

Informal Working Groups on (i) trade-related climate measures; (ii) environmental goods and services; (iii) circular economy - circularity; and (iv) subsidies. The objective of the working groups is to allow for more in-depth discussions in-between plenary TESSD meetings and make progress towards tangible outcomes. Across all groups, Members discuss challenges and opportunities for developing countries, and ways in which trade can be mutually supportive of sustainable development objectives.

Coordinated by Ambassador Nadia Theodore (Canada) and Ambassador Ronald Saborio (Costa Rica), TESSD is open to all WTO Members and has currently 74 Members as co-sponsors from all regions and at all levels of developments. Stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, international organizations and academia support discussions through technical expertise, experience, and transparency.

TESSD at a glance

Coordinators: Canada and Costa Rica

Co-sponsors: 74 Members

I. Environmental Goods & Services

Overview Of Discussions in Working Group Meetings

17 May 2022:

Discussion on priorities regarding environmental objectives, approach, and scope of discussions
First targeted discussion on climate mitigation and renewable energy.

4 October 2022:

Discussions under the objective of climate action, with a focus on non-tariff measures, and environmental services.

Priorities for 2023

Discussions will continue with an objective-based approach. The first environmental objective is climate change adaptation and mitigation, with the first sectoral focus on renewable energy.

Examination of the sector-specific issues involved in the promotion and facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services, including supply chain, technical and regulatory elements, among others.

II. Trade-related Climate Measures

Overview of Discussions in Working Group Meetings

17 May 2022:

Members discussed priorities for the working group, shared experiences on their TRCMs and considered challenges facing MSMEs and developing countries.

24 October 2022:

Members discussed trade aspects of carbon pricing and carbon standards with presentations from international organizations.

III. Circular Economy – Circularity

Overview of Discussions in Working Group Meetings

18 May 2022:

Members heard business perspectives on the challenges and opportunities related to the circular economy as well as those to improve e-waste recycling.

Members shared their national experiences on how a circular economy approach was supporting sustainable development goals (SDGs) and addressing challenges.