**AID FOR TRADE GLOBAL REVIEW**

**3-5 JULY 2019**

*SIDE EVENT REQUEST FORM*

*"Supporting* *Economic Diversification and Empowerment*

 *for Inclusive, Sustainable Development Through Aid for Trade"*

Please complete this form and email it to the WTO at the following address: aft.wto@wto.org by

**NO LATER THAN SUNday, 31 MArch 2019.** Please note that for side event organization, **preference will be given to WTO Members.**

**TITLE AND THEME OF SIDE EVENT:**

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| *L'aide pour le commerce catalyseur des Chaines de valeurs régionales : Stratégie de diversification des exportations des pays de l’UEMOA* |

**ABSTRACT (NO MORE THAN 200 WORDS) - please note that this abstract will be published on the WTO website and in the Global Review programme:**

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| African countries' participation in global value chains (GVCs) has remained very low and often in upstream value chain activities, with poorly processed agricultural and mineral products. Undoubtedly, African countries can aim for better integration into existing value chains, but also occupy higher segments in terms of value addition. In this perspective, regional integration offers opportunities as the continent is experiencing an important demographic dynamic coupled with a phenomenon of accelerated urbanization, which creates an unprecedented demand for manufactured products. This offers enormous potential for diversification of economies in a continental integration dynamic with the new continental free trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Aid for Trade is an important lever for reducing barriers to trade and strengthening regional integration and can promote regional value chains (RVCs) and promote interconnected regional activities to integrate GVCs.The WTO Chairs of Benin and Senegal, with the support of France, launch a research program that aims to promote RVCs in West Africa. It includes a research component and a capacity building component, for the benefit of actors including the national and regional private sector, with the aim of removing barriers to the creation and strengthening of RVCs to diversify economies for inclusive sustainable development. |

**PROGRAMME, INCLUDING LIST OF SPEAKERS (potential and/or confirmed):**

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| - H.E. Jean Marie Paugam, Permanent Representative of France to the WTO.- Professor Charlemagne Babatoundé IGUE, Dean Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion (FASEG) WTO Chair Holder of Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin- Professor Ndiack Fall, Centre de Recherches Economiques Appliquées at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal.- Professor Leila Baghdadi, WTO Chair Holder, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis |

**DETAILS ABOUT THE ORGANIZER:**

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| WTO. The session will be organised by the WTO Chairs Program (ERSD and ITTC)Contact person: **Nassim Oulmane**CoordinatorWTO Chairs ProgrammeInstitute for Training and Technical CooperationWorld Trade OrganizationTel:  + 41 (0)22 739 5087Fax: + 41 (0)22 739 5764nassim.oulmane@wto.org |

**INTERPRETATION REQUIREMENTS (at organizer's expense):**

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| YES |

**CATERING REQUIREMENTS (at organizer's expense):**

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| NO |

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