



WTO CHAIR- INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

# International Conference

**Theme: Trade Policies and Sustainable and Inclusive  
Development in Central Africa**

*Organised by  
the  
WTO Chair  
of  
the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC)  
University of Yaounde 2*

*Yaounde, 13, 14 and 15 December 2022*



## ○ Rationale

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, sustainable and inclusive development is the major ambition pursued by many countries around the world. According to the Brundtland Report (1987), sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Inclusive development, on the other hand, refers to transformative development and is based on the capacity of social, economic and political systems to create the conditions for sustainable well-being (Van Gent, 2017). Overall, the concepts of sustainable development and inclusive development are not only an extension of the development debate but also an urgent demand for an economically efficient, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable development model (UNCTAD, 2021).

Over the past two decades, the world economy has experienced rapid economic growth supported by the expansion of international trade. However, this has been accompanied by an increase in demand for natural resources, as well as increased pollution and damage to ecosystems. The distribution of this growth has been uneven between and within countries. Socio-economic insecurity continues to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups, such as women and youth.

The contribution of international trade to sustainable development was recognised by the Rio and Johannesburg conferences in 1992 and 2002 respectively. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises international trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and an important means of achieving the SDGs. On a theoretical level, it is recognised that trade increases the mutual support between the economy and the environment (WTO and UNEP, 2009). Trade promotes efficient production through specialisation, exploitation of economies of scale, technology transfer and increased competition. Trade enables a more efficient allocation of scarce resources and facilitates access to environmental goods, services and technologies for both rich and poor countries. Trade openness allows for more efficient use of resources and promotes growth and higher incomes, which contributes to conservation, sustainability and poverty eradication efforts. These potential benefits of openness to international trade on sustainable and inclusive growth highlight the importance of trade policies in developing countries in general and Africa in particular.



In Africa specifically, sustainable and inclusive development is one of the main objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 (AU, 2015). Indeed, the first aspiration of Agenda 2063 envisages *"a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development"*. Thus, by 2063, Africa wants to be recognised as a continent:

- respectful of its environment;
- economically transformed on the basis of sustainable production systems (agricultural and industrial) and renewable energy
- resilient to climate change;
- where poverty and inequality are reduced;
- that provides social security and protection;
- that promotes human and social capital development.

To achieve the 2063 Agenda, one of the urgent initiatives put in place by the AU is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) adopted at the 10th Extraordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government in March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda. However, the operationalisation of the AfCFTA based on the liberalisation of intra-African trade raises concerns. Inclusiveness and sustainability remain neglected aspects of the FTAA agreement, while many African countries are already facing the effects of global warming and have very high rates of poverty and inequality. This is particularly the case in Central Africa. Indeed, in this region of Africa, which is home to the Congo Basin, the world's second largest green lung after the Amazon, the issues of sustainable and inclusive development are acute. According to recent UNCTAD statistics (2021), growth in this sub-region is far from inclusive. Poverty and inequality rates are still among the highest in the world, and the economic inclusion of women and young people remains low.

According to the latest Sustainable Development in Africa report, the Central African sub-region has the highest incidence of poverty, at almost 67% (AU, ECA and AfDB, 2022). The same report indicates that the Central African sub-region performs poorly on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). By way of illustration, only one Central African country, Gabon, is among the top 100 countries with better environmental performance, indicating that the sub-region still faces major environmental challenges related to deforestation and the intensification of trade in natural resources.



To effectively contribute to the operationalisation of the FTAA and thereby help achieve the SDGs in Central Africa, there is a need for coordination of actions in multiple areas, aligning and using all trade policy instruments.

areas, aligning and using all trade policy instruments. Central Africa is currently characterised by the multiplication of bilateral trade partnerships and the phenomenon of overlapping Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), also known as the spaghetti bowl. This phenomenon is detrimental to the sub-regional integration process and disperses efforts towards sustainable and inclusive development.

**Under these conditions, how can the legitimate objectives of economic growth, for which international trade plays an important role, be reconciled with the requirements of sustainable and inclusive development in the specific context of Central Africa? Are the Central African states prepared to effectively address this unavoidable challenge? What operational mechanisms have they put in place, or should they put in place, to manage this inescapable dialectic effectively and efficiently? How do trade policies affect progress towards achieving the SDGs?**

It is in order to bring elements of analysis to these sensitive and strategic issues that the WTO Chair of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC) is organizing an international conference on the theme: Trade Policies and Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Central Africa.

