INTERNATIONAL MODEL WTO

on

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Jointly Organised by
Faculty of Law, Kateb University
Kabul, Afghanistan

JSS Law College (Autonomous), Mysuru, India

Vaikunta Baliga College of Law, Udupi, India

1. Background and Rationale

International trade has historically served as a powerful instrument for economic growth, technological advancement, employment generation, and poverty reduction. At the same time, expanding global production and trade have intensified environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, deforestation, resource depletion, and the environmental consequences of energy-intensive production.

The relationship between international trade and environmental sustainability is therefore increasingly significant within the multilateral trading system. While trade liberalisation can contribute to the efficient allocation of resources, dissemination of environmentally beneficial technologies, and development of green industries, trade-related activities may also generate adverse environmental externalities.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) framework recognises the importance of sustainable development and the protection and preservation of the environment. However, tensions may arise when States adopt environmental measures that affect international trade. Questions concerning non-discrimination, market access, technical regulations, subsidies, standards, production methods, and regulatory autonomy increasingly occupy the intersection between international economic law and environmental governance.

The International Model WTO on Trade and Environmental Sustainability seeks to provide a simulated multilateral negotiating environment in which participants can critically examine these challenges. The programme will enable participants to understand how WTO rules, environmental objectives, national regulatory interests, technological innovation, and developmental priorities can be reconciled within a rules-based international trading system.

The Model will particularly encourage participants to move beyond a simple trade-versus-environment approach and examine how international trade can become an instrument for achieving sustainable development while preserving the legitimate regulatory space of States. Particular attention will be given to the interests of developing and least-developed countries, technological disparities, differentiated capacities, access to green technologies, and the need to ensure that environmental measures do not become disguised restrictions on international trade.

2. SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA

i. TRADE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

1. Trade and Climate Change
2. Trade and Environmental Sustainability
3. WTO Rules and Environmental Measures
4. Carbon Border Adjustment Measures
5. Environmental Standards and Regulatory Cooperation

II. GREEN INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY TRADE

1. Steel Standards and Green Steel
2. Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform
3. Sustainable Timber Trade and Deforestation
4. Environmental Standards and Market Access
5. Green Industrial Policy and Developing-Country Interests

III. PLASTICS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

1. Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade
2. Circular Economy Products and Trade
3. Recycling and Waste Trade
4. Sustainable Production and Consumption
5. Resource Efficiency and Product Standards

IV. DIGITAL TRADE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

1. Digital Trade and Environmental Regulation
2. Digital Technologies for Environmental Sustainability
3. Data, Environmental Monitoring and Carbon Accounting
4. Digital Infrastructure and Environmental Impacts
5. E-Waste and Sustainable Digital Trade

V. WTO GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND THE GREEN TRANSITION

1. WTO–Multilateral Environmental Agreement Coherence
2. Developing Countries and Special and Differential Treatment
3. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building
4. Trade, Development and Environmental Justice
5. Dispute Settlement and Environmental Measures

VI. MINISTERIAL NEGOTIATION AND OUTCOME

1. Country Position Statements
2. Coalition and Plurilateral Negotiations
3. Drafting of the Ministerial Declaration
4. Negotiation of Amendments
5. Final Plenary Debate
6. Adoption of the Model WTO Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Environmental Sustainability

3. Central Negotiating Question

How can the multilateral trading system reconcile trade liberalisation, environmental protection, climate action and sustainable development while preserving the fundamental principles of WTO law and equitable participation of developing countries?

4. Academic Objectives

The Model aims to:

a) Develop understanding of WTO law and environmental sustainability;
b) Examine contemporary trade-environment challenges;
c) Develop negotiation, advocacy, and diplomatic skills;
d) Promote critical and evidence-based policy analysis; and
e) Encourage international academic cooperation.

5. Academic Significance

The Model provides a practical platform for students, academics, researchers, lawyers, and policymakers to engage with contemporary issues in international trade law, environmental law, climate governance, and sustainable development.

