ANNUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Pursuing Sustainability in the Global Economy

2016

www.ictsd.org
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KEEPING PROMISES

The year 2015 will probably go down in history as the moment when the international community came to terms with the need to collectively confront the changes and challenges marking the dawn of the 21st century. Universal agreements were reached on shared ambitions to eradicate poverty whilst ensuring sustainability, and a path and a system were set to spare the planet—and present and future generations—from catastrophic climate change. 2016 was then the year to organise the specifics to make good on these vital promises. At ICTSD we returned with enthusiasm to our original focus: to support stakeholders and governments to ensure that the increasingly globalised economy is harnessed to the high ideals of sustainable development.

We started the year by delivering the first outcomes of our largest project to date: the 400 expert-strong E15 Initiative. The E15 policy options papers were launched at a foremost platform of influence, the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. We simultaneously released, in various and well-thought media forms, over two hundred papers containing analysis, a treasure chest of original ideas, and, all together, what may arguably constitute the most comprehensive blueprint on ways forward for the global trade and investment system.

A few weeks earlier, in Nairobi, as ICTSD staged a top quality symposium—the Trade and Development Symposium—alongside the WTO’s Tenth Ministerial Conference, governments had made the historic decision to free themselves from a crippling mandate and had agreed to grant the stalled multilateral trading system a licence to reframe. Elsewhere, mega-regional trade negotiations, and other components of the complex architecture of cooperation for economic interdependence, had been evolving in a potential race towards convergence to promote inclusiveness. Renewed eagerness saw large components of business and civil society participate in creatively arranging forms of viable cooperation on some of the hardest issues including carbon pricing, food security, and infrastructure for resilience.

But, then came electoral politics in the developed world on both sides of the Atlantic with a focus on underlying anxieties and underestimated ills largely caused by failures in domestic policies. Concerns over migration as well as security and persistent conflict in various regions added to the unease. A wake up call: the daunting vote in the United Kingdom to leave the European Union and an election process in the United States focused on blaming increased inequality on the terms of global cooperation. Such was the backdrop for our work in 2016.

In such a context, ICTSD has used the year to better understand how to construct bridges between these starkly different moments in the policy landscape. This has been conducted to maximum impact by our passionate team in traditional and newer areas of programmatic work as described in this report. The 2016 Impact Assessment that we present here gives an account of how challenging it has been to foster resilience or otherwise purposefully revise critical policy frameworks where imperative, whilst ensuring that we further our mission.

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz
Chief Executive, ICTSD
<table>
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<td>ICTSD Events</td>
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<td>Participants in ICTSD events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live e-participants in ICTSD events (via weblink)</td>
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<td>Twitter followers</td>
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<td>YouTube views</td>
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<tr>
<td>LinkedIn followers and group members</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog posts</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research publications published</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total bylined periodical articles</td>
<td>251</td>
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INTRODUCTION

The entire spectrum of ICTSD programmes and activities is designed and implemented with a resolute focus on maximising impact. This 2016 Annual Impact Assessment Report, which marks nearly two decades of fruitful ICTSD engagement with policymakers and stakeholders to advance sustainable development through trade-related policy and agreements, seeks to illustrate the means and processes through which impact has been generated. It also testifies to the commitment with which this impact is pursued.

Methodology

ICTSD’s impact assessment methodology can be traced throughout its strategic work planning and reporting. The backbone is provided by a comprehensive logical framework and accompanying theory of change, which are used to conceptualise how specific activities can create positive change in support of ICTSD’s mission. Evidence of impact is collected on a continual basis using a variety of channels, including, inter alia, stakeholder feedback and testimonials, subscriber surveys, data analytics, digital media engagement, formal citations and acknowledgements, and inside sources to policy processes.

Programme-related impacts are reported on a quarterly basis as part of a rigorous system of reports with indicators for measurement applied in consultation with programme staff. These impacts are then combined with big-picture highlights and corporate-level impacts into the annual impact assessment. In addition to providing valuable tools for communication and interaction with stakeholders, ICTSD uses these reports to aid internal learning and strategic decision-making, thereby helping to maintain a dynamic and agenda-setting work plan, with activities that continue to deliver impact over the long term.

Report Structure

The 2016 Annual Impact Assessment is structured in accordance with the ICTSD logical framework. Each heading corresponds to an overarching goal and the subheadings refer to outcomes under that goal. The logical framework is included in the annexes for reference and ease of navigation.

In addition, a number of Spotlights intersperse the report. These represent long-term stakeholder engagement narratives that have generated substantial impact in 2016 as well as more recent, promising ventures that are bearing fruit. Of particular note is the E15 Initiative, which, as mentioned in the foreword, represents ICTSD’s largest ever project and whose influence in terms of achievements can be found throughout the 2016 Impact Assessment. Finally, ICTSD gender and environment reports have been included to provide a holistic picture of the commitments ICTSD undertakes in its operations.

2017 promises to be a year replete with uncertainty yet also full of possibility in terms of advancing urgent sustainable development objectives. It is also the year in which ICTSD will celebrate two decades since its establishment. Readers are encouraged to provide feedback on any element contained in this report which may assist ICTSD in generating even greater impact over the coming decade.
HOW WE WORK

Our Strategy

ICTSD enables, facilitates and supports interaction among policymakers and influencers to craft and implement policy frameworks on trade that deliver sustainable development.

To ensure sustainable development objectives are at the helm of international trade, ICTSD aims to facilitate the emergence of a critical mass of well-informed stakeholders who can identify and effectively advance their own sustainable development priorities in trade policy and related policy processes.

ICTSD works to build well-informed communities, support dialogues around policy and empower policymakers and influencers—with particular attention paid to those traditionally excluded from such processes—to act effectively on issues in the trade policy arena that impact national and global sustainable development.

ICTSD advances its mission through three types of activities:

1. Information and communication

The Centre provides a consistent flow of reliable, non-partisan reporting and analysis on policy developments in the trade and sustainable development field. ICTSD accomplishes this through communication tools, including seven regularly published periodicals produced in six languages that cover region-specific issues (Bridges, Bridges Africa, Mosty, Passerelles, Pontes, Puentes, and Qiao).

2. Policy dialogue

ICTSD creates opportunities for dialogue that bring new voices and perspectives into policy debates. This serves to mobilize a wide range of stakeholders and facilitates constructive interaction among policymakers and influencers in non-negotiating settings.

3. Research and analysis

Interaction among those in the policymaking space focuses on problem solving. ICTSD thus generates research and analysis that takes a solutions-focused approach to sustainable development in trade policy and related policy processes.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

ICTSD’s Mission

By empowering stakeholders in trade policy through information, networking, dialogue, well-targeted research, and capacity building, the Centre seeks to influence the international trade system such that it advances the goal of sustainable development.

ENABLING INTERACTION: The information and communication strategy

Enabling interaction among trade policymakers and influencers through producing consistent, non-partisan reporting and analysis.

FACILITATING INTERACTION: The policy dialogue strategy

Facilitating dialogue and conversation by providing a space for relevant actors to interact and explore common and different interests in an informal and non-negotiating setting.

SUPPORTING INTERACTION: The research and capacity building strategy

Supporting interaction through policy oriented ground-breaking research and capacity building services that draw on the best human and academic resources.
EXAMPLES OF ICTSD’S KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

POLICY INFLUENCERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Non-Trade Ministries:
- Environment
- Agriculture
- Health
- Education
- Digital

International/ Multilateral Governance Bodies:
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Pacific Islands Forum

Civil Society:
- Non-governmental organisations
- Academia
- Private sector
- Trade unions
- Farmers
- Journalists

TRADE POLICYMAKERS
- Ministries of Trade
- Ministries of Finance
- Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- Geneva negotiators
- World Trade Organization

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE
State Actors:
- International / Multilateral
- National
- Sub-national
Parliaments
Non-State Actors

GENERAL PUBLIC
- Free access to ICTSD materials
- Better informed public elects representatives via government policymakers

How We Work
Diverse stakeholder groups engage effectively with each other to advance the global agenda on trade and sustainable development
1.1.1 EMPOWERING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS SECTORS

2016 Context at a Glance

Public debate about the value and extent of international trade and trade agreements were in the limelight in 2016. Indeed, two events could prove to be watersheds in the evolution of the post-war liberal international economic order: the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States, and the Brexit referendum result in the United Kingdom. Both were unexpected and largely interpreted as symptoms of a growing tension between public anxieties and mainstream policy opinion over the impacts of integration and globalisation. They were also the manifestation of diverging perceptions between large segments of societies in the West and many emerging regions of the world on the objectives of global economic cooperation. These perceptions, in turn, fed into often dissonant narratives on the role of trade policy and related measures in advancing sustainable development and responding to urgent societal and environmental imperatives. Meanwhile, the information landscape for media outlets, think tanks, and digital publishers became more competitive and testing as a result of a crowded environment and a growing volume of content that is opinion- rather than fact-based. Indeed, the term “post-truth”—which describes the influence of emotional appeal over facts in shaping public attitudes—became a dominant theme. Information and knowledge providers like ICTSD are thus challenged to raise above the growing level of noise while, at the same time, delivering on the promise of non-partisan, evidence-based policy analysis. Responsive, accessible and trusted information and analytical sources will increasingly be valued, but this will not come without effort to raise above a crowded field of often foggy discourse.
The Bridges Network of Periodicals

ENABLING AND EMPOWERING POLICY STAKEHOLDERS

For the past 20 years, ICTSD’s Bridges network of periodicals has provided policymakers and influencers, including those on the negotiating sidelines, with the non-partisan news and analysis they need to help inform the development of policy knowledge and practice. The range of subjects covered, combined with the accessibility of information to stakeholders from different disciplines, technical and political strata, and geographic locations, helps to establish a more balanced playing field where all actors have the necessary information and context to craft or influence trade and sustainable development policy. The Bridges network adheres to a robust editorial approach that has drawn a large, devoted policy constituency and continues to draw more and more people into the sustainable development sphere. Furthermore, website statistics show that Bridges reporting has long-enduring value, with past articles continuing to receive frequent traffic and citations many years after they are first published.

The seven periodicals published by ICTSD in 2016 include two in the English language: the globally-focused Bridges Weekly and the Africa-focused Bridges Africa. In French, Passerelles also supports coverage of the African region. Spanish-language Puentes and Portuguese-language Pontes cover news and analysis for Latin America, with the latter focusing on Brazil. Mosty in Russian focuses on Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, while Qiao in Chinese focuses on news in China and other regional developments.

POLICY LANDSCAPE AND REPORTING STRATEGY

The policy reach of the Bridges network is wide yet targeted: trade connects stories together while the sustainable development lens remains an essential driver behind every news article and analytical piece published. Topics covered by the Bridges network includes the World Trade Organization; regional trade agreements; biodiversity; environment and natural resources; climate change; global economic governance; intellectual property rights and innovation; access to medicines; regional economic integration; and renewable energy, to name just a few. The Bridges network employs editors and writers with diverse subject-area and general expertise. Reporters cover major trade and sustainable development policy events from home bases in Geneva, São Paulo, Mexico City, Beijing,
and Dakar, and also by traveling to major meetings such as World Trade Organization Ministerial Conferences to provide timely, on-the-ground coverage. Bridges editors also utilise a global network of experts and trusted sources, established and developed over two decades, to give readers the additional context and background knowledge they have come to expect from ICTSD’s work.

**ENHANCED CAPACITY FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN HORIZONTALLY, VERTICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTINCT STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

The Bridges network targets a wide cross-section of the policy world: high-level policy makers who operate at intergovernmental, regional, and national spheres; policy influencers working in the worlds of civil society and business; researchers and students doing academic work; and fellow members of the media community. Reporting is catered to reach all audiences: written in a timely way that serves policy makers on the go; in an accessible way that can support experts and non-experts alike; and in a non-partisan, objective tone. By doing so, the Bridges Network furthers cross-disciplinary, cross-strata and cross-geographical understanding, and therefore enhances the capacity of different stakeholder groups to communicate, consider each other’s perspectives and develop constructive work relationships. The Bridges network audience of over 30,000 e-mail subscribers and thousands of social media followers is largely comprised of policy makers and influencers – an average of 63% across all periodicals, increasing to 70% for Bridges Weekly (according to the results from the 2016 Annual Bridges Subscriber Survey).

The profile of the subscriber base for each periodical is similar, with strong representation from those working with government and academia. Subtle differences exist though (see figure 2). For example, Pontes and Bridges Africa both have strong business-sector constituencies. Bridges Africa is also above the average for subscribers working with NGOs and Mosty shows an exceptionally high proportion of subscribers who work with scientific or research sectors. Trade and Development features strongly among Bridges subscribers’ substantive fields of work – among these it is interesting to note that many include work on Regional and Preferential Agreements. A large proportion of subscribers include Economics in their substantive fields of work, particularly among Pontes and Mosty subscriber bases. Environment, Climate Change, Law and Agriculture also feature strongly, with 48% of Bridges Africa subscribers including Agriculture in their substantive fields. While Gender appears to be only weakly represented in comparison to other substantive fields, on average, 11% of all subscribers work on Gender, with this figure increasing to 14% for Puentes, 15% for Passerelles and 16% for Bridges Africa. Overall, 85% of survey respondents stated that the periodical they subscribe to is either very useful or essential reading for their work. 94% said reading the periodical helps them to better understand the perspectives of other policy actors. Among policymakers and influencers, 77% said the periodical helps them negotiate or advocate positions more effectively. See Figure 4 below for further information on the benefits subscribers say they receive from reading the periodical. As a final note, 2016 also saw an increase in the number of respondents (44%) who said they sometimes or often access Bridges content on their mobile device.

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**Figure 1: 2016 Website traffic and subscribers per periodical**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periodical</th>
<th>Web Traffic (Page Views)</th>
<th>Subscribers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puentes</td>
<td>338,601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Weekly</td>
<td>231,921</td>
<td>10,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosty</td>
<td>154,317</td>
<td>4,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontes</td>
<td>150,645</td>
<td>4,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Africa</td>
<td>102,934</td>
<td>3,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passerelles</td>
<td>86,808</td>
<td>1,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>桥 (Qiao)</td>
<td>19,420</td>
<td>1,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosty</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2: The sector I work in includes...

- Bridges Africa
- Bridges Weekly
- Mosty
- Passerelles
- Pontes
- Puentes

Figure 3: The substantive field I work on includes...

- Mosty
- Pontes
- Bridges Africa
- Qiao
- Puentes
- Passerelles
- BridgesWeekly

Figure 4: Reading this periodical helps me and/or my organisation to...

- Generate new or improved policy ideas
- Better understand the perspectives of other policy actors
- Define or formulate policy or negotiating proposals
- Negotiate or advocate positions more effectively
- Better understand connections between global policy and national / regional policy
- Advance research or knowledge in my field
- Communicate more effectively with colleagues in other fields
- Bring new ideas to influence agenda setting
- Bring new participants / voices to influence agenda setting
- Stay on top of the latest developments in the trade and sustainable development world

Note: Figures 2, 3, and 4 are based on a sample of 885 respondents.
Bridges Weekly - English with global focus

Bridges Weekly, ICTSD’s weekly trade news digest, informs and empowers stakeholders so they can become more effective policymakers and influencers, regardless of financial circumstance or location. Through its reach across policymaking strata and geographies, as well as the range of issues covered, Bridges acts to stimulate cross-disciplinary policy engagement for sustainable development. A selection of topics addressed in 2016 for this purpose is listed below. According to the Annual Readers’ Survey, nearly 80 percent of respondents said that Bridges played a significant role in helping them generate new or improved policy ideas. Bridges Weekly was frequently contacted by the policy community to break news and share sensitive information, trusting the periodical as a source of responsible, non-partisan journalism.

Selection of topics addressed in 2016

- Major country developments in their impact on trade and sustainable development policies (US presidential election; Brexit referendum; China market economy status)
- Changes in the agendas and issues of development for least developed and developing countries (including in WTO bodies and regional negotiations)
- How the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on climate change could affect trade and how trade-related mechanisms could be used to achieve agreement objectives
- How the G20 could help to reshape global trade and investment governance (including the impacts of the Chinese and German presidencies)
- Changing market and sectoral dynamics and their impacts on trade and trade policies (steel crisis; agricultural subsidies; public health and intellectual property; clean energy)
- How the international trade and investment dispute settlement system affected specific issues and the rights and obligations of countries in general
- How countries are adhering to their commitments and implementing pledges (including outcomes of the WTO 10th Ministerial Conference; Trade Facilitation Agreement) and reporting on the regular bodies of the WTO
Bridges Africa & Passerelles - English & French with Africa focus

Bridges Africa and Passerelles laid particular emphasis in 2016 on the implications for trade and investment policymaking in Africa of developments such as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continent-wide integration efforts. Results from the Annual Readers’ Survey demonstrate that by producing high-quality information and analysis, the publication helped key constituencies better act on policy issues, with over 80 percent of policymakers and influencers who responded saying the periodicals helped them negotiate or advocate positions more effectively. In addition, Bridges Africa and Passerelles significantly expanded their follower base on social media. Organisations like Tralac and the UN Economic Commission for Africa regularly republished news and analytic pieces produced by Bridges Africa, and articles were frequently cited in influential journals and publications such as World Bank papers and the Washington Post. Bridges Africa and Passerelles were merged in 2016 to share the same analysis and news stories while reaching out to English and French language audiences respectively.

Selection of topics addressed in 2016

- How regional negotiations are progressing and trade relations evolving and what it means for sustainable development in Africa (CFTA; EPAs; emerging economies)
- How new structures of trade and investment are impacting on economic growth and structural transformation (sustainable value chains; services sector development; investment principles and frameworks)
- How trade and trade-related policy can be utilised to help achieve SDG targets in least developed and African countries (including through multilateral negotiating outcomes)

Puentes - Spanish language

Puentes broadened its coverage in 2016, including new topics such as the sustainable development dimensions of competition policy, investment policy, and the digital economy—thereby extending the periodical’s scope across policy disciplines. It also provided relevant perspectives on hot topics such as how regional integration initiatives are impacting on trade and trade governance. Additionally,

“In a sea of information, where sometimes it is difficult to navigate through unreliable data, the work you do to summarise and provide up-to-date and first-hand information is admirable.”
- Anonymous respondent, from 2016 subscriber survey

Puentes played a strategic role in enhancing the reach of E15 work by disseminating the policy options in Spanish, often flanked by original analysis. The periodical saw a surge in social media engagement during the year, with an increase from 700 to over 4,500 followers, including influential policymakers as well as the official accounts of organisations such as the WTO, the UNFCCC, and the Pacific Alliance. It further drove significant traffic to the ICTSD website, in particular from Latin American audiences, with nearly 340,000 Puentes-related page views during the year. An important share of this high traffic is testimony to the enduring value of Puentes, as it is composed of articles produced over the past decade and more that have become reference material.

Selection of topics addressed in 2016

- How new initiatives and future trends in trade and trade governance could influence sustainable development in Latin America (digital economy; regulatory cooperation; investment frameworks; competition policy)
- The implications of development strategies and their relation to international trade and trade rules (resurgence of industrial policy; local content provisions; climate mitigation initiatives; agricultural and food security programmes)
- How plurilateral and regional trade negotiations and agreements are evolving and impacting on Latin American integration prospects (Mercosur, Pacific Alliance, Trans-Pacific Partnership, Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific)
The impacts on trade policy and trade relations of significant political developments in Brazil were among the important topics covered by Pontes in 2016. The periodical also analysed issues such as the opportunities and threats resulting from the expansion of digital trade to Latin American countries. The unique standing of Pontes as a niche outlet in the Portuguese-language information landscape translated in a high volume of traffic from Brazil on the main ICTSD English website. Out of a total of over 1 million external visits in 2016, 10 percent originated from Brazil, demonstrating Pontes’ influence in actively developing a stakeholder community ready to engage on cross-cutting issues related to trade and sustainable development. Notably, the periodical was successful in engaging with the Brazilian private sector, in particular industry associations, and Pontes deepened its network of experts in Brazilian policy circles and in South America.

**Selection of topics addressed in 2016**

- The actual and potential impact of political developments in Brazil and important trading partners on bilateral and regional trade relations (Brazil and Argentina transitions; US presidential elections; role of civil society)
- How trade and investment flows and are evolving and what this could imply for developing and emerging countries (South-South cooperation; Brazilian engagement in Africa; Chinese engagement in Brazil; investment treaties)
- The challenges and opportunities facing WTO governance and how this relates to sustainable development (dispute settlement body; policy space; megaregional negotiations; Trade Facilitation Agreement)

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**Mosty - Russian language**

Mosty informs audiences on issues concerning all members, associates, and former members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In 2016, these included topics in demand such as integration among the CIS and bilateral relations with third parties (China, EU, and US). The periodical also disseminated analysis and policy options from the E15 of relevance to regional stakeholders. An important new impact in terms of reach, as evidenced in data analytics, was that readers located in more remote regions accessed the periodical’s work. Mosty also continued to be an important driver of traffic to the ICTSD website with over 150,000 page views originating from Russia: confirming the enduring strength of Mosty in building communities and generating analysis of long-term value.

