

TESS Forum on Trade,
Environment,
& the SDGs

For inclusive international
cooperation and action on
trade and sustainability

Annual Report 2023



**GENEVA
GRADUATE
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TESS

Forum on Trade,
Environment,
& the SDGs

The Forum on Trade, Environment, & the SDGs (TESS) works to support a global trading system that effectively addresses global environmental crises and advances the sustainable development goals. To foster inclusive international cooperation and action on trade and sustainability, our activities seek to catalyse inclusive, evidence-based, and solutions-oriented dialogue and policymaking, connect the dots between policy communities, provide thought leadership on priorities and policy options, and inspire governments and stakeholders to take meaningful action. Launched in 2021, TESS is housed at the Geneva Graduate Institute

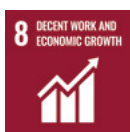
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Contents

Message From the Director	02
About TESS	04
Inclusive International Cooperation and Action on Trade and Sustainability: Review of Key Outcomes and Impact	8
Supporting the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate	9
Advancing Work on Sustainability at the World Trade Organization	11
Supporting Negotiations for an Ambitious Global Plastics Treaty	13
Framing Positive Developing Country Agendas on Trade and Environment	15
Providing Thought Leadership on Sustainability and Trade	18
Improving Transparency in the Trade Flow of Plastics Across the Life Cycle	20
Nurturing Inclusive Dialogue on Trade, Sustainable Agriculture, and Biodiversity	21
Supporting a Fair Transition to a Circular Economy	23
Initiative Spotlight	25
Principles Relevant to the Design and Implementation of Trade-Related Climate Measures	25
Year in Review	28
Partners and Funders	32
Annexes	34

This report outlines our contribution to supporting a global trading system that addresses global environmental crises and advances the Sustainable Development Goals.*



* TESS work contributes directly and/or indirectly to all 17 SDGs. The eight SDGs listed here are those most directly addressed by our activities.

Message From the Director

Welcome to the TESS Annual Report. In this report, we introduce our work and share some of our main achievements and impacts in 2023.

The Forum on Trade, Environment, & the SDGs (TESS) was launched in 2021 to fill a critical gap in efforts seeking to foster inclusive international cooperation and action on trade, environment, and sustainable development.

There is growing recognition of the need to ensure that trade and trade policies address mounting environmental challenges, including the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and of the importance of doing so in ways that reflect and support progress on the international community's many commitments to equity, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and just transitions.

However, trade-related action on sustainability is increasingly fragmented, characterized by a growing array of national, bilateral, and regional efforts as well as supply chain and sector- or issue-specific initiatives and partnerships. This fragmentation is leading to a range of frictions, potentially undermining the sustainability impact of such efforts and the wider cooperation and collective action urgently needed and which must be sustained over time.

Addressing the global public good of tackling sustainability crises requires both inclusive international cooperation as well as integrated approaches to issues that cut across traditional silos of trade, environment, and development policymaking. We believe that multilateral settings, institutions, and cooperation, including at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and through multilateral environmental agreements, have a unique value added and role to play.

Since its creation, TESS has established itself as a leading player working to support international cooperation on sustainability and trade, both in International Geneva and beyond. We play a critical role in facilitating the incubation of new ideas and solutions, offering a space for informal and solution-oriented dialogue in a non-negotiating setting, providing behind-the-scenes support, particularly for developing countries, and working to connect the



dots between organizations and experts on topics where greater coherence is urgently needed.

A critical challenge that we embrace and which guides our work is to capitalize on this growing engagement in order to foster ambitious and inclusive cooperation and action around concrete outcomes. A core strength of our work is this commitment to moving ideas into action.

In 2023, TESS delivered exceptional results of which we are proud!

TESS has played a pivotal role in supporting the creation of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, whose 60-plus members are in a unique position to drive a positive trade contribution to the global climate agenda through high-level political dialogue. Throughout 2023, we provided technical support for coalition outcomes, including preparations for a Ministerial Communiqué and Menu of Voluntary Actions delivered at the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) in early 2024, when TESS was also nominated to act as the coalition's Secretariat.

In 2023, TESS was contracted to provide a supporting role to the Secretariat of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC). The HAC, which has over 60 members from a diversity of regions and levels of economic development, is committed to developing an ambitious global plastics treaty. In addition, TESS actively supported the ongoing treaty negotiations by providing analysis and opportunities for dialogue on where and how trade and trade policies can facilitate these negotiations.

A notable achievement in 2023 was the release of a report on *Principles of international law relevant for*

consideration in the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures by an international legal expert group convened by TESS. The report attracted considerable interest and traction among a broad range of governments and stakeholders, including in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment.

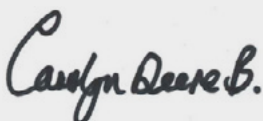
Throughout 2023, TESS played an active leadership role in sustaining meaningful engagement of WTO members on the importance of cooperation on environment and sustainable development. Among other activities, this included support for three member-led initiatives on environmental sustainability, plastic pollution, and fossil fuel subsidy reform, where we provided detailed inputs on options for cooperation, many of which were reflected in statements prepared for MC13.

An important dimension of our work to advance sustainability at the WTO is to support the identification and formulation of developing country perspectives and priorities on trade and environment at the multilateral level. In 2023, we completed a series of policy papers commissioned with regional partners on developing country perspectives on trade, climate, and sustainable development.

TESS was also regularly invited to provide thought leadership on issues of trade, environment, and sustainable development, especially on opportunities for multilateral cooperation, including at major international gatherings such as the UN Climate Change Conference, the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, the UN plastic treaty negotiations, and the WTO Public Forum as well as at events hosted by a range of stakeholder networks.

Many more examples of our achievements and impact in 2023 are described in this report.

I wish to thank TESS staff for their dedication and commitment during a year in which we grew and matured tremendously as an organization. I also wish to thank our many partners and supporters whose collaboration has been vital to enable us to deliver on our mission and jointly act as agents of change. The foundations are solidly in place at TESS to help shape a future where the trading system effectively addresses global environmental crises and advances sustainable development goals.



Carolyn Deere Birkbeck
Founder and Executive Director, TESS

About TESS

OUR VISION

Our vision is a world where the global trading system effectively addresses global environmental crises and advances sustainable development goals.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to foster inclusive international cooperation and action on trade and sustainability.

OUR APPROACH

Based in International Geneva, TESS aims to support the multilateral dialogue, inclusive international cooperation, and policy action necessary to align trade and trade policies with the urgent need for environmental action, sustainable development, and just transitions.

To foster inclusive international cooperation and action on trade and sustainability, our activities seek to catalyse inclusive, evidence-based, and solutions-oriented dialogue and policymaking, connect the dots between policy communities, provide thought leadership on priorities and policy options, and inspire governments and stakeholders to take meaningful action.

We add strategic value to existing efforts by supporting collaborations and coordination among key actors and policy communities and by drawing on the perspectives and expertise of a diversity of international stakeholders.

In so doing, we actively seek to ensure the engagement, participation, and representation of developing country voices in international agenda-setting on trade and sustainability.

OUR TOOLBOX

We **convene** public briefings, high-level dialogues, expert meetings, and off-the-record informal discussions.

We **inform** and advise key stakeholders and government officials on strategic developments and opportunities.

We **curate** and produce policy-relevant analysis and briefings, working with a diverse array of international experts and partners.

We **support** strategic collaborative initiatives and consultations.

HOW WE WORK



Connect

We foster inclusive, solutions-oriented dialogue on trade, environment, and sustainable development.



Incubate

We support action-oriented solutions, catalyse new initiatives, and introduce promising new perspectives and proposals into policy processes.



Inform

We inform by facilitating access to policy-relevant updates, evidence, and analysis in accessible formats and building shared understanding.



Equip

We support governments and stakeholders to monitor and participate effectively in relevant international processes, with a cross-cutting focus on supporting engagement of actors from developing countries.

OUR STRATEGY

Our work is organized around four **core themes**, reflecting the triple planetary crises of climate change, nature loss, and pollution, and a number of specific **policy areas** responding to evolving and emerging policy developments. Alongside, we are engaged in several **initiatives** that respond to strategic policy opportunities. All of our activities aim to foster inclusive international cooperation and action on trade and sustainability that supports sustainable development.

Our **policy areas** include among others: subsidies; technology; sustainability, trade, and finance; standards and regulations; and environmental goods and services.

