

ARTICLE IV OF THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION	2
1.1 Text of Article IV	2
1.2 Article IV:1 – Ministerial Conference	3
1.2.1 Meetings of the Ministerial Conference.....	3
1.2.2 Powers of the Ministerial Conference	4
1.2.3 Decisions and Declarations by the Ministerial Conference	5
1.2.4 Rules of Procedure	5
1.3 Article IV:2 – General Council	5
1.3.1 General	5
1.3.2 Powers of the General Council under the WTO Agreement.....	5
1.3.3 Rules of Procedure	6
1.3.4 Procedures for reporting to and by the General Council	6
1.3.5 Other procedures adopted by the General Council.....	7
1.3.6 E-commerce.....	7
1.4 Article IV:3 – Dispute Settlement Body	7
1.4.1 General	7
1.4.2 Rules of Procedure	8
1.5 Article IV:4 – Trade Policy Review Body	8
1.5.1 General	8
1.5.2 Rules of Procedure.....	8
1.6 Article IV:5 – Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services, and Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights	8
1.6.1 Council for Trade in Goods	8
1.6.2 Council for Trade in Services	10
1.6.3 Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights	12
1.6.4 The Councils "shall operate under the general guidance of the General Council"	13
1.7 Article IV:7 Subsidiary bodies of the Ministerial Conference and General Council	13
1.7.1 Committee on Trade and Development.....	14
1.7.2 Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions	19
1.7.3 Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	20
1.7.4 Committee on Trade and Environment.....	21
1.7.5 Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.....	22
1.7.6 Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC)	28
1.7.7 Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	29
1.7.8 Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology	30
1.8 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods	30
1.8.1 Working Party on State Trading enterprises	31
1.8.2 Committee on Market Access	31
1.8.3 Committee on Agriculture	32
1.8.4 Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)	33

1.8.5	Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee).....	35
1.8.6	Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Committee).....	35
1.8.7	Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices.....	36
1.8.8	Committee on Customs Valuation	37
1.8.9	Committee on Rules of Origin	38
1.8.10	Committee on Import Licensing	39
1.8.11	Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs Committee)	40
1.8.12	Committee on Safeguards.....	41
1.8.13	Committee on Trade Facilitation.....	42
1.8.14	Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products	43
1.9	Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Services	44
1.9.1	Committee on Trade in Financial Services	45
1.9.2	Committee on Specific Commitments	46
1.9.3	Working Party on Domestic Regulation	47
1.9.4	Working Party on GATS Rules.....	47
1.10	Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for TRIPS	48
1.11	Article IV: 8 Bodies provided for under Plurilateral Trade Agreements	48
1.11.1	Committee on Government Procurement.....	48
1.11.2	Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft	48
1.11.3	International Dairy Council and International Meat Council.....	49
TABLE 1: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS NOTIFIED TO THE GATT/WTO AND IN FORCE, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021		50

ARTICLE IV OF THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

1.1 Text of Article IV

Article IV

Structure of the WTO

1. There shall be a Ministerial Conference composed of representatives of all the Members, which shall meet at least once every two years. The Ministerial Conference shall carry out the functions of the WTO and take actions necessary to this effect. The Ministerial Conference shall have the authority to take decisions on all matters under any of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, if so requested by a Member, in accordance with the specific requirements for decision-making in this Agreement and in the relevant Multilateral Trade Agreement.

2. There shall be a General Council composed of representatives of all the Members, which shall meet as appropriate. In the intervals between meetings of the Ministerial Conference, its functions shall be conducted by the General Council. The General Council shall also carry out the functions assigned to it by this Agreement. The General Council shall establish its rules of procedure and approve the rules of procedure for the Committees provided for in paragraph 7.

3. The General Council shall convene as appropriate to discharge the responsibilities of the Dispute Settlement Body provided for in the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

The Dispute Settlement Body may have its own chairman and shall establish such rules of procedure as it deems necessary for the fulfilment of those responsibilities.

4. The General Council shall convene as appropriate to discharge the responsibilities of the Trade Policy Review Body provided for in the TPRM. The Trade Policy Review Body may have its own chairman and shall establish such rules of procedure as it deems necessary for the fulfilment of those responsibilities.

5. There shall be a Council for Trade in Goods, a Council for Trade in Services and a Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Council for TRIPS"), which shall operate under the general guidance of the General Council. The Council for Trade in Goods shall oversee the functioning of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A. The Council for Trade in Services shall oversee the functioning of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS"). The Council for TRIPS shall oversee the functioning of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement on TRIPS"). These Councils shall carry out the functions assigned to them by their respective agreements and by the General Council. They shall establish their respective rules of procedure subject to the approval of the General Council. Membership in these Councils shall be open to representatives of all Members. These Councils shall meet as necessary to carry out their functions.

6. The Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for TRIPS shall establish subsidiary bodies as required. These subsidiary bodies shall establish their respective rules of procedure subject to the approval of their respective Councils.

7. The Ministerial Conference shall establish a Committee on Trade and Development, a Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions and a Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, which shall carry out the functions assigned to them by this Agreement and by the Multilateral Trade Agreements, and any additional functions assigned to them by the General Council, and may establish such additional Committees with such functions as it may deem appropriate. As part of its functions, the Committee on Trade and Development shall periodically review the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements in favour of the least-developed country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action. Membership in these Committees shall be open to representatives of all Members.

8. The bodies provided for under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements shall carry out the functions assigned to them under those Agreements and shall operate within the institutional framework of the WTO. These bodies shall keep the General Council informed of their activities on a regular basis.

1.2 Article IV:1 – Ministerial Conference

1.2.1 Meetings of the Ministerial Conference

1. As of March 2021¹, the Ministerial Conference has met on the following 11 occasions:

- a. First session (MC1): Singapore Ministerial Conference (9-13 December 1996)
- b. Second session (MC2): Geneva Ministerial Conference (18-20 May 1998)
- c. Third session (MC3): Seattle Ministerial Conference (30 November - 3 December 1999)
- d. Fourth session (MC4): Doha Ministerial Conference (9-14 November 2011)

¹ In its 30 March 2021 meeting, the General Council formally agreed that the next Ministerial Conference would be held from Tuesday, 30 November 2021 to Friday, 3 December 2021. See [WT/GC/M/190](#).

- e. Fifth session (MC5): Cancún Ministerial Conference (10-14 September 2003)
- f. Sixth session (MC6): Hong Kong Ministerial Conference (13-18 December 2005)
- g. Seventh session (MC7): Geneva Ministerial Conference (30 November - 2 December 2009)
- h. Eighth session (MC8): Geneva Ministerial Conference (15-17 December 2011)
- i. Ninth session (MC9): Bali Ministerial Conference (3-7 December 2013)
- j. Tenth session (MC10): Nairobi Ministerial Conference (15-19 December 2015)
- k. Eleventh session (MC11): Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference (10-13 December 2017)
- l. Twelfth session (MC12): Geneva Ministerial Conference (12-17 June 2022)

1.2.2 Powers of the Ministerial Conference

1.2.2.1 Powers under the WTO Agreement

2. The Ministerial Conference has the general powers, under Article IV:1 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement), to "carry out the functions of the WTO and take actions necessary to this effect". In addition, the Ministerial Conference has specific powers under other Articles of the WTO Agreement, including the power to do the following: to appoint a Director-General and to set out the powers, duties, conditions of service, and term of office of the Director-General²; to adopt an authoritative interpretation of the Multilateral Trade Agreements³; to grant a waiver⁴; to adopt amendments⁵; and to decide on accessions.⁶

1.2.2.2 Powers under other Agreements

1.2.2.2.1 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994

3. Paragraph 2(b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) incorporation text provides that the following references shall be deemed to refer to the WTO: references to the CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly in Articles XV:1, XV:2, XV:8, XXXVIII and the Notes *Ad* Articles XII and XVIII of the GATT 1994; and the provisions on special exchange agreements in Articles XV:2, XV:3, XV:6, XV:7 and XV:9 of the GATT 1994.

4. The other functions that the provisions of GATT 1994 assign to the CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly may be allocated to the various WTO organs by decision of the Ministerial Conference. To date, such a decision has not taken place.

1.2.2.2.2 General Agreement on Trade in Services

5. Articles XII:5(b) and XII:6 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) give the Ministerial Conference the power to establish certain procedures in connection with balance-of-payments restrictions.⁷

² Acting pursuant to Articles IV:2, VI:2 and IX:1 of the WTO Agreement, the General Council has adopted procedures for the appointment of Directors-General on behalf of the Ministerial Conference. See paragraph 13 below and the document on Article VI:1 of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

³ See the document on Article IX of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁴ See the document on Article IX of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁵ See the document on Article X of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁶ See the document on Article XII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁷ See the document on Article XII of the GATS (Practice).

1.2.2.2.3 Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

6. Article 64.3 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) gives the Ministerial Conference the power to extend the non-applicability of non-violation complaints to the TRIPS Agreement.⁸

1.2.3 Decisions and Declarations by the Ministerial Conference

7. Pursuant to Article IV:1, the Ministerial Conference "shall have the authority to take decisions on all matters under any of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, if so requested by a Member, in accordance with the specific requirements for decision-making in this Agreement and in the relevant Multilateral Trade Agreement." The Ministerial Conference has adopted a number of decisions and declarations.⁹

1.2.4 Rules of Procedure

8. The General Council adopted the Rules of Procedure for the Ministerial Conference at its meeting of 31 January 1995¹⁰ and amended these Rules on 18 July 1996.¹¹

1.3 Article IV:2 – General Council

1.3.1 General

9. The General Council meets regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO. It has representatives from all Members and conducts the functions of the Ministerial Conference in the intervals between its meetings.

1.3.2 Powers of the General Council under the WTO Agreement

10. In addition to the general power to conduct the functions of the Ministerial Conference in the intervals between its meetings, the General Council is mandated to make appropriate arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations that have responsibilities related to those of the WTO under Article V:1 and for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental organizations concerned with matters related to those of the WTO under Article V:2.¹² Article VII:3 mandates the General Council to adopt financial regulations and the annual budget estimate.¹³

⁸ See the document on Article 64.3 of the TRIPS Agreement (Practice). By way of a decision that it adopted on 10 December 2019, the General Council took note of the work done by the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (Council for TRIPS) pursuant to the Ministerial Decision of 18 December 2017 on "TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints" ([WT/L/1033](#)). The General Council directed the Council for TRIPS to continue its examination of the scope and modalities for situation and non-violation complaints and to make recommendations to the 12th Ministerial Conference. The General Council stated that it is agreed that, in the meantime, Members will not initiate such complaints under the TRIPS Agreement ([WT/L/2080](#)).

⁹ For a list of all Ministerial Decisions and Declarations, see the WTO publication "WTO Ministerial Conferences: Key Outcomes".

¹⁰ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 4.I. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/L/28](#).

¹¹ [WT/GC/M/13](#), item 9(a). At its meeting of 18 July 1996, the General Council adopted guidelines on observer status for international intergovernmental organizations, which were subsequently reproduced as an Annex 3 of the Rules of Procedure. The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/L/161](#).

¹² See the document on Article V of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

¹³ See the document on Article VII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

1.3.3 Rules of Procedure

11. The General Council adopted its Rules of Procedure on 31 January 1995¹⁴ and amended these Rules on 3 April 1995 and 18 July 1996.¹⁵

1.3.4 Procedures for reporting to and by the General Council

12. On 15 November 1995, the General Council adopted the following procedures for an annual overview of WTO activities and for reporting under the WTO¹⁶:

"1. Reporting procedures for sectoral Councils and their subsidiary bodies

All bodies constituted under Annex 1A Agreements shall be required to submit a factual report to the Council for Trade in Goods. The same shall apply to the subsidiary bodies established by the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights. The reports of the sectoral councils would be factual in nature, containing an indication of actions and decisions taken, with cross references to reports of subordinate bodies and could follow the model of the GATT 1947 Council reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The respective sectoral councils should report in November each year to the General Council on the activities in the Council as well as in the subsidiary bodies.

2. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Trade and Development, on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

The Committee on Trade and Development shall submit a report to the General Council at the end of each year. The Committees on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments will also submit, in addition to reports submitted during the course of the year on specific issues, a short factual report at the end of the year.

3. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements

The Committees on the Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement shall be invited to report annually to the General Council.

4. Action by the General Council and the sectoral councils

The sectoral councils will take note of reports of their subsidiary bodies.

The General Council will take note of the reports by the sectoral councils, which would serve as a basis for an overview of the activities of the WTO in the course of the year. The report of the Committee on Trade and Development will be adopted by the General Council. The reports of the other subsidiary bodies mentioned in item 2 above would be duly noted.

The General Council would also take note of the reports by the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement.

5. Overview by the Ministerial Conference

The General Council will prepare a report on its activities every year which would contain a first section of a factual nature, summarizing actions and decisions taken by the General Council during the year; a section on dispute settlement; a section on trade

¹⁴ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 4.I. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/L/28](#).

¹⁵ [WT/GC/M/3](#), item 1; and [WT/GC/M/13](#), item 9(a). The Rules of Procedure were amended by the General Council on 3 April 1995 with regard to Chapter V on officers for the General Council and on 18 July 1996 with regard to Annex 3 on observer status for international intergovernmental organizations for both the Ministerial Conference and the General Council (see footnote 11 above). The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/L/161](#).

¹⁶ [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 11.

policy reviews; and a cross reference to the reports of sectoral councils and the Committees mentioned in item 2 above.

The Ministerial Conference would carry out an overview of the activities of the WTO over the previous two years on the basis of the annual reports of the General Council. In years when the Ministerial Conference does not meet, the General Council would carry out an annual overview of the WTO activities as mentioned in item 4 above.

The overview of activities of the WTO based on these reports could be part of an Agenda item for general statements at the Ministerial Conference".¹⁷

1.3.5 Other procedures adopted by the General Council

13. The General Council has adopted several procedures relevant for meetings and activities of WTO bodies, including those listed below:

- a. Procedure for decisions having financial implications which may be taken by WTO bodies – 11 July 1995¹⁸;
- b. Guidelines on the arrangements for scheduling of meetings of WTO bodies – 15 November 1995¹⁹;
- c. Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement – 15 November 1995²⁰;
- d. Procedures for the circulation and derestriction of WTO documents – 14 May 2002²¹;
- e. Guidelines for appointment of officers to WTO bodies – 11 December 2002²²; and
- f. Procedures for the appointment of Directors-General – 10 December 2002.²³

1.3.6 E-commerce

14. At the Geneva Ministerial Meeting on 20 May 1998, Ministers adopted a Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce.²⁴ On 25 September 1998, the General Council adopted the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce.²⁵ Successive Ministerial Conferences adopted decisions agreeing to continue and reinvigorate the work under the auspices of the General Council; periodically extending the moratorium on the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions; and instructing the General Council to regularly review the Work Programme.²⁶

1.4 Article IV:3 – Dispute Settlement Body

1.4.1 General

15. The General Council, acting as the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), discharges the responsibilities enumerated in Article 2.1 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), including the authority to do the following: to establish panels,

¹⁷ [WT/L/105](#). (footnote omitted)

¹⁸ [WT/GC/M/5](#), item 9. The text of the procedure can be found in [WT/L/76](#).

¹⁹ [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 13. The text of the guidelines can be found in [WT/L/106](#).

²⁰ [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 3. The text of the procedures can be found in [WT/L/93](#).

²¹ [WT/GC/M/74](#), item 5. The text of the procedures can be found in [WT/L/452](#).

²² [WT/GC/M/77](#), item 18. The text of the guidelines can be found in [WT/L/510](#). See also the statement of the Chair of the General Council in [JOB/GC/22](#).

²³ [WT/GC/M/77](#), item 17. The text of the procedures can be found in [WT/L/509](#).

²⁴ [WT/MIN\(98\)/DEC/2](#).

²⁵ [WT/L/274](#).

²⁶ For the Bali Ministerial Conference, see [WT/MIN\(13\)/32](#) – [WT/L/907](#). For the Nairobi Ministerial Conference, see [WT/MIN\(15\)/42](#) – [WT/L/977](#). For the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference, see [WT/MIN\(17\)/65](#) – [WT/L/1032](#) as well as [WT/MIN\(17\)/68](#) and [WT/MIN\(17\)/SR/6](#), Annex I. For the Decision taken by the General Council in 2019, see [WT/L/1079](#).

to appoint persons to serve on the Appellate Body, to adopt panel and Appellate Body reports, to maintain surveillance of implementation of rulings and recommendations and to authorize suspension of concessions and other obligations under the covered agreements.²⁷ For more information on the activities of the DSB, see the documents on the DSU (Practice).

1.4.2 Rules of Procedure

16. The DSB adopted its Rules of Procedure on 10 February 1995²⁸ and amended these Rules on 29 March 1995.²⁹ The DSB follows, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure for the General Council³⁰ with certain exceptions.

1.5 Article IV:4 – Trade Policy Review Body

1.5.1 General

17. The General Council, acting as the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB), carries out reviews of the trade policies and practices of Members in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). Reviews of Members' trade policies and practices are conducted on a rotational basis, with the frequency of reviews being determined by reference to each Member's share of world trade in a recent representative period.³¹ For more information on the activities of the TPRB, see the documents on the TPRM (Practice).

1.5.2 Rules of Procedure

18. The TPRB adopted its Rules of Procedure at its meeting of 6 June 1995³² and revised these Rules on 5 October 2005, 10 November 2008, 27 January 2012, and 15 June 2017.³³ The TPRB follows, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure for the General Council³⁴ with certain exceptions.

1.6 Article IV:5 – Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services, and Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

1.6.1 Council for Trade in Goods

1.6.1.1 Functions

19. The Council for Trade in Goods oversees the functioning of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A. These agreements include the following: the general interpretative note to Annex 1A, the GATT 1994 and the GATT 1947 and their related Understandings and Protocols³⁵, the Agreement on Agriculture, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs Agreement), the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping Agreement), the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994 (Customs Valuation Agreement), the Agreement on Preshipment

²⁷ The powers referred to are found in Articles 6, 16, 17, 21, and 22 of the DSU.

²⁸ [WT/DSB/M/1](#), item 1.

²⁹ [WT/DSB/M/4](#), item 1. At its meeting on 29 March 1995, the DSB approved the provisions in Chapter V concerning officers. The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/DSB/9](#).

³⁰ [WT/L/161](#).

³¹ See the document on Paragraph C of the TPRM (Practice).

³² The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/TPR/6](#).

³³ [WT/TPR/M/152](#), para. 43; [WT/TPR/M/206](#), item VII; and [WT/TPR/M/356](#), item 7. These revisions took account of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Appraisal of the TPRM, respectively ([WT/TPR/229](#), [WT/MIN\(11\)/6](#), [WT/MIN\(13\)/5](#), and [WT/MIN\(17\)/9](#)). The text of the revised Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/TPR/6/Rev.4](#).

³⁴ [WT/L/161](#).

³⁵ These Understandings and Protocols include: Differential and More Favourable Treatment Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries ("Enabling Clause"); the [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article II:1\(b\) of the GATT 1994](#); the [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994](#); the [Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994](#); the [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994](#); the [Understanding in Respect of Waivers of Obligations under the GATT 1994](#); the [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994](#); and the [Marrakesh Protocol to the GATT 1994](#).

Inspection, the Agreement on Rules of Origin, the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement), the Agreement on Safeguards, and the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The bodies that administer these agreements, including the Working Party on State-Trading Enterprises³⁶, report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods as provided by the procedures noted above in paragraph 12.

20. Furthermore, pursuant to Article IX:3(b) of the WTO Agreement, the CTG considers requests for waivers concerning the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A and their annexes.³⁷

21. The Agreements in Annex 1A also specify certain functions for the Council for Trade in Goods:

- a. Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994:
 - i. To receive notifications of state trading enterprises – paragraph 1;
 - ii. To receive counter-notifications of state trading enterprises – paragraph 4; and
 - iii. To make recommendations with regard to the adequacy of notifications and the need for further information – paragraph 5.
- b. Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994:
 - i. To receive a full explanation from Members party to an interim agreement leading to the formation of a customs union or a free-trade area, if they believe that 10 years is insufficient for the period in Article XXIV:5(c) of the GATT 1994 – paragraph 3;
 - ii. To receive the reports of working parties that examine notifications made under Article XXIV:7(a) of the GATT 1994 – paragraph 7;
 - iii. To receive notifications of substantial changes to the plan and schedule in any interim agreement – paragraph 9; and
 - iv. To receive periodic reports from customs unions and constituents of free-trade areas – paragraph 11.³⁸
- c. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:
 - i. The Council for Trade in Goods designated the members of the Textiles Monitoring Body – Article 8.1. It also conducted a review of the Agreement before the end of each stage of the integration process – Article 8.11. The Agreement was terminated on 1 January 2005.
- d. TRIMs Agreement:
 - i. To receive notifications of all applied TRIMs that are not in conformity with the TRIMs Agreement – Article 5.1 – and of TRIMs applied to certain new investments – Article 5.5;
 - ii. To extend the transition period for the elimination of TRIMs of a developing country Member – Article 5.3;

³⁶ See the [Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994](#).

