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wto – comesa workshop

"regulatory frameworks for services sectors"

6 – 8 december 2022

Programme

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| *Day 1 - 6 December 2022* |
| **Introduction to the workshop*** Programme and objectives
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| **Update on AfCFTA negotiations on sectoral regulatory frameworks (to be confirmed)** |
| **Market access and regulatory commitments – Two complementary tools to facilitate services trade*** Rationale and objectives of regulatory provisions in services agreements
* Scope of application of regulatory commitments: horizontal vs sectoral obligations
* The role of good regulatory practice in services markets
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| **Horizontal regulatory commitments (part 1)*** Regulatory obligations contained in the GATS
* GATS Article VI:4 mandate and the multilateral negotiations on domestic regulation
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| *Day 2 - 7 December* |
| **Horizontal regulatory commitments (part 2)*** The 2021 WTO plurilateral outcome on services domestic regulation
* Disciplines on transparency, legal predictability, and regulatory quality and facilitation
* Flexibilities for implementation
* Modalities for entry into force
* The regional experience (COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA)
* Overview of horizontal regulatory commitments in "new generation" trade agreements
 |
| **Sectoral regulatory commitments – Telecommunication sector*** WTO Reference Paper on Basic Telecommunications
* The regional experience (COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA)
* Overview of obligations in other regional trade agreements
 |
| **Sectoral regulatory commitments – Financial services sector** * WTO Annex on financial services
* The regional experience (COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA)
* Overview of obligations in other regional trade agreements
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| ***Day 3 – 8 December 2022*** |
| **Regulatory commitments for Mode 4*** WTO Annex on movement of natural persons
* The regional experience (COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA)
* Overview of obligations in other regional trade agreements
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| **Sectoral regulatory commitments – Other services sectors*** Computer Services, Postal and Courier Services, Maritime transport services, and Tourism services
 |
| **Applied regulatory frameworks of COMESA Member States – Introduction to the new WTO-World Bank regulatory audits** |
| **Conclusion and key takeaways for future negotiations on sectoral regulatory frameworks** |