This first in the series of annual conferences that the WTO Chair plans to organise is an opportunity, in a post-Covid-2019 context and with the announced rationalisation of the Economic and Regional Communities (RECs) in Central Africa, to exchange views, experiences, analyses and suggestions on the place of trade policies in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development in this sub-region. It is hoped that, at the end of the Conference, concrete strategies and actions will be identified and proposed to the actors in charge of Trade and Development in order to progress resolutely towards sustainable and inclusive development, in the interest of the well-being of the peoples of Central Africa, Africa and an interdependent world.



## ○ Scientific approach

Structured around seven (07) axes, the conference will be marked by discussions on key trade policy issues and their links to sustainable and inclusive development, as well as on how Central Africa could be reinvigorated by the right public policies.

## ○ Reflection areas

The proposed papers fall under the following headings:

### **AXIS 1: Central Africa: between integration into international trade and the need for sustainable development**

- Free trade and environmental sustainability
- Trade agreements, environmental standards
- Trade policies and human development
- Trade policies and sustainable production and consumption patterns
- Trade policy and energy transition
- Inclusive and sustainable development approaches specific to Central Africa
- Aid for Trade and Sustainable Development

### **AXIS 2: Trade policy for shared prosperity in Central Africa**

- Intra-regional trade and inclusive growth
- Trade agreements and inclusive development
- Regional trade and export diversification
- Trade policies and inclusive trade
- Trade and women's empowerment
- Cross-border trade and informality
- Aid for Trade and Inclusive Development

### **AXIS 3: Governance of the multilateral trading system and the sustainable development constraint in Central Africa**

- Sustainable development in the multilateral trading system
- Multilateral trading system and multilateral environmental agreements
- Environmental governance in Central Africa
- Trade and Climate Negotiations
- Civil society and the implementation of trade agreements
- The future of multilateral trade governance and sustainable development

### **AXIS 4: Natural Resources, Conflict and Trade Policy in Central Africa**

- The role of trade policy in times of conflict
- Trade in natural resources and armed conflict
- Trade policies regarding fishing grounds and sought-after species
- Trade and conservation in the Congo Basin
- Trade in environmental goods and renewable natural resources
- Trade and deforestation



## **AXIS 5: Trade, technological innovations in Central Africa**

- Trade policy and digital trade development
- Smart and sustainable trade systems
- Global value chains and circular economy
- Digital technologies and regulation of informal trade
- Digital infrastructures and trade facilitation

## **Axis 6: Intellectual property and sustainable development in Central Africa**

- Geographical indications and the valorisation of local products
- Property rights, externalities and sustainable development
- Central Africa in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme
- Resource trafficking and illicit trade

## **AXIS 7: Trade policy, fiscal adjustment and economic resilience in Central Africa**

- Fiscal policy and financing sustainable development
- New environmental policy instruments
- Tax incentives

## **○ How to participate**

Paper proposals (full paper) written in English or French (in word file, font: **Times New Roman**, font 12, line spacing 1.5) can be submitted online and simultaneously to the following addresses: [chaireomc.irc@gmail.com](mailto:chaireomc.irc@gmail.com); [chaireomc.irc@yahoo.fr](mailto:chaireomc.irc@yahoo.fr) with a copy to [ifetze@hotmail.com](mailto:ifetze@hotmail.com) and [nabilndikeu@gmail.com](mailto:nabilndikeu@gmail.com)

They should include the following elements:

1. Title of the paper;
2. Name, surname, position and affiliation of the author who will be presenting at the conference, with email address;
3. Name, first name, position, affiliation and e-mail address of each of the possible co-authors;
4. Summary of the paper (max. 400 words);
5. Three to five keywords according to the JEL classification;
6. Full text of the paper (max. 7,000 words);
7. Margins: 2.5 cm Top, Bottom, Left and Right;
8. Title: not to exceed 180 characters including spaces;
9. Subtitles: Make the hierarchy of subheads clear and distinguish them typographically from the text. Bold type should be used for headings and sub-headings only;
10. Acronyms and abbreviations: Indicate in the text the exact title of acronyms and abbreviations when they are first mentioned and put the acronym or abbreviation in brackets. Example: World Trade Organisation (WTO);
11. References in the text: call references as follows (without authors' first names): (Kouty and Mallaye, 2018); (Kouty, 2022; Ndikey, 2018); (Ombolo et al., 2020);
12. Tables and graphs: In the text, always refer to a table or graph by its number (e.g., see table 1) not see next table;



13. Notes: Link footnotes with note calls in the text using the appropriate word processor function. Place notes at the bottom of each page, not at the end of the text;
14. Bibliography: All references listed in the bibliography must be cited in the text. The author must also ensure that all references called in the text are present in the bibliography. References are listed in alphabetical order of author's name. Furthermore, the references must be complete. Example: Kouty, M. (2018). "Trading costs in Africa: does international supply chain connectivity matter?", *Journal of Economic Development*, 43(2): 85-102.
15. Non-conforming proposals will be discarded.

