

Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

**WTO PROGRESSIVE
LEARNING STRATEGY (PLS)
FOR TRADE-RELATED
CAPACITY-BUILDING**



WTO OMC

1. This communication aims to clarify the WTO's Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS) and to set out 2011 training activities in order to facilitate planning and prioritizing by delegations in relation to the WTO training options available for their government officials.
2. The WTO's Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC) seeks to enhance coherence in the design and the implementation of the WTO Secretariat's Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) activities, exploiting synergies among its various training products and programmes. In addition to realigning and improving the design and content of our face-to-face training activities, the ITTC is increasing the flexibility and availability of WTO online E-Learning as a key element in the PLS.
3. The ITTC encourages government officials from beneficiaries of WTO TRTA to register and take advantage of training opportunities, in particular, E-Learning courses, which function both as a training tool and as a selection tool. Successful participants in online E-Learning courses are eligible to attend more advanced WTO training and capacity-building activities.
4. Annex II contains a calendar of WTO PLS training activities planned in 2011. Additional information on all of these 2011 training activities is available on the WTO website.

I THE WTO'S PROGRESSIVE MULTI-MODULAR APPROACH TO TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

5. In 2011, the WTO Secretariat will continue to put in place clear and coherent training paths based on the PLS: a progressive, multi-modular approach. This focus on mutual reinforcement of progressive training activities derives full advantage from information technology and the Internet for more basic training, while maximizing the effectiveness and interactivity of more advanced face-to-face training. The primary aim of the PLS is to promote higher levels of learning and to encourage the development of participants' autonomy, with a view to building and sustaining the long-lasting human and institutional capacity of beneficiary countries to participate most effectively in the rules-based multilateral trading system.

II WTO PLS TRAINING PATHS: FOR GENERALISTS AND SPECIALISTS

6. The WTO Secretariat has identified two broad categories of capacity-building participants, namely "generalists" and "specialists":
 - i. "Generalists" are those government officials who will need a broad knowledge of the WTO to conduct their work, such as capital-based officials dealing with WTO issues or delegates posted to Geneva missions with general responsibility for WTO affairs.
 - ii. "Specialists" are those government officials who will require in-depth knowledge in a specific area, such as those officials working on a specific issue in a particular Ministry in their capital (for example, those who are dealing with technical barriers to trade, agriculture or sanitary and phytosanitary measures issues).
7. On the basis of this distinction, the ITTC has identified two broad training paths, one for "generalists" and another for "specialists". Each training path consists of a sequence of three training levels.

III PLS LEVELS

A. PLS LEVEL 1

8. The first level of the PLS relies principally on the online Introduction Course. Introduction Courses are the starting point for all those going through the various training paths, whether generalist or specialist. They thus offer an initiation to the role, structure and functioning of the WTO, as well as to its legal underpinnings. The aim is generally, by 2011, to make the completion of an introductory E-Learning online course a prerequisite for participation in a face-to-face training activity or a more advanced online course.

B. PLS Level 2

9. Following completion of the first level training activity, the paths for “Generalists” and “Specialists” diverge: the distinction between generalists and specialists will play a central role in driving the participant towards the most appropriate learning path. In respect of the second level of training:

- i. a “Generalist” will register for a more advanced online course on the Multilateral Trade Agreements (MTA), or may elect to attend a face-to-face Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC). Both of these are level 2 activities in the generalist path. While different, both of these training activities may be broadly characterized as providing a basic approach to the WTO Multilateral Trade Agreements and aiming to improve the participant’s ability to understand and absorb trade policy content.
- ii. a “Specialist” will either attend a level 2 training activity on a specific topic or else move towards online specialized courses - such as a course on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, agriculture, trade in services or trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights - which would provide him/her with the concepts and knowledge, which he/ she would need to participate in more advanced specialized face-to-face activities in level 3.

