

Organised by: Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy/Remaking Trade Project

Session Type: Panel Discussions

Session Title

Remaking Global Trade for Nature, People, and Climate

Session Description

Those seeking a more robust response to climate change increasingly recognize that a revitalized trade system could be a critical point of policy leverage. To advance the global discussion around this strategy, the Remaking Trade Project (RTP) proposes a COP29 session on trade system reform as a pathway to a sustainable future. These reforms would include not just climate change progress but also efforts to create a nature-positive economy, conserve biodiversity, protect ocean ecosystems and the emerging Blue Economy, advance gender equality, and support indigenous communities. Over the past two years, RTP has convened more than 400 thought leaders through 10 workshops focused on the trade-sustainability interface from which the Villars Framework for a Sustainable Global System emerged – offering a WTO reform agenda to better align the trade system with global climate action and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This panel will begin to map out the path forward and highlight an array of topics including:

- How trade reforms might promote sustainability – biodiversity, nature-positive economies, ocean conservation, blue economies, and social equality – while accelerating climate action.
- How the trade system can help deliver the SDGs by disseminating cutting-edge technologies and innovative ideas around the world at speed and scale.
- How to ensure that the emerging sustainability standards are science-based, transparent, and legitimate – and that WTO subsidy rules reinforce the organization's overarching mission of promoting sustainable development.

This session will provide an opportunity for engagement and dialogue from diverse perspectives with an eye towards building support for critical trade system change.

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Dan Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University (Moderator)
- Lina Barrera, Senior Vice President of Global Policy & Government Affairs, Conservation International
- Malini Mehra, CEO, GLOBE International
- Yasmin Ismail, Forum on Trade, Environment, and SDGs (TESS)