

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRADE GOVERNANCE

MONDAY, 25 APRIL 2022

16.30-18.00 CET

Silva Casa Auditorium, World Trade Institute, Hallerstrasse 6, CH-3012 Bern or online (details below)

Brief Description

The lecture will review the developments in the WTO relating to women and trade, such as the recent launch of Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender following the adoption of the Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires. It will discuss whether the current WTO agreements may be used to promote women in trade, and how gender equality provisions are being included in regional trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement. It will also canvass the importance of increasing representation of women in trade governance bodies, arbitral bodies, and in international organizations.

Speaker Biography

Ms Cherise Valles is Deputy Director at the **Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)** in Geneva, Switzerland. She has assisted ACWL developing country Members in dozens of dispute settlement proceedings before the Appellate Body, panels and arbitrators at the World Trade Organization (WTO). She has also drafted hundreds of legal opinions on all the WTO agreements and has taught at all the ACWL annual training programmes. She is frequently appointed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as an Arbitrator for domain name disputes. Ms Valles was the President of Geneva Women in International Trade, an NGO, in 2003.



Before joining the ACWL, Ms Valles was at a large U.S. law firm, and provided advice to corporate clients on international trade law issues. Before that, she was at the Trade Law Bureau of the Canadian government, and provided legal advice on a wide range of topics, including services, intellectual property and the Canada – U.S. softwood lumber dispute.

Ms Valles joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1989. During the Uruguay Round, she was responsible for trade policy issues in the Services, Investment and Intellectual Property Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Ms Valles has a B.A. (Honours) in Political Science from McGill University, a M.A. in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, and a J.D. from the University of Ottawa.

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