

Deforestation-free Value Chains Roundtable

12th June 2024

CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES, AGENDA & SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Context

In June 2024, the International Trade Centre (ITC) hosted a roundtable event at the World Trade Organization (WTO), focusing on deforestation-free global value chains. This event built on an ongoing project led by ITC and funded by the European Commission. This project aims to increase engagement of developing and emerging countries on trade and environment nexus and their active participation in the WTO Trade and Environment Committee (CTE).

Given the ongoing discussions on the trade and environment nexus in the WTO, the aim of the event was to provide a platform for experience sharing and cooperation towards building deforestation-free global value chains, and broader sustainable development goals.

Deforestation is a critical global challenge with serious environmental, social, and economic implications. According to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), conservation, improved management, and restoration of forests and other ecosystems offer the largest share of economic mitigation.¹

From 2001 to 2015, just seven agricultural commodities – cattle, oil palm, soy, cocoa, rubber, coffee and plantation wood fibre – accounted for more than a quarter of global tree cover loss, making deforestation-free agricultural commodity production and trade an essential action to address this problem.²

The International Trade Centre (ITC) was pleased to host this Roundtable to discuss the topic of deforestation-free value chains in the context of emerging policies and trends, building on the success of the series of “Deforestation-free Global Value Chains Roundtables” organized by ITC since early 2022.³

Objectives

The roundtable aimed to showcase best practices and efforts by governments and the private sector to ensure that supply chains are deforestation-free and include more in-depth examples / case studies in this regard. The goals were to:

- (i) Map the state of play of the above-mentioned efforts by supply chain actors and government authorities in key commodity sectors that account for the main sources of deforestation and forest degradation to ensure responsible sourcing practices;
- (ii) Unpack relevant approaches, methodologies and innovative solutions to support deforestation-free supply chains;
- (iii) Discuss priorities for action by highlighting differences and complexities in commodity sectors and discussing impacts and implications on supply chain actors.

¹ IPCC AR6 SYR, Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, p.31, [IPCC AR6 SYR SPM.pdf](#)

² [Deforestation Linked to 7 Agricultural Commodities | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#);

³ For further information, please consult: [ITC Roundtables on Deforestation-free GVCs - SustainabilityMap \(sustainabilitygateway.org\)](#)

Agenda – Wednesday 12th June 2024

9:30 WELCOME COFFEE & TEA

10:00 – 10:15 WELCOME REMARKS & SETTING THE SCENE

Speakers: **Dorothy Thembo**, Deputy Executive Director, ITC
Hiddo Houben, Deputy Head of Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO
H. E. Erwin Bollinger, Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)

10:15 – 12:00 SESSION 1: EFFECTIVE & IMPACTFUL POLICIES ON DEFORESTATION-FREE VALUE CHAINS

Speakers: **Andre Vasconcelos**, Global Engagement Lead, Global Canopy – TRASE
H. E. Alex Assanvo, Executive Secretary, Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana (ICCI)
Romain Deveze, Senior Program Manager, Markets & Forest Risk Commodities, WWF Switzerland
Dr. Perk Lertwangphong, Chairman of the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT)
Shane Sela, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank

Moderator: Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Global Value Chains, ITC

12:00 – 14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

14:00 – 15:45 SESSION 2: PUBLIC-PRIVATE MECHANISMS SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFORESTATION-FREE VALUE CHAINS

Speakers: **Bless Agume**, Ndugu Farmers Ltd, Uganda
Belinda Borck, Chocolonely Foundation Manager
Daniel Kazimierski, Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA), VISEC Technical Secretariat, Argentine Platform for Deforestation-Free Soy and Beef
Adeline Dontenville, Programme manager - Sustainable Cocoa Programme, European Forest Institute (EFI)
Rodrigo Lima, Director General, Agrolcone Ltd, Brazil
U. R. Unnithan, Cofounder & CEO, DIBIZ GROUP

Moderator: Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor, Sustainable Global Value Chains, ITC

15:45 -16:00 CLOSING REMARKS

Speaker: **Bojan Grlaš**, Team Leader – International Forest Issues in the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission
Vanessa Erogbogbo Chief, Green and Inclusive Value Chains, International Trade Center

