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978-1-108-84088-0 — International Trade, Investment, and the Sustainable Development Goals

Edited by Cosimo Beverelli, Jürgen Kurtz, Damian Raess

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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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INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

World Trade Forum

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108840880

DOI: 10.1017/9781108881364

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First published 2020

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: World Trade Forum (2018 : Florence, Italy), author. | Beverelli, Cosimo, editor. | Kurtz, Jürgen, editor. | Raess, Damian, editor.

Title: International trade, investment, and the sustainable development goals : World Trade Forum / edited by Cosimo Beverelli, World Trade Organization; Jürgen Kurtz, European University Institute; Damian Raess, World Trade Institute, University of Bern.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, [2020] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020018639 | ISBN 9781108840880 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108881364 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Foreign trade regulation–Congresses. | Investments, Foreign (International law)–Congresses. | Sustainable development–Law and legislation–Congresses. | International trade–Congresses. | Commercial policy–Congresses.

Classification: LCC K4600.A6 W67 2018 | DDC 332.67/3–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020018639>

ISBN 978-1-108-84088-0 Hardback

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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.

We benefited greatly from the exchange among the participants and wish to thank all of them for their contributions, which resulted in this volume. This volume would not have been possible without the support of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute (EUI) and the World Trade Institute (WTI) at the University of Bern, and of Manfred Elsig and Bernard Hoekman in particular. We wish to thank the EUI for financial support and for hosting the World Trade Forum conference that provided the basis for this book. We are also grateful for the financial support of the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the CEPR Trade Policy Research Network, the WTI, and the European Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No. 770680 (RESPECT). Damian Raess acknowledges the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation under Grant Agreement No. PP00P1_163745. We further wish to thank Maria Fanou of the EUI for her excellent editorial support, as well as Marianne Nield and Finola O'Sullivan from Cambridge University Press for their guidance throughout the entire process and continued support for the World Trade Forum.

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