

## Deforestation-Free Trade Dialogue

13 November 2024  
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00-18:00  
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Fighting deforestation is a global priority. It helps mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity. While the [UNECE region](#) has seen little deforestation, many other areas struggle with it, primarily due to agricultural expansion.

To address this, UNECE member States are increasingly adopting laws to regulate the import of deforestation-linked commodities. One of these is the Regulation of the European Union (EU) *[“on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation”](#)* (EUDR).

The EUDR entered into force on 29 June 2023 for application starting from 30 December 2024. Any operator or trader who places the EUDR listed commodities on the EU market, or exports from EU markets, must be able to prove that these products do not originate from land that was deforested, or have contributed to forest degradation, after 31 December 2020.

As a major wood exporter and importer, the UNECE region will be significantly impacted by the EUDR. While the full effects are uncertain, discussions on preparations and just transition measures are crucial to minimize disruptions.

UNECE’s “Deforestation-Free Trade Dialogue” provides a platform for discussing cross-sectoral approaches, effective and efficient implementation, and transition pathways for various commodities, including cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, and wood.

The event will provide an opportunity for discussing the concerns of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME’s). This was also emphasized by the [United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination](#) when pointing to the importance of trade-related climate measures that align with international trade rules and minimize barriers for developing countries, especially SMEs.

Please Register at: [link](#)



## PROGRAMME

### Morning session (10:00 – 13:00)

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#### 10h00 – 10h10 **Opening remarks**

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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#### 10h10 – 11h20 **Market access, trade and environmental protection**

**“How WTO facilitates dialogue on the impact of trade policies on the environment and of environment policies on trade”**, Mr. Erwin Bollinger, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

**“Multilateralism for ensuring fair and equitable access to trade in a multipolar world”**, Mr. Rodrigo Cárcamo, Chief of Section, Economic Affairs, United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**“Capacity building, technical assistance and empowerment for making trade work for people on the ground”**, Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Center (ITC)

**“Beyond deforestation free - co-creating solutions with companies, farmers, NGOs, and governments”**, Ms. Hermance de La Bastide, Strategic Partnerships Lead, Earthworm Foundation

#### Discussion

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#### 11h20 – 12h00 **Drivers of deforestation**

**“Forests and deforestation - definitions, data & drivers”**, Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen, Senior Forestry Officer, Global Forest Resources Assessment Coordinator Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

#### Discussion

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#### 12h00 – 13h00 **Deforestation-free trade measures by countries**

**“The EUDR: promoting deforestation free supply chains”**, Ms. Kristina Grutschreiber, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO

**“Switzerland and global deforestation”**, Mr. Keith Anderson, Forest & Climate Policy Officer, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

**“The Japanese clean wood act and beyond”**, Mr. Keiichi Takahata, Director of Wood Products Trade Office, Japanese Forestry Agency

#### Discussion

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#### 13h00 – 15h00 **Lunch break**



## PROGRAMME

### Afternoon session (15:00 – 18:00)

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15h00 – 16h00 **Learning from current experiences:**  
Possible challenges and solutions

**"Australian sustainable cattle raising practices and forests"**, Ms. Emma Boughen, Business Development Manager, Meat & Livestock Australia

**"Sustainable Forest Management : Revisiting EUDR's Definition of Forest Degradation"**, Mr. Etienne Bélanger, Vice President, Indigenous Relations and Forestry, Forest Products Association Canada (FPAC)

**"Italian leather industry & EUDR - Why leather is not a driver of deforestation, social and economic consequences"**, Mr. Fabrizio Nuti, President, Italian Tanners' Association (UNIC)

**Discussion**

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16h00 – 17h15 **Solution pathways in deforestation-free supply chains:**  
Implementing just transition

**"Creating capacities and providing access to information at all levels to keep markets accessible"**, Mr. Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor, Green & Inclusive Value Chains, Division of Sustainable and Inclusive Trade, International Trade Centre (ITC)

**"A compromise for georeferenced information by the American Hardwood Export Council"**, Mr. Rupert Oliver, Environmental Policy Director, American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC)

**"Reaching EUDR compliance in cocoa"**, Mr. Renzo Verne, Sustainability Director, Cocosource SA

**"FSC certification and EUDR compliance"**, Mr. Matteo Francesco Mascolo, Lead EU Affaires and Engagement, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

**"PEFC certification and EUDR compliance"**, Mr. Thorsten Arndt, Head of Advocacy, Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

**"How actors in the rubber sector became EUDR compliant"**, Mr. Stefano Savi, Chief Executive Officer, Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR)

**Discussion**

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17h15 – 17h25 **What next?**

17h25– 17h30 **Summary and conclusions**