

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE  
(WTO WING)

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Islamabad, the 14th March, 2024

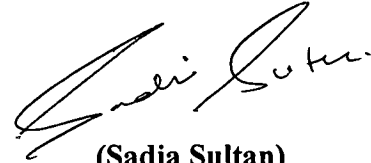
CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: - **ADVISORY CENTRE ON WTO LAW (ACWL) SECONDMENT PROGRAMME FOR TRADE LAWYERS 2024-25**

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Invitation along with its enclosures, received from the Advisory Centre on WTO Law ("ACWL"), Geneva, Switzerland on the above mentioned subject for placing on the website of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. Interested/relevant officers, who fulfill the eligibility criteria may send their nominations, duly approved by their respective Head(s) of the Wing(s) to WTO-II Section (along with application forms, C.Vs, valid passport copies, Services Profile and details of availed Foreign Training/Workshops etc) latest by 01-04-2024 positively. Nominations received after the deadline will not be entertained.

Encl: **As Above**



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# Advisory Centre on WTO Law

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**Niall MEAGHER**  
Executive Director

The Ambassadors of the ACWL's  
Developing Country Members and  
the LDCs entitled to the ACWL's  
Services

Reference: ACWL 2024/28

13 March 2024

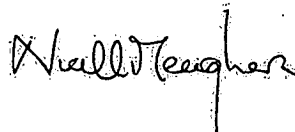
Madam/Sir:

I am pleased to invite ACWL developing country Members and the least-developed countries (LDCs) entitled to the ACWL's services to nominate candidates for the 2024-2025 cycle of the ACWL's Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers. Under this Secondment Programme, the ACWL offers up to four lawyers from the governments of developing country Members of the ACWL and the LDCs the opportunity to join the staff of the ACWL as paid trainees for a period of nine months from October 2024 to June 2025.

I attach a memorandum explaining the Secondment Programme in more detail, together with the personal history form to be completed by nominated candidates. All the information will also be available at our website [www.acwl.ch](http://www.acwl.ch) as of 14 March 2024.

I would appreciate if you would draw the attention of eligible lawyers in your government to this opportunity. Each government may nominate up to two candidates for the Secondment Programme. The deadline for the submission of applications is **Friday, 12 April 2024**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Niall Meagher



Advisory Centre on WTO Law

Centre Consultatif sur la Législation de l'OMC

Centro de Asesoría Legal en Asuntos de la OMC

## SECONDMENT PROGRAMME FOR TRADE LAWYERS

2024-2025

### What is the Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers?

The Advisory Centre on WTO Law ("ACWL") is an international organisation located in Geneva, Switzerland. The ACWL provides legal advice and training on WTO law and support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings to developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs).<sup>1</sup> The ACWL is independent of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

As part of its training activities, the ACWL conducts a Secondment Programme for Trade Lawyers (the "Secondment Programme"). Under this programme, four government lawyers from the ACWL's developing country Members and the LDCs entitled to the ACWL's services join the ACWL's staff as paid junior lawyers for a period of nine months (from October-June) to gain practical experience in WTO law and dispute settlement procedures.

The Secondment Programme is intended to give government lawyers responsible for the legal aspects of trade agreements and policy the opportunity to broaden their professional experience in the field of WTO law. Participants take an active part in the ACWL's day-to-day activities and assist the staff lawyers of the ACWL in preparing legal opinions and providing support in WTO dispute settlement proceedings. The participants also follow the ACWL's regular training courses and seminars on WTO law and dispute settlement procedures, as well as participating in in-house training courses on legal writing and other legal issues.

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "country" and "developing country" include separate customs territories and countries with economies in transition.

Upon completion of the Secondment Programme, the participants are required to resume their employment with their government.

