



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: +41 22 739 6440
Email: logistics.unit@wto.org

EMAIL

To: Heads of Delegations WTO Members and Observers	E-mail: List attached
From: Bridget Chilala Director Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation	Date: 04/04/23
	Pages: 4 (including this one)
Antony Taubman Director Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division	Ref: TC23-7
	

WORKSHOP ON ARTICLE 67 OF THE TRIPS AGREEMENT: TECHNICAL COOPERATION

GENEVA, 12-13 JUNE 2023

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing a **Workshop on Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement: Technical Cooperation**, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12-13 June 2023 to enable a dialogue between providers of technical cooperation under Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement and recipient Members and Observers, based on the 1996 Agreement of the Council that invites developed Members to annually update information on their technical cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement (WTO documents IP/C/M/6 and IP/C/M/7).

Purpose and content of the activity

To help facilitate implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, Article 67 requires developed country Members to provide: "on request and on mutually agreed terms and conditions, technical and financial cooperation in favour of developing and least-developed country Members." It specifies that this cooperation "shall include assistance in the preparation of laws and regulations on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as on the prevention of their abuse, and shall include support regarding the establishment or reinforcement of domestic offices and agencies relevant to these matters, including the training of personnel."

The TRIPS Council agreed in 1996 that developed country Members would annually update information on their technical cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. This is normally done through developed country Members reporting on relevant activities for review at each year's final Council meeting. Other Members are generally also encouraged to share such information. Intergovernmental organizations, including the WHO, WIPO and UNCTAD, have also regularly submitted information to the Council on IP-related technical assistance, as has the WTO Secretariat. The 2023 Annual Report on Notifications and Other Information Flows (IP/C/W/969) provides an historical perspective of the submissions to the TRIPS Council on these technical cooperation activities from 1995 to 2022.

During the TRIPS Council meetings of October 2021 and March 2022, the delegation of Bangladesh requested the WTO Secretariat to organize a dedicated annual workshop to monitor progress on IP-related technical cooperation under Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement and to help inform dialogue among Members. At the TRIPS Council meeting in March 2023, the Secretariat confirmed to Members that it would be able to proceed with the workshop as requested.

The workshop is intentionally organized back-to-back with the June 2023 regular meeting of the TRIPS Council. It is hoped that this would allow selected participants, if they so wish, to attend the TRIPS Council, including discussions under the agenda item "Technical Assistance and Capacity Building". The WTO Secretariat is however not in a position to fund attendance to the Council meeting but is willing to extend the departure date provided this is indicated well in advance. It should be noted that accommodation and DSA to attend the Council meeting will be at your own cost.

Overall, the objective of the Workshop is to note current trends of IP-related assistance, and to enhance dialogue between beneficiary and reporting Members and IGOs. This is with a view to improving overall coordination and the matching of programmes with priority needs. The Workshop also provides an opportunity to assist in the design and delivery of tailored and coordinated capacity building activities that respond to needs identified by beneficiary Members.

..... An outline of the programme is enclosed. Simultaneous interpretation of discussions in English, French, and Spanish will be provided during the Workshop.

Participation in the activity

Thirty (30) places are available for allocation to a selection of applicants from beneficiary LDCs and Developing Members and Observers.

Governments of beneficiary LDCs and Developing Country Members and Observers are invited to nominate up to three applicants. To be considered, applicants must:

- be government officials responsible for, or have direct experience in managing intellectual property, and/or reception of technical assistance programs (related to IP);
- have advanced knowledge of one of the three official language of the WTO, including working proficiency in English sufficient to permit active participation in small group discussions.

Applicants should note that participation is subject to an intensive selection process and that only those who meet the above criteria will be considered.

In addition, cooperation partners from developed country Members will be invited to attend this Workshop in order to discuss approaches to delivering technical assistance in this area and to facilitate the coordination of assistance in a manner that is responsive to identified priority areas and supportive of domestic policy objectives.

Participants will be required to contribute to the Workshop by participating in discussions, responding to specific questions related to their trade and intellectual property regimes and could be invited to share their national/regional experiences.

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/2023_trips67_workshop_ipd
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 17:00 (GENEVA/CET) 21 APRIL 2023.**
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO. Validations should be addressed by email to the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (Email: logistics.unit@wto.org) **NO LATER THAN 17:00 (GENEVA/CET) 21 APRIL 2023.**

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The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure, or for any reason that renders the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

For Further Information

You may contact Mr. Kaarlo Castren, Counsellor, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, WTO (e-mail: kaarlo.castren@wto.org) for further information concerning the Workshop.

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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 WTO Workshop on Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement : Technical Cooperation, scheduled to take place on 12 & 13 June 2023 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate is responsible for, or has direct experience in managing intellectual property, reception of technical assistance programs (related to IP); (ii) has full command of English, French or Spanish 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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