

# Services Trade Policy in Africa: Conference and workshop.

Geneva, 27 and 28 February 2023

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Day 1, 27 February

9h30 - 10h00	Registration
10h00 – 10h30	<b>Opening remarks</b> - <i>Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General, WTO</i>
10h30 – 12h15	<b>The World Bank–WTO surveys of services trade policy in Africa</b>  - The importance of regulatory surveys for services trade negotiations and policy <i>Roberto Echandi (World Bank)</i> - The WB-WTO surveys of services trade policy in African countries: methodology and overview <i>Joscelyn Magdeleine (WTO Secretariat) and Giulia Jonetzko (World Bank)</i> - Quantification of services trade policies in Africa: WB-WTO STRI methodology, results and uses <i>Ingo Borchert (Sussex University and World Bank) and Laura Baiker (WTO Secretariat)</i>  - <i>Discussant: Bernard Hoekman, Director, Global Economics, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute</i>  Q&A
12h15 – 13h00	<b>Initiatives of international and national organizations to support services trade development in Africa</b>  - Surveying regulatory barriers for services export promotion in Africa <i>Mondher Mimouni, Head, Trade and Market Intelligence section, ITC</i> - The contribution of international partners to services policy and negotiations in Africa <i>Philipp Knill, Deputy Director for Africa at BMZ (German Development Ministry)</i>  Q&A

13h00 – 15h00	Lunch break
15h00 – 16h45	<p><b>Experiences with the use of services trade policy surveys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using regulatory surveys to advance services trade negotiations: the AfCFTA experience and approach <i>AfCFTA Secretariat</i></li> <li>- Mapping digital services trade restrictions in Africa <i>Simon Mevel (UN Economic Commission for Africa) and Janos Ferencz (OECD)</i></li> <li>- [Title] <i>Sékou Falil Doumbouya (Consultant, International Trade and Development)</i></li> <li>- [Title] <i>Viola Sawere, SADC Secretariat</i></li> <li>- [Title] <i>Côte d'Ivoire or Tunisia</i></li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
16h45 – 17h45	<p><b>Moving African services trade forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Anabel González, Deputy Director General, WTO</i></li> <li>- <i>Boutheina Guerhazi, Director for Regional Integration, World Bank Group</i></li> <li>- <i>Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, ITC</i></li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
17h45 – 18h00	<p><b>Closing</b> <i>WTO DDG Anabel González</i></p>

**Day 2, 28 February**

9h00 - 09h30	Welcome coffee
09h30 – 10h15	<p><b>Services Trade Integration in Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roberto Echandi, Lead Private Sector Specialist in the Trade and Regional Integration Unit (ETIRI), World Bank</li> </ul>
10h15 – 12h30	<p><b>Using the results of the regulatory surveys and the STRI for services trade policy making in African economies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Laura Baiker, Trade in Services and Investment Division</i></li> <li>- <i>Ester Rubio, Trade in Services and Investment Division</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>(WTO Secretariat)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sekou Falil Doumbouya, Regional Expert in Trade in Services</i></li> <li>- From regulatory surveys to preparing a market access offer, with a particular focus on the experience from a regional expert</li> <li>- Understanding the usefulness of the Services Trade Restrictions Index</li> <li>- WTO-World Bank Services Trade Policy Database (STPD)</li> </ul>
12h30 – 14h00	<b>Lunch break</b>
14h00 – 15h00	<p><b>Tackling Regulatory Barriers to Services Trade: The 2021 WTO plurilateral outcome on services domestic regulation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Markus Jelitto, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division</i></li> <li>- <i>Elena Bertola, Legal Economic Affairs Officer, Trade in Services and Investment Division</i> <i>(WTO Secretariat)</i></li> <li>- The Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation</li> <li>- Disciplines on transparency, legal predictability, and regulatory quality and facilitation</li> <li>- Flexibilities for implementation</li> <li>- Integration into the WTO legal architecture and entry into force</li> <li>- Overview of horizontal regulatory commitments in "new generation" trade agreements</li> <li>- Potential effects of domestic implementation on economic performance</li> </ul>
15h00 – 16h00	<p><b>Building regulatory frameworks in Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>GiZ consultants working on the regulatory frameworks</i></li> <li>- <i>Sekou Falil Doumbouya, Regional Expert in Trade in Services</i></li> <li>- African regional experience on regulatory frameworks for services sectors</li> <li>- Synergies of JSI SDR disciplines with existing disciplines in subregional settings</li> </ul>
16h00 – 17h00	<p><b>Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Claudia Locatelli, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Pamela Apaza, Legal Affairs Officer, Trade in Services and Investment Division (WTO Secretariat)</i></li> <li>- Background and objectives of the negotiations on IFD</li><li>- Latest developments in the negotiations (participants, key milestones)</li><li>- The negotiating text ('Easter Text'): structure, scope, main disciplines</li><li>- Special and differential treatment and IF Needs Assessment Guide</li></ul>
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