



Secretariat and budget

- > The WTO has 647 staff on its regular budget.
- > The number of nationalities represented in the WTO Secretariat rose to 80 in 2015, up from 78.
- > The WTO's total budget for 2016 is CHF 197,203,900.
- > An Office of Internal Oversight was established in November to provide for an independent and objective assessment of management practices, expenses, budgetary control and any allegations of misconduct.

WTO Secretariat	168
New recruits	168
WTO Secretariat organizational chart	169
Allocation of staff by division	170
WTO staff on regular budget by grade and gender	171
WTO staff on regular budget by gender	171
WTO staff on regular budget by gender and nationality	172
Budget, finance and administration	174
Consolidated expenditure 2015	175
Consolidated budget 2016	175
Members' contributions to the consolidated budget of the WTO Secretariat and the Appellate Body Secretariat 2016	176

Background on Secretariat and budget

The WTO Secretariat has over 600 regular staff who coordinate the activities of the WTO. Most of the WTO's annual budget consists of contributions by its members.

WTO Secretariat

The number of nationalities represented in the WTO Secretariat rose to 80 in 2015, up from 78 the year before. The number of staff on the regular budget rose to 647, from 634 in 2014, with women continuing to outnumber men. The Secretariat is headed by Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, who took office for a four-year term on 1 September 2013. The four Deputy Directors-General began their terms of office on 1 October 2013. They are Yonov Frederick Agah of Nigeria, Karl Brauner of Germany, David Shark of the United States and Xiaozhun Yi of China (see Figure 1).

WTO Secretariat staff members come from 80 WTO member countries (see Figure 5). The staff is composed mostly of economists, lawyers and others with a specialization in international trade policy. Staff also include other professions required to carry out the daily operations of the organization in areas such as information technology, statistics, finance, human resources and language services.

Secretariat staff on the regular budget comprise professional and support service categories. The professional staff accounts for 60 per cent of the total and support service staff 40 per cent. Women outnumber men at the WTO by 347 to 300. Of the professional staff, 44 per cent are female and 56 per cent male (see Figures 2, 3 and 4). The working languages of the WTO are English, French and Spanish.

The Human Resources Division continues to respond to the evolving needs of the Secretariat, assisting in the reallocation of resources to new or high priority areas of work. In 2015, the workload of the legal divisions continued to rise due to the high number of disputes being filed by WTO members.

Background on the WTO Secretariat

The WTO Secretariat has no decision-making powers; all decisions are taken by WTO members. The Secretariat supplies technical and professional support for WTO councils and committees and technical assistance for developing countries. It monitors and analyses developments in world trade, provides information to the public and the media, and organizes the ministerial conferences. The Secretariat also provides legal assistance in the dispute settlement process and advises governments seeking to become members of the WTO. The WTO's recruitment policy is based on the principle of equal opportunity for all, with the objective of ensuring the broadest possible diversification of the WTO Secretariat.

New recruits

Sroda Bédarida

Interpreter | Languages, Documentation and Information Management Division

Nationality: French/Ghanaian

Joining date: 14 September 2015

After working for more than 20 years as a freelance interpreter in Europe and Africa, I saw the vacancy notice for a staff interpreter at the WTO and thought "Why not give it a try?" I had never worked for the WTO so I was interested in getting to know the organization. I was thrilled when I received an email offering me the position last summer and could hardly wait to start work in September.

As a freelance interpreter, what I enjoyed most about the work was the variety of topics. One day I would be talking about

education and health, and the next I would be dealing with macroeconomic frameworks or electricity production and distribution. In my new role at the WTO, as a staff interpreter, I enjoy being part of the highly skilled in-house team as well as working with very professional freelance colleagues on a wide range of topics.

We contribute to ensuring smooth communication and, hopefully, better understanding among WTO members in meetings. I started working at a time when intense negotiations were already under way in preparation for the Ministerial Conference. It was stimulating to be involved at such an important time, and I was thrilled we were able to obtain a positive outcome in Nairobi.

“ We contribute to ensuring smooth communication and, hopefully, better understanding among WTO members in meetings „



In addition to the 15 posts added to the legal divisions in 2014, the Director-General has agreed to a further increase of 14 new posts (see page 111) for these divisions.

The recruitment process is currently under way to fill the new positions, which have been allocated at various grades. Currently, the number of staff working in the legal divisions stands at 20 in the Appellate Body, 27 in the Legal Affairs Division and 26 in the Rules Division, up from 17, 23 and 20 respectively in 2014. The measures take into account the limitations imposed by WTO members, including the overall cap on the budget, and are being met by reallocating vacated posts from elsewhere in the WTO Secretariat.

Another role of the Human Resources Division is to enhance the performance and effectiveness of WTO staff and to support a work environment that is both engaging and conducive to developing the professional skills of staff.

In 2015, it introduced an upward feedback exercise to allow WTO staff to provide feedback to their managers. The aim of the exercise was to help managers and management teams reflect on their management performance and develop their skills, with the appropriate guidance and training.

The WTO Staff Council, elected by staff members, promotes the interests of all staff within the Secretariat, provides staff with a forum for issues of concern, increases staff understanding of their rights and duties, represents the interests of staff and presents staff views to senior management.

In November an Office of Internal Oversight was established to provide for an independent and objective assessment of management practices, expenses, budgetary control and any allegations of misconduct. It takes over the functions formerly exercised by the Office of Internal Audit.

