



Environmental Sustainability and International Trade: Roadmap for Sustainable Development



The Institute for Policy, Advocay, and Governance (IPAG)

Environmental Sustainability and International Trade: Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Syed Munir Khasru

Chairman

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

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IPAG

14B Chandrashila Suvastu Tower
69/1 Bir Uttam Qazi Nuruzzaman Road
Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh.

Editorial Team

Editorial team led by
Syed Munir Khasru

Editor
Riasat Noor

Editorial team members
Dr. Rajeev Pratap Singh, Banaras Hindu University
Dr. Richa Kothari, Central University of Jammu

Design, Layout, and Typesetting
Mohiuddin Khokan

Table of Contents

Foreword vii

Felicitation ix

Thematic Area I: Green Economy and Trading Opportunities for Environmental Goods and Services

- | | | |
|---|--|------------|
| 1 | Mainstreaming Green Economy:
Roadmap for Tackling Climate Challenges
<i>Syed Munir Khasru</i> | 03 |
| 2 | Monitoring Progress towards Green Growth with the OECD
Green Growth Indicators Framework
<i>Nathalie Girouard, Ivan Haščič, Alexander Mackie &
Miguel Cárdenas Rodríguez</i> | 17 |
| 3 | Green Growth and Trade in Environmental Goods and
Services: A South Asian Perspective
<i>Dr. Posh Raj Pandey and Kshitiz Dahal</i> | 37 |
| 4 | The Role of Policy Coherence in SDG Implementation:
Making Trade Work for the Environment
<i>Carina Lindberg</i> | 93 |
| 5 | Conflict Resolution in Green Trading:
Ensuring Environmental Sustainability while Preventing
Climate Change
<i>Riasat Noor</i> | 103 |
| 6 | Inclusiveness, Transparency and Innovation: The Basis for
Fostering Sustainability Along the Supply Chain
<i>Sandra Cabrera de Leicht</i> | 123 |
| 7 | Status and Prospects for Regional Renewable Energy
Cooperation in ASEAN
<i>Muhammad Shidiq, Septia Buntara Supendi</i> | 135 |

**Thematic Area II:
Ideas, Innovations, and Initiatives for Fostering Green Growth**

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 8 | Green Energy for Transport in South Asia:
An Approach for a Clean, Sustainable Path
<i>Deborah Gordon and Smriti Kumble</i> | 156 |
| 9 | Towards Green Growth via Green Industrial Policy
<i>Arvind Kumar</i> | 170 |
| 10 | Sustainalism: The New Paradigm for Green Growth
<i>Harry Verhaar</i> | 190 |
-

**Thematic Area III:
Factoring Climate Change in SDGs for Environmental Sustainability**

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 12 | Greening the Trade as a Mean to Achieve the Sustainable
Development Goals
<i>Stefanos Fotiou</i> | 205 |
| 13 | Environmental Sustainability and International Trade:
A European Perspective on Sustainable Development
<i>Peter Hefele and Cynthia Smpontias</i> | 215 |
| 14 | An Analysis of India's Trade in Environmental Goods:
Trends, Recent Developments and Export Opportunities
<i>Manab Majumdar</i> | 239 |
| 15 | Making Case for Environmental Flows in South Asian River
Basins
<i>Gauri Noolkar</i> | 191 |
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Syed Munir Khasru

Chairman

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and Governance (IPAG)



Foreword

Human civilization has traversed a long way straddling on the back of international trade to fuel economic growth and global prosperity. Trading in its simplest and earliest form represented an elaborated way of exchanging natural goods & resources among interested parties. Reinforced by technological advances, humankind have long continued to extract natural resources at an unsustainable rate to promote commercial gains. Ignoring environmental sustainability and not adopting green trade mechanisms in many instances have put economic prosperity and environmental safeguards at collision course. Sustainable development rests primarily upon three pillars of sustainability, i.e., economic, social, and environmental requiring a delicate balance among three important parameters. Upsetting the balance risk unnerving the foundation of the global sustainable development agenda.

