

WTO involvement in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda**GUECHAIRI Farah Naima**

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Abstract:

The relationship between sustainable development and international trade is still subject to many debates. This research paper attempts to analyze the measures undertaken by the World Trade Organization to promote sustainable development through its rules and objectives during the period (1995-2021).

Thus, the quantitative data on these measures are collected through several databases allowing an estimation of their contribution to the achievement of the objectives of sustainable development through certain indicators.

The results showed that this organization acts through measures adapted to its principles; reduction of export subsidies, special and differential treatment, trade aids, preferential rules of origin, trade openness. These measures have a positive effect on the representative indicators of the targeted sustainable development goals; eradicating hunger, diversifying the economy to achieve growth and decent work, equality between developed and developing countries and establishing partnerships..

Keywords: WTO; sustainable development goals; developing countries; exports; special and differential treatment..

Jel Classification Codes : B27 ; F00 ; F18

ملخص:

العلاقة بين التنمية المستدامة والتجارة الدولية لازالت موضوع نقاشات. يهدف هذا المقال الى تحليل التدابير التي اتخذتها منظمة التجارة العالمية لتعزيز التنمية المستدامة من خلال قواعدها وأهدافها خلال الفترة (1995-2021). وبالتالي ، تم جمع البيانات الكمية عن هذه المقاييس من خلال عدة قواعد بيانات تسمح بتقدير مساهمتها في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة من خلال مؤشرات معينة.

أظهرت النتائج أن هذه المنظمة تعمل من خلال تدابير تتلاءم مع مبادئها : تخفيض دعم الصادرات ، المعاملة الخاصة والتفاضلية ، المساعدات التجارية ، قواعد المنشأ التفضيلية ، الانفتاح التجاري. تبين أن لهذه التدابير تأثير إيجابي على المؤشرات الممثلة لأهداف التنمية المستدامة المستهدفة : القضاء على الجوع وتنويع الاقتصاد لتحقيق النمو والعمل اللائق والمساواة بين الدول المتقدمة والنامية وإقامة شراكات. الكلمات المفتاحية : منظمة التجارة العالمية ، أهداف التنمية المستدامة ، الدول النامية ، الصادرات ، المعاملة الخاصة والتفاضلية.

تصنيف JEL : F18 ; F00 ; B27

I. Introduction:

International trade has always been considered to be a lever for the growth and development of countries. More recently, as in all areas, there has been increasing emphasis on the notion of sustainable development and its link to multilateral trade. One of the challenges facing the World Trade Organization (thereafter WTO) is how to reconcile free trade and sustainable development?

Within this specific framework, the WTO is responsible for promoting international trade, and directing its action to target certain sustainable development goals (thereafter SDGs) on which it can have an effect.

The WTO has now 164 members, two thirds of which are developing countries. The latter, being the most concerned by the SDGs because of their level of development and the specific measures granted to them by the WTO.

The organization is also based on three principles which are part of the vision of sustainable development. First, non-discrimination through the principles of the most favored nation and national treatment for greater equality (SIROEN, 1998).

Next, reciprocity, which emphasizes the development of exports from developing countries and presents openness to imports as a concession necessary for the functioning of the system (ABBAS, 2007).

Finally, the principle of transparency, which results in the prohibition of quantitative restrictions, export subsidies, particularly those of agricultural products (VINCENT, 2010).

This organization is accentuating its role in the achievement of the SDGs through these principles in order to guarantee the predictability and stability of trade, particularly after the 2001 Doha Round which is considered to be the last round of multilateral negotiations offering more liberalization to world trade, more particularly the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development (ROBERTSON, 2005).

In this sense, this study attempts to analyze the means available to the WTO to achieve the SDGs, by answering the following problem:

How does the World Trade Organization (WTO) help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

To answer this problem from the various theoretical studies, we put forward two hypotheses:

- **Hypothesis 1:** the WTO targets the goals on which it has a tangible impact;
- **Hypothesis 2:** The measures put in place by the WTO have a positive contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

II. Literature review:

The relationship between the WTO and sustainable development has been the subject of much debate and research. A number of studies have examined the impact of WTO agreements on sustainable development.

This relation is complex and multifaceted. Some scholars argue that the WTO's focus on trade liberalization and free trade can be at odds with environmental and social objectives. For example, (SCHLOSBERG, 2017) suggests that the WTO's emphasis on economic growth and market-based solutions can lead to an underemphasis on social and environmental concerns. Similarly, (SAGGI, 2017) argues that the WTO's focus on reducing trade barriers can lead to increased carbon emissions, which can have negative impacts on the environment.

In instance (DEERE-BIRKBECK, 2016) argues that the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement has negatively affected the ability of developing countries to access essential medicines. Similarly, (TIENHAARA & ELGSTROM, 2015) suggest that the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture has led to environmental degradation and food insecurity in developing countries. Also, (SCHLOSBERG, 2017) suggests that the WTO's

emphasis on economic growth and market-based solutions can lead to an underemphasis on social and environmental concerns. Likewise, (SAGGI, 2017) argues that the WTO's focus on reducing trade barriers can lead to increased carbon emissions, which can have negative impacts on the environment.

Other studies have focused on the potential for the WTO to support sustainable development. For example, (KHOR & PAUWELYN, 2018) argue that the WTO can play a positive role in promoting sustainable development by ensuring that trade policies are consistent with environmental and social objectives. Similarly, (SAUVE & SHINGAL, 2019) suggest that the WTO can help to promote sustainable development by facilitating trade in environmentally friendly goods and services.