Our four **core themes** are:



CLIMATE CRISIS

Fostering inclusive international cooperation on trade and trade policies to advance climate mitigation and adaptation, climate-resilient development, and fair transitions.

tessforum.org/work/climate-crisis



NATURE, FOOD, AND RESOURCES

Fostering inclusive international cooperation on nature-positive trade and trade policies relevant to biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, food systems, and use of natural resources.

tessforum.org/work/natural-environment



PLASTIC POLLUTION

Fostering inclusive international cooperation on trade and trade policies to support global efforts to end plastic pollution.

tessforum.org/work/plastic-pollution



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Fostering inclusive international cooperation on trade and trade policies to enable a circular economy that serves sustainable development priorities and environmental goals.

tessforum.org/work/circular-economy

OUR INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY NETWORK

TESS benefits from the support of a regionally diverse International Advisory Network (IAN) drawn from a broad range of international organizations, stakeholder groups, and research institutions. The IAN supports us through advice on emerging strategic policy developments, research, and collaboration opportunities.

Find out more: tessforum.org/people

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

The TESS Steering Committee provides guidance on strategy and priorities. The committee is comprised of eminent representatives from different backgrounds actively involved in international trade, environment, and sustainable development.

Find out more: tessforum.org/people

GOVERNANCE

TESS is subject to the Geneva Graduate Institute's governance and oversight mechanisms, as well as its financial administration, human resources, and oversight systems.

Find out more: tessforum.org/governance





Inclusive International Cooperation and Action on Trade and Sustainability: Review of Key Outcomes and Impact

Supporting the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate



TESS has played a pivotal role in supporting the creation of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, which brings together 60-plus ministers from different regions and varying levels of development, climate vulnerabilities, and trade circumstances to foster inclusive international cooperation at the nexus of climate, trade, and sustainable development. The coalition was launched in January 2023 on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. In recognition of its supportive role from inception, TESS has been nominated to act as the Secretariat.

Co-led by the trade ministers of Ecuador, the European Union, Kenya, and New Zealand, the coalition grew from a recognition that international trade can and must make a positive contribution to driving down greenhouse gas emissions, and enable a just transition to climate-neutral, resilient, and sustainable economies. A core contribution of the coalition is to serve as a platform for high-level engagement to diffuse and manage growing tensions at the interface of trade, climate, and sustainable development priorities. The members of the coalition are in a unique position to drive a positive trade contribution to the global climate agenda and the need for high-level political dialogue.

Throughout 2023, TESS was active in providing technical support for coalition outcomes, including a Ministerial Communiqué and Menu of Voluntary Actions delivered at the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13), for which background work commenced in September, as well as an op-ed published by the World Economic Forum and authored by 10 coalition members. Moreover, we supported the co-leads' efforts to further diversify and grow the coalition.

Additionally, TESS facilitated coalition meetings, consultations, and outreach, engaging members, stakeholders, and partners such as the WTO, UNCTAD, UNEP, International Chamber of Commerce, UNFCCC, and World Economic Forum. TESS helped ensure coalition presence and visibility at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in November, including an event with the heads of international organizations and a roundtable meeting with relevant coalition stakeholders hosted by Ecuador.

Find out more: tessforum.org/initiatives/coalition-of-trade-ministers-on-climate





For us, sustainability is not just an environmental issue—it is also an economic, social, and moral imperative. Therefore, our collective actions, or lack thereof, will determine the kind of life we enjoy now as well as what future, if any, we leave for our children and grandchildren.

H.E. Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Member of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, at a reception hosted by TESS at the Geneva Graduate Institute on 14 September 2023

Second Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, 25 February 2024, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Advancing Work on Sustainability at the World Trade Organization



TESS has established itself as a key convener and thought leader on trade, environment, and sustainable development in the multilateral setting by contributing to momentum on trade and sustainability issues at the WTO.

We have built a reputation as a neutral, trusted, and credible partner that curates timely information and puts forward concrete ideas in discussions of the member-led Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD), Dialogue on Plastic Pollution (DPP), and Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform (FFSR) initiative. TESS actively supports the engagement of members in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). Additionally, TESS plays a unique role in supporting regular dialogue among delegations at the technical and ambassadorial level, between policymakers, experts, and civil society, and between the trade and environment policy communities on the sustainability agenda at the WTO.

Throughout 2023, TESS played an active leadership role in sustaining meaningful engagement of WTO members on the importance of environment and sustainable development. A specific value-added of TESS is the hands-on engagement and presence of our staff in supporting the day-to-day work of delegations in Geneva to grapple constructively with issues of trade and sustainability. Our reputation as a trusted convener helped forge conversations with a diversity of WTO members and link them to relevant expertise.

Given the sensitivity and tensions surrounding trade diplomacy in general, and trade and sustainability specifically, this ability to “get and keep” people talking in off-the-record and informal settings—from ambassadors and technical level officials to stakeholders—is a core and recognized hallmark of TESS in the multilateral setting.

In 2023, TESS support for the three member-led initiatives included detailed inputs on options for cooperation, many of which were reflected in statements prepared for MC13. In the DPP, TESS provided comments in pre-plenary and plenary meetings on drafts of the MC13 Ministerial Statement where we highlighted, among other priorities, the importance of pursuing concrete outcomes that contribute to international cooperation on plastic pollution.

At TESSD, TESS was invited to present its report on the principles of international law relevant for consideration in the design of trade-related climate measures written by an international legal expert group convened by TESS (see Initiative Spotlight below). In addition, discussions on environmental goods and services reflected proposals and inputs from TESS, as did the mapping of trade policy aspects of circular economy and of member practices in the development of trade-related climate measures.

The value of TESS contributions to the member-led initiatives and to broader sustainability work at the WTO has been well-recognized by delegates as well as external stakeholders. An important dimension of our work to advance sustainability at the WTO is to support the identification and formulation of developing country perspectives and priorities on trade at the multilateral level (see below on framing positive developing country agendas on trade and environment).

Find out more: tessforum.org/initiatives/tess-at-the-world-trade-organization





As one of the coordinators of the DPP initiative at the WTO, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to TESS and Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck. TESS, and Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck in particular, have played an indispensable role in the preparation and development of the DPP, from its launch to its current success, co-sponsored by 76 WTO members, covering 85% of global plastics trade.

Xiaohui ZHANG, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of China to the
WTO



For years the WTO has flirted with ‘trade and’ agendas, whether it is trade and environment, gender, health, or development. Addressing these intersections should not only be near the top of the WTO’s to-do list; it is the to-do list that would safeguard any future multilateral trading system.

Bernice Lee, Hoffmann Distinguished Fellow for Sustainability; Chair, Sustainability Accelerator Advisors Board; Chatham House

Member of the TESS Steering Committee

Supporting Negotiations for an Ambitious Global Plastics Treaty



In March 2022, 175 UN member states agreed on a resolution to launch negotiations on a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution at the Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The resolution set in motion a process for concluding a new global plastics treaty.

Realizing the ambition of a new international treaty to end plastic pollution calls for attention to how we can harness international economic cooperation to transform the plastics economy, support a just transition to sustainability, and foster new economic opportunities, especially for developing countries. In this context, TESS supports the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) by promoting cooperation on where and how trade and trade policies can facilitate the treaty negotiations, including through the DPP.

In 2023, TESS formally assumed a supporting role to the Secretariat of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC). The HAC, which has over 60 members from a broad diversity of regions and levels of economic development, is committed to developing an ambitious treaty based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics.

TESS began supporting the work of the HAC in the lead up to INC-2, which took place in Paris, France from 29 May to 2 June 2023. This support continued at INC-3—the third of five planned sessions to develop a plastics treaty—which was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 11–19 November 2023. In preparation for INC-2 and INC-3, TESS supported the organization and moderation of HAC negotiator workshops and collaboration that contributed to the elaboration of priorities to guide common action.

In recognition of the HAC's impact, the coalition has been nominated for the prestigious Earthshot Prize 2024. The HAC was nominated for its rapidly scaling restorative and transformational solutions to an increasingly urgent plastic pollution crisis.





HAC workshop, 12–13 October 2023, Geneva, Switzerland.



The HAC provides the North Star for guiding ambition within the treaty negotiation process and is the only cross-regional group of countries with a clear set of priorities, approaches, and common ambition.

Christina Dixon, Ocean Campaign Leader,
Environment Investigation Agency

Beyond working with the HAC, TESS plays an active role in supporting the treaty negotiations, focusing on a number of key topics. In the lead up to INC-3, for example, we participated in an event organized by the OECD, contributing to discussions on means of implementation, financing, and trade. We also spoke at an official INC-2 side event on the role of trade measures in the future instrument.

