

Accession to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA):

The process at a glance



1 | Initiation



The acceding Member submits a **written application** for accession to the GPA to the WTO Director-General, who will circulate it to the Committee on Government Procurement (CGP).



To **participate in meetings** of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement (CGP) at which its accession will be discussed and have access to accession-related CGP documents, the acceding Member must have obtained observer status in the CGP by submitting a written notice to the CGP.



The acceding Member can request **technical assistance and capacity-building activities** from GPA Parties or the WTO Secretariat to deepen its knowledge of the GPA and the GPA accession process.

2 | Negotiations

Organizational aspects



Negotiations on the terms of accessions are conducted directly under the auspices of the CGP (unless a working party is established).



Consultations between GPA Parties and the acceding Member are organized bilaterally in capitals and Geneva. In addition, plurilateral reporting, review and discussion take place in CGP meetings.

Offers and requests relating to market access



The acceding Member tables an initial **market access offer** specifying the entities, goods and services (including construction services) that it proposes to cover under the GPA. In the case of developing country Members, the initial offer can also include proposed transitional measures (special and differential treatment).



GPA Parties submit one or more rounds of **questions and request improvements**.

Review of the domestic legislation

Before/after/at the same time as it submits its initial market access offer, the acceding Member **submits** information regarding **its domestic legislation** (replies to the CGP's Checklist of Issues for Provision of Information Relating to Accession to the Revised Agreement on Government Procurement ([GPA/132](#))), together **with a copy of the relevant legislation**, to facilitate GPA Parties' review of the consistency with the GPA of the acceding Member's domestic legislation.



GPA Parties **may submit one or more rounds of questions**, to which the acceding Member provides responses.

3 | Conclusion and entry into force



The GPA Parties and the acceding Member reach an **informal agreement** on a final market access offer.



If no further steps are needed to align the domestic legislation with GPA requirements, the **CGP adopts a decision** agreeing on the terms of accession and invites the acceding Member to accede to the GPA on those terms.



The acceding Member **deposits its instrument** of accession with the WTO Director-General within a deadline established in the CGP decision.



The GPA **enters into force** for the acceding Member **30 days after** it has deposited the instrument of accession.