



WTO Informal
Working Group

Invitation to a **Zoom** Webinar for African countries, in English Presentation of the **WTO MSME Group Package of Recommendations**

2 December 11:30am-12:45pm CET

MSMEs are a fundamental part of every economy, representing 95% of businesses globally and almost two thirds of world employment. These figures can be even higher depending on the economy. For example, in the African continent it is estimated that MSMEs represent 70% of total employment. However, MSMEs lag behind large firms when it comes to international trade and they are the most vulnerable during times of crisis. MSME trade can support businesses by smoothing demand and bring economic development through new opportunities and connections to businesses. With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to devastate many small businesses, it is more important than ever to support this critical part of the economy.

Created in December 2017 at the 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, the WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs comprises 90 members of all regions and levels of development. Its objective is to facilitate MSMEs' participation in international trade. The package put forward by the Informal Working Group on MSMEs aims to enhance MSME access to market and regulatory information, promote the inclusion of MSME-related dimensions in trade rulemaking, encourage effective application of trade facilitation measures and full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and increase MSME access to finance and cross-border payments. By seeking solutions to facilitate trade for MSMEs in every economy, the package promotes an inherently developmental approach. This webinar will present the MSME Group's package of recommendations and declarations followed by a Q&A session.

Agenda

11:30 – 11:40 Opening Remarks

- H.E. Mr. José Luis Cancela (Uruguay), Coordinator of the MSME Group
- Mr. Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid (Nigeria), Chargé d'affaires

11:40 – 12:15 Presentation of the MSME Package and initiatives

- Web platform for MSMEs and policymakers
- Recommendation on the collection and maintenance of MSME-related information
- Declaration on access to information and a video presentation of the Global Trade Helpdesk
- Recommendation on trade facilitation and MSMEs
- Recommendation on promoting MSMEs' inclusion in regulatory development in the area of trade
- Recommendation on MSMEs and the WTO Integrated Database
- Declaration on addressing the trade-related aspects of MSMEs' access to finance and cross-border payments

12:15 – 12:45 Q&A, discussion of the package