EN, FR, ES

MILLENNIAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

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iDEAS centre Geneva
Partnership for development

WTO PUBLIC FORUM '19
FORO PÚBLICO DE LA OMC
PUBLIC DE L'OMC

TIMELINE

The History of the Global Trade [and certain Millennials]

from the Past to the Future

Historic Past

Chaos. Trade proceeds without rules.

1947

The GATT is concluded as a provisional solution establishing rules for trade in Goods.

1980 -1994

Generation Y (Millennials) comes to the world. The Panelists are born on the 4 of the World's continents

The Uruguay Round Begins, Progresses and Concludes

1995 - 2000

The WTO is established (still as a Millennial!)

First dispute is brought to the WTO DSM

Millennials [including the Panelists] are growing up *and do not care about the WTO yet*

WTO Work Programme on E-commerce is established

2001 -2012

Doha Development Round Begins.

Trade Facilitation and Fisheries Subsidies are added to the Agenda

Panelists graduate (... times) and start working in Geneva

WTO Members adopt the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

SDGs reinforce the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Mandate

2013 - 2016

Plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce are launched

The AB Crisis aggravates and is a vector of the WTO Reform

The TFA is going stronger

The delivery on Fisheries Subsidies is expected in December

2017

The TFA enters into force

The Appellate Body Crisis Begins

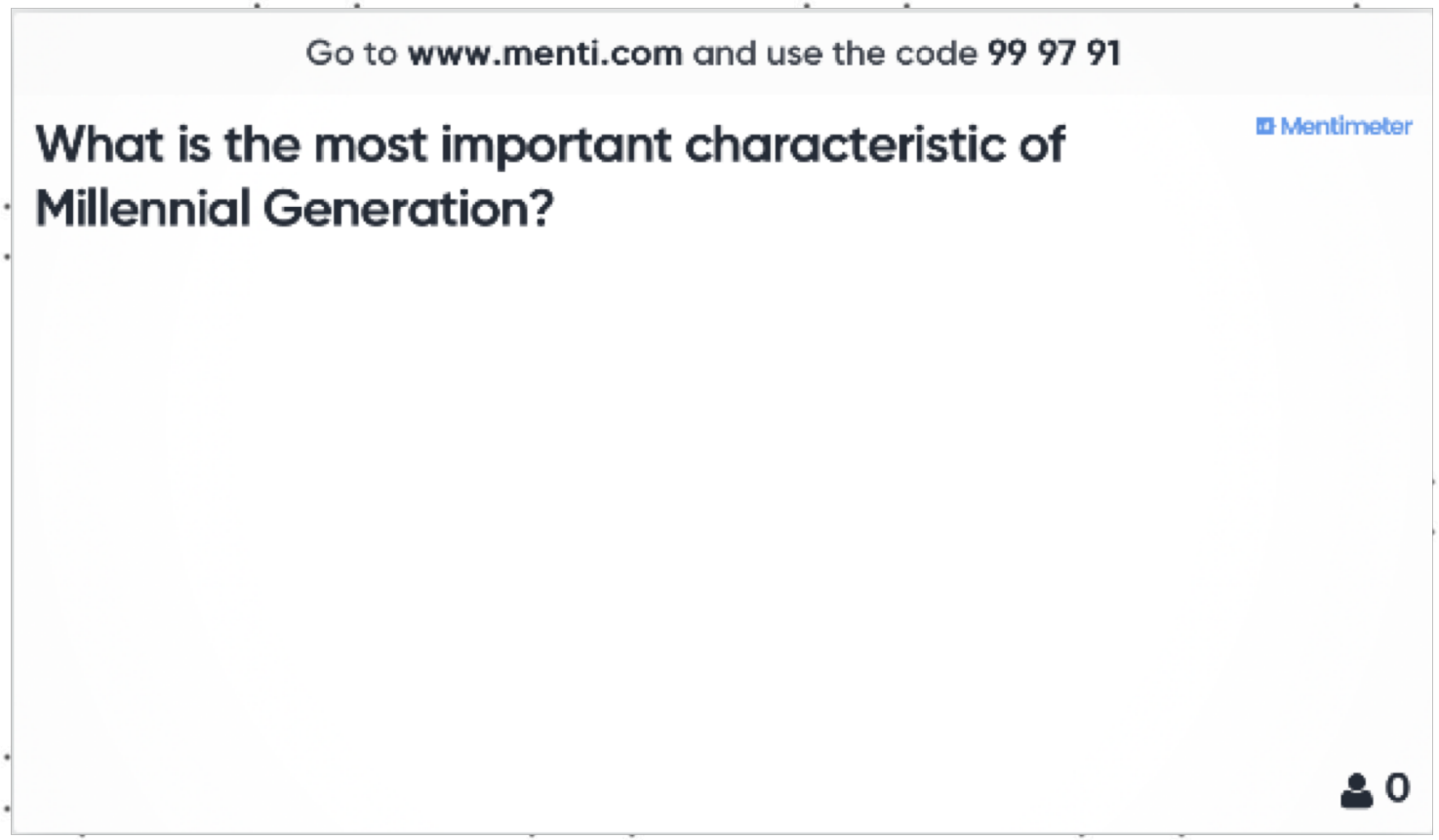
The WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations Intensify; The work of the JSI on E-commerce begins

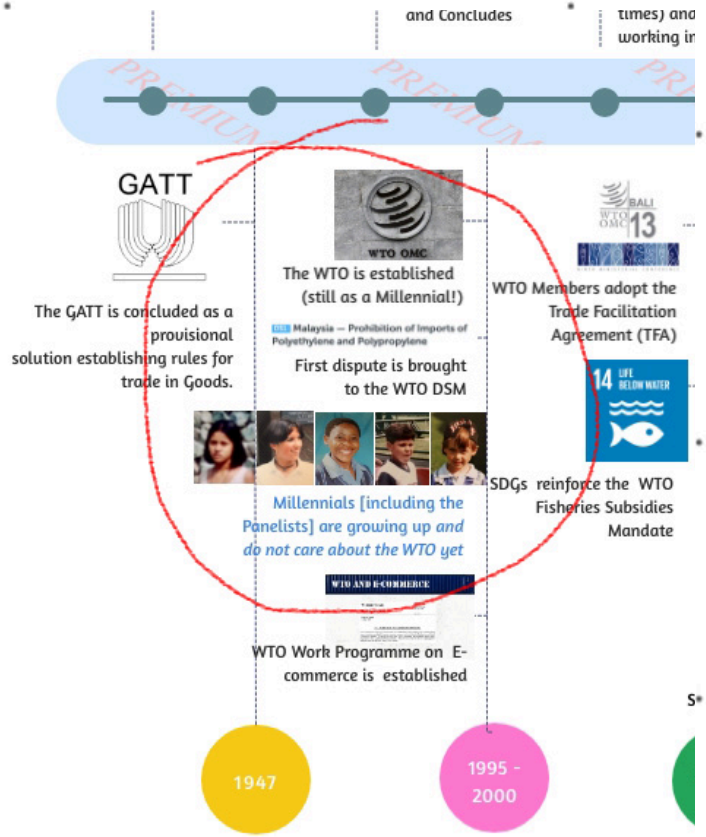
2019

Millennials share their ideas at the WTO PF 19

?

Our Mentimeter





Millennials – the Panelists and… the WTO!

