



Using the WTO and the Trade System to Discipline Fossil Fuel Subsidies for Climate Mitigation

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A recent IMF study places global fossil fuel subsidies at US\$5.3 trillion, or 6.5% of global GDP. Among a range of negative societal effects, such subsidies boost greenhouse gas emissions and further spur climate change, undermining parallel efforts made by the international community. Political developments over the past few years, including in the G20, the G7, the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change, show an increasing recognition of the need to put an end to these perverse subsidies. However, it has proven difficult to move from high-level declarations into concrete action. Trade policy, and more precisely the WTO, could play an important role in this regard. This session seeks to shed light on the impact of fossil fuel subsidies on the environment and will discuss if and how the WTO could become equipped to effectively discipline these subsidies. This session is jointly organized with [ICTSD](#), [World Economic Forum](#), and the [E15 Initiative](#).

SPEAKERS

James Bacchus, Chair of Global Practice, Greenberg Traurig

Susanne Dröge, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Jennifer Hillman, Professor of International Law, Georgetown Law School

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Matias Ignacio Pinto Pimentel, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Finance of Chile

Hubert René Schillinger, Director, Geneva Office, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

MODERATOR

Ingrid Jegou, Senior Associate, ICTSD

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