



22 May 2018

CALL FOR PAPERS: PUBLIC FORUM

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**PUBLIC FORUM 2018
"TRADE 2030"**

GENEVA

WTO HEADQUARTER

2-4 October 2018

The WTO Chairs Programme issues this call for papers for a side event to be held during the Public Forum taking place at WTO Headquarters in Geneva from 2 to 4 October 2018.

WTO Chair holders are invited to submit research papers in English for this upcoming event with the restriction that the paper has not been previously published.

1.1. The theme of the Public Forum of this year is "*Trade 2030*" and will consider what sustainable trade will look like in 2030 and beyond. The sub-themes will be sustainable trade, technology-enabled trade, and a more inclusive trading system. The event organised through the WTO Chairs programme will review and discuss how countries can ensure that trade continues to contribute to jobs, growth and sustainable development under the rapid change brought about by technology, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda and how trade and efforts to address environmental problems can complement one another in order to contribute towards a sustainable future?

1.2. It will provide a platform from an academic point of view for engagement on what technological change means for the future – particularly for trade. How can we ensure that technology enables trade? How can we address the digital divide? What are the trade implications of innovations such as artificial intelligence, 3D printing, or blockchain and how will these affect the way we trade in the future? As trade evolves, how can we ensure that it becomes more inclusive, not less? How can new technologies and the pursuit of sustainable trade address inequality and provide an opportunity for every country – developed or least-developed; every business - big or small; every member of society – male and female, young and old; to reap the benefits of trade in 2030. The WTO Chairs will provide unique perspectives on how these emerging technologies will affect trade and the multilateral trading system, and how we can ensure that trade in 2030 will continue to help us address the major issues facing our economies and societies. What are the main challenges that developing countries face in adapting to the rapid pace of technological changes from a trade perspective? How do the Chairs go about making policy recommendations and how do they contribute to their countries' policy decisions?

1.3. WTO Chair holders are invited to submit a comprehensive abstract or a draft paper for presentation at the side event by **17 August 2018 (close of business)**. Papers should deal with the theme "Trade 2030" and the sub-themes: sustainable trade, technology-enabled trade, and a more inclusive trading system.

1.4. Papers analyzing the following topics are of particular interest to the conference:

- a. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusive growth and trade policy;
- b. Trade and technology;
- c. E-commerce and the Digital Economy;
- d. The impact of technology on international trade and an inclusive trading system;
- e. Digital divide;
- f. Policy and regulatory recommendations for such issues as data localization, cybersecurity, consumer protection, privacy etc.

1.5. To be considered, Chairs should submit a preliminary paper and/or comprehensive abstract defining their research questions, methodological framework and likely results. The submissions should also contain keywords and JEL codes ([Journal of Economic Literature bibliographic codes](#)).

1.6. Submissions and/or abstracts need to be of sufficient detail, especially on the methodology used and the likely policy implications, in order to provide reviewers with a clear understanding of the paper to be presented at the side event. At least one author of each paper must be a WTO Chair Holder or a member of the Chair's team. Authors of selected papers will be notified end-August. Full drafts of selected papers need to be made available by 10 September 2018.

1.7. Given the time constraints usually imposed by the organizers of the public forum, and depending on the number of submissions to be received, up to 4 papers can be presented at the WCP side-event. Another 4-5 papers can be presented at the annual conference scheduled for early December.

1.8. Following the selection and a standard double referee process, selected papers might be considered for publication in an edited volume to be published under the auspices of the WTO Chairs Programme. WTO Chairs are strongly encouraged to submit papers in order to have a critical mass of submissions for the WCP publication. **Only unpublished papers will be considered by the Selection Committee and we follow the principle of selecting one paper per chair for the publication.**

1.9. Submissions should be sent to the WCP SECRETARIAT: wtochairs@wto.org. Please mark your mail "**PUBLIC FORUM 2018**" by **17 August 2018 (close of business)**.