

# WTO Chairs Programme 2025 Annual Conference

**Day 1 (Wednesday 2 July 2025)**  
Room E



08:30 – 09:00 WELCOME COFFEE

09:00 – 10:00 **OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony will begin with a keynote speech by Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, WTO Deputy Director-General, followed by interventions from the donors of the WCP: France, Austria, and the Republic of Korea.

**Moderator:** Harish Iyer, Head of WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance, Coordination, and Partnerships Section, ITTC, WTO

**Keynote Address:** Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, WTO Deputy Director-General

## Speakers:

1. Ambassador Emmanuelle Ivanov-Durand, Permanent Representative of France to the WTO
2. Ambassador Désirée Schweitzer, Permanent Representative of Austria to the WTO
3. Ambassador Sung-yo Choi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

10:00 – 10:30 **SESSION WITH LOGISTICS UNIT**

10:30 – 12:00 **THEMATIC SESSION: LOOKING TOWARDS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

The 14th WTO Ministerial Conference is scheduled to take place in March 2026 in Cameroon. This session will offer an overview of the priorities on the road to MC14, including fisheries subsidies, digital trade, investment facilitation for development, WTO reform, agriculture, and broader development issues, including proposals on special and differential treatment. WCP Chairs will share regional perspectives and present the work they have conducted on these topics.

**Moderator:** Richard Newfarmer, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

## Speakers:

1. Santiago Wills, Director, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, WTO
2. Manfred Kouty, WCP Chair in Cameroon
3. Adama Gueye, WCP Chair in Senegal
4. Xinquan Tu, WCP Chair in China, Beijing
5. Rosmery Hernández, WCP Chair in Costa Rica

## Discussants:

1. James Nedumpara, WCP Chair in India
2. Georgios Dimitropoulos, WCP Chair in Qatar
3. Juliana Peixoto Batista, WCP Chair in Argentina
4. Charlemagne Babatoundé Igue, WCP Chair in Benin

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### 12:00– 12:30 INTRODUCTION TO WTO LIBRARY RESOURCES

During this session, WCP Chairs will be introduced to the WTO Library's resources.

#### Speakers:

1. Richard Pollock, Chief of Section (Library), Languages, Documentation and Information Management Division, WTO
2. Katherine Rewinkel El-Darwish, Librarian, Library, Languages, Documentation and Information Management Division, WTO

### 12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

### 13:30 – 14:45 THEMATIC SESSION: GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK AND STATISTICS, RESEARCH, AND WTO DATABASES

In this session, the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division will discuss the impact of the recent trade policy developments on merchandise and services trade. The panel will also highlight WTO databases (which are valuable tools for research) and their function, as well as the methodology for data collection and unification. WCP Chairs will share their perspective as researchers and advisors to domestic stakeholders on current issues, as well as their own experience and challenges faced when using WTO databases.

This session will also be open to participants of the French-Irish Mission Programme.

**Moderator:** Lionel Fontagné, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Speakers:

1. Coleman Nee, Chief of Quantitative Economic Research Section, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
2. Dayong Yu, Chief of Trade Policy Statistics Section, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
3. Trudi Hartzenberg, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
4. Adama Gueye, WCP Chair in Senegal

#### Discussants:

5. Pierre Sauvé, WCP Academic Advisory Board
6. Georgios Dimitropoulos, WCP Chair in Qatar
7. Azam Chaudhry, WCP Chair in Pakistan

### 14:45 – 15:00 COFFEE BREAK

### 15:00 – 16:00 FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This session will provide an opportunity to the entire WCP Chairs Network and the Academic Advisory Board to discuss work priorities with the WTO Director-General. WCP Chairs are expected to reflect the outcomes of this session in the activities to be undertaken in the framework of the WCP, including but not limited to shaping the research agenda, customizing training activities, and targeting outreach activities to be of relevance to the WTO agenda and to Members' policymakers and stakeholders in various regions.

**Keynote Speaker:** WTO Director-General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

**Moderator:** Mark Wu, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Discussants:

1. Désirée van Gorp, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
2. Manfred Kouty, WCP Chair in Cameroon
3. Pinguang (Peter) Ying, WCP Chair in China, Shanghai

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4. Ngozi Egbuna, WCP Chair in Nigeria
5. Salwa Trabelsi, WCP Chair in Tunisia
6. Dayanna Polanco, WCP Chair in the Dominican Republic

## GROUP PHOTO WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (15:50)

### 16:00: – 17:30 THEMATIC SESSION: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR DIGITAL TRADE

This session will focus on capacity building to enable digital trade as well as new technologies, including AI. Discussions will bring together perspectives from the point of view of the WTO Work Programme on E-Commerce, the JSI on E-Commerce, the Information Technology Agreement, and the joint WTO-World Bank Digital Trade in Africa Project. WCP Chairs will also discuss their work in this area, in terms of building capacity toward multilateral and regional rules and policies on e-commerce and digital development, digital trade facilitation and the development of quality infrastructure, AI, and the impact of other new technologies on trade.

