



## Addressing business challenges in services markets

### The WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation

Services trade has grown considerably in the past decade and is estimated to now account for around half of international trade. At the same time, the 2019 WTO World Trade Report found that the costs of trading services are about twice as high as trade costs for goods. A significant portion of these costs are the result of regulatory divergence, as well as opaque regulations and cumbersome procedures.

Through the WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation, a group of 63 WTO Members—both developed and developing countries, accounting for over 70 per cent of international services trade—is aiming to conclude negotiations this year to mitigate any trade restrictive effects of authorization measures, such as licensing and qualification procedures.

The Initiative's goal is to lock in and promote good regulatory practices that can increase predictability and efficiency for businesses operating across the world.

Business, industry, government and NGO representatives are invited to attend this webinar to learn more about the:

- state of play of the negotiations;
- perspectives of business and industry experts on the practical value of the disciplines for facilitating and expanding their operations; and
- perspectives of participating WTO Members on the importance of the disciplines in developing a domestic policy framework that facilitates business engagement with national procedures and, with a view to increasing their trade competitiveness.

#### > Moderator

- Mr Crispin CONROY, ICC Representative Director, Geneva

#### > Speakers

- Mr Jaime COGHI ARIAS, Chair of the WTO Services Domestic Regulation Joint Statement Initiative and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the WTO
- Ms Prewprae CHUMRUM, Director of the Bureau of Services and Investment Negotiations, Thai Ministry of Commerce
- Mr Tunde MUSTAPHA, Chargé d' Affaires, Nigeria Trade Office to the WTO
- Mr Paulo Elias MARTINS DE MORAES, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the WTO
- Ms Elena BERTOLA, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO

- Mr Carlos GRAU, Director General, Global Express Association
- Mr George RIDDELL, Director of Trade Strategy, Ernst & Young LLP
- Mr Matias ARTURO, Strategy & Consulting Lead for Hispanic South America, Accenture

> **Platform**

- **Teams.** Please [click here](#) to register your attendance and receive a link and log-in details.