

Use of Existing WTO Mechanisms to Enhance Transparency



Questions asked on fossil fuel subsidies and
FFS reform in WTO Trade Policy Reviews

30 April 2025

ANNEX 2 TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES: PROPOSED NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF SAMPLE QUESTIONS ON FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES AND FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDY REFORM FOR REGULAR USE IN WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEWS

Information about the nature, extent, design and implementation of fossil fuel subsidy measures

1. Noting the commitment made to fossil fuel subsidy reform under SDG 12(c) of the UN 2030 Agenda, could [WTO Member under review] please provide information about the nature, extent, design and implementation of any programmes or schemes, existing or under consideration, that support the production or consumption of fossil fuels?¹ *[Where information is provided, but is incomplete: could [WTO Member under review] please provide more information about the [nature], [extent], [design] or [implementation] of the programmes or schemes that support the production or consumption of fossil fuels discussed in [the Member's TPR report], or any others that may be under consideration?]*
2. What was [WTO Member under review]'s response to the 2021 energy crisis in terms of temporary measures that support the production or consumption of fossil fuels?

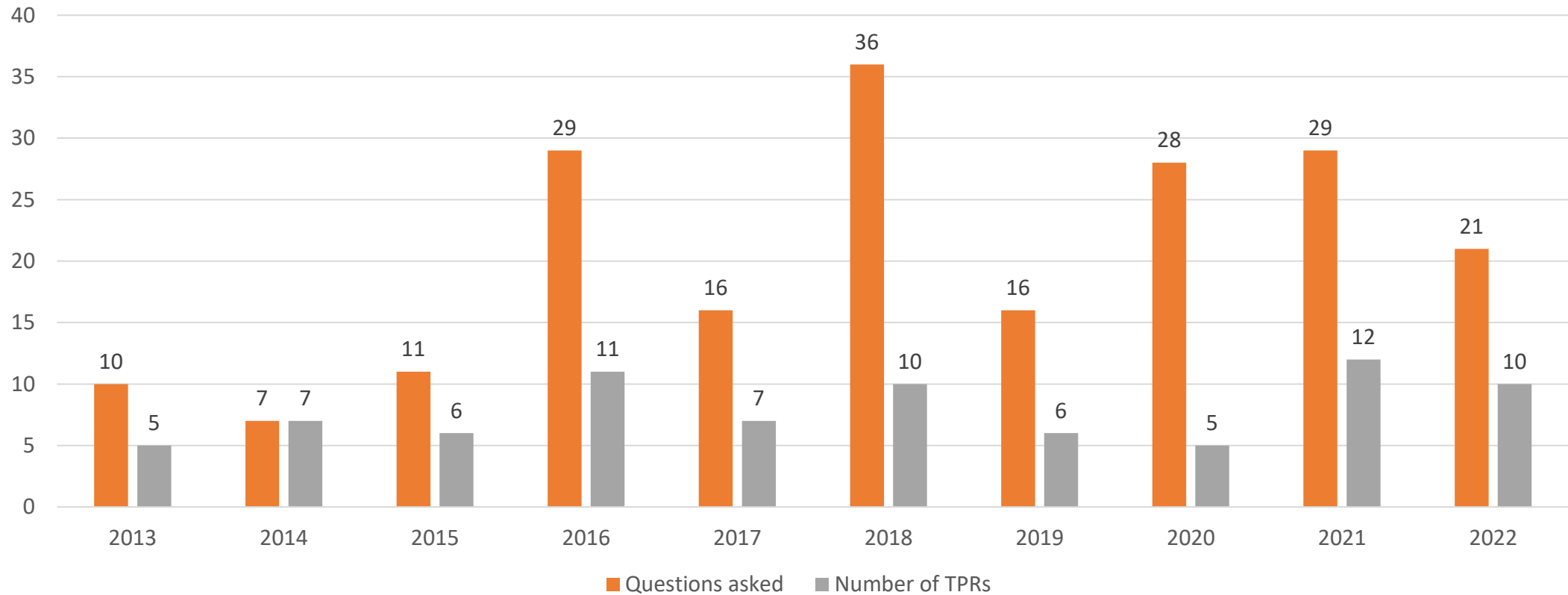
Information about current and planned reforms of fossil fuel subsidy measures

3. How is [WTO Member under review] implementing commitments to accelerate efforts to rationalize and phase out harmful fossil fuel subsidies agreed at recent UNFCCC COPs and in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12(c)? For G20 Members: What steps has [WTO Member under review] undertaken to abide by its G20 commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and what steps are being considered or introduced to implement this phase-out? *[If information about FFSR has been provided: could [WTO Member under review] please provide more details about its experiences with reforming and phasing out programmes supporting the production or consumption of fossil fuels?]*
4. What steps has [WTO Member under review] taken to phase out any temporary measures in support of the production or consumption of fossil fuels adopted in response to the 2021 energy crisis?

