**National Workshop on Trade in Services and Electronic Commerce**

**22-24 November 2023**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 22 November 2023**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8h45 – 9h00 | **Registration** |  |
| 9h00 – 9h15 | **Opening Remarks** | GovernmentWTO |
| 9h15 – 10h15 | **Key trends in services trade** * Key trends and evolution of services trade
* Contribution of services trade to economic policies and development strategies
* Overview of barriers to services trade
* Q&A
 | WTO |
| 10h15 – 10h30 | *Coffee Break* |  |
| 10h30 – 12h45 | **The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS): scope, modes of supply, main obligations*** Scope and modes of supply
* Application to digital services
* Most-favoured-nation treatment and MFN exemptions
* Conditional and unconditional obligations
* Q&A
 | WTO |
| *12h45 – 14h00* | *Lunch* |  |
| 14h00 – 15.30  | **The GATS: schedules of specific commitments*** Market access and national treatment obligations
* Classification system for services trade
* Key principles in reading and drafting specific commitments.
 | WTO |
| 15.30 – 15h45  | *Coffee Break* |   |
| 15h45 – 17h00 | **The GATS: schedules of specific commitments (continuation)*** Scheduling quiz
 | WTO |

**Thursday 23 November 2023**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9h00 - 10h30 | **Interactive exercise on the scheduling of specific commitments on trade in services** | WTO |
| 10h30 – 10h45 | *Coffee Break* |  |
| 10h45 – 12h45 | A look at Zambia's GATS commitments and applied regime* Q&A

**[presentation by the government on commitments negotiated in the context of the AfCFTA - TBC]** | WTO and government |
| 12h45 – 14h00 | *Lunch* |  |
| 14h00 – 14h45 | **E-commerce facts and figures*** Global and regional trends
* E-commerce provisions in regional trade agreements
 | WTO |
| 14h45 – 15h30 | **Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and the Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions*** Work Programme
* Decisions and ministerial mandates
* The moratorium on customs duties
* Discussions in the WTO bodies
* 12th Ministerial Conference Decision
* Current discussions
 | WTO |
| 15h30 – 15h45 | *Coffee break* |  |
| 15.45 – 17h00 | **Work Programme on Electronic Commerce** **and the Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions -** Continuation | WTO |

**Friday 24 November 2023**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9h00 – 10h15 | **National and regional strategies for electronic commerce*** National and regional policies and initiatives:
* National projects and plans
* Domestic legal framework
* Regional strategies
 | Government of Zambia |
| 10h15 – 10h30  | *Coffee break* |  |
| 10h30 – 11h30 | **Electronic commerce in practice in Zambia*** Experiences of the private sector
* Opportunities challenges
 | Private sector representatives (TBC) |
| 11h30 – 12h30 | **Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce*** Overview
* Issues under discussion
* State of play
 | WTO |
| 12h30 – 14h00  | *Lunch*  |  |
| 14h00 – 15h00 | **Development aspects of E-commerce/Capacity Building Initiatives** * Digital divide
* Technical assistance and capacity building
 | *WTO/Government/development partners TBC* |
| 15h00 – 16h00 | **Joint Statement on Services Domestic Regulation** | WTO |
| 16h00 – 16h30 | **Preparations for MC13** | WTO |
| 16h30 – 17h00  | **Evaluation and closing** | WTO, Government representative |

WTO Resource Persons:

Mr. Martin Roy, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division

Ms. Zainab Mchumo, Counsellor, Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division