



Outreach

The WTO maintains regular dialogue with the business community, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, other international organizations, the media and the general public to enhance cooperation and raise awareness of trade issues.

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Contact with the business community

- A Trade Dialogue with business attracted over 80 business representatives to discuss the WTO's response to COVID-19 and its future work.
- At a "Trade for Climate" event, WTO members, business representatives and NGOs debated mainstreaming trade into climate policy.

Trade Dialogue with business

On 23 June 2021, the fourth Trade Dialogue with business was held in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Over 80 business representatives discussed their priorities for the WTO's work and engaged with a number of WTO members on the WTO's response to COVID-19, deliverables for the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) and the future work programme of the WTO.

Business representatives voiced strong support for an early conclusion of the fisheries subsidies negotiations (see page 56), called for urgent resolution of the Appellate Body impasse (see page 143) and urged members to make progress on agriculture at MC12.

Background

Business and the WTO have always been closely connected. The private sector is a major beneficiary of transparent and predictable trade rules and obligations. Business is an important interlocutor for both governments and the WTO. It is actively involved in the multilateral trading system and participates in public activities of the WTO.

Participants also discussed priorities for the future agenda of the WTO, which should take into consideration challenges related to the environment and sustainability.

Trade for Climate

A second Trade Dialogue on climate change was held on 26 October, ahead of the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26). Key stakeholders, including business representatives, discussed how to mainstream trade into climate policy.

The "Trade for Climate" event was opened by DG Okonjo-Iweala and ICC Secretary-General John Denton. "We must act now across every economic sector and every country to shift the global economy to a low-carbon development pathway," the DG said. "If there are two issues that matter most to the business community, two issues that are inextricably linked, they are trade and climate," Mr Denton declared.

Vaccine manufacturers

As part of the Multilateral Leaders Task Force on COVID-19, DG Okonjo-Iweala, the heads of the IMF, World Bank Group and WHO met with the top executives of leading vaccine manufacturing companies to discuss improving access to COVID-19 vaccines, especially in low- and lower middle-income countries.

The talks included how to tackle trade-related bottlenecks and additional steps to reach the WHO vaccination target of 40 per cent of people in all countries by the end of 2021 (see page 179).

Other contact with businesses

At a session at the Public Forum (see page 172) entitled "The future WTO work programme: Insights from business", the ICC and B20 Italy, representing the global business community, highlighted the pressing need for reform of the WTO (see page 51) so that it can meet the challenges of the 21st century.



80

Over 80 businesses took part in a Trade Dialogue in June 2021 to discuss priorities for the WTO's work.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

- DG Okonjo-Iweala held four briefings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on topics including the fisheries subsidies negotiations and the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12).
- In papers and petitions, NGOs urged WTO members to scale-up access to COVID-19 vaccines by addressing intellectual property rights issues.



35
NGOs co-organized
35 sessions at
the WTO's annual
Public Forum.

Background

The WTO maintains regular dialogue with civil society organizations to enhance cooperation and increase their awareness of WTO activities and the multilateral trading system. Continuing and strengthening the relationship with civil society remains important for increasing transparency and increasing public awareness of the work of the WTO.

DG Okonjo-Iweala held four briefings with NGO representatives, encouraging NGOs to share their views on how the WTO could improve and strengthen its collaboration with them. Topics of the briefings included the fisheries subsidies negotiations (see page 56) and MC12 (see page 78).

A working session organized by CUTS International and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) at the 2021 Public Forum.

Civil society groups continued to put forward papers and petitions highlighting the negative impact of COVID-19. They called on WTO members to address the issue of intellectual property rights, which they consider critical to help scale-up vaccine production and achieve equitable access to the medical goods needed to deal with the pandemic. These papers are available on the WTO webpage dedicated to the business and civil society response to COVID-19.

As usual, NGOs played an active part in the WTO's annual Public Forum (see page 172), co-organizing 35 sessions.

In 2021, NGOs were invited to eight WTO Secretariat virtual briefings on the Trade Negotiations Committee and the General Council. In all, representatives from 45 NGOs benefitted from briefings on the WTO's work – a 38 per cent increase on 2020 (28 NGOs).

Public Forum 2021

Under the theme “Trade beyond COVID-19: Building Resilience”, the 2021 Public Forum was held from 28 September to 1 October in hybrid format. Nearly 350 participants attended in person and over 2,600 people participated virtually via a dedicated Public Forum platform. A total of 105 sessions were organized, including three high-level sessions.



Enhancing resilience beyond COVID-19

DG Okonjo-Iweala opened the Forum, highlighting the importance of the multilateral trading system in contributing to reducing vaccine inequity and tackling other pressing challenges, from the depletion of marine resources to climate change. “But even as we fight to end the pandemic ... we must engage in serious thinking about what it will take to build back a better world economy,” she said.

In his keynote address, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called for global solidarity in tackling

the pandemic. He urged WTO members to take bold steps to deliver a coordinated response and to centre actions on an inclusive post-pandemic economic recovery. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted that COVID-19 restrictions, particularly travel restrictions, may have delayed spread of the virus but “they have also come at the highest social and economic costs, exacerbating pre-existing inequities”.

A panel of experts from civil society, the private sector and international organizations discussed how the multilateral trading system can help countries build resilience to

A session organized by the International Chamber of Commerce and B20 Italy, representing the global business community.

Background

The Public Forum is the WTO's largest annual outreach event. It provides a unique platform for heads of states, parliamentarians, business people, students, academics and civil society to come together and debate a wide range of trade and development topics.



“

Nearly 350 participants attended the 2021 Public Forum in person, and over 2,600 people participated virtually.

COVID-19 and promote an inclusive recovery. Panellists emphasized the interconnectedness of the health, social and economic aspects of the pandemic and stressed the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to expedite global access to vaccines and ensure an inclusive economic recovery.

Strengthening the multilateral trading system

A high-level debate involving ministers and experts on “Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System” tackled WTO reform and how to make the organization fit for purpose. The priorities included not only handling new issues like climate change, pandemic response and the digital economy but ensuring the WTO can better address matters that have been on its agenda for years, such as agriculture, disciplines on fisheries subsidies (see page 56) and special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries (see page 59).

MSMEs and COVID-19

A panel of entrepreneurs and policymakers discussed the impact of COVID-19 on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Participants noted the importance of digitization in helping small businesses navigate the crisis. Speakers highlighted the need to support MSMEs' integration into global value chains by facilitating training, certification and access to finance. “We cannot afford to leave small businesses behind,” International Trade Centre Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton told the session.



Public Forum: SME case stories

SMEs use trade to build resilience during COVID-19: Recycling plastic – Austria

Plasticpreneur, an Austrian company employing 11 staff, develops, produces and distributes technology, services and products for recycling plastic waste. It creates simple, user-friendly and cost-efficient plastic recycling machines, making plastic part of the circular economy and positively impacting the planet.

The company also provides entrepreneurship training to low-income communities, enabling them not only to turn plastic waste into new products but also assisting them in setting up income-generating projects and social businesses.

When COVID-19 hit, the company's customers postponed their orders. But Plasticpreneur saw an opportunity. It quickly adapted its expertise and specialist technology to produce face shields out of recycled plastic. It produced, sold and donated thousands of face shields in Austria alone. More importantly, it distributed face shield production kits to other countries, such as Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria, helping them produce large amounts of protective equipment locally.

The advice of Sören Lex, Plasticpreneur's CEO and co-founder, to fellow SMEs – always watch out for opportunities and needs in markets or societies.

