

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a distinctive approach to development that moves away from a narrow perspective on economic development to an integrative agenda that simultaneously pursues ecological, social and economic goals. Trade and foreign investment are important economic vectors through which many of these goals can be achieved. Much depends, however, on whether and how SDGs are incorporated in international trade and investment agreements, and in private or public sector initiatives. Policymakers are also confronted with the interdependence of the SDGs which raises difficult trade-offs between various Goals. The contributions in this book explore the penetration and trade-offs of the SDGs, drawing on a multidisciplinary approach incorporating insights from economists, lawyers and political scientists. The book offers a valuable guide for scholars and policymakers in identifying and evaluating the complex challenges related to sustainable development.

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Edited by Cosimo Beverelli , Jürgen Kurtz , Damian Raess

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DEVELOPMENT GOALS

World Trade Forum

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## PREFACE

International trade and foreign investment are important pathways to realise the ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) finalised as part of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To evaluate the promises and limits of these vectors, we invited leading scholars from political science, law, and economics to Florence to participate in the World Trade Forum in September 2018. The focus of our attention was the manner in which the SDGs have found their way into international trade and investment agreements, together with the problem of interactions and trade-offs across Goals. We hope this volume will offer a valuable guide for scholars and policymakers in identifying and evaluating the complex challenges related to sustainable development.

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