



WTO TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA AND THE REGIONAL TRADE POLICY COURSES (RTPC) IN 2020: DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This communication sets out information on the Global Training Activities in Geneva and the eight-week long Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) to be conducted in 2020. Its aim is to facilitate the planning of government officials' participation in the trade-related training activities to be conducted by the WTO in 2020. The training calendar outlined below includes both face-to-face and activities available through eLearning courses. It will be subject to revisions as circumstances change during the year or supplementary information becomes available. This information will be made available on the page of the WTO website corresponding to Building Trade Capacity – Technical Assistance and Training.¹

1.2. Detailed information on course titles, delivery language and dates are provided in annexes I, II, and III included at the end of this communication. Annex I lists the activities available to "generalists" (see below) at different levels of learning through face-to-face courses held in Geneva and in the regions for the eight-week long trade policy courses or through the eLearning platform.² Annex II contains similar information for learning activities aimed at "specialists" and held in Geneva. Annex III lists eLearning activities that are outside of the Progressive Learning Strategy framework.

1.3. For courses organised per region, other than the eight-week long trade policy courses, details will be published as they become available on the pages of the WTO website corresponding to Technical Assistance and Training.

1.4. The Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) encourages government officials from beneficiaries of WTO Trade-related Technical Assistance to take advantage of the wide range of training opportunities planned for their benefit during 2020. For each training activity, in accordance with existing procedures, an announcement will be made online and/or a letter of invitation will be sent out to the Permanent Missions of the targeted beneficiaries detailing the activity's title, delivery language and dates, application requirements and other relevant information.

2 WTO'S PROGRESSIVE LEARNING STRATEGY

2.1. The WTO training activities are structured around WTO's Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS). The PLS seeks to promote increasing levels of learning and the development of participants' autonomy in order to build and sustain long-lasting human and institutional capacities in beneficiary Members. This in turn aims to allow beneficiary Members to participate more effectively in the rules-based Multilateral Trading System. In 2020, the PLS will continue to play a key role in ensuring that government officials and other stakeholders progressively build their knowledge about the WTO Agreements and related obligations, formulation of trade policies, and the conduct of trade negotiations.³

2.2. Taking into account the spectrum of beneficiaries, the PLS foresees two learning paths - one for "generalists" and another for "specialists":

¹ Available at https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/teccop_e/tct_e.htm.

² Available at <https://wtolearning.csod.com>.

³ Further details on the PLS may be found in the Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2020–2021, WTO document WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1, 1 November 2019.

- "Generalists" are officials that require a broad knowledge of the WTO to conduct their work and have general responsibility for WTO issues.
- "Specialists" are officials that require in-depth knowledge in a specific WTO area or Agreement and are working on or dealing with related specific issues.

2.3. The generalist learning path consists of three PLS levels (see Annex I):

- PLS Level 1 (basic). This level offers generalists an initiation to the role, structure and functioning of the WTO, as well as to its economic and legal underpinnings. eLearning courses are the mainstay for training at level 1, especially the online course "Introduction to the WTO". However, in view of the particular needs and interests of LDCs, a face-to-face "Introductory Trade Policy Course for LDCs" is also offered in Geneva.
- PLS Level 2 (intermediate). This level provides a comprehensive understanding of the main provisions of the WTO Agreements and negotiations. The main face-to-face training offered to generalists at this level takes the form of Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs). These are eight-week long courses organised by region and include revision segments and mandatory graded examinations. They cover the WTO Agreements and regional trade policy issues and focus on strengthening participants' autonomy through their ability to use WTO information resources, in particular the WTO Legal Texts. Alternatively, generalists may take advantage of level 2 eLearning courses, in particular the online course "The Multilateral Trade Agreements".
- PLS Level 3 (advanced). This level addresses horizontally trade policy issues on which one or several WTO Agreements may have a bearing. The one course available to generalists at this level is the face-to-face Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC). The ATPC is the most comprehensive advanced WTO training product available under the PLS. It includes a series of interactive sessions focussing on case studies, simulations and exercises, and roundtables that foster the sharing of experiences and best practices as well as debating present-day trade topics.

2.4. The specialist learning path consists of the following PLS levels (see Annex II):

- PLS Level 1 (basic). Specialists also take advantage of the courses offered to generalists at level 1, as described above.
- PLS Level 2 (intermediate). For specialists, this level offers a thematic approach focusing on one WTO Agreement (or on a limited number of related ones). At this PLS level, participants may take part in one of the several specialized courses available through the eLearning platform.
- PLS Level 3 (advanced). This level is proposed to specialise on one sub-sector or one aspect of a single WTO Agreement, or to concentrate on one or several implementation issues. All activities for specialists currently planned at level 3 are face-to-face and include several courses on specific topics in Geneva.

