



WTO OMC

**WTO Workshop on Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)
for Facilitating the Movement of Professional Services**

Draft Work Programme

DAY 1: 9 May

09:00 – 09:20	Welcome address by a representative of UOM/ MOFA Remarks by WTO Secretariat Opening address by a representative of Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA)
09:20 – 09:30	Tea Break
09:30 – 09:45	Introduction to the Workshop: Objectives & expectations (WTO Secretariat)
09:45 – 10:30	Introduction to trade in services – key disciplines (WTO Secretariat) - Architecture and key elements of the GATS: modes of supply, MFN, transparency, regulation and liberalization
10:30 – 11:15	A closer look at Mode 4: Supply of services through temporary movement of persons (WTO Secretariat) - Movement of natural persons in trade agreements – Main issues - Categories of persons as individual service providers - Examples of schedules of commitments
11:15 – 12:30	Business services and professional services (WTO Secretariat, external consultant)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope of business and professional services - Main market access and national treatment restrictions - Examples of schedules of commitments - Main regulatory issues
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Recognition of qualifications & MRAs for facilitating services trade in professional services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key GATS provisions related to recognition (WTO Secretariat) - Key provisions related to recognition in selected RTAs concluded by Mauritius or under negotiation (MOFA, TBC) - Overview of national system for recognition of (foreign – obtained) qualifications (MQA, TBC)
15:00 – 15:10	Tea Break
15:10 – 16:30	<p>Main issues to consider in the design and negotiation of MRAs - (external consultant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form and scope of the agreement, participants, eligibility criteria for recognition, level of equivalence, role of international standards, additional requirements (e.g. compensatory measures), processing of applications, other provisions - Mechanisms for monitoring, future cooperation and review

Day 2: 10 May

09:00 – 10:20	<p>Regional practices regarding MRAs (external consultant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of regional approaches to MRAs (ASEAN, NAFTA, EU, EAC) MRAs for specific sectors of interest to Mauritius (accountancy, legal, ICT and computer- related, medical, architecture and engineering)
10:20 – 10:30	Tea Break
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Issues to consider in the negotiation of MRAs for specific sectors- and lessons for Mauritius (external consultant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying and defining priority sectors, scanning entry

	regulations in the host country, domestic coordination, identifying possible bottlenecks and alternation policy options
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Main issues arising in the negotiation of MRAs – Group exercise (participants will be divided into groups according to main priority sectors)</p> <p>Each group will have to identify main issues arising in the negotiation of MRAs for priority sectors (e.g. defining scope of negotiations, possible approach, domestic agencies involved, possible constraints, etc.)</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:45	Main issues arising in the negotiation of MRAs – Group exercise (continuation)
14:45 – 15:00	Tea Break
15:00 – 16:20	Debriefing session with all participants (WTO Secretariat, external consultant)
16:20 – 16:30	Closing remarks by a representative of MQA