

WTO Public Forum 2016

Session 53 - Trade Dialogues: Business ideas on inclusive trade rules

28 September, 15.30 – 17.00

Room D, 3d floor, WTO building

Background

Upon request of the International Chamber of Commerce and the B20, WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo facilitated a high-level Business Dialogue at the WTO on 30 May 2016. This event was the first of its kind and brought together around 60 business leaders from small and large enterprises from all over the world. They successfully discussed their trade challenges and opportunities and agreed to work on more concrete and specific suggestions that can help guide the WTO membership in their deliberations and preparations for the WTO Ministerial Conference at the end of 2017.

Over the past few months, discussions continued in dedicated Business Focus Groups focussing on:

- Electronic Commerce and Micro and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises;
- Improved Market Access and Services and Investment Facilitation

Participants agreed to present a first overview of their ideas and suggestions during the 2016 WTO Public Forum. On 28 September, the moderators of the above Focus Groups will present their interim reports to a wider audience, including WTO members, and seek their preliminary reactions and views.

Outline of the session

- Panel opening, Bernard Kuiten – 1-2 minutes
- Introductory remarks by WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo – 3 to 5 minutes
- Presentation of interim recommendations on Improved Market Access and Services and Investment Facilitation, by Stormy Mildner, group moderator - 10 minutes
- Presentation of interim recommendations on Electronic Commerce and Micro and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, by John Danilovich, group moderator - 10 minutes
- Reaction from discussants, Ambassador Choi of Korea and Ambassador Shah of Pakistan – 5 to 8 minutes each.
- Open discussion between panel members and audience – 45 to 50 minutes
- Close of session – 3 minutes

The session will have simultaneous interpretation in the 3 official WTO languages (English, French and Spanish). If needed, audiovisual and other presentational tools are available.

Panel members (in order of speaking)

Name	Title	Function
Roberto Azevêdo	WTO Director-General	Introductory Remarks
Dr. Stormy-Annika Mildner	Head of Foreign Trade Policy Department Federation of German Industries (BDI) and incoming B20 Germany Sherpa	Presenting preliminary outcomes of the discussions in the business focus group on Market Access, Services & Investment Facilitation
John Danilovich	Secretary-General, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)	Presenting preliminary outcomes of the discussions in the business focus group Electronic Commerce and MSMEs
H.E. Dr. Syed Tauqir SHAH	Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the WTO	Discussant - comments and views on the interim reports, from his country's perspective and experience
H.E. Hamish McCormick	Ambassador Permanent Representative of Australia to the WTO	Discussant - comments and views on the interim reports, from his country's perspective and experience
Bernard Kuiten	Head of External Relations WTO	Moderator