**WTO Regional Workshop on Electronic Commerce for Arab and Middle East Countries**

**15 to 17 October 2024, Kuwait City, Kuwait**

WTO in cooperation with the
International Monetary Fund Centre for Economics and Finance (IMF-CEF)

XXX [workshop conference room location]

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**WTO Trainers:**

**Stefania Gallo,** Trade Policy Analyst, Council and TNC Division, WTO

**Antonia Carzaniga,** Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO

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| **Objectives:**  | 1. To improve participants' knowledge of how existing WTO rules apply to electronic commerce.
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|  | 1. To familiarise participants with ongoing work at the WTO related to electronic commerce.
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| **Date/time** | **Session** |
| **Tuesday, 15 October 2024** |
| 8:30-9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00-9:30 | Opening Session* Opening remarks and description of the programme
* Tour de table

**Speaker**: IMF and WTO representatives |
| 9:30-10:45 | **Session 1: Overview of e-commerce*** E-commerce and digital trade
* Recent trends and the impact of new technologies
* Statistical approaches to measuring digital trade

**Speaker:** WTO |
| 10:30-10:45 | **Break** |
| 11:00-12:00 | Session 2 WTO Work Programme on electronic commerce* Decisions and Ministerial mandates
* Current discussions

**Speaker:** WTO |
| 12:00-12:15 | **[noon prayer]** |
| 12:15-13:15 | **Session 3: WTO Agreements and e-commerce (PART 1)*** Assessment of the relation between WTO Agreements and e-commerce
* Overview of GATT, ITA, TFA and TRIPS

**Speaker**: WTO |
| 13:15-14:00 | **lunch Break** |
| 14:00-15:30 | **Session 4: WTO Agreements and e-commerce (PART 2)*** Assessment of the relation between WTO Agreements and e-commerce
* Focus on GATS

**Speaker:** WTO |

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| **Wednesday, 16 October 2024** |
| 9:00-10:15 | **Session 5: Recap exercise**  |
| 10:15-10:30 | **Break** |
| 10:30-12:00 | **Session 6: The moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions** * Background and current discussions
* Roundtable with participants

**Speaker:** WTO |
| 12:00-12:15 | **[noon prayer]** |
| 12:15-13:15 | **Session 7: Electronic commerce in regional trade agreements*** Overview of RTAs with e-commerce provisions – main obligations and types of provisions

**Speaker:** WTO |
| 13:15-14:00 | **lunch Break** |
| 14:00-15:30 | **Session 8: Digital trade and experiences in applying internal taxation****Speaker:** IMF*(virtual) [TBC]* |
| **Thursday, 17 October 2024** |
| 9:00-10:15 | **Session 9 Recap exercise**  |
| 10:15-10:30 | **Break** |
| 10:30-12:00 | **Session 10: Joint statement on electronic commerce*** Overview of objectives and negotiations
* State of play
* Overview of draft text
* Discussions with participants

**Speaker:** WTO |
| 12:00-12:15 | **[noon prayer]** |
| 12:15-13:15 | **Session 11: Opportunities and Challenges for SMEs in Cross-Border E-commerce****Speaker**: [ITC] (virtual) TBC]  |
| 13:15-14:00 | **lunch Brea** |
| 14:00-15:15 | **Session 12: Experience sharing – development of national e-commerce strategies/ negotiating e-commerce in trade agreements****Speakers:** Participants based on guiding questions |
| 15:15-15:30 | Wrap-Up Session Participants to complete the feedback/evaluation formClosing remarksGroup Photo-taking session and conclusion of course |