

MC11 THINK TRACK

Rethinking Global Trade Governance for the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities on the Eve of the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference Buenos Aires, 12 December 2017

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANEL PROPOSALS

Organizing Institutions: Government of the Argentine Republic, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), University of Buenos Aires (UBA) School of Law, University of Barcelona's Master of Laws in International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO LL.M.), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, New York University School of Law's Institute for International Law and Justice (IILJ), Georgetown Law.

BACKGROUND

Argentina will host the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization for the first time on 10-13 December 2017 (MC11). In a context of uncertainty regarding the future of international trade, Argentina is convinced that the way forward is a strong multilateral system, and that it is necessary to bring the WTO closer to the people. In the upcoming MC11, Argentina wants to help facilitate a renewed multilateralism, and the academic community is in a unique position to assess the challenges that the WTO faces and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Against that background, the Government of the Argentine Republic has launched the "MC11 Think Track," aimed at supporting academic activities in the field of international trade that can contribute to the success of the MC11. As part of this initiative, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL), and along with the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) School of Law, the University of Barcelona's Master of Laws in International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO LL.M.), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, New York University School of Law's Institute for International Law and Justice (IILJ), and Georgetown Law, the Ministry of Production of Argentina will host a Conference entitled "**Rethinking Global Trade Governance for the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities on the Eve of the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference**" on 12 December 2017. The Conference will promote the presentation and discussion of different perspectives about the MC11 and the future of the Organization.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANEL PROPOSALS

The Organizing Institutions are launching a call for papers and panel proposals aiming at contributing to the Conference under three guiding themes:

I. **Thinking about Global Trade Governance**

Participants are encouraged to discuss the scenario for international trade and address the challenges and opportunities moving forward, including the role of multilateralism, the evolution of regional trade agreements, the influence of politics in the trading system, among others.

II. **The WTO Comes of Age**

As we approach the 23rd anniversary of the WTO, proposals for reform abound. Participants are encouraged to present views and ideas for improvement of the WTO as an institution, such as

changes in its institutional framework, including dispute settlement, and whether and how the WTO should deal with some of the most pressing issues in the international economy (development, environmental concerns, debt and finance, among others).

III. The Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference

Discussions will be centered on the agenda for the 11th Ministerial Conference and the possibilities for its success, including new issues and their challenges, the conduct of negotiations, the legacy of the Doha Round, among others.

PROCEDURE

Submission of abstracts

Young postgraduate students and researchers interested in presenting original work in the Conference must submit an abstract or summary of the proposed article detailing i) title; ii) 500-word abstract or summary; iii) five key words; iv) updated CV. Panel proposals must include i) 3-5 speakers (which may include, *inter alia*, academics, practitioners, government officials, advocates) committing to travel to the Conference; ii) title and summary of discussion topics; iii) personal information on the speakers; and iv) proposed moderator.

Abstracts and panel proposals shall be sent no later than **15 September 2017** in English, Spanish or French to a.cuevas@ielpo.org. Abstracts and panel proposals in Spanish or French must be accompanied by an English version.

Selection

An Academic Committee, composed of renowned specialists in the field of international trade, will select the most relevant abstracts and panel proposals in accordance with the following criteria:

- a) Appropriateness to the goals and topics of the Conference;
- b) Originality, creativity and potential for contribution to the discussions;
- c) Relevance to the context of negotiations within the framework of the WTO and the MC11.

The Organizing Institutions will communicate their decision on the acceptance of abstracts and panel proposals by **9 October 2017**.

Submission of articles or working papers

Students and researchers whose article proposals have been admitted for presentation at the Conference will be required to submit complete articles or working papers of up to 18,000 words by **1 December 2017**. Working papers will be accepted as long as they constitute full and comprehensive drafts.

FINANCING FOR PARTICIPANTS

The organizing institutions are unfortunately unable to cover travel or lodging expenses for all participants. However, a limited number of partial scholarships will be available for travel and lodging expenses of some participants. Priority will be given to postgraduate and doctoral students who cannot obtain support by other means and to academics from developing and least-developed countries. Those wishing to apply for one of the scholarships must submit a personal letter to a.cuevas@ielpo.org (Subject: "Financing Request") stating the reason for scholarship request, in addition to a letter of recommendation from a supervisor.