

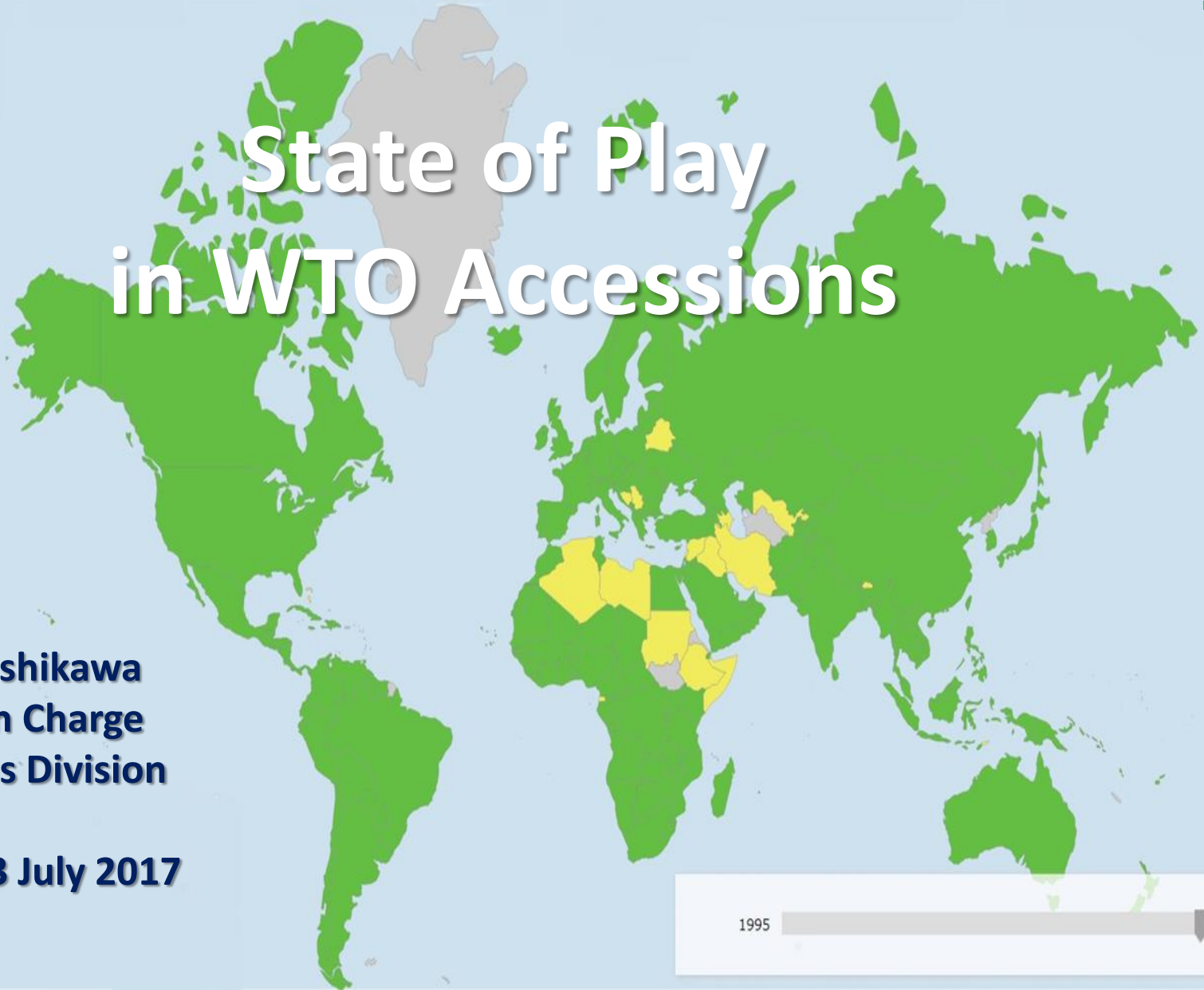
Forum on WTO Accessions



State of Play in WTO Accessions

Maika Oshikawa
Officer in Charge
Accessions Division

Geneva, 13 July 2017



1995

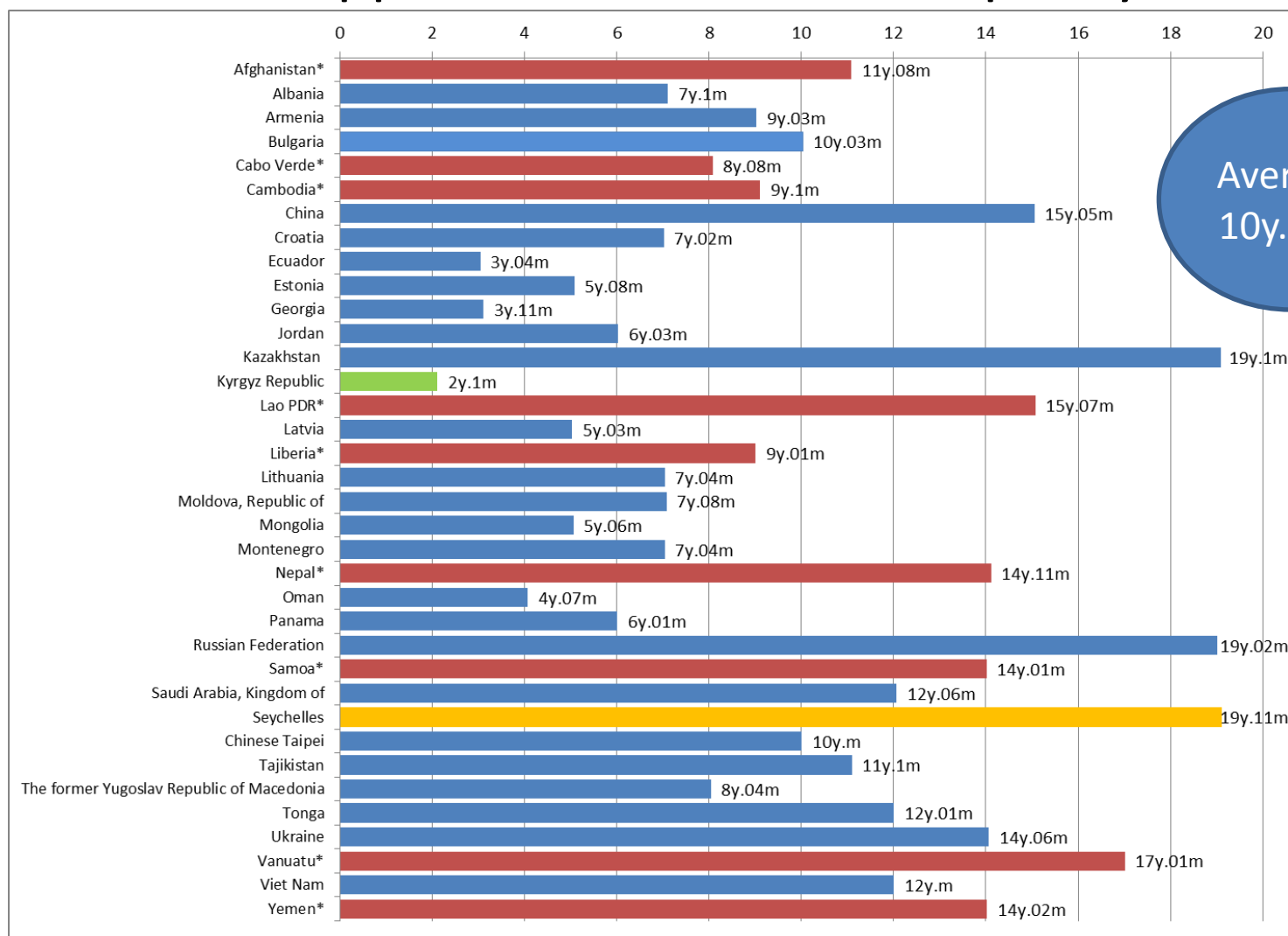
2017



36 Completed Accessions since 1995



Length of WTO accession negotiations: From application to membership, in years



* Acceded as LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took **12 years and 9 months**

