



Communiqué from Coalition Ministers

Recognizing the escalating pace and devastating impact of the climate crisis, we, the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, comprising Ministers from all regions, varying development levels, and facing distinct climate vulnerabilities and trade circumstances, convene in Abu Dhabi in the margins of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to reaffirm our commitment to addressing the nexus of trade, climate change and sustainable development.

Our collective efforts, initiated since the Coalition's launch on 19 January 2023, have focused on fostering synergies with the climate, finance and trade communities, as well as engaging relevant stakeholders to drive on-the-ground climate action and climate resilient development.

Noteworthy achievements include the Coalition's presence and engagements at COP28 and at the inaugural COP Trade Day, where we highlighted trade's positive role in contributing to the global response to climate change. Additionally, at the 2024 World Economic Forum meeting, the Coalition facilitated a ministerial meeting between trade, finance, and climate ministers to exchange views on how to break silos and work towards cooperation and collective action and the Coalition co-leads presented the Coalition and its priorities to the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders.

Looking ahead, our aim for the coming year is to build upon these achievements. We intend to actively encourage the involvement of the trade community in COP29 and continue to take steps to enhance engagement with finance and climate ministers. Recognizing the important role of the private sector, we see a need for increased collaboration and contribution to identify how trade policy can drive decarbonization efforts and contribute to sustainable development, especially for MSMEs.

Today, we have discussed the voluntary actions¹ that we can take individually and collectively to implement the Coalition's priorities, in line with its principles. In this regard, we find it important to provide dynamic and active leadership to stimulate inclusive cooperation at the WTO on the nexus of trade, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development. We believe that further efforts are needed to foster open and inclusive dialogue, in the ongoing work of various WTO bodies and initiatives, paying particular attention to the challenges faced by developing countries particularly those that are climate vulnerable, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island states and small, vulnerable economies.

Accordingly, on the eve of MC13, we underline the importance of making the WTO more responsive to global environmental challenges. We call for ambitious, concrete and forward-looking commitments in the WTO Ministerial Declaration on how trade, trade policy and the WTO can support the global response to the climate crisis, bearing in mind sustainable development. Furthermore, in view of interlinkages between global environmental challenges, we urge all WTO Members to accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies as soon as possible and to deliver on additional provisions to achieve a comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies at MC13.

¹ See Coalition's Menu of Voluntary Actions of February 2024.