

WTO AND DIGITAL TRADE

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PRITAM BANERJEE • UTKARSH K. MISHRA

FOREWORD BY
ANUP WADHAWAN



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Transforming Global Digital Trade: Charting a Sustainable Future Through the WTO Lens

DR. MIRZA JUNED BEG* & MOHD. SUFIYAN KHAN**

Abstract

This research article looks at how global digital trade is changing and considers methods to use the World Trade Organization's (WTO) framework to promote a sustainable and inclusive future. The global economy is facing previously unheard-of opportunities and difficulties as digital commerce continues to pick up speed thanks to technology advancements like blockchain, 5G, and artificial intelligence. The article examines the concept of sustainable development, current WTO agreements and regulations pertaining to data flows, digital standards, e-commerce, and the facilitation of cross-border trade, pointing out any shortcomings and areas that need to be changed to keep up with the rapid advancement of technology. In order to guarantee that digital transformation benefits all stakeholders, especially developing nations, the paper places a strong emphasis on sustainability and promotes the integration of environmental and social factors into digital trade regulation. In order to lessen digital gaps, it investigates how WTO measures may support capacity-building, digital inclusion, and fair access to digital infrastructure. The study also evaluates how international collaboration may help create best practices and common standards that guarantee environment protection and economic expansion. The study also addresses rethinking international trade through sustainable development.

The study urges further talks and reaffirmed promises to create a cohesive, rules-based digital trading environment in line with sustainable development objectives, acknowledging the WTO's special status as a multilateral forum. It emphasizes how a revolutionary strategy that makes use of the WTO's resources may support a robust, equitable, and ecologically responsible digital trading ecosystem and role of judiciary. The paper's final conclusion is that international organizations, private sector players, and WTO member states must work together to map out a sustainable future for global digital trade. The WTO can significantly contribute to the creation of a digital economy

* Dr. Mirza Juned Beg is an Assistant Professor at Faculty of Law, Integral University, Lucknow.

** Mohd. Sufiyan Khan is a Faculty of Legal Studies, CMS GN-1, Lucknow.