

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO A WORLD WITHOUT THE WTO?

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Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General,
CUTS International



Anabel Gonzalez
Non Resident Senior Fellow
Peterson Institute for International Economics



Chad Blackman
Ambassador and PR to UN
at Geneva and WTO



Alejandro Jara
Former Deputy Director
General, WTO



Fernando de Mateo
Invited Professor at El Colegio de Mexico
Former Ambassador of Mexico to the WTO



Rohinton Medhora
President, The Centre for International
Governance Innovation (CIGI)



Juliana Peixoto Batista
Researcher, FLACSO/Argentina
Coordinator, Red LATN

Along with a huge number of losses of human lives and concomitant miseries, the on-going global pandemic as a result of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is creating havoc in all walks of life. Economic, social and political life across the world has got disrupted and is expected to unfold further in the coming weeks, months and may be years. It is having and will have serious ramifications across various sectors, international trade being a major one of them.

Unless they are addressed in a balanced manner by taking into account all interests, such measures and counter-measures may spiral into a slippery slope of protectionism resulting in spill-over effects from supply to demand-side shocks.

As a result, other than immediate consequences such as loss of producer and consumer welfare, there will be a serious damage to the system of multilateralism, which has underwritten the security, peace and prosperity of the world since the Second World War. Can the humanity afford it to happen?

Therefore, other than debating this broader role of the WTO in underwriting peace, security, stability and prosperity, this Webinar will discuss the following specific suggestions for trade multilateralism under the aegis of the WTO to reinvest itself in a new avatar:

- Support for the Multi-party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement for settling trade disputes
- Revival of the built-in agenda of the existing WTO agreements by advocating for greater transparency in the functioning of the WTO's Committees
- Absorption of the values of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation for future multilateral negotiations

RSVP:
S K Soni, +91 9829094548, sks@cuts.org

The webinar will be organised through Zoom platform.
The meeting link will be sent to the registered participants.

To register: <https://bit.ly/2YIY9oY>