Alongside, three of our key work themes are around financing treaty implementation, primary polymer production—including links with the climate crisis—and reinforcing attention to the health impacts of plastic pollution. During INC-3, TESS hosted a series of informal roundtables with stakeholders and government officials on these topics and moderated a side event on the role of trade measures in the future instrument.

To build bridges between environment and trade officials, TESS debriefed delegations and stakeholders in Geneva on trade-related issues and possible treaty provisions discussed at INC-3 and their relevance to work underway at the WTO.

Find out more: tessforum.org/initiatives/tess-and-the-global-plastics-treaty-negotiations



We hope these papers will help catalyse inclusive discussions on trade, climate, and sustainable development at the WTO and in other international settings that reflect the priorities and concerns of developing countries on the role of trade and trade policies in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation and climate-resilient sustainable development.

Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Founder and Executive Director, TESS



Many thanks for getting me to write this paper! It certainly pushed me to learn about trade and climate change; just in time as the momentum was growing in this direction. As a result, I have now made so many presentations including as keynote speaker for UNCTAD and the African International Economic Law Network and on a platform with the Afreximbank speaking to the COP delegates.

Prof. Faizel Ismail, Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

Framing Positive Developing Country Agendas on Trade and Environment



Discussions on trade and environment at the WTO and in a range of other international settings are largely dominated by concerns, policies, and proposals from more advanced economies. TESS seeks to support the inclusion of developing country perspectives and priorities in these discussions, including how to advance them at the multilateral and regional levels.

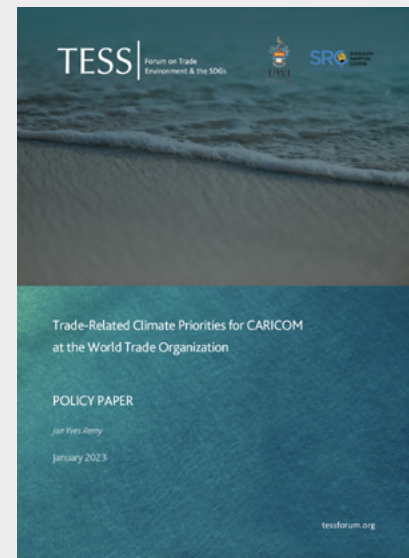
In 2023, TESS completed a series of policy papers commissioned with regional partners on *Developing country perspectives on trade, climate change, and sustainable development*, which includes papers on Africa, the Caribbean Community, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. Each paper was prepared by experts and institutions from the region and seeks to highlight regional and developing country perspectives and priorities on the role of international trade cooperation in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation and climate-resilient sustainable development.

To facilitate feedback and dialogue on priorities and opportunities for action, regional workshops and consultations of stakeholders from each region were convened, involving government officials, trade negotiators, and also regional organizations, academia, and civil society. Preliminary findings of the papers were presented at a 2022 WTO Public Forum working session and in informal and regional meetings.

Recognizing that the gap between developed and developing countries with respect to the development, access, and endogenous production and deployment of climate-relevant technologies is among the key constraints adversely affecting collective progress in global efforts to achieve sustainable development and effective climate action, TESS published in late 2023 a policy brief on *Addressing the climate technology gap through effective technology transfer*. The paper, which explores various entry points for enhancing international cooperation on technology transfer in the WTO and UNFCCC, was discussed in informal meetings and consultations with delegations and stakeholders in Geneva and its findings were also shared at COP28.

More generally, throughout the year, TESS continued to support and facilitate consistent engagement of developing countries on the trade, environment, and sustainable development interface and their efforts to shape the agenda for international deliberations. A key aspect of this work has been to offer informal settings for delegations to exchange views, build shared understandings, and review opportunities to foster positive agendas on trade and environmental sustainability. Additionally, TESS was invited on a number of occasions throughout 2023 to brief groups of developing countries on the state of play on trade and environment issues at the WTO, as well as on the relevance and implications for them.

Find out more: tessforum.org/initiatives/developing-country-perspectives-on-trade-and-climate-change





TESS has supported tangible movement on the WTO's trade and environment agenda: it has provided balanced analytical work and offered concrete recommendations, which have been useful for the Philippines and other countries, feeding into discussions within the Committee on Trade and Environment and the various environmental dialogues. TESS has also created a space for developing countries to engage with one another and create shared understandings of development-related trade and environment challenges and opportunities. Beyond this, TESS has been able to achieve an "intangible" in occupying a credible middle ground and provide the space for both developed and developing countries to have an open and informal interface. This ethos is serving to drive further conversations at a high-level through the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate.

Gabriel R. Bautista, Minister
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the
Philippines to the WTO

Providing Thought Leadership on Sustainability and Trade



TESS is regularly invited to provide thought leadership and reflections on issues of trade, environment, and sustainable development, especially on opportunities for multilateral cooperation, including at major international gatherings such as UN climate change conferences, WTO ministerial conferences, annual meetings of the World Economic Forum, and UN plastic treaty negotiations, among others, and at events hosted by a range of different stakeholder networks.

In January 2023, TESS was in demand on an array of issues at the interface of trade and sustainability at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. Beyond engagement in the launch of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (see above), TESS Director Carolyn Deere Birkbeck was invited to moderate a high-level panel on *Beat plastic pollution* as well as a session on the global plastics treaty and another on circularity of critical materials.

From September 2022 to September 2023, TESS was invited to participate in workshops on climate, circular economy, sustainable development, sustainable shipping, agriculture, the blue economy, and governance and institutional reform as part of the *Remaking the global trading system for a sustainable future project*, of which TESS is a member of the Steering Committee. The project culminated with the release in January 2024 of the Villars Framework for a Sustainable Global Trade System.

As noted, TESS played an active role in supporting the plastics treaty negotiations at sessions of the INC through enabling and participating in discussions on how enhanced trade cooperation can facilitate the process (see above). To mark World Environment Day on 5 June, TESS moderated a high-level dialogue on *Multilateral solutions to beat plastic pollution*, which reviewed outcomes from the INC process and discussed multilateralism in action, convening actors from across International Geneva.

Following the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) where the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in December 2022, TESS led the way on a collaboration with UNEP, the WTO, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2023 to convene a roundtable on nature-positive trade for sustainable development to discuss how trade cooperation can play a key role in supporting implementation of all 23 biodiversity targets covered under the framework.

In September, TESS joined numerous sessions in speaking and moderating roles at the WTO Public Forum 2023, which examined how trade can contribute to a greener and more sustainable future. On the margins of the forum, we also collaborated with Geneva Trade Week, hosting the high-level opening plenary on the role of cooperation on trade and trade policy in advancing action on the SDGs, and hosted a roundtable breakfast on climate and trade as well as a reception with keynotes from developing country trade ministers on how to advance inclusive cooperation on trade, climate, and sustainable development.

From 30 November to 12 December, UNFCCC COP28 held the first-ever Trade Day (4 December) and a Trade House Pavilion, co-hosted by the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, and ICC, providing a dedicated space for discussions on the nexus of trade and climate action throughout the conference. The Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate partnered with TESS in hosting a roundtable meeting at the Ecuador Pavilion to hear perspectives from the global climate community on priorities for cooperation by trade ministers.

“

In my diplomatic career, I have encountered few individuals with the enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication of Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck and her team at TESS. They are a first-rate ally in initiatives focused on trade and the environment at the WTO. Carolyn's work has been creative and substantive, demonstrating her deep understanding of the political, social, and regulatory factors at the intersection of the environmental agenda and the multilateral trading system. A concrete aspect that has greatly impressed me is the ability to foster dialogue among diplomatic decision-makers on trade-environment issues. TESS consistently gains access to relevant actors, creates opportunities for them to meet and debate, and ensures that ideas are shaped into the goals that engage them.

