WTO OMC

WTO Open Day 9 June 2024

Programme and information brochure

No registration required
WTO, Centre/Parc William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne, 154

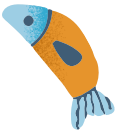
What we do

The WTO operates the global system of trade rules, guaranteeing WTO member governments important trade rights.

It provides a forum for its members to lower trade barriers through negotiations and oversees a system for resolving the trade problems they face with each other. It also helps developing economies improve their capacity to trade.

The overall objective of the WTO is to help its members use trade as a means to raise living standards, create jobs and improve people's lives.

What we do



Trade negotiations

The WTO agreements – covering goods, services and intellectual property – are not static; they are altered from time to time and new agreements can be added to the package. Changes to the rules of trade require the agreement of WTO members, who must reach consensus through negotiations. Recent agreements include the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement adopted by WTO members at the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022.

Implementation and monitoring

WTO agreements require governments to make their trade policies transparent by notifying the WTO about laws in force and measures adopted. Various WTO councils and committees seek to ensure these requirements are being followed and that WTO agreements are being properly implemented. All WTO members must undergo periodic scrutiny of their trade policies and practices, while trade monitoring reports regularly review trade developments for the WTO membership as a whole.

Dispute settlement

The WTO's procedures for resolving trade disputes are vital for enforcing the rules and for ensuring trade flows smoothly. WTO members bring disputes to the WTO if they think their rights under the agreements are being infringed. Rulings by specially appointed independent experts are based on interpretations of the agreements and individual members' commitments.

What we do

Building trade capacity

WTO agreements contain special provisions for developing economies, including longer time periods to implement agreements and commitments, and support to help them build their trade capacity. The WTO organizes hundreds of training activities for developing economies annually. The Aid for Trade initiative aims to help developing economies improve the skills and infrastructure needed to expand their participation in global trade.

Outreach

The WTO maintains regular dialogue with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, other international organizations, the business sector, universities and the general public on various aspects of the WTO, with the aim of enhancing cooperation and increasing awareness of WTO activities.

Programme

10:00 - Welcome address and opening ceremony	
Council Room	The opening ceremony will be held in the Council Room, the major meeting room used by WTO members. Opening addresses will be delivered by the WTO Director General Ngozi-Okonjo Iweala, the General Council Chair Ambassador Petter Ølberg and representatives of the Swiss authorities.
Guided tours	
Visitors will have the chance to discover the rich history of the Centre William Rappard, the WTO's headquarters, and learn about the variety of artworks donated by governments and other institutions. WTO staff will act as tour guides, with tours taking place at 11:00, 13:00 and 15:00. The tours will be available in English, French and Spanish, the three official languages of the WTO. Each tour lasts for about 45 minutes.	
Interpreter for a day	
Room W	Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be an interpreter at the WTO? Come and try it out in Room W, one of the WTO's largest meeting rooms, at 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00.
Q and A – do you have a question for WTO staff?	
Room W	Visitors can ask WTO staff any trade and WTO-related question during 30-minute sessions in Room W. The sessions are held at 11:15, 13:15 and 15:15.

Programme

Photo exhibitions	
Atrium	Photos showing how the WTO building has evolved since its creation in 1926 will be on display in the WTO Atrium. Historic pictures of the signing of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO in 1994 will also be displayed.
Activities for children	
Activities for our younger visitors include face painting, storytelling and a bouncy castle on the lakeside lawn.	
International buffet	
National food and drink provided by members of the WTO will be available throughout the day on the lakeside terrace.	
WTO videos	
Room B	A selection of videos on the work of the WTO will be on display in Room B throughout the day.
WTO Quiz Show	
Atrium	Test your knowledge of the WTO and win a prize 3:00-3:30
Live music throughout the day	

Map

1 **Main gate**

2 **Welcome Pavilion**
Security screening

3 **Council Room:**
Opening Ceremony
Registration for the guided tours

4 **Building entrance**

5 **Atrium:**
Exhibitions ,
WTO Bookshop
WTO quiz show

6 **Room W:**
Interpretation activity
Q&A sessions

7 **Ground floor:**
WTO videos

8 **1st floor:**
WTO Library

9 **International Buffet and stands**

10 **11** **12** **Children activities**

13 **Music**

14 **Lakeside entrance**
Security screening

No parking available on site
Nearest car park P+R Secheron
Accessible via public Transport. Bus: 1, 11, 22, 25