³⁷ References to waiver requests considered by the CTG can be found in the minutes of CTG meetings. See documents: [G/C/M/2](#); [G/C/M/3](#); [G/C/M/5-8](#); [G/C/M/11](#); [G/C/M/13-14](#); [G/C/M/19](#); [G/C/M/20-21](#); [G/C/M/23](#); [G/C/M/28](#); [G/C/M/33](#); [G/C/M/36-41](#); [G/C/M/43-50](#); [G/C/M/53-55](#); [G/C/M/58](#); [G/C/M/60-63](#); [G/C/M/65-66](#); [G/C/M/68](#); [G/C/M/70-73](#); [G/C/M/75](#); [G/C/M/78-86](#); [G/C/M/88-98](#); [G/C/M/100](#); [G/C/M/102](#); [G/C/M/104-114](#); [G/C/M/116-136](#); [G/C/M/138](#); and [G/C/M/140](#).

³⁸ References to notifications made pursuant to Article XXIV can be found in the minutes of CTG meetings. See documents: [G/C/M/1-4](#); [G/C/M/6-11](#); [G/C/M/13](#); [G/C/M/17-20](#); [G/C/M/22-23](#); [G/C/M/28](#); [G/C/M/30-31](#); [G/C/M/33-38](#); [G/C/M/40-47](#); [G/C/M/49](#); [G/C/M/53](#); [G/C/M/58-59](#); [G/C/M/61](#); [G/C/M/68-75](#); [G/C/M/78-86](#); [G/C/M/88-93](#); [G/C/M/95-97](#); [G/C/M/100-104](#); [G/C/M/106](#); [G/C/M/108](#); [G/C/M/110-114](#); [G/C/M/116](#); [G/C/M/118-120](#); [G/C/M/122-136](#); [G/C/M/137](#); [G/C/M/138](#); and [G/C/M/140](#).

- iii. To assign responsibilities to the Committee on TRIMS – Article 7.2; and
 - iv. To review operation of the TRIMs Agreement and as appropriate propose amendments to the text to the Ministerial Conference – Article 9.
- e. Anti-Dumping Agreement:
- i. To approve anti-dumping action on behalf of a third country – Article 14.4.
- f. Agreement on Safeguards:
- i. To review proposals to suspend substantially equivalent concessions – Article 8.2³⁹;
 - ii. To receive notifications on results of consultations (Articles 12.3 and 12.4), on mid-term reviews (Article 7.4), on compensation (Article 8.1), or on proposed suspension of concessions (Article 8.2) – Article 12.5; to request additional information from a Member notifying a safeguard measure or its extension – Article 12.2; and
 - iii. To receive reports from the Committee on Safeguards and assign functions to that Committee – Article 13.1.

22. In keeping with the Work Programme on E-Commerce and successive ministerial decisions on the subject⁴⁰, the issue of E-Commerce has been on the agenda of the Council for Trade in Goods and periodic reports have been sent to the General Council by the Council for Trade in Goods Chairperson.⁴¹

23. The Council for Trade in Goods reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁴²

1.6.1.2 Rules of Procedure

24. At its meeting of 31 July 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Goods⁴³, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁴⁴ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.2 Council for Trade in Services

1.6.2.1 Functions

25. The Council for Trade in Services oversees the functioning of the GATS, and has the following specific functions provided for in the GATS:

- a. To receive notifications of any new (or any changes to existing) laws, regulations or administrative guidelines that significantly affect trade in services covered by individual Members' specific commitments, and counter-notifications of measures that Members consider affect the operation of the GATS – Articles III:3 and III:5, respectively;

³⁹ See WTO Analytical Index (Practice), Article 8 of the Safeguards Agreement.

⁴⁰ See paragraph I.A.1(a)(i)14 above.

⁴¹ See documents: [G/C/49](#); [G/C/50](#); [G/C/53](#); [G/C/54](#); [G/C/55](#); [G/C/56](#); [G/C/57](#); [G/C/58](#); [G/C/59](#); [G/C/60](#); [G/C/64](#); [G/C/65](#); [G/C/66](#); and [G/C/67](#).

⁴² [WT/GC/W/25](#), Item IV for 1995; [G/L/134](#) and [Add.1](#) for 1996; [G/L/213](#) for 1997; [G/L/285](#) for 1998; [G/L/337](#) for 1999; [G/L/419](#) for 2000; [G/L/492](#) for 2001; [G/L/595](#) for 2002; [G/L/637](#); [G/L/665](#) for 2003; [G/L/721](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2004; [G/L/763](#) for 2005; [G/L/808](#) for 2006; [G/L/845](#) for 2007; [G/L/876](#) for 2008; [G/L/911](#) for 2009; [G/L/947](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2010; [G/L/978](#) for 2011; [G/L/1018](#) for 2012; [G/L/1057](#) for 2013; [G/L/1094](#) for 2014; [G/L/1140](#) for 2015; [G/L/1168](#) for 2016; [G/L/1204](#) for 2017; [G/L/1282](#) for 2018; [G/L/1343](#) for 2019; [G/L/1381](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1418](#) for 2021.

⁴³ [WT/GC/M/6](#), item 3. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/L/79](#).

⁴⁴ [WT/L/161](#).

To receive notifications of new, expanded or significantly modified economic integration agreements and periodic reports by parties to such agreements that are implemented on the basis of a time-frame – Article V:7;

- b. To receive notifications of labour markets integration agreements – Article *Vbis*;
- c. To develop any necessary disciplines on measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements, through appropriate bodies it may establish – Article VI:4;
- d. To receive notifications concerning recognition measures – Article VII:4;
- e. To request, upon demand, specific information from a Member concerning the operations of a monopoly suppliers or exclusive service suppliers – Articles VIII:3 and VIII:5;
- f. To receive notifications of the intended implementation of the grant of monopoly or exclusive supply rights regarding the supply of a service covered by a Member's specific commitments, – Articles VIII:4 and VIII:5;
- g. To be informed to the fullest extent possible of security exceptions measures and their termination – Article *XIVbis*;
- h. To carry out an assessment of trade in services, for the purpose of establishing guidelines and procedures for each round of negotiations of specific commitments – Article XIX:3;
- i. To receive notifications of the intended implementation of the modification or withdrawal of a commitment – Article XXI:1;
- j. To establish procedures for rectification or modification of schedules – Article XXI:5;
- k. To consult with any Member or Members, upon request, in respect of any matter for which it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution through consultations – Article XXII:2;
- l. To refer to arbitration a disagreement between Members that is brought before the Council as to whether a measure falls within the scope of an international agreement between them relating to the avoidance of double taxation – Article XXII:2;
- m. To carry out functions assigned to it to facilitate the operation of the GATS and further its objectives; to create such subsidiary bodies as it considers appropriate for the effective discharge of its functions – Article XXIV:1;
- n. To review all Article II exemptions granted for a period of more than five years – Paragraph 3 of the Annex on Article II Exemptions;
- o. To receive notifications at the termination of the Article II exemption period that the relevant MFN-inconsistent measure has been brought into conformity with Article II:1 - Paragraph 7 of the Annex on Article II Exemptions; and
- p. To review periodically, and at least every five years, developments in the air transport sector and the operation of the Annex on Air Transport Services – Paragraph 5 of the Annex on Air Transport Services.

26. The Council for Trade in Services reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁴⁵

1.6.2.2 Rules of Procedure

27. At its meeting of 15 November 1995, the General Council approved Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services⁴⁶, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁴⁷ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.3 Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

1.6.3.1 Functions

28. The Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (Council for TRIPS) oversees the functioning of the TRIPS Agreement. It has the following specific functions provided for in the TRIPS Agreement:

- a. To receive notifications regarding application of the Rome Convention or the Berne Convention – Articles 1.3 and 3.1;
- b. To receive notifications of international intellectual property agreements existing prior to the WTO Agreement – Article 4(d);
- c. To conduct negotiations concerning a multilateral system for notifying and registering geographical indications for certain wines, to keep under review the application of the provisions of Section 3 (Geographical Indications), to consult with Members and to take action as agreed to facilitate the objectives of Section 3 – Articles 23.4 and 24.2;
- d. To receive notifications of laws and regulations pertaining to the TRIPS Agreement made effective by a Member – Article 63.2;
- e. To examine the scope and modalities for non-violation and situation complaints made pursuant to the TRIPS Agreement and submit its recommendations to the Ministerial Conference – Article 64.3;
- f. To grant extensions of the implementation period to least developed country Members - Article 66.1;
- g. To monitor the operation of the Agreement and Members' compliance thereunder, and to establish appropriate arrangements for cooperation with WIPO - Article 68;
- h. To review the implementation of the Agreement periodically and to refer to the Ministerial Conference certain amendments – Article 71;
- i. To receive notifications from Members making use of the Special Compulsory Licensing System – Paragraphs 2(a) and 2(c) of the Annex to the TRIPS Agreement; and

⁴⁵ [S/C/2](#) for 1995; [S/C/3](#) for 1996; [S/C/5](#) for 1997; [S/C/6](#) for 1998; [S/C/10](#) for 1999; [S/C/12](#) for 2000; [S/C/14](#) for 2001; [S/C/16](#) and [S/C/17](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2002; [S/C/19](#) for 2003; [S/C/22](#) for 2004; [S/C/24](#) for 2005; [S/C/26](#) for 2006; [S/C/28](#) for 2007; [S/C/30](#) for 2008; [S/C/32](#) for 2009; [S/C/34](#) for 2010; [S/C/36](#) for 2011; [S/C/39](#) for 2012; [S/C/42](#) for 2013; [S/C/44](#) for 2014; [S/C/48](#) for 2015; [S/C/50](#) for 2016; [S/C/53](#) for 2017; [S/C/55](#) for 2018; [S/C/59](#) for 2019; [S/C/60](#) for 2020; and [S/C/62](#) for 2021.

⁴⁶ [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 4(a). The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [S/L/15](#).

⁴⁷ [WT/L/161](#).

j. To review annually the functioning of the Special Compulsory Licensing System and to report on its operation to the General Council – Paragraph 7 of the Annex to the TRIPS Agreement.⁴⁸

29. The Council for TRIPS reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁴⁹

1.6.3.2 Rules of Procedure

30. At its meeting of 15 November 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for TRIPS⁵⁰, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁵¹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.4 The Councils "shall operate under the general guidance of the General Council"

31. The Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services, and Council for TRIPS all report to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁵²

1.7 Article IV:7 Subsidiary bodies of the Ministerial Conference and General Council

32. The General Council, acting on behalf of the Ministerial Conference pursuant to Article IV:4 of the WTO Agreement, has established the following Committees pursuant to Article IV:7 of the WTO Agreement⁵³:

- a. Committee on Trade and Development;
- b. Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions;
- c. Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration;
- d. Committee on Trade and Environment; and
- e. Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

⁴⁸ The Council's obligations to review and report are also contained in paragraph 8 of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of 30 August 2003 (WT/L/540 and Corr.1) which continues to apply to Members who have not yet accepted the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement, adopted on 6 December 2005 (WT/L/641). Annual Reports under these two provisions are contained in: [IP/C/33](#) for 2004; [IP/C/37](#) for 2005; [IP/C/42](#) for 2006; [IP/C/46](#) for 2007; [IP/C/49](#) and Corr.1 for 2008; [IP/C/53](#) for 2009; [IP/C/57](#) and Corr.1 for 2010; [IP/C/61](#) for 2011; [IP/C/63](#) for 2012; [IP/C/66](#) for 2013; [IP/C/69](#) for 2014; [IP/C/72](#) for 2015; [IP/C/76](#) for 2016; [IP/C/79](#) for 2017; [IP/C/82](#) for 2018; [IP/C/84](#) for 2019; [IP/C/86](#) and Corr.1 for 2020; and [IP/C/90](#) for 2021.

⁴⁹ [WT/GC/W/25](#), item VI for 1995; [IP/C/8](#) for 1996; [IP/C/12](#) for 1997; [IP/C/15](#) for 1998; [IP/C/19](#) for 1999; [IP/C/22](#) for 2000; [IP/C/23](#) for 2001; [IP/C/27](#) and Add.1 for 2002; [IP/C/30](#) for 2003; [IP/C/32](#) for 2004; [IP/C/38](#) and Add.1 for 2005; [IP/C/44](#) for 2006; [IP/C/48](#) for 2007; [IP/C/51](#) for 2008; [IP/C/52](#) and Add.1 for 2009; and [IP/C/56](#) for 2010; [IP/C/59](#) and Add.1 and Add. 2 for 2011; [IP/C/62](#) for 2012; [IP/C/67](#) for 2013; [IP/C/68](#) for 2014; [IP/C/71](#) and Add.1 and Add.2 and Corr.1 for 2015; [IP/C/75](#) for 2016; [IP/C/80](#) for 2017; [IP/C/81](#) for 2018; [IP/C/85](#) for 2019; [IP/C/87](#) for 2020; and [IP/C/92](#) for 2021.

⁵⁰ [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 4(b). The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [IP/C/1](#).

⁵¹ [WT/L/161](#).

⁵² See paragraphs 21, 24, and 27 above.

⁵³ In addition to the Committees listed here, the General Council also established the Committee on Market Access ([WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(3)), which functions under the Council for Trade in Goods and is addressed in section 1.8 below. Furthermore, the Bali Ministerial Conference concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and established a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation under the General Council "to perform such functions as might be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force". ([WT/MIN\(13\)/36](#) – [WT/L/911](#)) Following its entry into force on 22 February 2017, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is administered by the Committee on Trade Facilitation and the Preparatory Committee has ceased to meet. The Committee on Trade Facilitation functions under the Council for Trade in Goods and is addressed in section 1.8 below.

33. The Ministerial Conference and General Council have also established the following working parties to carry out various functions⁵⁴:

- a. Working Parties on Accession⁵⁵;
- b. Working Party on Preshipment Inspection⁵⁶;
- c. Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance⁵⁷; and
- d. Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology.⁵⁸

1.7.1 Committee on Trade and Development

1.7.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

34. The General Council established the Committee on Trade and Development on 31 January 1995⁵⁹, with the following terms of reference:

"1. To serve as a focal point for consideration and coordination of work on development in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its relationship to development-related activities in other multilateral agencies.¹

(footnote original) ¹ It is understood that matters relating to activities in other multilateral agencies will come under the guidance of the General Council.

2. To keep under continuous review the participation of developing country Members in the multilateral trading system and to consider measures and initiatives to assist developing country Members, and in particular the least-developed country Members, in the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities, including support for their measures of trade liberalization.²

(footnote original) ² The Committee would give consideration, *inter alia*, to any report that the Committee on Agriculture may decide to refer to it following paragraph 6 of the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries" and Article XVI of the Agreement on Agriculture.

3. To review periodically, in consultation as appropriate with the relevant bodies of the WTO, the application of special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of developing country Members, and in particular

⁵⁴ In addition to the Working Parties listed here, the Singapore Ministerial Conference also established the Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment, the Working Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy, and the Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement. ([WT/MIN\(96\)/DEC](#), paras. 20-21.) On 1 August 2004, as a follow-up to the Cancún Ministerial Conference, the General Council adopted a decision (also known as the "July Package"), which, *inter alia*, amended the scope of the Doha negotiations so that no work towards negotiations on any of the issues concerning the relationship between trade and investment, the interaction between trade and competition, and transparency in Government Procurement would take place within the WTO during the Doha Round. ([WT/L/579](#), item g).

⁵⁵ See the document on Article XII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁵⁶ Established by the General Council at its meeting of 7, 8 and 13 November 1996 "to conduct the review provided for under Article 6 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection and to report to the General Council through the Council for Trade in Goods in December 1997". ([WT/GC/M/16](#), item 3; [WT/L/196](#).) The Working Party was extended until 31 March 1999 by the General Council at its meetings in December 1997 and December 1998. ([WT/GC/M/25](#), item 8; and [WT/GC/M/32](#), item 13.) At its meeting of 15 June 1999, the General Council adopted the recommendation of the Working Party on Preshipment Inspection that the future monitoring of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection should be undertaken initially by the Committee on Customs Valuation. ([WT/GC/M/40/Add.3](#), item 5; [G/L/300](#), para. 23.) For further information, see the document on Article 6 of the Preshipment Agreement (Practice).

⁵⁷ Established at the Doha Ministerial Conference, [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 36.

⁵⁸ Established at the Doha Ministerial Conference, [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 37.

⁵⁹ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(1).

least-developed country Members, and report to the General Council for appropriate action.

4. To consider any questions which may arise with regard to either the application or the use of special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of developing country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action.

5. To provide guidelines for, and to review periodically, the technical cooperation activities of the WTO³ as they relate to developing country Members.

(footnote original)³ The technical cooperation activities referred to in this provision do not include technical assistance for accession negotiations.

6. The Committee will establish a programme of work which may be reviewed as necessary each year."⁶⁰

35. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, Members decided that the Committee on Trade and Development should act as a forum to identify and debate developmental aspects of the new negotiations.⁶¹

1.7.1.2 Rules of Procedure

36. On 15 November 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Trade and Development⁶², consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁶³ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.7.1.3 Reporting

37. The Committee on Trade and Development reports to the General Council on an annual basis.⁶⁴

1.7.1.4 Activities

1.7.1.4.1 Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

38. The Committee on Trade and Development adopted the decision establishing the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries⁶⁵ on 5 July 1995 with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to give particular attention to the special and specific problems of least-developed countries;

(b) to review periodically the operation of the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of the least-developed country Members;

⁶⁰ [WT/L/46](#). The adopted terms of reference were prepared by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 18 November 1994. ([PC/IPL/M/9](#); [PC/IPL/4](#)).

⁶¹ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para 51.

⁶² [WT/GC/M/8](#), item 4(c). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/COMTD/6](#).

⁶³ [WT/L/161](#).

⁶⁴ [WT/SPEC/17](#) for 1995; [WT/COMTD/9](#) for 1996; [WT/COMTD/13](#) for 1997; [WT/COMTD/15](#) for 1998; [WT/COMTD/22](#) for 1999; [WT/COMTD/28](#) for 2000; [WT/COMTD/33](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2001; [WT/COMTD/44](#) for 2002; [WT/COMTD/46](#) and [WT/COMTD/48](#) for 2003; [WT/COMTD/50](#) for 2004; [WT/COMTD/55](#) for 2005; [WT/COMTD/58](#) for 2006; [WT/COMTD/64](#) for 2007; [WT/COMTD/69](#) for 2008; [WT/COMTD/70](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2009; [WT/COMTD/74](#) for 2011; [WT/COMTD/79](#) for 2012; [WT/COMTD/83](#) for 2013; [WT/COMTD/86](#) for 2014; [WT/COMTD/87](#) for 2015; [WT/COMTD/91](#) for 2016; [WT/COMTD/96](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2017; [WT/COMTD/97](#) for 2018; [WT/COMTD/99](#) for 2019; [WT/COMTD/100](#) for 2020; and [WT/COMTD/101](#) for 2021.

⁶⁵ [WT/COMTD/M/2](#), para. 3.

(c) to consider specific measures to assist and facilitate the expansion of the least-developed countries' trade and investment opportunities, with a view to enabling them to achieve their development objectives¹; and,

(footnote original)¹ The Sub-Committee would give consideration, *inter alia*, to any report that the Committee on Agriculture may decide to refer to it following paragraph 6 of the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries" and Article XVI of the Agreement on Agriculture.

(d) to report to the Committee on Trade and Development for consideration and appropriate action."⁶⁶

39. At its meeting on 17 October 1996, the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries decided that its Rules of Procedure would follow *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Trade and Development.⁶⁷

40. Pursuant to paragraph 42 of the Doha Declaration⁶⁸, the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries designed a Work Programme for the Least Developed Countries, which it adopted on 12 February 2002.⁶⁹ On 28 June 2013, the Sub-Committee adopted a revision of the Work Programme.⁷⁰ In its work, the Sub-Committee focuses on the implementation of the Work Programme, in particular on the issues of market access, technical assistance and accessions.

1.7.1.4.2 Technical cooperation

41. The Committee on Trade and Development has a mandate to provide guidelines for, and to review periodically, the WTO's technical assistance activities.⁷¹ Under this mandate, the Committee approves of the WTO's Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan before it is implemented. The Plan for 2020-2021 was approved by the Committee in November 2019.⁷² Another feature of this mandate is the consideration, on an annual basis, of Secretariat reports on the implementation and evaluation of the WTO's Technical Assistance activities. Most recently, the Committee considered the Technical Assistance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan⁷³ and the WTO's annual performance report on technical assistance and training for 2019.⁷⁴

1.7.1.4.3 Favourable and more preferential treatment for developing country and least developed country Members

42. On 13 December 1996, the Singapore Ministerial Conference adopted the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for the Least-Developed Countries⁷⁵, prepared by the Committee on Trade and Development. The Plan of Action, *inter alia*, proposed that "Developed country Members, and developing country Members on an autonomous basis, would explore the possibilities of granting preferential duty-free access for the exports of least-developed countries."⁷⁶ At a High-Level Meeting

⁶⁶ [WT/COMTD/2](#).

⁶⁷ [WT/COMTD/LLDC/1](#), para. 15. The text of the Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Trade and Development can be found in [WT/COMTD/6](#).

