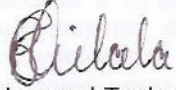





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To: Heads of Delegations WTO Members and Observers	Fax: List attached
From: Bridget Chilala  Director Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation	Date: 22/05/2017
Antony Taubman  Director Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division	
Number of pages (including this one): 12	Ref: TC17/9

TECHNICAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Geneva, Switzerland

6 – 10 November 2017

The WTO Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Secretariats of WHO and WIPO, is convening a five-day Workshop on Trade and Public Health, in Geneva from 6 to 10 November 2017. This activity is carried out under the WTO Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2016-17 (WT/COMTD/W/211) which recognizes technical assistance and capacity building as core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system.

This activity is the third in the series of Workshops on Trade and Public Health, following previous workshops held in November 2014, October 2015 and October 2016, which in turn built on the series of annual Workshops on Intellectual Property and Public Health organized by the WTO Secretariat since 2005. These workshops broadly follows 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 www.wto.org/trilateralstudy2013).

THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop aims to build national policymakers' capacity to analyse policy choices in the area of intersection between trade, intellectual property (IP) and public health, based on a comprehensive understanding of overlapping policy issues with bearing on public health, and an analysis of their relationship with multilateral trade agreements. The core emphasis lies on access and innovation in relation to medical technologies in particular, although it addresses wider trade and health policy matters as well.

The Workshop is therefore intended 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. It responds to the more complex policy environment that such policymakers are required to work with in shaping practical responses to contemporary public health challenges. As a programme tailored for senior policymakers, it will include a combination of expert presentations, interactive debate and case studies, as well as selected presentations from among the participants.

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The Workshop will review the system of multilateral trade agreements as part of the wider action to address needs specific to public health, and will set this system in the context of the broader factors that impact on innovation and access in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sector. The programme will cover: public health determinants; the IP system; pricing and procurement policies; competition policy and rules; tariffs, quotas and licensing; health services; and regulatory issues, including approval, quality control and effectiveness of medicines, the protection of clinical trial data under the TRIPS Agreement, and health-related measures in the TBT and SPS Committees.

This material will be complemented by a series of discussions dedicated to specific, cross-cutting themes linking trade agreements to topical issues, such as non-communicable diseases and human rights. Exercises and case studies will set these issues in a practical context, requiring participants to examine key thematic issues that involve the consideration of industry policy issues, including as regards local production of medicines and technology transfer, the use of IP flexibilities in order to procure medicines, the application of competition policy tools and their impact on public health objectives, and the dealing with specific trade concerns regarding TBT/SPS measures.

Special attention will be given to the topic "Effectively Using Special Compulsory Licences for Export as a Procurement Tool for Medicines". Since the entry into force of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, in January 2017, this public health flexibility is an integral part of the TRIPS Agreement. The Workshop will look at how best to effectively use this tool, as well as the practical options for securing access to affordable medicines.

Participants will be supported by experts to strengthen several practical skills: how to analyse and give effect to trade agreements and to assess and implement the policy options they provide for; how to access and make use of information about their implementation; and how to deal with the linkages of trade agreements with the domestic legislative and institutional framework. Participants will have ample opportunity to exchange views and experiences with one another, with WHO, WIPO and WTO experts, with representatives from other international organizations, as well as from industry and the NGO sector, and with medicines procurement programmes.

..... A draft programme is attached. Given the range and complexity of topics to be covered, the daily schedule for this activity is exceptionally 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 in order to yield the expected benefits.

INVITATION TO PROPOSE CANDIDATES

The Members and Observers to the WTO that are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities are invited to nominate three capital-based officials of which one would be possibly selected for this Workshop. Up to thirty participants will be financed by the WTO (i.e., provided with a return economy class ticket, a terminal expenses allowance, daily subsistence allowance, and accommodation for the duration of the workshop). 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 at least the following qualifications and background:

- direct responsibility for matters relating to the interaction between trade agreements and public health, whether from authorities dealing with foreign affairs, trade, IP, public health or from many other relevant department charged with responsibilities regarding the interface between trade agreements and public health;
- the definite expectation of continuing to work, or being assigned responsibilities, specifically 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; and
- all-round proficiency in English, as the Workshop will be delivered in English.

The selection of candidates is based directly on these criteria. Given the expected number of applications, there is no guarantee that any candidate can be accepted; hence, careful attention to these prerequisites is strongly recommended when candidates are proposed.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORKSHOP

Advance reading material will be made available to enable successful candidates to prepare for the Workshop. They will also be required to submit, prior to the workshop, a brief report on the state of play of policy development regarding issues at the crossroad between trade and public health in their country/separate customs territory. This report should cover, in particular, 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 particular topical area of current policy discussion and activity in their country/separate customs territory. 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.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

..... 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, 30 JUNE 2017.** The complex preparations and logistical arrangements for this activity mean that the WTO Secretariat cannot consider any applications received after that date.

The application form should be addressed by fax or email to the **ITTC Logistics Unit (Email: logistics.unit@wto.org or fax: +41 22 / 739 57 24).**

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

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel the activity if sufficient funding cannot be secured in time, or in the event of any other circumstances beyond its control.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Our colleague Mr. Roger Kampf (Tel: +41 22 739 6218 roger.kampf@wto.org) is at your disposal for any further information concerning the Workshop.

