

WORKSHOP ON TRADE IN SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Riyadh, 29 and 30 April 2024

[GCC secretariat headquarters]

Services have emerged as the driving force shaping the economic landscape of countries at all levels of development. Services trade has become a key element in growth strategies, becoming the most dynamic component of global trade in recent times.

In 2023, the WTO and the World Bank jointly published a study entitled 'Trade in Services for Development', which underscored the significant and multifaceted development impact of trade in services and the important opportunities it offers to developing countries in terms of export-led growth, economic diversification, inflows of foreign direct investment, enhanced regulatory governance, and integration into global value chains.

The co-publication argues that increased levels of Aid for Trade in services are required to help developing countries take fuller advantage of the growth and development opportunities presented by services trade. It advances a Trade in Services for Development Initiative, spelling out the broad elements of an Aid for Trade roadmap for services aimed at facilitating international cooperation and scaling up the capacity of developing countries to participate more meaningfully in services trade and engage in services deliberations.

This workshop will allow for a discussion of the development impact of trade in services and situate global trends in the context of the region. It will promote exchanges on possible elements, at the regional level, of a work programme on trade in services to increase the participation in global services trade and help them harness the development promise of a world more service-centric world economy.

Programme

Monday 29 April 2024

Opening

9:30 – 9:50

Moderator: Khalil Muhanna

Session 1: *Trade in Services for Development: Overview, Key Trends in Trade in Services, and the Contribution of Services Trade Policies*

09:50 – 11:50

M. Roy (WTO)

P. Sauvé (WB)

- Presentation of the co-publication: overview of the report, and presentation of the first two chapters, focusing on key trends in global services trade, and the contribution of services trade policies.
- **Discussant:**
- Discussion with participants:

Tea break

Session 2: Trade in Services for Development Initiative: Possible Elements of an Aid for Trade Work Programme to Assist Developing Countries

12:00 – 14:00
M. Roy (WTO)
P. Sauvé (WB)

- Presentation of the report's chapter on a stepped up and coherent Aid for Trade package on trade in services. The presentation will touch on the services-related challenges faced by developing countries and highlight the report's proposed areas for a work programme of assistance on trade in services. Authors will discuss in greater detail trade in services statistics.
- Discussant: Sebastien Dessus, Practice Manager, Global Trade and Regional Integration, World Bank
- Discussion with participants – GCC and government officials to highlight their aid for trade priorities in services trade

Tuesday 30 April 2024

Session 3: Trade in Services for Development Initiative: Enhancing Transparency for Trading Conditions in Services and Addressing the Policy Data Gap

09:30 – 11:30
M. Roy (WTO)
P. Sauvé (WB)

- Presentation by the WTO and World Bank on the TS4D report's suggestion for efforts to work regionally to promote deepened transparency of key measures affecting trading conditions for services and conducting trade-related assessments in services liable to inform domestic reform efforts and participation in trade negotiations.
- **Discussant:**
- Discussion with participants

Tea Break

Session 4: New Frontiers in Preferential Trade Agreements on Services

11:45– 14:00

M. Roy (WTO)

P. Sauvé (WB)

- Presentation by the WTO and the World Bank on recent trends and newest frontiers in services trade governance in preferential trade agreements around the world.
- **Discussant:**
- Discussions with participants

Closing
