



# TradeLab

Law and Policy Clinics to make Global Economic Regulation work for everyone



## OVERVIEW:

### Why TradeLab Clinics?

Trade and investment treaties and other cross-border economic regulations affect everyone – yet they are complex to negotiate or interpret, and access to the rights therein depends on resources. For governments of less wealthy countries, CSOs, SMEs and other smaller stakeholders adequate resources is often a challenge. That is where TradeLab comes in.



- 18 Universities across the globe
- + 200 projects completed
- + 620 students trained

TradeLab is a network of Law and Policy Clinics that bring together academics, practitioners and students. Through pro bono clinics, TradeLab students (from law, economics and other disciplines) and experienced professionals work on projects for diverse beneficiaries such as public officials, NGOs, International Organizations, and SMEs.

# WHAT MAKES TRADE LAB UNIQUE?



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

For each project, TradeLab relies on pro bono expert-mentors from private practice and international organisations; academic supervisors; and students. Thus connecting students and beneficiaries with a unique network of professionals and experts.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY

Most of our projects combine law, policy, economics, strategy, and other fields of expertise.

## INTER-CLINIC COOPERATION

TradeLab enables fruitful exchanges between clinics across the globe on projects, best practices, and mentors. This fosters cooperation between students from diverse backgrounds and democratizes expertise to corners of the world other than Geneva and Washington, DC .

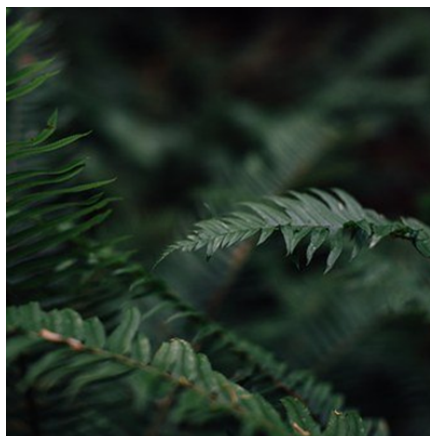
## PUBLIC INTEREST AND OUTREACH

TradeLab strives to serve a public interest goal by making all outputs available on our website, so that anyone can have access to the completed reports.

## INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY CONTROL

TradeLab is an independent Swiss-based NGO. Its governance bodies are composed of top ranking faculty and staff from universities across the globe, who together guarantee the quality control of TradeLab's work and governance.

## EXAMPLES OF PAST PROJECTS



### Protecting the Amazon: A Report on Mechanisms of Redress for Potential Human Rights and Environmental Breaches in Brazil

*Beneficiary: Society for Threatened Peoples (NGO)*

The project appraised a variety of global mechanisms of redress – with the aim of identifying promising options – for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment in the Brazilian Amazon.

### Compliance with U.S. Sanctions Regime Concerning Trade with Syria

*Beneficiary: : A small women's cooperative based in Syria*

The beneficiary used the output to respond to U.S. service providers (e.g. Amazon and PayPall) and the Handbook (developed by the students) for filing an application for a Specific License at OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control).



### Should Mexico join ICSID?

*Beneficiary: Government of Mexico*

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an institution that is part of the World Bank and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a leading, global investor-State dispute resolution forum dedicated to international investment dispute settlement. A TradeLab student team explored the question, "Should Mexico join ICSID?" Balancing the advantages with the disadvantages of the ICSID Convention and taking into consideration that ICSID membership sends a positive signal of effective protection to foreign investors, the TradeLab memo suggested that Mexico should consider becoming a party to the Convention. Mexico joined the ICSID Convention in 2018.

Disclaimer

TradeLab outputs are prepared on a pro bono basis by students as a pedagogical exercise. They are not professional legal advice and in no way establish a client-attorney relationship

## TYPES OF PROJECTS

- **INFORMATION:** Build legal capacity through researching, simplifying and making international economic law and policy more accessible
- **NEGOTIATION:** Offer background research, analysis and support in the negotiations of trade and investment agreements
- **COMPLIANCE:** Provide compliance assessment of proposed or existing legislation, drafting of model legislation or advocacy positions in the context of existing agreements on trade and investment

- **LITIGATION:** Assist in preparing litigation briefs (including amicus briefs), defense strategies, third party submissions, and legal memoranda at the WTO, in investor-state arbitration and other fora



## OBJECTIVES

To broaden the pool of individuals and stakeholders that have access to the benefits of trade and investment treaties, and to build lasting legal capacity and knowledge of international economic law and policy.

*"... our profound gratitude ... The brief which you have prepared will add tremendous value and input as we continue to pursue all avenues to recover the investments of our nationals" - A developing country in the Caribbean*

## Partner Universities

13 member clinics & 5 pilots

