

DAY 1		Thursday, 15 October 2026
8:30-9:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
9:00-10:30	High Level Plenary (Panel 1): Turbulence, Climate, and Trade: Regional Perspectives on Pathways for Cooperation Participation: In Person (By Invitation) and Public Live Stream (YouTube) Thematic Focus: Geopolitical perspectives on trade, climate, and sustainable development. Summary: This panel will bring together leading experts on trade, climate, and international relations to offer perspectives from different regions on the impact of current geopolitics, trade turbulence, and the worsening climate crisis on international cooperation at the nexus of trade, climate, and sustainable development. Reflecting on the challenges of the current context and regional experiences, they will offer views on opportunities and pathways to catalyse collective action and cooperation and the concrete outcomes that could be advanced for climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient development. Framing Questions: How are geopolitical, trade and climate turbulences impacting the ability of countries to cooperate internationally at the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development? How is this impacting progress on climate-related goals at the regional level - whether in terms of decarbonization, mitigation, green industrialisation, climate competitiveness, resilience to climate risks or climate-resilient development? What can be learned from regional experiences about possible pathways and opportunities for cooperation on trade, climate and sustainable development? Where are there innovations to build on and what kinds of positive models or proposals warrant more attention?	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Thematic Session 1A: Trade, Critical Minerals, and the Clean Energy Transition: Navigating Sustainability, Development and Security Objectives Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Partner: UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Thematic Focus: Natural Resources Summary: This session will seek to identify a focused set of actionable cooperation opportunities that governments and other stakeholders could advance at bilateral, regional, plurilateral or multilateral levels on trade in Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETMs). In particular, the discussion will explore opportunities for cooperation to navigate and reconcile the competing interests of supply security, development and value addition and environmental and social sustainability. Cooperation areas may include: technology and capacity building; producer-producer cooperation and regional corridors and value chains; transparency and information sharing; standards and traceability; and the role of multilateral cooperation and rules, among others. These areas reflect preliminary cooperation gaps emerging from the TESS-UNCTAD International Expert Group's work. Framing Questions: Where are the most pressing gaps in international cooperation on trade and CETMs, and which should be prioritised? What concrete forms of cooperation could better reconcile supply security, value addition and development, and environmental and social sustainability? Which cooperation pathways can be advanced and through the different avenues: bilateral, regional or multilateral frameworks and where are new approaches needed?	
11:00-12:30	Thematic Session 1B: Trade and Sustainable Agriculture: Identifying Cooperation Pathways to Advance Climate, Food Security, and Development Objectives Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Thematic Focus: Natural Resources Summary: To identify opportunities for enhanced trade cooperation on sustainable agriculture, food systems, and nature in support of the global climate agenda and sustainable development goals, recognizing the central importance of food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.	

	Framing Questions: What are the most pressing tensions arising from trade policies, sustainability requirements, and geopolitical dynamics for sustainable agriculture? In which areas could trade policies and greater trade cooperation deliver concrete gains for food security, development and environmental sustainability while addressing tensions and trade-offs? (e.g., by improving interoperability, mutual recognition, and equivalence of trade-related agricultural measures where necessary), What practical cooperation pathways and what innovative approaches can be advanced and through which international or regional processes?
12:30-14:30	Lunchtime Dive: In the Footsteps of the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change – Exploring the Trade Dimensions of the Transition away from Fossil Fuels Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: This lunchtime conversation will take you on a virtual city trip – from The Hague, via Santa Marta and New York, to Geneva and beyond – to explore the UN General Assembly’s recent resolution on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, and how trade policy and cooperation can be leveraged to support a just, orderly, and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.
14:30-16:00	Thematic Session 2A: Enhancing Cooperation on Trade for Climate Adaptation and Climate-Resilient Development Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: This session will explore the role of trade cooperation in enabling effective adaptation and building resilience to the impacts of the climate crisis on trade, development, and sustainability in climate vulnerable developing economies. Framing Questions: How are climate impacts changing the trade vulnerabilities, productive capacities and comparative advantages of climate-vulnerable developing economies, and where are the most pressing adaptation needs? Which trade and trade-related policy responses could most effectively address these vulnerabilities and support adaptation and climate-resilient development? (For example, resilient supply chains and trade infrastructure, access to adaptation-related goods, services and technologies, and economic diversification.), What concrete international cooperation arrangements are needed to enable these responses, and how can they be advanced across relevant trade, climate and development processes?
14:30-16:00	Thematic Session 2B: Trade and Technology Cooperation to Accelerate the Decarbonization and Green Industrialization: Hard-to-Abate Sectors Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: This session will discuss priorities and prospects for trade and technology cooperation to accelerate the decarbonization of heavy industries, such as steel, cement, or aluminium. Framing Questions: What types of collaborative frameworks would effectively support the co-development, accessibility, diffusion, and uptake of key technologies and facilitate a just and fair transition to heavy industry decarbonization, particularly in developing countries? How can trade and trade-related cooperation and instruments support the decarbonization of heavy industries? What kinds of processes would be most effective in advancing cooperative solutions (e.g., regional, sectoral, bilateral, or multilateral)? What are the possible pathways for enhanced intergovernmental cooperation in this area, as well as among governments and businesses, in light of competitive, security, and trade tensions?
16:00-17:00	Break
17:00-20:00	Evening Networking Reception

