 

**WTO-IMF-CEF Advanced Regional Workshop on Government Procurement
FOR ARAB AND MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES**

**KUWAIT, 16-18 APRIL 2019**

**Programme (DRAFT)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

This Workshop is organized by the WTO Secretariat pursuant to the Secretariat's 2018-2019 Technical Assistance Plan (WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1), in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for the benefit of participants from Arab and Middle East countries.

The theme of this Workshop is: "*Government procurement as a tool of trade, governance and development: recent developments, relevance of the revised WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), and policy considerations for Arab and Middle East countries*."

 The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts to exchange information on national, bilateral, regional and multilateral trade-related activities and initiatives in the area of government procurement. The main objectives of the programme are:
(i) to familiarize participants with WTO activities related to government procurement, notably as they relate to trade, governance and economic performance; (ii) to reflect on the importance of efficient government procurement processes to inclusive, sustainable development, including in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and explore the significance and relevance of the GPA in this respect; and (iii) to elaborate on the benefits and challenges associated with accession to and implementation of the Agreement and the procedures and modalities to be followed, in addition to related policy issues.

The programme adopts an interactive approach emphasizing embedded breakout sessions to encourage consideration of practical issues, networking, and the exchange of information and sharing of experiences, in addition to traditional lectures and presentations.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, with relevant material to contribute to the workshop during the slots indicated for national experiences and/or in the breakout sessions.

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**Day 1 - Tuesday, 16 April 2019**

**08:00 Registration (with refreshment)**

**SESSION 1: Opening**

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 08:30 – 08:50 | 1.1 Opening remarks | Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO SecretariatTBAIMF Secretariat  |
| 08:50 – 09:30 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Participants |

**SESSION 2: Significance of government procurement for development and trade in the prevailing economic environment**

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 09:30 – 10:00 | 2.1 Significance of government procurement for development and trade: competition, governance, value for money and the international dimension  | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 2.2 The revised GPA: global context, core disciplines and policy considerations for AMEC developing countries | Ms Anna Caroline MüllerWTO Secretariat |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | 2.3 General discussion |

**10:45 – 11:00 Break**

**SESSION 3: Domestic reforms and strategic public procurement for inclusive, sustainable development: relevance of the GPA**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 3.1 Government procurement and sustainable development: the revised GPA as a benchmark in undertaking domestic reforms  | Professor Sue ArrowsmithThe University of Nottingham School of Law |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 3.2 Promoting inclusive trade, sustainable development and mutual welfare: strategic public procurement as facilitator and relevance of the GPA | Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO Secretariat |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | 3.3 General discussion/key takeaways |

**12:15 – 13:00 Lunch**

**SESSION 4: The revised GPA – what's in the package: the revised text, scope and coverage of the Agreement**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | 4.1 The revised GPA: key revisions in the text, new elements and flexibilities for Parties and acceding members  | Ms Anna Caroline MüllerWTO Secretariat |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 4.2 The revised GPA: Parties' coverage commitments and use of the e-GPA online market access information tool to explore market access opportunities | Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO Secretariat |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | 4.3 General discussion |

**SESSION 5: Practices and experiences from the region and relevance of the GPA – *breakout session***

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 14:15 – 15:00 | 5.1 National experiences and practices – ***breakout session*** | Participants |
|  | *In-session coffee service*  |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 5.2 Reporting and general discussion |

**2 - Wednesday, 17 April 2019**

**SESSION 6*a*: Accession to the GPA: transitional measures, benefits and challenges and policy considerations for developing countries**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | 6.1 Accession to the GPA: state of play and modalities  | Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO Secretariat |
| 09:20 – 09:45 | 6.2 Accession to the GPA: potential benefits and costs, including transitional measures for AMEC countries  | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School |

**SESSION 6*b*: Implementation and related issues: the EU experience and insights**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:45 – 10:10 | 6.3 The EU Procurement Directives as an example of GPA implementation: experience and insights  | Professor Sue ArrowsmithThe University of Nottingham School of Law |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | 6.4 General discussion for Sessions 6a and 6b |

