



## **WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN CHAIRS**

*organised by*

**Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi  
(WCP India Chair)**

*Centre for Trade and Investment Law | Centre for WTO Studies*

### **SCHEDULE OF THE WCP REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**27 and 28 September 2024**

**Room 22**  
**Vaniya Bhawan, 16 Akbar Road, New Delhi**



**DAY 1**

**27 September 2024 (Friday)**

*Registration starts at 09:00 AM*

### INAUGURAL SESSION

TIME	ADDRESS
	<b>Welcome Address</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:10</b>	<b>Prof. James J. Nedumpara</b> , Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi and WTO Chairholder – India
	<b>Vice Chancellor's Address</b>
<b>10:10 – 10:20</b>	<b>Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi</b> , Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
	<b>Ambassador's Address</b>
<b>10:20 - 10:30</b>	<b>H. E. Dr. Senthil Pandian C.</b> , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, PMI, Geneva ( <i>Virtual</i> )
	<b>Address by Deputy Director General, WTO (<i>pre-recorded</i>)</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:35</b>	<b>Amb. Xiangchen Zhang</b> , Deputy Director General, WTO
	<b>Additional Secretary's Address</b>
<b>10:35 – 10:45</b>	<b>Shri Ajay Bhadoo</b> , Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industry Government of India
	<b>Chief Guest's Address</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<b>Shri Jitin Prasada</b> , Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (TBC)**
<b>11:00 – 11:10</b>	<b>Pre-Recorded Address by Donor Member Missions in Geneva</b> <b>France, Australia, Austria and Republic of Korea</b>
	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>
<b>11:10 – 11:15</b>	<b>Mr. Ridhish Rajvanshi</b> – Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi





**11:15– 11:45: TEA / COFFEE BREAK**

TIME	PARTICULARS
11:45 – 13:00	<p><b>SESSION 1: REGIONAL ASPECTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF GLOBAL NORMS AND REGIONAL REALITIES</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (10 min)</b></p> <p><b>Amb. (Dr.) V.S. Seshadri (Retd. IFS)</b>, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group</p> <p><b>Panelists (7 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Pritam Banerjee</b>, Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi</p> <p><b>Dr. Umid Yakubkhodjaev</b>, Dean, Faculty of International Law, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and WTO Co-Chairholder – Uzbekistan</p> <p><b>Dr. Pinar Artiran</b>, Director of the Research Center for International Trade Law and Arbitration, İstanbul Bilgi University, and WTO Chairholder – Turkey</p> <p><b>Dr. Aristide Maniriho</b>, Lecturer, University of Rwanda</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Wenxing Cui</b>, Associate Professor, School of Global Governance, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics</p> <p><b>Dr. Maarten Smeets</b>, Senior Non-Resident Fellow, World Trade Institute, Switzerland</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>



**13:00 – 14:00: LUNCH**

TIME	PARTICULARS
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<p><b>SESSION 2: TRANSFORMING TRADE, TRANSFORMING LIVES: INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Henry Gao</b>, Professor, Singapore Management University and Lee Kong Chian Fellow</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Werner Zdouc</b>, Former Director, WTO Appellate Body Secretariat and Knowledge Management Division; and External Faculty, WTI, Switzerland</p> <p><b>Dr. Maarten Smeets</b>, Senior Non-Resident Fellow, World Trade Institute, Switzerland</p> <p><b>Dr. Boopen Seetanah</b>, Professor, University of Mauritius and WTO Chairholder – Mauritius</p> <p><b>Dr. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga</b>, Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya and WTO Chairholder – Kenya</p> <p><b>Dr. Ndikey Njoya Nabil Aman</b>, Lecturer, International Relations Institute of Cameroon, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Yueh-Ping Yang</b>, Associate Professor/Director, Asian Center for WTO &amp; International Health Law and Policy, National Taiwan University, Chinese Taipei and WTO Chairholder – Chinese Taipei (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Ms. Sunanda Tewari</b>, Consultant (Legal)   Assistant Professor, CTIL</p> <p><b>Ms. Monika</b>, Consultant (Legal), CWTOS</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>





