

**WTO ADVANCED COURSE ON TRADE IN SERVICES**

**16-20 SEPTEMBER 2024  
ROOM E**

**Draft Programme**

**Monday 16 September 2024**

**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

**Session 2: Mode 4**

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

**Session 3: Review of Main GATS Provisions**

- Objectives, structure, scope of application
- Key obligations and disciplines under the GATS
- Exception clauses (General Exceptions and the Financial Carve-out)

Tuesday 17 September 2024

**Session 4: Overview of Classification and Scheduling Issues**

- Services classification systems
- Role of classification under the GATS
- WTO jurisprudence on classification and scope of commitments
- Scheduling approaches
- Scheduling and regulatory measures
- WTO jurisprudence on scheduling
- Practical exercises on classification and scheduling

**Session 5: From the GATS to RTAs**

- GATS Article V on Economic Integration Agreements
- Key trends in services RTAs
- Main differences between GATS and RTA: architecture and listing approaches
- Implications of services RTAs

Wednesday 18 September 2024

**Session 6: Services Domestic Regulation – Tackling Regulatory Barriers to Trade in Services**

- The GATS and Regulatory Measures
  - The relationship between GATS Articles XVI, XVII, XVIII and Article VI
  - Existing regulatory obligations in GATS Article VI:1-3 & 6
  
- Disciplines on Services Domestic Regulation
  - Negotiations pursuant to the mandate in GATS Article 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 – evolution of the negotiations & state of play
  - The Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation
    - Disciplines on transparency, legal predictability, and regulatory quality and facilitation
    - Flexibilities for implementation
    - Modalities for integration into the WTO legal architecture

**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 19 September 2024

**Session 8: 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
- The moratorium on electronic commerce
- E-commerce and digital trade rules in Preferential Trade Agreements

**Session 9: Measuring Trade in Services**

- Conceptual framework
- Statistical databases
- Measuring Digital Trade - statistical approaches

Friday 20 September 2024

**Session 10: Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development**

- Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)
  - Background, objectives and participants in the IFD negotiations
  - Finalization of the IFD Agreement text: structure, scope and main disciplines
  - Special and differential treatment and IF Needs Assessments
  - Work plan for the upcoming months – next steps

**Group Evaluation of the Course**

**Closing Ceremony and Distribution of Certificates**

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