

# WTO Chairpersons (as of 31 December 2015)

## Chairpersons of the General Council and bodies reporting to it

General Council	Ambassador Fernando de Mateo (Mexico)
Dispute Settlement Body	Ambassador Harald Neple (Norway)
Trade Policy Review Body	Ambassador Atanas Atanassov Paparizov (Bulgaria)
Council for Trade in Goods	Ambassador Héctor Casanueva (Chile)
Council for Trade in Services	Ambassador Martin Eyjólfsson (Iceland)
Council for TRIPS	Ambassador Abdolazeez Al-Otaibi (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Committee on Trade and Environment	Ms. Irene B.K. Young (Hong Kong, China)
Committee on Trade and Development	Ambassador Juan Esteban Aguirre Martinez (Paraguay)
Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions	Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugge de Picquendaele (Belgium)
Committee on Regional Trade Agreements	Ambassador Amr Ramadan (Egypt)
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	Ambassador Daniel Blockert (Sweden)
Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology	Ambassador Luc-Joseph Okio (Congo)
Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	Ambassador Xavier Carim (South Africa)
Trade Negotiations Committee	Director-General Roberto Azevêdo (WTO)
Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation	Ambassador Esteban B. Conejos (Philippines)

## Chairpersons of bodies established under the Trade Negotiations Committee

Negotiating Group on Market Access	Ambassador Remigi Winzap (Switzerland)
Negotiating Group on Rules	Ambassador Wayne McCook (Jamaica)
Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services	Ambassador Gabriel Duque (Colombia)
Special Session of the Council for TRIPS	Ambassador Dacio Castillo (Honduras)
Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body	Ambassador Ronald Saborio Soto (Costa Rica)
Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture	Ambassador Vangelis Vitalis (New Zealand)
Sub-Committee on Cotton	Ambassador Vangelis Vitalis (New Zealand)
Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment	Ambassador Syed Tauqir Shah (Pakistan)
Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development	Ambassador Tan Yee Woan (Singapore)

## Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods

Committee on Agriculture	Mr. Michael Wamai (Uganda)
Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices	Mr. Hamed Mahmoud El Etreby (Egypt)
Committee on Customs Valuation	Mr. Ping Liu (China)
Committee on Import Licensing	Ms. Carrie I-Jen Wu (Chinese Taipei)
Committee on Market Access	Ms. Krizia Denisse Matthews Barahona (Panama)
Committee on Rules of Origin	Mr. Christian Wegener (Denmark)
Committee on Safeguards	Mr. Victor Echevarria Ugarte (Spain)
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Mr. Felipe Hees (Brazil)
Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	Mr. Mitsuhiro Fukuyama (Japan)
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade	Ms. Alana Maria Lanza Suazo (Honduras)
Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures	Mr. Zaher Al-Qatarneh (Jordan)
Working Party on State Trading Enterprises	Mr. Andrew Jory (Australia)
Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products	Mr. Andrew Staines (United Kingdom)

## Chairpersons of subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Services

Committee on Trade in Financial Services	Ms. Maha Gabbani (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Working Party on Domestic Regulation	Mr. Eog-Weon Lee (Republic of Korea)
Committee on Specific Commitments	Ms. Brigitte Lüth (Austria)
Working Party on GATS Rules	Mr. Donald McDougall (Canada)

## Chairpersons of Committees of Plurilateral Agreements

Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft	Mr. Hsiao-Yin Wu (Chinese Taipei)
Committee on Government Procurement	Mr. John Newham (Ireland)

