SECOND GLOBAL SEMINAR ON ACCESSIONS, 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WTO ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND ACCESSIONS BOOK LAUNCH BY WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROBERTO AZEVÊDO

GENEVA, 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2015.

I Introduction and Background

- WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo will launch the book: "WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons for the WTO at Twenty", at a high-level panel on 30 September 2015.

- The Book Launch will be preceded by the 2nd Global Seminar on WTO Accessions that will be opened on 28 September 2015. Both the Book Launch and the 2nd Global Seminar will focus on the systemic results and impact on domestic reforms from 20 years of WTO accession negotiations, including broader effects on international cooperation.

  "The results from WTO accession negotiations have had profound and far-reaching effects on the rules-based Multilateral Trading System. Results have served to update WTO rules across the board, improved market access and, provided a framework for the management of the geopolitical dynamics underpinning several accessions negotiations, while acceding governments have used accession negotiations as an instrument to support and sustain their domestic reforms."

- At the Global Seminar, participants will review selected chapter contributions, from over 50 authors. The Global Seminar has been structured around 5 panels:
  
  o Panel 1: "Accession Negotiations - Members' Perspectives";
  o Panel 2: "Negotiating Experience: Challenges, Opportunities and Post-Accession";
  o Panel 3: "Working Party Chairpersons Perspectives";
  o Panel 4: "Salient Features in WTO Accession Protocols"; and,
  o Panel 5: "WTO Accessions, the Trading System and the Global Economy".

A special seminar session will focus on the 10-year anniversary of Saudi Arabia's WTO Membership.

- Invited panellists include Ministers, representatives and officials from WTO Members; other International Organizations; think tanks; and, academia.

- All Members, invited participants and guest speakers are invited to the three activities announced in this programme namely the 2nd Global Seminar on Accessions; the 10th year anniversary of the Accession of Saudi Arabia; and the Accessions Book Launch by the WTO Director-General. Registration is a requirement for attendance and participation.

- Enquiries on this programme should be directed to: acc-events@wto.org
**Second Global Seminar on Accessions and WTO@20 Accessions Book Launch**

**DAY 1: MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2015, VENUE: ROOM D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 09:00</td>
<td>Registration of participants of Second Global Seminar on Accessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>State of Play: The Multilateral Trading System - WTO Accessions in Perspective: &quot;The WTO has not stood still since 1995&quot;</td>
<td>Mr. Chiedu Osakwe (Confirmed) Director Accessions Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td>Key Note Speech</td>
<td>Mr. Uri Dadush (Confirmed) Senior Associate Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:20</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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| 11:20 – 11:40 | PANEL 1: "WTO Accession Negotiations - Members' Perspectives" moderated by Uri Dadush, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace | 1. Mrs. Ruta Zarnauskaite Policy Officer and Trade Negotiator Directorate-General for Trade European Commission  
2. Mrs. Julie-Ann Guivarra Director Services and Trade Negotiations Section Department of Foreign Affairs Australia  
3. Mr. Mark Linscott (Confirmed) Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs  
4. [H.E. Mr. Marcos Galvao (TBC) Ambassador Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil to the WTO] |
2. Mrs. Julie-Ann Guivarra Director Services and Trade Negotiations Section Department of Foreign Affairs Australia  
3. Mr. Mark Linscott (Confirmed) Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs  
4. [H.E. Mr. Marcos Galvao (TBC) Ambassador Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil to the WTO] |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | 2. WTO Accession Negotiations: Trends and Results in Agriculture Plurilaterals         | 1. Mrs. Ruta Zarnauskaite Policy Officer and Trade Negotiator Directorate-General for Trade European Commission  
2. Mrs. Julie-Ann Guivarra Director Services and Trade Negotiations Section Department of Foreign Affairs Australia  
3. Mr. Mark Linscott (Confirmed) Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs  
4. [H.E. Mr. Marcos Galvao (TBC) Ambassador Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil to the WTO] |
2. Mrs. Julie-Ann Guivarra Director Services and Trade Negotiations Section Department of Foreign Affairs Australia  
3. Mr. Mark Linscott (Confirmed) Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs  
4. [H.E. Mr. Marcos Galvao (TBC) Ambassador Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil to the WTO] |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | Dialogue                                                                               |                                                                                                |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch Break                                                                             |                                                                                                |
### DAY 1: MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2015, VENUE: ROOM D

