

TS4D CONFERENCE

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 25 November

Room CR

15h00-16h30 High level opening session

Panel:

- WTO DG
- Minister – UK - TBC
- High Level Private Sector Representative
- Minister of Developing Country
- WBG VP - TBC

Description: This would be Davos style format. The DG would open the Conference at the lectern, and a discussion with the panel would ensue, moderated by an external consultant or a Secretariat official. The opening statement would permit to underscore the growing significance of trade in services, communicate the key objectives of the Initiative and of the Conference, and highlight key deliverables.

The panel session would allow panellist to exchange on the development premium of services trade, developing country challenges and needs, how international cooperation and TS4D can provide solutions.

16h30 – 18h00 Launch of the TS4D Platform and of the Trade in Services Competitiveness Checklist

- Moderator: DDG Hill
- Presentation of the joint platform, and future plans: WTO
- Presentation of the Competitiveness Checklist and demo of the dashboard
- Panel discussion on the value and future use of the checklist:
 - Government officials of developing countries
 - Representative of regional IO or DevBank or WEF
 - Private sector representative [USCSI]

Q&A

Description: Representatives of the WTO Secretariat and World Bank would present the platform and the competitiveness checklist. This would be followed by a Davos-style discussion moderated by DDG Hill, where government and private sector representatives would discuss the importance of mainstreaming services trade in development strategies and the contribution of the checklist in that regard.

Reception – Sponsored by [...]

Wednesday 26 November

Room D

10h00 – 11h00 Handbook on Good Regulatory Practice for Services Markets as an assistance tool for developing countries interested in reforming authorization frameworks for business.

- Moderator: DDG Hill
- Presenters: Markus Jelitto (WTO) and Roberto Echandi (WBG)
- Panellists:
 - 2 representatives from developing countries (e.g., Morocco, Thailand, Costa Rica).
 - Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute

Q&A

Description: Representatives of the World Bank and WTO Secretariat would present the handbook and self-assessment tool from the lectern, with the use of power point as appropriate. Panel discussion would focus the role of good regulatory practices in supporting services-led development and growth, and on the use of the tool in technical assistance to developing countries.

11h00-12h00 Session on the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD) and Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI)

- Moderator: Representative of a Member [Canada]
- Presentation by WTO and WBG
- Panellists:
 - 2 representatives from developing countries (e.g., Philippines or Mongolia)
 - 1 representative from regional IO or DevBank

Q&A

Description: This session would underscore the latest improvements in the coverage of the STPD and STRI, and underscore key trends in the evolution of services trade policies and implications. The session would explain how the collection of services regulatory information is important to improve transparency for trade in services policy making and national reforms. The panel discussion would explore how the STPD and STRI could be used to support governments in their trade policy making and national reforms. It would also present how this work can be used in future assistance to developing countries.

12h00 – 13h00 Session on services statistics – state of play, needs and future assistance

- Moderator: representative of a Member (e.g., UK).
- Presentation: Barbara D'Andrea (ERSD), WTO
- Panellists:
 - 2 developing countries that improved their statistics, sharing experiences.
 - UNSD

Q&A

Description: This session would highlight the importance of trade in services statistics for informed decision making and research. An initial presentation would provide a brief overview of the current availability of data (UNCTAD-WTO joint trade in services statistics dataset and the WTO Global services statistics hub: TiSMoS, BaTiS, digitally delivered services) and outline the necessity to further develop trade in services statistics in developing countries.

The panel would discuss technical assistance and capacity building needs, showcase recent progress made and best practices, and describe the support provided through the United Nations Task Team on Trade Statistics. This would be followed by a discussion on plans to improve trade in services statistics and the further support needed.

[Lunch session with donors, with participation of Dr Ngozi and WBG.]

15h00 – 16h30 Session on the joint study on export promotion in services

- Chair and commentator: Pamela Coke-Hamilton, ITC
- Presentation of overall findings, best practices, and recommendations: WTO, WB, UNECLAC
- Illustrations of different case studies – Q&A with various authors, intervening remotely. [AfB, ADB, IADB...]

