



Geneva Trade & Business Connection

MAINTREAMING THE PRIVATE SECTOR INTO THE WTO AND ITS 12th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE PREPARATORY PHASE

South and Southeast Asia

This regular forum for WTO delegates from selected South and Southeast Asian developing countries helps them better connect with their national private sector. This supports them not only to better leverage WTO regular work and negotiations, but also establish lasting links with private sector players who would thus get to better understand WTO agreements and procedures, as well as their own stakes therein.

Why this project?

WTO delegates in Geneva are not always fully aware of the interests and concerns of their private sector, making it challenging to adequately address trade impediments actually faced by them. This is particularly true for developing and least developed country delegations, which lack the resources and established systems to hold broad and regular consultations. Filling this gap can be particularly helpful for better participation of smaller developing and least-developed countries in the multilateral trading system to take advantage of its opportunities.

How we support

With this initiative, WTO delegates from South and Southeast Asia hold regular forums to first identify and then pursue with CUTS' technical assistance their interests in the WTO Regular Bodies, and in the discussions and negotiations going toward the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2020. Country updates will help them by compiling feedback from their private sector on the ground. Delegates also benefit from CUTS' expertise, through technical papers and follow-up support (e.g. diplomatic work, on-demand studies).

Objective

South and Southeast Asian WTO delegations effectively leverage their national private sector to better take advantage of the Multilateral Trading System.

Key Features

Beneficiaries

South and Southeast Asian WTO delegates • South and Southeast Asian National Private Sector representatives

Topics

WTO Regular Work • WTO Negotiations • WTO Joint Initiatives

Activities

On-demand Analysis • Papers • Negotiators' Forums • Country Updates

Timeframe

March 2019 – March 2020

Funding Support

Australian Aid 