“Always watch out for opportunities and needs in markets or societies.”

Sören Lex
CEO and co-founder of Plasticpreneur



Public Forum: SME case stories

Eco-ethical fashion – the Philippines

Rags2Riches is a fashion and design house empowering community artisans from the Philippines. It collects overstocked fabrics and textiles from factories and, in partnership with local artisans, turns out eco-ethical fashion.

When COVID-19 hit, the company, which employs 30 staff, experienced significantly lower demand, both retail and corporate, and its supply chain and production were greatly hampered by the pandemic-provoked lockdowns.

It quickly re-instituted a decentralized supply chain, with artisans working, weaving and sewing from home. It pivoted to fully online operations, which was relatively easy because the company had existing online channels. As a result, its online sales increased by 50 per cent compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The advice of Reese Fernandez-Ruiz, Rags2Riches' president and co-founder, to fellow SMEs – make your operations as lean and agile as possible. Know your purpose!

**"Make your operations as
lean and agile as possible.
Know your purpose!"**

Reese Fernandez-Ruiz
President and co-founder of Rags2Riches



A photo exhibition entitled "Building resilience through trade during COVID-19: SME stories" portrayed SMEs' resilience stories during the pandemic and their advice to others on how to build resilience in future crises (see side panels). A number of these stories were featured in the first season of the new WTO podcast "Let's Talk Trade" (see page 183).

Sustainable trade

Twenty-five sessions were held under the sub-theme "Collective Action towards Sustainable Trade", with participants underlining the important role the WTO should play in paving the way for a stronger trade and environment agenda.

A video series entitled "Fresh Takes on Green Business. Helping People and Planet" showcased the stories of three young environmental entrepreneurs from Asia, Africa and Europe/Oceania.

Exhibitors

Six exhibitors virtually showcased their inventions and environmental solutions, including innovative recycled plastic products, sustainable waste-based biofuels and reusable packaging for online retail.



Contact with parliamentarians

- Despite the COVID-19 constraints, the WTO continued its outreach to parliamentarians, mainly through virtual contacts.
- DG Okonjo-Iweala and the Chair of the General Council briefed parliamentarians on various occasions on developments at the WTO.

Ahead of the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), which had been due towards the end of 2021, but which, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, was postponed to 12 to 15 June 2022, the DG briefed parliamentarians during a webinar – “Trade and health: Parliamentary perspectives on MC12” – organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament. “By contributing to a well-informed, fact-based public debate on trade, you have crucial roles to play in achieving the robust, inclusive, and sustainable future growth path we all need,” she said.

Background

Parliamentarians play an important role in the multilateral trading system. Any deal resulting from intergovernmental negotiations at the WTO will, in most cases, need approval from legislators. The WTO seeks to maintain an open dialogue with parliamentarians and to help them gain a deeper understanding of the organization and its work.

General Council Chair Ambassador Dacio Castillo (Honduras) addressed a second webinar – “The WTO negotiations agenda at the MC12: Towards a sustainable recovery”. The webinars replaced the Parliamentary Conference on WTO that usually takes place during WTO ministerial conferences.

The DG also spoke at the European Parliament Committee on International Trade in May 2021 when she argued for expanding COVID-19 vaccine production and ending export restrictions.

The Steering Committee on WTO matters of the IPU, the international organization of parliaments, met twice in virtual format in April 2021, with the participation of the DG. It also met in September on the sidelines of the WTO Public Forum (see page 172), where the IPU and the European Parliament organized a session.

Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam told the EU Parliament Committee on International Trade's annual Trade Policy Day on 9 November in Brussels that “the WTO acted as an automatic stabilizer in the face of geopolitical instability and the COVID-19 crisis, and now it needs to act as an enabler of the world economy”.

The Secretary-General of the IPU, Martin Chungong, spoke at an event for Asian parliamentarians co-organized by the WTO and the Singapore-based Temasek Foundation in May 2021. He highlighted the increased engagement of parliamentarians with WTO issues.

With the help of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a group from the European Parliament was briefed in November by WTO spokesperson Keith Rockwell on the latest WTO developments.

Trade for Peace Programme

- The WTO Trade for Peace Programme co-hosted a high-level session on trade and peace at the annual Geneva Trade Week in September and held a side event at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021.
- The Trade for Peace Network was launched in March to help policymakers and experts identify areas of collaboration on effective action in fragile and conflict-affected states.

The WTO Trade for Peace Programme co-hosted the opening plenary of the 2021 Geneva Trade Week. The session on 27 September was addressed by DG Okonjo-Iweala and Jose Ramos Horta, former President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

"Trade and peace are completely intertwined in the history of the multilateral trading system," said DG Okonjo-Iweala. In his keynote address, Mr Horta stressed that peace and stability in conflict-affected countries are a pre-condition for trade and development.

In July, the programme also hosted a side-event at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 under the theme "Trade for Peace:



Addressing Fragility Through Economic Integration and Shared Prosperity: The case of WTO membership for Liberia and Afghanistan". In October, WTO members and acceding governments met to stress that trade and WTO membership are drivers of peacebuilding and greater resilience.

The WTO, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Government of Liberia marked the fifth anniversary of Liberia's accession to the WTO with the launch in October of a study on the critical importance of the multilateral trade system for post-conflict states. Liberia's accession "has brought inspiration" to the group of countries in the queue to join the WTO, said DG Okonjo-Iweala.

Another fragile and conflict-affected LDC, Afghanistan, also marked its fifth WTO anniversary in July with the launch of a study examining its membership experience.

Other key developments in 2021 included the inauguration in March of the Trade for Peace Network at a meeting attended by heads of international organizations. The network will allow policymakers and experts to identify areas of collaboration, with the aim of leading to effective action in fragile and conflict-affected states.

July saw the launch of the Research and Knowledge Hub of the Trade for Peace Programme. It will act as a coordinating unit to gather and disseminate research on the trade-peace connection. In November, the second Trade for Peace Week was held, focusing on the Eurasian region.

Background

The Trade for Peace Programme aims at promoting the rules-based system as a peacebuilding tool by highlighting the role of trade and economic integration in the security, humanitarian and development fields. It followed the establishment of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group in 2017. Having suffered from fragility and instability caused by conflicts, the group saw integration into the multilateral trading system as a chance to promote sustainable and inclusive peace.

 **Trade and peace are completely intertwined in the history of the multilateral trading system.**

DG Okonjo-Iweala

Cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations

- DG Okonjo-Iweala highlighted trade's role in ambitious and just climate action at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.
- The WTO worked intensely with other intergovernmental organizations to accelerate the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and to promote a fair economic recovery from the pandemic.
- G20 leaders recognized the contribution of the multilateral trading system to a global recovery from the pandemic.
- The DG took part in G20 and G7 summits and events organized by the United Nations.

UN climate summit

DG Okonjo-Iweala highlighted trade and the WTO's role in a wide range of approaches to climate action, including carbon emission reductions, climate adaptation and trade finance. In meetings with world leaders and stakeholders at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November in Glasgow, Scotland, she called for ambitious yet fair commitments that ensure a green transition that is just and inclusive to all economies (see page 121).

G20

The DG attended the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in October in Rome. With the heads of the IMF, World Bank and the WHO she discussed strategies to accelerate the supply and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, especially in low- and lower middle-income countries.

DG Okonjo-Iweala attended a summit of G20 leaders in October in Rome.

Background

The WTO works closely with other intergovernmental organizations and regional bodies, especially those involved in trade-related issues. This cooperation helps to ensure coordinated action and a consistent approach to international trade policies.