Accordingly, (VAN ASSELT & ZELLI, 2017) argue that the WTO can contribute to the achievement of SDG 13 on climate action by supporting the development of low-carbon technologies and promoting the use of renewable energy. Likewise, the WTO can support SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth by promoting trade that generates employment opportunities and decent wages (GOLUB & SAEZ, 2017).

Although, as expressed by (WTO, 2018), the SDGs that are mostly affected by the organization actions are; SDG2 Zero hunger, by reducing export subsidies, SDG8 Decent work and economic growth, by promoting export diversification, SDG10 Reduced inequalities, by reducing inequalities between countries using the special differentiate treatment and finally SDG17 Partnership for the goals, by raising developing countries participation in international organizations.

Several studies have also examined the relationship between the WTO and these specific SDGs.

For the SDG2, The WTO's policies aim to promote free and fair trade, which can increase food security by facilitating the movement of food across borders. For example, the WTO's Bali Ministerial Declaration in 2013 included a commitment to reduce trade barriers for agricultural products, particularly those from developing countries (WTO, 2013). The WTO has also supported initiatives to improve food safety and quality, such as the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), which establishes international standards for food safety (WTO, 2019).

Furthermore, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) aims to simplify and streamline customs procedures, which can reduce the cost and time of trading food and agricultural products, particularly in developing countries (HOEKMAN & SHEPHERD, 2015). This can improve food security by making it easier for countries to import and export food.

However, critics argue that the WTO's policies can also harm small-scale farmers in developing countries by flooding their markets with cheap imports, reducing their income and food security (BRYAN & BEHRENS, 2018). Additionally, the WTO's intellectual property rules can make it difficult for developing countries to access the latest agricultural technologies, which can hinder their efforts to improve food production (DIMITRI & OBERHOLTZER, 2018).

Furthermore, the WTO's rules on agricultural subsidies and tariffs can also have negative impacts on reducing inequality, particularly for small-scale farmers in developing countries. Critics argue that these rules can lead to distortions in international trade and can limit the ability of developing countries to protect their agricultural sectors and promote rural development (BAKER, 2019).

As about the SDG8, The WTO's objective of promoting free and fair trade can stimulate economic growth by increasing international trade and investment, creating job opportunities and promoting technological development (ACHARYA, 2020). General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) aims to liberalize trade in services such as telecommunications, finance, and transport, which can create job opportunities and promote economic growth (WTO, 2021). The WTO has also supported initiatives to promote technology transfer and capacity building in developing countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture and health (WTO, 2021). Furthermore, the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative aims to help developing countries build their trade capacity and infrastructure, which can promote economic growth and create job opportunities (WTO, 2021).

However, critics argue that the WTO's policies can also lead to job losses in certain industries, particularly in developing countries, as they struggle to compete with cheaper imports (ADHIKARI & AGRAWAL, 2019).

The SDG10 aims to reduce inequalities. The relationship between the WTO and SDG 10 is complex and multidimensional, as the WTO's policies have both positive and negative impacts on reducing inequality. On the positive side, the WTO's objective of promoting free and fair trade can lead to economic growth and job creation, which can help reduce poverty and inequality. Additionally, the WTO's rules-based system can promote transparency, predictability, and stability in trade relations, which can help reduce economic and political uncertainty and promote investment (UNDP, 2018).

Nonetheless, on the other side, the WTO's policies can also have negative impacts on reducing inequality. Critics argue that the WTO's focus on trade liberalization and the protection of intellectual property rights can exacerbate economic inequality, particularly in developing countries. For instance, the TRIPS Agreement can lead to higher prices for essential medicines, which can have negative impacts on public health and access to healthcare, particularly for low-income populations (CHEN & SELL, 2020).

In another sense, the study of (HOEKMAN, B; MATTOO, A; MARTIN, W, 2009), demonstrates the evolution of the participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system and the importance that has been given to them during the different rounds of negotiations. Especially after the creation of the WTO.

III. Methods and Materials:

This study follows a hypothetico-deductive approach, starting from a review of the literature on the relationship between international trade and more specifically the role of the WTO in achieving the SDGs, and then analyzing the effects of representative variables of the intervention of this organization on the representative variables of the SDGs in developing countries.

Thus, the first goal studied (SDG2.b) being the eradication of hunger by reducing restrictions on the world market for agricultural products. The statistics on the latter are taken from the database of the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAOSTAT), while the intervention of the WTO is studied through export subsidies for agricultural products in developing countries. The data of which comes from the database of the WTO. The impact of these subsidies on the percentage of people living below the hunger line in developing countries is then studied, using a simple linear regression by ordinary least squares.

The second (SDG8.a) considered is growth and decent work by achieving export diversification of developing countries and the role of aid for trade in achieving the latter. These two data are extracted from the database data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTADSTAT). The impact of these aids on diversification and concentration is then studied by a simple linear regression according to the method of ordinary least squares.

The third (SDG10.a) studied is the reduction of inequalities through special and differential treatment SDT. For this, an analysis of the difference between the percentage of products imported at zero tariff is carried out between developed countries and developing countries, whose data come from the WTO database. Secondly, a comparison of voting rights and the number of member countries is carried out within the WTO compared to another international institution, whose data comes from the UNCTAD database.

Finally, the fourth (SDG17) studied is broken down into three sub-objectives; SDG17.10 the promotion of a universal and equitable global trading system which is studied through the difference between most-favored-nation MFN tariffs and applied tariffs, with data for both taken from the WTO. SDG17.11.1 the increase in exports from developing countries by studying their share compared to developed countries, and whose data is also taken from the WTO. SDG 17.12 allow duty-free market access to developing countries, which is assessed by the difference between tariffs applied to developed and developing countries.