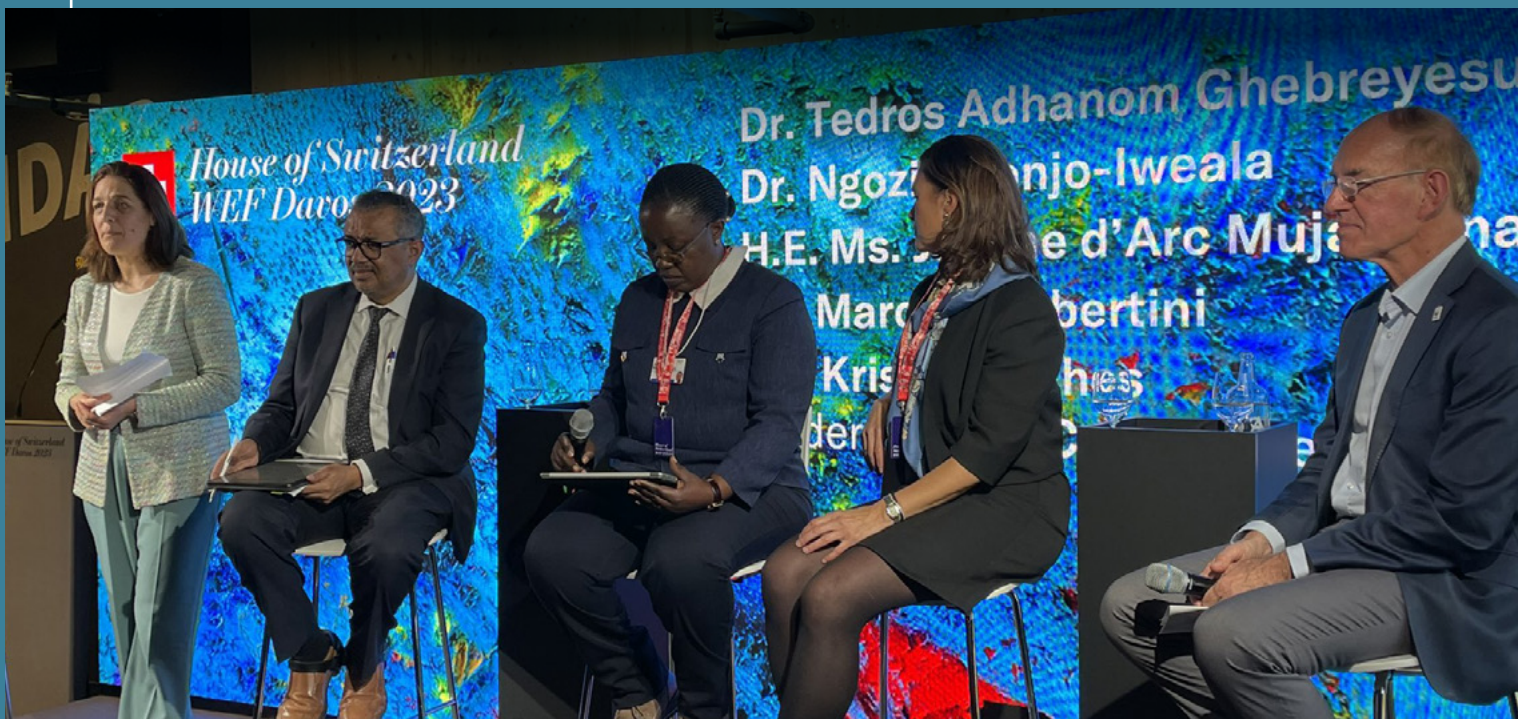
H.E. Ambassador José Valencia,
Permanent Representative of Ecuador
to the WTO and other international
economic organizations in Geneva

TESS engagement at COP28 further included hosting and speaking at a number of events, where the themes discussed included, among others, the role of trade and small business climate action in SIDS, LLDCs, and LDCs, the importance of cooperation on non-tariff measures and also on trade in low-carbon technologies, and the need for a development friendly agenda for trade and climate. Ahead of the COP, TESS published an op-ed in Synergies (see below) on the importance of inclusive cooperation on trade to address the climate crisis in an ambitious, fair, and just manner. Alongside, TESS also co-hosted and moderated a high-level panel with Rwanda on the links between the plastics and climate crises, as well as with the Pacific region on the same theme, which contributed to highlighting the relevance of plastics as a sector for attention in the climate diplomacy arena.

Finally, on 15 December, TESS shared its views on the low-carbon transition and co-development opportunities at a UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Expert Group Meeting on innovation ecosystems for development, structural change, and equity.

During the year, TESS published 22 publications in a variety of formats ranging from policy papers to briefing notes, reports, and expert opinions tailored to audience needs. In a notable development, we launched in August 2023 a blog called Synergies dedicated to promoting inclusive policy dialogue at the intersection of trade, environment, and sustainable development, drawing on perspectives from a range of experts from around the world, with ambitious development and editorial plans for 2024.

High-level panel on *Beat plastic pollution*,
Geneva Day @ House of Switzerland, 17
January 2023, Davos



Improving Transparency in the Trade Flow of Plastics Across the Life Cycle



A critical missing piece for effective, evidence-based policymaking to tackle plastic pollution is reliable and disaggregated data on cross-border trade flows across the life cycle of plastics. In the negotiations for a global plastics treaty, discussions at the DPP, and efforts to strengthen regulation of plastic waste trade through the Basel Convention, for instance, governments have noted the importance of improving the transparency of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics and of the material composition of products traded internationally.

As the collection of trade data is underpinned by the World Custom Organization's (WCO) Harmonized System (HS), this international nomenclature is an important starting point for a more granular picture of trade flows across the life cycle of plastics. Through launching a discussion and providing recommendations on possible amendments to the HS that could enable better regulation of international plastics trade, TESS contributes to improving transparency in the trade flow of plastics across the life cycle from downstream through to upstream operations and waste.

Building on a policy paper containing detailed annexes published in 2022, TESS provided specific recommendations in the context of the current 2022–2027 HS amendment cycle. A number of governments have expressed interest in the proposed amendments, which could make an important contribution to efforts to tackle plastic pollution. The paper—and the options identified for HS amendment—builds on joint research by UNCTAD and the Geneva Graduate Institute. In May 2023, drawing on a collaboration with UNCTAD and the UNCTAD Plastics Trade Database, TESS published a briefing note providing an updated review of trends in trade flows across the life cycle of plastics. The analysis and data covered trade in feedstocks, precursors, and chemical additives commonly used in plastics through to plastic products and plastic waste.

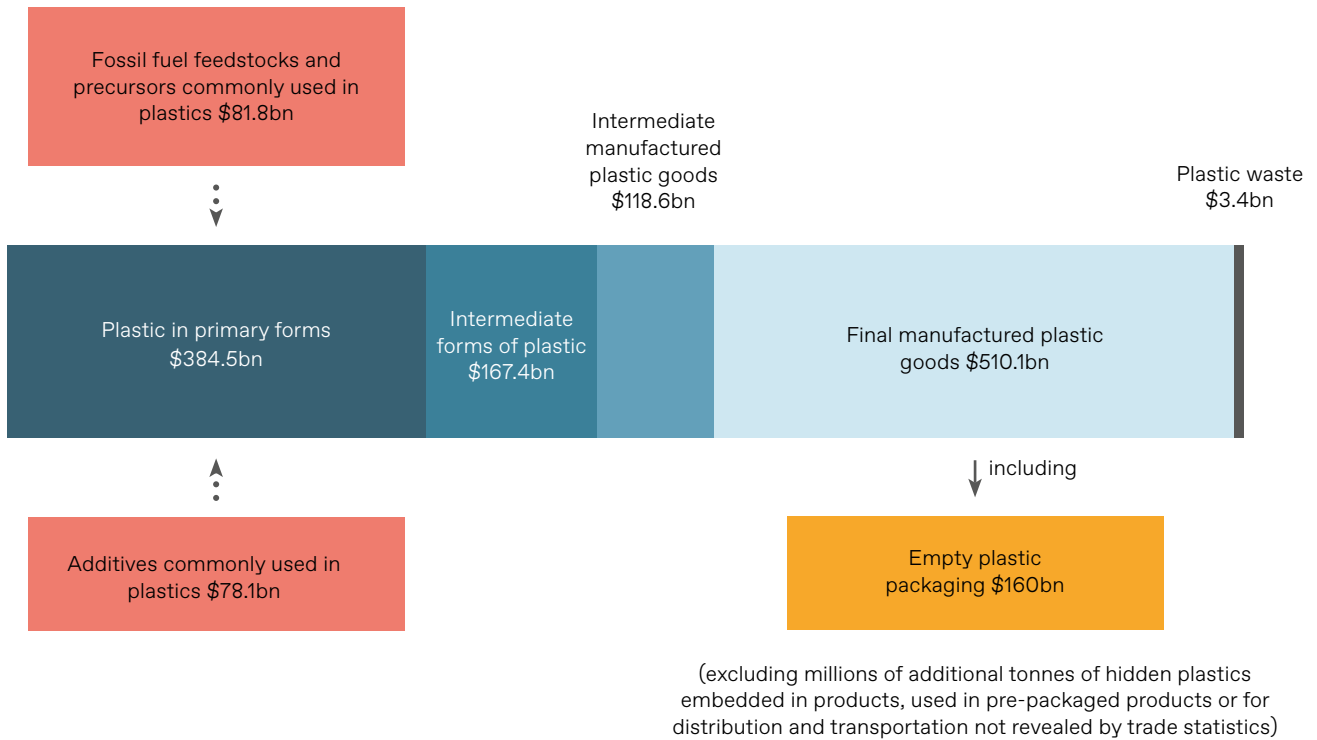
In a positive example of moving from ideas to policy impact, this groundwork by TESS spurred collaboration between the WTO and WCO secretariats at the request of the DPP coordinators, resulting in plastics-related HS amendments being a topic for discussion at the WCO, and a proposal is on the table for consideration by governments.



