The trade union movement has long been raising concerns about an imbalanced globalisation, favouring trade and capital liberalisation over broader economic and social aspects than simple GDP growth.

COVID-19 brought the role and impact of trade and investment upfront again. Supply chain disruptions exposed the fragility, rather than the efficiency of a highly inter-connected global system. The social toll paid by workers worldwide, in terms of lost jobs and precarious employment, results also from job precariousness and poor job quality both in OECD and non-OECD countries, where trade policy has a significant role in shaping the nature and geographical location of jobs.

Trade and investment liberalisation has often resulted in market power concentration, supplier dependency and bottlenecks, abrupt reallocation of production capacity, geographic concentration of gains and losses, fierce competition on labour costs. It has put an increasing share of working households under pressure.

This TUAC event brings together government representatives and OECD experts, to discuss with trade unions how to best mitigate risks and enhance opportunities of international trade and investment regimes.