

**Pacific**  
E-commerce  
Initiative

# **WTO Work Programme on E-commerce**

***Ms Zainab Mchumo***

***Counsellor***

***Council & Trade Negotiations Committee***

***Division, WTO***

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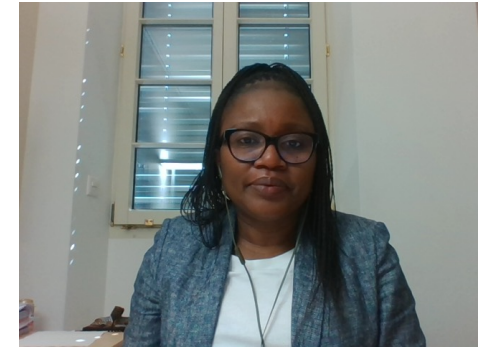
E-Commerce Training Programme  
for Pacific Negotiators

March 28 – April 1, 2022



**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM**

# *E-commerce at the WTO*



- 1998 Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce
  - General Council – comprehensive work programme
  - Continue practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions (“moratorium”)
- General Council adopts Work Programme to explore relationship between WTO agreements and e-commerce
- Standing item in GC followed by Dedicated discussions from 2001 to 2016

# Work Programme on e-commerce



Adopted by the General Council in Sept 1998

What is e-commerce? the “production, distribution, marketing, sale or delivery of goods and services by electronic means”

What should the WTO do? explore relationship between WTO agreements and e-commerce

Where should it be explored/discussed?

Council for Trade in Goods  
(CTG);

Council for Trade in Services  
(CTS);

Council for Trade-related  
Aspects of IP (TRIPS);

Committee on Trade and  
Development (CTD)

# *Work Programme discussions and Ministerial Decisions*



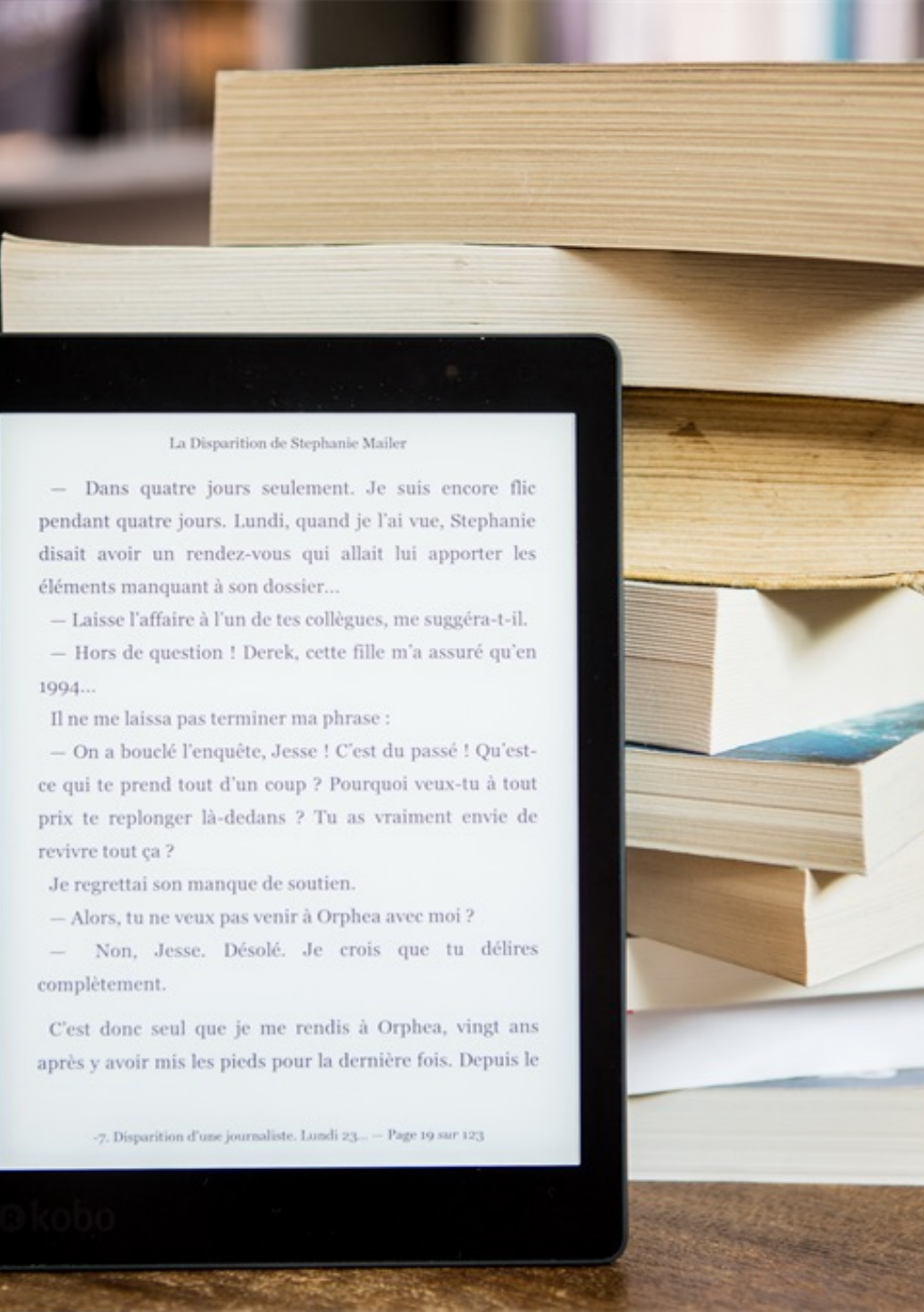
- Substantive discussions in early years;
  - followed by focus on drafting of Ministerial texts
- Ministerial Decisions:
  - Take note; continue & reinvigorate; GC reviews; extend moratorium
  - Renewed focus following MC10
- MC11 – Multilateral and JSI (71 members) outcomes
- December 2019 GC Decision: extended to MC 12

# ***Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions***



- What are **electronic transmissions**? What is the scope of the moratorium?
- Questions, concerns related to revenue implications for developing countries; technical feasibility and cost of imposing duties etc.
- Different views amongst Members including *Indonesia's view first raised at MC11*. Different studies on the moratorium
- Workshops, structured discussions

It does not apply to goods ordered online and delivered physically



## *State of play and way forward*

- Continuation of work in the bodies
- Extensive consultations in preparation for MC12
- Divergent views on WP and moratorium
- 12th Ministerial Conference
  - Nov/Dec 2021 postponed to mid June 2022
- General Council to report to MC12 & Ministers to take decision