With around 200 news items produced, results of the Annual Readers’ Survey show that over 80 percent of respondents praised Mosty for helping them stay ahead of the latest developments in trade and sustainable development. Mosty articles were also republished on the websites of influential institutions such as the Trade Policy Institute of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

**Selection of topics addressed in 2016**

- How the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on climate change and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development objectives can be advanced regionally through trade and trade-related mechanisms
- How political developments as well as established and new trade relations impact on sustainable development across the region (One Belt, One Road; Ukraine; bilateral relations with Russia and EU; Eurasian Economic Union)
- How trade rules and commitments affect development strategies (government procurement legislation; industrial policy and export diversification; WTO disputes involving CIS countries; notification requirements)
Qiáo - Chinese language

Qiáo’s audience extends from the high levels of trade and trade-related policymaking in China down to local actors. Feedback suggests that many readers in Chinese ministries, local governments, private sector associations, research institutions, and the media are more effectively engaged through Chinese-language content. Topics that were covered by the periodical and attracted high interest among readers in 2016 included how the G20 under the Chinese presidency could help to reshape global trade and investment governance as well as the implications of China’s market economy status at the WTO. Translations of Bridges Special Reporting on the UNFCCC negotiations also proved successful. In 2016, Qiáo was involved in outreach activities that included the organisation of policy dialogues convened with local partners. This led to considerable exposure in the Chinese media including reports in Xinhua News Agency and CCTV. Throughout the year, Qiáo also pursued an effective social media strategy on local platforms Weibo and WeChat.

“Qiáo published by ICTSD has become an indispensable source for my team to make informed judgement about the trends and development of the global trade system, and to conduct sensible policy research to leverage China’s constructive role in global economic governance.” - Ambassador Sun, senior advisor to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, and former and first Chinese ambassador to the WTO

Selection of topics addressed in 2016

- How the G20 under the Chinese presidency could help reshape global trade and investment governance
- The impact of factors affecting Chinese trade and investment relations (global steel crisis; market economy status; US elections; WTO dispute settlement; domestic subsidies; mega-regional negotiations; globalisation backlash)
- How trade and investment policies can help promote sustainability (investment principles; the role of WTO rule-making in advancing the SDGs; food security; climate change)

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We consistently provided timely, impartial, and comprehensive reporting and analysis on our main policy areas of interest, a service valued by our audiences in the present information environment. We also successfully piloted new types of media content to better engage our readers and also better adapt to the changing information landscape. This will be further developed in 2017.

Where we can improve: Our outreach could be extended by engaging new actors of influence and also by identifying broader audiences that would benefit from our work. This is an area to explore in view of the profound political and economic challenges to trade governance and sustainable development that emerged in 2016.
1.1.2 ENHANCING AN ACTIVE AND ENGAGED STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY

Extended reach and engagement through social media networking

Social media is a powerful tool to engage, inform, empower, and drive conversations with—and between—diverse stakeholder groups. By influencing influencers, ICTSD is able to reach beyond its direct sphere of influence as more shareable content reaches a wider community. Throughout 2016, social media played an increasing role in ICTSD’s communications and community engagement strategy, with an overall increase in reach of 312% and engagement of 147% and a new strategy to focus on reaching and engaging real, active and influential stakeholders (see Spotlight on Social Media Engagement). The results of this new strategy are especially visible when comparing quarterly twitter statistics against the previous year.

Q1, Q2 and Q3 all show significant increases in organic reach and organic engagement, whereas Q4 is a slightly different story—this is because ICTSD had already begun introducing the new social media strategy in Q4 2015 and ICTSD’s December 2015 Trade and Development Symposium (TDS) provided additional content and engagement that was not reproduced in Q4 2016 due to TDS only taking place every two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organic reach (Twitter)</th>
<th>Organic engagements (Twitter)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>77,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>70,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>32,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>542,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>723,202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Organic reach” refers to the number of times a tweet is seen and “organic engagements” refers to interactions with the tweet such as retweets, likes, comments, replies, shares and link clicks. The term “organic” denotes that the content has reached the user naturally, through their own network, instead of via paid advertising.
Increased interactivity and accessibility of ICTSD periodicals and research

ICTSD strengthened its engagement strategy through new communications infrastructure and content provision with the objective of extending reach to new stakeholders and lowering the barriers to access of complex information. New approaches to communicating policy research were developed with two objectives in mind: (i) to engage more dynamically with target audiences in order to generate positive change; (ii) to present technical yet highly relevant and innovative ideas in more accessible formats in tune with the demands of a highly competitive information environment. Bridges Weekly, ICTSD’s flagship periodical, received a gradual revamp of its reporting and distribution model, with data visualisations, original maps and graphs incorporated into its reporting. ICTSD successfully applied a range of other tools such as blogs, video interviews, and webcasts to enhance stakeholder engagement. In addition, more effective synergies were established between programmes and periodicals to boost impact with policymakers in different languages and regions of the world. ICTSD also refined its approach to commissioning blog posts from thought leaders. These fell under three categories: articles commissioned to complement programmatic research; op-eds posted in response to global developments on issues of relevance to Bridges and ICTSD readers (e.g. Brexit); and limited series on themes of importance to ICTSD audiences (e.g. Environmental Goods Agreement). This strategy, among other marketing drives, saw ICTSD material cited or distributed in newspapers including the Financial Times, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Politico, Xinhua, and La Nación, as well as specialised outlets such as Inside US Trade and IP Watch. ICTSD was also frequently contacted for reliable background information by media sources such as the Economist.

External visits to ICTSD website (2013 - 2016)
Spotlight

Social Media Engagement

For many years, ICTSD’s approach to social media engagement was to gradually increase follower numbers through events, publications and partnerships and to keep these followers updated with the latest developments in trade and sustainable development. While this proved a successful approach for reaching out to immediate followers, the ripple of impact generated by each social media posting rarely extended beyond ICTSD’s direct sphere of influence. In late 2015 ICTSD started implementing a new social media strategy to capitalise on the reach and influence wielded by immediate followers to springboard ICTSD content to a much wider relevant audience. This strategy had two main components: 1) to focus on reaching and engaging the most influential stakeholders; 2) to make ICTSD social media content inherently more shareable. ICTSD’s social media followers were grouped into value groups (Figure 1), with high-value followers awarded greater priority (groups 1 & 2), thereby ensuring the most efficient use of resources.

Further qualitative investigation resulted in two key findings:

- Linkedin and Twitter have far more value than Facebook (Facebook required paid advertising to have any noticable effect on engagement and unfortunately that effect came predominantly from group 4).
- Organic content was the most effective way of reaching people in groups 1 & 2 (paid content boosted topline figures, but a large percentage of this reach and engagement came from group 4).
With a better understanding of social media’s value, focus was switched to organic performance on Twitter and LinkedIn and away from Facebook, with a reliance on paid reach phased out. Organic reach and engagement are now ICTSD’s key metrics, and widely considered to be the best indicators of how well content resonates and generates conversation.

From late 2015 ICTSD began systematically reviewing and optimising content to maximise these indicators. A new look and feel was introduced to social pages and focus was shifted from simple “text + link” and plain image posts to more rich, visual content such as infographics, quote cards and short videos. These were found to consistently drive greater stakeholder engagement (Figure 2). Introducing the quote cards, graphs, charts and maps allowed key stories to be highlighted from existing web content and better disseminated on social. Not only did this increase reach and engagement but it also made each post more impactful: rich content turns each post into an impactful and informative interaction, regardless of whether followers click through to long form web content or simply consume bite-size social media messages. The new content strategy resulted in an average weekly organic reach in 2016 that was 3.9x higher on Twitter (Figure 3.) This is a significant increase in itself, but it is worth bearing in mind that nearly 57% of all organic reach in 2015 occurred in the four weeks leading up to the TDS (by which point the new social media strategy was already in place). Comparing organic reach for just the Jan-Oct period results in an 11.5-fold increase in 2016 compared to 2015.

![Figure 2: Average organic engagements per Tweet, by content type (sample of 250 posts)](image)

![Figure 3: Twitter engagement over time, showing paid & organic reach](image)
Increased organic reach led to increased organic engagement: LinkedIn engagement doubled in 2016, despite less paid support and no ministerial conference related activity. (Figure 4).

The 2015 “text + link” approach meant that other than driving 35,355 visits to the ICTSD website, social media had a limited impact on users consuming content natively on social media. 2016 saw a 16% increase in traffic to the ICTSD website from social media (40,980 visits) but the real focus was on providing an empowering, engaging, and impactful experience for thousands of followers who only experience ICTSD content directly within the newsfeeds of social media platforms. Furthermore, the new social media strategy endeavours to make each of the 2.8 million impressions communicate richer information and enable meaningful opportunities for community-level social engagement. This strategic use of social media content has undoubtedly led to a more informed community of diverse stakeholders who are better empowered to engage in constructive discourse on crosscutting issues to advance trade and sustainable development.
Next-generation policymakers and influencers instilled with a sustainable development mindset

ICTSD’s engagement with academic institutions extends beyond fruitful partnerships for programmatic research and expert analysis. ICTSD also has a long history of engaging directly with the next generation of policymakers and influencers to enhance knowledge and capacity to address sustainable development issues. Every year, ICTSD welcomes visiting groups of students from academic institutions to Geneva-based outreach sessions to learn more about the work of the organisation, potential career paths into trade and sustainable development, and opportunities to enhance impact in their future careers. 2016 saw visits from Johns Hopkins University, Tufts University, University of Geneva, and the Netherlands School of Public Administration.

ICTSD maintains a strong internship programme, providing valuable vocational experience to talented students and graduates. This includes ongoing, long-term relationships with respected academic institutions such as Colgate University, Duke University, Graduate Institute, Smith College, University of California Los Angeles, and University of Geneva. Interns play an important role in helping ICTSD to enhance impact, both through dynamic work during their internship and in their role as ambassadors for ICTSD’s work in subsequent years. Interns have also proven to be a valuable source of recruiting talent for full-time ICTSD staff positions.

ICTSD receives numerous requests each year from academic institutions around the world to use ICTSD research and analysis in their course curriculum materials and lesson plans—selected examples can be found throughout this report. Furthermore, senior ICTSD staff participate in part time teaching roles at global academic institutions. These include: ICTSD’s Chief Executive, Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, who is an adjunct professor at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, teaching the future of global integration and WTO and advising their faculty’s academic and policy research; and ICTSD Senior Associate Pedro Roffe, who has an ongoing role with the WIPO-INAPI Summer School in Chile as well as teaching an online course to government officials in Latin American on Trade and Intellectual Property in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We continued to adapt our content in response to the competitive demands of the fast-moving information landscape for digital publishers and event organisers. The Bridges series of periodicals provided a highly effective communication channel in multiple languages through its impartial reporting and analysis of ideas at the intersection of trade and sustainable development.

Where we can improve: Our external communications drawing on greater collaboration and engagement with third party outlets or platforms could be improved to generate even greater impact around the ideas and activities developed by our organisation. In addition, on some themes, an expanded audience base could benefit from the ideas we help generate.
1.2.1 ARTICULATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE

Digital Economy 2016 Context at a Glance

E-commerce and the digital economy are increasingly the focus of debate on trade and investment policies. A palpable shift has occurred at the WTO while in capitals policymakers, businesses, and others are recognising opportunities and challenges while seeking policy responses to improve their competitiveness in this area. The 2016 WTO Public Forum included over twenty sessions dedicated to e-commerce. New provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership helped to set the terms of what might be possible from a developed country perspective. The digital revolution has transformed the way in which goods and services are produced, distributed, and consumed. It portends considerable potential in terms of development for small economies and developing countries and in its contribution to broad economic growth. The inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and micro-businesses holds promise, particularly if barriers to access and complexity of regulation can be reduced and availability of information strengthened. The field is complex and evolving rapidly—between changing business models and new agreements among developed economies—representing a moving target, but also leading to a widening digital divide where smaller economies lack the infrastructure and human capital to benefit from the opportunities that are multiplying among their more developed counterparts. Recent intensified dialogue among WTO members reflects the perceived value of collective efforts to lower barriers and support facilitation strategies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Filled knowledge gaps enabling groundbreaking policy discussions in key centres of influence
- WTO delegates engaged on specific E15 ideas on e-commerce and the digital economy towards MC11

DIGITAL ECONOMY:
- Publications: 3
- Blogs: 3
- Events: 4
- 3rd Party Events: 6
Filled knowledge gaps enabling groundbreaking policy discussions in key centres of influence

In its role as convenor of the E15 Initiative Expert Group on the Digital Economy, ICTSD was invited to present the work of the group at key events in a number of venues. These opportunities helped to energise, extend, and support dialogue on the need for updated rules for the digital economy at the WTO and elsewhere. They largely contributed to the momentum on the issue through the year by demonstrating the options available to a broad range of countries. ICTSD’s role as a non-partisan facilitator and expert was actively sought and helped to set terms for a balanced dialogue that brought together diverse stakeholders.

Arnold Van Rhijn, from the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, praised the “quality of intervention by panelists” and emphasised the importance of the session at a time when “more interaction between the world trade community and the global internet community is needed.”

Moreover, over the course of the year, the ideas generated under the E15 Expert Group have served as a useful reference point in academic scholarship and in reports issued by international organisations, NGOs and the private sector on a global scale. The publications were frequently referenced and cited in the international community, permeating the thinking of influential experts. They were commonly re-published onto new platforms, leading to further and broader exposure to the ideas. The E15 policy options paper, Maximizing the Opportunities of the Internet for International Trade, was translated and re-published in a number of ICTSD periodicals, making them globally accessible.

Selected Publications and Blogs


Selected Events


Selected Citations

WTO delegates engaged on E15 policy options on the digital economy towards MC11

The delivery of the E15Initiative policy options on the digital economy was timed perfectly for growing interest in the topic in the WTO and elsewhere. Against a backdrop of stalled talks in the multilateral body, but apparent progress in other bilateral or regional settings, pressure built over the year for dialogue on trade and the digital economy without either the content or venues for such discussions to be advanced through official channels. The release of the E15 policy options had an immediate impact, helping to set agendas for meetings and meet pent-up demand, while also triggering an immediate call for ICTSD’s involvement as a non-partisan convenor and interlocutor. ICTSD responded to these opportunities and further set in motion a number of activities that enabled the organisation to highlight and advance numerous aspects of the digital economy and trade issues, particularly those around participation and inclusion and the need to have enabling rules at the multilateral level as well as supporting business and regulatory environments at national and regional levels. While ICTSD continued to act and lead on the substantive agenda, numerous ideas contained in the E15 papers were reflected in delegation submissions. ICTSD also continued interacting among delegations and experts on the inclusion agenda broadly as its work evolved into two more distinct tracks: first a Geneva track—focused on facilitating cross-delegation, expert-supported dialogues; and second a regional track—focused on ensuring that national level policymakers and influencers had opportunities to deliberate on digital economy issues and to share those insights with each other and their Geneva-based counterparts.
## Detailed matching of WTO proposals submitted and the corresponding E15 policy options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E15 OPTION</th>
<th>WTO DELEGATION(S)</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PROPOSAL SUBMITTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 2: Make permanent the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>2.1 Prohibiting digital customs duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 10: More binding commitments to allow cross-border data flows</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>2.3 Enabling cross-border data flows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 11: Trade agreements should include firm commitments to not require data localization; governments, the private sector, and NGOs should work to address the concerns and goals that motivate data localization laws.</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>2.5 Preventing localization barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 1: Implement and consider expanding the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) to support digital trade, introducing measures into the TFA to require acceptance by customs of digital submission of customs forms; reduce transaction costs for goods of small value</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>2.14 Ensuring faster, more transparent customs procedures, drawing on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 14: Improve the regulation of digital payment services</td>
<td>Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore</td>
<td>13 July 2016</td>
<td>A.8. Set out the necessary regulatory framework supporting payments operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 5: Conclude the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and then increase its signatories</td>
<td>Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore</td>
<td>13 July 2016</td>
<td>B.17. Tariff elimination through the ITA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 2: Make permanent the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions</td>
<td>Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore</td>
<td>13 July 2016</td>
<td>B.18. Legally binding prohibition against customs duties on electronic transmissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 1: Implement and consider expanding the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to support digital trade, introducing measures into the TFA to require acceptance by customs of digital submission of customs forms; reduce transaction costs for goods of small value</td>
<td>Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore</td>
<td>13 July 2016</td>
<td>C.22. Implementation of the TFA to enhance trade in goods, including that generated by e-commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Economy Option 13: Develop regulatory cooperation in areas affected by digital trade</td>
<td>Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore</td>
<td>13 July 2016</td>
<td>C.24. Regulatory cooperation among members and/or regulatory authorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Digital Economy Option 4: WTO bodies such as the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM), or an outside group of experts, should be tasked with evaluating the extent to which members’ digital-trade-related measures are consistent with their existing WTO commitments. WTO DELEGATION(S): Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, the EU, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore. DATE: 13 July 2016. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED: D.25, Greater focus on e-commerce at the occasion of Trade Policy Reviews, can address e-commerce-related policies systematically, eg. in a dedicated section in each Secretariat report.

Finance and Development Option 6: Establish a trade facilitation framework for services: Intensify temporary and short stay visa facilitation; enhance access to finance for trade in services; develop common guidelines for governance of electronic trade and cross-border data flows; benchmark best practices and developing regulatory principles to address cross-border market failures in services sectors. Complemented by capacity building and technical assistance. WTO DELEGATION(S): India. DATE: 3 September 2016 (reaffirmed in 14 November 2016 proposal). PROPOSAL SUBMITTED: Need for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Services, including simplification of procedures for temporary entry and stay; facilitation of free flow of data across borders. 1.4 Should address issues of technical assistance and support for capacity building.

Digital Economy Option 14: Improve the regulation of digital payment services. WTO DELEGATION(S): China. DATE: 4 November 2016. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED: 1.3 Exchange information on regulatory measures and procedures for supplying services directly supporting cross-border e-commerce transactions, including electronic and online payment.

Digital Economy Option 18: Expand financing of digital infrastructure in developing countries. WTO DELEGATION(S): China. DATE: 4 November 2016. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED: 3.2 Explore measures to improve infrastructure and technical conditions for development of cross-border e-commerce in developing countries.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: Our strengths have resided in actively promoting dialogue in Geneva, bringing in a multi-stakeholder dimension to the conversations on trade policy and the digital economy, while informing the research and thinking of experts globally.

Where we can improve: Our activities could be expanded through more frequent publications, research and blogs, a strategy we intend to develop in 2017.
Investment Policy
and Regulatory Coherence
2016 Context at a Glance

Global flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 13 percent in 2016 relative to 2015, reaching US$1.52 trillion, as global economic growth and world trade made only modest gains. Indeed, trade growth remained sluggish at below 3 percent for the fifth consecutive year and global FDI inflows remained well below the 2007 pre-crisis peak of US$1.83 trillion. Investment inflows decreased both to developed and developing countries, albeit with significant variations within and among regions—with Europe and developing Asia experiencing the sharpest falls. Greenfield investment projects declined in most countries while merger and acquisition activity rose at a modest rate. At the institutional level, the year was marked by criticism on the part of civil society groups regarding the prevailing investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system in trade and investment agreements—as manifested for example in public concerns over ISDS provisions in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or the Trans-Pacific Partnership. In December, Canada and the EU launched exploratory discussions on the establishment of a multilateral investment court, an initiative ostensibly rejected by countries such as Brazil and India, the latter favouring the exhaustion of domestic remedies before foreign investors call on international tribunals. Multilateral reform of investment dispute resolution and investment facilitation in the interest of sustainable development remains on the agenda of the international community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Increased interest in including sustainable development considerations in investment policymaking
- Major players explored options to include ideas from ICTSD activities in their own work streams

INVESTMENT:
Publications: 1
Blogs: 4
Events: 6
3rd Party Events: 7
Increased interest in including sustainable development considerations in investment policymaking

ICTSD established in 2016 a new work stream on investment policy. The Investment Policy Programme, launched under the purview of phase II of the E15 Initiative (see Spotlight on the E15 Initiative), developed into a multi-stakeholder process engaging in solution-oriented discussions on systemic issues facing the international investment regime. This work focused on generating a global and regional common ground on investment policy that seeks to improve the efficiency and inclusiveness of the system by advancing coherence with the trade regime, and by including sustainability related concerns in the debate. In collaboration with the WEF, a series of roundtables was launched, with initial evidence showing positive results for having introduced these new concepts in discussions among policy and influencer communities. In addition, outreach activities in various fora proved effective in integrating proposals. For example, the idea put forward during to the EU Directorate-General representative of creating an advisory centre to provide legal assistance to developing countries (à la Advisory Centre on WTO Law) was included in a discussion paper prepared by the EU on the establishment of a multilateral dispute settlement system.

Major players explored options to include ideas from ICTSD activities in their own work streams

The strategy of engaging with high-level representatives from intergovernmental organisations resulted in the uptake of proposals and exploratory dialogues within the work streams of these organisations:

- **International Labour Organisation.** E15 member Githa Roelens, Head of Multinational Enterprises at the ILO, launched a new training programme in May 2016 on “Effective investment facilitation and sustainable investment” to help investment promotion agencies (IPAs) to build their understanding on how to integrate sustainability concerns when designing investment facilitation policies.

- **OECD Investment Committee.** E15 member Ana Novik, Head of the investment division at the OECD, invited Karl Sauvant, theme leader of the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy, to present E15 policy options to the Investment Committee as they consider setting up a platform where IPAs could meet on a regular basis and mandate the Secretariat to conduct research and analysis to inform the discussions.

