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To:	Heads of Delegations WTO Members and observers	E-mail:	WTO Members and observers
From:	Bridget Chilala  Director Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation	Date:	25/05/2022
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WTO E-SEMINAR ON COMPETITION POLICY, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

11, 14, 19 AND 22 JULY 2022

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing **the 2022 e-Seminar on Competition Policy, Trade and Development** for the benefit of participants from WTO Members and observers (WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1). There will be four dates with live sessions for which participant attendance is expected: **11, 14, 19 and 22 July**. On all except the last date, the training materials will be uploaded for participants to work through by the next upload date.

The e-Seminar

The purpose of this e-Seminar is to provide an opportunity for participants to enhance their awareness of the complementarities of competition and trade policies in support of economic development, with particular reference to the relevant WTO agreements, including the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) and the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA 2012). As a case study, the e-Seminar will examine the relationship of competition, trade, intellectual property rights, government procurement, and development policy, in the public health sector to highlight the growing importance of this relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another case study will explore the role of competition policy in an increasingly digitalised world with a special emphasis on the WTO telecommunications reference paper. The e-Seminar will also look at international cooperation in the field of competition policy. Special attention will be given to the inclusion of competition policy chapters in regional trade agreements.

..... The programme will comprise presentations by international experts in pre-recorded format. As noted, there will also be live events, and an effort will be made to facilitate appropriate interaction among participants and opportunities to ask written questions concerning speaker contributions. A draft programme is attached. The **e-Seminar** will be held in **English, French and Spanish**. The pre-recorded materials will be available with dubbing.

Participation in the activity

The Governments of Members of the WTO and observers to the WTO, who are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to nominate **up to three senior capital-based officials** to be considered to participate in the above activity. Ideally, at least one official should be from your government's trade ministry and one from your competition enforcement agency or other ministry or agency with policy responsibility in an area of competition policy and/or related aspects of trade policy.

Preference will be given to nominees having policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in competition policy and/or related aspects of trade policy. The Organizers reserve the right to select candidates and to decline the candidature of nominees who do not meet these requirements.

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/competition_policy_trade_and_development_e_seminar_2022
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 22 JUNE 2022.**
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 (E-mail: logistics.unit@wto.org) **NO LATER THAN 22 JUNE 2022.**

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

Participants will be required to contribute to the e-Seminar by providing comments on their national experiences and should come duly prepared.

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 2022 WTO e-Seminar on Competition Policy, Trade and Development, scheduled to take place on 11, 14, 19 and 22 July 2022 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or competition policy matters; (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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