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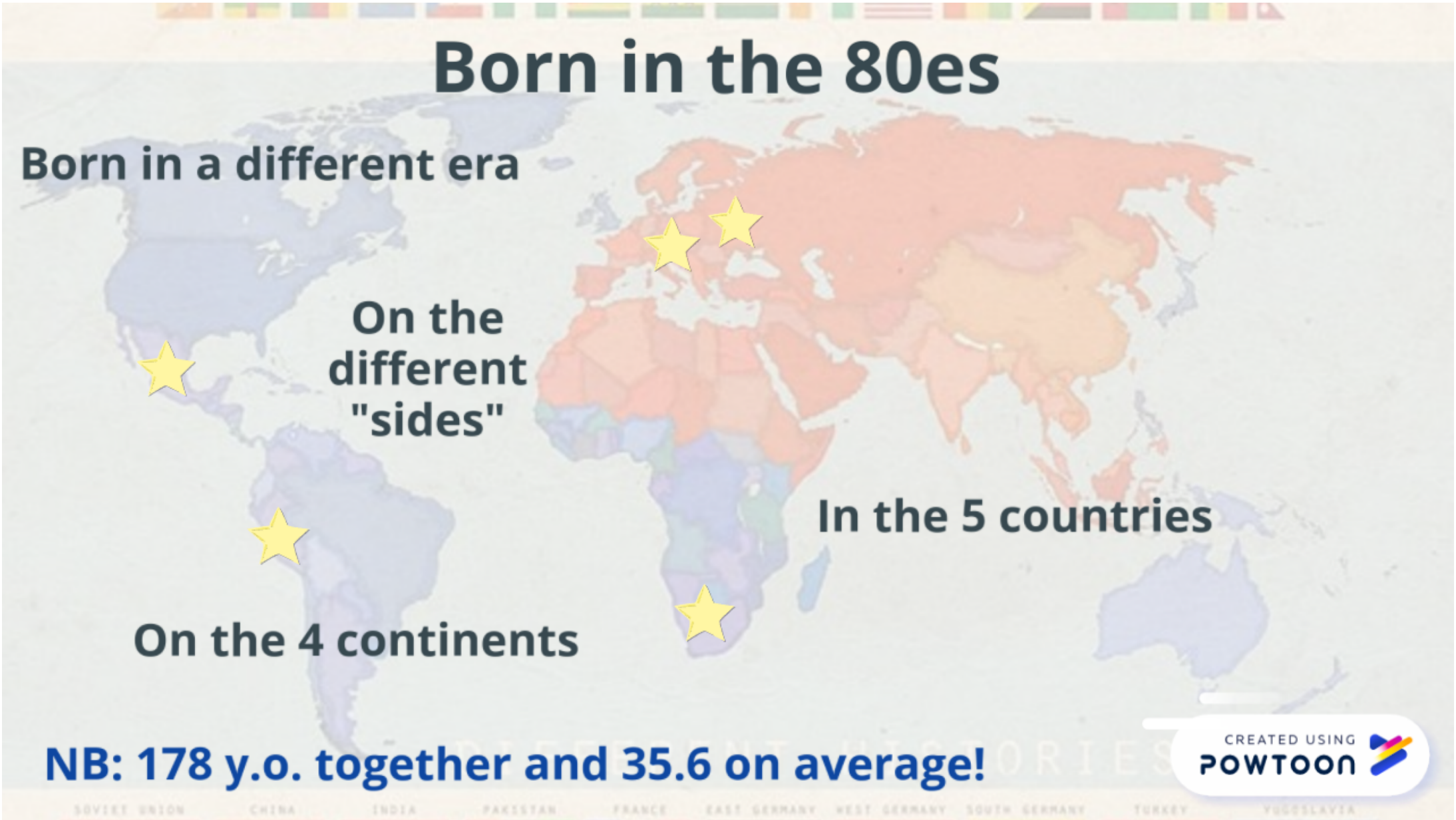
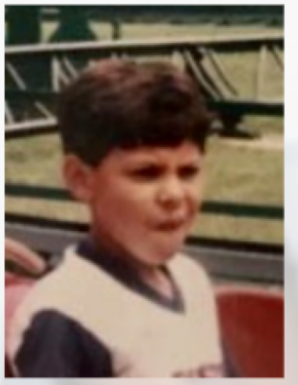
Born in the 80es



Schooled [and more] in the 90es



Meanwhile...

CREATED USING POWTOON

In 2000es... (and on)

many degrees:

made in...

5 Bachelor's

9 Master's & Spec. graduate

2 PhDs (+ 2 in progress)

NB: [Over] Educated...

all images © jorge cham

CREATED USING POWTOON

Next...

[cumulative] years of work, including

in trade in [at least]

countries

[Adventurous global citizens...]

ACWL

UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD

KING & SPALDING

Public

Private

Non-profit

IISD

iDEAS centre Geneva

Partnership for development

CREATED USING POWTOON

Some focus trade areas / tasks:
Settlement of trade-related disputes
E-commerce
STEs
Fisheries subsidies
TPRM
Accessions
Investment Facilitation
WTO Reform
Trade facilitation
CREATED USING
POWTOON

And also...

Dispute Settlement

Kholofelo Kugler
ACWL

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The Main Issues Causing the Current AB Deadlock

- Rule 15
- 90-day deadline
- Interpretation of law vs. facts
- “Advisory opinions”
- Precedent

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Collaborative / Inclusive

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Results / Goal-Oriented

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Transparent

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Feedback-Focused

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The Silver Bullet?

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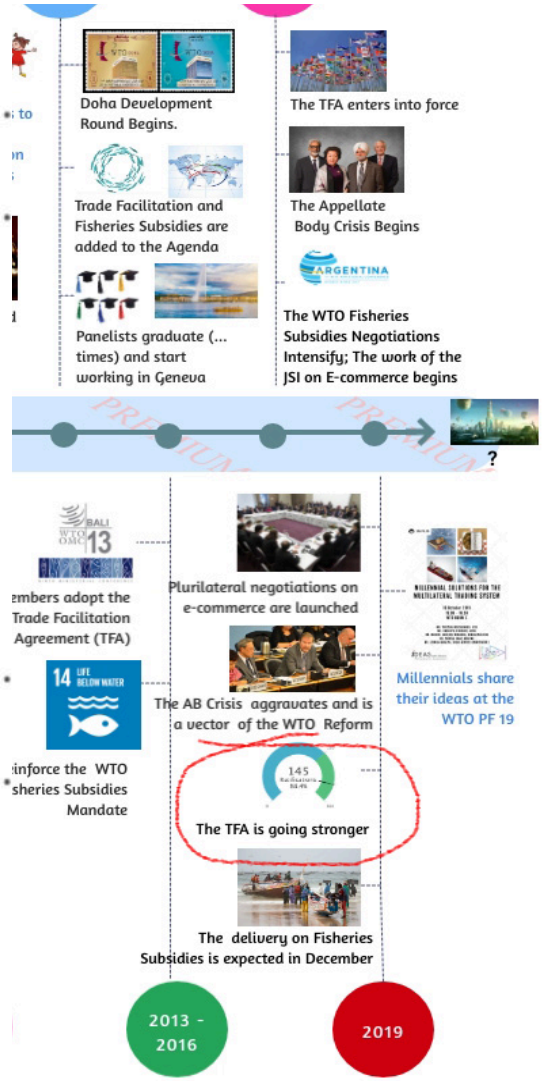

Trade Facilitation

Pamela Ugaz

UNCTAD

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Why are Millennials important for TFA implementation?

