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To: Heads of Delegation

Members to the WTO

Date: 16/01/2023

List attached

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Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

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Number of Pages (including this one): 8 Div. Ref: WTO23/1

WTO WORKSHOP ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION (IN ENGLISH)

14-17 March 2023

Invitation to Present Candidates

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a Workshop on the Information Technology Agreement and Digital Transformation in English. This course will take place at the WTO Headquarters, in Geneva, from 14-17 March 2023.

The Workshop is a specialized training activity that intends to familiarize participants with the provisions of the WTO Information Technology Agreement, to elaborate on the role of the ITA in terms of national IT infrastructure development and digital transformation, and to address selected policy issues linked to attracting foreign direct investment and integrating into global value chains. A team of WTO staff and business practitioners or academic experts will engage with the participants through a series of presentations, exercises, and interactive discussions. A tentative programme for the event is attached.

The course is targeted at capital-based government officials at middle to senior level who have at least five years of relevant work experience. Candidates are required to have a good understanding of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; in addition, they should be willing to share their experiences, to prepare short contributions, and to participate actively in all of the sessions. Candidates who are responsible for formulating national tariff policies, and those who are familiar with their government's IT infrastructure development or digital transformation policies, will be given priority in the selection process.

The Governments of Members and Observers to the WTO, which are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to submit the names of **one or two officials** for consideration in the selection process.

The WTO Secretariat makes available twenty-eight (28) fellowships for this activity. Each fellowship covers the following: a round trip airplane ticket in economy class; daily subsistence allowance; a terminal expenses allowance; and accommodation for the duration of the course.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of overriding circumstances beyond its control or reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable.

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The attached Application Form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the nominating national authority which presents the candidate, **via the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO**, **at the latest by Friday**, **3 February 2023**. Please note that, in light of the logistical complexity of the activity, the Secretariat will not be in a position to process applications received after this deadline.

The Application Form should be returned by email to the **WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, Logistics Unit:** logistics.unit@wto.org.

Selected participants will receive confirmation directly. Additional administrative information, travel details and ticket will be sent shortly after the selection has taken place.