



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA) 2012

Dili, Timor-Leste

2-5 June 2025

DRAFT PROGRAMME

This Workshop is organized by the WTO Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre and the government of Timor-Leste. The programme of the Workshop has been designed by the WTO Secretariat with input from the government of Timor-Leste. It aims at facilitating the understanding of the GPA 2012 by familiarizing participants with the main elements and the principles of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) 2012. Particular importance will be attached to the accession procedure and negotiations, special and differential treatment that can in principle be negotiated as well as potential benefits and challenges associated with being a party to the GPA 2012. Participants will also have the opportunity to actively engage in the simulation of a market access negotiation, mirroring a real GPA accession negotiation. At the end of the Workshop, the participants will have improved their knowledge and practical skills to meaningfully drive forward Timor-Leste's GPA accession negotiations.

The Workshop will be held in English.

Day 1, Monday, 2 June 2025

08:30 Registration

SESSION 1: Opening remarks and participant introduction

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:15	1.1 Opening remarks	Representative of Timor-Leste, WTO Secretariat
09:15 – 09:30	1.2 Participant introductions and objectives	Participants
09:30 – 09:45	1.3 Timor-Leste's accession to the WTO and its related commitment to submit an application for membership with a coverage offer within one year following its accession to the WTO: Background, domestic context and recent developments	Representative of Timor-Leste

SESSION 2: Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:45 – 10:15	2.1 Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main objectives, plurilateral nature, signatories and observers, and recent developments	WTO Secretariat
10:15 – 10:55	2.2 The GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities (Walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012)	WTO Secretariat

10:55 – 11:10 Break

SESSION 3: Scope and coverage of the GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
11:10 – 12:15	3.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012, and use of the e-GPA tool (https://e-gpa.wto.org)	WTO Secretariat

12:15 – 13:45 Lunch Break

SESSION 4: Special and differential treatment for least-developed country WTO Members acceding to the GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:45 – 14:30	4.1 Transitional measures and deferred application: Overview and operation of Article V of the GPA 2012	WTO Secretariat
14:30 – 14:45	4.2 General discussion	

SESSION 5: Introduction to the simulation exercise on negotiating market access in the context of GPA 2012 accession negotiations

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
14:45 – 15:15	5.1 Introduction, instructions and formation of Groups	WTO Secretariat

15:15 – 15:30 Break

Beginning of parallel sessions

SESSION 6A: Simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation for the acceding country group – Part 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:30 – 17:30	6A.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country group preparing its output	ONLY Workshop participants in the acceding country group

SESSION 6B: Accession to the GPA 2012: Strategic considerations

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:30 – 17:15	6B.1 Negotiating accession to the GPA 2012: Strategy mapping and navigating the process https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_d0qCvfNQJO	WTO Secretariat (interactive session with the participants not preparing negotiation output)

17:15/17:30 Close

Day 2, Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Beginning of parallel sessions

SESSION 7A: Simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation for the GPA Party Group – Part 1

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:45	7A.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing its/their output	ONLY Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups

SESSION 7B: Accession to the GPA 2012: Strategic considerations

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:45	7B.1 Negotiating accession to the GPA 2012: Strategy mapping and navigating the process https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0qCvfNQJQ	WTO Secretariat (interactive session with the participants not preparing negotiation output)

End of parallel sessions

10:45 – 11:00 Break

SESSION 8: Accession to the GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
11:00 – 11:30	8.1 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges	WTO Secretariat
11:30 – 12:10	8.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Recent developments, overview of the procedure and institutional aspects (WTO Committee on Government Procurement as a negotiating forum, Committee sessions on accessions and intersessional engagement)	WTO Secretariat
12:10 – 12:30	8.3 General discussion	

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

SESSION 9: ITC intervention

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
14:00 – 14:45	TBC	International Trade Centre

14:45 – 15:00 Break

Beginning of parallel sessions

SESSION 10A: Simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation for the acceding country group – Part 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:00 – 17:00	10A.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country group preparing its output	ONLY Workshop participants in the acceding country group

SESSION 10B: The GPA 2012, good governance in government procurement and SME participation

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:00 – 15:30	10B.1 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
15:30 – 16:00	10B.2 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat
16:00 – 16:30	10B.3 SME participation under the GPA 2012 and the Committee decision on best practices for promoting and facilitating the participation of SMEs in government procurement	WTO Secretariat

16:30/17:00

Close

Day 3, Wednesday, 4 June 2025

Beginning of parallel sessions

SESSION 11A: Simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation for the GPA Party Group – Part 2

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:30	11A.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing its/their output	ONLY Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups

SESSION 11B: The GPA 2012, good governance in government procurement and SME participation

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:30	11B.1 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
09:30 – 10:00	11B.2 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat
10:00 – 10:30	11B.3 SME participation under the GPA 2012 and the Committee decision on best practices for promoting and facilitating the participation of SMEs in government procurement	WTO Secretariat

End of parallel sessions

10:30 – 10:45 Break

SESSION 12: Alignment of domestic government procurement rules with the GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:45 – 11:15	12.1 Review of the domestic legislation and the Checklist of Issues: What information needs to be provided by the acceding candidate?	WTO Secretariat
11:15 – 12:45	12.2 Domestic rules vis-à-vis GPA 2012 requirements: Gap analysis – Breakout session	Participants, with introduction by the WTO Secretariat

12:45 – 14:15 Lunch Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
14:15 – 14:45	12.3 Plenary discussion of the breakout session	WTO Secretariat and International Trade Centre with workshop participants

SESSION 13: Conclusion of market access negotiation simulation

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
14:45 – 15:45	13.1 Negotiation simulation: Debriefing and key lessons learned	WTO Secretariat with workshop participants

15:45 – 16:00 **Break**

SESSION 14: Closing session

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
16:00 – 16:30	14.1 Main take-aways from the Workshop	WTO Secretariat and workshop participants
16:30 – 16:45	14.2 Participants' evaluation of the Workshop, feedback and comments	WTO Secretariat and workshop participants
16:45 – 17:00	14.2 Closing remarks	Representative of Timor-Leste, WTO Secretariat

17:00 **Close**

Day 4, Thursday, 5 June 2025

Proposal by the WTO Secretariat for Day 4

Small group meetings of the WTO Secretariat with selected representatives of Timor-Leste (e.g. representatives of the core negotiating team, representatives of certain Ministries, etc.)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Participants</u>
9:00 – 17:00	<p>After the general three-day introduction and simulation exercises, rather than adding a fourth day of training for all participants, it may be productive to plan a few small-group meetings with selected representatives of Timor-Leste to discuss specific aspects of the GPA accession, the preparation of the market access offer, etc. This could be with the negotiating team, representatives of specific Ministries or other procuring entities, representatives of other branches of Government or their staff, etc.</p> <p>Timor-Leste would be best placed to determine with which representatives small-group meetings would be most useful.</p>	TBD