



VIRTUAL NATIONAL WORKSHOP UPDATE ON WTO NEW INITIATIVES

LAO PDR

28 - 30 June 2021

09:00 – 12:30 Geneva time/Central European Time (CET)/Lao time +5 h

- Platform: Zoom (**facilitated by WTO ITTC**)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 28 June 2021

| Time | Sessions | Resource person/ Division |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30 – 08:40 | Joining the meeting via Zoom <i>(the zoom link will be included in the final programme)</i> | |
| 08:40 – 09:00 <i>(Geneva time)</i> | Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Remarks by DG/DDG of Department of Foreign Trade Policy Remarks by WTO Speaker | Name xxxx Dr Faustin Mukela Luanga, Head of Asia and Pacific Regional Desk, ITTC |
| 09:00 – 10:20 | Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background and objectives of the negotiations: Why IFD at the WTO? Participants, main issues being discussed Implementation and S&D Latest state-of-play of the negotiations and road to MC12 | Pamela Apaza, Trade in Services and Investment Division |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | Coffee break | |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Services Domestic Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context and objectives of the negotiations Substantive content of the negotiations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplines on transparency; Disciplines on legal certainty and predictability; | Elena Bertola, Trade in Services and Investment Division |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disciplines on regulatory quality and facilitation. • Status quo, outstanding issues and legal form | |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | <p>Plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade, and trade and environmental sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do trade and the WTO have to do with the environment? • Relevant WTO work and rules • Recent developments at the WTO and road to MC12 | Karsten Steinfatt & Daniel Ramos Trade and Environment Division |
| Tuesday, 29 June 2021 | | |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | Current discussions at the General Council including preparations for MC12 | Joseph Gregorio Council and TNC Division |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Coffee break | |
| 10:15 - 11:30 | <p>E-commerce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme on Electronic Commerce • Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions <p>Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce</p> | Stefania Gallo, Council and TNC Division |
| Wednesday, 30 June 2021 | | |
| 09:00 - 10:30 | <p>MSMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why MSMEs at the WTO? • Explanation of the MSME Group's 2020 package of recommendations and declarations <p>Run-up to MC12</p> | Kathryn Lundquist, Economic Research and Statistics Division |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Close of the workshop | |