**The programme for this years' annual conference (21-23 June 2023) will be based on the same format as last year**

WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME Annual Conference

25 – 27 July 2022

Day 1 (monday 25 July 2022)

*Room E (Capacity - 99)*

# Opening ceremony (9.00 – 10.00)

1. Keynote Address by Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (confirmed)

The Director-General will welcome all WTO Chairs and Advisory Board Members to the first in-person meeting of the entire WCP network since the pandemic struck and outline her vision of the way ahead for implementation and negotiations building on the results of MC12. The Director-General may also give her insights on the role she sees for the WCP network in responding to Members' needs in applied research, customized training, and outreach strategies to target audiences and also in providing advice to policymakers and shaping the debates of the future.

1. Introductory Remarks by Deputy Director-General Xiangchen Zhang (confirmed)
2. Remarks by H.E. Etienne Oudot de Dainville, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to WTO (confirmed)
3. Remarks by Director-General Cynthia Zimmermann, Ministry for Labour and Economic Affairs of Austria (recorded message)
4. Remarks by Minister-Counsellor Jeremy Green, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia (confirmed)
5. Overview/Agenda of the Conference (Werner Zdouc)

# Coffee break (10:00– 10:30)

# Panel I: *WCP in practice*: applied Research: (10.30 – 11.15)

Research is a vitally important part of WCP activities. In this session Chairs from different programme cycles and academic advisory board members explore best (past) practices and what to learn from that for current and future challenges. Research outputs are undertaken bearing in mind the specific areas which stakeholders are interested in to ensure results that are relevant to them, and which can be implemented by policymakers and the private sector. Speakers are invited to address the following issues:

* How to conduct needs assessments with stakeholders prior to research activities?
* How to involve policymakers in co-designing and advancing research projects of relevance to them?
* How to ensure both stakeholder relevance and high scientific quality of research?
* What is the role of stakeholders under the research pillar? (Coordinating peer reviews, gathering contributions and fostering implementation of result and recommendations)
* How to ensure diversity of research topics
* How to coordinate interdisciplinary research within the WCP Network, including with advice from the Advisory Board?
* How to coordinate research with the relevant experts in WTO research and TA divisions
* How to effectively involve (graduate) students and future academics in research?
* Presentation of some success stories

**Moderators:** Alexandros Sarris / Giorgio Sacerdoti

1. WTO Chairs from Phases I and II:

Charlemagne Babatoundé Igue (Benin)

Adama Gueye (Senegal)

Wilma Viviers (South Africa)

ii. Advisory Board Member: Peter Van den Bossche (online)

iii. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

Rosmery Hernández Pereira (Costa Rica)

Victor Saco (Peru)

# Coffee break (11.15 – 11:45)

# Panel II: *The MC12 results and beyond*: Food security and the Future of agriculture Negotiations (11:45 – 13.00)

*This session is organized jointly with the Agriculture and Commodities Division (TED)*

Agricultural and food supply chain disruptions, droughts, floods and climate change are on the rise. Commodity and food prices skyrocket due to these disruptions and developments affecting the domestic and international political system and the world trade and security architecture.

This session will cover MC12 results relating to the international food crises, and it will explore the way forward for WTO negotiations relating to agriculture. While progress has been made, many issues relating to public stockholding for food security purposes, export prohibitions or restrictions, export competition, domestic support, market access, special safeguard mechanism, cotton, and transparency are not yet fully resolved. The MC12 results and unfinished issues in the negotiations are both very relevant to future research and outreach by WTO Chairs in advising policymakers and training trade experts of the future. The session will cover matters including:

* the MC12 Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity
* MC12 Decision on World Food Programme Food Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions,
* the role of special and differential treatment, especially for least-developed countries (including relevant elements of the MC12 Outcome document)
* The state of play and unfinished business regarding public stockholding, export restrictions, export competition, domestic support, and market access etc.
* work done by other international and regional organizations

**Moderator:** Pierre Sauvé

**Speakers:**

1. DDG Jean-Marie Paugam (confirmed)
2. Agriculture and Commodities Division Director Edwini Kessie (confirmed)
3. World Food Programme, Head of Geneva Global Office, Annalisa Conte (confirmed)
4. DG Senior Advisor Stephen Fevrier (confirmed)
5. Roberta Piermartini, Senior Counsellor, Economic Research and Statistics Division (confirmed)