Figure 1: WTO Secretariat organizational chart, as of 31 December 2015

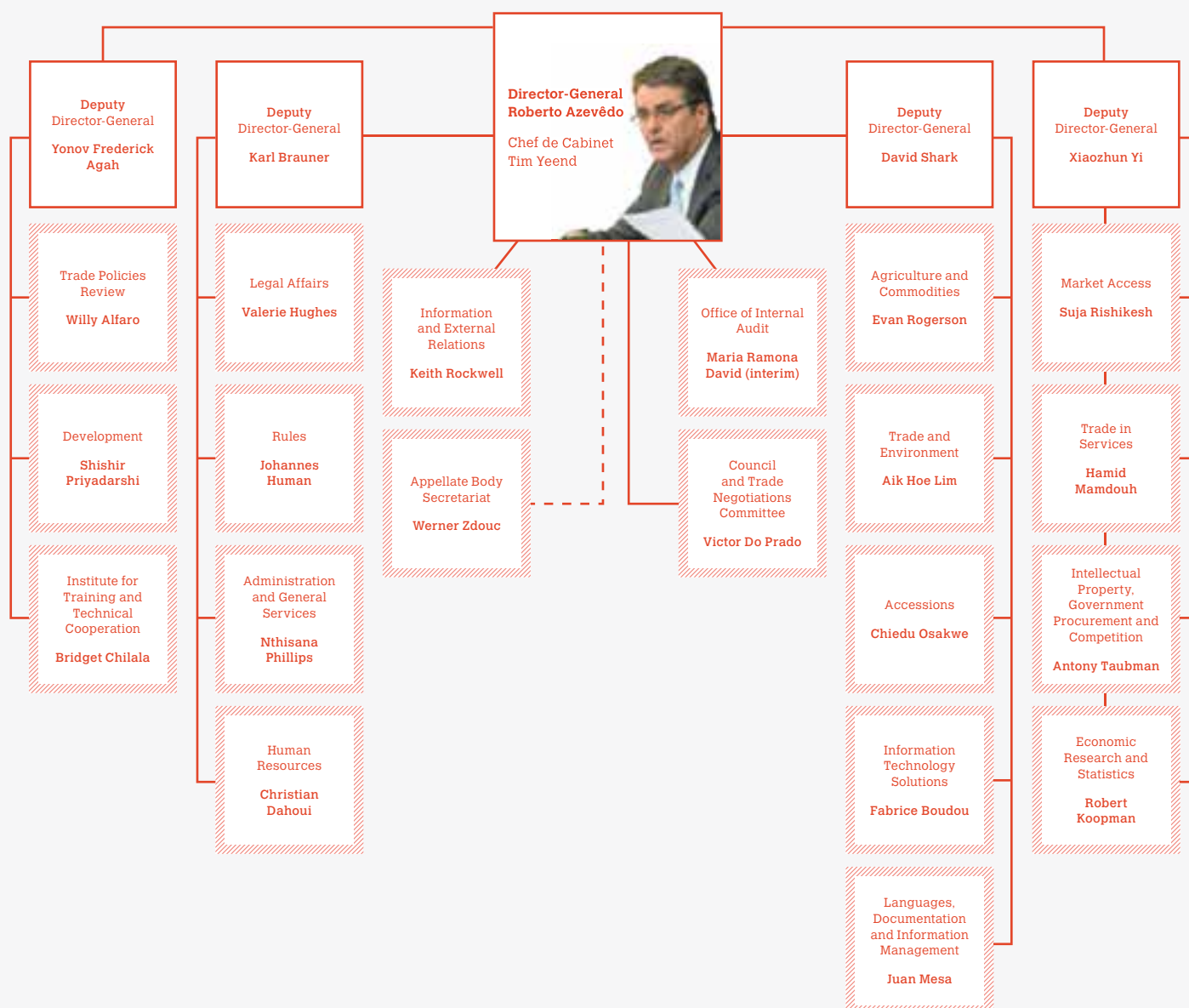
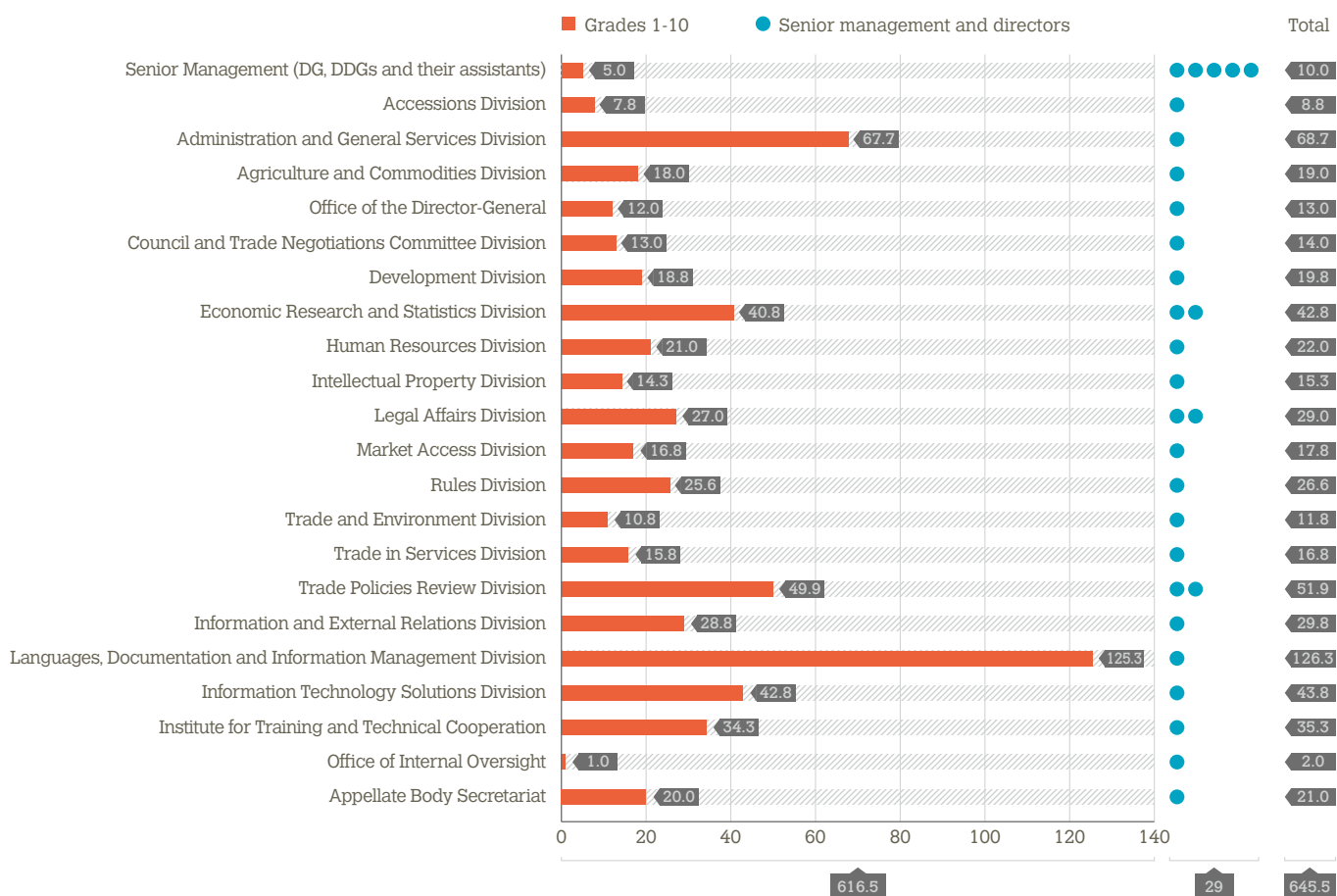


