**THE Fifth south-south DIALOGUE ON ldcs AND DEVELOPMENT**

16 May 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

***TENTATIVE PROGRAMME***

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| TIME | SESSION | |
| **08:30 – 09:00** | **Arrival of participants** |
| **09:00 – 09:30** | **Opening session**  *Keynote address:*   * **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,** WTO Director-General   *Opening statements:*   * **H.E. Mr. Ahmad Makaila**, Ambassador, Chad, LDC Coordinator * **H.E. Mr. Chenggang Li**, Ambassador, People's Republic of China |
| **09.30 – 09.45** | **Photo session** |
| **09:45-11:00** | **Session 1: WTO negotiations and current priorities**  The session will focus on the topics that are being discussed in the run up to MC12. LDCs will have an opportunity to articulate their interests and perspectives in the ongoing negotiations. The session will also explore avenues to achieve tangible outcomes that can boost growth and development worldwide.  *Moderator:*   * **H.E. Mrs. Zhanar Aitzhanova**, Ambassador, Kazakhstan   *Keynote address:*   * **H.E. Mr. Didier Chambovey**, Ambassador, Switzerland, General Council Chair   *Speakers:*   * **H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady**, Ambassador, Mauritius * **H.E. Mr. Dacio Castillo**, Ambassador, Honduras * **H.E. Mr. João Aguiar Machado**, Ambassador, European Union * **H.E. Mr. Alexandre Parola**, Ambassador, Brazil * **H.E. Mr. Brajendra Navnit**, Ambassador, India |
| **11:00 – 11:30** | **Coffee break** |
| **11:30 – 13:00** | **Session 2: Strengthening WTO**  The update of the WTO rulebook is long overdue. The global trade of today requires the rules that respond to the current realities. The session will focus on various perspectives shared by members to strengthen the WTO so that the multilateral trading system better serves the needs of its members.  *Moderator:*   * **H.E. Ms. Cheryl K. Spencer,** Ambassador, Jamaica   *Presentation:*   * **Dr. Bernard Hoekman**, Professor and Director, Global Economics, Robert Schuman Centre for Advances Studies, European University Institute   *Speakers:*   * **H.E. Mr. Febrian Alphyanto Ruddyard,** Ambassador, Indonesia * **H.E. Ms. Clare Kelly**, Ambassador, New Zealand * **H.E. Mr. Alfredo Suescum**, Ambassador, Panama * **H.E. Mr. Simon Manley,** Ambassador, United Kingdom |
| **13:00 – 14:30** | **Lunch break** |
| **14:30 – 15:30** | **Session 3: LDC graduation**  Graduation from LDC status is an important milestone for economic development for each LDC. At the same time, it presents some challenges. LDC graduation is one of the key priorities of the LDC Group for MC12. The session will take stock of discussions on this topic at the WTO. It will also explore ways to assist LDCs on the path to graduation.    *Moderator:*   * **H.E. Mr. Eheth Salomon**, Ambassador, Cameroon   *Speakers:*   * **H.E. Mr. Taeho Lee**, Ambassador, Republic of Korea * **H.E. Ms. Pimchanok Pitfield,** Ambassador, Thailand * **H.E. Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki**, Ambassador, Japan |
| **15:30-16:00** | **Coffee break** |
| **16:00 – 17:30** | **Session 4: Forward-looking perspectives for the multilateral trading system**  The global trading landscape has evolved considerably over the years spurred by advances in science and technology. The discussion will explore how some of the evolving trends can help LDCs to better integrate and benefit more fully from global trade. The session will also offer an opportunity to provide an update on different initiatives that are currently being pursued – from boosting investment facilitation, to supporting small businesses to digital trade to environment.  *Moderator:*   * **H.E. Ms. Kirsti Kauppi,** Ambassador, Finland, Chair, Sub-Committee on LDCs   *Presentation:*   * **Dr. Marcelo Olarreaga,** Professor of Economics, University of Geneva   *Speakers:*   * **H.E. Mr. Mathias Francke,** Ambassador, Chile * **H.E. Mr. Tan Hung Seng,** Ambassador, Singapore * **H.E. Mr. José Luís Cancela Gómez,** Ambassador, Uruguay * **H.E. Mr. Stephen Cornelius De Boer**, Ambassador, Canada |
| **17:30 – 18:00** | **Closing Session**   * **DDG Mr. Xiangchen Zhang**, Deputy Director-General, WTO * **H.E. Mr. Ahmad Makaila,** Ambassador, Chad, LDC Coordinator * **Ms. Yihong Li,** Deputy Permanent Representative, People's Republic of China |
| **19:00 – 22:00** | **Dinner** |

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