

Organised by: World Trade Organization & World Meteorological Organization

Session Type: Panel Discussions

Session Title

Supporting the renewable electricity transition through trade: Unlocking re-globalization opportunities via interconnection

Session Description

The energy transition involves a move from fossil fuel-reliant energy generation to abundant, yet intermittent, weather-dependent power production. The sun shines, the wind blows and water flows, but not in the same places or at same times across the globe. Endowments of solar, wind and water vary. Cross-border trade of renewable electricity can help even out spatial and temporal mismatches in supply and demand of renewable electricity. Trade has a key role in ensuring that national power grids operate efficiently – a role that is also supported by high-quality meteorological and climate data services. Many of the locations with the greatest solar, wind and hydropower electricity generation potential are also places with relatively high rates of energy poverty, low levels of economic development and limited integration into the global trading system. Boosting cross-border electricity trade represents a trade and development opportunity for many places with comparative advantage in clean energy production. Unlocking opportunities in cross-border renewable electricity trade requires action to address the backlog of interconnection projects, as well as delays in the delivery of critical components and long timeframes for project delivery.

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Ambassador Erwin Bollinger, Chair, WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the World Trade Organization (moderator)
- Jean Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization
- Christopher Hewitt, Director of Climate Services, World Meteorological Organization
- Delegation of Lao PDR (tbc)
- Delegation of Zambia (tbc)