



WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

on

CARBON GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL JUSTICE: RECONCILING TRADE COMPETITIVENESS AND CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY

by

**Centre for Studies in International Trade and
International Investment Laws (CITIL),
Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur
&**

**Centre for Trade and Investment Laws (CTIL), Indian
Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Ministry of Commerce
and Industry, Government of India**

Date:

24-25 April, 2026

Venue:

DNLU, Jabalpur

WTO- CHAIRS PROGRAMME

The WTO Chairs Programme, initiated by the World Trade Organization (WTO), is an academic initiative designed to advance research, education, and outreach related to international trade and the functions of the WTO. This program strives to deepen the understanding of global trade issues, particularly in developing countries, and bridge the gap between academic research and real-world trade policy. Under the WTO Chairs Programme, participating academic institutions and scholars receive support for research projects, enabling the examination of key trade related topics. It also encourages the development of courses and teaching materials related to international trade and WTO matters, thereby enhancing the quality of education and training. It also promotes dialogue between academia, policymakers, and practitioners through seminars, conferences, and workshops. This interaction facilitates informed policy decisions based on robust research findings. Capacity building is a core facet of the WTO Chairs Programme, strengthening the capabilities of academic institutions and researchers, particularly in developing nations. It empowers them with the knowledge and resources required to actively engage in research and teaching on trade-related topics. By fostering a global network of expertise, this Programme facilitates knowledge sharing and cooperation, strengthening the role of academia in shaping international trade policy and promoting a deeper understanding of the WTO's role in the global trade.

CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT LAW, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE (IIFT), NEW DELHI

IIFT is the India Chair of the WTO Chairs Programme and Prof. James Nedumpara at CTIL is the Chairholder. CTIL was established to serve as a center of excellence in the field of international trade and investment law. It was officially inaugurated on 2016. CTIL's establishment was a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen its engagement with the global trading system and enhance its understanding of international trade and investment laws. CTIL is a prestigious institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. It serves as a vital hub for research, policy analysis, and capacity-building activities in the domains of international trade, investment, and related legal matters. Since its inception, it has actively engaged in various activities, including research projects, policy analysis, organizing workshops and seminars, and collaborating with international organizations and academic institutions. Its primary objectives encompass a wide spectrum of activities, including conducting cutting-edge research on issues related to trade and investment, providing policy recommendations to the government, and engaging in capacity-building exercises for various stakeholders. The institution collaborates closely with international organizations, academic institutions, and legal experts, fostering a global perspective on trade and investment law.



DHARMASHASTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, (DNLU) JABALPUR

Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur (M.P.) was established in the year 2018, by Madhya Pradesh Dharmashastra National Law University Act 24 of 2018, with the object of advancing the cause of legal education and achieving excellence as a university for imparting value-based legal education to undergraduate as well as postgraduate students. DNLU is dedicated to providing high-quality legal education that prepares students to excel in the field of law and contribute to the legal profession and society at large. The motto of the University is 'Satyam Vada Dharmam Char' which has been enshrined in Verse eleven of the Shikshavalli Section of the Taittiriya Upanishad. The university places a strong emphasis on research and scholarship. It actively supports faculty and student research initiatives, organizes seminars, conferences, and workshops, and encourages publications in reputed legal journals. DNLU also fosters an environment conducive to mootings and legal competitions, helping students develop practical legal skills and advocacy abilities.

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAWS (CITIL), DNLU

The Centre for Studies in International Trade and Investment Laws is a research and learning centre at DNLU, Jabalpur. The Centre aims to bring together the legal academics, professionals, students, researchers etc., with an objective of the dissemination of knowledge and encouraging research in the various realms of International Trade Law and International Investment Laws. It must be mentioned here that, the subjects of International Trade and International Investment Laws are offered usually as Optional or Elective Courses in Law schools. National Law Universities have always been at the cusp of dissemination of knowledge not only in traditional compulsory law courses but also have tried to expose the students to various other fields of law through various activities and events. The Centre is one of such initiatives of a blooming National Law University to expose the interested students, scholars and academics to this intricate field of law which has interconnected horizons with both domestic law and International Law.



ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The global transition to decarbonisation is actively reshaping the intersection of international trade and climate policy. As nations actively try to shift towards a more sustainable future, instruments of carbon pricing such as carbon taxes, emissions-trading mechanisms and border-adjustment policies are increasingly deployed to internalise the cost of greenhouse-gas emissions. These tools aim both to deter carbon leakage (which refers to relocation of carbon-intensive industries to a country with lenient climate policies) and to incentivise production with lower emissions.

In this context, Border Carbon Adjustments (BCAs) represent a notable innovation in trade-policy design. The BCAs place a carbon charge on imported goods based on their embedded emissions and may, in some cases, provide rebates for exports. While the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (EU-CBAM) is the most mature example, several other jurisdictions are also actively exploring comparable frameworks. Recently, the UK and Norway have announced the introduction of CBAM in 2027, while some countries, such as Australia and Canada, are also moving on the same path. These initiatives collectively signal a broader global shift toward embedding carbon-pricing logic into trade regimes. These developments indicate how environmental accountability is allocated across borders.

Nevertheless, the deployment of border adjustments and carbon-pricing mechanisms raises complex challenges. For many developing or emerging economies, disparities in technological capacity, data infrastructure for monitoring emissions, and access to climate finance create the risk of such measures acting as de facto trade barriers. Meanwhile, legal concerns around compatibility with multilateral trade rules also arise. These measures have ignited discussion on the non-discrimination obligations within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the scope of the environmental exceptions under Article XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Beyond this discussion, they also raise normative questions. For instance, can carbon-pricing through trade-policy instruments foster equitable global climate action, or will they deepen existing inequalities between the Global North and the Global South?

At the same time, the diffusion of carbon-pricing mechanisms holds significant transformational potential, although the scholarly community is still divided on its objective and effect. When designed with fairness in mind, such instruments can drive systemic change by enhancing transparency in carbon accounting, promoting cleaner production pathways and mobilising climate finance.

The discourse raises the following pertinent questions:

- How are carbon-pricing mechanisms and border adjustments altering the balance between trade liberalisation and environmental protection?
- What legal and institutional frameworks are required to ensure WTO compatibility and fairness for developing economies?
- Can such measures operate as instruments of equitable climate action, or might they instead entrench structural asymmetries within the global trading system?

In light of these factors, this symposium aims to foster dialogue on the evolving architecture of carbon-related trade measures. It will consider the ethical, legal and economic dimensions of border adjustments and carbon pricing, and examine their implications for sustainable development, global trade governance and the transition to net-zero economies.



SUB-THEMES

- CBAM and the Evolution of Trade-Climate Linkages
- Greening Global Trade: From Voluntary ESG to Enforceable Climate Measures
- Just Transitions and Sustainable Trade: A Framework for Global Equity
- Trade Competitiveness vs. Equity: reassessing the 'Green Protectionism' debate
- CBAM and the Principle of Climate Justice: Evaluating equity and fairness for Developing Countries
- The principle of common-but-differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities: Global South Perspectives on Carbon Border Adjustment
- Socioeconomic Impacts and Vulnerabilities: Distributional Effects of CBAM on Least Developed Countries
- The Role of WTO and International Law in Reconciling Climate Transition, fairness and equity
- Political Economy and Power Asymmetries in the Carbon Border Policy Debate
- Global Governance of Sustainability Standards: The role of the WTO, ISO, OECD, and others in shaping emissions standards, product rules, and carbon accounting that underpin CBAM.
- The Legal Architecture of the EU CBAM: Origins, Scope, and Operation
- CBAM and WTO Law: Discrimination, Exceptions, and Dispute Risks
- CBAM and the Paris Agreement: Alignment or Contradiction?
- Border Measures in International Economic Law: Precedents and Pathways
- CBAM and the Global South: Carbon Colonialism or Climate Incentive?
- India's Legal and Strategic Response to CBAM
- Least Developed Countries and the Risk of Structural Disadvantage
- Sectoral Impact of CBAM: Steel, Aluminium, Cement, and Fertilisers
- Comparative Policy Responses: US, China, Brazil, and Beyond
- Private Sector Adaptation to CBAM: Risks, Strategies, and Innovation
- Climate Clubs and Cooperative Alternatives to CBAM
- Reforming the WTO for Climate-Trade Coherence
- CBAM and the Future of Global Economic Governance
- Domestic Compliance and Institutional Challenges: Reporting and Verification by Exporters in Developing Countries

Who may Participate:

- Students UG/PG from Legal and Non-Legal disciplines (Arts & Humanities Discipline).
- Academicians, Research Scholars (pursuing PhD), Professionals, Lawyers, Policy Makers and Advocates from all disciplines and industry professionals.