IV. Results and discussion:

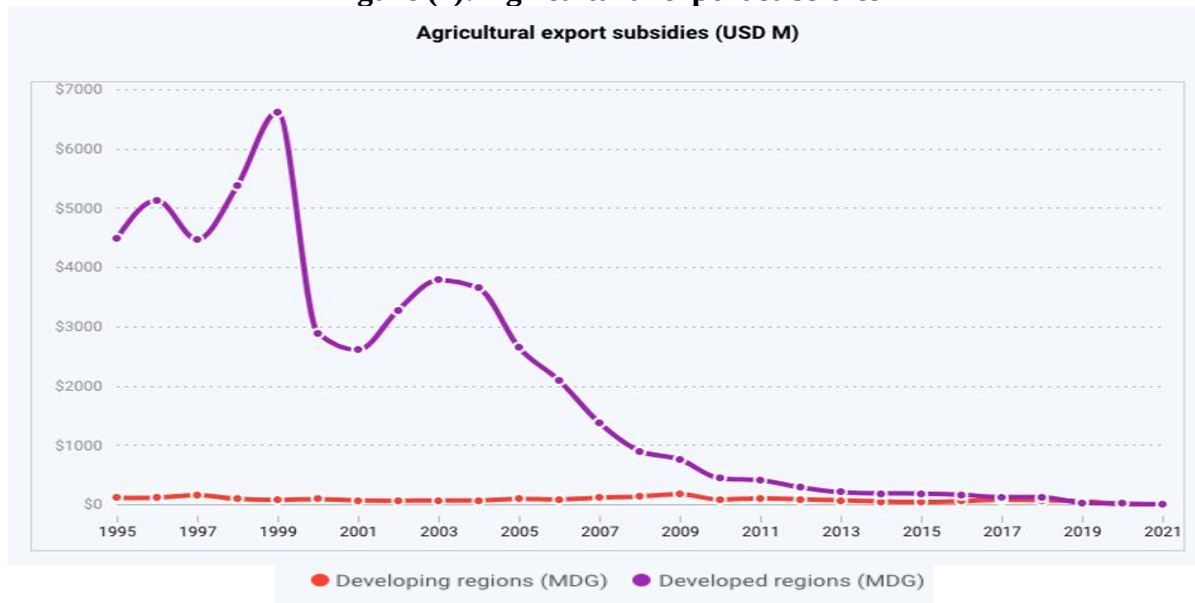
IV.1. Results:

The results obtained for each objective are presented separately in the following:

SDG2.1. Correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions impeding the functioning of global agricultural markets to eradicate the end in the world:

The WTO encourages the elimination of all export subsidies for agricultural products in accordance with the recommendations of the "Doha Development Round" held in 2015.

Figure (1): Agricultural export subsidies

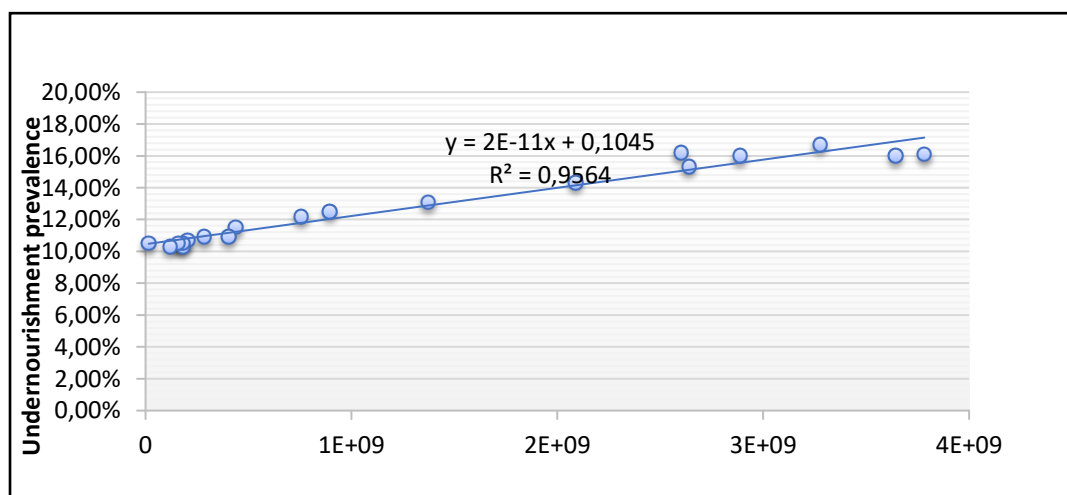


Source : UNCTAD

Export subsidies for agricultural products have been greatly reduced in developed countries, members of the WTO, and in particular after 2004, which allows for greater equality of opportunity and greater access to agricultural products to less developed countries with fewer financial resources.

Moreover, the subsidies in the latter are very reduced compared to the other group, although they are not very low, they follow a general downward trend, however much less important than that of developed countries.

