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#### Abstract:

Climate change is an important and multifaceted international phenomenon. This phenomenon opposes danger in all aspects of political, social and economic life. One of the major effects of climate change is that it threatens the future of human existence on earth. In this regard, International Meteorological Organization (IMO) confirmed that the average global temperature rise will be 4°C by 2060 which affects negatively the global stability, as well as making obstacles that drive to discontinuing food and water supplies at the global level. Based on the above, this study seeks to answer the following main question: What is the impact and relationship of climate change on international trade? In order to answer this question, this study aims to explain the methods and procedures taken in the General Agreements on Tariff and Trade (GATT) to face climate change; and the methods and procedures taken in the Technical Barriers to Trade and Standards (TBT). The research problem is centered in the presence of an overlap between international trade, climate change and the seriousness of the effects that occur from climate change on all aspects of life. Especially, there are direct and indirect effects of climate change on international trade due to the expansion of this trade, which leads to an increase in the emission of greenhouse gases which causes Global Warming. The importance of this research comes from the impact of climate change on the international trade. this overlap may cause conflict between climate change policies and international trade due to the increasing of this trade, which leads to an augment in the emission of greenhouse gases which causes Global Warming, the role of the global policies on climate change policies threatens to leak carbon and find a haven for pollution in developing countries, given: that there is an increase in international trade. The framework of international economic integration. In this research article, an analytical research methodology was used to illustrate the impact of climate change on international trade. Finally, this article comes out with several important results and recommendations.

**Keywords:** International Trade; Trade policies; Climate Change; Global Warming; General Agreements on Tariff and Trade (GATT); World Trade Organization (WTO); Technical Barriers to Trade and Standards (TBT); Economy Ethic; pollution-intensive industries; carbon emissions; Green House Gases (GHGs).

#### المخلص:

تعتبر ظاهرة تغير المناخ من الظواهر الدولية الهامة والشائكة ومتعددة الأوجه. هذه الظاهرة تُشكل خطورة كبيرة في جميع جوانب الحياة السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية. وأحد الآثار الرئيسية لتغير المناخ هو أنه يهدد مستقبل الوجود البشري على الأرض. وفي هذا الصدد، أكدت المنظمة الدولية للأرصاء الجوية (IMO) أن متوسط ارتفاع درجة الحرارة العالمية سيكون 4 درجات مئوية بحلول عام 2060 وهو بلا شك يؤثر سلباً على الاستقرار العالمي، فضلاً عن أن ذلك سوف يُرتب عقبات كبيرة تؤدي إلى توقف إمدادات الغذاء والمياه على المستوى العالمي. بناءً على ما سبق، تسعى هذه الدراسة للإجابة على السؤال الرئيسي التالي: ما هو تأثير تغير المناخ على التجارة الدولية؟ للإجابة على هذا السؤال، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى شرح الأساليب والإجراءات المتبعة في الاتفاق العام للتعريفات الجمركية والتجارة (GATT) لمواجهة تغير المناخ. وأيضاً، تهدف إلى شرح الأساليب والإجراءات المتبعة في اتفاقية المعايير والحواجز التقنية أمام التجارة (TBT). تتمحور مشكلة البحث في وجود تداخل بين التجارة الدولية وتغير المناخ وخطورة الآثار التي تحدث من تغير المناخ على جميع جوانب الحياة. على وجه الخصوص، هناك تأثيرات مباشرة وغير مباشرة لتغير المناخ على التجارة الدولية بسبب توسع هذه التجارة، مما يؤدي إلى زيادة انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري التي تسبب الاحتباس الحراري الناتج عن تغير المناخ وسوف يترتب على ذلك زيادة استخدام الطاقة من أجل زيادة التصنيع. تأتي أهمية هذا البحث من تأثير تغير المناخ على التجارة الدولية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، قد يتسبب هذا التداخل في حدوث تضارب بين سياسات تغير المناخ والتجارة الدولية، ودور السياسات العالمية بشأن تغير المناخ زهو ما سوف يهدد بتسرب الكربون وإيجاد ملاذ للتلوث في البلدان النامية. بالنظر إلى أن هناك زيادة في التجارة الدولية ضمن التكامل الاقتصادي الدولي. في هذا البحث، تم استخدام المنهج التحليلي لتوضيح تأثير تغير المناخ بالتجارة الدولية. وتم التوصل في خاتمة هذا البحث إلى العديد من النتائج والتوصيات المهمة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التجارة العالمية؛ السياسات التجارية، تغير المناخ؛ الاحتباس الحراري؛ الاتفاقات العامة للتعريفات الجمركية والتجارة؛ منظمة التجارة العالمية؛ العوائق الفنية للتجارة والمعايير؛ أخلاقيات الاقتصاد الصناعات كثيفة التلوث؛ انبعاثات الكربون؛ غازات الاحتباس الحراري.