C. PLS Level 3

10. Following completion of the second level training activity:

- i. a “Generalist” will register for the level 3 Advanced Trade Policy Course (ATPC) in Geneva. The 3-month ATPC is the most comprehensive advanced WTO training product available under the PLS. It is aimed at government officials who seek to consolidate and broaden their knowledge of the WTO and the multilateral trading system already acquired through prior WTO E-Learning (on the Multilateral Trade Agreements) and/or a Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC).
- ii. a “Specialist” will attend a level 3 face-to-face advanced training activity on a specific topic, in Geneva (or in certain regions, where available). By way of example, in 2011, the ITTC’s Geneva-based Courses Unit - in collaboration with other WTO Secretariat Divisions - plans to offer a series of Advanced (level 3) courses for specialists, ranging from 1-3 weeks in duration, and addressing topics such as Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (jointly with the World Intellectual Property Organization), Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Dispute Settlement, and Trade and Environment.

IV WTO ONLINE E-LEARNING: INCREASING FLEXIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY IN 2011

11. The ITTC has made a major effort to reposition E-Learning within the means of delivery of TRTA which permeates and supports all other products. Online courses essentially constitute the first stages in the progressive learning process, where levels of knowledge of participants can be enhanced, tested and synchronized. At levels 1 and 2, E-Learning courses function both as a training tool within the specialist and generalist PLS paths and as a selection tool, ensuring that successful participants in the online prerequisite course are eligible to attend more advanced activities.

V E-LEARNING COURSES

12. The following courses will be available in English, French and Spanish in 2011 on the WTO E-Learning website at <http://etraining.wto.org>:

(a) Basic level (PLS level 1)

- i. Introduction to the WTO

(b) Intermediate level (PLS level 2)

- i. Technical Barriers to Trade in the WTO (TBT)
- ii. Trade Remedies and the WTO
- iii. Agriculture in the WTO
- iv. Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
- v. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
- vi. Trade and Services in the WTO (GATS)
- vii. Market Access for Trade in Goods (NAMA)
- viii. The Multilateral Trade Agreements (MTA)

A. E-Learning Course Duration

13. The estimated average study time per course is from 50 to 60 hours. Participants can start their course at their convenience and will enjoy access to the course for a three-month period, within which they will be free to organize their study pace according to what fits them best. Participants will be assisted by a trainer throughout the duration of their course.

B. E-Learning Registration and Nomination

14. While the WTO E-Learning material is freely available on the WTO E-Learning website, participants have to register and submit a nomination form in order to participate in a monitored course, access the module exams and obtain a WTO certificate.

15. ONLINE Registration THROUGHOUT the year at <http://etraining.wto.org>.

16. Registration for online courses is a two-track process. To register TWO FORMS are to be filled in and submitted:

(a) Online Registration Form

17. Interested officials shall register online first. After the duly completion of the online registration form at <http://etraining.wto.org>, the system will generate a registration number, which candidates will need to include in the Nomination Form.

(b) Nomination Form

18. The nomination form can be downloaded at <http://etraining.wto.org>. The nomination form is also sent attached to the invitation letter, which is forwarded to Delegations from beneficiaries of WTO TRTA.

