ON BEHALF OF AMBASSADOR TERHI HAKALA AND AMBASSADOR GLORIA ABRAHAM PERALTA

Dear Colleagues,

As our shared climate is changing and natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce, the transition to a low-carbon circular economy represents both a necessity and an opportunity. While contributing to climate change mitigation, circular economy also brings new economic opportunities. It supports business, trade and job creation and can enhance the role of developing countries.

Building on earlier discussions at the high-level dialogue Making Trade Work for the Environment, Prosperity and Resilience at the Public Forum 2018 and the World Circular Economy Forum 2019, it is our great pleasure to invite you to our upcoming event:

**Circular Economy and Trade – Advancing Economic Development and Combating Climate Change.**

The high-level side event of the meeting of the CTE will take place on **Monday, November 25th 2019 at 3.45-5.45 pm** (coffee served at 3.30pm) in Room D at the WTO.

At the event, an interactive dialogue engaging the audience will explore key issues and opportunities at the circular economy and trade interface. Initiatives to move towards a circular economy are widespread across the globe, and change will cascade through value chains in different jurisdictions and environments. The event aims to highlight some approaches and stories regarding the creation of an enabling environment for a circular economy, to support the transition. Distinguished speakers and the audience will discuss the solutions and advantages that transition to the circular economy brings to societies and businesses.

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Programme of the event:

- Welcome
- Module 1: High-level Dialogue of opening remarks and setting the scene
  - Climate change and its impacts on productive capacity and trade-related infrastructure - Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, WMO
  - Trade, Environment, and the role of the WTO – Mr. Alan Wolff, Deputy Director-General, WTO

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• Module 2: Panel Discussion, engaging the audience
  
  o Ms. Johanna Sumuvuori, Vice Minister, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
  o Mr. Andreas Pendapala Naanda, Ambassador of Namibia
  o Dr. Joseph Adelegan, Thematic Lead in Circular Economy, United Nations Technology Innovation Labs Programme (UNTIL)
  o Mr. Hugo Chavarría, Head of the Program of Bioeconomy and Productive Development, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA, via video conferencing)
  o Ms. Antonia Gawel, Head of Circular Economy Initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF; moderator of the discussion)

• Closing remarks

You are welcome to join the discussion before, during and after the event in Twitter as well, by using #CircularEconomy4Trade. Should you have any questions regarding the event, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Maarit Keitanen (maarit.keitanen@formin.fi) and Mr. Luis Fernandez (luis.fernandez@comex.go.cr).

**In case you do not hold a WTO badge, please register for the event by Wednesday, November 20th.**

We look forward to seeing you at the event,

Terhi Hakala
Ambassador

Gloria Abraham Peralta
Ambassador

The event is part of the event programme of the Finland’s Presidency of the Council of Europe in Geneva.