## Introduction:

Nowadays, the phenomenon of the climate change has become a vital issue. This phenomenon poses several problems especially their impacts reflected on the national and international framework. In fact, this phenomenon constitutes a global challenge because it affects developed and developing countries. In this sense, the relationship between the environment and free trade liberalization cannot be ignored, as this has caused several issues such as global warming and the increase in industrial pollution (Copeland & Taylor, 2004, p:7).

It must be noted here, that climate changes and the intense competition within the framework of free international trade may lead to set environmental standards at the lowest levels or lack of attention to these standards. In addition, international conventions may prevent countries from issuing laws dealing with environmental standards (Low & Marceau, 2012, p:485).

From the foregoing, it is clear that the overlap between international trade and climate change is a challenge. Especially the mechanisms adopted to confront climate change at the national level may not be in line with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (Green, 2006, p:378)

Accordingly, the overlap between international trade and climate change poses many impacts in all life aspects nationally and internationally. In addition, this overlap may cause conflict between climate change policies and international trade, this article will address two main subjects: the impact of climate change on international trade in terms of the methods and procedures taken in the General Agreements on Tariff and Trade (GATT) to face climate change (1), and the methods and procedures taken in the Technical Barriers to Trade and Standards (TBT) (2)

### 1. The methods and procedures taken in the General Agreements on Tariff and Trade (GATT) to face climate change

International trade is of high significance; it helps effectively in expanding the scope of countries' markets, as well as providing products and commodities that are not available in local markets, and it provides various products to consumers. The massive economic developments at the global level resulted in the prosperity of international trade and its contracts in a large way. International trade was governed by two directions. The first direction seeks freedom of trade as a rule, with some exceptions to this freedom, provided that these exceptions do not lead to making international trade a monopoly. Rather, these exceptions guarantee sponsors of the state and other countries through companies that aim to develop this trade while it guarantees against any commercial, monetary or political dangers (Mosa, 2012, p: 15, 16).

For example, international trade in the United States of America and Japan is subject to the protection, supervision and control of these countries in terms of the types of products that are allowed or not allowed to be imported or exported.

As for the other direction, some countries who sought to make trade restricted and not free so that the state monopolizes everything related to international trade to be a catalyst for its production in a way that achieves its economic plans. In this regard, developing countries are trying to supervise international trade in order to invest their wealth by exchanging them for other products, which enhances their access to foreign exchange, since these countries cannot keep up with industrially developed countries because of their weak international trade power, which puts them in front of obstacles to economic development (Habib, 1974, p: 67; Batifol, 1988, p: 720).

It must be noted here, that the international trade needs a comprehensive legal organization, but also needs a charter for the principles of this trade in a manner that achieves respect for the principle of free trade by all countries. In this context, the GATT established a method for dealing with the framework of international trade.

It can add to the above that the GATT is based on several rules in terms of: liberating international trade from any restrictions, whether customs or non-customs. Also, the condition of the most favored country in a way that achieves full equality in the conditions of international competition for all countries that enter international trade, which leads to granting the advantages given to a country to all other countries joining the GATT.

Another rule of the GATT is for member states to make concessions to customs reductions given to them to obtain balanced benefits from international trade for these countries (Desouki, 1995, p: 58). In addition, one of the important rules of GATT is the commitment to national treatment, where it is not permissible to set higher taxes than what is imposed on the national product.

Furthermore, another basic rule of GATT is to avoid subsidizing exports that cause harm to any state party to the GATT regardless of whether it is an exporter or an importer.