## ○ Calendar

*Date of publication of the call: 08 September 2022*

*Deadline for submission of proposals: 29 October 2022*

*Date of reply to authors: 15 November 2022*

*Date of the Conference: 13-15 December 2022*



## ○ Organising Committee

### *General Supervision:*

Pr. Adolphe Minkoa She, Rector of the University of Yaounde II

### *Conference coordinators*

H.E. Daniel Urbain Ndongo, Director of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC);

Prof. Stéphane Ngwanza, Deputy Director in charge of Studies, IRIC.

### *President of the scientific committee*

Alain Didier Olinga, WTO Chair

### *Scientific Committee:*

Abdoul-Aziz Yaouba (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Abhijit Das (Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi, India); Ahmadou Aly Mbaye (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal); Alain Didier Olinga (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Alain Ondoua (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Alexandros Sarris (University of Athens, Greece); Armand Leka Essomba (University of Yaounde I, Cameroon); Azam Chaudhry (Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan); Azzedine Ghoufrane (Université Mohammed V, Morocco); Babatoundé Charlemagne Igué (University of Abomey-Calavi; Benin); Boniface Bounoung Fouda (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Boopen Seetanah (University of Mauritius, Mauritius); Brahim Boudarbat (University of Montreal, Canada); Brusil Miranda Metou (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Caiphas Chekwoti (TRAPCA, Tanzania); Chahir Zaki (University of Cairo, Egypt); Christian Ebeke (International Monetary Fund, USA); Clemens Boonekamp (University of Lausanne and Webster; Switzerland); Désiré Avom (University of Yaounde II; Cameroon); Désirée Maria Van Gorp (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands); Douzounet Mallaye (University of N'Djaména, Chad); Emmanuel Wonyu (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Esoh Elamè (University of Padua, Italy); Evelyne Patience Memphil Ndi (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Félicité Owona Mfegue (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Francois Colin Nkoa (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Françoise Okah Efogo (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Gabriel Eba

Ebe(University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Georges Kobou (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Gérard Pekassa Ndam(University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Germain Ntono Tsimi (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Giorgio Giuseppe Sacerdoti (University of Milan, Italy); Guy Mvelle (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Henri Atangana Ondoua (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Henri Ngoa Tabi (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Henry Gao (University of Singapore, Singapore); Huong Trinh Thi Thu (Foreign Trade University, Vietnam); Innocent Fetze Kamdem (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Jacob Kotcho (ECCAS, Gabon); Jacques Degbelo (WTO, Switzerland); Jaime De Melo (University of Geneva, Switzerland); Jean Claude Tcheuwa (University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon); Jean-Emmanuel Pondi (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Jean Kenfack (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon ); Leila Baghdadi (University of Tunis, Tunisia); Lionel Gérard Fontagné (University of Paris 1, France); Manfred Kouty (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Mame Demba Thiam(University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal); Marcelo Olarreaga (University of Geneva, Switzerland); Michel Levi(Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar Sede Toledo Ladrón de Guevara, Ecuador); Mustapha Sadni Jallab (WTO, Switzerland); Patrice Ongono (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Patrick Abane Engolo (University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon); Paul Elvic Batchom (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Peter Van Den Bossche (World Trade Institute University of Bern, Switzerland); Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Pierre Sauvé (World Bank, Geneva); Nabil Ndikeu (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Nadine Machikou Ngameni (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Rama Rao Bokka (University of Rwanda, Rwanda); Rémy Mbida Mbida(University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon); Richard Scott Newfarmer( International Growth Center, Washington DC - USA); Rohinton P. Medhora (Centre for International Governance Innovation, Canada); Ronald Saborio(Lead University Plaza Rohrmoser Pavas, Costa Rica); Sergei Sutyryn (University of St. Petersburg, Russia); Simon Mevel (UNECA, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia); Simone Assah Kueté (UNECA, Rwanda); Stéphane Monney Mouandjo(University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Stéphane Ngwanza (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Stephen Karingi (UNECA, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia); Thierry Yogo(World Bank, Mauritania); Touna Mama (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Yves Paul Mandjem (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Trudi Hartzenberg (TRALAC, South Africa); Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur (University of Mauritius, Mauritius); Wilma Viviers( North-West University, South Africa); Wullson Mvomo Ela (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); Xinquan Tu (China Institute for WTO Studies, China).

