



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE



No.1(32)/2023 WTO II

Islamabad, the 19th February , 2025

From

Pir Shah Gul
Deputy Director (DC-I)

To

1- Database Administrator, MOC, Islamabad

SUBJECT: WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA) 2012 FROM 28TH APRIL TO 2ND MAY 2025 IN WTO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Please find attached herewith a copy of invitation along with its enclosures, received from Permanent Mission of Pakistan to 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 Wings to this Section (along with application forms, CVs, valid passport copies, service profile and details of availed Foreign Training/Workshops etc) latest by 24/02/2025 positively. Nominations received after the deadline will not be entertained.

3. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) are also requested to send in their nominations (if any), for the said training please.

Attached herewith:

a) Invitation Letter EN_ES_FR Advanced Global Workshop on the Government Procurement Agreement

b) Training Programme_Advanced WS_2025_EN_ES_FR

**Pir Shah Gul
Deputy Director (DC-I)**

Copy for information to:-

- 1- Chairman, TCP, Karachi
- 2- Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad
- 3- JS(WTO), MOC, Islamabad
- 4- Dy Chief (WTO), MOC, Islamabad

**Pir Shah Gul
Deputy Director (DC-I)**



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: +41 22 739 6440
Email: logistics.unit@wto.org

E M A I L

To: Heads of Delegations
WTO Members and Observers E-mail: List attached

From: Johanna Hill Date: 13/02/2025

Johanna Hill

Deputy Director-General and Director (Acting)
Intellectual Property, Government Procurement
and Competition Division

Bridget Chilala

Bridget Chilala

Director
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

Number of pages (including this one): 28

Ref: TC25-4

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

28 APRIL – 2 MAY 2025

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/273 and Corr. 1). The Workshop will take place from **28 April to 2 May 2025 in Geneva**.

Purpose and content of the activity

The purpose of the Workshop is to **build participants' knowledge and skills, and share perspectives, relating to 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 free trade agreements. The Workshop will also 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, the accession procedure, and the observer status in the Committee. Aspects relating to the implementation of the GPA 2012, including sustainable procurement, SME participation in government procurement markets, the prevention of corrupt practices, domestic review procedures, and e-procurement, will also be addressed.

.... The programme will comprise presentations by the 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 30 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. Successful completion of the WTO e-learning course on the objectives, rules and operation of the GPA 2012¹ would be an asset. The organizers 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.

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/2025_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 3 MARCH 2025.**
4. Applications are to be validated by the Embassy/Permanent Mission 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 3 MARCH 2025.**

.... 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.

Further information

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

¹ [Course: Objectives, Rules and Operation of the GPA 2012 – GPA 2012 course series – Course 1 \(wto.org\)](#)

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 28 April to 2 May 2025 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement policy 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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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZATION MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

WTO ADVANCED GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON

THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (GPA) 2012

28 APRIL – 2 MAY 2025

WTO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (ROOM E)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 28 April 2025

08:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

SESSION 1: OPENING

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:15	1.1 Opening remarks	TBC
09:15 – 09:45	1.2 Participant introductions and objectives	Workshop participants

SESSION 2: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND THE OBJECTIVES AND GLOBAL POLICY CONTEXT OF THE GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:45 – 10:30	2.1 Government procurement: Trends and challenges for policymakers, with a particular focus on developing countries	External expert (TBC)

10:30 – 10:45 Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:45 – 11:15	2.2 Introduction to the GPA 2012: The global policy context, objectives, key principles and policy considerations for developing countries	WTO Secretariat
11:15– 12:00	2.3 The economic rationale for trade liberalization in the area of government procurement: Is government procurement different?	WTO Secretariat

12:00– 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 3: CONTENT OF THE GPA 2012: ITS RULES AND THEIR APPLICATION

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30 – 14:00	3.1 GPA 2012 rules: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities (walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012)	WTO Secretariat
14:00– 15:00	3.2 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their application – Breakout session	Workshop participants, External expert (TBC)

15:00 – 15:15 Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:15– 15:45	3.3 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation – Breakout session	Workshop participants, External expert (TBC)

SESSION 4: PANEL DISCUSSION ON CURRENT TRENDS AND TOPICAL ISSUES RELATED TO GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:45 – 16:45	4.1 Panel discussion	WTO Secretariat, Moderator (TBC), External expert (TBC), Panelist(s) (TBC)

Tuesday, 29 April 2025

SESSION 5: SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE GPA 2012: POTENTIAL MARKET ACCESS BENEFITS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:15	5.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (https://e-gpa.wto.org/)	WTO Secretariat

10:15 – 10:30 Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:30 – 11:30	5.2 Group exercise on market access under the GPA 2012 – Breakout session	Workshop participants
11:30 – 12:00	5.3 Introduction to the Workshop participants' simulation of a GPA 2012 accession negotiation on market access (Negotiation simulation) – Breakout session	WTO Secretariat

12:00– 13:30 Lunch Break

BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION 6A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - **BREAKOUT SESSION**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30 – 15:00	6.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country Member group preparing output	Workshop participants in the acceding country group

