



# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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From: Bridget Chilala Director Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation  Willy Alfaro Director Trade Policies Review Division	Date: 30/03/2017
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## **ADVANCED COURSE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE WTO (IN ENGLISH)\***

*Geneva, Switzerland*

**18-22 September 2017**

The Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation and the Trade Policies Review Division are organizing an Advanced Course on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and the WTO from 18 to 22 September 2017 in Geneva.

The Course is a "Level 3" training activity in the WTO Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS), representing the highest level among WTO training activities. The Course is targeted at participants who already possess a sound knowledge of the WTO system in general and of WTO rules on RTAs in particular. Through group work and interactive panel sessions, participants will be exposed to issues such as adherence to WTO rules on RTAs, transparency of RTAs in the WTO system, coexistence of regional and multilateral trading systems as well as issues related to the Nairobi's MC10 follow-up. The global coverage of the Course will also allow for a broad exchange among participants of their diverse regional experiences on RTAs and related issues.

A team of WTO staff will tutor participants during the course. Delegates based in Geneva and officials from various Regional Secretariats will be invited to contribute to the discussions on specific topics. Participants will also attend one session of the meeting of the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements scheduled to take place on 18, 19 and 20 September 2017. A tentative programme is attached to this invitation.

You are invited to nominate one or more candidates to be considered for participation in this activity. Please note that as a "PLS - Level 3" Course, candidates will be considered for selection only if the following criteria are met:

- (a) **The Course will be conducted in English. All-round proficiency in English is therefore an essential prerequisite for participation.**
- (b) **Participants shall be directly involved - at a technical, practical and/or policy level - in the negotiation and/or implementation of RTAs, and possess sound knowledge of WTO rules on RTAs.**

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- (c) **Preference will be given to candidates who have completed the on-line E-Learning course on Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO (further information on <http://etraining.wto.org>).** The completion of a "Level 2" generalist WTO training activity (either a Regional Trade Policy Course or the E-Learning course "The Multilateral Trade Agreements") will also be taken into account in the selection process;
- (d) **A pre-Course evaluation questionnaire** that relates to RTAs and the WTO will be sent to the selected participants. **Participation in the Course will be subject to the completion and return of the questionnaire to the WTO Secretariat by the indicated deadline.**

The Secretariat of the WTO will make available 25 fellowships for this activity. Each fellowship covers a round trip airplane ticket in economy class, Daily Subsistence Allowance, a Terminal Expenses Allowance, and lodging for the duration of the course.

..... The attached Application Form must be returned, completed and signed by the candidate as well as by the national authority which nominated the candidate, **VIA THE PERMANENT MISSION/EMBASSY TO THE WTO NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2017. Applications submitted after this date or not via the Permanent Mission/Embassy WILL NOT be considered.** The Application Form shall be returned to **the Logistics Unit, WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, (Fax no: +4122 / 739 57 24; OR E-mail: [logistics.unit@wto.org](mailto: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.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure or other reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

### **Français/Español**

\* L'Organisation mondiale du commerce organise un cours avancé d'une semaine sur les Accords commerciaux régionaux à l'OMC, à Genève, du 18 au 22 Septembre 2017. Ce cours étant donné en anglais, l'invitation et les formulaires de candidature et de nomination sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

\* La Organización Mundial del Comercio organiza un curso avanzado de una semana sobre los Acuerdos comerciales regionales en la OMC, en Ginebra, del 18 al 22 de septiembre de 2017. Este curso será dado en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y los formularios de candidatura y de nominación serán distribuidos sólo en inglés.