

WTO ADVANCED COURSE ON TRADE IN SERVICES

18-22 SEPTEMBER 2023

ROOM E

Draft Programme

Monday 18 September 2023

9.00 – 12.30

14.00 – 17.00

Opening Session

Session 1: Major Trends in World Services Trade

- Economic importance of services and services trade
- "Servicification"
- Main players in world services trade
- Trade by sector and mode
- Conditions for trade in services

Session 2: Regional Trade Agreements on Services

- GATS provisions on RTAs
- Trends in RTAs: architecture & modalities, market access, rules
- Architecture issues in recent RTAs
- Implications of RTAs and key differences with preferential agreements on goods

Tuesday 19 September 2023

9.00 – 12.30

14.00 – 17.00

Participant-led Review - Group I

Session 3: Mode 4

- Coverage of Mode 4
- Mode 4 commitments in the GATS
- Movement of Persons in FTAs – in search of value added

Session 4: State-of-play of discussions on Environmental Services

- Overview of recent work in the CTS in Special Session and in the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD)
- Challenges related to the definition and scope of the sector
- Classification issues
- Linkages to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Agenda

Session 5: Tackling Regulatory Barriers to Trade in Services – Negotiations on Domestic Regulation

- The GATS and Regulation
 - The relationship between Articles XVI, XVII, XVIII and Article VI
 - Existing regulatory disciplines - Obligations in Article VI:1-3 & 6
- Domestic Regulation Negotiations
 - The mandate in Art VI:4 & provisional application of Article VI:5
 - Negotiations of the Accountancy Disciplines (S/L/64)
 - Negotiations in the Working Party on Domestic Regulation
 - The Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation
 - The Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation

Wednesday 20 September 2023

9.00 – 12.30

14.00 – 17.00

Participant-led Review - Group II

Session 6: E-Commerce, digital services, and the GATS

- Trends in digital connectivity, enabling services (ICT) and enabled services
- E-commerce in the context of the GATS
- WTO workstreams on e-commerce
- Services aspects of e-commerce in RTAs

Session 7: Analysing Trade in Services

- Services Trade Restrictiveness Indices
- Joint WB-WTO work on services trade regulations
- I-TIP services
- Other analytical tools

Thursday 21 September 2023

9.00 – 12.30

14.00 – 17.00

Participant-led Review - Group III

Session 8: Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development

- The link between trade and investment
- Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)
 - Background, objectives and state-of-play of the negotiations on IFD
 - The negotiating text ('Draft IFD Agreement'): structure, scope, main disciplines
 - Special and differential treatment and IF Needs Assessment Guide

Session 9: Measuring Trade in Services

- Conceptual framework
- Statistical databases
- Digital trade

Round table discussion TBC

Friday 22 September 2023
9.00 – 12.30
14.00 – 17.00

Participant-led Review - Group IV

Session 10: Trade in services and health

- Trade in services and COVID-19
- Health- related services trade to deal with gaps in national health systems
- Role of trade in services in medical goods GVCs

Group Evaluation of the Course

Closing Ceremony and Distribution of Certificates
