



2016 WTO PUBLIC FORUM: INCLUSIVE TRADE

BOOK LAUNCH BY WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROBERTO AZEVEDO

AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON TRADE AND THE WTO: DOMESTIC REFORMS, STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION, AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Geneva, 28 September 2016 - Room W

Introduction and Background

WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo will launch the book: "African Perspectives on Trade and the WTO: Domestic Reforms, Structural Transformation and Global Economic Integration", on 28 September 2016. The launch event is co-sponsored by the Cambridge University Press (CUP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. According to the latest IMF World Economic Outlook in January 2016, Sub-Saharan Africa is set to grow a 4.0% in 2016, following a lower growth rate of 3.5% that reflected the declines in commodity prices. These positive figures are the reflection of Africa's deeper integration into the global economy through economic policy, legal, institutional and structural reforms.

Furthermore, Africa's deeper inclusion in trade was evidenced by the 10th WTO ministerial conference held in Nairobi in December 2015. This provided a platform for trade policy decision-makers to reflect and offer their perspectives on the core parameters for the deeper engagement of the continent in the Multilateral Trading System. MC10 successfully delivered favourable outcomes towards some key issues, pertinent to the continent.

Although there is progress, several challenges remain and there are risks and vulnerabilities. In addition to domestic governance challenges, global uncertainties such as market turbulences, economic slowdown, reduced demands from China re-balancing its domestic economy, the crash of commodity markets, and terrorism, have affected the growth of the continent. Africa's lead economic and trade policy makers, like counterparts in other regions, are reassessing growth models and strategies, reflecting the range of challenges facing their economies and different comparative advantages.

The book "African Perspectives on Trade and the WTO: Domestic Reforms, Structural Transformation and Global Economic Integration", addresses the following principal questions: How will Africa achieve deeper and more development-meaningful integration into the rules-based Multilateral Trading System and a 21st century Global Economy in dynamic transition? What are the perspectives, approaches and "immediate next steps", as seen by the lead economic and trade policy managers on the continent? What supportive roles can be played by the key multilateral economic and regional institutions?

A working session on "Post-Nairobi: Africa, Trade Multilateralism and a 21st Century Trade Agenda" will follow immediately after the book launch. This session will focus on selected topics from the book, in a panel format, with 4 speakers and a discussant.

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2016, 14h30 – 15h30, ROOM W

Book Launch Session:

"African Perspectives on Trade and the WTO:

Domestic Reforms, Structural Transformation and Global Economic Integration"

<i>Brief opening remarks by moderator</i> 14:30 – 14:35	Moderator: Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Trade Advisor to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment and Chief Negotiator, Nigeria
14:35 – 14:40	Introductory Remarks by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo
14:40 – 14:50	Introduction of the Book by Co-Editors Mr. Patrick Low Former Chief Economist, WTO
14:50 – 15:20	Panel discussion on African Perspectives on Trade and the WTO H.E. Mr. Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade and Industry, Kingdom of Lesotho H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Republic of Liberia H.E. Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria
15:20 – 15:25	Concluding remarks by Moderator
15:25 – 15:30	<i>(Group photograph for Co-Editors and Book Contributors with the Director-General and Guest Speakers, in Room W podium)</i>

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2016, 15h30 – 17h00, Room W

Working Session:

"Post-Nairobi: Africa, Trade Multilateralism and a 21st Century Trade Agenda"

<p><i>Brief opening remarks by moderator</i></p> <p>15:30 – 15:35</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Patrick Low, Former WTO Chief Economist</p>	
<p>15:35 – 15:45</p>	<p>1. Trade Policy Trends in Africa: Empirical Evidence from 20 Years of WTO Trade Policy Reviews</p>	<p>1. Ms. Maika Oshikawa Ms. Vicky Chemutai Accessions Division, WTO</p>
<p>15:45 – 15:55</p>	<p>2. Integration into Regional and Global Value Chains - How is it done?</p>	<p>2. H.E. Mr. Joshua Setipa Minister of Trade and Industry of Lesotho</p>
<p>15:55 – 16:05</p>	<p>3. African Trade Integration: Participation in Global Value Chains</p>	<p>3. Mr. Bernard Hoekman Professor and Director, Global Economics at Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute</p>
<p>16:05 – 16:15</p>	<p>4. Trade Rules, Industrial Policy and Competitiveness: Implications for Africa's Development</p>	<p>4. Mr. Chiedu Osakwe Trade Advisor to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, and Chief Negotiator, Nigeria</p>
<p>16:15 – 16:30</p>	<p>Discussants</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Republic of Liberia</p> <p>Ambassador Stephen Ndung'u Karau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN</p>	
<p>16:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Open Discussion</p>	
<p>17:00 –</p>	<p align="center">Cocktail Reception</p> <p align="center">Venue: Salle des Pas Perdue</p>	