**Moderator:** Pierre Sauvé, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Speakers:

1. Emmanuelle Ganne, Chief of Digital Trade and Frontier Technologies Unit, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
2. Mustapha Sadni Jallab, Chief of Knowledge Management Section, Strategy, Planning, and Transformation Division, WTO
3. Usman Ali Khilji, Head of Asia & Pacific Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
4. Caiphas Checkwoti, WCP Chair in Tanzania
5. Sehrish Javid, WCP Chair in Qatar
6. Victor Saco, WCP Chair in Peru

#### Discussants:

7. Rohinton Medhora, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
8. Azzedine Ghoufrane, WCP Chair in Morocco
9. Alouis Chilunjika, WCP Chair in Lesotho
10. Ignacio Antonio Sánchez González, WCP Chair in Chile

### 17:30: – 18:30 SESSION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This session is organized for the discussion of the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Phase III Chairs will share their experience with reporting, best practices, and challenges. Phase IV Chairs will be invited to share their comments and questions. Phase I & II Chairs are invited to participate in the discussion regarding their outputs and the continuing sustainability of their work.

**Moderator:** Harish Iyer, Head of WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

#### Speakers:

1. Daniil Orlov, Economic Affairs Officer, WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
2. Amadou Labba Sall, Communications Officer, Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section, ITTC, WTO
3. Wenkonta Pasgo, Young Professional, WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

#### Discussants:

1. Alouis Chilunjika, WCP Chair in Lesotho
2. Vera Thorstensen, WCP Chair in Brazil

## WTO Chairs Programme Annual Conference

**Day 2 (Thursday 3 July 2025)**

Room E



**09:00 – 10:30 THEMATIC SESSION: WTO DISCIPLINES ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL MARINE RESOURCES**

Since WTO Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's request to the Chairs during previous editions of the WCP Annual Conference, WCP Chairs have included the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and marine environment protection as priority areas. After an introduction outlining the ratification of the agreement and the second wave of negotiations on fisheries subsidies, the panel will discuss the Chairs' work and how it aligns with the WTO's.

**Moderator:** Andrea Mastromatteo, Director, Rules Division, WTO

**Speakers:**

1. Sainabou Taal, Head, Fisheries Subsidies, Rules Division, WTO
2. Osman Gulseven, WCP Chair in Oman
3. Taleb Warrad, WCP Chair in Jordan
4. Thi Thu Huong Trinh, WCP Chair in Viet Nam
5. Yueh Ping Yang, WCP Chair in Chinese Taipei

**Discussants:**

1. Mark Wu, WCP Academic Advisory Board
2. Xinquan Tu, WCP Chair in China, Beijing
3. Dayanna Polanco, WCP Chair in the Dominican Republic
4. Catherine Rebouças Mota, WCP Chair in Brazil
5. Achyut Wagle, WCP Chair in Nepal

**10:30 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK**

**10:45 – 12:15 THEMATIC SESSION: TRADE AND MSMEs**

Throughout each year of the WCP Network's projects, activities have included support and research in relation to boosting the export potential of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. This panel will discuss the work being done in this area. Panellists will also emphasize the need to build the capacity of MSMEs to promote inclusive participation in the global economy.

**Moderator:** Désirée van Gorp, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Speakers:**

1. Kathryn Lundquist, Economic Affairs Officer, Market Access Division
2. Poppy S. Winanti, WCP Chair in Indonesia
3. Boopen Seetanah, WCP Chair in Mauritius
4. Azam Chaudhry, WCP Chair in Pakistan
5. Mona Shrestha Adhikari, WCP Chair in Nepal

**Discussants:**

6. Charlemagne Babatoundé Igue, WCP Chair in Benin
7. Binayak Malla, WCP Chair in Nepal
8. Pinar Artiran, WCP Chair in Türkiye
9. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga, WCP Chair in Kenya
10. Carli Bezuidenhout, WCP Chair in South Africa

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12:15 – 13:15 LUNCH

13:15 – 14:15 THEMATIC SESSION: TRADE FINANCE

In 2021 a joint statement by WTO Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and International Finance Corporation (IFC) Managing Director Makhtar Diop pledged to enhance cooperation to improve the analytics, identification, and detection of trade finance gaps in order to better direct capacity building and other resources to where unmet demand is greatest. The [first report](#) that was launched through this cooperation focused on West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal) in 2022 and the [second](#) on the Mekong region (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam) in 2023-24. Most recently, the [third and last report](#) focused on three developing economies in Latin America (Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico). This session will be an opportunity for WCP Chairs, who have been instrumental in the launch and dissemination of these reports, to discuss these reports and their value for the respective regions.

