

Introduction

This publication concerns the treaty instruments drawn up by WTO Members in relation to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement) and the Multi- and Plurilateral Trade Agreements annexed to that Agreement.

The Director-General of the WTO, in her capacity as depositary,¹ notifies Members of the signatures affixed, the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, accession, and withdrawal, the entry into force of WTO treaty instruments, and the various notifications, communications, declarations and reservations received from Members.² This publication represents a consolidated compilation of these data for each WTO treaty instrument, as well as a comprehensive summary of the establishment of the WTO and the evolution of its treaty instruments.

The cut-off date of this updated edition is 23 July 2021. Since the May 2019 cut-off date of the previous edition, the 1994 Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) was replaced by the amended GPA, following Switzerland's acceptance of the Agreement on Government Procurement as amended by the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, done at Geneva on 30 March 2012 (amended GPA).³ In addition, the United Kingdom became a Party, in its own right, to the amended GPA⁴, and the United Kingdom extended the application of the ratification of the WTO Agreement to the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, for whose international relations the United Kingdom is responsible.⁵ This updated edition reflects these developments, as well as modifications and rectifications to Members' goods, services, and GPA schedules, accessions to plurilateral trade agreements, and acceptances of protocols, among other treaty actions.

After the full title, particulars are given for each WTO treaty instrument regarding its entry into force and, where applicable, its registration with the United Nations. In addition, reference is made to publications containing the text of the instrument, as well as other relevant official documents containing depositary notifications generally relating to the instrument in question.

The entry into force of WTO treaty instruments and the procedure regarding signature, acceptance, ratification, accession, etc., are governed by the final clauses of each instrument. As most of these provisions have a direct bearing on the information provided, the relevant final clauses of each instrument have been reproduced.

Parties to each instrument are listed under the headings "Acceptance" or "Accession".⁶ "Acceptance" covers signatures and acceptances by Members. "Accession" refers to those Members that acceded to the instrument.

"Communications", "declarations" and "reservations" made by Members upon acceptance or accession are reproduced immediately below the name of the Member concerned. *Procès-verbaux* concerning the inclusion of specific goods and services schedules into the WTO Agreement are addressed in dedicated pages, whereas *procès-verbaux* rectifying typographical or technical corrections are referred to in footnotes. References are also made to the official documents containing depositary notifications relevant to each treaty act.

References to relevant depositary notifications,⁷ volumes of the United Nations and WTO Treaty Series and registration with the United Nations facilitate the consultation of documents associated with each treaty instrument. In the electronic version of the publication, hyperlinks embedded within each GATT and WTO document symbol and each UNTS and UN registration reference allow readers to access the selected document with a single click.

Endnotes

¹ Pursuant to Article 76.2 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (Vienna Convention), the functions of the depositary of a treaty are international in character and the depositary is under the obligation to perform them impartially. In turn, Article 77 of the Vienna Convention lists the functions of depositaries.

² Under Articles XIV:3 and XIV:4 of the WTO Agreement, the Director-General of the WTO acts as depositary of the WTO Agreement, and the Multi- and Plurilateral Trade Agreements annexed thereto. As established by the Decision of the General Council of 31 January 1995, following the termination of the legal instruments through which the contracting parties applied the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT 1947), the Director-General of the WTO performs the depositary functions of the Director-General of the GATT 1947 ([WT/L/36](#)). The functions of depositaries under international treaty law are set forth in Part VII (Depositaries, Notifications, Corrections and Registration) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

³ See [WT/Let/1497](#). See also [WT/GC/226](#).

⁴ See [WT/Let/1498](#) and [WT/Let/1503](#). See also [WT/GC/226](#).

⁵ See [WT/Let/1450](#) and [WT/Let/1499](#). See also [WT/GC/226](#).

⁶ Under Article 2.1(b) of the Vienna Convention, "'acceptance' ... and 'accession' mean in each case the international act so named whereby a State establishes on the international plane its consent to be bound by a treaty." In the context of this publication, "acceptance" refers to the act of an original or existing WTO Member or party to a WTO plurilateral trade agreement expressing its consent to be bound by a WTO treaty instrument, whereas "accession" refers specifically to the act of a new WTO Member expressing its consent to be bound by a WTO accession protocol, or of a new party to a WTO plurilateral agreement expressing its consent to be bound by such an agreement. "Acceptance" and "accession" are governed by specific provisions of the relevant WTO treaties and treaty instruments, which are reproduced in the corresponding sections of this publication.

⁷ The relevant GATT notifications were issued under the Let series, available at: <https://docs.wto.org/gattdocs/q/l.htm>. The relevant WTO notifications have been issued under the WT/Let series, and may be retrieved from WTO Documents Online, available at: <https://docs.wto.org>.