



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO

Facoltà di
Giurisprudenza

International Conference

Trade, Development, and Global Value Chain Contracting

16 – 17 April 2020

Venue: UNIDROIT – via Panisperna 28 – Rome

The conference, co-organised by UNIDROIT and the University of Trento – the latter in the framework of the project “Contractual design and supply chain governance” – will discuss the governance and design of global value chains (GVC). Special attention will be paid to the role of contracts and financing devices in advancing development programmes and promoting innovation and sustainability. The conference intends to foster dialogue between academia and the institutional actors and organisations defining trade policies or setting global standards. It will run from 9:00 am on Thursday 16 to 13:30 pm on Friday 17 April.

Themes to be discussed during the conference include:

- *Governance of global value chains: the approaches of international organizations and the scholarly perspective:* Representatives of international institutions and scholars in law, economics and management will discuss the role played by global value chains in trade development and sustainable growth. They will also discuss the changes currently affecting their governance structure regarding both contractual and extra-contractual inter-firm relationships and the implications for trade policy.
- *Contractual relationships along the supply chains:* Speakers will discuss the role played by contracts in the governance of global value chains not only as a means for trading commodities but also, and primarily, as governance devices. Participants will compare different models and practices of contractual governance and supply chain contracting, such as non-equity investment structures, contracts for innovation, contractual networks, etc. Participants will also consider whether new legislative answers are needed at the supranational level for a more effective and equitable use of chain contracting.
- *Financing sustainable development in global value chains:* Speakers will discuss the role of financing in sustainable development and the extent to which supranational law, on the one hand, and transnational private regulation, on the other, may contribute to this role.
- *Financing production and distribution in global value chains:* Speakers will address the different forms of financing production and distribution in GVC, discussing the role of governments, NGOs, financing institutions and multinationals in this regard. Debate will also extend to the impact of financing on governance of GVCs and its influence over power and value allocation along and across chains. The role of supranational law will be discussed concerning the choice and regulation of instruments for chain financing.
- *Designing incentives through contracts: rewards and sanctions; promoting organisational and technological innovation:* Speakers will discuss the role of chain contracting as incentive mechanisms intended to support organizational and technological innovation. Theoretical approaches and business practices in different sectors will be compared to understand whether current challenges in global trade call for a different approach in contractual governance and transnational law.