- **World Trade Organization.** During the trade facilitation session at the Public Forum, DG Roberto Azevêdo praised initiatives engaging WTO members to consider and further flesh out post-Doha issues. He noted investment facilitation is one such innovative idea, which the member base had engaged on in prior days during the E15 engagement day.

Selected Publications and Blogs


Selected Events

• Investment in an Era of Mega-regionals. ICTSD, World Economic Forum, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), and the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (REITI). 12 July 2016. Tokyo, Japan.
• Online Roundtable: Pathways to Enabling Trade through Credible Voluntary Sustainability Standards. ICTSD and ISEAL Alliance. 28 November 2016. Geneva, Switzerland (online).

For a full list of ICTSD publications in 2016 relevant to Investment Policy and Regulatory Coherence, see Annexes.

Partnerships

• ISEAL Alliance (Regulatory Systems)
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Investment Policy funding partner)
• World Economic Forum (Investment Policy project consortium member)

The informal roundtable series organised in partnership with the WEF will continue in 2017, given the positive reception amongst the multi-stakeholder participants as a useful forum to discuss critical issues informally, and to consider out-of-the-box ideas on how to strengthen the investment regime governance frameworks for the benefit of sustainable development.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We convened the right set of stakeholders with sufficient decision-making power to influence policy at the national and international level. These stakeholders, with divergent viewpoints and political pressures, were able to engage in forthright and creative discussions. We also drafted agendas that prompted forward-looking discussions taking into consideration the latest thinking within the policy landscape.

Where we can improve: While we have made great strides in engaging the trade policy community to consider investment-related issues, we need to continue reaching out to the investment policymaking community and negotiators to better consider trade-related concerns.
GOAL 2

Strengthening Global and Regional Trade Systems

Global and regional trade systems are effective, fair, inclusive and inherently promote sustainable development.
2.1.1 POLICYMAKERS ENGAGE IN INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM

2016 Context at a Glance

Deadlock in the WTO’s Doha Development Round over the past decade has reduced the global trade system’s ability to respond to emerging trade and development challenges, including the exploding global role and changing makeup of services, rapid advancements in technological development, the reshaping of value chains, burgeoning environmental threats such as climate change and the exploitation of oceans, and the need to include actors of all sizes from all regions on a levelled playing field. In view of this deadlock and uncertainty over future multilateral negotiating procedures, regional trade agreements have become a central alternative locus for integration, but this arena for movement has also faced its own set of challenges in the face of mounting popular backlash from civil society. A crucial task for the global trade and investment system in 2016 was to align with the international community’s decisions on a post-2015 development framework, navigating towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a post-Nairobi context.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- E15 ideas invigorated discussions at the WTO towards MC11
- Increased responsiveness of international governance systems to emerging global needs
- Investment and sustainability principles included in G20 Trade and Investment Working Group negotiations

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS:

Publications: 41
(+4 shared with digital & investment)

Blogs: 29
(+12 shared with other outcomes/goals)

Events: 8
(+12 shared with other outcomes/goals)

3rd Party Events: 9
The E15 Initiative (E15), jointly convened by ICTSD and the World Economic Forum, aims to reinvigorate the global trade and investment system in the face of sluggish growth in world trade and enduring deadlock in multilateral negotiations since Doha. The turn of the century brought a substantially different set of long-term policy imperatives to those facing the world in the 1990s, with the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Internet of Things, coupled with far-reaching risks posed by anthropogenic changes to the climate, not least for food security and marine life, ultimately yield widespread effects on inequalities in the international community, where a growing number of actors in both developing and developed states have lost a measure of confidence in the universality of the system’s benefits. The dawn of these emerging challenges reveals cracks in the make-up of the global trade and investment system in need of fortification. As the word shrinks, value chains lengthen, foreign direct investment shifts both in volume and in distribution, and regional, bilateral and plurilateral initiatives proliferate, it is the mission of the E15 to combat fragmentation and build an effective, cohesive, and inclusive system with the capacity to boost global growth and employment, accelerate sustainable development, reduce investment uncertainty, and counter environmental degradation.

E15 PHASE I

In this context, the E15 convened upwards of 370 high-level experts from a wide variety of backgrounds and specialisations across the globe, with the support of 16 influential partnering institutions, to advance discussions across 17 expert groups and task forces, each focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing the global trade system in a key thematic area. The three-year process from 2013–2016 generated a knowledge bank of forward-thinking solutions, resulting in the production of 17 corresponding policy options papers, providing concrete and actionable recommendations for progress in each issue-area, aimed at addressing sectoral challenges, navigating key global priorities, and improving the global trade architecture. These options, first launched in Davos in January 2016, were of a timely nature as they were disseminated in the aftermath of the Nairobi Ministerial when there was an urgent need for fresh ideas that were implementable in the short term and of a more aspirational nature. The proposals take a systemic view, spanning a wide range of disciplines and institutions, appreciating the wide ecosystem of influences on trade and investment behaviour beyond the WTO, with important implications for national and international governance, where the agendas set for trade ministers and institutions need to be embedded in larger strategies set by higher authorities that integrate other policy and stakeholder dimensions.

E15 PHASE II

In 2016, the E15 shifted to Phase II, centred on outreach and engagement with relevant policymakers and influencers on the recommendations. The multi-stakeholder nature that distinguishes the initiative’s second phase means that it is uniquely placed to forge a bridge between the innovative proposals and business demand, societal expectations and governmental realities. The options are now feeding into and informing policy processes, consecrated in the outcomes of G20 trade and investment discussions at Hangzhou following a process of close consultation with ICTSD, in the outputs of the Our Oceans Conference held in December in Washington, DC, and in the proposals of a number of developed and developing countries at the multilateral level. The options have also been incorporated into the work streams of a number of key international organisations, including the WTO, the OECD, the World Bank, and various UN bodies (please refer to the section on the E15 Initiative under Goal 2 and New Initiatives under Goal 1 for more information). Today, the E15 represents a dialogue around the world about how trade strategy is set and administered in countries and at the global level, and how improvements in the international cooperative architecture could help advance sustainable development.
E15 POLICY OPTIONS PAPERS

- Competition Policy and Trade in the Global Economy: Towards an Integrated Approach by Eduardo Pérez Motta.
- Enabling the Energy Transition and Scale-up of Clean Energy Technologies: Options for the Global Trade System by Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.
- Enhancing Coherence and Inclusiveness in the Global Trading System in the Era of Regionalism by Kati Suominen.
- Global Rules for Mutually Supportive and Reinforcing Trade and Climate Regimes by James Bacchus.
- Maximizing the Opportunities of the Internet for International Trade by Joshua P. Meltzer.
- Options for Trade, Finance and Development: Getting the Institutions Right by Jean-Louis Arcand.
- Regulatory Cooperation: Lessons from the WTO and the World Trade Regime by Petros C. Mavroidis.
- Rethinking Services in a Changing World by Patrick Low.
- Rethinking Subsidy Disciplines for the Future by Gary Horlick and Peggy A. Clark.
- The Functioning of the WTO: Options for Reform and Enhanced by Manfred Elsig.
- Trade and Investment Frameworks in Extractive Industries: Challenges and Options by Christophe Bellmann.
- Trade Governance Frameworks in a World of Global Value Chains by Sherry Stephenson.
- Trade Policy Options for Sustainable Oceans and Fisheries by U. Rashid Sumaila.

E15 ideas invigorated discussions at the WTO towards MC11

WTO delegates and E15 experts convened in close, focused discussions to examine key issue areas in depth with guidance from E15 recommendations ahead of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires to be held in December 2017. The objective was to leverage E15 policy options in a non-negotiating setting to catalyse action at the WTO. The issue areas included agriculture, services facilitation, fossil fuel subsidies, fisheries subsidies, e-commerce (digital economy), and investment facilitation. Thus, the thinking and decision-making processes ongoing at the WTO in this critical time are directly enriched and informed by E15 ideas. Further dialogues will continue to be organised over the course of 2017 to delve deeper into the issue areas discussed as they evolve.

“A more realistic view on what to prioritise in Geneva and how to increase efforts to move things forward [...] The type of] conversation necessary for building an agenda.” Thomas Cottier, Managing Director, World Trade Institute (WTI)

“New information, new issues, new ideas.”
Longyue Zhao, Professor at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies

This process was set in motion in late 2016 with a dialogue on the digital economy structured to help delegates at the WTO better inform themselves on the most salient ideas and their negotiating implications. In addition, the policy recommendations of the E15 were presented by ICTSD representatives at two separate workshops organised at the WTO, at a seminar to examine options for fisheries subsidies reform organised by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and a meeting on competition policy and the international trade system organised by the WTO, reinforcing the value placed on the role of the E15 in informing and supporting discussions at the WTO.

Selected Events

- A series of events as part of the E15 Engagement Day on the WTO and MC 11. 26 September 2016. Geneva, Switzerland. Attendance included over 115 experts and WTO delegates from 42 developed and developing countries.
- Digital Economy and the WTO. 15 December 2016. Geneva, Switzerland. Attendance included 45 total E15 experts and delegates from 24 WTO developed and developing country missions.

Increased responsiveness of international governance systems to emerging global needs

ICTSD and E15 partner the World Economic Forum were invited to present the E15 policy options at a number of high-profile events over the course of the year to inform and enrich discussions as well as to develop an increased responsiveness to emerging global needs. These invitations are testament to the value and far-reaching application attributed to E15 insights on a global scale for international governance systems. The meetings, attended by key stakeholders and policymakers from both developed and developing countries, also represented an invaluable opportunity to engage with and encourage absorption of the ideas to new and broader networks of actors who may not already have been exposed to the recommendations. Meetings included a session at the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Trade Ministers Meeting, with over 60 ministers from ACP countries in attendance. E15 ideas were also promoted by influential international organisations and academic institutions, further raising awareness and responsiveness to key issues by global stakeholder groups. Prestigious publications, such as the IMF annual World Economic Outlook, regularly featured E15 ideas and informed additional research by influential experts—see selected citations for examples. These outlets are known to be reviewed by high-level decision-makers as a source to improve their understanding of emerging global needs and therefore provide an additional channel for E15 ideas to influence international governance systems. In addition, ICTSD periodicals frequently translated and published adaptations of E15 pieces in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, and
Spanish, unlocking a greater audience, increasing global accessibility and providing relevant analysis in a focused manner on a regional basis.

Selected Events
- **E15 General Briefing.** ICTSD invited to present the E15 report at the WTO. 23 February 2016. Geneva, Switzerland.
- **E15 Day** organised by Harvard Law School. 28-29 April 2016. Cambridge MA, US.
- **E15 Tokyo Launch Event.** ICTSD invited by RIETI to present the E15 report. 13 July 2016. Tokyo, Japan.
- **E15 at the ACP Meeting.** ICTSD invited to present the E15 report at the ACP Ministers Meeting at the ACP Secretariat. 7 December 2016. Brussels.

Selected Citations

Columbia FDI Perspectives based on E15 Think Pieces:

Follow-up initiatives of E15 policy options launched by IGOs and other stakeholders

Several E15 recommendations were taken up and instigated by intergovernmental organisations and other influential stakeholders, launching follow-up initiatives to integrate solutions into their work streams. These initiatives include the following (for a list of IGOs that have taken up E15 ideas on investment policy refer to section 1.2.1):

- **Research Institute for Global Value Chains.** Based on a recommendation from the E15 expert group on GVCs, the institute is funded by China and run by a consortium of international organisations and universities, with ICTSD on the board. The institute pursues analysis on policy issues around GVCs and their impact on development.
- **Multi-stakeholder e-commerce dialogue.** Based on the findings of the expert group on the digital economy, the WEF, in collaboration with the WTO Secretariat, initiated an informal process aimed at advancing international cooperation in e-commerce. Issues include: SME participation, Internet access, e-trade facilitation, dispute settlement, consumer protection, and cross-border data flows (privacy and security).
- **Online alert system for notifications of technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures.** Based on a policy option proposed by the expert group on the functioning of the WTO, the WTO launched the alert system, known as ePing, with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the UN. The system will serve as an information hub, helping stakeholders, particularly SMEs, to keep track of TBT and SPS measures and keep up with changing regulatory requirements.
The partnership with the WEF continued to be fruitful and invaluable throughout 2016. The Forum has been an important platform from which to reach an expansive network in terms of promotion of E15 ideas. Several WEF meetings featured E15 ideas prominently, not least the launch event at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Davos and a number of regional meetings taking place in Kigali, Medellin, and Kuala Lumpur. The Forum also launched a number of targeted follow-on initiatives to carry forward policy options developed by E15.

**LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016**

**What we did well:** The E15 process developed both practical short-term recommendations as well as ambitious long-term options on a 2025 horizon that call for continuous engagement. It generated impact not only in terms of ICTSD’s mission but also among the many stakeholders who participated and chose to carry forward initiatives. The policy options themselves provide an open source repository of systemic analysis on which everyone can draw.

**Where we can improve:** The sheer number of policy options at different thematic levels implies that a strategic choice has to be made in terms of engagement activities and issues covered. We could better communicate the long-term nature of the initiative and related recommendations to support the international trade and investment system.
2.2.1 INCREASED LEGAL CAPACITY TO MAKE USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RULES-BASED TRADE SYSTEM

2016 Context at a Glance

Global trade policy stakeholders continued to experience uncertainty in forming new international disciplines through trade and investment negotiations. A large number of disputes were brought to global trade adjudicators with the hope that trade rules and their relationship with sustainable development could be clarified in the context of existing WTO agreements. Thirteen WTO disputes were initiated; 10 panels established; and 8 panel reports and 5 Appellate Body reports circulated. Those disputes related to over 500 claims targeting more than 160 trade measures. Some disputes were highly technical and complex, touching on issues such as clean energy, financial services, and public health. These disputes highlighted the challenge for countries, especially developing ones, to keep abreast with the development of “soft laws” and to factor relevant legal implications in their policy space and regulatory frameworks. In investor-state disputes, arbitrators were called upon with increasing frequency to assess the provisions of trade agreements.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Policymakers and influencers better understood the sustainable development implications of trade disputes
- Latin American countries applied skills from ICTSD workshops to overcome challenges in rule-making
- Young talent in Africa helped one step closer to career in international trade law

TRADE LAW:
Events: 5
3rd Party Events: 2

Questions such as how to achieve policy and institutional coherence as targeted by SDG 17 on global partnerships were brought up in this context. In absolute terms, more developing countries participated or became involved in trade disputes in 2016, either as parties or third parties. However, in relative terms, the actual participation rate by developing countries remained low. More efforts are thus needed to achieve SDG 10.6 on enhanced voice for developing countries and SDG 16.8 on strengthened participation in the institutions of global governance.
Policymakers and influencers better understood the sustainable development implications of trade disputes

In 2016, four highly technical dispute reports were discussed in Talking Disputes events. Each event was attended by over 50 participants, with up to 100 following and interacting in real time via the webcast. Recordings of the Talking Disputes webcasts each reached 300-plus views within two weeks of posting. ICTSD thus provided a unique forum that facilitates interdisciplinary exchange and that brings an expansive sustainable development perspective. This in turn has helped to broaden and strengthen the participation of all stakeholders in the institutions of global governance, as called for in SDG 10.6.

“The event takes out the cases from their narrow legal framework and [...] makes you think about the societal impact of panel/AB decisions.” - Laurens van de Ven, Economic Affairs attaché, Netherlands Permanent Representation to the UN and other International Organizations

“I think this kind of interdisciplinary cooperation is something which we really need.” - Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann, European University Institute

The broad reach of Talking Disputes events enables a more level playing field by equipping developing countries with the means to better formalise their strategies in using the WTO dispute settlement mechanism to defend their interests, as mandated by SDG 17.15 on the respect of policy space for sustainable development purposes. Furthermore, Bridges Weekly published 32 detailed news reports on disputes and six on investment arbitration in 2016. The use of Bridges reporting material in academic training and research projects show that ICTSD has been an important source of information and impartial analysis on the development and formulation of soft law in international trade and investment law.

Selected Events

- **Talking Disputes: The India – Solar Cells Dispute.** 7 April 2016. Geneva, Switzerland.

Selected Citations

Latin American countries applied skills from ICTSD workshops to overcome challenges in rule-making

ICTSD worked with the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), the WTO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to successfully organise a workshop in November 2015 entitled “Latin America Dialogue on Managing Trade Remedies” in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. More than 40 delegates from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries participated.

“In Guatemala, we completed recently an investigation on antidumping measures for steel plates from China... The knowledge acquired at the event has strengthened [the quality of] such investigations.” - Alexander Cutz Calderón, Director de Administración del Comercio Exterior, Ministerio de Economía de Guatemala

“We are in the process of introducing a bill to develop domestic legislation to implement the WTO agreements. Ideas from the event were taken to improve the structure of institutions and investigation procedures.” - Odalys Vega Calvo, Directora, Dirección de Defensa Comercial, Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio, Costa Rica

The workshop served as a forum for developing countries to share their experiences on managing trade remedy investigations, as well as trade remedy related WTO disputes. In 2016, participants from several countries, including Guatemala and Costa Rica reported the concrete application of skills acquired during the workshop to develop domestic rules and procedures for managing trade remedies. They said the event provided them with the tools to more easily overcome the challenges faced by their domestic institutional structures, especially in terms of having more coherent decisions and strategies in addressing trade concerns and disputes. This process contributed to an enhanced and more effective representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making processes in international economic institutions.

Young talent in Africa helped one step closer to career in international trade law

ICTSD in 2016 continued to provide institutional support to the African Regional Round of the European law Students association (ELSA) Moot Court Competition. ICTSD’s contribution included providing and sending experts in WTO law from the region to serve as panellists in the moot court competition, supporting the continued participation of African universities and offering a traineeship opportunity to the best orator of the winning team.

“Taking part in this competition opened my eyes to a whole new world with possibilities I had never even contemplated... the moot fuelled my desire to one day be among the few international trade law specialist lawyers in Africa.” - Diana Machingaidze, former participant, Rhodes University
ICTSD’s active promotion and direct participation in the moot court has increased the awareness and interest of African students in international economic law and WTO law. The support of ICTSD has helped students in the region participate in a competition that is aimed at enhancing their knowledge of international trade law. Ultimately, this participation is a step towards long-term legal capacity development in African countries, and will increase their ability to engage more fully in multilateral trade. ELSA’s publication *15 Years of ELSA* praises ICTSD’s impact, with the Vice president of ELSA referring to ICTSD’s contribution as “crucial”.

### Partnerships
- World Trade Institute (WTI) Advisors (co-organisers of the Talking Disputes series)
- Permanent mission of Finland at the WTO
- Rhodes University
- European Law Students’ Association

A notable partnership during 2016 is the ongoing relationship with WTI Advisors in the co-organisation of the Talking Disputes series of events. It is designed to allow for the discussion of specific international trade disputes by experts and interested professionals from relevant fields. Experts present key aspects of the case, setting the stage for a targeted discussion, and designated discussants provide substantive comments.

### LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

**What we did well:** The main pillars of the trade law programme were effective. Legal capacity building for young African talents was a success. Reporting on WTO disputes delivered technical legal knowledge from a sustainable development angle to target stakeholders. As regards events, innovations in social media and video strategies enabled Talking Disputes to further broaden and deepen its brand recognition. Live and recorded webcasting of Talking Disputes went from strength to strength and demonstrated an effective way to extend reach and impact.

**Where we can improve:** There is further scope to inform and increase awareness both among experts and the public on the sustainable development dimensions of often complex trade and investment disputes. Our coverage of investment dispute settlement systems in particular could be broadened and deepened.
2.3.1 CHINA AND EMERGING ECONOMIES PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM

2016 Context at a Glance

The full ramifications of various disruptions to global economic governance witnessed during the year are still being understood, but it is apparent that the role of China and other emerging countries has become more pivotal in (co)-shaping the global trade and investment system. In 2016, China for the first time held the presidency for the Group of Twenty (G20), which is designated as the premier forum for international economic cooperation among these developed and emerging economies. Upgraded to the level of leaders’ summit after the 2008-09 financial crisis, the G20 has arguably become a de facto steering committee to address key issues of global economic governance. In 2016, the G20 economies accounted for around 85% of world output, 80% of world trade, and two-thirds of the world population. As such, the G20 summits and various ministerial meetings, including those on trade, provide strong inputs to the evolution of international economic policy.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Increased capacity of Chinese policymakers to address sustainable development in global trade governance
- G20 discussions and outcomes incorporated ideas drawn from ICTSD engagement and analysis

EMERGING ECONOMIES:
Publications: 3
Events: 5
3rd Party Events: 3
Increased capacity of Chinese policymakers to address sustainable development in global trade governance

Since China joined the WTO in 2001, its participation in the global economy as well as its capacity to engage in international trade policymaking has increased tremendously. China’s participation and contribution, however, has mainly been guided by its own national perspective rather than by global viewpoints. When China started to prepare in early 2015 for the rotating presidency of the G20, it became aware of existing shortfalls or gaps between its existing capacity and the level it is required to serve. ICTSD’s long-standing history of engagement with Chinese policymakers resulted in ICTSD being consulted to bring independent, global, and sustainable development perspectives to China’s preparation for G20 agenda setting and policy outcomes. ICTSD was able to build on its cumulative expertise developed through workshops and research products on global economic governance since 2009. In 2015 and 2016 ICTSD helped to significantly enhance the capabilities of Chinese policymakers in better appreciating—from an international perspective—the opportunities for sustainable development in trade governance and, in particular, the potential role of the G20 as a mechanism to boost the trade system. ICTSD positively influenced the positions taken by the Chinese government on trade and sustainable development and helped them with the preparation, coordination and leadership of the G20.