Figure (2): Agricultural products export subsidies



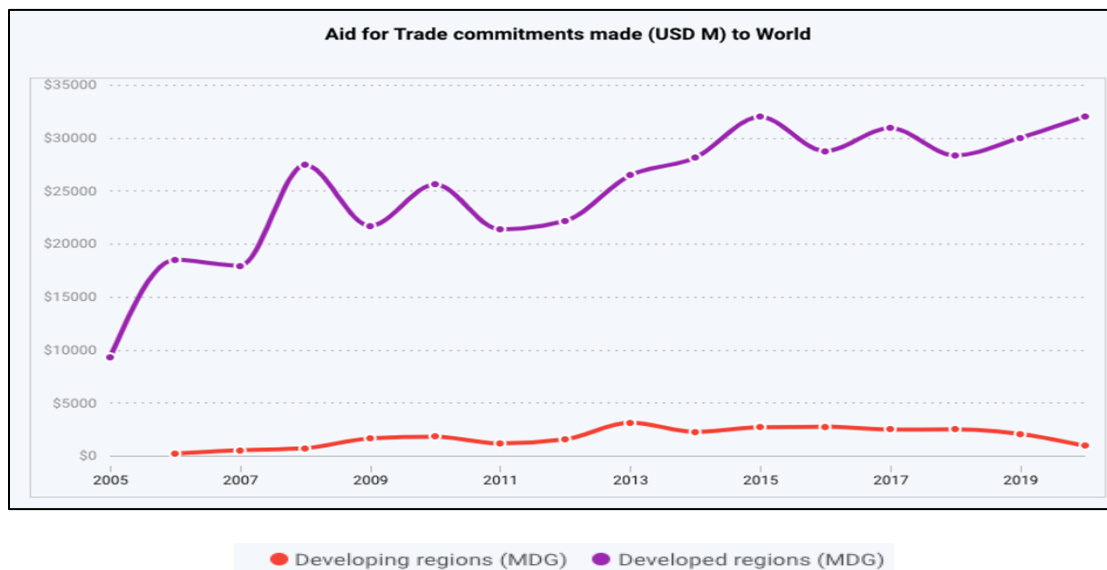
Source : realized by the authors using Excel14.

Furthermore, by studying the relationship between agricultural export subsidies in developed countries and hunger in developing countries, using a simple regression estimated by the method of ordinary least squares ($R^2 = 0.95$, $p = 0.00$), there emerges a positive impact, albeit weak, as coefficient $\alpha = 1.77 \times 10^{-11} > 0$ and significant (as $p = 0.00$), of agricultural export subsidies in the developed countries on hunger in developing countries.

SDG 8.a: Increase support to developing and least developed countries (LDCs) through the Aid for Trade initiative to foster diversification and growth:

To achieve economic development, the WTO has set up technical assistance. This assistance granted to developing countries includes, among other things, aid for trade to developing countries. This encourages their exports, in particular their diversification, and puts them on the path to sustainable growth.

Figure (3) : Aid for Trade (USD)

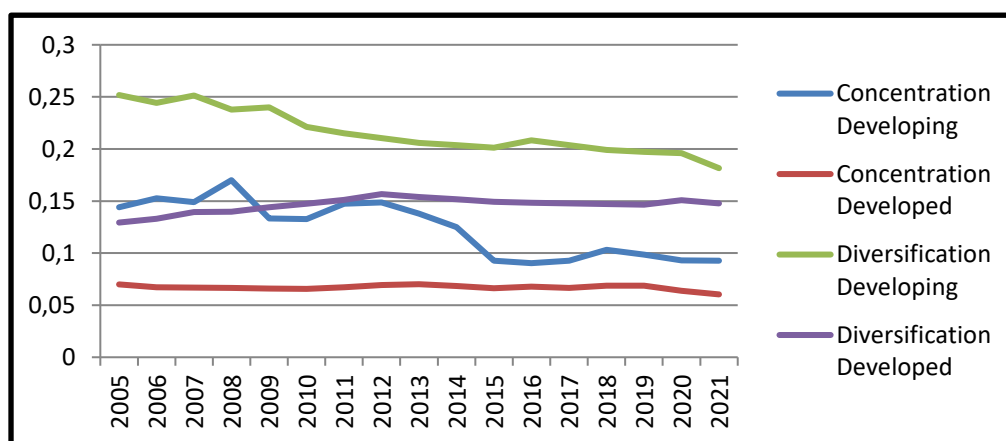


Source : UNCTAD

Aid for trade for developing countries is much greater than that reserved for developed countries, which are, moreover, low and stable. In addition, aid to developing countries is still following a growth trend demonstrating an increasingly significant effort in this direction.

Since these measures aim to facilitate the diversification of developing countries, we approach them using two approaches. Concentration reflects dependence on a small number of exported products. While diversification reflects divergence from the global structure, these two indicators are between 0 and 1, the closer they are to 0 the more diversified the country.

Figure (4): Concentration and diversification

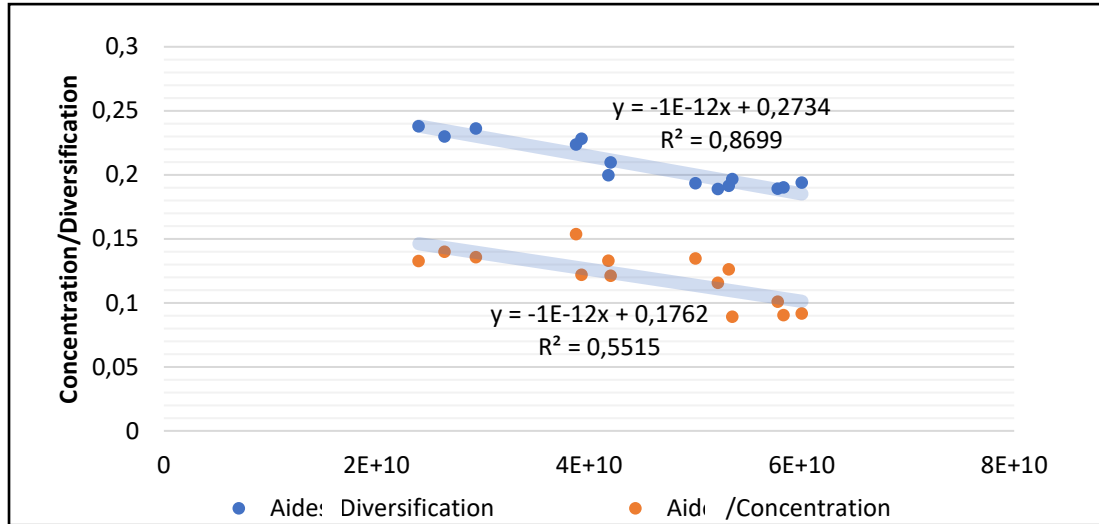


Source : UNCTAD

Thus, we notice that the concentration of exports on a limited number of products is much greater for developing countries than for developed countries in 2005, however, the trend improves as this concentration decreases to be close to that of developed countries in 2021.

