

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE IN SERVICES AND SERVICES-RELATED NEGOTIATIONS (E-COMMERCE, INVESTMENT FACILITATION) IN THE WTO**

**Port Vila, Vanuatu**

**8 to 10 November 2023**

**Programme**

**Wednesday 8 November**

*9h00-12h00[[1]](#footnote-1)*

* **Official Opening** *9h00 – 9h15*
* **Key Trends in Trade in Services** *9h15 – 10h30*
* Key trends and evolution of trade in services
* Contribution of trade in services to economic and development policies
* Overview of barriers to trade in services
* Q&A and discussion
* **The GATS: scope, modes of supply, main obligations** *10h45 – 12h00*
* Definitions and scope of application of the GATS: modes of supply
* How the movement of natural persons and investment are covered
* Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment and MFN exemptions
* Conditional and unconditional obligations
* Quiz
* Q&A and discussion

*12h00 – 13h00: Lunch*

*13h00 – 17h00*

* **The GATS: schedules of specific commitments** *13h00 – 15h30*
  + - Market access and national treatment obligations
    - Key principles for reading and drafting specific commitments
    - Classification system for trade in services
    - Quiz
    - Q&A and discussions

* **Trade in Services in Vanuatu** *15h45 – 16h30*
* The contribution of services trade in Vanuatu; what statistics tell us
* Vanuatu's applied services trade regime (services trade restrictiveness index)
* Overview of Vanuatu's GATS commitments
* **Presentation by Vanuatu authorities on regional projects** *16h30 – 17h00*

**on trade in services**

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**Thursday 9 November**

*9h00 – 12h00*

* **Regional Trade Agreements on trade in services** *9h00 – 10h15*
* General trends in services RTAs and relevance for the region
* PACER Plus – key features and differences with GATS
* Overview of Vanuatu's specific commitments in PACER Plus
* Q&A and discussions
* **Interactive exercises on schedules of specific commitments** *10h30 – 12h00*

*12h00 – 13h00: Lunch*

*13h00 – 17h00*

* **Interactive exercises on schedules of specific commitments**  *13h00 – 14h30*

**(continuation)**

* **Notification Requirements under the GATS** *14h45 – 15h30*
* **Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the GATS and the result**  *15h30 – 17h00*

**of the plurilateral negotiations (Joint Statement Initiative)**

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**Friday 10 November**

*9h00 – 12h00*

* **The GATS and e-commerce** *9h00 – 10h10*
* Technology and commercial trends in e-commerce.
* Digitally-enabling and –enabled services
* How the GATS applies to e-commerce and digital trade
* **Vanuatu and e-commerce** *10h10 – 10h30*
* Presentation on Vanuatu's e-commerce strategy by the

Head of the national steering committee

* **Current Discussions and Negotiations on E-Commerce in the WTO** *10h45 – 12h00*
* The Work Programme on Electronic Commerce
* The e-commerce moratorium
* The Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce (plurilateral negotiations)

*12h00 – 13h00: Lunch*

*13h00 – 17h00*

* **WTO Negotiations on Investment Facilitation for Development**  *13h00 – 15h30*

**(Joint Statement Initiative)**

* Objectives and status of the negotiations
* Scope of the proposed agreement and overview of main obligations
* Needs assessments and assistance for implementation
* Presentation by Vanuatu authorities on the investment policy objectives *15h40 – 16h00*

**Closing of the workshop**

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1. Coffee breaks will be held over the course of the morning and afternoon of each day. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)