PARALLEL SESSION 6B: THE GPA 2012 AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30– 14:00	6.2 Good governance: Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market – The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat
14:00 – 14:30	6.3 Good governance: Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market – more/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
14:30– 15:00	6.4 Good governance: Preventing and addressing good governance challenges	External expert (TBC)

END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

15:00 – 15:15 Break

SESSION 7: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 1)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:15 – 15:45	7.1 SME participation under the GPA 2012: The Committee decision on best practices for promoting and facilitating the participation of SMEs in Government Procurement, the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement, gender-sensitive procurement (women-owned/led SMEs)	WTO Secretariat, External expert (TBC)
15:45 – 16:45	7.2 Informal exchanges and experience-sharing between participants and the Secretariat team/External expert	Workshop participants, WTO Secretariat, External expert (TBC)

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION 8A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:30	8.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing output	Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups

PARALLEL SESSION 8B: THE GPA 2012 AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:30	8.2 Good governance: Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market – The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat
09:30 – 10:00	8.3 Good governance: Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market – more/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
10:00 – 10:30	8.4 Good governance: Preventing and addressing good governance challenges	External expert (TBC)

END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

10:30 – 10:45 Break

SESSION 9: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 2)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:45 – 11:30	9.1 Notification requirements under the GPA 2012 and related Group exercise	WTO Secretariat
11:30 – 12:00	9.2 E-procurement and open data under the GPA 2012	WTO Secretariat

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 10: ENFORCEMENT OF THE GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30 – 13:45	10.1 WTO intergovernmental dispute settlement concerning disputes arising under the GPA 2012	WTO Secretariat
13:45 – 14:00	10.2 Requirements under the GPA 2012 concerning domestic review procedures	WTO Secretariat
14:00 – 15:00	10.3 Panel discussion	WTO Secretariat, Moderator (TBC), External expert (TBC), Panelist(s) (TBC)

15:00– 15:15 **Break**

SESSION 11: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GPA 2012 (PART 3)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:15 – 15:30	11.1 Sustainable public procurement (SPP) under the GPA 2012 and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement	WTO Secretariat
15:30 – 16:30	11.2 Panel discussion	WTO Secretariat, Moderator (TBC), External expert (TBC), Panelist(s) (TBC)

Thursday, 1 May 2025

BEGINNING OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION 12A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 10:30	12.1 Negotiation simulation: Acceding country group preparing output	Workshop participants in the acceding country group

PARALLEL SESSION 12B: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:45	12.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges	WTO Secretariat
09:45 – 10:30	12.3 Informal exchanges and experience-sharing between participants from the rest of the group and the Secretariat team	Workshop participants, WTO Secretariat

10:30 – 10:45 **Break**

PARALLEL SESSION 13A: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS - *BREAKOUT SESSION*

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:45 – 12:15	13.1 Negotiation simulation: GPA Party group/groups preparing output	Workshop participants in the GPA Party group/groups preparing output

PARALLEL SESSION 13B: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
10:45 – 11:30	13.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges	WTO Secretariat
11:30 – 12:15	13.3 Informal exchanges and experience-sharing between participants from the rest of the group and the Secretariat team	Workshop participants, WTO Secretariat

END OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

12:15 – 13:45 Lunch Break

SESSION 14: ACCESSION TO THE GPA 2012 AND COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (CGP)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:45 – 14:15	14.1 Accession to the GPA 2012: State of play and accession procedure	WTO Secretariat
14:15 – 14:45	14.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: A perspective from the EBRD GPA TC Facility, practical and strategic considerations	TBC
14:45 – 15:15	14.3 The CGP: The regular work of the WTO CGP and the observer status in the Committee	WTO Secretariat

15:15 – 15:30 Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
15:30 – 16:00	14.4 The CGP: A conversation with the Chair of the WTO CGP	Martin Zbinden CGP Chair (TBC)
16:00 – 17:00	14.5 Panel discussion	WTO Secretariat, Moderator (TBC), Panelist(s) (TBC)

Friday, 2 May 2025

SESSION 15: SIMULATION OF GPA ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:00 – 09:30	15.1 Negotiation simulation: Debriefing	Workshop participants

SESSION 16: THE GPA 2012 AND FTA NEGOTIATIONS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
09:30 – 09:40	16.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements	WTO Secretariat
09:40 – 10:45	16.2 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 and FTAs and debriefing	Workshop participants

10:45 – 11:00 Break

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
11:00 – 12:00	16.3 Panel discussion	WTO Secretariat, Moderator (TBC), Panelist(s) (TBC)

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 17: CONCLUDING SESSION

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
13:30 – 14:15	17.1 "The GPA in action" - Local (Geneva-related) case study	TBC
14:15 – 14:45	17.2 General Q&A session (covering the whole Workshop)	Workshop participants
14:45 – 15:45	17.3 Workshop evaluation and feedback/comments	Workshop participants
15:45 – 15:50	17.4 Closing remarks	TBC

15:50 **CLOSE**