

WORKING SESSION | WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2018

The 4th Industrial Revolution: What is in it for the Multilateral Trading System and Developing Countries?

Tuesday 2 October, 15:30 – 17:00

WTO ROOM S3 | GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

BACKGROUND

The 4th Industrial Revolution is described as the fusion of several cutting-edge technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres and transforming the entire systems of production, exchange, and governance. The impact on production and trade, within and across countries and regions is predicted to be at a scale not seen ever before.

Some countries have already developed public policies and prioritised areas of actions to grasp the expected opportunities and address the associated challenges. Others need to craft appropriate policies, rules and regulations to ensure that this Revolution serves their developmental objectives and contributes to the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Trade-related policy makers and practitioners especially in developing countries as well as the multilateral trading system, too, needs to be conscious of the fundamental changes being brought by the 4th Industrial Revolution and deliberate upon the adequate responses within the mandate.

This session will aim at the following: (i) contributing to a better understanding of the nature of the 4th Industrial Revolution among the trade and development community; (ii) assessing the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution on the multilateral trading system and developing countries; and (iii) initiating an informed and inclusive dialogue among a cross-section of stakeholders.

SPEAKERS

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