



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Organized by the **IRIC WCP Chair** and **OBREAL** Global Observatory as a prelude to the **14th WTO Ministerial Conference**

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE MINISTER OF TRADE

19-20 MARCH 2026. IRIC, YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON

*HYBRID EVENT*

*IRIC Campus / Online*

With the support of



# THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026

8:00 to 9:00	<b>Reception and registration of participants</b>
9:10'	Guest arrivals
9h 40'	Arrival of the Rector of the University of Yaoundé II
9h 45'	Arrivals of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Special Guests
9:50'	Arrivals of Members of the Government
9h55'	Arrival of the Minister of Trade
10:00'	<b>Beginning of the Solemn Opening Ceremony</b>
<b>Amphi 500</b>	National Anthem
	Welcome by the Director of IRIC
	Introductory note by the IRIC WCP Chairholder
	Address by H.E. Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director-General of the WTO
	Address by H.E. Ms. Emmanuelle Ivanov-Durand, Permanent Representative of France to the WTO
	Address by H.E. Mr. Seong Deok YUN, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
	Address by Ms. Cynthia Zimmermann, Director General for European Union and International Market Strategies at the Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism, Austria
	Speech by the Rector of the University of Yaoundé II
	Opening speech of the Conference by H.E Minister of Trade of Cameroon
	11:00'

Amphi-500	<b><i>TOWARDS MC14: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF A REFORM OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM THAT BENEFITS AFRICA</i></b>
12:00'-12:15'	<b><i>General introduction by Dr. Manfred KOUTY, Coordinator of African Trade Group (ATG)</i></b>
12:15'-13:30'	<p align="center"><b>Panel I: Trade and Development: African Perspectives</b></p> <p align="center">Moderator: Prof. Alain Didier OLINGA (IRIC, Cameroon)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Cameroon's position in trade negotiations</b></p> <p>Dr. Narcisse OLINGA, Ministry of Trade of Cameroon</p> <hr/> <p><b>Trade and Development; Special and Differential Treatment: A perspective from India</b></p> <p>Prof. James NEDUMPARA, WCP Chairholder, Head of the Centre for International Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), India</p> <hr/> <p><b>En Route to Yaounde: The WTO's Moment of Truth</b></p> <p>Prof. Yenkong Ngangjoh-Hodu, University of Manchester, UK</p> <hr/> <p><b>Beyond Abu Dhabi: Crafting a Development-Centred WTO Reform Agenda for Africa</b></p> <p>Prof. Alouis CHILUNJIKA, WCP Chairholder, National University of Lesotho, Lesotho</p> <hr/> <p><b>The future of the status of developing countries in the context of WTO reform</b></p> <p>Prof. Azzedine GHOUFRANE, WCP Chairholder, Mohammed V University-Rabat, Morocco</p> <hr/> <p><b>Examining the Effect of Trade Development on Environmental Degradation Across Sub-Saharan African Economies</b></p> <p>Prof. Jonas BARAYANDEMA, WCP Chairholder, University of Rwanda, Rwanda</p> <hr/> <p><b>Trade and development from a developing country's perspective</b></p> <p>Prof. TRINH Thi Thu Huong, WCP Chairholder, Foreign Trade University, Viet Nam</p>

13:30'-14:30'	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel II: Multilateralism and Regional Integration</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Charlemagne BABATOUNDE IGUE, Rector and WCP Chairholder, U.Abomey-Calavi, Benin</p>
	<p><b>AfCFTA: A Panacea to Global Shocks</b></p> <p>Dr. Stephen Karingi, Director, Macroeconomics, Finance and Governance Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</p>
	<p><b>The Impact of Trade Openness and Digital Development on Real GDP: Empirical Evidence From MENA Region</b></p> <p>Prof. Taleb Awad Warrad, WCP Chairholder, University of Jordan, Jordan</p>
	<p><b>Africa's e-commerce development imperatives and strategic options</b></p> <p>Prof. Ngozi EGBUNA, WCP Chairholder, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria</p>
	<p><b>La ZLECAf transforme-t-elle les chaînes de valeur agricoles en Afrique de l'Ouest ? Effets moyens, hétérogénéités institutionnelles et mécanismes d'upgrading</b></p> <p>Prof. Akoété Ega AGBODJI, WCP Chairholder , University of Lomé, Togo</p>
	<p><b>Integration verticale, credit, formation et montée en gamme dans la chaine de valeur du coton au Togo</b></p> <p>Prof. Florence AKAKPO, WCP Chair, University of Lomé, Togo</p>
	<p><b>Role of trade in services as the grease for boosting intra-African trade in the face of global push for inward looking trade policy.</b></p> <p>Prof. Caiphas CHEKWOTI, WCP Chairholder, TRAPCA, Tanzania</p>
	<p><b>Institutions, Geography, and Intra-African Trade: Evidence from Long-Run Gravity Models</b></p> <p>Prof. Osman GULSEVEN, WCP Chairholder, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman</p>
	<p><b>The socio-economic impacts of the AfCFTA</b></p> <p>Prof. Sheereen FAUZEL, WCP Chair, U. Mauritius, Mauritius</p>
14:30'-15:00'	Coffee break

