

CHINA ROUND TABLE

ELEVENTH CHINA ROUND TABLE ON WTO ACCESSIONS

WTO ACCESSIONS AND TRADE INTEGRATION: STORIES FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC

A Retrospective of 10 Years of Lao PDR's Membership in the WTO

Programme

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 1-3 February 2023



The 11th China Round Table is funded by the Government of China and organized by the WTO Secretariat, as part of the agreed activities under the China-WTO MOU¹.

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- Mr Di-Mawete Jean Yanga (tel: +41 22 739 65 46; e-mail: di-mawete.yanga@wto.org)

Venue:

CROWNE PLAZA® | VIENTIANE

20 Samsenthai Road, Nongduang Nua Village

Sikhottabong District, P.O.Box 4269, Vientiane, 01000, Lao PDR.

Tel: 856-21-908888

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¹ In July 2011, the Government of the People's Republic of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WTO Secretariat on the China LDCs' and Accessions Programme ("The China Programme"). The Programme has been extended on a yearly basis, with the latest signed in December 2022. The China Programme has five pillars, including the WTO Accessions Internship Programme and the annual Accession Round Table, designed to build capacity and technical skills in trade policy, including on accession negotiations, for acceding governments and Article XII Members, especially from least-developed countries.

PREVIOUS ROUND TABLES



First China Round Table: “Best-Practices in the WTO Accession Process”

Beijing, China, 29 May - 1 June 2012



Second China Round Table: “The Future of the Multilateral Trading System: Perspectives of LDCs and Article XII Members”

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 15-18 October 2013



Third China Round Table: “Post-Accession: Maximizing the Benefits of WTO Membership and Global Economic Integration”

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2-5 June 2015



Fourth China Round Table: “African Perspectives on the Future of Trading System: Domestic Reforms for Competitiveness and Deeper Trade Integration in the Global Economy”

Nairobi, Kenya, 13-14 December 2015



Fifth China Round Table: “Best Practices on the Accessions of Least Developed Countries LDCs”

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 20-23 March 2017



Sixth China Round Table: “Strengthening the Rules-based Multilateral Trading System and Building a Network to Promote Accessions”

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 10 December 2017

PREVIOUS ROUND TABLES (Cont'd)



Seventh China Round Table: "Eurasian Perspectives on the Future of the Multilateral Trading System: Accessions and the Evolution of WTO rules"

Astana, Kazakhstan, 26-27 September 2018



Eighth China Round Table: "Accessions and WTO Reform: On the Road to MC12"

Moscow, Russian Federation, 4-6 December 2019



Ninth China Round Table: "25 Years of WTO Accession in Review"

Virtual Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, 11 December 2020



Tenth China Round Table: "10 Years of Capacity Building under the China Programme"

Virtual, Geneva, Switzerland, 18-20 January 2022

BACKGROUND

2023 marks 10 years since Lao PDR became the 158th Member of the World Trade Organization on 2 February 2013, following 15 years of accession negotiations. This is the most recent of the WTO accessions from the Asia-Pacific Region. In total, 10 Members from region have acceded to the WTO pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement: **Mongolia** in 1997; **China** in 2001; **Chinese Taipei** in 2002; **Nepal*** and **Cambodia*** in 2004; **Viet Nam** and **Tonga** in 2007; **Samoa*** and **Vanuatu*** in 2012; **Lao PDR*** in 2013. These countries and territories constitute 28% of all completed accessions and 55% of LDC accessions to date, representing a second largest group of Article XII Members (after ones from Eurasia) and the largest share among Article XII LDCs, and contributing to expansion of WTO rules by 12.5 % of world trade. With several large economies actively pursuing WTO membership and regional integration, the Asia-Pacific Region continues to be a strong source of strength and dynamism for the rules-based multilateral trading system.

Currently, two more LDCs from the Asia-Pacific Region – **Bhutan*** and **Timor-Leste*** – are in the process of acceding to the WTO. While Bhutan's accession is yet to be activated, Timor-Leste's accession is one of the most actively moving, with the prospect of conclusion in 2023. When concluded, together with Comoros, it would be the first LDC accession since 2016, when Afghanistan and Liberia last joined the Organization. Both Timor-Leste and Comoros contribute to the establishment of the updated LDC accession and post-accession best practices, in terms of substance (including novel accession commitments) and procedure.