To clarify, GATT does not develop a way to solve the problems and policies of climate change (Charnovitz, 2000, p:271; Charnovitz, 2002, p:59). As we have already indicated, GATT takes into account the characteristics of the product without distinguishing between imported and local goods and not on the basis of the process and method of production (Wiers, 2001, p:101; Gaines, 2002, p: 396). On the other hand, climate change policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions deal with the process and method of production and not with the products themselves (Low & Marceau, 2012, p:487). For example if a group of iron was manufactured so that part of it was made using clean energy and the other part was using energy that polluted the environment, no distinction will be made between these products on the basis of their characteristics, which is contrary to the

requirements of the rules of national treatment according to Article three of the GATT, which emphasizes the criteria for discrimination in accordance to the products. The contradiction also appears clearly from the fact that the GATT enables the government to reduce local indirect taxes on exported products while the authorities prevent the reduction of direct taxes for export-producing industries or for companies. On the other hand, policies to support climate change target companies or industries rather than the products themselves, which will lead to falling within the legal controls of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (Low & Marceau, 2012, p:487).

Here, it will be focused on the most important methods and measures to confront climate change in the GATT through two points: amending carbon taxes 1; and the general exceptions mentioned in GATT 2, which will be clarified as the following:

• **Amendment of carbon taxes:**

seeking to prevent the risk of climate change due to human behavior by limiting the increase in the average global temperature is the primary objective of the Climate Change Agreement and its Kyoto Protocol. Achieving this fundamental goal requires making economic changes within rapid periods of time with the obligation of countries to adhere to the provisions of the Climate Change Agreement. In this regard, the member states of this agreement are keen to price pollution with taxes in order to absorb the cost of greenhouse gas emissions (Pauwelyn, 2007, p:19).

It can say here that there is a relationship between the impositions of these taxes with international trade, especially if taxes similar to carbon costs are imposed on foreign products, which is called the border tax.

We can add to the foregoing that, within the framework of the trading system, the border tax adjustment (BTA) has come to take the form of carbon taxes on the products of any environmentally lenient country (Baron, 2007, p. 66).

This will lead to the participation of all countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Kaufmann & WEBER, 2011, p:1), as well as to confront carbon leakage and loss of competitiveness. In other words, when a country endorses harsh environmental laws to reduce the use and consumption of products that are harmful to the environment, this will lead to an increase in prices, especially with the presence of several alternatives and cheaper options in other countries available to producers. Strict laws on competition are environmentally disruptive to their economic status. With regard to the problem of carbon leakage, which affects the environment, it may lead to the loss of national companies located in countries with strict environmental legislation, and the transfer of these companies to other countries whose environmental legislation is lenient, which results in a significant increase in pollution, not a reduction.

Based on the foregoing, the basis for finding a solution to the problem of carbon leakage and the ability to compete is through a multilateral agreement applied to all producers with the same standards through common but differentiated responsibilities, and this is not an easy matter, it is considered one of the effective solutions that can be adopted to solve Carbon leakage and the ability to compete by adjusting border taxes so that they are in the form of carbon taxes or purchasing carbon credits (Maruyama, 2010, p:11), which entails forcing each supplier to pay the equivalent of the local costs incurred by each product to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As previously mentioned, GATT takes into account the characteristics of the product without regard to the country from which this product comes or how it is produced, which means that it imposes duties on commodities according to the method of production through polluted or clean methods, which is a violation of a basic principle, which refers to the national laboratories contained in Article Three; therefore, imported goods, after being subject to the customs tariff, must be treated in the same way as similar national goods. Therefore, it is not permissible to rely on internal legislation and its procedures as a way to protect the national product.

On the other hand, it is not permissible to violate the most-Favored National Treatment principle contained in Article 1 of the GATT agreement by setting different requirements or fees on goods according to the exporting country. Therefore, giving any advantage related to the product's import or export of the most preferred country, regardless of whether the countries are members of the WTO or not, this advantage must also be given to similar products of all member countries without discrimination. Taking into account that the country that sets these fees or taxes depends on the text of Article 20 of the Law, especially if the environmental measure seeks to address carbon leakage, so the resources subject to depletion are preserved or to protect humans, plants or animals. The application of the text of Article 20 aforementioned requires the existence of a state of necessity in order to achieve the desired environmental goals without creating unjustified or arbitrary discrimination. Therefore, there is equality between the products and compensation for the exorbitant costs of severe standards and achieving a balance with the low cost of external production and the problem of carbon leakage (Hufbauer, Charnovitz & Kim, 2009, 39).