### **Who may apply?**

The Agreement Establishing the ACWL stipulates that the ACWL may provide training only to government officials.<sup>2</sup> Applicants must, therefore, be officials of the government of an LDC or a developing country Member of the ACWL. These government officials are expected to have the following qualifications:

- a law degree or equivalent academic qualifications;
- an ability to work in English (we encourage applicants from non-English speaking countries, including French- and Spanish-speaking countries. However, all applicants must be able to work in English);
- at least two years of professional experience in the area of international law and trade policy; and
- a demonstrable interest in WTO law.

The ACWL recognizes that lawyers in some governments may not have had the opportunity to gain prior experience in WTO law. In appropriate cases, therefore, the ACWL welcomes nominations of government lawyers whose responsibilities include more general issues of international law and responsibility for treaty obligations.

### **What is the application process?**

All candidates must be nominated by their governments and must submit their applications through their governments. The applications may be submitted either by the government's Mission to the WTO in Geneva or directly by the relevant officials in capital. Please note that the ACWL is unable to consider applications that are not supported by a nominating letter from the applicant's government.

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<sup>2</sup> See Article 2.2 of the Agreement Establishing the ACWL.

Each LDC and developing country Member of the ACWL is entitled to nominate up to two candidates for the Secondment Programme per year.

Applicants must provide a detailed CV and complete a personal history form, a copy of which is attached to this memorandum or can be downloaded from the ACWL website.<sup>3</sup> It can also be provided electronically upon request by contacting [secretariat@acwl.ch](mailto:secretariat@acwl.ch).

### **What is the selection process?**

A Recruitment Board consisting of representatives of the Management Board, the Executive Director and staff lawyers of the ACWL will review the applications and prepare a short list of candidates.

The short-listed applicants will be invited to participate in a pre-screening interview with two ACWL staff lawyers via an online platform.

Following the pre-screening interviews, a final short list of candidates will then be invited to participate in a final interview with the Recruitment Board and to complete a written two-hour examination.

The Recruitment Board will then select the four successful candidates. We hope to complete the process by May/June 2024. The selected candidates will be notified and, if they accept, provided with assistance in obtaining visas from the Swiss authorities and other logistical arrangements.

The selected candidates will be required to provide, with their acceptance of the ACWL's offer, (i) an attestation from their government that they are on secondment and will be returning to work with the government on completion of the Secondment Programme, and (ii) a personal attestation that they intend to return to work in their government on completion of the Secondment Programme.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.acwl.ch/download/Personal-history-form-2024.doc>.

The selected candidates will be expected to arrive in Geneva to start the Secondment Programme by 1 October 2024.

### **What conditions of service does the ACWL offer?**

The selected participants will become staff members of the ACWL for the duration of their secondment. As a result, the ACWL Secretariat will secure permits for the seconded lawyers in accordance with the ACWL's headquarters agreement with Switzerland.

Participants should note that given the temporary nature of the Secondment Programme, the Swiss authorities will **not** authorise permits for the family members of participants to work or reside in Switzerland for the duration of their secondment. Successful candidates should, therefore, plan to come to Geneva without accompanying family members (although in some cases family members may be able to make temporary visits as tourists). Please also note that while some information and assistance will be provided, the ACWL cannot be responsible for finding accommodation for participants in the Programme.

Participants will be subject to the same duties and obligations as the regular staff members of the ACWL and will be expected to regulate their conduct in accordance with the ACWL Standards of Conduct. In particular, the participants will be asked to sign an oath of confidentiality. The participants in the Secondment Programme will receive the following benefits of those set out in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the ACWL:

- an economy class return air-ticket to Geneva from the participant's country of residence;
- an installation grant of CHF3,000;
- a monthly stipend of CHF4,809;
- health and accident insurance for the duration of the participant's secondment; and

- annual leave at the rate of two and a half days a month (unused leave will not be compensated at the end of the Programme).

Upon the completion of the Secondment Programme at the end of June, the Executive Director will prepare a written report on the activities and performance of each participant and provide a copy to the participant and the seconding government. As noted above, participants are expected to return to their government on completion of the Secondment Programme.

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