**WTO-JVI Regional Workshop on the GPA 2012 for the Central and eastern europe, central asia and caucasus (CEECAC) REGION**

**Vienna, Austria**

**24-26 October2023**

**Draft Programme**

The main objectives of the Workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related WTO activities on government procurement, with a focus on such GPA 2012 features as trade opening, good governance, and economic and sustainable development; (ii) to elaborate on the process and the benefits and costs of accession to the GPA 2012; and (iii) to explore the interaction between the GPA 2012 and bilateral/regional free trade agreements in the CEECAC region. Another objective is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts from the CEECAC region to exchange experience and views on the international trade and government procurement nexus.

The programme adopts an interactive approach with embedded breakout sessions to encourage consideration of practical issues, networking, and the exchange of relevant experiences.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, to contribute to the workshop especially during the breakout sessions.

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**Tuesday, 24 October 2023**

**08:30 Registration**

**SESSION 1: Opening**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 1.1 Opening remarks | WTO Secretariat  JVI representative  EBRD representative (TBC)  CLDP representative (TBC) |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 2: Policies underlying the GPA 2012 and the global and regional context**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 2.1 The GPA 2012: Global policy context, trade dimension, objectives, key principles, and policy considerations for developing economies | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | 2.2 General discussion | |

**10:40 – 11:00 Break**

**SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 3.1 Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities *(Walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012)* | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30– 12:00 | 3.2 The 2011 UNCITRAL Model Law: A useful guide to implementing the GPA 2012 domestically | UNCITRAL Secretariat (TBC) |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | 3.3 General discussion | |

**12:15– 13:45 Lunch Break**

## SESSION 3b: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:45 – 14:15 | 3.4 SMEs: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:15-14:45 | 3.5 Sustainable procurement: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:45– 15:00 | 3.6 General discussion | |

**15:00 – 15:15 Break**

**SESSION 3b: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies (cont'd)**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | 3.7 E-procurement tools: Relevant GPA 2012 rules | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:30– 16:00 | 3.8 The benefits of open government procurement data: CEECAC at the forefront | EBRD (TBC) |
| 16:00– 16:30 | 3.9 General discussion | |

**Wednesday, 25 October 2023**

**SESSION 4a: Scope and coverage of the GPA 2012, potential market access benefits**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:40 | 4.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>) | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:40 – 10:00 | 4.2 General discussion |  |

**10:00 – 10:30 Break**

**SESSION 4b: Market access under the GPA 2012: A practical exercise: *Breakout session***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | 4.3 Market access under the GPA 2012 – **Breakout session** | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 5: The GPA 2012 and good governance in government procurement**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 5.1 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money | WTO Secretariat |
| 12:00 – 12:40 | 5.2 Good governance in government procurement systems in the CEECAC region: Current challenges and opportunities | EBRD, CLDP and  UNODC (TBC) |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | 5.3 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption | WTO Secretariat |

**13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 6: Domestic enforcement of the GPA 2012: Domestic review procedures under the GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 6.1 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 at the domestic level: Domestic review procedures | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:00 – 15:10 | 6.2 General discussion |  |

**15:10 – 15:30 Break**

**SESSION 7: Applying the rules of the GPA 2012: A practical exercise – *Breakout session***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | 7.1 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation – ***breakout session*** | Workshop participants |

**Thursday, 26 October 2023**

**SESSION 8: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 8.1 Observer status in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement: Benefits and procedure | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:15 – 09:45 | 8.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges, the accession procedure, special and differential treatment for developing countries, and state-of-play | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | 8.3 General discussion | |

**10:00 – 10:30 Break**

**Session 8: Observersip and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | 8.4 (i) Recently acceded GPA signatories: Initial experiences and assessments from Armenia and Moldova  (ii) GPA accession as a strategy for domestic procurement reform, good governance and export market success: Prospects and policy considerations for the CEECAC region | Pre-recorded  WTO Secretariat, EBRD (TBC), CLDP (TBC)  *Interactive discussion with Workshop participants* |

**Session 8: Observersip and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:10 | 8.5 Availability of technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | 8.6 Current work and focus of the EBRD's GPA 2012 TA facility and the CLDP | EBRD (TBC) and CLDP (TBC) |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | 8.7 General discussion | |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 9:** **Significance of the GPA 2012 in the context of FTA negotiations**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 9.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements, with a specific focus on the CEECAC region | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 9.2 General discussion | |

**14:30 – 15:00 Break**

**SESSION 10: Concluding session**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 10.1 Summary observations and main take-aways from the Workshop | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | 10.2 Participants' evaluation of the Workshop, feedback and comments | Workshop participants |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | 10.3 Closing remarks | WTO Secretariat  JVI representative,    EBRD representative (TBC),  CLDP representative (TBC) |

**16:30 CLOSE**

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