



Centre for Studies in International Trade and International Investment Laws
(CITIL), DNLU Jabalpur

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Centre for WTO Studies, Centre for Research on International Trade, Indian
Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

Call for Chapters for Edited Book on

WTO & DIGITAL TRADE

2025

ABOUT US

Centre for WTO Studies (CWS)

Centre for WTO Studies, Centre for Research on International Trade, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, hereinafter referred to as “CWS” has been established by the Government of India in the year 1999 to be a permanent repository of WTO negotiations-related knowledge and documentation. It was also envisaged that the Centre would evolve into a research unit with interest in trade in general and WTO in particular to finally develop into an independent think tank in the area. The Centre was later situated in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in November 2002. Over the years, the Centre has conducted a robust research programme with a series of papers in all spheres of interest at the WTO. It is currently engaging itself in an exercise to back its research with an equally robust publication programme. The Centre has also created a specialized e-repository of important WTO documents, especially related to India, in its Trade Resource Centre. It has been regularly called upon by the Government of India to undertake research and provide independent analytical inputs to help it develop positions in its various trade negotiations, both at the WTO and other forums such as Free and Preferential Trade Agreements and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements.

Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur

Dharmashastra National Law University (DNLU), Jabalpur, was established in 2018 under the Madhya Pradesh Dharmashastra National Law University Act 24 of 2018 to advance legal education and academic excellence. Committed to high-quality education, DNLU emphasizes research, scholarship, and practical legal training through mootings and competitions. It organizes seminars, conferences, and publications to foster intellectual growth. The university's motto, '*Satyam Vada Dharmam Char*' (Speak the truth and follow Dharma), reflects its commitment to justice and ethical conduct. DNLU prepares students to excel in the legal profession while upholding truth, fairness, and righteousness in their practice and society. With a strong faculty and a dynamic learning environment, the university encourages critical thinking and interdisciplinary research. It also collaborates with national and

international institutions to provide students with exposure to global legal developments and opportunities.

Centre for Studies in International Trade and International Investment Laws (CITIL)

The Centre for Studies in International Trade and Investment Laws (CITIL) at DNLU, Jabalpur, is a leading institution dedicated to research, scholarship, and policy engagement in International Trade and Investment Laws. Through its diverse initiatives, CITIL has contributed to academic discourse, legal education, and policymaking by fostering collaborations with national and international institutions, conducting high-impact research, and organizing training programs. The Centre has played a key role in advancing legal scholarship through research projects, publications, and policy recommendations that have influenced legal practice and governance. By providing students with opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary research, international trade policy discussions, and specialized training, CITIL has strengthened their understanding of global trade and investment laws. The Centre's initiatives, including conferences, workshops, and internship programs, have facilitated meaningful academic and professional engagement, allowing scholars, practitioners, and students to contribute to evolving trade and investment frameworks. Committed to academic excellence and policy-driven research, CITIL continues to shape discussions on international trade and investment law, equipping legal professionals with the knowledge and expertise to navigate complex global legal challenges.

ABOUT THE BOOK

The book explores the evolving relationship between international trade regulations and the rapidly expanding digital economy. As digital platforms, cross-border data flows, and electronic commerce reshape global markets, the World Trade Organization (WTO) faces critical challenges in adapting its rules to this new landscape. This book provides a comprehensive analysis of how WTO frameworks apply to digital trade and identifies gaps that necessitate reform.

Through a diverse range of sub-themes, the book examines the compatibility of WTO rules with digitally delivered goods and services, the role of digital subsidies, and the complexities of applying anti-dumping measures to digital products. It also discusses the impact of artificial intelligence and automation on trade, the intersection of digital trade and cybersecurity, and the role of regional trade agreements in shaping future regulations. Further, it highlights pressing issues such as consumer protection, intellectual property rights, and the implications of digital trade for developing countries.

By addressing these challenges and opportunities, the book aims to contribute to academic discourse and policymaking in digital trade governance, making it an essential resource for scholars, legal practitioners, and policymakers engaged in international trade law.

