

Tentative Programme

REGIONAL CONSULTATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE WTO MC12:

HARNESSING TRADE FOR FASTER RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7-9 SEPTEMBER 2021 (ONLINE)

Including

CAPACITY BUILDING SEGMENT

10 SEPTEMBER 2021 (ONLINE)

Day 1 – 7 September 2021 (13:30 – 17:15 GMT+7)

13:30- 13.40	<p>Opening</p> <p><i>ESCAP Secretariat: Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary</i></p> <p><i>Kazakhstan: Ms. Kushukova Zhanel Sabyrovna, Vice Minister of Trade and Integration (speech delivered by Mr. Beisenbay Darkhan Baurzhanuly, Deputy head of the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan)</i></p> <p><i>WTO Secretariat: Anabel Gonzalez, Deputy Director General</i></p>
13.40 – 14:00	<p>State of the affairs in preparation of the MC12</p> <p><i>This session will provide an account of key developments that have taken place in WTO and other relevant fora in preparation for the MC12 and will lay out the issues that are likely to be addressed at MC12.</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Anabel Gonzalez, Deputy Director General, WTO Secretariat</i></p>
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Health and Trade</p> <p><i>Moderator: Darpan Jain, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, India</i></p>

	<p><i>Introduction: Bryan Mercurio, Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Simon Evenett, Professor and Academic Director, University of St. Gallen</i></p> <p><i>Trade was proven to be the key element in an effective response to the ongoing multidimensional global crisis. This session will explore various challenges, including those related to IP and supply chains concerns for medical goods, and opportunities which can be better utilized in the fight against the current and future health crises. WTO page on Trade and COVID-19 offers rich background material.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:30-15.45	<p><i>Break</i></p>
15:45 – 17:15	<p>Fisheries subsidies and agriculture</p> <p><i>Moderator: Rajan Ratna, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia</i></p> <p><i>Fisheries subsidies</i> <i>Introduction: Radika Kumar, Trade Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>This session will reflect on the progress achieved in the negotiations on fisheries subsidies since 2001 and provide an opportunity to build on the text shared by the Chair of the fisheries subsidies negotiations as well as the results of the Ministerial level formal virtual meeting on 12 July.</i></p> <p><i>Agriculture</i> <i>Introduction: Sachin Kumar Sharma, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, India</i></p> <p><i>This session will provide an opportunity to explore current challenges and possible resolutions of those towards reaching an outcome on the Agricultural negotiations which are ongoing since year 2000. Useful background materials and summary of the current state of affairs are offered in the remarks by former WTO DDG A. Wolff and in this commentary based on the restricted text as well as the Chair’s submission.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
17.15-17:20	<p>Wrap up of Day 1</p> <p><i>ESCAP secretariat</i></p>

Day 2 – 8 September 2021 (13:30-16:45 GMT+7)

13:30- 15:00	<p>Joint statement initiatives: e-commerce, Investment facilitation for development and MSMEs (in 3 separate virtual rooms)</p> <p>a) E-commerce <i>Moderator: Rafaelita Aldaba, Under Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry, The Philippines</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Deborah Elms, Asia Trade Centre</i> <i>This session will summarize the work developed out of the Joint Statement on E-commerce in 2017 including the latest Structured Discussion from July 2021.</i></p> <p>b) Investment facilitation for development <i>Moderator: Prewprae Chumrum, Director, Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Axel Berger, DIE</i></p> <p><i>This session will summarize the progress evolved since the second Joint Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development from Nov 2019 focusing on the achieving a concrete outcome on Investment Facilitation for Development at the 12th WTO MC12, as discussed at the latest structural discussion negotiations in June 2021 and the so-called Easter text to facilitate negotiations for an investment facilitation agreement.</i></p> <p>c) MSMEs <i>Moderator: Deborah Biber, Director, PBEC and ESNB</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Barbara Oliveira Ramos, Chief, Research and Strategies for Exports, ITC</i> <i>This session will summarize the work of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs including the proposed Draft Declaration on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) of 13 July 2021 and the Package of declarations and recommendations for MSMEs adopted Dec 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>

15:15 – 16:45	<p>Trade and climate change</p> <p><i>Moderator Huda Ali Shareef, Deputy Ambassador & Permanent Representative to UNESCAP, Embassy of Maldives in Thailand</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO and Yann Duval, Officer in Charge, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>This session will provide an opportunity, inter alia, to review and discuss the proposed draft declaration on trade and environmental sustainability and to address other issues under consideration in the discussions on trade and environment.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16:45-16:50	<p>Wrap up of Day 2</p> <p><i>ESCAP secretariat</i></p>

Day 3 – 9 September 2021 (13:30-16.45 GMT+7)

13:30 – 15:00	<p>Special & Differential Treatment Provisions and Development & Trade</p> <p><i>Moderator: Hafizur Rahman, Director General, WTO Wing, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh</i></p> <p><i>Introduction: Xiankun Lu, professor, University of International Business and Economics and CEO, Friends of Multilateralism Group and Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue</i></p> <p><i>S&DT provisions are a key area of negotiations for developing countries, including LDCs. This session will review the proposals made by G-90 comprising ACP, Africa and LDC Groups, the current state of play, as well as the recent discussions on development in the WTO. The session is also informed by the 2020 WTO note on the implementation of the S&DT provisions and the WTO Report on Trade and SDGs as well as the papers by experts introducing the topic.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:15	<p><i>Break</i></p>

<p>15:15 – 16.45</p>	<p>Round table: Way forward for the multilateral trading regime and role of regional cooperation</p> <p><i>High level panelists will share their views and discuss the various aspects on the process towards making the WTO fit for the 21st century sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Stephanie Honey, Deputy Executive Director and Lead Staffer, ABAC Business Advisory Council (NZ) and Associate Director, New Zealand International Business Forum</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>H.E. Pich Rithi, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, and former Ambassador to WTO, The Kingdom of Cambodia</i></p> <p><i>H.E. Domingos Lopes Antunes, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Timor-Leste</i></p> <p><i>Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Fiji</i></p> <p><i>Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework, WTO</i></p> <p><i>Peter Draper, Head of School of Economics and Public Policy, The University of Adelaide</i></p> <p><i>Pradeep Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS</i></p> <p><i>Hannah Nguyen, Deputy Director Digital Standard Initiative (DSI), ICC</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Some of the background readings:</i></p> <p><u><i>What would happen to a world without the WTO.p65 (cuts-citee.org)</i></u></p> <p><u><i>What future for the global trading system amid trade, technological and geopolitical confrontations? Institute for International Trade University of Adelaide</i></u></p> <p><u><i>T20 TF1 PB1.pdf (g20-insights.org)</i></u></p>
----------------------	--

	<i>Revitalising Multilateralism: Pragmatic Ideas for the New WTO Director-General VOX, CEPR Policy Portal (voxeu.org)</i>
16:45 – 17:00	Summary and closing of the Regional Consultation <i>ESCAP secretariat</i>

Capacity Building Segment - 10 September 2021 (13:30-15:30 hrs.)

Introduction to new ESCAP online training courses

by Yann Duval, ESCAP

- Trade Policy courses
- Trade Facilitation courses

Introduction to TINA - Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser

<https://tina.trade/>

by Alexey Kravchenko, ESCAP

Introduction to RIVA - Regional integration and Value Chain Analyzer

<https://riva.negotiatetrade.org/#/>

by Witada Anukoonwattaka, ESCAP

Introduction to Trade Facilitation tools

by Soo Hyun Kim, ESCAP

- UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
<https://www.untfsurvey.org/>
- Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade