



The **E15** Initiative



**E15 – Midterm Review**  
**Dialogue on the Functioning of the WTO:**  
**Development Challenges and Policy Options**

**ICTSD-WTI Expert Group Meeting**

With the support of SECO

**11-12 June 2013**

World Meteorological Organization, 7bis, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

**Agenda**

**Tuesday 11 June**

9:00-12:30 **Session I: Functioning of the WTO – Policy Options for MC9 and beyond**

Chair: Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza (ICTSD)

*The first meeting of the E15 Expert Group discussed the negotiation function of the WTO, the role of committees and the links between the WTO and the private sector. While the participants of the Group agreed that the WTO has played a crucial role in liberalizing trade, it was recognized that in order to remain relevant, changes in how it functions – whether it be institutional changes or changes to its mandate – would have to be implemented. During the meeting a variety of policy options emerged.*

*This session will provide the group with an overview of these policy options presented by the theme leader, Manfred Elsig (WTI). The authors of think pieces – which were drafted on the basis of topics which emerged after the first meeting – will then give short presentations on their ideas: Manfred Elsig (WTI) on the role of WTO committees, Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza (ICTSD) presenting the piece by Brandon Vickers (DTI, South Africa) on the relationship between plurilaterals and the WTO, and Roderick Abbott (ECIPE) on the introduction of an intermediate body or consultative group into the WTO.*

*Open discussion.*

12:30-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-17:30 **Open Discussion (Cont.)**

Chair: Manfred ELSIG (WTI)

*In the afternoon, participants will continue the discussions based on the presentations in the morning. Then the Group will discuss and agree on preliminary policy recommendations to be presented to the Open Plenary on the morning of 12 June.*

18:00 **Reception**

**Wednesday 12 June**

9:30-10:00 **Open Plenary: Presentation of Main Findings**

Chair: Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ (ICTSD)

*The E15 Initiative – Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System: Process and Purpose*

10:00-11:00 *During this plenary session, the theme leaders will inform a targeted audience of policymakers, trade negotiators, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, academics, ambassadors and the private sector about the main findings of the E15 initiative and its (preliminary) policy recommendations on each respective topic. E15 experts and the audience will engage in substantive discussions in a non-negotiating context in order to transform the ideas and recommendations into action.*

- Global Value Chains - Sherry M. STEPHENSON (ICTSD)
- Agriculture and Food Security - Stefan TANGERMANN (University of Göttingen)
- Regional Trade Agreements - Kati SUOMINEN (IDB)
- Functioning of the WTO - Manfred ELSIG (WTI)

11:00-12:30 **Open Discussion**

12:30-14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30-15:00 **Presentation** by Anabel GONZALÉZ (Minister of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica)

*WEF Global Agenda Council on Trade and FDI report on “FDI as a Key Driver for Trade, Growth & Prosperity: The Case for a Multilateral Agreement on Investment”*

15:00-18:00 **Closed Plenary: Summary and the Way Forward**

Chair: Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ (ICTSD)

*In this closed plenary the theme leaders will summarize the discussions from the morning and engage all E15 experts in an open discussion about the policy recommendations as well as future steps. Possible proposals will be explored ensuring that the expert group process actively informs domestic and international policy-making, negotiations and decision-making on the respective topics of the E15 groups.*