Selected Publications


Selected Event


(See the Spotlight on Trade and Investment in the G20 for more events.)
Partnerships

- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
- Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China
- Shanghai Institute for International Studies
- University of International Business and Economics
- China Society for the WTO Studies
- IDEAS Centre
- World Trade Organization
- Ministry of Commerce of China (Co-Chair of G20 Trade and Investment Working Group)

A notable partnership in 2016 was ICTSD’s collaboration with CASS, the leading think tank and research institute on social sciences in China. In 2016, CASS was one of three host think tanks of the T20 during China’s G20 presidency. The partnership with CASS consisted in co-organising and co-convening three major events in Nanjing, Geneva and Beijing, which enabled ICTSD to reach deep into the G20 policy track as well as T20 research track, both in 2016 and for longer term engagement.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We have been successful in building trust and developing a partnership with the G20 presidency and relevant constituencies on the basis of our independence and solid research. This allowed us to have direct interactions with trade and investment officials from all G20 economies and to advance sustainable trade and investment growth.

Where we can improve: We have taken up the challenge of ensuring that our engagement with G20 processes is maintained in the transition from the Chinese presidency in 2016 to the German and Argentinian presidencies in 2017 and 2018. This effort and confidence-building must be sustained.
China held in 2016 the rotating presidency of the G20, which included the Trade Ministers Meeting in Shanghai in July and the Leaders’ Summit in Hangzhou in September. The G20 leaders formally endorsed the terms of reference of the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) in Hangzhou, as proposed by ICTSD and other like-minded institutions, which is a welcome development in trade and investment governance. As a member of the Think 20 (T20) providing research and policy advice to G20 governments, and one of a select group of independent think tanks to have actively and effectively engaged with Chinese policymakers over the years, ICTSD played an important role in shaping the G20 agenda on trade and investment as well as feeding policy recommendations into G20 outcomes. Of note, ICTSD was the only non-G20 think tank and in essence classed as an international organisation.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF G20 OFFICIALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP

The complexity and pace of global economic change represents a challenge to many G20 officials seeking to formulate appropriate policy responses for sustainable development. For this reason, ICTSD, with support from the Chinese T20 host the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), organised a workshop in Nanjing for G20 TIWG participants in April 2016, one day before the official TIWG meeting in the same venue. The workshop served two purposes: (i) facilitating G20 officials’ interactions with independent experts on key policy options to bolster trade and investment cooperation in the G20 context; and (ii) encouraging informal discussions among all G20 officials in a non-negotiating setting that would contribute to consensus building. Over 40 officials from G20 economies participated in this workshop. It is reported that they referred to the ideas discussed in this workshop in following TIWG meetings. The G20 Trade Ministers’ Statement and the G20 Summit Communiqué included outcomes developed by the TIWG that were drawn from ICTSD workshops and policy research papers (see also the E15 below).

“Many TIWG outcomes have stemmed from the G20 representatives who participated in a workshop organised by ICTSD and the T20 in Nanjing in April 2016 prior to the second TIWG meeting.” Chao Chen, Director of the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM)

In light of this success and positive influence, ICTSD was invited in December 2016 to co-chair the T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment under the German Presidency of the G20 in 2017. ICTSD has also been invited to prepare workshops for G20 TIWG officials in Berlin and senior officials in Geneva with a view to generating policy recommendations for meaningful outcomes in the Hamburg Summit in 2017 and beyond. A number of policy papers have been commissioned for this purpose. ICTSD will also actively be engaged in building synergies between various areas of the G20 agenda, including trade and climate change as well as trade and the digital economy.

Selected Events

INVESTMENT SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES INCLUDED IN G20 DISCUSSIONS AND COMMUNIQUÉ

By leveraging the E15 brand as well as ICTSD’s close links to the policymaking community, ICTSD was able to feed a number of key policy options from the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy directly into the TIWG discussions. Important E15 ideas that were discussed included:

- The “initiative for the promotion of investment in low income countries,” which considered the creation of a programme to strengthen capacities to attract investment to sustainably integrate into GVCs;
- The creation of guiding principles that could function as “design criteria” for the development of national and international investment policies; and
- The call for increased international collaboration in implementing investment facilitation measures by launching an investment facilitation programme.

In its Note for Ministers and Governors for the July G20 Ministerial (Reinvigorating Trade to Support Growth: Path Forward), the IMF further integrated E15 recommendations. Of the various ideas, investment principles were agreed to as a formal output at the end of the process and reflected in the official Leaders’ Communiqué, with investment facilitation being considered as a follow-up issue to further delve into for the German presidency in 2017. The agreement on principles represented an achievement; with a number of policymakers arguing that they may pave the way for the future harmonisation of investment agreements.
2.4.1 STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDER UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

2016 Context at a Glance

The role of regional trade agreements (RTAs) in introducing or reducing transaction costs representing barriers to trade and investment has been amply debated. Further, the impact of these agreements on coherence or fragmentation in the international system has also long divided opinion. Some RTAs are well ahead of the WTO in terms of disciplines and facilitation mechanisms, and in certain instances plurilateral approaches have enabled coalitions of like-minded WTO members to advance in important areas, potentially paving the way for the multilateral system to follow.

On a global scale, RTAs have proliferated alongside the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and WTO over the past decades, with 270 unique RTAs notified to the WTO and in force as of 2016, and several others under negotiation. The outcome of the US elections injected uncertainty into several trade agreements, leaving partners considering next steps regarding the future of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and also the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Meanwhile, moves towards the formation of major groupings in Asia were ongoing with negotiations on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

Deployment of the RTA Exchange and new research series

The RTA Exchange, a knowledge platform first conceived in the context of the E15 Expert Group on Regional Trade Agreements and Plurilateral Approaches and jointly implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank and ICTSD, represented a new initiative that was already gaining traction.
The exchange was devised to assume a critical role in fostering transparency and creating a level playing field for stakeholders from government, the private sector, and civil society in terms of accessing collective international knowledge on RTAs.

“This RTA Exchange idea is quite an important element of the equation in terms of mapping out to what extent are these trade costs actually going down in a way which benefits firms more that are located in the region as opposed to out. That’s of course something that does not get done by the WTO.” - Bernard Hoekman, Professor and Director, Global Economics at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute

The website (www.rtaexchange.org)—first launched in December 2015—collects information through a database as well as curated news, analysis, and research. It witnessed increasing user engagement through 2016. Building on this platform, ICTSD and IDB formally agreed in 2016 on a strategy for a long-term RTA Exchange dialogue and research series, in which the potentially mutually reinforcing nature of the regional and multilateral trading systems could be examined to harvest innovation from RTAs to enhance coherence and identify areas for convergence. Created to fill an institutional gap in facilitating the flow of practical and conceptual knowledge between experts, scholars, the business community, and regional and multilateral trade negotiators, the initiative will undoubtedly generate impact as it unfolds.

Selected Events
- **New Innovations in Regional Trade Agreements and the Role of the RTA Exchange**. ICTSD and IDB. 27 September 2016. Geneva, Switzerland.

Partnerships
- **Inter-American Development Bank**

The partnership with IDB has been strategically beneficial. While ICTSD is well-placed in Geneva, through its convening power and reputation, to engage WTO experts in discussions in the RTA Exchange dialogue series ahead of MC11, IDB uses its strengths to coordinate the development and maintenance of the online platform.

**Lessons Learned in 2016**

**What we did well**: We involved a broad range of stakeholders to enrich the discussion and help develop the online platform on which the project rests. We generated and managed consensus on the importance of the issue and gathered the right people and organisations to advance knowledge in this area.

**Where we can improve**: The initiative needs further awareness-raising and online content provision will be optimised for access and generation of knowledge on RTAs and sustainable development among our international audiences.
GOAL 3

Agricultural Trade and Food Security

Policies and rules affecting the trade of agricultural goods support food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development
2016 Context at a Glance

Government officials began 2016 trying to assess how three new landmark deals could affect farm trade and sustainable development: the WTO Nairobi package, the Paris climate accord, and the 2030 Agenda outcomes from New York and Addis Ababa. At the WTO, an initial reflection period was followed by a burst of activity from May onwards, with members seeing the trade body’s 2017 ministerial in Buenos Aires as a critical opportunity to build on recent progress. Although in September the US initiated a WTO legal challenge on China’s grain subsidies, delegates tabled as many as twenty negotiating submissions on farm subsidies, market access and export restrictions. Widespread delays in reporting domestic support to the WTO prompted calls for action to tackle the backlog, although Russia, the US and Brazil submitted updated figures. Meanwhile, regional trade blocs involving the farm sector were affected in Europe by the UK’s Brexit referendum, and in the US by the presidential elections, with the latter prompting Japan, the EU and others to reassess their approach to “mega-regional” deals such as the TPP and the TTIP. At the national level, the EU and US announced emergency agricultural support packages, while debate continued in China and India over farm policy directions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- The agricultural trade negotiating agenda better addressed the Sustainable Development Goals
- Countries took steps to address distortions on global markets for key farm products
- Mechanisms were improved to address market volatility for food and farm goods

AGRICULTURE:
Publications: 4
Events: 4
3rd Party Events: 3
3.1.1 IMPROVING POLICIES AFFECTING GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

The agricultural trade negotiating agenda better addressed the Sustainable Development Goals

At the WTO, the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries tabled two agricultural negotiating submissions referring to the importance of the new 2030 Agenda, as did five reports from the negotiating group chair, New Zealand ambassador Vangelis Vitalis.

In November, Vitalis wrote that ICTSD’s contributions “to inform thinking and negotiation are crucial” in this area. Similarly, a paper commissioned by the Cairns Group of farm exporting countries from former US senior negotiator Joseph Glauber, and subsequently presented in Geneva, cited 16 separate ICTSD studies (including E15 analysis) to support an assessment of the “unfinished business” on the farm trade agenda. The works referenced included chapters from ICTSD’s 2016 e-book evaluating the post-Nairobi negotiating landscape, a volume which Vitalis described in June as “very useful” and “timely”, as well as those from an earlier e-book published in 2014. The 2016 publication anticipated demand from negotiators, who subsequently encouraged ICTSD to present the analysis in the margins of scheduled WTO meetings on agriculture. The organisation’s work in this area was welcomed and cited by leading academic experts and staff at international agencies (OECD), as well as generating coverage in the media.

Selected Publication

Selected Event

Selected Citations
Countries around the world turned to ICTSD to inform domestic support debate

In 2016, WTO members debated how best to ensure that domestic support rules contribute to a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, with most seeing the trade body’s upcoming 2017 ministerial as an opportunity to progress on this topic. In July, an ACP group proposal suggested establishing new allowances for some countries’ trade-distorting support (such as large developing countries), in exchange for setting fixed ceilings—an idea initially put forward in ICTSD’s 2014 e-book on Tackling Agriculture in the Post-Bali Context. The ACP submission also envisaged distinguishing between payments for public goods and other support seen as only minimally trade-distorting under current WTO rules—another idea pioneered in earlier ICTSD and E15 analysis. The organisation furthermore anticipated demand from negotiators for analysis on the functioning of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes, with an ICTSD study on this topic effectively answering a question tabled in May by Cairns Group members. ICTSD work in this area similarly continued to inform domestic debate in the US, EU and China, including being cited in two studies for the European Parliament (on risk management and on the Common Agricultural Policy), by staff at international agencies (International Food Policy Research Institute – IFPRI), and in the media.

Selected Publication


Selected Event


Selected Citations

- “Think tank recommends ways to limit trade distortions in WTO-related food security programs.” Inside US Trade, 1 Dec 2016.

3.1.2 RESPONDING TO PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Confidence building efforts at the WTO sparked by ICTSD analysis

With numerous preferential trade deals reshaping the global negotiating environment, ICTSD published a paper immediately before the December 2015 WTO ministerial, which proposed reinvigorating the multilateral system through successive “confidence-building measures.” The analysis, by Crawford Falconer, former chair of the WTO agriculture negotiations, was described by some observers as a “wake up call” and by current chair Vangelis Vitalis as a “thought-provoking piece”. In later official statements, Vitalis reported on whether members might be willing to take steps to “cut water”—the difference between WTO ceilings and actual tariff or subsidy levels—as part of efforts to build on the Nairobi outcome. This approach, which underpins current efforts to agree on outcomes for the next ministerial, is characterised as akin to the “confidence building measures” in ICTSD’s paper by Glauber in a November paper for the Cairns Group. Similarly, at a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting in Geneva in March, Ambassador Claudia Hernandez of the Dominican Republic recalled the proposals in ICTSD’s paper by Glauber in a November paper for the Cairns Group. Similarly, at a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting in Geneva in March, Ambassador Claudia Hernandez of the Dominican Republic recalled the proposals in ICTSD’s paper by Glauber in a November paper for the Cairns Group. Similarly, at a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting in Geneva in March, Ambassador Claudia Hernandez of the Dominican Republic recalled the proposals in ICTSD’s paper by Glauber in a November paper for the Cairns Group.
More recent ICTSD work anticipates and responds to questions about experience with safeguards in preferential deals that were raised by farm exporting countries in a May negotiating submission.

Selected Publication


Thought provoking piece from our very own #NewZealand + former Ag Chair Crawford Falconer @ICTSD_Bridges - Vangelis Vditis. Chair of WTO agriculture negotiations

3.2.1 ENABLING LOW-INCOME, FOOD-IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO ADAPT TO NEW TRENDS

Countries took steps to address distortions on global markets for key farm products

ICTSD’s e-book on evaluating Nairobi, published in May, concluded with a proposal for a systematic review, by commodity, of existing trade concerns from a food security perspective—a notion that was subsequently echoed in a June submission from the group of Least Developed Countries and another in July from the ACP, both asking how distortions on specific products affected them. A June communication from Brazil and other farm exporters similarly mooted the option of disciplining product-specific support. Following informal exchanges with negotiators, ICTSD organised a Geneva dialogue in September which was welcomed as “timely” by Rwandan negotiator Edouard Bizumuremyi, and as “a good way to dive into substantial Ag issues” by Swiss Delegate Marine Willemetz. Subsequently, in November, one negotiating proposal from the ACP called for “binding product specific limits to trade-distorting domestic support.” Similar ideas were expressed in two other November proposals from exporting countries (Argentina and co-sponsors, Brazil and co-sponsors). Academic experts welcomed ICTSD’s research and analysis in the area, with Professor Alan Matthews writing that the organisation’s analysis of markets for wheat, rice and maize “contributes to [the] evidence base” for building on other WTO outcomes, while the organisation’s analysis on cotton continued to be widely cited.

Selected Event


Mechanisms were improved to address market volatility for food and farm goods

Negotiators continued to express interest in ICTSD’s research on food price volatility, both in the area of agricultural export restrictions and on temporary safeguard measures to address sudden volume surges or price depressions. Food-importing countries from different world regions approached ICTSD informally to understand better how agricultural export restrictions could affect food security, following a Singapore proposal for improved transparency in the application of these measures. On safeguards, a July proposal from the G33 group of food-importing developing countries recognised that price-based safeguards may be easier to apply than volume-based safeguards, and that many developing countries may lack the capacity for timely monitoring of all ports – both points which ICTSD
analysis has repeatedly emphasised, including in recent presentations for relevant negotiating groups. More broadly, the organisation’s work on food price volatility and the implications of climate change for agricultural markets continued to be used and cited widely by a range of policy actors, including at international organisations such as the FAO, and by academic experts.

**Selected Citations**


**Partnerships**

- China’s Agricultural Trade Promotion Centre
- International Food Policy Research Institute
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In 2016, ICTSD’s close ongoing partnership with IFPRI continued to allow the two organisations to work effectively together on an ad hoc basis to generate analytical inputs, link negotiating processes with expert analysis, and relate trade policy challenges to broader issues of food security and sustainable development. ICTSD’s ability to link otherwise disparate communities working on trade, food and agriculture, development and the environment continues to be valued by partners and other policy actors.

**LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016**

**What we did well:** On food and agriculture, ICTSD’s expanding network of partnerships with leading global experts has allowed the organisation to continue to contribute high-quality analysis that is decisive in informing the farm trade agenda, including in the areas of poverty and food security. ICTSD has furthermore been uniquely positioned to generate policy-relevant analysis on farm trade issues, due to the organisation’s established relationships with negotiators and other policy actors—both in Geneva and other decision-making centres.

**Where we can improve:** We need to intensify and deepen our engagement with the broader public debate in the area of trade, food and farming so as to make a stronger case for international collaboration on shared public policy goals, and remain adaptive in a fast-changing policy environment.
GOAL 4

Sustainable Economic Growth in Least Developed and Low Income Countries

Trade contributes to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in LDCs, LICs and African economies
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Momentum sustained on forward-looking post-Nairobi agenda for LDCs and LICs
- Critical knowledge gaps filled linking value chains, sustainable development and trade policy
- LDC services exporters offered better market access by WTO members
- Enhanced capacity in LDCs and LICs to develop policy and regulations on services

2016 Context at a Glance

Real GDP growth in least developed countries (LDCs) as a whole gathered momentum yet remained below the levels required for sustained economic transformation. Forecasts for 2017 anticipated a continued upward trend. African economies were affected by depressed exports due to the drop in commodity prices as well as sluggish demand in traditional markets. Accelerated growth will enable progress towards domestic resource mobilisation—recognised as an important condition for LDCs to finance their development, drive their transformation, and work towards the achievement of SDG targets including poverty reduction. In the context of opportunities arising from the evolving structures of international trade, LDCs and low income countries (LICs) took further steps towards benefiting from the opportunities of participating and upgrading within global value chains, with a focus on boosting productive capacities, facilitating knowledge spillovers, and promoting export diversification. On the services front, the number of WTO members offering preferential market access for service exports from LDCs increased to 23. Based on the LDC Services Decision taken at the Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in 2015, the European Union, South Africa, India, and Australia provided information on various technical assistance processes to support service exports from LDCs.
4.1.1 LEVERAGING TRADE RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Momentum sustained on forward-looking post-Nairobi agenda for LDCs and LICs

Following the often heated discussions at the WTO Nairobi ministerial in December 2015, ICTSD played a central role in facilitating the exchange of forward-looking ideas to explore at a technical and political level how LDCs could advance their interests and build on the outcome of Nairobi. An ICTSD event aimed at debriefing post-Nairobi was attended by a high number of ambassadors and provided a channel to initiate conversations towards devising a proactive and long term agenda for LDCs leading to the next WTO ministerial conference in 2017 (MC11). Crucially, this event also discussed how the Nairobi outcome aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and helped to ensure that a strong focus on sustainability was maintained in high level discussions.

“I recommend that ICSTD work with the (LDC) group to elaborate a structured work programme and obtain concrete results.” - Eloi Laourou, Ambassador of Benin

“This discussion is instrumental in linking the Geneva trade community to sustainable development concepts and explore how WTO can deal with the SDG agenda.” - Debapriya Battacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

Building on this dynamic, though active participation in various high-level public discussions related to multilateral and regional trade relations in Africa and LDCs, ICTSD was able to influence the agenda throughout the year, in particular with regard to beneficial trading relations and the interplay between trade policies and achieving SDG targets. ICTSD activities were highly praised by policymakers, including the event “Unlocking the Potential of the World Trade Organization to deliver Modern Trade Deals” at Wilton Park in March; the African Regional Integration Round Table hosted by the Overseas Development Institute in April; the WTO and the World Bank Trade and Poverty Forum in May; and the UNCTAD 14 session entitled “Making Trade Work for Africa and LDCs: How to Ensure That Trade is Inclusive and Pro-Poor” in July. ICTSD Senior Fellow Darlington Mwape also served as committee member in the inquiry into the UK’s Africa Free Trade Initiative (AFTI), which released its report in late 2016 in the context of the UK seeking to reformat trade relations with Africa following the Brexit referendum result.

Selected Publication

Selected Events
• Unpacking the WTO Nairobi Outcome for LDCs. ICTSD. 8 February 2016. Geneva, Switzerland.

4.1.2 ENHANCING THE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES OF GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND TRADE-RELATED MECHANISMS

Critical knowledge gaps filled linking value chains, sustainable development and trade policy

ICTSD’s work with developing and least developed countries has adapted to enable them to meet changing business dynamics and governance approaches. The most recent strategic orientation, set in motion in 2015 and intensified in 2016, is to understand new trade structures, relationships, and opportunity sectors, and to facilitate trade-related policy action for inclusive economic transformation based on this analysis. ICTSD’s ongoing research has provided a unique understanding of the link between value chains, sustainable development and trade policy.
In 2016, ICTSD implemented a pioneering methodological framework combining multi-stakeholder engagement with the provision of key concepts and metrics to understand the interactions between GVCs and SDGs, in particular gender impacts, and related trade policy responses. This work contributes to filling important knowledge gaps associated with the developmental potential of GVCs. Using this framework, ICTSD conducted, commissioned, and released a series of innovative and evidence-based research papers on how GVCs could be leveraged to achieve sustainable outcomes in developing countries. The initial release in the series—which ranges from more conceptual papers on trade and sustainable development to applied country case studies that examine constraints and success factors in key sectors—were published in the autumn and rapidly gained recognition for their impact and policy insight. The project is ongoing, with targeted research and multi-stakeholder dialogues that build on existing outputs slated for 2017.

