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Introductory Speaking Notes of Prof. Anderson (Workshop Chairman)¹
IADB-INTAL Workshop on GPA accession for Brazilian
Sub-central Government Officials
18-21 May 2021

- Honorable Mr. Lucas Ferraz, Secretary of Foreign Trade of Brazil, Mr. Morgan Doyle, Representative of the IDB Group in Brazil, distinguished participants to the workshop, I will now make some brief opening remarks of my own. I will not take long as I will also be making the first substantive presentation following the opening remarks. I would like first to say that I am excited to be chairing this workshop for the IADB, and for the sub-central governments of Brazil.
- As a former WTO Secretariat senior staff member, I would like to point out that the GPA is a particularly dynamic and forward-looking area of the WTO's work. It is at the cutting edge not only of the WTO's traditional focus on market access but also of the Organization's contributions to good governance and sustainability. This is because:
 - Government procurement is a policy area of very considerable importance for economic development; for the effectiveness of governments in virtually all aspects of their work; and for the confidence of citizens in their governments;
 - The procurement activities of governments can be either a driving force for economic growth, inclusiveness, sustainability and social welfare or (if we are not prudent) a source of economic waste; and
 - Likewise, government procurement can be an embodiment and exemplar of good governance, transparency and effective corruption control in our economies, or a locus of considerable problems in this area.
- As the officer formerly in charge of the area of government procurement in the WTO Secretariat for a period of fifteen years, I believe that accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement can be a powerful tool not only for securing valuable market access rights for suppliers, but also for increasing transparency in our economies and for generating the best possible results for citizens in our procurement activities. It can provide new avenues and tools for ensuring transparency and integrity in our procurement systems. And, it can provide an occasion for placing new emphasis on

¹ Honorary Professor in the School of Law of the University of Nottingham (UK); formerly Senior Counsellor and Team Leader in the WTO Secretariat responsible for the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement; and Chairman of the workshop this week.

sustainability – particularly environmental sustainability - in our procurement activities, thereby contributing to broader, and very important goals for our societies.

- These things come not so much from the mere act of joining the GPA – as important, beneficial and challenging as that is – but from seizing the opportunity provided by GPA accession to optimize our procurement practices and from the building and nurturing of related human and institutional capacities. Therefore, in this workshop, I and the other speakers will place emphasis on GPA accession not just as a challenging diplomatic and policy implementation exercise – though it is that - but as an opportunity – an opportunity for policy renewal and for building related capacities at the national, state and local levels. The workshop will, I hope, be an opportunity for all persons attending to gain new perspectives and to further develop their careers, their capabilities, and their professional and personal interests.
- Finally, let me say that the ambition and skill with which Brazil has initiated its accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement has already generated very favorable impressions for Brazil in the halls of the WTO and among the GPA Parties. You, and your leaders, are to be congratulated for this. Furthermore, given Brazil's size, stature and international influence, GPA accession is a major opportunity for Brazil to show leadership in this policy area not only in Latin America but across the developing world. My hope, therefore, is that the present workshop will strengthen and galvanize you and your authorities in this process, contributing to a very successful accession to the Agreement for your country and an example that will resonate around the world.
- Thank you.