Moreover, the diversification index for developed countries is greater than that of developing countries, which reflects a greater divergence from the global structure, however, as for concentration, this divergence tends to be reduced, this group of countries being even very close to the developed countries in 2021.

Figure (5) : aid for trade and economic diversification



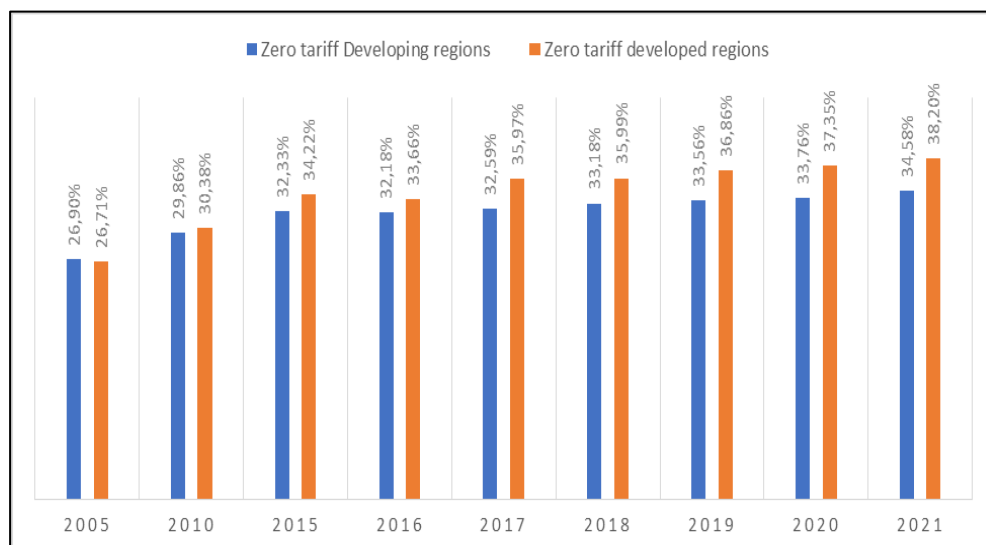
Source : realized by the authors using Excel14.

The study of the impact through a simple linear regression using the ordinary least squares method shows a negative impact of trade aid on the diversification indices ($R^2=0.87$, $p=0.00$) with a negative coefficient but low ($\alpha=-1.47 \cdot 10^{-12} < 0$, $p=0.00$) and concentration ($R^2=0.55$, $p=0.00$) with such a negative but low coefficient ($\alpha=-1.25 \cdot 10^{-12} < 0$, $p=0.00$).

SDG 10.a: implement special and differential treatment provisions for greater equality between developed and developing countries and LDCs:

Special and differential treatment for developing countries enables them to access export markets more easily through an increasing number of products offered by developed countries at zero customs duties, which opens up these markets and promotes their productivity.

Figure (6) : Percentage of zero tariff products

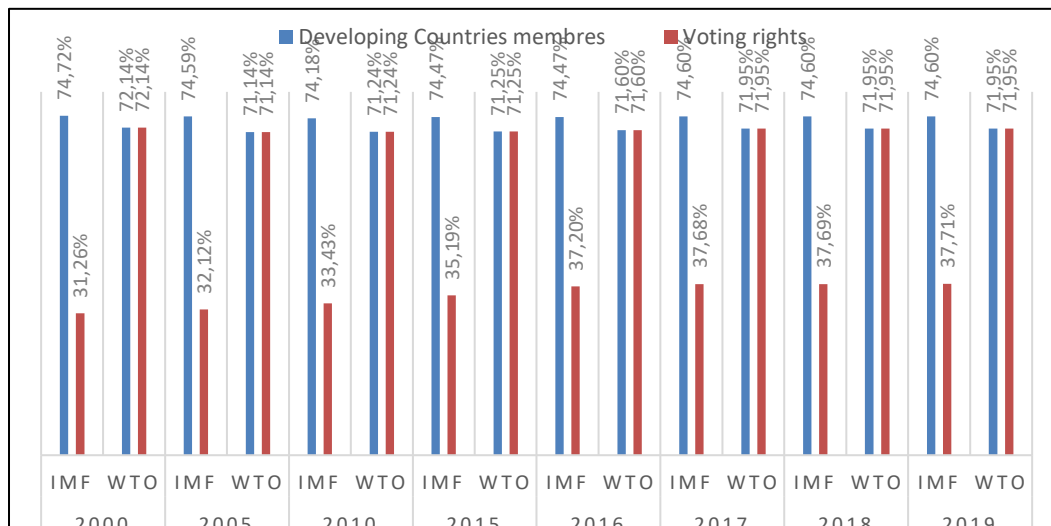


Source : UNCTAD

The results show that zero tariffs offered by developed countries to developing ones are higher than those offered by developing countries. This difference is all the more increasing from one year to another, demonstrating that the SDT is put into practice in favor of the developing countries.

Equality can also be reflected in the participation of developing countries in international institutions, we can measure this by the percentage of developing countries who are members of these institutions, but also by the voting rights granted to them to influence decisions.

