



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

Geneva, 6 June 2016

**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Over recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has established a tradition of holding annual public events where participants from government, parliament, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media jointly reflect upon the functioning of the multilateral trading system and analyse the state of advancement of the Doha Development Agenda. The annual **WTO Public Forum** is now a significant feature of the international calendar.

It has likewise become a tradition to hold special parliamentary sessions within the overall organizational framework provided by WTO Public Forums. Such sessions are geared towards the specific interests of members of parliament specializing in international trade and are closely linked with the process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the WTO*, which is driven by the synergies of the IPU and the European Parliament and constitutes a de facto parliamentary dimension of this inter-governmental organization.

This year's WTO Public Forum will be held from 27 to 29 September, on WTO premises in Geneva (Centre William Rappard), under the overall theme **Inclusive Trade**. The Forum's programme is very rich and comprises over 40 events, including a parliamentary session, which will take place on **Tuesday, 27 September 2016, from 4 to 5.30 p.m.**

The title of the parliamentary session is "**How can global value chains make trade more inclusive? A legislative perspective**". Global value chains (GVCs) have transformed the world trade and become an important feature of global production patterns. Faced with insufficient data on the actual impact of this change on trade policies, legislators seek to improve their understanding of what kind of trade policies are required to ensure that GVCs serve the objectives of inclusive and sustainable growth and the creation of decent jobs for both women and men. How can parliaments contribute to ensuring the inclusiveness and sustainability of GVCs? What tools do they have at their disposal to promote sustainable environmental and social practices and policy frameworks? The objective of the session is to come up with evidence-based proposals for ways of enhancing the efficiency of parliamentary oversight of the international trading system in the era of GVCs and globally networked economies. .

The parliamentary session to be held on 27 September is open to all participants duly accredited to the Forum, subject to the limits of the room's seating capacity. Interpretation into English, French and Spanish will be provided by the WTO Secretariat. A detailed programme of the session will be posted shortly on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wto-forum16.htm>.

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In conformity with WTO practice, all participants in the Public Forum are responsible for their own visa, travel arrangements and accommodation in Geneva. Online registrations for the Public Forum will be open on 6 June 2016. Participants are required to register online, using the WTO website (<https://www.wto.org>). Registration is handled by the WTO Secretariat and no on-the-spot registration is possible.

The IPU is not dealing with any logistical matters relating to the WTO Public Forum and is not in a position to help delegates with accommodation and other practical arrangements in Geneva, which remain the sole responsibility of each of the WTO Forum's participants.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chungong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Chungong
Secretary General