I believe that environmental issues will dominate all aspects of multilateral discussions for the rest of the decade at least. To date, however, the conversations have tended to evolve separate sets of people. TESS is a bold new attempt to widen the conversation and thus stimulate cross-fertilization of ideas, knowledge, and perspective.

Prof. Joost Pauwelyn, Professor, International Law; Co-Director, Centre of Trade and Economic Integration; Geneva Graduate Institute
Member of the TESS Steering Committee

Export flows across the life cycle of plastics (2021) from TESS 2023 briefing note



Nurturing Inclusive Dialogue on Trade, Sustainable Agriculture, and Biodiversity



In 2023, TESS advanced work on a number of activities focusing on trade, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity in the WTO and other relevant fora.

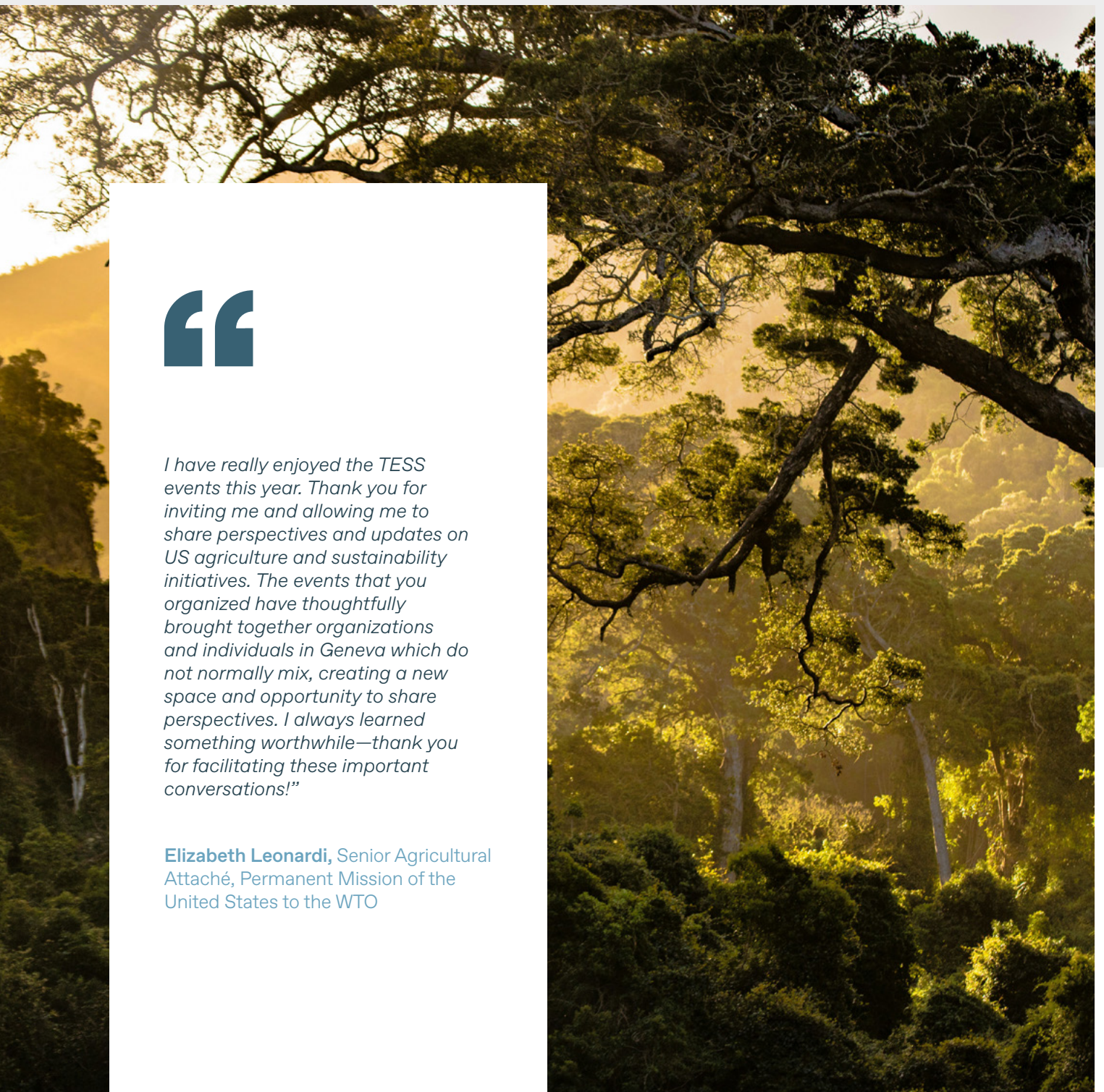
A unique TESS contribution in discussions on trade and agriculture is engagement with a diverse group of countries from the perspective of sustainability priorities, which is not the framing normally used in agricultural trade negotiations. A dimension of this work was a series of “brainstorming” roundtables looking at different aspects of sustainable agriculture, which brought together Geneva-based delegates from developed and developing countries with leading experts from think tanks, research centres, stakeholder organizations, and international organizations. The roundtables provided an opportunity for in-depth exploration of key trends and policy developments as well as challenges and opportunities for trade-related cooperation around sustainable agriculture.

As part of the series, on 28 April 2023, TESS co-hosted with UNEP a roundtable on trade and deforestation exploring options for promoting inclusive cooperation that address the challenges faced by developing countries while fostering a transition to more sustainable agricultural practices. Then on 23 May, TESS co-hosted in partnership with UNEP and ITC a roundtable on trade and sustainability requirements and standards in agriculture, which was complemented by a policy brief on the same topic. Earlier, in a commentary published in April 2023, TESS explored new windows of opportunity to advance cooperation in the area of sustainable agriculture and trade at the WTO, drawing on a policy brief published in late 2022.

“

I have really enjoyed the TESS events this year. Thank you for inviting me and allowing me to share perspectives and updates on US agriculture and sustainability initiatives. The events that you organized have thoughtfully brought together organizations and individuals in Geneva which do not normally mix, creating a new space and opportunity to share perspectives. I always learned something worthwhile—thank you for facilitating these important conversations!”

Elizabeth Leonardi, Senior Agricultural Attaché, Permanent Mission of the United States to the WTO



An important achievement in 2023 was the engagement and mobilization of a diverse group of experts in a new working group on environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies as part of our activities on a trading system that supports sustainability in the agricultural sector. Prior to the official launching of the expert group in early 2024, TESS undertook a range of advance consultations in 2023 on options for addressing environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies in the WTO context and the identification of experts from a range of regions and policy communities to advise on this analytical work.

As interest grows in achieving sustainability in agricultural production and food systems, government subsidies to agriculture are a critical topic for attention. The expert group convened by TESS has been tasked to identify a set of environmentally harmful subsidies for priority action at the international level and inform discussion on options for cooperative action. A final report synthesizing the group discussions will be produced to inform ongoing discussions at the WTO as well as in the OECD, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework, building on prior TESS work on nature-positive trade—notably our participation at the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2022 where we co-organized an event with UNEP, UNCTAD, and the WTO exploring the range of trade-related policies and measures relevant to supporting implementation of the framework—in March 2023 we collaborated with UNEP, the WTO, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to convene a roundtable on nature-positive trade for sustainable development. The roundtable discussions focused on how trade cooperation can support implementation of all 23 biodiversity targets covered under the framework. Additionally, in partnership with UNEP, TRADEHub, and GCRF-UKRI, TESS co-published a policy brief on *Nature-positive trade for sustainable development* identifying how the multilateral trading system can contribute to delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Supporting a Fair Transition to a Circular Economy



As interest in the shift to a circular economy grows, there is mounting attention to trade and supply chain dimensions and the relevance of trade policies. To support a fair transition to a more resource-efficient, low carbon, and safe circular economy that advances sustainable development, inclusive international cooperation on the trade dimensions will be vital.

