

Organised by: World Trade Organization and International Renewable Energy Agency

Session Type: Panel Discussions

Session Title

Enabling Global Trade in Renewable Hydrogen and Derivative Commodities

Session Description

Renewable hydrogen is central to achieving a net-zero global economy, particularly in decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors. Regions rich in renewable energy resources have the potential to produce hydrogen cost-effectively, creating a diverse global supply. To connect these supply hubs with emerging demand, coherent trade policies are crucial for facilitating technology transfer, market development, and capacity building for hydrogen and its derivatives. Many governments have begun establishing strategies to promote renewable hydrogen production, also exploring how to support the value chains for renewable ammonia, methanol, and e-kerosene. At this critical stage of market evolution, comprehensive policies are needed to secure demand and drive investment. These include aligning standards and certifications, adopting green support and government procurement practices, rebalancing tariffs, coordinating carbon pricing mechanisms, and fostering international cooperation. Inconsistent regulations and fragmented policies can create trade barriers and reduce policy effectiveness. This event will foster dialogue and coordination to accelerate the global dissemination of renewable hydrogen and its derivatives. It will bring together senior leaders in government, the hydrogen sector, and international organizations to explore avenues for cooperation. The WTO and IRENA will inaugurate the session by launching their joint report "Enabling Global Trade in Renewable Hydrogen and Derivative Commodities". This will be followed by a discussion on concrete opportunities and challenges in crafting and implementing enabling trade policy frameworks for lowering costs, stimulating demand, attracting investment and fostering innovation in renewable hydrogen and derivatives markets.

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

Moderator: Rebecca Maserumule, Chairperson of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE)

Opening remarks

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General, WTO
- Francesco La Camera, Director General, IRENA

Panel discussion

- Michel Heijdra, Vice-Minister for Climate and Energy Policy of the Netherlands, Co-Chair of the IHTF
- Jinyoung Yoon, Director for Climate Energy Trade Division, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea
- Ivana Jemelkova, Chief Executive Officer, Hydrogen Council
- Luz María De la Mora, Director of International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development

Concluding remarks

- E. Erwin Bollinger, Chairperson of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment
- E. Ali Sarfraz