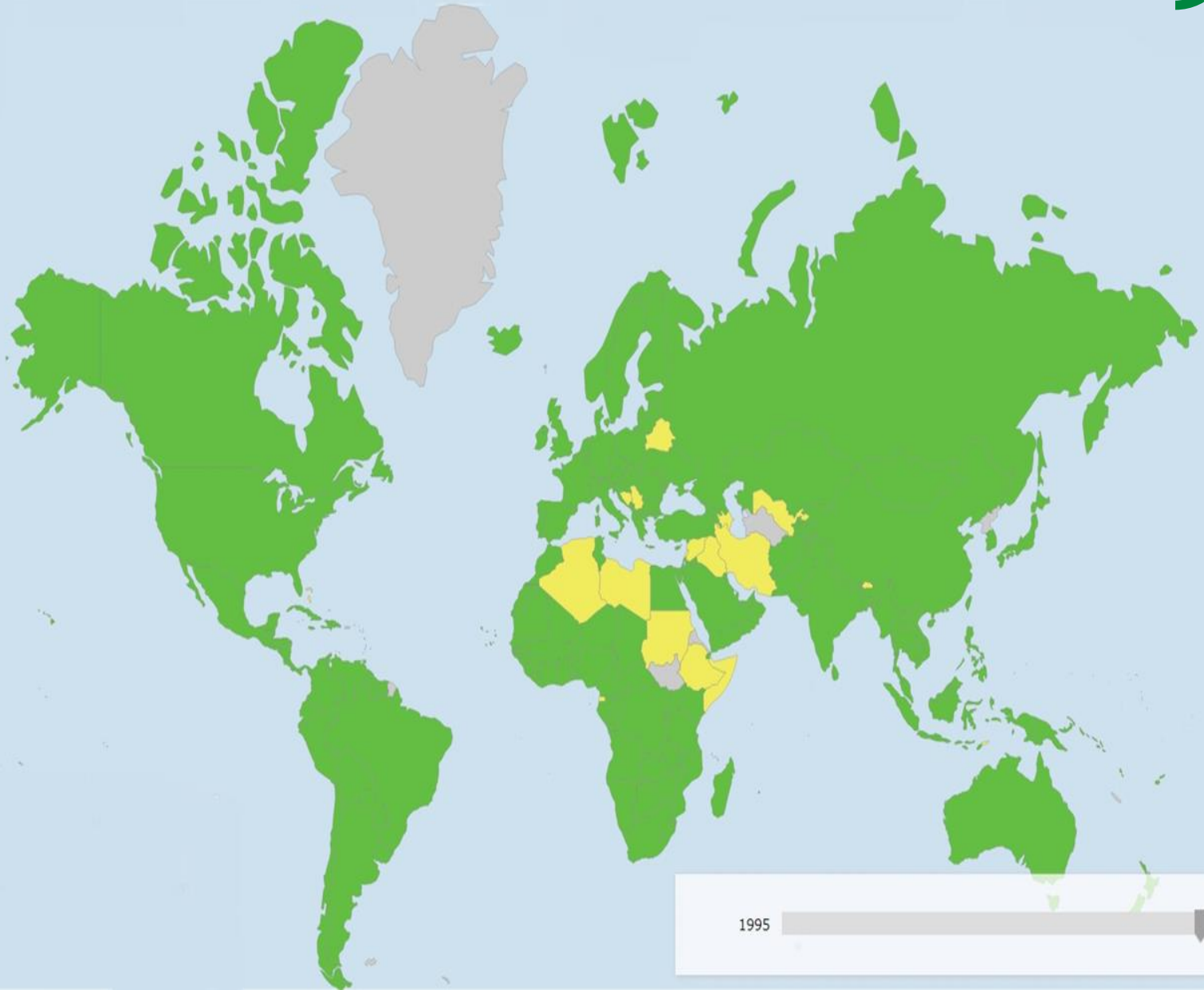


21 On-going Accessions

(By Application Date)



What remains?



1995

2017

CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY



- 21 accession Working Parties in process
 - ✓ On average, 16.5 years since application
 - ✓ 8 LDCs
 - ✓ In addition, expression of interest: South Sudan, Turkmenistan?

2017 Focus

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Comoros*
- Sudan*

Maintenance

- Algeria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Serbia

Activation/Re-activation

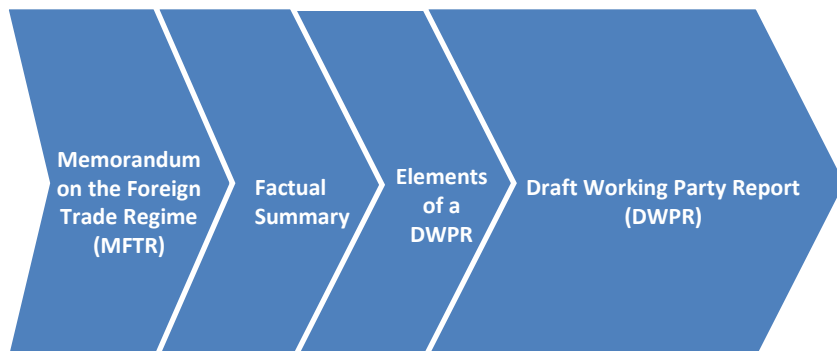
- The Bahamas
- Equatorial Guinea*
- Ethiopia*
- Iraq
- Lebanese Republic
- Somalia*
- Timor-Leste*