Generation **X**
1960-79

Millennials
1980-94

Generation **Z**
1995-2010

Negotiations
2004-13

Implementation
2017-2038

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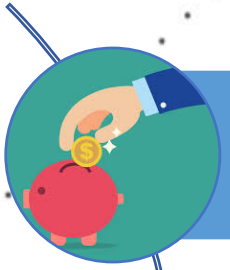
Hurdles in the TFA implementation



Financial challenges

Resistance to change

Development challenges

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Financial challenges

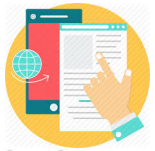
Fundraising

Finding the right balance

Team-oriented

Regional approach

Enquiry point



Transparency

Single Window

Test procedures

- South-south cooperation
- Regional Value Chain
- Increased trade and Diversification
- Harmonization
- Intra-regional to inter-regional

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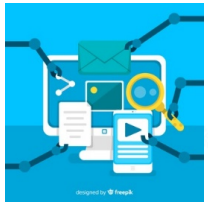
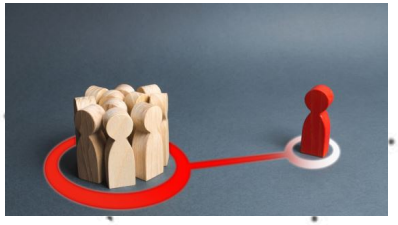
Resistance to change



Automation

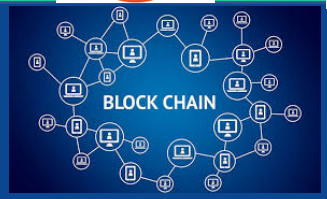


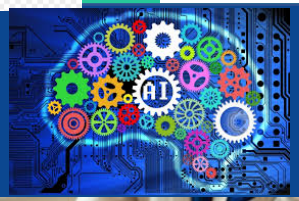
Silo Mentality

Flexibility

Change management

Technologies





Coaching

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Development challenges

Infrastructure

Human resources

Basic needs

Global-Citizenry

Special and Differential Treatment

Self-determination

Economic Inclusion

Costs

Diversificatio

SMEs

Revenu

FDI

Human Development

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Two messages

For governments:
Include Millennials in the TF committees

For Millennials:
Participate actively in trade facilitation reforms

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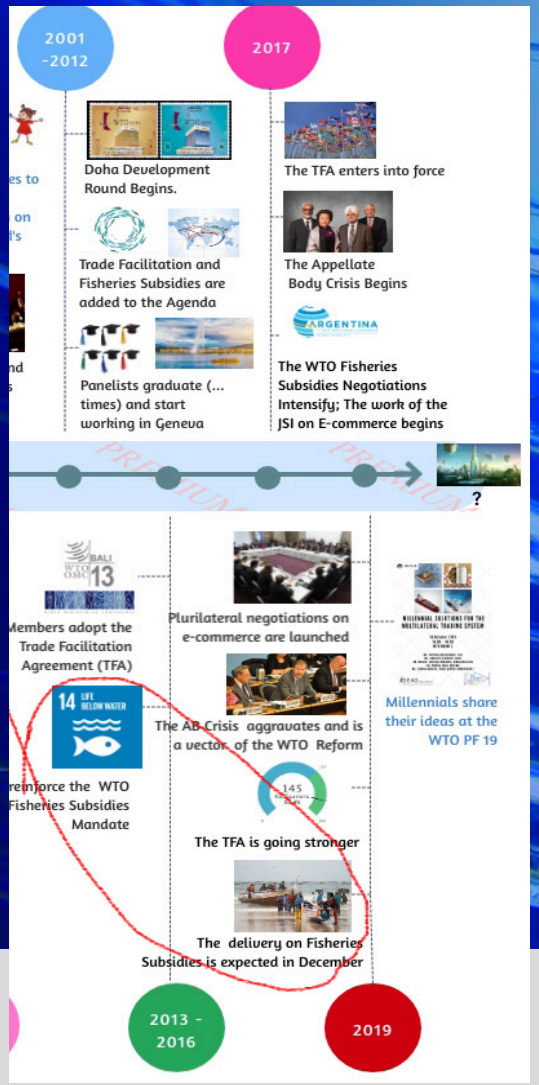

Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations

Tristan Irschlinger, IISD

IISD
International Institute for
Sustainable Development

Three Millennial Characteristics to Succeed on Fisheries Subsidies

- Conscious (the Why)
- Impatient (the When)
- Pragmatic idealists (the How)

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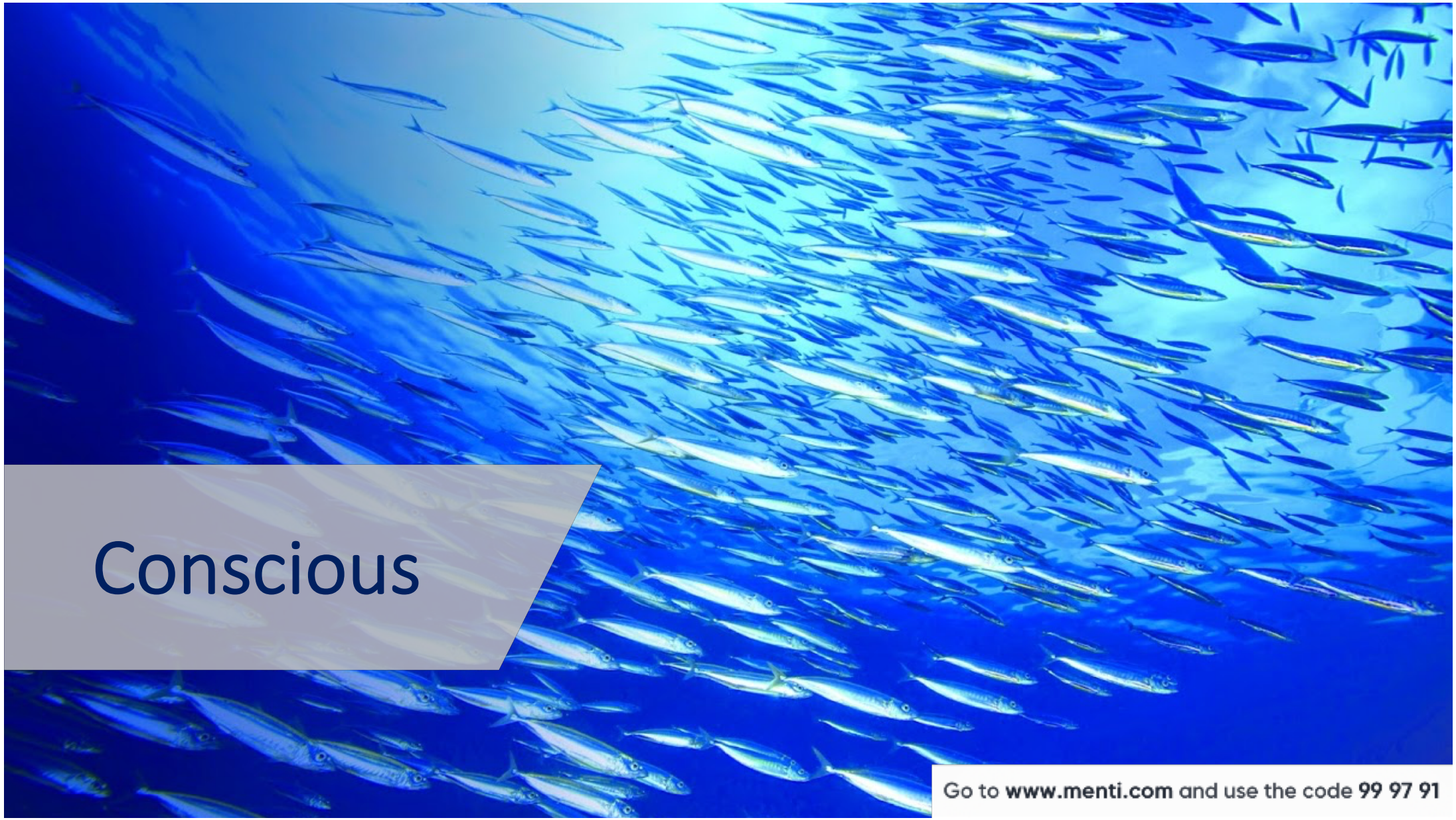
Conscious
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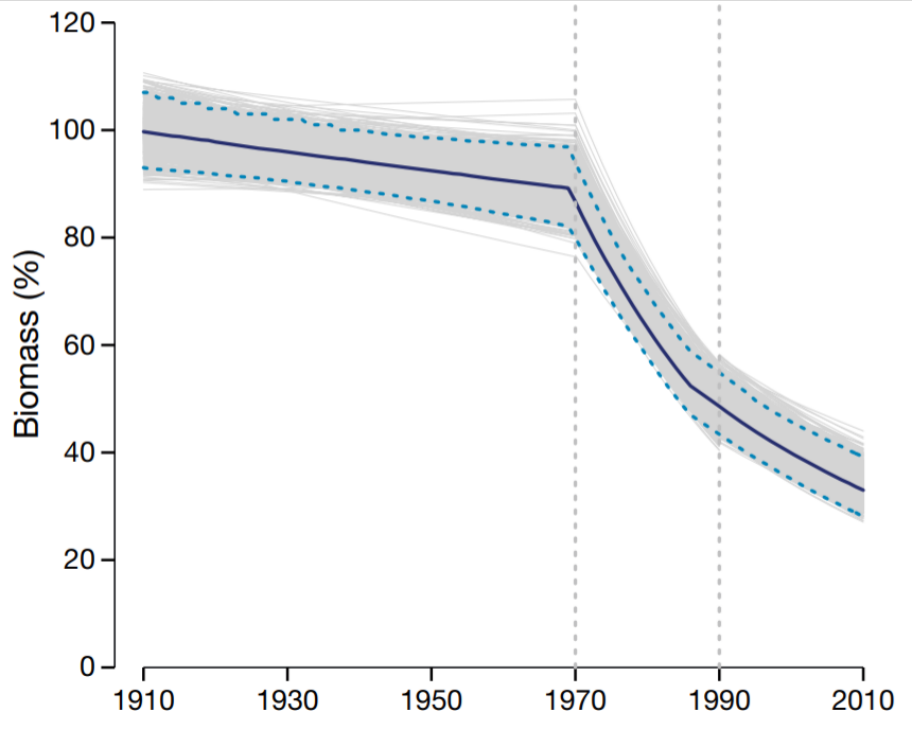
Declining Biomass