15:00'-16:00'	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel III: Multilateral Trading System Reforms for Africa</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Prof. Caiphos CHEKWOTI , WCP Chairholder, TRAPCA, Tanzania</p> <hr/> <p><b>Les chaines de valeur nationales, un outil de résilience face aux crises mondiales</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prof. Adama GUEYE, WCP Chairholder, U. Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal</p> <hr/> <p><b>Trade distortions and competitiveness in West Africa</b></p> <p>Prof. Charlemagne BABATOUNDÉ IGUÉ, Rector and WCP Chairholder, U.Abomey-Calavi, Benin</p> <hr/> <p><b>La dynamique des négociations sur l’Agriculture à l’OMC : enjeux et priorités pour les pays africains</b></p> <p>Prof. Manfred KOUTY, WCP Co-chairholder (U. Yaoundé II, Cameroon) and coordinator of African Trade Group (ATG)</p> <hr/> <p><b>An Inquiry into Africa’s Subdued Contribution to the Fundamental WTO Dispute Settlement Reform</b></p> <p>Prof. Regis SIMO, Queen’s University Belfast, University of Cape Town</p> <hr/> <p><b>National Sovereignty and the WTO</b></p> <p>Prof. Marcelo OLARREAGA, WCP Advisory Board Member, University of Geneva</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reforming the WTO Dispute Settlement System in an Era of Geopolitical Fragmentation: Implications for Africa.</b></p> <p>Prof. Adelia Jansen Van Rensburg, WTO Chairholder, North-West University, South Africa</p> <hr/> <p><b>Regulation of supply chains: instrument of agricultural policy or obstacle?</b></p> <p>Prof. Bernd H. UHLENHUT and Prof. Viktoria BALK, International School of Management, BSU International, Germany</p>
16:00'-16:30'	<b>Discussion and conclusions of the first day</b>
16:30-17:15	<b>Meeting of African WCP Chairs</b>

# FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2026

Amphi 500	<p align="center"><b>REVISITING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM FROM A SOUTH-SOUTH-NORTH(S) PERSPECTIVE</b></p>
09:00'-09:10'	<p align="center"><i>General introduction by Dr. Ramon Torrent, President, OBREAL Global Observatory: Remembering the Academic Think Track Conference in the framework of WTO's 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires 2017. A good habit to be introduced?</i></p>
09:10'-9:30'	<p align="center"><b>Initial Contributions to Future Collective Work</b></p> <p><b>A new institutional contribution: the Pan African University and its future PAVEU postgraduate programme</b></p> <p>Jean KOULIDIATI, Rector of the Pan African University</p> <p><b>Three Socratic exercises on a) Trade and Development ... and the true Ricardo; b) The Logic of the Multilateral Trading System; c) Trade and Development ... and too many things?</b></p> <p>Ramon TORRENT, President, OBREAL Global Observatory (OBREAL)</p>
9:30' -11:45'	<p align="center"><b>Panel I: Trade and Development: History, Fundamentals, Current Issues</b></p> <p align="center">Moderator: Marina Larrea (OBREAL Global Observatory)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Tackling Development at MC14: Options for S&amp;DT reform</b></p> <p>Pierre SAUVÉ, Senior Research Fellow and Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Bern's World Trade Institute, member of the WCP's Advisory Board</p> <hr/> <p><b>Revisiting the Economic Rational for International Trade Law</b></p> <p>Yueh-Ping YANG, WCP Chairholder, Chinese Taipei</p>