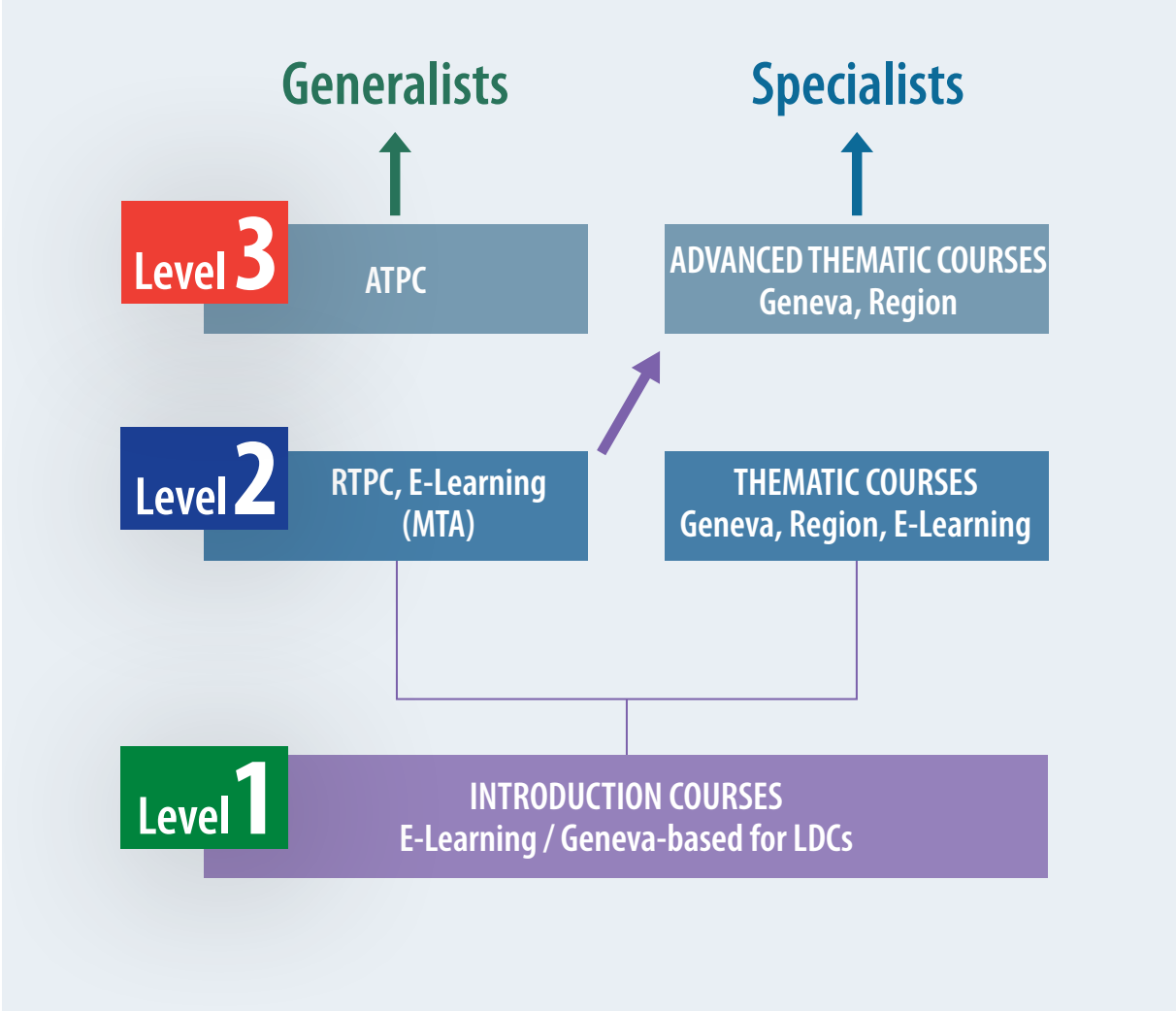
19. The registration number will be required. The participation of each candidate should be duly confirmed by the responsible government authorities. Nomination forms should be either sent by email (scanned) to elarning.registration@wto.org or by fax to +41 22 739 5191.

20. Once the registration process is complete, a username and password is sent to each participant by email. The access codes are available for a three-month period, starting from the date of the first login into the website. During these three months a Trainer and a dedicated Help Desk will be available to provide online assistance and course monitoring throughout the course.

