



Trade in Services for Development

Empowering LAC Countries to Reap Development Dividends

A Webinar organized by the WTO, World Bank, ECLAC and the IDB

Virtual event via Zoom

Thursday, 16 May 2024 – 15h30-17h00 (Geneva time)

See [here](#) for your local time

Services have emerged as the driving force shaping the economic landscape of countries at all levels of development. Services trade has become a key element in growth strategies, becoming the most dynamic component of global trade in recent times.

In 2023, the WTO and the World Bank jointly published a study entitled 'Trade in Services for Development', which underscored the significant and multifaceted development impact of trade in services and the important opportunities it offers to developing countries in terms of export-led growth, economic diversification, inflows of foreign direct investment, enhanced regulatory governance, and integration into global value chains.

The co-publication argues that increased levels of Aid for Trade in services are required to help developing countries take fuller advantage of the growth and development opportunities presented by services trade. It advances a Trade in Services for Development Initiative, spelling out the broad elements of an Aid for Trade roadmap for services aimed at facilitating international cooperation and scaling up the capacity of developing countries to participate more meaningfully in services trade and engage in services deliberations.

This webinar will allow for a discussion of the development impact of trade in services and situate global trends in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean. It will promote exchanges on possible elements, at the regional level, of a work programme on trade in services to increase the participation of developing countries in global services trade and help them harness the development promise of a world more service-centric world economy.

VIRTUAL EVENT VIA ZOOM, [CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION](#)



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PROGRAMME

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English-Spanish interpretation provided

Moderated by WTO Deputy Director-General, Johanna Hill

15h30 – 15h35 Opening remarks by:

- Johanna Hill, DDG, WTO
- José Manuel Salazar, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

15h35 - 15h55 'Trade in Services for Development': Overview, Key Trends in Trade in Services, and the Contribution of Services Trade Policies

- Martin Roy, Counsellor, WTO

15h55 - 16h15 Discussion – Relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Anabel González, Vice-President for Countries, IDB: Policy Reforms in Services: Where Next for LAC?
- Nanno Mulder, Chief, International Trade Unit, ECLAC: Key Services Trends in LAC: What Do the Numbers Say?

16h15 - 16h35 'Trade in Services for Development' Initiative: Possible Elements of an Aid for Trade Work Programme to Assist Developing Countries

- Pierre Sauv e, Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank

16h35 - 16h55 Discussion of the proposed Aid for Trade components with regional experts and representatives from selected governments from the region:

- Francisco A. Lima Mena, Secretary-General, Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration
- Vilma I. Arbaje de Contreras, Vice Minister of International Trade, Dominican Republic [TBC]
- Alejandro Buvinic, Director of the Division on Services, Investment, and Digital Economy, Undersecretariat of International Economic Relations, Chile
- Jamaica – Representative TBC

16h55 – 17h00 Concluding remarks from:

- Anabel González, Vice-President for Countries, IDB
- Johanna Hill, DDG, WTO