



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZATION MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

**WTO-JVI REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE GPA 2012 FOR THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN
EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS (CEECAC) REGION**

Vienna, Austria

24-26 October 2023

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The main objectives of the Workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related WTO activities on government procurement, with a focus on such GPA 2012 features as trade opening, good governance, and economic and sustainable development; (ii) to elaborate on the process and the benefits and costs of accession to the GPA 2012; and (iii) to explore the interaction between the GPA 2012 and bilateral/regional free trade agreements in the CEECAC region. Another objective is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts from the CEECAC region to exchange experience and views on the international trade and government procurement nexus.

The programme adopts an interactive approach with embedded breakout sessions to encourage consideration of practical issues, networking, and the exchange of relevant experiences.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, to contribute to the workshop especially during the breakout sessions.

Tuesday, 24 October 2023

08:30 Registration

SESSION 1: Opening

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:00 – 09:15	1.1 Opening remarks	WTO Secretariat JVI representative EBRD representative (TBC) CLDP representative (TBC)
09:15 – 09:30	1.2 Participant introductions and objectives	Workshop participants

SESSION 2: Policies underlying the GPA 2012 and the global and regional context

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:30 – 10:00	2.1 The GPA 2012: Global policy context, trade dimension, objectives, key principles, and policy considerations for developing economies	WTO Secretariat
10:30 – 10:40	2.2 General discussion	

10:40 – 11:00 Break

SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012

Time	Subject	Speaker
11:00 – 11:30	3.1 Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities (<i>Walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012</i>)	WTO Secretariat
11:30– 12:00	3.2 The 2011 UNCITRAL Model Law: A useful guide to implementing the GPA 2012 domestically	UNCITRAL Secretariat (TBC)
12:00 – 12:15	3.3 General discussion	

12:15– 13:45 Lunch Break

SESSION 3b: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies

Time	Subject	Speaker
13:45 – 14:15	3.4 SMEs: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement	WTO Secretariat
14:15-14:45	3.5 Sustainable procurement: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement	WTO Secretariat
14:45– 15:00	3.6 General discussion	

15:00 – 15:15 Break

SESSION 3b: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies (cont'd)

Time	Subject	Speaker
15:15 – 15:30	3.7 E-procurement tools: Relevant GPA 2012 rules	WTO Secretariat
15:30– 16:00	3.8 The benefits of open government procurement data: CEECAC at the forefront	EBRD (TBC)
16:00– 16:30	3.9 General discussion	

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

SESSION 4a: Scope and coverage of the GPA 2012, potential market access benefits

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:00 – 09:40	4.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (https://e-gpa.wto.org/)	WTO Secretariat
09:40 – 10:00	4.2 General discussion	

10:00 – 10:30 Break

SESSION 4b: Market access under the GPA 2012: A practical exercise: *Breakout session*

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:30 – 11:30	4.3 Market access under the GPA 2012 – Breakout session	Workshop participants

SESSION 5: The GPA 2012 and good governance in government procurement

Time	Subject	Speaker
11:30 – 12:00	5.1 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
12:00 – 12:40	5.2 Good governance in government procurement systems in the CEECAC region: Current challenges and opportunities	EBRD, CLDP and UNODC (TBC)
12:40 – 13:00	5.3 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 6: Domestic enforcement of the GPA 2012: Domestic review procedures under the GPA 2012

Time	Subject	Speaker
14:30 – 15:00	6.1 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 at the domestic level: Domestic review procedures	WTO Secretariat
15:00 – 15:10	6.2 General discussion	

15:10 – 15:30 Break

SESSION 7: Applying the rules of the GPA 2012: A practical exercise – *Breakout session*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:30 – 16:30	7.1 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation – <i>breakout session</i>	Workshop participants

Thursday, 26 October 2023

SESSION 8: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:15	8.1 Observer status in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement: Benefits and procedure	WTO Secretariat
09:15 – 09:45	8.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges, the accession procedure, special and differential treatment for developing countries, and state-of-play	WTO Secretariat
09:45 – 10:00	8.3 General discussion	

10:00 – 10:30 Break

Session 8: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:30 – 11:30	8.4 (i) Recently acceded GPA signatories: Initial experiences and assessments from Armenia and Moldova (ii) GPA accession as a strategy for domestic procurement reform, good governance and export market success: Prospects and policy considerations for the CEECAC region	Pre-recorded WTO Secretariat, EBRD (TBC), CLDP (TBC) <i>Interactive discussion with Workshop participants</i>

Session 8: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
11:00 – 11:10	8.5 Availability of technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat	WTO Secretariat
11:10 – 11:40	8.6 Current work and focus of the EBRD's GPA 2012 TA facility and the CLDP	EBRD (TBC) and CLDP (TBC)
11:40 – 12:00	8.7 General discussion	

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 9: Significance of the GPA 2012 in the context of FTA negotiations

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30 – 14:00	9.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements, with a specific focus on the CEECAC region	WTO Secretariat
14:00 – 14:30	9.2 General discussion	

14:30 – 15:00

Break

SESSION 10: Concluding session

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:00 – 15:30	10.1 Summary observations and main take-aways from the Workshop	WTO Secretariat
15:30 – 16:00	10.2 Participants' evaluation of the Workshop, feedback and comments	Workshop participants
16:00 – 16:30	10.3 Closing remarks	WTO Secretariat JVI representative, EBRD representative (TBC), CLDP representative (TBC)

16:30

CLOSE

