

# Outreach

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## Cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations

- DG Okonjo-Iweala attended the COP27 Climate Summit in Egypt where she said tackling global warming cannot be successful without taking into account the role of trade in meeting climate goals.
- The DG warned G20 leaders against fragmenting the multilateral trading system, telling them; “We need to strengthen trade cooperation, not weaken it.” Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, G20 leaders recognized the core role of the WTO in the multilateral trading system.
- Together with the heads of the IMF, World Bank and WHO, the DG worked to leverage multilateral finance and trade solutions to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

### 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.

### UN climate summit

Economies will fail to tackle global warming unless they include trade and trade policies in their plans to meet climate goals, DG Okonjo-Iweala warned. “We cannot afford to leave trade and the WTO behind,” she said in launching the WTO’s World Trade Report at the COP27 Climate Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November (see page 15). The WTO’s flagship report focused for the first time on climate change and international trade.

The DG spoke at several high-level sessions. She also joined world leaders in a call to mobilize US\$ 12.5 billion over five years to support Africa’s transition to greener economies and climate adaptation. At a high-level forum – Global Investment and Trade for Climate Transformation – convened by the WTO and UNCTAD, the DG highlighted the need to develop climate-smart policies to promote international trade and investment in climate-change mitigation and adaptation projects.

### G20

The DG attended the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in November in Bali, Indonesia. She underlined the need to avoid fragmenting the rules-based world trading system and to lift export restrictions on food, feed and fertilizers, which have been increasing, with the world’s poorest suffering most from such policies. “We need to strengthen trade cooperation, not weaken it,” she declared.

The G20 leaders issued a Bali Declaration reaffirming their commitment to a rules-based, equitable, sustainable and transparent multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core. Leaders also agreed that WTO reform is key in strengthening trust in the multilateral trading system.

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

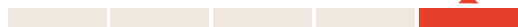
international commodity markets and improve policy coordination.

A study looking into volatility in the fertilizer market and its impact on agricultural production was issued in November by the WTO and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Calling for urgent action to address the fertilizer crisis, the study outlines policy recommendations for G20 governments, highlighting the importance of keeping the fertilizer market open to meet global demand.

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 that amid economic uncertainty exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the food security crisis, G20 economies between mid-May and mid-October 2022 introduced export restrictions at an increased pace, particularly on food and fertilizer.

Indonesia’s President, Joko Widodo, greets DG Okonjo-Iweala at the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Bali, Indonesia in November.





The WTO and the Caribbean Development Bank sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation on helping small businesses trade globally.

**COVID-19**

DG Okonjo-Iweala worked with the heads of the IMF, World Bank and WHO to leverage multilateral finance and trade solutions to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, particularly for low- and middle-income economies, through the Multilateral Leaders Task Force she co-founded in 2021. These joint efforts developed relations with the main manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine inputs and other stakeholders (see page 12).

The WHO, WIPO and the WTO jointly held a series of workshops to increase the flow of information on the pandemic and in April launched a trilateral COVID-19 technical assistance platform to help members and accession candidates request tailored technical assistance to address their capacity-building needs. In December, they gathered experts for a joint technical symposium to examine key pandemic challenges within the frameworks of health, trade and intellectual property and to discuss building resilience. “This will help lay the foundation for better responses to future global health crises”, said DG Okonjo-Iweala.

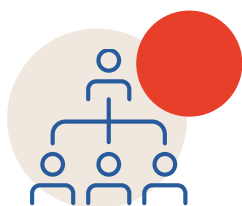
The WTO Secretariat also collaborated with the World Bank to publish “Trade Therapy: Deepening Cooperation to Enhance Pandemic Defences” (see page 170), which analyses the role that trade plays in ensuring access to medical goods and services during global health crises.

**FIFA**

The WTO and FIFA agreed to work together to examine how international trade and football can serve as catalysts for economic growth and social inclusion. The collaboration was spelled out in a memorandum of understanding signed by WTO DG Okonjo-Iweala and FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

**Food security**

In September 2022 and February 2023, the heads of the WTO, FAO, IMF, World Bank Group and the World Food Programme made joint calls for an urgent response to the food and nutrition security crisis, noting that 349 million people across 79 economies are acutely food insecure, meaning they do not have food of an adequate quality for their basic needs.



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The WTO is one of 23 international organizations and UN agencies involved in the UN Secretary General-led High-Level Task Force working to achieve the SDGs

## High-level meetings

In November, the DG attended a meeting hosted by the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on “Strengthening the multilateral order together”, together with the heads of the International Labour Organization (ILO), IMF, OECD and the World Bank. The DG also participated in December in the seventh “1+6” Roundtable, held by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, with other leaders from other international organizations to discuss how to promote strong, inclusive and sustainable growth.

## OECD

A high-level OECD delegation, led by Secretary-General Mathias Cormann, visited the WTO on 13 September as part of a Swiss initiative to deepen collaboration between international organizations and to underline Geneva’s importance as a multilateral hub. 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 176). They are developing trade facilitation indicators, with an interactive web tool covering 152 economies.

## 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.

## UNCTAD, ITC and UN regional commissions

UNCTAD, the ITC and the WTO jointly produce the annual “World Tariff Profiles” (see page 169) 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 LDCs graduating from LDC status (see page 138) to adapt to the change.

DG Okonjo-Iweala and FIFA President Gianni Infantino agree to work together to use trade and football as drivers of economic and social development.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# Presidential Lecture Series

Open and equitable international trade is at the centre of reinventing the global order to address the world's most pressing challenges, H.E. Ms Mia Amor Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados, told a large audience at the inaugural event of the WTO's Presidential Lecture Series on 23 March 2022 at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva.



H.E. Ms Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, delivers the inaugural lecture of the WTO's Presidential Lecture Series.



**W**TO ambassadors, Swiss authorities, heads of intergovernmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, business and academia participated in the event, which was opened by Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

In her opening remarks, DG Okonjo-Iweala underscored the aim of the WTO's Presidential Lecture Series: "Multilateral institutions and values are under threat. The speakers in this series will shed light on potential ways forward, towards the WTO's founding goals of raising people's living standards, creating jobs, and promoting sustainable development."

## Background

The WTO's Presidential Lecture Series provides a platform for distinguished speakers from all walks of life, ranging from presidents, prime ministers and high-level politicians to business leaders, scientists, authors and philanthropists, to discuss multilateral cooperation and global governance issues, including trade-related matters and sustainable development goals.

DG Okonjo-Iweala warmly welcomed Prime Minister Mottley: "Since taking office in 2018, Prime Minister Mottley has emerged as one of the most powerful voices among political leaders on the international stage. She is fearless; she speaks truth to power on issues like climate justice, vaccine inequity, sovereign debt, and the unique vulnerabilities facing small economies. She makes Barbados punch above its weight."