Global biomass trends for predatory fish, 1910-2010



Source: Christensen et al., 2014

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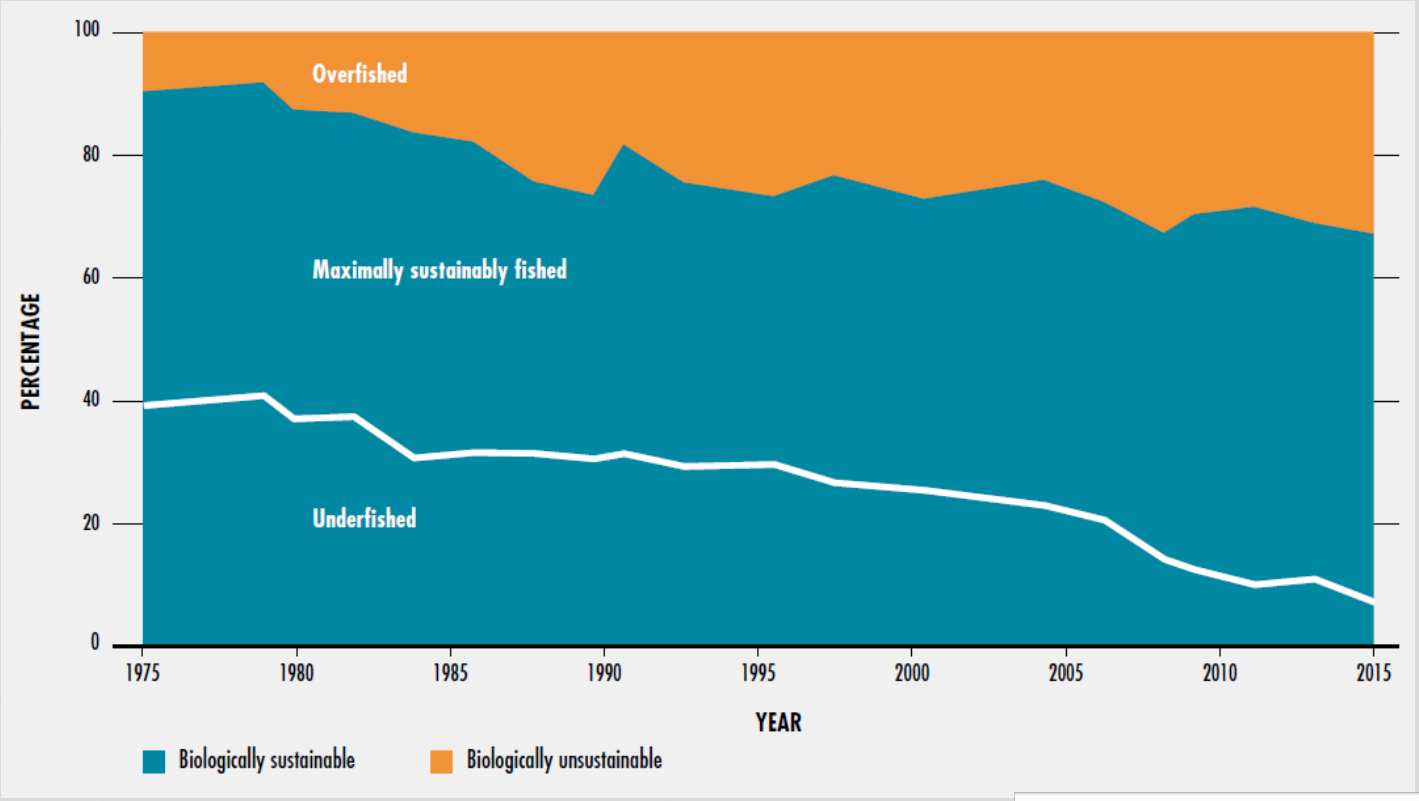
Worsening State of Fish Stocks

Global trends in the state of the world's marine fish stocks, 1974-2015



Source: FAO, 2018

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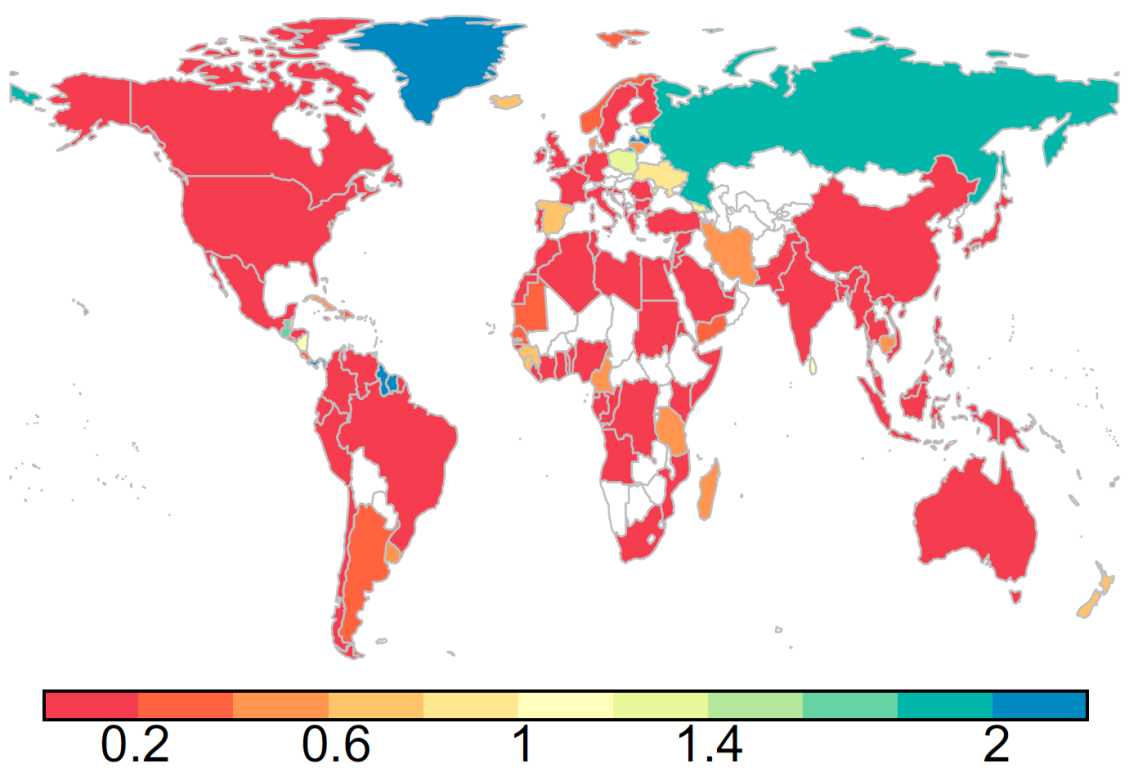
Declining Productivity

