



INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs

CONVENING NOTICE

The following convening notice, dated 15 October 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs.

The Informal Working Group on MSMEs will hold its next regular meeting on 29 October 2019, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The following items are proposed for the agenda:

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Discussion of the proposals received in the order of the standing agenda.

MSME-related information in TPRs

Proposal by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Russian Federation, and Uruguay (INF/MSME/7/Rev.1).

MSMEs platform proposal

Proposal by Guatemala, Mexico, and Uruguay (INF/MSME/W/3/Rev.1).

Access to information: Global Trade Helpdesk

Proposal by Switzerland (INF/MSME/W/11). A background note entitled "*Global Trade Helpdesk assessment in preparation towards MC12*" was prepared by the ITC to provide information on the state-of-play of the Global Trade Helpdesk (INF/MSME/W/15).

Trade facilitation

Proposal by the Coordinator (INF/MSME/W/14). A background note entitled "*Trade Facilitation Agreement Provisions, MSMEs' Pain Points, Recommendations and Good Practices*" was prepared by the Secretariat to help inform discussions under this agenda item (INF/MSME/W/8).

Good regulatory practices

- Proposal on Good Regulatory Practices by Uruguay (INF/MSME/W/12).
- Background documents on this topic:
 - Communication by Canada entitled "*Small Business Lens*" (INF/MSME/W/13).
 - Secretariat's note on "*Good Regulatory Practices and Small Business Lens Principle*" (INF/MSME/W/9).

Implementation of the newly adopted IDB Decision

Communication from Canada on "*MSMEs and the WTO Integrated Database*" (INF/MSME/W/10).

ROAD TO MC12

Planning for MC12 – Members will be invited to give their views on the following:

- Other issues on which recommendations could be developed.
- What issues should be included in a work programme?
- How do we organize ourselves in the lead-up to MC12 to ensure the broadest support possible?

REVIEW OF MSME-RELATED DISCUSSIONS IN WTO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PROGRAMMES

Members of the Group will be briefed on MSME-related discussions in the Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance, on latest STDF developments related to MSMEs, and on the newly adopted IDB decision.

REVIEW OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach to other Members

Review of outreach to other Members and discussion of the way forward.

Outreach to other organizations

- Review of outreach to other organizations and discussion of the way forward.
- Presentations by:
 - Ms Aksinya Sorokina, CFA and SME specialist on the IFC's work regarding SME trade finance.
 - Mr Ian Sayers, Head, Access to Finance and Enterprise Stability on Trade Finance and the ITC.
 - Mr Paul Donohoe, Digital Economy and Trade Programme Manager, UPU, on postal trade facilitation and SME enablement.
 - Mr Salehin Khan, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UN Economic Commission for Europe, on the UN Integrated Services for MSMEs in International Trade (ISMIT).
 - WCO representative, on work done by the WCO concerning Single windows and Authorized Economic Operator Programmes (tbc – via videoconference). More information available here: (http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/frameworks-of-standards/safe_package.aspx).

Outreach to the private sector

- Briefing by the Coordinator on the survey on Single windows and Authorized Economic Operators Programmes issued via the MSME Ideas Exchange platform.

- How to create new pathways for more direct communication between MSMEs and the MSME Informal Working Group.

OTHER BUSINESS
