

Workshop

LDCs in a fractioned trading world: Why WTO matters more than ever for LDC and how to best prepare an LDC Agenda for MC14

30 October 2025

Palazzo Buontalenti, Via Camillo Cavour, 65

Scientific organiser:

Arancha Gonzalez | EUI

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

THURSDAY 30 October 2025

Opening session

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| 10:00 – 10:10 | Opening statement
Coordinator of the LDC Group Deputy-Ambassador of the Gambia |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | Opening remarks
Fabrizio Tassinari Executive Director, School of Transnational Governance
Paul Akiwumi Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Presentation of the workshop and outlook for MC14
Arancha Gonzalez EUI
Stefano Inama UNCTAD |

ITEM 1: The expectations of LDCs and challenges arising for LDCs in a fractioned World Trade

This session discusses the expectations of the LDC for MC 14 and the challenges that are facing in a fractioned world trade.

- 11:15 – 11:45 The expectations of the LDC WTO group and updates on the proposal and position undertaken by the LDC group in preparation for the MC 14
Ambassador of Nepal | LDC UN group coordinator
Deputy-Ambassador of the Gambia | LDC WTO group coordinator
- 11:45 – 12:30 Interactive discussion
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

ITEM 2: Challenges arising from unilateral and bilateral initiatives

This session discusses the challenges arising for LDCs from unilateral and bilateral initiatives such as US reciprocal tariffs and how to formulate responses and actions to support the multilateral trading system in view of MC14

- 13:30 – 14:00 Implications for the LDCs arising from applications of US reciprocal tariffs and bilateral arrangements: possible avenues and positioning of the LDCs
Petros Mavroidis | Columbia University
- 14:00 – 14:15 Interactive discussions
- 14:15 – 15:15 Panelists
Pierre Sauve | World Trade Institute
Massimo Trabucco | Nestle
Craig Van Grasstek | Independent Consultant
Stefano Inama | UNCTAD
- 15:15 – 15:30 Interactive discussion
- 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

ITEM 3: Opportunities arising during the preparations for MC14

This session will focus on opportunities that may arise from MC 14 for LDCs such as joining plurilateral initiatives and revisiting some classical topics and new topics with a new and innovative reading

- 15:45 – 16:15 Renewing and innovating the agenda on trade in services for the WTO LDCs: the formulation of a positive agenda
Piere Sauve | World Trade Institute
- 16:15 – 16:30 Interactive discussion
- 16:30 – 16:55 Panelists
Bernard Hoekman | EUI

Arancha Gonzalez | EUI – Sciences Po

Pramila Crivelli | ADB

Roy Martin | WTO

ITEM 4: Preparing a LDC position for MC14 beyond S/D

16:55 – 18:00 Panel chaired by Arancha Gonzalez and Stefano Inama

Panelists

Petros Mavroidis | Columbia University

Pierre Sauve | World Trade Institute

Massimo Trabucco | Nestle

Craig Van Grasstek | Independent Consultant

Bernard Hoekman | EUI

Stefano Inama | UNCTAD

18:00 – 18:45 Cocktail