Q&A

Objective: presentation of the study. Invite delegations and others to submit comments on drafts made available on the platform. Discuss how this can form part of future assistance by IOs.

16h30-18h00 Concluding Session

Academic Intermezzo – Services as Pathway for Development (16h30 – 17h30)

- Richard Baldwin – IMM
- Dani Rodrik – Harvard University?
- Bernard Hoekman – EUI
- Moderator: DDG Hill/DG

Q&A

Taking Stock and Way forward (17h30 – 18h00)

- Moderator: Pierre Sauvé
- WTO: DDG Hill
- WBG
- IADB: Anabel Gonzalez
- AfDB
- AsDB
- Others, depending on level of representation (ITC, UNECLAC)

[POSSIBLE EXTRA-HALF DAY, WITH SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND IOs, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR]

[The above programme permits achieving key objectives in relation to the initiative, touching on all components of the joint TS4D Work Programme announced at the Public Forum and presenting key deliverables (study on export promotion strategies; domestic regulation handbook; competitiveness checklist; and TS4D platform).

Some IOs and Members would take part in certain sessions, but these would essentially be led by the WB and/or the WBG to present elements of the joint work programme. Should it be useful to provide Members with greater ownership of, and participation in, the conference, an additional half-day could be considered in order to hold sessions proposed and organized by delegations. Such sessions would have to relate to topics in relation to Trade in Services for Development.

Under the latter scenario, regional development banks and IOs could also be allowed to propose and organize sessions. This would help ensure their presence in the event and greater engagement and cooperation under Trade in Services for Development.

Some of those sessions could be held in parallel, if necessary]

HIGH-LEVEL COURSE ON LEVERAGING TRADE IN SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Focus and Objectives:

The course would primarily target higher level officials from developing countries, with impact on domestic decision-making regarding trade policy orientations and development assistance priorities in relation to trade. Selected candidates would be from countries that have interest to leverage trade in services for development and to obtain capacity-building and technical assistance in the context of the Trade in Services for Development initiative.

Day 1

9h00 – 10h00 Recent Trends in Services Trade – WTO & WBG

Discussion on the contribution of trade in services and trade in services policies for growth and development. Overview of recent trends in services trade and policies.

10h00 – 11h30 Services Trade and Development in Participating Members

Presentations by participants of their objectives and plans with respect to trade in services and related policies in their country.

11h30 – 13h00 Services Regulatory Data, Commitments and Quantification of Services Trade Policies – WBG and WTO

- I-TIP Services joint World Bank-WTO project
- World Bank-WTO Survey on Impediments to Services Trade
- Quantification of services trade policies: purpose, rationale and interpretation. Use of the STRI: trade cost modelling and simulations
- STRI dashboard
- Interactive demonstration of use of the STPD and STRI.

LUNCH

15h00 – 17h00 Trade in Services Competitiveness Checklist – WB and WTO

- Demonstration of the checklist and of its use in the elaboration of overarching objectives of a national services trade policy.

17h00 – 18h00 Transparency exercise – WTO and WBG

- Description of this component of the TS4D work programme: process, use of regulatory surveys and STPD, impact, and possible uses.

Day 2

- 9h30 – 11h30 Services Domestic Regulation: using the WBG-WTO handbook to inform discussions at domestic and international levels.
- Presentation of selected good regulatory practices for services markets and related self-assessment tool;
 - In-depth demonstration of the self-assessment tool, highlighting its role in identifying capacity-building needs.
- 11h30 – 12h30 Trade in Services Statistics – WTO – ECLAC - UNCTAD
- What trade in services statistics for policy making?
 - Demonstration of statistical databases available

LUNCH

- 14h30 – 17h30 Exchanges between Participating Members on their Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Plans
- Focused discussions with participating governments to establish plans of assistance in function of where TS4D components coincide with national objectives and interests.