11TH CHINA ROUND TABLE

Since 2012, the China Round Table (CRT) has served a platform for stakeholders' dialogue on WTO accessions, aiming to sustain discussions on the integration of new members in the rules-based multilateral trading system. To date, 10 Round Tables have been hosted in four continents: CRT-01 in Beijing, China (2012); CRT-02 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR (2013); CRT-03 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2015); CRT-04 in Nairobi, Kenya (2015); CRT-05 in Siem Reap, Cambodia (2017); CRT-06 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2017); CRT-07 in Astana, Kazakhstan (2018); CRT-08 in Moscow, Russian Federation (2019); CRT-09 in Geneva, Switzerland (2020) and CRT-10 in a virtual format (2022). These Round Tables have provided a forum for experience sharing on best practices on WTO accession and post-accession, especially for developing countries and LDCs, and for exploring how WTO accessions could continue strengthening the multilateral trading system.

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of WTO Accession of Lao PDR, the China Round Table is once again hosted in Lao PDR. Building on the success of the 2nd Round Table, which took place after Lao PDR's accession, the 11th Round Table titled "**WTO Accessions and Trade Integration: Stories from the Asia-Pacific**" will discuss the role and contributions of the Asia-Pacific economies to the rules-based multilateral trading system, and the latest best practices for LDC accessions and post-accession. Following the results of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), the Round Table will also exchange on the latest developments in the WTO and the preparation for the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13).

The highlight of the Round Table will be the High-Level session on Lao PDR's 10-Year Anniversary and the launch of the study "**Lao PDR: a Retrospective on 10 Years of WTO Membership**" which aims to assess the impact and results of Lao PDR's integration into the multilateral trading system.

PROGRAMME

The programme of the 11th China Round Table is structured into the following sessions:

- **Session 1:** WTO Accessions and Trade Integration: Stories from Asia-Pacific – Experiences, Lessons Learned and Way Forward;
- **Session 2:** Latest Developments in the WTO and Preparation for MC13;
- **Session 3:** High-Level - Lao PDR Anniversary: 10 Years of WTO Membership;
- **Session 4:** A Retrospective of Lao PDR's WTO Accession and Membership and the Way Ahead; and,
- **Session 5:** LDC Accessions and Post-Accession – Latest Experiences and Best Practices.

The sessions are spread across 3 days. To enable a lively exchange during the China Round Table, all participants are invited to actively participate in the discussions and be ready to fill one or more designated roles, such as that of a panellist, a commentator, or a moderator.

* Least-developed country (LDC).