Information about economic, social and environmental impacts of fossil fuel subsidy measures

5. **[impact]** Has [WTO Member under review] undertaken recent analysis of the economic, social and environmental impacts of fossil fuel support programmes it applies and what have been the findings?
6. **[cost/budget]** Could [WTO Member under review] please provide information on the impact of fossil fuel support programmes on the actual costs paid domestically for fuel and on the government's budget?
7. **[vulnerable groups]** In the context of fossil fuel subsidy reforms, what actions are being taken to mitigate the effects on vulnerable groups?

Number of questions and TPRs per year (before MC13)



Trade Policy Reviews following MC13

- Since February 2024: 15 TPRs, containing **46 questions** related to fossil fuel subsidies and FFS reform

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Angola | Morocco | Iceland | Mozambique | Canada |
| Jamaica | China | Hong Kong, China | Paraguay | Nigeria |
| Solomon Islands | Maldives | Brunei Darusalam | Madagascar | Ukraine |

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WTO Members asking questions

EU (20)

New Zealand (15)

Switzerland

Chinese Taipei

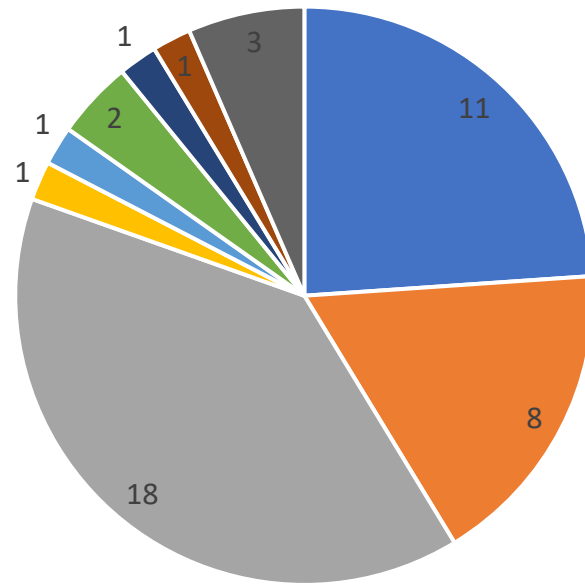
India

UK

Malaysia

Australia

46 TPR questions



Questions by sector and type

- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change: nature of implemented programmes supporting FF
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change: catalogue of fossil fuels
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change: implemented commitments to phase out FF
- Mining and Energy price control for petroleum products
- Energy crisis: temporary measures
- Identification of existing price support mechanisms
- Economic, social and environmental impact analysis
- Participation in FFSR discussions
- Experience sharing and lessons learned

Questions from the Non-exhaustive list of sample questions adopted by the FFSR initiative co-sponsors at MC13

- The majority of the questions asked came from the Questionnaire
- Most frequently asked questions:

“Noting the commitment made to fossil fuel subsidy reform under SDG 12(c) of the UN 2030 Agenda, could X please provide information about the nature, extent, design and implementation of any programmes or schemes, existing or under consideration, that support the production or consumption of fossil fuels?”

“How is X implementing commitments to accelerate efforts to rationalize and phase out harmful fossil fuel subsidies agreed at recent UNFCCC COPs and in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12(c)?”

“Could X please provide information if it has a catalogue of fossil fuel subsidies?”