**PANEL 2: "Negotiating Experience: Challenges, Opportunities and Post-Accession" moderated by Bernard Hoekman, Robert Schuman Chair, Research Area Director “Global Economics”, EUI Florence**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 14:50</td>
<td>1. WTO Accession of Lao PDR</td>
<td>1. H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena (confirmed) Minister of Industry and Commerce Lao PDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:50 – 15:10</td>
<td>2. WTO Accession of Ukraine</td>
<td>2. Mrs. Svetlana Zaitseva Head WTO Division Ministry of Economic Development and Trade Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 15:50</td>
<td>4. WTO Accession of China</td>
<td>4. Mr. Li Enheng Former Minister and Deputy Representative Permanent Mission of China to the WTO</td>
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**15:50 - 16:30 Dialogue**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>From 19:00</td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
<td>H.E. Mr. Luzius Wasescha, Président du Club Diplomatique de Genève</td>
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<td>Accessions and the WTO@20</td>
<td>Mr. Chiedu Osakwe (Confirmed) Director Accessions Division</td>
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# Second Global Seminar on Accessions and WTO@20 Accessions Book Launch

**DAY 2: TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015, VENUE: ROOM D**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel/Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| 09:00 – 09:20 | PANEL 3: "Working Party Chairpersons’ Perspectives" moderated by David P. Shark, Deputy-Director General | 1. Facilitating WTO Accessions: The Role of the Working Party Chairperson  
1. H.E. Mr. Clyde Kull  
   Deputy Permanent Representative of Estonia to the EU |
| 09:20 – 09:40 | 2. A Podium Perspective - Experiences and Challenges of Chairing a Working Party | 2. H.E. Mr. Stefán Jóhannesson  
   Secretary of State of Iceland for EU Negotiations |
| 09:40 – 10:00 | 3. Are there Different Rules for LDCs in a Rules-Based System? | 3. H.E. Mr. Steffen Smidt  
   (Confirmed)  
   LDCs’ Facilitator Denmark |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | 4. Managing the Challenge of Acceding Post-Conflict States | 4. Mr. Joakim Reiter  
   (Confirmed)  
   Deputy-Secretary General UNCTAD |
| 10:20 – 10:40 | Dialogue | [WTO Secretariat video recording] |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | "Saudi Arabia Anniversary Session": 10 years of WTO Membership – Looking back and looking ahead, moderated by [S.E.M. Angelos Pangratis] | 1. Saudi Arabia – WTO Accession Negotiations and 10 Years of WTO Membership in Perspective  
1. H.E. Mr. Tawfiq Fawzan Alrabiah  
   (confirmed)  
   Minister of Commerce and Industry Saudi Arabia |
   (confirmed)  
   Director TPR Division |
| 11:50 – 12:00 | 3. Launch of Lowndes Publication | 3. Lowndes Group  
   [TBC by Saudi Arabia] |
<p>| 12:00 – 12:30 | Dialogue | |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch Break | |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Panel</th>
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<tr>
<td>15:10 – 15:30</td>
<td>3. Macro WTO and Micro GPA Accessions – What is the Relationship?</td>
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<td>15:30 – 15:50</td>
<td>4. WTO Accessions: What does the Academic Literature say?</td>
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<td>15:50 – 16:10</td>
<td>5. Intellectual Property Rights Obligations and Development – an LDC Perspective</td>
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<td>16:10 - 16:30</td>
<td>Dialogue</td>
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**PANEL 4: "Salient Features in WTO Accession Protocols" moderated by Emil Bolongaita, Executive Director, Carnegie Mellon University, Australia**
### Second Global Seminar on Accessions and WTO@20 Accessions Book Launch