In her speech, Mia Mottley noted the failures of the old global order, highlighting issues such as global debt, rapid climate change, the

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**The world needs more mobile labour, capital and technology to defeat climate change. We need to be part of the digital revolution to deliver better health, education, and quality of life.**

Mia Amor Mottley

COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. “The global order is not working; it is not delivering in the areas of critical importance necessary to achieve the goal of sustainable development for the majority of the world’s population,” she said.

World leaders need to show true political will to transform the global order without “retreating behind national and regional lines of defence,” said Prime Minister Mottley, stressing that “the WTO can be and must be in the vanguard of the change we need”. She highlighted “the absolute need for us to bring the architecture of a new global order into the 21st century – transparent and fair and rooted in moral legitimacy.”

Mia Mottley outlined the major trade obstacles facing exporters from small island developing economies, such as the digital gaps, shortage of supporting financing mechanisms and discriminatory standards. “These, not tariffs, not genuine competitiveness and comparative advantages, are the obstacles to today’s international trade. They will be an obstacle

too to the efficient and fair prosecution of climate mitigation through the global transfer of capital, technology, and opportunity,” she said.

She continued: “The world needs more mobile labour, capital and technology to defeat climate change. We need to be part of the digital revolution to deliver better health, education, and quality of life. International trade is at the centre of solving climate change and using digital trade to advance global development.”

She concluded: The new global order “requires a next generation WTO committed to calling out obstacles to equitable trade, committed to being even more representative, acting as a countervailing, reforming force against the tendency to narrow, exclusive trade relationships, with a seat at the highest tables to promote the international trade dimension to the world’s problems.”

The event was moderated by Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme of Botswana.

H.E. Ms Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, in conversation with DG Okonjo-Iweala and Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme (Botswana).



## Contact with the business community

- Business representatives met the Director-General at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in June 2022 to encourage WTO members to work for ambitious outcomes at the conference.
- Business organizations hosted 33 sessions at the WTO Public Forum on topics such as delivering an inclusive trade agenda and the growing role of services and digital trade.

### 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.

### DG meets business representatives during MC12

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which represents the global business community, organized a meeting for DG Okonjo-Iweala with 50 business representatives on the margins of MC12. In a statement, the ICC encouraged ministers to work towards ambitious outcomes that meet the needs of economies and people around the world.

### COVID-19 therapeutics producers

In November, the DG met with the heads of companies engaged in the production of key COVID-19 therapeutics, with a view to improving access in low-and middle-income economies. The meeting built on the earlier positive dialogue of the DG with the heads of vaccine manufacturers. At MC12, ministers granted a targeted waiver regarding patents for COVID-19 vaccines, and WTO members are discussing whether the decision can be extended to diagnostics and therapeutics (see page 61).

### Business at the Public Forum

The Public Forum, whose theme was “Towards a sustainable and inclusive recovery: Ambition



33

The WTO Public Forum featured 33 sessions hosted by business organizations



A session at the WTO Public Forum co-organized by the International Chamber of Commerce.



DG Okonjo-Iweala receives the World Trade Award from the National Foreign Trade Council Foundation in Washington, D.C.

to action”, featured 33 sessions hosted by business organizations. The sessions covered topics such as delivering an inclusive trade agenda for a more sustainable future, the growing role of services and digital trade, the role of trade in biodiversity conservation and how to empower small business through digital technologies.

#### Other contact with business

Throughout the year, WTO officials, including the DG, met with members of the business community in Geneva or elsewhere. The issues most frequently discussed included the state of play in the WTO’s trade negotiations, trade tensions and the Appellate Body impasse (see page 134).

In April 2022, the DG received in Washington the National Foreign Trade Council Foundation’s prestigious World Trade Award. The award, which had previously been given to Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan and former US Trade Representative Mike Froman, recognizes outstanding contributions to furthering open trade.

Speaking at a meeting of more than 800 Spanish business leaders in San Sebastián, Spain, in June 2022, DDG Anabel González said that companies worldwide need to invest in building a stronger and more agile global trading system for the benefit of all. “More than ever, businesses need stable, predictable and uniform conditions to access global markets, something that only the WTO rules-based trading system can provide,” she said.



**More than ever, businesses need stable, predictable and uniform conditions to access global markets, something that only the WTO rules-based trading system can provide.**

DDG Anabel González



## Relations with non-governmental organizations

- DG Okonjo-Iweala briefed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on the state of play in the negotiations. Nearly 440 NGOs registered for the conference.
- The number of sessions co-organized by NGOs during the 2022 Public Forum almost doubled to 60.

**D**G Okonjo-Iweala briefed accredited NGOs during MC12 about the state of play in the negotiations, including on fisheries subsidies (see page 55), the TRIPS waiver (see page 61) and agriculture. Over 52 NGO representatives participated.

Ahead of MC12, representatives of nearly 200 environmental organizations presented the DG with a letter for WTO members calling for governments to swiftly conclude a global agreement to phase out harmful fisheries subsidies.

During MC12, NGOs were provided with a dedicated NGO centre, allowing space for meetings and daily briefings by the WTO Secretariat on discussions at the conference. A total of 439 NGOs registered for MC12



### Ecuador: Improving civil society participation in trade policy-making

A workshop aimed at improving the participation of civil society groups in the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements was organized by the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, a participant in the WTO Chairs Programme, in Ecuador in October 2022. Members of the National Mechanism for Dialogue with Civil Society and public officials from various government ministries discussed ways to improve NGO participation in concluding trade agreements. The results of the workshop were presented to DDG Zhang at an event bringing together the Chairs from the Latin-American and Caribbean region in Quito in November 2022.

### 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.

and 466 participant badges were printed for NGO representatives.

NGOs played an active part in the WTO's annual Public Forum (see page 162), co-organizing 60 sessions, compared with 35 the year before.

In 2022, NGOs were invited to seven WTO Secretariat briefings on meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee and the General Council. Nearly 60 representatives from 30 NGOs benefited from these briefings on the WTO's work.

DDG Zhang with the WTO Chair Holder in Ecuador at a meeting of the WCP Network in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Contact with parliamentarians

- During the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), a delegation of parliamentarians presented DG Okonjo-Iweala with a statement expressing strong support for the multilateral trading system.
- The statement also called for the Ministerial Conference to be a starting point for reforming the WTO to ensure it can meet the challenges of the 21st century.

During MC12, a delegation of parliamentarians presented DG Okonjo-Iweala with a statement expressing strong support for the multilateral trading system and calling for the conference to act as a starting point for modernizing the WTO. The statement was submitted by Bernd Lange, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, and three other members of the Committee.

