Predictable and prompt access to information on import customs duties can facilitate better planning of shipments by businesses and enable market players to adjust their transaction costs. Currently, Members are obliged to submit information on applied tariff rates once a year to the WTO as well as publish it based on Article X of GATT-1994 and the Agreement on Trade Facilitation provisions. The question is whether the information on applied tariffs presently submitted by Members to the WTO meets business needs for following and adapting to changes in customs duties.

31 January, 15.00, Room S1, WTO, Geneva

Agenda

Moderator:

- Mr Maxim MEDVEDKOV, Professor, Higher School of Economics; Advisor, WTO Expertise Center, Moscow, the Russian Federation

Speakers:

- Mr Dmitry LYAKISHEV, Permanent Representative to the WTO, the Russian Federation
  Opening statement.

- Mr Maxim MEDVEDKOV, Professor, Higher School of Economics; Advisor, WTO Expertise Center, Moscow, the Russian Federation
  “Enhancing transparency in applied tariffs.”

- Mr José Luis CANCELA GÓMEZ, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO
  “The Importance of Access to Information and Transparency for MSMEs.”

- Mr Paolo GARZOTTI, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the WTO
  Transparency in applied tariffs: EU best practices.

- Ms Renata CRISTALDO OVIEDO, Second Secretary, UN Mission and Other International Organizations, Paraguay
  “Changes in applied tariffs: the Paraguayan case.”
• **Mr Michael WEBB**, *First Secretary, Permanent Representative to the WTO, New Zealand*
  “New Zealand experience providing tariff information to businesses.”

• **Ms Louise WIGGETT**, *Managing Director, CEO Global Trade Solution, South Africa*
  “Can transparency in applied import duties be achieved within the current global framework and how can it be done?”

• **Mr Arnaud PETIT**, *Executive Director, International Grains Council*
  “Tariff modification and market transparency in the grains sector.”

• **Mr Roy SANTANA**, *Counsellor, Market Access Division, WTO*
  “WTO’s Integrated Database: Why does it matter for the MSMEs?”

Followed by open discussion