⁶⁸ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para 42.

⁶⁹ [WT/COMTD/LDC/11](#).

⁷⁰ [WT/COMTD/LDC/11/Rev.1](#).

⁷¹ [WT/L/46](#), para. 5.

⁷² [WT/COMTD/W/248/Rev.1](#).

⁷³ [WT/COMTD/W/255](#).

⁷⁴ [WT/COMTD/W/256](#).

⁷⁵ [WT/MIN\(96\)/DEC](#), para. 14. The text of the Plan of Action can be found in [WT/MIN\(96\)/14](#).

⁷⁶ [WT/MIN\(96\)/14](#), para. 11.

on 27-28 October 1997, as well as shortly thereafter, 28 Members announced steps taken, or to be taken, to enhance market access for imports from LDCs.⁷⁷

43. Paragraph 42 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration commits WTO Members "to the objective of duty-free, quota-free market access for products originating from LDCs" and "to consider additional measures for progressive improvements in market access for LDCs."⁷⁸

44. The Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns combined with paragraph 12 of the Doha Declaration aimed to provide a two-track solution to developing country Members' issues and concerns on the implementation of the WTO agreements.⁷⁹

45. Pursuant to the Work Programme for the Least Developed Countries, adopted in 2002 and revised in 2013⁸⁰, the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries focuses on the following market access issues for LDCs in its work: (i) the identification and examination of market access barriers to products of least-developed countries in desired markets; (ii) annual reviews in the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries of market access improvements, market access measures taken by Members; and (iii) examination of possible additional measures for improvement of market access, including elimination of barriers to exports and further improvement of preferential access schemes such the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).⁸¹ The annual reviews of market access for LDCs in the Sub-Committee are based on factual annual studies prepared by the Secretariat.⁸²

46. The WTO maintains, beyond the specific provisions contained in the WTO Agreement, three additional legal instruments concerning favourable and more preferential treatment for developing country Members: (i) the Enabling Clause⁸³; (ii) the Waiver on Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least-Developed Countries⁸⁴; and (iii) the Waiver on Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries.⁸⁵ With respect to the activities of the Committee on Trade and Development and the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries concerning the Waiver on Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least-Developed Countries, see the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice). With respect to the activities of the Council for Trade in Services concerning the Waiver on Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries, see the document on Article II of the GATS (Practice).

47. The Committee on Trade and Development receives notifications of regional trade agreements among developing country Members, pursuant to the Enabling Clause. Before December 2006, the Committee reviewed regional trade agreements on the basis of procedures it adopted on 2 November 1998.⁸⁶

48. The Decision on a Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements⁸⁷, adopted by the General Council on 14 December 2006, applies to regional trade agreements (RTAs) notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, Article V of the GATS, and paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. For additional information of the Transparency Mechanism, see the section 1.7.5 below, as well as

⁷⁷ The 28 Members are Argentina; Australia; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; the Czech Republic; Egypt; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mauritius; Morocco; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Singapore; the Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Switzerland; Thailand; Türkiye; and the United States. (See [WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22](#), fn 4.) Further, among them, the following 13 Members notified their market access measures for LDCs to the WTO: Canada; Egypt; the European Union; Japan; Mauritius; Morocco; Norway; New Zealand; the Republic of Korea; Singapore; Switzerland; Türkiye; and the United States. (See [WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22](#), fn 6)

⁷⁸ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para 42.

⁷⁹ [WT/MIN\(01\)/17](#).

⁸⁰ See para. 38 above.

⁸¹ The text of this entire paragraph can be found in [WT/COMTD/LDC/11/Rev.1](#), Section (a), paras. 7-9.

⁸² The 2021 LDC market access report prepared by the Secretariat is contained in [WT/COMTD/LDC/W/69](#).

⁸³ Officially known as the 1979 Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, see L/4903.

⁸⁴ [WT/L/304](#).

⁸⁵ [WT/L/847](#).

⁸⁶ [WT/COMTD/16](#). When an agreement was notified under the Enabling Clause, it was inscribed on the agenda of the Committee on Trade and Development. Subsequent actions of the Committee might have included "noting" the agreement, requesting additional information, transferring it to the Committee on RTAs for examination, and reviewing reports made by members on changes to their agreements.

⁸⁷ [WT/L/671](#).

the documents on Articles I and XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice). The Committee on Trade and Development is entrusted with the implementation of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs falling under paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. To perform this function, the Committee on Trade and Development convenes in a Dedicated Session.

49. On 14 December 2010, the General Council adopted a Transparency Mechanism for Preferential Trade Arrangements, applying to differential and more favourable treatment under paragraph 2 of the Enabling Clause, "preferential treatment accorded by any Member to products of least-developed countries", and "any other non-reciprocal preferential treatment authorized under the WTO Agreement".⁸⁸ This Transparency Mechanism calls for early notification of such non-reciprocal preferences. Each preferential arrangement is to be considered by the Committee on Trade and Development on the basis of a factual presentation prepared by the Secretariat, in a single formal meeting of the Committee. All information notified is to be made available on the WTO website, and the Secretariat is to maintain an electronic database accessible to the public.⁸⁹ This Transparency Mechanism is to apply on a provisional basis until Members approve its permanent application. It is implemented in the Committee on Trade and Development where preferential trade arrangements are considered in a Dedicated Session.⁹⁰

1.7.1.4.4 Monitoring Mechanism on Special and Differential Treatment

50. At the Ninth Ministerial Conference in December 2013, Ministers adopted a Decision regarding the establishment of a Monitoring Mechanism on Special and Differential Treatment.⁹¹ The coverage of the Mechanism extends to all special and differential provisions contained in multilateral WTO Agreements, Ministerial and General Council Decisions. The Mechanism, which acts as a focal point within the WTO to analyse and review the implementation of S&D provisions, is to review all aspects of implementation of S&D provisions with a view to facilitating integration of developing country and least-developed country Members into the multilateral trading system. The Mechanism operates in Dedicated Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development and meets twice a year. The monitoring of S&D provisions in the Mechanism is to be undertaken on the basis of written inputs or submissions made by Members, as well as on the basis of reports received from other WTO bodies to which submissions by Members could also be made.⁹² According to the Decision, the Mechanism is to be reviewed three years after its first formal meeting, and thereafter when necessary, taking into account its functioning and evolving circumstances.⁹³

1.7.1.4.5 Dedicated Session on Small Economies

51. Pursuant to the Work Programme on Small Economies established by Ministers in Paragraph 35 of the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration, the General Council took note in 2002 of a framework and procedures for the conduct of the Work Programme on Small Economies.⁹⁴ The Committee on Trade and Development is mandated to conduct this work programme in Dedicated Sessions and to report regularly on the progress of this work to the General Council. So far, the General Council has agreed on two measures in favour of small and vulnerable economies: Based on a report by the Dedicated Session⁹⁵, the General Council agreed in 2006 that small economies be allowed to use regional bodies to assist them with the implementation of their obligations under the SPS Agreement, TBT Agreement, and the TRIPS Agreement.⁹⁶ In July 2007, the General Council decided to allow certain Members to continue using, under certain conditions, their export subsidy programmes until the end of 2015.⁹⁷ At every Ministerial Conference since the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference, Decisions have been taken, instructing the Committee on Trade and Development to

⁸⁸ [WT/L/806](#).

⁸⁹ The electronic database is accessible at: <http://ptadb.wto.org>.

⁹⁰ [WT/L/806](#). The CTD subsequently agreed on the modalities to implement the Transparency Mechanism (see [WT/COMTD/M/82](#)).

⁹¹ [WT/MIN\(13\)/45](#) – [WT/L/920](#).

⁹² To date, no written submissions have been made.

⁹³ To date, a review of the Mechanism has not taken place. The Chairman noted most recently at the November 2020 meeting of the CTD's Dedicated Session on the Monitoring Mechanism that delegations had expressed different perspectives on the question of the review ([WT/COMTD/MMSDT/M/13](#)).

⁹⁴ [WT/L/447](#).

⁹⁵ [WT/COMTD/SE/5](#).

⁹⁶ [WT/GC/M/104](#).

⁹⁷ [WT/L/691](#).

continue its work in Dedicated Session and providing guidance on the work to be carried out.⁹⁸ At the 2017 Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Ministers adopted a Decision, which instructs the Dedicated Session to continue its work on the challenges small economies experience in their efforts to reduce trade costs, particularly in the area of trade facilitation.⁹⁹ A state of play of small economies' issues discussed in WTO bodies is provided in a compilation paper which is periodically updated by the Secretariat.¹⁰⁰

1.7.1.4.6 Aid for Trade

52. The Aid-for-Trade Initiative, led by the WTO, grew out of the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.¹⁰¹ Members noted that Aid for Trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from WTO Agreements and more broadly to expand their trade.

53. In 2006, a Task Force was constituted by the Director-General to report to the General Council with recommendations on how to operationalize Aid for Trade. The Task Force recommended¹⁰² that Aid for Trade should strengthen the "demand side" by mainstreaming trade into national development frameworks of developing countries, "strengthen response" by allocating more resources to aid for trade, and strengthening the bridge between "demand" and "response". It also recommended the establishment of a monitoring body in the WTO, which would undertake a periodic global review based on reports from stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluating progress was seen to be essential in building confidence that increased Aid for Trade will be delivered and effectively used. More than a decade later, these recommendations still guide the work of the Initiative. The monitoring body meets in sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development on Aid for Trade to perform its functions. The Global Review on Aid for Trade takes place every two years and surveys the operationalization of Aid for Trade, including a monitoring and evaluation of Aid for Trade. So far seven Global Reviews on Aid for Trade have been organized since the first edition in 2007. The next Aid for Trade Global Review is set to take place in July 2022, with the theme of "Empowering, connected, sustainable Trade".

54. The importance of and continued need for the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in supporting developing country Members to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure and of according priority to the needs of LDCs, has been recognized at the Tenth Ministerial Conference.¹⁰³ Activities under the Aid for Trade Initiative are carried out on the basis of biennial work programmes, which have generated impetus for Aid for Trade activities on the ground.¹⁰⁴

1.7.2 Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

1.7.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

55. The General Council established the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions on 31 January 1995¹⁰⁵, with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to conduct consultations, pursuant to Article XII:4, Article XVIII:12 and the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, on all restrictive import measures taken or maintained for balance-of-payments purposes and, pursuant to Article XII:5 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, on all restrictions adopted or maintained for balance-of-payments purposes on trade in services on which specific commitments have been undertaken; and,

⁹⁸ [WT/MIN\(05\)/DEC](#); [WT/L/844](#); [WT/MIN\(13\)/33](#) – [WT/L/908](#); [WT/MIN\(15\)/40](#) – [WT/L/975](#); [WT/MIN\(17\)/63](#) – [WT/L/1030](#).

⁹⁹ [WT/MIN\(17\)/63](#) – [WT/L/1030](#).

¹⁰⁰ [WT/COMTD/SE/W/22/Rev.9](#).

¹⁰¹ [WT/MIN\(05\)/DEC](#), para. 57.

¹⁰² The Recommendations of the Task Force on Aid for Trade are contained in [WT/AFT/1](#).

¹⁰³ Paragraph 16 of the document [WT/MIN\(15\)/40](#) – [WT/L/975](#).

¹⁰⁴ The Aid for Trade Work Programme for 2020-21 is contained in [WT/COMTD/AFT/W/81](#).

¹⁰⁵ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(1).

(b) to carry out any additional functions assigned to it by the General Council."¹⁰⁶

1.7.2.2 Rules of Procedure

56. At its meeting on 13 and 15 December 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions¹⁰⁷, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁰⁸ applied *mutatis mutandis* with certain exceptions.

1.7.2.3 Reporting

57. The Committee on Balance-of-Payments reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹⁰⁹ In addition, the Committee submits reports on specific consultations.¹¹⁰

1.7.2.4 Activities

58. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions, see the general document on the GATT 1994 (Practice) and the documents on Articles XII, XIV, and XVIII of the GATT 1994 (Practice). For information on the activities of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions under the GATT 1947, see the document on Article XII of the GATT 1947 (GATT Analytical Index, pages 378-392).

1.7.3 Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

1.7.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

59. The General Council established the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (BFA Committee) at its meeting of 31 January 1995 and adopted its terms of reference¹¹¹, which were subsequently revised to read as follows:

"(i) To examine any questions arising in connection with the audited accounts, proposals for the budgets of the WTO and of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, and the financing thereof.

(ii) To study any financial and administrative questions which may be referred to it by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council, or submitted to it by the Director-General, and undertake such other studies as may be assigned to it by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council."¹¹²

¹⁰⁶ [WT/L/45](#). The adopted terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 21 October 1994 ([PC/IPL/M/7](#), paras. 2-6; [PC/IPL/3](#)).

¹⁰⁷ [WT/GC/M/9](#), item 1(b). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [WT/BOP/10](#).

¹⁰⁸ [WT/L/161](#).

¹⁰⁹ [WT/BOP/R/10](#) for 1995; [WT/BOP/R/19](#) for 1996; [WT/BOP/R/37](#) for 1997; [WT/BOP/R/44](#) for 1998; [WT/BOP/R/47](#) for 1999; [WT/BOP/R/55](#) for 2000; [WT/BOP/R/59](#) for 2001; [WT/BOP/R/67](#) for 2002; [WT/BOP/R/72](#) for 2003; [WT/BOP/R/74](#) for 2004; [WT/BOP/R/81](#) for 2005; [WT/BOP/R/85](#) for 2006; [WT/BOP/R/88](#) for 2007; [WT/BOP/R/90](#) for 2008; [WT/BOP/R/96](#) for 2009; [WT/BOP/R/101](#) for 2010; [WT/BOP/R/104](#) for 2011; [WT/BOP/R/105](#) for 2012; [WT/BOP/R/107](#) for 2013; [WT/BOP/R/108](#) for 2014; [WT/BOP/R/111](#) for 2015; [WT/BOP/R/112](#) for 2016; [WT/BOP/R/115](#) for 2017; [WT/BOP/R/116](#) for 2018; [WT/BOP/R/117](#) for 2019; [WT/BOP/R/118](#) for 2020; and [WT/BOP/R/119](#) for 2021.

¹¹⁰ These reports can be found in the document series [WT/BOP/R/*](#).

¹¹¹ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(1).

¹¹² [WT/L/44/Rev.1](#). The adopted terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 21 October 1994. ([PC/IPL/M/7](#), paras. 2-6; [PC/IPL/2](#)). At its meeting on 3 April 1995, the General Council revised the terms of reference for the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration to take into account its decision on the relationship with the International Trade Centre. ([WT/GC/M/3](#), item 6).

1.7.3.2 Rules of Procedure

60. At its meeting of 17 February 1995, the Chairman of the General Council suggested that the BFA Committee follow the Rules of Procedure for the General Council¹¹³, except for voting procedures, as he expected the Committee to continue to work by consensus.¹¹⁴

1.7.3.3 Reporting

61. The BFA Committee reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹¹⁵

1.7.3.4 Activities

62. For more information on the activities of the BFA Committee, see the document on Article VII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

1.7.4 Committee on Trade and Environment

1.7.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

63. Pursuant to the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment, the General Council established the Committee on Trade and Environment on 31 January 1995¹¹⁶ with the following terms of reference:

"(a) [T]o identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures, in order to promote sustainable development;

(b) [T]o make appropriate recommendations on whether any modifications of the provisions of the multilateral trading system are required, compatible with the open, equitable and non-discriminatory nature of the system, as regards, in particular:

- [T]he need for rules to enhance positive interaction between trade and environmental measures, for the promotion of sustainable development, with special consideration to the needs of developing countries, in particular those of the least developed among them; and
- [T]he avoidance of protectionist trade measures, and the adherence to effective multilateral disciplines to ensure responsiveness of the multilateral trading system to environmental objectives set forth in Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, in particular Principle 12; and
- [S]urveillance of trade measures used for environmental purposes, of trade-related aspects of environmental measures which have significant trade effects, and of effective implementation of the multilateral disciplines governing those measures".¹¹⁷

¹¹³ [WT/L/161](#).

¹¹⁴ [WT/BFA/1](#), para. 4.

¹¹⁵ [WT/BFA/29](#) for 1996; [WT/BFA/34](#) for 1997; [WT/BFA/37](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1998; [WT/BFA/43](#) for 1999; [WT/BFA/50](#) for 2000; [WT/BFA/55](#) for 2001; [WT/BFA/61](#) for 2002; [WT/BFA/66](#) and [WT/BFA/69](#) for 2003; [WT/BFA/74](#) for 2004; [WT/BFA/81](#) for 2005; [WT/BFA/92](#) for 2006; [WT/BFA/100](#) for 2007; [WT/BFA/108](#) for 2008; [WT/BFA/113](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2009; [WT/BFA/122](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2010; [WT/BFA/127](#) for 2011; [WT/BFA/135](#) for 2012; [WT/BFA/140](#) for 2013; [WT/BFA/145](#) for 2014; [WT/BFA/152](#) for 2015; [WT/BFA/159](#) for 2016; [WT/BFA/170](#) for 2017; [WT/BFA/177](#) for 2018; [WT/BFA/184](#) for 2019; [WT/BFA/192](#) for 2020; and [WT/BFA/201](#) for 2021.

¹¹⁶ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(3); [WT/L/42](#).

¹¹⁷ [MTN.TNC/45\(MIN\)](#), Annex II. The Marrakesh Ministerial Decision also sets out a ten-point work programme covering the three areas of the WTO, i.e. goods, services and intellectual property rights. See [MTN.TNC/45\(MIN\)](#), Annex II.

1.7.4.2 Reporting

64. The Committee on Trade and Environment reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹¹⁸

1.7.5 Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

1.7.5.1 Establishment and terms of reference

65. The General Council established the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (Committee on RTAs, or CRTA) on 6 February 1996¹¹⁹ with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to carry out the examination of agreements in accordance with the procedures and terms of reference adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services or the Committee on Trade and Development, as the case may be, and thereafter present its report to the relevant body for appropriate action;²

(*footnote original*) ² The Committee will also carry out the outstanding work of the working parties already established by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services or the Committee on Trade and Development, within the terms of reference defined for those working parties, and report to the appropriate bodies.

(b) to consider how the required reporting on the operation of such agreements should be carried out and make appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;

(c) to develop, as appropriate, procedures to facilitate and improve the examination process;

(d) to consider the systemic implications of such agreements and regional initiatives for the multilateral trading system and the relationship between them, and make appropriate recommendations to the General Council; and

(e) to carry out any additional functions assigned to it by the General Council."¹²⁰

1.7.5.2 Rules of Procedure

66. At its meeting on 2 October 1996, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on RTAs¹²¹ consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹²² applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

67. In an effort to address the issue of the reduction of documentation costs, the Committee on RTAs agreed at its 66th Session to discontinue the distribution of all documents in paper form, provided that paper copies could be supplied to delegations in the room upon request.¹²³

¹¹⁸ [WT/CTE/1](#) for 1996; [WT/CTE/2](#) for 1997; [WT/CTE/3](#) for 1998; [WT/CTE/4](#) for 1999; [WT/CTE/5](#) for 2000; [WT/CTE/6](#) for 2001; [WT/CTE/7](#) for 2002; [WT/CTE/10](#) for 2003; [WT/CTE/11](#) for 2004; [WT/CTE/12](#) for 2005; [WT/CTE/13](#) for 2006; [WT/CTE/14](#) for 2007; [WT/CTE/15](#) for 2008; [WT/CTE/16](#) for 2009; [WT/CTE/17](#) for 2010; [WT/CTE/18](#) for 2011; [WT/CTE/19](#) for 2012; [WT/CTE/20](#) for 2013; [WT/CTE/21](#) for 2014; [WT/CTE/22](#) for 2015; [WT/CTE/23](#) for 2016; [WT/CTE/24](#) for 2017; [WT/CTE/25](#) for 2018; [WT/CTE/26](#) for 2019; [WT/CTE/27](#) for 2020; and [WT/CTE/28](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2021.

¹¹⁹ [WT/GC/M/10](#), para.11.

¹²⁰ [WT/L/127](#), para. 1.

¹²¹ [WT/GC/M/14](#), item 3. The text of the Rules of Procedures can be found in [WT/REG/1](#).

¹²² [WT/L/161](#).

¹²³ [WT/REG/M/66](#) and [Corr.1](#), para. 20.

1.7.5.3 Reporting

68. The Committee on RTAs reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹²⁴

69. On 20 February 1998, under item 1(b) of its terms of reference, the Committee adopted recommendations to the Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services and the Committee on Trade and Development on a notification format for RTAs and on carrying out reporting requirements on the operation of regional trade agreements.¹²⁵ In November 1998, the relevant bodies acted on these recommendations.¹²⁶ The Committee on RTAs then circulated schedules for the submission of biennial reports in December 1998, February 2001, and December 2003.¹²⁷ No such schedules were circulated after 2003. On 14 December 2006, the General Council established, on a provisional basis, a new Transparency Mechanism for all RTAs. Since then, biennial reports have been *de facto* superseded by relevant reporting requirements provided for in the Transparency Mechanism.

