

INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs

To: All Members of the WTO and Observers

From: H.E. Mr. José Lu s CANCELA G MEZ, General Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs

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Number of Pages (including this one): 2, plus 6 attachments

CONVENING NOTICE REVISION

The Informal Working Group on MSMEs will hold its next regular meeting on 22 February 2019, starting at 10 a.m. The meeting will take place in room W.

The following items are proposed for the agenda:

1 THEMATIC WORK

A. Transparency cluster

(i) *Access to information: Global Trade Helpdesk*

- Briefing by the ITC and Switzerland on latest developments related to the Global Trade Helpdesk.

(ii) *TPR*

Delegations will be invited to discuss how coverage of MSME-related information in TPRs could be improved on the basis of the proposal received by Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Uruguay (JOB/GC/212/Rev.1) and the mapping prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Informal Working Group (JOB/GC/213).

(iii) *Other issues*

Members will be invited to flag other transparency issues that the Group may wish to address in the future.

B. Thematic cluster

(i) *Trade finance*

At the June 2018 meeting, Members expressed an interest in mapping trade finance programs at the national level to help identify best practices. At the November 2018 wrap-up session, the Secretariat was asked to develop a draft questionnaire that Members would be invited to fill to permit such a mapping.

The proposed draft questionnaire is attached (attachment 1). Members will be invited to discuss the way forward.

(ii) *Other issues*

Members will be invited to flag other issues that the Group may wish to address in future meetings under this agenda item. Other issues raised last year included: trade facilitation and logistics, *de minimis*.

C. Analytical tools cluster

A representative from the OECD, Mr. Nadim Ahmad, will briefly present the OECD-WTO Trade in Value-Added (TiVA) database and discuss projects to mainstream key characteristics of firms (such as multinationals, MSMEs, exporters etc.) in the production of future TiVA models.

Members of the Group will then be given an opportunity to ask questions and will be invited to explore what the Group could do to improve collection of data on MSME's participation in international trade.

D. Conceptual cluster

Canada will present Canada's Policy on Limiting Regulatory Burden on Business: The Small Business Lens (see attachment 3). I also would like to bring your attention to the Think Small First principle referred to in attachment 4.

2 REVIEW OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

A. Outreach to other Members

Review of outreach to other Members and discussion of the way forward.

B. Outreach to other organizations

Review of outreach to other organizations and discussion of the way forward.

3 REVIEW OF MSME-RELATED DISCUSSIONS IN WTO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PROGRAMMES

Members of the Group will be briefed on MSME-related discussions in the Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance, and the TRIPS Council, as well as on latest developments relevant to MSMEs under initiatives such as the Aif for Trade (See attachment 5), the Enhanced Integrated Framework (see attachment 6) and the STDF (see attachment 2).

Members will then be invited to consider how the Group can participate in such discussions or support such initiatives.

4 OTHER BUSINESS