



International
Trade
Centre



26-29 June 2023 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

World Export Development Forum 2023

Diversify with Green Trade

Organic ▪ *Digital* ▪ *Sustainable*

HIGHLIGHTS

Conference Debates on Trade Diversification and
Green Export Opportunities (27-28 June)

Private Sector Consultations:
Landlocked Developing Countries

International Young Social Entrepreneurs Competition

Mongolia SheTrades Hub Launch

Business Export Clinics

Training on Quality Management and Market Linkages

In partnership with



UNITED NATIONS
MONGOLIA





The Forum

Talking trade, doing business,
driving development

The World Export Development Forum, the flagship event of the International Trade Centre (ITC), is the ideal setting to discuss trade development and connect businesses to new markets. It is unique for bringing together the voices of businesses, governments, women and youth.

This annual event combines high-level plenaries with business networking. Its side events offer capacity building for trade, with training, insights and partnerships for small businesses to engage in international markets.

Each forum explores trade development that is green, digital, inclusive and supportive of small business in regional and global value chains. It also takes a deep dive into the needs of special geographic groups – particularly developing, landlocked and least developed countries.

The 2023 edition hosted by Mongolia will mark the 20th edition of the World Export Development Forum.



The context

Trade development in a time of COVID, conflict, climate and higher costs

The next World Export Development Forum will look at a changing trade and development landscape, the common priorities of firms trading in times of crisis, and the specific needs of Mongolia as the host country – all to create a dynamic gathering of national, regional and international participants.

The world of trade has changed enormously in 20 years since this event began as a closed-door, public-private summit on national export strategies. ITC and WEDF have adapted with every change.

A complex, interdependent world calls for new solutions. Trade routes and supply chains are shifting, with entire economies disrupted due to COVID, conflict, climate and cost-of-living. The world saw a dramatic shift online during the height of the pandemic. Trade in services is revolutionizing all economies. Governments are committed, more than ever, to making the most of their young and growing populations. Women-led businesses are mobilizing to claim their rightful share of global trade. Sustainability has gone from being a nice-to-have to a central business imperative.

The World Export Development Forum will create a platform for a sustainable, inclusive recovery through international trade.



Commitment to common challenges

The International Trade Centre evaluates host country requests for their commitment, geopolitical significance and the possibility to be a springboard for longer-term impact in the country, the region and beyond.

Mongolia is:

- Geopolitically important for its strategic location between Europe and Asia, and firmly committed to multilateralism.
- A thought leader on issues facing landlocked nations, through its International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.
- A global leader on battling deforestation through its '1 billion trees by 2030' initiative.
- Open for new business and investment outside of the traditional mining sector, with potential in services as well as value-added agribusiness.
- An emerging actor in technology-enabled trade to overcome landlocked challenges through digital services, software innovation development and fintech.
- Host to a vibrant small business sector, including an educated workforce of women and youth-led firms.



Mongolia's commitment to hosting the World Export Development Forum comes from the highest levels in the country and the private sector, including the Office of the President, the Parliament, key ministries and the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Many institutions in the international development community are committed to supporting the path to diversify exports in Mongolia, the region and beyond. They, too, see the World Export Development Forum as a catalyst to shift awareness and action to make trade sustainable, green and inclusive. They see in this event the opportunity to:

- Feed into global discussions on common trade challenges.
- Hear new perspectives on making trade more inclusive for women and youth.
- Share expertise with a very targeted, relevant network.
- Work together on solutions that are replicable and adaptable to many contexts.
- Discover business opportunities and gain awareness on capacity-building needs.

Through WEDF 2023, Mongolia signals its intent to carve out a cutting-edge, inclusive and practical trade development path. This path resonates with ITC's strategic approach to trade development and those of its partner institutions.



The International Trade Centre

Inclusive, sustainable trade

Established in 1964, the International Trade Centre is the joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. For nearly sixty years, ITC has been dedicated to connecting small businesses in developing countries to global markets.

ITC delivers practical, development-focused results through projects in 132 countries, a range of thought leadership products and partnership-based events. ITC activities link global trade, private sector engagement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ITC champions small business, women and young entrepreneurs – working with both the public and private sector. It prioritizes support to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, sub-Saharan Africa and fragile states.

As ITC's annual flagship event, the World Export Development Forum reflects ITC's vision of a world where trade builds inclusive, sustainable and prosperous economies.

20 Years

- 2019** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:
Trade and Invest in One Africa
- 2018** Lusaka, Zambia:
Scaling up through trade: Skill – Innovate – Connect
- 2017** Budapest, Hungary:
Trade – A force for good: Include, Innovate, Integrate
- 2016** Colombo, Sri Lanka:
Trade for Success: Connect, Compete, Change
- 2015** Doha, Qatar:
Sustainable Trade: Innovate, invest, internationalize
- 2014** Kigali, Rwanda:
SMEs: Creating jobs through trade
- 2012** Jakarta, Indonesia:
Linking growth markets: New dynamics in global trade
- 2011** Istanbul, Turkey:
Private sector engagement with LDCs for tourism-led growth
- 2010** Chongqing, China:
Adapting to post-crisis world trade patterns
- 2008** Montreux, Switzerland:
Consumer Conscience: How Environment and Ethics Influence Exports
- 2007** Montreux, Switzerland:
Bringing Down the Barriers – Charting Dynamic Export Development
- 2006** Berlin, Germany:
Export Development and Poverty Reduction
- 2005** Montreux, Switzerland:
Export of Services: Hype or High Potential?
- 2004** Montreux, Switzerland:
Competitiveness through Public–Private Partnership
- 2003** Cancun, Mexico:
Business for Development: Implications for Strategy Makers
- 2002** Montreux, Switzerland:
Managing Competitive Advantage: The Values of National Strategy
- 2001** Montreux, Switzerland:
Is Your Trade Support Network Working?
- 2000** Montreux, Switzerland:
Export Development and the Digital Economy
- 1999** Annecy, France:
Redefining Trade Promotion – The Need for a Strategic Response

WEDF 2023 At a Glance

Diversify with Green Trade: Organic, Digital, Sustainable

Plenary sessions

- Paths to diversify trade
- Scaling up youth entrepreneurship in new sectors
- Green pitch competition: Young entrepreneurs who inspire

- Trade megatrends for LLDCs
- Green trade
- Harnessing Digital services to transform economies
- Access to Finance

Side events and activities

- Before**
 - Private Sector in Landlocked Developing Countries
 - Women in Trade
 - Business networking
 - Media briefings

- After**
 - Buyers, quality, sustainability
 - Organics
 - National export strategies