Figure 2: Allocation of staff by division, as of 31 December 2015 (number of posts)*



*Includes posts not yet filled. Figures in decimals indicate staff members who work a percentage of the working week (e.g. 80 per cent).

New recruits

Seref Gokay Coskun

Technical Trade Specialist | Rules Division

Nationality: Turkish

Joining date: 6 October 2015

Before joining the WTO, my interest in it was not only professional; as an academic in international relations, I had always admired it because of its exceptional structure and unique success in global economic relations. With this in mind, I left my ten-year career as a practitioner without hesitation to join the WTO and serve the international community.

Previously, I was Head of Section at the Dumping and Countervailing Duties Investigations Department of Turkey's Ministry of the Economy. As a practitioner,

I was actively involved in Turkey's trade policy implementation, and conducted several trade remedy investigations. I also contributed to Turkey's efforts to comply with WTO rules as I was responsible for monitoring Turkey's notification obligations under WTO agreements.

At the WTO, I mainly deal with technical or policy issues arising in the work of WTO bodies in the areas under the responsibility of the Rules Division. My particular responsibilities range from conducting research and supporting committee chairs to providing assistance for dispute settlement panels. I also provide training on issues within the Rules Division's responsibility.

“Before joining the WTO ... I had always admired it because of its exceptional structure and unique success in global economic relations ,,”



Figure 3: WTO staff on regular budget by grade and gender, as of 31 December 2015