Roundtable Highlights

OPENING REMARKS – SETTING THE SCENE

The high-level opening session focused on five key themes:

- **Key role for Global Value Chain actors in forest conservation**
 - Emphasis on the pressing threats to global forests caused by agricultural expansion and land use changes. Global value chain actors play critical economic, environmental and social roles in forest conservation, highlighting the necessity of safeguarding livelihoods and biodiversity.
- **Urgent need for halting deforestation and enhancing traceability**
 - Strong emphasis on the urgent need to halt deforestation, the importance of product traceability, and the role of the WTO in sharing knowledge and best practices. Insights from the informal working group of MSMEs highlighted, showcasing the power of dialogue and collaboration in these efforts.
- **Focus on best practices for reducing deforestation and achieving international climate and biodiversity goals.**
 - It is essential to recognize the varying starting points of different countries in this transition, particularly acknowledging the commitments and efforts of developing nations.
- **Promoting sustainable consumption and inclusive value chains**
 - Significant role of the developing and emerging counties in advancing sustainable consumption. Emphasis placed on integrating small producers into value chains, ensuring that all voices, especially those of the marginalized, are heard and valued.
- **Addressing trade and sustainability challenges**
 - Address the complex interplay between open trade and the sustainability agenda, including climate issues discussed at COP, the SDG Agenda 2030, and the biodiversity COP.

SESSION 1: EFFECTIVE & IMPACTFUL POLICIES ON DEFORESTATION-FREE VALUE CHAINS

- **Access to data on deforestation**
 - Agricultural production and expansion associated with over 90% of deforestation in the world.
 - Between 2019 and 2021, 150 commodities in tropical and subtropical areas accounted for 70% of forest loss.
 - Available data can pinpoint where action is most needed, emphasizing the need for bilateral, regional and multilateral mechanisms and governance of global supply chains to drive change, alongside strong local governance in producing countries.
- **Cocoa production: challenges and solutions**
 - Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana face significant cocoa production challenges due to climate change, deforestation and poverty.
 - The Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana (ICCIIG) has implemented mechanisms to secure and stabilize farmer revenue, including a floor price and living income differential, aiming for financial stability.
 - Issues like cocoa smuggling, illegal mining, and the need for sustainable trade practices were highlighted, with regulations in Europe seen as an opportunity to enforce sustainable global value chains systems.

- ***Role of regulations and private sector initiatives***
 - The EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) was flagged as a significant promise to contribute to efforts to halt deforestation.
 - Some initiatives, such as the Soy Moratorium, have shown limited effectiveness due to issues like geographical leakage and shifting responsibility onto suppliers.
 - The EUDR has prompted mobilization among civil society and private sector actors in producing countries to build national traceability efforts.
- ***Global efforts and traceability systems***
 - Thailand's Rubber Authority is preparing for EUDR compliance through national geolocation platforms and private certifications.
 - Efforts are underway in Ghana to achieve near-complete traceability of cocoa by October 2024, ensuring farmers are paid fairly, thereby encouraging compliance with sustainability policies, among which deforestation-free practices.
 - The World Bank focuses on analytical tools and financing solutions tailored to different settings, contexts and sectors.
 - Brazil's national traceability system for timber, serves as an example of leveraging existing practices for effective and impactful deforestation-free supply chains.
- ***Need for change and need for regulatory measures***
 - Business as usual is no longer viable for consumers, farmers, or governments.
 - New regulations are crucial for creating a level playing field but they can also present challenges in the way they are implemented or enforced.
 - Despite goodwill, some “business as usual” persists, that doesn't align with current sustainability goals. Regulation can support the move away from old practices.
- ***Collaboration and investment***
 - Efficient solutions require collaboration across all actors, with certification schemes serving as useful platforms for discussing issues and defining guidelines.
 - The absence of investments tied to clear measurable commitments may be problematic: co-investments between private and public actors can contribute to more effective implementation of regulations and sustainability initiatives.
 - The Forest, Land and Agriculture Science-Based Target-Setting Guidance (SBTI – FLAG), a framework for companies in land-intensive sectors to set science-based targets, is essential for holding companies accountable of their efforts made to reach sustainability goals – such as deforestation-free global value chains.
- ***Support for smallholders and inclusive supply chains***
 - Better inclusion for smallholders may involve raising awareness and collaborating with international organizations for training and study visits.
 - Ensuring that the approach to deforestation does not regard a potential replanting of trees or agroforestry practices as deforestation.
 - Effective entry points in trade finance need to be identified and based on a comprehensive stakeholder mapping.
- ***Preventing exclusive supply chains***
 - Geolocation, supply chain mapping, and traceability are critical first steps for countries and companies to understand their sourcing and develop concrete steps towards deforestation-free value chains, to ensure the conservation of forest and livelihoods.
 - Larger players, and those associated with their value chains are often better prepared. Capacity building should avoid focusing mainly on them. This needs to be balanced to prevent exclusive supply chains and leaving small vulnerable actors behind.