**Discussants:**

1. WTO Chair from Phase I:

Michael Ewing-Chow (Singapore)

1. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

René Urueña (Colombia)

Umid Yakubxodjayev (Uzbekistan)

Achyut Wagle (Nepal)

iii. Academic Advisory Board:

Clemens Boonekamp

# Lunch (13.00 – 14.30)

# Roundtable: “Trade Policy and Gender Equality” (13.00 – 14.30) – (this is a Joint session wcp – aid for trade global review pre-programme) (brown bag lunch) in room d.

The trade and gender project represents an attempt to offer an all-encompassing systematic interdisciplinary approach to trade and gender issues. This session is meant to explore and develop the debate over a range of cutting-edge issues of trade policy and gender. A broad range of research should address the issues of gender in international trade and international investment. Even though a number of studies, individual book chapters and journal articles are emerging in this field, more comprehensive academic study dedicated to the intersections between trade law and gender is necessary. The subject of trade and gender needs to be explored from the perspectives of trade policies and trade negotiations including global and regional approaches. Contributions on trade and gender from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia should be covered.

**Moderator**: Mustapha Sadni Jallab

**Speakers**:

1. Anoush der Boghossian, WTO
2. Simonetta Zarrilli, UNCTAD
3. WTO Chair from Barbados: Jan Yves Remy
4. WTO Chair from Chile: Dorotea Lopez
5. WTO Co-Chair from Mexico: Amrita Bahri
6. Senior Advisor to the DG, Nicole Mensa (invited)

# Panel III*: The MC12 results and beyond*: towards a green and blue economy: Trade, climate change and fisheries? (14.30 – 15.45)

*This session is organized jointly with the Trade and Environment Division (TED)*

The move towards a green and blue economy has been given a boost with key results of MC12, the Fisheries Agreement, the sustainable trade and development components of the Ministerial Package and the Structured Discussions on Trade and Environmental Sustainability. The COP in Glasgow and the work under the umbrella of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as national and regional measures to combat climate change are also highly relevant to the work of WTO Chairs in advising policymakers and training trade and climate change experts of the future.

Speakers as this session are invited to address these issues including MC 12 outcomes:

* The new WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: What are the successful results (e.g., illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; overfished stocks; transparency) and their impact? What is required to secure speedy ratification and implementation of Fisheries Agreement?
* What business remained unfinished (overcapacity and overfishing subsidies, indirect fossil fuel subsidies, special and differential treatment)? What will be the impact of those gaps?
* Brief overview of the recent declarations and resolutions adopted by different committees (CTD, CTE) of interest to Chairs where they shape research agendas;
* The state of play of the *Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions*;
* The *Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade, Circular Economy; Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform; Role of MSMEs;*
* The COP in Glasgow and the WTO, the Climate Change Convention and national/regional responses to climate change and WTO issues (measures to combat climate change, border tax adjustment, issues under WTO subsidy rules);
* The *Trade and Climate Change Network* in the WTO Secretariat;
* The WTO World Trade Report on *Climate Change and Trade;*
* Research onthe EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM);
* Chairs from different phases will be invited to share what the current priorities for their regions are and how they can be addressed by the WCP Network.

**Moderator**: Rohinton Medhora

**Speakers:**

1. Chair of Fisheries Negotiations, Santiago Wills, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia (re-confirmed)
2. DDG Angela Ellard, responsible for Fisheries negotiations (confirmed)
3. Aik Hoe Lim, Director Trade and Environment Division (alternate Daniel Ramos, Trade and Climate Change Network) (confirmed)
4. Simon Manley, Chair of the Committee on Trade and Environment, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom (invited)
5. Yuvan Beejadhur, Senior Advisor to the DGO (available only online)
6. Prof. Daniel C. Esty, Yale Law School (confirmed)
7. Xu Ankai (ERSD) (confirmed)

**Discussants:**

1. WTO Chair from Phase II:

Osman Gulseven (Oman)

1. WTO Chair from Phase III:

Chahir Zaki (Egypt)