To contribute to this cooperation, in 2023 TESS mobilized a group of leading international experts from the trade, environment, and sustainable development communities to develop guidance on best practices and approaches on the trade dimensions of circular economy policies and measures, with the overarching goal of advancing sustainable development goals. The group includes experts from academia, think tanks, and intergovernmental and stakeholder organizations representing a diversity of perspectives and regional expertise.

The aim of the group is to prepare a report on best practices and approaches in 2024. The group's first two meetings were held in September and October 2023, complemented by consultations

between TESS and key stakeholders and experts as well as with government delegations on key issues for consideration. The report will be published with the aim of contributing to ongoing deliberations on these topics at the WTO in the context of the Committee on Trade and Environment and the TESSD and DPP initiatives, as well as in other international organizations and processes, including the OECD, UNCTAD, UNEP, WCO, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

In November, TESS introduced the expert group and its objectives at a TESSD meeting of the Informal Working Group on Circular Economy – Circularity. The presentation on approaches and good practices for the design of trade-related circular economy policies received positive interest from members.

On 24 March, TESS organized with UNEP a roundtable on trade and circular economy in the textiles and clothing sector to contribute to discussions on the relevance of trade and trade-related policies to the circular economy transition in different critical sectors. Participants noted that the current linear model of the textiles and clothing sector puts significant pressure on natural resources and ecosystems across the life cycle of products, and highlighted the range of trade-related challenges and opportunities for developing countries relevant to an inclusive and fair transition to circularity in textiles and clothing.



“

As one of the co-convenors of one of the TESSD informal working groups, we have been able to count on TESS when we have needed expert input on substantive aspects or when we have been looking for partners for informal activities. TESS has been a relevant actor and a constructive partner with whom we look forward to continue working on issues that will be increasingly relevant in the context of international trade.

H.E Sofia Boza Martinez,
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative, Permanent Mission of
Chile to the WTO

Initiative Spotlight

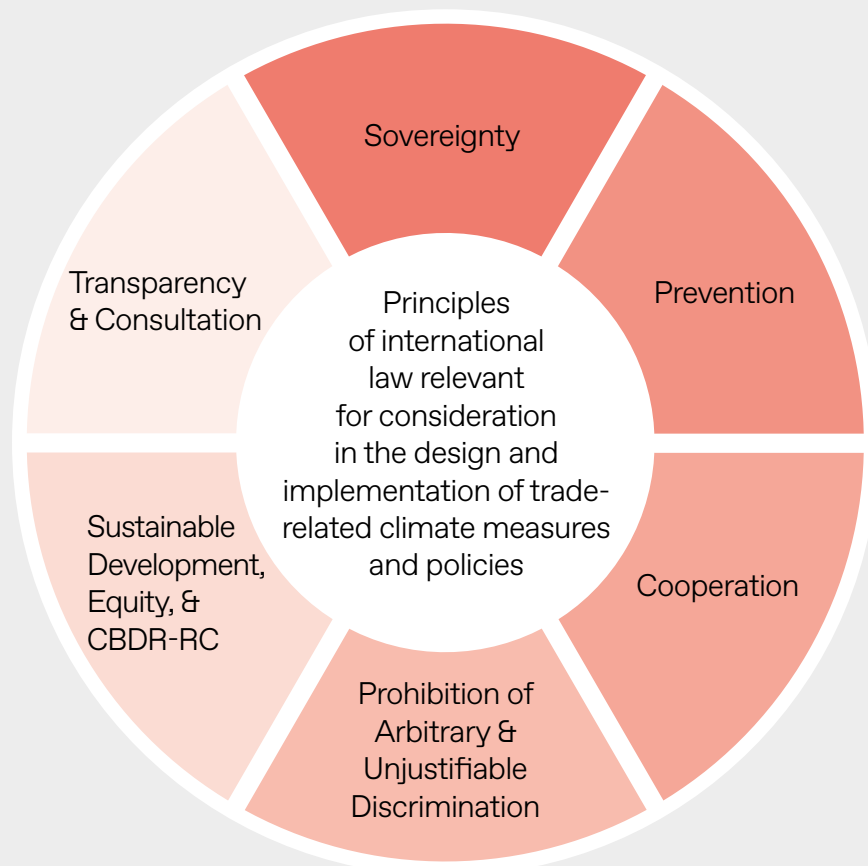
Principles Relevant to the Design and Implementation of Trade-Related Climate Measures



A notable achievement in 2023 was the release in September of a report on *Principles of international law relevant for consideration in the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures* by an International Legal Expert Group on Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies. Convened by TESS in 2022, the expert group engaged a diverse group of eminent international legal scholars from leading institutions in both developed and developing countries. To inform their reflections and support policy relevance and resonance, the group's work included consultations with a range of government representatives and stakeholders from a diversity of countries.

The report reviews a set of recognized principles of international law that the expert group deems especially relevant for consideration in the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures and policies. Shared understandings around such principles could go a long way in reducing tensions and avoiding politically charged disputes at the WTO, while facilitating cooperation on inclusive trade policies that support climate action and advance sustainable development.

In addition to highlighting the relevance of these principles, the report aims to provide governments with some general guidance, which, it is hoped, could be useful in the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures and policies in a manner that bridges different areas of law coherently.



Note: CBDR-RC stands for common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The report has attracted considerable interest and traction among a broad range of governments and stakeholders. An early discussion of the report took place in a packed room during a WTO Trade and Environment Week event hosted in June 2023 by Colombia in cooperation with TESS. Members of the expert group were also present to discuss the principles at a jammed session organized by TESS at the WTO Public Forum on 14 September 2023. TESS also highlighted the principles at an official COP28 session in the Trade House Pavilion on 2 December 2023. A short commentary on the principles and their rationale written by the expert group was published to coincide with the climate summit. Notably, at the request of Colombia, the principles were presented and discussed at a formal session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment.

Find out more: tessforum.org/initiatives/principles-for-the-design-of-trade-related-climate-measures



I wish to commend the efforts made by TESS and the expert group to identify the principles of international law, which are a good starting point for further dialogue and cooperation on trade-related climate measures.

H.E. Li Chenggang, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China to the WTO



The principles outlined in the report are extremely important. They provide guidance and inspiration for the development of law in many fields and in building bridges and reaching compromise.

Jake Werksman, EU Principal Advisor, DG CLIMA



This report is a game changer in bringing together common principles from trade and environmental law to help guide policymakers in designing their climate policies.

Jan Yves Remy, Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, The University of the West Indies



In my view, the report is crucial to foster dialogue, reduce tensions among countries, and promote international cooperation in the context of sustainable development priorities.

Prof. Umberto Celli, Professor of International Law, University of São Paulo

Year in review

2023 Timeline of Key Outcomes and Activities

- Launch of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, with the support of TESS and moderated by our Executive Director.
- TESS moderates a high-level panel on *Beat plastic pollution* and participates in sessions on the global plastics treaty, trade, and circularity of critical minerals at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.
- TESS launches quarterly newsletter.

January

01

February

02

- TESS completes the first phase of initiative on *Developing country perspectives on trade and climate* with publication of regional policy papers co-published with regional partners.

- TESS contributes to WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution (DPP) Plenary Meeting and Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) working group meetings.
- In partnership with Minderoo Foundation, TESS co-hosts a roundtable on plastics and human health, drawing together plastics and health delegates and stakeholders.
- In partnership with UNEP, WTO, and CDB Secretariat, TESS convenes and moderates a roundtable on nature-positive trade for sustainable development.
- In partnership with UNEP, TRADEHub, and GCRF-UKRI, publication of policy brief on *Nature-positive trade for sustainable development*.

March

03

07

July

- TESS announces supporting role for the Secretariat of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution.

08

August

- TESS launches Synergies, a blog featuring views from leading experts on trade and sustainability.

09

September

- Launch of an expert group on trade and circular economy mobilized by TESS to provide guidance on best practices.
- At the WTO Public Forum, TESS launches expert group report on *Principles of international law for consideration in the design and implementation of trade-related climate measures and policies*. In addition, TESS participates as speaker in numerous sessions and hosts on the sidelines a *Roundtable breakfast on climate and trade*.
- TESS hosts the opening plenary of Geneva Trade Week on *The role of trade in advancing action on the SDGs* as well as a reception with guest speakers from the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate on *Advancing cooperation on trade, climate, and sustainable development*.
- In partnership with ISO, publication of policy paper on *Standards in international cooperation to end plastic pollution*.
- In partnership with UNEP and ITC, publication of policy paper on *Sustainability standards and requirements for agriculture*.
- TESS hosts a roundtable on *Fostering access to and transfer of environmental technologies*.
- Having participated in workshops on climate, circular economy, sustainable development, sustainable shipping, agriculture, and the blue economy, TESS participates in the final workshop on governance and institutional reform as part of the *Remaking the global trading system for a sustainable future project* (Villars Framework).