**Moderator:** Richard Newfarmer, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Speakers:**

1. Marc Auboin, Chief of Trade and Macroeconomics Section, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
2. Ngozi Egbuna, WCP Chair in Nigeria
3. Xinquan Tu, WCP Chair in China, Beijing
4. Azam Chaudhry, WCP Chair in Pakistan
5. Amrita Bahri, WCP Chair in Mexico

14:15 – 15:15 DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

This session will take stock of dispute settlement and its reform at the WTO and introduce the publication *International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement: From Rise to Crisis to Reform*<sup>1</sup> and its comparative examination of international and regional economic dispute settlement systems. WCP Chairs will also share their perspectives on these topics based on their research and work in this field.

**Moderator:** Jorge Castro, Director, Legal Affairs Division, WTO

**Speakers:**

1. Andreas Sennekamp, Counsellor, Legal Affairs Division, WTO
2. Niall Meagher, Executive Director, Advisory Centre on WTO Law
3. Henry Gao, WCP Academic Advisory Board
4. Amrita Bahri, WCP Chair in Mexico
5. Giorgio Sacerdoti, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Discussant:**

6. Niall Moran, Assistant Professor in Law, Dublin City University
7. Mao-Wei Lo, WCP Chair in Chinese Taipei

15:15– 15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 16:15 THEMATIC SESSION: ePING

In this session, the WTO Secretariat and the International Trade Centre (ITC) will present the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#), which facilitates tracking regulatory developments around the world. The presentation will highlight key features of the platform as well as examples of cooperation with universities. This will be followed by a brainstorming session led by the discussants on

<sup>1</sup> Co-authored by Giorgio Sacerdoti and Niall Moran.

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how the WCP Network can integrate ePing in their research, curriculum development, and outreach activities.

**Moderator:** Daniela García, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the WTO

**Speakers:**

1. Serra Ayral, Counsellor, Trade and Environment Division
2. Vianney Lesaffre, Market Analyst, International Trade Centre

**Discussants:**

1. Thi Thu Huong Trinh, WCP Chair in Viet Nam
2. Caiphas Chekwoti, WCP Chair in Tanzania
3. Victor Saco, WCP Chair in Peru

### 16:15– 17:45 THEMATIC SESSION: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

As one of the main pillars of the WCP, curriculum development activities by the Chairs have increased in scale. Within the Network, different types of activities have also been launched, such as model WTOS, moot court activities, and TradeLab clinics. Another aspect of this pillar is its importance for Observers and the potential for WCP Chair activities to generate synergies with other WTO technical assistance. This session will take stock of these outputs with a view to sharing knowledge and best practices among the WCP Network. Participants of the French-Irish Mission Programme (FIMiP) are also invited to share their experience and expectations regarding training programs and courses that are targeted toward policymakers.

**Moderator:** Henry Gao, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Speakers:**

1. Stefania Bernabé, Chief of Course Design and Training Section, ITTC, WTO
2. Umid Yakubkhodjaev, WCP Chair in Uzbekistan
3. Amna Zaman, WCP Chair in Qatar
4. Michel Levi, WCP Chair in Ecuador
5. Jonas Barayandema, WCP Chair in Rwanda

**Discussants:**

1. Linda Isabel Cristales López, Advisor for Economic Policy and Analysis, Ministry of Economy of Guatemala, FIMiP
2. Ndèye Fatou Diop, Head of the Bureau for the Expansion of Trade in Services, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Directorate of Foreign Trade of Senegal, FIMiP
3. Taleb Warrad, WCP Chair in Jordan
4. Ridhish Rajvanshi, WCP Chair in India
5. Ngozi Egbuna, WCP Chair in Nigeria

### 18:00 WCP RECEPTION HOSTED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL XIANGCHEN ZHANG



# WTO Chairs Programme 2025 Annual Conference

**Day 3** (Friday 4 July 2025)  
Room E



## 08:30 – 09:30 FEEDBACK ON WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONNAIRES

During this session the WTO Secretariat will present the results of the Technical Assistance Questionnaire sent to the WCP Chairs and Advisory Board Members, followed by a detailed discussion with the entire network on the rationale behind the responses and way forward to ensure a better experience for the participants of the Programme.