Amidst the specter of rising temperature, glacier meltdown, depleting Amazon, flash floods, marine life hazards and coral reef degradation, environmental sustainability has now become an issue of utmost importance requiring concerted global response. This is happening at a time when more emphasis is being put into unfettered trade and comparative advantage as opposed to environmental sustainability through green goods and services. Although trade impacts sustainability in different ways, in its current shape and form, it poses a serious challenge to combating climate change.

As a new generation, forward-looking think tank, IPAG believes that to create an efficient response mechanism and to mobilize relevant stakeholders, there is no alternative to better and wider dissemination of required knowledge to the larger audience of stakeholders to raise awareness and inspire positive

action on the ground. Against the backdrop of these stark realities, IPAG is pleased to bring out the publication titled ‘**Environmental Sustainability and International Trade: Roadmap for Sustainable Development**’ which provides insights, analysis, and food for thoughts on issues affecting global trade and environmental sustainability.

Leveraging IPAG’s global network of intellectual resources, the book contains intriguing ideas and innovative strategies on possible responses to counter environmental degradation that risk being unleashed by international trade that is anti-green. The goal is to catalyze the much-needed dialogue, discourse, and debates to chart out a way that promotes international trade without compromising the “green factor”. Towards that end, we welcome comments and suggestions from relevant stakeholders and our valued partners & patrons in the knowledge industry in pursuit of scholastic excellence. This is a journey that needs all the three Cs - Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration -to see an era of thriving global trade that is both green and clean. Economic prosperity and environmental safety are not mutually exclusive propositions.



Syed Munir Khasru

Chairman

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

Message of Felicitation

Dr. Fahad M. Alturki
Chairman
T20 Saudi Arabia (think tank consortium
under the G20 Saudi Presidency, 2020)
Vice President and Head of Research
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and
Research Center (KAPSARC)
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



I congratulate the Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance (IPAG) on the publication of their book, **“Environmental Sustainability and International Trade: Roadmap for Sustainable Development.”** I hope it becomes a milestone in the field of sustainable development and trade, reaching a broad spectrum of stakeholders. This collection of commentaries from credible experts enriches our collective knowledge and ability to enhance the sustainability of international trade.

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been operating as a framework to achieve a sustainable world, where prosperity and good health can be shared by all. Since its establishment in 2015, the Agenda has been promoting a more equitable and productive world. Progress in SDG attainment has already touched major milestones. The under-five child mortality rate has fallen steadily, extreme poverty has seen significant declines, the immunization rate has increased, and access to basic utilities such as electricity has seen marked improvement. Many countries are working in concert to combat illegal fishing and protect marine areas.

International trade has considerable influence on the attainability of the SDGs. Trade can help green businesses flourish while promoting economic productivity and environmental conservation. The contributors to the IPAG’s book have provided an intellectual framework for how the 17 UN SDGs can act as blueprints for a more sustainable future for all.

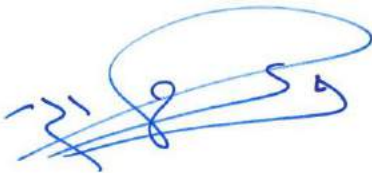


The authors have addressed universal challenges, ranging from inequality, poverty, and climate, to environmental sustainability. They have provided adaptive recommendations for continuing on the path of sustainable development. Several chapters argue that international trade plays an important role in making clean technologies available at minimal cost.

The book argues that countries should work proactively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in international trade, while still recognizing the importance of economic growth, through adopting appropriate policies. For trade to contribute to environmental sustainability, countries need to better align their environmental, trade, and SDG policies. Much deeper commitment and action are needed to unleash the kind of political and economic transformation that could achieve environmentally sustainable international trade.

The research in this book builds on and extends the work conducted as part of the T20 by IPAG and its Chairman, Professor Syed Munir Khasru. It is my hope that this book will help broaden and deepen the dialogue among governments, the private sector, and civil society on practical ways to use trade to strengthen the global economy while protecting the environment. Congratulations to the authors who have contributed to this book, and to IPAG for taking the initiative to produce this important publication.

Best wishes,



Dr. Fahad M. Alturki

Chairman

T20 Saudi Arabia (think tank consortium under the G20 Saudi Presidency, 2020)

Vice President and Head of Research

King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)

June 6, 2020

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

