

SAVE-THE-DATE

The WTO Trade in Services and Investment Division has the pleasure of inviting you to the *Conference on*

Services Trade Policy in Africa - Leveraging regulatory surveys for trade negotiations and policy -

In person WTO Room W and via Zoom

Monday, 27 February 2023 - 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 (CET)

In the context of the joint WTO-World Bank Services Trade Policy Database (STPD),¹ an extensive survey of services trade policies and regulations in African economies was conducted in 2020-2022. The survey benefited from the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the European Union, and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The regulatory information was primarily collected to support current and future trade in services negotiations, whether at the bilateral, regional (e.g., AfCFTA) or multilateral levels. It will also enable national policy makers to compare their services trade policies with other economies within the region and around the World, and to identify best practices and areas for potential policy reform.

The survey is unprecedented in geographical coverage, sectoral scope, and depth:

- It is the first time that services trade policies in 54 African economies (all the AfCFTA signatories) have been surveyed simultaneously.
- The sectors covered represent roughly 2/3 of the service economy (including the most important services activities, i.e., professional, computer, postal and courier, telecommunications, audiovisual, construction, distribution, financial, health, tourism and transport services).

- The survey takes a broad approach and provides information on around 400 measures affecting trade in services, identifying services trade policies on such areas as market entry, operation, competition, and administrative procedures and regulatory transparency.

The regulatory information thus collected has also served as input for the quantification of the restrictiveness of these 54 African economies' services trade policies on the basis of the joint World Bank-WTO Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI). Such quantification allows for further research on services trade policy in these economies.

The objective of the Conference is to present the services trade policy surveys – and the related quantification of trade policies – in African economies, concurrently with the public release of the data. In addition, the Conference will bring together experts from national governments and international organizations to engage in a broad discussion on services trade policy and negotiations in Africa.

The WTO Director General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, will deliver a keynote address during the conference.



DATE AND TIME

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[REGISTER HERE](#) to attend

¹ The STPD is a module of the broader I-TIP Services database. It can be accessed here: <https://i-tip.wto.org/services/default.aspx>. At the time of writing, the data on African economies have not yet been uploaded. It will be released on the occasion of the conference.