“MC12 can offer a great opportunity to reinstate trust in the multilateral trading system and should be the starting point for modernizing and reforming the WTO to ensure it can play a role in addressing the challenges of the 21st century, including issues such

### 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.



as climate change and sustainability and in particular today, global food security,” the statement said.

DG Okonjo-Iweala receives a statement in support of the WTO from MEPs at the start of MC12.

The Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament, met on 13 June in Geneva to discuss the role of the WTO and the challenges facing world trade. It was briefed by the WTO Secretariat on the state of play in trade negotiations and on the topics for discussion at MC12.

The Steering Committee also met in April and September, with the participation of DDGs Ellard and Paugam, respectively. Both WTO officials stressed the importance of parliamentary engagement with the WTO. In September, the Committee organized a panel on “Food security as a key element for a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive trading system” during the WTO Public Forum (see page 162).

The Secretary-General of the IPU, Martin Chungong, spoke at an event for Asian-Pacific parliamentarians co-organized by the WTO, the Rajaratnam School for International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore and the Singapore-based Temasek Foundation in May 2022. He highlighted the increased engagement of parliamentarians with WTO issues.

WTO outreach events were held for parliamentarians in Buenos Aires in November and in Marrakech, Morocco, in December. The activities attracted over 200 legislators from Caribbean, Latin American, Arab and Mediterranean regions.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# Public Forum 2022

Under the theme “Towards a sustainable and inclusive recovery: Ambition to action”, the 2022 Public Forum was held from 27 to 30 September in the WTO. Nearly 1,300 participants attended in person. A total of 147 sessions were organized, including three high-level sessions.



## Multiple crises require new thinking

In conversation with CNN anchor Richard Quest on the opening day, DG Okonjo-Iweala highlighted how the Public Forum was taking place at a difficult time for both global trade and the world economy against a backdrop of geopolitical instability and climate crises. These challenges will require new approaches, she said.

“It's not business as usual because the world is in a very difficult place at this time,” the DG said. “We have a situation in which we are grappling with multiple crises, which I often refer to as a polycrisis, simultaneous exogenous shocks hitting the world.”

In a subsequent plenary debate on the Forum theme of sustainable and inclusive recovery, a high-level panel of experts from civil society, the private sector and international organizations discussed some of the major challenges facing policymakers: recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of future pandemics, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## Leveraging technology to promote inclusive growth

Another high-level debate, involving civil society organizations and the private sector,

explored how technology can be a catalyst for inclusive growth. The discussions underlined the importance of levelling the playing field for digital access so that digitalization can be a key driver of economic growth.

Thousands of African companies used digital platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic to broaden their consumer base and to reach many more economies, speakers noted. There is a massive potential for African businesses to seize digital opportunities, they added.

Highlighting the important role of trade rules, speakers pointed to the ongoing e-commerce negotiations (see page 65) at the WTO. If rule makers can put in place the right rules for e-commerce, not just developed economies but developing economies will benefit, they said.

## Delivering a trade agenda for a sustainable future

Representatives from international organizations, the private sector and academia shared their views on ways of “Delivering a Trade Agenda for a Sustainable Future”. During the session on this topic, the need to think radically and break silos between trade and environment was stressed to help the international community take on board that trade is part of the solution to climate change.

Panellists agreed that international organizations, governments, businesses and civil society must coordinate to update WTO rules written more than a quarter of a century ago when the environmental crisis was far less pressing.

To recognize the milestone of an agreement on fisheries subsidies (see page 55) in June 2022 and to encourage its prompt entry into force, a photo exhibition entitled “Let's save an exhausted ocean” portrayed the dangers



## 1,300

Nearly 1,300 participants attended the Public Forum in person

## Background

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



resulting from fish stock depletion. The exhibition was co-organized with the Stop Funding Overfishing Coalition.

### **Overcoming barriers for women entrepreneurs**

A high-level session showcased the experiences of women entrepreneurs, highlighting the importance of an inclusive economic recovery. Women-owned businesses have faced higher barriers since the outbreak of COVID-19, adding to long-standing challenges, such as lack of access to finance and gender bias.

To overcome barriers keeping women out of international markets, DG Okonjo-Iweala called for “active trade policies that ensure non-discrimination and that help women

access global value chains”. She added: “With the right tools to compete and the right policies, women can break the glass ceiling in trade.”

### **Involving youth**

A session on 30 September – “The Missing Peace” – looked at how to involve youth in trade, policymaking and peacebuilding for a more sustainable future. More than a third of the world’s 1.8 billion young people live in fragile and conflict-affected states, where opportunities for education and jobs are extremely limited. The DG stressed that trade could play an important role in breaking the vicious circles of poverty, frustration and conflict in these countries and in increasing opportunities for young people.

DG Okonjo-Iweala in conversation with CNN Anchor Richard Quest at the 2022 Public Forum.

## Trade for Peace Programme

- **Ministers of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group adopted a declaration calling for a dedicated work programme on trade for peace for fragile and conflict-affected (FCA) states.**
- **The WTO held the third edition of Trade for Peace Week under the theme “Fragility and Conflict: Building Peace through Trade and Economic Integration”.**

**M**inisters of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group met on the margins of the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022. The meeting – the second such ministerial gathering – took stock of the first five years of the Group’s activities and adopted a declaration calling for the establishment of a dedicated work programme on trade for peace for FCA states.

“Having gone through the devastating experiences of violent conflict ... we urgently need effective support to access the international trade tools provided by the WTO,” said Liberia’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mawine G. Diggs, who chaired the meeting.

Speaking on behalf of the Director-General, DDG Zhang Xiangchen commended the Group’s work. “I believe the Group’s goal is even more relevant today than ever as we experience increased tensions from conflicts in different parts of the world,” he said.

In November, the WTO held the third edition of Trade for Peace Week under the theme “Fragility and Conflict: Building Peace through Trade and Economic Integration”. The five-day event included panel discussions at which WTO members and observers, policymakers and experts exchanged ideas on concrete areas of collaboration to address the challenges faced by FCA states.

Trade for Peace Future Leaders, a new youth-engagement initiative, was launched in September 2022 to increase youth engagement worldwide on trade and peace and to underscore the importance of youth in the future of trade and peace-building.

Ministers of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group met on the margins of MC12 to call for the establishment of a dedicated work programme on trade for peace for fragile states.

### Background

The g7+ WTO Accessions Group includes nine members – three LDCs which acceded to the WTO (Afghanistan, Liberia, Yemen) and six acceding LDCs (Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Timor-Leste). The Trade for Peace Programme grew out of the launch of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group. It aims to promote the rules-based system as a peacebuilding tool by highlighting the role of trade and economic integration in the security and development fields. It has four pillars: political engagement and partnerships; outreach and public dialogue; research; and training and capacity building.