#### Day 3: WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 – ACCESSIONS BOOK LAUNCH (Public Forum)

**VENUE:** TBC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony of the WTO Public Forum</td>
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<td>14:15 – 14:30</td>
<td>Group Photograph</td>
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<td>14:30 – 14:45</td>
<td>Director-General's Remarks to:</td>
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<td>• Launch the Accessions Book:</td>
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<td>&quot;WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons for the WTO at Twenty&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Roberto Azevêdo (Confirmed)</td>
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<td>WTO Director-General</td>
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<td>14:45 – 14:55</td>
<td>Presentation by the Accession Book Co-Editors</td>
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<td>Mr. Uri Dadush (Confirmed)</td>
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<td>Senior Associate</td>
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<td>Carnegie Endowment</td>
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<td>for International Peace</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Chiedu Osakwe (Confirmed)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Accessions Division</td>
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<td>14:55 – 15:00</td>
<td>Remarks by Cambridge University Press</td>
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<td>Representative of Cambridge University Press [TBC]</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 – 15:15</td>
<td>Complimentary book signing</td>
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<td>15:15 – 15:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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**Day 3: WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 – ACCESSIONS BOOK LAUNCH (Public Forum)**  
**VENUE: TBC**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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| 15:30 – 15:40 | PANEL 5: "WTO Accessions, the Trading System and the Global Economy" moderated by Mark Linscott, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 15:40 – 15:50 | 1. The WTO and the Global Economy: Contemporary Challenges and Possible Responses | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 15:50 - 16:00 | 2. Eurasian Economic Community Integration: Timetable, Priorities and Challenges | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 16:00 – 16:10 | 3. The African Growth Frontier: Competitiveness, Trade and Investments | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 16:10 – 16:20 | 4. The Structural Reform Implications of WTO accessions | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 16:20 - 16:40 | Dialogue                                                                 | 1. Mr. Bernard Hoekman (Confirmed)  
Robert Schuman  
Chair Research Area Director  
"Global Economics"  
EUI Florence  
2. H.E. Mr. Andrey Slepnev  
Minister for Trade  
Eurasian Economic Commission  
3. H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Kenya  
4. Ms. Mona Haddad  
Sector Manager International Trade Department  
World Bank  
5. Mr. Alexei Kireyev (Confirmed)  
Senior Economist International Monetary Fund |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | Concluding Remarks                                                        | Mr. Uri Dadush (Confirmed)  
Senior Associate  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Mr. Chiedu Osakwe (Confirmed)  
Director  
Accessions Division |

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ANNEX - BIOGRAPHIES

Willy Alfaro [To be inserted]

Tawfig Fawzan Alrabiah [To be inserted]

Joan Apecu from Uganda, is Head of TNC Section, the Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division of the WTO. Previously, she served in several capacities on the Uganda Law Reform Commission, including as a Senior Legal Officer in charge of Law Reform and Research (1999-2004), where she undertook law reform projects in several branches of the law, particularly in commercial, intellectual property and criminal justice law reform. Dr Apecu is an advocate of the High Court of Uganda. She has an academic attachment to the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, and she has been an assistant lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Uganda Christian University Mukono. Dr Apecu completed her doctoral studies in international studies with a focus on international trade law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland). She holds a Masters of Law Degree (LLM) in International Trade and Investment Law, from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the Amsterdam Law School (Netherlands).

Robert Anderson, a citizen of Canada and the United States, is Counsellor and Team Leader for Government Procurement and Competition Policy at the Intellectual Property Division, WTO Secretariat. He is also Honorary Professor, School of Law, University of Nottingham (United Kingdom), and a part-time faculty member, World Trade Institute, University of Bern (Switzerland). He received his J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (Canada) and also holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Economics from the University of British Columbia (Canada). Prior to joining the WTO Secretariat in 1997, he held various positions in the Canadian Competition Bureau (Canada's national antitrust agency), the Department of Finance of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan, and the Economic Council of Canada. He is editor of two books and author/co-author of more than fifty articles/book chapters on topics in competition policy, international government procurement policy, intellectual property and international trade policy.

Roberto Azevêdo from Brazil, has been Director-General of the WTO since 2013. He has been the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO and other international economic organisations in Geneva since 2008, and also represented Brazil before other economic organisations, such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). His last position with the Brazilian Government, at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, was Vice Minister for Economic and Technological Affairs (2006 to 2008). He was Brazil's chief negotiator for the Doha Round and supervised MERCOSUR's trade negotiations with other groupings or countries outside Latin America. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Department of Economic Affairs (2005 to 2006) and Head of the Dispute Settlement Unit (2001 to 2005). He was Brazil's chief litigator in many important disputes at the WTO. He also served on and chaired a number of WTO dispute settlement panels. During his diplomatic career, Mr Azevêdo served at the Embassies of Brazil in Washington (1988 to 1991) and Montevideo (1992 to 1994), as well as at the Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva (1997 to 2001). In Brasília, he was also Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Affairs to the Foreign Minister (1995 to 1996), and represented Brazil in a number of specialised international bodies, including the FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Cotton Council, the International Cotton Advisory Committee and the OECD Trade Committee. He was the leading negotiator for Brazil in the Revision of the OECD Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Civil Aircraft. Mr Azevêdo's academic background is in electrical engineering, at the University of Brasilia, and in International Relations, at the Instituto Rio Branco, the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Ministry. He has frequently given lectures on topics of the international economic agenda and has published numerous articles on these issues.
Alexandra Bhattacharya from Bangladesh, is an associate program support officer in the division for least developed countries, WIPO. She was a legal intern at the South Centre in charge of the Innovation and Access to Knowledge Programme. In 2012, she was a researcher on accessions in the Accessions Division of the WTO, where she worked as Co-Secretary of the working parties on the accessions of Afghanistan, Liberia and Iraq. She served as a teaching assistant at BRAC University (Bangladesh) in 2011, and at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in 2010. Between 2008 and 2010, she was Senior Associate at Deloitte. Ms Bhattacharya has an LLB in Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science and an LLM from the University of California.

