NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Dhaka, Bangladesh

03-05 December 2024

**Trainers:** Jorge Castro / Tania Parcero Herrera (WTO Legal Affairs Division)

**Overview:**

The objective of this workshop is that participants acquire a general understanding of the rules and procedures of WTO dispute settlement system, and increase their ability to incorporate this knowledge into their work. The participants will include representatives from government, business associations, trade bodies, academia, lawyers and other relevant stakeholders.

**Objectives:**

At the end of the module participants will be able understand**:**

**Objective 1:** the role of WTO dispute settlement in the multilateral trading system.

**Objective 2:** the main stages of WTO dispute settlement procedures.

**Objective 3:** the role of a complainant, a respondent and a third party in a dispute.

**Objective 4:** the dispute settlement issues of most concern to developing countries and LDCs.

Workshop's programme (DRAFT)

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

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| **Hour** | **Session** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration – Administrative briefing  Opening session  Introduction and overview of the workshop |
| 09:30 – 10:15 | Brief Introduction to the WTO   * Historical background * Objectives and functions * Organizational structure * Decision-making |
| *10:15 – 10:30* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Brief Introduction to the WTO   * The WTO Agreements * The GATT basic principles |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon prayer break* |
| 12:15 - 13:00 | Brief Introduction to the WTO   * Q & A exercise |
| *13:00 - 14:00* | *Lunch break* |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | Introduction to the WTO dispute settlement system   * Historical background * Basic characteristics of the WTO dispute settlement system * Main actors of the WTO dispute settlement system |
| *15:30 – 15:45* | *Coffee break* |
| 15:45 – 17:00 | Initiating a dispute   * Preparing for a dispute * Consultations stage |

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

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| **Hour** | **Session** |
| 09:00 – 10:15 | Initiating a dispute   * Request for the establishment of the panel * Measures and claims |
| *10:15 – 10:30* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Initiating a dispute   * Group exercise |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon prayer break* |
| 12:15 - 13:00 | The panel stage   * Panel composition * The mandate of the panel |
| *13:00 - 14:00* | *Lunch break* |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | The panel stage   * Timetable and working procedures * The panel proceedings * The panel report |
| *15:30 – 15:45* | Coffee break |
| 15:45 – 17:00 | Appellate review   * Origin and structure of the Appellate Body * The appellate review process * Current situation of the Appellate Body |

Thursday, 5 December 2024

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| **Hour** | **Session** |
| 09:00 – 10:15 | Implementation of DSB rulings and recommendations   * The concept of compliance in WTO dispute settlement * Continued surveillance * Reasonable period of time (RPT) and Article 21.3(c) arbitration * Compliance proceedings under Article 21.5 |
| *10:15 – 10:30* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Inducing compliance   * Compensation * Suspension of concessions and obligations and Article 22.6 arbitration * Sequencing issue |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon prayer break* |
| 12:15 - 13:00 | * Group exercise |
| *13:00 - 14:00* | *Lunch break* |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | * Special and differential treatment in WTO dispute settlement |
| *15:30 – 15:45* | Coffee break |
| 15:45 – 16:30 | * Q & A exercise |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | * Closing session |