• **General exceptions stipulated in the GATT:**

It was indicated previously that the GATT gives its members the right to take measures that contradict the obligations imposed on them in the GATT based on the exceptions of general policy; among these exceptions is what is related to the text of Article 20 of the GATT regarding the preservation or protection of non-renewable natural resources; human, animal and plant. These procedures must not lead to arbitrary discrimination between countries with similar conditions (Low & Marceau, 2012, p:506 & 507). In this regard, a dispute occurred

regarding the US ban on importing Mexican tuna under the pretext that the fishing techniques used harm the dolphins; the US also relied on its national law to protect marine animals (GATT Panel, United States – Restrictions on Imports of Tuna (Tuna Dolphin II), DS29/R, 16 June 1994, not adopted, para. 5.8.).

The Dispute Settlement Court supported Mexico, considering that the GATT rules prevent the imposition of restrictions on imports according to production methods, and the provisions of national law may not be invoked outside the territorial scope of the country that placed the trade restrictions, so the exception contained in Article 20 is only applicable to restricting trade in threatened local extinction species only. This confirms the preference of commercial rules over environmental rules ([http://frssiwa.blogspot.com/2014/08/blog-post-26.html#.VIS1nr\\_d3fc](http://frssiwa.blogspot.com/2014/08/blog-post-26.html#.VIS1nr_d3fc)).

The GATT agreement mentioned several exceptions that represent a departure from the most important principles on which it was based. The GATT allowed restrictions in the form of additional taxes, which is considered a departure from the rule of international trade freedom. In this context, the GATT stipulated that additional taxes should not be selective, so they may not be imposed on countries without others in order to protect emerging industries, or if imports of a specific commodity increase dangerously or threaten serious harm to any local product.

The GATT agreement also allows deviating from the principle of non-discrimination if it is within a customs union or a free trade area between members, provided that this is done by breaking any customs or non-customs restrictions between these member states. We can say here that the GATT agreement did not originally refer to non-customs restrictions, but the fact of matter is that industrially developed countries adopted these restrictions as a method to change the manufactured exports of the developing countries. The industrially developed countries have established the principle of tariff escalation, so that customs duties are raised on a specific commodity when the degree of its manufacturing increases. This constitutes, in fact, a breach of the principles of the GATT agreement.

Finally, the GATT agreement gives room for developing countries to violate the principle of reciprocity by not adopting this principle, taking into account their interests. On the other hand, the industrially developed countries established a new principle called weaning, so that the developing countries have a prominent position in the field of industrialization, considering them among the old industrialized countries. In fact, the industrially developed countries have exaggerated this exception to the extent that it has become a means to prevent foreign competition and is not intended to prevent serious harm that may be inflicted on developing countries, as was required by the GATT agreement.

## **2. The methods and procedures taken in the Technical Barriers to Trade and Standards (TBT) to face climate change**

The TBT agreement is one of the most important agreements of the WTO. This agreement doesn't aim to place unnecessary restrictions and barriers that impede international trade. In fact, the reduction of customs tariffs on products and commodities and their easy access to global markets, which may harm the environment, results in the existence of many technical standards to preserve human health and plants. The TBT came to solve the conflict between these standards and restrictions leading to damage in international trade (Angun, 2003, P:94).

It must be emphasized here that the TBT agreement distinguishes between technical rules and specifications. The technical rules are a set of documents that explain the specifications of the products and their production processes and methods, as well as the application of the administrative provisions that are binding in order for the products to conform to these specifications. The technical rules are the symbols, terms, signs, packaging, or packaging requirements placed on the product, process, or production method. We conclude from the foregoing that the technical rules are mandatory to show the characteristics that producers of local or imported commodities adhere to and not deviate from when producing or importing a commodity.

Concerning the specifications of products, they are non-binding rules that help producers to reach a certain level of quality or performance for their products. And the specifications come from a competent authority or body, so that directive rules or specifications for products or processes and their production methods are indicated.

It is necessary to clarify here the most important principles adopted by the Convention for the Protection of the Environment and Health (1), and to clarify the standards of ecological labels and standards of energy efficiency (2).

