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## FOREWORD

This Handbook explains the rules and procedures of the WTO dispute settlement system, explores the practices that have arisen in its operation since its entry into force on 1 January 1995 and provides a comprehensive account of the existing jurisprudence concerning dispute settlement procedures. It also includes useful information on the operation of the WTO dispute settlement system to date, including tips about notification procedures, templates of working procedures and timetables, timelines of actual disputes, statistical data, etc. The primary purpose of this Handbook is to explain the WTO dispute settlement system to an interested person who may not necessarily have a legal background. With its detailed content and practice-oriented focus, it may also serve as a useful reference tool to experienced practitioners of WTO law, including not only prospective panelists and private counsel but also government officials from WTO members.

In this respect, the term “WTO member” appears in lower case throughout this Handbook, contrary to the capitalization of the term “WTO Member” as a matter of consistent usage throughout the WTO Agreement, including the DSU, and all panel and Appellate Body reports. The lower case is used in this Handbook to be consistent with the editorial style adopted by Cambridge University Press for CUP/WTO co-publications. For correct legal usage in other contexts, including in official WTO dispute settlement practice, the term “WTO Member” should be capitalized.

This second edition of the Handbook has been updated by a team of dispute settlement lawyers from the WTO Secretariat, including Rambod Behboodi, Tania Parceró Herrera, Ruxton McClure and Matthew D’Orsi, under the direction of Maria J. Pereyra. Special thanks should be given to many other colleagues from the Legal Affairs Division, the Appellate Body Secretariat, the Rules Division and the Information and External Relations Division who have assisted in researching, drafting, editing, proofreading and designing this publication.