

Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS)

CONFERENCE TITLE:

Unlocking Trade, Investment and Sustainable Growth for Developing Economies

Theme

FROM PREFERENCES TO PARTNERSHIPS: MAKING DCTS WORK FOR TRADE, JOBS AND DEVELOPMENT"



10-13 November 2026



Park Plaza London Westminster Bridge, 200 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7UT, UK



OVERVIEW

The UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) replaced the EU's GSP in 2023, covering 65 developing countries with reduced tariffs and simplified rules of origin. This 4-day academic and policy conference brings together scholars, trade economists, policymakers, and private sector leaders to assess the DCTS impact, identify implementation gaps, and propose evidence-based reforms to maximize trade and investment flows from developing to developed markets.

The conference will blend academic research panels, policy roundtables, and private sector case studies with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and small island developing states that stand to benefit most from DCTS.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Academics, trade ministry officials, WTO/UNCTAD representatives, export promotion agencies, SMEs, Policy Makers, legal and customs professionals, development finance institutions, development partners & policy makers, state, regional and local government officials.



DELEGATES REGISTRATION PACKAGES

- 1. Full Package (Including Conference Fee, 5 Nights Hotel Accommodation, Meals and Return Flights Tickets): £4,750**
- 2. Conference Package (Without Hotel Accommodation and Return Flights Ticket) £2,750**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM STRUCTURE



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DAY 1: 10 NOVEMBER: ARRIVAL + POLICY FOUNDATIONS
Theme: The DCTS in the Global Trade Architecture

- 1. Opening Plenary: The UK's Post-Brexit Trade Strategy and the Role of DCTS - Keynote from UK Department for Business and Trade [DBT]**
- 2. Panel 1: DCTS vs GSP vs EU GSP+: What's New and What's Different**
- 3. Workshop: Rules of Origin Under DCTS – Simplification and Practical Compliance**
- 4. Welcome Reception + Networking at Park Plaza River Lounge**

DAY 2: 11 NOVEMBER: TRADE IMPACTS + SECTORAL ANALYSIS

Theme: Where DCTS Delivers Value

- 1. Panel 2: Tariff Reductions and Export Competitiveness: Early Data 2023-2026_**
- Focus: Textiles, agriculture, manufactured goods, fisheries
- 2. Academic Session 1: Empirical Evidence on DCTS Utilization Rates in Sub-Saharan Africa**



DAY 3: 12 NOVEMBER: INVESTMENT, SUSTAINABILITY + INCLUSION

Theme: Beyond Tariffs – Making Trade Work for Development

1. Panel: DCTS and Sustainable Development – Labor, Environment and Governance Clauses
2. Academic Session 2: Gender and SME Inclusion in DCTS Supply Chains
3. Roundtable: Role of DFIs and Export Credit in Scaling DCTS Trade
4. Policy Lab: Digital Trade and E-Commerce under DCTS – Opportunities for Landlocked Countries

DAY 4: 13 NOVEMBER: FUTURE REFORM + DEPARTURE

Theme: Strengthening DCTS for 2030

1. Panel 5: Cumulative Rules of Origin and Regional Integration – ECOWAS, EAC, SAARC
2. Academic Session 3: DCTS and WTO Compatibility – Legal and Policy Perspectives
3. Closing Plenary: Recommendations to UK Government on DCTS Review 2027
4. AEIP Research Publication Launch: DCTS Impact Report 2026 + Certificate Awards



Registration

Registration Deadline: 30th August, 2026



Payment of Fee

PAYMENT OF FEE

Registration and Payment of conference fee are valid and done through our online registration platform. You can also choose to obtain the conference registration form and pay directly by Swift Transfer to the bank account details provided in the form.



For Further Information, Contact Us.



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