

Concept Note

Workshop on Capacity Building for Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), Special Panel on “The Melting of Himalayan Glaciers: Revisiting Climate Change Accountability in view of recent international developments”

Date: January 10, 2025

Venue: Kathmandu University School of Management, Balkumari, Lalitpur, Nepal

Format: Interactive sessions with expert presentations, panel discussions, and Q&A.

Background and Rationale

The global trade landscape is increasingly shaped by sustainable development imperatives. Countries are integrating Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) measures into trade agreements to address environmental, social, and economic concerns. These regulations impact trade practices, supply chains, and export opportunities. Given the growing complexity of TSD and Climate Change (CC) obligations, there is a critical need for capacity-building initiatives. These initiatives should address stakeholders' understanding of regulatory frameworks, practical implementation, and the global accountability mechanisms related to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This workshop will bring together representatives from government agencies, industries, and academia to foster collaboration and enhance understanding of TSD regulations and CC obligations.

Workshop Objectives

1. Provide insights into TSD regulations of the advanced economy countries.
2. Strengthen capabilities for policy drafting, trade negotiations, and addressing supply chain constraints.
3. Facilitate discussions on developed countries' accountability towards LDCs.
4. Equip participants with practical tools for aligning trade policies with sustainable development goals.

Key Sessions

1. Training and Capacity Building on emerging regulatory trends in TSD
 - Background and context setting on emerging TSD regulations: Key regulations, timelines, sectors covered
 - Compliance challenges, resource constraints, and level of preparedness needed (at exporter level and country level)
 - Practical approaches to policy drafting and trade negotiations.
2. Panel Discussion on Climate Change Obligations
 - Looming crisis due to warming of the geographically sensitive Himalayas
 - Accountability of different actors for climate change considering the submissions made to the ICJ for its advisory opinion
 - Outcomes and follow-up discussions post CoP-29, Baku.

3. Sensitisation Workshop

- Addressing supply chain constraints.
- Exploring export opportunities, and new and alternative markets under TSD frameworks.
- Is there any untapped potential emerging due to enhanced TSD regulations /obligations?

Participants

The workshop targets representatives from:

- Government Agencies: Trade, industry, and environmental departments.
- Industries: Exporters, importers, and business associations.
- Academicians and Researchers: Experts in trade, sustainability, and policy-making.