H.E. Mr. Marcos Galvao [To be inserted]

Uri B. Dadush is Senior Associate in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, and President and Founder of Economic Policy International, LLC. He acts as an advisor to governments, international organizations (such as the World Bank) and private corporations on issues related to trade and macroeconomic trends and their policy implications. He is a contributing editor of the journal Current History and a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on the Global Trade System of which he is currently the Vice-Chair. Before Carnegie, he served as the Director of Trade at the World Bank, a department he founded in the run-up to the WTO Doha Ministerial Conference, and was responsible for the World Bank’s relationship with the WTO. Before that he was the World Bank’s Director of Economic Policy. Mr Dadush also held concurrently the position of Director of the World Bank’s Economy Group. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr Dadush was President and CEO of the Economist Intelligence Unit and Business International; Group Vice President, International, for Data Resources; and a consultant for McKinsey and Co. in Europe. He is currently an advisor to AT Kearney’s Global Business Council. He holds an MA in Economics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in Business Economics from Harvard University.

Julie-Ann Guivarra from Australia, is Director of the Services and Trade Negotiations Section in the Department of Foreign Affairs, in the Australian Government. Before that she was a counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the WTO. Ms Guivarra was the coordinator of the Cairns Group at the technical level. Prior to her posting to Geneva, Ms Guivarra was her current position, as Director in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2008 to 2010). She was posted to New Delhi from 1999 to 2002. Ms Guivarra has a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) from James Cook University (Australia) and an MA in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University (Australia).

Bernard M. Hoekman from the Netherlands, is the Director of the research strand ‘Global Economics: Multilateral Cooperation and Policy Spillovers’ at the European University Institute. He has held various senior positions at the World Bank, including Director of the International Trade Department and Research Manager in the Development Research Group. He has also worked as an economist in the GATT Secretariat and held visiting appointments at Sciences Po (France). Other positions include Chairperson, Global Agenda Council on Logistics and Supply Chain Systems at the World Economic Forum. Mr Hoekman is a graduate of the Erasmus University Rotterdam and holds a PhD in economics from the University of Michigan. He is a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (United Kingdom) and a Senior Associate of the Cairo-based Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Turkey and Iran (Egypt). He has published widely on trade policy and development, the global trading system, and trade in services. His most recent co-authored book is The Political Economy of the World Trading System (Oxford University Press, 2009).

Mona Haddad from Lebanon, is Sector Manager of the International Trade Department, World Bank. In this capacity she manages the group responsible for supporting the development and implementation of trade-related activities at both country and regional levels. These include trade policy analysis, competitiveness, trade facilitation and standards. Prior to joining the Trade Department, Ms Haddad was the Regional Trade Coordinator for the East Asia Region, where she worked on trade issues in various countries, including China, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam.
Valerie Hughes from Canada, is Director of Legal Affairs at the WTO Secretariat. She was a senior partner of the firm Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP and President of the Canadian Council on International Law. Prior to joining Gowling in 2006, Ms Hughes was the Director of the Appellate Body Secretariat of the WTO (2001 to 2005), where she served as Chief Legal Counsel to the WTO Appellate Body, providing legal and administrative support. Before the WTO, she spent nineteen years with the Government of Canada, during which she held various positions in the public and private international law fields, including Director and General Counsel of the Trade Law Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Director and General Counsel of the General Legal Services Division of the Department of Finance, and Senior Counsel of the International Law Section of the Department of Justice. She has served as Counsel for Canada before numerous international courts and tribunals, and as Chair of the APEC Dispute Mediation Experts Group from 1998 to 1999. Ms Hughes graduated from Ottawa University (Canada) in 1979. She has a number of published works and is a regular guest lecturer at universities and speaker at international trade law conferences.