Selected Publications

Selected Event

4.1.3 LEVERAGING TRADE IN KEY SECTORS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT

LDC services exporters offered better market access by WTO members

Starting in 2013 and at the request of the LDC Group at the WTO, ICTSD and its partners (ILEAP and WTI Advisors) embarked on an ambitious project designed to: i) identify sectors with export potential; ii) highlight barriers to exports from LDCs; and iii) identify potential preferences which could be granted under the LDC Services Waiver. This project, which included 16 country studies, 3 market access studies, and a desk review, culminated in the development of a “catalogue” of preferences that was submitted to the LDC Group in 2014. The catalogue of preferences was used by the LDC Group to submit a “Collective Request” to the WTO in June 2014. In 2015, and following on from the “Collective Request,” 28 WTO members indicated...
that they would provide preferential market access to LDC service suppliers. ICTSD’s efforts in support of the LDC services waiver were not only felt during the development of collective request but also during the 2015 Ministerial Conference in Nairobi where WTO members included a specific Ministerial Declaration which dealt explicitly with preferential market access for LDC service suppliers. By the end of 2016, 23 WTO members had submitted preferential offers for LDC services exports demonstrating the real impact of ICTSD’s work in support of facilitating service exports from the world’s poorest economies.

"Your work is wonderful and relevant." - Karidio Hamadou, Director of International Trade and Economic Relations, Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Relations

Enhanced capacity in LDCs and LICs to develop policy and regulations on services

ICTSD’s conceptual work on services fills important knowledge gaps that impede effective policy solutions. By enhancing understanding among key stakeholders, this work also builds capacity in LDCs and LICs to develop new policy and regulations on services. Domestic policy and regulatory change is much needed in order to boost services sector productivity and the achievement of sustainable development objectives. ICTSD’s work examines the under-researched relationships between services and sustainable development (as articulated in the SDGs), gender and services, the role of SMEs, and the crosscutting role of regulation. It also lays the groundwork for more technical policy and regulatory change efforts in the future that can further exploit the multi-stranded contribution of services to sustainable development. In addition, ICTSD has provided stakeholders with targeted tools to advance specific regulatory policy goals. The provision of these practical and technical tools is crucial in supporting stakeholders to advocate for regulatory and policy change and their capacity to implement that change. This policy-orientated stream of work includes a series of papers examining the role of regulation in supporting service sector development (and how to conduct a regulatory audit) as well as a number of country studies which identify binding constraints to services sector growth, and the gender-differentiated impact of services regulations. ICTSD has also provided policymakers and stakeholders with a series of regulatory toolkits, focused on the tourism, ICT, finance, and transport sectors, which clearly outline how regulatory change in each of the four sectors can be achieved. A critical element in the success of this work has been ICTSD’s multi-stakeholder events, regionally and in Geneva, attended by high level stakeholders from multiple countries – for example, the May 2016 event in Johannesburg, South Africa, included stakeholders from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. These events generated constructive dialogue among stakeholders and enhanced their ability to effect real regulatory and policy change in their respective economies and across their regions.

"Before this event it was difficult for me to understand the dynamic of the trade in services. My eyes are wide open now." - Fako Hakan, Executive Secretary and CEO, Lesotho Chamber of Commerce
“This kind of interaction is important because valuable solutions can be developed and ways forward agreed.” - James Chakwera, Chief Economist, Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Malawi

Selected Publications


Selected Events


Partnerships

- South African Institute of International Affairs
- Policy Research on International Services and Manufacturing, University of Cape Town
- North-West University, South Africa
- TradeMark East Africa
- Trade Policy Training Center in Africa
- Saana Consulting

A notable partnership in 2016 was ICTSD’s collaboration with PRISM, University of Cape Town. Mike Morris, Director of PRISM, is a leading authority on global value chains. He assisted ICTSD throughout the year in expanding its network of experts as well as developing an innovative framework for GVC and trade-related policy analysis and recommendations for sustainable development.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We identified and filled knowledge gaps that enabled policy actors to more effectively interact and advance common interests. Our networking and convening power at the highest level proved again to be very effective. Strategically planned dialogues that engage multi-stakeholders at the multilateral and regional level catalysed constructive action.

Where we can improve: Our use of video technology and social platforms has deepened and generated significant engagement over the past year. However, there is room to broaden our reach and, with the application of these tools, create communities that can take the issues of trade policy and inclusive economic transformation in least developed countries further.
ICTSD supports policy stakeholders in generating effective development outcomes through trade and investment policy. ICTSD catalyses innovation across policy processes by providing applied analysis on trade and investment issues and governance and complementing it with ground-up processes that engage stakeholder communities over the long term to match their development challenges with authentic solutions that respond to both national and international demands.

ENSURING THAT TRADE POLICY MAINTAINS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEARINGS

ICTSD’s Trade and Development Symposium (TDS)—an event that is hosted by ICTSD and partners alongside the WTO ministerial conferences—is a high-profile standard bearer in raising the issues of sustainable development values in trade and investment policymaking. The TDS helps to maintain and elaborate a global vision of sustainable development alongside negotiations (drawing in some 2,000 participants in Nairobi in 2015) including government, business, and civil society representatives to help refresh and redefine how trade and investment should perform if it is to advance sustainable development. The TDS brings critical issues to international attention, and also importantly, voices that might not otherwise be heard in such venues which ultimately helps policymakers and other influencers to be more responsive to emerging concerns. The value stakeholders place upon the TDS has been consistently enthusiastic, particularly its ability to provide a unique venue for engagement, policy generation, and inclusion.

“The TDS is an exceptional event where a parallel track of highly substantive interaction takes place at the time of the WTO ministerials, between all levels of stakeholders from students up to ministers, to better understand the relevant issues and provide an insightful basis for considered solutions to pave the way ahead towards a balanced outcome.” - Harsha V. Singh, Executive Director, Brookings India, and former Deputy Director-General at the WTO (2005-2013).

The strong presence of the TDS on the sidelines of each ministerial conference has also provided an important venue for negotiators to test and elaborate policy ideas in a non-negotiating setting. The TDS provides a venue for exchange in close proximity to the negotiations and is regularly attended by ministers, ambassadors and other high level representatives. The TDS also helps to connect stakeholders around the world to the negotiation process. ICTSD reporting, social and video, and publishing teams work together to connect global stakeholders to the TDS and nearby negotiations, through the event itself, but also through year-round reporting and analysis across ICTSD’s multilingual Bridges platform. The ongoing engagement of these audiences constitutes a ground-tested source of trends and ideas as well as globally effective channels of outreach in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

LDCs AND LICs: WORKING AT MULTIPLE LEVELS TO CATALYSE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ICTSD’s work with least developed countries (LDCs) and low income countries (LICs) recognises that stakeholders in these countries face particular (and often widely differing) economic and institutional challenges in advancing their development objectives. ICTSD engages stakeholders in these countries by identifying and matching their priorities with emerging practice—in the context of both emerging theory and their own development context—and at multiple levels of policymaking and negotiation.
THE CHANGING FACE OF INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Development is increasingly multimodal and multidimensional, demanding countries to mobilise their assets and human capacities across a range of sectors in order to be competitive. Increasingly these sectors are services-related and form part of larger processes in value chains. ICTSD’s research and multi-stakeholder dialogues have contributed to filling important knowledge gaps associated GVC potential in developing countries. ICTSD provides stakeholders in LDCs and LICs with frameworks for analysis, tools and processes, to advance policy goals. Stakeholders are better able to understand each other and are better able to advocate for regulatory and policy change and more aware of the challenges and opportunities at the national, regional, and international levels.

GIVING SDGs THEIR TRADE WINGS

Since 2015, ICTSD has enabled stakeholders to better understand the linkages between economic transformation and the SDGs and to explore ways in which trade policy could support those linkages. Through a series of papers that filled essential knowledge gaps, stakeholders were better able to elaborate mechanisms and policy options for achieving SDGs.

GENDER IMPACTS MATTER FOR INCLUSION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Gender impacts form an important strand of inclusive economic transformation. There has been widespread recognition of the potential differential trade-related impacts on men and women, but heretofore, no analytic frameworks have been developed to guide policy ex ante. There is now a strong global consensus, as mandated by SDG 5, for a better understanding of gender impacts and opportunities across all areas of policymaking. ICTSD’s work over the past year has helped to drive this consensus into specific initiatives to examine how gender-aware approaches can positively contribute to the advancement of sustainable development through trade-related policy. In 2016, ICTSD pioneered and tested new methodological approaches to addressing the gender-trade policy interface. A number of studies were developed and refined with stakeholders. As this work is further developed and applied it will support stakeholder deliberation about the impacts and trade-offs around emerging economic structures, inclusion, and gender.

ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE SYSTEM

Development considerations are at the heart of the global trade and investment system. ICTSD helps to elaborate and catalyse action for development through its programmes, focusing on both systemic and specific issues. Systemically, ICTSD’s work on trade law, which is critical to ensuring that the global trade system works for development, has provided stakeholders with the tools to develop domestic legal capacity. Work over the past year includes a workshop in the Dominican Republic in late 2015 entitled “Latin America Dialogue on Managing Trade Remedies,” with delegates from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries, which served as a forum to share experiences on managing trade remedy investigations and WTO disputes. ICTSD also provided institutional support to the next generation of trade law practitioners from developing countries, through the African Regional Round of the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot Court Competition—addressing one of the most often cited gaps, legal capacity. On specific issues, ICTSD has often played a bridging role combining the realities of negotiation with innovative solutions. ICTSD’s e-book on evaluating agriculture outcomes from Nairobi, published in May 2016, concluded with a proposal for a systematic review, by commodity, of existing trade concerns from a food security perspective—an issue that disproportionately affects LDCs and LICs. This notion was subsequently echoed in a June submission from the group of Least Developed Countries at the WTO and another in July from the ACP. A July proposal from the G33 group of food-importing developing countries also recognised a key point in ICTSD analysis related to food security. WTO delegations also looked to ICTSD to help reanimate discussions in the area of fisheries in 2016. This resulted in an informal request by the ACP Secretariat to support and inform deliberations during the preparation of a new submission on fisheries subsidies. Similarly, Peru requested inputs from ICTSD in the preparation of its submission to the WTO as well as in the context of its presidency of APEC.
GOAL 5

Innovation, Technology and Intellectual Property

Innovation, creativity and technology provide solutions to sustainable development challenges
2016 Context at a Glance

There is universal agreement that innovation writ large is key to productivity and hence to growth and development. However, understanding how to generate and sustain innovation is increasingly contested at the policy level. The complexity of translating this attention in concrete outcomes remains a work in progress, partly due to the often politically charged nature of intellectual property (IP) related debates. Advances were made at the multilateral level with the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled; a signal that the multilateral system can deliver outcomes that meet welfare objectives. While there are ongoing challenges in overcoming existing asymmetries in areas such as patent applications—considered an indicator of creativity and innovation—emerging economies, particularly from Asia, increasingly played a role as major applicants. Meanwhile, developments under the WTO TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Council confirmed the interest of member states to revitalise its role by including new areas of work such as digital trade. Differences relating to the interplay between legal regimes such as IP with health, human rights, and foreign investment also surfaced during the year in high profile cases decided in the WTO and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Finally, the recourse to flexibilities in the implementation of trade agreements was the leitmotif of a High Level Panel appointed by the Secretary General of the UN that issued its final report on Promoting Innovation and Access to Health Technologies.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- ICTSD shaped the outcome of the Marrakesh Treaty and the thinking of senior policymakers around the world
- Relevant stakeholders convened to examine issues on transparency and accountability in PPPs
- ICTSD and CEIPI helped communicate new challenges and opportunities to the IP policy community

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:
Publications: 2 (+2 forthcoming)  
Events: 1  
3rd Party Events: 18
5.1.1 STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IP REGIMES FOR DEVELOPMENT

ICTSD activities on IP and innovation shaped the thinking of senior policymakers around the world

In recognition of its unique level of expertise, which has included shaping the outcome of the Marrakesh Treaty, ICTSD was invited throughout 2016 to participate in high-level events organised by international organisations, governments, academia, and NGOs. The programme on IP and Innovation played a key role in providing knowledge across a number of platforms, both through delivering courses and training to ensure the building of skills, and through contributing to various meetings organised by international organisations to inform the thinking of policymakers. Highlights included: (i) participation in WTO seminars, including a November workshop on supporting LDCs in making effective use of IP rights, with the outcomes reported to the TRIPS Council; (ii) contribution as co-Director and tutor in the third edition of the Inter-American Development Bank online course on Intellectual Property and Trade in Latin America, attended by senior public officials from South and Central American; and (iii) a thematic seminar on Trade and Competition Policy: Reviewing Practical Experience with Existing WTO Agreements at the WTO in July, where the policy options emerging from the E15 Expert Group on Competition Policy were presented to WTO member states as well as the competition authorities of a number of developing countries.

Relevant stakeholders convened in a process to examine issues on transparency and accountability in PPPs

As a pivotal actor in the IP realm for generating ideas and fostering dialogue for sustainable development, ICTSD plays a valuable role in designing multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships to maximise innovation. These partnerships respond to both market and government failures in the production and dissemination of public goods, while also addressing the huge regulatory coordination issues involved. Despite their growing importance, public-private partnerships (PPPs) remain under-examined. Considering this knowledge gap, ICTSD conceived and developed a project in partnership with Seattle University School of Law that aims to better understand PPPs and encourage transparent and accountable relationships between the public and private sectors, while ensuring a correct balance in the protection of IP rights in sectors that are key for development. These include tackling technology challenges and exploring the role of PPPs in their relationship to human rights, public health, culture, education, agriculture, energy, and other developmental domains. The project was planned in a timely manner in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals that include several targets directly relevant to intellectual property for which innovative and effective partnership models will need to be designed.

Selected Publication


Selected Event

- Public-Private Partnerships, Global Intellectual Property Governance and Sustainable Development. ICTSD. 1 July 2016. Geneva, Switzerland. (The event included informative video interviews for public dissemination.)

“I have dreamed of collaborating with ICTSD on a project for a long time now.” - Margaret Chon, Professor at Seattle University School of Law in the context of a video interview

“[The event] has provoked interest and fresh energy on PPPs and its intersection with SDGs and other institutional drivers of development.” - Chidi Oguamanam, University of Ottawa
ICTSD contributed to national IP strategies and WIPO Development Agenda review

ICTSD was relied on as a source of impartial expertise and guidance among policymakers at the national level and within international organisations. For example, collaboration with Chile’s Industrial Property Office (INAPI) resulted in the presentation of its national IP strategy to the Chilean president in December. This was the fruit of several years of consultations in which ICTSD was invited at the outset of the process. Further, at the eighteenth session of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property, held in November, members discussed the Independent Review of the Implementation of the 2007 Development Agenda Recommendations. Pedro Roffe, ICTSD Senior Fellow, conducted the review as IP and development expert among a panel of three. In 2016, WIPO’s Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore convened on several occasions to advance negotiations for an international legal instrument or instruments to protect genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and cultural expressions. ICTSD concluded simultaneously a major publication on the IGC process, describing its origins and impact on national and related international developments.

Selected Publications


ICTSD and CEIPI helped communicate new challenges and opportunities to the IP policy community

The ICTSD-CEIPI (Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies) publication series on Global Perspectives and Challenges for the Intellectual Property System provides academic and policy-oriented papers of rare expertise dealing with topics of global relevance due to their socio-economic impact. The second and third issues were released in 2016 and were distributed widely to a positive reception in the IP and policymaking community. The fourth issue was commissioned with release expected in 2017. Evidence of immediate impact can be found in the following. ICTSD and CEIPI were invited to present the main findings of the second issue, a collection dealing with the topic of specialised IP courts, at the Eleventh WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement in September. In addition, a special November issue of WIPO magazine included an article authored by Professor de Werra that drew on his contribution to the series. ICTSD Senior Associate Pedro Roffe further introduced the second issue in cooperation with colleagues at CEIPI and UNCTAD at a series of seminars in Mexico City in November. The seminars were addressed to members of the Mexican judiciary, particularly the Federal Court of Administrative Justice, as well as the Mexican INPI (National Industrial Property Institute) and domestic pharmaceutical firms. The third issue of the CEIPI-ICTSD series, which explores the relationship between IP and the right to science and culture—a topic that has served as the basis for an increasing body of legal scholarship and reports, was released in late 2016. The issue was presented and distributed at the annual CEIPI Board Meeting in December, attended among others by authorities Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General.

“INAPI also thanks Mr. Pedro Roffe Rosenfeld, senior associate at ICTSD, for his contribution and assistance in the initial stages of this project.”

INAPI acknowledges ICTSD’s contribution to this collective work in the final document.

“I wish to thank you for your substantive paper and excellent presentation…which were well received by the participants and contributed to the success of this session of the Committee.” Letter by Minelik Alemu Getahun, Assistant Director General in the Global Issues Sector of WIPO
Selected Publication


Selected Citations


5.2.1 ENHANCING WELFARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

International organisations draw upon ICTSD work to educate future policymakers on technology transfer

A number of publications from international organisations and academia have referenced ICTSD and its work throughout 2016. Indeed, research commissioned and conducted by ICTSD over the past decade and a half in the fields of intellectual property, technology and innovation have become benchmarks in their respective disciplines, used for teaching and training as well as further policy exploration.

These works directly related to development and emerging from the Programme on IP and Innovation have come to serve as reference points in academic circles and continue to help inform the thinking of influential experts, relevant stakeholders, and students, the next generation of policymakers. Publications from past years that have had a resounding impact from this research and education perspective include the following:


Partnerships

- Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI)
- Seattle University School of Law
- Cambridge University Press & Routledge

The partnership with CEIPI in 2016 has been extremely productive, yielding two new issues of the joint publication series, with planning for subsequent issues. The collaboration has been invaluable in disseminating the publications through CEIPI’s expansive, relevant, and targeted network.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

**What we did well:** We actively engaged and stayed closely in touch with developments in the negotiations and dialogue in Geneva, while shaping the conversation through organising and participating in high-level meetings and producing well-regarded publications that enjoyed high visibility.

**Where we can improve:** We could intensify and further adapt communications in order to help policy actors interact more effectively in their work, by drawing on the latest and most relevant research and news.
Trade-related policies foster the sustainable use of natural resources
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- Developing countries drew upon ICTSD expertise to articulate positions on fisheries subsidies
- Negotiating proposals tabled in 2016 reflect policy options formulated in the E15

6.1.1 TRADE POLICY DECISIONS SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE OCEANS, FISHERIES, AND FRESH WATER RESOURCES

2016 Context at a Glance

Following several years of stalled talks, the momentum for creating new disciplines on fisheries subsidies grew throughout the year, as key WTO members and coalitions reviewed their traditional positions. SDG target 14.6 and ground-breaking rules on fisheries subsidies under the Trans-Pacific Partnership further added fuel to WTO conversations. Several members have highlighted this issue as a possible deliverable for MC11. In September 2016, 13 countries led by the United States announced plans to negotiate a plurilateral agreement in this area. In the meantime, several proposals from a variety of members (EU, ACP, Peru-Argentina, LDC) were tabled at the WTO suggesting possible disciplines. Besides fisheries subsidies negotiations, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, which requires parties to check catch documentation of foreign vessels entering their ports and deny access to vessels suspected of illegal fishing, reached the required number of ratifications to enter into force. The EU continued to impose warnings (yellow cards) and retain import bans (red cards) on countries it suspected of not doing enough to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Debate continued around a proposed US rule that would require importers to keep information on the legality of imports of fish species at risk of IUU fishing.

FISHERIES AND WATER:
- Publications: 3
- Events: 1
- 3rd Party Events: 4
Developing countries drew upon ICTSD expertise to articulate positions on fisheries subsidies

Building on its long track record of promoting dialogue and solution-oriented analysis, ICTSD has positioned itself as a leading source of expertise on fisheries subsidies. ICTSD received many requests to provide direct authoritative advice on the technical and political aspects of negotiations.

“I always appreciate perspectives of ICTSD on topical development issues and particularly on fisheries subsidies which are generally anchored on sound analysis and are relevant and practical for small island states like the Pacific islands.”
Mrs Mere Falemaka, Permanent Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum to the WTO

Feedback confirmed that ICTSD’s work helped to increase awareness and facilitate dialogue among delegations. Examples of this included an informal request by the ACP Secretariat to support and inform deliberations in the ACP group during the preparation of a new submission on fisheries subsidies. Similarly, Peru requested support and inputs in the preparation of its submission to the WTO as well as in the context of its presidency of APEC where the government pushed for a constructive discussion on fisheries subsidies among APEC members. The analysis and proposals generated through the E15 largely informed such requests by Peru who used ICTSD material extensively. Besides developing countries, E15 Theme Leader U. Rashid Sumaila was invited to provide a scene-setting address at the 2016 Our Ocean conference hosted by US Secretary of State John Kerry and attended by President Barack Obama where negotiations on a plurilateral agreement on fisheries subsidies were launched (see below).