## Contact with the media

- **The 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) was by far the biggest WTO media event in 2022, with more than 270 journalists accredited to cover it.**
- **The WTO's trade forecasts and its participation in the COP27 climate summit also attracted much media interest.**

**M**C12 in June was by far the biggest WTO media event in 2022, with the conference covered by major news outlets from around the world. More than 270 journalists worldwide were accredited for MC12, with 154 present in Geneva to cover the event in person. The media team organized more than a dozen press conferences, briefings and events over the five and a half days of the conference.

The launch of the annual trade forecast in April and the revised trade forecast in October attracted strong media interest. A total of 87 journalists participated in the press conference for the launch of the annual forecast while 33 journalists attended the press conference for the revised forecast.

The media team supported the WTO's active role at the COP27 climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt in November, organizing a press briefing for the launch of the World Trade Report (see page 172) and a press conference with the Director-General. It also organized interviews with the DG for major media outlets at COP27.

Journalists were invited to 47 WTO press conferences, briefings and other events in 2022. Press officers assisted with the organization of webinars and online conferences and supported media activities around the Public Forum (see page 162).

In cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the media team organized a seminar for 13 French-speaking journalists from Africa at the WTO in late 2022, generating 30 print and radio stories on trade and the WTO.

The WTO media team approved over 150 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 2,085 as of the end of 2022.

The WTO's media team holds a press briefing at the start of MC12.



**270+**

journalists were accredited for MC12, with 154 present in person



## Contact with the public

- The WTO website attracted over 2.9 million monthly visits in 2022.
- WTO videos were viewed over 220,000 times. The most popular video, with over 12,700 views, was “Let’s Talk WTO”.
- The number of followers on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo and TikTok grew by 8 per cent to 2 million.
- The WTO issued over 50 publications in 2022 on topics ranging from trade finance to climate change.

### WTO website

The WTO website attracted over 2.9 million monthly visits in 2022, a slight drop on the record 3.2 million visits in 2021 when interest was increased by the arrival of the new Director-General, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. China accounted for the most visits, with 21.3 per cent, followed by the United States (10.9 per cent) and Russia (6.3 per cent).

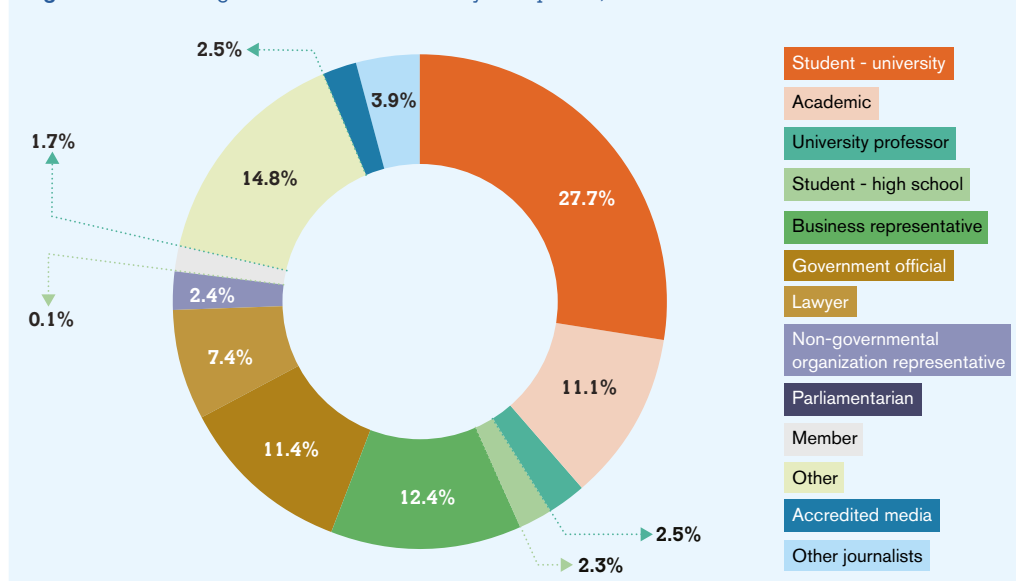
Total page views fell to 81.9 million, from 94.6 million in 2021. Over 530 news items were published on the site, 20 per cent more than in 2020.

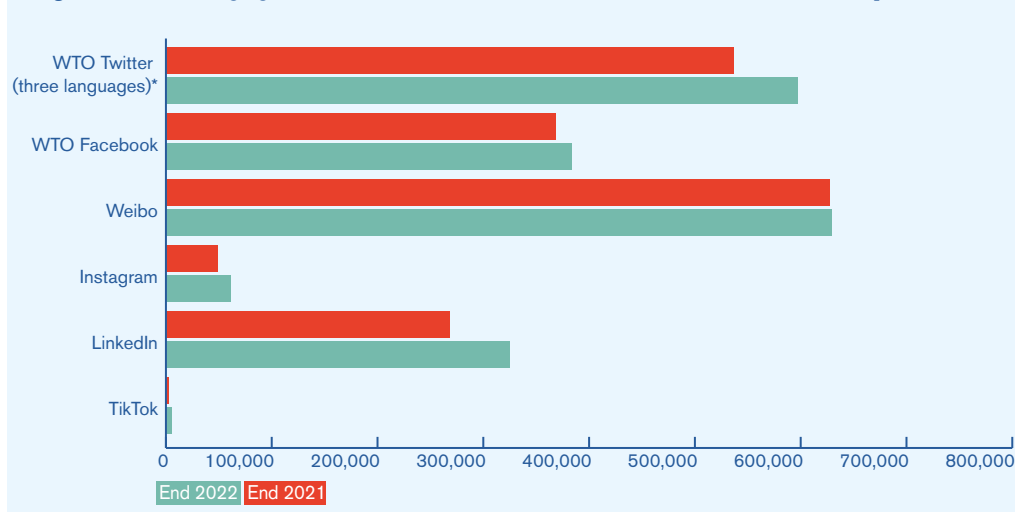
Some of the most downloaded files were the WTO’s flagship publications, the “World Trade Statistical Review 2021” (142,000 downloads), the “Annual Report 2022” (over 51,000 downloads) and the “World Trade Report 2022” (22,200 downloads). The publication “The History and Future of the World Trade Organization” was downloaded almost 108,000 times.

WTO videos were viewed over 220,000 times in 2022. The most popular video, with over 12,700 views, was “Let’s Talk WTO”. The “Let’s Talk Tariffs” video was viewed over 6,100 times and the WTO trade forecast 2022-2023 press conference was viewed over 4,400 times. The “Let’s Talk Trade” series aims at explaining trade topics in everyday language.

Some 83,700 people have registered to receive email alerts for WTO news items (see Figure 20). The largest number is from India (10.5 per cent), followed by the United States, Mexico, Peru, Colombia and France.