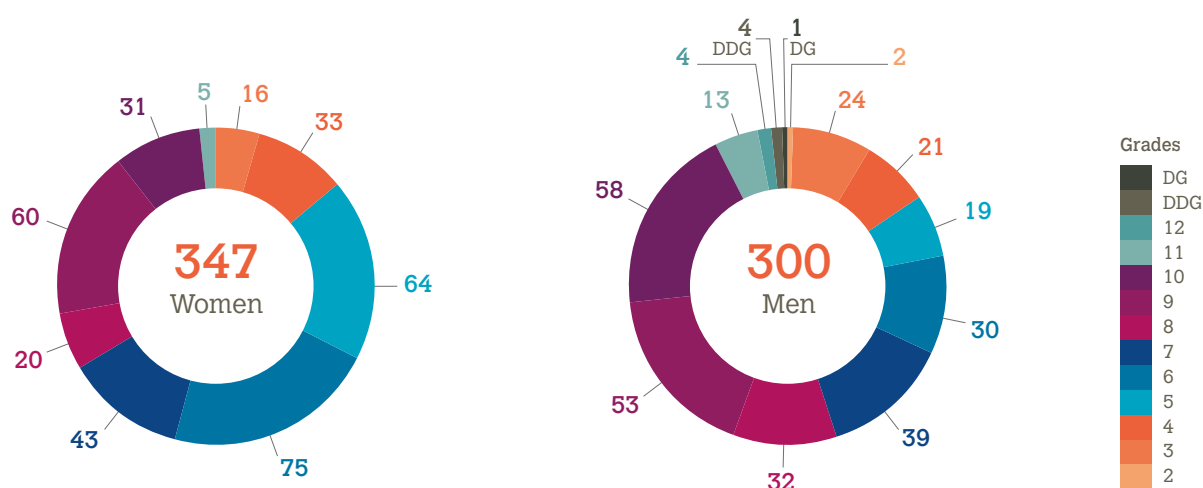


Figure 4: WTO staff on regular budget by gender, as of 31 December 2015

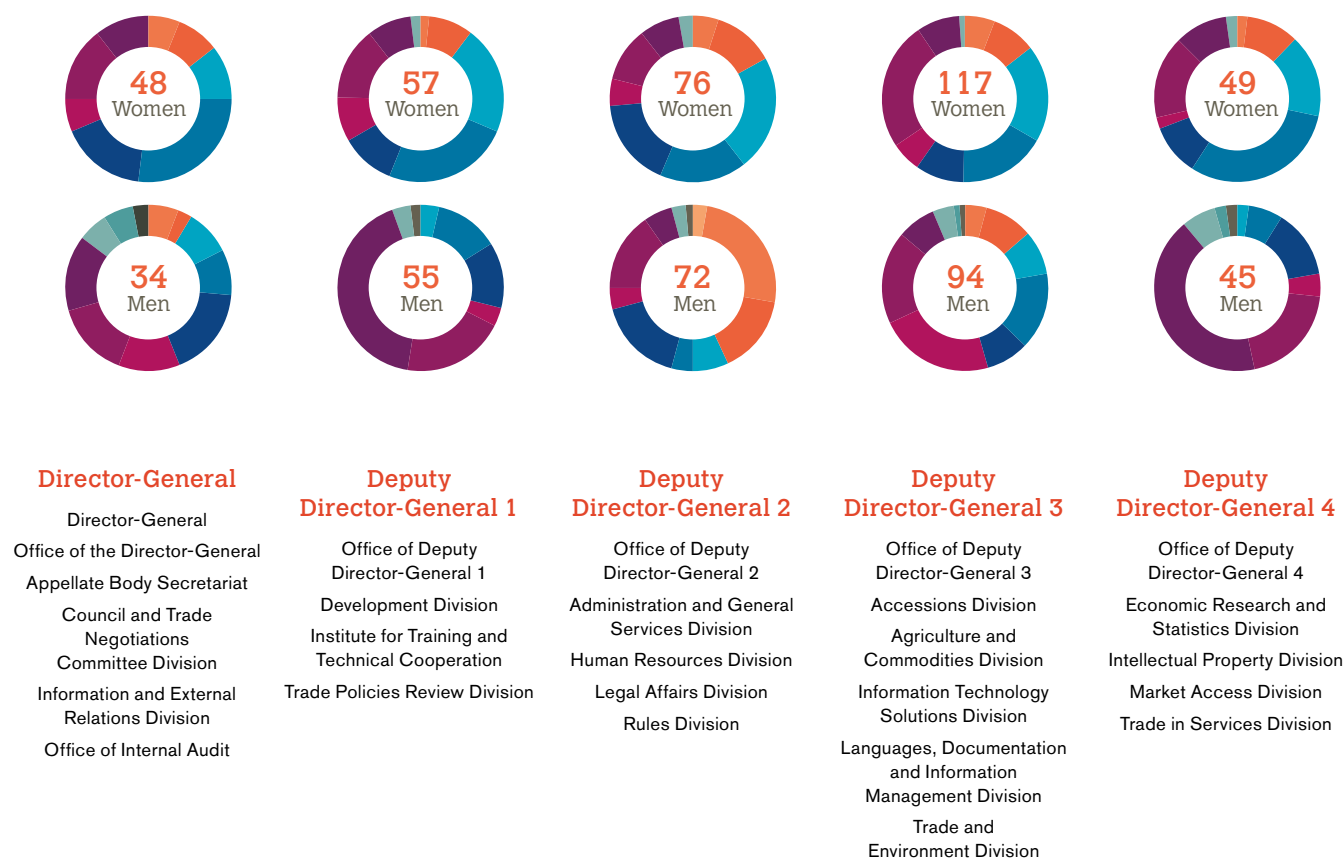
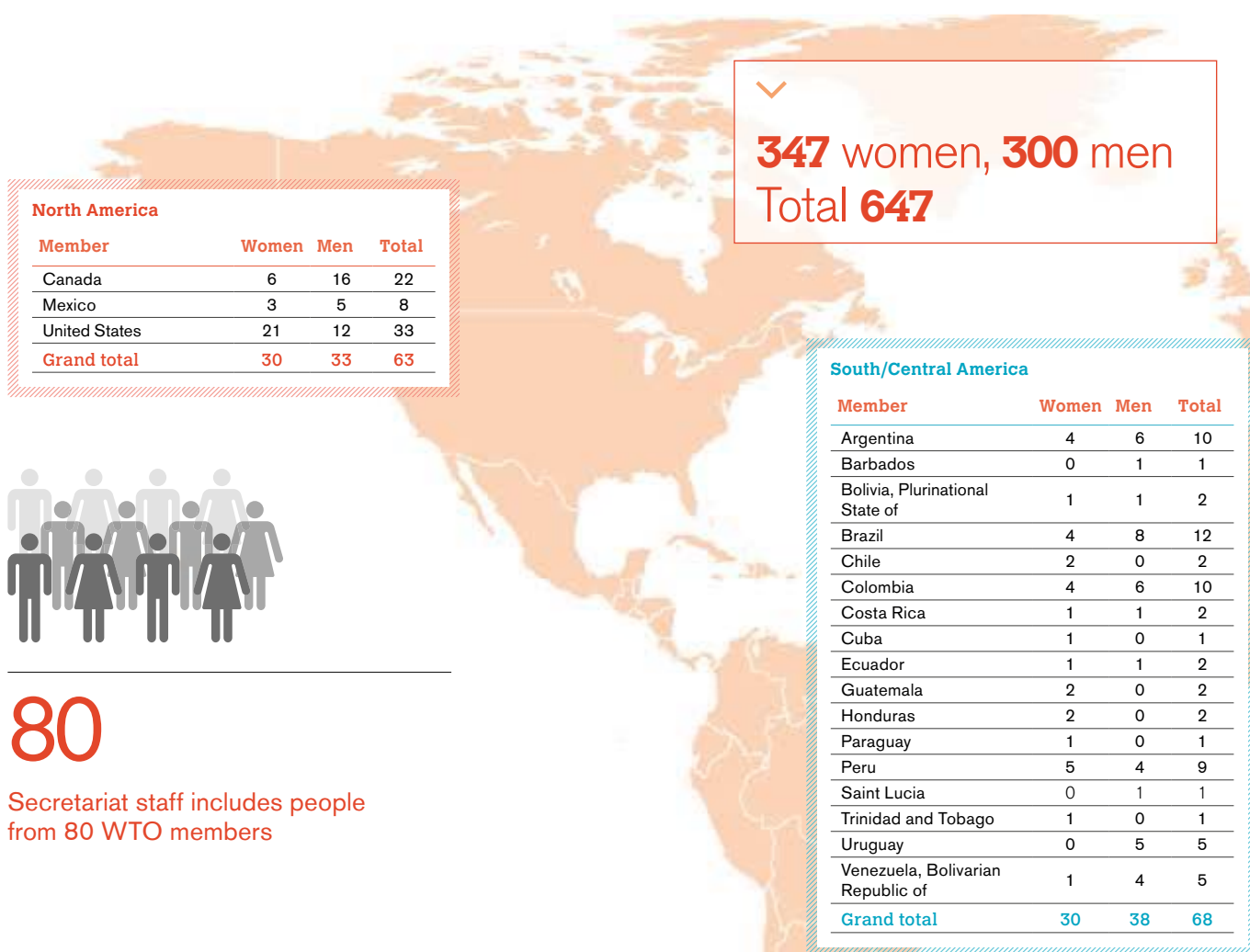


Figure 5: WTO staff on regular budget by gender and nationality, as of 31 December 2015



New recruits

Jessica Hermosa

Information Officer | Information and External Relations Division

Nationality: Filipino

Joining date: 24 August 2015

I got to learn about the intricacies of the WTO through my first job as a reporter in the Philippines, covering trade issues. It was in this role that I grew to appreciate the WTO's work. In 2010, I attended one of the WTO's information seminars in Geneva for journalists and that was it – I knew trade and the WTO were for me.

