

Policy and Research Network ‘Standards as Rules of Trade’ (START)

Questions addressed by the network:

Standard-setting and implementation:

- *How are global standards set, and can developing country actors - both public and private - meaningfully participate in their setting?*
- *In what ways are global standards being incorporated into the formal rules structures of trade agreements - at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels?*
- *What is the potential role of local institutions and regional and local standards in enabling compliance with international standards?*
- *How are global standards monitored and implemented, and in what ways does the process of monitoring and implementation of standards affect the impact of such standards?*

Consequences of standards on trade and its organisation

- *What kinds of global standards improve market access for developing countries and what kinds create barriers to entry?*
- *In what ways do global standards affect the organisation and structuring of global value chains?*

Distributional effects of standards

- *What are the compliance costs once standards are set, and who pays for this?*
- *What are the distributional effects of different kinds of global standards among countries and different groups of actors, particularly workers and smallholders, within a country?*