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**WTO advanced Regional WORKSHOP ON Government Procurement
FOR Caribbean COUNTRIES**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
5-7 February 2020**

PROGRAMME[[1]](#footnote-1)

This regional Workshop is organized by the WTO Secretariat, in co-operation with the government of Trinidad and Tobago, for the benefit of participants from Caribbean countries, pursuant to the Secretariat's technical assistance and training plan (WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1).

The theme of this Workshop is: "Government procurement and international trade disciplines: relevant WTO activities, regional developments, and policy considerations for the Caribbean economies."

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for trade and government procurement experts to exchange information on national, bilateral, regional and multilateral trade-related activities and initiatives in the area of government procurement, and to facilitate reflection and dialogue on this subject in the region. The workshop will consider, in addition to other topics: (i) recent developments regarding government procurement in the Caribbean region at the national and regional levels; (ii) the potential relevance, subject to the concerned WTO Members' views, of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) in this region; and (iii) related policy developments, challenges and options for WTO Members.

The working language of the Workshop is English. 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 should come to the workshop prepared to share information and perspectives on pertinent developments in their respective countries and/or at the regional level.

The Workshop is presented strictly for purposes of training, reflection and policy debate. **Participation is without prejudice to the views and positions of participating governments in any related discussions in the WTO**.

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PROGRAMME

**Day 1, Wednesday, 5 February 2020**

08:30 REGISTRATION

SESSION 1: Opening and participants introduction

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 1.1 Opening Remarks | TBATrinidad and TobagoMr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | 1.2 Participant introductions | Participants |

SESSION 2: Significance of government procurement for development and trade

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 2.1 The significance of government procurement for development: relevance of transparency disciplines and comparative perspectives | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 2.2 The revised GPA: global context, core disciplines, and policy considerations for Caribbean countries | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 10:30 – 10:50 | 2.3 General discussion |  |

**10:50 – 11:10 Coffee break**

SESSION 3: Government procurement in the Caribbean region: regionalism and relevant developments at the national level

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | 3.1 The treatment of government procurement in bilateral and regional trade agreements: synergies with the GPA and relevance for the Caribbean region | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 11:40 – 12:40 | 3.2 Recent reforms/current challenges in the government procurement sector in [TBA] – 2 country presentations | TBA  |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | 3.3 General discussion |  |

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

SESSION 4: The revised WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA): improved text, the new Work Programmes and relevance for the UN SDGs

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | 4.1 The revised GPA: key revisions in the text, new elements and flexibilities for acceding members  | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 14:45 - 15:15 | 4.2 The revised GPA: new Work Programmes and state of play with implementation | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | 4.3 Implementing a modern procurement system in light of UN SDGs: challenges for developing countries and the relevance of the GPA | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | 4.4 General discussion |

**16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break**

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

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:15 – 17:00 | 5.1 Government procurement in the Caribbean region: national experiences, current challenges and potential interests in international cooperation – ***breakout session*** | Participants, with introduction byWTO Secretariat  |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | 5.2 Reporting and general discussion | Participants |

**Day 2, Thursday, 6 February 2020**

SESSION 6: The revised GPA: e-procurement provisions, scope and coverage of the Agreement, and the e-GPA tool

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 6.1 The revised GPA: Parties' coverage commitments and use of the e-GPA online market access information tool to explore market access opportunities  | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat  |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 6.2 GPA e-Procurement provisions and statistical reporting requirements | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 6.3 E-Procurement: GPA Parties' implementation experience  | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | 6.4 General discussion |

**10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break**

SESSION 7: Institutional and enforcement issues: domestic review procedures and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 7.1 Domestic review systems as a pillar of GPA compliance and effective policy implementation: international experience | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 7.2 Domestic review system in [TBA] – a country presentation | TBA |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | 7.3 WTO dispute settlement and the GPA: reflections on the value of international rules in this area  | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | 7.4 General discussion |

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

SESSION 8: Observership and accession to the GPA: modalities, transitional measures, benefits and challenges, relevance for inclusive development, and related policy considerations

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 8.1 Observership and accession to the GPA: state of play and modalities | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 8.2 Accession to the GPA: potential benefits and costs, including transitional measures for the Caribbean countries | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 8.3 GPA accession as a strategy for reform and export market success: negotiating and tactical considerations | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | 8.4 General discussion |  |

**15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break**

SESSION 9: Trade dimension of the GPA: domestic and international perspectives – *breakout session*

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:00 – 16:45 | 9.1 The GPA market access dimension: understanding GPA scope and coverage and assessing offensive and defensive interests with the aid of the e-GPA tool | Participants, with introduction byWTO Secretariat  |
| 16:45 – 17:30 | 9.2 Reporting and general discussion | Participants |

**Day 3, Friday, 7 February 2020**

SESSION 10: Government procurement in a changing global economic environment: good governance imperatives and related experience

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 10.1 Good governance as an imperative of the 2012 revised GPA: essential directions, requirements and considerations for the region | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 10.2 Government procurement and controlling corruption and supplier collusion: the role of the GPA and lessons from international experience | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | 10.3 Government procurement, trade liberalization and corruption index performance: first empirical insights | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | 10.4 General discussion |  |

**11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break**

SESSION 11: Further reflections on the way ahead

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | 11.1 The way ahead: market liberalization, SMEs, export interests and good governance | Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | 11.2 Women-businesses participation and the role of the GPA: first insights | Ms Nadezhda SporyshevaWTO Secretariat |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | 11.3 Institution and human capacity building in the government procurement sector: implications for international/regional cooperation | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC |
| 12:45 – 13:00 | 11.4 General discussion |

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

SESSION 12: International co-operation in the area of government procurement: policy options for Latin American countries – *breakout session*

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | 12.1 Government procurement: options and alternatives for Latin American countries – ***breakout session*** *[Participants will be asked to consider and evaluate potential options for progress in the government procurement sector in their respective countries, including initiatives at the national, regional and multilateral levels]* | Participants, with introduction byWTO Secretariat |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | 12.2 Practical exercise: reporting and general discussion | Participants |

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break**

SESSION 12: Concluding session

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | 12.1 Summary by Workshop Rapporteur | Professor Steven SchoonerGeorge Washington University Law School, TBC  |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | 12.2 Plenary session: comments | Participants |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | 12.3 Concluding remarks | [TBATrinidad and Tobago]Mr Philippe PelletierWTO Secretariat |
| **16:30** | **Close** |

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1. v1.1 – Version date: 16/10/2019 15:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)