



UNIVERSITY of
RWANDA

Call for policy briefs: Trade and sustainable development

1. Background

Rwanda has an ambitious long term objective of becoming a middle income country by 2035 and a high income country by 2050. Gaining a positive trade balance is a prerequisite to realize this objective. Towards this, Rwanda has to prepare well and venture into the modern state of international business through well-configured global trade deals. The latter result into favourable trading activities to drive the nation from trade deficit to trade surplus economy.

Therefore, it is necessary to build the suitable and best talents to serve the trading sector, besides having a right trading policy with administrative support and well-designed outreach activities to involve the stakeholders. The World Trade Organization's Chair Programme (WCP) offers the opportunities to build talents, get policy oriented research results and outreach activities to engage the stakeholders' groups. In particular, the WCP at University of Rwanda looks forward to conducting research that is relevant to inform about how to boost Rwanda's regional trade integration with additional focus on trade policy and multilateral trade-related issues.

It is against this background that the University of Rwanda (UR) in partnership with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is implementing the World Trade Organisation Chairs Programme (WCP) Phase III in Rwanda. The WCP's objective is to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the trading system among academics, citizens and policy makers in Rwanda by stimulating not only teaching and outreach activities but also research in relation to international trade.

The UR WTO Chairs programme is therefore seeking policy briefs that provide actionable insights on how trade policy can be used to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The programme invites submissions from UR researchers to suggest solutions to existing problems in the trading sector.

2. Themes:

Policy briefs may address (but are not limited to) the following topics in the area of international trade:

- Global value chains and trade
- Reforming global trade rules for developing country interests
- Trade and climate change: aligning economic and environmental goals

- Impacts of regional trade agreements (e.g. AfCFTA)
- Digital trade and cross-border data flows
- Trade and gender equality
- Trade-related aspects of labour rights and fair working conditions
- Digital trade
- Trade financing

Submission Guidelines:

- Length: 1,200 – 1,500 words
- Format: MS Word or PDF
- Language: English
- Include: Executive summary (150 words), policy recommendations, and up to 5 references

Evaluation Criteria:

- Relevance to theme
- Clarity and conciseness
- Evidence-based analysis
- Practical and innovative policy recommendations
- Relevance to Rwanda and international trade
- The applicant should be a UR academic staff and PhD holder, in partnership with a Postgraduate student or a junior academic staff
- Policy brief writing plan, detailed budget and ability to complete it by end of September 2025
- The author must have a proven evidence of writing policy briefs

Selected proposals will be awarded a maximum of 1,500,000 Rwf.

Dissemination:

Selected briefs will be shared with policymakers and published on UR-WTO Website. Authors may also be invited to present their brief at a policy roundtable in fall 2025.

Submissions in word document should be forwarded through e-mail to the WTO Chair (jbarayandema@ur.ac.rw) with a copy to the WTO Co-Chair (fniragire@ur.ac.rw).

3. Important dates:

Important Dates and Deadlines:	
Deadline for submission of the expression of interest	: 15/07/2025 at Midi night
Notification of review/acceptance	: 20/07/2025

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