

Key Options for 2018 G20 Trade and Investment Agenda for Sustainable Development

Sunday 06 May 2018, 09:00-17:00, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Ten years ago, in the immediate wake of the 2007-08 global financial crisis, the G20 was upgraded from finance ministers to a leaders' summit. A decade later, the 2018 meeting of the G20 Leaders' Summit will convene in the whirl of considerable trade friction and uncertainty. Can this self-designated premier forum for international economic cooperation guard the rules-based multilateral trading system and preserve an open economic order for inclusive and sustainable global development?

The Argentine G20 presidency will host its first meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) on 7-8 May 2018 in Buenos Aires. Established at the 2016 G20 Leaders' Summit, the TIWG serves as a platform to support trade ministers and leaders on trade and investment policy cooperation.

Against this backdrop, and in partnership with the Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), the Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), and the T20 Task Force on Trade, Investment and Tax Cooperation, ICTSD is organising a side event on Sunday 6 May, one day before the official TIWG meeting. ICTSD organised similar side events in [Nanjing in 2016](#) and [Berlin in 2017](#), which were both highly appreciated by participating officials.

The objective of this 2018 workshop is two-fold. First, to support TIWG officials in their reflections on what the G20 can and should do on trade and investment policy cooperation, with a focus on the multilateral trading system and protectionism, a sustainable food future, and an inclusive digital economy. Second, to offer a neutral space for information exchange and frank discussion outside of formal negotiating settings, where consensus-building can be facilitated and new ideas freely explored.

Attendance at this event is by invitation only. The workshop is held under the Chatham House Rule. If you have any comment, please send it to GEG@ictsd.ch.

AGENDA

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Registration and Networking coffee**
- 09:15 – 10:00 **Opening and Keynote**
Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD; Co-Chair, T20 Task Force on Trade, Investment and Tax Cooperation
Julia POMARES, Executive Director, CIPPEC; Co-chair, T20 Argentina
Pablo AVA, Consulting Member, CARI; Head of the Policy & Research Team, T20 Argentina

Keynote Speaker
Horacio REYSER, Secretary of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina; G20 TIWG Chair
- 10:00 – 12:00 **Session I: G20 Trade and Investment Priorities in 2018**
What are key challenges facing global trade governance? How can the G20 strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system and combat effectively against protectionism? What can the G20 TIWG achieve in 2018?

Moderators
Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD
Beatriz NOFAL, Founder & CEO, Eco-Axis; Former Argentina G20 Sherpa

Speakers
James BACCHUS, Senior Counsellor, ICTSD; former US Congressman and Chair of WTO Appellate Body
Simon J. EVENETT, Professor of Economics, University of St.Gallen; Coordinator of the Global Trade Alert
Uri DADUSH, Non-Resident Scholar, Bruegel; Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Group discussions
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:45

Session II: Trade and Investment Policies for a Sustainable Food Future

What are the challenges for a sustainable food future? What are the implications of global value chains in food sectors for trade and investment policies? What are the policy options for G20 in this regard?

Moderator

Leandro SERINO, Policy and Research Coordinator, T20 Argentina

Speakers

Eugenio DIAZ-BONILLA, Head of the LAC Program, IFPRI

Julia NIELSON, Head of the Development Division. Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Group discussions

14:45 – 15:00

Coffee break

15:00 – 16:45

Session III: Trade and Investment Policies for a Robust and Inclusive Digital economy

What are the challenges for developing robust and inclusive digitally enabled economies and international trade? What are new technological and regulatory trends in this area? What can the G20 achieve in 2018 and 2019?

Moderator

Andrew CROSBY, Managing Director and head of Digital Economy, ICTSD

Speakers

Dan CIURIAK, Director and Principal, Ciuriak Consulting Inc.

Pinar ARTIRAN, WTO Chair Holder, Director of the Research Center on International Trade and Arbitration Law, Istanbul Bilgi University

Akihiko TAMURA, Professor, GRIPS Japan

Group discussions

16:45 – 17:00

Closing remarks

Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, ICTSD