

WTI Global Economic Governance Seminar Series

Gabrielle Marceau, Associate Professor, University of Geneva; Senior Counsellor, Economic Research Division, WTO Secretariat

A NEW (LIFE FOR THE) WTO

TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021

17.00-19.00

Online (via Zoom)

Brief Description

Even as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt world-over, the pandemic has exemplified that in order to resolve a crisis; all hands must be on deck steering in the same direction. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the WTO has taken up unforeseen roles through various coordination, cooperation and collaboration activities with diverse actors, including other States and non-states, IGOs and NGOs, commercial and public institutions and entities, and in particular with associations, manufacturers, producers and distributors of vaccines and essential medical supplies. In this context, therefore, the WTO has shown how foreign trade's educative effect is relevant in times of crisis such as the COVID-19. Particularly, the WTO (whose responsibilities have been enhanced by Members) has played the role of facilitating consultations and meetings with a view to formulating a multilateral response to COVID-19. Moreover, the Director General (through her experience and expertise) has used her role to try and facilitate vaccine manufacturing and champion for vaccine equity. Consequently, in this lesson, we shall discuss: **(1)** the types of actions and initiatives undertaken by the WTO and the DG with other IOs: coordination, cooperation, and collaboration (3Cs); **(2)** how existing WTO rules facilitated coordination, cooperation, and collaboration during the pandemic; and **(3)** what can be learnt from the experiences drawn during the pandemic in order to ensure IOs move from mere co-existence to entrenched coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.

Speaker Biography

Gabrielle Marceau, Ph.D., is Senior Counsellor in the Economic Research Division of the WTO Secretariat. From September 2005 to January 2010, Gabrielle Marceau was a member of the Cabinet of the WTO Director General Pascal Lamy. Dr. Marceau is also Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva and Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs and Development (HEID) where she teaches WTO law and WTO dispute settlement. Before joining the GATT/WTO, Gabrielle Marceau worked in private practice in Quebec, Canada, mainly in the sectors of labour law and insurance law. Professor Marceau has published extensively, namely in WTO related matters.



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