Negotiating proposals tabled in 2016 reflect policy options formulated in the E15

In addition to providing analysis and substantive support in the negotiations, the work of the E15 expert group on oceans and fisheries work was reflected in several subsequent negotiating proposals tabled in 2016. For example, several months after the E15 group recommended that a core group of countries should seek to adopt subsidy disciplines among themselves, a group of 13 countries led by the US (comprising Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Singapore, Switzerland, Uruguay, and the United States) announced plans to follow such a plurilateral approach. At the multilateral level, negotiations focused on the idea of building disciplines around a small set of subsidies on which there is relatively more agreement (proposals by the EU, ACP, or LDCs). This reflected the expert group’s policy option 8. Similarly, the ACP proposals directly reflected policy option 9 put forward by the E15, which is to distinguish between the treatment of shared stocks as opposed to exclusively domestic stocks. At the regional level, the joint proposal submitted by Peru and New Zealand to APEC on future work in the area of fisheries subsidies directly quoted the E15 work on fisheries. Finally, the World Bank released a report entitled The Sunken Billions Revisited: Progress and Challenges in Global Marine Fisheries, which cites the E15 work on fisheries.
Selected Publications


Selected Event


Selected Citations


Partnerships

- Marine Policy Journal (published by Elsevier)
- University of British Columbia
- World Economic Forum
- Government of New Zealand
- Government of Peru

The partnership with Marine Policy, a leading peer reviewed journal on ocean policy, for the publication of a special issue on trade, fisheries and oceans provided a unique opportunity in 2016 to disseminate the recommendations and analysis of the E15 expert group on fisheries and oceans to the broader scientific and academic community.

LESSEONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: The ability to mobilise top expertise in the context of the E15 enabled ICTSD to articulate realistic but innovative ideas, and as a result make a critical contribution to the debate. The timing of such outputs, at a moment where momentum for progress on negotiations was growing rapidly and negotiators were looking for ways to overcome past deadlocks, also made a significant difference.

Where we can improve: Resource constraints limited our further engagement, including follow-up activities to flesh out some of the proposals and respond to the needs emerging in the negotiations.
6.2.1 CONSTRUCTIVE INTERACTION BETWEEN POLICY COMMUNITIES ON TRADE POLICY IN THE 2030 AGENDA

2016 Context at a Glance

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in September 2015. In 2016, stakeholders at the multilateral level as well as in capitals made efforts to operationalise the SDGs. In addition to the fourth annual meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which took place in New York in July, a range of conferences, reports and working groups started looking into the issue. For example, in November the World Intellectual Property Organization issued a report evaluating its role in achieving the SDGs. In September, a group of 13 countries announced plans to begin preparations on harmful fisheries subsidies, responding to target 14.6 of the SDGs. Importantly, the G20 adopted an Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda, in which each G20 nation provided a short overview of its national implementation efforts. While the linkages between trade and the SDGs remained nascent, steps were taken in 2016 to enhance the understanding and spur action to reach the targets.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

- ICTSD analysis inspired the trade policy community to recognise the potential for trade to advance the SDGs

2030 AGENDA:
Publications: 5
Blogs: 7
Events: 1
3rd Party Events: 7
ICTSD analysis inspired the trade policy community to recognise the potential for trade to advance the SDGs

ICTSD supported the process leading up to the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs, advocating for trade to be considered an important vehicle for achieving the targets. In 2016, as the world grappled with how to implement the commitments, ICTSD carried out an ambitious work programme to analyse the links between trade and Agenda 2030. In doing so, ICTSD was one of the few voices to convey the positive role of trade, while at the same time articulating in detail what the trade system could do. Trade delegates acknowledged the importance of ICTSD’s work, and there were clear indications of ICTSD having helped shape the policymaking agenda. Members of the MIKTA group (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, Australia) as well as members of the LDC group, in particular, expressed an interest in pursuing certain ideas. Indeed, MIKTA, as a direct consequence of the paper authored by Tipping and Wolfe (see below) and a joint International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)-ICTSD dialogue in June, decided to explore in more depth avenues for further action, and convened a workshop on the topic in which ICTSD delivered presentations. This was evidence that ICTSD’s work on raising awareness of the relevance of the links between the trade and sustainable development frameworks had a direct impact on discussions as led by policymakers themselves.

Selected Publications


Selected Event


Partnerships

- International Institute for Sustainable Development

ICTSD’s partnership with IISD combined the two organisations’ expertise in international trade policy as well as transparency and accountability in international governance, to examine how and where the trade elements of the 2030 Agenda could be reviewed. A joint research paper and Geneva dialogue on options for review mechanisms inspired further debate on the issue among WTO members.

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**LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016**

**What we did well:** Much thinking has been done by ICTSD on sustainable development over the years and it has been worthwhile to repackage it when addressing a partly new audience. Indeed, those tasked with operationalising the link between trade and the 2030 Agenda (a small community we are looking to grow) cannot be experts on topics so diverse as gender, poverty, climate or policy coherence. Creating a stream of work gathering knowledge from these various fields into one coherent series has allowed us to reach out to this new audience.

**Where we can improve:** Going forward it will be necessary to ensure that the work with the 2030 Agenda and trade be mainstreamed into our work, as well as in trade policymaking—it cannot be dealt as a “trade and …” item, but as an integral part of the trade system.
ICTSD seeks to minimise environmental impact while fulfilling its mission of advancing sustainable development through trade related policy and agreements. ICTSD is aware of its responsibility as a leading think tank on sustainability and aims to realise sustainable practices through efforts at every level of operations. ICTSD is therefore committed to ensuring that environmental and climate change concerns are proactively addressed through its programmes and activities and that overall efforts contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ICTSD Environment Policy (June 2014) incorporates an Environment Management System (EMS), which has been in operation since 2011. This helps to mainstream environmentally sensitive thinking across ICTSD’s programme portfolio, and focuses on minimising carbon footprint and creating a formal presence for environmental concerns within the organisation.

**OBJECTIVES**

ICTSD intends to:

- Undertake routine environmental and climate change screening of programme work and measure performance;
- Lead by example and influence partner organisations to address environmental and climate change issues;
- Ensure that all corporate activities are sustainable, including a commitment to minimising carbon emissions.

**APPROACH**

The ICTSD Environment Policy seeks to set a positive and inspiring example through participatory approaches to, and effective communication of, environmental management strategy, both internally and among partners and collaborating organisations around the world.

ICTSD plans to accomplish this by:

- Mainstreaming environmentally sensitive thinking—across the entire programme portfolio and where applicable through routine screening and performance measurement against globally accepted standards and safeguards;
- Developing strong partnerships—building relationships with selected partners (NGOs, private sector, development agencies) where lessons learned about managing environmental and climate change issues can be shared and used to establish and promote best practices;
- Enabling innovation—seeking and implementing innovative solutions to address environmental impact and mitigate climate change;
- Minimising carbon emissions—ensuring that ICTSD’s own carbon emissions are minimised wherever possible and adhering to internationally accepted norms for carbon use.
ACTIONS

To achieve our environmental vision and objectives, ICTSD will:

• Empower and engage all colleagues and partners to take practical action for environmental sustainability;
• Implement regular Environmental Impact Assessments known as the “EMS reports”;
• Publish and routinely update the Environment Policy document as guidance for practical action;
• Undertake routine screenings of all projects to ensure sensitivity to and awareness of environmental and climate change issues;
• Develop key environmental and climate change performance indicators and routinely use them to measure performance;
• Ensure that ICTSD corporate activities are sustainable and that carbon emissions are routinely audited, minimised, and offset, both internally and in external activities;
• Work towards the achievement of requirements for the ISO 14001 environmental accreditation;
• Develop a travel and transport policy aimed at addressing ICTSD’s carbon footprint;
• Develop and implement a plan to create awareness and build capacity on environmental and climate change issues within ICTSD and with ICTSD’s partners;
• Develop partnerships for joint programmes and knowledge-sharing with other organisations with established environment and climate change policies working on issues related to trade and sustainable development;
• Allocate specific responsibilities for pursuing environmental agendas within ICTSD.

These efforts are substantively supported and strengthened by ICTSD’s ongoing programme work on the Environment and Natural Resources as well as on Climate and Energy.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT ICTSD

The implementation of an EMS has helped to mainstream environmentally sensitive thinking across the ICTSD programme portfolio. In 2016, the results were mixed, as the targets are ambitious. An ongoing review to update the EMS has taken place and some specific practical actions will be changed accordingly in 2017 to be more impactful.

A highlight of 2016 was that ICTSD encouraged environmentally sustainable transport choices. In 2014, ICTSD introduced a new policy that included a change from 30 to 100 percent reimbursement for staff using public transport monthly passes, thus encouraging the sustained use of public transport. This has resulted in more staff using such transport. It also includes full reimbursement of bike repairs for staff members who bike to work. There has been a steady increase in the use of public transport. In January 2017, 63 percent of staff used environmentally sustainable transport.
ICTSD strives to minimise its carbon footprint, however travel by staff to international events remains a challenge. There are definite benefits to travel for meetings and conferences, which remote attendance cannot approximate. Challenges persist in changing mind-sets about travel alternatives. The importance of planning travel in a timely manner enables purchasing of tickets well in advance, which saves money and allows for optimising carbon emissions. ICTSD has encouraged the use of the website Route Rank when determining choice of travel. It provides alternatives to plane travel, mixed transport options, and ranks travel options according to time, cost, and CO2 footprint. In 2016, ICTSD hosted 70 events worldwide (including in Geneva). The ICTSD total CO2 emissions related to flights for 2016 is 297.03 (2015 was 514.06) metric tonnes of CO2. This is a difference of 217.03 metric tonnes of CO2. The introduction and use of webcasting has enabled ICTSD to enhance participant numbers at events without any CO2 increase. ICTSD had a total of 1,213,584 travel miles in 2016 (1,732,594 travel miles in 2015). According to the online calculator Climate Care, www.climatecare.org, this is 360 metric tonnes of CO2 (514.06 metric tonnes of CO2 in 2015).

### Table 1. 2016 results with respect to specific implementation targets on EMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Targets met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 EMS at ICTSD is a formal process</td>
<td>1.1.1 EMS develops as a self-sustaining group within ICTSD</td>
<td>EMS activities are undertaken regardless of staff changes within ICTSD</td>
<td>Every staff member has a copy of the environment policy (along with all ICTSD policies) EMS activities carried out</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Increased staff awareness of sustainability issues</td>
<td>1.2.1 Brown-bag lunches on topics on environmental conservation</td>
<td>Staff attend brown-bag lunches</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Not met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2.2 EMS topics at staff meetings</td>
<td>Staff engage EMS on topics presented at staff meetings</td>
<td>One meeting</td>
<td>Partially met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Make EMS at ICTSD an action-multiplier</td>
<td>1.3.1 Encourage environmentally sustainable transport choices</td>
<td>Increased number of staff use public transport or bike to work</td>
<td>Transport policy is implemented and working well</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3.2 Encourage recycling practices</td>
<td>Increase in ICTSD recycling</td>
<td>Year-round paper recycling</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3.3 Encourage environmentally sustainable energy choices</td>
<td>Increase in staff choice of sustainable energy sources at home</td>
<td>Not actioned</td>
<td>Not met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. 2016 results with respect to specific implementation targets on conservation gains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Targets met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Measure and monitor ICTSD’s travel CO2 footprint</td>
<td>2.1.1 Track CO2 through travel authorisation forms</td>
<td>CO2 line on travel forms is filled out by 100% of travel requests</td>
<td>Fully Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Raise awareness of CO2 use among staff members</td>
<td>2.2.1 Provide annual analysis of CO2 use for all staff</td>
<td>Not widely shared</td>
<td>Partially met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.2.2 Track CO2 use trends across years</td>
<td>Decrease in CO2 travel impact from year on year</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DECREASE OF ICTSD’S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

In 2016, ICTSD is seen to have improved the organisation’s operational footprint within three main areas: work travel for staff and event participants, publishing, and printing. The results are very positive. Where possible, ICTSD uses innovative solutions to address environmental impact and mitigate climate change. This is seen in the use of new ways of distributing materials at events: the use of postcards, which provide abstracts and web references. ICTSD events are open to remote participants using webcasting. Speakers have also participated by webcast and live questions via the web during a webcast are facilitated. This use of technology is effective and has been received well. In addition, environmentally sustainable paper is used in accordance with all donor requirements and recycling practices are fully operational.

When analysing ICTSD events to seek ways of improving environmental sustainability and reducing environmental impact, it was noted that many ICTSD activities are held at International Conferences where decisions on geographical location are made by inter-governmental agencies and NGOs. This means that, in many cases, the location is out of ICTSD’s control.

For Geneva events, ICTSD’s selection of suppliers, including caterers, is important not only for the green aspects of the meeting, but also in driving greener practices among suppliers. While ICTSD would eventually like to see more sustainable regional events, in 2016 ICTSD continued to focus efforts on working with local suppliers to reduce carbon footprints and ensure that Geneva-based dialogues are environmentally sustainable. ICTSD asks suppliers for documentation acknowledging commitment to sustainable food, using: a majority of local products, fair trade, and seasonal ingredients to avoid using high-carbon modes of transport.

Table 3. 2016 results with respect to specific implementation targets on environmental footprint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Targets met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Decrease of ICTSD’s environmental footprint in travel</td>
<td>3.1.1 Staff consider environmental impact of each trip</td>
<td>Travel authorizations- include box on environmental impact</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1.2 Identify and shift to a “green” travel agency willing to work with ICTSD to find direct routes and low-emission flights</td>
<td>Travel Agency usage not actioned as in house booking of flights. However CO2 emissions are tracked</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Decrease of ICTSD’s environmental footprint in printing</td>
<td>3.2.1 Effective management of distribution lists / database to minimise send-outs to a non-target audience</td>
<td>All electronic in 2015</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.2 Use electronic media to effectively distribute publications</td>
<td>All programmes use social media to reach their audience</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.3 Print the correct number of publications to reach the target audience</td>
<td>Experiment with new ways of distributing material (postcards, USB sticks, electronic sign-up, etc.) Participants often prefer hard copies.</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.4 Green printers are preferred when printing outside of Geneva</td>
<td>Partnered with a new printer (carbon, recycled paper and weight, non-chemical ink) in Belgium for E15 policy option papers.</td>
<td>Partially met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Decrease of ICTSD’s environmental footprint in paper</td>
<td>3.3.1 Environmentally sustainable paper sources are important criteria in supplier selection.</td>
<td>Environmentally sustainable paper is used</td>
<td>Fully met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL 7

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy

Trade contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy


**2016 Context at a Glance**

Countries raced through ratifying the Paris Climate Agreement, achieving an early entry into force in November. This was accompanied by increased national climate mitigation efforts, particularly on carbon pricing, with China preparing for its 2017 carbon market launch, Canada agreeing on a minimum national carbon price from 2018, and Mexico moving to an emissions trading system (ETS) in 2018. Moreover, the EU made progress towards reforming its ETS and concluded linkage negotiations with Switzerland. The international climate action commitment was further evident in the adoption of the first global market-based mechanism for aviation emissions and the amendment of the Montreal Protocol to phase down climate-warming hydrofluorocarbon. While the 17 WTO members negotiating a tariff-cutting Environmental Goods Agreement did not conclude talks in 2016, they made significant technical and political progress, including increasing awareness on the importance of tackling non-tariff barriers and services in the future. Another key development was the dispute by the US against India’s solar energy scheme. While India argued that the scheme formed part of its Paris climate efforts, the WTO found the scheme’s domestic content requirements to violate the national treatment obligation and that it could not be exempted by the GATT’s government procurement derogation or general exceptions.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016**

- ICTSD facilitated the WTO climate-trade interface including the genesis of fossil fuel subsidy reform discussions
- Climate delegates constructively engaged in implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement
- ICTSD instrumental in enhancing the climate relevance of the EGA and stimulating progress in the negotiations
- Policymakers and industry drew upon ICTSD initiatives to catalyse the scale-up of clean energy

**CLIMATE & ENERGY:**

- Publications: 12
- Events: 22
- 3rd Party Events: 28

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7.1.1 DEVELOPING COMPLEMENTARY TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

ICTSD facilitated the WTO climate-trade interface including the genesis of fossil fuel subsidy reform discussions

Tackling climate change requires mutually supportive climate and trade policies: trade policies can drive greater climate action, while climate measures can affect trade flows and probe global trade rules. For many years, ICTSD research and dialogues have enhanced the understanding of and support for a more active engagement with these linkages by the climate and trade policy communities, resulting in strong impacts in 2016. Five countries (Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan) tabled a proposal for a dedicated climate-trade discussion in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment—a significant development that can be linked to ICTSD’s engagement with trade delegates in general and to these member states in particular. Moreover, high-level climate-trade dialogues took place in the WTO and UNFCCC—ICTSD has been instrumental in making this possible.

Selected Publications


Selected Events


Selected Citations


Particularly noteworthy was a workshop on fossil fuel subsidy reform hosted by the New Zealand mission, where for the first time an event in the WTO convened by a member made a clear link between fossil fuel subsidy reform and trade. The Minister of Trade of New Zealand, Todd McClay, similarly put this idea forward in the OECD Forum Yearbook in 2016. The momentum for this idea with considerable climate potential stemmed from the E15 policy options. In addition, the UNFCCC response measures forum saw attempts by some countries to initiate a trade-related discussion, which can be traced back to ICTSD’s active engagement over the past six years, including expert inputs. While trade has traditionally been a difficult issue in the UNFCCC, discussions at an October workshop on ‘economic diversification and transformation and a just transition’ indicate a shift to a more nuanced view. In 2016, ICTSD Senior Fellow Andrei Marcu was invited to co-chair the negotiations on response measures.

“ICTSD is an important leader in the work on sustainable development and especially in the area of environment and trade [...] You can rely on the publications being substantively good and politically relevant.” - Dr. Clara Brandi, German Development Institute
Stakeholders worked towards developing carbon markets globally

Carbon pricing is crucial for inducing low-carbon production, consumption and investment patterns. ICTSD has established itself over the years as a leading expert for informing carbon markets globally and providing innovative ideas for carbon market developments in order to scale up climate action while reducing trade-related concerns for carbon leakage and competitiveness distortions. By engaging Andrei Marcu, the founder of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), as a senior fellow, ICTSD raised its profile further and reached out to a highly specialised audience. ICTSD’s work is recognised as valuable for providing the climate community with policy-relevant, practical and innovative insights on carbon markets. Consequently, ICTSD was invited to speak at numerous high-level meetings and to co-chair one of the working groups of the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition—a 200+ multi-stakeholder initiative of governments, companies, investors and think tanks playing a crucial role in driving the uptake of carbon markets. In 2016, ICTSD work provided useful guidance on the impending national carbon market in China as well as on how carbon market clubs can be initiated for greater climate action. While carbon market cooperation will take a while to materialise, there have been some positive developments towards the end of 2016: the EU and China announced that they would convene a carbon market meeting in 2018 to advance work on linking emissions trading systems, and the EU and South Korea have signalled interest in cooperating on their carbon markets, an issue which ICTSD provided recommendations on in a 2014 paper on “considerations and recommendations for a joint EU-Korean carbon market.” Moreover, as part of a review of its international development strategy, ICTSD advised Canada on the role of carbon markets, which at the end of 2016 announced the introduction of a minimum carbon price in all provinces from 2018.

Selected Publications


Selected Events

- *Markets after the Paris Agreement.* ICTSD. UNFCCC side-event. 20 May 2016. Bonn, Germany.

Selected Citations

Climate delegates constructively engaged in implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Through activities conducted since 2013, ICTSD has been instrumental in refining the case and concept for climate clubs. Article 6 in the Paris Agreement, which recognises countries’ ability to cooperate to meet their national climate contributions, is therefore a noteworthy achievement. It can help drive greater climate action by reducing mitigation costs and lowering competitiveness and carbon leakage concerns. The provision is, however, broad; technical and political decisions are needed to make use of it. In 2016, ICTSD thus initiated a project that regularly convened climate delegates for informal and constructive discussions on their views and interpretations of Article 6. The roundtables established themselves as a useful and highly appreciated forum to discuss Article 6 and potential ways forward outside the formal negotiation constraints. Consequently, all key countries and around 40 delegates attended the three roundtables—an indication of their help to the negotiations, which although still in the early stages have witnessed serious and constructive engagement.

For example, prior to the November negotiations, over 45 party submissions were made on Article 6 items. Countries are further eager to actively support the ICTSD project. In June, the Moroccan government invited ICTSD to host its autumn workshop in Marrakech on the sidelines of the pre-Conference of the Parties (COP 22). ICTSD then received an invitation by the Canadian government to host the 2017 meeting. Meanwhile, the Japanese government, which supported the project in 2016, expressed high satisfaction and foresaw continuing support in 2017.

Selected Publication


Selected Events

- Informal Forum on Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC process. ICTSD. 15 May 2016. Bonn, Germany.
- Informal Forum on Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC process. ICTSD. 5-6 November 2016. Marrakech, Morocco.