Figure 20: Users registered for email alerts by occupation, as of end-2022



**Figure 21:** Percentage growth in the number of followers of the WTO on social media platforms

### Social media

The number of followers on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Weibo and TikTok grew by 8 per cent to 2 million (see Figure 21). During the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) and the Public Forum (see page 162), the WTO witnessed the highest audience growth.

Posts covering the DG's activities and MC12 received the most views and comments. Other popular topics included the Aid for Trade Global Review in July 2022 (see page 142).

To promote its work to wider audiences, including youth, the WTO started creating reels (films) on Instagram, providing trade-related information and presenting WTO activities in short videos that encourage interaction from followers.

### Audio-visual products

Overall video production grew by 23 per cent in 2022. The most viewed new videos were the Presidential Lecture with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley (see page 156), followed by the Global Supply Chains Forum, a virtual event held under the theme “Easing supply chain bottlenecks for a sustainable future”, the 2022-23 trade forecast and the MC12 videos.

The “Let’s Talk Trade” podcast production, launched to delve into specific topics, doubled over the course of 2022, with three more seasons on global supply chains, MC12 outcomes and trade-related aspects of football. In “Trade Goals”, a season about the global value chain of football, business representatives, football players, sports lawyers, WTO experts and others shared their perspectives on how football is a local game but a global product.

### Student group presentations

Until mid-May 2022, presentations to students were held virtually due to COVID-19. Once the building was re-opened to visitors, most presentations were held on-site. The WTO organized 81 presentations for some 2,430 participants.

The presentations mostly covered the history, functions and work of the WTO in general although a few were focused on legal affairs, intellectual property and career opportunities. Sixty-five of the presentations were held in English, seven in French, two each in German and Swedish and one each in Arabic, Finnish, Greek, Portuguese and Ukrainian.





## Reaching out to a digital audience

### The WTO's digital platform

The WTO iLibrary currently includes over

**1,880**  
WTO titles

[www.wto-ilibrary.org](http://www.wto-ilibrary.org)



**320**

WTO working papers



**1,200**

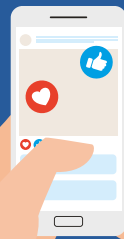
dispute settlement reports

WTO Publications



**51,000**

Facebook followers



**70,000**

Twitter followers

### WTO publications

The WTO issued over 50 publications in 2022 on topics ranging from trade finance to climate change. Most WTO publications can be downloaded from the WTO's website in English, French and Spanish while printed copies can be purchased from the WTO Bookshop in Geneva and the WTO Online Bookshop. WTO apps are available free from the App Store and Google Play.

### Flagship publications



#### Annual Report

**ISBN 978-92-870-5386-2 | CHF 50**

The report provides a comprehensive account of the WTO's activities in 2021 and early 2022. It also looks at the successful conclusion in June 2022 of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference originally scheduled for end-2021.



#### World Trade Report 2022: Climate Change and International Trade

**ISBN 978-92-870-5395-4 | CHF 60**

The report explores the complex interlinkages between climate change and international trade, and how trade can contribute to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.



#### World Trade Statistical Review 2022

**ISBN 978-92-870-5352-7 | CHF 50**

A comprehensive overview of the latest developments in world trade, with a detailed analysis of the most recent trends for trade in goods and services.

## Other annual publications



### Trade Profiles 2022

**ISBN 978-92-870-5376-3 | CHF 60**  
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 2022

**ISBN 978-92-870-5367-1 | 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

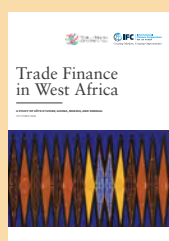
**CHF 60 per trade policy review**  
Fourteen trade policy reviews (TPRs), analysing trade policies and practices, were issued in 2022 for Argentina, Bahrain, China, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritius, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Tonga and Viet Nam.

### Dispute Settlement Reports 2021

**CHF 220**  
Report of the panel on "US – Ripe Olives from Spain". Co-published with Cambridge University Press.



## New publications



### Trade Finance in West Africa: A Study of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal

**Digital only | Free**  
This study focuses on the obstacles to trade finance faced in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal and the potential boost to trade resulting from closing trade finance gaps. Co-published with the International Finance Corporation.

### WCO/WTO Study Report on Disruptive Technologies

**Digital only | Free**  
This publication explores how so-called disruptive technologies, such as blockchain, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and machine learning, can be used to ease the flow of goods across borders. Co-published with the World Customs Organization.



### Implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing and Least-Developed Country Members

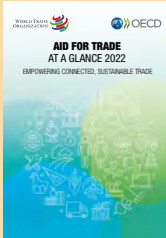
**Digital only | Free**  
The report examines existing bilateral and multilateral assistance in support of sustainable fisheries, including how this may be relevant to meeting obligations under the new WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

### Aid for Trade Global Review 2022: Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade

**ISBN 978-92-870-7206-1 | CHF 50**  
Drawing on the 2022 OECD-WTO Aid for Trade monitoring and evaluation exercise, this publication presents an analysis of the responses provided by developing economies, least-developed countries and donors and outlines future priority areas for the Aid for Trade initiative.



## OUTREACH



### Aid for Trade at a Glance 2022: Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade

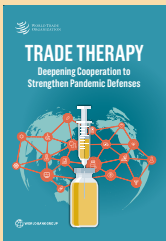
ISBN 978-92-64-16326-3 | CHF 50

This report analyses the evolution of Aid for Trade flows in the context of recent crises, such as COVID-19, that have had significant impact on trade and investment. Co-published with OECD.

### Tackling Illicit Trade in Medical Products: Better International Cooperation for Better Health

Digital only | Free

This publication explores WTO tools and activities that can help WTO members develop and strengthen their trade policy responses to combat illicit trade in medical products.



### Trade Therapy: Deepening Cooperation to Strengthen Pandemic Defenses

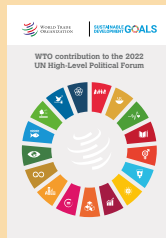
ISBN 978-1-4648-1885-1 | CHF 50

The publication provides new data on trade in medical goods and services, surveys the policy landscape, and proposes an action plan to deal with future pandemics. Co-published with the World Bank.

### Cross-border Paperless Trade Toolkit

Digital only | Free

This toolkit aims to raise awareness of the technical and legal tools to be called upon to adopt cross-border paperless trade systems. Co-published with ESCAP and UNCITRAL.



### WTO Contribution to the 2022 UN High-Level Political Forum

Digital only | Free

The 2022 report focuses on the WTO's efforts to achieve trade-specific targets in SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17.

### Trade Impacts of LDC Graduation: Matters related to the WTO Agreements

Digital only | Free

This pocket edition of "Trade Impacts of LDC Graduation" summarizes the implications of LDC graduation on matters related to WTO rules. Co-published with EIF.