***Technical secretariat***

**Coordinator:** Dr Manfred Kouty, WTO Co-Chair

Dr Nabil Ndikeu  
 Dr Innocent Fetze Kamdem  
 Dr Evelyne Patience Memphil NDI  
 Dr. Mireille Manga Edimo Epse Ewangué  
 Dr. Gisèle Léocadie Befolo  
 Dr. Max Sinclair Mbida Onambele  
 Dr. Marthe Zintchem  
 Dr. Armand Elono  
 Dr. Olga Mbang  
 Dr. Richard Ondji'i Toung  
 Dr. Marthe Eyango Epse Assira  
 Dr. Melvis Ndiloseh  
 Dr. François-Xavier Elong Fils





Dr. Ousmanou Nwachock à Birema  
Dr. Karie Youssoufou Ngamondi  
Dr. Ibrahim Abba  
Dr. Samuel Nguembock  
Dr. Neba Ridley Ngwa  
Dr. René Bidias,  
Dr. Julien Fils Ekoto Ekoto  
Dr. Alain Sauter Elong Eba  
Dr. Pascal Armel Ella Ella  
Dr. Rodrigue Tasse  
Dr. Stéphane Mbono  
Dr. Aline Zobo  
Dr. Dorothée Nyebe Tsanga  
Dr. Mariette Edimo Mbo'o  
Dr. Charles Uriel Owona Awoumou  
Dr. Susannash Limunga Esowe Epse Mboh  
Dr. Roger Abath Roger  
Dr. Jimmy Yab  
Dr. Guy Mbega  
Dr Rodrigue Juvial Mbappè  
Dr Ahmed Khalid Ayong  
Dr Sylvain Mvondo



## ○ Tentative bibliography

Agrawala, S. et Fankhauser, S. (2008), *Aspects économiques de l'adaptation au changement climatique: coûts, bénéfices et instruments économiques*, OCDE, Paris.

Alavi, R. (2007), «An Overview of Key Markets, Tariffs and Non-tariff Measures on Asian Exports of Select Environmental Goods», *ICTSD Programme on Trade and Environment, Issue Paper 4*, 36 pages.

Banque mondiale (2008), *International trade and climate change*, Banque mondiale, Washington DC, 144 pages.

Barrett, S. (1997), "The Strategy of Trade Sanctions in International Environmental Agreements", *Resource and Energy Economics* 19:4, pages 345-361.

Banque mondiale (2017), *2017 SDG Atlas*. [http:// datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgateas/](http://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgateas/).

Brundtland, H.G. (1987), « *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future* ». <http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>. Consulté le 15 mars 2018.

Barton, J. H. (2007), *Intellectual Property and Access to Clean Energy Technologies in Developing Countries. An Analysis of Solar Photovoltaic, Biofuel and Wind Technologies*, *ICTSD, Programme on Trade and Environment*, 35 pages.

CEA, BAD, CUA et PNUD (2016), « *OMD-Agenda 2063/ODD - Rapport de transition 2016 : Vers une approche intégrée et cohérente du développement durable en Afrique* ». Une publication commune de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique, de la Banque africaine de développement, de la Commission de l'Union africaine et des Nations Unies. Addis-Abeba.

CMAE (2016), « *Decision 1/SS6: Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and African Union's Agenda 2063: A Contribution of the Natural Capital* ». <http://web.unep.org/sites/default/files/amcen6/>

*decision\_1\_implementing\_sdgs\_in\_africa\_final.pdf.*

Commission mondiale sur l'économie et le climat (2016), « *Africa's New Climate Economy: Economic Transformation and Social and Environmental Change Tomorrow* ». [http://catalogue.unccd.int/779\\_NCE\\_Africa\\_2016.pdf](http://catalogue.unccd.int/779_NCE_Africa_2016.pdf).

Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC) (2020), "L'Accord de Paris", Processus et réunions, CCNUCC, Bonn. Voir : <https://unfccc.int/fr/processus-et-reunions/l-accord-de-paris/l-accord-de-paris>.

CNUCED(2021), Rapport 2021 sur le développement économique en Afrique: La contribution potentielle de la Zone de Libre-Echange Continentale Africaine à une croissance inclusive, Genève, Suisse.

OMC et Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE)(2009), Commerce et Changement Climatique, Genève, Suisse.

Nations Unies (2016), L'impératif du développement durable inclusif au centre des travaux de la nouvelle session de la Troisième Commission, 4 octobre 2016.

Union Africaine (UA) (2015), Document-cadre de l'*Agenda 2063: L'Afrique que nous voulons*, Adis abeba.

UA, Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA), Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) (2022), *Rapport sur le développement durable en Afrique 2020: favoriser le redressement et le développement durable dans le cadre de la Décennie d'action*, New York, États-Unis.

Van Gent S (2017), Beyond buzzwords: What is "inclusive development"? Includes secretariat. Available at <https://includeplatform.net/news/beyond-buzzwords-what-is-inclusive-development/> (accessed 1 July 2021).