Catch per unit of effective effort in 2015, compared to 1950



Source: Rousseau et al., 2019

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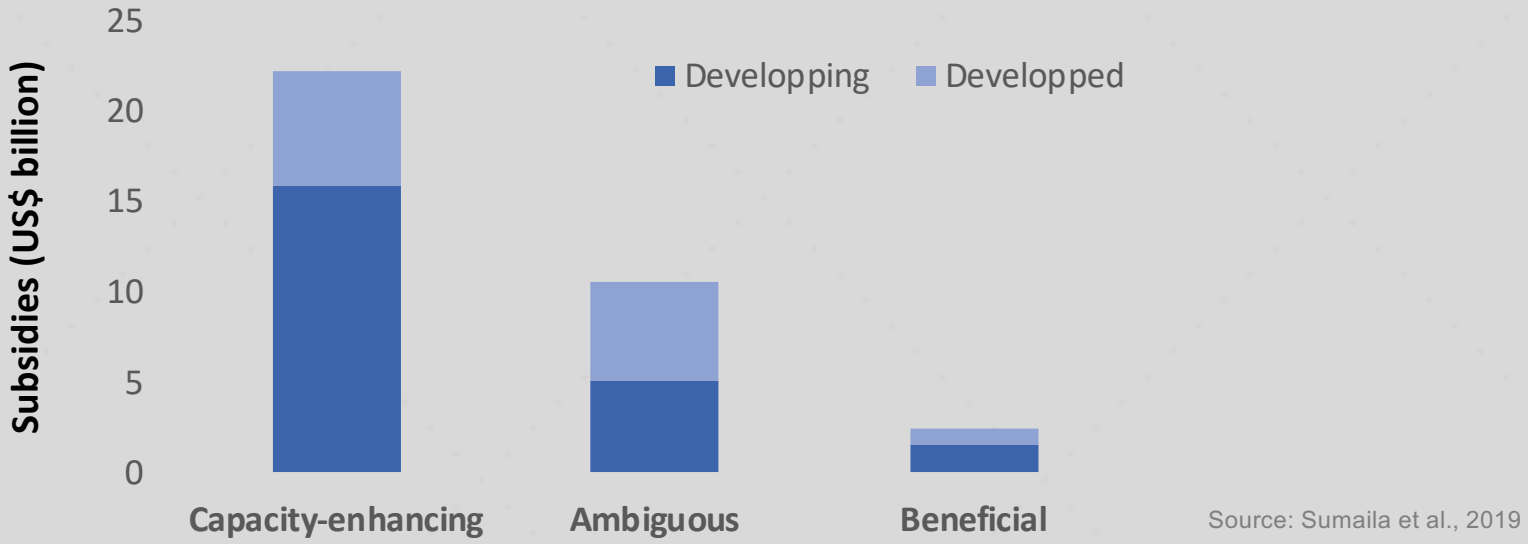
What About Subsidies?

- Fisheries **subsidies** contribute to **unsustainable levels** of fishing worldwide
- They artificially **lower the costs** of fishing → often increase the levels of fishing
- Not all subsidies have the same impacts



Source: Sumaila et al., 2019

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Development Implications

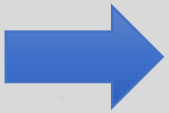
- A threat to the **livelihoods, food security and economic development interests** in developing countries and LDCs who rely on fishing and fishing-related activities

- A few concrete numbers:

Fish represents more than 50% of average animal protein intake in some developing countries and LDCs

Fisheries are estimated to support a total of 260 million jobs worldwide, 78% of which in developing countries

In 16 LDCs, fishery exports are in the top five merchandise exports



Healthy fisheries are crucial for realising the SDGs

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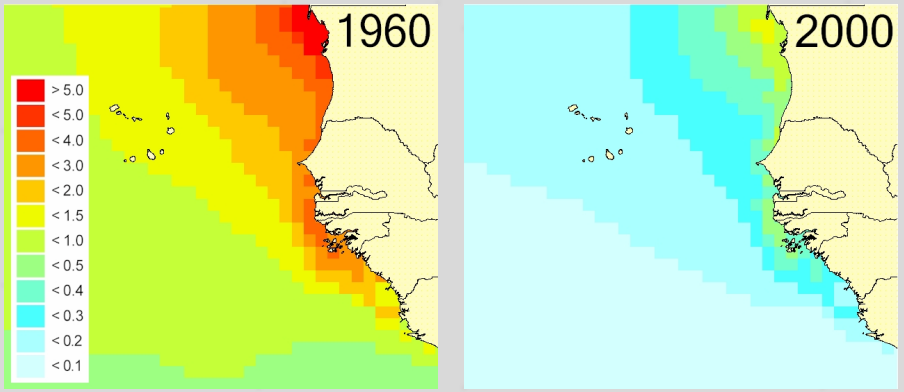
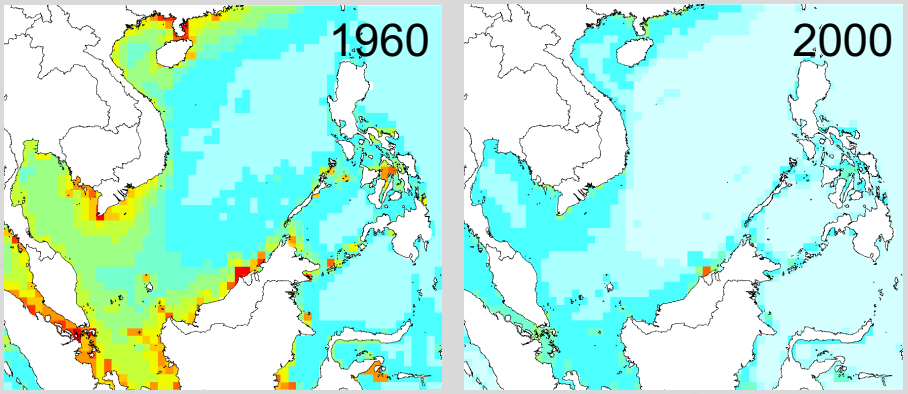
Decrease in Fish Biomass

