

# Budget, finance and administration

- The General Council approved the 2024 and 2025 budgets upon recommendations of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration. After a period of 12 years of zero nominal growth, the budget was increased by 3.9 per cent for 2024.
- The General Council approved the use of the 2021 accumulated budgetary surplus for certain non-recurring expenses and for it to be applied against members' contributions for 2024 on the recommendation of the Committee.

## Background

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration monitors the WTO's budgetary and financial matters. It considers issues concerning human resources management, hears progress reports on the WTO pension plan and deals with financial and administrative matters concerning the WTO Secretariat. The Committee reports to the General Council.



**T**he General Council approved the 2024 and 2025 budgets for the WTO and the International Trade Centre and the 2024 scale of assessed contributions to the WTO budget upon recommendations of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration. After a period of 12 years of zero nominal growth, the budget was increased by 3.9 per cent for 2024.

The General Council approved the use of the 2021 accumulated budgetary surplus for certain non-recurring expenses and for it to be applied against members' contributions for 2024 upon recommendation of the Committee.

The Committee also reviewed and recommended the 2024-25 biennial technical assistance and training plan, which was subsequently approved by the General Council.

The Committee endorsed transfers between budgetary sections during 2022 and the 2022 WTO audited financial statements, which were subsequently approved by the General Council.

The Committee also took note of the 2022 WTO pension plan audited financial statements and the external auditors' reports for the WTO's and WTO pension plan's financial statements.



It noted outstanding contributions to the WTO budget from WTO members and observers and invited the General Council to urge those under administrative measures to liquidate their arrears.

The Committee approved a request to draw funds from the Building Renovation Fund to update the audio-visual equipment in the WTO conference rooms.

Quarterly financial reports were considered by the Committee and taken note of, as were updates from the chair of the WTO pension plan management board. The Committee also took note of the actuarial valuations of the WTO pension plan as at the end of 2022 and considered a proposal from the WTO pension plan management board to address an actuarial imbalance. A decision on this proposal was deferred to 2024 for further consideration.

Reports on human resources matters were presented to the Committee, such as the 2023 WTO salary survey and dependency allowances, the annual report on diversity, the annual report on grading structure and the learning and development programme for 2022.

The Committee reviewed the status of the WTO medical insurance plan and after service health insurance, the status of implementation of external audit recommendations, the annual strategic facilities plan, and an update on the replacement of Documents Online.

The Office of Internal Oversight presented its report on internal audit activities for 2022-23, the audit and evaluation plan for 2023-24 and the launch of the internal control framework setting out the principles, policies and procedures that help the WTO to achieve its strategic and operational objectives.

Regular updates on the WTO Secretariat transformation exercise (see page 192) were provided at each Committee meeting by DDG Angela Ellard.

#### WTO budget 2024

The WTO derives its income from annual contributions from its 164 members (see Table 3) and miscellaneous income.

The WTO's budget for 2024 is CHF 204,928,900 (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Consolidated budget for 2024**  
(in CHF thousands)

Section	Total
Staff expenditure (including staff remuneration, pension and post employment benefits, health and invalidity insurance, family and international benefits)	135,965
Temporary assistance (including short-term staff, consultants, panellists and Appellate Body member fees)	19,025
General services (including telecommunications and post, contractual services and maintenance, energy and supplies, documentation and publication)	17,276
Travel and hospitality	7,607
Implementing partners (includes any activity or event partly/jointly/fully funded by the WTO but executed by a third-party organization)	213
Capital expenditure (including procurement of fixed assets and rental and leasing of equipment)	3,095
Financial expenditure (including bank and interest charges and building loan reimbursement)	1,580
Contributions to International Trade Centre and special reserves (including the Building Renovation Fund and the Ministerial Conference Operating Fund)	20,168
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,929</b>