

Trade at crossroads: Structural changes and Policy challenges

G-24 TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING
February 27-28, 2018

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Structural changes: shaking the foundations of Trade flows

Trade dynamics: what is changing?

- Job-saving Technologies & Cheap capital
- China learnt: Increased local content
- Anti-globalization backlash

Trade radars track volume Trade grows in bytes.

ICT: Dematerializing Trade

- Bytes vs. Atoms
- Production closer to consumer
- Importing Labor Without People

Political Challenges: shaking the foundations of trade rules

- America First: me too?
- Trade Rules Second?
- Dispute Settlement: Nostalgia for the GATT?
- No “old issues”, no “new issues”

Political Challenges: Is leadership vacant?

- US: Old complains with new steroids
- China: can Centrally-Planned Capitalism lead?
- Developing Countries in denial?

Reality check in Buenos Aires

- Public stockholding for Market Access?
- Are Trade Rules Hindering Development?
- Who needs Special Treatment?
- Washington vs. Geneva: who gets it straight?

Multilateralism is dead; long live Plurilateralism!

- Everybody supports the WTO (except for the WTO)
- Clubs: Divisions apparent
- Also determination to carry on plurilaterally

Could it happen without you?

- E-Commerce
- Investment Facilitation
- MSMEs
- Domestic Regulations

Plurilaterals: Join us (but we will not wait for you)

Issue	No. of Countries	Share in total Exports	Share in total GDP	Share in inward FDI
Dom Reg	60	76	63	
MSMEs	87	78	64	
Inv Facil	70	73	61	66
e-Com	71	77	73	

All shares calculated based on 2015 US Dollars

Exports are total exports of goods and services

Policy Options: At the table or in the menu?

- Bilateral & PTAs: Who is the strongest?
- Plurilateral Annex 4 Agreements
- “Critical mass” plurilaterals
- Service Regulations: “Additional commitments” (XVIII)

Policy Space?

- Reforms for support: You go first!
- Brokering Coherence in Trade Policy Making
- IMF or WTO?
- Get closer!

Centre for International
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Thank you.

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