DG Okonjo-Iweala meets with Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi in May in Rome during Italy's presidency of the G20.

G20 leaders declared they "will work with all WTO members in the lead-up to the 12th Ministerial Conference and beyond to enhance the capacity of the multilateral trading system to increase our pandemic and disaster preparedness and resilience through a multifaceted response".

Speaking to G20 leaders and the heads of international organizations at the Global Health Summit on 21 May, the DG said WTO members could contribute to greater equity in the global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines by lowering supply chain barriers, fully using existing production capacity and addressing issues related to intellectual property, access and innovation. The pandemic had made clear that "policymakers need to think of preparedness, response, and resilience as one interconnected package," she said.

The WTO also took part in meetings of G20 trade ministers, the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group and G20 agriculture ministers. It continued to monitor food crop policies under the G20 Agriculture Market Information System initiative, which aims to increase transparency in international commodity markets and improve policy coordination.

With UNCTAD and the OECD, the WTO continued to publish six-monthly reports on trade and investment measures in G20

countries. The WTO Trade Monitoring Report on G20 trade measures, issued in October, shows restraint in new pandemic-related trade restrictions. However, the value of trade covered by pandemic-related restrictions still in place exceeds that of trade-facilitating measures (see page 130).

G7

In March 2021, DG Okonjo-Iweala took part in the inaugural meeting of G7 Trade Track, designed to make the global case for free and fair trade. Trade ministers underlined the vital role global trade has played in tackling the impact of COVID-19 and welcomed the contribution trade can make to a strong economic recovery.

Trade played an important role in the historic development achievements and poverty reduction we saw during the 30 years before COVID-19. And trade will be at the centre of our efforts to end the pandemic.

DG Okonjo-Iweala



COVID-19

The heads of the IMF, World Bank, WHO and WTO announced on 30 June 2021 that they will lead a Multilateral Leaders Task Force on COVID-19. “We have formed a Task Force ... to help track, coordinate and advance delivery of COVID-19 health tools to developing countries and to mobilize relevant stakeholders and national leaders to remove critical roadblocks,” they said in a joint statement.

Also in June, the heads of the WHO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the WTO agreed to collaborate on a series of workshops to increase the flow of information on the pandemic and to launch a platform for tripartite technical assistance to member governments concerning their needs for medical technologies. They gathered again in Geneva on 1 February 2022 to review progress on the initiatives.

In July 2021, the WHO and the WTO hosted a high-level dialogue on “Expanding COVID-19

vaccine manufacture to promote equitable access”, with the participation of senior policymakers, heads of multilateral agencies, vaccine manufacturers, development finance institutions, global health initiatives and public health activists. The DG said: “Unequal access to vaccines is a major reason ... advanced economies and a few others are surging ahead, while the rest lag behind amid rising poverty, hunger and unemployment.”

High-level meetings

In August, the DG attended a meeting hosted by then German Chancellor Angela Merkel on how to boost a fair economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The heads of the International Labour Organization (ILO), IMF, OECD and the World Bank also attended. The DG also participated in the sixth “1+6” Roundtable, held by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and leaders from other international organizations (IMF, World Bank, OECD, ILO, the Financial Stability Board) to discuss how to promote strong, inclusive and sustainable growth.

DG Okonjo-Iweala with the Directors-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Daren Tang.



OECD

The OECD and the WTO cooperate in a range of areas, including in the trade in value-added (TiVA) database and in improving the measurement of digital trade (see page 191). They are developing trade facilitation indicators, with an interactive web tool covering 152 countries.

The WTO and OECD have started preparing the next Global Review of Aid for Trade to be held in 2022. The meeting will build on insights from the Aid for Trade stocktaking exercise, which was held in March 2021 (see page 155).

United Nations

DG Okonjo-Iweala attended the spring and autumn meetings of the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), composed of the executive heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes and the executive heads of the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO.

The WTO is part of the UN Secretary General-led High-Level Task Force, which brings together 23 UN agencies and international organizations to provide policy coordination and political leadership to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In a speech to the United Nations High-level Political Forum in July 2021, the DG said: “Trade played an important role in the historic development achievements and poverty reduction we saw during the 30 years before COVID-19. And trade will be at the centre of our efforts to end the pandemic.”

In a video message to the UN Food Systems Summit on 23 September, she underscored the importance of international trade in building sustainable food systems.



UNCTAD, ITC and UN regional commissions

UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the WTO jointly produce the annual “World Tariff Profiles” (see page 190) and quarterly and annual statistics on international trade in services. They also combine in statistical capacity-building, including training and e-learning courses.

The WTO’s cooperation with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has grown, particularly in helping least-developed countries (LDCs) that are graduating from LDC status to adapt (see page 151) and in helping developing countries prepare for ministerial conferences.

DG Okonjo-Iweala addresses the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November.



Contact with the media

- The appointment of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General sparked an increase in media coverage of the WTO.
- Despite COVID-19, journalists were able to attend 50 press conferences, briefings and other events in virtual or hybrid format.

The appointment of DG Okonjo-Iweala sparked a surge in media interest in the WTO. Hundreds of journalists worldwide sought to interview the first African and the first woman to head the organization, with the media team handling the requests. The DG's close involvement in discussions to facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccines and medical supplies in developing countries also attracted widespread coverage throughout the year.

The ongoing pandemic continued to pose challenges to the work of the media team. Extensive preparations for the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) were suddenly put on hold when the meeting was postponed in late November due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

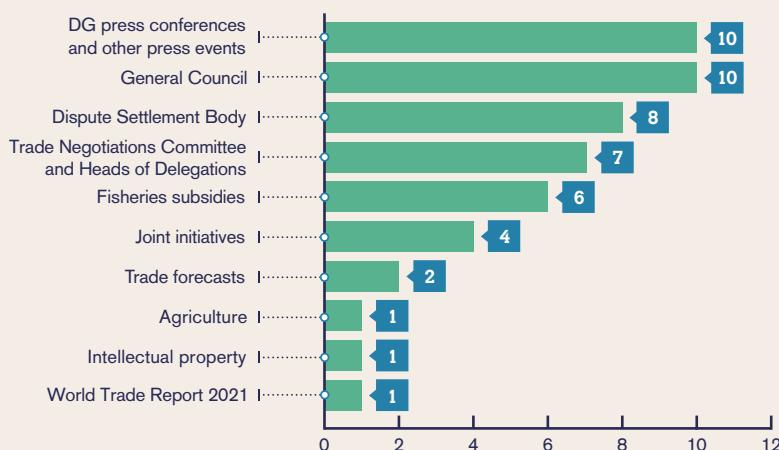
In advance of MC12, the media team organized two virtual seminars for journalists in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The first, attended by 21 Latin American journalists, took place on 19-22 April and was conducted in Spanish. The second, for 20 English-speaking journalists from Africa and Asia, took place on 31 May-3 June.

The media team continued to organize virtual press conferences and briefings, occasionally in hybrid format when conditions permitted. These included the annual trade forecast and revised forecast, meetings of key WTO councils and bodies, briefings with the DG and the launch of new trade-related initiatives by proponent members.

In total, journalists were invited to 50 press conferences, briefings and other events in 2021. Press officers also continued to assist colleagues with organizing webinars and online conferences.

The WTO approved 256 requests for registration to the online newsroom, where journalists can access press releases and publications under embargo. The total number of accredited journalists registered stood at 2,075 as of the end of 2021.

