

ERIA Trade Talk

WTO REFORM

*Speaker: Ms Kendal Hembroff, Director General, Trade
Negotiations, Global Affairs Canada
ERIA Office Jakarta
6 March 2020, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM*

The WTO is facing a number of challenges, including differing positions among WTO Members on priorities, resulting in prolonged and unresolved negotiations; lack of consensus on how best to reflect the nexus on trade and development; and the ongoing impasse on new appointments of WTO Appellate Body members.

Against this backdrop, and in an effort to contribute to strengthening and modernising the WTO, Canada convened a group of 12 other likeminded WTO Members (Australia, Brazil, Chile, EU, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and Switzerland) to create the Ottawa Group. Ottawa Group Ministers have met four times over the past two years. To date, discussions have focused on three main areas: dispute settlement, negotiations, and transparency/notifications. The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), which will be held in Kazakhstan this June, is the next critical juncture point for the WTO.

Ms Kendal Hembroff, Director General for Trade Policy and Negotiations at Global Affairs Canada, will discuss the work of the Ottawa Group.

DATE AND VENUE

Date	6 March 2020, 3:00 PM — 5:00 PM
Venue	Meeting Room 3-4, ERIA Annex Office, Sentral Senayan II, 5th Floor, Jalan Asia Afrika No. 8, Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia
Moderator	Ms Anita Prakash, Director of Policy Relations, ERIA
Discussant	Dr Intan Murnira Ramli, Policy Fellow, ERIA

SCHEDULE

Time	Programme
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Registration
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Presentation by Ms Kendal Hembroff
4:00 PM – 4:10 PM	Comments from Dr Intan Murnira Ramli
4:10 PM – 4:30 PM	Q&A session
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Coffee/refreshments and networking

REGISTRATION

Click here to register <http://bit.ly/ETT-WTO>

Or scan the QR code



ABOUT MS KENDAL HEMBROFF

Ms Hembroff was appointed Director General, Trade Policy and Negotiations at Global Affairs Canada in August 2018 and has responsibility for overseeing the negotiation of Canada’s bilateral/regional trade agreements and related initiatives as well as multilateral trade policy engagement at the WTO, OECD, G20 and APEC. In this capacity, Ms Hembroff currently serves as Canada’s Chief Negotiator for ongoing FTA negotiations with the Pacific Alliance and India, as well as Canada’s senior official for FTA exploratory discussions with ASEAN. Ms. Hembroff previously served as the Deputy Chief Negotiator for CPTPP and the deputy senior official responsible for FTA exploratory discussions with China, and was Canada’s Lead Negotiator for the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Ms Hembroff joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (now Global Affairs Canada) in 1999. She has her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba; and Masters of Arts in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University.

Before assuming her current role, Ms. Hembroff has held a number of other positions in the Trade Policy and Negotiations Branch at Global Affairs Canada. (GATS). Ms Hembroff previously served abroad as Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General in Hong Kong from 2011 to 2014 and was responsible for providing support to Canadian companies in the Greater China region.

ABOUT MS ANITA PRAKASH

Anita Prakash is Director for Policy Relations in ERIA. Her key role is policy support to Leaders and senior officials in the governments of Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania on political economy, growth, narrowing development gaps, regional economic integration and related matters, using the research results of ERIA. She works closely with ASEAN Member states and their Dialogue Partners in the Asia Pacific Region, and also in Europe. She is presently a Visiting Fellow at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

ABOUT DR INTAN MURNIRA RAMLI

Dr Intan Murnira Ramli is a Policy Fellow in ERIA's Policy Design Department. She provides strategic linkages between ERIA's research and the requirements of policy-makers in ASEAN and East Asia region, enabling them to make more informed policy decisions. Having previously served for more than 20 years in the Government of Malaysia, Dr Intan has the necessary knowledge and understanding in the processes of policy making and governance especially involving ASEAN Economic Integration, trade in services & investment, WTO & ASEAN Dispute Settlement, regional free trade agreements including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement.

FOR MORE INFO ON THE APPELLATE BODY IMPASSE

As of December 11, 2019, the Appellate Body has not been able to hear new appeals. Given that a losing WTO member can appeal a panel decision to the Appellate Body, and that a WTO ruling is not effective until after the appellate process is over, a dispute can fall into the void if there is an appeal to a non-functional Appellate Body. This would make the enforceability of WTO rules problematic and runs counter to the interests of many other WTO members, thereby affecting the credibility of the WTO.

In this regard, Canada is working with likeminded WTO members to find ways to address the current impasse. On the margins of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos in January 2020, Canada and 16 other WTO Members endorsed a political statement supporting the prompt finalization of a multi-party interim appeal-arbitration arrangement (MPIA). The MPIA is a mechanism authorised by Article 25 of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding that allows countries to seek alternative methods of dispute arbitration. The MPIA will seek to replace the existing AB processes as closely as possible, to ensure that countries retain their right to a two-stage dispute settlement process. Once finalised, any WTO Member will be able to participate in the MPIA.