Stefán Jóhannesson from Iceland, is the Secretary of State of Iceland for EU Negotiations and the Chief Negotiator for Iceland's accession to the European Union. From 2001 to 2005, he was Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, including the European Free Trade Organisation (EFTA) and the WTO. From 2002 to 2011, he served as Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, Chairman of the WTO Negotiating Group on Market Access for Non-Agricultural Products (NAMA), Chairman of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan, EFTA Chief Negotiator and Spokesman in free trade negotiations with Lebanon, Chairman of the WTO Dispute Settlement Panel ‘US – Steel Safeguards’, and Chairman of the WTO Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology. He has served as Ambassador of Iceland to Belgium, the European Union, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Slovenia. Mr Jóhannesson obtained a Cand.Juris degree from the University of Iceland.

Alexei Kireyev from Russia, is a senior economist at the International Monetary Fund and the former IMF representative to the WTO (2000 to 2003). He has led advanced IMF missions to member countries, provided advice on macroeconomic policies to countries with IMF-supported programmes, and reviewed IMF policy advice, financing and technical assistance. Prior to joining the IMF, he was an economic advisor to President Gorbachev, an economist at the World Bank, and a professor of international economics at universities in Russia and the United States. His degrees include a MA in Economics from the George Washington University and a PhD in Economics from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russia). Dr Kireyev has researched and published extensively on international economics and trade, applied macroeconomics, principles of economics, and economic problems of low-income countries. His most recent publication includes a two-volume book on International Microeconomics and International Macroeconomics (2013).

Clyde Kull from Estonia, is Deputy Permanent Representative of Estonia to the European Union. From 1991 to 2010, he also served as Political Director and Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and as Ambassador of Estonia to Germany, the European Union, the Kingdom of Belgium, Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, as Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and to the Western European Union, and as Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna and Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva. Mr Kull was Head of the delegation at the negotiations on the Estonia's accession to the WTO and Chairman of the Working Party on Accession of Tajikistan to the WTO. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Faculty of International Relations (Russia).
Mark Linscott from the United States, is the Assistant US Trade Representative for WTO and multilateral affairs. He is responsible for coordinating US trade policies in the WTO, with lead responsibility in the General Council and Council on Trade in Goods and trade issues in the OECD and UNCTAD. From 2003 to 2012, he served as the Assistant US Trade Representative for Environment and Natural Resources. From 1996 to 2002, Mr Linscott worked at the US Mission to the WTO in Geneva. Between 1999 and 2002, he was one of three members appointed by the General Council to the Management Board for the WTO Staff Pension Fund. Prior to serving in Geneva, he worked in the Office of WTo and Multilateral Affairs in USTR Washington, where he concluded the Uruguay Round Government Procurement Agreement as the lead US negotiator and was responsible for preparations for the entry-into-force of the WTO. He started his career at the Department of Commerce, serving in Import Administration (1985 to 1988) and the Office of Multilateral Affairs (1988 to 1992). He was accorded a Gold Medal Award for his work on the 1986 Canadian softwood lumber investigation. Mr Linscott has a BA in economics from the University of Virginia and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

Li Enheng [To be inserted]

Maxim Medvedkov from Russia, is Head of the Department for Trade Negotiations of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and is the Chief Negotiator of Russia at the WTO. From 2001 to 2011, he also was a Chief Negotiator for Russia's accession to the WTO. Mr Medvedkov served as Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation (2000 to 2004) and as Director of the Centre for Trade Policy and Law in Moscow (1996 to 2000). He is a professor of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. He also held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Russia, the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the USSR and the Trade Representation of the USSR in Switzerland. Mr Medvedkov graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He is an author of a large number of publications on the WTO and the Russian economy.

Amina Mohamed [To be inserted]

Chiedu Osakwe from Nigeria, is Director of the WTO Accessions Division. Previous WTO positions include Special Coordinator for LDCs and Head of the Secretariat Working Group on the Integrated Framework for LDCs, Office of the Director-General (1999 to 2001). In this position he was Chairman of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) for the Integrated Framework. He has also held the positions of Director, Technical Cooperation Division (2001 to 2002); Director, Textiles Division (2003 to 2005), Director, Doha Development Agenda – DDA Special Duties Division, Office of the Director-General (2005 to 2008). Prior to joining the WTO Secretariat, Dr Osakwe was a Nigerian Foreign Service Officer (1979 to 1998). During this period, he served at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations in New York (1983 to 1986) and to the GATT/WTO (1993 to 1998). As Nigerian Delegate to the WTO, he was Chairman of the Committee on Rules of Origin (1995 and 1996) and Chairman of the Committee on Pre-Shipment Inspection (1997 to 98). He coordinated the WTO African Group in 1995. In recognition of his contributions to the Foreign Service, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan appointed him Ambassador in situ in 2010. Dr Osakwe was educated at the Universities of Ibadan and Oxford and at New York University, from where he obtained his PhD. Dr Osakwe has been decorated and honoured by several Governments.