Figure 1: Press briefings and conferences, by issue, 2021



Contact with the public

- The WTO website attracted 3.23 million monthly visits, 4 per cent more than in 2020.
- The “COVID-19 and world trade” section on the website, covering measures taken by WTO members in response to the pandemic, was viewed over 862,000 times.
- The WTO launched a podcast called “Let’s Talk Trade” and a TikTok account.
- The WTO issued 66 publications, up from 51 in 2020.

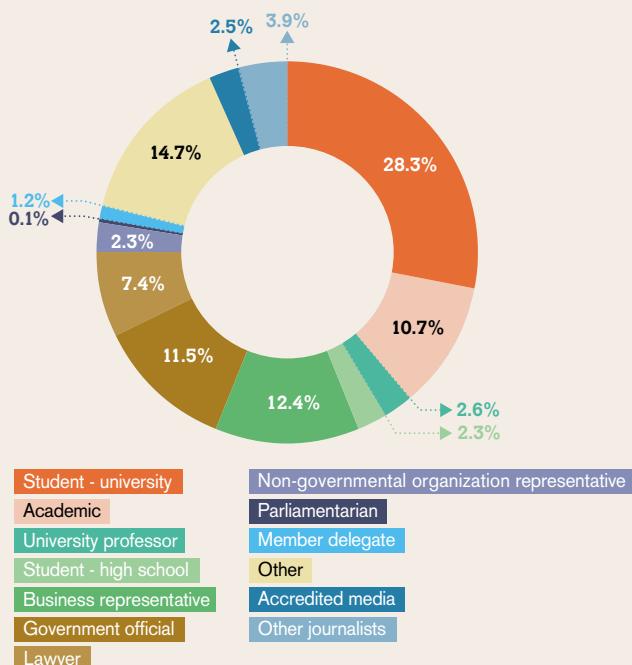
WTO website

The WTO website attracted over 3.23 million monthly visits in 2021, over 4 per cent more than the year before. The United States accounted for the most visits, with 16.5 per cent, followed by China (12.3 per cent) and Russia (7.26 per cent). Total page views rose to 94.6 million, from 86.3 million in 2020. Over 530 news items were published on the site, 20 per cent more than in 2020.

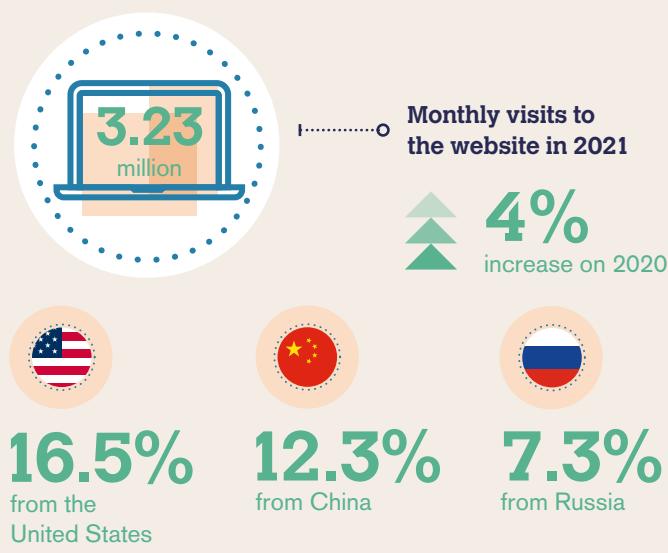
Some of the most downloaded files were the WTO’s flagship publications, the “World Trade Statistical Review 2021” (64,300 downloads), the “Annual Report 2021” (over 43,000 downloads) and the “World Trade Report 2021” (23,800 downloads). The publication “The History and Future of the World Trade Organization” was another popular publication, downloaded almost 64,000 times.

WTO videos were viewed over 354,000 times in 2021. The most popular video, with over 29,000 views, was the press conference by Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala following the confirmation of her appointment as WTO Director-General. The second most popular was her first day as WTO DG, which was viewed 16,840 times.

Figure 2: Users registered for email alerts by occupation, as of end-2021



Visitors to the WTO website



Some 83,700 people have registered to receive email alerts for WTO news items (see Figure 2). The largest numbers of registrations are from India (10.5 per cent), followed by the United States, Mexico, Colombia, Peru and France.

The WTO's "COVID-19 and world trade" section on the website, providing up-to-the-minute information on the impact of the pandemic on world trade and measures members have taken in response to it, was viewed over 862,000 times.

The most downloaded WTO Secretariat reports about COVID-19 and trade were "Developing and delivering COVID-19 vaccines around the world: An information note about issues with trade impact" (57,000 downloads), "E-commerce, trade and the COVID-19 pandemic" (43,000) and "Export prohibitions and restrictions" (16,800).

Social media

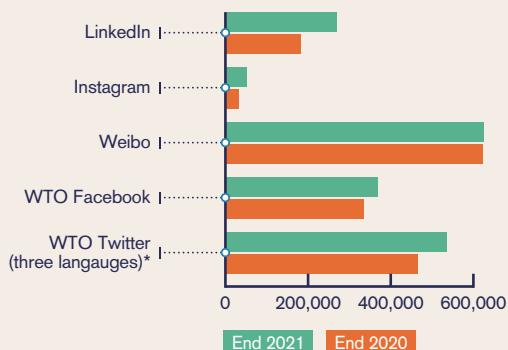
The number of WTO followers on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Weibo grew by 13 per cent to close to 2 million (see Figure 3). The posts announcing the appointment of Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General were the most popular ever on WTO social networks. Other popular topics concerned the Public Forum (see page 172) and the Aid for Trade stocktaking event (see page 155) in March 2021.

In line with the aim of reaching out to younger people, the WTO started a TikTok account, sharing information in short videos adapted to the style of this platform.

Audio-visual products

Overall video production grew by 35 per cent in 2021. The most viewed videos were connected to the appointment of Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General and her first day in office, followed by videos on the

Figure 3: Percentage of growth in the number of followers of the WTO on social media platforms



fisheries subsidies negotiations and the popular, ongoing "Let's Talk Trade" series of videos aimed at explaining trade topics in everyday language.

The WTO launched a "Let's Talk Trade" podcast to dive into specific topics. The first two seasons focused on small businesses using trade to navigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and on the history of WTO ministerial conferences.

Student group presentations

The WTO arranged presentations for 34 groups, totalling just under 1,000 people. All but three of these events took place via virtual platforms. The presentations, which covered the history, functions and work of the WTO, were given in four languages. The majority of them (30) were in English, two were in German and one each was in Chinese and Russian.



3.23

The WTO website attracted over 3.23 million monthly visits in 2021.



35%

Overall production of WTO videos grew by 35 per cent in 2021.

WTO publications

The WTO issued 66 publications in 2021, up from 51 the year before. Most WTO publications can be downloaded from the WTO's website in the three official languages – English, French and Spanish. Printed copies can be purchased from the WTO Online Bookshop. The WTO's apps are available free from the App Store and Google Play. The WTO Publications Facebook page has over 51,600 followers and its Twitter page over 70,600.

The WTO iLibrary was expanded and revamped. It currently includes over 1,800 titles published by the WTO or co-published with other international organizations, over 30 titles co-published with Cambridge University Press, over 300 WTO working papers, comprehensive statistical data on world trade, and every dispute settlement report issued since the WTO was established, comprising over 800 reports.



66

publications issued
by the WTO
in 2021.



Flagship publications

Annual Report 2021

ISBN 978-92-870-5130-1 | CHF 50
The report provides a comprehensive account of the WTO's activities and provides details on its current structure, staff and budget.

