



HIDAYATULLAH NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY

RAIPUR

In Collaboration with



INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW SUMMIT

THE WTO@30: REIMAGINING MULTILATERALISM IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

OCT **2-4** 2026

10:00 AM - 06:00 PM (IST)

HNLU, Raipur

Organised by

SCHOOL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY

Centre for WTO & WIPO Studies

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ABOUT THE SUMMIT

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur (HNLU), through its Centre for WTO & WIPO Studies, School of Law and Technology, in collaboration with the WTO Young Trade Leaders Programme and the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), IIFT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India (under the WTO Chairs Programme), will host a three-day in-person International Trade Law Summit from 02 to 04 October 2026.

The Summit is conceived as an outreach initiative of the WTO Young Trade Leaders Programme and seeks to advance global trade awareness, academic engagement, and career pathways for young professionals, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners in international trade law.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Over the past three decades, the WTO has remained the cornerstone of the multilateral trading system, facilitating trade liberalisation, economic integration, and rule-based global commerce. Despite contemporary challenges, such as the paralysis of the Appellate Body, negotiation deadlocks, and increasing unilateralism, the WTO continues to demonstrate resilience.

Notably:

- The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, now in force, marks a significant normative breakthrough.
- The Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) reflects a collective commitment to preserving dispute settlement discipline.

Multilateralism remains indispensable despite the proliferation of bilateral & regional trade agreements. Against this backdrop, the Summit aims to critically assess the WTO's past, interrogate present challenges, and reimagine pathways for a revitalised multilateral trading system.

PRE-SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

As a precursor, a One-Day Pre-Summit International Colloquium on “Global Trade Careers, the WTO’s 30-Year Legacy, and Future Pathways” was organised on 06 February 2026.

This Colloquium also marked the establishment of the International Network for Trade Advocacy, Development & Research (IN-TADR) under the Centre for WTO & WIPO Studies, SLT aimed at strengthening advocacy, capacity-building, and high-quality research in international trade law.

STRUCTURE OF THE SUMMIT

The Summit will consist of two parallel flagship components:

Module I: International Conference

- Paper presentations in technical sessions
- Expert-led thematic panel discussions

Module II: Mock WTO Exercise (First of its Kind in India)

- Student-exclusive simulation of WTO negotiations
- Drafting of negotiated outcomes and resolutions

(Detailed schedule will be circulated post-registration closure.)

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

The WTO@30: Reimagining Multilateralism in International Trade Law

Indicative Sub-Themes

1. Digital Trade and the Data-Driven Economy
2. Trade, Sustainability, and Climate Action
3. Emerging Goods, Services, and Hybrid Trade Forms
4. Power Asymmetries in Global Trade Governance
5. Reforming the Dispute Settlement System
6. Services Liberalisation and the GATS Agenda
7. Investment Facilitation and Trade

(Sub-themes are indicative and non-exhaustive.)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research papers in English are invited from academicians, professionals, researchers, practitioners, and students in India and abroad.

Abstract Submission

- Maximum 500 words (including 5 keywords), Bio-note (50 words), MS Word format, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 spacing, Justified Alignment

Full Paper Submission

- Maximum 10,000 words (inclusive of abstract & footnotes), OSCOLA (4th Edition) citation style, Co-authorship up to two authors, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 spacing, Justified Alignment

Note:

- Registration fee for paper presentation is payable only after the Notification of Acceptance of the Abstract.
- Author/s of the selected abstract shall be notified separately along with a QR Code/Link for full paper submission, registration & fee payment through email.
- Registration fee shall apply to co-authors as per their respective designations.

MOCK WTO EXERCISE

Theme: The Intersection between Trade & the Digital Economy

Objective

The Mock WTO Exercise is designed to provide students with hands-on exposure to multilateral trade diplomacy, mirroring actual WTO negotiation processes.

Eligibility

- Undergraduate and postgraduate students of law, economics, business, and allied disciplines (India and abroad)

Participation Framework

- Country Delegations representing WTO Members
- Provisional Committees, including:
 - Council for Trade in Services
 - Negotiating Group on Market Access
 - TRIPS Council
 - Trade and Competition
- Position Papers (to be compulsorily submitted by delegates)
- Committee Chairs to guide procedure and consensus-building

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening of Registration
(only for Mock WTO Delegates)

6th February 2026

Extended deadline for the Submission of Abstract

20th April 2026

Notification of Acceptance of Abstract

26th April 2026

Opening of Registration & Fee Payment
(for Conference)

27th April 2026

Deadline for Registration & Fee Payment
(for both Conference & Mock WTO)

20th July 2026

Deadline for the Submission of Research Paper

6th September 2026

Date of the International Summit

2nd-4th October 2026

ABOUT HNLU

A premier national law university committed to advanced legal education, interdisciplinary research, and public service, guided by its motto “Dharma Sansthapanartham.”

ABOUT THE SCHOOL FOR LAW & TECHNOLOGY

HNLU’s research hub for technology, trade, IP, data protection, AI, and policy studies.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR WTO & WIPO STUDIES

A leading centre for research and capacity-building in international trade and intellectual property law, with sustained collaboration under the WTO Chairs Programme.

ABOUT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

ABOUT THE WTO YOUNG TRADE LEADERS PROGRAMME

The WTO’s Young Trade Leaders Programme aims to foster understanding of the WTO and international trade among young people by creating a global network of “Young Trade Leaders”.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT LAW (CTIL)

CTIL was established in 2016 by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry at IIFT. Its main goal is to analyse legal issues related to international trade and investment law for the government of India and agencies.

ABOUT THE WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) enhances knowledge and understanding of the multilateral trading system among academics, policymakers and other stakeholders.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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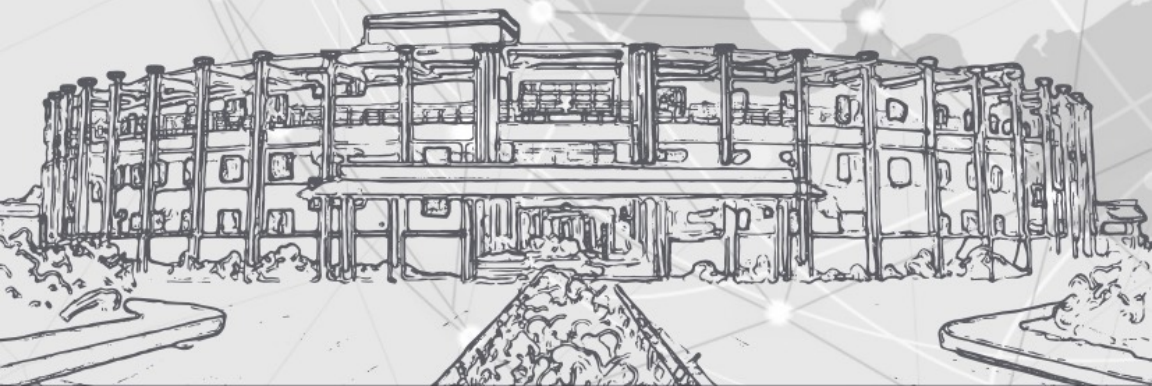
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