ONLINE National SEMINAR for saudi arabia

on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)

14 September 2022

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM Saudi Arabia time (9:30 – 12:00 AM, CET, Geneva time)

Platform: Zoom (*link will be included in the final programme)*

# Proposed PROGRAMME (DRAFT)

[The online national seminar will be conducted in English]

## Wednesday, 14 September 2022

| Time | Title of Session | Speakers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10:30 – 10:40 (Saudi Arabia time)  09:30 – 09:40  (Geneva time) | **Opening session**   * Opening remarks by Saudi Arabia * Opening remarks and introduction of objectives of the seminar by WTO Secretariat | * Representative from Saudi Arabia * WTO Secretariat |
| 10:40 – 10:50  (Saudi Arabia time)  09:40 – 09:50  (Geneva time) | **State-of-play of the plurilateral negotiations on IFD** | * H.E. Mrs. Sofía Boza, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on IFD |
| 10:50 – 11:10  (Saudi Arabia time)  09:50 – 10:10  (Geneva time) | **Structured Discussions on IFD: Background and negotiating process**   * Importance of investment facilitation * Objectives and key milestones of the negotiations * WTO Members participating in the negotiations and negotiating process | * WTO Secretariat * Participants |
| 11:10 – 11:50  (Saudi Arabia time)  10:00 – 10:50  (Geneva time) | **Overview of the 'Easter Text' - Revision 7: Key disciplines (I)**   * Introduction and structure * Scope and key disciplines:   + Transparency; and   + streamlining administrative procedures * Q&A | * WTO Secretariat * Participants |
| 11:50 – 12:15  (Saudi Arabia time)  10:50 – 11:15  (Geneva time) | **Overview of the 'Easter Text' - Revision 7: Key disciplines (II)**   * Key disciplines:   + Focal points, domestic regulatory coherence and cross-border cooperation;   + Sustainable investment * Q&A | * WTO Secretariat * Participants |
| 12:15 – 12:45  (Saudi Arabia time)  11:15 –11:45  (Geneva time) | **Overview of the 'Easter Text' - Revision 7: Special and differential treatment**   * Special and differential Treatment (S&DT):   + S&DT Section;   + Investment facilitation needs assessment and IFD Self-assessment Guide * Work priorities and key remaining issues   • Q&A | * WTO Secretariat * Participants |
| 12:45 - 13:00  (Saudi Arabia time)  11:45 –12:00  (Geneva time) | **Concluding remarks**   * Closing remarks by WTO Secretariat * Closing remarks by Saudi Arabia | * WTO Secretariat * Representative from Saudi Arabia |

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