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2023	
OPENING SESSION	
8h30 – 9h00 (Vientiane)	Registration
9h00 – 10h00 (Vientiane) <i>3h00 – 4h00 (Geneva)</i>	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO; H.E. Mr Bountheung Douangsavanh, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; H.E. Ambassador Li Chenggang, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO.
10h00 – 10h30 (Vientiane)	Announcement on house-keeping arrangements, Group photo and Coffee Break
SESSION 1: WTO ACCESSIONS AND TRADE INTEGRATION: STORIES FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC – EXPERIENCES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD	
<p>The vast Asia-Pacific region spans the western Pacific Ocean and brings together countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania. It has played an important role in expanding the WTO coverage since 1995: in total, 10 Members from the region have acceded to the WTO pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement: Mongolia in 1997; China in 2001; Chinese Taipei in 2002; Nepal and Cambodia in 2004; Viet Nam and Tonga in 2007; Samoa and Vanuatu in 2012; and Lao PDR in 2013. The region has contributed a quarter of all completed accessions to date and the largest number of Article XII LDCs. Many of the region's economies are known for their impressive economic growth and are actively pursuing global and regional integration. They represent a unique source of strength and dynamism for the global economy and the rules-based multilateral trading system.</p> <p>With participation of WTO Members and Observers from the region, as well as representatives of international organizations and regional trading blocs, this session will: (i) discuss the evolution of the Asia-Pacific in the global economy; (ii) provide an overview of regional integration efforts; (iii) explore WTO accession and membership experiences, including their impact and specific results; and (iv) provide an opportunity to exchange views on the way forward.</p>	
10h30 – 12h30 (Vientiane) <i>4h30 – 6h30 (Geneva)</i>	Moderator: Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr Bountheung Douangsavanh, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; Mr Yu Yongbing, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO; H.E. Mr Seremaia Matai Nawaku, State Minister of Trade and Commerce, Vanuatu; Mr Kong Sotheara, Deputy Director, Department of Notification and Legal Compliance, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia; Ms Zolzaya Dorjtsoo, First secretary, Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia; Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal; Ms Phuong Linh Vu, Official, Inter-Agency Steering Committee on International Economic Integration, Viet Nam; Commentators:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador Pimchanok Pitfield, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO (<i>by video message</i>); • Ms Mary Elizabeth Chelliah, Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade, Singapore (<i>virtually</i>); • Dr Le Quang Lan, Director, Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat; • Mr Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (<i>virtually</i>). <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
12h30 – 14h00 (Vientiane)	Lunch Break
SESSION 2: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WTO AND PREPARATION FOR MC13	
<p>The WTO has an important role to play in addressing the world’s most pressing issues, especially at a time when global solutions are critical. The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) in 2022 secured multilaterally agreed outcomes on issues such as fisheries subsidies, WTO response to emergencies (<i>inter alia</i> waving certain compulsory licensing requirements for COVID-19 vaccines), food security, and WTO reform. The WTO is also moving forward in other areas where groups of like-minded Members are working together on a range of joint initiatives, initially launched at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires in 2017. The adoption of a Declaration on Services Domestic Regulation in December 2021 in which 67 WTO Members agreed on a set of disciplines aimed at increasing transparency, predictability and efficiency of authorization procedures for service providers is a case in point. The 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) is set to take place in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. With just 12 months to go, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has appealed to WTO Members to work towards convergence on a set of meaningful outcomes for this Conference.</p> <p>Led by the WTO Secretariat, this session will review the state of play in the multilateral and plurilateral discussions and the latest developments in preparation for MC13, focusing on LDC perspectives and priorities.</p>	
14h00 – 15h30 (Vientiane) <i>8h00 – 9h30 (Geneva)</i>	<p>Moderator: Mr Usman Ali Khilji, Head of Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral Outcomes - MC12 results – Mr Santiago Wills, Director, Council and TNC Division, WTO (<i>virtually</i>); • LDCs perspectives on WTO reform – H.E. Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the UNOG, Coordinator of the LDC Group (<i>virtually</i>). <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
15h30 – 16h00 (Vientiane)	Coffee Break
16h00 – 17h30 (Vientiane) <i>10h00 – 11h30 (Geneva)</i>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Play on Joint Initiatives – E-Commerce – Ms Stefania Gallo, Trade Policy Analyst, Council and TNC Division, WTO (<i>virtually</i>); • Investment Facilitation, Domestic Regulation in Services – Mr Markus Jelitto, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO (<i>virtually</i>); • Trade and Environment – Mr Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO (<i>virtually</i>) <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023

SESSION 3:

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION – LAO PDR'S ANNIVERSARY: 10 YEARS OF WTO MEMBERSHIP

<p>9h00 – 10h00 (Vientiane) <i>3h00 – 4h00 (Geneva)</i></p>	<p>Master of Ceremony: Ms Souvipha Inthavong, Deputy Director, Multilateral Trade Division, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr Malaithong Kommasith, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, WTO (<i>by video message</i>) • Mr Li Fei, Assistant Minister of Commerce, China (<i>by video message</i>) <p>Video presentation: "10th Anniversary of the Lao PDR's WTO Membership"</p>
<p>10h00 – 10h30 (Vientiane)</p>	<p>Group photo and Coffee Break</p>

SESSION 4:

A RETROSPECTIVE ON LAO PDR'S WTO ACCESSION AND MEMBERSHIP

2023 marks 10 years since Lao PDR became the 158th Member of the WTO on 2 February 2013. Following 15 years of accession negotiations, Lao PDR became the most recent addition to the WTO family from the Asia-Pacific Region and the 6th LDC accession (following the accessions of Cambodia and Nepal in 2004; Cabo Verde in 2008; and Samoa and Vanuatu in 2012). Lao PDR has demonstrated exemplary commitment to integration into the multilateral trading system by using the accession process and WTO membership to transform and modernize its economy and trade regime, which has set a high standard for LDCs participation in the WTO.

This anniversary provides a timely opportunity to reflect on the results of Lao PDR's WTO accession process and the first 10 years of WTO membership (*Part 1 of the Session*); and to exchange views with the private sector and development partners on the remaining challenges and the way forward, with the objective to reap full benefits from Lao PDR's participation in the WTO (*Part 2*). The highlight of the Session will be the launch of the study "Lao PDR: a Retrospective on 10 Years of WTO Membership" which aims to assess the trade and economic impact and results of Lao PDR's integration into the multilateral trading system.

<p>10h30 – 12h30 (Vientiane) <i>4h30 – 6h30 (Geneva)</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Ms Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division, WTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the study: Lao PDR: A retrospective on 10 years of WTO Membership – Mr Patrick Low, former Chief Economist, WTO <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR: WTO Accession Negotiations and 10 Years of WTO Membership in Perspective – Mr Buavanh Vilavong, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR's WTO Accession – Mr Yi Xiaozhun, former DDG, WTO; former Chairperson on the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR (<i>by video message</i>); • WTO and ASEAN: Lao PDR's accession and membership / Lao PDR's Accession to ITA/ITA II – Ms Vilayphone Xindavong, Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR. <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR's Trade Policy Review – Mr Usman Ali Khilji, Head of Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO. <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
12h30 – 14h00 (Vientiane)	Lunch
SESSION 4 (cont'd): LAO PDR's WTO MEMBERSHIP: WHAT'S NEXT?	
14h00 – 16h00 (Vientiane) <i>8h00 – 10h00 (Geneva)</i>	<p>Moderator: Mr Vilaxay Boupha, Director, Division of Multilateral Trade, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of Lao PDR in the WTO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director-General, WTO (<i>virtually</i>); ○ Mr Saysana Sayakone, Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; • Private Sector – Government-Business Partnership – Mr Phouxay Thepphavong, Secretary General, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. <p>Commentators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Usman Ali Khilji, Head of Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO; • Ms Melise Jaud, Senior Economist, Lao PDR Country Office, World Bank Group. • Mr Simon Hess, Head Monitoring and Evaluation, Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EsEIF) (<i>virtually</i>) <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
19h00 (Vientiane)	Official Dinner/Reception hosted by Government of Lao PDR

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2023

SESSION 5: LDC ACCESSIONS AND POST-ACCESSION – LATEST EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES

Eight least-developed countries (LDCs) remain in the process of WTO accession: Bhutan, Comoros, Ethiopia, Sao Tomé et Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Timor-Leste. Some of these LDCs have been in this process for over 15 years, while others started more recently, in 2016-2017. For all of these LDCs, WTO accession presents a unique opportunity to institute domestic reforms and to foster much needed modernization and development of their economies. Of these, two accessions – those of Comoros and Timor-Leste – are getting close to crossing the finish line. When completed, these accessions will contribute to the growing body of LDC accession *acquis* and will provide valuable new insights about LDC accession and post-accession best practices.

The session will review the state of play in the ongoing LDC accessions and will provide a forum for experience sharing. It will focus *inter alia* on identifying successful strategies for harnessing technical assistance / capacity building and outreach efforts, including in the context of parallel regional integration processes. It will also review the latest best practices on WTO post-accession, based on the experiences of LDC Article XII Members, with a view to identifying specific recommendations.

