

PROGRAMME FOR THE WCP RESEARCH HUB, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

TIME SLOTS	SESSIONS (Venue: WTO Library)
9:00 - 10:00	Session 1: Trading Culture: Sustainable Tourism and Creative Services Abstract: Sustainable tourism and creative services are vital drivers of equitable development across the Global South. Heavily dominated by MSMEs, these sectors serve as primary engines for integrating women and youth into global trade, despite vulnerabilities to regulatory fragmentation and economic shocks. Co-hosted by the WTO Chairs of India, Mexico, and Peru, this panel explores how multilateral trade policy can bolster travel and cultural service exports. Speakers will evaluate modernizing GATS frameworks, trade facilitation, and intellectual property protections for traditional knowledge to formalize youth-led MSMEs and re-engineer service trade governance for inclusive, long-term development. Moderator: Fabio Costa Morosini, School of Law - Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil Speakers 1. James Nedumpara, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, WCP Chair in India 2. Amrita Bahri, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, WCP Chair in México 3. Victor Saco, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, WCP Chair in Perú 4. Ridhish Rajvanshi, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, WCP Chair in India
10:30 - 11:30	Session 2: Seven Pillars for Inclusive Services Trade Abstract: The upcoming book examines how trade in services has become central to global economy and why inclusivity must be embedded in services trade. It argues that existing approaches often overlook the intersectional barriers marginalized communities face in accessing opportunities from services liberalization. Covering sectors including digital trade, finance, healthcare, education, and professional mobility, the book develops a framework based on seven pillars of inclusion. It connects services trade regulation to gender, disability, race, indigeneity, age, and poverty, arguing that inclusive services trade should ensure globalization delivers more equitable outcomes for those excluded from, or disproportionately affected by, liberalization. Moderator: Nicolette Butler, University of Manchester

	Speakers 1. Amrita Bahri, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, WCP Chair in México 2. Gerald Solano Aguilar, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, WCP Chair in Costa Rica 3. Victor Saco, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, WCP Chair in Perú 4. Sofia Boza, Universidad de Chile, WCP Chair in Chile
12:00 - 13:00	Session 3: Are services hubs key to structural transformation in LDCs? Abstract: LDC governments are increasingly prioritizing the development of service hubs as a pathway to diversification and sustainable development. This session explores how such hubs can best support structural transformation in LDCs by strengthening productive capacities, creating economy-wide linkages, and fostering higher-value economic activities. The session will examine the policy, regulatory, and private sector development priorities needed to maximize the development impact of service hubs. Panellists will also assess the role of regional integration initiatives, the relevance of the LDC services waiver and the contribution of international partnerships in addressing supply-side constraints and enabling services-led growth and economic upgrading in LDCs. Moderator: Pierre Sauvé, World Trade Institute, Member of the WCP Academic Advisory Board Speakers 1. Ngozi Egbuna, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, WCP Chair in Nigeria 2. Ermie Steenkamp, North-West University, WCP Chair in South Africa 3. Caiphas Chekwoti, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa, WCP Chair in Tanzania 4. Martin Roy, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO
14:15 - 15:15	Session 4: Trade in Services: Intelligence, Sustainability & Inclusion Abstract: Services trade is powering the future, but rapidly changing markets call for informed, sustainable, and inclusive services trade policy. This session brings together researchers from universities in South Africa, Chinese Taipei, and Cameroon to address three distinct policy priorities. The first explores how trade intelligence strengthens timely, evidence-based policymaking. The second examines how green services are defined and regulated across multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral frameworks. The third considers how tourism, artificial intelligence, and women's participation in services reshape value creation in developing economies. Together, these perspectives show how responsive services trade policy can advance inclusive development, job creation, and empowerment. Moderator: Carli Bezuidenhout, North-West University, WCP Chair in South Africa

	Speakers 1. Ermie Steenkamp, North-West University, WCP Chair in South Africa 2. Lorainne Ferreira, North-West University, WCP Chair in South Africa 3. Mao-wei Lo, National Taiwan University, WCP Chair in Chinese Taipei 4. Manfred Kouty, Université de Yaoundé II, WCP Chair in Cameroon
15:45 - 16:45	Session 5: How Digital Delivery Transforms Services Trade Abstract: This session examines how digital delivery is transforming services trade and powering inclusive development. Drawing on concrete insights from four diverse economies — China, Pakistan, Qatar, and Uzbekistan. Topics will touch upon regulatory practices of digital delivery of services, the rise of the gig economy and IT-enabled service exports in reshaping services trade; legal constraints and opportunities for digital delivery and so on. Through a dynamic format of lightning case presentations and a moderated discussion, the session will compare pathways and reveal how digital delivery lowers barriers and fosters opportunity across different development stages. Moderator: Xin Xu, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, WCP Chair in China (Shanghai) Speakers 1. Azam Amjad Chaudhry, Lahore School of Economics, WCP Chair in Pakistan 2. Kehinde Folake Olaoye, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, WCP Chair in Qatar 3. Umid Yakubkhodjaev, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, WCP Chair in Uzbekistan 4. Xinquan Tu, University of International Business and Economics, WCP Chair in China (Beijing)
17:15 - 18:15	Session 6: Trade in Services for Female Entrepreneurs in LDCs Abstract: Digital services and e-commerce have emerged as transformative drivers of inclusive economic growth, offering unprecedented opportunities for women entrepreneurs in LDCs. Through digital platforms, women-owned enterprises can overcome traditional barriers as they continue to face structural constraints including limited digital literacy, restrictive regulatory environments and socio-cultural barriers. This session will dive deeper into different perspectives on how digital services can promote women's entrepreneurship and economic inclusion in LDCs as well as the implications of the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce for women's digital inclusion. Moderator: Désirée Van Gorp, Nyenrode Business University, Member of the WCP Academic Advisory Board

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