

TRADE FOR PEACE WEEK

15 November – 19 November 2021

NICHOLAS NIGGLI

FORMER WTO GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT (GPA) CHAIRMAN (2007-2012)



Nicholas C. Niggli is the former WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) Chairman who successfully concluded negotiations to improve disciplines for this key world economy sector in 2011. He achieved this by managing highly complex Ministerial level negotiations involving 42 countries. The resulting agreement, is much more development-friendly, created an expansion of the GPA market access coverage by \$US100 billion/year and created a breakthrough in terms of fighting against corruption as well as moving towards more sustainability and development friendliness in public procurement processes around the world.

In the same capacity, Nicholas concluded a landmark diplomatic mediation between China and Chinese Taipei in 2009. He also led the accession process of China, Jordan, Armenia and the Ukraine. During his chairmanship, Nicholas led WTO missions to key Emerging Countries to discuss GPA Membership with political leaders, while also raising political awareness regarding links between trade, institutional strength, good governance, development, inclusive growth and peace.

As part of Switzerland's multilateral trade diplomacy service from 2002 to 2013, Nicholas Deputy Head of the WTO Division of the Mission. He was Coordinator and Vice-Chairman of the Task Force for the organisation of the 2009 and 2011 WTO Ministerial Conferences. In 2011, he was also a Member of the team of Swiss diplomats successfully mediating between Georgia and Russia through the creation of innovative trade governance mechanisms, ultimately permitting Russia to join the WTO.
