Conference Overview

The purpose of this conference is to address rising inequality in the U.S. labor market and its consequences for international trade. Global economic integration and technological change have generated serious challenges for labor markets in high income countries. Low-skilled workers in manufacturing communities have been left behind, while high-skilled workers in urban metro areas have reaped enormous gains. Although wages at the bottom of the income distribution have risen during the pandemic, practical long-term solutions are needed to address long-term labor market frictions and revitalize support for open markets. We aim to develop such solutions in this conference.

We invite three groups of experts to this discussion: academics, business leaders and policymakers. We focus on three aspects of labor markets that have particular relevance for international trade: Labor Standards in Trade Agreements, Trade and Union and Place-Based Policies and Workforce Development.

The invitation-only conference is under Chatham House Rules. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. There will be no video recording or audio transcript; chat will not be saved. Participants are expected to attend the entire conference to allow a continuous conversation leading to practical takeaways.

Each panel will begin with brief opening remarks from speakers and follow with discussion from all conference participants. We expect robust participation from all attendees and encourage participation for the entire conference.
**Global Leaders Forum**

The conference will begin with a public **Global Leaders Forum** event. The forum brings world leaders to UC San Diego to share insights on current trends in global policy and politics, leadership and life lessons. The forum enriches the diplomacy dialogue at GPS and the wider San Diego community and is an essential learning experience for the next generation of world leaders educated at the school. Previous speakers include Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Robert Zoellick, former President of the World Bank.

All conference participants will be automatically registered for this public event, and it will have separate login information. Details on the Global Leaders Forum will be sent closer to the time of the conference. A conference summary agenda is below, followed by details for the invitation-only portion of the conference.

### CONFERENCE SUMMARY AGENDA

**Friday, Feb. 25, 2022**

**Global Leaders Forum**

**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**

8 - 9 a.m. PST

Public Event

---

**Coffee Break**

9 - 9:35 a.m. PST

---

**Invitation-only Conference**

9:35 a.m. - 1 p.m PST
9:35-9:40 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

- *J. Lawrence Broz*, Associate Director, Center for Commerce and Diplomacy; Professor of Political Science, UC San Diego

9:40-10:40 a.m. PANEL 1: LABOR STANDARDS IN TRADE AGREEMENTS

A growing number of trade agreements, including the USMCA, contain labor provisions that commit trading partners to maintain minimum standards for the protection of workers; the USMCA also strengthened the labor dispute resolution system and consultation procedures. Are labor clauses a viable path to improving labor market outcomes?

Panelists:

- *Desiree LeClercq*, Proskauer Employment and Labor Law Assistant Professor, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University
- *Christopher Landau*, Former United States Ambassador to Mexico
- *Jeff Immelt*, Venture Partner, New Enterprise Associates; Former CEO, General Electric

Moderator: *Charles Dallara*, Director, Bank of Nova Scotia

10:40-11:40 a.m. PANEL 2: TRADE AND UNIONS

There is broad consensus that labor’s share of national income has been declining for decades. Some argue that trade-related de-unionization is part of the story. Can re-unionization be a part of the solution to the hollowing out of middle-skilled jobs without a retreat from globalization? What is the role of unions in an economy where labor is more increasingly considered skill-specific versus industry specific?

Panelists:

- *Gordon Hanson*, Peter Wertheim Professor in Urban Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- *Thea Lee*, Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor
- *Leila Aridi Afas*, Director, International Public Policy, Toyota North America

Moderator: *John Ahlquist*, Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

11:40-11:45 a.m. Break
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  PANEL 3: PLACE BASED POLICIES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Place-based policies aim to address geographic disparities in economic performance by targeting resources to underperforming areas. But what are the most effective approaches to narrowing the gap between the best- and worst-performing communities? Workforce development refers to public and private efforts and partnerships to train and retain a viable workforce for the 21st century. Can workforce development create shared economic prosperity for workers, businesses and communities and mitigate employment and community losses due to trade?

Panelists:

- **Nina Pavcnik**, Niehaus Family Professor in International Studies and Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College
- **Ann Fandozzi**, Chief Executive Officer, Ritchie Bros.
- **Susan Davis**, Former U.S. Representative, California’s 53rd Congressional District

Moderator: **Renee Bowen**, Director, Center for Commerce and Diplomacy; Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy and Department of Economics, UC San Diego

12:45 - 1 p.m.  Closing Remarks

- **J. Lawrence Broz**, Associate Director, Center for Commerce and Diplomacy; Professor of Political Science, UC San Diego