Dormant/WP-inactive

- Andorra
- Bhutan*
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Libya
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe*
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Uzbekistan



Multilateral Process



Plurilateral Process



Bilateral Process



Draft Accession Package adopted, *ad referendum*, by the Working Party

Formal action by General Council/ Ministerial Conference

Acceptance by Acceding Government

Notification of acceptance

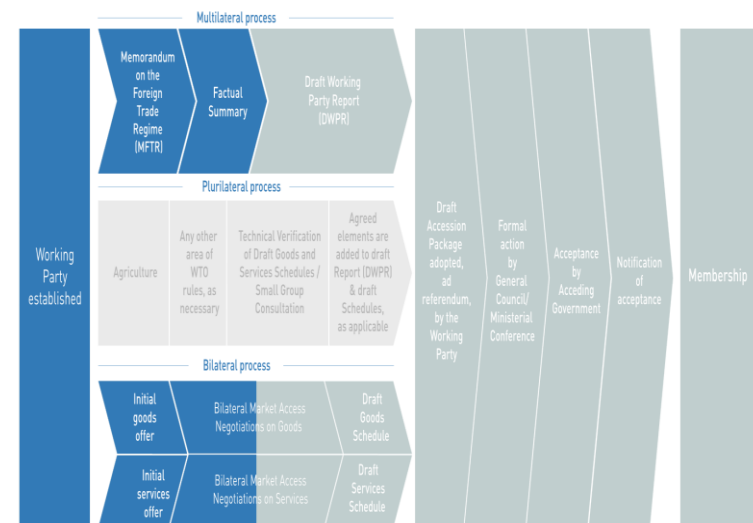
Membership

Working Party established

2017 Strategic Focus - Comoros



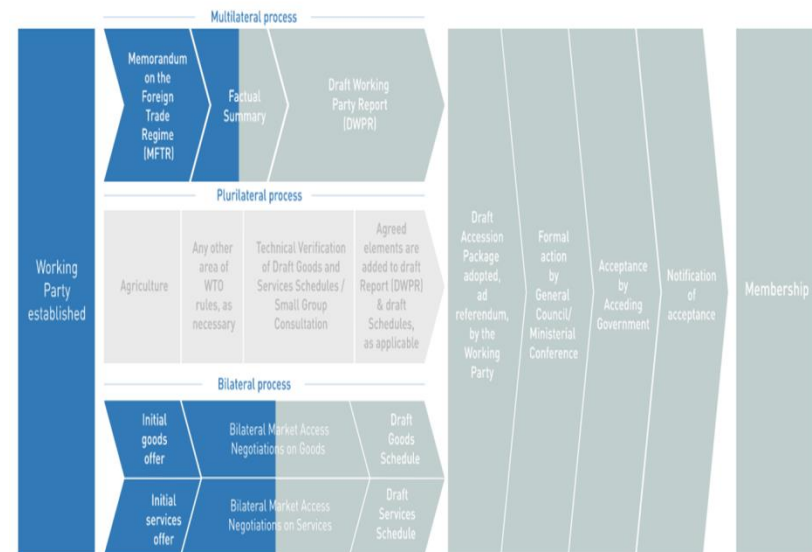
- WP Establishment: 2007
- WP Chair: Amb. Luis Enrique CHÁVEZ BASAGOITIA (Peru)
- MFTR submitted in 2013, followed by technical work
- 25 documents circulated in 2016/2017
- 1st WP meeting in December 2016
- Chair's visit in March 2017
- 2nd WP meeting in June 2017
- Next steps:
 - Experts in town for end July
 - Conclusion of bilateral MA negotiations
 - Circulation of Elements of DWPR
 - 3rd WP meeting: September 2017



2017 Strategic Focus – Sudan



- WP Establishment: 1994
- No-activity between 2004 (2nd WP meeting) and in 2016
- Reactivation announced at the General Council in July 2016
 - Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan) appointed as WP Chair
- Over 30 documents circulated in 2016/2017
 - 102 legislation submitted to the WP
 - 179 questions answered
- 3rd WP meeting: January 2017
- Chair's visit: April 2017
- 4th WP meeting: tomorrow, 14 July
 - Next steps?