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

**SESSION 7: The revised GPA enforcement procedures: domestic review procedures as an essential tool of good governance in public procurement**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speakers** |
| 10:45 – 11:10 | 7.1 The GPA domestic review procedures and WTO DSU  | Ms Anna Caroline MüllerWTO Secretariat |
| 11:10 – 11:35 | 7.2 Domestic review procedures – the EU Remedies Directive: insights and lessons from implementation  | Professor Sue ArrowsmithUniversity of Nottingham School of Law |
| 11:35 – 12:00 | 7.3 Domestic review procedures – country experiences: insights and lessons from the United States  | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School  |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | 7.4 General discussion/key takeaways |

**12:15 – 13:00 Lunch**

**SESSION 8: Government procurement as an instrument of good governance: the policy context**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speakers** |
| 13:00 – 13:20 | 8.1 | Good governance as an imperative of the 2012 revised GPA: essential directions, requirements and considerations for the region | Ms Anna Caroline MüllerWTO Secretariat |
| 13:20 – 13:50 | 8.2 | The critical role of oversight in government procurement: lessons from international experience in controlling corruption and supplier collusion | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University |
| 13:50 – 14:20 | 8.3  | Government procurement as a tool of global integration, good governance and economic performance: insights from EU and international experience | Professor Sue ArrowsmithUniversity of Nottingham School of Law |
| 14:20 – 14:30 | 8.4 | General discussion |

**SESSION 9: The governance and trade dimensions of the GPA: domestic and international perspectives – *breakout session***

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 14:30 – 15:00 | 9.1 ***Breakout session*** **Groups A/B**: The GPA as an instrument of governance in the government procurement sector: comparative analysis of the core disciplines with domestic rules in the AMEC region  **Groups C/D**: The GPA market access dimension: assessing offensive and defensive interests with the aid of the e-GPA tool | Participants |
|  | *In-session coffee service* |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 9.2 Reporting and general discussion |

**Day 3 - Thursday, 20 April 2019**

**SESSION 10: Sustainability and inclusiveness in government procurement markets: the role of the GPA and e-procurement tools**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speakers** |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | 10.1 SMEs and sustainability in government procurement: the role of the GPA and e-procurement tools | Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO Secretariat |
| 09:20 – 09:50 | 10.2 Implementing a modern procurement system in light of a sustainable development paradigm: challenges for developing countries and insights from around the world | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School |
| 09:50 – 10:20 | 10.3 Promoting SME participation in public procurement markets: EU experience | Professor Sue ArrowsmithUniversity of Nottingham School of Law  |
| 10:20 - 10:35 | 10.4 General discussion/key takeaways  |

**10:35 – 10:50 Break**

**SESSION 11: Public procurement in a sustainable development era: policy considerations for AMEC countries**

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 10:50 – 11:10 | 11.1 Public procurement in a changing world: policy options for AMEC countries – ***a country presentation 1*** | Participant(s) |
| 11:10 – 11:30 | 11.2 Public procurement in a changing world: policy options for AMEC countries – ***a country presentation 2*** | Participant(s) |
| 11:30 – 12:10 | 11.3 General discussion and key-takeaways | Professor Sue ArrowsmithUniversity of Nottingham School of Law Participant(s) |

**12:10 – 13:00 Lunch**

**SESSION 12: Public procurement and regionalism: relevant policy considerations**

| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
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| 13:00 – 13:30 | 12.1 The treatment of government procurement in regional trade agreements (RTAs): global experience  | Ms Anna Caroline MüllerWTO Secretariat |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 12.2 Institution and human capacity building in the government procurement sector: implications for international/regional cooperation | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | 12.3 General discussion |

**SESSION 13: Concluding session**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | 13.1 Plenary evaluation, comments and closing roundtable | Participants |
| 13.2 Workshop summary | Professor Sue ArrowsmithUniversity of Nottingham School of LawProfessor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University  |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | 13.3 Closing remarks | TBA, IMF Mr Kodjo Osei-LahWTO Secretariat |

**15:00 – 15:30 Closing coffee/refreshment**

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1. V1.21, Version date: 08 January 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)