Review OF the operation of preferences
notified under the LDC Services Waiver

Dedicated Session of the Council for trade in services

Part I - Workshop

Facilitating the increasing participation of least-developed Countries

in trade in services

**Programme Outline**

D R A F T

The workshop is designed as an informal element of the dedicated session of the Council for Trade in Services held as part of the mandate in the Nairobi Ministerial Decision[[1]](#footnote-1) that the Council initiate a process to review the operation of preferences notified under the LDC Services Waiver.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The objective of the workshop is to allow Members and relevant stakeholders to share information related to the participation of least-developed countries (LDCs) in trade in services and the expansion of their services trade.

Participation in the workshop is open to relevant stakeholders, such as LDC services exporters (including associations); Members' development cooperation agencies; import and export promotion agencies; relevant International Organizations; regional Development Banks, and international programmes such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework.

The workshop will have the following substantive sessions:

# Session 1 LDC performance in services exports

The introductory session will provide an overview of LDC services exports. It will discuss the factors that may explain the current performance. The session aims to set the scene for the three subsequent sessions. Contributors could include academics, relevant International Organizations, as well as other experts.

# Session 2 Enhancing LDCs services export performance – what have we learnt?

In session 2, LDCs will set out their own efforts to enhance export performance (e.g. development of services policies, sectoral measures, regional integration, etc). Members' development cooperation agencies and other relevant organizations will report on their strategies, highlight certain programmes, share lessons learnt, and any best practices they have developed in this context.

# Session 3 success factors, main difficulties, and issues to address

LDC services exporters will share their experiences, describing the factors that allowed them to develop into successful exporters, highlight difficulties with regard to certain measures and markets, and set out the most important issues that need to be addressed to improve LDC participation in services trade.

# Session 4 services WAIVER preferences – what are they and how can they best be used?

After a Secretariat overview of current preferences notified under the Waiver, this session will provide insights in how these preferences have been used to date and share experiences on how to optimize their use. Contributors include LDCs (including services exporters), notifying Members and relevant International Organizations.

Organizational details

The Secretariat has been requested to coordinate the organization of the workshop.

Members are invited to inform the Secretariat about the participation of their services exporters, development agencies, or other relevant stakeholders.

The Secretariat will reach out to relevant International Organizations, regional Development Banks, and international programmes with a view to coordinating inputs.

On the basis of inputs received, the Secretariat will circulate a more detailed agenda in advance of the date of the workshop.

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1. Document WT/L/982. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Document WT/L/847. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)