



**Council for Trade in Goods**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS  
3 AND 4 APRIL 2023**

CHAIRPERSON: H.E. ADAMU MOHAMMED ABDULHAMID

*Addendum*

In a communication dated 1 June 2023<sup>1</sup>, the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG), Ambassador Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid (Nigeria), announced that the CTG would reconvene on 5 June 2023 the meeting that had been suspended on 3 and 4 April 2023<sup>2</sup>, with the purpose of addressing Agenda Item 5, "Appointment of Officers to the Subsidiary Bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods".

**5 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

5.1. The Chairperson indicated the following:

5.2. The Council will recall that, at the informal meeting of the Council held on Friday, 31 March, the former Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods, Mr Etienne Oudot de Dainville (France), had reported to the Council on the status of the Appointment of Officers for Subsidiary Bodies of the CTG for 2023.<sup>3</sup> He had also provided an opportunity to discuss the possible slate of names that had been annexed to that meeting's Convening Notice (contained in document [ICN/CTG/9/Add.1](#)), in accordance with Rule 7.3 of the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies ([WT/L/510](#), "the Guidelines"), and with a view to adopting it at the Council's formal meeting of 3 April 2023.

5.3. Unfortunately, at that meeting, the former Chairperson had informed the Council that there was no consensus on that provisional list of names. For this reason, the Council had agreed to suspend its Agenda Item 5 (Appointment of Officers to the Subsidiary Bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods) while the Council's former Chairperson, who was the person responsible for this process, continued to meet with the Regional Group Coordinators to discuss the matter, and to engage in consultations to explore possible solutions. In this regard, he had also invited Members to do their utmost to reach consensus on a list of names as soon as possible, especially as the absence of officers to chair the subsidiary bodies of the CTG would block the work of those bodies.

5.4. Immediately prior to this current meeting, I held an informal meeting of the Council, as required by Rule 7.3 of the Guidelines ([WT/L/510](#)), where I asked Members if they could agree to the slate of names that had been read out, as reflected in the meeting's Convening Notice, document [ICN/CTG/11](#). No objection was raised. Accordingly, I am very pleased to report that consensus on the slate of names has now been reached. I would like to sincerely thank delegations for their collaboration and for showing flexibility so that the Council can shortly proceed to adopt the slate of names.

5.5. To this end, I would now like to ask the Council if it can formally agree with the list of nominees that I had read out during the informal meeting, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Document [ICN/CTG/11](#).

<sup>2</sup> See documents WTO/AIR/CTG/24, [WTO/AIR/CTG/24/Rev.1](#), and [G/C/W/827](#).

<sup>3</sup> Document [G/C/M/145](#), paragraphs 5.1-5.12.

CTG Subsidiary Body	Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture (COA)	Mr Kjetil TYSDAL (Norway)
Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices (AD)	Mrs Aysegül ŞAHINOĞLU YERDEŞ (Türkiye)
Committee on Customs Valuation (CV)	Mr Omar CISSE (Senegal)
Committee on Import Licensing (IL)	Mr Nat THARNPANICH (Thailand)
Committee on Market Access (CMA)	Miss Renata CRISTALDO OVIEDO (Paraguay)
Committee on Rules of Origin (ROO)	Mr Elia N. MTWEVE (Tanzania)
Committee on Safeguards (SG)	Mr Eungkil JEON (Republic of Korea)
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)	Mr Tayutic MENA RETANA (Costa Rica)
Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM)	Mr James LESTER (New Zealand)
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)	Ms Anna VITIE (Finland)
Committee on Trade Facilitation (TF)	Mr Carlos GUEVARA (Ecuador)
Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs)	Mr Po-Feng HUANG (Chinese Taipei)
Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA)	Mr Don SPEDDING (Australia)
Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (STEs)	Ms Laura Ulda CALLIGARO (Italy)

5.6. The Council so agreed.

5.7. The Chairperson indicated the following:

5.8. Before I offer the floor to any delegation that may like to speak on this matter, may I remind you that, while all the other subsidiary bodies of the Council have provisions in their respective Agreements or rules of procedure prescribing the election of the Chairperson, the working groups do not. Therefore, I suggest that, in the case of the Working Group on State Trading Enterprises, the Council appoint the nominee Ms Laura Ulda CALLIGARO (Italy) as Chairperson.

5.9. The Council so agreed.

5.10. The representative of the European Union indicated the following:

5.11. The European Union warmly welcomes the slate. For the fifth consecutive year, the appointment process of chairpersons has unfortunately taken many more months than foreseen in the Organization's existing guidelines, which were agreed in 2003. The EU would like to invite the Chairperson of this Council, together with his predecessor, Mr Etienne Oudot de Dainville, and the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Services, Mrs Tsvetelina Georgieva Dimitrova, to shortly convene a meeting of the Regional Group Coordinators. Such a meeting should explore how the appointment process of Tier 2 chairpersonships can be improved, such that Members may be confident that we will be able to meet our deadlines next year. We would intend this work to be within the framework of the agreed guidelines, but to introduce some procedural improvements so that we avoid delays in the future. These would obviously have to be supported by the wider Membership, but the Regional Group Coordinators could do the groundwork. Our overarching aim should be to have the system working in such a way that the chairs of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 bodies can be appointed by the first General Council meeting of the year.

5.12. The representative of the United States indicated the following:

5.13. The United States wishes to briefly support the statement made by the delegation of the European Union, and we also look forward to continued engagement to improve this process.

5.14. The representative of the Dominican Republic indicated the following:

5.15. The Dominican Republic is delighted that a consensus has been reached on the chairs, and we are especially pleased that our region is presiding over various important committees, such as the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Committee on Trade Facilitation, and the Committee on Market Access. We congratulate all the chairs.

5.16. The Chairperson indicated the following:

5.17. I completely share the view of the statement presented by the European Union, and supported by the United States. Of course, we have observed the long period of time taken in the process of appointing the chairs of the CTG's subsidiary bodies, which seems to be much longer than expected. Therefore, we have noted that it is important that the preparatory process must start early next time. I also welcome the suggestion to meet with the Regional Group Coordinators with a view to starting the process earlier, such that Members can scrutinize the names and the Council can confirm the names much earlier than on this occasion. I think that an earlier start will help the system. And it will help the committees to carry out their functions effectively. With this, I propose that the Council take note of the statements made.

5.18. The Council so agreed.

5.19. The meeting was closed.

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