	<p><b>Trade Liberalisation, Firm Performance and Development: What Happens When Developing Country Firms Gain Market Access?</b></p> <p>Azam CHAUDHRY, WCP Chairholder, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan</p>
	<p><b>Developing a methodology to define the good or bad subsidies</b></p> <p>Xinquan TU, WCP Chairholder, UIBE Beijing, China</p>
	<p><b>Impact of digital development and trade on the level of economic activity in MENA countries.</b></p> <p>Taleb WARRAD, WCP Chairholder, University of Jordan, Jordan</p>
11:45'-12.30'	<p><b>Panel II: How to articulate the different orders of international economic relations: Multilateral, bi-multi-regional, bi-plurilateral</b></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Gilles Ogandaga Ndiaye (Pan African University)</p>
	<p><b>Can WTO Reform Save the Multilateral Trading System?</b></p> <p>Peter VAN DEN BOSSCHE, formerly WTO Appellate Body and World Trade Institute; currently Xi'an Jiaotong University, Member of the WCP's Advisory Board</p>
	<p><b>Goeconomics and the new framework for trade regulations</b></p> <p>Vera THORSTENSEN, WCP Chairholder, FGV, Brazil</p>
	<p><b>Is there really a “big-powers” world “competition”: A tentative answer from Latin America</b></p> <p>Adrián Bonilla, FLACSO Ecuador, former Secretary general of FLACSO</p>
12.30'-13.45'	Lunch
13.45 – 15.00	<p><b>Panel II. Continued</b></p>
	<p><b>International Economic Law: An Intersecting Web of Different Legal Orders</b></p> <p>Kehinde OLAOYE, WCP Chair, HBKU Doha, Qatar</p>
	<p><b>Special and Differential Treatment in Multilateral and Regional Trade Agreements: The Latin American Case</b></p> <p>Juliana PEIXOTO, WCP Co-Chairholder, FLACSO, Argentina</p>

	<p><b>The AfCFTA and African Countries' Participation in Multilateral Trade Negotiations</b></p> <p>Henok B. Asmelash, U. Birmingham, UK; OBREAL; British Academy Fellow – 2025/26) at Carnegie Endowment for Peace, Washington DC</p>
	<p><b>Trade and development from a developing country's perspective.</b></p> <p>Thi Thu Huong TRINH, WTO Chairholder, Foreign Trade University, Viet Nam</p>
15:00'-16:30'	<p><b>Panel III: Progress towards a development-oriented multilateral trading system</b></p> <p>Moderator: Michelle Sanchez (WCP Chair FGV, Brazil)</p>
	<p><b>Reinvigorating the Multilateral Trading System: Rights to Development in the Era of Global Ecological Crises</b></p> <p>Maharani HAPSARI, WCP Chairholder, CWTS - Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia</p>
	<p><b>Trade, Development, and Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Trade policy, development and inclusion - proposing a new framework</b> Amrita BAHRI, WCP Chairholder, ITAM, Mexico</li> <li>- <b>Trade policy and old age</b> Dorotea LOPEZ, WCP Chairholder, IEI – U. Chile, Chile</li> <li>- <b>Trade policy and indigenous communities</b> Victor SACO, WCP Chairholder, PUCP, Peru</li> <li>- <b>Trade policy and LGBTQ+</b> Gerald SOLANO, WCP Chairholder, UNA, Costa Rica, and Izabella ARENAS, WCP Chair, U. de los Andes, Colombia</li> <li>- <b>Trade policy and youth</b> Ignacio SÁNCHEZ GONZÁLEZ, WCP Chair, IEI-U. Chile, Chile</li> </ul>
16:30'-17:00'	<p><b>Conclusions; Next steps</b></p> <p>Ramon TORRENT, President, OBREAL Global Observatory</p> <p>Harish IYER, Head of the WTO Chairs Programme Unit, WTO Secretariat</p>
17:00'-17:15'	<p><b>End of the conference and Family photo</b></p>
19:00'	<p><b>Dinner</b></p>

## ONLINE CONNECTION

**Subject** International Conference as a prelude to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference  
**Meeting ID** 892 1306 1251  
**Secret Code** 722649  
**Date and Time** 19th March 2026 08:00 AM Central Africa  
**Meeting Link** [Just Click](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89213061251?pwd=njx54NcaDAZe5svOeQpgjZpGfZTTPt.1) Here !  
**Copy this and paste on your browser** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89213061251?pwd=njx54NcaDAZe5svOeQpgjZpGfZTTPt.1>