Strengthening the “trade and” interface
Stick to your knitting
ICTSD’s experience as an interface organisation

ICTSD: a multistakeholder led initiative to strengthen trade / SD

1) Extraordinarily helpful to convene actors in non-negotiating context

2) Extraordinarily helpful to have solid non-partisan, (issue and stakeholder relevant) empirical research.

3) What changed?
   • Communities of practice and expert communities deepened.
   • Public participation grew considerably and still growing.
   • New avenues of participation and influence, both at WTO, but also through proliferation of agreements.
   • In some countries harnessing of national level policies on trade for transformation, EX. China

4) Remaining tension between formal and informal inclusion and definition
   • Complexity of topics and trade offs deepened.
   • Public participation grew considerably and still; BRIDGES
Along the way, the game changed; demanding stronger interface for better policy
How and where to strengthen interface: In an fluid, expanding, complex system?
How to improve the Trade Interface? Different measures at levels

FRAMEWORK SETTERS →
- GVC Councils*, Industry Associations
- GOVERNMENTS
  - Harmonisation, Conformity, Assessment
- PLURILATERALS
  - Ad Hoc mechanisms, Coordination, Cooperation
- WTO
  - Conformity, Competition, Regulatory Review*
  - Hard Integration: SPS and TBT, For ex
- OTHER MULTILATERALS
  - UN / Multistakeholder

DRIVERS →
- NGOs
  - Access, Wellbeing
- GOVERNMENTS
  - National Wellbeing, Competitiveness, Champions
- PLURILATERALS
  - New market development, Extended markets, coherence, specificity
- WTO
  - Efficiency, competition, equity, SD
- OTHER MULTILATERALS
  - Justice / SD

Transparency Performance
- Voters
- Industry Reports
- National Reporting
- National + Ad Hoc
- TPRM RTAX*
- Agreement Specific
E15 Interface Strengthening

• Transparency / Performance
  • RTAX
  • TPRM on Digital
  • Digital trade working group
  • Regulatory transparency, prior notification.
  • Improve the quality of exchange in committee work and create more space for deliberations (function wto)

• Participation
  • Business forum / advisory councils
  • Value chains councils

• External collaboration / benchmarking
  • Introduce in FTAs, Competition peer reviews, (competition agencies)
  • Fisheries. Build consultative, effective and coordinated unilateral import measures.

• Adoption
  • Common regulatory objectives of UNECE
Versus what? What improvements, challenges, will emerge

- Just beginning to get a grip on higher coherence in global governance and policymaking. From state-centric to multistakeholder.

- There are other models that are emerging: Exo-governance mechanisms: private standards, market based governance, citizen juries, personal rights, permission based movements, Brandeis.

- Fundamental challenge: the pace of change in business, labor, finance is continuing to accelerate
  - the world will develop for good or bad in the absence of deliberative processes that are heavy, overly complex, and inflexible.
  - Innovation in business, will need to be matched by innovation in governance.
Thank You

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