- TESS launches new website and updated branding.
- In partnership with UNEP, TESS co-hosts a roundtable on *Trade and deforestation*.

April

04

- Publication of briefing note reviewing *Trends in trade flows across the life cycle of plastics*.
- In partnership with UNEP and ITC, TESS co-hosts a roundtable on trade and sustainability requirements and standards in agriculture.
- At the second session of negotiations to develop a global plastics treaty (INC-2), TESS participates in an official side event on *The role of trade measures in the future instrument*.

- At WTO Trade and Environment Week 2023, in cooperation with Colombia, TESS hosts an event on *Principles in the design of trade-related climate measures*, previewing our International Expert Group report.
- For World Environment Day, TESS moderates a high-level dialogue on *Multilateral solutions to beat plastic pollution*, hosted by International Geneva and the Geneva Environment Network.

May

05

June

06

10

October

- TESS advances consultations on options for addressing environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies.
- Second meeting of the expert group on circular economy.
- TESS coordinates the organization of a workshop for HAC members in Geneva to prepare for INC-3.
- TESS organizes the Senior Officials Meeting for the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate.

11

November

- Publication of policy brief on *Options for trade-related cooperation on problematic and avoidable plastics*.
- At INC-3, TESS supports the HAC, which issues a Ministerial Joint Statement. TESS participates in meetings organized by UNCTAD and hosts two informal roundtables on *Financing and means of implementation in the plastics treaty* as well as on reduction of primary plastics.
- TESS issues statement at the DPP Pre-Plenary and contributes to TESSD working group meetings.

12

December

- At the 2023 UN Climate Conference (COP28), TESS co-sponsors with Rwanda a high-level session on *The climate impact of plastic production*, and with the co-leads of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate a roundtable on *Global climate community priorities for cooperation by trade ministers*. TESS also speaks in a range of sessions organized by partners on topics including climate and development goals, expanding low-carbon technologies, trade in a net-zero world, and climate transitions in SIDS and LDCs.
- Publication of policy brief on *Addressing the climate technology gap through effective technology transfer*.
- In partnership with Bruegel, TESS hosts a roundtable on *Green industrial subsidies and climate action*.



2023 in Numbers

51



Policy Dialogues

1,635



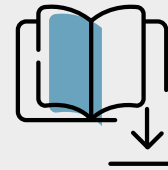
Participants

22



Publications
(Policy Papers &
Expert Views)

1,500+



Publication
Downloads

32,494



Website Page Views
(up 28% from 2022)

2,669



Newsletter Subscribers
(up 9.6% from 2022)

36,770



LinkedIn & X Impressions
(up 82.9% from 2022)

2,984



LinkedIn & X Followers
(up 61.2% from 2022)

Partners and Funders

Our Founding Partners



Launched in 2021, TESS was created as a partnership of the Geneva Graduate Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme. At the institute, we are housed at the Geneva Trade Platform within the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration.



Our involvement with TESS reflects the Graduate Institute's long-standing engagement with International Geneva, and our commitment to sustainability as core to the Graduate Institute's vision and mission. TESS is a timely response to the growing interest in revived multilateral cooperation on the critical intersections of trade, environment, and the SDGs and the need for more inclusive global governance.

Marie-Laure Salles, Director, Geneva Graduate Institute



We are delighted to partner with the Geneva Graduate Institute to foster multilateral cooperation on the trade and trade policies needed to promote green economies and sustainable development and to phase out unsustainable trade, production, and consumption. International agendas on sustainable trade must respond to developing country priorities and advance progress on the SDGs, and will require more interaction between trade and environment policy communities. Based in International Geneva but with a global outlook and advisory network, TESS is designed to respond to these priorities.

Steven Stone, Deputy Director, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme

Our Partnerships



TESS works to foster engagement with a diverse range of experts from all regions, focusing in particular on ensuring representation of developing country voices in international agenda-setting on trade and sustainability, and partnerships with international organizations, stakeholders, universities, academics, and think tanks based in International Geneva and around the world.

Our approach to partnerships is driven by our mission of supporting inclusive international cooperation on trade and sustainability and includes building synergies across policy communities and developing a network of complementary expertise.

A core strength of our work is our commitment to moving ideas into action by identifying and working with people and institutions that can be agents of change.

Our Funders



TESS is a non-profit initiative financed through a combination of grants and in-kind contributions from government and philanthropic donors as well as contractual arrangements to support the implementation of joint projects. TESS is independent and does not advocate on behalf of any specific government or stakeholders.



Annexes

Steering Committee Members

Debapriya BHATTACHARYA

*Chair, Southern Voice; Distinguished Fellow,
Centre for Policy Dialogue*

Vanessa EROGBOGBO

*Chief, Green and Inclusive Value Chains,
International Trade Centre*

Bernice LEE

*Hoffmann Distinguished Fellow for
Sustainability; Chair, Sustainability
Accelerator Advisors Board; Chatham House*

Etienne OUDOT DE DAINVILLE

*Permanent Representative of France to the
World Trade Organization*

Joost PAUWELYN

*Professor, International Law; Co-Director,
Centre of Trade and Economic Integration;
Geneva Graduate Institute*

Elisa TONDA

*Chief, Resources and Markets Branch,
Industry and Economy Division, United
Nations Environment Programme*

Matthew WILSON

*Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Barbados to the United Nations, WTO and
other international organizations in Geneva*

2023 Dialogues and Publications

Policy Dialogues



1. Trade and Climate Action: Shifting the Paradigm for a Just Transition and Sustainable Development – Online (2 February 2023)
2. Ambassadors' Breakfast Dialogue on Plastic Pollution – Geneva (10 February 2023)
3. WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade Stakeholders Meeting – Geneva & Online (10 February 2023)
4. Informal Developing Country Delegations' Breakfast on Trade, Environment, Sustainable Development – Geneva (15 February 2023)
5. TESS Steering Committee Meeting – Geneva & Online (17 February 2023)
6. Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Co-leads Stocktaking Meeting – Geneva (1 March 2023)
7. Informal Discussion with members of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate to debrief on launch and next steps – Geneva & Online (1 March 2023)
8. Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Co-leads planning meeting – Geneva (1 March 2023)
9. Informal Discussion with members of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate to debrief on launch and next steps – Geneva & Online (2 March 2023)
10. Informal Discussion with Geneva-based stakeholders on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate – Geneva & Online (2 March 2023)
11. Information Lunch Meeting at working level with relevant Geneva-based IGO staff on the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate – Geneva (2 March 2023)
12. Debriefing and next steps among Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Co-leads – Geneva (2 March 2023)
13. Nature-positive trade for sustainable development: How can trade-related policies and measures support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? – Geneva & Online (14 March 2023)
14. Environmental Goods and Services Meeting with UK Mission and other delegations – Geneva (17 March 2023)
15. Roundtable on Trade and the Circular Economy in the Textiles and Clothing Sector – Geneva & Online (24 March 2023)
16. Minderoo Monaco Commission Report Roundtable Discussion – Geneva & Online (24 March 2023)
17. Deep Dive Roundtable on trade, Plastics – Geneva & Online (24 March 2023)
18. Roundtable on Climate Change and Trade: Between Ambition and Fairness – Geneva (27 March 2023)

19. Roundtable on trade and deforestation: options for enhanced and inclusive international cooperation – Geneva (28 March 2023)
20. Informal Developing Country Delegations' Breakfast on trade, environment & sustainable development – Geneva (3 May 2023)
21. UNEP-TESS Strategic Meeting: Evolving landscape and opportunities at the nexus of environment and trade – Online (4 May 2023)
22. Informal breakfast preparations for the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution – Geneva (23 May 2023)
23. Roundtable on trade and sustainability requirements and standards in agriculture: options for enhanced international cooperation – Geneva & Online (23 May 2023)
24. Meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate and Invited Members – Geneva & Online (12 June 2023)
25. Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Focal Point Meeting – Geneva (13 June 2023)
26. WTO Environment Week: Panel on Principles for the Consideration in the Design and Implementation of Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies – Geneva & Online (14 June 2023)
27. WTO processes on environment, development, technology transfer: discussion on interlinkages – Geneva (5 September 2023)
28. First virtual meeting of the Expert Group on Circular Economy – Online (6 September 2023)
29. Geneva Trade Week Opening Plenary: The Role of Trade and Trade Policy in Advancing Action on the SDGs: How to Boost Coherence and Cooperation? – Geneva (11 September 2023)
30. Geneva Trade Week: Breakfast Discussion on Climate and Trade among stakeholders – Geneva (13 September 2023)
31. WTO Public Forum: Trade-related Climate Measures: Principles for Design & Implementation – Geneva (14 September 2023)
32. Geneva Trade Week Reception: Advancing Inclusive Cooperation on Trade & Climate – Geneva (14 September 2023)
33. Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate Focal points meeting – Geneva & Online (5 October 2023)
34. High Ambition Coalition to end plastic pollution (HAC) workshop – Geneva (12-13 October 2023)
35. Informal Developing Country Delegations' Breakfast on Trade, Environment, Sustainable Development – Geneva (17 October 2023)
36. Senior Officials meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate – Geneva & Online (20 October 2023)
37. Expert Group on trade and circular economy – Online (27 October 2023)
38. Informal roundtable on financing and means of implementation of a plastics treaty – Nairobi (11 November 2023)
39. Informal roundtable on reducing plastic polymer production and the plastics treaty – Nairobi (12 November 2023)

