

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

**Mauritius, 29 - 31 January 2019**

**Objective(s)**

**Objective 1:** Improved understanding of core GATS obligations and application to specific sectors and modes;

**Objective 2:** Improved understanding of how to interpret and draft schedules of specific commitments;

**Objective 3:** Deepen participants' understanding of other key issues relating to trade in services: relationship between RTAs and GATS, mode 4, domestic regulation, and available tools to analyse trade in services

**Draft Programme**

**Day 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Outline** |
| **8:30 – 9:00** | **Introductory remarks, Before quizz** |
| 9:00 - 10:00 | **Trade in Services – An introduction to WTO, services and GATS, including its structure and obligations**  This session will introduce participants to the WTO and the notion of trade in services. They will briefly look at the role of services in economic development in general and explore how services are traded. The presentation will focus and discuss in depth the scope of the GATS,present its main obligations and disciplines (modes of supply, market access, national treatment, . We will look at how legally binding commitments are undertaken for trade in services liberalization. |
| *10:00 - 10:15* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:15 - 11:00 | **Trade in Services – An introduction to WTO, services and GATS, including its structure and obligations (continued)** |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | **Scheduling of services commitments: What, how, when?**  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, CPC, etc. * Practical illustration of scheduling with examples   from various sectors |
| *12:00 – 13:30* | *Lunch break* |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Scheduling of services commitments: What, how, when? - Continued** |
| *14:45 - 15:00* | *Coffee break* |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | **Exercises (I) – Understanding specific commitments**  Participants will undertake an exercise that will enable them to interpret the meaning and implications of trade in services commitments. |

**Day 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Outline** |
| 08:30 - 9:00 | **Review of previous day** |
| 9:00 – 10.00 | **Mode 4** |
| *10:00 - 10:15* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:15 - 12:00 | **Exercise (II) – Drafting of specific commitments**  Participants will be divided in groups and asked to draft new services commitments in several services sectors. They will then be requested to review and comment on their colleagues' work. |
| *12:00 - 13:30* | *Lunch* |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Domestic Regulation** |
| *14:45 - 15:00* | *Coffee break* |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | **Exercise (III) – Review of Mauritius' draft offers** |

**Day 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Outline** |
| 08:30 - 9:00 | **Review of previous day** |
| 9:00 – 10.00 | **GATS Article V and Regional Agrements on Trade in Services**  The session will provide an overview of the objectives, structure and state of play of various regional trade in services initiatives |
| *10:00 - 10:15* | *Coffee break* |
| 10:15 – 11:15 | **Analyzing Trade in Services – I-TIP** |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | **After Quiz** |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Closing ceremony |

**Recommended reading:**

**Optional reading:**

**Teaching methodology:**

Pure Lectures

Exercices

Interactive Discussion

Quiz

Computer hands-on