3 OTHER WTO TRAINING ACTIVITIES

3.1. In addition to the courses listed in Annexes I, II, and III, the WTO also offers other training activities ranging from PLS levels 1 to 3 in Geneva and the regions. The courses in Geneva include Introduction and Focus Activities, intended for Geneva-based delegates, non-governmental organizations, WTO staff members, interns working in the Secretariat and interested officials from other international organizations. Based on demand from Geneva-based WTO delegates, Introduction Activities may be designed to target particular WTO Agreements or issues, and to allow for more in-depth focus and exchange of views and perspectives, as well as networking.

3.2. The eLearning programme also includes courses outside of the PLS framework, such as "The WTO in 10' " and "Agriculture Express", which provide basic training on the WTO and the Multilateral Trading System using a learning-by-doing approach.

4 KEY CONSIDERATIONS TO BENEFIT FROM WTO TRAINING

4.1. The ITTC wishes to remind beneficiaries of the vital importance of meeting the criteria spelt out for a specific WTO training activity, where applicable, to qualify to take part in it. Among others, such criteria may require that a completed application form be signed by both the candidate and the nominating national authority and submitted via the relevant mission to the WTO. Compliance with any stated application deadlines is of the utmost importance.

4.2. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the PLS, candidates are selected based on the principle that prerequisites are obligatory to move through the levels of PLS activity. Prerequisites reflect the pedagogical needs of each training activity and may take the form, for example, of having previously taken certain WTO courses and/or having specific knowledge or professional experience. Meeting the relevant prerequisites is essential but not sufficient for a candidate to be selected to take part in face-to-face training activities. As the number of applicants typically exceeds the places available for such activities, it is often not possible to retain all qualified candidates. In these cases, a selection process is carried out to piece together a well-balanced group of participants taking into consideration both the backgrounds of individual candidates as well as systemic considerations.

4.3. It is important to note that eLearning training activities function both as a training tool and as a selection tool, with successful participants in these courses becoming eligible to attend certain face-to-face training activities.

4.4. All eligible candidates may benefit from the training activities offered through the eLearning platform, with no limit on the number of participants who may enrol in a particular course. eLearning material may be freely obtained through the eLearning Course Catalogue, with participants able to start their course at their convenience and to organize their study pace according to what fits them best. However, participants must submit a nomination form in order to register in the eLearning platform, access the eLearning Course Catalogue, participate in monitored courses, take the course exams, and obtain a WTO certificate. Once registered in the eLearning platform, participants can access the eLearning courses, which are open throughout the year⁴.

4.5. As in the past, due consideration will be given in 2020 to offering when appropriate additional places to participants from all Members on a self-funded basis. In line with the Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2020–2021, efforts will be made to continue expanding the availability of course-offerings in all three WTO languages in activities held in Geneva. As a result, the delivery language of an activity may vary from that indicated in Annexes I, II, and III.

5 ANNEXES⁵

5.1. The annexes incorporate a selection of key activities and are not comprehensive; in particular, they do not include requests related to regional seminars for specialists and to national technical assistance. In going through the annexes, these additional points should be kept in mind:

- Dates shown for face-to-face courses are tentative and may change.
- Face-to-face courses are delivered in English, French or Spanish, as indicated.
- eLearning courses are available at any time throughout the year and, thus, they are not associated with particular dates.
- All eLearning courses are available in English, French and Spanish except as noted.

5.2. Finally, please also note that the WTO Secretariat may modify, postpone or cancel any of the activities in the annexes in cases such as events of force majeure, if funding cannot be secured in time, if an insufficient number of eligible candidates register for participation, or for any other reasons that render the execution of the activity impracticable.

⁴ Available at <https://wtolearning.csod.com>.

⁵ Information on all training activities is available on the WTO website at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/train_e/course_details_e.htm.

