

HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON MULTILATERAL TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION: ANSWERING CRISIS AND FURTHERING RESILIENCE

BLURB FOR THE EVENT

Heat waves, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events – the consequences of climate change are already tangible and affect livelihoods and ecosystems throughout the globe. Responding appropriately to the mounting climate crisis and building capacity for future resilience is, together with climate change mitigation, a fundamental sustainable development strategy. International trade can help support climate change adaptation strategies, such as prevention and reduction of, and preparedness for climate risks. It can also facilitate recovery and rehabilitation from climate disasters and help improve food security. International environmental cooperation is another key to this process with the capacity to strengthen climate resilience of supply chains, address climate-related food security challenges, and deliver much needed technical assistance and investment.

This high-level panel on multilateral trade and environment cooperation marks the beginning of the third edition of the Trade and Environment Week (17-21 October 2022). The opening session will focus on the two aforementioned pivotal drivers in the fight against climate change and in support of sustainable development: multilateral trade and environment cooperation. It will showcase the strong collaboration and partnership with a deep commitment to sustainability that the WTO has propelled since the establishment of the CTE in 1995. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sonja Leighton-Kone, and the WTO Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam will give opening remarks. The panel will include the following speakers:

- Ms. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS); and
- Mr. David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The panel will be moderated by Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director of the WTO Trade and Environment Division. Ambassador Simon Manley, United Kingdom, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) will provide closing remarks.