1.7.5.4 Procedures for the consideration and examination of RTAs

70. After establishment of the Committee on RTAs and before adoption of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs, the notification of an agreement (together with its text) was considered by the Council for Trade in Goods if the RTA was notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, the Council for Trade in Services if the RTA was notified under GATS Article V, or the Committee on Trade and Development if the RTA was notified under the Enabling Clause. If examination of the agreement was provided for, the relevant body adopted the terms of reference for the examination and transferred the examination task to the CRTA.¹²⁸ The examination was generally based on information provided by the parties to the RTA in the form of a Standard Format.¹²⁹ The factual examination was generally completed within one or two meetings, and involved oral and written questions and replies, as well as general statements by Members. All documents were published as formal documents.¹³⁰ Once the factual examination was completed, the Secretariat was invited to draft a report of the examination, as the basis for consultations with Members. After its adoption by the Committee, the report was to be sent to the relevant body for final adoption. Since the entry into force of the WTO, the Committee on RTAs has been unable to finalize reports on any of the examinations before it.

¹²⁴ [WT/REG/2](#) for 1996; [WT/REG/3](#) for 1997; [WT/REG/7](#) for 1998; [WT/REG/8](#) for 1999; [WT/REG/9](#) for 2000; [WT/REG/10](#) for 2001; [WT/REG/11](#) for 2002; [WT/REG/12](#) for 2003; [WT/REG/13](#) for 2003; [WT/REG/14](#) for 2004; [WT/REG/15](#) for 2005; [WT/REG/17](#) for 2006; [WT/REG/18](#) for 2007; [WT/REG/19](#) for 2008; [WT/REG/20](#) for 2009; [WT/REG/21](#) for 2011; [WT/REG/22](#) for 2012; [WT/REG/23](#) for 2013; [WT/REG/24](#) for 2014; [WT/REG/25](#) for 2015; [WT/REG/26](#) for 2016; [WT/REG/27](#) for 2017; [WT/REG/29](#) for 2018; [WT/REG/30](#) for 2019; [WT/REG/31](#) for 2020; and [WT/REG/32](#) for 2021.

¹²⁵ [WT/REG/M/16](#), Item B. The text of these recommendations can be found in [WT/REG/4](#), [5](#), and [6](#).

¹²⁶ See the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Committee on Trade and Development, the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods, and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice) regarding action by the Council for Trade in Services.

¹²⁷ Respectively [WT/REG/W/33](#), [WT/REG/W/42](#), and [WT/REG/W/48](#). For more information, see the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice). The Committee on RTAs postponed reporting obligations for 2003 to 2004 (see [WT/REG/M/33](#), para. 9).

¹²⁸ Examination is mandatory for RTAs notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. In the case of services agreements and those notified under the Enabling Clause, examination is not automatic but can be decided by Members. By 31 December 2008, decision to submit RTAs to examination was taken for all services agreements notified and considered by the Council for Trade in Services, and for a single RTA notified under the Enabling Clause.

¹²⁹ "Standard Format for Information on Regional Trade Agreements", [WT/REG/W/6](#), 15 August 1996 and "Standard Format for Information on Economic Integration Agreements", [WT/REG/W/14](#) and 6 May 1997; the Committee on RTAs took note of these documents at its meetings of 31 July 1996 and 2 May 1997, respectively.

¹³⁰ See "Guidelines on Procedures to Improve and Facilitate the Examination Process", [WT/REG/W/15](#) and Add.1, 6 May 1997 and 16 November 2004; the Committee on RTAs took note of these guidelines at its meetings of 2 May 1997 ([WT/REG/M/10](#), para. 24) and 11 November 2004 ([WT/REG/M/38](#), para. 24), respectively.

71. Following the adoption of the Transparency Mechanism, procedures applying to the consideration of RTAs notified to the WTO are as follows:¹³¹

- The Secretariat, on its own responsibility and in full consultation with the parties, prepares a factual presentation of each notified RTA. The factual presentation is primarily based on information provided by the parties, including a detailed data submission as outlined in the Annex to the decision establishing the Transparency Mechanism.
- The Secretariat's factual presentation, as well as any additional information submitted by the parties is circulated in all WTO official languages not less than ten weeks in advance of the CRTA meeting. Members' written questions or comments on the RTA under consideration should be transmitted at least four weeks before the corresponding meeting and should be distributed, together with replies, at least three working days before the corresponding meeting. As a rule, a single formal meeting is devoted to the consideration of each notified RTA and any additional exchange of information should take place in written form. Detailed minutes are produced on each meeting devoted to the RTA examination and published as formal documents.
- The Secretariat is to prepare factual abstracts for those RTAs for which the Committee RTA had concluded the factual examination prior to 31 December 2006. These factual abstracts follow an outline developed jointly by the Secretariat and the Members. The factual abstracts do not contain up-to-date information, but an additional information column is retained as a standard, at least on a provisional basis.¹³²
- Parties to an RTA are to notify changes affecting the implementation of an RTA or the operation of an already implemented RTA, as well as a short report at the end of the RTA's implementation period.

72. The Committee on RTAs is kept regularly informed of the status of work of the Committee with respect to the Transparency Mechanism. At its 88th Session, the United States presented a communication¹³³ seeking to gauge the level of interest among Members on how to improve participation in the Transparency Mechanism process. A number of delegations supported the initiative.¹³⁴ At its 95th Session, the Committee agreed to the Chairman's proposal to appoint two Friends of the Chair to assist him in his duties.¹³⁵ Their activities were not continued under the new Chairman in 2020.

1.7.5.5 Activities

73. Point 1(a) of the terms of reference of the Committee on RTAs above calls for the Councils or the Committee on Trade and Development to adopt separate terms of reference for the examination of each notified RTA, and for the Committee on RTAs to carry out any examination.¹³⁶ Up to the adoption of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs, the Council for Trade in Goods and the Council for Trade in Services referred for examination in the Committee on RTAs every RTA notified to them. The Committee on Trade and Development referred one RTA to the Committee on RTAs.

74. The work of the Committee has been substantially revised in the light of the General Council Decision of 14 December 2006 on a Transparency Mechanism for RTAs.¹³⁷

75. The Transparency Mechanism for RTAs is to be applied on a provisional basis.¹³⁸ The Transparency Mechanism applies to all RTAs notified under GATT Article XXIV, GATS Article V and

¹³¹ A "Proposed Timeline for Factual Presentations in the CRTA/CTD" can be consulted on the WTO website.

¹³² [WT/REG/M/46](#), paragraph 48.

¹³³ [WT/REG/W/127](#).

¹³⁴ [WT/REG/M/88](#), paras. 1.57-1.69.

¹³⁵ [WT/REG/M/95](#), paras. 1.4-1.6.

¹³⁶ For details on the transfer of competence of GATT 1947 working parties to WTO working parties, see the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

¹³⁷ [WT/L/671](#).

¹³⁸ [WT/MIN\(13\)/DEC](#), para. 28. See also section 1.7.5.5.5 below concerning the review of the Transparency Mechanism.

paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. The main features of the mechanism, agreed upon in the Negotiating Group on Rules, include the early announcement of any RTA; guidelines regarding the notification of RTAs; the preparation by the Secretariat of factual presentation and factual abstracts of RTAs; provisions regarding subsequent notification and reporting of notified RTAs; technical support for developing countries; and the distribution of work between the Committee on RTAs – entrusted to implement the mechanism *vis-à-vis* RTAs falling under Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and Article V of the GATS – and the Committee on Trade and Development, entrusted to do the same for RTAs falling under the Enabling Clause.

1.7.5.5.1 Early announcements of RTAs

76. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Transparency Mechanism provide for Members participating in new negotiations and parties to a newly signed RTA to provide "early announcement" information to the Secretariat "[w]ithout prejudging the substance and the timing of the notification required under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, Article V of the GATS or the Enabling Clause, nor affecting Members' rights and obligations under the WTO agreements in any way". As of the end of 2021, a total of 110 early announcements had been received from Members, 40 for newly signed RTAs and 70 for RTAs under negotiation. Out of these 110 early announcements, 72 have been subsequently notified.

1.7.5.5.2 Notification of RTAs

77. For statistics on the number of RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO, see the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice), the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice), and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice). For a complete list of RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO and in force, see the table at the end of this document.

78. At its 44th Session on 13 October 2006, the Committee on RTAs adopted a proposal for a common and simplified notification format for regional trade agreements and agreed to recommend it for adoption by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services, and the Committee on Trade and Development.¹³⁹ The proposed template was adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods on 19 March 2007¹⁴⁰, by the Council for Trade in Services on 16 November 2007¹⁴¹, and by the Committee on Trade and Development on 6 March 2007.¹⁴² At its 84th Session, the Committee on RTAs discussed the key features of the notification format for RTAs.¹⁴³

79. Acting upon a request by the Chairman of the General Council made in 2009 regarding ways to improve the timeliness and completeness of notifications, the Committee on RTAs through the engagement of its Chairman, pursued actively the issue through contacts with the relevant delegations as regards when and how these agreements could be notified.¹⁴⁴ Further, to encourage RTA notifications, as of September 2011, the Chairman of the Committee on RTAs, with the help of the Secretariat, continued to draw up and circulate in advance of CRTA meetings a list of non-notified RTAs which have been verified by their parties as being in force and appeared in factual presentations circulated between September 2009 and the date of the relevant CRTA meeting.¹⁴⁵ Members disagree on the status of some RTAs on the lists and continue to discuss ways of facilitating the notification of RTAs.

¹³⁹ [WT/REG/M/44](#), paras. 17-19.

¹⁴⁰ [G/L/834](#).

¹⁴¹ [S/L/310](#).

¹⁴² [WT/COMTD/63](#). See the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Committee on Trade and Development, the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods, and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice) regarding action by the Council for Trade in Service.

¹⁴³ [WT/REG/M/84](#), paras. 1.38-1.52.

¹⁴⁴ [WT/REG/M/54](#), para. 4.

¹⁴⁵ [WT/REG/W/62](#); [WT/REG/W/66](#); [WT/REG/W/68](#); [WT/REG/W/69](#); [WT/REG/W/70](#); [WT/REG/W/72](#); [WT/REG/W/73](#); [WT/REG/W/75/Rev.1](#); [WT/REG/W/77](#); [WT/REG/W/80/Rev.1](#); [WT/REG/W/83](#); [WT/REG/W/85](#); [WT/REG/W/87](#); [WT/REG/W/91](#); [WT/REG/W/93](#); [WT/REG/W/95](#); [WT/REG/W/97](#); [WT/REG/W/100/Rev.1](#); [WT/REG/W/104](#); [WT/REG/W/107](#); [WT/REG/W/111](#); [WT/REG/W/115](#); [WT/REG/W/116](#); [WT/REG/W/119](#); [WT/REG/W/122](#); [WT/REG/W/128](#); [WT/REG/W/130](#); [WT/REG/W/133](#); [WT/REG/W/136](#); [WT/REG/W/138](#); [WT/REG/W/141](#); [WT/REG/W/144](#); [WT/REG/W/146/Rev.1](#); [WT/REG/W/149](#); [WT/REG/W/151](#); [WT/REG/W/154](#); [WT/REG/W/157](#); [WT/REG/W/159](#); and [WT/REG/W/162](#).

80. In the period between 2016 and 2019, discussions on the status of notifications and progress with factual presentations of notified RTAs have gained momentum on the basis of various submissions by Members and the lists distributed prior to the Committee on RTAs (see paragraphs 79 and 83).¹⁴⁶ In 2020, the Committee was informed of a submission and subsequent RTA notifications under the Enabling Clause made to the Committee on Trade and Development.¹⁴⁷

81. At the end of 2020, the Committee on RTAs was notified of the imminent entry into force of various agreements concluded by the United Kingdom following its withdrawal from the European Union and the termination of a transition period lasting until 31 December 2020. In February 2021, the European Union and the United Kingdom made a notification regarding related inactive agreements.¹⁴⁸

1.7.5.5.3 Consideration of Regional Trade Agreements

82. As of 31 December 2021, a total of 349 notifications of RTAs had been considered under the Transparency Mechanism on the basis of factual presentations prepared by the WTO Secretariat.¹⁴⁹ Factual presentations for seven RTAs had been distributed but not considered in the relevant body, while factual presentations relating to 114 notifications had yet to be prepared. Finally, the factual presentation for six services notifications were temporarily on hold.¹⁵⁰

83. The Chairman of the Committee holds regular consultations with delegations in an effort to resolve the case of RTAs for which the factual consideration is delayed due to lack of comments from the parties. From March 2014, the Chairman of the Committee on RTAs, with the help of the Secretariat, continued to draw up and circulate in advance of CRTA meetings a list of such RTAs. From November 2017, such a list also included those RTAs for which the consideration was delayed due to lack of data.¹⁵¹

1.7.5.5.4 Subsequent notification and reporting

84. Paragraph 14 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for parties to an RTA to notify changes affecting the implementation of an RTA or the operation of an already implemented RTA. Such notifications are to be made available on the WTO website. Up to the end of 2021, notifications of changes for 41 RTAs have been received and posted on the RTA Database. At its 87th Session, the Chairman proposed that discussions be initiated on the possible adoption of a template for the notification of changes, on the basis of draft formats prepared by the Secretariat.¹⁵² At its 89th Session on 19 June 2018, the Committee on RTAs adopted a proposal for a template for notifying changes to an existing RTA under paragraph 14 of the Transparency Mechanism, and agreed to recommend it for adoption by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services, and the Committee on Trade and Development.¹⁵³ The template was adopted by the Council for Trade

¹⁴⁶ Member's submissions can be found in: [WT/REG/W/103](#); [WT/REG/W/105](#); [WT/REG/W/109](#); [WT/REG/W/124](#); [WT/REG/W/126](#); and [WT/REG/W/127](#). Summaries of discussions are reflected in [WT/REG/M/80-91](#), [WT/REG/M/94](#) and [WT/REG/M/95](#).

¹⁴⁷ [WT/REG/M/96](#), paragraph 1.15.

¹⁴⁸ [WT/REG/GEN/N/10](#).

¹⁴⁹ 182 have been considered in the CRTA under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994; 137 have been considered in the CRTA under Article V of the GATS; and 30 have been considered in the CTD under the Enabling Clause.

¹⁵⁰ Source: RTA Database available on the WTO website at <http://rtais.wto.org>. An RTA is placed "on hold" because it is an agreement on trade in services for which liberalization commitments have not yet been agreed by the parties. Once the liberalization commitments are agreed by the parties, the RTA is automatically scheduled for consideration.

¹⁵¹ [WT/REG/W/81](#); [WT/REG/W/84](#); [WT/REG/W/86](#); [WT/REG/W/88](#); [WT/REG/W/92](#); [WT/REG/W/94](#); [WT/REG/W/96](#); [WT/REG/W/98](#); [WT/REG/W/102](#); [WT/REG/W/106](#); [WT/REG/W/108](#); [WT/REG/W/112](#); [WT/REG/W/114](#); [WT/REG/W/117](#); [WT/REG/W/120](#); [WT/REG/W/123](#); [WT/REG/W/129](#); [WT/REG/W/132](#); [WT/REG/W/134](#); [WT/REG/W/137](#); [WT/REG/W/139](#); [WT/REG/W/142](#); [WT/REG/W/145](#); [WT/REG/W/147](#); [WT/REG/W/150](#); [WT/REG/W/152](#); [WT/REG/W/155](#); [WT/REG/W/158/Rev.1](#) [WT/REG/W/160](#); and [WT/REG/W/163](#).

¹⁵² [WT/REG/M/87](#), para. 1.58.

¹⁵³ [WT/REG/M/89](#), paras. 1.35-1.37. The proposed template was circulated in [WT/REG/28](#).

in Goods on 12 November 2018¹⁵⁴, by the Council for Trade in Services on 12 October 2018¹⁵⁵, and by the Committee on Trade and Development on 21 November 2018.¹⁵⁶

85. Paragraph 15 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for parties to an RTA to present a short report at the end of the RTA's implementation period. From 2012 to 2014, the Committee on RTAs held discussions on how to operationalize this requirement. In April 2014, the Committee on RTAs took note of the Chairman's statement inviting Members to begin making notifications under paragraph 15 as they saw fit and to request any assistance needed from the Secretariat. Draft outlines had been provided by the Secretariat.¹⁵⁷ The Committee receives annually an updated list of implementation reports due.¹⁵⁸ As of December 2021, 13 implementation reports have been received.¹⁵⁹

1.7.5.5.5 Review of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

86. At the time of the adoption of the Decision on the Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements in December 2006, the Chair of the General Council had noted that Members intended to conduct an initial review of the Mechanism within one year.¹⁶⁰ At meetings held in November 2007 and December 2007, the Chairs of the Committee on RTAs and of the Negotiating Group on Rules, with the full knowledge of the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development, reported that Members considered that there was not yet enough experience for the review.¹⁶¹ In its meeting on 13 December 2010, the Negotiating Group on Rules agreed to promptly launch this review, aimed at making the Transparency Mechanism a permanent mechanism. The Chairman clarified that it was understood that the legal review also formed part of that review. The review would be based on Members' views on the Transparency Mechanism and proposals for improvement, a document from the Secretariat summarizing its experiences and difficulties, and the Chairs of the implementing Committees, namely the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements and the Committee on Trade and Development, were also invited to comment on their respective body's experience with the Transparency Mechanism.¹⁶²

87. At its 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 87th, 88th, and 89th Sessions, the Committee on RTAs discussed paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration that directed Members to work towards the transformation of the RTA Transparency Mechanism from a provisional to a permanent mechanism.¹⁶³ At its 89th Session, the Chairman informed the Committee that, in the absence of concrete proposals, the item would be removed from the agenda, bearing in mind that issues relating to the proper functioning of the Committee were being discussed under other agenda items.¹⁶⁴

1.7.5.5.6 Systemic implications of RTAs and initiatives for the multilateral trading system and the relationship between them

88. Since June 2010, discussions were held in the Committee on RTAs on a proposal for a work programme on cross-cutting issues on RTAs. Upon a Member's request, at its 68th and 70th Sessions

¹⁵⁴ [G/L/1295](#).

¹⁵⁵ [S/L/418](#).

¹⁵⁶ [WT/COMTD/98](#). See the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Committee on Trade and Development, the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods, and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice) regarding action by the Council for Trade in Service.

¹⁵⁷ [WT/REG/M/72](#), paragraphs 2.5-2.10; draft outlines in [JOB/REG/1](#), [JOB/REG/3](#) and [JOB/REG/4](#).

¹⁵⁸ The list distributed in 2021 can be found in [WT/REG/W/156](#). For previous lists, see the documents in the [WT/REG/W/* series](#).

¹⁵⁹ Hong Kong, China with New Zealand ([WT/REG291/R/I](#)); European Union with Albania ([WT/REG226/R/I](#)); European Union with North Macedonia ([WT/REG129/R/I](#)); Ukraine with the Kyrgyz Republic ([WT/REG74/R/I](#)); European Union with South Africa ([WT/REG113/R/I](#)); European Union with Montenegro ([WT/REG236/R/I](#)); European Union with Jordan ([WT/REG141/R/I](#)); Ukraine with Montenegro ([WT/REG338/R/I](#)); Ukraine with Armenia ([WT/REG171/R/I](#)); Ukraine with Kazakhstan ([WT/REG247/R/I](#)); Ukraine with Tajikistan ([WT/REG251/R/I](#)); European Union with Chile ([WT/REG164/R/I](#)); and Ukraine with Azerbaijan ([WT/REG245/R/I](#)).

¹⁶⁰ [WT/GC/M/106](#), Item 1.

¹⁶¹ [WT/REG/M/48](#), para. 11; and [WT/GC/M/112](#), item 10.

¹⁶² [TN/RL/M/37](#), paras 4-8.

¹⁶³ [WT/REG/M/80](#); [WT/REG/M/81](#); [WT/REG/M/82](#); [WT/REG/M/83](#); [WT/REG/M/87](#); [WT/REG/M/88](#); and [WT/REG/M/89](#).

¹⁶⁴ [WT/REG/M/89](#), paras. 1.38-1.39.

the Committee on RTAs held discussions on some staff working papers relating to RTAs cross-cutting issues which had been made available at the WTO website.¹⁶⁵ Some Members raised concerns as to the procedural modality to bring these issues before the Committee. The Secretariat clarified that the General Council Rules of Procedure were followed.¹⁶⁶ In 2014, the Committee was informed of a seminar organized by the Secretariat and open to Members, which focused on the Secretariat staff working papers issued on RTAs.¹⁶⁷

89. At its 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd and 87th Sessions, the Committee on RTAs discussed paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration that directed the future work of Members towards the systemic implications of RTAs for the multilateral trading system and its relationship with WTO rules.¹⁶⁸ At its 84th Session, the Committee held an informal discussion on trade facilitation provisions in RTAs based on a proposal by Members.¹⁶⁹ Divergent views have been expressed regarding engaging into such a systemic discussion; issues raised included *inter alia* the lack of full transparency available to the Committee on all RTAs currently in force, the fact that such topic was indeed also part of the mandate of the Committee on RTAs, whether parameters for such a discussion needed to be defined and whether the Committee should venture into recommendations for multilateral rule making. At its 89th Session, the Chairman informed the Committee that in the absence of concrete proposals, the item would be removed from the agenda, bearing in mind that issues relating to the systemic relationship between RTAs and the WTO were being discussed under other agenda items.¹⁷⁰

1.7.5.5.7 Other activities related to the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

90. Paragraph 21 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for the Secretariat to establish and maintain an updated electronic database on individual RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO. The database includes all of the notifications, links to the content of the notified RTAs, and legal provisions of the RTAs. It provides information on tariff reduction; data on trade in goods and services as of the RTA's date of entry into force; key provisions in the RTA; and links to descriptions of these provisions in the factual presentation or factual abstract. In addition, in the case of RTAs for which the Secretariat has prepared a Factual Presentation, the agreed timetable for the reduction of tariffs, on a yearly basis, is also made available. Since January 2009, the database has been publicly available on the WTO website at <http://rtais.wto.org>.