James Nedumpara (India)

Xinquan Tu (China) (UIBE)

# Coffee break (15.45 – 16:15)

# Panel IV: *WCP in practice*: Outreach targeting stakeholders: (16.15 – 17.30)

Outreach is a crucial part of WCP activities. This session would focus on dissemination and outreach of research conducted through the WCP and the effective integration of this research into policymaking, activities of other stakeholder (business, NGOs). In this session Chairs from different programme cycles and academic advisory board members can explore best (past) practices and what to learn from that for current and future challenges. Participants can discuss how to tailor outreach activities to the specific areas which stakeholders are interested in so as to ensure results which are *relevant* to policymakers and the private sector. Speakers are invited to address the following questions/issues.

* How can key stakeholders be involved on a regular basis in dissemination activities and in designing and targeting outreach activities at key audiences? Experiences with setting up a taskforce or board comprising capital-based policymakers, Geneva mission representatives, university authorities, business associations, NGOs and other stakeholders for the Chair's activities
* Signing MoUs with stakeholders or research, teaching and outreach partners
* Outreach in Geneva vs. with domestic stakeholders: which is the best avenue?
* Inviting stakeholders to participate in events and following up after their participation
* Ensuring implementation of research results when policies are formulated and implemented
* Providing background consultations or advisory opinions to governments
* Joining advisory boards of policymakers and stakeholders
* How to ensure sustainability of the Chair beyond four years: what steps to take in the first year(s) to anticipate institutional and budgetary needs later and when funding ends
* Methods of dissemination: liaising in person, virtually, or through publications?
* Experiences with Virtual Platforms/Maintaining an active and engaging online presence
* Building partnerships and sustainability into the future

**Moderator:** Ronald Saborío Soto

1. WTO Chair from Phases I and II:

Ricardo Gamboa (Chile) (building up the Chair internally at the University and building partnerships with policymakers)

Leila Baghdadi (Tunisia) (sustainability of the Chair at the end of the 4-year period, maintaining relationships built and securing alternative funding)

1. Academic Advisory Board:

Trudi Hartzenberg (online)

1. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

Tsotang Tsietsi (Lesotho)

Rama Rao Bokka (Rwanda)

Day 2 (26 July 2022)

*Room E (Capacity - 99)*

# TA Monitoring and Evaluation (focused on Phase III Chairs) (9.30 – 10.30)

This session will focus on the framework for TA Monitoring and Evaluation, in particular the modalities of assessment under Key Result 3 of the TA Plan 2022-23. A brief overview of the TA Annual Report, the figures which will be reported to donors, the role of the baselines, the templates for reporting, and the frequency of reporting will be provided by the WCP Team.

* WCP Team
* ITTC: Claude Trolliet (?)
* Academic Advisory Board: Henry Gao
* General discussion/Q&A

# Coffee Break (10.30 – 11.00)

# Advisory Board Meeting (11:00 – 12:30)

*There will be a separate meeting agenda for Advisory Board Members*

*The Chairs are encouraged to use this time to arrange for meetings with permanent missions and partners based in Geneva.*

# Lunch (12.30 – 14.00)

# Dialogue between the Director-General and the chairs and advisory board (14.00 – 14:45)

**Moderator:** Richard Newfarmer (Board Member) and/or Tabitha Nganga (WTO Chair in Kenya)

Following her remarks on Monday morning at the opening of the conference, this meeting is meant to be in "fireside talk mode" where the Director-General will respond to questions from the WTO Chairs and the Advisory Board members.

This is an opportunity for the entire WCP Chairs network and the Board to discuss with the Director-General and, building on that discussion, design research projects, customize courses, target outreach and identify priority areas to focus their activities in order to be relevant to the agenda of the DG, the WTO and Members' policymakers and stakeholders in their regions.

