**High-Level Pacific Region Event on Fisheries Subsidies**

**16- 18 November 2022**

**Nadi, Fiji**

Background and rationale

The [WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN22/33.pdf&Open=True), adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022, marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies, which are a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world’s fish stocks. The Agreement represents a historic achievement for the membership as the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target to be fully met, the first SDG target met through a multilateral agreement, the first WTO agreement to focus on the environment, the first broad, binding, multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability, and only the second agreement reached at the WTO since its inception.

The WTO now has two fisheries subsidies workstreams, both of which are crucial for the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to operate effectively in disciplining fisheries subsidies. The first workstream relates to entry into force and implementation of the new Agreement. For the Agreement to enter into force, two-thirds of Members must complete their internal acceptance processes and then deposit their "instruments of acceptance" with the WTO. Then, for the new disciplines to have a real-world impact on subsidization, Members must fully implement them. The second workstream relates to the second wave of negotiations to which Members agreed, with the aim of making recommendations at MC13 for further enhancing the disciplines.

The purpose of the High-Level Pacific Regional Event on Fisheries Subsidies is to provide a detailed understanding of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and for an exchange among participating Members on the two work streams: i) entry into force and implementation; and ii) second wave negotiations. The event will commence with a two-day technical workshop for high-level trade and fisheries experts, followed by a Session with Ministers and technical experts on "The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Multilateral Trading System and Fisheries Subsidies", and conclude with a Ministerial Roundtable hosted by WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

**Agenda**

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| 16 November | |
| 9h00-10h00 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 10h00-11h00 | History of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement |
| 11h00-11h30 | Coffee Break |
| 11h30-13h00 | The disciplines – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Overfished Stocks and Other Subsidies |
| 13h00-14h00 | Lunch |
| 14h00-15h30 | The disciplines – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Overfished Stocks and Other Subsidies |
| 15h30-16h00 | Coffee break |
| 16h00 – 17h30 | Exercise |
| 17 November | |
| 9h00-10h30 | Cross-cutting issues – Notification and Transparency and Institutional Arrangements |
| 10h30-11h00 | Coffee Break |
| 11h00-12h00 | Cross-Cutting issues – Dispute settlement, Final Provisions, TACB (including the Fish Fund) |
| 12h00-13h00 | What next – Implementation and ongoing negotiations |
| 13h00-14h00 | Lunch |
| 14h00-16h00 | Group exercise/experience sharing – domestic acceptance process |
| 16h00 – 16h30 | Coffee |
| 16h30 – 17h30 | Wrap up and preparation for Ministerial |
| 18 November | |
| Morning | Debriefs, internal meetings organized by PIFS |
| 12h00-14h00 | Session with Ministers – "The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Multilateral Trading System and Fisheries Subsidies"  - remarks by [H.E Mr. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya][PIFS SG]  - remarks by WTO [DDG]  - discussion |
| 14h00-15h00 | Break |
| 15h00-17h00 | Ministerial Roundtable hosted by WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala |