

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)**

Trade in services contributes to economic diversification and growth. Services trade policymaking and negotiations have often been marred by lack of consistent and up-to-date information on regulations and policies.

In the context of joint work on trade in services, the World Bank and the WTO conducted an extensive survey of services trade policies and regulations in African economies. The survey, which received support from Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the European Union and the International Trade Centre, seeks to enhance transparency of services trade policies; inform decisions of policymakers, regulators and negotiators; and enable further research on the drivers and impacts of measures affecting trade in services. For the first time, services trade policies and regulations affecting trade in services of all African economies have been surveyed and quantified simultaneously.

The main objective of the conference is to present the World Bank and WTO services trade policy surveys – and the related Services Trade Restrictions Indices (STRI) – in African economies, concurrently with the public release of the data, and motivate public discussion on services trade policy and negotiations in Africa. Against that backdrop, the conference will also bring together experts from national governments, international organizations and the trade research community, to engage in a broad discussion on services trade policy and negotiations in Africa. An underlying theme of the conference is services trade policy transparency, and ways to enhance it. From that perspective, the conference will also allow for further discussion on other concrete initiatives aiming at enhancing the availability of services trade policy information.

*The Conference is organized by the WTO Secretariat, with the support of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) which is gratefully acknowledged.*



## CONFERENCE

# SERVICES TRADE POLICY IN AFRICA

## LEVERAGING REGULATORY SURVEYS FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND POLICY

27 FEBRUARY 2023

### PROGRAMME

<b>10h00 – 10h15</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Anabel González, Deputy Director-General, WTO</i></li></ul>
<b>10h15 – 12h00</b>	<p><b>The World Bank-WTO surveys of services trade policy and STRI of African economies: methodology, experience, results</b></p> <p><i>In this session, the World Bank and the WTO will present the results of the services trade policy surveys and Services Trade Restrictions Indices (STRI) for African economies.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Juan A. Marchetti (WTO)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The importance of regulatory surveys for services trade negotiations and policy, <b>Roberto Echandi</b> (World Bank Group)</li><li>• The World Bank-WTO surveys of services trade policy in African countries: methodology and overview, <b>Joscelyn Magdeleine</b> (WTO) <b>and Giulia Jonetzko</b> (World Bank Group)</li><li>• Quantification of services trade policies in Africa: World Bank-WTO Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI) methodology, results and uses, <b>Ingo Borcherdt</b> (Sussex University and World Bank Group) <b>and Laura Baiker</b> (WTO)</li></ul> <p><b>Discussant: Bernard Hoekman</b>, Director, Global Economics, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EUI)</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>

<b>12h00 – 12h30</b>	<p><b>Initiatives to support services regulatory surveys in Africa: ITC and Germany (through GIZ)</b></p> <p><i>The World Bank-WTO surveys of services trade policy in Africa presented in the previous session benefitted from the support of Germany (through GIZ) and the ITC. The purpose of this session is to discuss how these regulatory surveys fit into their cooperation programs in the region.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ester Rubio Colomer (WTO)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contribution of international partners to services policy and negotiations in Africa, <b>Philipp Knill</b>, Director Africa II (Central, East, Southern Africa) at BMZ – German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</li> <li>• Surveying regulatory barriers for services export promotion in Africa, <b>Ursula Hermelink</b>, Head, Non-Tariff Measures Programme, ITC</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
<b>12h30 – 13h00</b>	<p><b>Keynote address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, WTO</b></li> </ul>
<b>13h00 – 15h00</b>	Lunch break
<b>15h00 – 15h30</b>	<p><b>Initiatives to support services regulatory surveys in Africa: UNECA and OECD</b></p> <p><i>Against the backdrop of initiatives to further promote services trade policy transparency, in this session UNECA and the OECD will present their joint work on surveying digital trade policies in Africa.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Bernard Hoekman (EUI)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveying digital trade policies in Africa, <b>Jason McCormack</b> (UN Economic Commission for Africa) and <b>Janos Ferencz</b> (OECD)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>

<b>15h30 – 17h15</b>	<p><b>Services trade negotiations in Africa: experiences and prospects</b></p> <p><i>This session will focus on services trade negotiations in Africa, reviewing national and regional experiences and discussing prospects for further progress.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Pierre Sauvé (World Bank Group)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mauritius experience with services trade liberalization and negotiations, <b>H.E. Mrs. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady</b>, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the WTO</li> <li>• From services regulatory surveys to services commitments: a practical experience, <b>Maman Laminou Mahaman Balarabe</b>, Director General of Trade, Chief Negotiator for the AfCFTA, Niger</li> <li>• Regional integration of trade in services in Africa: overview and leveraging regulatory survey results, <b>Sékou Falil Doumbouya</b> (Consultant, International Trade and Development)</li> <li>• Services trade liberalization and negotiations: the SADC experience, <b>Viola Sawere</b> (Regional Trade Advisor)</li> <li>• Services trade liberalization and negotiations: the EAC experience, <b>Marie Angelique Umulisa</b> (EAC Secretariat)</li> </ul> <p><i>Q&amp;A</i></p>
<b>17h15 – 18h00</b>	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Xiaolin Chai, Director, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO</b></li> <li>• <b>Sebastien Dessus, Practice Manager, Global Trade and Regional Integration Unit, World Bank Group</b></li> </ul>