- **National certification systems**
 - While the EUDR does not recognize any traceability scheme, such systems might be leveraged for building synergies between national, regional and multilateral policies and legislations.
 - It is noted that traceability alone does not equate to sustainability, highlighting the need for comprehensive approaches in which traceability is the means and not the end.

SESSION 2: PUBLIC-PRIVATE MECHANISMS SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFORESTATION-FREE VALUE CHAINS

- **Tackling poverty to combat deforestation**
 - Deforestation is a symptom of the deeper issue of poverty. Sustainability initiatives such as deforestation-free legislations should be mindful of address the context of production, which is the farmers' reality. Access to health services, education, and sufficient farm inputs are crucial for effective initiatives to reach their sustainability objectives.
- **Sustainable sourcing and long-term planning**
 - There are examples of implementation of responsible sourcing principles in long-term relationship with supply chain actors, including a guarantee, quality and productivity improvements, and risk-based approaches to manage forest loss.
 - For instance, Tony's Open Chain approach advocates for shared sustainability practices, emphasizing scalable and inclusive systems through cooperatives.
- **Technological solutions for traceability**
 - Digital transformation systems can empower smallholders, facilitates access to finance and support, example of solutions based on blockchain and cloud-based systems for logging daily activities and linking to price data.
 - Ensuring data ownership remains at the level of producers with clarity and integration into global value chains' systems remains a challenge.
- **Collaborative traceability efforts and incentives**
 - Effective collaboration between buyers and producers to build traceability along the value chains requires appropriate incentives. Farmers need incentives on e.g. why their data submission or improved labour practices might be paying off. Why not think of an innovative model where consumers could tip the farmers directly, as a reward for their sustainability efforts?
 - Data sharing and interoperability are crucial for effective traceability and lowering of transaction costs, but trust issues within supply chains pose challenges.
 - Regulations can accelerate inclusive approaches for traceability, making deforestation efforts more effective despite market requirement fragmentation.



CLOSING REMARKS

- **Consumers and producers**
 - All countries play dual roles as both consumers and producers. Collaboration is necessary on both the demand and supply sides to address deforestation effectively.
- **EU's engagement with third countries on deforestation-free supply chains**
 - The commitment and efforts of the Team Europe initiative as key tool were appreciated, highlighting the collaborative approach to combating deforestation. Several other initiatives at national, regional and global level available. Focus on




inclusive value chains and coordination of activities in several countries and regions with various partners.





- ***ITC's role in supporting Deforestation-Free Value Chains:***
 - **Neutrality and mandate:** ITC operates as a neutral entity with a mandate to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries to access international markets.
 - **Sustainability focus:** ITC is committed to working closely on sustainability and environmental issues, specifically targeting deforestation-free value chains.
 - **Technical assistance and Tools:** ITC develops specific technical assistance programs, tools, and methodologies to help global value chain actors accelerate or scale up their efforts towards deforestation-free practices.