Khemmani Pholsena, from Lao PDR, is the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR. She headed the Lao PDR's Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat as the EIF Focal Point and the Lao Secretariat for Accession to the WTO. Previously, Ms Pholsena was Director-General of the Foreign Trade Department within the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and was involved in foreign trade issues for more than ten years. She holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in International Economic Relations from Moscow State Institute of International Relations and a Master's Degree in Public Management from the National University of Singapore.
Joakim Reiter from Sweden, is Deputy Secretary-General at UNCTAD and Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Liberia. Previously, he was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO, during which period he served as Chairman of the Council for Trade in Services in WTO. Ambassador Reiter was Head of the Trade Policy Unit and Minister Counsellor at the Swedish Representation to the European Union between 2008 and 2011, representing Sweden in the Trade Policy Committee of the Council, which he chaired during the Swedish Presidency in 2009. Prior to that, from 2004 to 2008, Ambassador Reiter was posted to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade. In this capacity, he served as EU negotiator in various trade negotiations and was in charge of tariffs and trade in goods in the EU-Korea free trade agreement, as well as non-agricultural market access and rules for regional trade agreements within the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO.

Steffen Smidt from Denmark, is the Facilitator for Least-Developed Countries in the Doha Negotiations and Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Ethiopia. Previously, he was Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries of the WTO. From 2006 to 2010, he was Ambassador, Under-Secretary for Global Challenges, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Senior Advisor in the Ministry for Climate and Energy of Denmark, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark on Climate Change Issues, Ambassador of Denmark to the OECD and UNESCO. From 1990 to 2002, he served at the European Commission as Director-General, Head of the Task Force for Enlargement, Directorate-General for Development, Directorate-General for Administration and Personnel and Directorate-General for Fisheries. Mr Smidt holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Århus (Denmark). He is Adjunct Professor at the Copenhagen Business School.

Andrey Slepnev, from Russia, is Minister for Trade (Member of the Board) of the Eurasian Economic Commission. He is responsible for trade regulations, protective and anti-dumping measures, and tariff and non-tariff regulations across the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Before joining the Commission, he was a Deputy Minister for the Economic Development of Russia (2009 to 2011), responsible for national economic policy development and normative legal regulation of external trade and coordinated activities of the Russian negotiating team on joining the WTO and the OECD. Mr Slepnev was a Deputy Minister of Agriculture (2007 to 2009) and a Director of the Department for National Priority Projects of the Presidential Experts Directorate. He was also the head of the national priority project 'Agriculture Development' (2001 to 2007). Before joining national administration boards, Mr Slepnev cooperated with a number of national insurance companies. He graduated from the Lobachevski State University of Nizhniy Novgorod (mathematics) and the Moscow State University (law).

Luzius Wasescha [To be inserted]

Ruta Zarnauskaite from Lithuania, is a policy officer and trade negotiator at the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission. From 2008 to 2011, she was the EU coordinator and negotiator in the process of the WTO accession of Russia. Her current function concerns the EU's trade policy strategy. She holds an LLM.

Svitlana Zaitseva from Ukraine, is the Head of the WTO Division at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. She was a member of Ukraine WTO accession delegation and has more than ten years’ experience in trade policy and law having worked as an expert and programme manager on a number of international projects (with the World Bank, EU, CIDA, DFAD) in support of Ukraine's WTO accession and trade policy. In 2006, she was appointed Head of the National Enquiry Point and Notification Authority of Ukraine, responsible for establishing and operationalizing this governmental agency in Ukraine. From 2007 to 2008, she was a member of the Ukrainian negotiating team for a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU and FTA with EFTA. Currently, she is a member of the delegation of Ukraine for trade negotiations with the CIS and other countries. From 2008 to 2011, Mrs Zaitseva worked at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine in Geneva, representing Ukraine at the WTO. She graduated from the University of Economics and Law, Kiev.