

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
(WTO WING)

No. 1(32)/2023-WTO-II

Islamabad, the 29th February, 2024

CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: - WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA) 2012 FROM 29 APRIL TO 3 MAY 2024 IN GENEVA

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Invitation along with its enclosures, received from Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO, Geneva, 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 04-03-2024 positively. Nominations received after the deadline will not be entertained.

Encl: As Above


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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: 27/02/24 Pages: 9 (including this one)
Antony Taubman  Director Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division	Ref: TC24-4

WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA) 2012

29 APRIL – 3 MAY 2024

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing the **WTO Advanced Global Workshop on the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) 2012** for the benefit of participants from eligible WTO Members and observers (WT/COMTD/W/261/Rev.1). The Workshop will take place on **29 April-3 May 2024 in Geneva.**

Purpose and content of the activity

The purpose of the Workshop is **to share perspectives and build participants' knowledge and skills relating to current issues concerning the interface of government procurement, international trade, development and good governance with a specific focus on the GPA 2012.**

More specifically, the Workshop aims to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related recent developments, the WTO Committee on Government Procurement, and the synergies and complementarities between the GPA 2012 and other international instruments and regional trade agreements. Relevant aspects and recent developments relating to, among other things, sustainable procurement, SME participation in government procurement markets, e-procurement, and the role of government procurement in achieving desirable public health outcomes, will also be addressed. Furthermore, the Workshop will provide an opportunity to reflect upon the potential benefits and challenges of accession to the GPA 2012, the flexibilities available to developing countries seeking accession, and the accession procedure.

The programme will comprise presentations by WTO Secretariat and other international experts. A draft programme is attached. The Workshop will be held in the three official languages of the WTO, with the delivery of presentations in **English** and simultaneous interpretation into **French and Spanish**. Comprehension of the candidates' preferred WTO language might be checked orally.

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 senior capital-based government officials** to be considered to participate in the above activity. Ideally, nominations should include officials from your government's Trade Ministry and from your Ministry of Finance, Procurement Authority or other Ministry or Agency with policy responsibility in the area of government procurement. **The maximum total number of participants for this activity is 35 and all selected participants will be funded.**

Preference will be given to nominees having policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement policy matters and having completed the e-learning course on the objectives, rules and operation of the GPA 2012 (Course: Objectives, Rules and Operation of the GPA 2012 – GPA 2012 course series – Course 1 (wto.org)). The organisers reserve the right to select candidates and to decline the candidature of nominees who do not meet these requirements.

A round trip airplane ticket in economy class, accommodation for the duration of the course, a daily subsistence allowance and a terminal expenses allowance will be provided to funded candidates. Further administrative details will be communicated directly to the selected participants.

Participants will be required to contribute to the Workshop by providing comments on their national experiences and actively participating in the group exercises and should come duly prepared.

The Application Process

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Interested candidates need to complete and submit the online application form, which is available at: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/2024_advanced_global_workshop_gpa.
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 08 MARCH 2024.**
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO. Validations should be addressed by email to the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (Email: logistics.unit@wto.org) **NO LATER THAN 08 MARCH 2024.**

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.

For Further Information

Please contact the WTO Secretariat (gpa@wto.org), if you need any further details.

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 Advanced Global Workshop on the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) 2012, scheduled to take place from 29 April to 3 May 2024 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, French or Spanish 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
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