91. At the Committee's 88th Session, the Secretariat made an informal presentation of changes made in late 2017 to the RTA database. New functionalities include: an expanded list of topics and provisions, which can be searched across all notified RTAs in force; interactive graphs on the evolution of RTA notifications to the GATT/WTO; and analyses of the preferential tariff, on a tariff-line basis, expected to be implemented by an RTA. An updated version of the database was launched in June 2019.

92. Paragraph 22(d) of the Transparency Mechanism provides that the Secretariat is to prepare factual abstracts for RTAs that had their factual examination completed prior to 31 December 2006; these are to be placed on the WTO website. All factual abstracts had been made available in the RTA Database in the WTO website.

1.7.6 Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC)

93. The Doha Ministerial Declaration¹⁷¹ provides that the overall conduct of the negotiations shall be supervised by a Trade Negotiations Committee under the authority of the General Council. The TNC is also mandated to establish appropriate negotiating mechanisms as required and supervise the overall conduct of the negotiations.¹⁷² At its first meeting held on 28 January and 1 February 2002¹⁷³, on the basis of proposals made by the Chairman of the General Council, the TNC appointed

¹⁶⁵ [WT/REG/M/67](#), [68](#) and [70](#).

¹⁶⁶ [WT/REG/23](#), para. 8.1.

¹⁶⁷ [WT/REG/M/73](#) and [74](#).

¹⁶⁸ [WT/REG/M/80](#); [WT/REG/M/81](#); [WT/REG/M/82](#); [WT/REG/M/83](#); [WT/REG/M/87](#); [WT/REG/M/88](#); and [WT/REG/M/89](#).

¹⁶⁹ [WT/REG/M/84](#), para. 1.66.

¹⁷⁰ [WT/REG/M/89](#), paras. 1.38-1.39.

¹⁷¹ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#).

¹⁷² [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 46.

¹⁷³ [TN/C/M/1](#).

the Director-General in an *ex officio* capacity to chair the TNC until the deadline established in the Doha Declaration for concluding the negotiations.¹⁷⁴

94. At the TNC's first meeting, Members also agreed to a comprehensive structure comprising a number of groups and bodies to organize the negotiations. According to this arrangement, each negotiating body is responsible for the work on one or more¹⁷⁵ of the topics listed in the Work Programme of the Doha Declaration.¹⁷⁶ The TNC has established the following Special Sessions and Negotiating Groups to carry out the work under the Doha mandate¹⁷⁷:

- Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture¹⁷⁸;
- Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services¹⁷⁹;
- Negotiating Group on Market Access¹⁸⁰;
- Special Session of the Council for TRIPS¹⁸¹;
- Negotiating Group on Rules¹⁸²;
- Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body¹⁸³;
- Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment¹⁸⁴;
- Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development.¹⁸⁵

1.7.7 Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance

1.7.7.1 Establishment and terms of reference

95. The Doha Ministerial Conference established the Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance and set out its terms of reference as follows:

"We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade, debt and finance, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate and competence of the WTO to enhance the capacity of the multilateral trading system to contribute to a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of developing and least-developed countries, and to strengthen the coherence of international trade and financial policies, with a view to safeguarding the multilateral trading system from the effects of financial and monetary instability. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination."¹⁸⁶

¹⁷⁴ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 45.

¹⁷⁵ See for example, the Negotiating Group on Rules, which deals with anti-dumping, subsidies and regional trade agreements.

¹⁷⁶ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), paras. 12-44.

¹⁷⁷ [TN/C/M/1](#), item 2.

¹⁷⁸ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), paras. 13-14. In February 2000, the Chair of the General Counsel proposed that agriculture negotiations be conducted in the Committee on Agriculture meeting in Special Sessions pursuant to Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture ([WT/GC/M/53](#)). The Committee on Agriculture in Special Session agreed on 19 November 2004 to establish a Sub-Committee on Cotton ([TN/AG/R/16](#), item A(iii); and [TN/AG/13](#)).

¹⁷⁹ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 15.

¹⁸⁰ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 16.

¹⁸¹ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), paras. 17-19.

¹⁸² [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), paras. 28-29.

¹⁸³ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 47.

¹⁸⁴ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), paras. 31-33.

¹⁸⁵ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 44.

¹⁸⁶ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 36.

1.7.7.2 Reporting

96. The Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸⁷

1.7.8 Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology

1.7.8.1 Establishment and terms of reference

97. The Doha Ministerial Conference established the Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology and set out its terms of reference as follows:

"We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade and transfer of technology, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate of the WTO to increase flows of technology to developing countries. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination."¹⁸⁸

1.7.8.2 Reporting

98. The Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸⁹

1.8 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods

99. The Council for Trade in Goods has established the following Working Parties to date¹⁹⁰:

- a. Working Party on State Trading Enterprises; and
- b. Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures.¹⁹¹

100. To date, the following Committees have also been established under the purview of the Council for Trade in Goods:

- a. Committee on Market Access;
- b. Committee on Agriculture;
- c. Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
- d. Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

¹⁸⁷ [WT/WGTDF/1](#) for 2002; [WT/WGTDF/2](#) for 2003; [WT/WGTDF/3](#) for 2004; [WT/WGTDF/4](#) for 2005; [WT/WGTDF/5](#) for 2006; [WT/WGTDF/6](#) for 2007; [WT/WGTDF/7](#) for 2008; [WT/WGTDF/8](#) for 2009; [WT/WGTDF/9](#) for 2010; [WT/WGTDF/10](#) for 2011; [WT/WGTDF/11](#) for 2012; [WT/WGTDF/12](#) for 2013; [WT/WGTDF/13](#) for 2014; [WT/WGTDF/14](#) for 2015; [WT/WGTDF/15](#) for 2016; [WT/WGTDF/16](#) for 2017; [WT/WGTDF/17](#) for 2018; [WT/WGTDF/18](#) for 2019; [WT/WGTDF/19](#) for 2020; and [WT/WGTDF/20](#) for 2021.

¹⁸⁸ [WT/MIN\(01\)/DEC/1](#), para. 37.

¹⁸⁹ [WT/WGTTT/4](#) for 2002; [WT/WGTTT/5](#) for 2003; [WT/WGTTT/6](#) for 2004; [WT/WGTTT/7](#) for 2005; [WT/WGTTT/8](#) for 2006; [WT/WGTTT/9](#) for 2007; [WT/WGTTT/10](#) for 2008; [WT/WGTTT/11](#) for 2009; [WT/WGTTT/12](#) for 2010; [WT/WGTTT/13](#) for 2011; [WT/WGTTT/14](#) for 2012; [WT/WGTTT/15](#) for 2013; [WT/WGTTT/16](#) for 2014; [WT/WGTTT/17](#) for 2015; [WT/WGTTT/18](#) for 2016; [WT/WGTTT/19](#) for 2017; [WT/WGTTT/20](#) for 2018; [WT/WGTTT/21](#) for 2019; [WT/WGTTT/22](#) for 2020; and [WT/WGTTT/23](#) for 2021.

¹⁹⁰ In addition to the working parties listed here, a number of working parties on various regional trade agreements were established under the GATT 1947 and continued operations under the WTO ([WT/GC/M/5](#), item 11). After the General Council established the Committee on RTAs on 6 February 1996, that Committee took over the functions of all working parties established to examine regional trade agreements under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. The Committee on RTAs functions under the General Council and is addressed in section 1.7 above.

¹⁹¹ [G/C/M/1](#), item 6. The Working Party held its last meeting on 3 July 1996.

- e. Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;
- f. Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices;
- g. Committee on Customs Valuation;
- h. Committee on Rules of Origin;
- i. Committee on Import Licensing;
- j. Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures;
- k. Committee on Safeguards;
- l. Committee on Trade Facilitation; and
- m. Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products.

1.8.1 Working Party on State Trading enterprises

1.8.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

101. The Council for Trade in Goods established the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises at its meeting on 20 February to "carry out the tasks described in paragraph 5 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994, with membership in the Working Party open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on it."¹⁹²

1.8.1.2 Reporting

102. The Working Party on State Trading Enterprises reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁹³

1.8.1.3 Activities

103. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises, see the document on Article XVII of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.8.2 Committee on Market Access

1.8.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

104. The General Council established the Committee on Market Access on 31 January 1995¹⁹⁴, with the following terms of reference:

"The Committee on Market Access shall:

- (a) in relation to market access issues not covered by any other WTO body:
 - supervise the implementation of concessions relating to tariffs and non-tariff measures;

¹⁹² [G/C/M/1](#), item 5(A). Paragraph 5 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994.

¹⁹³ [G/L/35](#) for 1995; [G/L/128](#) for 1996; [G/L/198](#) for 1997; [G/L/281](#) for 1998; [G/L/335](#) for 1999; [G/L/418](#) for 2000; [G/L/491](#) for 2001; [G/L/591](#) for 2002; [G/L/660](#) for 2003; [G/L/716](#) for 2004; [G/L/749](#) for 2005; [G/L/788](#) for 2006; [G/L/829](#) for 2007; [G/L/857](#) for 2008; [G/L/898](#) for 2009; [G/L/934](#) for 2010; [G/L/971](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2011; [G/L/1007](#) for 2012; [G/L/1046](#) for 2013; [G/L/1090](#) for 2014; [G/L/1124](#) for 2015; [G/L/1156](#) for 2016; [G/L/1196](#) for 2017; [G/L/1268](#) for 2018; [G/L/1335](#) for 2019; [G/L/1370](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1403](#) for 2021.

¹⁹⁴ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7.A(2).

- provide a forum for consultation on matters relating to tariffs and non-tariff measures;
- (b) oversee the application of procedures for modification or withdrawal of tariff concessions;
- (c) ensure that GATT Schedules are kept up-to-date, and that modifications, including those resulting from changes in tariff nomenclature, are reflected;
- (d) conduct the updating and analysis of the documentation on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, in accordance with the timetable and procedures agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1984 and 1985 (BISD 31S/227 and 228, and BISD 32S/92 and 93).
- (e) oversee the content and operation of, and access to, the Integrated Data Base; and
- (f) report periodically - and in any case not less than once a year - to the Council on Trade in Goods."¹⁹⁵

1.8.2.2 Rules of Procedure

105. On 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Market Access¹⁹⁶, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁹⁷ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.2.3 Reporting

106. The Committee on Market Access reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on an annual basis.¹⁹⁸ It also reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on a periodic basis.¹⁹⁹

1.8.2.4 Activities

107. With respect to the activities of the Committee on Market Access, see the documents on Articles II and XXVIII of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.8.3 Committee on Agriculture

1.8.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

108. Article 17 of the Agreement on Agriculture establishes the Committee on Agriculture. At its meeting on 31 January 1995²⁰⁰ the General Council adopted the following terms of reference for the Committee on Agriculture:

¹⁹⁵ [WT/L/47](#). The terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Subcommittee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 18 November 1994. ([PC/IPL/M/9](#), paras. 6-8; [PC/IPL/5](#)).

¹⁹⁶ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/148](#).

¹⁹⁷ [WT/L/161](#).

¹⁹⁸ [G/L/50](#) for 1995; [G/L/132](#) for 1996; [G/L/215](#) for 1997; [G/L/284](#) for 1998; [G/L/331](#) for 1999; [G/L/431](#) for 2000; [G/L/486](#) for 2001; [G/L/582](#) for 2002; [G/L/658](#) for 2003; [G/L/699](#) for 2004; [G/L/748](#) for 2005; [G/L/801](#) for 2006; [G/L/839](#) for 2007; [G/L/865](#) for 2008; [G/L/896](#) for 2009; [G/L/938](#) for 2010; [G/L/967](#) for 2011; [G/L/1010](#) for 2012; [G/L/1049](#) for 2013; [G/L/1084](#) for 2014; [G/L/1131](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2015; [G/L/1154](#) for 2016; [G/L/1190](#) for 2017; [G/L/1271](#) for 2018; [G/L/1338](#) for 2019; [G/L/1377](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1407](#) for 2021.

¹⁹⁹ [G/MA/1](#); [G/MA/4](#); [G/MA/57](#); [G/MA/58](#); [G/MA/59](#); [G/MA/60](#); [G/MA/61](#); [G/MA/62](#); [G/MA/71](#); [G/MA/107](#); [G/MA/111](#); [G/MA/112](#); [G/MA/113](#); [G/MA/114](#); [G/MA/115](#); [G/MA/116](#) and [Corr.1](#); [G/MA/117](#); [G/MA/149](#); [G/MA/151](#); [G/MA/154](#); [G/MA/157](#); [G/MA/163](#); [G/MA/191](#); [G/MA/193](#); [G/MA/195](#); [G/MA/197](#); [G/MA/198](#); [G/MA/216](#); [G/MA/236](#); [G/MA/240](#); [G/MA/242](#); [G/MA/243](#) and [Corr.1](#), [G/MA/245](#); [G/MA/257](#) and [Corr.1](#); [G/MA/284](#); and [G/MA/286](#).

²⁰⁰ [WT/GC/M/1](#), item 7(B).

"The Committee shall oversee the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture. The Committee shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement."²⁰¹

1.8.3.2 Rules of Procedure

109. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods adopted the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Agriculture²⁰², consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰³ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.3.3 Reporting

110. The Committee on Agriculture reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁰⁴

1.8.3.4 Activities

111. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Agriculture, see the documents on the Agreement on Agriculture (Practice).

1.8.4 Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)

1.8.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

112. Article 12 of the SPS Agreement establishes the SPS Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. A Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is hereby established to provide a regular forum for consultations. It shall carry out the functions necessary to implement the provisions of this Agreement and the furtherance of its objectives, in particular with respect to harmonization. The Committee shall reach its decisions by consensus.

2. The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc consultations or negotiations among Members on specific sanitary or phytosanitary issues. The Committee shall encourage the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations by all Members and, in this regard, shall sponsor technical consultation and study with the objective of increasing coordination and integration between international and national systems and approaches for approving the use of food additives or for establishing tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs.

3. The Committee shall maintain close contact with the relevant international organizations in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary protection, especially with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, with the objective of securing the best available scientific and technical advice for the administration of this Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided.

4. The Committee shall develop a procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations.

²⁰¹ [WT/L/43](#). These terms of reference are those agreed by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters of the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Organization at its meeting on 7 October 1994 ([PC/IPL/1](#)).

²⁰² [G/C/M/10](#), item 1. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/142](#).

²⁰³ [WT/L/161](#).

²⁰⁴ [G/L/41](#) for 1995; [G/L/131](#) for 1996; [G/L/211](#) for 1997; [G/L/276](#) for 1998; [G/L/322](#) for 1999; [G/L/417](#) for 2000; [G/L/483](#) for 2001; [G/L/594](#) for 2002; [G/L/662](#) for 2003; [G/L/719](#) for 2004; [G/L/746](#) for 2005; [G/L/796](#) for 2006; [G/L/828](#) for 2007; [G/L/856](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2008; [G/L/894](#) for 2009; [G/L/929](#) for 2010; [G/L/965](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2011; [G/L/999](#) for 2012; [G/L/1044](#) for 2013; [G/L/1093](#) for 2014; [G/L/1126](#) for 2015; [G/L/1165](#) for 2016; [G/L/1194](#) for 2017; [G/L/1283](#) for 2018; [G/L/1332](#) for 2019; [G/L/1380](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1421](#) for 2021.

For this purpose, the Committee should, in conjunction with the relevant international organizations, establish a list of international standards, guidelines or recommendations relating to sanitary or phytosanitary measures which the Committee determines to have a major trade impact. The list should include an indication by Members of those international standards, guidelines or recommendations which they apply as conditions for import or on the basis of which imported products conforming to these standards can enjoy access to their markets. For those cases in which a Member does not apply an international standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, the Member should provide an indication of the reason therefor, and, in particular, whether it considers that the standard is not stringent enough to provide the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. If a Member revises its position, following its indication of the use of a standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, it should provide an explanation for its change and so inform the Secretariat as well as the relevant international organizations, unless such notification and explanation is given according to the procedures of Annex B.

5. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the Committee may decide, as appropriate, to use the information generated by the procedures, particularly for notification, which are in operation in the relevant international organizations.

6. The Committee may, on the basis of an initiative from one of the Members, through appropriate channels invite the relevant international organizations or their subsidiary bodies to examine specific matters with respect to a particular standard, guideline or recommendation, including the basis of explanations for non-use given according to paragraph 4.

7. The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, and thereafter as the need arises. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in its implementation."

1.8.4.2 Rules of Procedure

113. At its meeting on 11 June 1997, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the SPS Committee²⁰⁵, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰⁶ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.4.3 Reporting

114. The SPS Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁰⁷

1.8.4.4 Activities

115. For more information on the activities of the SPS Committee, see the documents on the SPS Agreement (Practice).

²⁰⁵ [G/C/M/20](#), item 2. The text of the approved Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/170](#).

²⁰⁶ [WT/L/161](#).

²⁰⁷ [G/L/38](#) for 1995; [G/L/118](#) for 1996; [G/L/197](#) for 1997; [G/L/274](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1998; [G/L/315](#) for 1999; [G/L/411](#) for 2000; [G/L/485](#) for 2001; [G/L/592](#) for 2002; [G/L/661](#) for 2003; [G/L/709](#) for 2004; [G/L/755](#) for 2005; [G/L/794](#) for 2006; [G/L/842](#) for 2007; [G/L/866](#) for 2008; [G/L/897](#) and [Rev. 1](#) and [Corr. 1](#) for 2009; [G/L/943](#) for 2010; [G/L/969](#) for 2011; [G/L/1013](#) for 2012; [G/L/1039](#) and [Rev. 1](#) for 2013; [G/L/1086](#) for 2014; [G/L/1129](#) for 2015; [G/L/1164](#) for 2016; [G/L/1202](#) for 2017; [G/L/1280](#) for 2018; [G/L/1336](#) for 2019; [G/L/1376](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1413/Rev.1](#) for 2021.

1.8.5 Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee)

1.8.5.1 Establishment and terms of reference

116. Article 13 of the TBT Agreement establishes the TBT Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"13.1.A Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade is hereby established, and shall be composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives, and shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members.

13.2 The Committee shall establish working parties or other bodies as may be appropriate, which shall carry out such responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement.

13.3 It is understood that unnecessary duplication should be avoided between the work under this Agreement and that of governments in other technical bodies. The Committee shall examine this problem with a view to minimizing such duplication."

1.8.5.2 Rules of Procedure

117. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the TBT Committee²⁰⁸, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰⁹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.5.3 Reporting

118. The TBT Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹⁰

1.8.5.4 Activities

119. For more information on the activities of the TBT Committee, see the documents on the TBT Agreement (Practice).

1.8.6 Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Committee)

1.8.6.1 Establishment and terms of reference

120. Article 24 of the SCM Agreement establishes the SCM Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"24.1 There is hereby established a Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet not less than twice a year and otherwise as envisaged by relevant provisions of this Agreement at the request of any Member. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members and it shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter

²⁰⁸ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/150](#). See also [G/TBT/1](#).

²⁰⁹ [WT/L/161](#).

²¹⁰ [G/L/54](#) for 1995; [G/L/122](#) for 1996; [G/L/207](#) for 1997; [G/L/278](#) for 1998; [G/L/327](#) for 1999; [G/L/412](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2000; [G/L/487](#) for 2001; [G/L/580](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/657](#) for 2003; [G/L/710](#) for 2004; [G/L/760](#) for 2005; [G/L/803](#) for 2006; [G/L/843](#) for 2007; [G/L/871](#) for 2008; [G/L/895](#) and [Rev. 1](#) for 2009; [G/L/940](#) for 2010; [G/L/962](#) for 2011; [G/L/1017](#) for 2012; [G/L/1056](#) for 2013; [G/L/1092](#) for 2014; [G/L/1138](#) for 2015; [G/L/1167](#) for 2016; [G/L/1203](#) for 2017; [G/L/1281](#) for 2018; [G/L/1340](#) for 2019; [G/L/1379](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1420](#) for 2021.

relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee.

24.2 The Committee may set up subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

24.3 The Committee shall establish a Permanent Group of Experts composed of five independent persons, highly qualified in the fields of subsidies and trade relations. The experts will be elected by the Committee and one of them will be replaced every year. The PGE may be requested to assist a panel, as provided for in paragraph 5 of Article 4. The Committee may also seek an advisory opinion on the existence and nature of any subsidy.