SUB-THEMES

1. The compatibility of WTO rules on goods with digitally delivered products and services.
2. The impact of digital platforms on market access and competition in the WTO framework.
3. The potential for new WTO disciplines on digital trade, such as electronic commerce, data privacy, and digital taxation.
4. The relationship between digital trade and sustainable development goals within the WTO context.
5. The role of regional trade agreements in shaping the future of digital trade and its impact on the WTO.
6. The impact of artificial intelligence and automation on trade and the WTO.

7. The challenges and opportunities of digital trade for developing countries within the WTO framework.
8. The role of the WTO in addressing digital trade-related intellectual property rights issues.
9. The implications of e-commerce and digital platforms for consumer protection under WTO rules.
10. The intersection of digital trade and cybersecurity within the WTO context.
11. The potential for cooperation between the WTO and other international organizations in addressing digital trade challenges.
12. The Need for a Digital Trade Framework in the WTO.

Note: The sub-themes provided are intended as guidelines and are not exhaustive. Authors are encouraged to explore and contribute on themes beyond those explicitly mentioned.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Eligibility

The call for chapters is open to interested professors, researchers, practitioners, students and are invited to submit Book Chapters. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind peer review basis. Authors are encouraged to include original works.

Submission Guidelines

1. Abstract (350-500 words) along with 5 Minimum Keywords and with final paper should be send by **May 20, 2025**
2. Name, Designation, Name of the Organization/University /Institution and Email address and the contact number of the Authors should be mentioned in the first page (cover page) of the submitted document.
3. Co-authorship is allowed for this call for chapters 3. **(max 2 co-authors)**
4. Chapter should be in **Garamond**-12 point font and 1.5 spaced.
5. Main Title should be in full capitals, bold and centered 14-point font.
6. Sub-titles should be in sentence case, bold and 12-point font.
7. Citation Format: Please use footnotes rather than endnotes. Footnotes should conform to **OSCOLA 4th Edition** style;
8. All the contributions for the call for chapters should be the original work of the contributors and should not have been submitted for consideration in any other Publication.
9. Any plagiarized work will be out-rightly rejected. Plagiarism more than 15% will strictly be rejected.
10. The paper should be typed in MS WORD format.
11. The paper must be in single column lay out with margins justified on both sides;
12. The length of paper should be between 5,000-7,000 words (including footnotes).

Submission details

The paper shall be submitted both in doc./docx and pdf. Format via mail at citil@mpdnlu.ac.in with the subject “*submission-CfP-WTO & digital trade*”. The body of the mail must contain title of the paper/submission followed by the author(s) details; (i) name (ii) designation (iii) institutional affiliation (if any).

Ethical Guidelines

- The submission must be the original work of the author(s) i.e., should not be plagiarised and should not be simultaneously submitted to any other publication for consideration.
- Authors must indicate their academic qualifications including the degrees completed and the name of the university/institution to which they are affiliated. Co-authoring of papers among individuals of the same or different institutions is permissible.
- Upon submission, the manuscript becomes the property of the Centre for Studies in International Trade and Investment Laws (CITIL) and Centre for WTO Studies (CWS). Authors grant CITIL and CWS an irrevocable, non-exclusive license to publish, reproduce, and distribute their work in any format.
- Submissions are accepted for publication on the condition that they do not infringe upon the rights of any third party and that the work does not contain any obscene, offensive, or defamatory material.
- Any form of plagiarism will not be tolerated and lead to instant disqualification from the review process.
- After review, manuscripts will be returned to authors suggesting changes to content, style or structure. Acceptance of the piece for publication may be made contingent upon incorporating such suggestions.
- The Editorial Board may review the accuracy of citations. However, the final responsibility for accuracy of facts, quotations and citations in the submission rests with the author. The author may be asked to present copies of the materials cited in the paper.

Important dates

- Last Date of Submission of Full Chapters: **May 20, 2025**
- Intimation of selected papers to authors: **June 15, 2025.**
- Publication and Book Release: **July-August, 2025 (tentative).**



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