



**DRAFT PROGRAM OF PIFS-WTO-CSSO REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR
THE 12TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC12)**

19 & 21 October 2021

Time: 7am – 10am Geneva time

Format: Virtual Mode

The PIFS-WTO-CSSO Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Pacific on the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) will be held virtually on 19 October and 21 October 2021. This Workshop is co-organised jointly by the WTO, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat Small States Office (CSSO) in Geneva. This collaboration is part of the agreed activities under the Memorandum of Understanding between the PIFS and the WTO signed on 22 May 2018. The MC12 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 30 November – 3 December 2021.

For questions and inquiries on the PIFS-WTO-CSSO Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Pacific on the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, please contact co-coordinators:

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- Ms Kim Kampel, Trade Adviser, Commonwealth Small States Office, Geneva (Tel: +41 22 730 1720; email: k.kampel@commonwealth.int)



BACKGROUND

The PIFS-WTO-CSSO Regional Preparatory Workshop for MC12 will be held prior to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) under the title of "Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)". The Workshop will be held in virtual mode.

The Workshop is intended to provide an opportunity for senior and middle level government officials to consider the WTO's preparations for MC12, the key issues under negotiations, the challenges confronting the Multilateral Trading System requiring WTO reforms, recent developments in the global economy including the impact of COVID 19, and the joint statement initiatives.

Objective: To facilitate an understanding of and conversation among senior trade officials (Director-level officials in charge of WTO issues) about the key negotiating issues in the lead-up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference that will be held in Geneva.

Approach: The Workshop is focused as a Regional Preparatory Workshop for MC12 to help senior capital-based officials in charge of the WTO better understand the current state of play on key issues under discussions in the WTO and facilitate a discussion among the participants with potential MC12 agenda in mind. The Workshop would be dedicated to the possible deliverables for MC12 and give the participant tangible input in their preparation for MC12. The Workshop would also provide the opportunity to weave in messages about the importance of sustaining and improving the rules-based multilateral trading system, and of preserving the WTO's centrality especially in light of trade disruptions caused by COVID 19.

Structure: The Workshop would take a hybrid approach of having the WTO Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat deliver a basic overview of the key proposals, positions and sticking points with respect to the likely deliverables for MC12, followed by one or more discussant-speaker who offers their view. An interactive/question-and-answer session could follow. These sessions would focus on the key areas under negotiations and priorities of the Pacific WTO Members. These topics would focus on Fisheries Subsidies, Agriculture, WTO Response to COVID 19, Joint Statement Development, WTO Reforms and the Joint Statement Initiatives and the new Trade and Environment initiatives. Each of these topics should cover development-related elements. The PIFS Secretariat would prepare a summary point from the presentations to be circulated to the participants, which they could then use as preparatory documents for MC12.

Timing and venue: 19 and 21 October 2021, Virtual

Target Audience: The target audience will be senior trade officials (Director-level in charge of WTO issues) and other relevant senior Officials from the 6 PIFS WTO Members (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu), including some invited speaker-participants. Four participants per Pacific Member country are invited to participate. Two participants should be drawn from Ministries of Trade and others could be drawn from the Ministries of Fisheries, Agriculture and Commerce.

Areas of coverage/Key topics: Fisheries Subsidies; Agriculture; Development issues and Special and differential treatment; WTO Reforms, COVID 19 Response and Joint Statement Initiatives (E-Commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development, Services Domestic Regulations, MSMEs) and the Trade and Environment Initiatives.

Proposed Programme Outline and Possible Speakers:



DRAFT PROGRAM

Tuesday 19 October 2021

07H00	Brief Welcome
07H00 – 07H15	Opening Session (5 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks: Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)• Opening remarks: Representative of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)• Opening remarks: Representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat (CSSO)
07H15 – 07H45	Session 1: Overview of Preparations for MC12 – Process and Expected Outcomes (30mins) <p><i>This Session would provide an overview of the preparations for MC12 including the process and expected outcomes.</i></p> <p>Moderator: CSSO</p> <p>Speaker: PIFS Geneva</p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
07H45 – 08H45	Session 2: Fisheries Subsidies and Discussion (60mins) <p><i>This Session would provide the state of play on the fisheries subsidies negotiation and the key elements that need to be addressed to conclude the negotiation before MC12.</i></p> <p>Moderator: PIFS</p> <p>Speaker: CSSO</p> <p><u>Discussant:</u></p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
08H45 – 09H30	Session 3: Agriculture and Discussion (45 mins) <p><i>This Session would present an update on the negotiations on Agriculture and the key elements where decisions need to be reached at MC12. The presentation will focus on the Draft Chair's Text for MC12.</i></p> <p>Moderator: CSSO</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Edwini Kessie, WTO Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division & Head of the WTO Delivery Unit</p> <p><u>Discussant:</u></p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
09H30 – 10H00	Session 4: WTO Response to COVID 19 and Discussion (incl. TRIPS Waiver) (30mins)



The Commonwealth

	<p><i>This Session would provide a briefing on the state of play of discussions on WTO's response to COVID 19 and future pandemics including an update on discussions on the TRIPS Waiver proposal.</i></p> <p>Moderator: PIFS</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Edwini Kessie, WTO Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division & Head of the WTO Delivery Unit</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
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Thursday 21 October 2021

07H00	Brief Welcome
07H00 – 08H00	<p>Session 5: Joint Statement Initiatives and Discussion (JSIs) – (60 mins)</p> <p><i>This Session would provide an update on discussions in the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs) and the expected outcomes for MC12. The Session will focus on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-commerce • Investment Facilitation for Development • Others – MSMEs, Services Domestic Regulation <p>Moderator: PIFS</p> <p>Speaker: CSSO</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
08H00 – 08H45	<p>Session 6: Trade and Environment Initiatives and Discussion (45mins)</p> <p><i>This Session would present an overview on discussions on the Trade and Environment Initiatives. These include the structure discussions on trade and environment sustainability, as well as other initiatives such as plastic pollution and fossil fuel subsidies.</i></p> <p>Moderator: PIFS</p> <p>Speaker: CSSO</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
08H45 – 09H15	Session 7: Development and Discussion (30mins)



	<p><i>This Session would provide an update on discussions on Development based on the G90 Special and Differential Treatment proposals and expectations for MC12.</i></p> <p>Moderator: PIFS</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Edwini Kessie, WTO Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division & Head of the WTO Delivery Unit</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
09H15 – 09H45	<p>Session 8: Proposed WTO Reforms and Discussion (30mins)</p> <p><i>This Session would present an update on discussions on WTO Reforms focusing on the proposed areas for the reforms and the expectations for MC12.</i></p> <p>Moderator: CSSO</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Edwini Kessie, WTO Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division & Head of the WTO Delivery Unit</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u></p> <p><i>Open discussions to follow.</i></p>
09H45 – 10H00	<p>Closing – WTO, CSSO and PIFS (15mins)</p>