24.4 The PGE may be consulted by any Member and may give advisory opinions on the nature of any subsidy proposed to be introduced or currently maintained by that Member. Such advisory opinions will be confidential and may not be invoked in proceedings under Article 7.

24.5 In carrying out their functions, the Committee and any subsidiary bodies may consult with and seek information from any source they deem appropriate. However, before the Committee or a subsidiary body seeks such information from a source within the jurisdiction of a Member, it shall inform the Member involved."

1.8.6.2 Rules of Procedure

121. At its meeting of 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of procedure for meeting of the SCM Committee.²¹¹

1.8.6.3 Reporting

122. The SCM Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹²

1.8.6.4 Activities

123. For more information on the activities of the SCM Committee, see the documents on the SCM Agreement (Practice).

1.8.6.5 Permanent Group of Experts

124. For more information on the Permanent Group of Experts, established pursuant to Article 24.3 of the SCM Agreement, as well as the Informal Group of Experts, established by the SCM Committee in a decision of 13 June 1995²¹³, see the document on Article 24 of the SCM Agreement (Practice).

1.8.7 Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

1.8.7.1 Establishment and terms of reference

125. Article 16 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement establishes the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"16.1 There is hereby established a Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") composed of representatives from each of the

²¹¹ [G/C/M/10](#), item 1(iv). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/144](#) and [G/SCM/10](#).

²¹² [G/L/31](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1995; [G/L/126](#) for 1996; [G/L/201](#) for 1997; [G/L/267](#) for 1998; [G/L/341](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1999; [G/L/408](#) for 2000; [G/L/496](#) for 2001; [G/L/585](#) for 2002; [G/L/655](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2003; [G/L/711](#) for 2004; [G/L/754](#) for 2005; [G/L/798](#) for 2006; [G/L/840](#) for 2007; [G/L/869](#) for 2008; [G/L/906](#) for 2009; [G/L/937](#) for 2010; [G/L/970](#) for 2011; [G/L/1005](#) for 2012; [G/L/1052](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2013; [G/L/1077](#) for 2014; [G/L/1133](#) for 2015; [G/L/1157](#) and [Corr.1-2](#) for 2016; [G/L/1195](#) for 2017; [G/L/1272](#) for 2018; [G/L/1341](#) for 2019; [G/L/1368](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1414](#) for 2021.

²¹³ [G/SCM/M/2](#), item N; and [G/SCM/5](#).

Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet not less than twice a year and otherwise as envisaged by relevant provisions of this Agreement at the request of any Member. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members and it shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee.

16.2 The Committee may set up subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

16.3 In carrying out their functions, the Committee and any subsidiary bodies may consult with and seek information from any source they deem appropriate. However, before the Committee or a subsidiary body seeks such information from a source within the jurisdiction of a Member, it shall inform the Member involved. It shall obtain the consent of the Member and any firm to be consulted."

1.8.7.2 Rules of Procedure

126. At its meeting of 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices.²¹⁴

1.8.7.3 Reporting

127. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹⁵

1.8.7.4 Activities

128. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, see the documents on the Anti-Dumping Agreement (Practice).

1.8.8 Committee on Customs Valuation

1.8.8.1 Establishment and terms of reference

129. Article 18 of the Agreement on Customs Valuation establishes the Committee on Customs Valuation and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. There is hereby established a Committee on Customs Valuation (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee") composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall normally meet once a year, or as is otherwise envisaged by the relevant provisions of this Agreement, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on matters relating to the administration of the customs valuation system by any Member as it might affect the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives and carrying out such other responsibilities as may be assigned to it by the Members. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee."

130. At its meeting of 15 June 1999, the General Council adopted the recommendation of the Working Party on Preshipment Inspection that the future monitoring of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection should be undertaken initially by the Committee on Customs Valuation, and that Preshipment Inspection should be a standing item on its agenda.²¹⁶

²¹⁴ [G/C/M/10](#), item 1(ii). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/143](#) and [G/ADP/4](#).

²¹⁵ [G/L/34](#) and [Corr. 1](#) for 1995; [G/L/123](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1996; [G/L/204](#) for 1997; [G/L/268](#) for 1998; [G/L/340](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1999; [G/L/404](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2000; [G/L/495](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2001; [G/L/581](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/653](#) for 2003; [G/L/707](#) for 2004; [G/L/758](#) for 2005; [G/L/791](#) for 2006; [G/L/830](#) for 2007; [G/L/861](#) for 2008; [G/L/902](#) for 2009; [G/L/935](#) for 2010; [G/L/966](#) for 2011; [G/L/1006](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2012; [G/L/1053](#) for 2013; [G/L/1079](#) for 2014; [G/L/1134](#) for 2015; [G/L/1158](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2016; [G/L/1193](#) for 2017; [G/L/1270](#) for 2018; [G/L/1344](#) for 2019; [G/L/1366](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1415](#) for 2021.

²¹⁶ [WT/GC/M/40/Add.3](#), item 5. The text of the recommendation can be found in [G/L/300](#), para. 23.

1.8.8.2 Rules of Procedure

131. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Customs Valuation²¹⁷, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²¹⁸ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.8.3 Reporting

132. The Committee on Customs Valuation reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹⁹

1.8.8.4 Activities

133. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Customs Valuation, see the documents on the Agreement on Customs Valuation (Practice).

1.8.8.5 Technical Committee on Customs Valuation

134. Article 18 of the Agreement on Customs Valuations establishes a Technical Committee on Customs Valuation "under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council (referred to in this Agreement as "the CCC") [now the World Customs Organization], which shall carry out the responsibilities described in Annex II to this Agreement and shall operate in accordance with the rules of procedure contained therein." For further information on the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, see the document on Annex II of the Agreement on Customs Valuation (Practice).

1.8.9 Committee on Rules of Origin

1.8.9.1 Establishment and terms of reference

135. Article 4.1 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin establishes the Committee on Rules of Origin and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. There is hereby established a Committee on Rules of Origin (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee") composed of the representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on matters relating to the operation of Parts I, II, III and IV or the furtherance of the objectives set out in these Parts and to carry out such other responsibilities assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Council for Trade in Goods. Where appropriate, the Committee shall request information and advice from the Technical Committee referred to in paragraph 2 on matters related to this Agreement. The Committee may also request such other work from the Technical Committee as it considers appropriate for the furtherance of the above-mentioned objectives of this Agreement. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee."

²¹⁷ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/146](#).

²¹⁸ [WT/L/161](#).

²¹⁹ [G/L/55](#) for 1995; [G/L/121](#) for 1996; [G/L/205](#) for 1997; [G/L/277](#) for 1998; [G/L/323](#) for 1999; [G/L/414](#) for 2000; [G/L/488](#) for 2001; [G/L/590](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/654](#) for 2003; [G/L/718](#) for 2004; [G/L/750](#) for 2005; [G/L/799](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2006; [G/L/833](#) for 2007; [G/L/863](#) for 2008; [G/L/907](#) for 2009; [G/L/942](#) for 2010; [G/L/974](#) for 2011; [G/L/1012](#) for 2012; [G/L/1043](#) for 2013; [G/L/1082](#) for 2014; [G/L/1135](#) for 2015; [G/L/1160](#) for 2016; [G/L/1199](#) for 2017; [G/L/1284](#) for 2018; [G/L/1333](#) for 2019; [G/L/1372](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1410](#) for 2021.

1.8.9.2 Rules of Procedure

136. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of procedure for meetings of the Committee on Rules of Origin²²⁰, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²²¹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.9.3 Reporting

137. The Committee on Rules of Origin reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²²²

1.8.9.4 Activities

138. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Rules of Origin, see the documents on the Agreement on Rules of Origin (Practice).

1.8.9.5 Technical Committee on Rule of Origin

139. Article 4.2 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin establishes a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"There shall be established a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (referred to in this Agreement as "the Technical Committee") under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) [now the World Customs Organization] as set out in Annex I. The Technical Committee shall carry out the technical work called for in Part IV and prescribed in Annex I. Where appropriate, the Technical Committee shall request information and advice from the Committee on matters related to this Agreement. The Technical Committee may also request such other work from the Committee as it considers appropriate for the furtherance of the above-mentioned objectives of the Agreement. The CCC Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Technical Committee."

140. For further information on the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, see the document on Annex I of the Agreement on Rules of Origin (Practice).

1.8.10 Committee on Import Licensing

1.8.10.1 Establishment and terms of reference

141. Article 4 of the Agreement on Import Licensing establishes the Committee on Import Licensing and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"There is hereby established a Committee on Import Licensing composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman and shall meet as necessary for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives."

²²⁰ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/149](#).

²²¹ [WT/L/161](#).

²²² [G/L/36](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1995; [G/L/119](#) for 1996; [G/L/210](#) for 1997; [G/L/271](#) for 1998; [G/L/326](#) for 1999; [G/L/413](#) for 2000; [G/L/490](#) and [Rev. 1](#) for 2001; [G/L/593](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/656](#) for 2003; [G/L/704](#) for 2004; [G/L/747](#) for 2005; [G/L/790](#) for 2006; [G/L/831](#) for 2007; [G/L/870](#) for 2008; [G/L/905](#) for 2009; [G/L/939](#) for 2010; [G/L/975](#) for 2011; [G/L/1016](#) for 2012; [G/L/1047](#) for 2013; [G/L/1085](#) for 2014; [G/L/1127](#) for 2015; [G/L/1159](#) for 2016; [G/L/1188](#) for 2017; [G/L/1266](#) for 2018; [G/L/1331](#) for 2019; [G/L/1378](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1405](#) for 2021.

1.8.10.2 Rules of Procedure

142. At its meeting of 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Import Licensing²²³, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²²⁴ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.10.3 Reporting

143. The Committee on Import Licensing reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²²⁵

1.8.10.4 Activities

144. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Import Licensing, see the documents on the Agreement on Import Licensing (Practice).

1.8.11 Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs Committee)

1.8.11.1 Establishment and terms of reference

145. Article 7 of the TRIMs Agreement establishes the TRIMs Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. A Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") is hereby established, and shall be open to all Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and shall meet not less than once a year and otherwise at the request of any Member.

2. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities assigned to it by the Council for Trade in Goods and shall afford Members the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to the operation and implementation of this Agreement.

3. The Committee shall monitor the operation and implementation of this Agreement and shall report thereon annually to the Council for Trade in Goods."

146. At its meeting on 20 February 1995 the Council for Trade in Goods agreed that the TRIMs Committee would carry out the tasks assigned to the Council for Trade in Goods with respect to notifications of TRIMs under Articles 5.1 and 5.5 of the TRIMs Agreement.²²⁶

147. At its meeting on 7 May 2002, the Council for Trade in Goods agreed to "assign to the Committee on TRIMs the responsibility for conducting the work on the outstanding implementation issues contained in tirets 37-40 of document [JOB(01)/152/Rev.1]" concerning special and differential treatment for developing country Members.²²⁷

²²³ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/147](#).

²²⁴ [WT/L/161](#).

²²⁵ [G/L/29](#) for 1995; [G/L/127](#) for 1996; [G/L/203](#) for 1997; [G/L/264](#) for 1998; [G/L/336](#) for 1999; [G/L/403](#) for 2000; [G/L/493](#) for 2001; [G/L/573](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/652](#) for 2003; [G/L/715](#) for 2004; [G/L/753](#) for 2005; [G/L/800](#) for 2006; [G/L/836](#) for 2007; [G/L/868](#) for 2008; [G/L/903](#) for 2009; [G/L/941](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2010; [G/L/968](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2011; [G/L/1011](#) for 2012; [G/L/1048](#) for 2013; [G/L/1078](#) for 2014; [G/L/1132](#) for 2015; [G/L/1162](#) for 2016; [G/L/1187](#) for 2017; [G/L/1269](#) for 2018; [G/L/1328](#) for 2019; for [G/L/1369](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1406](#) for 2021.

²²⁶ [G/C/M/1](#), item 2(A).

²²⁷ [G/C/M/60](#), item VI.

1.8.11.2 Rules of Procedure

148. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the TRIMs Committee²²⁸, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²²⁹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.11.3 Reporting

149. The TRIMs Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²³⁰

1.8.11.4 Activities

150. For more information on the activities of the TRIMs Committee, see the documents on the TRIMs Agreement (Practice).

1.8.12 Committee on Safeguards

1.8.12.1 Establishment and terms of reference

151. Article 13 of the Agreement on Safeguards establishes the Committee on Safeguards and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

1. A Committee on Safeguards is hereby established, under the authority of the Council for Trade in Goods, which shall be open to the participation of any Member indicating its wish to serve on it. The Committee will have the following functions:

- (a) to monitor, and report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods on, the general implementation of this Agreement and make recommendations towards its improvement;
- (b) to find, upon request of an affected Member, whether or not the procedural requirements of this Agreement have been complied with in connection with a safeguard measure, and report its findings to the Council for Trade in Goods;
- (c) to assist Members, if they so request, in their consultations under the provisions of this Agreement;
- (d) to examine measures covered by Article 10 and paragraph 1 of Article 11, monitor the phase out of such measures and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods;
- (e) to review, at the request of the Member taking a safeguard measure, whether proposals to suspend concessions or other obligations are "substantially equivalent", and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods;
- (f) to receive and review all notifications provided for in this Agreement and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods; and

²²⁸ [G/C/M/7](#), item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/151](#).

²²⁹ [WT/L/161](#).

²³⁰ [G/L/37](#) for 1995; [G/L/133](#) for 1996; [G/L/193](#) for 1997; [G/L/259](#) for 1998; [G/L/319](#) for 1999; [G/L/390](#) for 2000; [G/L/589](#) and [G/L/634](#) for 2002; [G/L/649](#) for 2003; [G/L/705](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2004; [G/L/752](#) for 2005; [G/L/793](#) for 2006; [G/L/837](#) for 2007; [G/L/860](#) for 2008; [G/L/900](#) for 2009; [G/L/928](#) for 2010; [G/L/964](#) for 2011; [G/L/1003](#) for 2012; [G/L/1045](#) for 2013; [G/L/1091](#) for 2014; [G/L/1123](#) for 2015; [G/L/1153](#) for 2016; [G/L/1197](#) for 2017; [G/L/1273](#) for 2018; [G/L/1337](#) for 2019; [G/L/1363](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1404](#) for 2021.

- (g) to perform any other function connected with this Agreement that the Council for Trade in Goods may determine.

1.8.12.2 Rules of Procedure

152. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Safeguards²³¹, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²³² applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.12.3 Reporting

153. The Committee on Safeguards reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²³³

1.8.12.4 Activities

154. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Safeguards, see the documents on the Agreement on Safeguards (Practice).

1.8.13 Committee on Trade Facilitation

1.8.13.1 Establishment and terms of reference

155. Article 23 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement establishes the Trade Facilitation Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows²³⁴:

"1.1 A Committee on Trade Facilitation is hereby established.

1.2 The Committee shall be open for participation by all Members and shall elect its own Chairperson. The Committee shall meet as needed and envisaged by the relevant provisions of this Agreement, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

1.3 The Committee may establish such subsidiary bodies as may be required. All such bodies shall report to the Committee.

1.4 The Committee shall develop procedures for the sharing by Members of relevant information and best practices as appropriate.

1.5 The Committee shall maintain close contact with other international organizations in the field of trade facilitation, such as the WCO, with the objective of securing the best available advice for the implementation and administration of this Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided. To this end, the

²³¹ [G/C/M/10](#), item 1(iii). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/L/170](#) and [G/SG/4](#).

²³² [WT/L/161](#).

²³³ [G/L/32](#) for 1995; [G/L/129](#) for 1996; [G/L/200](#) for 1997; [G/L/272](#) for 1998; [G/L/338](#) for 1999; [G/L/409](#) for 2000; [G/L/494](#) for 2001; [G/L/583](#) for 2002; [G/L/651](#) for 2003; [G/L/703](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2004; [G/L/761](#) for 2005; [G/L/795](#) for 2006; [G/L/832](#) for 2007; [G/L/862](#) for 2008; [G/L/901](#) for 2009; [G/L/936](#) for 2010; [G/L/972](#) for 2011; [G/L/1009](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2012; [G/L/1054](#) for 2013; [G/L/1087](#) for 2014; [G/L/1130](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2015; [G/L/1155](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2016; [G/L/1192](#) for 2017; [G/L/1275](#) for 2018; [G/L/1346](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2019; [G/L/1367](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1417](#) for 2021.

²³⁴ The Bali Ministerial Conference concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and established a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation under the General Council "to perform such functions as might be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force" ([WT/MIN\(13\)/36](#) – [WT/L/911](#)). Following its entry into force on 22 February 2017, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is administered by the Committee on Trade Facilitation and the Preparatory Committee has ceased to meet.

Committee may invite representatives of such organizations or their subsidiary bodies to:

- (a) attend meetings of the Committee; and
- (b) discuss specific matters related to the implementation of this Agreement.

1.6 The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement four years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter.

1.7 Members are encouraged to raise before the Committee questions relating to issues on the implementation and application of this Agreement.

1.8 The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc discussions among Members on specific issues under this Agreement with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory solution promptly."

1.8.13.2 Reporting

156. The Trade Facilitation Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²³⁵

1.8.13.3 Activities

157. For further information on the activities of the Committee on Trade Facilitation, see the documents on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (Practice).

1.8.14 Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products

1.8.14.1 Establishment and terms of reference

158. The Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products and the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology establish the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products in order to carry out the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology.²³⁶ These provisions state that:

"3. Participants shall meet periodically under the auspices of the Council on Trade in Goods to review the product coverage specified in the Attachments, with a view to agreeing, by consensus, whether in the light of technological developments, experience in applying the tariff concessions, or changes to the HS nomenclature, the Attachments should be modified to incorporate additional products, and to consult on non-tariff barriers to trade in information technology products. Such consultations shall be without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement.

...

5. Participants shall meet as often as necessary and no later than 30 September 1997 to consider any divergence among them in classifying information technology products, beginning with the products specified in Attachment B. Participants agree on the common objective of achieving, where appropriate, a common classification for these products within existing HS nomenclature, giving consideration to interpretations and rulings of the Customs Co-operation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization or "WCO"). In any instance in which a divergence in classification remains, participants will consider whether a joint suggestion could be made to the WCO with

²³⁵ [G/L/1201](#) for 2017; [G/L/1267](#) for 2018; [G/L/1329](#) for 2019; [G/L/1375](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1416](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2021.

²³⁶ [WT/MIN\(96\)/16](#), paras. 3, 5, 6 and 7; and [G/L/160](#), para. 3.

regard to updating existing HS nomenclature or resolving divergence in interpretation of the HS nomenclature.

6. The participants understand that Article XXIII of the General Agreement will address nullification or impairment of benefits accruing directly or indirectly to a WTO Member participant through the implementation of this Declaration as a result of the application by another WTO Member participant of any measure, whether or not that measure conflicts with the provisions of the General Agreement.

7. Each participant shall afford sympathetic consideration to any request for consultation from any other participant concerning the undertakings set out above. Such consultations shall be without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement."²³⁷

1.8.14.2 Rules of Procedure

159. At its meeting on 30 October 1997, the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products adopted Rules of procedure for its meetings²³⁸, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²³⁹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.14.3 Reporting

160. The Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods.²⁴⁰

1.8.14.4 Activities

161. For further information on the activities of the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, see the document on Article II of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.9 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Services

162. The Council for Trade in Services has established the following subsidiary bodies:

- a. Committee on Trade in Financial Services;
- b. Committee on Specific Commitments;
- c. Working Party on Domestic Regulation;
- d. Working Party on GATS Rules; and
- e. Working Party on Professional Services.²⁴¹

²³⁷ [WT/MIN\(96\)/16](#), paras. 3, 5, 6 and 7.

²³⁸ [G/IT/M/2](#), item 1.2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in [G/IT/3](#).

²³⁹ [WT/L/161](#).

²⁴⁰ [G/L/216](#) for 1997; [G/L/280](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 1998; [G/L/332](#) for 1999; [G/L/420](#) for 2000; [G/L/484](#) for 2001; [G/L/577](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2002; [G/L/659](#) for 2003; [G/L/706](#) for 2004; [G/L/756](#) for 2005; [G/L/797](#) for 2006; [G/L/838](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2007; [G/L/867](#) for 2008; [G/L/904](#) for 2009; [G/L/944](#) for 2010; [G/L/973](#) and [Rev.1](#) for 2011; [G/L/1014](#) for 2012; [G/L/1050](#) for 2013; [G/L/1088](#) for 2014; [G/L/1125](#) for 2015; [G/L/1163](#) for 2016; [G/L/1200](#) for 2017; [G/L/1278](#) for 2018; [G/L/1334](#) for 2019; [G/L/1371](#) for 2020; and [G/L/1412](#) for 2021.

²⁴¹ At its meeting on 1 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Institutional Arrangements for the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which established the Working Party on Domestic Regulation. ([S/C/M/1](#), item C; [S/L/3](#)). At its meeting on 26 April 1999, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Domestic Regulation, pursuant to which the Working Party on Domestic Regulation was established and the Working Party on Professional Services ceased to exist. ([S/C/M/35](#) and [Corr.1](#), item B; [S/L/70](#), para. 1.)

