



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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WTO OMC

WTO & IPU workshop for Latin American and the Caribbean parliamentarians

Addressing trade challenges: The contribution of Latin American and the Caribbean parliamentarians

National Congress of Argentina

Buenos Aires, 28-29 November 2022

Background information

The Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ended with satisfactory results including, among other, the Ministerial Decisions on the TRIPS Agreement, on the Work Programme on Small Economies, on the World Food Programme Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions, on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity.

These encouraging outcomes, while responding to the current challenging socioeconomic situation, should allow international trade to contribute effectively to efforts aiming at building a resilient environment in accordance with the ongoing mobilization of the international community, as urged in the statement of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO) in the context of MC12.

In line with its longstanding pledge, the PCWTO's support is crucial both to the work of the WTO and for international trade. The PCWTO must therefore garner parliamentary contributions to the implementation of these MC12 decisions and in anticipation of MC13 to be held in December 2023.

To this end and following the 2018 Steering Committee recommendation to provide capacity building to parliaments so that they may achieve the aforesaid objective, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in collaboration with the WTO and with the support of the National Congress of Argentina will organize a regional workshop for Latin American and the Caribbean parliamentarians on *Addressing trade challenges: The contribution of Latin American and the Caribbean parliamentarians*. This workshop will be hosted by the National Congress of Argentina on 28 and 29 November 2022 in Buenos Aires.

The objectives of the workshop include:

- To relay the MC12 outcomes and explore parliamentary actions for their implementation.
- To promote inter-regional dialogue on international trade and investments in view of contributing to a robust and resilient socioeconomic environment.
- To facilitate the building of institutional capacities in the parliaments of the region.
- To garner support of the parliaments in the region for the work of the PCWTO and its Steering Committee.