

“Is the WTO 3D printing-ready?”

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New disruptive technologies are affecting firms' production decisions and reshaping global patterns of trade and investment. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, is a perfect example. An article in the *Global Trade Review* suggests that 3D printing may wipe out as much as 40 per cent of world trade by 2040 (ING, 2017). The question asked here is: what challenges will the progress of 3D printing have on WTO and the multilateral trading system?

With 3D printing, computer-aided design (CAD) data is used to build physical objects by adding material layer by layer. 3D printing is already changing trade and production flows by moving production

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