1.9.1 Committee on Trade in Financial Services

1.9.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

163. At its meeting on 1 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Institutional Arrangements for the General Agreement on Trade in Services²⁴², establishing the Committee on Trade in Financial Services which "shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it by the Council and shall afford Members the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to trade in services in the sector concerned and the operation of the sectorial annex to which it may pertain".²⁴³ The Decision goes on to specify that these responsibilities include:

- "(a) to keep under continuous review and surveillance the application of the Agreement with respect to the sector concerned;
- (b) to formulate proposals or recommendations for consideration by the Council in connection with any matter relating to trade in the sector concerned;
- (c) if there is an annex pertaining to the sector, to consider proposals for amendment of that sectorial annex, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council;
- (d) to provide a forum for technical discussions, to conduct studies on measures of Members and to conduct examinations of any other technical matters affecting trade in services in the sector concerned;
- (e) to provide technical assistance to developing country Members and developing countries negotiating accession to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization in respect of the application of obligations or other matters affecting trade in services in the sector concerned; and
- (f) to cooperate with any other subsidiary bodies established under the General Agreement on Trade in Services or any international organizations active in any sector concerned."²⁴⁴

1.9.1.2 Rules of Procedure

164. The Committee on Trade in Financial Services follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²⁴⁵

1.9.1.3 Reporting

165. The Committee on Trade in Financial Services reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁴⁶

1.9.1.4 Activities

166. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Trade in Financial Services, see the documents on Articles II and XIX of the GATS (Practice).

²⁴² [S/C/M/1](#), item C; [S/L/1](#), para. 3.

²⁴³ [S/L/1](#), para. 2.

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ See, e.g. [S/FIN/M/79](#), para. 6.1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in [S/L/15](#).

²⁴⁶ [S/FIN/1](#) for 1995; [S/FIN/2](#) for 1996; [S/FIN/3](#) for 1997; [S/FIN/4](#) for 1999; [S/FIN/5](#) for 2000; [S/FIN/6](#) for 2001; [S/FIN/8](#) and [S/FIN/9](#) for 2002; [S/FIN/10](#) for 2003; [S/FIN/12](#) for 2004; [S/FIN/14](#) for 2005; [S/FIN/16](#) for 2006; [S/FIN/18](#) for 2007; [S/FIN/20](#) for 2008; [S/FIN/22](#) for 2009; [S/FIN/24](#) for 2010; [S/FIN/25](#) for 2011; [S/FIN/27](#) for 2012; [S/FIN/28](#) for 2013; [S/FIN/29](#) for 2014; [S/FIN/30](#) for 2015; [S/FIN/31](#) for 2016; [S/FIN/32](#) for 2017; [S/FIN/33](#) for 2018; [S/FIN/34](#) for 2019; [S/FIN/35](#) for 2020; and [S/FIN/36](#) for 2021.

1.9.2 Committee on Specific Commitments

1.9.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

167. At its meeting on 4 October 1995, the Council for Trade in Services established the Committee on Specific Commitments.²⁴⁷ At its meeting on 22 November 1995 the Council for Trade in Services adopted a Decision on the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Specific Commitments²⁴⁸, stating:

- "1. The Committee on Specific Commitments shall carry out the following responsibilities in relation to all services sectors other than those for which standing sectoral bodies have been established:
 - (a) Oversee the implementation of specific commitments in all modes of supply, including specific commitments relating to Movement of Natural Persons, contained in Members' Schedules.
 - (b) Examine, at the request of Members, schedules of specific commitments and lists of Exemptions from Article II of the GATS, particularly with a view to improving their technical accuracy and coherence in the future.
 - (c) Oversee the application of the procedures for the modification of schedules pursuant to Article XXI of the GATS.
2. Nothing in paragraph 1 shall preclude the Committee from addressing any issues of a horizontal nature.
3. The Committee shall report to the Council for Trade in Services and formulate proposals and recommendations as necessary."²⁴⁹

1.9.2.2 Rules of Procedure

168. The Committee on Specific Commitments follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²⁵⁰

1.9.2.3 Reporting

169. The Committee on Specific Commitments reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁵¹

1.9.2.4 Activities

170. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Specific Commitments, see the document on Article XX of the GATS (Practice).

²⁴⁷ [S/C/M/6](#), item E.

²⁴⁸ [S/C/M/7](#), item B.

²⁴⁹ [S/L/16](#), para. 3.

²⁵⁰ [S/CSC/M/2](#), p. 1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in [S/L/15](#).

²⁵¹ [S/CSC/1](#) for 1996; [S/CSC/2](#) for 1997; [S/CSC/3](#) for 1998; [S/CSC/4](#) for 1999; [S/CSC/5](#) for 2000; [S/CSC/6](#) for 2001; [S/CSC/7](#) and [S/CSC/8](#) for 2002; [S/CSC/9](#) for 2003; [S/CSC/10](#) for 2004; [S/CSC/11](#) for 2005; [S/CSC/12](#) for 2006; [S/CSC/13](#) for 2007; [S/CSC/14](#) for 2008; [S/CSC/15](#) for 2009; [S/CSC/16](#) for 2010; [S/CSC/17](#) for 2011; [S/CSC/18](#) for 2012; [S/CSC/19](#) for 2013; [S/CSC/20](#) for 2014; [S/CSC/21](#) for 2015; [S/CSC/22](#) for 2016; [S/CSC/23](#) for 2017; [S/CSC/24](#) for 2018; [S/CSC/25](#) for 2019; [S/CSC/26](#) for 2020; and [S/CSC/27](#) for 2021.

1.9.3 Working Party on Domestic Regulation

1.9.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

171. At its meeting on 26 April 1999, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Domestic Regulation²⁵², which establishes the Working Party on Domestic Regulation with the following terms of reference:

- "2. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article VI of the GATS, the Working Party shall develop any necessary disciplines to ensure that measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures, technical standards and qualification requirements and procedures do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. This shall also encompass the tasks assigned to the Working Party on Professional Services, including the development of general disciplines for professional services as required by paragraph 2 of the Decision on Disciplines Relating to the Accountancy Sector (S/L/63).
3. In fulfilling its tasks the Working Party shall develop generally applicable disciplines and may develop disciplines as appropriate for individual sectors or groups thereof.
4. The Working Party shall report to the Council with recommendations no later than the conclusion of the forthcoming round of services negotiations."²⁵³

1.9.3.2 Rules of Procedure

172. The Working Party on Domestic Regulation follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²⁵⁴

1.9.3.3 Reporting

173. The Working Party on Domestic Regulation reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁵⁵

1.9.3.4 Activities

174. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation, see the documents on Articles VI and XXIV of the GATS (Practice).

1.9.4 Working Party on GATS Rules

1.9.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

175. At its meeting on 30 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services established a Working Party "to conduct negotiations on the three subjects of safeguards, government procurement and subsidies"²⁵⁶, later referred to as the Working Party on GATS Rules.

²⁵² [S/C/M/35](#) and [Corr.1](#), item B; [S/L/70](#), para. 1.

²⁵³ [S/L/70](#), paras. 2-4.

²⁵⁴ See, e.g., [S/WPDR/M/60](#), para. 3.1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in S/L/15.

²⁵⁵ [S/WPDR/1](#) for 1999; [S/WPDR/2](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2000; [S/WPDR/3](#) for 2001; [S/WPDR/4](#) and [S/WPDR/5](#) for 2002; [S/WPDR/6](#) for 2003; [S/WPDR/7](#) for 2004; [S/WPDR/8](#) for 2005; [S/WPDR/9](#) for 2006; [S/WPDR/10](#) for 2007; [S/WPDR/11](#) for 2008; [S/WPDR/12](#) for 2009; [S/WPDR/13](#) for 2010; [S/WPDR/14](#) for 2011; [S/WPDR/15](#) for 2012; [S/WPDR/16](#) for 2013; [S/WPDR/17](#) for 2014; [S/WPDR/18](#) for 2015; [S/WPDR/19](#) for 2016; [S/WPDR/20](#) for 2017; [S/WPDR/22](#) for 2018; [S/WPDR/23](#) for 2019; [S/WPDR/24](#) for 2020; and [S/WPDR/25](#) for 2021.

²⁵⁶ [S/C/M/2](#), item D.

1.9.4.2 Rules of Procedure

176. The Working Party on GATS Rules follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²⁵⁷

1.9.4.3 Reporting

177. The Working Party on GATS Rules reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁵⁸

1.9.4.4 Activities

178. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on GATS Rules, see the documents on Articles X, XII and XV of the GATS (Practice).

1.10 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for TRIPS

179. The Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights has not established any subsidiary bodies to date.

1.11 Article IV: 8 Bodies provided for under Plurilateral Trade Agreements

1.11.1 Committee on Government Procurement

180. For information concerning the establishment and activities of the Committee on Government Procurement, see the documents on the Agreement on Government Procurement (Practice).

181. The Committee on Government Procurement reports to the General Council on an annual basis, since its inception in 1996.²⁵⁹

1.11.2 Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft

182. For information concerning the establishment and activities of the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft, see documents on the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft (Practice).

183. The Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft reports to the General Council on an annual basis.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁷ See, e.g. [S/WPGR/M/36](#), para. 21. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in [S/L/15](#).

²⁵⁸ [S/WPGR/1](#) for 1996; [S/WPGR/2](#) for 1997; [S/WPGR/3](#) for 1998; [S/WPGR/4](#) for 1999; [S/WPGR/5](#) for 2000; [S/WPGR/6](#) for 2001; [S/WPGR/8](#) and [S/WPGR/12](#) for 2002; [S/WPGR/13](#) for 2003; [S/WPGR/14](#) for 2004; [S/WPGR/15](#) for 2005; [S/WPGR/16](#) for 2006; [S/WPGR/17](#) for 2007; [S/WPGR/18](#) for 2008; [S/WPGR/19](#) for 2009; [S/WPGR/20](#) for 2010; [S/WPGR/22](#) for 2011; [S/WPGR/23](#) for 2012; [S/WPGR/24](#) for 2013; [S/WPGR/25](#) for 2014; [S/WPGR/26](#) for 2015; [S/WPGR/27](#) for 2016; [S/WPGR/28](#) for 2017; [S/WPGR/29](#) for 2018; [S/WPGR/30](#) for 2019; [S/WPGR/31](#) for 2020; and [S/WPGR/32](#) for 2021.

²⁵⁹ [GPA/8](#) and [Add.1](#) for 1996; [GPA/19](#) for 1997; [GPA/25](#) for 1998; [GPA/30](#) for 1999; [GPA/44](#) for 2000; [GPA/58](#) for 2001; [GPA/73](#) for 2002; [GPA/75](#) for 2003; [GPA/82](#) for 2004; [GPA/85](#) for 2005; [GPA/89](#) for 2006; [GPA/92](#) for 2007; [GPA/95](#) for 2008; [GPA/103](#) and [Add.1](#) for 2009; [GPA/106](#) for 2010; [GPA/110](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2011; [GPA/116](#) for 2012; [GPA/121](#) for 2013; [GPA/126](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2014; [GPA/134](#) for 2015; [GPA/141](#) for 2016 and [Corr.1](#); [GPA/145](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2017; [GPA/AR/1](#) for 2018; [GPA/AR/2](#) for 2019; [GPA/AR/3](#) for 2020; and [GPA/AR/4](#) for 2021.

²⁶⁰ [WT/L/107](#) for 1995; [WT/L/193](#) for 1996; [WT/L/247](#) for 1997; [WT/L/291](#) for 1998; [WT/L/340](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 1999; [WT/L/374](#) for 2000; [WT/L/434](#) for 2001; [WT/L/500](#) for 2002; [WT/L/544](#) and [Corr.1](#) for 2003; [WT/L/591](#) for 2004; [WT/L/629](#) for 2005; [WT/L/665](#) for 2006; [WT/L/701](#) for 2007; [WT/L/743](#) for 2008; [WT/L/773](#) for 2009; [WT/L/805](#) for 2010; [WT/L/827](#) for 2011; [WT/L/869](#) for 2012; [WT/L/897](#) for 2013; [WT/L/938](#) for 2014; [WT/L/963](#) for 2015; [WT/L/992](#) for 2016; [WT/L/1016](#) for 2017; [WT/L/1041](#) for 2018; [WT/L/1071](#) for 2019; [WT/L/1100](#) for 2020; and [WT/L/1120](#) for 2021.

1.11.3 International Dairy Council and International Meat Council

184. The International Dairy Agreement and International Bovine Meat Agreement, which provided for the International Dairy Council and International Meat Council, were both terminated and deleted from Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement, and consequently these Councils no longer exist.²⁶¹

Current as of: July 2022

²⁶¹ See the document on Article X of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

TABLE 1: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS NOTIFIED TO THE GATT/WTO AND IN FORCE, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021¹

(in alphabetical order by the RTA name)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Agadir Agreement	22-Feb-16	27-Mar-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/48
Andean Community (CAN)	01-Oct-90	25-May-88	Enabling Clause	L/6737
Argentina – Brazil	15-Jun-17	01-Jul-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
Armenia – Kazakhstan	17-Jun-04	25-Dec-01	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG172/- series
Armenia – Moldova, Republic of	17-Jun-04	21-Dec-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG173/- series
Armenia – Turkmenistan	17-Jun-04	07-Jul-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG175/- series
Armenia – Ukraine	17-Jun-04	18-Dec-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG171/- series
ASEAN – Australia - New Zealand	08-Apr-10	01-Jan-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG284/- series
ASEAN – China	21-Sep-05(G) 26-Jun-08(S)	01-Jan-05(G) 01-Jul-07(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/20 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/51/- series S/C/N/463, WT/REG279/- series
ASEAN – India	19-Aug-10(G) 20-Aug-15(S)	01-Jan-10(G) 01-Jul-15(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/35 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/RTA/8/- series S/C/N/822, WT/REG372/- series
ASEAN – Japan	23-Nov-09	01-Dec-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG277/- series
ASEAN – Korea, Republic of	08-Jul-10	01-Jan-10(G) 14-Oct-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/33 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA13/N/1) WT/REG287/- series
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)	30-Oct-92	01-Jan-93	Enabling Clause	L/4581 & Corr.1, BISD 26S/321 (L/4735)
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	02-Nov-76	17-Jun-76	Enabling Clause	L/4418, BISD 25S/109 (L/4635) WT/COMTD/N/22, WT/COMTD/62/- series
APTA – Accession of China	30-Apr-04	01-Jan-02	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/19
Australia – Chile	03-Mar-09	06-Mar-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG263/- series
Australia – China	26-Jan-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG369/- series
Australia – New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)	14-Apr-83(G) 22-Nov-95(S)	01-Jan-83(G) 01-Jan-89(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/5475 & Add.1, BISD 31S/170 (L/5664) S/C/N/7, WT/REG40/- series

¹ Source: WTO RTA Database: <http://rtais.wto.org>. Referenced documents can be consulted therein.

² Dates of the first entry into force for at least one of the Parties. (G) refers to Goods and (S) refers to Services.

³ [WT/REG*/*](#) series includes documents related to a given agreement (notification, factual presentation, minutes, etc.) notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and/or Article V of the GATS. Corresponding documents for an agreement notified under the Enabling Clause can be found in the series [WT/COMTD/RTA*/*](#) since mid-2019; prior to that, minutes were circulated as [WT/COMTD/RTA/M/*](#) and other documents as [WT/COMTD/*/*](#).

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Australia – Papua New Guinea (PATCRA)	20-Dec-76	01-Feb-77	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4451 & Add.1, BISD 24S/63 (L/4571)
Brunei Darussalam - Japan	31-Jul-08	31-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG244/- series
Canada – Chile	30-Jul-97	05-Jul-97	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG38/- series
Canada – Colombia	07-Oct-11	15-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG301/- series
Canada – Costa Rica	13-Jan-03	01-Nov-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG147/- series
Canada – Honduras	05-Feb-15	01-Oct-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG364/- series
Canada – Israel	15-Jan-97	01-Jan-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG31/- series
Canada – Jordan	10-Apr-13	01-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG335/- series
Canada – Korea, Republic of	20-Jan-15	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG362/- series
Canada – Panama	10-Apr-13	01-Apr-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG334/- series
Canada – Peru	31-Jul-09	01-Aug-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG270/- series
Canada – Ukraine	13-Sep-17	01-Aug-17	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG388/- series
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)	14-Oct-74(G) 19-Feb-03(S)	01-Aug-73(G) 04-Jul-02(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/4083, BISD 24S/68 (L/4470) S/C/N/229, WT/REG155/- series
Central American Common Market (CACM)	24-Feb-61	04-Jun-61	GATT Art. XXIV	L/1425 & Add.1, BISD 10S/98 (L/1639)
CACM – Accession of Panama	24-Apr-17	06-May-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG384/- series
Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) 2006	26-Jul-07	01-May-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG233/- series
Chile – China	20-Jun-07(G) 18-Nov-10(S)	01-Oct-06(G) 01-Aug-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG230/- series
Chile – Colombia	14-Aug-09	08-May-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG272/- series
Chile – Costa Rica (Chile – Central America)	16-Apr-02	15-Feb-02	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG136/- series
Chile – El Salvador (Chile – Central America)	29-Jan-04(G) 05-Feb-04(S)	01-Jun-02	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG165/- series
Chile – Guatemala (Chile – Central America)	30-Mar-12	23-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG312/- series
Chile – Honduras (Chile – Central America)	28-Nov-11	19-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG303/- series
Chile – India	13-Jan-09	17-Aug-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/30, WT/COMTD/RTA/4/- series
Chile – Indonesia	01-Apr-20	10-Aug-19	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG403/- series
Chile – Japan	24-Aug-07	03-Sep-07	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG234/- series
Chile – Malaysia	12-Feb-13	25-Feb-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG330/- series
Chile – Mexico	27-Feb-01	01-Aug-99	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG125/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Chile – Nicaragua (Chile - Central America)	14-Jun-13	19-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG344/- series
Chile – Thailand	12-Sep-17	05-Nov-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG387/- series
Chile – Viet Nam	12-May-15	01-Jan-14	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG365/- series
China – Costa Rica	27-Feb-12	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG310/- series
China – Georgia	05-Apr-18	01-Jan-18	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG391/- series
China – Hong Kong, China	27-Dec-03	29-Jun-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG162/- series
China – Korea, Republic of	01-Mar-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG370/- series
China – Macao, China	27-Dec-03	17-Oct-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG163/- series
China – New Zealand	21-Apr-09	01-Oct-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG266/- series
China – Singapore	02-Mar-09	01-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG262/- series
Colombia – Mexico	13-Sep-10	01-Jan-95	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG289/- series
Colombia – Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)	31-Aug-12	12-Nov-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG316/- series
Common Economic Zone (CEZ)	18-Aug-08	20-May-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG254/- series
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	04-May-95	08-Dec-94	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/3
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - Accession of Egypt	03-Jan-17	17-Feb-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/51 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA16/N/1)
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	29-Jun-99	30-Dec-94	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG82/- series
Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)	20-Dec-18	30-Dec-18	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG395/- series
Costa Rica – Colombia	31-Oct-16	01-Aug-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG376/- series
Costa Rica – Peru	05-Jun-13	01-Jun-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG342/- series
Costa Rica – Singapore	16-Sep-13	01-Jul-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG347/- series
Dominican Republic – Central America	06-Jan-12	04-Oct-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG305/- series
Dominican Republic – Central America – United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR)	17-Mar-06	01-Mar-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG211/- series
East African Community (EAC)	09-Oct-00(G) 01-Aug-12(S)	07-Jul-00(G) 01-Jul-10(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/14 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/25/- series S/C/N/655, WT/REG346/- series
EAC – Accession of Burundi and Rwanda	01-Aug-12	01-Jul-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/14/Add.2

