

Conference on WTO and SDGs: Issues before the Nairobi Ministerial

23-24 November 2015
Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1: 23 November 2015

09.30-10.00 **Registration**

10.00-11.00 **Inaugural Session**

Welcome Remarks:

Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi

Prof Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi

Remarks:

Mr Manab Majumdar, Asst. Secy. Gen. (WTO), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)

Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade Policy Div., Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

Inaugural Address: **Mr Arvind Mehta**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India*

Vote of Thanks: **Prof Thomas Fues**, Head, Training, The German Development Institute, Bonn

11.00-11.30 **Tea**

11.30-12.30

Session I: Agriculture and Fisheries Subsidies

Key Questions:

- 1. Reforming agriculture in WTO, where do we stand on competitiveness and market access*
- 2. Emerging issues of importance to India – food security, SSM and fisheries*
- 3. Importance of S&DT for developing countries and the way forward*

Chair: Prof Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi

Panellists

Dr Himanshu, Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), Jawaharlal Nehru University

Prof. Enrique Saravia, Project Coordinator, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Consulting Department, Brazil

Dr Sachin Sharma, Assistant Professor, Centre for WTO Studies

Mr Sebastian Mathew, Indian Collective in Support of Fish Workers

12.30-13.30

Session II: TRIPS, Trade and Access to Technology

Key Questions:

- 1. Flexibilities under TRIPs: interests of emerging and poor countries*
- 2. Non-violation complaints in TRIPS*
- 3. Implications of TPP for TRIPs and access to medicine in developing countries*
- 4. Implications of expansion of the ITA for countries like India*

Chair: Mr Sudhanshu Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India*

Panellists

Prof T C James, Visiting Fellow, RIS

Prof Dinesh Abrol, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi

Dr K Ravi Srinivas, Managing Editor, ABDR, RIS

Dr Reji K Joseph, Associate Professor, ISID

Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS

13.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30-15.30

Session III: WTO and Likely New Issues

Key Questions:

1. *Impact on India of negotiations on New Issues*
2. *New issues of India's interest*
3. *Negotiations on global value chains*

Chair: Mr Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India*

Panellists

Prof Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi

Prof Ram Upendra Das, RIS

Mr Manab Majumdar, Asst. Secy. Gen. (WTO), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)

Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade Policy Div., Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

15.30-16.00

Tea

16.00-17.30

Session IV: Panel Discussion on WTO, Mega-regionals and the Future of the Doha Round

Key Questions:

1. *Moving ahead from Bali – permanent solution on public stockholding of food, ratification of the TFA and other early harvest possibilities like ITA and implications for developing countries including India*
2. *Mega-regionals, TPP and implications for non-trade issues including labour standards, investment and IP regimes*
3. *Saving the Doha Round – India's role in resisting developed country agenda of putting an end to the Doha Round*

Chair: Mr Rajeev Kher, Former Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Panellists

Prof Thomas Fues, Head, Training, The German Development Institute, Bonn

Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS

Prof. Meibo Huang, Department of Economics, Xiamen University, China

Dr Nitya Nanda, Fellow, Centre for Global Agreements, Legislation and Trade (GALT), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi

Ms Amiti Sen, The Hindu Business Line

18.00-20.00

Dinner (Pool Side Deck, India Habitat Centre)

Special Focus on Emerging Frontiers of Standards in International Trade

09.30-11.30 **Session I on International trade and SDG12: How can voluntary standards contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

Key Issues:

- 1. Opportunities and limits of voluntary standards towards implementation of SDG12*
- 2. Risks associated with sustainability standards (protectionism, marginalization of SMEs, restricting market access, cost shifting to exporters, persistence of technological domination by industrialized countries)*
- 3. Perspectives and concerns of developing countries towards sustainability standards*
- 4. Problems with monitoring and verification, institutional gaps in developing countries*

Chair: Mr Johannes Blankenbach, Researcher, German Development Institute

Special Remarks: Mr Joscha Hoffmann, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Panellists

Dr S K Saxena, Director, Export Inspection Council of India

Mr Wawan Cerdikwan, Policy Analyst, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, Indonesia

Prof Meibo Huang, Department of Economics, Xiamen University, China

Dr (Mrs) Jayashree Gupta, President, Consumers India & Chairperson, Human Rights Group

11.30-11.45 **Tea**

11.45-13.00 **Session II on Engagement of the private sector for sustainable development: How can corporations use voluntary standards to re-design their global value chains?**

Key Issues:

- 1. The business case for voluntary standards, incentives/disincentives*
- 2. Problems of third party certification, credibility, costs*
- 3. Competitive impact of standards*
- 4. Interaction with other stakeholders (unions, civil society groups, government, international organizations)*
- 5. Choice of forums, legitimacy*

Chair: Dr Jorge Pérez, Professor, Instituto Mora, Mexico

Panellists

Mr Suresh Yadav, Officer on Special Duty to the President, President's Office, India

Mr Sachin Joshi, Director, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, Confederation of Indian Industries

Mr Diego Angelino, Consultant, Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit/GIZ, Mexico

Prof Enrique Saravia, Project Coordinator, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Consulting Department, Brazil

Dr Pooja Lakhanpal, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Ms Ana Carolina Mendes dos Santos, Environmental Analyst, Environment Ministry Brazil

13.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-15.30

Session III on The relevance of standards for the Nairobi ministerial: How can WTO promote sustainable consumption and production?

Key Issues:

1. *Link between TBT/SPS and voluntary standards*
2. *WTO interaction with international standards body and United Nations*
3. *Aligning WTO principles with normative framework of other global governance domains (e.g. science-based approach in WTO vs. precautionary principle in biosafety)*
4. *Concrete activities by WTO to support implementation of 2030 Agenda*

Chair: Dr Archana Negi, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

Panellists

Mr Guilherme Schmitz, Senior Researcher, Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA), Brazil

Ms Tanaka Tabassum, Project Officer, United Nations Environment Programme, Bangkok

Dr Philani Mthembu, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa

Mr Juan Carlos Mendoza, Senior Researcher, Centro Mario Molina para Estudios Estratégicos sobre Energía y Medio Ambiente, Mexico

Wrap up

Prof Thomas Fues, Head, Training, The German Development Institute, Bonn