

TRADE IN SERVICES LIBERALIZATION, AND OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

VIRTUAL NATIONAL WORKSHOP

SRI LANKA

12, 20 and 21 December 2022

13:30 – 16:00 Colombo / 09:00 – 11:30 Geneva, Zoom

https://worldtradeorganization.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vfugtqD8qEtGe8EOrXyl3Um8_a61gMiDB

REVISED PROGRAMME

Time	Sessions	Resource person
12 December 2022: Review of key concepts of the GATS		
13:30 – 13:40	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Opening remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. S.T. Kodikara, Director General of the Department of Commerce H.E. Ms Gothami Silva, Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the WTO, Sri Lanka Ms Ruosi Zhang, Counsellor, World Trade Organization 	
13:40 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of Services and Services Trade Basic Features of the GATS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Structure of GATS, while emphasizing the legal hierarchy of its various Parts and specific Articles come under each Parts Scope of application and key definitions (Articles I and XXVIII) Main obligations (MFN, Market Access, National Treatment) Scheduling of Specific Commitments under the GATS (positive list) Movement of Natural Persons with a special emphasis on MNP in light of the Mode 3 liberalization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difference between Members' commitments under Article XVI, XVII and Additional Commitments under Article XVIII Selected Classification and Scheduling issues (classifying Services such as Airbnb, Uber, etc; relevant modes of supply for online banking; characterization of digitized products) Difference between Modification of Schedules under Article XXI and possible introduction of amendments to the GATS Overview of patterns of commitments, including evaluation of types of GATS commitments made by Sri Lanka since 1994. 	<i>Ruosi Zhang</i>

Time	Sessions	Resource person
20 December 2022: Services Data & Services-related aspects of e-commerce &		
13:00 – 14:00	Capturing Trade in Services data for quantitative analysis	<i>Joscelyn Magdeleine</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Services-related aspects of e-commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-commerce in the context of the GATS, including technological neutrality of GATS, classification of e-services, data collection of Mode 1 and 2 e-services, discussions on data flows • WTO workstreams on e-commerce • Services aspects of e-commerce in RTAs 	<i>Antonia Carzaniga</i>

Time	Sessions	Resource person
21 December 2022: Status of services negotiations in the WTO & RTA developments		
13:30 – 15:00	Services Negotiations in the WTO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Access Negotiations under the mandate of progressive liberalization (Art XIX GATS), including the DDA mandate and subsequent Ministerial mandates. • Overview of offers • Current state of discussions, including the members' debate on the scope and effectiveness of the Multilateral Mandates for progressive liberalisation of services. • Article IV and its role in facilitating participation of developing countries in services trade (overview of past proposals including S/CSS/W/131) Developments of new rules and disciplines of Services Liberalization under RTAs.	<i>Martin Roy</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Negotiations on Domestic Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral negotiations on services domestic regulation in the Working Party on Domestic Regulation • Plurilateral Negotiations in the JSI Services Domestic Regulation • Substantive content of the "Reference Paper" • Research on potential economic benefits of domestic regulation 	<i>Markus Jelitto</i>
15:45- 16:00	Evaluation and Closing of the workshop	