SYMPOSIUM STRUCTURE

Expert Talk

The Expert Talk will be an insightful session led by a WTO expert, exploring how international trade rules intersect with emerging climate policies and discussing the implications of carbon-related trade measures for global economic governance.

Technical Sessions/ Paper Presentation

The conference will host technical sessions dedicated to paper presentations. These sessions will offer a structured format for participants to share insights, methodologies, and empirical findings related to the theme of women and international trade.

Panel Discussion

The International Symposium will feature Panel Discussions. These panels will provide a platform for critical dialogue among experts and participants, fostering interactive debate on themes of contemporary global relevance.

Important Dates

- Last Date for Abstract submission: **28th February, 2026**
- Abstract selection intimation: **5th March, 2026**
- Last Date for registration and payment of fees: **20th March, 2026**
- Last Date for Sending Full Paper: **10th April, 2026**
- Last Date of Registration for Attendees: **20th March, 2026**

NOTE:

- ***5 Best Papers will be awarded a Certificate of Merit.***
- ***All the presenters will be awarded the Certificate of Paper Presentation.***
- ***All the attendees will be awarded the Certificate of Participation.***



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission of the abstract is mandatory as the first stage of the selection process. Upon selection of the abstract, participants will be required to complete their registration. *It is also mandatory to submit the full chapter before the last date of paper submission.*

Best papers will be considered for publication in a special issue or edited volume in collaboration with leading academic publishers or journals in the field of trade and development. *Kindly note that the selection of an abstract does not guarantee publication of the paper in the edited book/journal.* Publication shall be strictly subject to the editorial guidelines of CITIL and the publisher.

- **Formatting Requirements:**

- All papers must be written in English.
- A maximum of two authors is allowed.

- **For abstract**

- Abstract, not exceeding 450-500 words, should be submitted along with a list of at least 5 keywords typed in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) and PDF format.
- Font: Garamond, 12-point size, 1.5-spacing.
- Margins: 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides.
- It must clearly outline the research question, methodology, main findings (if available), and relevance to the symposium theme.
- Submitted abstracts will first undergo a peer-review process to evaluate their quality, relevance, and contribution to the conference theme.
- Authors will be notified of the review outcome and acceptance status on time.

- **For paper**

- Papers should be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) and PDF format.
- Font: Garamond, 12-point size, 1.5-spacing.
- Margins: 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides.
- Full papers should typically range between 5,000 to 7,000 words, excluding abstract, references, and appendices.
- Authors should follow OSCOLA 4th Edition citation style throughout the paper.
- Authors must ensure that their papers are original and have not been previously published or submitted elsewhere.
- Text similarity above 15% would lead to immediate disqualification. Use of AI Generative tools is strictly prohibited.
- Authors must adhere to the deadlines mentioned.

Registration Details

Registration Fee:

- **For Presenters**

- For undergraduate and post-graduate students (from legal and non-legal disciplines) and Research Scholars (PhD): **Rs. 5000/-** (with accommodation) and **Rs. 3000** (without accommodation).
- For Academicians, Professionals, Lawyers, Policy Makers and Advocates: **Rs. 7000/-** (with accommodation) and **Rs. 5000** (without accommodation).
- For DNLU Students: **Rs. 1500/-** (without accommodation)
 - Fees to be paid only after the Abstract Selection. The selected abstracts will be notified through email.

- **For Attendees**

- For attendees: Rs. 1000/- (without accommodation) and Rs. 3000/- (with accommodation).

- **Registration/Abstract Submission:**

- For Submission, kindly fill out the [Google Form](#) or scan the QR Code.



In case of facing any difficulty in registration, please feel free to contact us at citlcourse@mpdnlu.ac.in

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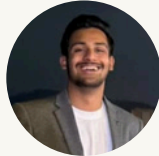
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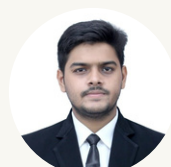
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