



Information note for participants

Programme highlights

Plenary Sessions

The Forum will begin on 1 October at 9:30 by a keynote speech, to be followed by the Opening Plenary Session, in which high-level speakers will consider the question: "How can innovation foster growth and trade?"

The second Plenary Session will be held on 2 October from 10:00 to 12:00. Speakers focus on the role of business and on the innovative approaches companies have taken in their international activities. Speakers from the private sector will share their perspectives on whether open trade and innovation mutually reinforce one another.

The third Plenary Session will be held on 3 October and is dedicated to the digital economy.

Working sessions or workshops

Organisers can choose to organize either working sessions or workshops.

These sessions provide a more specific insight into a particular issue. The discussion can be more technical and may involve experts, professionals and opinion leaders. Workshops are different from working sessions. Working sessions will have a traditional format, with a panel exchanging views with a moderator and taking questions from the audience while workshops will take the form of informal brainstorming sessions. There will be no working sessions or workshops during the Plenary Sessions.

- Working sessions are organized in the afternoon of each day from 13:00 to 15:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00. They will follow a traditional format, in which speakers and participants discuss issues related to the Forum's overarching theme. Interpretation in the three WTO official languages (English, French and Spanish) will be available for these sessions.
- Workshops are also organized in the afternoon of each day from 13:00 to 15:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00. They take the form of informal brainstorming discussions focusing on particular issues related to the Forum's overall theme. There will be no interpretation to allow for better interaction.

PROGRAMME IN BRIEF		
Tuesday 1 October	Wednesday 2 October	Thursday 3 October
9:30 – 10:00 Keynote speech	10:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session	10:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session
10:00 – 12:00 Opening Plenary Session	12:00 – 13:00 Break	12:00 – 13:00 Break
13:00 – 17:00 Working sessions or workshops	13:00 – 17:00 Working sessions or workshops	13:00 – 17:00 Working sessions or workshops
17:30 – 20:15 Reception	End	End

Registration/badge collection/ID restitution will be possible between 07:30 and 21:00 on the first day and 7:30 to 19:00 on the last two days.

Keeping up to date with the Public Forum

Regular updates will be posted on the WTO website and on social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) as the event unfolds.

A wide selection of photos from the Forum will be made available on the WTO website and on Flickr.

Public Forum TV – "120 seconds to talk": During the forum, you will have the opportunity to record a two-minute video message in response to the question: "Can we have better trade through innovation?" Your responses will be streamed on social media sites. The best messages will be posted on the WTO website.

Frequently-asked questions

Who can participate in the Forum?

NGOs, representatives of governments, civil society organizations, businesses, trade unions, legislators, academics, students and the public at large are welcome to participate in the Forum.

Who organizes the working sessions and workshops?

Working sessions and workshops are organized by the WTO Secretariat as well as by participants representing NGOs, business groups, law firms, universities and research institutes, trade unions, members of parliaments and inter-governmental organizations.

Where does the Public Forum take place?

The WTO Public Forum takes place at the WTO headquarters at the Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva, Switzerland.

What are the working languages of the meetings?

Except for workshops, the meetings are held in the three WTO working languages: English, French and Spanish. Interpretation is available in all three languages.

How can I register to attend?

Those wishing to attend the WTO Public Forum must register online at: www.wto.org/publicforum2013. The deadline for registration is midnight, Sunday 22 September 2013.

Where can I find additional information about the programme?

This is available on the WTO Public Forum website: www.wto.org/publicforum2013

What if I have questions?

Please send your questions to PublicForum13@wto.org

Do I need a visa?

Please check well in advance of your journey for visa requirements with the Swiss embassy or consulate nearest to you. Please note that the WTO does not organise visa arrangements.

Who pays for my journey?

Participation at the Forum is free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs are to be borne by participants.

Who organizes the Plenary Sessions?

Plenaries are organized by the WTO Secretariat and are designed to address the overall theme. They feature prominent experts and personalities, who share their views on the issues debated.

Useful links

- Getting around Geneva: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/>
- Accommodation: www.genevashotels.com
- Weather: <http://www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>
- Bus Schedule: <http://www.tpg.ch>
- Train Schedule: <http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/reisen.htm>
- Geneva Airport: www.gva.ch