### Subsidies, Trade, and International Cooperation

ISBN 979-8-400-20835-5 | CHF 30

This publication seeks to highlight the potential benefits of closer cooperation among governments on subsidies and considers areas where this might be pursued constructively. Co-published with IMF, OECD and the World Bank.

### The Promise of TradeTech: Policy Approaches to Harness Trade Digitalization

ISBN 978-92-870-7101-9 | CHF 30

This publication explores how international policy coordination could advance the adoption of digital technologies and trade digitalization across the world. Co-published with the World Economic Forum.





### The Crisis in Ukraine: Implications of the War for Global Trade and Development

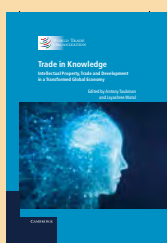
**Digital only | Free**

This publication examines the implications of the war in Ukraine for global trade and development. It highlights in particular how the war is causing severe risks to food and energy security and exacerbating supply chain difficulties.

### One Year of War in Ukraine: Assessing the Impact on Global Trade and Development

**Digital only | Free**

This publication examines the implications of the war for global trade and development, looking in particular at the impact of the war on exports from Ukraine and Russia and exploring how economies highly dependent on imports from the conflict region have responded.



### Trade in Knowledge: Intellectual Property, Trade and Development in a Transformed Global Economy

**Edited by Antony Taubman and Jayashree Watal.**

**ISBN 9781108748476 | CHF 50**

This publication offers a fresh understanding of what it means to trade in knowledge in today's technological and commercial environment. Co-published with Cambridge University Press.

### The Role of Advanced Technologies in Cross-border Trade: A Customs Perspective

**Digital only | Free**

This publication sheds light on the opportunities and challenges faced by customs authorities when deploying technologies such as blockchain, the internet of things, big data, data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning. Co-published with the World Customs Organization.



### Standards Toolkit for Cross-border Paperless Trade: Accelerating Trade Digitalisation through the Use of Standards

**Digital only | Free**

This toolkit provides the most notable and widely used standards in trade digitalization for unlocking the benefits of cross-border paperless trade. Co-published with the International Chamber of Commerce.

### Textiles and Clothing in Asian Graduating LDCs: Challenges and Options

**Digital only | Free**

The textiles and clothing sector has been a key driver of export growth in Asian LDCs on the path to graduation from LDC status. This report examines the likely impacts of graduation on these LDCs. Co-published with the EIF, ITC, UNDESA and UNCTAD.



### Boosting Trade Opportunities for Least-developed Countries: Progress over the Past Ten Years and Current Priorities

**Digital only | Free**

This report highlights that further international efforts are needed to help LDCs increase their participation in global trade and confront the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Economic research activities

- The WTO's flagship "World Trade Report" explored how international trade and trade rules can contribute to addressing climate change.
- Transparency is essential for understanding how government subsidies impact international trade and how to minimize any negative effects, according to a report by the WTO, the IMF, OECD and World Bank.
- A WTO and World Bank report discussed how trade can be leveraged to improve global health security.

## World Trade Report 2022: Climate Change and International Trade

The WTO's flagship publication, the "World Trade Report 2022", explores the complex interlinkages between climate change and international trade and discusses how international trade and trade rules can contribute to addressing climate change. It shows that while trade generates greenhouse gas emissions from production and transport, trade and trade policies can play an essential role in helping economies reduce emissions by accelerating the dissemination of environmental goods, services, technologies and best practice.

"Trade is the missing part of the puzzle for more ambitious, more effective climate



## Key findings from the 2022 World Trade Report



Although climate change will disrupt trade, international trade can be a force multiplier for economies' adaptation efforts by reducing their costs and increasing their impact. Economies more open to trade tend to have a greater capacity to adapt to climate change.



While trade does generate greenhouse gas emissions, trade can speed up the low-carbon transition by enabling access to climate technologies, incentivizing innovation and fostering competition and scale economies that help drive down their costs.



Climate change is reshaping economic and trade prospects across the world and is a major threat to future growth and prosperity. Agriculture, tourism and some manufacturing sectors are particularly vulnerable to climate change.



The transition to a low-carbon economy will require decarbonizing international trade, including transportation. Decarbonization pathways include switching to lower-carbon fuels and improving energy and operational efficiency.



International trade cooperation can make climate actions more credible and effective, and the low-carbon transition more just, by minimizing trade frictions and investor uncertainty.



action,” DG Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said at the launch of the report in November at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. “Despite forces threatening to pull apart the world community, we must not decouple economies and create separate trade blocs, lest we impair the success of climate action. The fragmentation of supply chains and the reshoring of manufacturing risks delaying the transition to a low-carbon economy and making it far more costly,” she added.

### **Subsidies, trade and international cooperation**

At the IMF-World Bank spring meeting, DG Okonjo-Iweala, together with heads of the IMF, OECD and World Bank, launched a joint report on subsidies, emphasizing the need to strengthen international cooperation.

The report focuses on subsidies with possible harmful international effects – in particular, those that have the potential to distort trade or investment. Transparency is an essential first step for understanding how government subsidies impact international trade and how to minimize any negative effects, the report says.

### **Trade and health**

A WTO-World Bank report – “Trade Therapy: Deepening cooperation to strengthen pandemic defenses” – stresses that open markets can increase access to medical services and goods, including the inputs needed to manufacture them, improve their quality and diversity, and reduce costs.

Open trade, combined with government financial support, spurred the rapid development of vaccines against COVID-19. But excessive concentration of production, restrictive trade policies, supply chain disruptions and regulatory divergence can jeopardize public health responses to pandemics and other health crises. “This report underscores how trade is a force for good in terms of enabling access to medical goods and services – but also points to where we can improve,” DG Okonjo-Iweala said at the launch in June.

### **Policy approaches to trade digitalization**

In April, the WTO and the World Economic Forum released a joint publication entitled “The Promise of TradeTech: Policy approaches to harness trade digitalization”. It explores how trade agreements can be leveraged to further advance the adoption of digital technologies and trade digitalization in areas such as data transmission and liability frameworks.

### **Disruptive technologies for border management**

Advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, blockchain, the Internet of Things, virtual reality and 3D printing, can be used to improve the efficiency of customs processes and to ease the flow of goods across borders. This is the conclusion of a joint “Study Report on Disruptive Technologies” issued by the WTO and the World Customs Organization. The report includes 42 case studies.

### **Trade Cost Index**

In 2022, the Economic Research and Statistics Division extended the WTO Trade Cost Index to 118 economies, allowing for the first time the opportunity to estimate the impact of trade facilitation measures on trade costs as well as differences in trade costs for landlocked and coastal economies. The index, launched in 2021, allows users to monitor the evolution of global trade costs by economy and sector.



