



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development



COMMITTED TO  
IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD



## STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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*The E15Initiative convenes world-class experts and institutions to generate strategic analysis and recommendations for government, business, and civil society geared towards strengthening the global trade and investment system for sustainable development.*

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Dear Colleague ,

The E15Initiative will shortly begin hosting a series of **conversations on the Global Trade and Investment Architecture (GTIA)** at a time of great uncertainty and debate about future directions in this area.

Working alongside ICTSD and the World Economic Forum as Theme Leader of this E15 theme will be **Carolyn Deere Birkbeck**, Senior Researcher at the Global Economic Governance Programme, jointly hosted by the Blavatnik School of Government and University College at the University of Oxford. An overview paper – to be published at the end of September – will set out the state of debate and key questions to guide the conversations. The first phase of the GTIA process will lead to the publication of a synthesis of options in the second quarter of 2016 compiling analysis and proposals that emerge from the conversations. Carolyn will be supported by **Marie Chamay**, who will act as Theme Manager, and **Kimberley Botwright**, Theme Rapporteur.

A reality check, or indeed, a re-examination of the GTIA is especially appropriate in light of new trends in global trade and investment flows and policies, the slow pace of multilateral negotiations as well as the rise of mega-regional, plurilateral, and bilateral approaches, game changing technology shifts, and new geopolitical dynamics. Increased calls to address new environmental and social challenges, alongside long-standing ones, must also be considered against the backdrop of a post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The conversations – held across the globe and in a range of settings – will engage policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to identify forward-looking visions, key areas of shared interest, and strategic options on the purpose of the GTIA, its scope, functions, rationales for cooperation, and coherence with wider global governance processes. The conversations will also explore potential changes required in national trade policymaking processes to reflect the evolving nature, future direction, and needs of a GTIA that serves sustainable development. The E15Initiative website will be an additional platform for “virtual” conversations. We will commission several think pieces and extend invitations to leading experts to submit views and proposals through short blogs.

Please visit the [E15Initiative website](#) for more detailed information on the GTIA project.

**Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz**

Chief Executive of ICTSD and Principal Convener of the E15Initiative

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**PETROS C. MAVROIDIS**

Opposites attract? Bringing the trade and regulatory communities together

*Three ways the WTO can encourage regulatory cooperation and become a platform for collective problem solving*

**CARLOS A. PRIMO BRAGA**

World trade: Have we reached peak globalisation?

*If there is no political will to continue to pursue trade liberalisation, the specter of a less integrated world economy may become a self-fulfilling prophesy*

**MARK FELDMAN**

The emerging harmonisation of the international investment law regime

*Once completed, TTIP, TPP, RCEP, the US-China BIT, and the EU-China BIT would reflect an emerging consensus on many key 21st century investment law issues*

**SHERRY STEPHENSON**

APEC's new services agenda

*The Services Cooperation Framework, once finalised, will provide a common strategic direction and*

## **DARLINGTON MWAPE**

A Post-2015 world: Rethinking WTO development provisions after Addis to mean business

*In a Post-2015 world, WTO development provisions should offer a business solution of mutual benefit*

## **MORE BLOGS**

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[Keith Maskus](#)

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Investment and Trade Regimes Conjoined: Economic Facts and Regulatory Frameworks

[Gary Hufbauer and Tyler Moran](#)

## MORE PUBLICATIONS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

3 SEP E15 Theme Leaders and Conveners Meeting  
GENEVA

4 SEP Conversation on the Global Trade and Investment Architecture  
GENEVA

14 - 17 DEC ICTSD Trade and Development Symposium  
NAIROBI  
*Alongside the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference*

21 - 24 JAN 2016 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting  
DAVOS

## MORE EVENTS

[www.e15initiative.org](http://www.e15initiative.org)



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