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
EC (9) Enlargement	07-Mar-72	01-Jan-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3677, C/M/107 & Corr.1, L/3688/Rev.1
EC (10) Enlargement	24-Oct-79	01-Jan-81	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4845, BISD 30S/168 (L/5453)
EC (12) Enlargement	11-Dec-85	01-Jan-86	GATT Art. XXIV	L/5936, BISD 35S/293 (L/6405)
EC (15) Enlargement	15-Dec-94(G) 22-Dec-94(S)	01-Jan-95	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/7614 & Add.1, WT/REG3/- series
EC (25) Enlargement	26-Apr-04	01-May-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG170/- series
EC (27) Enlargement	27-Sep-06(G) 26-Jun-07(S)	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG220/- series
EC Treaty	24-Apr-57(G) 10-Nov-95(S)	01-Jan-58	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/626, BISD 6S/70+6S/109 (L/778), S/C/N/6, WT/REG39/- series
Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)	21-Jul-99	24-Jun-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/13, WT/COMTD/24/- series
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	06-Jul-05	24-Jul-93	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/21, WT/COMTD/54/- series
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	10-Jul-92	17-Feb-92	Enabling Clause	L/7047
Ecuador – El Salvador	22-Mar-18	16-Nov-17	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/57 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA2/N/1)
EFTA – Albania	07-Feb-11	01-Nov-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG292/- series
EFTA – Bosnia and Herzegovina	06-Jan-15	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG360/- series
EFTA – Canada	04-Aug-09	01-Jul-09	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG271/- series
EFTA – Central America (Costa Rica and Panama)	19-Nov-14	19-Aug-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG357/- series
EFTA – Chile	03-Dec-04	01-Dec-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG179/- series
EFTA – Colombia	14-Sep-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG299/- series
EFTA – Egypt	17-Jul-07	01-Aug-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG232/- series
EFTA – Georgia	29-Aug-17	01-Sep-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG386/- series
EFTA – Hong Kong, China	27-Sep-12	01-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG322/- series
EFTA – Israel	30-Nov-92	01-Jan-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG14/- series
EFTA – Jordan	17-Jan-02	01-Sep-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG133/- series
EFTA – Korea, Republic of	23-Aug-06	01-Sep-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG217/- series
EFTA – Lebanon	22-Dec-06	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG224/- series
EFTA – Mexico	25-Jul-01	01-Jul-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG126/- series
EFTA – Montenegro	24-Oct-12	01-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG323/- series
EFTA – Morocco	20-Jan-00	01-Dec-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG91/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
EFTA – Palestinian Authority	23-Jul-99	01-Jul-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG79/- series
EFTA – Philippines	26-Oct-18	01-Jun-18	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG394/- series
EFTA – Peru	30-Jun-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG295/- series
EFTA – SACU	29-Oct-08	01-May-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG256/- series
EFTA – Serbia	24-Nov-10	01-Oct-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG290/- series
EFTA – Singapore	14-Jan-03	01-Jan-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG148/- series
EFTA – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11-Dec-00	01-May-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG117/- series
EFTA – Tunisia	03-Jun-05	01-Jun-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG201/- series
EFTA – Türkiye⁴	06-Mar-92	01-Apr-92	GATT Art. XXIV	L/6989 & Add.1, BISD 40S/48 (L/7336)
EFTA – Ukraine	18-Jun-12	01-Jun-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG315/- series
Egypt – Türkiye	05-Oct-07	01-Mar-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/23, WT/COMTD/RTA/1/- series
El Salvador – Cuba	27-Nov-13	01-Aug-12	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/43
El Salvador – Ecuador	22-Mar-18	16-Nov-17	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/57
El Salvador – Honduras – Chinese Taipei	06-Apr-10	01-Mar-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG283/- series
EU – Albania	07-Mar-07(G) 07-Oct-09(S)	01-Dec-06(G) 01-Apr-09(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG226/- series
EU – Algeria	24-Jul-06	01-Sep-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG221/- series
EU – Andorra	23-Feb-98	01-Jul-91	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG53/- series
EU – Armenia	23-Aug-19	01-Jun-2018	GATS Art. V	WT/REG405/- series
EU – Bosnia and Herzegovina	11-Jul-08(G) 12-Jan-16(S)	01-Jul-08(G) 01-Jun-15(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG242/- series
EU – Cameroon	24-Sep-09	04-Aug-14	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG274/- series
EU – Canada	19-Sep-17	21-Sep-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG389/- series
EU – CARIFORUM States EPA	16-Oct-08	01-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG255/- series
EU – Central America	26-Feb-13	01-Aug-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG332/- series
EU – Chile	03-Feb-04(G) 28-Oct-05(S)	01-Feb-03(G) 01-Mar-05(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG164/- series
EU – Colombia and Peru and Ecuador	26-Feb-13	01-Mar-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG333/- series
EU – Colombia and Peru - Accession of Ecuador	02-Mar-17	01-Jan-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG380/- series
EU – Côte d'Ivoire	11-Dec-08	03-Sep-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG258/- series

⁴ Formerly "Turkey".

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
EU – Eastern and Southern Africa States Interim EPA	09-Feb-12	14-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG307/- series
EU – Egypt	03-Sep-04	01-Jun-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG177/- series
EU – Faroe Islands	17-Feb-97	01-Jan-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG21/- series
EU – Georgia	02-Jul-14	01-Sep-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG354/- series
EU – Ghana	03-Apr-17	15-Dec-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG382/- series
EU – Iceland	24-Nov-72	01-Apr-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3780 & Add.1, BISD 20S/158 (L/3902)
EU – Israel	20-Sep-00	01-Jun-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG110/- series
EU – Japan	14-Jan-19	01-Feb-19	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG396/- series
EU – Jordan	17-Dec-02	01-May-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG141/- series
EU – Korea, Republic of	07-Jul-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG296/- series
EU – Lebanon	26-May-03	01-Mar-03	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG153/- series
EU – Mexico	25-Jul-00(G) 21-Jun-02(S)	01-Jul-00(G) 01-Oct-00(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG109/- series
EU – Moldova, Republic of	30-Jun-14	01-Sep-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG352/- series
EU – Montenegro	16-Jan-08(G) 18-Jun-10(S)	01-Jan-08(G) 01-May-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG236/- series
EU – Morocco	13-Oct-00	01-Mar-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG112/- series
EU – Norway	13-Jul-73	01-Jul-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3872, BISD 21S/83 (L/3996)
EU – Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)	14-Dec-70	01-Jan-71	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3467, BISD 18S/143 (L/3611)
EU – Palestinian Authority	29-May-97	01-Jul-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG43/- series
EU – Papua New Guinea / Fiji	18-Oct-11	20-Dec-09	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG302/- series
EU – SADC	03-Apr-17	10-Oct-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG/381/- series
EU – San Marino	24-Feb-10	01-Apr-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG280/- series
EU – Serbia	31-May-10(G) 20-Dec-13(S)	01-Feb-10(G) 01-Sep-13(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG285/- series
EU – Singapore	01-Apr-20	21-Nov-19	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG402/- series
EU – South Africa	02-Nov-00	01-Jan-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG113/- series
EU – Switzerland – Liechtenstein	27-Oct-72	01-Jan-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3758 & Add.1, BISD 20S/196 (L/3898)
EU – Syria	15-Jul-77	01-Jul-77	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4522, BISD 25S/123 (L/4661)
EU – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	23-Oct-01(G) 02-Oct-09(S)	01-Jun-01(G) 01-Apr-04(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG129/- series
EU – Tunisia	15-Jan-99	01-Mar-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG69/- series
EU – Türkiye	22-Dec-95	01-Jan-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG22/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
EU – Ukraine	01-Jul-14	23-Apr-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG353/- series
EU (28) Enlargement	25-Apr-13	01-Jul-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG337/- series
Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)	12-Dec-14	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG358/- series
EAEU – Accession of Armenia	29-Dec-14	02-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG363/- series
EAEU – Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic	01-Sep-15	12-Aug-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG366/- series
EAEU – Iran	31-Jan-20	27-Oct-19	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG401/- series
EAEU – Viet Nam	04-May-17	05-Oct-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG385/- series
European Economic Area (EEA)	13-Sep-96	01-Jan-94	GATS Art. V	S/C/N/28, WT/REG138/- series
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	14-Nov-59(G) 15-Jul-02(S)	03-May-60(G) 01-Jun-02(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/1105, BISD 9S/70 (L/1235) S/C/N/207 & Corr.1
Faroe Islands – Norway	12-Feb-96	01-Jul-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG25/- series
Faroe Islands – Switzerland	12-Feb-96	01-Mar-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG24/- series
Georgia – Armenia	08-Feb-01	11-Nov-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG119/- series
Georgia – Azerbaijan	08-Feb-01	10-Jul-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG120/- series
Georgia – Kazakhstan	08-Feb-01	16-Jul-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG123/- series
Georgia – Russian Federation	08-Feb-01	10-May-94	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG118/- series
Georgia – Turkmenistan	08-Feb-01	01-Jan-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG122/- series
Georgia – Ukraine	08-Feb-01	04-Jun-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG121/- series
Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP)	25-Sep-89	19-Apr-89	Enabling Clause	L/6564 & Add.1
GUAM	03-Apr-17	10-Dec-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG/383/- series
Guatemala – Chinese Taipei	11-Jul-11	01-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG297/- series
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	03-Oct-06	01-Jan-03	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause	WT/REG276/- series, WT/COMTD/N/25, WT/COMTD/66/- series
GCC – Singapore	30-Jun-15	01-Sep-13	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/45/Rev.1 S/C/N/807/Rev.1
Hong Kong, China – Australia	17-Jan-20	17-Jan-20	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG400/- series
Hong Kong, China – Chile	15-Oct-14	09-Oct-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG356/- series
Hong Kong, China – Georgia	12-Feb-19	13-Feb-19	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG397/- series
Hong Kong, China – Macao, China	18-Dec-17	27-Oct-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG390/- series
Hong Kong, China – New Zealand	03-Jan-11	01-Jan-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG291/- series
Iceland – China	10-Oct-14	01-Jul-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG355/- series
Iceland – Faroe Islands	10-Jul-08	01-Nov-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG243/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
India – Afghanistan	08-Mar-10	13-May-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/32 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA14/N/1)
India – Bhutan	30-Jun-08	29-Jul-06	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/28
India – Japan	14-Sep-11	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG300/- series
India – Malaysia	06-Sep-11	01-Jul-11	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/37, WT/COMTD/RTA/5/- series S/C/N/599, WT/REG329/- series
India – Nepal	02-Aug-10	27-Oct-09	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/34 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA18/N/1)
India – Singapore	03-May-07	01-Aug-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG228/- series
India – Sri Lanka	17-Jun-02	15-Dec-01	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/16
India – Thailand	18-Jun-17	01-Sep-04	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/54 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA9/N/1)
Indonesia – Pakistan	12-Nov-19	03-Feb-12	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA12/N/1
Israel – Mexico	22-Feb-01	01-Jul-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG124/- series
Japan – Australia	12-Jan-15	15-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG361/- series
Japan – Indonesia	27-Jun-08	01-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG241/- series
Japan – Malaysia	12-Jul-06	13-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG216/- series
Japan – Mexico	31-Mar-05	01-Apr-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG198/- series
Japan – Mongolia	01-Jun-16	07-Jun-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG373/- series
Japan – Peru	24-Feb-12	01-Mar-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG309/- series
Japan – Philippines	11-Dec-08	11-Dec-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG257/- series
Japan – Singapore	08-Nov-02	30-Nov-02	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG140/- series
Japan – Switzerland	01-Sep-09	01-Sep-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG273/- series
Japan – Thailand	25-Oct-07	01-Nov-07	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG235/- series
Japan – Viet Nam	01-Oct-09	01-Oct-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG275/- series
Jordan – Singapore	07-Jul-06	22-Aug-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG215/- series
Korea, Republic of – Colombia	05-Oct-16	15-Jul-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG375/- series
Korea, Republic of – Australia	22-Dec-14	12-Dec-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG359/- series
Korea, Republic of – Chile	08-Apr-04	01-Apr-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG169/- series
Korea, Republic of – India	01-Jul-10	01-Jan-10	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/REG286/- series WT/COMTD/N/36 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA17/N/1)
Korea, Republic of – New Zealand	21-Dec-15	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG367/- series
Korea, Republic of – Singapore	21-Feb-06	02-Mar-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG210/- series
Korea, Republic of – Türkiye	30-Apr-13	01-May-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG339/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Korea, Republic of – United States	15-Mar-12	15-Mar-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG311/- series
Korea, Republic of – Viet Nam	02-Mar-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG371/- series
Kyrgyz Republic – Armenia	12-Dec-00	27-Oct-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG114/- series
Kyrgyz Republic – Kazakhstan	29-Jun-99	11-Nov-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG81/- series
Kyrgyz Republic – Moldova, Republic of	15-Jun-99	21-Nov-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG76/- series
Kyrgyz Republic – Ukraine	15-Jun-99	19-Jan-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG74/- series
Kyrgyz Republic – Uzbekistan	15-Jun-99	20-Mar-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG75/- series
Lao People's Democratic Republic – Thailand	26-Nov-91	20-Jun-91	Enabling Clause	L/6947
Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)	01-Jul-82	18-Mar-81	Enabling Clause	L/5342 (re-circulated in document ⁵ WT/COMTD/RTA15/N/1)
LAIA – Accession of Cuba	23-Sep-99	26-Aug-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/10
Malaysia – Australia	13-May-13	01-Jan-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG340/- series
Mauritius – Pakistan	02-Oct-15	30-Nov-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/47, WT/COMTD/RTA/7/- series
Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)	03-Aug-99	01-Jan-94	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/9, WT/COMTD/21/- series
Mexico – Argentina	23-Jul-19	01-Jan-87	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA5/N/1
Mexico – Bolivia, Plurinational State	23-Jul-19	07-June-10	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA8/N/1
Mexico – Brazil	23-Jul-19	02-May-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA7/N/1
Mexico – Central America	20-Jan-14	01-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG349/- series
Mexico – Cuba	23-Jul-19	28-Feb-01	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA6/N/1
Mexico – Ecuador	23-Jul-19	01-May-83	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA3/N/1
Mexico – Panama	06-Jun-16	01-Jul-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG374/- series
Mexico – Paraguay	23-Jul-19	01-Jan-84	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA4/N/1
Morocco – United Arab Emirates	19-Jun-19	09-Jul-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/RTA1/N/1
Mexico – Uruguay	28-Jun-13	15-Jul-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG345/- series
New Zealand – Chinese Taipei	25-Nov-13	01-Dec-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG348/- series
New Zealand – Malaysia	07-Feb-12	01-Aug-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG306/- series
New Zealand – Singapore	04-Sep-01	01-Jan-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG127/- series
Nicaragua – Chinese Taipei	09-Jul-09	01-Jan-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG267/- series
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	29-Jan-93(G) 01-Mar-95(S)	01-Jan-94	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/7176, S/C/N/4, WT/REG4/- series

⁵ At the request of the member countries of LAIA, the text of the 1980 Montevideo Treaty, originally circulated on 1 July 1982 under the GATT 1947, has been re-circulated as [WT/COMTD/RTA15/N/1](#). In accordance with the same request, the *WT/COMTD/RTA15/-* series also includes other agreements concluded under the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo.

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Pacific Alliance	03-Nov-16	01-May-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG377/- series
Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)	28-Aug-08	13-Apr-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/29
Pakistan – China	18-Jan-08(G) 20-May-10(S)	01-Jul-07(G) 10-Oct-09(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG237/- series
Pakistan – Malaysia	19-Feb-08	01-Jan-08	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/24, WT/COMTD/RTA/3/- series S/C/N/440, WT/REG265/- series
Pakistan – Sri Lanka	11-Jun-08	12-Jun-05	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/27, WT/COMTD/RTA/2/- series
Panama – Dominican Republic	21-Mar-16	08-Jun-87	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/49
Panama – Chile	17-Apr-08	07-Mar-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG239/- series
Panama – Chinese Taipei	28-Jul-09	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG268/- series
Panama – Costa Rica (Panama – Central America)	07-Apr-09	23-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG264/- series
Panama – El Salvador (Panama – Central America)	24-Feb-05	11-Apr-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG196/- series
Panama – Guatemala (Panama – Central America)	22-Apr-13	20-Jun-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG336/- series
Panama – Honduras (Panama – Central America)	16-Dec-09	09-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG278/- series
Panama – Nicaragua (Panama – Central America)	25-Feb-13	21-Nov-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG331/- series
Panama – Peru	23-Apr-12	01-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG313/- series
Panama – Singapore	04-Apr-07	24-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG227/- series
Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA)	03-Oct-06	01-Jan-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG223/- series
Peru – Australia	24-Jun-20	11-Feb-20	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG404/- series
Peru – Chile	29-Nov-11	01-Mar-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	W/REG304/- series
Peru – China	03-Mar-10	01-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG281/- series
Peru – Honduras	11-Oct-18	01-Jan-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG393/- series
Peru – Korea, Republic of	09-Aug-11	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG298/- series
Peru – Mexico	22-Feb-12	01-Feb-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG308/- series
Peru – Singapore	30-Jul-09	01-Aug-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG269/- series
Protocol on Trade Negotiations (PTN)	09-Nov-71	11-Feb-73	Enabling Clause	L/3598
Russian Federation – Azerbaijan	13-Sep-12	17-Feb-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG317/- series
Russian Federation – Belarus – Kazakhstan	21-Dec-12	03-Dec-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG325/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Russian Federation – Serbia	21-Dec-12	03-Jun-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG326/- series
Russian Federation – Turkmenistan	18-Jan-13	06-Apr-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG328/- series
Russian Federation – Uzbekistan	18-Jan-13	25-Mar-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG327/- series
Singapore – Australia	25-Sep-03	28-Jul-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG158/- series
Singapore – Chinese Taipei	22-Apr-14	19-Apr-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG350/- series
South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	21-Apr-08	01-Jan-06	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/26
SAFTA – Accession of Afghanistan	29-Jul-16	07-Aug-11	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/50
South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA)	21-Apr-97	07-Dec-95	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/10
South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)	07-Jan-81	01-Jan-81	Enabling Clause	L/5100
Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	25-Jun-07	15-Jul-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG231/- series
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	02-Aug-04	01-Sep-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG176/- series
SADC – Accession of Seychelles	08-Jan-16	25-May-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG368/- series
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	17-Feb-91(G) 05-Dec-06(S)	29-Nov-91(G) 07-Dec-05(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	L/6985, WT/COMTD/1/- series S/C/N/388 & Corr.1, WT/REG238/- series
MERCOSUR – Chile	15-Jun-17	10-Mar-17	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
MERCOSUR – Egypt	19-Feb-18	01-Sep-17	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/56 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA10/N/1)
MERCOSUR – India	23-Feb-10	01-Jun-09	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/31, WT/COMTD/RTA/6/- series
MERCOSUR – Mexico	15-Jun-17	28-Dec-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
MERCOSUR – SACU	19-Jul-17	01-Apr-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/55 (re-circulated in document WT/COMTD/RTA11/N/1)
Switzerland – China	30-Jun-14	01-Jul-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG351/- series
Thailand – Australia	27-Dec-04	01-Jan-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG185/- series
Thailand – New Zealand	01-Dec-05	01-Jul-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG207/- series
Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership	18-May-07	28-May-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG229/- series
Treaty on a Free Trade Area between members of the CIS	06-Jun-13	20-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG343/- series
Türkiye – Albania	09-May-08	01-May-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG240/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
Türkiye – Bosnia and Herzegovina	29-Aug-03	01-Jul-03	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG157/- series
Türkiye – Chile	25-Feb-11	01-Mar-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG293/- series
Türkiye – Georgia	18-Feb-09	01-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG261/- series
Türkiye – Israel	16-Apr-98	01-May-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG/60/- series
Türkiye – Jordan	07-Mar-11	01-Mar-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG294/- series
Türkiye – Malaysia	20-Feb-17	01-Aug-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG379/- series
Türkiye – Mauritius	30-May-13	01-Jun-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG341/- series
Türkiye – Moldova, Republic of	13-Dec-16	01-Nov-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG378/- series
Türkiye – Montenegro	12-Mar-10	01-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG282/- series
Türkiye – Morocco	10-Feb-06	01-Jan-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG209/- series
Türkiye – Palestinian Authority	01-Sep-05	01-Jun-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG204/- series
Türkiye – Serbia	10-Aug-10	01-Sep-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG288/- series
Türkiye – Singapore	14-Sep-18	01-Oct-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG392/- series
Türkiye – Syria	15-Feb-07	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG225/- series
Türkiye – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	05-Jan-01	01-Sep-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG115/- series
Türkiye – Tunisia	01-Sep-05	01-Jul-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG203/- series
Ukraine – Azerbaijan	18-Aug-08	02-Sep-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG245/- series
Ukraine – Belarus	18-Aug-08	11-Nov-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG246/- series
Ukraine – Kazakhstan	18-Aug-08	19-Oct-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG247/- series
Ukraine – Moldova, Republic of	18-Aug-08	19-May-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG249/- series
Ukraine – Montenegro	25-Apr-13	01-Jan-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG338/- series
Ukraine – Tajikistan	18-Aug-08	11-Jul-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG251/- series
Ukraine – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18-Aug-08	05-Jul-01	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG248/- series
Ukraine – Uzbekistan	18-Aug-08	01-Jan-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG253/- series
Ukraine – Turkmenistan	18-Aug-08	04-Nov-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG252/- series
United States – Australia	22-Dec-04	01-Jan-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG184/- series
United States – Bahrain	08-Sep-06	01-Aug-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG219/- series
United States – Chile	16-Dec-03	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG160/- series
United States – Colombia	08-May-12	15-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG314/- series
United States – Israel	13-Sep-85	19-Aug-85	GATT Art. XXIV	L/5862 & Add.1, BISD 34S/58 (L/6140)
United States – Jordan	15-Jan-02	17-Dec-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG134/- series
United States – Morocco	30-Dec-05	01-Jan-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG208/- series
United States – Oman	30-Jan-09	01-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG259/- series
United States – Panama	29-Oct-12	31-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG324/- series

WTO ANALYTICAL INDEX
WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²	Notified under	Document References ³ (GATT and/or WTO)
United States – Peru	03-Feb-09	01-Feb-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG260/- series
United States – Singapore	17-Dec-03	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG161/- series
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)	27-Oct-99	01-Jan-00	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/11 & Add.1-2, WT/COMTD/23/- series