

## THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE ADDIS ABABA, 12-13 FEBRUARY 2019

### **Roberto Azevêdo**

Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)



Roberto Azevêdo is the sixth Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). His appointment took effect on 1 September 2013, for a four-year term. In February 2017, WTO members reappointed him for a second term, which began on 1 September 2017.

Roberto Azevêdo holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Brasilia. He subsequently attended the 'Instituto Rio Branco', the graduate school of diplomacy run by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Relations. He joined the Brazilian Foreign Service in 1984.

His first diplomatic posting was to Washington, D.C. in 1988. He subsequently served in the Brazilian embassy in Montevideo before being assigned to the Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva in 1997. Roberto Azevêdo served on WTO dispute settlement panels and, in 2001, was named Head of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Dispute Settlement Unit, where he remained until 2005. During his tenure, he acted as chief litigator in many disputes at the WTO.

From 2006 to 2008, Roberto Azevêdo was Vice-Minister for Economic and Technological Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Brasilia. In that capacity, he was also Brazil's chief trade negotiator for the Doha Rounds and other WTO issues. In 2008, he was appointed Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO and other International Economic Organisations in Geneva.

Roberto Azevêdo has been a frequent lecturer on topics related to international trade and has published numerous articles on these issues.