



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Global online meeting on the outcomes of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO) and the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13)

Wednesday, 2 October 2024, 14:00 - 16:00 (CEST)

Concept Note

As per its practice since its inception, and with a view to continuing its role as a vital forum for advancing the effectiveness and impact of global trade, the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO) held its annual session on 25 February 2024, prior to the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13), which took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 26 February to 2 March 2024.

This annual session, under the overall theme ***Abu Dhabi and beyond: Shaping and strengthening a multilateral trading system that delivers for all***, gave some 200 participants representing 30 parliaments the opportunity to obtain first-hand information on progress made between MC12 and MC13, and to interact with government negotiators and WTO officials.

The debates on the specific substantive themes **Trade and climate change** and **Digital trade in the era of resilient economies** provided a further opportunity for participants to engage in in-depth discussion and exchange experiences with colleagues from other parliaments.

The annual session resulted in an outcome document, a roadmap for robust parliamentary action, intended as a contribution of the parliamentary community to the discussions at MC13, with a view to supporting global efforts to support trade in recognition of its role as the engine of a resilient global economy.

At its 53rd session held in Abu Dhabi on 24 February 2024, the Steering Committee of the PCWTO recommended the organization of a global online briefing on the PCWTO meeting in Abu Dhabi. The objectives of this briefing are the following:

- To provide highlights of the PCWTO session in Abu Dhabi as well as of its outcome document
- To present the outcome of MC13 including any updates on issues currently under discussion at the WTO
- To explore avenues for parliamentarians to contribute to the implementation of phase 1 of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the conclusion of phase 2 of the Agreement.

A parliamentary contribution to the implementation of these outcomes is expected in anticipation of MC14, which is scheduled to take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 2026.

This briefing will also offer an opportunity for participants to reflect on parliamentary strategies to uphold the work of the PCWTO for more targeted actions and impactful results.

The meeting will include the following presentations:

1. *Retrospective of the PCWTO and its outcome document*: **Mr. Marwan Al Muhairi**, Member the Federal National Council (United Arab Emirates) and Rapporteur of the Conference
2. *The outcome of MC13 and update on recent developments at the WTO*: **Ms. Angela Ellard**, Deputy Director-General of the WTO
3. *The role of parliamentarians in the implementation of phase 1 of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the conclusion of phase 2 of the Agreement*: **Mr. Bernd Lange**, Member of the European Parliament, co-Chair of the PCWTO Steering Committee