

Key policy options for the G20 to support inclusive international trade and investment

5 February 2017, 09:00 – 17:45, Berlin, Germany

SESSION OBJECTIVES

As the premier Forum for International Economic Cooperation, the G20 is uniquely positioned to examine the various global trade and investment policy issues in a broader social and political context.

In 2016, G20 leaders made significant progress in both creating a new working scheme of the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), but also in delivering a trade growth strategy and guiding principles for investment policymaking.

Trade and investment will continue to be an integral part of the G20 process in 2017, mainly through the TIWG and the cross-cutting Sherpa coordination process. In a video communication announcing the key agenda items of the G20 Summit in 2017, Germany signals its plan to put people at the centre and ensure that everyone benefits from globalisation, which will be achieved through its work on three pillars, namely resilience, responsibility and sustainability, with a view to “reshaping the interconnected world.”

For two decades, ICTSD has been leading numerous projects with the objective of advancing sustainable development through trade-related policymaking. Since 2012, the Centre has convened the flagship E15 Initiative, co-implemented with the World Economic Forum, assembling over 370 international experts to collectively deliberate and produce policy options for improved governance of the global trade and investment system in the 21st century. The E15 Report was first launched by ICTSD and the Forum at the 2016 Annual Meeting at Davos, with additional launch events taking place most recently in Geneva, Washington, Beijing and Tokyo. The report has been welcomed by several trade ministers and senior officials.

Since 2009, ICTSD has been convening policymakers, experts, business and opinion leaders around the globe to analyse the challenges of global economic governance and provide policy recommendations for the WTO, the United Nations as well as the G20. Most recently, G20 officials have drawn some key recommendations from ICTSD knowledge products and processes, including dialogues throughout 2015 and 2016 in Geneva, Beijing and Nanjing.

This Berlin workshop goes a step further in providing a platform to discuss some of the policy issues with key stakeholders, including senior trade and investment officials from the G20 members and their guest countries. We have invited leading experts to present the latest analysis facilitate discussions among all participants, and generate forward-looking and practical ideas for the G20 TIWG and the Hamburg Summit in July 2017 and beyond. The workshop will cover the following areas: supporting the multilateral trade system, facilitating investment, boosting the digital economy, and addressing other cross-cutting issues for sustainable development.

This meeting is organised by ICTSD in partnership with the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment. The T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment brings together more than 50 scholars from G20 countries and independent think tanks to develop recommendations for the G20 on trade and investment policy.

This event is held under the Chatham House Rule, i.e. participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. The Rule can be used effectively on social media sites such as Twitter as long as the person tweeting or messaging reports only what was said at an event and does not identify - directly or indirectly - the speaker or another participant. This consideration should always guide the way in which event information is disseminated - online as well as offline.

AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Networking Coffee
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks and strategic considerations Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD Martin LUTZ, Head of Division General Trade Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), Germany
09:30 – 11:00	Session I: Facilitating global investment through policy cooperation and coordination Moderator Fernando BLUMENSCHIN, Senior Economist and Coordinator at FGV in Brazil Speakers James ZHAN, Senior Director, UNCTAD Axel BERGER, Senior Researcher & Head G20 Policy Research Group, German Development Institute Interactive discussions in small groups Facilitator and rapporteur at each table
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	Session II: Supporting the Multilateral Trading System: Curbing protectionism, developing new trade-friendly narratives, and ensuring meaningful deliverables at MC 11 of the WTO Moderator Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD Speakers David USHER, Director General, Global Affairs, Canada Maximiliano MENDEZ-PARRA, Senior Research Fellow, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK Sait AKMAN, Director of G20 Studies Centre at the Turkish Economic Policy Research Institute (TEPAV) Interactive discussions in small groups Facilitator and rapporteur at each table
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00

Session III: Boosting digital trade for inclusive, responsible economic growth

Moderator

Wallace S. CHENG, Managing Director for China; Global Economic Governance Initiatives, ICTSD

Speakers

Robert B. KOOPMAN, Chief Economist, WTO

Kimberley BOTWRIGHT, Policy Analyst, Digital Trade, World Economic Forum

Andrew CROSBY, Managing Director, ICTSD

Interactive discussions in small groups
Facilitator and rapporteur at each table

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee break

15:15 – 16:45

Session IV: Ensuring coherence between trade/investment agenda and other G20 broader objectives: climate, labour, and sustainable development

Moderator

Xolelwa MLUMBI-PETER, Deputy Director-General, International Trade Economic Development (ITED), Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa

Speakers

Thoralf STENVOLD, Senior Specialist –Global Governance, ILO

Clara BRANDI, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute

Interactive discussions in small groups
Facilitator and rapporteur at each table

16:45 – 17:30

Open Discussion led by two fire starters:

Roberto ECHANDI, Investment Policy Global Lead, World Bank

Simon J. EVENETT, Professor of International Trade and Economic Development, University of St-Gallen, Switzerland

17:30 – 17:45

Closing remarks

Axel BERGER, Senior Researcher & Head G20 Policy Research Group, German Development Institute

Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD

17:45 – 18:30

Reception