West Africa



South China Sea



Source: Christensen et al., 2004; Christensen et al., 2003

Impatient
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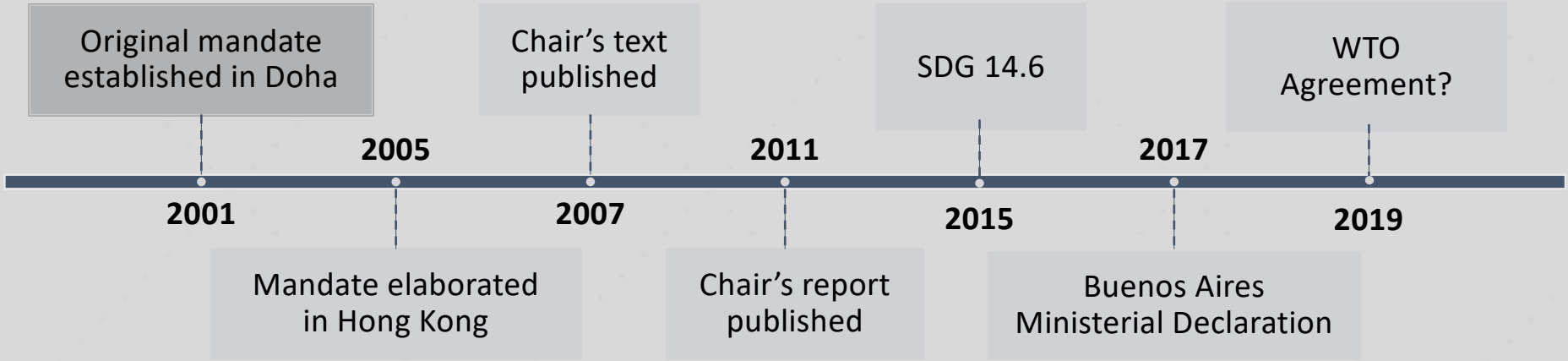
Time For an Outcome!



- Mandate established almost 20 years ago and situation has worsened
- Benefit from the SDG momentum, an opportunity not to miss
- A crucial test for the SDGs as a whole and their credibility
- Now or never?

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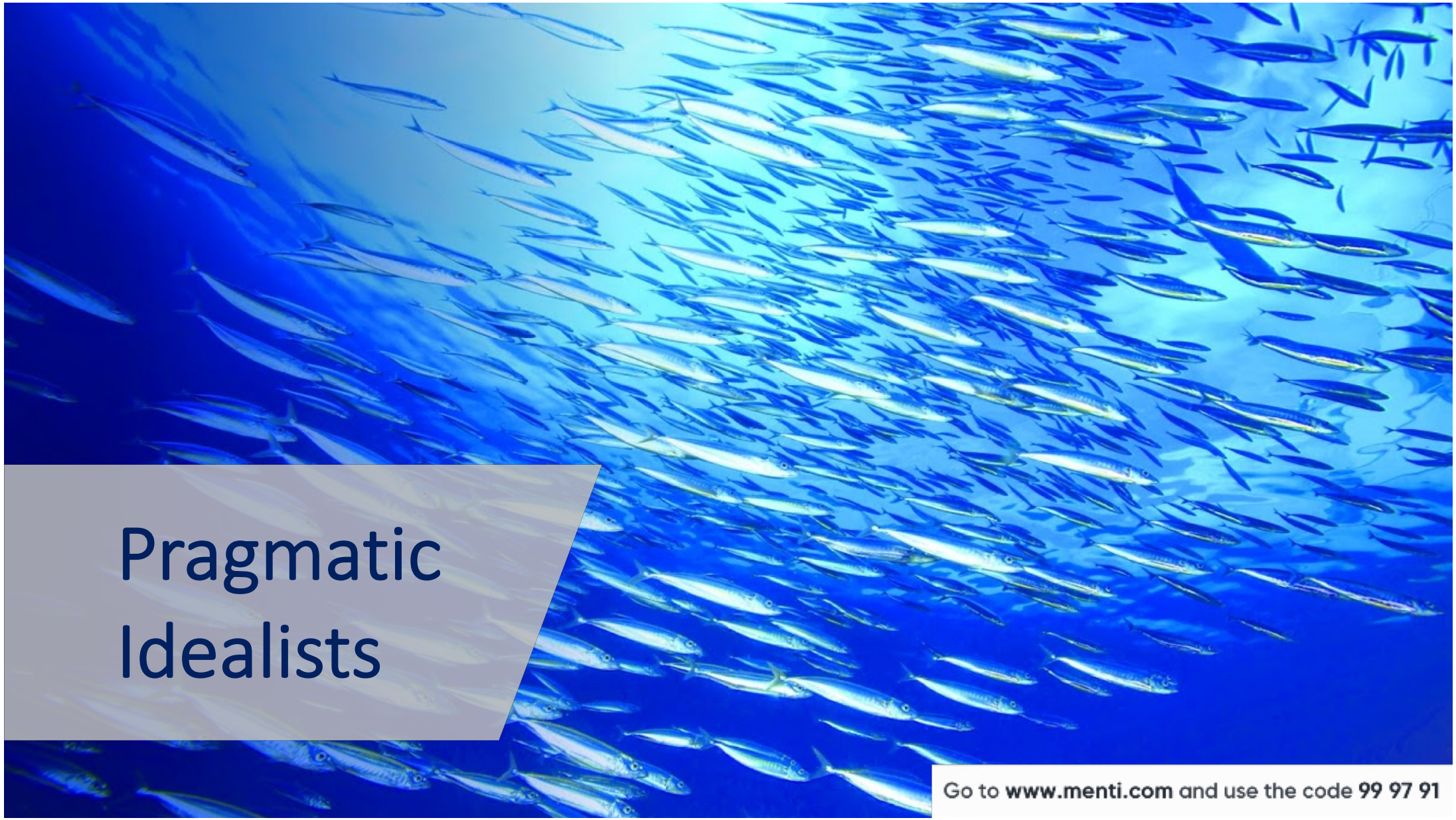
Pragmatic
Idealists
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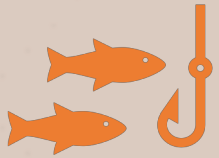
Negotiations in a Nutshell

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

Prohibition of subsidies to the vessels/operators engaged in IUU fishing



Overfished stocks

Prohibition of subsidies to the fishing of stocks that are assessed as overfished

Overfishing and overcapacity

Disciplines on subsidies that contribute to overfishing & overcapacity more broadly

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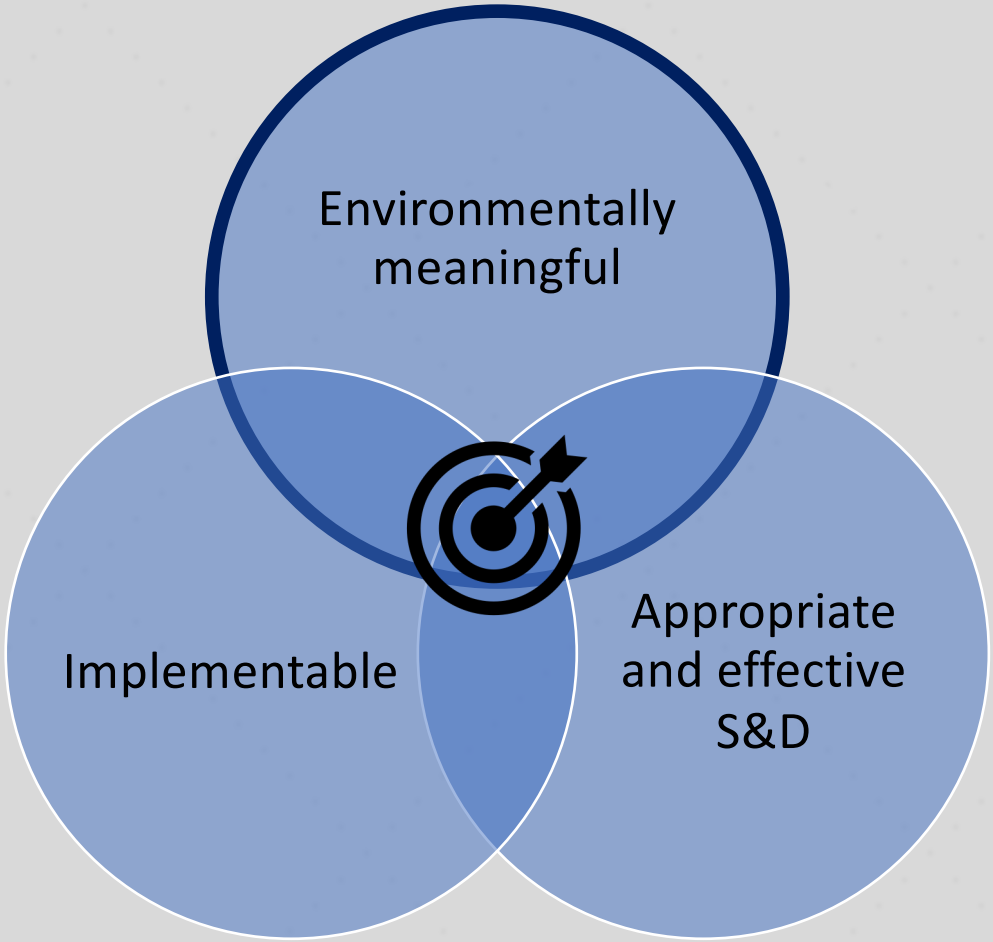
A Matter of Balance



