TRADE IN SERVICES AND INVESTMENT DIVISION (WTO)

**WTO National Seminar on the General Agreement on Trade in Services**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 25-27 October 2023**

**DRAFT Programme**

**Wednesday 25 October 2023**

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| 8h30 – 9h00 | **Registration** |
| 9h00 – 9h30 | **Opening Session**  - Welcome and opening remarks  - General introduction and objectives of the workshop |
| 9h30 – 10h00 | **'Before' GATS Knowledge Test** |
| 10h00 – 10h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10h15 – 10h45 | **The Role of Services and Services Trade**  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 underlying the relevance of GATS and other trade in services agreements. |
| 10h45 – 12h30 | **An introduction to GATS and its main obligations**  The presentation will focus and discuss in depth the scope of the GATS, present its main obligations and disciplines. We will look at how legally binding commitments are undertaken for trade in services liberalization. Finally, we will discuss the management of notifications under the GATS and clarify differences between the GATT and GATS. |
| 12h30 – 13h30 | *Lunch Break* |
| 13h30 – 15h00 | **How to read/draft a Schedule of Specific Commitments?**  The presentation will take a detailed look at GATS services schedules, and, if applicable, MFN exemptions. It will look at how services sectors are selected for liberalization and how legally binding commitments are undertaken for trade in services liberalization.  • Scheduling guidelines and techniques  • Classifications: W120, UN CPC, etc.  • Practical illustration of scheduling; examples from various sectors |
| 15h00 – 15h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15h15 – 16h00 | **Exercise on understanding specific commitments** |
| 16h00 – 17h00 | **Discussion of Mongolia's GATS schedule** |

**Thursday 26 October 2023**

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| 9h00 – 9h30 | **Review of previous day** |
| 9h30 – 10h30 | **Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments**  Reading and drafting a GATS schedule |
| 10h30 – 10h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10h45 – 12h30 | **Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments** (continuation) |
| 12h30 – 13h30 | *Lunch Break* |
| 13h30 – 15h00 | **Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments** (continuation) |
| 15h00 – 15h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15h15 – 16h00 | **Exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments** (continuation) |
| 16h00 – 17h00 | **Analysing Trade in Services**  I-TIP Services - The WTO-World Bank Services Database  (See <http://i-tip.wto.org/services>) |

**Friday 27 October 2022**

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| 9h00 – 9h30 | **Review of previous day** |
| 9h30 – 10h30 | **Exercise on using the ITIP Services interface** |
| 10h30 – 10h45 | *Coffee Break* |
| 10h45 – 12h30 | **GATS Article V and Regional Agreements on Trade in Services**  The session will discuss the relationship between GATS and bilateral/regional agreements. It will provide an overview of the objectives, structure, and state of play of various regional and bilateral initiatives. |
| 12h30 – 13h30 | *Lunch Break* |
| 13h30 – 15h00 | **Market access and regulatory commitments - Two complementary tools to facilitate trade in services**  WTO 2021 plurilateral outcome on domestic regulation of services |
| 15h00 – 15h15 | *Coffee Break* |
| 15h15 – 15h30 | **'After' GATS Knowledge Test** |
| 15h30 – 16h00 | **Evaluation and Closing of the Seminar** |

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