

To: All WTO Members

From: H.E. Mr. Kouadio Adjoumani, Ambassador of C

Invitation on Behalf of the WTO Inform

#### Objecti ve s

During this session , participants will:

- Discuss their national and regional experiences and the measures and programmes which proved effective (best practices) ;
- Discuss the measures and actions that the Informal Working Group on MSMEs could under take in order to facilitate access to trade finance for the MSMEs, particularly in the developing countries;
- Share their views on h ow the EIF

Agenda

WTO/AIR/WGTDF/7

23 April 2018

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE

1. THE THIRTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE (WGTDF) WILL BE HELD ON 8 JUNE 2018 IN THE CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 10 A.M.

2. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROPOSED FOR THE AGENDA:

- A. TRADE FINANCE: UNDER THIS ITEM IT IS PROPOSED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION ON THE CHALLENGES MET BY MEMBERS IN ACCESSING AFFORDABLE TRADE FINANCE, IN PARTICULAR BY SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTREPRISES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE CHAIR HAS INVITED ME TO REPORT ORALLY ON JOINT WORK UNDERTAKEN WITH SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF PARTNER MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS. SUCH WORK FOLLOWS UP ON PROPOSALS THAT I HAD PRESENTED IN THE WORKING GROUP IN 2016, AND DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING WTO PUBLICATION: "TRADE FINANCE AND SMES: BRIDGING THE GAPS IN PROVISION". I WOULD BE PLEASED TO REPORT ON RECENT PROGRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAST MINUTE TRAVEL OBLIGATION.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE ALSO ISSUED THE LATEST REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON TRADE FINANCE, IN WT/WGTDF/W/86. THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ISSUES DEALT WITH IN THIS REPORT AND ON MY ORAL REPORT.

- B. INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON OTHER TOPICS THAT MEMBERS WISH TO ADDRESS IN FUTURE MEETINGS.

3. MEMBERS OF THE WTO, GOVERNMENTS WITH OBSERVER STATUS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS (FAO, IMF, ITC, IN THE