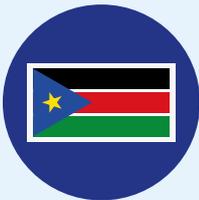


Spotlight: 2017 in numbers



22

At the 11th Ministerial Conference, WTO members agreed to start WTO membership talks for South Sudan, taking the number of countries seeking to join the WTO to 22.



350

The WTO undertook 350 technical assistance activities in 2017, helping over 18,000 government officials gain a better understanding of WTO agreements.



4.7

World merchandise trade volume grew by 4.7 per cent in 2017 after just 1.8 per cent growth in 2016.



2/3

An amendment to the TRIPS Agreement easing access to medicines entered into force in January 2017 following acceptance by two-thirds of WTO members.



11

The WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11), held in Buenos Aires in December 2017, was attended by about 4,500 participants.



14.3

The Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force in February 2017. Its implementation could cut trade costs by an average of 14.3 per cent.



4

At MC11, ministers adopted four decisions, including on fisheries subsidies, and agreed to set up a working party for the accession of South Sudan.



20

In 2017, the WTO marked the 20th anniversary of the Information Technology Agreement, a landmark deal eliminating tariffs on IT products for its participants.



23

In 2017, the WTO undertook trade policy reviews of 23 WTO members.



38.5

Dispute settlement activity intensified in 2017, with the monthly average of panel, appellate and arbitration proceedings increasing to 38.5 compared with 32.3 in 2017.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

164

The WTO currently has 164 members, representing 98 per cent of world trade.



1.9

The WTO website attracted almost 1.9 million visits a month in 2017.



112

The WTO's major outreach event, the Public Forum, attracted over 1,200 participants from 112 countries, who took part in over 100 sessions.



38.8

Disbursements of Aid for Trade totalled USD 38.8 billion in 2016, taking the 2006-16 total to over USD 342 billion.