### **• Foundations of (TBT) to protect the environment and health:**

As previously explained, the TBT agreement stressed that technical rules or specifications should not lead to unnecessary obstacles that would negatively affect international trade. On the other hand, the TBT agreement allowed its member states to lay the necessary foundations in order to protect the environment, human health, plants and animals within specific controls, as follows:

- A. The TBT agreement requires national treatment, so that imports are conducted in a similar way to that of national products. The agreement requires its member states to ensure that their technical rules and

specifications comply with international standards. The principle of equal national treatment is one of the most important basic principles of trade relations for the various members of the WTO, so that the countries organizing the agreement are committed to applying similar rules between domestic and imported products (Al-Omar & Al-Hamdan, 2016, p:46). It is not permissible for the state to set non-tariff restrictions or impose measures to protect local products and lead to discrimination with imported products.

- B. The TBT agreement requires its members to notify the WTO of any technical rules related to any of these countries; it also requires these countries to commit to taking procedural steps and consulting during the process of issuing technical rules. On the other hand, the agreement requires transparency so that all information on technical rules and specifications can be obtained, and everything related to the international and foreign trade of the country is disclosed, procedurally and organizationally, in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the agreement ((Al-Omar & Al-Hamdan, 2016, p:46). Among the requirements of the agreement are the procedural requirements and notifications, so that the member state of the agreement is required to notify and disclose the procedures it uses to set and approve technical specifications and rules.

- **Eco-labeling standards and energy efficiency standards**

According to the (TBT) agreement, many member states set requirements and standards to define their products in order to reduce the greenhouse gases that affect the environment and to ensure improved energy efficiency. In this regard, we will discuss ecological labels (1), then energy efficiency standards (2).

- A. **Eco-Labels:**

The main objective of eco-labeling is to seek products that do not harm the environment, in terms of their production or consumption. These signs show the characteristics of the products, their components and carbon emissions, with the use of a seal on these products to clarify what is considered environmentally friendly. Eco-labeling contributes greatly to helping the governments of countries as well as consumers to choose products that preserve the environment. In this regard, countries encourage producers to apply for an environmental card that proves the quality and components of products that do not contain emissions that lead to global warming (Zhang & Assuncao, 2001, p:10).

We can add here that eco-labels track all stages of products in terms of production, use and waste disposal. Although environmental labels depend on analyzing the environmental effects of the life cycle of products, this causes concerns about the expected commercial effects, since environmental labels are considered optional in accordance with the (TBT) agreement ((Zhang & Assuncao, 2001, p:11). Another concern raised is related to the procedures for establishing environmental labels and the criteria for selecting products with environmental labels since countries may put them in a way that harms foreign imports, which makes the environmental label a non-tariff barrier to foreign products when they do not meet the environmental label standards of the importing country.

This obstacle extends to developing countries due to their inability to enter the market due to their technical and financial constraints to achieve the standards and requirements of importing countries with regard to their operations and methods of producing goods (Marceau & Trachtman, 2009. P:14; Marceau & Trachtman, 2006. P:11).

- B. **Energy Efficiency Standards:**

Article 2 of the TBT agreement emphasizes the promotion of energy efficiency through the use of standards related to products. Developing and improving energy efficiency policies in a way that enhances energy security leads to economic growth and mitigate climate change (IEA Energy Efficiency Policy and Measures', Paris: OECD/IEA, 2004, available online at: <http://www.iea.org/textbase/pm/?mode=pmdm>; European Union, 'Summary of legislation: Eco design for energy-using appliances', 2008, available online at: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l32037.htm>). The efficient use of energy avoids investment in infrastructure, reduces consumer bills, enhances the level of health, and raises competitiveness.

The efficiency of energy used through production processes through methods at the stage of manufacturing the product when there is a difference in the efficiency of energy use between countries; this will affect the prices of products by increasing them, and it may put countries that adopt energy efficiency in an uncomfortable competitive position. It must be noted here that the standards that distinguish between similar products according to the amount of energy dependent on fossil fuels consumed in manufacturing the product is a violation of the commitment of the national laboratories according to Article III of the GATT agreement of 1994 (Buck & Verheyen, 2006, p:23).

Finally, countries (Garcia, Szklo, Schaeffer and McNeil, 2007, p:3424) may impose high energy standards on products to cover their international obligations, and this will result in a reduction in energy consumption and a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, this does not violate the rules of the WTO if these standards are applied to local products and were not designed to punish foreign companies in favor of local industries. (Zhang & Assuncao, 2001, p: 7).