World Trade Report 2021:

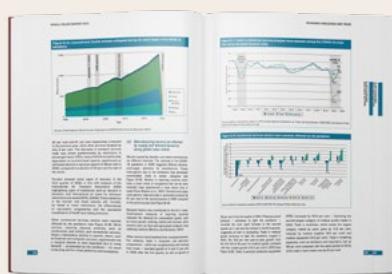
Economic resilience and trade

ISBN 978-92-870-5139-4 | CHF 50
The report examines why the interconnected global trading system is both vulnerable and resilient to crises and how it can help countries to be more economically resilient to shocks in the future (see page 187).



World Trade Statistical Review 2021

ISBN 978-92-870-5148-6 | CHF 50
A comprehensive overview of the latest developments in world trade, covering both merchandise trade and trade in commercial services.



Trade Profiles 2021

ISBN 978-92-870-5157-8 | CHF 50
Key indicators on trade in goods and services for 197 economies. Highlights each economy's major exports and imports and its main trading partners.

World Tariff Profiles 2021

ISBN 978-92-870-5166-0 | CHF 50
Comprehensive information on tariffs and non-tariff measures imposed by over 170 countries and customs territories. Co-published with ITC and UNCTAD.



Trade Policy Reviews 2021

The trade policy reviews for Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, Qatar, Tonga, China, India, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Kyrgyz Republic and Viet Nam were published in 2021, analysing their trade policies and practices (see page 127).

Dispute Settlement Reports 2020

Five volumes were issued in 2021, providing the full texts of panel reports issued by the WTO in 2020. Co-published with Cambridge University Press.





New publications

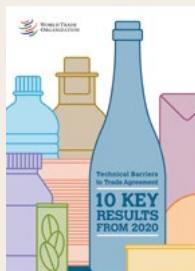
Adapting to the Digital Trade Era: Challenges and opportunities

Edited by Maarten Smeets
ISBN 978-92-870-4302-3 | CHF 40
This study looks at how the rapid adoption of digital technologies could help developing countries increase their participation in world trade.



Strengthening Africa's Capacity to Trade

ISBN 978-92-870-4835-6 | CHF 30
Open global trade has had positive effects for African industrialization and development. This report looks at efforts to help African countries strengthen their trading capacity and take fuller advantage of the benefits that trade brings.



Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement: 10 key results from 2020

ISBN 978-92-870-5270-4 | Free
The WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) conducts an annual review of the implementation of the TBT Agreement. This brochure provides 10 key results from the 2020 review.



WTO Dispute Settlement: One-Page Case Summaries (1995-2020)

ISBN 978-92-870-5224-7 | CHF 40
The publication covers all panel and Appellate Body reports adopted by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) up to 31 December 2020, devoting a single page to each dispute to provide a succinct summary of the key findings.

Trading into a bright energy future: The case for open, high-quality solar photovoltaic markets

ISBN 978-92-870-4994-0 | CHF 30
Open global trade has been an important factor in the rapid deployment of solar photovoltaic technologies around the world. The need to keep markets open and to develop harmonized product standards across the world is examined in this new joint report with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).



Technical Barriers to Trade – Third Edition

The WTO Agreements Series
ISBN 978-92-870-4998-8 | CHF 30
Prepared by the WTO Secretariat, this new edition in the "WTO Agreements" series aims at enhancing understanding of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).



Accelerating Trade Digitalization to Support MSME Financing

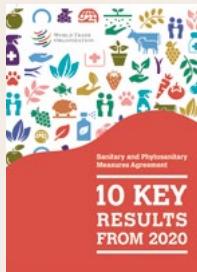
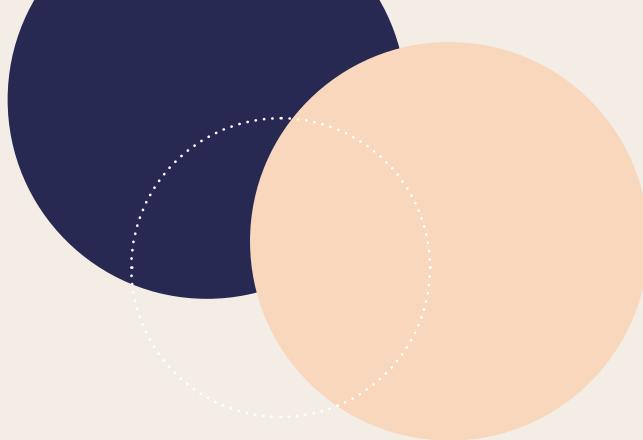
Digital only | Free
This publication seeks to identify some of the challenges that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) face in acquiring financing, and explores the potential of digital technologies to address these challenges. Co-published with Trade Finance Global.



Status of WTO Legal Instruments

ISBN 978-92-870-5260-5 | CHF 40
The "Status of WTO Legal Instruments" is the WTO Secretariat's flagship publication on WTO treaties. The latest edition was published in 2021.

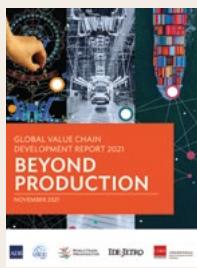




- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement: 10 key results from 2020
ISBN 978-92-870-5325-1 | Free
The WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) conducts an annual review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement. This brochure provides 10 key results from the 2020 review.

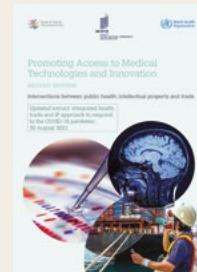


- Competition Policy and Intellectual Property in Today's Global Economy
Edited by Robert D. Anderson, Nuno Pires de Carvalho and Antony Taubman
ISBN 9781316645680 | CHF 80
This book looks at the positive linkages between IP and competition in jurisdictions around the world, surveying developments and policy issues from an international and comparative perspective. Co-published in 2021 by Cambridge University Press, the WTO and WIPO.

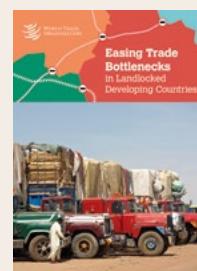


- Global Value Chain Development Report 2021: Beyond Production
ISBN 978-92-870-5429-6 | CHF 60
The report shows how the rise of services value chains offers a new path to development and how protectionism and geopolitical tensions, environmental risks, and pandemics are undermining the stability of global value chains.
Co-published by the WTO, ADB, UIBE, IDE-JETRO and the China Development Research Foundation.

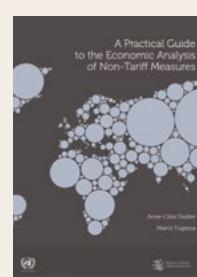
- Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation – Extract: An integrated health, trade and IP approach to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
ISBN 978-92-870-5337-4 | Free
As part of their efforts to help countries develop the capacity to deal with multi-dimensional challenges in the public health sector, the WHO, WIPO and WTO have launched an updated extract of the second edition of this trilateral study.



- Easing Trade Bottlenecks in Landlocked Developing Countries
ISBN 978-92-870-5421-0 | CHF 35
Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face many challenges to integrate into global supply chains. This report identifies trade bottlenecks in LLDCs and provides recommendations on how to keep trade flowing smoothly across borders.



- A Practical Guide to the Economic Analysis of Non-Tariff Measures
ISBN 978-92-870-4883-7 | CHF 45
The third volume of the series of Practical Guides to Trade Analysis co-published by UNCTAD and the WTO.