**Trade is the missing part of the puzzle for more ambitious, more effective climate action.**

DG Okonjo-Iweala



Mathilde Muñoz,  
winner of the 2022  
WTO Essay Award.

## WTO Essay Award for Young Economists

The winner of the 2022 WTO Essay Award for Young Economists was Mathilde Muñoz of James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center on Wealth and Income Inequality at the University of California, Berkeley. Her paper is entitled “Trading Non-Tradables: The Implications of Europe’s Job Posting Policy”. She was presented with her prize of CHF 5,000 at the annual meeting of the European Trade Study Group in Groningen (the Netherlands) in September 2022.

The selection panel gave an honourable mention to Torsten Söchting Jaccard of the University of Toronto for his paper, “Who Pays for Protectionism? The Welfare and Substitution Effects of Tariffs”.

Mathilde Muñoz’s paper explores the implications of “job postings” on labour market outcomes and welfare. Job posting is an increasingly important offshoring transaction whereby workers move temporarily to a foreign country to perform a contracted task (e.g., plumbing services) but remain employed and paid in their home country.

Basing her work on evidence in the European Union, Ms Muñoz shows that the use of job postings has triggered large economic gains in employee-exporting low-wage economies but hurt low-paid workers in high-wage economies where the tasks are undertaken.

In the view of the selection panel, Ms Muñoz’s essay is a novel and creative paper that addresses an issue of great relevance to world trade and the WTO. It is also an area that has been largely neglected by existing literature.

Mathilde Muñoz is a French national. She received her Ph.D. from the Paris School of Economics in 2022. Currently a post-doctoral fellow, she will join the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley in July 2023 as an Assistant Professor of Economics.

### Selection panel

The selection panel for 2022 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.



## Statistics activities

- **WTO statisticians monitored the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in international trade and global supply chains.**
- **The “World Trade Statistical Review”, the WTO’s flagship statistical publication, tracked trade recovery after COVID-19. It was complemented by two other annual statistical publications, “Trade Profiles” and “World Tariff Profiles”.**
- **A joint WTO-World Bank report, “Trade Therapy”, provided the first estimates on trade in medical services under the four modes of supply of the WTO’s General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).**

### Background

The Economic Research and Statistics Division supports WTO members and the WTO Secretariat with data on economic and trade policy issues, technical advisory services on market access negotiations and 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 local workshops and contributes to inter-organizational statistical activities.

## Statistical developments related to post-COVID-19

WTO statisticians monitored the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic on international trade and global supply chains, providing reports and analytical insights.

In 2022, the WTO issued a note on “Trade in intermediate goods” to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on international supply chains. It also updated the “Joint Indicative List of Critical COVID-19 Vaccine Inputs”, a project developed in cooperation with other international organizations and the private sector. In addition, it published a study on trade in medical goods as part of tracking COVID-19 trade developments.

A joint WTO-World Bank report, “Trade Therapy”, provided the first estimates on trade in medical services under the four modes of supply of the WTO’s General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The report surveys the evolving policy landscape and proposes an action plan to improve trade policies and deepen international cooperation to deal with future pandemics.

## Statistical publications and data tools

The “World Trade Statistical Review 2022”, the WTO’s flagship statistical publication, provides insights into the uneven trade recovery from the COVID-19 health crisis. “Trade Profiles 2022” contains a series of key indicators on trade in goods and services while “World Tariff Profiles 2022” provides information on tariffs and non-tariff measures.

The 2022 version of the “Trade in Value Added (TiVA) and Global Value Chains” statistical profiles shows the value-added content in 66 economies’ exports and gives insights into their participation in global value chains. The latest profiles include, for the first time, reports for Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

The WTO launched the WTO Stats Dashboard, a new data visualization tool that provides users with quick, at-a-glance information on trade and tariff data. It offers graphical presentations of merchandise





Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announcing the WTO trade forecast at a press conference on 5 October.

trade data, trade in commercial services, and market access data.

A “Trade Connectivity Heatmap” was published in June, providing an online tool with overviews of trade relationships between various economies and across different product categories. Available via the Stats Dashboard, the “Heatmap” utilizes bilateral trade flow data from more than 180 economies aggregated into around 70 product groups.

### Statistical capacity-building and international cooperation

Further statistical training and technical assistance were provided under a joint WTO-OECD-UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) project, launched in 2020, to expand the coverage of Africa in TiVA databases.

The WTO Secretariat participated in various workshops on the measurement of digital trade as part of an ongoing revision – with

the OECD, IMF and UNCTAD – of the “Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade”, first published in 2020.

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

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 local needs.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Trade Monitor, launched by the WTO, UNCTAD and the ITC in 2020, was kept updated. The monitor aims to improve understanding of the relationship between trade and development in the SDG agenda.

**The WTO launched the WTO Stats Dashboard, a new data visualization tool that provides users with quick, at-a-glance information on trade and tariff data.**

## Cooperation with academic institutions

- **The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) now covers 36 institutions, spread across six regions, substantially strengthening its ability to inform local and regional trade policymaking.**
- **The Annual WCP Conference in July focused on the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) so that Chairs can align their work with the priorities of WTO members in implementing MC12 outcomes.**
- **DG Okonjo-Iweala urged Chairs to come up with new ideas for tackling unresolved issues. “You are the intellectual powerhouses who can help us to think a little bit out of the box,” she said.**

### Background

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP), launched in 2010, aims to promote research relating to international trade by academics that responds to the needs of policymakers in developing economies 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 funded by the WTO's Global Trust Fund, with contributions from France, Austria, the Republic of Korea and Australia.

### Global and regional academic networks

The Chairs network, which now covers 36 institutions spread across six regions, has substantially strengthened these institutions' ability to undertake regional activities and to inform local and regional trade policymaking. Selected at the end of 2021, the latest cohort includes institutions from Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Lesotho, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Launch events were held throughout the year at the new WTO Chair institutions in partnership with the respective governments, often in tandem with discussions focusing on the latest WTO issues and areas for collaboration between the Chairs and policymakers. Speaking at a launch event at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in New Delhi in September, DDG Xiangchen Zhang said the Chairs network “provides a unique opportunity for the dissemination of the best negotiating, research and outreach practices.”

The Annual Conference of the WCP in Geneva brought together new and existing Chairs and WCP Academic Advisory Board members in July. It focused on MC12 outcomes so that the Chairs can align their work with the priorities of WTO members in

DG Okonjo-Iweala opens the WTO Chairs Programme Annual Conference on 25 July in Geneva.



## Impact of the WTO Chairs Programme



“Hailing from diverse and dynamic regions around the world, the Chairs serve as the eyes and ears on the ground for all of us here in Geneva. We are counting on the WCP Network’s research and outreach activities to shine a beacon of light on the needs and interests of countries and regions, which will chart the course of the multilateral trading system.”

**Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

“The work of the Chairs, experts in the field, will encourage political decision makers to think outside the box and facilitate the endorsement of innovative positions that will lead us to concrete results at the WTO.”

**Cassandre Nonque, Deputy Head of International Trade & Investment Rules Unit at the Ministry of the Economy and Finance of France**

“It is because we have confidence in the vision and potential of the WTO Chairs Programme to serve as an intellectual compass that supports WTO members, particularly developing countries, that Korea decided to join in supporting the Programme as its latest donor country this year.”

**Sarah Ahn, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea**

“We do devour, digest, read and learn from the WCP Network as much as I hope the Chairs learn from us. Their work is extremely valuable as we seek to put it into practice both here in Geneva and in capitals.”

**Jeremy Green, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the WTO**

“An independent external evaluation of the Programme in 2019 reported that government officials and trade policymakers were able to rely on the Chairs Network to inform policy formulation and implementation. The programme has greatly boosted its presence in previously under-represented areas across Africa, Asia and Latin America.”

**Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady of Mauritius, Chair of the WTO Committee for Trade and Development**

“I’m really very happy that the Chairs listen to the views of delegations – we believe that the Chairs programme is an important and necessary tool in the WTO’s technical assistance and capacity toolbox.”

**Ambassador Cheryl K. Spencer of Jamaica, Coordinator of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries Group**

“Technical assistance through the Chairs Programme leads students and future negotiators to cultivate a passion in making trade more effective for developing and least developed countries.”

**Ambassador Eheth Salomon of Cameroon, Coordinator of the Africa Group**



DDG Zhang welcomes Kathmandu University School of Management to the WTO Chairs Programme.

implementing MC12 decisions, particularly on public health, agriculture and food security, and trade and sustainability.

DG Okonjo-Iweala called on the Chairs to come up with new ideas for tackling unresolved issues. “You are the intellectual powerhouses who can help us to think a little bit out of the box,” she said. The Chairs and board members also met with WTO ambassadors from various WTO trade groups to discuss members’ priorities for research, customized training and targeted outreach.

#### Activities of the Chairs Programme

Thanks to the academic diversity of the Chairs and their teams, the network has generated wide-ranging legal and economic analysis, supporting policymaking both at the local and regional levels. Several Chairs have convened advisory committees, including representatives of government, civil society and the business sector, to help define areas of research and outreach activities.

In 2022, the Chairs’ advice to governments spanned different issues linked to the outcomes of MC12, including sustainable development and the blue economy, global and regional value chains, food security, e-commerce, trade and women’s economic empowerment, and regional integration in Africa.

#### Academic support programmes

In 2022, five students from Lesotho, Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo participated in the WTO’s PhD support programme. The programme is intended to contribute to the enlargement of academic expertise in developing economies on WTO-related matters, to improve the quality of research undertaken and to establish links between PhD students and Secretariat staff and Geneva delegations.

The WTO co-hosted the final round of the 20th anniversary edition of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law, which took place between 28 June and 2 July (see page 135).

In November, the DG received an honorary doctorate from Nyenrode Business University in the Netherlands, a country which has been a long-standing sponsor of the WCP.



**36**

institutions are participating in the WTO Chairs Programme

## 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 Türkiye**  
Istanbul Bilgi University





**Phase III chairs established in 2021**

- Phase I and II chairs established in 2010 and 2014
- 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 Peru

**32 Rwanda**  
 University of Rwanda

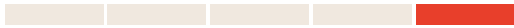
**33 Chinese Taipei**  
 "National Taiwan University"

**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





A “Meet the Author” session with James Bacchus at the 2022 Public Forum.

## Knowledge management

- In 2022, the Knowledge Management Division developed a handover guide and toolkit to mitigate costs of losing knowledge when employees depart or move internally.
- The division collaborated in 21 knowledge-sharing events to support capacity building on trade and negotiation topics.

In 2022, the Knowledge Management Division (KMD) focused on initiatives to promote the sharing, retention and transfer of knowledge, including the development of a handover guide and toolkit. The initiative aims to mitigate the costs of losing knowledge through employee departures or internal transfers. KMD also designed a knowledge codification template to help document the knowledge, skills and expertise of staff leaving the WTO.

In collaboration with DDG Paugam, the Human Resources Division and the WTO Staff Welfare Office, the Knowledge Management Section (KMS) delivered a presentation on the importance of knowledge retention and

transfer at a WTO pre-retirement seminar in December 2022.

In 2022, KMS collaborated in 21 knowledge-sharing events to support capacity building on trade and negotiation topics and to give staff an opportunity to strengthen their skill set. The focus was on reducing silos of knowledge, supporting collaboration and strengthening the WTO's knowledge base.

Four “Road to MC12” sessions for WTO staff introduced key negotiating issues and challenges ahead of the 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022. After MC12, six “*Entre nous*” sessions provided an opportunity for WTO experts to share their reflections on the behind-the-scenes dynamics, challenges and lessons learned from negotiations during MC12.

Three seminars were held on the WTO's contribution to the UN's High Level Political Forum annual review of the Sustainable Development Goals while three “Thinkers Thursdays” sessions focused on staff experiences in enhancing knowledge sharing within their areas of expertise. Finally, four strategic thinking webinars were held on various aspects of organizational strategy.

KMS worked with other divisions to coordinate the Presidential Lecture delivered by the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley (see page 156). It also developed a guide on best practices for high-level events.

### Records and archives management

The Records and Archives Management Section (RAMS) continued its implementation of an electronic document and records management system (EDRMS) across the WTO Secretariat. EDRMS implementation is a key aspect of the 2023 digital transformation workplan, which aims to integrate electronic documents and records management seamlessly into work processes to increase operational efficiency.

EDRMS has a vital function in accelerating work Secretariat-wide and in providing digitalized records for the organization and for members. It also assists WTO committee work, negotiations, joint initiatives and technical assistance.

In 2022, RAMS enhanced tools and processes that support the capture, classification and use of records and archives.

### WTO Library

With the digital transformation of all library materials essentially complete, visits to the library website continued to rise significantly, with users accessing resources from 184 economies, up from 171 in 2021.

The Library contributed to the work of the Multilateral Leaders Task Force on COVID-19 (see page 12). Its contribution included procuring and coordinating the data from external sources required to better understand the evolution of COVID-19 vaccine production and dissemination.

In collaboration with the Information and External Relations Division, the Library organized and filmed four “Meet the Author” sessions at the 2022 Public Forum (see page 162), making the transcribed recordings searchable via the library website.

DG Okonjo-Iweala meets with a group of WTO members in the WTO Library during MC12 to explore the establishment of a coalition of trade ministers on climate issues.

