





WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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| To: Heads of Delegations WTO Members and Observers | E-mail: List attached |
| From: Bridget Chilala  Director Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation | Date: 25/02/21 Pages: 6 (including this one) Ref: VIR21-13 |
| Antony Taubman  Director Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division | |

WTO REGIONAL E-WORKSHOP ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS COUNTRIES

23, 25 AND 29 MARCH 2021 (HALF-DAYS)

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing **the WTO Regional E-Workshop on Government Procurement for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus Countries**, which seeks to raise awareness of and deepen knowledge about the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) 2012 for the benefit of participants from WTO Members and Observers (WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1). The e-Workshop will be held **through a virtual platform over three half-days: 23 March 2021 (day 1), 25 March 2021 (day 2) and 29 March 2021 (day 3)**.

Purpose and content of the activity

The Workshop has as its purpose to provide a forum for trade and procurement experts to exchange information and experiences on policy and related issues in the government procurement sector, and to consider their implications for trade and economic performance.

The main objectives of the programme are: (i) to familiarize participants with the WTO activities related to government procurement, notably as they relate to trade, development, good governance and economic performance and have in-depth discussions about the legal and institutional foundations of the GPA 2012; (ii) to elaborate on the benefits and challenges associated with accession to and implementation of the Agreement on Government Procurement and the procedures and modalities to be followed, in addition to related policy issues; and (iii) to touch upon several cross-cutting issues such as electronic procurement, sustainability and the fight against corruption relevant to the creation of efficient government procurement systems.

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..... The programme will consist of presentations by the WTO Secretariat and leading international experts in pre-recorded format. A live breakout session will be organised to bring participants online and discuss relevant topics. An effort will be made to allow for appropriate deferred interaction between the participants and presenters (Q&As, participant surveys, etc.). A draft programme is attached. The **e-Workshop** will be held in **English only**.*

Participation in the activity

The Governments of Members and Observers to the WTO, who are eligible to benefit from training and technical cooperation activities, are invited to nominate **up to three capital-based officials** to be considered to participate in the above activity. Ideally, at least one official should be from your government's Trade Ministry and at least one from your Ministry of Finance, Procurement Authority or other Ministry or Agency with policy responsibility in this area. **Up to 60 participants** may be selected by the WTO Secretariat to participate in this activity.

Preference will be given to nominees having policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement policy matters. The organisers reserve the right to select candidates and to decline the candidature of nominees who do not meet these requirements and/or on the basis of the maximum number of participants.

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/wto_ceecac.
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 to this Invitation letter.
3. The application form, including the passport and nomination letter, should be submitted via the online application system **NO LATER THAN 10 MARCH 2021**.
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy 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 10 MARCH 2021**.

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure, or for any reason that render the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

Participants will be required to contribute to the e-workshop by answering survey questionnaires as well as working in groups during the breakout session. Active participation in Question and Answer sessions is also anticipated and encouraged.

***Français / Español**

L'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC) organise un atelier virtuel régional sur les marchés publics pour les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale, d'Asie centrale et du Caucase (CEECAC), le 23 mars 2021 (jour 1), le 25 mars 2021 (jour 2) et le 29 mars 2021 (jour 3). Cet atelier étant qu'en anglais, l'invitation et le formulaire de candidature sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

La Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) organiza un Taller regional en línea sobre contratación pública para países de Europa central y oriental, Asia central y el Cáucaso (CEECAC), el 23 de marzo de 2021 (Día 1), 25 de marzo de 2021 (Día 2) y 29 de marzo de 2021 (Día 3). Este taller será en inglés solamente, por consiguiente, la invitación y el formulario de candidatura serán distribuidos únicamente en inglés.

WTO OMC

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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 WTO Regional E-Workshop on Government Procurement for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus Countries, scheduled to take place on 23 March (day 1), 25 March (day 2) and 29 March (day 3) and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement matters; (ii) has full command of English and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and (iii) 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.

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 |
|------|-----------|-------|