Economic research activities

- The WTO's flagship "World Trade Report" examines why the interconnected global trading system is both vulnerable and resilient to crises and shows how trade policy and the WTO can support resilience.
- The WTO issued the Trade Cost Index, which for the first time gives members a detailed breakdown of trade costs and who pays them.
- The WTO and the World Bank issued "The Role of Trade in Developing Countries' Road to Recovery", which discusses how international trade can help developing countries recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

The WTO's Economic Research and Statistics Division organizes regular seminars and conferences as well as online forums involving academics and researchers in Geneva and around the world. These activities include the Geneva Trade and Development Workshop programme. It is responsible for the WTO's flagship publication, the "World Trade Report", which aims to deepen understanding about trends in trade, trade policy issues and the multilateral trading system.

World Trade Report 2021: Economic Resilience and Trade

The WTO's flagship publication, the "World Trade Report 2021", examines why the interconnected global trading system is both vulnerable and resilient to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It shows that a more open, inclusive and predictable trade environment is needed to promote diversification and contribute to economic resilience. The WTO already plays a key role in making economies more resilient by promoting lower trade barriers and greater transparency in trade policies. Further international cooperation at the WTO can help governments to be better prepared and more resilient in the future.



Key findings from the 2021 World Trade Report

- Most trade measures taken by WTO members in response to the COVID-19 crisis were trade-facilitating. The rapid trade recovery after the pandemic underlines how liberalizing trade policies can support resilience.
- Trade can strengthen resilience by boosting productivity and growth and by increasing access to goods and services to prepare for, cope with and recover from the impact of shocks.
- Trade policies, such as easing trade controls to support the flow of emergency goods and limiting the use of export restrictions to promote the availability of essential goods globally, can be highly beneficial at times of crisis.
- A diversified trade and production structure makes it more likely that trade can play a positive role in coping with shocks.
- International cooperation can play an important role in increasing the resilience of global value chains and securing essential goods and services, including COVID-19 vaccines, at a reasonable cost.
- WTO members could make an even greater contribution to building economic resilience by strengthening their cooperation on various issues, such as export restriction, electronic commerce and transparency on trade measures.



"Policies that aim to increase economic resilience by unwinding trade integration and promoting self-sufficiency can backfire, effectively reducing economic resilience," DG Okonjo-Iweala said at the launch of the report in November. "Global policy coordination has an important role to play in fostering economic resilience. The WTO has been able to enhance transparency about international market conditions by monitoring COVID-related trade measures and using its convening power to push for more vaccine manufacturing in developing countries," she added.

Global value chains

Early evidence emerging from the ongoing pandemic indicates that global value chains have played a key role in supporting economic recovery and are evolving in important ways, according to the "Global Value Chain Development Report 2021: Beyond Production". The report was co-published in November by the WTO, the Asian Development Bank, the Research Institute for Global Value Chains at the University of International Business and Economics, the Institute of Developing Economies and the China Development Research Foundation.

Trade Cost Index

In 2021, the Economic Research and Statistics Division issued the WTO Trade Cost Index. Based on estimates of bilateral trade costs for 43 economies and 31 sectors between 2000 and 2018, the index allows

users for the first time to monitor the evolution of global trade costs by economy and sector, to understand the main components of trade costs such as tariffs, non-tariff measures and infrastructure, and to determine who in terms of gender, income and skill-set faces the largest trade costs.

Role of trade in developing countries' recovery from COVID-19

A joint WTO-World Bank policy note, "The Role of Trade in Developing Countries' Road to Recovery", discusses how international trade can support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and future global shocks.

Trade and global value chains have proven to be resilient and are driving the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the report notes. The pandemic has, however, highlighted some developing countries' vulnerabilities that need to be addressed, including limited economic diversification and access to trade finance. Governments can – individually and collectively – act to ensure that trade facilitates the transition to green, resilient and inclusive development.

DG Okonjo-Iweala launches the World Trade Report 2021 on 16 November.

The pandemic has highlighted some developing countries' vulnerabilities that need to be addressed, including limited economic diversification and access to trade finance.



Swapnika Rachapalli,
joint winner of the
2021 Essay Award for
Young Economists.

WTO Essay Award for Young Economists

The winners of the 2021 WTO Essay Award for Young Economists were Tomas Dominguez-lino for his paper “Efficiency and Redistribution in Environmental Policy: An Equilibrium Analysis of Agricultural Supply Chains”, and Swapnika Rachapalli for her paper “Learning between Buyers and Sellers Along the Global Value”. The winners will share the prize of CHF 5,000.

Tomas Dominguez-lino's paper looks beyond carbon taxes to consider the possibilities for regulating trade-oriented and imperfectly competitive industries that contribute to climate change. He shows that imposing environmental tariffs on agricultural imports from South America would perform poorly due to “carbon leakage”, whereby emissions reductions achieved by regulated markets are mostly offset by increased trade flows to non-regulated markets. The paper is useful in cautioning policymakers about unintended consequences of policy decisions.

Tomas Dominguez-lino is from Argentina. He earned his PhD from New York University in 2021. He is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and will join the Federal Reserve Board as of 2022.

Swapnika Rachapalli's paper asks whether input suppliers learn how to make downstream products from their buyers and, if so, what the role

of international trade is in providing access to better downstream foreign knowledge through buyer-seller interactions. The study finds that gains from opening up are larger for firms/countries with less technological know-how and which were previously more closed to foreign markets. The paper identifies a very important mechanism by which developing countries can gain from trade with industrialized countries through technology upgrading.

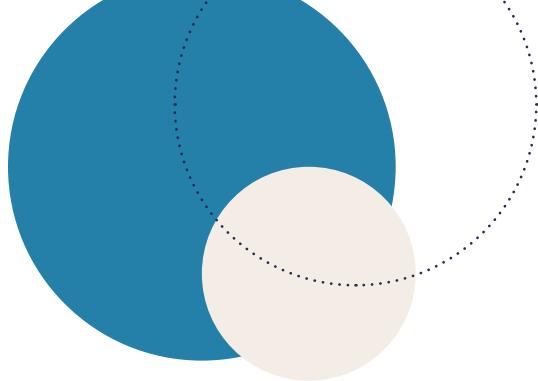
Swapnika Rachapalli is from India. She earned her PhD from the University of Toronto, Canada, in 2021. She is a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University's International Economics Section, and as of July 2022, will be Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia.

Selection panel

The selection panel for 2021 was comprised of Beata Javorcik (Professor of Economics, University of Oxford), Robert Koopman (Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO), Robert Staiger (Professor of Economics, Dartmouth University) and Alberto Trejos (Professor of Economics, INCAE Business School). Roberta Piermartini (Chief of Trade Cost Analysis, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO) coordinated the work of the panel.

Tomas Dominguez-lino, joint winner of the 2021 Essay Award for Young Economists, with Roberta Piermartini, WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division.





Statistics activities

➤ WTO statisticians monitored trade trends in merchandise and services and the impact of COVID-19, particularly on developing economies. The WTO issued statistical notes on trade in medical goods and COVID-19 vaccine availability.

➤ The “World Trade Statistical Review”, the WTO’s flagship statistical publication, looked into the trade impact of COVID-19. It was complemented by the WTO’s two other annual statistical publications, “Trade Profiles” and “World Tariff Profiles”.

➤ The WTO, with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), published the first Balanced Trade in Services dataset, providing a complete and balanced matrix of export and import data.

Statistical developments related to COVID-19

WTO statisticians monitored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international trade and global supply chains, providing reports and analytical insights to support decision-making on trade policies.

