

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**



No. 5(2)/2020-Admn-I/MoC

Islamabad, the 16th November, 2020

C I R C U L A R

SUBJECT:- CALL FOR NOMINATION TO THE WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL E-WORKSHOP ON THE PLURILATERAL WTO AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

A self-explanatory letter No VIR20-22, dated 04th November, 2020 received from Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO, containing guidelines for the subject workshop is enclosed for uploading on the website of Ministry of Commerce for information.

2. Interested officers who fulfill the eligibility criteria may forward their nomination duly approved by the head of the Wing to Admn-I/MoC Section by **18-11-2020** before closing office hours for onward submission to the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO.

Encl: As above



**(Muhammad Imtiaz)
Deputy Director (MoC)**

Manager (IT), Ministry of Commerce with the request to kindly upload the same on the website of this Ministry.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: +41 22 739 6440
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To: Heads of Delegations
WIO Members and Observers Fax No: WTO Members and Observers

From: Bridget *[Signature]*
Director
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation Date: 04/11/2020

[Signature]
Antony Taubman
Director
Intellectual Property, Government Procurement
and Competition Division Pages: 3 (including this one)

Ref: VIR20-22

WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL E-WORKSHOP ON THE PLURILATERAL WTO AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

7, 10 AND 14 DECEMBER (HALF DAYS)

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing the **2020 Advanced Global E-Workshop on the Plurilateral WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA)**, which seeks to raise awareness of and deepen knowledge about the revised GPA for the benefit of participants from WTO Members and Observers (WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1). The online Workshop will be held through a virtual platform over three half-days: **7 December (day 1), 10 December (day 2) and 14 December (day 3)**.

Purpose and content of the activity

The main purpose of this Advanced Global e-Workshop on the Plurilateral WTO Agreement on Government Procurement is to familiarize participants with the objectives, content and benefits of the revised GPA and related policies like open, non-discriminatory and competitive international government procurement, good governance, and inclusive and sustainable development. Participants will be introduced to the flexibilities provided under the GPA (including in relation to emergency situations like COVID-19), the significance of the GPA in the context of domestic government procurement reform and the promotion of domestic good governance, the benefits of accession to the revised GPA and the possibility to negotiate transitional measures catering for development needs of newly acceding countries.

The programme will consist of presentations by the WTO Secretariat and leading international experts. The presentations will be pre-recorded or shared in "live" format. Owing to differences in time zones, however, it is expected that possibilities for live interaction will be limited. 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.***

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Participation in the activity

The 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 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 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 Q&A sessions is also anticipated and encouraged.

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.farneta.ch/online/forms/2020_advanced_global_e_workshop_wta.
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 FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER.**
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 FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER.**

***Français / Español**

L'Organisation mondiale du commerce organise un atelier virtuel sur les marchés publics - Promouvoir le commerce, la bonne gouvernance et un développement durable et inclusif : L'Accord révisé de l'OMC sur les marchés publics (AMP) comme outil de facilitation, le 7 décembre (jour 1), 10 décembre (jour 2) et 14 décembre (jour 3) 2020. Cet atelier étant en anglais, l'invitation et le formulaire de candidature sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

La Organización Mundial de Comercio organiza un taller en línea sobre Contratación Pública - Promoción del comercio, la buena gobernanza y el desarrollo inclusivo y sostenible: El Acuerdo revisado de la OMC sobre Contratación Pública (ACP) como facilitador el 7 de diciembre (Día 1), 10 diciembre (Día 2) y 14 de diciembre (Día 3) 2020. Este seminario se impartirá en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y el formulario de candidatura serán distribuidos únicamente en inglés.