After covering trade news for four years as a journalist at the Philippine newspaper "BusinessWorld", I completed a Master's degree in International Political Economy at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. The subject of my dissertation was the WTO dispute settlement system. I then went back to the Philippines and worked

in economic policy research and outreach for the Department of Trade and Industry, and also for Ernst & Young.

The values and integrity of the WTO, as well as the renowned excellence of the Secretariat, were my chief motivations for joining the organization. Within the Information and External Relations Division, I liaise with the press and the general public and monitor developments in various trade issues. I also contribute to the WTO's social media output.

Shortly after joining, I became part of the team that reported on trade negotiations in the run-up to and during the Ministerial Conference in Nairobi. It was an amazing experience to witness at first hand such an important outcome as the Nairobi Package.

“It was an amazing experience to witness at first hand such an important outcome as the Nairobi Package”



Europe

Member	Women	Men	Total	Member	Women	Men	Total
Albania	1	0	1	Netherlands	1	4	5
Austria	2	3	5	Norway	0	2	2
Belgium	3	2	5	Poland	2	1	3
Bulgaria	1	4	5	Portugal	1	3	4
Croatia	2	0	2	Romania	2	0	2
Denmark	1	1	2	Russian Federation	2	0	2
Estonia	1	0	1	Spain	30	11	41
Finland	3	3	6	Sweden	1	2	3
France	99	72	171	Switzerland	19	12	31
Germany	7	12	19	Turkey	2	2	4
Greece	3	2	5	Ukraine	1	0	1
Hungary	0	2	2	United Kingdom	41	13	54
Ireland	11	1	12	Grand total	246	162	408
Italy	10	10	20				

Asia

Member	Women	Men	Total
Bangladesh	0	1	1
China	7	7	14
India	2	10	12
Japan	2	2	4
Jordan	1	0	1
Korea, Republic of	4	0	4
Malaysia	0	2	2
Nepal	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	3	3
Philippines	6	8	14
Sri Lanka	0	1	1
Grand total	22	35	57

Africa

Member	Women	Men	Total	Member	Women	Men	Total
Benin	0	2	2	Nigeria	0	2	2
Botswana	1	0	1	Rwanda	0	1	1
Chad	0	1	1	Senegal	0	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	1	2	South Africa	0	1	1
Egypt	3	2	5	Tanzania	1	0	1
Ghana	0	1	1	The Gambia	1	0	1
Guinea	0	1	1	Tunisia	2	3	5
Kenya	1	0	1	Uganda	2	0	2
Malawi	0	1	1	Zambia	1	0	1
Mauritius	0	2	2	Zimbabwe	2	0	2
Morocco	1	3	4	Grand total	16	22	38

Oceania

Member	Women	Men	Total
Australia	3	9	12
New Zealand	0	1	1
Grand total	3	10	13

Budget, finance and administration

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration reviewed reports on the financial and budgetary situation of the WTO and continued its discussion of the Strategic Review of the organization, which was launched in 2013. An Office of Internal Insight (OIO) was established in November.

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo presented the WTO Financial Performance Report to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, which also received a report from the External Auditor. The Committee examined these reports and proposed to the General Council the approval of the 2014 audited accounts.

As part of the Strategic Review process, which was launched by DG Azevêdo in 2013, the DG implemented three amendments to WTO staff rules, which were presented to the Committee. These cover the legal protection of Staff Council members, staff assistance and representation, and statements of reason for an administrative decision. The Committee will continue its discussion on the Strategic Review in 2016.

The Working Group on After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), established by the Committee in 2014, completed its work on future liabilities resulting from providing subsidized health insurance to WTO retirees. It delivered a report with recommendations in the second half of the year. The recommendations included asking the Director-General to develop a strategy proposal, within 12 months, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the WTO medical insurance plan and related ASHI benefits. The recommendations were endorsed by the Committee, which set up a new working group to monitor the development of a strategy on this issue.

Background on budget, finance and administration

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration monitors the WTO's budgetary and financial situation, including matters relating to the receipt of contributions, and undertakes any function assigned to it by WTO members. 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.

The Committee examined the WTO Secretariat's proposal to establish a building renovation fund. The purpose of the fund would be to finance the costs of necessary building and infrastructure maintenance, including the costs of future projects undertaken to improve the WTO site.

The Committee reviewed, on a quarterly basis, reports on the financial and budgetary situation of the WTO, including the arrears of contributions from WTO members and the WTO pension plan. It took note of the annual report on diversity in the WTO Secretariat, the staff learning programme and the human resources annual report on grading structure and promotions.

To align with the new requirements imposed by the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2012, the Committee approved the revision of the WTO Financial Regulations proposed by the Working Group on WTO Financial Regulations. The Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan submitted recommendations to address an actuarial imbalance resulting from the introduction of IPSAS and to provide some technical clarifications in the plan's regulations. This proposal was endorsed and forwarded to the General Council, with the recommendation that the changes take effect as of 1 January 2016.

An Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) was established in November to provide for an independent and objective assessment of management practices, expenses, budgetary control and allegations of misconduct in all its forms. The functions formerly exercised by the Office of Internal Audit are being assumed by the OIO.

The establishment of the OIO followed a recommendation of the External Auditor and the Strategic Review, which saw a need to reinforce the independent status of the existing Office of Internal Audit and to expand its responsibilities to include investigations within the WTO. It is expected that the establishment of the OIO will contribute to strengthening accountability, internal controls, compliance, value for money and governance in the WTO Secretariat. In addition, the Committee set up a working group to investigate whether the Organization should have an Audit Committee.