In 2021, the WTO issued two updates on “Trade in Medical Goods in the Context of Tackling COVID-19”, first issued in April 2020, and a new report on “COVID-19 Vaccine Production and Tariffs on Vaccine Inputs”. Product coverage for the latter was based on a project developed in cooperation with other international organizations and the private sector – the “Joint Indicative List of Critical COVID-19 Vaccine Inputs”. Another information note on “Improving Trade Data for Products Essential to Fight COVID-19” was also published.

Together with the IMF, the WTO launched the WTO-IMF COVID-19 Vaccine Trade Tracker in November to monitor trade and supply and to provide greater transparency on the cross-border flow of vaccines.

The WTO Secretariat continued to enhance the coverage and dissemination of monthly and quarterly data on merchandise and services trade, producing a series of news items and information notes highlighting the most recent trends in international trade and global supply chains. Quarterly information notes on trade in intermediate goods were released to reflect trends in global supply chains.

Statistical publications and data series

The “World Trade Statistical Review 2021”, the WTO’s flagship statistical publication, provides insights into the trade impact of COVID-19. “Trade Profiles 2021” contains a series of key indicators on trade in goods and services while “World Tariff Profiles 2021” provides information on tariffs and non-tariff measures.

Background

The Economic Research and Statistics Division supports WTO members and the WTO Secretariat with data on economic and trade policy issues and with technical advisory services on market access negotiations and on the maintenance of goods schedules. The division is the principal supplier of WTO trade statistics and information on tariffs and non-tariff measures. It provides technical assistance for trade policy courses and national workshops and contributes to inter-organizational statistical activities.



The WTO Data Portal on the WTO website was expanded to give access to a selection of key databases offering statistics on various trade-related measures.

A new dataset covering bilateral services trade of 200 economies in 2005-19 – Balanced Trade in Services – was produced in cooperation with the OECD. It offers a complete and balanced matrix that reconciles previously asymmetrical export and import data.

With the support of the World Customs Organization, WTO statisticians launched an online tool – the HS Tracker – to help customs officials and traders prepare for changes in the Harmonized System (HS – see page 87).

Statistical capacity-building

A project on developing statistical capacity in Africa, launched in 2020 with the OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, strengthened relationships with national statisticians in African countries.

The WTO Secretariat participated in various workshops to raise awareness on how to measure digital trade, as outlined in the “Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade”, published in 2020 with the OECD and the IMF.

WTO statisticians contributed to joint online courses and webinars with the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations and regional statistical agencies for developing economies, exchanging knowledge on best practice in data collection, compilation and analysis of merchandise trade and trade in services statistics.

Online tools to disseminate market access information and trade statistics were regularly presented in thematic, regional and trade policy courses and in seminars tailored to national needs.

The WTO provided technical assistance in trade in services to countries in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The WTO Secretariat also offered capacity-building on global value chain indicators.

International cooperation

The WTO Secretariat, with the OECD, was a lead contributor to the first Eurostat “Compilers’ Guide on Trade in Services by Mode of Supply”. These guidelines help countries to produce official statistics on trade in services by the four modes of supply under the WTO’s General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Data for the portal on trade-related Sustainable Development Goals were updated. The initiative streamlines reporting and has led to enhanced cooperation with the International Trade Centre and UNCTAD.

I-TIP

The WTO’s Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP), which provides the most comprehensive information on non-tariff measures (NTMs), was regularly updated with new information on services trade policies and trade statistics. By the end of 2021, more than 65,000 NTMs on trade in goods had been included, up from 62,000 the previous year.

DG Okonjo-Iweala presents the WTO’s trade forecast at a press conference in October 2021.

Cooperation with academic institutions

- Seventeen universities from least-developed and developing country members joined the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), almost doubling its size.
- The WTO provided funding to existing WCP chairs for 11 research projects selected on a competitive basis.
- Six students from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Senegal and Thailand participated in the WTO's PhD support programme while 81 universities took part in the regional rounds of the annual John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition.

Background

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), launched in 2010, aims to promote research into the trading system among academics and respond to the needs of policymakers in developing and least-developed countries. Chair-holders are selected through a competitive process. The main objectives of the WCP are to create a network fostering research on trade issues, to provide teaching support for the development of courses on trade policy, to organize outreach activities to disseminate research, and to provide policy advice to governmental and other stakeholders. The WCP is housed in the WTO's Knowledge and Information Management, Academic Outreach and WTO Chairs Programme Division.

Third phase of the WTO Chairs Programme

Seventeen universities from least-developed and developing country members were chosen to join the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) in November 2021, effectively doubling its size to 36 institutions. The WTO received a total of 126 applications from universities in 54 members across all continents for the new cycle of the programme. The successful candidates include universities from countries and regions previously under-represented in the programme.

Following the recommendation of an independent external evaluation of the WCP, commissioned at the conclusion of the previous cycle in 2018, the WTO decided to significantly scale up the programme. A call for applications for chairs for phase III of the programme was issued in December 2020.

The large number of applications allowed for a highly competitive selection process conducted by the WCP team, with the support of experts from several other divisions of the WTO and in collaboration with the WCP Academic Advisory Board.

The 17 new WTO chairs are from Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Lesotho, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Announcing the result, DG Okonjo-Iweala declared her intention to admit institutions to the WCP on a rolling basis in the future. "Having looked closely into the existing structure ... I believe there is greater benefit to be had if we are to admit a smaller number of candidates more frequently. This will allow us to make the programme even more representational, enhance its visibility and generate more momentum in the chairs network and with members," she said.



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universities from least-developed and developing country members were chosen to join the WTO Chairs Programme.

Impact of the WTO Chairs Programme

"The WCP directly builds up members' capacity to fully participate in the multilateral trading system through direct partnerships with beneficiary institutions. Through the WCP, governments gain direct access to the trade policy expertise of chair-holders. Their high-quality research and impactful advice are translated into policy actions of the government."

Deputy Director-General Xiangchen Zhang

"With the newly selected institutions, the WCP offers a better geographical representation in less developed countries in Central America, Central and South Africa, and Central and South Asia, which were previously under-represented regions. This diversity lends a richness to the programme that makes its whole much more than the sum of its parts."

Marcelo Olarreaga, Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva and member of the WCP Academic Advisory Board

"This programme aims to enable LDCs, which face numerous challenges on trade issues, to participate fully in the multilateral trading system and to benefit from it through the analysis of the challenges that our economies face. The WCP makes it possible to raise awareness on international trade among several strata of society: the private sector, political decision-makers and the negotiators of tomorrow."

Ambassador Ahmad Makaila of Chad, Chair of the LDC Group

"Chairs produce relevant and high-quality research and training programmes in expert competencies through regularly updated trade course curricula and outreach activities. They have been successful in providing policymakers and other stakeholders with evidence-based and custom-made advice that, as demonstrated from prior performance, translates into concrete policy action in beneficiary countries."

Ambassador Mujtaba Piracha of Pakistan, Chair of the Committee for Trade and Development

"Austria is a donor of the Chairs Programme because it generates excellent long-term sustainability by capitalizing on academic specialization. I also think it is very important for the programme to focus on topics most relevant to policymakers and stakeholders, including those covered by WTO committee work and negotiations."

Cynthia Zimmermann, Austrian Deputy Federal Minister for Trade and Digitalization

"The WCP has become a community of practice, learning and collaboration across academic institutions, regions and trade-related disciplines. The three pillars of the programme are closely interconnected and the respective feedback loops serve to enrich the activities and outputs of each pillar."

Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director of the Trade Law Centre and a member of the Academic Advisory Board

The existing WCP network consists of 14 institutions selected as WTO Chairs for a four-year term in the first phase in 2009 and an additional six Chairs selected in the second phase that commenced in 2014. The WCP is funded by the WTO's Global Trust Fund, with contributions from Australia, Austria, France and the Netherlands.

Activities of the Chairs Programme

In 2021, the WTO provided the existing Chairs with funding for 11 research projects selected on a competitive basis. They focused on building capacity for important issues linked to recent joint declarations made by WTO members. These include trade and women's economic empowerment, economic resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainable development and the blue economy, regional integration, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and the digital economy.

The academic diversity of the Chairs and their teams generated wide-ranging legal and economic analysis of the issues, helping to inform national and regional policy-making. The projects demonstrate the capacity-building

impact of the Chairs Programme and the importance of the results-based management framework implemented to monitor it.

Academic support programmes

In 2021, six students from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Senegal and Thailand participated in the WTO's PhD support programme, which aims to support the development of academic expertise on WTO issues in developing countries. Due to the pandemic, the programme was carried out virtually. The PhD dissertations contribute significantly to building expertise on international trade and WTO-related matters in developing countries.

The WTO signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Law Students Association, formalizing the 20-year-long fruitful relationship between the two entities in organizing the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law, which attracted 81 universities in 2021 (see page 144). The competition has grown into a truly global event, reaching hundreds of trade law students as well as the academics and practitioners who serve as panellists and promoting engagement with WTO matters across the world.

Universities participating in the WTO Chairs Programme



**Phase I and II
chairs established
in 2010 and 2014**

1 Argentina
Latin American
Faculty of
Social Sciences

2 Barbados
University of the
West Indies

3 Benin
University
Abomey-Calavi

4 Brazil
Getulio Vargas
Foundation,
Sao Paulo School
of Economics

5 China
Shanghai University
of International
Business and
Economics

6 Chile
University of Chile

7 Indonesia
Universitas Gadjah
Mada

8 Jordan
University of Jordan

9 Kenya
University of Nairobi

10 Mauritius
University of Mauritius

11 Mexico
Instituto Tecnológico
Autónomo de México

12 Morocco
Mohammed V
University Souissi

13 Oman
Sultan Qaboos
University

**14 Russian
Federation**
St Petersburg
State University

15 Senegal
Cheikh Anta
Diop University

16 Singapore
National University
of Singapore

17 South Africa
North-West
University

18 Tunisia
University of
Tunis, Tunis
Business School

19 Turkey
Istanbul Bilgi
University



- → Phase I and II chairs established in 2010 and 2014
- → Phase III chairs established in 2021



**Phase III chairs
established
in 2021**

20 Cameroon
Université de Yaoundé II

21 China
University of International Business and Economics

22 Colombia
Universidad de los Andes

23 Costa Rica
Universidad Nacional

24 Ecuador
Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar Sede

25 Egypt
Cairo University

26 Ethiopia
Addis Ababa University

27 India
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

28 Lesotho
National University of Lesotho

29 Nepal
Kathmandu University School of Management

30 Pakistan
Lahore School of Economics

31 Peru
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

32 Rwanda
University of Rwanda

33 Chinese Taipei
National Taiwan University

34 Tanzania
Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa

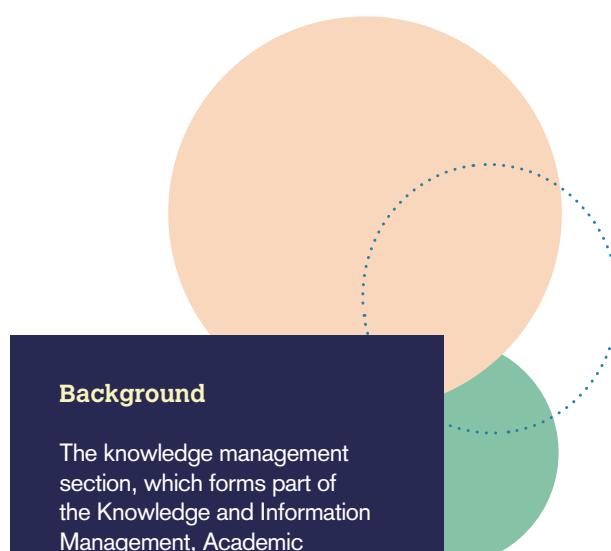
35 Uzbekistan
The University of World Economy and Diplomacy of Uzbekistan

36 Viet Nam
Foreign Trade University



Knowledge management

- The WTO's knowledge management section worked to promote knowledge-sharing within the WTO and with members to increase the effectiveness of the Secretariat.
- Visits to the WTO Library's website have risen over 500 per cent since the site was launched in 2019.
- In 2021, the Library created a "WTO staff & WCP research portal" to facilitate access to research by the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP).



Background

The knowledge management section, which forms part of the Knowledge and Information Management, Academic Outreach and WTO Chairs Programme Division (KMD), was created in 2020 to promote knowledge-sharing within the WTO and with members. Improved knowledge management increases the effectiveness of the Secretariat in serving members in the WTO's key fields of activity.

Two knowledge-sharing series were launched in 2021. "Thinkers Thursdays" aims to provide an overview of knowledge management and how it can assist the daily work of the WTO Secretariat. "On the Road to MC12" introduces key negotiating issues and challenges facing trade negotiators in the run-up to the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12).

The Secretariat participates in a global network of knowledge management focal points from many international organizations. Convened by the UN Development Coordination Office, the forum meets regularly to exchange good practices, lessons learned and common challenges faced by UN entities on various aspects of knowledge management.

In 2021, the knowledge management section organized an African art exhibition originally planned as a side event to MC12. The showcase of young African talent featured works from the Africana Foundation in Geneva. The first theme of the exhibition was entitled "Ubuntu: I AM because WE ARE", which comes from a South African term referring to shared humanity, generosity, togetherness and even vulnerability. The second theme was the importance of promoting a more sustainable environment.

Records and archives management

The records and archives management section (RAMS) is an integral part of KMD and aims at guaranteeing the good management of the Secretariat's records and archives.

In July 2021, with support from the Information Technology Solutions Division, RAMS rolled out a new electronic document and records management system based on M-Files technology, which generates efficiency gains as well as better searchability and accessibility of records, enabling the Secretariat to better assist members.

RAMS is a member of the International Council on Archives and actively participates in the network of Records Managers and Archivists of International Organizations. This involvement gives international visibility to the WTO's historical records.

WTO Library

In 2021, the WTO Library provided a full range of both onsite and increasingly online services to WTO bodies, missions, Secretariat staff, members' capitals, other inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and academics around the world. Visits to the library website have risen over 500 per cent since the site was launched in 2019, with users from 171 countries.

Among its innovations in 2021, the Library created a "WTO staff & WCP research portal" to facilitate access to research by WTO staff, past and present, and by academics in the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP – see page 192). It includes regular posts about WCP activities.

The WTO Library trade news resources portal was launched in December 2021. It provides easy access to over 1,600 mostly



free trade and news resources, including WTO and external data on regional trade agreements.

The WTO Library's upgraded website provides access to an online catalogue of electronic journals, news resources, reading recommendations and bibliographies, with many resources that can be used for free anywhere in the world. The onsite reading room is open Monday to Friday (except official holidays).

DG Okonjo-Iweala views exhibits in an African art exhibition held at the WTO in December.