"Your workshop can offer complementary support to the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as it provides a forum for practitioners to hold open discussions on Article 6 on the Paris Agreement." - Excerpt from the invitation letter by Canada, 20 October 2016

"For us, your work (and enthusiasm) to facilitate the process and discussion on the market has been greatly appreciated and we value your role in convening the meeting." - Email from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, 19 December 2016

“I thought the event was extremely successful. [...] It took the debate forward, and contributed to trust-building amongst the participants.” - Jo Tyndall, APA Co-Chair and Special Adviser Climate Change, New Zealand
Limiting global warming to less than 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels will require a massive scale-up of clean energy and energy efficient goods and services. In order to achieve this large-scale transformation, ICTSD has for many years informed the work and consensus building leading to the 2014 launch of the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) at the WTO, as well as the technical and political progress that has been made through 2015 and 2016. This has included ICTSD research on a Sustainable Energy Trade Agreement (SETA), mapping studies and issue papers published from 2008 onwards, and targeted policy dialogues with relevant decision-makers and stakeholders. A preliminary analysis of the latest list of environmental goods that was being negotiated by EGA members, the so-called “L-List,” is evidence that a number of products proposed by ICTSD, not previously appearing on other lists, have been included. These relate to products that are of importance from both a clean energy and energy efficiency perspective and thus contribute to the climate relevance of the EGA (see table below on ICTSD products in the EGA list).

Further, the EGA negotiations in late 2016 showed a convergence around the notion of including a built-in agenda in the text of the agreement, which would contain references to non-tariff barriers as well as services. This idea has its origins in the concept of SETA, incessantly advocated by ICTSD in numerous events and publications, not least in the SETA book (Meléndez-Ortiz et al. 2016). ICTSD’s critical role in supporting and informing the EGA negotiations has been repeatedly recognised by trade negotiators, and is further evident from the European Commission’s 2016 Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment on the Environmental Goods Agreement which references numerous ICTSD papers.

Selected bibliography of ICTSD publications that have directly informed the EGA

Mapping studies of the energy supply, buildings and transport sectors

Research and proposals on a Sustainable Energy Trade Agreement
Table 1. Details of ICTSD products appearing in the EGA list

A number of climate-relevant Harmonized System (HS) sub-headings proposed in ICTSD mapping studies and subsequent papers, and not previously included in either WTO submissions or the APEC list, have been included in the consolidated EGA list. The table shows some of these products, the ex-outs and EGA member(s) proposing them. Details of the relevant ICTSD publications are listed in the selected bibliography.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS Sub-heading</th>
<th>Concise Description</th>
<th>Ex-outs</th>
<th>Environmental Benefit</th>
<th>EGA Member(s) Proposing</th>
<th>Relevant ICTSD Paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>380210</td>
<td>Activated carbon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Various applications-including air and water purification and chemical recovery systems</td>
<td>Australia, China, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Israel, New Zealand and Singapore</td>
<td>Mapping Studies ICTSD (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>680610</td>
<td>Slag wool and rock wool</td>
<td>Insulating Material for reducing energy consumption and noise in buildings</td>
<td>Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, EU, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>680690</td>
<td>Other insulating materials and articles</td>
<td>Insulating Material</td>
<td>Reducing energy consumption and noise in buildings</td>
<td>Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, EU, New Zealand, Switzerland</td>
<td>Mapping studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700991</td>
<td>Glass mirrors- unframed</td>
<td>Solar concentrating mirrors</td>
<td>Used in CSP and PV applications</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Mapping studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>701939</td>
<td>Non-woven glass fibre</td>
<td>Insulating material of glass fibre</td>
<td>Reducing energy consumption and noise in buildings</td>
<td>Canada, Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Norway</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>841280</td>
<td>Other engines and motors</td>
<td>Windmills, wind-engines, motors and turbines</td>
<td>Wind energy for electricity generation and pumping</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei, US</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>841290</td>
<td>Other engines and motors (parts)</td>
<td>Wind-turbine blades and hubs</td>
<td>Wind-turbine component</td>
<td>Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>841620</td>
<td>Other furnace burners using pulverized solid fuels or gas</td>
<td>Essential part of furnaces to be run on biomass fuels</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>EU, US</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>848210</td>
<td>Ball bearings</td>
<td>Ball bearings used in wind turbines</td>
<td>Parts for wind turbines used produce green electricity</td>
<td>China, Taiwan</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>848230</td>
<td>Spherical ball bearings</td>
<td>Ball bearings used in wind turbines</td>
<td>Parts for wind turbines used to produce green electricity</td>
<td>China, Taiwan</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>848610</td>
<td>Machines for the manufacture of wafers and semi-conductors</td>
<td>Machines for producing wafers for the solar industry</td>
<td>Necessary to produce wafers in order to produce electricity in an environmentally benign manner.</td>
<td>China, Taiwan, Norway</td>
<td>Vossenaar (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850151</td>
<td>Other AC motors-multi-phase of an output not exceeding 750W</td>
<td>Motors that fulfil the requirements of efficiency class IE4 of the Norm IEC 60034-30-1 (2014).</td>
<td>Decreased energy consumption and less noise. Energy efficiency of 80-90% compared with 40-50% for AC motors</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Sugathan (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850152</td>
<td>Other AC motors- multi-phase of an output exceeding 750W but not exceeding 75kW</td>
<td>Motors that fulfil the requirements of efficiency class IE4 of the Norm IEC 60034-30-1 (2014).</td>
<td>Electric motors of the highest energy efficiency category reduce energy consumption significantly with the same output.</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Sugathan (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Sub-heading</td>
<td>Concise Description</td>
<td>Ex-outs</td>
<td>Environmental Benefit</td>
<td>EGA Member(s) Proposing</td>
<td>Relevant ICTSD Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850153</td>
<td>Other A/C motors- multi-phase of an output exceeding 75kW</td>
<td>Motors that fulfil the requirements of efficiency class IE4 of the Norm IEC 60034-30-1 (2014).</td>
<td>Electric motors of the highest energy efficiency category reduce energy consumption significantly with the same output.</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Sugathan (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850421</td>
<td>Liquid dielectric transformers-capacity not exceeding 650 kVA; static converters</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850422</td>
<td>Liquid dielectric transformers-capacity exceeding 650 kVA but not exceeding 10,000 kVA; static converters</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, EU, Japan, Norway, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850423</td>
<td>Liquid dielectric transformers-capacity exceeding 10,000 kVA; static converters</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850431</td>
<td>Electric transformers-power handling capacity not exceeding 1 kVA</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850432</td>
<td>Electric transformers-power handling capacity exceeding 1 kVA but not exceeding 16 kVA</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850433</td>
<td>Electric transformers-power handling capacity exceeding 16 kVA but not exceeding 500 kVA</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superconducting transformers</td>
<td>Superconductors are materials that conduct electricity with 100 percent efficiency</td>
<td></td>
<td>Norway, New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850434</td>
<td>Electric transformers-power handling capacity exceeding 500 kVA</td>
<td>Amorphous core-transformers</td>
<td>Important component of power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td>Canada, Japan</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Superconducting transformers</td>
<td>Eliminates electrical resistance</td>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>853650</td>
<td>Other switches (for voltage not exceeding 1000V)</td>
<td>Dimmer/Motion sensor</td>
<td>Reduced energy use; key elements of smart-grids</td>
<td>Canada, EU, US</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>853720</td>
<td>Switchboards and control panels for electric control and distribution of electricity exceeding 1000V</td>
<td>Necessarily and major component of all power plants using renewable energy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Canada, Turkey, EU, Australia, US</td>
<td>Vossenaar (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>853931</td>
<td>Fluorescent, hot cathode lamps</td>
<td>More energy-efficient that incandescent lamps and cheaper initial costs than LEDs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong (China)</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Of compact type</td>
<td>More energy-efficient that incandescent lamps and cheaper initial costs than LEDs</td>
<td></td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>854460</td>
<td>Other electric conductors Insulated electric conducor's for a voltage exceeding 1000 V</td>
<td>High temperature super conducting Roebel cables</td>
<td>HTS Roebel cables are materials which carry electrical currents at zero resistance at low temperatures</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>903020</td>
<td>Cathode-ray oscilloscopes</td>
<td>Oscilloscopes and Oscillographs</td>
<td>These liquid meters are part of electronic control equipment in wind turbine</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei, EU, New Zealand, Hong Kong (China), Turkey</td>
<td>Mapping Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940540</td>
<td>Other electrical lamps and lighting fittings</td>
<td>Lighting fittings incorporating only LED bulbs and/or including motion sensors</td>
<td>Energy-efficient Lighting source</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei, EU, Korea, Hong Kong (China), US, Japan, Singapore</td>
<td>Nampoothiri &amp; Manoharan (2013)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The HS codes highlighted in italics have been included previously in WTO submissions (mostly by Saudi Arabia in the context of carbon capture and storage or energy consumption) where the use specified has been different from the ones indicated in the consolidated list.
7.2.1 PROGRESS ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GOODS AND SERVICES

Policymakers and industry drew upon ICTSD initiatives to catalyse the scale-up of clean energy

Beyond the EGA, it is necessary to ensure that trade policies are supportive and not contrary to driving the large-scale diffusion and uptake of clean energy and energy efficiency goods and services. This relates to a range of trade aspects, including, but not limited to trade liberalisation, clean energy subsidies, fossil fuel subsidies, and trade remedies. ICTSD has developed innovative thinking and substantive leadership in this area, which is informing the policy, industry and expert community. As a result, ICTSD has become known and respected as a thought leader in the area, and continues to be invited to present its knowledge at high-level energy and trade events, as well as write articles, papers and opinion pieces. A concrete policy development demonstrating and improved understanding of the relevance of the trade-energy nexus was the decision by the Government of Finland in October 2016 to join the SETI (Sustainable Energy Trade Initiative) Alliance. Company members of the SETI Alliance at the same time took over the lead for the Alliance’s activities during its final phase. ICTSD’s Chief Executive was invited by the World Energy Council to speak at the 23rd World Energy Congress in October—the annual high-level gathering for industry, decision-makers and experts active in the energy field. Finally, ICTSD’s research on energy and trade remains a valuable source of information for the expert community, as evidenced from the significant number of citations in leading publications and journals.

Selected Publication


Selected Event


Selected Citations


7.2.2 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXAMINE TRADE POLICIES FOR CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Developing countries empowered to seize trade-related opportunities to advance clean energy

There are considerable developmental and environmental gains to be made by developing countries if they take a more active part in trade reform in the area of clean energy. In fact, many developing countries apply relatively high tariffs on clean energy goods, meaning that imports continue to be unnecessarily costly, often in cases where there is no domestic supply. ICTSD has raised this point continuously in research, dialogues, blogs and speaking commitments, and has engaged directly with many developing countries. These countries now show an increasing interest for action that can be undertaken domestically, as well as for engaging in trade agreements. In 2016, Mauritius applied to join the EGA. The decision was clearly informed by ICTSD research and dialogues. Before formalising their request, they reached out to ICTSD to discuss, and have continued to rely on ICTSD for advice. Moreover, a number of developing countries mention the role of trade in their...
Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement, where countries that are strongly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and highly dependent on trade—for example members of the Alliance of Small Island States—seem to be more aware of the interlinkages between international trade and climate change as a result of work conducted by ICTSD. In 2016, ICTSD was also invited for a range of speaking commitments in developing countries on the issue of clean energy and trade, evidence both of the nascent interest in these countries for the issue, and the credibility of ICTSD as a source of expertise.

Selected Publication


Partnerships

- Cambridge Centre for Climate Change and Mitigation Research
- Cambridge Econometrics
- Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition
- Centre for European Policy Studies
- Climate Strategies
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water
- Danish Wind Industry Association
- Deutsches Institut für Wissenschaftsforschung Berlin
- Entreprises pour l’Environnement
- European Commission
- Global Green Growth Forum
- International Emissions Trading Association
- Institute for Prospective Technological Studies
- KR Foundation
- Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership
- Leiden University Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Norwegian University for Science and Technology
- SETI Alliance
- Siemens
- Trina Solar
- The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research
- Vestas
- Wind Europe
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien
- World Bank Group
- World Economic Forum
- World Energy Council

Following previous ad hoc engagement, a notable partnership in 2016 was that ICTSD worked more closely with the World Bank Group, particularly through the World Bank-led Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC). The World Bank invited ICTSD to join the initiative, co-chair one of its working groups and regularly consults ICTSD for guidance and input on strategic and substantive issues. Through the CPLC’s wide reach and high visibility, this is an excellent opportunity for ICTSD to further leverage its expertise to influence carbon market developments globally.

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2016

What we did well: We were able to respond to new policy developments in the fast-evolving world of climate governance by showing flexibility and adapting our original work programme to focus resources in the most critical areas. Substantively, the programme has been able to focus its efforts on the most relevant issues, produce a significant amount of deliverables, and develop meaningful partnerships.

Where we can improve: It takes time to create a name and credibility in the policymaking sphere. The positive outcomes are the fruit of many years of tireless efforts in the WTO and the UNFCCC. In 2016, we attempted to engage with the Arctic community, such as the Arctic Council. This has proven challenging, in spite of a strong proposition for their consideration, namely one on Arctic black carbon, shipping and trade.
The ambitious goals laid out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 (the 2030 Agenda) include a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5) focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment. This forms part of an ambitious, integrated and universal agenda for the global community over the next 15 years. There is a strong global consensus for better understanding gender impacts and opportunities across all areas of policymaking. In general, trade policymaking and resulting trade policies are gender neutral, however, trade policies may impact women and men differently – oftentimes to the disadvantage of women. The niche intersection of gender, trade, and sustainable development is insufficiently covered by gender advocacy groups. Significant gaps exist in at the multilateral level and a systematic policy framework is lacking. In order for trade policies to contribute to the economic empowerment of women and hence to sustainable development, ICTSD has paid special attention to gender concerns throughout its work since its founding in 1996. As part of its mission to promote trade and sustainable development, ICTSD recognises that gender-awareness is a necessary and important cross-cutting requirement for sustainable development, and therefore seeks ways to enhance gender mainstreaming throughout its institutional practices and programmes. ICTSD’s Gender Policy (February 2014) confirms ICTSD’s commitment to gender-aware programming and contribution to gender equity. This is part of ICTSD’s broader commitment to strengthen the social dimensions of its projects, programmes, and policy work. It describes the rationale for gender mainstreaming in the context of ICTSD’s mission, and programmatic and operational structures and procedures. Progress on implementing this policy is monitored as part of the organisation’s results-based framework.

ICTSD’s Gender Policy has:

- **Two main objectives**
  - To understand where and how gender issues and gender-aware approaches can positively contribute to the advancement of sustainable development through trade-related policy and agreements.
  - To incorporate gender-aware considerations into strategic programme design and implementation.
- **One institutional objective**
  - To aim to maintain a balanced gender perspective in all operational aspects and at all levels of the organisation.
- **One programmatic objective**
  - To understand gender implications, linkages and opportunities for policy development across all programmes, and hence to engage in strategic programmatic development to seize opportunities to enhance our programmatic impact.

**INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVE**

On the institutional side, ICTSD’s Gender Policy stipulates an objective to maintain a gender balance perspective in all operational aspects, and at all levels of the organisation. This includes hiring, career planning, procurement, and contracting arrangements. While the final criterion for staff positions is merit, ICTSD Executive Management are required to make all reasonable efforts to ensure a balanced geographic and gender distribution within the staff. Men and women are also guaranteed equality of opportunity and remuneration for positions entailing the same responsibilities. In January 2017, the staff composition within ICTSD’s Geneva office is 14 women and 13 men, which equates to 52 percent overall female employment in ICTSD (see table 1). It is significant to underscore here that ICTSD is gender balanced at the most senior levels (Managing Director, Senior Manager, and Manager) with seven females and seven males. This demonstrates that ICTSD has achieved proportional representation of men.
and women. During 2016, ICTSD had a total of 34 interns with the composition of 24 females to 10 males (see table 2). This equates to 70 percent overall of female interns, which indicates a significant rise since 2014.

Table 1. ICTSD staff composition by gender (January 2015, 2016, and 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By group</th>
<th>2015 Male</th>
<th>2015 Female</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
<th>2016 Male</th>
<th>2016 Female</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2017 Male</th>
<th>2017 Female</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Director</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Managers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Fellow / Associate</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. ICTSD staff composition by gender (January 2015, 2016, and 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By group</th>
<th>2015 Male</th>
<th>2015 Female</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
<th>2016 Male</th>
<th>2016 Female</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2017 Male</th>
<th>2017 Female</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interns</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. ICTSD intern composition by gender (January 2015, 2016, and 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

On the programmatic side, ICTSD is striving to mainstream gender analysis during programme development and implementation to determine possible gender-differentiated impacts and opportunities to increase programme impact. For example, ICTSD’s Goal 4 on sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in least developed countries is designed with a strong focus on the gender aspect. It has initiated substantive work and continues to feature a gender analysis in all appropriate papers. In 2016, research papers have been produced (see below) around services trade and gender as well as global value chains and gender, with the aim of providing an innovative and understanding of the interlinkages based on empirical and evidence-based analyses. To advance programmatic work on gender, ICTSD commissioned a think piece in 2016 which proposes a methodology to identify the gender-differentiated impacts of regulatory reforms highlighting the most serious regulatory impediments to improved female participation in four key sectors (information and communication technologies, finance, tourism, and transport services) and the ways in which regulatory frameworks can be tailored to address these challenges. This methodology will serve to determine ex ante the gender impacts of trade policy and regulatory interventions. ICTSD also produced an authoritative paper on the 2030 Agenda and the potential contribution of trade to gender equality. ICTSD’s gender-sensitive approach in research and policy discussions empowers policymakers and businesses with strategic knowledge to enact and/or influence the necessary reforms and policy developments with a view to enabling a participation in international trade that benefits both men and women. Gender-aware approaches are also being applied in ICTSD’s dialogues as well as in the Bridges Periodicals (see below). ICTSD is committed to being inclusive and enabling the full and equitable participation of women in its decision-making processes, activities, and programmes. ICTSD systematically collects gender-disaggregated data for projects and programmes such as for all speakers and participants in our events whether in Geneva or abroad and keeps track of the number of female authors and peer reviewers for the research papers commissioned. Similarly, ICTSD records the number of bylined articles with gender coverage and with female authors.
In 2016, to advance the gender objectives, ICTSD’s Chief Executive, Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, enrolled as a Geneva Gender Champion (GGC). The GGC is a leadership network among 100-plus international, Geneva-based female and male decision-makers, working to advance gender equality in the executive management of their institutions and their programmatic work through measurable commitments. GGC participants must sign a panel parity pledge to work towards gender parity in all panels and discussions. GGC participants must also define at least two additional individual commitments. ICTSD has chosen to define three and these apply for the reporting period October 2016-September 2017. These include:

- Committing to having all programme managers account for gender issues when defining annual work programmes and research. To demonstrate this consideration, each programme should in the reporting period produce at least one gender-related output (research, blog, study), or alternatively draft a short one-page report on where gender might play an important role in the subject area and/or future analysis.
- Committing to convening one panel before September 2017 in order to present gender-related work from across the organisation in a way that responds to stakeholder needs.
- ICTSD’s dialogues and events are typically geared towards knowledge-diffusion among stakeholders and empowering policymakers with cutting-edge research. As such ICTSD will ensure a balanced representation of both genders among participants invited to its dialogues and events. ICTSD will also collect information on the gender balance of participants at its programmatic events as a way of identifying if and where this might be improved.

PERIODICALS

In 2016, out of 854 respondents across the ICTSD periodicals survey, 11.2 % said that their work involved substantive work in the gender arena. However, this belies the higher percentages of respondents from the Africa-related periodicals who said that their work involved substantive work in the gender arena: Bridges Africa 16.4% and Passerelles 14.8%. This suggests that gender is becoming more of an issue in the trade policy sphere in Africa. The gender inclusive approach that ICTSD has taken, with its in-depth gender analysis and conceptual development, is seen here to enhance programmatic impact.

Table 5. Bylined articles with female authors published by Bridges regional periodicals in 2016 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periodical</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRIDGES AFRICA</td>
<td>17/53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSTY</td>
<td>16/35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASSERELLES</td>
<td>15/53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PONTES</td>
<td>24/49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUENTES</td>
<td>19/49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QIAO</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Over 90 percent of Bridges Weekly articles are written by a female reporting team

PUBLICATIONS

Programme on Inclusive Economic Growth

- Lipowiecka, Julia, and Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga. 2016. The Gender Dimensions of Services. Geneva: ICTSD. This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the gender-based constraints faced by women in accessing employment and business opportunities in trade in services, and the wider service sector. Additionally, it offers a set of policies that support equal access to the benefits of services growth for both genders, and create an inclusive policy and regulatory environment that reduces the gender-based constraints faced by women wage-workers and entrepreneurs in the services sector.
Access to and benefits from participation in GVCs are closely related to gender issues. Taking gender issues into account and addressing them is critical to harness the potential for GVCs to contribute to sustainable economic and social goals. This paper seeks to integrate gender into the global value chain framework, to assess the gender dimensions of integration and economic and social upgrading in GVCs, and to offer GVC-related policy recommendations that support economic and social development.

**Programme on Global Economic Governance**


Gender equality, this paper accurately argues, is not only a matter of human rights; it is fundamental to whether societies thrive. This think piece forms part of a series that analyse the contribution trade and trade policy could make to achieving key development objectives of the 2030 Agenda. It articulates specific policy challenges facing governments that want to use international trade to support women's empowerment as employees, entrepreneur and cross-border traders, and outlines trade policy options that could help to meet these challenges.

**EVENTS**

**Participants**

Women are actively invited to ICTSD events (such as dialogues, working lunches, expert round tables, dinners, networking receptions, book launches) as participants and speakers. In 2016 there were 70 ICTSD events held and the total number of participants was 4638, of which 2963 were male and 1675 were female.