# Membership of the WTO: 162 members (as of 31 December 2015)<sup>1</sup>

Member <sup>2</sup>	Year of accession	Member <sup>2</sup>	Year of accession	Member <sup>2</sup>	Year of accession
Albania	2000	Hong Kong, China	1995	Samoa	2012
Angola	1996	Hungary	1995	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	2005
Antigua and Barbuda	1995	Iceland	1995	Senegal	1995
Argentina	1995	India	1995	Seychelles	2015
Armenia	2003	Indonesia	1995	Sierra Leone	1995
Australia	1995	Ireland	1995	Singapore	1995
Austria	1995	Israel	1995	Slovak Republic	1995
Bahrain, Kingdom of	1995	Italy	1995	Slovenia	1995
Bangladesh	1995	Jamaica	1995	Solomon Islands	1996
Barbados	1995	Japan	1995	South Africa	1995
Belgium	1995	Jordan	2000	Spain	1995
Belize	1995	Kazakhstan	2015	Sri Lanka	1995
Benin	1996	Kenya	1995	Suriname	1995
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	1995	Korea, Republic of	1995	Swaziland	1995
Botswana	1995	Kuwait, the State of	1995	Sweden	1995
Brazil	1995	Kyrgyz Republic	1998	Switzerland	1995
Brunei Darussalam	1995	Latvia	1999	Chinese Taipei	2002
Bulgaria	1996	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2013	Tajikistan	2013
Burkina Faso	1995	Lesotho	1995	Tanzania	1995
Burundi	1995	Liechtenstein	1995	Thailand	1995
Cambodia	2004	Lithuania	2001	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	2003
Cameroon	1995	Luxembourg	1995	Togo	1995
Canada	1995	Macao, China	1995	Tonga	2007
Cabo Verde	2008	Madagascar	1995	Trinidad and Tobago	1995
Central African Republic	1995	Malawi	1995	Tunisia	1995
Chad	1996	Malaysia	1995	Turkey	1995
Chile	1995	Maldives	1995	Uganda	1995
China	2001	Mali	1995	Ukraine	2008
Colombia	1995	Malta	1995	United Arab Emirates	1996
Congo	1997	Mauritania	1995	United Kingdom	1995
Costa Rica	1995	Mauritius	1995	United States of America	1995
Côte d'Ivoire	1995	Mexico	1995	Uruguay	1995
Croatia	2000	Moldova, Republic of	2001	Vanuatu	2012
Cuba	1995	Mongolia	1997	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	1995
Cyprus	1995	Montenegro	2012	Viet Nam	2007
Czech Republic	1995	Morocco	1995	Yemen	2014
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1997	Mozambique	1995	Zambia	1995
Denmark	1995	Myanmar	1995	Zimbabwe	1995
Djibouti	1995	Namibia	1995		
Dominica	1995	Nepal	2004		
Dominican Republic	1995	Netherlands	1995		
Ecuador	1996	New Zealand	1995		
Egypt	1995	Nicaragua	1995		
El Salvador	1995	Niger	1996		
Estonia	1999	Nigeria	1995		
European Union	1995	Norway	1995		
Fiji	1996	Oman	2000		
Finland	1995	Pakistan	1995		
France	1995	Panama	1997		
Gabon	1995	Papua New Guinea	1996		
The Gambia	1996	Paraguay	1995		
Georgia	2000	Peru	1995		
Germany	1995	Philippines	1995		
Ghana	1995	Poland	1995		
Greece	1995	Portugal	1995		
Grenada	1996	Qatar	1996		
Guatemala	1995	Romania	1995		
Guinea	1995	Russian Federation	2012		
Guinea-Bissau	1995	Rwanda	1996		
Guyana	1995	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1996		
Haiti	1996	Saint Lucia	1995		
Honduras	1995	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1995		

States/separate customs territories seeking to join the WTO (as of 31 December 2015)	
Algeria	
Andorra	
Azerbaijan	
Bahamas	
Belarus	
Bhutan	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Comoros	
Equatorial Guinea	
Ethiopia	
Iran	
Iraq	
Lebanese Republic	
Libya	
São Tomé and Príncipe	
Serbia	
Sudan	
Syrian Arab Republic	
Uzbekistan	

## Countries that officially became WTO members in 2015

	Date of membership
Seychelles	26 April 2015
Kazakhstan	30 November 2015

## Countries that completed accession negotiations in 2015

	Date of approval of accession package <sup>1</sup>
Liberia, Republic of	16 December 2015
Afghanistan	17 December 2015

<sup>1</sup> Ministers formally approved Liberia's and Afghanistan's WTO membership terms at special ceremonies on 16 and 17 December 2015 at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

<sup>2</sup> Members are mostly states but can also be customs territories with full autonomy over their external commercial relations.