Figure (7): Percentage of Developing Countries members and voting rights



Source : UNCTAD

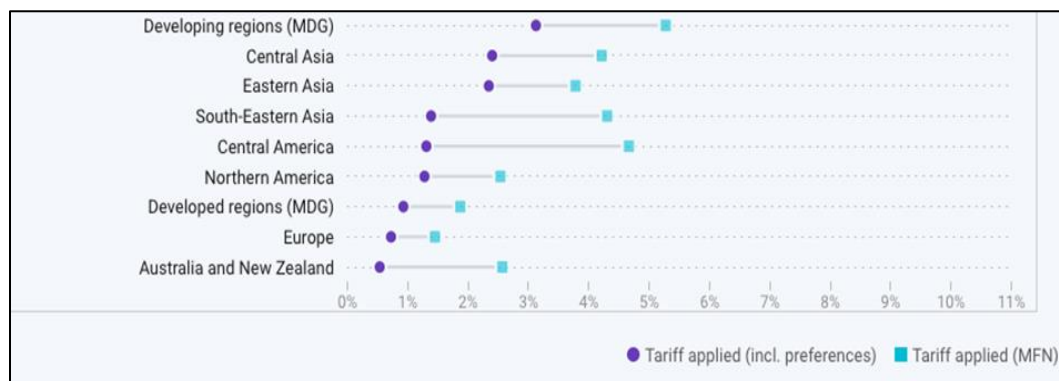
By comparing the percentage of developing countries as members of international institutions with the percentage of voting rights granted to them, it is clear that the WTO is one of the most equitable organizations. The voting rights in the latter are exactly equal to the percentage of developing countries that are members of the institution, the latter reaching nearly 72% in 2019. In comparison, for example, to another international institution, the IMF, whose voting rights of developing countries do not represent only half of the share of these countries as members.

SDG 17 : Partnership : The WTO evaluates its action to achieve this objective according to 3 sub-objectives:

- **SDG 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and fair multilateral trading system:**

The WTO aims to foster an open and non-discriminatory global trading system. This is measured in particular by the tariffs applied, the reduction of which allows greater access to goods and greater trade openness.

Figure (8) : Applied and MFN tariffs

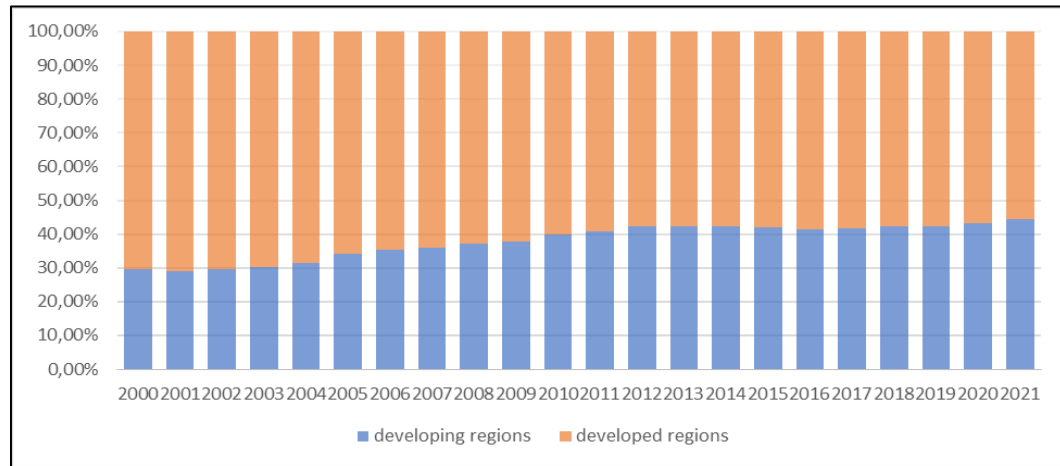


Source : UNCTAD

To assess developments in this area, we study the difference between applied tariffs and MFN tariffs. Thus, we note that this gap is much smaller in developed countries, less than 1% difference, compared to developing countries, a difference greater than 2%. Moreover, the tariffs applied by developing countries are generally higher than those applied by developed countries.

- **SDG 17.11.1: increase exports from developing countries and LDCs:** Developments in this area are assessed by the share of developing countries in world exports.

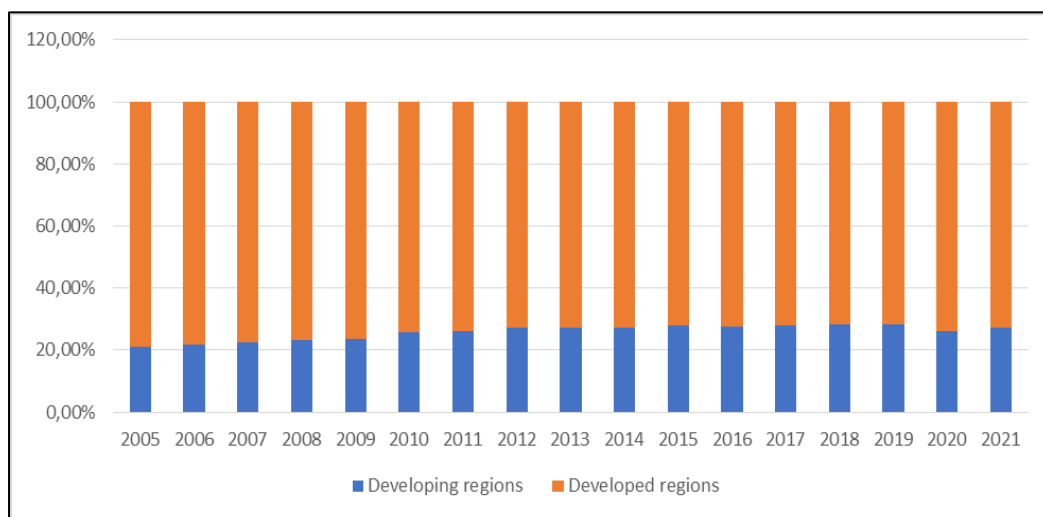
Figure (9): developing regions share in global exports (Products)



Source : UNCTAD

By studying the evolution of the share of developing countries in world exports of goods, it is clear that their share continues to increase, the latter reaching nearly 45% in 2018. Note a slight slowdown in this growth in recent years.

