



FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDY REFORM (FFSR)

CONVENING NOTICE

The following convening notice, dated 1 February 2023, is being circulated at the request of New Zealand.

The Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) initiative will hold its second meeting in hybrid mode in Room D and via Zoom on **15 February 2023, from 10.00 Geneva time**. All WTO Members are invited to attend the meeting. Please see technical arrangements in Annex I.

AGENDA

1. Introductory remarks by the Coordinator

2. Context update

- a. Update on recent developments as relevant, including COP27, G20 processes, and Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate.

3. Deep dive: Social dimensions to FFSR

- a. Invited speakers (tbc) to present on issues impacting vulnerable populations, including:
 - i. Energy security for vulnerable social groups.
 - ii. Employment considerations.
- b. Presentation by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on the Economic and Social Analysis of Distributional Effects of Fossil Fuel Subsidies, including:
 - i. Who benefits most from production subsidies?
 - ii. Who benefits most from consumption subsidies?
 - iii. Fiscal costs – trade off with other public expenditure.
 - iv. Options to design and target support more effectively.

4. Deep dive: Development dimensions to FFSR

- a. What particular issues do developing Members have to grapple with in the context of fossil fuel subsidy reform? What approaches can developing Members take to achieve win/win outcomes for economic and industrial development, at the same time as reducing fossil fuel subsidy costs and emissions?
 - i. Presentation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- b. Development opportunities arising from transition to renewables – how are governments going about realising these? What resources are available to realise these development opportunities? What measures are needed at the international level to accelerate the shift in resourcing towards renewables and to enable developing Members to benefit from this shift?

- i. Presentation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

5. Guiding questions and next steps

- a. What are the main social and development energy needs and vulnerabilities WTO Members have identified a need to address? How have these needs and vulnerabilities evolved over time and what assessments have WTO Members undertaken of these policies, including any lessons learned, in adapting to changing needs in this area?
- b. What mechanisms have WTO Members developed to respond to particular needs or vulnerabilities arising from an energy crisis situation; and how are these kept under review and rolled back over time?
- c. What resources, including those of international organisations (such as UNDP, UNFCCC, World Bank, OECD), have WTO Members found helpful in identifying best practice policy approaches, including to address social and development needs and vulnerabilities? How can WTO Members share information on best practice approaches in these areas consistent with advancing domestic and international efforts on fossil fuel subsidy reform?
- d. What analysis, e.g. by the WTO Secretariat or other suitable international organisations, would be helpful to clarify the different types of fossil fuel subsidies applied by Members and their scope and purpose, together with any information on trends in relation to these different types of subsidies over time?

6. Interventions by other stakeholders

- a. Other stakeholders are invited to provide updates on areas of work relevant to FFSR and offer any reflections on options for advancing this work at the WTO.

7. Closing and information on the next meeting

ANNEX I

Technical Arrangements

Please note that this meeting will be held in hybrid mode (Room D and via Zoom).

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Delegates wishing to participate virtually via the Zoom platform, including capital-based officials, must register in advance of the meeting through this link:

<https://worldtradeorganization.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc--hqDksHtedTn10IVoB6HhcPUUJaGn->

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Before the meeting:

- We are available 30 minutes before the meeting to test your connection with you.

During the meeting:

- If technical difficulties result in delegations being unable to intervene virtually under a given agenda item, the opportunity to take the floor will be given at an appropriate juncture before the meeting closes. Should the technical problem persist, delegations may contact the meeting coordinators (ffsr@wto.org) during the course of the meeting, either to send their statement for it to be read out during the meeting, or to request that the attendees be informed of their interest in the item under consideration and their intention to circulate their written statement after the meeting.

ATTENDANCE IN THE MEETING ROOM

For the health protection of all, and to respect the sanitary measures in place, masks remain recommended in common areas and meeting rooms.

STATEMENTS

To facilitate interpretation, delegations are strongly encouraged to send their written statements to the Secretariat (ffsr@wto.org) before the meeting starts. Statements will also be gratefully received during the meeting (ffsr@wto.org).
