Introduction

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), launched in 2010, aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of the multilateral trading system among academics and students in developing countries through teaching, research and outreach activities in academic institutions. The programme has been successful in the publication of research papers, the launch of diploma and master’s degree programmes, and promoting greater interaction among the WTO Chairs and national trade authorities.

The WTO Chairs Annual Conference of 2019 will feature research conducted by the WTO Chairs on the theme of the Global Review for Aid for Trade, recent trade policy developments, current trade tensions and the future of trade. It will take stock of the work undertaken by the 19 active WTO Chairs in 2017-18, identify the main achievements and challenges encountered in the delivery of activities; and consider the outcome of the external evaluation of the WCP and the future direction of the programme. It will also consider a planned WCP publication in 2020 and review the progress of the WCP Platform and discuss how to enhance its contents, features, and its future role in the network.
DAY 1: 1st July 2019

14:00-14:30   Welcome coffee

OPENING SESSION – 2019 WCP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

14:30-14:45   Introduction to the programme and objective of the conference
               › Ms. Bridget Chilala, Director, Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation

SESSION 1

The first session will take stock of the work undertaken by the Phase I and II Chairs on the basis of the annual reports on the implementation of their 2017-2018 work programmes as well as a planned publication in 2020. It will also review the progress in the development of the WCP Platform and discuss how to enhance its contents, features, and its future role in the network.

Chair   › Mr Nassim Oulmane (ITTC)

14:45-15:45   Overview of WCP activities (Phase I and II) in 2017-2018 and the WCP Platform
               Presentation by WTO Secretariat
               General discussion

SESSION 2

The second session will consider the report on the external evaluation of the WCP and discuss the way forward.

Chair   › Maarten Smeets (ITTC)

15:45-17:30   WCP Evaluation
               Presentation of SAANA Report
               General discussion

18:00   Reception
SESSION 3
The third session will include presentations and discussions on the theme of the Global Review of Aid for Trade and on recent trade policy developments.

Chair  › Mr Robert Koopman, Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division

9:30-11:00  Supporting Economic Diversification and Empowerment for Inclusive, Sustainable Development through Aid for Trade

Presentation  › Amrita Bahri
Discussant  › Pierre Sauve

General discussion

11:00-12:30  Are digital advance and inclusive growth compatible goals? Implications for trade policy in developing countries

Presentation  › Ali Parry and Wilma Viviers
Discussant  › Stephen Karingi

General discussion

12:30-14:00  Lunch break

SESSION 4
The fourth session will feature presentations and discussions on topics related to current trade tensions and the future of trade.

Chair  › Mr Robert Teh (ERSD)

14:00-15:30  Competitive Neutrality in China: Current Practices, Future Directions in a World of Rising Trade Tensions

Presentation  › Peter Pinguang Ying (on behalf of Lei Zhang)
Discussant  › Lionel Fontagné

General discussion
SESSION 4 (continuation)

15:30-17:00  The new trade frontier agenda: responding to changes in the world economy (digital trade, etc)

Presentation  › Michael Ewing-Chow
Discussant  › Mark Wu
General discussion

CLOSING SESSION

17:00-17:15  Closing remarks

 › Mr Robert Koopman, Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division