DAY 2		Friday, 16 October 2026
8:30-9:00	Morning Coffee	
9:00-10:30	High Level Plenary (Panel 2): The UNFCCC, COP31, and Beyond: How Can the Trading System Better Support Global Climate Priorities and Processes? Participation: In Person (By Invitation) and Public Live Stream (YouTube) Thematic Focus: Climate and Trade Cooperation Summary: This panel will explore how the trading system can better support global climate priorities and processes, focusing on work underway in the UNFCCC, the upcoming Climate COPs in Türkiye and Ethiopia, and a number of climate initiatives with trade dimensions. Framing Questions: What are some of the key government and stakeholder initiatives in the context of the climate regime where trade-related cooperation is most urgently required, where are there blockages and opportunities, and what kinds of outcomes could be achieved? How can trade and trade cooperation contribute to key sectoral transitions vital for decarbonization? How is trade cooperation relevant to the global adaptation and resilience agendas? How can trade policies support the implementation of NDCs and national adaptation plans, and what kinds of international coordination and cooperation are needed? What kinds of principles and approaches need to be considered? How are cross-cutting topics, priorities and narratives shaping the discourse and policy agendas on trade and climate - from green industrialization, climate competitiveness, energy security, and priorities related to just transitions, technology cooperation, climate-related trade risks, and climate-resilient development - and what does this mean for ways forward?	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Thematic Session 3A: Climate, Nature, and Trade: Harnessing Trade Cooperation for Resilient Futures Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Partner: WWF Thematic Focus: Natural Resources Summary: The discussion will seek to identify areas where the trading system is impeding efforts to address the biodiversity crisis and how it can contribute positively to scaling impact, including through creating the enabling conditions and incentives for sustainable, nature-positive finance and investment. It will identify areas for action for focused collective action that could support a nature-positive global economy that is fair and inclusive. Framing Questions: What are the challenges to scaling up local and regional nature-positive trade practices at a global level, and what policy and legal frameworks would help overcome these barriers? How can trade policies, rules and agreements be more responsive and adaptive to emerging nature and climate risks at the global and regional level? What kinds of harmonised metrics, definitions, principles, policies, or standards can enhance the positive role for trade in fostering a nature positive economy? What would more inclusive processes for establishing them look like? What kinds of trade rules and agreements present inconsistencies with or opportunities for nature-positive trade? What kinds of approaches can most effectively incorporate sustainability impacts and incentives? What kinds of strategic approaches to cooperation on trade and trade measures could empower low- and middle-income countries to effectively participate in nature-positive trade in ways that support sustainable development and poverty reduction?	
11:00-12:30	Thematic Session 3B: Fostering Coherence and Interoperability: Product-Level GHG Intensity Metrics and Measures Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: The discussion will seek to identify concrete areas where international cooperation could improve the comparability, transparency and interoperability of GHG intensity metrics, while avoiding unnecessary duplication and compliance costs and taking account of different national circumstances and capacities. It will also consider how such cooperation could support credible decarbonization incentives, international trade and the participation of developing countries and their businesses in emerging low-carbon markets.	

