment Preparedness Coalition of Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Dr Yuanqiong Hu, Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Campaign (Moderator)

This working session brings together leading experts and practitioners from international organizations, academic institutions and non- governmental organizations, to critically review and discuss national law responses and experiences addressing intellectual property challenges in a global pandemic and the role of WTO. These would include national law and policy reform processes in several countries, including Brazil, Russia, and the ongoing discussions in the European Union concerning obstacles in using compulsory licensing; as well as the role of TRIPS waiver in a pandemic. It intends to conclude with a discussion on how these experiences should inform the reform of international trade rules beyond COVID19. It aims to offer specific recommendations on what steps can be taken by different stakeholders.

Organized by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Health Action International (HAI)

42. The future of the TRIPS agreement post COVID-19

Wednesday, 29 September 2021, 16:30 - 17:30 CEST

Speakers:

- Prof. Carlos M. Correa, South Centre, Geneva
- Prof. Hyo Yoon Kang, University of Kent, UK
- Dr. Yuan Qiong Hu, MSF Access Campaign, Geneva
- Dr. Dean Baker, Center for Economic Policy & Research, Washington DC
- Dr. Viviana Muñoz-Tellez (South Centre), moderator

Disciplines on intellectual property protection are part of the multilateral trade system through the WTO TRIPS Agreement. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to bear again the tension between the protection of intellectual property rights and public health, which had been addressed in 2001 through the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public health. Having in view the TRIPS flexibilities, this session will discuss the role of interpretation, temporary waivers and amendments in dealing with such tension and what further actions could be taken under the WTO rules in order to promote access to medical products for all.

Organized by the South Centre

50. Catching development – Acting together for sustainable fisheries trade

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

Panelists:

- Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, Centre for WTO Studies
- Rachmi Hertani, Executive Director, Indonesia for Global Justice
- Peter Lunenborg, Senior Researcher, South Centre
- Margaret Nakato, Executive Director, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
- Adam Wolfenden, Trade Justice Campaigner, Pacific Network on Globalisation (Moderator)

Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 has given a clear mandate to the WTO to take action on the issue of fisheries subsidies while respecting the mandate of special and differential treatment so that the interest of small fishers in developing and least developed countries are protected. Any collective action on sustainable trade relating to fisheries subsidies must get the balance right for Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island States to be able to develop and support their domestic industries with the need to reduce levels of unsustainable fisheries subsidies. This session will discuss the current negotiations and provide insights from affected coastal communities, examining how an outcome that promotes sustainable fishing, equity and the policy space for development, including Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries, is the best outcome.

Organized by the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) and Handelskampanjen, Norway

55. Agriculture & WTO in the time of a pandemic: Looking towards MC12

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 11:30 - 12:30 CEST

Global agricultural production and trade, though relatively stable during the pandemic, are soon expected to be severely impacted. FAO has pointed towards the threats to food security, livelihoods and incomes and the need for corrective financial & trade policies. Key outstanding issues are on the table as we go towards the 12th Ministerial Conference. There are also new recommendations from 2020 suggesting an open trade regime. However, addressing the real needs of the pandemic necessitates a methodical assessment of the current needs vis a vis the current negotiations, mapping of the range of Member States' positions and designing a responsive architecture for agriculture. The Working Session will explore; how MC12 can address the additional challenges posed by the pandemic, and what a reshaped agricultural trade agreement or negotiations spanning outstanding issues on the table along with newer solutions could look like, and what will be its key elements and principles.

Organized by the Third World Network Trust India (TWN India); Madhyam Trust India; Society for International Development Italy (SID)

61: Conditions for appropriate e-commerce in developing countries.

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 13:30 – 14:30.

Even before COVID-19, e-commerce was already the most important engine of world trade. A few countries and companies, however, have garnered the lion's share of benefits from this ongoing process - especially the US and China and their digital platforms. The COVID crisis has not changed

this undesirable development, and may possibly accelerate it. At the same time, trade talks are ongoing at the WTO towards a plurilateral agreement on e-commerce. While transnational corporations are calling for a free flow of data, India, South Africa and some other developing countries, and even the EU, seek to establish data sovereignty. They are presenting new policies in this regard, including with data localisation requirements. Does there exist an in-between solution that would be best for developing countries? How should digital trade and data laws be designed for inclusion and poverty reduction? What could be WTO's role in achieving this goal?

Panellists:

- Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief at ICT Policy Section , UNCTAD
- Parminder Jeet Singh, Executive director , IT for Change, India
- Africa Kiiza, Program Coordinator Trade Policies and Negotiations, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, Uganda
- Vahini Naidu, Coordinator of the Trade for Development Program, South Centre

Moderator:

- Sven Hilbig, Policy Advisor Trade Policy and Digitalization, Bread for the World

Organized by Bread for the World

67. Strengthening of multilateral trading system: What's the role of civil society?

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 15:00 - 16:00 CEST *This event does not include interpretation

The purpose of this workshop is seeking the most effective ways to interact with civil society organizations (CSOs) for strengthening the multilateral trading system and achieving the SDGs. The workshop will bring together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, academia, business to discuss the following issues: The role and current status of CSOs participation in the WTO and other trade-related international fora; CSOs participation in international, multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations: good examples and challenges; ways to improving access and participation of CSOs to make the international trading system work for SDGs, climate and environment agendas.