<p>8h30 – 10h00 (Vientiane) <i>2h30 – 4h00 (Geneva)</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr Mozammil Shinwari, former Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Chief Negotiator on Afghanistan's WTO Accession</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the WTO Secretariat, Mr Dimitar Bratanov, Counsellor Accessions Division, WTO <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr Joaquim Amaral, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Timor-Leste; • H.E. Ms Amal Salid Saad Mohamed, Minister of Trade and Supply, Sudan; • Ms Binita Lhadon Ghalley, Deputy Chief Trade Officer, Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan. <p>Commentators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador Rui Macieira (Portugal), Chairperson, Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste (<i>by video message</i>); • H.E. Ambassador Omar Zniber (Morocco), Working Party on the Accession of Comoros (<i>by video message</i>). • Ms Hang T.T. Tran, Senior Coordinator, Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EsEIF) (<i>virtually</i>) <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
<p>10h00 – 10h15 (Vientiane)</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>10h15 – 11h45 (Vientiane) <i>4h15 – 5h45 (Geneva)</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr Saadaldeen Talib, former Minister of Industry and Trade, Chief Negotiator on Yemen's WTO Accession</p> <p>Round Table discussion Best Practices in LDC post-accession:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Axel M. Addy, former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Negotiator on the WTO Accession of Liberia (<i>virtually</i>); • Mr Mozammil Shinwari, former Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Chief Negotiator on Afghanistan's WTO Accession; • H.E. Mr Seremaia Matai Nawalu, State Minister of Trade and Commerce, Vanuatu; • Mr Kong Sotheara, Deputy Director, Department of Notification and Legal Compliance, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia; • Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal; <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
CLOSING SESSION	
11h45 – 12h00 (Vientiane) <i>5h45 – 6h00 (Geneva)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Outcome of the 11th China Round Table – H.E. Mr Malaithong Kommasith, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; • Concluding remarks – Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO.
12h00 – 13h00 (Vientiane)	Lunch Break
From 13h00 (Vientiane)	Cultural Programme

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	NAME	POSITION
Acceding Governments		
Bhutan	Ms Binita Lhadon Ghalley	Deputy Chief Trade Officer, Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment
Bhutan	Mr Kinga Singye	Sr. Desk Officer, Department of Economic and Tech Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
Sudan	Ms Amal Salid Saad Mohamed	Minister of Trade and Supply
Sudan	Mr Mohamed Bashir Mohamed Adam	Undersecretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Sudan	Mr Khalil Basha Sayrin Amurgail	National Negotiator, General Secretariat for WTO, Ministry of Trade and Supply
Timor-Leste	Mr Joaquim Amaral	Minister, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs
Timor-Leste	Mr Leonito Soares De Jesus	Adviser, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs
Timor-Leste	Ms Edya Libania Da Costa Araujo	Official, Office of the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs
Timor-Leste	Ambassador Maria Renata Caldas de Jesus	Ambassador of Timor-Leste in Lao PDR
Timor-Leste	Ms Imaculada Martins	Second Secretary, Embassy of Timor-Leste in Lao PDR

Article XII Members		
Cambodia	Mr Sotheara Kong	Deputy Director of Department of Notification and Legal Compliance, Ministry of Commerce
China	Ambassador Li Chenggang	Permanent Representative of China to the WTO
China	Mr Li Fei	Assistant Minister of Commerce (<i>by video message</i>)
China	Mr Yu Yongbing	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO
Mongolia	Ms Zolzaya Dorjtsoo	First Secretary, Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nepal	Mr Madhu Kumar Marasini	Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies
Vanuatu	Mr Seremaia Matai Nawalu	State Minister, Ministry of Trade and Commerce
Vanuatu	Mr Jimmy Rantes	Director General, Ministry of Trade and Commerce
Viet Nam	Ms Phuong Linh Vu	Official, Inter-agency Steering Committee on International Economic Integration
WTO Members		
Australia	Mr Dan Heldon	Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Australia in Lao PDR
Australia	Ms Hannah Wurf	Second Secretary (Economic and Trade), Embassy of Australia in Lao PDR
Australia	Mr Soulivanh Souksavath	Program Manager, Embassy of Australia in Lao PDR
Australia	Mr Don Spedding	First Secretary and Consul, Permanent Mission of Australia to the WTO (<i>virtually</i>)
Djibouti	Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan	Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the UNOG, Coordinator of the LDC Group (<i>virtually</i>)
European Union	Ms Souphaphone Thavonsouk	Programme Manager (Trade and Private Sector), Delegation of the European Union to Lao PDR

