



Remaking global trade governance: trade, climate and global cooperation in a fragmenting world

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ODI Global



REMAKING TRADE
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Trade Negotiations &
Investment Forum



Firoz Lalji Institute
for Africa

TESS

Forum on Trade,
Environment,
& the SDGs



African Future
Policies Hub

Remaking global trade governance

Trade, climate and global cooperation in a fragmenting world

Monday, 22 June 2025 | Surveyors House, London and Online via Zoom

About this event

As climate impacts accelerate and geopolitical tensions reshape the global economy, the intersection of trade, climate, and development has become a critical, and contested, policy frontier. Global trade governance and rules are under threat as countries increasingly leverage trade to advance other policy goals, such as security and climate. This new approach to trade offers opportunities to advance climate and nature agendas, but also risks exacerbating political tensions and global inequalities, particularly for developing countries that face structural constraints in adapting to new trade and climate regimes.

This series of connected panel discussions, co-hosted by ODI Global, Remaking Trade Project, African Future Policies Hub, Trade Negotiations and Investment Forum, LSE Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa and the TESS Forum, aim to foster dialogue on emerging challenges and identify pathways for more inclusive, sustainable and resilient global trade governance.

Agenda

13:30 – 14:00 **Registration and welcome refreshments**

14:00 – 14:05 **Welcoming remarks**

Nicole Itano, Director, Remaking Trade Project

14:05 – 14:15 **Keynote remarks**

Roslyn Ng'eno, Senior Investment Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat

14:15 – 15:30 **Session I: Trade, climate and security in a multipolar world**

Climate change, economic security and trade policy are becoming increasingly intertwined. Governments are challenging established trade norms in pursuit of strategic autonomy, green industrialisation and control over critical minerals and clean technologies. Alongside, there is growing recognition among a diversity of governments on the importance of trade strategies for achieving their climate goals, including enhanced cooperation on trade and trade policies as key to driving action on climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient development.

This session will examine:

- *What rising fragmentation means for climate action, sustainable development and the global trading system*
- *The implications of trade-related climate measures for developing countries and how trade-related cooperation on climate can be enhanced*
- *Prospects for WTO reform and attention to sustainability priorities in a shifting geopolitical landscape*
- *The growing role of regional and plurilateral trade initiatives as laboratories for cooperation on climate and trade*

Jan Yves Remy, Senior Advisor to the Director-General, WTO

Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Founder and Executive Director, TESS Forum

Faizel Ismail, Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

Chris Basiurski, Deputy Director, Multilateral and World Trade Organization, Department for Business and Trade

Moderator: **Ese Owie**, Senior Advisor, Remaking Trade Project

15:30 – 15:45 **Networking coffee break**

15:45 – 16:55 **Session II: Border carbon adjustment mechanisms – balancing climate ambition and development**

With the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entering full implementation in 2026 and the UK's CBAM due to become operational in 2027, border carbon measures are rapidly reshaping global trade. While designed to prevent carbon leakage and support decarbonisation, CBAMs have been criticised as potentially protectionist and risk imposing new burdens on developing country exporters.

This session will explore:

- *How the UK can design and implement its CBAM in a way that supports development alongside climate ambition*
- *How developing countries can navigate and respond to the rise of sustainability-linked trade measures*
- *Strategies to mitigate the risks of regulatory fragmentation and overlapping reporting requirements*
- *The intersection of CBAMs with emerging economic security strategies*

Basile Chartier, Founder and Director, CHART ROOM

Janet Macharia, CEO, Trade Negotiations and Investment Forum

Kasonde Chituta, Researcher, African Future Policies Hub

Calum Boyd, Head of CBAM, HM Treasur

Moderator: **Jodie Keane**, Principal Research Fellow, ODI Global

16:55 17:00

Closing remarks

Liz May, Policy Fellow, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa

17:00 18:30

Networking reception