

**Specialised Training Programme for African Countries on Select Issues for the
Forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference
Conducted by the Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
From 4 October to 8 October 2021**

The Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) organized an e-ITEC “Specialised Training Programme for African Countries on Select Issues for the Forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference ” from 4 to 8 October, 2021 in collaboration with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The training programme was conducted virtually for a period of 5 days and was attended by 18 government officials from 5 countries, namely, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Niger and Seychelles.

Professor Abhijit Das, Head of the Centre for WTO Studies, delivered the welcome address at the inaugural session of the programme on 4th October, which was followed by Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS delivering the opening remarks. Subsequently, the participants attended a session on ‘Introduction to WTO, Ministerial Meeting’ conducted by Professor Abhijit Das, Head, CWS, a session on ‘Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations’ by Mr. Mukesh Bhatnagar, Professor, CWS, and a session on ‘Agricultural Issues: PSH, SSM’ by Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Associate Professor, CWS. On the second day the participants attended sessions on ‘TRIPS Waiver’ by Ms. Chandni Raina, Economic Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, a session on ‘Industrial Subsidies; Non-Market Economy (NME)’, and a session on ‘Trade and MSME’ by Dr. Murali Kallummal, Professor, CWS. The third day’s sessions were on ‘Environment and Labour’ and on ‘Investment Facilitation’ conducted by Ms. Shailja Singh, Associate Professor, CWS, and on E-commerce. The fourth day included sessions on ‘WTO Response to Pandemic’, ‘Issues Related to Dispute Settlement Understanding’, and ‘WTO Reforms’ .

On the final day of the specialised training programme on 8th October, participants from various countries made presentations highlighting their respective countries’ priorities at the WTO and discussed issues which they considered important for developing countries in light of the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12). The training programme concluded with an evaluation by the participants, followed by valediction and closing remarks by Professor Abhijit Das and Professor Mukesh Bhatnagar.