Figure (10): developing regions share in global exports (services)

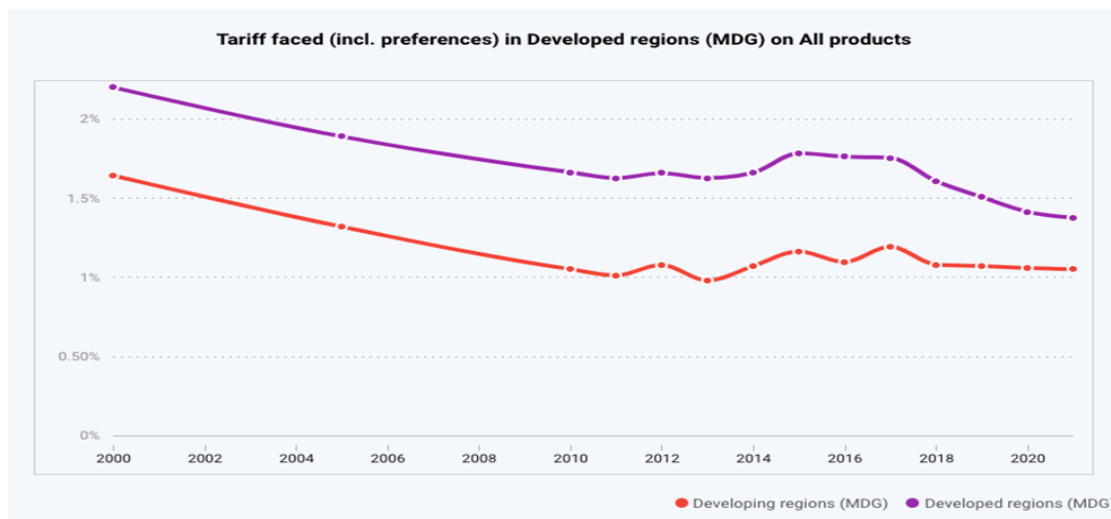


Source : WTO

Contrary to exports of goods and although with a slightly increasing trend, the share of developing countries in world exports of services remains very small, around 30% in 2018, a sector which remains largely dominated by developed countries.

- **SDG 17.12: Implementation of long-term duty-free and quota-free market access for developing countries:**

The WTO ensures transparency and simplicity in the application of preferential rules of origin to imports from developing countries to ensure them sustainable access to duty-free and quota-free markets. This is notably measured through the customs duties applied by developed countries on products from developing countries.

Figure 11: Tariffs faced by developing countries in developed countries

Source : UNCTAD

The results show that the customs duties applied have generally followed a downward trend, while the customs duties applied by developed countries to products from developing countries are much lower than those applied to products from developed countries. , a more or less fixed deviation of 1%.

IV.2. Discussion:

Here we adopt the same methodology as for the results, adopting the SDGs one by one.

SDG2.1. Correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions impeding the functioning of global agricultural markets to eradicate world hunger:

The results showed a drop in export subsidies for agricultural products for developing countries and a certain maintenance of those for developed countries. This is due, among other things, to the strictness with regard to the application of WTO rules to developing countries exporting agricultural products, according to the Agreement on Agriculture, which offered them flexibility and longer deadlines than developed countries with regard to the reduction of export subsidies. The agreement provides for a reduction of 36% in value and 21% in volume for developing countries over a period of 6 years and 24% and 14% for developing countries over a period of 10 years as for the LDCs, which are not obliged to reduce their subsidies, even going to the maintenance of certain subsidies belonging to the “green category” such as that granted to the food aid program, environmental protection, and aid programs for disadvantaged regions (CHINOTTI, 2004).

Moreover, the study of the impact of this type of subsidy in developing countries on hunger in developing countries confirms that a reduction in this type of subsidy in the former makes it possible to reduce hunger and food insecurity in developing countries. This is in line with the idea of the agreement on agriculture, which provides for a reduction until the total elimination of export subsidies to make markets fairer and more competitive, and to contribute to food security through the application of the Trade Facilitation Agreement which entered into force in 2017 and the application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, aimed at applying international standards for food (HOEKMAN & SHEPHERD, 2015) safety with the aim of achieving one of the goals of sustainable development, namely the eradication of hunger in the world by 2030.

Finally, the appearance of the Covid-19 pandemic and the achievement of the 'zero hunger' objective are pushing the WTO and its members to face the new food security challenges facing several countries through the introduction of temporary additional support to the agricultural sector in order to offer assistance to farmers and market stabilization while respecting the principles and disciplines of the (WTO, 2021).

SDG 8.a: Increase support to developing and least developed countries (LDCs) through the Aid for Trade initiative to foster diversification and growth:

The substantial aid for trade granted to developing countries and their upward trend, testify to the efforts of the WTO to encourage these countries to enter more and more into the multilateral trading system and thus promote their growth and development, among other things, through international investments creating jobs and technological development (ACHARYA, 2020).

This aid contributes to the efforts of the WTO to promote the diversification of exports from developing countries, which ultimately enables them to increase their productivity and their economic growth by focusing on sectors with high added value and generating sustainable jobs and decent as expressed by (GOLUB & SAEZ, 2017).