**15:00 – 15:05: SESSION BREAK**

TIME	PARTICULARS
15:05 – 16:15	<p><b>SESSION 3: GREEN INDUSTRIAL POLICIES AND TRADE TENSIONS: NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF A NET ZERO ECONOMY</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b></p> <p><b>Amb. Mohan Kumar</b>, Former Ambassador of India to France and Dean, Strategic and International Initiatives Jindal School of International Affairs, Sonipat</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Simon Lester</b>, Non-Resident Fellow, Baker Institute of Public Policy (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Dr. Achyut Prasad Wagle</b>, Registrar, Kathmandu University, and WTO Chairholder, Nepal</p> <p><b>Dr. Giorgio Sacerdoti</b>, Former Member, WTO Appellate Body</p> <p><b>Dr. Yueh-Ping Yang</b>, Associate Professor/Director, Asian Center for WTO &amp; International Health Law and Policy, National Taiwan University, Chinese Taipei and WTO Chairholder – Chinese Taipei (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Ms. Sunitha Raju</b>, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b></p> <p><b>Prof. James J. Nedumpara</b>, Head CTIL and WTO Chairholder – India</p> <p><b>Dr. Pinar Artiran</b>, Director of the Research Center for International Trade Law and Arbitration, İstanbul Bilgi University, and WTO Chairholder – Turkey</p> <p><b>Ms. Pallavi Arora</b>, Consultant (Legal), CWTOS</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>



**16:15 – 16:30: TEA / COFFEE BREAK**

TIME	PARTICULARS
16:30 – 17:45	<p><b>SESSION 4: CRITICAL MINERALS FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE: WHAT IS NEXT FOR ASIA AND AFRICA</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b>  <b>Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh</b>, Former Deputy Director General, WTO</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b>  <b>Shri Vivek Kumar Bajpai</b>, Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India*  <b>Dr. Weihuan Zhou</b>, Associate Professor, UNSW, Sydney (Virtual)  <b>Dr. Veda Vaidyanathan</b>, Associate Fellow, Foreign Policy and Security Studies, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)  <b>Dr. Saon Ray</b>, Professor (Visiting), ICRIER  <b>Mr. Karthik Ganesan</b>, Fellow and Director - Strategic Partnerships, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b>  <b>Ms. Aparna Bhattacharya</b>, Consultant (Legal)   Assistant Professor, CTIL  <b>Mr. Ridhish Rajvanshi</b>, Senior Research Fellow, CTIL</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>
17.45	<b>TRANSFER TO HOTEL</b>
18:30	<b>TRANSFER FROM HOTEL FOR KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND GALA DINNER</b>



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND GALA DINNER

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

**NILGIRI  
THE OBEROI, NEW DELHI**

**(INVITE ONLY EVENT)**

TIME	PARTICULAR	SPEAKER
19:00 – 19:05	<i>Introductory Remark</i>	<b>Prof. James J. Nedumpara</b> <i>Head and Professor, CTIL and WTO Chairholder India</i>
19:05 – 19:20	<i>Distinguished Remarks</i>	<b>Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam</b> <i>CEO, NITI Aayog</i>
19:20 – 20:10	<i>Keynote Address</i>	<b>Prof. Joel P. Trachtman</b> <i>Professor of International Law Henry J. Braker Professor of Commercial Law The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University</i>
20:10 – 20:15	<i>Vote of Thanks</i>	<b>Mr. Satwik Shekhar</b> <i>Consultant (Legal)/Assistant Professor, CTIL and WCP India Coordinator</i>