The Committee recommended the General Council approve pro-rata contributions for Seychelles, which became the WTO's 161st member in April 2015. Also, the Committee proposed the General Council approve the 2016-17 budget proposals for the WTO and the International Trade Centre (ITC) as well as the 2016-17 Technical Assistance and Training Plan. The ITC received a 1.65 per cent increase in its budget, which has been absorbed by the WTO budget. The WTO budget remained at zero nominal growth.

WTO budget 2016

The WTO derives its income from annual contributions from its 162 members (see Tables 1, 2 and 3) and miscellaneous income. These contributions are based on a formula that takes into account each member's share of international trade. Miscellaneous income mainly consists of contributions from observer countries, income from the sale of publications and rental of meeting rooms.

The WTO's budget for 2016 is:



WTO Secretariat:

CHF 189,713,000



Appellate Body and its secretariat:

CHF 7,490,900



The total WTO budget is

CHF 197,203,900

Table 1: Consolidated expenditure, as at 31 December 2015

Section	Budget (in thousand CHF)	Expenditure (in thousand CHF)	Balance (in thousand CHF)
Staff expenditure (including staff remuneration, pension and post-employment benefits, health and invalidity insurance, family and international benefits)	131,415,300	127,431,563	3,983,737
Temporary assistance (including short-term staff, consultants, panellists and Appellate Body member fees)	17,167,050	18,700,855	-1,533,805
General services (including telecommunications and post, contractual services and maintenance, energy and supplies, documentation and publication)	15,600,700	14,771,105	829,595
Travel and hospitality	7,480,800	6,803,042	677,758
Implementing partners (includes any activity or event partly/jointly/fully funded by the WTO but executed by a third-party organization)	273,000	231,309	41,691
Capital expenditure (including procurement of fixed assets and rental and leasing of equipment)	2,966,650	2,369,564	597,086
Financial expenditure (including bank and interest charges and building loan reimbursement)	1,230,000	1,268,557	-38,557
Contributions to International Trade Centre and special reserves (including Appellate Body operating fund and Ministerial Conference operating fund)	21,070,400	21,070,400	0
Grand total	197,203,900	192,646,394	4,557,506

* These figures have not yet been audited.

Table 2: Consolidated budget for 2016

Section	Budget 2016 (in thousand CHF)
Staff expenditure	131,415
Temporary assistance	17,289
General services	15,331
Travel and hospitality	7,351
Implementing partners	213
Capital expenditure	2,350
Financial expenditure	1,280
Contributions to International Trade Centre and special reserves	21,975
Grand total	197,204

Table 3: Members' contributions to the consolidated budget of the WTO Secretariat and the Appellate Body Secretariat 2016

(in Swiss Francs and with a minimum contribution of 0.015%)

Member	2016 Contribution CHF	2016 Contribution %	Member	2016 Contribution CHF	2016 Contribution %
Albania	48,875	0.025%	Ecuador	234,600	0.120%
Angola	504,390	0.258%	Egypt	541,535	0.277%
Antigua and Barbuda	29,325	0.015%	El Salvador	76,245	0.039%
Argentina	805,460	0.412%	Estonia	175,950	0.090%
Armenia	33,235	0.017%	European Union ¹	0	0.000%
Australia	2,772,190	1.418%	Fiji	29,325	0.015%
Austria	2,046,885	1.047%	Finland	983,365	0.503%
Bahrain, Kingdom of	170,085	0.087%	France	7,606,905	3.891%
Bangladesh	287,385	0.147%	Gabon	64,515	0.033%
Barbados	29,325	0.015%	The Gambia	29,325	0.015%
Belgium	3,884,585	1.987%	Georgia	62,560	0.032%
Belize	29,325	0.015%	Germany	14,805,215	7.573%
Benin	29,325	0.015%	Ghana	148,580	0.076%
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	86,020	0.044%	Greece	692,070	0.354%
Botswana	64,515	0.033%	Grenada	29,325	0.015%
Brazil	2,568,870	1.314%	Guatemala	138,805	0.071%
Brunei Darussalam	72,335	0.037%	Guinea	29,325	0.015%
Bulgaria	318,665	0.163%	Guinea-Bissau	29,325	0.015%
Burkina Faso	29,325	0.015%	Guyana	29,325	0.015%
Burundi	29,325	0.015%	Haiti	29,325	0.015%
Cabo Verde	29,325	0.015%	Honduras	78,200	0.040%
Cambodia	82,110	0.042%	Hong Kong, China	5,126,010	2.622%
Cameroon	70,380	0.036%	Hungary	1,067,430	0.546%
Canada	5,069,315	2.593%	Iceland	60,605	0.031%
Central African Republic	29,325	0.015%	India	4,371,380	2.236%
Chad	48,875	0.025%	Indonesia	1,788,825	0.915%
Chile	791,775	0.405%	Ireland	1,955,000	1.000%
China	17,927,350	9.170%	Israel	832,830	0.426%
Colombia	561,085	0.287%	Italy	5,677,320	2.904%
Congo	89,930	0.046%	Jamaica	56,695	0.029%
Costa Rica	132,940	0.068%	Japan	8,476,880	4.336%
Côte d'Ivoire	101,660	0.052%	Jordan	164,220	0.084%
Croatia	240,465	0.123%	Kazakhstan	631,465	0.323%
Cuba	148,580	0.076%	Kenya	111,435	0.057%
Cyprus	107,525	0.055%	Korea, Republic of	5,890,415	3.013%
Czech Republic	1,407,600	0.720%	Kuwait, the State of	682,295	0.349%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	93,840	0.048%	Kyrgyz Republic	37,145	0.019%
Denmark	1,567,910	0.802%	Lao People's Democratic Republic	29,325	0.015%
Djibouti	29,325	0.015%	Latvia	152,490	0.078%
Dominica	29,325	0.015%	Lesotho	29,325	0.015%
Dominican Republic	156,400	0.080%	Liechtenstein	60,605	0.031%

¹ The European Union is not subject to contributions. However, its 28 members are assessed individually. The total share of members of the European Union represents 34.756% of the total assessed contributions for 2016.