Moderator: Samer Seif El-Yazal, Chief of Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

Speakers:

1. Harish Iyer, Head of WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
2. Fanan Biem, Project Officer, WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
3. Daniil Orlov, Economic Affairs Officer, WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

## 09:30 – 11:30 REGIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS (ROOMS A, B, E)

Since the launch of the third and fourth phases of the WCP, the Chairs Networks within the different regions of the programme have collaborated through various channels and events for successful project outputs. To consolidate these partnerships and expand on their initiatives, regional break out rooms for each network have been organized. Phase I and II WCP Chairs are also invited to share their guidance and best practices for sustainability and continued engagement with the WCP Network after the four-year cycle of the programme draws to a close.

The first two hours will be devoted to discussions moderated by Advisory Board Members, after which the Chairs will gather in plenary to report outcomes.

### ❖ WCP Asia Network (Room A)



**Moderators:**

1. Rohinton Medhora, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
2. Giorgio Sacerdoti, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Rapporteurs:**

1. Thi Thu Huong Trinh, WCP Chair in Viet Nam
2. Poppy S. Winanti, WCP Chair in Indonesia

**WTO Secretariat:**

1. Kenza Le Mentec, Head of AMEC & CEECAC Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
2. Usman Ali Khilji, Head of Asia & Pacific Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

**WCP Chairs:** China (Beijing), China (Shanghai) India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Chinese Taipei, and Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Qatar

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### ❖ WCP Africa Network (Room B) zoom

#### Moderators:

1. Clemens Boonekamp, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
2. Stephen Karingi, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Rapporteurs:

1. Boopen Seetanah, WCP Chair in Mauritius
2. Salwa Trabelsi, WCP Chair in Tunisia

#### WTO Secretariat:

1. Willie Chatsika, Head of English-Speaking Africa Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO
2. Aimé Murigande, Head of French-Speaking Africa Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

**WCP Chairs:** Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo

### ❖ WCP Latin America and Caribbean Network (Room E) zoom

#### Moderators:

1. Ronald Saborío, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
2. Marcelo Olarreaga, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Rapporteurs:

1. Vera Thorstensen, WCP Chair in Brazil
2. Amrita Bahri, WCP Chair in Mexico

#### WTO Secretariat:

1. Laura Gómez Bustos, Head of Latin America & Caribbean Desk, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC

**WCP Chairs:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru

11:30– 11:45 COFFEE BREAK

### 11:45 – 12:15 **PLENARY DISCUSSION (ROOM E)**

**Moderator:** Marcelo Olarreaga, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

#### Speakers:

1. Poppy S. Winanti, WCP Chair in Indonesia
2. Boopen Seetanah, WCP Chair in Mauritius
3. Amrita Bahri, WCP Chair in Mexico

12:15 – 15:30 LUNCH (INCLUDES TIME FOR VISITS TO DELEGATIONS)

13:00 – 15:00 LUNCH HOSTED BY PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE TO THE WTO FOR LATIN AMERICAN WCP CHAIRS (BY INVITATION – WTO VIP DINING ROOM)

### 13:30 – 15:30 **WCP ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (ROOM E)**

15:30 – 15:45 COFFEE BREAK



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## 15:45 – 17:15 THEMATIC SESSION: REGIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH THE WCP NETWORK

Outreach is a key element of the WTO Chairs Programme workplan, ensuring relevance and application of the Chairs' work. This session will provide a snapshot of some of the regional activities held by the Network that have had an impact on other Members or Observers. WCP Chairs will discuss their activities – including research and training initiatives – and their efforts to create regional integration through the programme and collaborations with other international or regional organizations. In this context, the WTO Accessions Division will elaborate on the importance of the Network for Observers, and an upcoming publication on accessions in Africa.

**Moderator:** Clemens Boonekamp, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member

**Speakers:**

1. Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO
2. Stephen Karingi, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member
3. Achyut Wagle, WCP Chair in Nepal
4. James Nedumpara, WCP Chair in India
5. Gerald Solano, WCP Chair in Costa Rica

**Discussants:**

1. Akoété Ega Agbodji, WCP Chair in Togo
2. Umid Yakubkhodjaev, WCP Chair in Uzbekistan
3. Rafael Tamayo, WCP Chair in Colombia
4. Pinar Artiran, WCP Chair in Türkiye
5. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga, WCP Chair in Kenya

## 17:15 – 18:00 CLOSING CEREMONY

**Moderator:** Harish Iyer, Head of WTO Chairs Programme Unit, Technical Assistance Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, ITTC, WTO

**Speakers:**

1. Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, WTO Deputy Director-General
2. Ambassador Mzukisi Qobo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the WTO, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Development
3. Dr Bright Okogu, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the WTO Director-General
4. Trudi Hartzenberg, WCP Academic Advisory Board Member