



**WTO-UGANDA NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON WTO REFORMS
11 – 13 JUNE 2019, VENUE: TBC**

TIME	
Tuesday 11 June 2019	
08:00-08:30	Arrival of participants and registration
08:30-09:30	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Remarks: WTO Secretariat • Opening Remarks by the host country: Ag. Permanent Secretary, Eng. Samuel Ssenkungu
09:30-09:45	Photo session
09:45-11:00	Session 1: General Overview and State of Play in on-going work This session will provide a broad overview of the state of play in the on-going work amongst Members – negotiating work; work amongst groups of Members (Joint Initiatives) and a general overview of the discussions on systemic issues and concerns Moderator: TBC Presenter: WTO Secretariat Discussant: TBC
11:00-11:30	Q&A Session
11:30-11:45	Coffee break

11:50-12:45	<p>Session 2: Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness of the WTO Monitoring Function</p> <p>Monitoring the implementation, administration and operation of existing agreements is central to a well-functioning rules-based trading system. Transparency and notification requirements constitute fundamental elements of many WTO agreements and a properly functioning system and thus Members' obligations. Transparency has a systemic importance, as it allows the monitoring of Members' trade measures and practices, and of their impact on the multilateral trading system. This session will highlight the proposals and discussions on improving notifications and transparency of domestic measures; improving capacity and opportunity for deliberation and improving opportunities and mechanisms to address specific trade concerns.</p> <p>Moderator: TBC Presenter: WTO Secretariat Panelists/Discussants: TBC</p>
12:45-13:15	Q&A Session
13:15-14:15	Lunch break
TIME	SESSION
14:15-16:30	<p>Session 3: Safeguarding and Strengthening the Dispute Settlement System</p> <p>WTO is currently facing an unprecedented institutional challenge, especially about its dispute settlement functioning, and concerns have been raised in particular about the functioning of the Appellate Body. The impasse over the appointment of Appellate Body members threatens to bring the whole dispute settlement system to a halt. Resolving this and restoring the Appellate Body to its full membership will require addressing concerns raised about the functioning of the Appellate Body and perhaps even about perceived imbalances in the rights and obligations of Members. Members are engaged in trying to unblock this situation. Several proposals have been tabled and discussed. This session will provide an opportunity to the participants to examine the functioning of the DSB and the elements being suggested to strengthen it.</p> <p>Moderator: TBC Presenter: WTO Secretariat Panelists/Discussants:</p>
16:15-16:30	Q&A Session
End of Day 1	
Wednesday 12th June, 2019	

09:00-10:00	<p>Session 4: Rulemaking and Negotiations</p> <p>For some years, many Members have been highlighting the need for updating existing rule book of the WTO. The WTO's negotiating function has also come under scrutiny as Members have failed to advance the Doha Round. The view has been expressed that ageing trade rules need to be urgently updated to respond to the needs of the modern global economy. It has also been suggested that alternative approaches to co-operation and rule-making may be required and that while multilateralism is paramount, some feel there should be flexibility to pursue initiatives as they wish. Others argue for the need to –reflect the realities of a WTO membership with increasing diverse needs and levels of development. This session will discuss different elements of the proposals and ideas being floated.</p> <p>Moderator: TBC Presenters: WTO Secretariat Panelists/Discussants:</p>
10:00-10:30	Q&A Session
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:15	<p>Session 5: Developmental Perspectives on WTO Reform</p> <p>Members with different levels of development have different capacities to engage in trade and take on new commitments. While these differences need to be accommodated in a way that strikes a balance between reciprocity and flexibility, disagreements over how to achieve this has become one of the most intractable barriers to progress in negotiations over new multilateral rules. Some hold the view that the realities of today are not reflected in the on-going discussions, while some believe that special and differential treatment is important to provide all developing countries with the flexibility and policy space needed for their economic development. This session will highlight the recent proposals, ideas and discussions on the question of trade and development.</p> <p>Moderator: TBC Presenter: WTO Secretariat Panelists/Discussants:</p>
12.00-12:45	Q&A Session
13:00-14.00	Lunch Break
End of Day two	
Thursday 13th June, 2019	

9:00-12:30	<p>Session 6: Deliberation on Uganda’s perspective on WTO Reform by Participants - Closed Session.</p> <p>This session will provide the opportunity for IITC & NTNT members to have a closed-door deliberation on the themes that have been highlighted and to discuss the way forward on WTO reform. The facilitators for each theme will present the recommendations for validation and national ownership.</p> <p>Moderator: TBD Facilitators for each theme: TBD</p>
12:30- 01:00	Closing Ceremony and Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTO Representative • MTIC
01:10	Lunch/ End of the workshop