



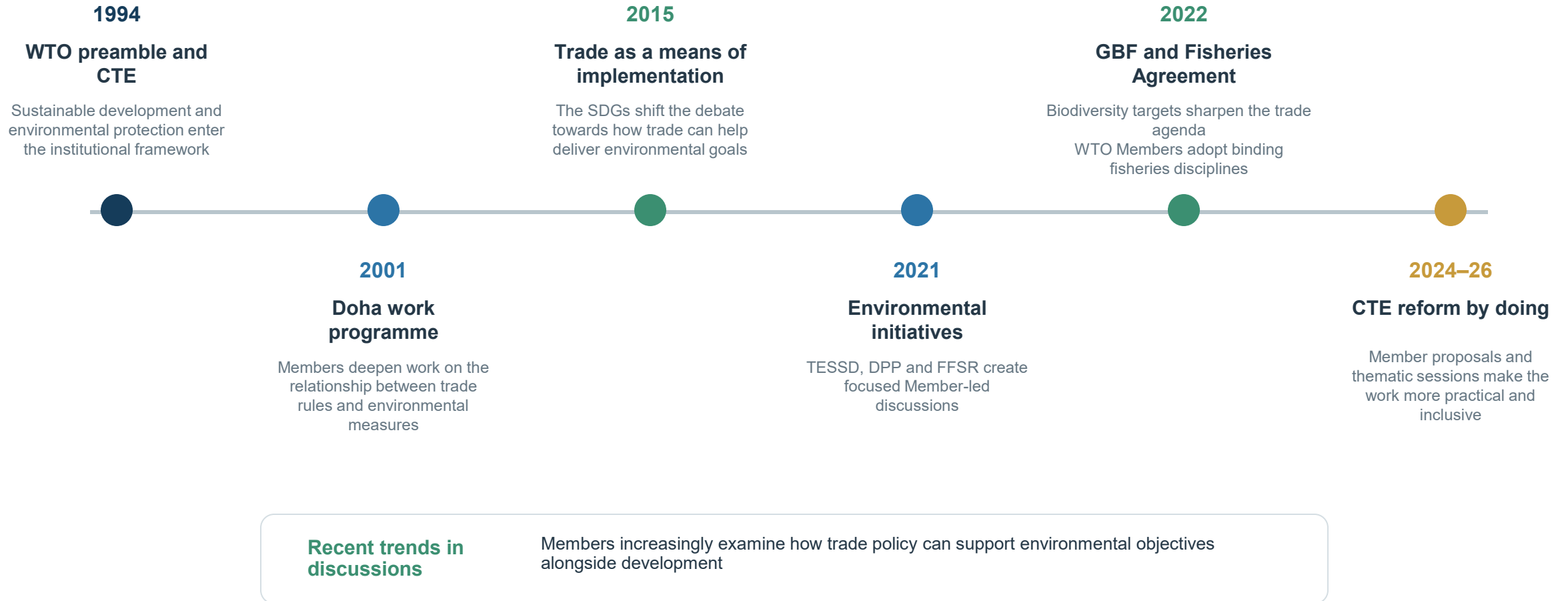
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Biodiversity and WTO work

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES: Developing
Trade Policies Supportive of Biodiversity Conservation and
Sustainable Use

Svetlana Chobanova, Policy Analyst, WTO

Trade and biodiversity



Biodiversity-relevant discussions at the WTO

Regular committees

CTE, SPS, TBT, TRIPS, Agriculture and market access

Transparency and peer review

Notifications, Trade Policy Reviews
Environmental Database

Member-led initiatives

TESSD, DPP and FFSR

**Biodiversity
in WTO work**

Negotiated rules

Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Discussions in WTO bodies connect biodiversity to trade rules

CTE
Main forum
for
trade and
environment

Other WTO bodies

SPS Committee

Biosecurity, animal and plant health, and pathways for invasive alien species

TBT Committee

Technical regulations, standards, labels and conformity assessment

TRIPS Council

Genetic resources, traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing

Agriculture and market access

Support measures, tariffs, classification, licensing and food-system policies

The CTE provides the horizontal forum. Specialized bodies examine the trade-rule and implementation questions within their mandates.

Biodiversity-relevant themes on the CTE agenda

Sustainable agriculture and food systems

Production practices, resource efficiency, soil health, support policies and the ability of farmers to adopt new solutions

Deforestation and forest products

Legality, traceability, due diligence, sustainability requirements and the effects on exporters and small producers

Wild species and wildlife trade

Legal and sustainable trade, CITES cooperation, illegal logging and the relationship between conservation and livelihoods

Bioeconomy and BioTrade

Biodiversity-based products, tariff treatment, product classification, sustainability criteria and local value creation

Nature-based solutions and standards

Credible environmental claims, voluntary standards, transparency and avoiding unnecessary compliance costs

Pollution, circularity and bioinputs

Plastics, waste, harmful incentives and Brazil's proposed session on definitions, regulation, tariffs, standards and bioinput adoption

Brazil is also interested in discussion of tariffs and market access for products from biodiversity-rich regions, including questions of classification, sustainability and benefits for local producers.

Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

Harmful fisheries subsidies

IUU fishing

Subsidies connected with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Overfished stocks

Subsidies for fishing overfished stocks, subject to the Agreement's terms

Unregulated high seas

Subsidies for fishing outside coastal jurisdiction and relevant RFMO competence

Implementation

Transparency through fisheries-related notifications

Committee oversight and enforceable rules

Technical assistance through the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism

Development flexibilities under the Agreement

Adopted in 2022

Entered into force on 15 September 2025

First WTO agreement focused on the environment

Relevant discussions in Member-led environmental initiatives: DPP

Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade

Environmental impacts of plastic pollution

Impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, including the wider links between pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Trade-related measures and single-use plastics

Biodiversity as one consideration in science- and criteria-based assessments, alongside lifecycle analysis and plastic leakage.

Non-plastic substitutes and alternatives

Standards and sustainability assessments that consider biodiversity impacts and help avoid regrettable substitution.

Technologies and services

Potential solutions to biodiversity-specific risks, including the spread of invasive species through plastic vectors.

Possible future focus

Biodiversity-focused technical work and matchmaking activities

The discussion remains exploratory and Member-driven.

Relevant discussions in Member-led environmental initiatives: TESSD and FFSR

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TESSD

Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions

Environmental goods and services

Trade can spread technologies and services that support cleaner production, monitoring and environmental management.

Circular economy

Members examine standards, product design, waste and recyclable materials, trade facilitation and development needs.

Subsidies and climate measures

The work improves transparency and explores how trade policy can reduce environmental pressures without excluding developing economies.

2

FFSR

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform initiative

Environmental rationale

Fossil fuel support can encourage emissions and pollution, intensifying climate-related pressure on ecosystems.

Transparency and reform pathways

Members exchange information on subsidy categories, crisis support and approaches to reform.

Development context

Discussions recognize energy security, affordability and the circumstances of developing economies.

Together, the initiatives address pollution, material use, climate change and harmful incentives: major drivers of biodiversity loss.

GBF targets and trade-related discussions

Target 14 calls for biodiversity to be integrated into policies and economic activity



Illustrative mapping: several trade discussions contribute to more than one GBF target.