



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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WTO TRADE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKSHOP

Geneva, Switzerland

8-12 October 2018

The WTO Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Secretariats of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is organizing a five-day Workshop on Trade and Public Health, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 8 to 12 October 2018. This activity is the fifth of such workshops which build on the series of annual Workshops on Intellectual Property and Public Health that had been organized by the WTO Secretariat since 2005. It will follow the approach developed in the WHO-WIPO-WTO Trilateral Study "Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation: Intersections between Public Health, Intellectual Property and Trade" (available on https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/who-wipo-wto_2013_e.htm).

The Workshop

The Workshop aims to build national policymakers' capacity to analyse policy choices in the area of intersection between trade, intellectual property (IP) and public health, based on a comprehensive understanding of overlapping policy issues with bearing on public health, and an analysis of their relationship with multilateral trade agreements. The core emphasis lies on access and innovation in relation to medical technologies in particular, although it addresses wider trade and health policy matters as well.

Therefore, this activity is intended for policymakers who already have a high level practical understanding of some aspects of trade, IP and health policy, and who have continuing responsibilities for assessing and implementing trade and IP policy options that relate to public health matters. It responds to the more complex policy environment that such policymakers are required to work with in shaping practical responses to contemporary public health challenges. As a programme tailored for senior policymakers, it will include a combination of expert presentations, interactive debate and case studies, as well as selected presentations from among the participants.

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Participants will be supported by experts to strengthen several practical skills: how to analyse and give effect to trade agreements and to assess and implement the policy options they provide for; how to access and make use of information about their implementation; and how to deal with the linkages of trade agreements with the domestic legislative and institutional framework. Participants will have ample opportunity to exchange views and experiences with one another, with WHO, WIPO and WTO experts, with representatives from other international organizations, as well as from industry and the NGO sector, and with medicines procurement programmes.

..... An outline of the programme is enclosed. Given the range and complexity of topics to be covered, the daily schedule for this activity is exceptionally intense and demanding. Participants will be asked to engage in a full week of interactive sessions, which will require considerable preparation beforehand and exclusive focus during the week's programme in order to yield the expected benefits.

Invitation to Propose Candidates

The Members and Observers to the WTO that are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities are invited to nominate up to three capital-based officials of which one would be possibly selected for this Workshop. Thirty participants will be financed by the WTO (i.e., provided with a return economy class ticket, a terminal expenses allowance, daily subsistence allowance, and accommodation for the duration of the workshop). There is also provision for up to five additional applicants to participate in the workshop at their own expense.

To be considered for their possible selection, nominees should possess the following qualifications and background:

- Direct responsibility for matters relating to the interaction between trade agreements and public health, whether from authorities dealing with foreign affairs, trade, IP, public health or from many other relevant department charged with responsibilities regarding the interface between trade agreements and public health;
- Definite expectation of continuing to work, or being assigned responsibilities, specifically in this field;
- Established expertise and experience in this area, and a good level of knowledge about trade law and policy, including, but not limited to, the WTO's TRIPS Agreement, and public health policy; and
- All-round proficiency in English, as the Workshop will be delivered in English.

The Application Process

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Interested candidates need to duly complete and submit the online application form, which is available at https://wto.formstack.com/forms/trade_and_public_health_workshop.
2. The online application form requires uploading a scanned copy of the passport and of the official nomination letter, signed and stamped by the competent government authority that is nominating the candidate. A template for such a letter to be signed and stamped by the national authority can be found in Annex 1 of this invitation letter.
3. The application form, including the passport and nomination letter, should be submitted via the online application system **no later than 8 June 2018**.
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Missions/Embassies to the WTO. Validations should be addressed by fax or email to the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (Fax No: +41 22 739 5724; Email: logistics.unit@wto.org) **no later than 8 June 2018**.

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Please note that the complex preparations and logistical arrangements for this activity mean that the WTO Secretariat cannot consider any applications received after that date and/or without the validation by the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO.

Selected participants will receive confirmation directly. Relevant administrative information, travel details and economic-class ticket will be sent after the selection has taken place.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel the activity if sufficient funding cannot be secured in time, or in the event of any other circumstances beyond its control.

Preparations for the Workshop

Advance reading material will be made available to enable successful candidates to prepare for the Workshop. They will also be required to submit, in advance of the activity, a brief report on the state of play of policy development regarding issues at the crossroad between trade and public health in their country. This report should cover, in particular, the public health situation, any specific policies or strategies developed to address public health needs, the relevant legislative framework, including the regulatory framework and the implementation and use of flexibilities in the IP system, as well as any relevant experiences. It should also identify and elaborate on a particular topical area of current policy discussion and activity in their country. This preparatory work, ideally assembled in close coordination with key domestic stakeholders, is important to ensure that substantive input can be provided for discussions at the workshop. Selected participants will be invited to present on their reports to the workshop, so as further to promote interactivity, open discussions and a practical focus on contemporary policy challenges.

For Further Information

Our colleagues Mr. Roger Kampf (Tel: +41 22 7396218; Email: roger.kampf@wto.org) and Ms Josefita Pardo de Leon (Tel: +41 22 7395642; Email: josefita.pardodeleon@wto.org) are at your disposal for any further information concerning the Workshop.

ANNEX 1

**TEMPLATE FOR NOMINATION LETTER TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND STAMPED BY THE
RELEVANT AUTHORITY NOMINATING THE CANDIDATE**

The [Ministry/Directorate/National Office] of [Member/Observer] officially nominates [name of candidate] to participate in the Trade and Public Health Workshop, scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 12 October 2018 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement policy matters; (ii) has full command of English and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and is fully aware that this nomination is subject to the decisions of the WTO Selection Committee and to the conditions described in the conditions to participate in WTO technical assistance activities.

The Government of [Member/Observer] requests WTO financing for this candidate:

YES ☐

NO ☐

Details of the official responsible for nominating this candidate:

Name	
Family Name	
Current Post	
Government Authority	
Telephone	
Email address	

By signing this form, the Nominating Authority certifies that all the information included is complete and correct.

Date	Signature	Stamp
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