



Sustainable Energy Trade Initiative - SETI

Partnership background

Trade policy has an important role to play in efforts to scale up clean energy and to spur green growth. Today, trade barriers such as tariffs, standards and domestic content requirements are, in many places, being used to stimulate local national industries and protect local jobs. This raises the cost of sustainable energy.

The Alliance of the Sustainable Energy Trade Initiative (SETI Alliance) advocates for lowering barriers to trade in clean energy goods and open markets. It works across the technologies of wind, energy efficiency, solar and others technologies, seeking to increase efficiencies along their supply chains. The SETI Alliance is a multi-stakeholder coalition led by International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and composed of some of the most prominent companies in the green industry including Trinasolar, Canadian Solar, Suzlon, Vestas, Yingli Solar, Danfoss, Grundfos, Hanwa Solar, K2 Management, SolarClarity and ABB.

Partnership goals and achievements

Since its launch in 2012, the SETI Alliance has been expanding its membership with over 1800 supporters representing a broad range of countries and industries.

The SETI Alliance played a pivotal role leading to the launch of the negotiations of the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), which are on track to deliver the first results on industrial tariff elimination at the end of 2015. The EGA currently has 16 participating WTO members (plus the EU member states). The negotiation covers products relating to the categories of clean energy and energy efficiency, but also environmental monitoring, analysis and assessment, environmentally preferable products, as well as resource efficiency.

Success for the SETI Alliance is in the creation of an international trade agreement. The EGA tackles only one element of trade barriers, so a step towards increased scale and impact is to convince governments to continue with a broader mandate covering other relevant trade aspects such as services, other non-tariff barriers and government procurement.

Role of 3GF

The SETI Alliance is a result of the momentum created by 3GF and was first initiated at the 3GF Summit in October 2012 when industry players alongside governments and academics discussed the challenges of getting green technologies to market. Since 2012, the 3GF has been able to generate further support from key stakeholders and facilitate agreement on concrete ideas for joint action.

The Global Green Growth Forum (3GF)

3GF is a Danish-led green growth platform implemented in partnership with other countries, private companies and international organisations.

A **key objective** of 3GF is to push forward public-private partnerships that can foster the development of new resource efficient solutions in areas which are critical to the green transition like water, energy, waste management, land use and food security. One such partnership is on Industrial Symbiosis.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SETI Alliance is contributing to the proposed SDGs:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
3. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
4. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
5. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development