Panellists:

- Alison Hamilton, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of New Zealand to the WTO
- Deborah James, Director of International Programs, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Washington DC
- Olga Ponizova, Director, Eco-Accord
- Patrizia Heidegger, Director for Global Policies and Sustainability, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) (moderator)

Organized by the Eco-Accord Center for Environment and Sustainable Development and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

72. MC12: What outcomes would strengthen multilateralism?

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 16:30 - 17:30 CEST

Speakers:

- H.E. Ms Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the WTO
- H.E. Mr Brajendra Navnit, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO
- H.E. Dr. Muhammad Mujtaba Piracha, Ambassador of Pakistan to the WTO
- Sanya Reid Smith, Senior Researcher, Third World Network
- Deborah James, Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) global network (Moderator)

MC12 offers a unique opportunity to reanimate the WTO's negotiations on a variety of issues that directly affects the lives of the citizens of Members, and will be determinative regarding the future of the WTO's claim to multilateralism. Will Members prioritize human life over pharmaceutical profit by agreeing multilaterally to a TRIPS waiver? Will members conclude multilateral agreements to ensure Members can utilize trade for development, such as through agriculture, fisheries, and the development agenda? Will some members threaten the very multilateralism of the WTO by insisting on plurilateral "JSIs" in spite of the fact that there are multilateral mandates on all of the issues covered? How will new administrations in many countries affect the potential outcome of negotiations at MC12 and multilateralism in general? Ambassadors to the WTO and civil society experts will share insights about what outcomes at MC12 could revive multilateralism to the benefit of all Members.

Organized by Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) global network; the Rede Brasileira Pela Integração dos Povos (REBRIP), Brazil; the Tricontinental Centre (CETRI), Belgium; and the East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC)

79. Substantive and Legal Implications of the JSIs for Development and Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

Friday, 1 October 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

Speakers:

- Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the WTO
- Professor Abhijit Das, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, India
- Professor Jane Kelsey, Faculty of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Convenor: Dr Patrician Ranald, Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)

Since the plurilateral Joint Statement Initiatives were launched at MC11 in Buenos Aires there have been quite intense discussions about their substantive and legal implications, especially for developing countries, as well as for the multilateral trading system more broadly. This Panel will provide a robust, critical analysis of the legality of plurilateral Joint Statement Initiatives in the WTO from developing country perspectives.

Organized by Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) Faculty of Law; Global Justice, UK; The University of Auckland, New Zealand

80. Data as a stock-in-trade in global trade: Looking beyond outdated notions around data flows

Friday, 1 October 2021, 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

Speakers:

- Gita Sen, DAWN, General Coordinator
- Vahini Naidu, Coordinator, Trade for Development Program, South Centre
- Parminder Jeet Singh, Executive Director, IT for Change
- Ingrid Schneider, University of Hamburg, Professor, Department of Political Sciences
- Sofia Scasserra, Associate Researcher, Transnational Institute

Data is universally spoken of as the key economic resource today. Strangely enough, this is not the way data is treated in global digital trade discussions. This paradox is the reason for the global stalemate on the 'data issue', inadequately represented as a contest between 'data flows' and 'data constraints', respectively as good and bad things. Progress can only be made by bringing centre-stage in 'e-com discussions' data's nature as a prime economic resource in a digital economy. Continually discussing data only in terms of privacy, security, trade facilitation, etc., is no longer adequate. Earlier mostly a developing countries' concern, recent policy developments in some developed countries also highlight the need for focusing directly on economic dimensions of data at the WTO. This Working Session seeks to do so by bringing in experts from both the South and the North. How can we move beyond unhelpful binaries of data flows and data constraints in digital trade debates and re-centre the data governance question on the nature of data as an economic resource? Join us.

Organized by: Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); Transnational Institute (TNI); New Economics Foundation (NEF), UK; IT for Change (ITfC), India; Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute) (ITeM), Uruguay

104. Gender, trade and development: Examining old and new issues in the global trading system

Friday, 1 October 2021, 16:30 - 17:30 CEST

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply increased the gender divide, pushing women in their economic and social spaces even further to the bottom, while overlapping and interacting with global trade policy, which has played a crucial role in the pandemic. In light of the pandemic and its impact on women, there is much that global trade policy can deliver; both on traditional, mandated issues in the WTO such as agriculture, fisheries, NAMA, services, and intellectual property rights; as well as in new issues such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, government procurement and others. This session, being proposed by a coalition of key Women's Rights Groups across the world, will lay out snapshots of the impacts of the pandemic and its interaction with trade policy on women's lives in multiple sectors and multi layered contexts, and will then identify key issues that global trade policy can address and how.

Organized by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET); Women In Development Europe+ (WIDE+); Regions Refocus (RR); Gender Trade Coalition (GTC); Women In Migration Network (WIMN)