6. ELIGIBILITY

Open to:

Undergraduate and postgraduate law students;

LL.M. and Ph.D. scholars;

Faculty and academicians;

Legal practitioners;

Researchers;

Policymakers and professionals; and

Others with an academic or professional interest in the subject.

Event Date
31 October 2026

Registration Deadline
25 October 2026

7. DATE AND REGISTRATION

Participants can choose the country from the country matrix. Each participant will be allowed to represent only one country. Countries will be allotted according to preference on first come first serve basis.

ABOUT THE ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

Registration Fee: Nil / No Registration Fee

Register Here: **https://forms.gle/1rLhke2L3GQbpnBf8**

Note: An e-Certificate will be provided to participants upon successful participation throughout the entire session. In addition, five certificates will be awarded to the Best Delegates.

ABOUT FACULTY OF LAW AT KATEB UNIVERSITY

The Faculty of Law at Kateb University was established in 2007 with the aim of becoming a leading center for legal education and research in Afghanistan. The Faculty currently offers a Bachelor's degree in Law and Master's programs in Criminal Law and Criminology, International Law, and Private Law. Its curriculum covers major areas of law, including Criminal, Constitutional, Civil, Commercial, Environmental, Intellectual Property, Labor, Mining, and Consumer Protection Law. The Faculty also emphasizes practical legal education through its Legal Clinic, where students develop skills in legal writing, research, client interviewing, consultation, and case preparation under the supervision of practicing lawyers. Graduates can pursue careers in government institutions, the judiciary, prosecution, legal practice, consultancy, diplomacy, arbitration, and other legal fields.

About JSS Law College, Autonomous

JSS Law College, Autonomous, located in Kuvempunagar, Mysuru, Karnataka, India, was established in 1982 under the aegis of JSS Mahavidyapeetha and is recognized as India's first autonomous law college. The college is affiliated with Karnataka State Law University (KSLU), approved by the Bar Council of India, recognized by the University Grants Commission, and accredited with an A grade by NAAC. It offers B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), B.B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B., and LL.M. programs. The college actively promotes legal education through seminars, conferences, workshops, moot court competitions, legal awareness programs, debates, guest lectures, internships, legal research, and clinical legal education. These activities provide students with practical exposure, strengthen their professional skills, and prepare them for careers in the legal profession and public service.

About VaikuntaBaliga College of Law

Vaikunta Baliga College of Law (VBCL), formerly known as Udupi Law College, is a premier institution for legal education located in Kunjibettu, Udupi, Karnataka, India. Established in 1957, it is the second-oldest law college in Karnataka and is managed by the Dr. T.M.A. Pai Foundation, Manipal. The college is permanently affiliated with Karnataka State Law University (KSLU), recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC), and accredited with a B+ grade by NAAC. VBCL offers B.A. LL.B., LL.B., LL.M., and Post Graduate Diploma programs. The college promotes legal education through seminars, conferences, moot court competitions, legal research, workshops, internships, and other academic and professional activities that provide students with practical exposure and strengthen their legal skills.

Patrons

Chief Patrons
Dr. Ali Ahmad Yousefi
Chancellor, Kateb University, Kabul

Prof. K. S. Suresh
Chief Executive
JSS Law College, (Autonomous)
Mysore, India

Patron
Dr. Muhammad Yahya Balaghat
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Kateb University, Kabul, Afghanistan

Dr. N. Vanishree
Principal
JSS Law College, (Autonomous), Mysore
Karnataka, India

Dr. Surekha K.
Principal
Vaikunta Baliga College of Law
Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102
Karnataka, India

Secretary General, Model WTO
Mohammed Subhan
Student of final-year BBA LL.B. (Hons.)
JSS Law College Mysore
Karnataka, India

Coordinator (s)

Mr. Ibrahim Rezaei
Dean, Faculty of Law, Kateb University
I. Rezaei@kateb.edu.af
+93 729 008 315

Dr. Jagadish A. T.
JSS Law College (Autonomous)
Email: jagadishat@gmail.com
Mobile No. +91-9449279359

Dr. Jayamol P. S.
Vaikunta Baliga College of Law
Email: jaya.sreekandan8@gmail.com
Mobile No. +91 6363768001