**Joint WTO-World bank Workshop ON Trade in Services**

**Amman, 5 – 9 October 2025**

**DRAFT Program**

**Sunday 5 October 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9h30 – 10h00 | **Registration** |
| 10h00 – 10h45 | **Opening Session**   * Welcome and opening remarks by Jordan * General introduction and objectives of the workshop by WTO Secretariat * Participants' introductions * Multiple choice test on trade in services |
| 10h45 – 11h30 | **Services trade facts and figures: global and regional trends**  This session will introduce participants to the notion of services and trade in services with a brief outlook at the role of services in economic development in general. It will then explore how services are traded and main reasons behind the creation of the GATS. |
| 11h30 – 11h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 11h45 – 13h00 | **Key features of the GATS - Scope and general obligations**  The session will introduce participants to the architecture and scope of the GATS, and present its main obligations and disciplines such as MFN (and its departures), transparency as well as other regulatory obligations. The session will examine how the GATS applies in light of technological developments. |
| 13h00 – 13h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 13h15 – 15h00 | **Key features of the GATS – Specific Commitments**  We will look at how legally binding commitments are undertaken for trade in services, and discuss services classification, market access, national treatment, and additional commitments. |

**Monday 6 October 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10h00 – 10h30 | **Review Quiz** |
| 10h30 – 11h30 | **Schedules of Specific Commitments – Focus on Jordan's Schedule and RTA commitments** |
| 11h30 – 11h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 11h45 – 13h00 | **Positive and Negative List approaches to Scheduling Specific Commitments**  This session will address the main differences between positive and negative list scheduling approaches and will point to the main issues for consideration by negotiators. |
| 13h00 – 13h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 13h15 – 15h00 | **Exercise on Scheduling positive and negative list commitments** |

**Tuesday 7 October 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10h00 – 11h30 | **Introduction to the World Bank-WTO Integrated Trade Information Portal (I-TIP Services), the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD), and Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI)**  <https://itip-services-worldbank.wto.org>  Participants will be familiarized with the contents of ITIP services: GATS, RTAs, applied regimes, statistics. Particular focus will be put on the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD), the Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI) and the STRI visualization tool. In addition, participants will be instructed as to how to use the STPD as a tool for the scheduling of commitments. |
| 11h30 – 11h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 11h45 – 13h15 | **ITIP (continued)** |
| 13h15 – 13h30 | *Coffee break* |
| 13h30 – 15h00 | **Policy Analysis and Scheduling Exercise**  With the help of analytical tools, participants will analyse services trade policies, identify policy measures relevant for scheduling of commitments, and prepare draft schedules of specific commitments |

**Wednesday 8 October 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10h00 – 11h30 | **The GATS and electronic commerce**  This session will provide an overview of services-relevant aspects of the work programme on electronic commerce, the moratorium, and work in the joint statement initiative on e-commerce. |
| 11h30 – 11h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 11h45 – 13h15 | **Investment Facilitation for Development (Virtual Session)**  The session will address the objectives, structure, scope and main pillars of the Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (transparency of investment measures, streamlining investment-related administrative procedures, sustainable investment), and discuss special and differential treatment and IF Needs Assessments |
| 13h15 – 13h30 | *Coffee break* |
| 13h30 – 15h00 | **Review Exercises** |

**Thursday 9 October 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10h00 – 11h30 | **Services Domestic Regulation as a tool to facilitate trade in services**  The session will discuss the origin, objectives, and content of the WTO Disciplines on Services Domestic Regulation, and their implementation. The session will include an exercise on the compatibility of regulatory measures with the GATS and the SDR Disciplines. |
| 11h30 – 11h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 11h45 – 13h15 | **The WB/WTO Handbook on GRPs to facilitate Services Trade**  This session will provide an overview of the main findings of the Handbook, and introduce participants with the Self-Assessment questionnaire to assess the alignment of the regulatory regime with good regulatory practices for trade in services |
| 13h15 – 13h30 | *Lunch Break* |
| 13h30 – 14h00 | **Multiple choice test on trade in services, including discussion of answers** |
| 14h00-15h00 | **Closing Session, Next Steps, Evaluation** |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_