ANNEX I

2020 Training Calendar for Generalists*

LEVEL 3

Face-to-face:

- Advanced Trade Policy Course (E), 27 January – 20 March
- Advanced Trade Policy Course (E), 15 June – 7 August (TBC)
- Advanced Trade Policy Course (S), 5 October – 27 November (TBC)



LEVEL 2

Face-to-face:

- RTPC for French-Speaking Africa: Côte d'Ivoire (F), 3 February – 27 March
- RTPC for English-Speaking Africa: Mauritius (E), 20 April – 12 June
- RTPC for the Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago (E), 1 June – 24 July
- RTPC for Latin America: Mexico (S), 13 July – 4 September (TBC)
- RTPC for Arab and Middle East countries: Switzerland (E), 10 August – 2 October
- RTPC for CEECAC countries: Kazakhstan (E), 31 August – 23 October (TBC)
- RTPC for Asia-Pacific (E) (TBD)

eLearning:

- The Multilateral Trade Agreements
- The WTO and Trade Economics: Theory and Policy
- Legal Underpinnings



LEVEL 1

Face-to-face:

- Introductory Trade Policy Course for LDCs, 20 April – 8 May (TBC)
- WTO Information Seminar on International Trade Policy for Journalists (TBC) (TBD)

eLearning:

- Introduction to the WTO

* E = English, F = French, RTPC = eight-week long Regional Trade Policy Course, S = Spanish, TBC = to be confirmed, TBD = to be determined.

ANNEX II**2020 Training Calendar for Specialists*****LEVEL 3****Face-to-face:**

- Workshop on the Implementation of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement (E), 4-6 February
- Joint WIPO-WTO Advanced Course on Intellectual Property for Government Officials (E), 16-27 March
- Trade and Environment Thematic Workshop for LDCs (E), 23-27 March
- Course on Trade in Value Added and Global Value Chains (E), 8-12 June
- WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP teachers (E), 15-26 June
- Follow-up to the 2019 Advanced Thematic Course on SPS (E), 17-26 June
- Advanced Workshop on Agriculture Notifications (E), 6-10 July
- Advanced Course on the Economic Analysis of Trade Policy (E), 23-31 July
- Advanced Thematic Course on GATS (E), 14-18 September
- Advanced Thematic Course on Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO (F), 21-25 September
- Advanced Course on Import Licensing Procedures and Notifications (E), 28 September – 2 October
- Advanced Global Workshop on Government Procurement (E), 26-30 October
- Advanced Thematic Course on SPS (F), 26 October – 13 November
- Workshop on non-tariff measures for ITA participants (E), 28-29 October
- Thematic Workshop on Trade and Public Health (E), 9-13 November (TBC)
- TBT Transparency Seminar (E), 23-27 November (TBC)
- Advanced Thematic Course on WTO Dispute Settlement (E), 30 November – 4 December
- Advanced Course on Trade and Environment (E) (TBD)
- Seminar on IP and Knowledge Flows in a Digital Era (E) (2 days, TBD)
- Symposium for IP Judges (E) (4 days, TBD)
- Seminar on Competition Policy, Trade and Development (E) (3 days, TBD)

- SPS Committee Thematic Session (E/F/S), 17 March
- SPS Thematic Workshop (E/F/S), 22-23 June
- SPS Committee Thematic Session (E/F/S), 3 November
- WTO Agriculture Symposium (E/F/S), 2-3 December
- Trilateral Symposium on Trade and Health Themes (E/F/S) (TBC) (TBD)





LEVEL 2

Face-to-face:

- Course on WTO Accessions and Agriculture (E), 12–16 October

eLearning:

- Agriculture Information Management System
- A Short Trip to TRIPS
- CITES and the WTO: Enhancing Cooperation for Sustainable Development
- Copyrights in the WTO
- Documents Online E-Subscriptions
- Mainstreaming Trade: The Fundamentals
- Mainstreaming Trade in Action
- Made in ...: Understanding Rules of Origin
- Market Access for Goods and Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiations
- Patents in the WTO
- Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Technical Barriers to Trade in the WTO
- The WTO Dispute Settlement System
- Trade and Environment
- Trade and Development
- Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Trade Finance and the WTO
- Trade in Services in the WTO
- Trade Remedies and the WTO
- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
- Transparency and the WTO: Notifications Obligations
- WTO Accession (revised version)
- WTO Market Access Intelligence Online



LEVEL 1

Face-to-face:

- Introductory Trade Policy Course for LDCs (E), 20 April–8 May (TBC)

eLearning:

- Introduction to the WTO

* E = English, F = French, S = Spanish, TBC = activity to be confirmed/decided, TBD = dates to be determined (possible time period between parentheses)

ANNEX III

2020 Training Calendar (Other)

eLearning:

- WTO in 10'
 - The Agriculture Express
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