***FAMILY PHOTO WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

# Coffee Break (14.45-15.15)

# Panel V: The MC12 results and beyond: Trade, Public Health, access to vaccines and medicines and preparation for future pandemics (15.15 – 17.00)

*This session is organized jointly with the Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division (IPD)*

Trade in medical products, access to public health, and economic resilience in facing pandemics are topics which are of great interest to Members and citizens alike given the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19 and other pandemics. The MC12 TRIPS waiver decision and the Declaration on the WTO's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics have been gamechanger and are now being operationalized. To facilitate tailored research and curriculum development on these issues, the speakers at this session are invited to address these outcomes of the MC12 negotiations as well as give a brief overview of the direction of current WTO research on trade and public health topics, including:

* The TRIPS waiver outcome of MC12; What will be the impact? Is it workable in terms of vaccine and medication supply and building up pharmaceuticals production in the South? What criticism by NGOs and public health representatives are justified?
* The WTO's Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Ministerial Declaration and the work on how to foster preparedness for future pandemics?
* The work of the *Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics for Developing Countries* and the *WTO-IMF COVID-19 Vaccine Trade Tracker* which was developed.
* The WTO's work with WIPO, WHO, the World Bank and the pharmaceuticals sector.

**Moderator:** Henry Gao

**Speakers:**

1. DDG Anabel Gonzalez, TRIPS Waiver negotiations (confirmed/recording)
2. H.E. Dr. Lansana Gberie, TRIPS Council Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, (tentatively confirmed – joining online)
3. Ambassador Dacio Castillo, (Facilitator on Issues relating to Resilient Recovery from the Pandemic former GC Chair) (re-confirmed)
4. Antony Taubman – IPD Director (confirmed) (alternate: Wolf Meier-Ewert, TRIPS Council Secretary)
5. Professor Aletta Petronella Susarah (Petro) Terblanche, Managing Director of pharmaceuticals company Afrigen (South Africa) (invited)
6. Assistant Director-General Edward Kwakwa (WIPO) (confirmed)
7. Dr Ankur Mutreja, Manufacturing & Supply Chain Networks (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations CEPI) (tentatively confirmed)

**Questions:**

1. WTO Chair from Phase I:

Lei Zhang (China) (SUIBE)

Taleb Awad Warrad (Jordan)

1. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

Tsai Fang Chen (Chinese Taipei)

Azam Choudhry (Pakistan)

# Board Meeting continued 17:15 – 18:15

# WCP Reception hosted by DDG Xiangchen zhang at the wto atrium at 18:30

Day 3 (27 July 2022)

*Room E (Capacity - 99)*

# Aid for trade: Opening Plenary Session (9.00-10.30)

(SEE SEPARATE PROGRAMME OF AID FOR TRADE GLOBAL REVIEW OPENING SESSION)

# PANEL VI: Mapping the WTO Membership's Priorities: Addresses from coordinators of country groups of delegations regarding key areas of interest of members in wcp research and outreach activities (11.00 – 12.30)

1. Moderation by Dr Bright Okogu, Chief of Staff, DGO

The DDG/DGO will address the Chairs, outlining in particular the areas of priority for the WCP which Chairs might incorporate into their projects to assist Members during upcoming discussions.

1. Coordinators from regional developing and least-developed country groups of WTO Members will then discuss key areas of interest in applied research, customized training and targeted outreach, in the light of key priorities in WTO subject matter areas and/or regions:

The WTO Chairs Network provides topical research to stakeholders both within their countries, regionally and for the WTO level. The perspective which they bring enables Members to negotiate based on research which is customized to Members' domestic and regional needs. To facilitate this process, Coordinators of the Country Groups are invited to share their current priorities with the Chairs but also speak about "bottlenecks" which sometimes occur between the delegations in Geneva and domestic decision makers. With a view to opening channels of communication, Country Group Coordinators and Delegates are invited to share insights with WTO Chairs on how best to interact with host governments and effectively customize and disseminate research which is undertaken based on needs assessments. This, in turn, will enable WTO Chairs to focus their research and other activities on areas of particular interest to Geneva Delegations and capital-based stakeholders thereby ensuring policy relevance of their activities.

The key questions to be answered through this session are:

* What are the current priorities for applied research, customized training, targeted outreach, and fact-based advice needed by Members and WTO country groups?
* How can Chairs best liaise with their Permanent Missions in Geneva?
* Where can technical assistance through the WCP help Members the most?
* What are some areas where training and curriculum development offered by the Chairs would be most needed?

