



## CURRENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

### COMMEMORATIVE EVENT TO MARK THE 100<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WTO'S COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 24 November 2016, 10:00-13:00 hrs  
Centre William Rappard (Room W)

#### CONTEXT

The 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) will be held on 24 November 2016. This is a significant milestone for the multilateral trading system – and for the CTD, which serves as a focal point for consideration and coordination of development work in the WTO.

To mark this occasion, a half-day commemorative will be held in the morning of 24 November, prior to the start of the CTD's 100<sup>th</sup> Session.

Since the establishment of the WTO, considerable progress has been made in integrating developing countries into the multilateral trading system, and their share in world trade has seen a marked increase. Trade continues to be recognized by the international community as an important tool to achieve development objectives, as laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals. However, while significant opportunities exist today for developing countries to participate in global trade, numerous challenges still remain. Least developed countries and other vulnerable economies face particular difficulties in being able to fully reap the benefits of trade. Furthermore, trading internationally can often be much more costly and difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises than for larger businesses.

Against this backdrop, the commemorative event will provide an opportunity to share current and future perspectives on trade and development. Two substantive sessions will be held as part of the event. The first session will look at evolutions over twenty years in the area of trade and development from the time that the CTD held its first meeting in 1995, and in this light will also address current perspectives on the subject. The second session will look forward and explore the challenges which remain, and what needs to be done to ensure that trade works even better as a tool for development.

The event will be inaugurated by the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, and will be chaired by Ambassador Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda), Chairman of the CTD.

#### PROGRAMME

10:00–10:30      OPENING SESSION

Keynote address by **Mr. Roberto Azevêdo**, Director-General, WTO

Statement by **Mr. Joakim Reiter**, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

10:30-11:40      SESSION 1: CURRENT PERSPECTIVES OVER 20 YEARS OF TRADE AND  
DEVELOPMENT

#### **Speakers include:**

- **Mr. Eloi Laourou**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Benin to the WTO

- **Mr. Marc Vanheukelen**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the European Union to the WTO
- **Mr. Marcus Bartley Johns**  
Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Jaime De Melo**  
Scientific Advisor, Foundation for International Development Study and Research (Ferdí) and Emeritus Professor, University of Geneva

*The presentations by the listed speakers will be followed by a discussion*

11:40-12:50

SESSION 2: LOOKING AHEAD – WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

**Speakers include:**

- **Mr. Syed Tauqir Shah**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the WTO
- **Mr. Eduardo Ernesto Sperisen-Yurt**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the WTO
- **Ms. Mari Kiviniemi**  
Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
- **Ms. Hanne Melin**  
Director of Global Public Policy, eBay

*The presentations by the listed speakers will be followed by a discussion*

12:50-13:00

CLOSING REMARKS

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