Questions by key areas of focus

Enhancing transparency
through notifications

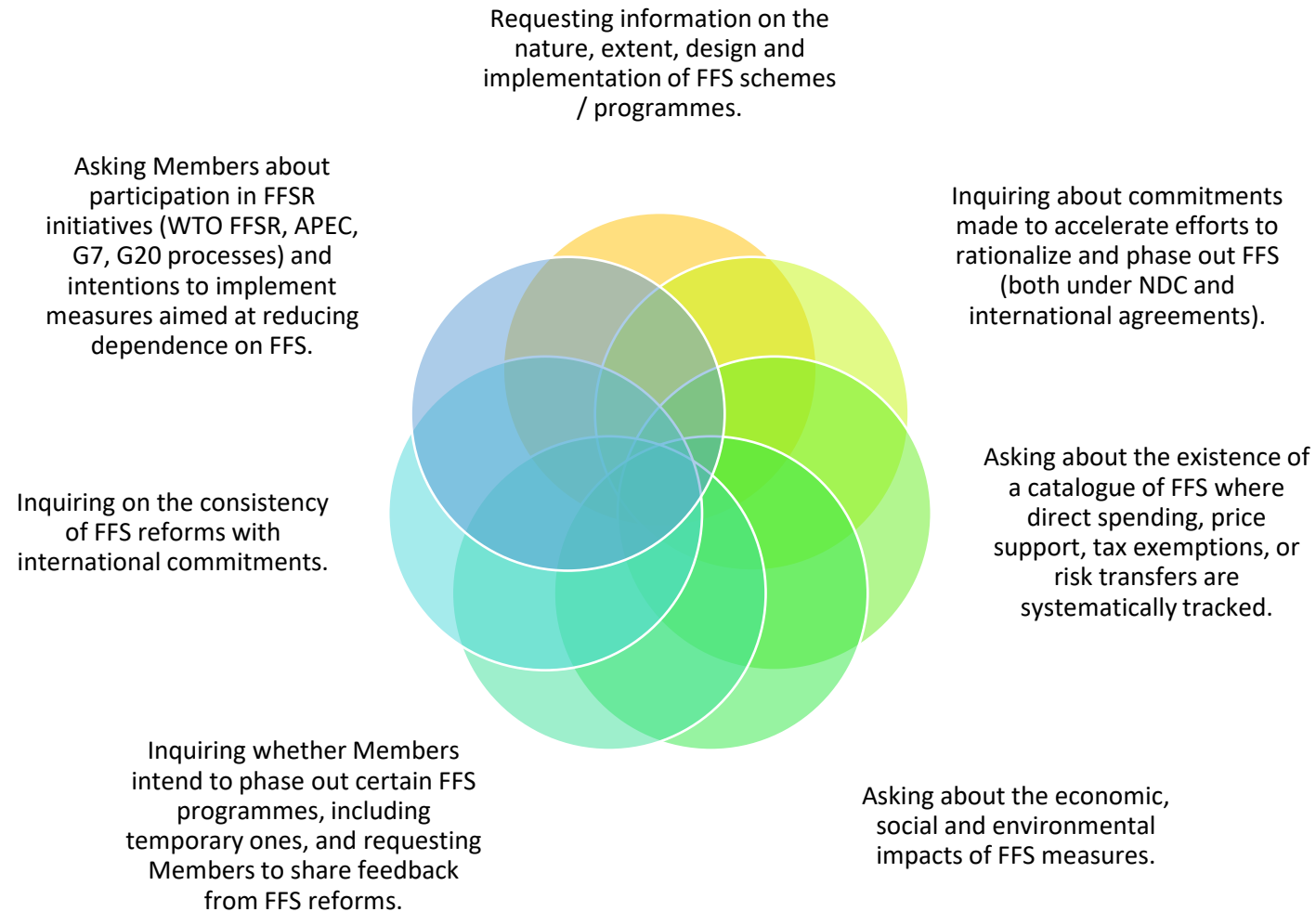
Aligning reforms with
international commitments

Understanding the specific
support mechanisms for
the production and
consumption of fossil fuels

Requesting Members to
share feedback from FFS
reforms


Asking about the economic,
social and environmental
impacts of FFS measures

Most frequent types of questions



Responses to questions

Clear increase in the extent of information being provided on fossil fuels subsidies and FFS reform, seemingly partly in response to more active questioning from FFSR initiative members.



For instance, information on:

Canada's Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies Self-Review Assessment Framework and Guidelines

Ukraine's phasing out of fossil fuel support through energy pricing adjustments, carbon taxation, and investments in renewable energy.

Nigeria's subsidy on diesel, removed in 2003, and the one on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), removed in 2023.