

**(Tentative Agenda)**

National Workshop on LDC Graduation and WTO

Dhaka, Bangladesh

11-12 March 2020

**Day One – Wednesday, 11 March 2020**

*Opening Session*

09:30-10:00

- Statement by Director-General, WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce

- Statement by Representative of WTO

- Opening Address by Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh

10:00 – 10:15 *Coffee break*

10:15 - 11:00 **Session 1: Graduation process and mechanisms relating to pre-**

**and post-graduation**

This session will discuss the procedures followed for graduation, the UN process and the mechanism to monitor progress in the post-graduation phase of LDCs.

Speaker: WTO

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 2: LDC Graduation and WTO Agreements**

This session will review the key LDC-specific special and differential (S&D) treatment provisions in WTO Agreements, and the implications for LDCs following graduation. It will also seek to identify areas of interest to Bangladesh in the WTO during the graduation process and in the post graduation phase.

Speaker: WTO

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 15:15 **Session 3: LDC Graduation and Market Access**

This session will assess the expected impact of graduation on preferential market access. The likely impact of graduation on Bangladesh following graduation vis-à-vis its participation in regional trade will also be examined.

Speakers: WTO, Policy Research Institute (Abdur Razzaque)

15:15 – 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 – 17:00 **Session 4:** **LDC Graduation and International Support Measures**

This session will discuss the expected impact of graduation on international support measures especially financial and technical assistance for graduating LDCs. It will examine the development cooperation mechanisms and the extent to which graduation may have an impact on access to finance in concessional terms.

Speakers: Representative of Ministry of Finance, Representative of donor community

**Day Two – Thursday, 12 March 2020**

09:30 – 10:45 **Session 5:** **Findings from country-specific analysis under EIF-WTO Project**

This session will discuss the findings of country-specific analysis undertaken for Bangladesh as part of EIF-WTO Project on LDC Graduation.

Speakers: CPD (Professor Mustafizur Rahman), WTO

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 6:** **Priority Issues for Bangladesh in the context of MC12 and ahead**

This session will discuss the preparations for MC12, and discuss the issues that graduating LDCs like Bangladesh could examine to benefit from the ongoing WTO discussions and processes in the run up to MC12 and beyond.

Speakers: WTO, Representative of the Ministry of Commerce

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:30 – 16:30 **Session 7:** **Roundtable:** **Graduation and Bangladesh**

This session will discuss the likely challenges that could arise from graduation, the options available for graduating LDCs in the WTO as well as in other forums, steps to be taken by the Government and strategies to be pursued to ensure smooth transition and integrate in global economy.

Chair: Ministry of Commerce

Panellists: WTO, Ministry of Finance, CPD, PRI, EU and any other relevant Ministry or agency

16:30 – 17:00 **Conclusion**

(*The participants will be requested to fill out the evaluation forms)*

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