**Speakers:**

1. Ambassador H.E. Mujtaba Piracha (former Chair of the Committee for Trade and Development) (confirmed)
2. Ms Ataliah Molokomme, DSB Chair and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Botswana (invited)
3. Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVE) Group Chair H.E. Eduardo Ernesto Sperisen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala (confirmed)
4. African Group Coordinator H.E. Eheth Salomon, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cameroon (confirmed)
5. Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) Coordinator, Jose Cancela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay (confirmed)
6. African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP) Croup Coordinator, H.E. Cheryl Spencer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jamaica (or successor) (tentatively confirmed)

**Discussants:**

1. Advisory Board:

Rohinton Medhora

Henry Gao

1. WTO Chairs from Phases I and II:

Vera Thorstensen (Brazil)

Pinar Artiran (Turkey)

1. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

Michel Levi (Ecuador)

Thi Thu Huong Trinh (Viet Nam)

# Lunch (12.30 – 14.00)

# Panel VII: *WCP in practice*: Curriculum Development (13.45 – 15.00)

Curriculum Development contributes immensely to the goals of the WCP and of technical assistance at the WTO. In this session Chairs from different programme cycles and academic advisory board members explore best (past) practices and what to learn from that for current and future challenges. This session would focus on how successful curriculum development activities are run under the WCP for students, government officials and representatives of other stakeholders. This comprises new courses and degrees as well as modernizing/updating existing courses. Speakers could address the following questions/issues:

* Curating courses for and co-designing courses for stakeholders: assessing stakeholder needs prior to developing and conducting courses
* Developing courses online and creating sustainable resources for future students
* Training students for careers in international trade
* Assessing the degree of stakeholder customization and impact of courses
* Using digital means for teaching and dissemination
* Expanding and maintaining access to databases and other library resources
* Presentation of some success stories

**Moderator:** Desiree van Gorp

1. WTO Chairs from Phases I and II:

Valentina Delich (Argentina)

Azzedine Ghoufrane (Morocco)

1. Academic Advisory Board:

Marcelo Olarreaga

1. WTO Chairs from Phase III:

Alain Didier Olinga (Cameroon)

Caiphas Chekwoti (Tanzania)

# Coffee Break (15.00 – 15.15)

# Joint public session of chairs programme and aid for trade global review: Inclusive, empowering, resilient and sustainable Trade – The contribution and role of the wcp in fostering these objectives (15.15 – 16.30)

See separate programme in the Annex: Speakers (including Secretariat staff and Committee Chairs) are invited to discuss the following issues and provide an overview of current discussions negotiations and case studies of projects conducted by WTO Chairs:

Moderator: H.E. Etienne Oudot de Dainville, Permanent Representative of France to WTO (orally confirmed)

Keynote Address: Stephen N Karingi, UNECA (confirmed)

Opening Statements:

H.E. Mrs U. Dwarka-Canabady, Chair of the Committee for Trade and Development, Ambassador and Permanent Representative from Mauritius (confirmed)

H.E. Sarah Ahn, Director-General for International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea[[1]](#footnote-1) (tentatively confirmed)

**Round table:**

Dr. Jan Yves Remy, University of the West Indies, WTOChair from Barbados: Empower women into trade policy formulation, SDG5 (confirmed)

Dr. Riza Arfani, Universitas Gadjah Mada, WTO Chair from Indonesia: Trade, circular economy and sustainable development, SDG 12 (confirmed)

Dr. Boopen Seetanah, University of Mauritius, Chair from Mauritius: Enhance the private sectors and MSMEs as a catalyst to support resilient and inclusive recovery (confirmed)

H.E. Mr. Chad Blackman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (confirmed)

H.E. Mr. Dandy Satria Iswara, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the WTO (confirmed)

# Closing session: the future of the wto and the wcp 17:00 – 17:30

Discussion on the way forward, concrete suggestions and recommendations to be adopted by Chairs and Board Members for different groups of addressees: WTO Senior Management, Group of Phase I and II Chairs, Group of Phase III Chairs, WCP Secretariat, possibly the WTO Memberships or Country Group Coordinators

**Moderator:** Eloi Laourou, Senior Advisor to the Director-General

1. Depends on arrival time in Geneva; other option morning session with country group representatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)