## Conclusion:

This article dealt with the issue of the impact and relationship of climate change on international trade. The methods and mechanisms adopted to confront climate change were discussed in the General Agreement on Customs Tariffs and Trade, GATT, the amendment of carbon taxes, the exceptions to the GATT Agreement, the Agreement on Standards and Technical Barriers to Trade TBT, the foundations upon which the agreement is based to protect the environment and health, ecological label standards and energy efficiency standards. In conclusion, we reached many results and recommendations as follows:

## Results:

- The study concluded that there is an impact of climate change on international trade. Also, the overlap between climate change and international trade is a challenge due to the mechanisms and methods adopted nationally, which may not comply with the rules of the WTO.
- We concluded that climate change has serious effects because it leads to international destabilization and puts harsh obstacles that may lead to stopping food and water supplies at the international level, which in return leads to a negative impact on international trade.
- Climate change affects international trade directly and indirectly. Whenever the scope of international trade expands, this will lead to an increase in the emission of greenhouse gases, which leads to climate change, which requires increased use of energy to increase industrialization, which causes great damage to the environment.
- International trade needs an integrated legal organization that shows the principles of trade and achieves freedom of trade between countries without negatively affecting the environment. The GATT agreement came with several principles, such as the liberation of international trade from customs and non-customs restrictions, the principle of the first-most favored country to achieve equality in international competition, the principle of national treatment by preventing taxation higher than what is imposed on national products and the principle of avoiding subsidizing exports that lead to harm to any member of the GATT, regardless of whether he is an exporter or an importer.
- GATT does not provide a solution to the problems and policies of climate change since this agreement takes into account the characteristics of the product without distinguishing between imported and local goods. Unlike climate change policies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deal with the process and method of production.
- One of the most important methods to confront the threat of climate change is to modify carbon taxes so that pollution is priced with taxes in order to absorb the cost of greenhouse gas emissions. The imposition of these taxes is directly related to international trade, especially if taxes similar to carbon costs are imposed on foreign products (border tax).
- Amending the border tax takes the form of carbon taxes on environmentally lenient countries. This will lead to the participation of all countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The primary goal of the TBT agreement is not to place unnecessary restrictions and barriers to international trade. This agreement distinguishes between technical rules and product specifications, especially since the first is mandatory, unlike the other, which is optional.
- The TBT agreement requires national treatment by granting imports the treatment of national products, and the technical rules are required to conform to international standards. This agreement also requires that its member states notify the World Trade Organization of its technical rules within the principle of transparency.
- Member states of the TBT agreement set requirements and standards to identify their environmentally friendly products, such as eco-labeling and energy efficiency standards. Eco-labelling aims to obtain products that are not harmful to the environment, whether in terms of production or consumption. With regard to energy efficiency standards, the development and improvement of energy efficiency policies lead to economic growth, support international trade and mitigate climate change.

## Recommendations:

- Countries must pledge and cooperate to adopt methods and mechanisms that are binding on them in order to confront the problem of carbon leakage, and that these methods and mechanisms be collective and not just individual commitments.
- Energy conservation policies must be put in place in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent damage to the environment.
- We hope that a comprehensive legal regulation will be found, that clearly shows the principles of international trade and affirms its freedom.
- We recommend setting clear requirements and standards that encourage Clean, environmentally friendly investments that ensure efficient use of energy.

- It is necessary to stipulate in international agreements the mandatory climate change policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, so that a policy of pricing pollution with taxes is widely adopted to confront the threat of climate change, especially towards environmentally lenient countries.
- We recommend introducing carbon costs taxes on foreign products, which are called border taxes.
- It is necessary to stipulate in the (TBT) agreement that it is mandatory to set product specifications as is the case with technical rules that are mandatory and not optional.
- It is necessary to expand ecological labeling on products and encourage producers to apply for an environmental card that shows the quality and components of products that do not lead to global warming.
- We recommend that the procedures for establishing environmental labels be clear, and the criteria for selecting products with environmental labels in a way that does not harm foreign imports, and that these procedures and standards not be an obstacle to foreign products.
- We recommend countries to try avoiding as much as possible the difference in the efficiency of energy used between them. Otherwise, it will lead to an increase in product prices and may harm countries that adopt energy efficiency and their inability to compete with other countries.

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