

Dinner Discussion: Warfare or Collaborative Stewardship? The Future of Global Trade & Investment

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2018

World Food Program Tent - Thursday, 25 January 2018, 19:00-21:30, Davos-Klosters

Global trade is rebounding, but most households remain more concerned with living standards and opportunities than macro indicators. Voters are demanding more than traditionally measured growth and existing frameworks are charged with failing to deliver. Global trade stands at a crossroads, and there are potent forces disrupting the existing order. How should policymakers engage stakeholders to respond in order to correct course and ensure trade is an engine for delivering a sustainable future?

A broader agenda for international trade and economic cooperation is imperative to manage the transition toward a more inclusive and sustainable global economy. Guaranteeing the benefits and opportunities created by trade reach the length and breadth of society requires more than rules and agreements reached by trade negotiators. Negotiations are critical, but equally essential are the adequacy and strength of domestic institutions, the presence of an enabling environment for business, and smart regulations and policies that empower women, and unleash entrepreneurs and small businesses in reaching beyond borders to participate in trade. Also, that pro-actively support a conversion of energy systems and consumption and production patterns towards a low carbon economy.

This session, convened by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the World Economic Forum under the E15 Initiative, will bring together stakeholders to focus on:

- understanding the nature of current tensions in the global trade system
- exploring the possible exhaustion of *business as usual* approaches to governance of trade
- articulating alignment of trade to Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement

Session structure

19:00 – 19:30	Buffet Dinner
19:30 – 19:45	Introduction and context
19:45 – 21:00	Discussion prompted by fire-starters
21:00 – 21:30	Dessert, Coffee and Informal Conversation