



WTO National Seminar on the General Agreement on Trade in Services

Islamabad, Pakistan, 23-26 April 2024

Draft Programme

23 April 2024

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

Key features of the GATS

- Structure, scope & coverage (including modes of supply)
- Architectural elements: general obligations, specific commitments and Annexes
- The GATS and development

12h30 – 13h30

Lunch Break

13h30 – 15h00

General obligations and specific commitments

- General obligations – Most-favoured nation treatment (and MFN exemptions), Transparency, domestic regulation, recognition

- Specific commitments – Market Access, National Treatment, Additional Commitments

15h00 – 15h15

Coffee Break

15h15 – 16h00

Schedules of Specific Commitments

- Scheduling guidelines and techniques, horizontal and sector-specific commitments
- Classifications: W120, UN CPC, etc.
- Scheduling Mode 4
- Practical illustration of scheduling; examples from various sectors

16h00 – 16h30

Exercises and Quizzes

24 April 2024

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

Pakistan's Services Schedule

16h00 – 16h30

Modification of Schedules

25 April 2024

9h00 – 9h30

Review of previous day

9h30 – 10h30

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, and provide a comparison of positive and negative list scheduling

10h30 – 10h45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10h45 – 11h15	GATS and Regional Agreements on Trade in Services (continued)
11h15 – 12h30	Exceptions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Exceptions• Security Exception• Prudential Carve-out (Financial Services)
12h30 – 13h30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13h30 – 15h00	Analysing Trade in Services I-TIP Services - The WTO-World Bank Services Database (See http://i-tip.wto.org/services)
15h00 – 15h15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15h15 – 16:30	Exercise on using the ITIP Services interface

26 April 2024

9h00 – 9h30	Review of previous day
9h30 – 10h45	Market access and regulatory commitments - Two complementary tools to facilitate trade in services WTO 2021 plurilateral outcome on services domestic regulation
10h45 – 11h00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11h00 – 12h15	The GATS and Electronic Commerce
12:15-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14h00 – 15h00	Work under WTO Trade in Services Bodies
15h00 – 15h30	'After' GATS Knowledge Test
15h30 – 16h00	Evaluation and Closing of the Seminar, Distribution of Certificates of Participation
