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| To: | Heads of Delegation  WTO Members and Observers |  |  |
| From: | Bridget Chilala  Director  Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation | Date: | 26/04/2021 |
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# WTO TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE VIRTUAL roundtable FOR OFFICIALS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN REGION

# 27 MAY 2021

## (10:00 – 13:00 GENEVA TIME/CET)

Dear Ambassador,

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a **virtual roundtable on Technical Barriers to Trade for Officials from English-speaking African Region**. The workshop will be delivered via **Zoom platform**.

The workshop will be held **virtually on 27 May 2021, from 10:00 – 13:00 Geneva time /Central European Time).** An indicative draft programme of the dialogue is attached.

The aim of this virtual roundtable is twofold. First, it is aimed at providing an opportunity for an in-depth discussion on issues currently being discussed in the TBT Committee on standards and regulations, including in thematic session mode. This will include, for example, the upcoming ninth triennial review, the debate the Committee recently had on the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing discussions on conformity assessment procedures and transparency – and the use of enhanced online tools (ePing, eAgenda, IMS, etc). Second, this roundtable should help the WTO Secretariat better prepare for a face-to-face regional event when such an event is possible.

The WTO Secretariat will carry out a selection process based on submitted applications aimed at ensuring that qualified candidates participate in this regional virtual roundtable. Your Government is invited to nominate capital-based officials to participate.

[this should come out for online: The attached application form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the nominating national authority, **through the Permanent Mission to the WTO,** **to the Logistics Unit, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO, by E-mail:** [**logistics.unit@wto.org**](mailto:logistics.unit@wto.org)**, NOT LATER THAN XXXXXXXX**.]

Please note that the WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel the activity in the event of overriding circumstances beyond its control.

**Draft Programme[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Virtual REgional Roundtable:

Standards, Regulations and Quality (TBT)

Officials from English-Speaking African Region

Zoom Link Here:

10:00 – 13:00 Geneva CET Time

10:00 **Brief introduction: Purpose and Overview of Dialogue**

10:10 **Standards and regulations at the WTO: Overview of current issues**

* De-briefing on last TBT Committee meeting
* What is next?

10:40 **Quality Infrastructure in Africa**

* Speakers from relevant regional organizations
* Discussions at the TBT Committee (thematic sessions, work on guidelines, etc)

11:20 **Health and Trade: standards and regulations for Africa's Covid-19 response**

* Speakers from relevant regional organizations
* Discussions at the TBT Committee (notifications and national experiences)

12:00 **Transparency**

* Overview of TBT Committee recommendations on transparency (old and news)
* Tools to help Members coordinate with stakeholders (ePing, eAgenda, IMS, etc)

12:30 **Closing discussion**

* Next round table
* Possible follow-up face-to-face event

1. This programme is preliminary. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)