

Training on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

* Language: English
* Format: 3 sessions of 2 h each, on non-consecutive days; reading materials to be distributed beforehand
* Platform: Zoom (facilitated by ECOWAS)
* Target Audience: ECOWAS Institutions and Specialized Agencies; Geneva-based delegates as well as Ambassadors from Geneva and Brussels.
* A questionnaire/self-assessment will be circulated together with the programme to allow prospective participants to indicate their level of prior knowledge, their area of expertise, and their main interests from the session.
* Objectives:
	+ Familiarize participants with major trends in services trade;
	+ Enhance understanding of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), as a template agreement used also in the context of regional integration;
	+ Sensitize participants of the links between e—commerce and services trade, and relevant regional integration agreements on trade in services.

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Programme

Thursday, 27 August 2020, 10:00 – 12:00 (GMT)

Resource person: *Ms Antonia Carzaniga*

* Major trends in world services trade
* Overview of the GATS architecture, main purpose and obligations
* GATS presence of persons and interface with discussions on Movement of Business Persons
* Q&A

Tuesday, 1 September 2020, 10:00 – 12:00 (GMT)

Resource person: *Ms Ruosi Zhang*

* Main obligations of the GATS – Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment, Market Access, National Treatment
* Scheduling of Commitments
* Scheduling exercises (homework)
* Q&A

Thursday, 3 September 2020, 10:00 – 12:00 (GMT)

Resource Persons: *Mr Martin Roy/Ms Ruosi Zhang*

* Resolution of scheduling exercises
* Services Regional Trade Agreements, with a focus on the African context
* The link between E-Commerce and trade in services
* Q&A

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