Member	2016 Contribution CHF	2016 Contribution %
Lithuania	301,070	0.154%
Luxembourg	789,820	0.404%
Macao, China	277,610	0.142%
Madagascar	31,280	0.016%
Malawi	29,325	0.015%
Malaysia	2,191,555	1.121%
Maldives	29,325	0.015%
Mali	31,280	0.016%
Malta	103,615	0.053%
Mauritania	29,325	0.015%
Mauritius	60,605	0.031%
Mexico	3,436,890	1.758%
Moldova, Republic of	37,145	0.019%
Mongolia	50,830	0.026%
Montenegro	29,325	0.015%
Morocco	355,810	0.182%
Mozambique	58,650	0.030%
Myanmar	82,110	0.042%
Namibia	56,695	0.029%
Nepal	39,100	0.020%
Netherlands	5,671,455	2.901%
New Zealand	443,785	0.227%
Nicaragua	48,875	0.025%
Niger	29,325	0.015%
Nigeria	752,675	0.385%
Norway	1,569,865	0.803%
Oman	377,315	0.193%
Pakistan	344,080	0.176%
Panama	236,555	0.121%
Papua New Guinea	54,740	0.028%
Paraguay	111,435	0.057%
Peru	412,505	0.211%
Philippines	652,970	0.334%
Poland	2,103,580	1.076%
Portugal	823,055	0.421%
Qatar	735,080	0.376%
Romania	660,790	0.338%
Russian Federation	4,379,200	2.240%
Rwanda	29,325	0.015%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	29,325	0.015%
Saint Lucia	29,325	0.015%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	29,325	0.015%

Member	2016 Contribution CHF	2016 Contribution %
Samoa	29,325	0.015%
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	2,449,615	1.253%
Senegal	44,965	0.023%
Seychelles	29,325	0.015%
Sierra Leone	29,325	0.015%
Singapore	4,703,730	2.406%
Slovak Republic	778,090	0.398%
Slovenia	318,665	0.163%
Solomon Islands	29,325	0.015%
South Africa	1,069,385	0.547%
Spain	4,078,130	2.086%
Sri Lanka	152,490	0.078%
Suriname	29,325	0.015%
Swaziland	29,325	0.015%
Sweden	2,183,735	1.117%
Switzerland	3,460,350	1.770%
Chinese Taipei	2,991,150	1.530%
Tajikistan	29,325	0.015%
Tanzania	89,930	0.046%
Thailand	2,359,685	1.207%
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	52,785	0.027%
Togo	29,325	0.015%
Tonga	29,325	0.015%
Trinidad and Tobago	121,210	0.062%
Tunisia	226,780	0.116%
Turkey	1,968,685	1.007%
Uganda	54,740	0.028%
Ukraine	782,000	0.400%
United Arab Emirates	2,699,855	1.381%
United Kingdom	7,446,595	3.809%
United States	21,974,200	11.240%
Uruguay	117,300	0.060%
Vanuatu	29,325	0.015%
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	711,620	0.364%
Viet Nam	1,024,420	0.524%
Yemen	101,660	0.052%
Zambia	78,200	0.040%
Zimbabwe	50,830	0.026%
TOTAL	195,500,000	100.000%

How the WTO is structured

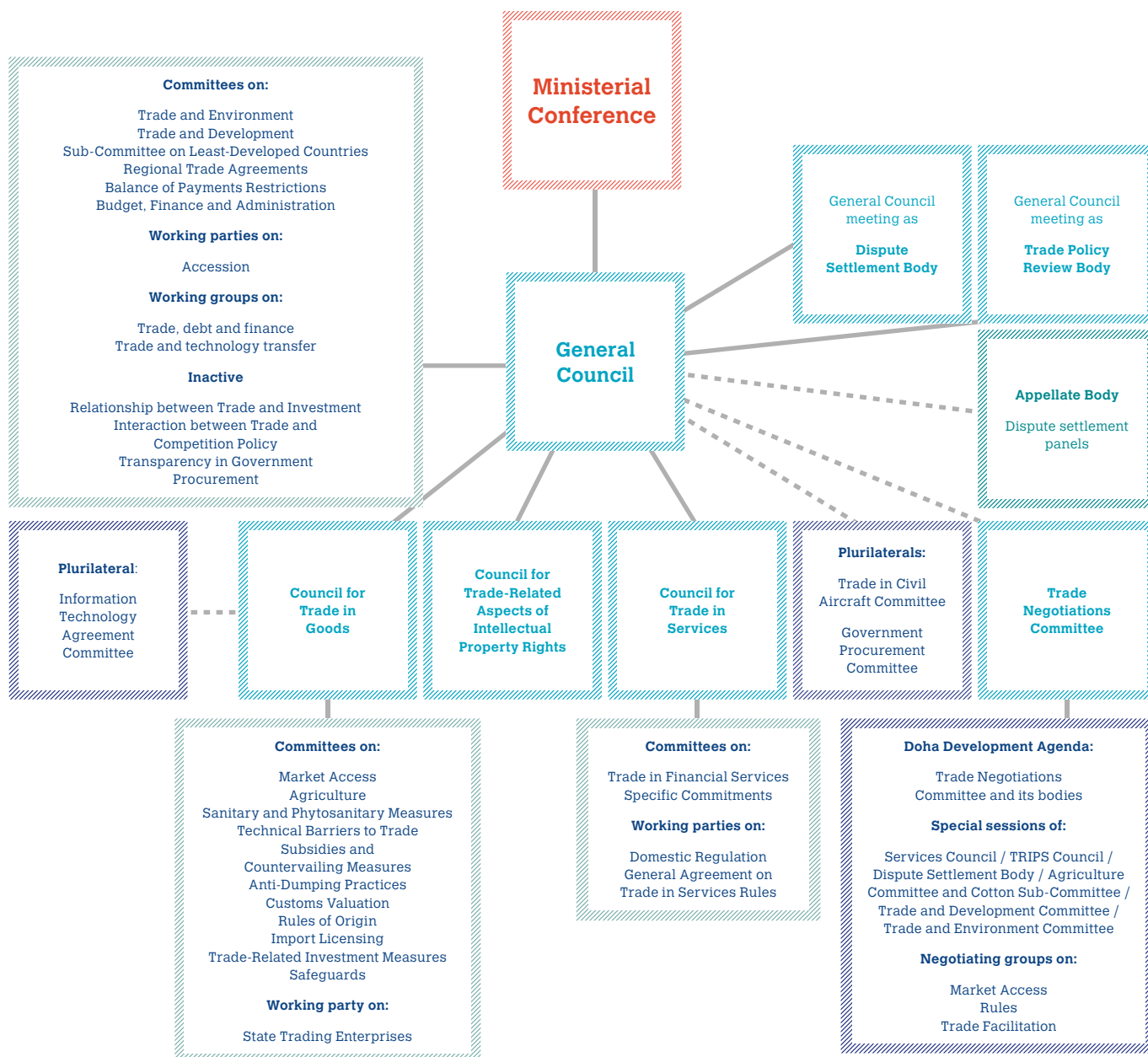
The WTO's top-level decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, which usually meets every two years.