Biographies of speakers

	<p>Dorothy Thembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre</p> <p>Dorothy Tembo has served as Deputy Executive Director of ITC since June 2014. Prior to ITC, Ms. Tembo spearheaded the relaunch of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF), which supports least developed countries (LDCs) in addressing their trade-related technical assistance needs and supply side constraints. One of Ms. Tembo's key responsibilities at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia was to lead the Zambian technical team in its capacity as LDC co-ordinator during the WTO's Hong Kong ministerial meeting which, among other issues, took decisions to extend duty- and quota-free market access to LDCs.</p>
	<p>Hiddo Houben, Deputy Head of Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO</p> <p>Hiddo Houben took up duty as Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO in September 2020. He was previously head of the division responsible for trade and investment relations with the US and Canada in the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission. From 2014-2016 Hiddo was the EU's Deputy chief negotiator for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks with the US. Hiddo joined the Commission in 1989 and his work has focused on international trade and investment negotiations as well as the development of EU policies in response to the process of globalisation. Hiddo participated in the global trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round, which created the World Trade Organisation in 1995. After that he was on the EU teams negotiating China and then Russia's terms of entry to the WTO. In 2004 Hiddo joined European Commissioner Peter Mandelson's private office, and later that of Baroness Ashton. From there he saw the failed attempts to adopt a European constitution, followed by the successful enactment of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. During this period he was also involved in the EU's legislative work to repair financial markets and to address Europe's energy challenge. Hiddo was posted to the EU embassy in Washington DC, from 2009 to 2014, where he was the head of the economic office. Hiddo graduated from the Dutch universities of Tilburg and Leiden in law (1987) and economics (1990). In 2003 he was selected to be a World Fellow at the University of Yale in the United States.</p>

	<p>H. E. Erwin Bollinger, Chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)</p> <p>Ambassador Erwin Bollinger (*1962), Attorney, LL.M., Head of the Swiss Permanent Mission to the WTO and EFTA in Geneva since 1st September 2023. From 2018 to 2023 he was Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Division and Federal Council Delegate for Trade Agreements. From 2008 to 2018 he was Head of the Export Controls and Sanctions Section and Dep. Head of the Bilateral Economic Relations Division. From 2005 – 2008 he was Head of Export Control Policy. From 2003 to 2005 he was Dep. Head of Bilateral Economic Relations Europe/Central Asia. From 1999 to 2003 Counsellor at the Swiss Mission to the EU in Brussels. He joined the Federal Administration in 1992 starting at the former Integration Office FDFA/FDEA, transferring to the former Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs, World Trade/WTO Section in 1995. Between 1989 and 1992 he worked at swissmedic, becoming Dep. Head of the Legal Affairs Service in 1991.</p>
	<p>Dr. Perk Lertwangphong, Chairman of the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT)</p> <p>Mr. Perk Lertwangphong is the distinguished Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT), a state enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives responsible for the management of the entire rubber system in Thailand with the goal of remunerative rubber price for smallholder. He is also a rubber plantation owner who knows the fundamentals and essentials of rubber supply chain and value chain with firsthand experience in the field. He holds a Doctorate Degree of Philosophy in Educational Administration from North Bangkok University in 2023, a master's degree in Public Administration from Ramkhamhaeng University in 2011 and a Bachelor in Public Administration from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University in 2009. As Chairman, he also has the duty to support the operations of the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives regarding rubber management under a Working Group. Previous to his current position, he was the Deputy Director of the Farmers Market Organization Head Office (Or Tor Kor Market), which support farmers and farmer institutions as central source for buying and selling agricultural produce or products without going through the middlemen. In addition to his formal education, Mr. Lertwangphong is the 83rd graduate of the Advanced Agricultural and Cooperative Development Executive Program in 2023, improving his knowledge and expertise in marketing, trade, and investment in agricultural products, as well as in cooperative management.</p>

