

I. INTRODUCTION

It is increasingly evident that regulatory measures are affecting cross-border trade and investment. Governments are faced with the challenge of developing regulations that are effective in achieving regulatory objectives in a manner that is neutral toward or supportive of other objectives, for example market openness. To achieve this balance, improved co-operation between regulators and trade policy makers and enhanced mutual awareness of the links between regulatory and trade issues are called for.

The Doha Development Agenda (DDA) agreed to at the 4th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial in November 2001 laid out a programme for trade liberalisation that included a series of objectives for which progress will depend on achieving sound solutions to underlying regulatory issues. Regulatory issues will be integrated in the stocktaking and decisions expected at the 5th WTO Ministerial, scheduled for September 2003 in Cancun, Mexico. The DDA further accentuates the need to consider the links between regulatory issues and the pursuit of market openness objectives.

Against this background, the objectives of this Global Forum on Governance were to:

- Provide a forum for a multidisciplinary policy discussion among OECD and non-OECD countries on the interrelationship between good regulatory policy and the successful implementation of the Doha Development Agenda.
- Present and discuss how instruments and institutions of efficient regulatory policies can support progress on trade and market openness objectives.
- Present and discuss how the experiences in OECD's Regulatory Reform Programme can contribute to achieving the objectives of the DDA.

The Global Forum was attended by a total of 85 participants including high-level officials from OECD and non-OECD countries active in fields of regulatory and trade policies, as well as experts from other international organisations, the private sector, trade unions and academia will be invited.

The forum was organised as part OECD's Regulatory Reform Programme by the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate with the assistance of the Trade Directorate.