**WTO advanced global Workshop on**

**the agreement on government procurement (GPA) 2012**

**28 APRIL – 2 MAY 2025**

**WTO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (ROOM E)**

**Draft Programme**

**Monday, 28 April 2025**

**08:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE**

**SESSION 1: OPENING**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 1.1 Opening remarks | Johanna Hill,  Deputy Director-General, WTO (TBC) |
| 09:15 – 09:45 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 2: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND THE OBJECTIVES AND GLOBAL POLICY CONTEXT OF THE GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:45 – 10:30 | 2.1 Government procurement: Trends and challenges for policymakers, with a particular focus on developing countries | Sue Arrowsmith,  University of Nottingham (retired) (TBC) |

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | 2.2 Introduction to the GPA 2012: The global policy context, objectives, key principles and policy considerations for developing countries | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:15– 12:00 | 2.3 The economic rationale for trade liberalization in the area of government procurement: Is government procurement different? | Roberta Piermartini,  WTO Secretariat (TBC) |

**12:00– 13:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 3: CONTENT OF THE GPA 2012: ITS RULES AND THEIR APPLICATION**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 3.1 GPA 2012 rules: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities (walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012) | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:00– 15:00 | 3.2 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their application – ***Breakout session*** | Workshop participants |

**15:00 – 15:15 Break**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:15– 15:45 | 3.3 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation – ***Breakout session*** | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 4: PANEL DISCUSSION ON CURRENT TRENDS AND TOPICAL ISSUES RELATED TO GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | 4.1 GPA 2012 – Quo vadis? Panel discussion on the past, present and future of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement | Jean Heilman Grier,  Djaghe LLC (TBC),  Robert Anderson, University of Nottingham (TBC),  WTO Secretariat |

**Tuesday, 29 April 2025**

**SESSION 5: SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE GPA 2012: POTENTIAL MARKET ACCESS BENEFITS**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 10:15 | 5.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>) | WTO Secretariat |

**10:15 – 10:30 Break**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | 5.2 Group exercise on market access under the GPA 2012 *–* ***Breakout session*** | Workshop participants |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 5.3 Introduction to the Workshop participants' simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation on market access (Negotiation simulation) *–* ***Breakout session*** | WTO Secretariat |

**12:00– 13:30 Lunch Break**

**BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**PARALLEL SESSION 6A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | 6.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country Member group preparing output | Workshop participants in the acceding country group |

**PARALLEL SESSION 6B: THE GPA 2012 AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30– 14:00 | 6.2 Good governance: Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market – The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 6.3 Good governance: Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market – more/better value for money | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:30– 15:00 | 6.4 Good governance: Preventing and addressing good governance challenges | Sope Williams,  Stellenbosch University (TBC) |

**END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**15:00 – 15:15 Break**

## SESSION 7: THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | 7.1 The CGP: The regular work of the WTO CGP and the observer status in the Committee | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | 7.2 The CGP: A conversation with the Chair of the WTO CGP | Martin Zbinden  CGP Chair (TBC) |

## SESSION 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 1)

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:15 – 16:45 | 8.1 SME participation under the GPA 2012: The Committee decision on best practices for promoting and facilitating the participation of SMEs in Government Procurement, the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |

**Wednesday, 30 April 2025**

**BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**PARALLEL SESSION 9A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | 9.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing output | Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups |

**PARALLEL SESSION 9B: THE GPA 2012 AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 9.2 Good governance: Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market – The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 9.3 Good governance: Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market – more/better value for money | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 9.4 Good governance: Preventing and addressing good governance challenges | Sope Williams,  Stellenbosch University (TBC) |

**END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

## SESSION 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 2)

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | 10.1 Notification requirements under the GPA 2012 and related Group exercise | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 10.2 E-procurement and open data under the GPA 2012 | WTO Secretariat, |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 11: ENFORCEMENT OF THE GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 13:45 | 11.1 WTO intergovernmental dispute settlement concerning disputes arising under the GPA 2012 | WTO Secretariat |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | 11.2 Requirements under the GPA 2012 concerning domestic review procedures | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | 11.3 Panel discussion on government procurement and frontier technologies | WTO Secretariat (Moderator),  Gavin Hayman,  OCP (TBC),  Albert Sanchez-Graells,  University of Bristol (TBC),  Eliza Niewiadomska,  EBRD (TBC) |

**15:00– 15:15 Break**

**SESSION 12: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 3)**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | 12.1 Sustainable public procurement (SPP) under the GPA 2012 and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | 12.2 Panel discussion on the promise and challenge of green public procurement (GPP) | Roberto Caranta, University of Turin (Moderator), (TBC)  Martin Trybus,  University of Birmingham, (TBC)  Valentina Bianchini, Sapiens Network, (TBC)  Natalia Spataru,  Sapiens Network (TBC) |

**Thursday, 1 May 2025**

**BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**PARALLEL SESSION 13A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | 13.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country group preparing output | Workshop participants in the acceding country group |

**PARALLEL SESSION 13B: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:45 | 13.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:45 – 10:30 | 13.3 Informal exchanges and experience-sharing between participants from the rest of the group and the Secretariat team | Workshop participants,  WTO Secretariat |

**10:30 – 10:45 Break**

**PARALLEL SESSION 14A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION***

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | 14.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing output | Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups preparing output |

**PARALLEL SESSION 14B: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | 14.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | 14.3 Informal exchanges and experience-sharing between participants from the rest of the group and the Secretariat team | Workshop participants,  WTO Secretariat |

**END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**12:15 – 13:45 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 15: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:45 – 14:15 | 15.1 Accession to the GPA 2012: State of play and accession procedure | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | 15.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: A perspective from the EBRD GPA TC Facility, practical and strategic considerations | Eliza Niewiadomska,  EBRD (TBC) |

**14:45 – 15:00 Break**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | 15.3 Accession to the GPA 2012: Panel discussion on building domestic support for domestic procurement reform and export market access | WTO Secretariat (Moderator),  Selected workshop participants to participate as panelists |

**Friday, 2 May 2025**

**SESSION 16: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 16.1 Negotiation simulation: Debriefing | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 17:** **THE GPA 2012 AND FTA NEGOTIATIONS**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | 17.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:40 – 10:45 | 17.2 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 and FTAs and debriefing | Workshop participants |

**10:45 – 11:00 Break**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | 17.3 Panel discussion on issues and practices around FTA negotiations | WTO Secretariat (moderator),  Representative of EFTA (TBC),  A workshop participant to participate as a panelist (TBC) |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 18: LOCAL CASE STUDY**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 14:15 | 18.1 "The GPA in action" - Local (Geneva-related) case study | Local expert | |

**SESSION 19: CONCLUDING SESSION**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:15 – 15:00 | 19.1 General Q&A session (covering the whole Workshop) | Workshop participants |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 19.2 Workshop evaluation and feedback/comments | Workshop participants |
| 15:30 – 15:35 | 19.3 Closing remarks | Reto Malacrida  WTO Secretariat |

**15:35 CLOSE**