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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 Advanced Global E-Workshop on the Plurilateral WTO Agreement on Government Procurement, scheduled to take place on 7 December (day 1), 10 December (day 2) and 14 December (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 criteria 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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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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ADVANCED GLOBAL E-WORKSHOP ON THE PLURILATERAL WTO AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA)

7, 10 AND 14 DECEMBER¹

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1: THE MAIN FEATURES AND FLEXIBILITIES OF THE GPA, AND GPA IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Opening		
Welcome and introduction to the programme of the E- Workshop	Mr Reto Malacrida IPD	5-10

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1.1 Introduction to the GPA: objectives, covered procurement, key principles and features	Mr Robert Anderson, University of Nottingham	30
Domestic GPA implementation		
1.2 The 2014 UNCITRAL Model Law as a useful guide to implementing the GPA domestically	Ms Caroline Nicholas, UNCITRAL	30
1.3 Built-in GPA flexibilities for covered procurement: procurement methods, time-periods, exceptions, awarding of contracts	IPD	30
1.4 Case study on built-in flexibilities: the operation of the GPA in situations of extreme urgency (COVID-19)	Professor Sue Arrowsmith, University of Nottingham	30
Plurilateral GPA administration		
1.5 The regular work of the Committee on Government Procurement: a conversation with the incumbent Chair	Mr Carlos Vanderloo, Chair of the Committee on Government Procurement	20
Participants' input		
1.6 Participants' opinion survey	Participants	
1.7 Breakout session		
1.8 Participants submit any questions/comments to the WTO Secretariat in writing, with replies to be provided during Geneva working hours		

¹ These are the dates on which pre-recorded presentations will be uploaded to the platform. Participants will be notified in case a recording cannot be uploaded as planned due to unforeseen circumstances.

DAY 2: THE DELIBERATIVE FUNCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE AND ACCESSION TO THE GPA PART I (THE WTO LEVEL)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Plurilateral GPA deliberations: The Government Procurement Committee's Work Programmes		
2.1 Currently active GPA Work Programmes: Small-and-medium-sized enterprises, statistical data, and sustainable procurement	IPD	20
GPA accession: Requirements and procedures, preparation for coverage negotiations, and transitional measures for developing countries		
2.2 Accession to the GPA: observer status in the Committee, recent trends, requirements and procedures	IPD	30
2.3 GPA coverage negotiations and the e-GPA system as a negotiating aid (https://e-gpa.wto.org)	IPD	30
2.4 GPA transitional measures for developing countries:	IPD	20
Participants' input		
2.5 Participants' opinion survey	Participants	
2.6 Results of the breakout session	Participants report back in a live format	
2.7 Participants submit any questions/comments to the WTO Secretariat in writing, with replies to be provided during Geneva working hours		

DAY 3: ACCESSION TO THE GPA PART II (THE DOMESTIC LEVEL) AND OUTLOOK

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Duration</u>
GPA accession: Seeing the opportunities and building support		
3.1(a) GPA accession as a catalyst for internal government procurement reform: examples from the CEECAC region	Ms Eliza Niewiadomska, EBRD	30
3.1(b) [Optional] The GPA as a tool for fighting corruption: first empirical insights	Ms Nadezhda Sporysheva UNECE	30
3.2 Building domestic support for GPA accession: a Brazilian perspective	[Representative of the Mission of Brazil to WTO/capital-based delegate from Brazil OR Cesar Pereira]	30
3.3 Evidence-based trade policy-making: towards more and better economic data on international government procurement	[Ms Zornitsa Kutlina-Dimitrova, EU Commission]	30
3.4 Measuring the economic impacts of acceding to the GPA: analytical approach and initial results	[Mr Mihaly Fazekas, Central European University]	30

Outlook: The current international regulatory and policy landscape			
3.5	Current trends in international government procurement regulation and policy	Professor Steven Schooner, George Washington University	30
Participants' input			
3.6	Participants' opinion survey	Participants	
3.7	Participants submit any questions/comments to the WTO Secretariat in writing, with replies to be provided during Geneva working hours		

	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Conclusion			
	Closing remarks	Mr Tony Taubman, Director, IPD	5-10
	Seminar evaluation form	Participants	