**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. |
|  | 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 form  Closing remarks  Group Photo-taking session and conclusion of course | |