European Union	Ms Erica Migliorati	Intern, Delegation of the European Union to Lao PDR
Japan	Mr Kenya Uehara	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Japan to the WTO (<i>virtually</i>)
Singapore	Ms Mary Elizabeth Chelliah	Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade (<i>virtually</i>)
Thailand	Ambassador Pimchanok Pitfield	Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO (<i>by video message</i>)
Working Party Chairpersons		
Comoros	Ambassador Omar Zniber	Permanent Representative of Morocco to the WTO, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Comoros (<i>by video message</i>)
Timor-Leste	Ambassador Rui Macieira	Permanent Representative of Portugal to the WTO, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste (<i>by video message</i>)

International Organizations and Partners		
ASEAN Secretariat	Dr Le Quang Lan	Director, Market Integration Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat
Asian Development Bank	Ms Kanya S. Sasradipoera	Senior Trade Specialist, Southeast Asia Department (<i>virtually</i>)
Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EsEIF)	Mr Simon Hess	Head Monitoring and Evaluation (<i>virtually</i>)
Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EsEIF)	Ms Hang T.T. Tran	Senior Coordinator (<i>virtually</i>)
International Trade Center (ITC)	Mr Rajesh Aggarwal	Director, Division of Market Development (<i>virtually</i>)
International Trade Center (ITC)	Mr Jean Sebastien Roure	Senior Officer, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business Section (<i>virtually</i>)
g7+ Secretariat	Dr Helder Da Costa	General Secretary (<i>virtually</i>)
g7+ Secretariat	Mr Habib Ur Rehman Mayar	Deputy General Secretary (<i>virtually</i>)
UNESCAP	Mr Yann Duval	Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (<i>virtually</i>)
World Bank Group (WBG)	Ms Melise Jaud	Senior Economist, Lao PDR Country Office
Others Experts/External Resource persons		
	Mr Yi Xiaozhun	Former DDG, WTO; former Chairperson on the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR (<i>video message</i>)
	Mr Patrick Low	Former Chief Economist, WTO
	Mr Mozammil Shinwari	Former Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Chief Negotiator on Afghanistan's WTO Accession
	Mr Axel M. Addy	Former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Negotiator on Liberia's WTO Accession (<i>virtually</i>)
	Mr Saadaldeen Talib	Former Minister of Industry and Trade, Chief Negotiator on Yemen's WTO Accession
WTO Secretariat		
WTO	Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	Director-General (<i>by video message</i>)
WTO	Mr Zhang Xiangchen	Deputy Director-General (<i>virtually</i>)

WTO	Ms Maika Oshikawa	Director, Accessions Division
WTO	Mr Dimitar Bratanov	Counsellor, Accessions Division
WTO	Ms Anna Varyanik	Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division
WTO	Mr Ali Usman Khilji	Head of Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation
WTO	Mr Santiago Wills	Director, Council and TNC Division (<i>virtually</i>)
WTO	Ms Stefania Gallo	Trade Policy Analyst, Council and TNC Division (<i>virtually</i>)
WTO	Mr Markus Jelitto	Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division (<i>virtually</i>)
WTO	Mr Aik Hoe Lim	Director, Trade and Environment Division (<i>virtually</i>)
Host country		
Lao PDR	Mr Malaithong Kommasith	Minister of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Mr Bountheung Douangsavanh	Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Mr Buavanh Vilavong	Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Mr Saysana Sayakone	Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Ms Vilayphone Xindavong	Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Ms. Souvipha Inthavong	Deputy Director of Multilateral Trade Division, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Mr Vilaxay Boupha	Director, Division of Multilateral Trade, Department of Foreign Trade Policy, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Lao PDR	Mr Phouxay Thepphavong	Secretary General, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

CHINA ROUND TABLE