

The 2020 BIICL Annual WTO Conference

22-23 October 2020

Programme

Time	Theme and speakers
Thursday, 22 October 2020	
12.00-12.45	<p>Welcome Dr. Julinda Beqiraj, Maurice Wohl Senior Fellow, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, BIICL</p> <p>Keynote address Sir Francis Jacobs KCMG QC, former British Advocate General at the European Court of Justice</p>
13.00-14.00	<p>London panel: The UK as a global economic actor after Brexit: (re)writing the avenues for trade</p> <p>With forecasts announcing that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to produce a significant contraction of world trade in 2021 and the impending end of the transition period, the UK's relations with the rest of the world will be crucial. Recognizing the role of trade as a core ingredient of economic recovery, this session will discuss how trade relationships will be recast in a post-Brexit world.</p> <p>Chair: Sally Langrish, Department of International Trade, UK Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Gladstone, Partner at Clifford Chance <i>"The UK and the future relationship with EU countries"</i> • Daniel Crosby, Partner at King & Spalding, Geneva <i>"Brexit and the future relationship with third countries"</i> • Dr. Isabelle Van Damme, Counsel at Van Bael & Bellis <i>"FDI screening and responses to foreign subsidies"</i>
14.15-15.15	<p>Geneva panel: The WTO legacy and the future of multilateralism</p> <p>This session will discuss some of the challenges to the architecture of global trade governance. It will try to assess the purpose that the WTO would serve in the future by examining global external risks, such as the pandemic emergency and risks related to the changing geopolitical equilibrium.</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Gabrielle Marceau, University of Geneva and Senior Counsellor at WTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Roberts, Head of Aid for Trade Unit, Development Division, WTO <i>"Multilateralism in the time of health crises: Challenges and opportunities"</i> • Paolo Garzotti, DG Trade, European Commission <i>"The geopolitics of multilateralism: The role of the EU as a Bridge to the US and China"</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duane Layton, Mayer Brown, Head of International Trade Practice <i>"The WTO in crisis: Where do we go from here?"</i>
15.30-16.30	<p>Washington panel: Global governance at a crossroads: From Breton Woods to a new economic multilateralism?</p> <p>At the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, the Allied countries envisaged new rules of the game to prevent countries following the 'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies that had led to the Great Depression. In 2020, the governance system created under the intellectual leadership of Harry Dexter White (US) and John Maynard Keynes (UK) seems to be at risk. Trade wars and rising powers, increased protectionism and political tensions are seen as signals of a gradual disintegration of the global rules-based economic order. How can the benefit of internationally accepted, treaty-based economic coordination be restated and what role can new international agendas and institutions play in that regard?</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Dr. Malik Dahlan, Chair of International Law and Public Policy, Queen Mary University of London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Mark Wu, Vice Dean, Graduate Program and International Legal Studies at Harvard Law School <i>"A new Bretton Woods or more of the same?"</i> • Ambassador Charles Ries, Vice President, RAND Corporation <i>"The new international economic coordination agenda"</i> • Stephen P. Vaughn, Partner at King & Spalding, Washington D.C <i>"U.S. and EU reshaping the WTO after the departure of former head Azevedo?"</i>
16.30-17.00	Wrap up
Friday, 23 October 2020	
09.00-10.00	<p>Hong-Kong & Singapore panel: Trade dispute resolution: Current situation and dispute avoidance</p> <p>For more than 20 years, the WTO's dispute settlement system provided an orderly process for countries to solve trade grievances and to continue their cooperation. The 2018 impasse over the appointment of new members of the Appellate Body, while driven by scepticism about multilateralism and binding dispute settlement, may also derive some potential lessons for trade dispute resolution.</p> <p>Chair: Nicolas Lockhart, Partner at Sidley Austin LLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Flett, Deputy to the Director, Trade Policy and WTO Team, European Commission <i>"WTO dispute settlement: The current situation and likely future developments"</i> • Stuart Harbinson, International trade specialist and former special adviser to two Directors General of the WTO <i>"Recent US trade action regarding Hong-Kong"</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Jianguy Wang, Director, Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (RCCL), City University of Hong-Kong School of Law <i>"The US-China trade war: Implications on WTO's dispute settlement system"</i>
10.15-11.15	<p>Shanghai & Beijing panel: Digital technology and trade</p> <p>This session will explore how the digital technology is redefining international trade, what this means for the global economy and how trade agreements can accommodate this.</p> <p>Chair: Jo-Ann Crawford, Former Counsellor in Trade Policy Review, WTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Qingjiang Kong, Dean, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law <i>"Will Phase I Agreement work for the China-US trade relations and a revival of the WTO?"</i> • Lee Tuthill, Senior Counsellor, WTO <i>"Process and progress: A readout on the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on e-commerce"</i> • Prof. Henry Gao, Faculty of law, Singapore Management University <i>"Across the Great Wall: E-commerce Joint Statement Initiative negotiation and China"</i>
11.30-12.30	<p>Riyadh panel: G20 Summit: Solutions for the most pressing challenges in the 21st century</p> <p>Ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit on 21-22 November 2020 in Riyadh, this session will address core topics related to this year's theme "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All". Panellists will discuss issues related to trade and sustainability, addressing health crises, challenges for small states and the business, trade and sustainability links</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Brian Efirid, Program Director, Policy and Decision Science, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center; Deputy Sherpa for the T20 Secretariat T20, Saudi Arabia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO <i>"Sustainable trade after COVID-19: How can we do better?"</i> • Dr Jan Yves Remy, Deputy Director, Shridath Ramphal Centre, UWI <i>"Small States in the multilateral trading system"</i> • Phil Bloomer, Executive Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre <i>"How can business and trade tackle unsustainable inequality and climate breakdown?"</i>
12.30-13.00	Concluding remarks