WTO Regional Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies

for SELECTED AfricaN COUNTRIES

nAIROBI, kENYA

24-27 June 2025

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) have agreed to jointly organize a regional workshop on fisheries subsidies for selected African WTO Members. The workshop will be held in‑person in Nairobi, Kenya from 24 to 27 June 2025. It will be conducted in English with French interpretation. A detailed draft programme is attached.

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) is the first WTO agreement to focus on the environment and marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting certain forms of harmful fisheries subsidies, which are a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world's fish stocks.

The workshop will provide a detailed understanding of the AFS with a view to facilitating the domestic processes aimed at ratification/deposit of instrument of acceptance of the AFS by African WTO Members who have not yet ratified the Agreement. It will allow for an exchange among participants on the implementation of the AFS, challenges and technical assistance needs to facilitate such ratification.

The target audience of the workshop is middle to senior level government officials involved in (i) domestic process of ratification of the AFS; and (ii) fisheries subsidies and/or fisheries management.

**Draft programme**

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| **Day 1**  |
| **Time** | **Session** |
| 09:00 | Registration |
| 09:30 | Opening Session* Welcome remarks by the host
* General objectives of the workshop
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| 10:00 | Tour de table * Introductions by participants/regional organizations and expectations from the workshop
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| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:15 | Fisheries governance and subsidies:* Global and regional state of fisheries resources and international fisheries governance
* Global state of fisheries subsidies and impact
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| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | * Subsidies rules at the WTO - The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
* History of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies – From Doha to MC12
* Open discussion
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| 15:30 | Break  |
| 15:45 | * The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies - definitions and scope
 |
| 17:00 | * Recap of day 1
 |
| **Day 2** |
| 09:00 | * Review of day 1
 |
| 09:30 | * Key disciplines: subsidies IUU fishing, fishing in overfished stocks, and other subsidies
* Open discussion
 |
| 11:00 | Break |
| 11:15 | * Key disciplines: IUU fishing, fishing overfished stocks, and other subsidies (continued)
* Open discussion
 |
| 12:45 | Lunch |
| 13:45 | * Key disciplines: IUU fishing, fishing overfished stocks, and other subsidies (continued)
* Open discussion
 |
| 15:15 | Break |
| 15:30 | * Case studies/group work
 |
| 17:00 | * Recap of day 2
 |
| **Day 3** |
| 09:00 | * Review of day 2
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| 09:30 | * Cross-cutting issues: notification and transparency, institutional arrangements, dispute settlement, final provisions
* Open discussion
 |
| 11:00 | Break  |
| 11:15 | * Technical assistance and the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism
* Open discussion
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| 12:45 | Lunch |
| 13:45 | * Group exercises and simulations
 |
| 17:00 | * Recap of day 3
 |
| **Day 4** |
| 09:00 | * Review of day 3
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| 09:30 | * Regional Perspectives - presentations by regional organizations
* Group discussions by participants/regional organizations:
	+ Fisheries policies, including subsidies and support policies;
	+ Implementation of the AFS.
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| 12:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 | * Ratification and acceptance of the Agreement
* Open discussion
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| 14:30 | * Experience sharing session on the ratification and acceptance of the Agreement
* Questions and answers
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| 16:00 | * Recap of day 4 and the workshop
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| 17:00 | * Wrap up and evaluation
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**Invitees** (2 officials each)

1. Angola
2. Burundi
3. Central African Republic
4. Congo
5. Democratic Republic of the Congo
6. Eswatini
7. Ghana
8. Guinea
9. Guinea-Bissau
10. Kenya (5 officials as host)
11. Lesotho
12. Liberia
13. Madagascar
14. Malawi
15. Mali
16. Mozambique
17. Namibia
18. Niger
19. Tanzania
20. Uganda
21. Zambia
22. Zimbabwe