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A Few Considerations for Success

- Let’s get a Chair!
- Do not reinvent the wheel and rely as much as possible on existing concepts, norms and processes
- Think holistically, recognising the importance of fisheries subsidies negotiations in the broader SDG framework.
- Assess where reform would be useful anyway
- Strategically focus S&D where it is really needed from a development perspective

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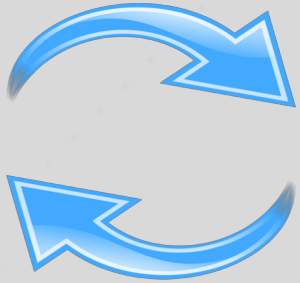
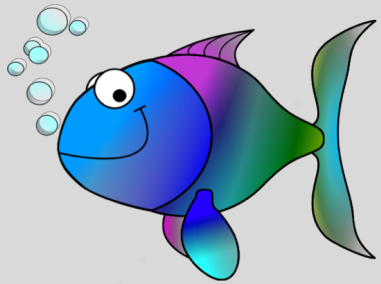
In Conclusion

- The sustainability of fisheries is crucial in many ways for development and human well-being more generally
- A meaningful WTO agreement could significantly contribute to steer global fishing activity in a more sustainable direction
- What the WTO can do for the fish (and humans) **AND** what fisheries subsidies negotiations can do for the WTO!





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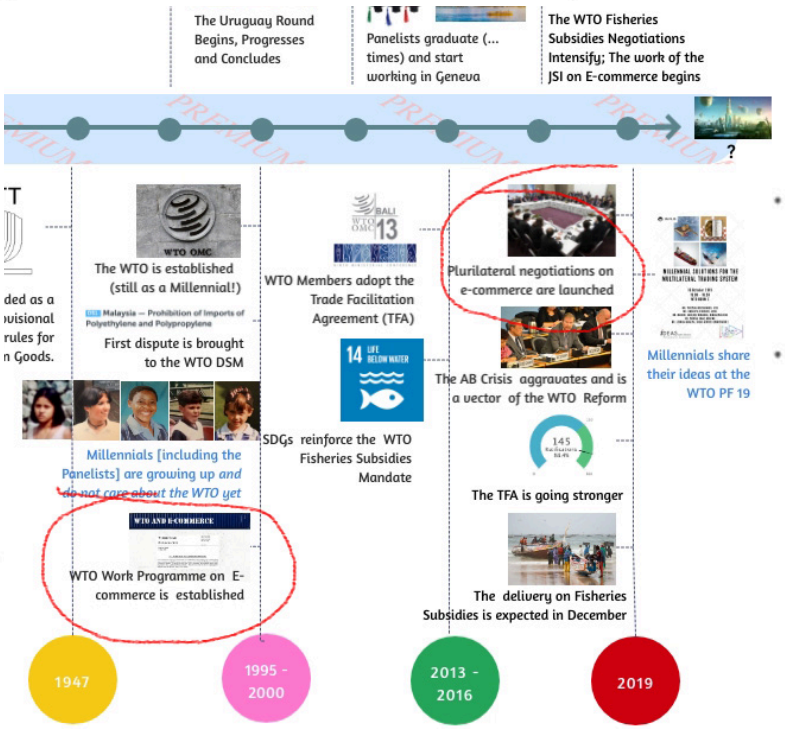

E-Commerce

Manuel Sánchez Miranda

IHEID / King & Spalding (Geneva)

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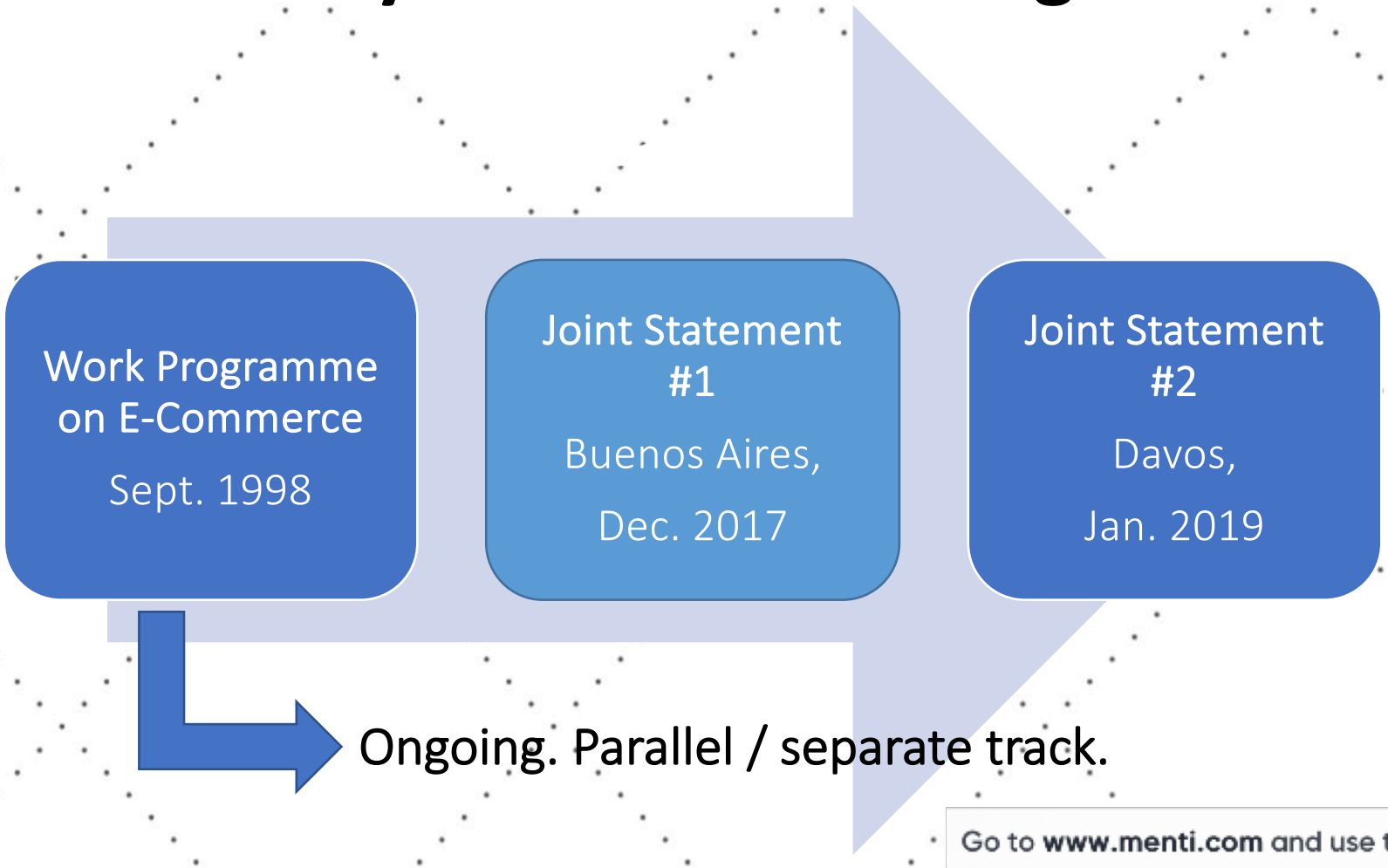
State of Play: E-Commerce Negotiations