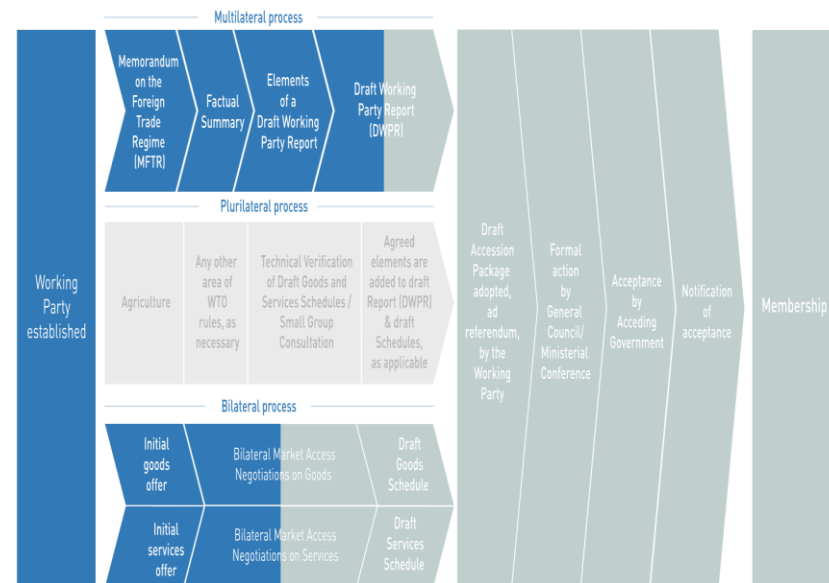


2017 Strategic Focus

– Bosnia & Herzegovina



- WP Establishment: 1999
- WP Chair: Rajmund Kiss (Hungary)
- WP meetings: 12 meetings held (last WP meeting in June 2013)
- Status: Advanced
- Outstanding issues – to be resolved in July:
 - Law on Internal Trade
 - Bilateral MA negotiations
- Next steps:
 - Circulation of draft Accession Package after summer
 - Final WP meeting in October



New Acceding Governments



Somalia

- A WTO team identified
- First training on WTO Accession for Somali officials scheduled for August in Nairobi
- Next step: Preparation of MFTR by end 2017



Accession Working Parties Established at the General Council in December 2016

Timor-Leste

- MFTR circulated in June 2017
- Consultations ongoing on the WP Chair
- Secretariat mission in the fall to prepare initial offers and other accession documentation
- 1st Working Party planned for early 2018



Upcoming accession activities



- **Upcoming WP meetings**

- Sudan: 13 and 14 July
- Azerbaijan: 27-28 July
- Belarus: September
- Comoros: September
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: October
- Lebanon and Timor-Leste: to be scheduled

- **Technical Assistance Activities**

- Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Greater Horn of Africa & Training for Somalia
 - 28 August – 1 September, Nairobi, Kenya
- Trade Policy Forum on Central Asia and MTS: Trade in Energy in WTO Accessions and Energy Cooperation
 - 4-6 September, Astana, Kazakhstan
- Sixth China Round Table
 - 9 December, Buenos Aires, Argentina

ACCESSION PUBLICATIONS



WTACC20



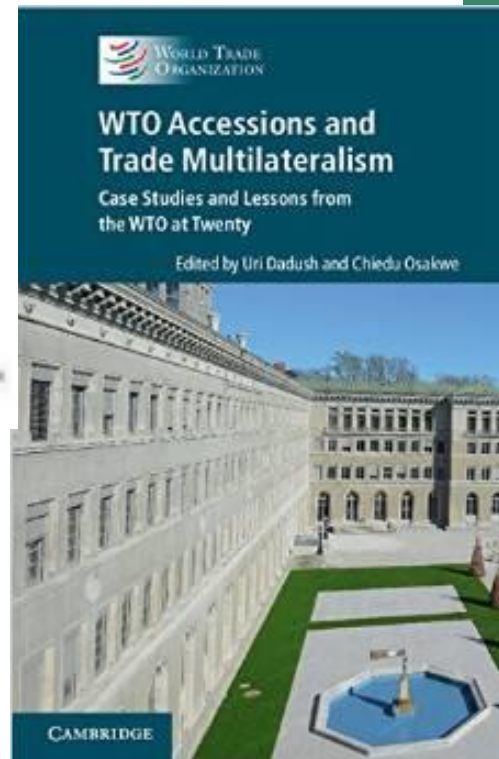
WTO ACCESSIONS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL



* The Annual Report takes account of confirmed accessions as of November 2014.
The document has been prepared under the leadership and the guidance of Members or to their request and



WTO Accessions Newsletter





QUESTIONS?