	Framing Questions: Where do existing approaches to product-level GHG intensity measurement differ, and which differences matter most for their use in trade and climate policies? What do they mean in practice for producers and traders, particularly in developing countries, and for the effectiveness of policies intended to support industrial decarbonization? Where is greater coherence or interoperability most needed, what would it require in practice, and through which existing sectoral initiatives or international forums could it be advanced? What type of outcomes could be pursued at the WTO (e.g., enhanced transparency, non-binding guidance on the design and implementation of trade-climate measures, voluntary pledges, others)?
12:30-14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30-16:00	Thematic Session 4A: Trade, Industrial Policies, and the Drive for Net-Zero and Climate-Resilient Development Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Partner: Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, London School of Economics Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: This session will explore the key challenges and opportunities associated with the growing use of green industrial policies by a wide range of countries to scale up technological innovation, promote competitiveness in key sectors for the green transition, foster industrialization, or address national security concerns. Framing Questions: Which cross-border spillovers from green industrial policies most require international attention, particularly from a climate-resilient development perspective? How can the design and implementation of green industrial policies better anticipate and manage impacts on trading partners while preserving policy space for climate action and industrial development? What concrete forms of trade cooperation could help manage these spillovers, and through which bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral avenues could they be advanced?
14:30-16:00	Thematic Session 4B: Connecting the Dots Between Trade, Finance, Debt, and Investment Agendas on Climate Participation: In Person (By Invitation) Thematic Focus: Climate Crisis Summary: This session will explore where trade policy and cooperation fit into wider international efforts to mobilize finance and investment for climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient development priorities in developing countries. Recognising the recurring impacts of the climate crisis on the competitiveness and trade prospects of developing countries, especially the most vulnerable, the discussion will explore where trade and finance can better work together in the context of recovery from climate shocks. It will also review the linkages between trade, debt and climate vulnerabilities in the context of climate impacts and net zero transitions, identifying opportunities to improve coordination across the trade, finance and investment communities to support developing countries to bolster resilience, promote green industrialization, and capture emerging opportunities in clean trade, economic diversification and sustainable value chains. Framing Questions: What are the specific opportunities to enhance coherence among trade, finance, and investment policies and instruments to support climate action and climate-resilient development? Where does trade fit into wider efforts to mobilize climate and development finance, as well as private investment in the climate-related resilience and green industrialisation priorities of developing countries? What kinds of research and policy analysis are needed to identify priorities and boost policy coherence on these interlinked challenges? What are key venues and processes that provide opportunities to connect the dots and drive effective cooperation?
16:00-18:00	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Closing High Level Plenary (Panel 3): Opportunities and Pathways to Enhance Cooperation on Trade, Climate, and Sustainability Participation: In Person (By Invitation) and Public Live Stream (YouTube) Thematic Focus: Nexus for Cooperation on Trade, Climate and Sustainability Summary: This panel will bring together a diverse group of Geneva-based ambassadors to the WTO to provide their perspectives on priorities and opportunities to step up cooperation on the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development, focusing on specific outcomes that could be achieved and the processes that could be harnessed. The panel will cover the state of play on ongoing initiatives and how to advance these, while also looking to future opportunities at the WTO as

well as through bilateral, plurilateral, regional or sectoral approaches. The panel will conclude with a recap of some key takeaways from the conference, focusing on pathways forward.

Framing Questions: What are some of your country's key trade priorities in relation to specific climate goals, sectors, or cross-cutting issues, and what opportunities do you see to advance these? Even in these turbulent times for trade and geopolitics, are there shared goals around which the trade community can and should be seeking to galvanise collective action or cooperation, and what kinds of outcomes could be envisaged? What are some examples - whether bilateral, regional, plurilateral or sectoral - that could provide an effective basis for further cooperation? Where can multilateral processes contribute and what next steps do you foresee at the WTO? What is needed - or what are you doing - at home within your countries to build the basis for effective engagement on the nexus of trade, climate and sustainable development? How can expert and stakeholder engagement support meaningful outcomes?