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State of Play: JS Focus Groups --> Streamlined Texts

Focus Group A:
Facilitating e-commerce

Focus Group B:
Non-discrimination, liability, data flows, access to internet

Focus Group C:
Consumer trust and protection; data privacy

Focus Group D:
Cross-cutting issues

Focus Group E:
Telecommunications

Focus Group F:
Market access

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Possible Negotiated Outcome

- Delivery by MC12 in Nur-Sultan (Astana), June 2020
- Approach 1: Scheduled commitments
- Approach 2: Plurilateral agreement
- Must align with WTO legal framework
  - Goods
  - Services
  - Intellectual Property
  - Other issues (as in RTAs)?

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Entrepreneurial

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Unicorns Created by Millennials

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Tech-savvy

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Frugal

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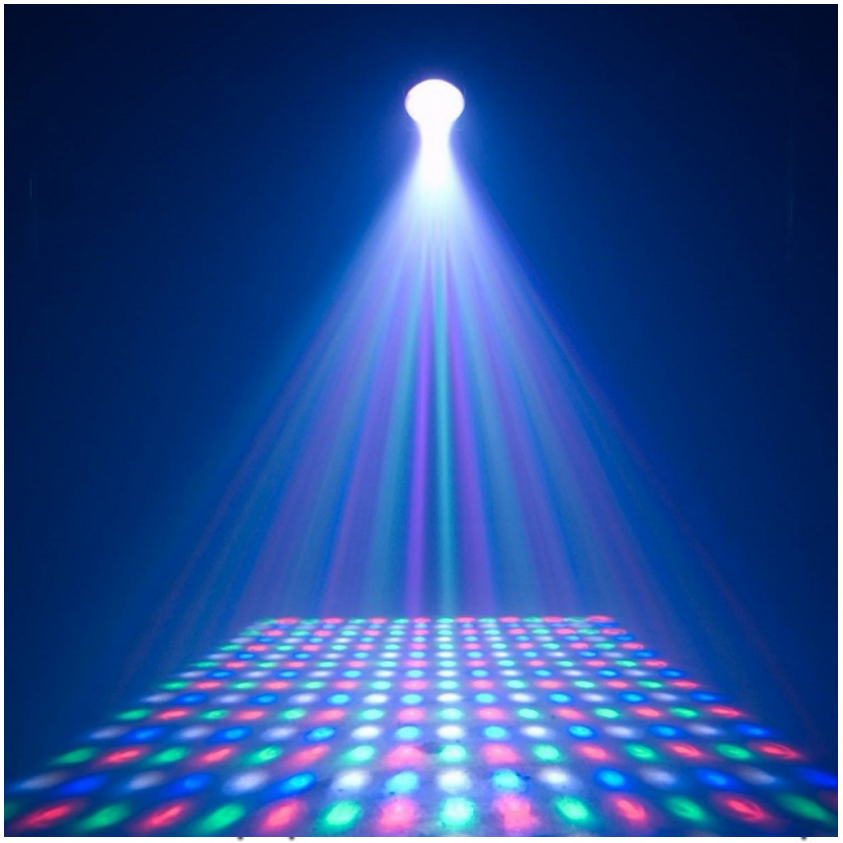

The floor is yours!

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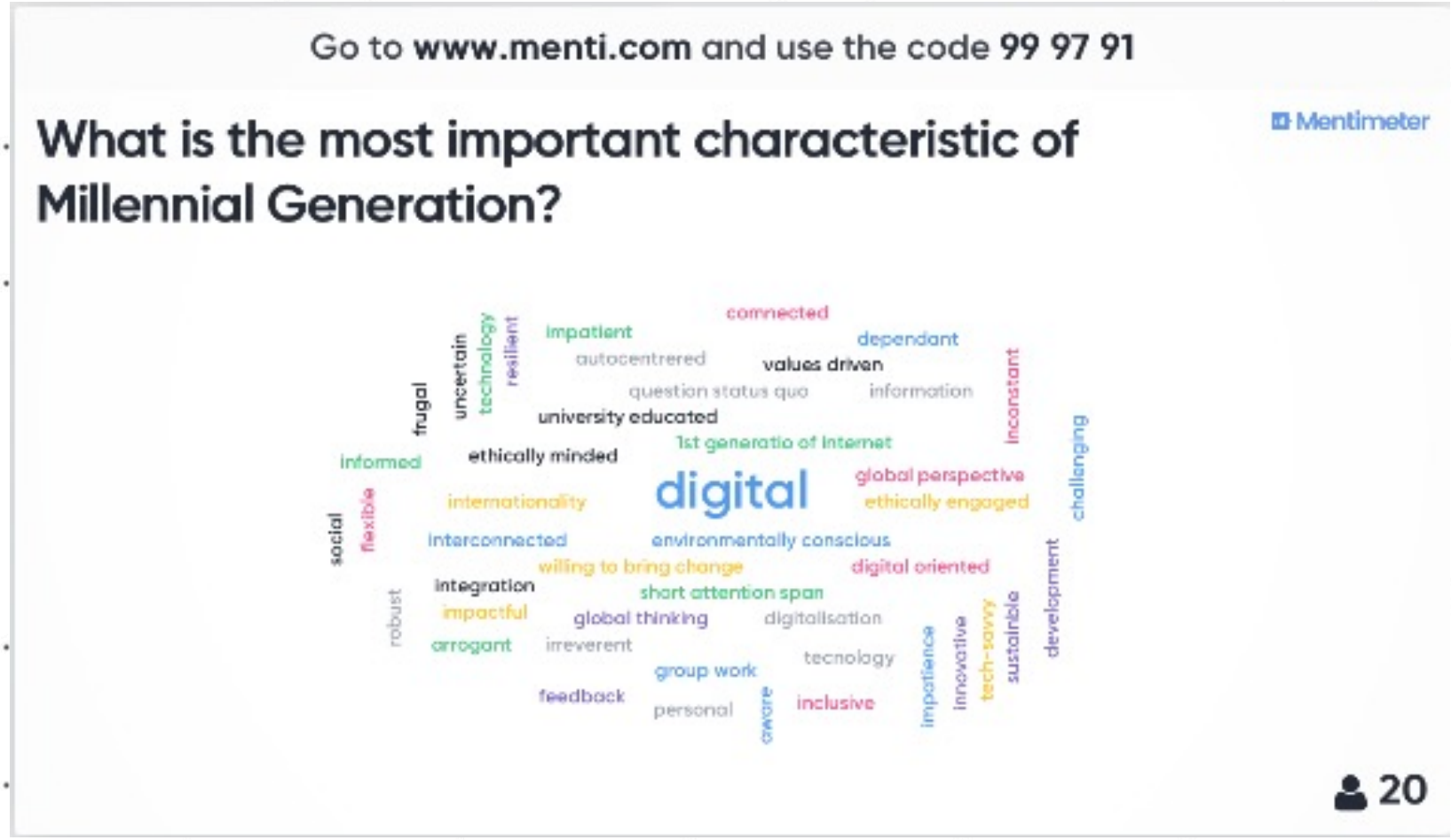
The Mentimeter Results



What is next?

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