AID-FOR-TRADE STOCKTAKING EVENT

23‑25 March 2021

INFORMATION NOTE AND SESSION REQUEST FORM

Information Note

As agreed by Members, the WTO will be organizing an Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking event on 23‑25 March 2021. The purpose of the event is to collect, discuss and disseminate information concerning Members' Aid-for-Trade needs and responses to the trade-related challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Stocktaking event is being organized in keeping with the Addendum to the Aid‑for‑Trade Work Programme for 2020-2022 circulated on 12 October 2020 in document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/81/Rev.1/Add.1.

This information note provides guidance on how the event is intended to be organized. It also contains the following link to an on-line form to request a session during the event: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021AftStocktakingEN>. (In the case of technical difficulty, the attached form in the Annex to this document can be submitted by email to: aft.wto@wto.org).

The event will be organized online, with sessions held remotely. No more than two sessions will be run in parallel at any one time. An effort will also be made to ensure that sessions organized on similar, or the same, topics are not scheduled at the same time.

The WTO Secretariat will organize the opening and closing sessions. The WTO will also collaborate with international financial institutions on regional and thematic sessions. All other sessions will be organized based on the responses to the Session Request Form.

Priority will be given to WTO Members in the scheduling of the event, and precedence will be given to collaborative submissions made by groups of Members. Applicants are responsible for the organization of their own event, including choice of video-conferencing software, technical support and interpretation.

A number of issues arose during consultations with Members on the Stocktaking event. These included: economic diversification and resilience; e-commerce; integrating gender, MSMEs and youth perspectives; trade facilitation; services; and promoting resilience and sustainable recovery. These themes may be useful in guiding applicants as to the type of trade-related challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic that should be the thematic focus of the sessions they request.

A webinar to provide further information on the aims, objectives, and organization of the Stocktaking event will be organized in the coming days; details of which shall be shortly communicated to Members.

The deadline for the submission of session request forms is **31 DECEMBER 2020**. Further technical details will also be communicated to organizers after this closing date**.**

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ANNEX

Session Request Form

The electronic version of this Session Request Form can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021AftStocktakingEN>. Should you encounter any technical difficulty, the form can also be returned in Word or PDF format by emailing to: aft.wto@wto.org. The deadline for submissions is **31 December 2020.** Please note that for session organization, preference will be given to requests by WTO Members (with precedence accorded to collaborative submissions made by groups of Members ).

**1. CONTACT INFORMATION OF FOCAL POINT**

*(Please provide full contact details, i.e. Full Name, Title, Ministry/Organization, Member State/Customs Territory, Email Address and Phone number):*

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**2. SESSION TITLE AND THEME:**

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**3. ABSTRACT (NO MORE THAN 200 WORDS)**

*(Please note that this abstract will be published on the WTO website and in the event programme):*

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**4. PROGRAMME, INCLUDING LIST OF SPEAKERS**

*(Potential and/or confirmed):*

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**5. FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE ORGANIZER(S)**

*(e.g. In case of joint proposal by Members, etc.):*

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**6. ONLINE VIDEO-CONFERENCING SOFTWARE**

*(e.g. Zoom, Webex, etc. Please note that the WTO will be using Zoom for its sessions):*

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**7. ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

*(e.g. time zones, scheduling request):*

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