

CUTS Session at the WTO Public Forum, 2021

Time to Agree, Not Disagree: Imperative of Reforming the WTO's Appellate Body

Friday, October 01, 2021
11.30 - 12.30 hours (Geneva time)
Room: VR1 (Virtual Room)



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The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath are expected to further damage the existing geopolitical and geo-economic equilibrium. Given this situation, it is all the more important for the global trade governing body to become more functional by making its dispute settlement system effective again. We need to go to the root cause of why the U.S. has expressed its displeasure at various junctures on account of long delays including interpretations of various provisions of the WTO agreements by its Appellate Body.

This has challenged the functioning of the rules-based multilateral trading system and raised questions concerning the relevance of other multilateral institutions as well in the current geopolitical environment. The responsibility of strengthening the multilateral trading system lies with the member countries. There is no alternative but to reform the WTO's dispute settlement system to rebuild a modern and dynamic WTO.