	<p>H.E. Alex Assanvo, Executive Secretary, Initiative Cacao Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana (ICCI)</p> <p>Alex Assanvo is the first Executive Secretary of the Côte d'Ivoire Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI). Before his appointment, he was Director of Corporate Affairs for Europe and Africa at Mars. Alex Assanvo began his international development career with the German development agency, GIZ, as a Rural Development Expert between 2002 and 2006 in Dakar, Senegal. He moved on to Fairtrade Labelling International (FLO), in Germany in 2006 as Head for Africa and the Strategic Lead for Cocoa and Cotton. He later joined the Sustainability and Procurement team at Kraft Foods, now Mondelez International, from October 2011 to 2013 as the Cocoa Development Manager in charge of the Cocoa Life Programme.</p>
	<p>Romain Deveze, Senior Program Manager, Markets & Forest Risk Commodities, WWF Switzerland</p> <p>Romain Deveze graduated from KEDGE Business School and the University of North Carolina (USA) in Business Administration and continued his research in Philosophy and Ethics at the Université of Lyon 3.</p> <p>After building his first on-the-ground projects in East Africa with MIT students, he was hired by Unilever to champion sustainability programs for Unilever Tea business. In 2011, Romain joined WWF to develop the NGO's Market Transformation strategy engaging market actors and establishing various standards organizations. In 2014, Romain became responsible for the field programs of the newly created Better Cotton Initiative (the largest cotton certification) where he established and managed large-scale country programs in seven African countries and Central Asia supporting more than 900,000 cotton producers.</p> <p>After six years of building capacity in the field, Romain returned to WWF in 2021 as Senior Manager to fight deforestation and conversion in global agricultural value chains.</p>
	<p>Shane Sela, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Shane Sela, based in Washington, DC, is a Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist in the Global Trade and Regional Integration Unit of the World Bank. He helps supports sanitary and phytosanitary agencies in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Areas of support include: the implementation digitization such as the IPPC ePhyto Solution; modernized risk-based inspection programs; cooperation among border agencies; development of policies to support confirmatory testing implementation, etc. He is a Canadian who came to the World Bank in 2018, after 32 years of working at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA is Canada's competent authority for managing food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary risks.</p>

	<p>Andre Vasconcelos, Global Engagement Lead, Global Canopy – TRASE</p> <p>André Vasconcelos is the Global Engagement Lead at Trase. André coordinates the team's engagement activities involving dialogue and solutions building with global actors to make agricultural commodity supply chains more sustainable. He has over 15 years of experience in the development and implementation of projects focused on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Over the last seven years his work has focused on deforestation and supply chains, with a particular emphasis on the exposure of Chinese and European markets to deforestation and climate impacts. He holds a degree in Ecology from the Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP) and an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation from the University of Oxford.</p>
	<p>Bless Agume, Ndugu Farmers Ltd, Uganda</p> <p>Bless Agume is a Ugandan social entrepreneur dedicated to sustainable agribusiness. As a Cofounder & Operations Director at Ndugu Farmers, he networks and digitizing Cooperatives into sustainable supply chains that responsibly source and sell traceable, certified coffee for premium sales and impact claims paid by top coffee buyers to smallholder farmers. He leverages traceability data to facilitate credit scoring of farmers to access financing for such services as school fees advances, inputs on credit, health coverage. He leverages Certifications to unlock impact claims & funding support to mitigate environment degradation through promoting agroforestry for carbon credits to farmers. Bless mission is to make agribusiness profitably and sustainably work for all involved.</p>
	<p>Belinda Borck, Impactful Storyteller & Chocolonely Foundation Manager (credible scaling sr. specialist)</p> <p>Belinda Borck has worked for Tony's Chocolonely for over four years in the context of sustainability reporting and public policy. She oversees the UK, US, and EU public policy work of Tony's Open Chain."</p>
	<p>Daniel Kazimierski, Argentina Coordinator for Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) and member of the Technical Secretariat of VISEC</p> <p>Daniel Kazimierski is the country coordinator in Argentina for Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) and member of the Technical Secretariat of VISEC. He has more than 10 years' experience working in soybeans certification standards and multi stakeholder processes, addressing deforestation and other environmental and social aspects. In his current role in TFA he is responsible for the implementation of the Chaco Program in Argentina which aims to eliminate deforestation in the soy and beef chains, provide traceability and transparency, and promote innovative financial mechanisms that help the transition towards sustainable value chains.</p>

