

10-30 August 2026**Online**

Online Course on Exploring Digital Trade and Sustainable Development in Trade Agreements with Legal TINA 2026

Background and Objectives

This course aims to enhance the capacity for research leveraging Legal TINA and to assist in understanding and negotiating RTAs. It will focus on digital trade and sustainable development provisions in trade agreements, including core digital trade issues, such as paperless trade and data-related cooperation; and key sustainable development areas, such as MSMEs, gender, environment, and labour.

This course will demonstrate, elaborate, guide, and promote the use of the free online tool assisting legal research in regional trade agreements (RTAs) and trade negotiations: Legal TINA (<https://legal.tina.trade/>). Legal TINA is an extension of the original TINA (<https://tina.trade/>). It provides guidance and analytical capabilities to develop the text and legal provisions of trade agreements. Legal TINA allows users to learn the basic framework of RTAs and explore emerging trends, assisting negotiators in narrowing down the formulation of provisions based on priorities and needs. It also enables users to easily search and compare the texts of the existing trade agreements, making it easier to understand what text may be more acceptable to negotiating parties involved and what more ambitious provisions may be proposed. The latest update of Legal TINA will be available online from the start of the course.





Structure of the event

Part I: Self-paced learning on the ESCAP Community platform

Course materials

Participants will have free access to all course materials, including pre-recorded video lectures, readings, quizzes, and others on the ESCAP Community e-learning platform.

Quizzes

Participants are required to take online quizzes associated with the course materials, with at least one attempt before the live sessions. To obtain the certificate, participants must pass all quizzes by answering 75% of the questions correctly.

Discussion forum

Participants can ask questions and discuss with each other on the ESCAP Community platform. The course facilitator will also answer and collect questions to be addressed during live sessions.

Suggested timeline for self-paced e-learning

10-16 August: Complete the course overview (introduction) and Modules 1-3, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.

17-23 August: Complete Modules 4-6, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.

24-30 August: To obtain the certificate, participants must pass all quizzes (with unlimited retakes before the deadline), attend the live sessions (26, 27 Aug), and complete the course evaluation survey.

Part II: Interactive live sessions

Live Session 1: Trends in digital trade provisions in trade agreements

26 August 2026, 13:00-14:30, Geneva time (CET), 18:00-19:30 Bangkok time (UTC+7)

Welcome remarks: Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP, Representative from UNCTAD

Facilitator: Mr. Bruno Antunes, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

Expert presentation on data regulation in trade agreements:

- *Ms. Hongliu GONG, Associate Professor, School of Law, University of International Business and Economics (Beijing, China)*
- *Ms. Marilia Maciel, Director of Digital Trade and Economic Security, Diplo Foundation*

Expert presentation on impact of digital trade provisions in trade agreements

- *Mr. Peter Lovelock, Principal, Fair Tech Institute, Access Partnership*

Expert presentation on AI and digital trade rules in trade agreements

- *Ms. Mira Burri, Professor of International Economic and Internet Law, University of Lucerne or María Vásquez Callo-Müller, University of Lucerne*

Q&A (20 min)



Optional quiz explanation session

Addressing selected quiz questions and Q&A (20 min):

- *Ms. Runqiu Du, Facilitator of the Course, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP*

After each live session with experts, participants can stay in the meeting for another 20 minutes. We will explain selected quiz questions.

Live Session 2: Trends in sustainable development provisions in trade agreements

27 August 2026, 13:00-14:30, Geneva time (CET), 18:00-19:30 Bangkok time (UTC+7)

Facilitator: Ms. Katrin Kuhlmann, Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Director, Center on Inclusive Trade and Development, Georgetown University or Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP

Expert presentation on evolution of gender and other provisions for inclusive trade in RTAs

- *Ms. Lolita Laperle-Forget, Trade and Gender Officer, WTO or Ms. Javeria Maryam, trade policy expert, Erasmus University Rotterdam & University of Hamburg*

Expert presentation on Climate Change and Trade: New Trends in Green Economy Agreements

- *Mr. Jukwan Lee Ph.D. Director, National Center for APEC Studies, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)*

Expert presentation on impact of sustainable development provisions in RTAs

- *Mr. Matteo Fiorini, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade Policy Division, OECD or Mr. Petros Suzgo Kayovo Mkandawire, Doctoral Researcher, University of Goettingen*

Q&A (20 min)

Optional quiz explanation session

Addressing selected quiz questions and Q&A (20 min):

- *Ms. Runqiu Du, Facilitator of the Course, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP*

After each live session with experts, participants can stay in the meeting for another 20 minutes. We will explain selected quiz questions.

Contacts

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