 

**WTO Technical Barriers to Trade National Workshop**

Manila, Philippines

13-15 September 2022

This workshop aims to enhance awareness of the WTO TBT Agreement amongst relevant Philippines' stakeholders, as well as improve its implementation by various agencies of the government. Although the TBT Agreement sets rules to discipline WTO Members from adopting unnecessarily restrictive and discriminatory technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures, it recognizes WTO Members' rights to implement measures to achieve legitimate policy objectives, such as the protection of human health and safety or protection of the environment. The TBT Agreement strongly encourages WTO Members to harmonize their TBT measures on the basis of international standards, as well as to adopt good regulatory practices for preparation, adoption, and application of TBT measures.

**13 September 2022**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 9:00 | **Opening Session**  Opening remarks, objectives, and overview. | **Dr. Ceferino S. Rodolfo (tbc)**  Undersecretary  DTI Industry Development and Trade Policy Group  [Alt:  **Mr. Angelo Salvador M. Benedictos (tbc)**  Director  DTI Bureau of International Trade Relations]  **Mr. Erik Wijkström**  Head, TBT Section, Trade and Environment Division  World Trade Organization |
| 09:15 | **Session 1: Current Trade Issues and the TBT Agreement**  Since the start of COVID-19 pandemic, around 200 TBT measures have been notified to the WTO. The main objectives of the notified measures are to ensure safe and quality medical goods, facilitate access to essential medical products, and provide advice on implementation delays for other regulations due to constraints imposed by COVID-19. This session will begin with an overview of the TBT Agreement including the basic principles, scope, coverage, objectives, standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, and transparency provisions under the TBT Agreement. | WTO speakers |
| 10:00 | **Session 2: Current Trade Issues in the Philippines' Technical Regulations**  Technical regulations are in place to protect the safety of human, animal and plant life and health and to minimize further degradation of the environment. Some of these measures have been raised as restrictive by other WTO members and stakeholders. This session will focus on the stakeholders' concerns on technical regulations or measures and possible inconsistencies of the Philippine commitments and obligations under the TBT Agreement. | Philippines Mission to the WTO (tbd) |
| 10:20 | **Open forum for discussion** | All |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 3: Good Regulatory Practices**  Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) contributes to efficient and effective implementation of the obligations under the TBT Agreement. Since the entry into force of the agreement, the TBT Committee has engaged in an in-depth exchange of experiences on various aspects of GRP. This session will focus on the various efforts in mainstreaming Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) in the development of regulations:   * WTO decisions and recommendations on the application of Good Regulatory Practice in the drafting of TBT measures. * The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) is mandated to monitor and ensure compliance with the national policy on anti-red tape and ease of doing business in the Philippines. This session will present an overview of the development in good regulatory practice guide for the Philippines | WTO speakers  Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) speaker (tbd) |
| 12:30 | **Lunch Break** |  |
| 13:30 | **Session 4: Procedure of drafting and adopting technical regulations by FDA**  The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the agency responsible for developing and monitoring technical measures to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of cosmetics, drugs, food, household hazardous products, medical devices, among others. This session will provide an overview of the procedures conducted by the FDA in relation to drafting, consultations, and adoption of TBT measures. | Food and Drug Administration (FDA) speaker (tbd) |
| 14:00 | **Session 5: Procedure of drafting and adopting technical regulations by BPS**  As the National Standards Body (NSB) of the Philippines, the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) develops, promulgates and implements standards in the Philippines to promote standardization and to ensure safe and quality products for the consumers. This session will provide an overview of the procedures conducted by the BPS in relation to drafting of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment measures as well as its work as TBT National Enquiry Point and National Notification Authority. | Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) speaker (tbd) |
| 14:30 | **Open forum for discussion** | All |
| 14:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:00 | **Session 6: National coordination and open discussion**  This session will explore the importance of national coordination for effective implementation of the TBT Agreement. The WHO will share experiences and best practices from various WTO Members, to be followed by an open discussion on national coordination amongst agencies and other national stakeholders. | WTO speakers  All |
| 16:00 | **Wrap-up of Day 1** | WTO speakers |

**14 September 2022**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 09:00 | **Session 6: TBT Notification Procedures**  Transparency is a cornerstone of the TBT Agreement which aims to create a predictable environment. Transparency consists of three core elements: notification, establishment of enquiry points, and publication requirements. This session will provide step-by-step procedures for drafting TBT notification for regulatory agencies. | WTO speakers |
| 10:00 | **Session 7: Exercise on Agencies' draft TBT notification**  The agencies will work in groups on their draft notifications of measures to be notified for 2022. Each agency will prepare at least two notifications. | WTO speakers  All |
| 10:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 11:00 | **Session 7 (cont'd): Exercise on Agencies' draft TBT notification**  Agencies will be requested to briefly present their draft TBT notification and receive feedback from the WTO experts. | WTO speakers  All |
| 12:00 | **Open forum for discussion** | All |
| 12:30 | **Lunch Break** |  |
| 13:30 | **Session 8: ePing**  The ePing is a comprehensive TBT online platform including a notification alert system. It allows Members and the public to access information on draft regulations on product requirements and facilitate dialogue between interested parties in addressing potential trade issues at the outset. This session will enable regulatory agencies to remain updated in other Members' new measures of interest to their stakeholders through the ePing system. Exercise for participants. | WTO speakers  All |
| 14:45 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 15:00 | **Session 9: The TBT Committee**  This session will present the recent work of the WTO TBT Committee, including the discussion of specific trade concerns and the development of guidance through decisions and recommendations. The influence of the work of the Committee on RTAs will also be addressed. | WTO speakers |
| 16:00 | **Wrap-up of Day 2** | WTO speakers |

**15 September 2022**

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| Time | Session | Speakers |
| 09:00 | **Session 10: National Quality Infrastructure and conformity assessment procedures**  The National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) plays a key role in supporting effective implementation of the TBT Agreement and facilitating trade. This session will discuss the NQI and the conformity assessment procedures, including guidelines under development by the TBT Committee. Agencies will be asked to share how they are using the NQI and conformity assessment procedures to fulfil their mandates. | WTO speakers  All |
| 10:15 | **Coffee Break** |  |
| 10:30 | **Session 11: Wrap up and open forum for discussion**  This session will provide an overview of the main topics covered during the workshop. There will be opportunity for question and answer, and an open space for discussion. | All |
| 11:30 | **Closing session**  Closing remarks. | **Atty. Ruth B. Castelo** (TBC)  Undersecretary  Consumer Protection Group  [Alt:  **Atty. Ann Claire C. Cabochan** (TBC)  Assistant Secretary Consumer Protection Group] |

**WTO resource speakers:**

**Mr. Erik Wijkström**

Head, TBT Section, Secretary of the TBT Committee

Trade and Environment Division

World Trade Organization

**Mr. Devin McDaniels**

Economic Affairs Officer, Deputy-Secretary of the TBT Committee

Trade and Environment Division

World Trade Organization