Below the Ministerial Conference is the General Council (normally ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva, but sometimes officials sent from members' capitals), which meets several times a year in the Geneva headquarters. The General Council also meets as the Trade Policy Review Body and the Dispute Settlement Body.

At the next level, the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Council report to the General Council.

Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas such as the environment, development, membership applications and regional trade agreements.

All WTO members may participate in all councils and committees, with the exceptions of the Appellate Body, Dispute Settlement panels and plurilateral committees.



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 Paporizov (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 Crombrughe 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)¹

Member ²	Year of accession	Member ²	Year of accession	Member ²	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 ¹
Liberia, Republic of	16 December 2015
Afghanistan	17 December 2015

¹ 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.

² 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
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

Printed publications can be purchased through the WTO's online bookshop: <http://onlinebookshop.wto.org>.

Many publications may be downloaded free of charge from the WTO website: www.wto.org.

You can register to receive free alerts when new titles become available.

Download the app

The WTO Annual Report 2016 will be available as an app, to be downloaded from the App Store, Google Play and Amazon Apps for viewing on your iPad, iPhone, Android tablet or smartphone, or Kindle.



Photo credits

Cover photos (clockwise from top right): © WTO; © WTO;
© Getty Images/Toshiro Shimada; © Getty Images/François
Nascimbeni; © WTO; © Getty Images/Teradat Santivivut.

Page ii: © WTO/Studio Casagrande; © WTO/Admedia
Communication; © WTO/Studio Casagrande; © WTO/Studio
Casagrande; © WTO.

Pages 3, 9, 125, 126, 127, 136, 139, 140, 141, 156, 158:
© WTO/Studio Casagrande.

Pages 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 30, 33, 38, 40, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48,
64, 82, 96, 100, 114, 133, 143, 149, 159, 161, 168, 169, 170,
172: © WTO.

Page 6 (according to date): © WTO; © WTO; © WTO;
© Getty Images/Glowimages; © WTO; © WTO; © Getty
Images/OJO Images RF; © WTO; © WTO;

Page 7 (according to date): © WTO; © WTO/ANTARA;
© WTO.

Page 8: © WTO; © WTO/Studio Casagrande.

Page 12 (clockwise from top left): © WORLD ECONOMIC
FORUM/swiss-image.ch/Photo Valeriano DiDomenico;
© WTO; © WTO; © WTO; © WTO; © WTO/Casagrande;
© WTO; © WTO; © WTO.

Page 13 (according to date): © WTO; © WTO; © WTO;
© WTO; © WTO; © WTO; © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe;
© Volkan Furuncu/Anadolu Agency; © WTO/Admedia
Communication; © WTO/Admedia Communication; © WTO/
Admedia Communication.

Pages 21, 22, 26, 51, 84, 150: © WTO/
Admedia Communication.

Page 25: © WTO; © WTO/Admedia Communication.

Page 34: © Government of Wales.

Page 37: © State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.

Pages 42, 44: © Dean Calma/IAEA

Page 53: © PANOS/Sven Torfinn.

Page 57: © PANOS/G.M.B. Akash.

Page 72: © BillionPhotos.com.

Page 75: © Trevor Snapp/Bloomberg via Getty Images.

Page 79: © RGtimeline.

Page 80: © PANOS/Atul Loke.

Page 90 (clockwise from top left): © Norm Betts/Bloomberg;
© majaiva; © Monty Rakusen; © Peter Adams; © Ken
Gerhardt; © Clinton Friedman; © Paul Harris; © SambaPhoto/
Paulo Fridman; © JEWEL SAMAD; © Wesley Bocxe.

Page 91: © Alexander Spatari; © Bill Lyons; © Bloomberg;
© sasintipchai; © Cultura RM Exclusive/Mick Ryan;
© UniversallImagesGroup; © Steven Morris Photography;
© Danita Delimont; © Bloomberg; © Guenter Guni.

Page 116: © PANOS/Aubrey Wade.

Page 119: © PANOS/Petterik Wiggers.

Page 129: © EIF Rwanda.

Page 130: © STDF.

Page 142: © Tarik FETTAH.

Page 145: © Eskinder Debebe; © WTO/Studio Casagrande.

Page 146: © WTO/Studio Casagrande; © WTO.

Page 147: © Volkan Furuncu/Anadolu Agency.

Page 157: © WTO/Studio Casagrande; © WTO/Studio
Casagrande; © WTO.

Page 162: © Rachad Abidi.

Page 166: © Adrien Barakat.

ISBN 978-92-870-4073-2

Printed by the WTO Secretariat.

Report designed by Paprika.

© World Trade Organization 2016

The Annual Report is also available in French and Spanish.