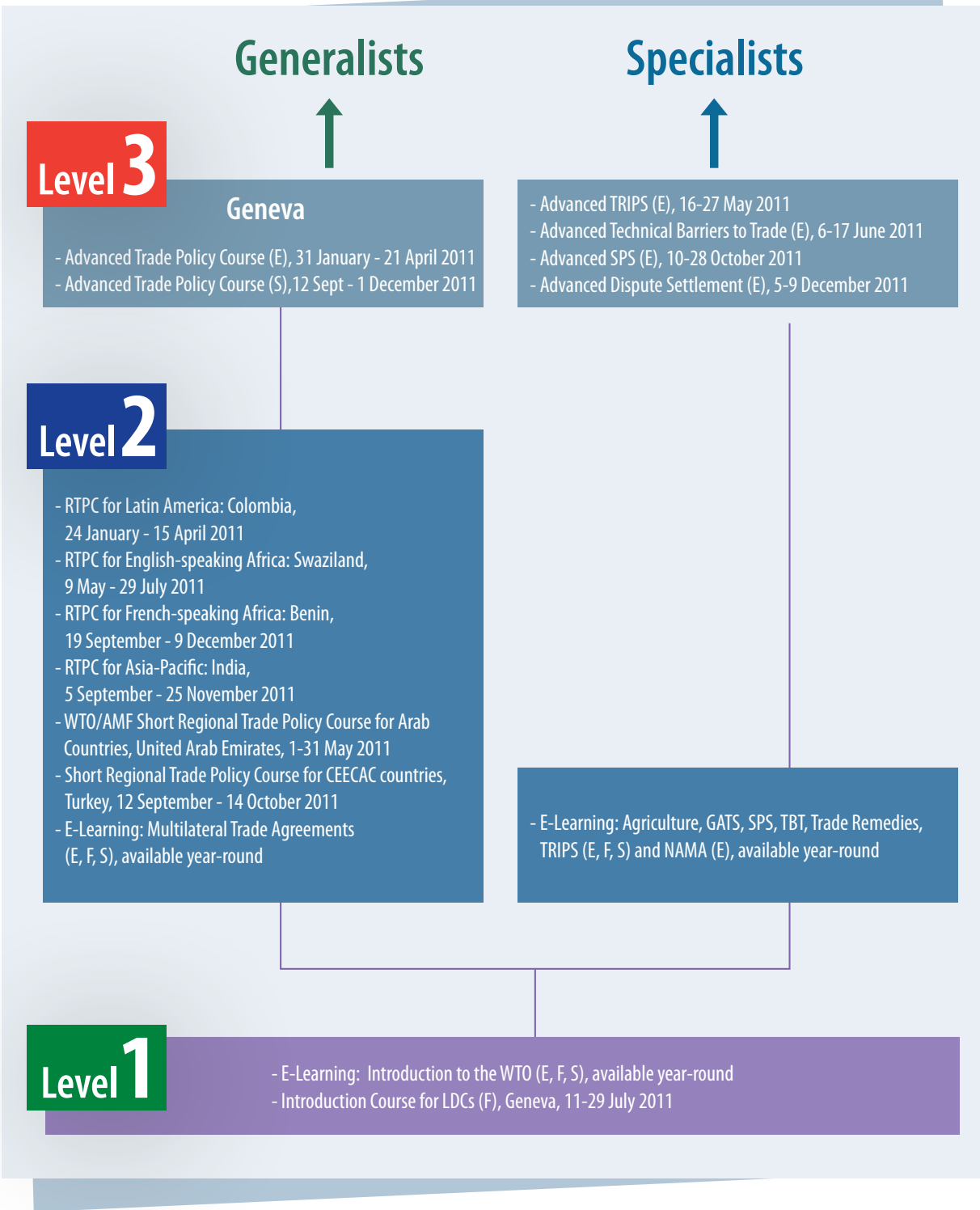
VI ANNEXES:

- I WTO Progressive Learning Strategy Training “paths”
- II 2011 WTO Progressive Learning Strategy Training Calendar

ANNEX I
WTO PROGRESSIVE LEARNING STRATEGY TRAINING "PATHS"



ANNEX II
2011 WTO PROGRESSIVE LEARNING STRATEGY TRAINING CALENDAR



E=English, F=French, RTPC= Regional Trade Policy Course, S=Spanish