**Speakers and experts**

The total number of speakers and/or experts who attended ICTSD events in 2016 was 1215, of which 912 were male and 303 were female. Thus, 25 percent of speakers and/or experts attending ICTSD events were female and 75 percent were male. ICTSD seeks to bring a balance of perspectives to trade policy and seeks to reflect the gender balance in trade policy. This is an area that ICTSD has noted for ongoing attention.

**Webcasts**

ICTSD's 2016 webcast statistics show that the audiences were 51 percent male and 49 percent female. Further investigation shows the age bracket where females are most prevalent is age 18-34, therefore implying an increased interest in trade policy among females in the young-professional age group, possible because more females are now entering the trade policy arena than in previous generations.

**WTO 2016 Public Forum**

As in previous years, ICTSD engaged with the global trade community at the WTO Public Forum. Under the theme "Inclusive Trade," the Forum gave the opportunity to discuss how a wider range of individuals and businesses could participate in the trading system and how WTO rules can help to ensure everyone benefits from trade. ICTSD hosted a booth at the WTO for the duration of the three-day event held from 27-29 September 2016 and co-hosted two sessions related to gender:

- **Achieving inclusiveness through GVCs in LDCs**: South African Institute of International Affairs and ICTSD.
- **Services and Inclusiveness in LDCs: Sustainable Development, SMEs, and Gender**: North-West University and ICTSD.
# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AB</th>
<th>Appellate Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACWL</td>
<td>Advisory Centre on WTO Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFTi</td>
<td>Africa Free Trade Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASS</td>
<td>Chinese Academy of Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEIPI</td>
<td>Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTA</td>
<td>Continental free Trade Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<tr>
<td>CO₂</td>
<td>carbon dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP 21</td>
<td>21st Session of the Conference of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPLC</td>
<td>Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E15</td>
<td>E15 Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGA</td>
<td>Environmental Goods Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EITA</td>
<td>International Emissions Trading Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELSA</td>
<td>European Law Students Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>Environment Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERCST</td>
<td>European Roundtable on Climate and Sustainable Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETS</td>
<td>emissions trading system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>foreign direct investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTAAP</td>
<td>Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G20</td>
<td>Group of Twenty major economies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GATT</td>
<td>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGC</td>
<td>Geneva Gender Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVC</td>
<td>global value chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Harmonized System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSID</td>
<td>International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>Inter-American Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFPRI</td>
<td>International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGO</td>
<td>intergovernmental organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIID</td>
<td>International Institute for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INAPI</td>
<td>National Institute of Industrial Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>intellectual property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPA</td>
<td>investment promotion agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISDS</td>
<td>investor-state dispute settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEAL</td>
<td>International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>Information Technology Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITC</td>
<td>International Trade Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>IULU</td>
<td>illegal, unreported, and unregulated</td>
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<tr>
<td>JETRO</td>
<td>Japan External Trade Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDC</td>
<td>least developed country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIC</td>
<td>low income country</td>
</tr>
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<td>MC10</td>
<td>Tenth Ministerial Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC11</td>
<td>Eleventh Ministerial Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIKTA</td>
<td>Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>public-private partnership</td>
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<td>PRISM</td>
<td>Policy Research on International Services and Manufacturing</td>
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<td>RCEP</td>
<td>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership</td>
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<td>REITi</td>
<td>Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTA</td>
<td>regional trade agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAQG</td>
<td>Southern African Development Community</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECO</td>
<td>State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland</td>
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<td>SETA</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Trade Agreement</td>
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<td>SETI</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Trade Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>small and medium-sized enterprise</td>
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<td>SPS</td>
<td>sanitary and phytosanitary</td>
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<td>T20</td>
<td>Think 20</td>
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<td>TBT</td>
<td>technical barriers to trade</td>
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<td>TDS</td>
<td>Trade and Development Symposium</td>
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<td>TFA</td>
<td>Trade Facilitation Agreement</td>
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<td>TIVA</td>
<td>Trade in Value Added</td>
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<td>TIWG</td>
<td>Trade and Investment Working Group</td>
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<td>TPP</td>
<td>Trans-Pacific Partnership</td>
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<td>TRPRM</td>
<td>Trade Policy Review Mechanism</td>
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<td>TRIPS</td>
<td>Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTIP</td>
<td>Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership</td>
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<td>UN</td>
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<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development</td>
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<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>World Intellectual Property organization</td>
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<td>WTI</td>
<td>World Trade Institute</td>
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<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organization</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Goal 1: Effective and Diverse Stakeholder Engagement

Digital Economy

Investment

Goal 2: Strengthening Global and Regional Trade Systems

Innovative Solutions

Emerging Economies

Goal 3: Agricultural Trade and Food Security

Goal 4: Sustainable Economic Growth in Least Developed and Low Income Countries

Goal 5: Innovation, Technology and Intellectual Property

Goal 6: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

2030 Agenda

Goal 7: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
83. ICTSD. 2016. The Role of Response Measures in Ensuring a Sustainable Transition to a Low-GHG Economy. Geneva: ICTSD.
2016 EVENTS

Goal 1: Effective and Diverse Stakeholder Engagement

Educational Outreach
1. Netherlands School of Public Administration Briefing, 18 March 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
2. Tufts University Students Visit, 8 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
3. University of Geneva students visit, 30 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
4. Johns Hopkins University Students visit, 21 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Digital Economy
5. Digital Trade: Opportunities of the Internet for International Trade, 23 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium
7. The New Landscape of Inclusion in Digital Trade, 28 September 2016, WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland

Investment & Regulatory Coherence
10. Scoping workshop on Investment Policy, 23 March 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
11. Facilitating Global Investment Through Policy Cooperation and Coordination, 19 May 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
12. Roundtable on Investment Facilitation, E15 Engagement, 26 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Goal 2: Strengthening Global and Regional Trade Systems

Innovative Solutions (E15 Initiative, not including 12 more events shared with other outcomes/goals)
16. E15 General Briefing at the WTO, 23 February 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
17. E15 Washington Launch Event, 9 March 2016, Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE), Washington DC, USA
18. E15 Beijing Launch Event, 18 March 2016, Beijing, China
19. Rethinking International Subsidies Disciplines, 14-15 April 2016, Cambridge, United Kingdom
20. Investment in an Era of Mega Regionals, 12 July 2016, Tokyo, Japan
21. E15 Tokyo Launch Event, 13 July 2016, Tokyo, Japan
22. E15 Initiative Session at the ACP Trade Ministers Meeting, 7 December 2016, Brussels, Belgium

Trade Law
24. ELSA Moot Court Competition, 1 April 2016, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
25. Talking Disputes | The India - Solar Cells Dispute, 7 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
27. Talking Disputes | Philip Morris v. Uruguay, 27 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Emerging Economies & G20
28. Key Policy Options for the G20 to Support Robust International Trade and Investment Workshop, 3 April 2016, Nanjing, China
29. T20 Global Trade and Investment Cooperation Conference – Openness, Inclusiveness and Growth, 8 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
30. ICTSD Workshop on G20 Trade and Investment Outcomes, 1 August 2016, Beijing, China
31. The 2016 G20 Investment Principles in the Broader Trade and Investment Agenda, 7 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
32. Annual Conference on WTO and China, 13 December 2016, Beijing, China

Preferential Trade Agreements
33. New Innovations in Regional Trade Agreements and the Role of the RTA Exchange, 27 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Goal 3: Agricultural Trade and Food Security

35. Evaluating Nairobi: What does the outcome mean for trade in food and farm goods?, by ICTSD and IFPRI, 9 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
37. Roundtable on Agriculture, E15 Engagement, 26 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
38. *Agro-Food Global Value Chains and Farm Policy: the Place of China*, by ICTSD, ATPC and OECD, 27 October 2016, Beijing, China

**Goal 4: Sustainable Economic Growth in Least Developed and Low Income Countries**

39. *Unpacking the WTO Nairobi outcome for LDCs*, 8 February 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
40. *Leveraging Services Potential for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth*, 4-5 May 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa
41. *Roundtable with Business Leaders on Aid Trade and Development*, 1 July 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
42. *Roundtable on Services Facilitation*, 26 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
43. *Services and Inclusiveness in LDCs and LICs: Sustainable Development, SMEs and Gender*, 29 September 2016, at the WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
44. *Achieving Inclusiveness through GVCs in LDCs and LICs*, 29 September 2016, at the WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland

**Goal 5: Innovation, Technology and Intellectual Property**


**Goal 6: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources**

*Fisheries and Water*

47. *Roundtable on Fisheries*, 26 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

**2030 Agenda**

48. *Shaping the Contribution of the Trade System to the 2030 Agenda*, Co-organised with IISD, 3 June 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

**Goal 7: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy**

49. *Tackling Arctic Black Carbon through Club-Like Approaches*, ICTSD event on side-lines of the U.S.-Nordic Leaders’ Summit, 12 May 2016, Washington DC, USA
50. *Informal Forum on Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC process*, ICTSD workshop on side-lines of UNFCCC conference, 15 May 2016, Bonn, Germany
51. *Markets after the Paris Agreement*, ICTSD and CEPS side-event at UNFCCC conference, 20 May 2016, Bonn, Germany
52. *Trade and climate change interlinkages in a Post-Paris context*, ICTSD roundtable on side-lines of UNFCCC conference, 23 May 2016, Bonn, Germany
53. *Informal Forum on Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC process*, 10-11 September 2016, Marrakech, Morocco
54. *COP 22 in Marrakech: Expectations and outlook for the role of trade*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 15 September 2016, Brussels, Belgium
55. *Roundtable on fossil fuel subsidies*, 26 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
56. *The EU Effort Sharing Regulation: State of Play and the Way Forward*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 10 October 2016, Brussels, Belgium
57. *EU ETS Phase 4: Fit for Purpose?*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 11 October 2016, Brussels, Belgium
59. *Beyond 2016: Optimising the EGA’s Potential to Support Global Value Chains in Cleantech*, by ICTSD, the SETI Alliance and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the WTO, 20 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
60. *Roundtable on ICAO Global Market-Based Mechanism*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 24 October 2016, Brussels, Belgium
61. *Informal Forum on Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC process*, 5-6 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco
64. *Scaling up Renewable Energy: Supply Chains, Jobs, Trade and Finance*, ICTSD and CEEW side-event at COP22, 10 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco
65. *Trade and Climate Change: Can International Trade Help Save the Climate?*, ICTSD and EpE side-event at COP22, 12 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco
66. *Carbon Market Cooperation under the Paris Climate Regime*, ICTSD side-event at COP22, 12 November 2016, Marrakech, Morocco
67. *COP 22 review session*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 24 November 2016, Brussels, Belgium
68. *Trade, Climate Change and Energy Policy in the Context of the G20*, 1 December 2016, Berlin, Germany
69. *Trade in the Context of the Paris Agreement: A post-Marrakesh Discussion*, ICTSD and ERCST event, 6 December 2016, Brussels, Belgium
70. *Governance of the Energy Union and of Climate Change*, ICTSD, ERCST and CERRE event, 7 December 2016, Brussels, Belgium
2016 KEY PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Key Funders in 2016
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Government of Sweden
- Government of the Netherlands
- Government of Denmark
- Government of Norway
- Government of Australia

Goal 1: Key Partners
- DIGITALEUROPE
- Enda CACID
- ISEAL Alliance
- World Economic Forum

Goal 2: Key Partners
- Bruegel
- Center for International Development, Harvard University
- Chatham House
- Climate Strategies
- European Law Students’ Association (ELSA)
- European University Institute
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
- Graduate Institute
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- National School of Development, Peking University
- Permanent mission of Finland at the WTO
- Rhodes University
- Southern Voice
- Swedish National Board of Trade
- The Evian Group@IMD
- World Economic Forum
- World Trade Institute
- WTI Advisors

Goal 3: Key Partners
- China’s Agricultural Trade Promotion Centre (ATPC)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Goal 4: Key Partners
- North-West University, South Africa
- Policy Research on International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM), University of Cape Town
- Saana Consulting
- South African Institute of International Affairs
- TradeMark East Africa
- Trade Policy Training Center in Africa

Goal 5: Key Partners
- Cambridge University Press & Routledge
- Centre for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI)
- Seattle University School of Law

Goal 6: Key Partners
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Government of New Zealand
- Government of Peru
- Marine Policy Journal (published by Elsevier)
- University of British Columbia
- World Economic Forum

Goal 7: Key Partners
- Cambridge Centre for Climate Change and Mitigation Research
- Cambridge Econometrics
- Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition
- Centre for European Policy Studies
- Climate Strategies
- Council on Energy, Environment and Water
- Danish Wind Industry Association
- Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Berlin
- Entreprises pour l’Environnement
- European Commission
- Global Green Growth Forum
- Government of Canada
- International Emissions Trading Association
- Institute for Prospective Technological Studies
- KR Foundation
- Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership
- Leiden University Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Norwegian University for Science and Technology
- SETI Alliance
- Siemens
- Trina Solar
- The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research
- University College London
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Vestas
- Wind Europe
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien
- World Bank Group
- World Economic Forum
- World Energy Council
### GOAL 1

Diverse stakeholder groups engage effectively with each other to advance the global agenda on trade and sustainable development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1</strong> Empowered stakeholders from different countries, sectors and disciplines engage in constructive discourse on cross-cutting issues of trade and sustainable development.</td>
<td><strong>1.1.1</strong> Diverse stakeholder groups are empowered by an enhanced understanding of developments and perspectives across multiple sectors of trade and sustainable development.</td>
<td><strong>1.1.1.1</strong> Impartial, up-to-date information and analysis at a level that is relevant and accessible to diverse stakeholder groups on current and emerging issues at the nexus of international trade and sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2</strong> Increased trade policy coherence on emerging issues of sustainable development between different groups of stakeholders.</td>
<td><strong>1.1.2</strong> An active and growing community of stakeholders in trade and sustainable development from different countries, sectors and disciplines.</td>
<td><strong>1.1.2.1</strong> Enhanced opportunities for community-level engagement between diverse stakeholder groups on issues related to trade and sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2.1</strong> Policymakers and influencers utilise innovative and actionable solutions to address emerging issues of sustainable development in trade negotiations and agreements.</td>
<td><strong>1.2.1.1</strong> “New Initiatives” providing innovative and actionable solutions to address emerging issues of sustainable development in trade negotiations and agreements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


## GOAL 2

Global and regional trade systems are effective, fair, inclusive and inherently promote sustainable development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Innovative solutions are implemented that improve functionality and inherent support for sustainable development in the global trade system.</td>
<td>2.1.1 Policymakers and influencers collectively engage on innovative solutions that improve functionality and inherent support for sustainable development in the global trade system.</td>
<td>2.1.1.1 Innovative solutions to improve the functionality of the global trade system and its ability to address 21st-century sustainable development challenges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Developing countries defend their trading rights on a level playing-field and efficiently fulfil their obligations under global and regional trade system rules.</td>
<td>2.1.2 Developing countries identify, and take concrete steps to address, opportunities and challenges in handling obligations and dispute settlements within the legal frameworks of global and regional trade systems.</td>
<td>2.1.2.1 Increased capacity, among representatives from developing country governments and other stakeholders, to identify and address opportunities and challenges posed by trade law in global and regional trade systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Major economies promote fairness, inclusivity and sustainable development in global and regional trade systems.</td>
<td>2.3.1 Opportunities for China and other emerging economies to promote fairness, inclusivity and sustainable development in the global trade system are better understood both within those economies and elsewhere.</td>
<td>2.2.1.2 Impartial analysis of formal disputes lodged at the WTO, including articulation of key lessons learnt that could positively or negatively affect sustainable development at a national or international level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Negotiated frameworks for plurilateral trade agreements provide additional opportunities to address sustainable development.</td>
<td>2.4.1 Stakeholders, including policymakers inside and outside negotiations, better understand the potential impacts of plurilateral trade agreements on sustainable development.</td>
<td>2.3.1.1 Clearly articulated opportunities for China and other emerging economies to maintain a leading role in the promotion of fairness, inclusivity and sustainable development in the global trade system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.4.1.1 Effectively disseminated research and information on the potential impacts of plurilateral trade agreements on sustainable development.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### GOAL 3

Policies and rules affecting the trade of agricultural goods support food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1</strong> Global agricultural markets are fairer for producers and consumers of agricultural goods and are supported by policies that promote sustainability and inclusive development.</td>
<td><strong>3.1.1</strong> National and international policy makers take informed decisions to improve the sustainable development impact of policies and rules affecting global agricultural markets.</td>
<td><strong>3.1.1.1</strong> Strengthened understanding, in national and global policy-making processes, of factors that influence global agricultural markets and impact sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.2</strong> Food security and rural development strategies in low-income food-importing countries benefit from policies on the trade of agricultural goods that are appropriate in the global market environment.</td>
<td><strong>3.1.2</strong> Trade policy actors make informed decisions in response to preferential trade agreements that support sustainable development outcomes in the agricultural sector.</td>
<td><strong>3.1.2.1</strong> Increased understanding among trade policy actors of how preferential trade agreements can affect the agricultural sector, particularly through new norms and market access frameworks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.2.1</strong> Low-income food-importing countries take steps to integrate evolving agricultural market trends into strategies promoting food security and rural development.</td>
<td><strong>3.2.1.1</strong> Enhanced capacity among trade policy actors in low-income food-importing countries to adapt to new trends in the global agricultural market environment which can affect food security and rural development.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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GOAL 4

Trade contributes to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in LDCs, LICs and African economies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Enhanced trade competitiveness, inclusivity and integration among LDCs, LICs and African economies bolsters sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.</td>
<td>4.1.1 LDCs, LICs and African economies effectively utilise their trade negotiation capacity to reinforce efforts to realise development objectives.</td>
<td>4.1.1.1 Enhanced capacity in LDCs, LICs and African economies to negotiate and leverage regional, multilateral and international trade agreements for sustainable economic growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2 LDCs, LICs and African economies take concrete steps to enhance the economic and development outcomes of regional, multilateral and international trade agreements.</td>
<td>4.1.2.1 Clearly articulated opportunities for LDCs, LICs and African economies to enhance economic and development outcomes through improved market access schemes, Global Value Chains, Trade Facilitation and other trade-related mechanisms.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1 LDCs, LICs and African economies undertake domestic policy changes that enable them to more effectively leverage trade in key economic sectors, such as services, to support development objectives.</td>
<td>4.1.3.1 Empowered policymakers in LDCs, LICs and African economies with knowledge and tools to leverage trade in key economic sectors, such as services, to support their development objectives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GOAL 5

Innovation, creativity and technology provide solutions to sustainable development challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Innovation catalyses economic growth and more effective responses to global development challenges such as public health, food security and climate change.</td>
<td>5.1.1 Policymakers make informed decisions that strengthen the effectiveness of Intellectual Property regimes to support innovation in response to global development challenges.</td>
<td>5.1.1.1 More informed policymakers with impartial analysis of mainstreaming opportunities for sustainable development outcomes in Intellectual Property deliberations and negotiations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Technology transfer enhances social and economic welfare for producers and users of technological knowledge and bridges the development gap between developed and developing countries.</td>
<td>5.2.1 Policymakers in developed countries take steps to enhance technology transfer to less developed countries who, in turn, make effective use of the increased technological knowledge to improve social and economic welfare.</td>
<td>5.2.1.1 Clearly articulated analysis of opportunities to improve the effectiveness of technology transfers between developed and developing countries for improved social and economic welfare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GOAL 6

Trade-related policies foster the sustainable use of natural resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Trade policies and frameworks support the sustainable use of oceans and fisheries, and fresh water resources.</td>
<td>6.1.1 Policymakers make informed decisions on trade policies that support sustainability across the environmental, social and economic aspects of oceans and fisheries, and the use of fresh water resources.</td>
<td>6.1.1.1 Enhanced understanding among policymakers of trade policy tools, including multilateral agreements and unilateral policy reform, that can help to address sustainable development challenges related to oceans and fisheries and the use of fresh water resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Concrete steps are taken by relevant policy communities to utilise trade and trade policy to bolster efforts toward the 2030 Development Agenda.</td>
<td>6.2.1 Coherent and constructive interaction between relevant policy communities on the role of trade and trade policy in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</td>
<td>6.2.1.1 Clearly articulated, timely analysis and opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue on how trade can be harnessed to improve sustainability in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</td>
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</table>
## GOAL 7

Trade contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and access to clean energy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Increased alignment of trade and climate change policies and policy processes.</td>
<td>7.1.1 Constructive exchange and interaction between trade and climate change governance communities to develop policies that complement each other.</td>
<td>7.1.1.1 A more sophisticated understanding of the impact of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies on trade and sustainable development and vice versa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 Trade agreements are effective in contributing to a scale up of clean energy technologies.</td>
<td>7.2.1 Policymakers make concrete progress toward concluding constructive negotiations on the trade of sustainable energy goods and services.</td>
<td>7.1.1.2 Increased awareness of the mutual responsibilities shared between the trade and climate change governance communities in tackling climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.2 Developing Countries examine options for trade policies that promote the uptake of clean energy technologies.</td>
<td>7.2.1.1 Demonstrable support for policy makers from both developed and developing countries to engage in negotiations on the trade of sustainable energy goods and services.</td>
<td>7.2.2.1 Increased capacity, in countries who have previously shown limited momentum, to harness the role of trade to adopt clean energy technologies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>