

National seminar on the WTO

TBT Agreement's

transparency framework

Pretoria, South Africa

24-26 March 2020

Draft programme

**Background**

This national workshop on the WTO TBT Agreement's transparency framework and ePing is organized by the WTO Secretariat and at the request of South Africa

**Structure and Objective**

The workshop will focus on the transparency provisions of the TBT Agreement and using ePing to enhance capacity building and outreach to the private sector. The workshop will combine lectures, exercises and interactive on-line sessions aiming at enhancing South Africa's use of ePing. The workshop will also allow participants the opportunity to discuss on going work in the TBT Committee on specific trade concerns of interest.

**Venue**

The Workshop will be held at:

**WTO Resource persons**

For information on the substantive elements of the Workshop, please contact directly:

Ms Serra Ayral ([serra.ayral@wto.org](mailto:serra.ayral@wto.org))

Ms Úna Flanagan ([una.flanagan@wto.org](mailto:una.flanagan@wto.org))

**Course Programme**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day 1** | |
| 9:00–9:30 | **Opening and welcome** |
| 9:30–10:45 | **Setting the context: Overview of the WTO TBT Agreement and work in the TBT Committee** |
| 10:45–11:00 | **Coffee break** |
| 11:00-12:30 | **Overview of the WTO Transparency Framework**   * Main transparency provisions and procedures * Notifying "own measures" * Reacting to trading partners' measures * Recommendations from Triennial Review of the Agreement * Facts and figures on transparency |
| 12.30–13:30 | **Lunch Break** |
| 13:30–14.15 | **National/regional experiences on complying with and benefitting from the TBT transparency framework**   * Presentation and group discussion |
| 14.15–15:30 | **Overview on sources of TBT information (website, TBT IMS, etc…)**  **ePing: SPS & TBT notification alert system**   * Presentation of main functions |
| 15:30–15:45 | **Coffee Break** |
| 15:45–17:00 | **ePing: SPS & TBT notification alert system**   * Hands on exercises: registration, search, sharing notifications |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day 2** | |
| 9:00–10:30 | **Transparency recap**  **ePing: SPS & TBT notification alert system**   * Hands-on exercises (continued): Use of national and international fora to share information on notifications |
| 10:30–10:45 | **Coffee break** |
| 10:45-12:30 | **Options for reacting to trading partners' TBT measures**   * Tools and procedures available through the WTO * Sample trade concerns raised in the TBT Committee * Group exercise based on sample notification and discussion |
| 12.30–13:30 | **Lunch Break** |
| 13:30–14.30 | **Options for reacting to trading partners' TBT measures**   * Group exercise based on sample notification and discussion (continued) |
| 14.30 – 15.30 | **Discussion on how to ensure compliance and draw benefits from the WTO TBT transparency framework**   * Wrap up and identification of next steps |
| 15:30–16:00 | **Evaluation and closure** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **day 3 (for officials directly involved in transparency matters)** | |
| 9:00–10.45 | **Demonstration of enhanced features for ePing Admins**   * Introduction to ePing Admin functions for SPS and TBT Enquiry Point officials * Interactive exercise on using the ePing platform to share information at the national and international level * Interactive exercise on creating and managing domestic user groups * Discussion on outreach to domestic users and promotion of ePing in South Africa |
| 10.45-11.00 | **Coffee break** |
| 11:00-12:00 | **Triennial Review follow up**   * New Addendum format * TBT-NSS enhancements * eAgenda |