**NETWORKING AND GALA DINNER (20:15 onwards)**





**DAY 2**  
**28 September 2024 (Saturday)**

**Room 22, Vanijya Bhawan**

TIME	PARTICULARS
09:30 – 10:30	<b>ROUND TABLE of WTO Chairholders from Asia and Africa</b>
10:30 – 11:45	<p><b>SESSION 5: CAN WTO'S CROWN JEWEL BE PROTECTED? EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS FOR A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b>  <b>Amb. Ujal Singh Bhatia</b>, Former Member and Chair, Appellate Body, WTO</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b>  <b>Dr. Giorgio Sacerdoti</b>, Former Member, WTO Appellate Body  <b>Dr. Werner Zdouc</b>, Former Director, WTO Appellate Body Secretariat and Knowledge Management Division; and External Faculty, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland  <b>Prof. James J. Nedumpara</b>, Head and Professor, CTIL and WCP Chairholder - India  <b>Ms. Aparna Ray</b>, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO (Virtual)  <b>Dr. Prabhash Ranjan</b>, Professor, Jindal Global Law School</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b>  <b>Ms. Shailja Singh</b>, Associate Professor   Consultant (Legal), CTIL  <b>Ms. Ashita Jain</b>, Associate, CTIL</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>





**11:45 – 12:00: TEA / COFFEE BREAK**

TIME	PARTICULAR
12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>SESSION 6: AGRICULTURE TRADE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SUSTAINABILITY: STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN GREEN TRANSITIONS AND INCLUSIVITY</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b></p> <p><b>Shri Sudhanshu Pandey</b>, Election Commissioner of Ladakh and Former Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Xinquan Tu</b>, Dean, University of International Business and Economics, China and WTO Chairholder - China (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Dr. Denis Yuni</b>, Senior Lecturer, National University of Lesotho</p> <p><b>Dr. Ngoc Thuan Hoang</b>, Head of Advanced and High-quality Programs Division, Department of Undergraduate Studies, Foreign Trade University, Vietnam</p> <p><b>Dr. Aristide Maniriho</b>, Lecturer, University of Rwanda</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Ndikey Njoya Nabil Aman</b>, Lecturer, International Relations Institute of Cameroon, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon</p> <p><b>Ms. Sparsha Janardhan</b>, Associate, CTIL</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>



**13:00 – 14:00: LUNCH**

TIME	PARTICULARS
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>SESSION 7: SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTIONS AND JUST TRANSITION: ENSURING INCLUSIVITY AND JUSTICE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair and Keynote Speaker (8 min)</b>  <b>Shri Amitabh Kumar</b>, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce</p> <p><b>Panelists (6 min)</b>  <b>Dr. Achyut Prasad Wagle</b>, Registrar, Kathmandu University, and WTO Chairholder - Nepal  <b>Dr. Wenxing Cui</b>, Associate Professor, School of Global Governance, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics  <b>Dr. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga</b>, Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi, Kenya and WTO Chairholder – Kenya  <b>Dr. Umid Yakubkhodjaev</b>, Dean, Faculty of International Law, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and WTO Co-Chairholder – Uzbekistan  <b>Dr. Denis Yuni</b>, Senior Lecturer, National University of Lesotho</p> <p><b>Discussants (4 min)</b>  <b>Ms. Shiny Pradeep</b>, Assistant Professor, CTIL  <b>Ms. Vishakha Srivastava</b>, Senior Research Fellow (Legal), CWS</p> <p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p>

**15:00 – 15:15: TEA / COFFEE BREAK**





## CLOSING SESSION

TIME	ADDRESS
	<b>Welcome Address</b>
<b>15:15 – 15:25</b>	<b>Prof. James J. Nedumpara</b> , WTO Chairholder – India and Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, IIFT
	<b>Address by Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (IITC)</b>
<b>15:25 – 15:35</b>	<b>Dr. Harish Iyer</b> , Head of the WTO Chairs Programme Unit in TA Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO
	<b>Special Address</b>
<b>15:35 – 15:50</b>	<b>Dr. Werner Zdouc</b> , Former Director, WTO Appellate Body Secretariat and Knowledge Management Division; and External Faculty, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland
	<b>Address by WCP Donor Member</b>
<b>15:50 – 16:00</b>	<b>Mr. Julian Storm</b> , Counsellor (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi
	<b>Distinguished Address</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b>Shri L Satya Srinivas</b> , Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
	<b>Chief Guest Address</b>
<b>16:15 – 16:35</b>	<b>Shri Anup Wadhawan</b> , Former Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>
<b>16:35</b>	<b>Mr. Satwik Shekhar</b> – Consultant (Legal) / Assistant Professor, CTIL and WCP India Coordinator