




# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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To: WTO Members and Observers Fax No: List attached

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Date: 7 May 2020

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## TRADE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKSHOP SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Geneva, 9-13 November 2020**

The WTO Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Secretariats of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is organizing the **7<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Trade and Public Health**, scheduled to take place in Geneva **from 9 to 13 November 2020**, provided that the COVID-19 pandemic no longer poses any health threats. The Workshop builds on a series of annual Workshops on Intellectual Property and Public Health that had been organized by the WTO Secretariat since 2005. It will follow the approach developed in the WHO-WIPO-WTO Trilateral Study "Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections between Public Health, Intellectual Property and Trade" (available at [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/who-wipo-wto\\_2013\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/who-wipo-wto_2013_e.htm)).

### The Workshop

The Workshop aims to improve the capacity of policymakers to analyse policy choices at the intersection between trade, intellectual property (IP) and public health; to enhance the capacity to address cross-sectoral issues; and to foster smooth domestic coordination. The overall objective is to develop a comprehensive understanding of overlapping policy issues with a bearing on public health and encourage the analysis of their relationship with multilateral trade agreements. The programme will focus on innovation and access to medical technologies, as well as wider trade and health-related policy issues.

The activity is envisaged for policymakers who already have a high-level practical understanding of some aspects of trade, IP and health policy, and who have continuing responsibilities for assessing and implementing trade and IP policy options that relate to public health matters. Participants will be guided by experts to strengthen several practical skills: assessing policy options; analysing and implementing trade agreements; accessing and using related information; and streamlining trade and health policy into domestic legislative and institutional frameworks. Participants will have ample opportunity to exchange views and experiences with each other, with WHO, WIPO and WTO experts, with representatives from other international organizations, as well as from the private sector and civil society.

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..... An outline of the programme is enclosed. Given the range and complexity of topics to be covered, the daily schedule for this activity is intense and demanding. Participants will be asked to engage in a full week of interactive sessions, which will require considerable preparation beforehand and exclusive focus during the week's programme to achieve the expected benefits.

## Invitation to Propose Candidates

Members and Observers to the WTO, eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to nominate up to three capital-based officials of whom no more than one may be selected for this Workshop. The WTO will finance thirty participants (i.e., provision of a return economy-class ticket, terminal expenses and daily subsistence allowance, and accommodation for the duration of the activity). There is also provision for up to five additional applicants, including from developed countries, to participate in the Workshop at their own expense.

To be considered for their possible selection, nominees should possess the following qualifications and background:

- Direct responsibility for matters relating to the interaction between trade agreements and public health, whether from authorities responsible for foreign affairs, trade, IP, public health or from other relevant government entities working on the interface between trade agreements and public health;
- Definite expectation of continuing to work, or being assigned responsibilities in this field;
- Established expertise and experience in this area, and a good level of knowledge about trade law and policy, including, but not limited to, the WTO's TRIPS Agreement, and public health policy;
- Successful completion of the WIPO Distance Learning Course Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation (registration available from 7 May to 7 June 2020 at [https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=courseCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=DL701E#plus\\_DL701E](https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=courseCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=DL701E#plus_DL701E)), or face-to-face training activities delivered by the WHO, WIPO and/or the WTO on the subjects of the Workshop; and
- All-round proficiency in English, as the Workshop will be delivered in English.

## The Application Process

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Interested candidates need to duly complete and submit the online application form, which is available at [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/2020\\_trade\\_and\\_public\\_health\\_workshop](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/2020_trade_and_public_health_workshop)
2. The online application form requires uploading a scanned copy of the passport and of the official nomination letter, signed and stamped by the competent government authority that is nominating the candidate. A template for such a letter to be signed and stamped by the **national authority can be found annexed to this invitation letter**.
3. Participants will also be requested to confirm that they have duly registered for the WIPO Distance Learning Course Registration will be open from 7 May to 7 June 2020 at: [https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=courseCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=DL701E#plus\\_DL701E](https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=courseCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=DL701E#plus_DL701E). Only short-listed candidates will be requested to confirm successful completion of the course .
4. The application form, including the passport and nomination letter, as well as confirmation of enrolment in the Distance Learning Course, should be submitted via the online application system **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2020**.
5. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Missions/Embassies to the WTO. Validations should be addressed by fax or email to the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (Fax No: +41 22 739 5724; Email: [logistics.unit@wto.org](mailto:logistics.unit@wto.org)) **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2020**.

Please note that the complex substantive preparations and logistical arrangements for this activity mean that the WTO Secretariat cannot consider any applications received after that date, nor any applications not validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO.

Selected participants will receive confirmation directly. Relevant administrative information, travel details and economic-class ticket will be sent in due course after the selection has taken place.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel the activity if the COVID-19 pandemic poses any health threats; if sufficient funding cannot be secured in time; or, in the event of any other circumstances beyond its control.

## **Preparations for the Workshop**

In advance of the Workshop, selected participants will receive a syllabus, which will guide them through the reading material to prepare for the Workshop. All the materials will be available online. Selected participants will also be required to submit a brief report on the state of play of policy development regarding issues at the crossroad between trade and public health in their country, with due lead-time. This report should cover the public health situation, any specific policies or strategies developed to address public health needs, the relevant legislative framework, including the regulatory framework and the implementation and use of flexibilities in the IP system, as well as any relevant experiences. It should also identify and elaborate on a topical area of current policy discussion and activity in their country. This preparatory work, ideally assembled in close coordination with key domestic stakeholders, is important to ensure that substantive input can be provided for discussions at the Workshop. Selected participants will be invited to present on their reports to the workshop, so as further to promote interactivity, open discussions and a practical focus on contemporary policy challenges.

## **For Further Information**

Please contact our colleagues, Mr Roger Kampf ([roger.kampf@wto.org](mailto:roger.kampf@wto.org)) and Mrs Josefita Pardo de León ([josefita.pardodeleon@wto.org](mailto:josefita.pardodeleon@wto.org)), if you need any further details.

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## ANNEX 1

### TEMPLATE FOR NOMINATION LETTER TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND STAMPED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY NOMINATING THE CANDIDATE

The [Ministry/Directorate/National Office] of [Member/Observer] officially nominates [name of candidate] to participate in the Trade and Public Health Workshop, scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9 to 13 November 2020 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement policy matters; (ii) has full command of English and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and is fully aware that this nomination is subject to the decisions of the WTO Selection Committee and to the conditions described in the conditions to participate in WTO technical assistance activities.

**The Government of [Member/Observer] requests WTO financing for this candidate:**

YES

NO

**Details of the official responsible for nominating this candidate:**

Name	
Family Name	
Current Post	
Government Authority	
Telephone	
Email address	

**By signing this form, the Nominating Authority certifies that all the information included is complete and correct.**

Date	Signature	Stamp
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