technical assistance for mongolia – may 2022

WTO National Workshop on Emerging issues

Programme

Objectives:

* Familiarize participants with major trends in electronic commerce and ongoing work in the WTO, both under the 1998 Work Programme and the Joint Statement Initiative negotiations;
* Inform participants on the recently adopted outcome on services domestic regulation in the Joint Initiative (SDR);
* Update participants on the ongoing negotiations in the Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD);
* Familiarize participants with the recommendations and declaration adopted in the context of the Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs);
* Brief participants about recent developments on the issue of trade and environment, including in the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) and the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP).

Dates:

From Monday 9 May to Thursday 12 May, or alternatively from Tuesday 10 to Friday 13 May (4 days training)

Resource persons:

Ms Elena BERTOLA (Trade in Services and Investment Division)

Mr Yanis BOURGEOIS (Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division)

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| *Day 1* |  |
| *AM (3 hrs)* | **Introduction to the training*** Programme
* Objectives
* Participants' expectations

**Introduction to the WTO*** Key pillars of the WTO (negotiations, implementation and monitoring, and dispute settlement)
* Establishment of the various Joint Statement Initiatives
* Main arguments of WTO Members around the process and outcomes of the Joint Statement Initiatives

**E-commerce (part 1)*** Introductory remarks about e-commerce (historical perspective; classification and data issues)
* The role played by e-commerce during the COVID-19 pandemic
* E-commerce and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)
* The 1998 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions
 | Yanis BOURGEOISElena BERTOLAYanis BOURGEOIS |
| *PM (3 hrs)* | **E-commerce (part 2)*** Overview of ongoing negotiations under the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on e-commerce
* Review of the negotiations process and update on key recent outcomes
* Legal and substantive challenges in the negotiations
* Way forward ahead of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12)

**Exercise and Q&A** | Yanis BOURGEOIS |
| ***Day 2*** |  |
| *AM (3 hrs)* | **Services Domestic Regulation (part 1)*** Brief review of key features of the GATS
* Background on the multilateral negotiations on domestic regulation in the Working Party on Domestic Regulation
* Origin of the negotiations within the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation
* The agreed disciplines on services domestic regulation
	+ What is the Reference Paper?
	+ Section I – Motivation, Coverage and Modalities, Development
	+ Section II – Generally applicable disciplines: transparency; legal certainty and predictability; regulatory quality and facilitation:
	+ Section III – Alternative Disciplines on Financial Services
 | Elena BERTOLA |
| *PM (3 hrs)* | **Services Domestic Regulation (part 2)*** Adoption of the Declaration on the Conclusion of Negotiations on Services Domestic Regulation
* Entry into effect of the negotiated outcome
* Services Domestic Regulation and recent trends in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)
* Potential benefits from implementation of the outcome based on OECD-WTO research

**Exercise and Q&A** | Elena BERTOLA |
| ***Day 3*** |  |
| *AM (3 hrs)* | **Investment Facilitation for Development (part 1)*** Background notions on trade and investment
* Purpose of the Investment Facilitation discussions at the WTO Why Investment Facilitation for the Development at the WTO?
* Origin of the negotiations in the Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development
* Overview of the potential agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development
 | Elena BERTOLA |
| *PM (3 hrs)* | **Investment Facilitation for Development (part 2)*** Implementation and development-related provisions for developing country Members
* Latest state-of-play in the negotiations
* Next steps towards the conclusion of negotiations
* Potential benefits of an agreements on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO

**Exercise and Q&A** | Elena BERTOLA |
| ***Day 4*** |  |
| *AM (3 hrs)* | **Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)*** Overview of the process and substantive discussions within the Informal Working Group on MSMEs
* Key challenges and opportunities for MSMEs
* Review of the MSME package of recommendations and declarations adopted in December 2020

**Trade & Environment (part 1)*** The Trade and Environment debate at WTO and outside
* Regular work in the Trade and Environment Committee
* Ongoing discussion on environmental services in the bodies of the Council on Trade in Services
* Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD)
 | Yanis BOURGEOISElena BERTOLA |
| *PM (3 hrs)* | **Trade & Environment (part 2)*** Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP)
* Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform
* Recent developments at COP26
* Expectations for MC12

**Exercise and Q&A****Conclusion and exchange with participants** | Yanis BOURGEOISElena BERTOLA, Yanis BOURGEOIS |