



**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment
at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development (2nd session)**

Towards an enabling multilateral trading system for inclusive and sustainable development

Geneva, 8 – 9 December 2014

SESSION 4:

Future directions – Strengthening the multilateral trading system in the 21st century

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

Professor Simon J. EVENETT

International Trade and Economic Development

University of St. Gallen

Switzerland

Swiss Institute for International Economics
and Applied Economic Research



University of St.Gallen

*“From insight
to impact”* 

Future Directions of the Multilateral Trading System: Session 4

Simon J. Evenett

December 2014

What's the next agenda for the WTO?

1. Often framed in terms of 21st century issues—but what of the legacy items?
 - Plenty of reform still possible to “19th and 20th century” trade.
2. The “new” items: supply chains and services.
3. But does the focus on “what” miss the big picture?
 - Problem may be also “how” to secure agreement.
 - What is the basis of an acceptable binding deal?
 - Willingness to bind reforms appears limited.
 - The pendulum swings back to differentiation last seen in the Tokyo Round.