40. Informal roundtable on reducing plastic polymer production and the plastics treaty – Nairobi (13 November 2023)
41. Informal roundtable on financing and means of implementation of a plastics treaty – Nairobi (14 November 2023)
42. Ambassadors breakfast discussion on sustainable trade & TESS – Geneva (17 November 2023)
43. Informal roundtable on Possible options and pathways to address environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies in the WTO – Geneva (17 November 2023)
44. COP28 Trade Pavilion: A Positive Agenda for Trade, Climate and Development Goals – Dubai (2 December 2023)
45. COP28 Trade Pavilion: Expanding South-South Trade in Low Carbon Technologies for development and resilience – Dubai (3 December 2023)
46. COP28 Ecuador Pavilion: A Trade Contribution to the Global Climate Agenda - Perspectives from the Global Climate Community on Priorities for Cooperation by Trade Ministers – Dubai (3 December 2023)
47. COP 28 Rwanda Pavilion: The Climate Impact of Plastic Production - The Road to a Global Plastics Treaty – Dubai (3 December 2023)
48. COP 28 Trade Pavilion: Mitigating Climate Change with trade-related regulation – Dubai (5 December 2023)
49. Green Industrial Subsidies and Sustainable Development: Prospects for Enhanced International Cooperation – Geneva & Online (7 December 2023)
50. Green Industrial Subsidies and Climate Action: Does the international subsidy rulebook need an environmental exception? – Geneva & Online (7 December 2023)
51. The road to INC-4: Informal exchange on priorities & activities – Geneva & Online (11 December 2023)

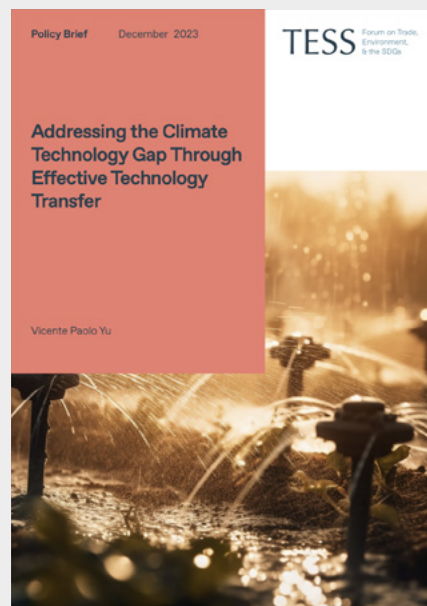
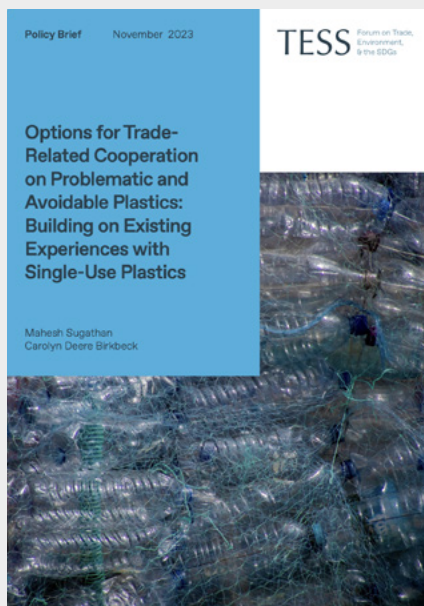
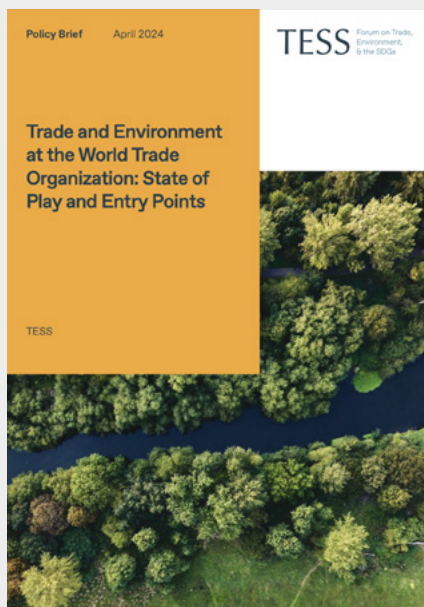
Publications



Policy Papers

1. Sustainable Supply Chains and Deforestation: The Landscape of Trade Policy Initiatives and Emerging Issues – Marianne Kettunen (11 January 2023)
2. A Southeast Asian Perspective on Trade and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Alice Pham (12 January 2023)
3. Trade-Related Climate Priorities for CARICOM at the World Trade Organization – Jan Yves Remy (30 January 2023)
4. Trade and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Latin America: A Framework for International Cooperation – Lorena Palomo Parada (22 February 2023)
5. Nature-Positive Trade for Sustainable Development – Marianne Kettunen (10 March 2023)
6. Trends in Trade Flows Across the Life Cycle of Plastics: Preliminary Review – Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Diana Barrowclough, Mahesh Sugathan, Christophe Bellmann, and Leonardo Souza Campos Rodrigues (25 May 2023)

7. Sustainability Standards and Requirements for Agriculture: International Trade Considerations – UNEP and ITC (11 September 2023)
8. Principles of International Law Relevant for Consideration in the Design and Implementation of Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies – International Legal Expert Group on Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies (13 September 2023)
9. Standards and Related Initiatives in International Cooperation to End Plastic Pollution: Mapping and State of Play – Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Mahesh Sugathan, Sophie Boinnard, Valeriia Grekova, and Belinda Cleeland (28 September 2023)
10. Options for Trade-Related Cooperation on Problematic and Avoidable Plastics: Building on Existing Experiences with Single-Use Plastics – Mahesh Sugathan and Carolyn Deere Birkbeck (15 November 2023)
11. Addressing the Climate Technology Gap Through Effective Technology Transfer – Vicente Paolo Yu (13 December 2023)





Synergies

Inclusive policy dialogue
on trade and sustainability

TESS Forum on Trade,
Environment,
& the SDGs

Synergies Articles

12. Where Next for the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate? – Jonny Peters and Ignacio Arroniz (19 January 2023)
13. Trade Ministers' Coalition Seeks to Put Climate Action at the Heart of Global Trade Policies – Carolyn Deere Birkbeck (17 April 2023)
14. Fostering Cooperation on Sustainable Agriculture and Trade at the World Trade Organization – Christophe Bellmann (17 April 2023)
15. The Case for a Global Triangle Forum at the WTO – Pascal Lamy, Geneviève Pons, Colette van der Ven, and Claudia Azevedo (12 September 2023)
16. Advancing Inclusive Cooperation on Trade and Climate – Keisal Peters (18 September 2023)
17. Recent Innovations in Trade and Sustainability Cooperation – Joost Pauwelyn (26 September 2023)
18. Five Suggestions to Reframe Discussions on Environmental Goods, Services, and Technologies at the WTO – Christophe Bellmann (06 November 2023)
19. Six Principles to Bolster Cooperation on Trade-Related Climate Measures – International Legal Expert Group on Trade-Related Climate Measures and Policies (28 November 2023)
20. For a Trading System that Supports an Ambitious Climate Agenda, Climate-Resilient Development, and Just Transitions – Carolyn Deere Birkbeck, Christophe Bellmann, and Fabrice Lehmann (28 November 2023)
21. Naïve but Necessary? Cooperation on Critical Mineral Supplies – Bernice Lee (05 December 2023)
22. Addressing the Climate Technology Gap in Developing Countries Through Effective Technology Transfer – Vicente Paolo Yu (13 December 2023)







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