





WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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To: Heads of Delegations WTO Members and Observers	Fax No: List Attached
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WTO ONLINE THEMATIC SEMINAR ON COMPETITION POLICY, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

17, 24 SEPTEMBER AND 1 OCTOBER (HALF-DAYS)

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization, with the financial assistance of the Global Trust Fund, is organizing **the 2020 Online Seminar on Competition Policy, Trade and Development** for the benefit of participants from WTO Members and Observers (WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1). The online Seminar will be held over three half-days: **17 September (day 1), 24 September (day 2) and 1 October (day 3)** through a virtual platform.

The Online Seminar

The purpose of this e-Seminar is to provide an opportunity for participants to enhance their awareness of the complementarities of competition and trade policies in support of economic development, with particular reference to the WTO covered agreements, including the TRIPS Agreement and the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). As a case study, the e-Seminar will use and examine the relationship of competition, trade, intellectual property rights protection, government procurement, and development policy, in the public health sector to highlight the growing importance of this relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The e-Seminar will also look at whether international trade cooperation can provide lessons for and even foment international cooperation in the field of competition policy. Special attention will be given to the inclusion of competition policy in a majority of recent regional trade agreements.

..... The programme combines presentations by international experts in pre-recorded format. Owing to time differences, it is expected that live interaction may be limited or excluded. An effort will be made to allow for appropriate deferred interaction (Q&As, participant surveys). A draft programme is attached. The **Online Seminar** will be held in **English only**.*

Participation in the activity

The Governments of Members and Observers to the WTO, who are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to nominate **up to three senior capital-based officials** to be considered to participate in the above activity. Ideally, at least one official should be from your government's trade ministry and one from your competition enforcement agency or other ministry or agency with policy responsibility in an area. **Up to 40 participants** will be selected by the WTO Secretariat to participate in this activity.

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Preference will be given to nominees having policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in competition policy and/or related aspects of trade policy. The Organizers reserve the right to select candidates and to decline the candidature of nominees who do not meet these requirements.

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_competition_trade_development_seminar.
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 in Annex 1 to this invitation letter.
3. The application form, including the passport and nomination letter, should be submitted via the online application system **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2020**
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy 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) **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2020**

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure, if sufficient funding cannot be secured in time, or for any other reason that render the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

Participants will be required to contribute to the online seminar by providing comments on their national experiences particularly during the general discussions sessions for each topic area, and should come duly prepared.

***Français / Español**

L'Organisation mondiale du commerce organise un séminaire virtuel sur la politique de la concurrence, le commerce international et le développement, à Genève, le 17 septembre (jour 1), le 24 septembre (jour 2) et le 1^{er} octobre (jour 3) 2020. Ce séminaire étant en anglais, l'invitation et le formulaire de candidature sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

La Organización Mundial de Comercio organiza un seminario en línea sobre la política de competencia, el comercio internacional y el desarrollo en Ginebra, el 17 de septiembre (día 1), el 24 de septiembre (día 2) y el 1 de octubre (día 3) de 2020. Este seminario en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y el formulario de candidatura serán distribuidos únicamente en inglés.

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 Seminar on Competition Policy, Trade and Development, scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, 17 September (day 1), 24 September (day 2) and 1 October (day 3) and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or competition policy matters; (ii) has full command of English and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and (iii) 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.

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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