

**Ms Bridget Chilala
Director, WTO Institute for Training and Technical
Cooperation**

**Intervention at the Forum on WTO Accessions,
Thursday 13 July 2017**

(Delivered by Mr Samer Seif El Yazal, ITTC)

Thank you Mr Chairman,

On behalf of Ms Bridget Chilala, Director of the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) - who had to leave now for a prior engagement - I would like to thank the Accessions division for inviting ITTC and for organizing this important event.

As you are aware, the ITTC has the overarching responsibility for coordinating, designing and delivering all WTO related training and technical assistance programmes that are organized in Geneva and in the field. To achieve this objective, ITTC collaborates with all in-house divisions, including the Accessions division in designing tailor made technical assistance programmes that address the specific needs and priorities identified by beneficiaries – WTO Members and Observers from developing countries and LDCs.

We work closely with partner institutions from around the globe, including all represented institutions in this room, such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and others. We value these partnership arrangements that have proven to be effective and beneficial to our Members and Observers. We look forward to further strengthening existing collaboration and forging new ones. Of course, all this will not be possible without the continued financial support and endorsement of our donor community to whom we are very grateful.

This timely Forum takes place at an important juncture in the preparation of the new WTO Biennial Training and Technical Assistance Plan for 2018-2019. ITTC has been discussing with Members and the consultations will continue next week at an informal meeting that will be held on Thursday, 20 July 2017 from 10.00 to 12.00 in Room S1. We have certainly taken note of all the areas identified by the representatives of Acceding governments that intervened today but I sincerely hope that you will all be able to join us at the informal meeting and reiterate your priority areas once more.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that LDCs will remain a priority for the Secretariat in the new Plan and that Accessions and post-Accessions related events will continue to be one of the four key results.

Thank you for your attention.