



To: Deputy Director-General Yonov Frederick Agah **Date:** 13/06/2018

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cc: Raymundo Valdes
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Subject: Selection of partner – RTPC for the Latin American countries

The following are the findings and recommendation of the first meeting of the RTPC Selection Committee regarding the selection of a new partner to host the RTPC for Latin American WTO Members and Observers.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) are training courses for government officials from WTO Members or Observers whose objectives are to: provide government officials with intermediate level knowledge on the WTO with a view to deepen their understanding of WTO Agreements and the functioning of the WTO, its rules and procedures; enhance participants' understanding of relevant trade policy issues in their regional context; increase participants' autonomy to work on WTO issues by strengthening their capacity to access and utilize WTO information and resources; and facilitate the strengthening of their professional trade-related network. These RTPCs are implemented through a partnership between the WTO and degree-granting academic institutions selected through a competitive process.

1.2. RTPCs for WTO Members and Observers from the Latin American region have been held since 2005 and have been hosted in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. The last RTPC for the region was concluded on 22 September 2017 and it marked the fourth and last RTPC to be organized in partnership with the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, Ecuador.

COUNTRY	PARTNER UNIVERSITY	YEARS
Chile	Universidad de Chile Santiago	2005-2007
Colombia	Universidad Sergio Arboleda Bogotá	2009-2012
Ecuador	Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar Quito	2014-2017

1.3. The letters calling for expressions of interest for a new partner institution to host the next RTPC cycle for the region were sent on 21 November 2017; the deadline for submission of proposals was set for 23 February 2018. An information meeting was convened on 18 January 2018 to brief interested WTO Members from the region on the rules and procedures governing the RTPCs and the selection process.

1.4. By the deadline of 23 February 2018 four proposals were submitted by interested Members. These are the following:

COUNTRY	PROPOSED PARTNER INSTITUTION
Costa Rica	Universidad Nacional (UNA)
Guatemala	Secretaria de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIEICA)
Mexico	El Colegio de México (COLMEX)
Peru	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

2 SHORT-LIST

2.1. The RTPC Selection Committee met on Wednesday 30 May 2018 to consider the proposals received by Members from the Latin American region interested in hosting the next RTPC for Latin American WTO Members and Observers. The meeting was attended by Ms Bridget Chilala, Mr Victor Luiz Do Prado, Mr Shishir Priyadarshi and the new member of the RTPC Selection Committee, Mr John Adank. Also present at the meeting were Mr Raymundo Valdes (Chief of Course Design and Training Section), Ms Janet Chakarian (Head RTPC Unit) accompanied by Mr Roberto Fiorentino and Mr Paris Parisis, and Mr Omar Rocchi (Head Logistic Unit).

2.2. The Selection Committee considered each of the proposals received by assessing the following criteria: quality and completeness of the proposal; type of institution and of the partnership proposed; appropriateness of the RTPC academic and administrative team; quality of the training infrastructure and facilities; and overall costs.

2.3. The Selection Committee agreed that it was not able to consider the proposal from Guatemala because it did not meet the terms indicated in the call for expression of interest. Specifically, Guatemala proposed a partnership with the Secretaria de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIEICA), a non-degree granting governmental institution, whereas the call for expression of interest to host the RTPC stated that only proposals from "academic institutions such as universities and other institutions of higher education and research which issue academic degrees..." would be considered.

2.4. The remaining three proposals (Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru) were viewed favourably by the Committee. They are all well drafted and include supporting documentation that match all of the requirements listed in the Terms of Reference (ToR). Each proposal has put forward well-established academic institutions and they all have strong government backing. The proposed training facilities and equipment appear to meet the RTPC requirements as do the proposed accommodation and logistical arrangements. In terms of overall costs, all proposals fall within the average cost of an RTPC.

2.5. The Committee concluded that all three proposals are of high standards and deserve further assessment through onsite inspection. The Committee confirmed that Mr Victor Luiz Do Prado and Mr Shishir Priyadarshi supported by a member of the RTPC Unit would conduct the site visits of the three shortlisted institutions.
