

EDITORIAL

Multilateral Trade Moves Ahead

Forward: A Multilateral Trade Perspective

International trade has been a key vehicle for economic development in recent decades and for the social development of certain groups of people. However, its development has also come with risks to the preservation of natural resources and the delineation of a widening gap between those sectors that have benefited from international trade and those that have traditionally been left behind.

This issue of the Global Trade and Customs Journal focuses on the prospects for multilateral trade on the basis of new disciplines on fisheries subsidies, domestic regulation, as well as ongoing discussions on the relationship between trade and the environment, issues for improving dispute settlement accessibility, and the close linkages between trade, finance and gender inclusiveness. Some regulatory outcomes have been achieved recently, others are still in the pipeline.

The World Trade Organization is a member-driven organization, so it will always be in the hands of its members to determine the direction of its negotiations and discussions. However, civil society, individuals and enterprises also play a significant role in defining the issues of relevance in the multilateral agenda.

The issue aims to shed further light on a debate that can no longer be postponed and is likely to permeate future regulatory efforts in the multilateral trading system. We hope you will find this issue both enjoyable and useful.

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