Consequently, the negative impact of aid for trade on the indices of diversification and concentration confirm that the efforts made by the WTO through aid for trade, to help diversify exports from developing countries and reduce disparities with the developed countries were able to bring positive results.

This will make it possible to achieve sustained economic growth that is less dependent on non-renewable energies by promoting the prevalence of decent jobs and greater wage equality in the population by 2030.

Nevertheless, COVID-19 had a negative effect on the aid granted to developing countries following the drop in global growth reaching -3.5% in 2020 (WTO, 2021).

SDG 10.a: implement special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries and LDCs:

The results showed that products with zero tariffs on imports offered by developed countries are more numerous than those offered by developing countries. Indeed, the TSD allows developing countries to temporarily override the principle of reciprocity. This is consistent with the principle of SDT which aims to increase the commercial possibilities of developing countries and LDCs (FEUER, 1994) and thus reduce inequalities between these countries and developed countries.

Furthermore, the WTO intervenes through technical assistance, since its rules and provisions are sometimes very technical, whereas developing countries and LDCs do not have specialists in the field at their disposal. As a result, this assistance is provided to them by institutions or by a program linked to the WTO Secretariat, which allows equality with developed countries in terms of knowledge and therefore treatment in world trade (FEUER, 1994).

This not only facilitates the access of developing countries to the WTO but also allows them to have a greater say in terms of voting rights. This has resulted in an equal share of voting rights in the number of member countries demonstrating the fairness of this institution in terms of treatment of developing countries and its efforts to eliminate inequalities by 2030.

SDG 17 : Partnership:

There are many partnerships between the different international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of sustainable development. In particular, the strategic partnership between the WTO and UNCTAD in this area whose memorandum of understanding was signed on April 16, 2003 (WTO, 2003).

Thus, UNCTAD is a member of several WTO commissions, particularly those related to developing countries, including the Standards and Trade Development Fund (STDF) since March 2007. also part of several commissions and working groups of other organizations working towards the achievement of the SDGs, including the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Investment, Technology and related UNCTAD financial matters. The WTO also participates in the annual meeting of the Joint Advisory Group on the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre (WTO, 2003).

Concerning the sub-objectives targeted by the WTO, firstly in terms of the opening of the world trading system, measured by the difference between applied tariffs and MFN tariffs, a greater gap has been demonstrated among developing countries than for developed countries. This is particularly due to the fact that the developed countries are all members of the WTO while there are still some developing countries, including Algeria, which have not yet finalized their process of accession to the WTO.

In the same way, with regard to the share of developing countries in world exports, the positive evolution of the latter, which almost reaches a share equal to that of developed countries, is explained by a number of developing countries which are members of more and more important

and reflects the flexibilities granted to these countries to promote their exports allowing higher incomes and consequently putting them on the path of sustainable development. Unfortunately, this trend has not had a strong impact on the services sector, which is still not very accessible to developing countries and on which the WTO must step up its action.

Finally, in terms of access of developing countries to the markets of developed countries duty-free, the results showed, as for the previous SDG's, that the customs duties applied by developed countries to products from developing countries are much lower than those from developed countries. This demonstrates that the WTO works for the solidarity of the latter with the developing countries to allow them greater access to their market.

VI. Conclusion:

The WTO seeks to promote, through its principles, a liberalized, fair and sustainable trading system. This vision has been accentuated in recent years when the challenges of sustainable development have taken on increasing importance in economic and political debates. Moreover, the 2001 Doha round introduced the notion of evolution for this organization and in particular for developing countries.

In this sense, the problem of this research work aimed to analyze the participation of the WTO in the achievements of SDGs.

Firstly, through the review of the literature, we noted that the WTO mainly acts on four SDGs in which it particularly insists in these various reports: the eradication of hunger, the achievement of sustainable growth and the availability of decent work, the reduction of inequalities and the establishment of partnerships. This answers our first hypothesis.

The WTO acts on each of these objectives through different measures adapted to each of them. To fight against hunger, the WTO advocates a reduction, or even the elimination, of export subsidies for agricultural products. The effectiveness of this measure has also been empirically proven, which could encourage it to impose more rigor in this area.

Then, to achieve sustainable growth and the availability of decent jobs, the WTO acts by promoting the diversification of exports, and therefore of the economies, of developing countries through technical assistance and in particular aid for trade. The empirical results also demonstrate a fairly significant effect of the latter on the diversification of countries, which could encourage the WTO to increase it to achieve the growth objective by 2030.

Regarding the objective of eliminating inequalities, the WTO uses special and differential treatment by granting exceptions to developing countries to certain WTO rules such as reciprocity with developed countries. This measure allows fair treatment between member countries and equality in the various decisions taken at the WTO between developed and developing countries. The latter, having a fair right to vote.

Finally, regarding the objective of partnerships, the WTO has entered into several agreements with other international institutions to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. In addition, it advocates an open trading system and collaboration between countries through the reduction of applied tariffs.

The WTO also acts through the application of preferential rules of origin, which guarantee lower customs duties for products from developing countries. These two measures have made it possible to increase the share of developing countries in world exports, particularly of goods, while services remain largely dominated by developing countries.

Thus, the WTO has a certain number of levers that translate into measures in favor of developing countries, in particular, which make it possible to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. The second hypothesis is verified.

Through the study, it is clear that in terms of recommendations, the WTO should increase its interventions to further promote the achievements of SDGs and enable their achievement according to the 2030 timetable even in the face of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) which has made trade and development vulnerable and difficult between countries.

Algeria, which remains behind in the achievement of these objectives, should accelerate its process of joining this organization in order to benefit from the measures which will enable it to put itself on the path of sustainable development.

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