

The WTO: Past, Present and Future

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Overview of Presentation

- Past – History of the GATT
- Present – Collapse of the Doha Round and Impasse in WTO negotiations
- Future – Reform of the WTO and Role of China

Past

- History of the GATT: main architects – US/UK- Havana Charter 1948 – rejected by US 1950 - GATT – default org – led by US (and EU);
- Issues and interests of US (EU): Ag and Textiles protected;
- methods-US favoured no formula, req and offer and principle supplier;
- DC-no recog. until 1954/55 (art XVIII)-Harberle 1957- 1964 Part IV on Trade & Dev.- 1979 Enabling Clause on pref.
- Result = Asymmetry and Imbalance

Present

- Present – Imbalance-Doha Dev. Mandate; recog. Needs an interests of DC; S&D in all areas; LTFR
- DC Alliances – hard won gains - negotiations- Rev 3 and 4- AG and NAMA – 2008 TEXTS;
- 2008 collapse; Susan Schwab Doha Dead- 2009 Obama Admin. and Business – Doha not in interests of US
- GVCs narrative; new analyses of globalization – favour Services interests – dumb down Agric. – tariffs not imp.
- “new pathways”; no more single undertaking; issues by issue; plurilaterals; S&D obsolete- “graduate” emerging countries
- Mega- regionals and bilaterals- TPP and TTIP = create new Gold Std rules - isolate China

Future

- World needs: nuanced analysis of globalization; GVC not all pervasive; lead firms dominate; DC need to move up value chains; UNCTAD – DC can “trade more and earn less”
- Principles- needs and interests of DC – objective: development/solidarity: fair trade (S&D recog. differences), balanced rules, Capacity Building (LDCs), Inclusive (multilateral -not variable geometry); social justice – mandela at 50th Anniv.
- Role of BRICS and SA – leadership must be based on alternative values (Development) and Solidarity (Trips and PH; G20; Alliances with G33, Africa Group; LDCs..)

THANK YOU
for Listening!

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