## Abbreviations

ADP	Anti-Dumping Practices	MIWI	"Made in the World"
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	NAMA	Non-agricultural market access
CTD	Committee on Trade and Development	NFIDCs	Net food-importing developing countries
DDA	Doha Development Agenda	NGO	Non-governmental organization
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body	NTMs	Non-tariff measures
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework	PLS	Progressive learning strategy
EU	European Union	PSI	Agreement on Preshipment Inspection
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PTAs	Preferential trade arrangements
FDI	Foreign direct investment	RTAs	Regional trade agreements
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services	SCM	Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	SG	Agreement on Safeguards
GDP	Gross domestic product	SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
GIs	Geographical indications	SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
GPA	Government Procurement Agreement	STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
HS	Harmonized System	SVE	Small, vulnerable economy
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce	TBT	Technical barriers to trade
ILO	International Labour Organization	TNC	Trade Negotiations Committee
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union	TPR	Trade Policy Review
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	TPRM	Trade Policy Review Mechanism
ITA	Information Technology Agreement	TRIMs	Trade-related investment measures
ITC	International Trade Centre	TRIPS	Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
ITTC	Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
LDCs	Least-developed countries		
MEAs	Multilateral environmental agreements		
MFN	Most-favoured nation		

0 is zero or became zero due to rounding.

Billion means one thousand million.

Minor discrepancies between constituent figures and totals are due to rounding.

Unless otherwise indicated, (i) all value figures are expressed in US dollars; (ii) trade figures include the intra-trade of free trade areas, customs unions, regional and other country groupings.

### Note

This report covers the WTO's activities in 2015. The word "country" is frequently used to describe WTO members whereas a few members are officially "customs territories", and not necessarily countries in the usual sense of the word.

## Further information

**Further information about the organization and its activities can be found on the WTO website: [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)**  
**General information about the WTO is available in the following publications, which may all be downloaded free of charge from the website:**

### WTO in Brief

*WTO in Brief* provides a starting point for essential information about the WTO. Concise and practical, this short brochure is an ideal introduction to the WTO.

### 10 things the WTO can do

This publication highlights some of the benefits of the trading system, but it does not claim that everything is perfect – otherwise there would be no need for further negotiations and for the system to evolve and reform continually. The publication replaces *10 Benefits of the WTO Trading System* and *10 Common Misunderstandings about the WTO*.

### Understanding the WTO

An introduction to the WTO, what it is, why it was created, how it works, and what it does, *Understanding the WTO* has been written specifically for non-specialists. More comprehensive than *WTO in Brief*, this publication details WTO agreements, the dispute settlement process, the Doha Round of negotiations and many other issues.

### Online bookshop

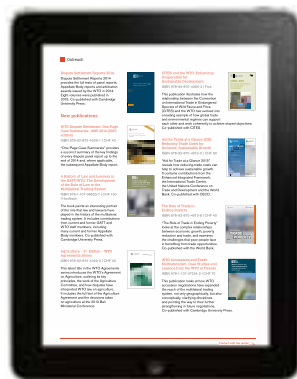
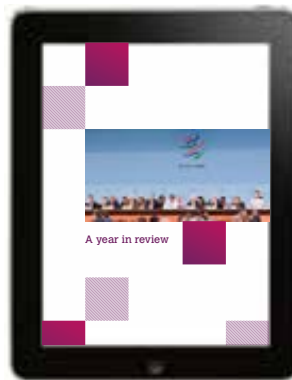
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