

Global Economic Governance Through the Lens of Inequality and Sustainable Development

Friday September 13, 2019
Geneva, Switzerland

Domaine de Penthes, Chemin de l'Impératrice 18, 1292 Pregny-Chambésy, Geneva

AGENDA

Friday, September 13

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM Arrivals and coffee

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM Opening session

- Welcome remarks by Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder (IISD)
- Welcome remarks by Christian Pitschas (German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ))
- Introductory presentation by Aaron Cosbey (IISD)
- Plenary discussion

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM Market access issues

- This session will examine the state of play of trade liberalization at the multilateral and the regional levels.
- What impact have trade policies had on inequality issues between countries? What action is needed on the trade front to best help decrease inequalities and achieve SDGs 10 and 17, including moving towards duty-free, quota-free market access for exports from LDCs and operationalizing the LDC services waiver?

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM Coffee break

11:45 AM – 1.00 PM E-commerce

- This session will consider the potential development dimensions of e-commerce, including in relation to services trade. It will then look at e-commerce rules in recent regional trade agreements as well as the discussions under the WTO's e-commerce work program and examine how these could relate to inequality issues.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Catching up, industrial policy and trade rules

- This session will look at how current trade and investment policy has been applied to circumscribe and limit the use of industrial policies (including in GATT, TRIMS, GATS, SCM, as well as select regional trade agreements and BITs).
- What is the aim of these industrial policy limitations through trade and investment agreements? Does trade and investment law prevent developing countries from “catching up,” or does it prevent bad policy-making that could backfire and impede developing countries from advancing?

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM Competition policy

- This session will consider the various examples where industries and sectors are increasingly seeing large firms or groups of smaller firms holding greater shares of the market at the global level.
- How do trade rules relate to this phenomenon and how does this market concentration relate to inequality among and within countries?
- What forms of international cooperation on competition policy would be helpful in countering the concentration of wealth, and what is the experience of regional trade and investment agreements in this area?

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Closing session: next steps

5:30 PM Departures

Coffee and tea will be available throughout the afternoon.

IISD would like to thank the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for sponsoring this event.