	<p>Adeline Dontenville, Programme manager - Sustainable Cocoa Programme, European Forest Institute (EFI)</p> <p>Adeline Dontenville is programme manager for Sustainable Cocoa for the International Partnerships Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI). Adeline coordinates EFI's support to cocoa producing countries, focusing on standards and tools to enhance cocoa traceability, supply-chain transparency and zero-deforestation cocoa production. Adeline has been with EFI for about a decade and is based in Barcelona, Spain. Prior to that, Adeline held various positions at the French Development Agency (AFD) and at the European Commission. Adeline is a graduate from Sciences Po in EU Affairs and holds an MA in Risk Analysis from King's College London.</p>
	<p>U. R. Unnithan, Cofounder & CEO, DIBIZ GROUP</p> <p>Mr. Unnithan is the Cofounder and CEO of DIBIZ. He is an experienced C-Level executive with over 38 years of domain expertise. An alumnus of Harvard Business School (AMP), Mr. Unnithan completed his master's degree in chemical engineering and went on to acquire an MBA from the National University of Singapore, graduating with a Gold Medal in MBA. He is a distinguished Alumni of ICT Mumbai – India's premier Chemical Technology Institute.</p> <p>In his expansive career, he has donned many hats. He was the former CEO of Carotino Group, Malaysia, in charge of all palm oil downstream activities. He started his entrepreneurial journey as the Founder & CEO of Sumwin Global Pte. Ltd. from the year 2016.</p> <p>A staunch visionary and technocrat, Mr. Unnithan is the President of the Malaysian Biodiesel Association (MBA) and is a Fellow of The Malaysian Institute of Management (FMIM), The Institute of Chemical Engineers in the UK (FIChemE), a member of the Program Advisory Council (PAC) of Malaysian Palm Oil Board, and holds 5 patents in the field of oils and fats.</p>
	<p>Rodrigo Lima, Director General, Agrolcone Ltd, Brazil</p> <p>Rodrigo C A Lima is Co-founder-Director of Agroicone Ltd, a leading organization on key agriculture and renewable energy agendas related to trade, food systems and sustainable development. He has 20 years of experience on international negotiations such as the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol. He coordinates projects aiming to promote sustainable development across different agricultural chains, comprising the engagement of producers, industry, banks, NGOs and public stakeholders based on a continuous approach. He published a book about Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures at the WTO, holds a PhD in International Law at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo and a Masters of Art Degree in International Law at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.</p>

	<p>Bojan Grlaš, Team Leader – International Forest Issues in the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission</p> <p>Bojan Grlaš is a Team Leader on Deforestation and International Forestry Issues in DG Environment, European Commission, covering policy development and implementation, regulatory and policy dialogues with partner countries, multilateral organisations (OECD, WTO, G7/G20) as well as negotiation and implementation of trade agreements. His main areas of work have been sustainable use of resources, circular economy, international relations and trade. Before joining the Commission, he worked at the United Nations and at the World Bank.</p>
	<p>Vanessa Erogbogbo is Chief, Green and Inclusive Value Chains section at the International Trade Centre and a member of the Management Action Group.</p> <p>She has over two decades of experience in trade and private sector development having worked in both international development and the private sector. The section she leads includes ITC's work on sustainable value chains, agribusiness systems, trade and environment, and sustainability standards.</p> <p>Vanessa is a member of the steering committee of the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs the advisory board of the Geneva Trade Platform. She was the architect of ITC's SheTrades initiative and was chair of ISO/IWA 34 on women's entrepreneurship.</p> <p>She previously held positions at the International Finance Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, and has been a visiting lecturer at Sciences Po (Paris). She holds an MBA from London Business School, an MSc Information Technology and B.Eng Hons in Civil Engineering from Loughborough University, and an executive certificate in Climate Change Policy: Economics and Politics from the Harvard Kennedy School.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor Sustainable Global Value Chains, International Trade Center</p> <p>Mathieu Lamolle has over 15 years of experience in international trade, market access and sustainable development issues. He holds a Master's degree in International Economics and Management from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS) and speaks fluently English, French and Spanish. Mathieu works at the International Trade Centre (ITC) as Senior Advisor, Sustainable Global Value Chains. He leads ITC's work on sustainability standards and multi-stakeholder initiatives, and he leads ITC's work on deforestation-free global value chains. He is also ITC focal point for MSME technical assistance in the context of the new EU Deforestation-free products Regulation (EUDR).</p> <p>Mathieu coordinates partnerships with private industry groups, companies and civil society organizations and he delivers high-level keynote contributions to sustainability global events, he also delivers technical assistance and advisory services to MSMEs to develop sustainable business strategies, helping companies to integrate sustainability in their supply chains and access international markets.</p>

