**Challenges for the Multilateral Trading System -**

**Perspectives from Southern Africa**

**29-31 October 2019 | Johannesburg, South Africa**

Conference Venue:Crowne Plaza Rosebank

Participants: Civil society, business and media participants from WTO Members and Observers in the Southern African Region.

**Organisation**

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| **Monday, 28 October 2019**Arrival of civil society participants |
| **Tuesday, 29 October 2019**Civil society dialogueVenue: Crowne Plaza |
| 8:15-8:30 | Registration of civil society participants |
| 8:30-9:00 | **Opening of the Civil Society Dialogue: Welcome Remarks** ------ Resident Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South AfricaKeith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva |
| 9:00-10:30 | **Introduction to the WTO: (1) The multilateral trading system: GATT to WTO (2) WTO scope, functions and decision making**Vonai Muyambo, External Relations Officer, Information and External Relations, World Trade Organization, Geneva |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee Break |
| 10:45-12:30 | **The Road to Nursultan: State of Affairs at the WTO, Challenges and Perspectives** Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva Ministry of Trade and Industry, South Africa  |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00-15:30 | **Regionalism, the AfCFTA and multilateralism: Where is Africa heading?**Economic Commission for Africa (tbc)Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization |
| 15:30-15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45-17:15 | **The Digital Economy, eCommerce and trade: What does Africa have to gain**Vonai Muyambo, External Relations Officer, Information and External Relations, World Trade Organization, Genevatbc |
| 17:15 | End of Day |
| Evening | Arrival of media participants |
| **Wednesday, 30 October 2019**Civil society dialogueVenue: Crowne Plaza |
| 8:30-9:45 | **Trade as an engine for future development, job creation and economic growth** tbc |
| 9:45-11:00 | **Multilateralism vs Plurilateralism: The Joint initiatives – where does Africa stand?**Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva tbc |
| 11:00-11:15 | Coffee Break |
| 11:15-12:15 | **Agriculture and its role in Africa's development**tbc |
| 12:15 | **Closing Remarks of Civil Society Dialogue**---- Resident Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Africa |
| 12:30 | **Joint Lunch Civil Society and Media Participants**Address by Ministry of Trade and Industry (tbc) |
|  | Registration of media participants can take place any time before lunch. |

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| **Wednesday, 30 October 2019**Media dialogueVenue: Crowne Plaza |
| 14:00-14:15 | **Opening of the Media Dialogue: Welcome Remarks** ---- Resident Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South AfricaKeith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva |
| 14:15-15:30 | **Introduction to the WTO: (1) The multilateral trading system: GATT to WTO (2) WTO scope, functions and decision making**Vonai Muyambo, External Relations Officer, Information and External Relations, World Trade Organization, Geneva |
| 15:30-15:45 | Coffee Break |
| 15:45-17:15 | **The Road to Nursultan: State of Affairs at the WTO, Challenges and Perspectives** Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva Ministry of Trade and Industry, South Africa |
| 17:15 | End of Day |

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| **Thursday, 31 October 2019**Media dialogueVenue: Crowne Plaza |
| 8:30-9:45 | **Regionalism, the AfCFTA and multilateralism: Where is Africa heading?**Economic Commission for Africa (tbc)Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization |
| 9:45-11:00 | **The Digital Economy, eCommerce and trade: What does Africa have to gain**Vonai Muyambo, External Relations Officer, Information and External Relations, World Trade Organization, Genevatbc |
| 11:00-11:15 | Coffee Break |
| 11:15-12:30 | **Trade as an engine for future development, job creation and economic growth** tbc |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00-15:30 | **Multilateralism vs Plurilateralism: Joint initiatives – where does Africa stand?**Keith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva tbc |
| 15:30-15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45-17:15 |  Wrap-Up Session |
| 17:15 | **Closing Remarks of Civil Society Dialogue**---- Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South AfricaKeith Rockwell, Director, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva  |