



**Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration**

**LDC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TRUST FUND 2021**

**1 BALANCE OF LDC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TRUST FUND**

1.1. Since the first WTO Ministerial Conference held in Singapore in 1996, the WTO Secretariat has facilitated the participation of Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Ministerial Conferences, funded from voluntary contributions pooled into a special extra-budgetary fund. Costs related to air travel, accommodation and per diem allowances of LDC delegations, comprised of one Minister and two high level officials, are covered.

1.2. At the end of a given Ministerial Conference, the remaining balances in favour of the various contributors are traditionally carried forward and added to the new contributions to be utilized for the same purpose in the subsequent Conference unless the specific terms of a contribution agreement requires the reimbursement of unused balances.

1.3. There was a balance carried forward from MC11 and in 2019 and 2020 contributions specifically for MC12 were received from Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Ireland, and Norway. Therefore, the current situation of the fund is as follows:

**Table 1 Ministerial Conference MC12 – Participation of Least-Developed Countries (TMI12)**

Expressed in ('000 CHF)	
<b>Funds as at 1 January 2019</b>	<b>338</b>
Reimbursement/adjustments made in 2019/2020/2021	-60
Contributions received 2019/2020	270
Total funds	548
Total expenditures	7
<b>Current Balance February 2021</b>	<b>541</b>

1.4. It is estimated that costs for MC12 will be more than estimated for Nur-Sultan. This is primarily due to the higher expected costs of hosting the event in Geneva. At the same time, without certainty on the COVID-19 travel restrictions and the format of the event, the confidence we can assign to current estimates is low.

1.5. The currently estimated cost of LDC Members and Observers' participation amounts to as high as **CHF 850,000**. This includes travel, accommodation and per diem for three officials per country.

1.6. There is also considerable uncertainty around what airfares will be and the availability of flights to Geneva at the time of the event. It is for this reason that we emphasize the lack of certainty.

1.7. However, a safe estimate at this point is that an additional amount of CHF 310,000 is currently estimated as the amount to still be contributed for MC12.

1.8. Recognizing the tight timeframe available to secure funding this information is being made available at the first opportunity. Members are invited to consider if they will be able to support the MC12 fund in the coming months.