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**1 ARTICLE XXI OF THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

**1.1 Text of Article XXI**

**Article XXI**

*Institutions*

*Committee on Government Procurement*

1. There shall be a Committee on Government Procurement composed of representatives from each of the Parties. This Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Parties the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives, and to carry out such other responsibilities as may be assigned to it by the Parties.
2. The Committee may establish working parties or other subsidiary bodies that shall carry out such functions as may be given to them by the Committee.
3. The Committee shall annually:
  - (a) review the implementation and operation of this Agreement; and
  - (b) inform the General Council of its activities, pursuant to Article IV:8 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WTO Agreement"), and of developments relating to the implementation and operation of this Agreement.

*Observers*

4. Any WTO Member that is not a Party to this Agreement shall be entitled to participate in the Committee as an observer by submitting a written notice to the Committee. Any WTO observer may submit a written request to the Committee to participate in the Committee as an observer, and may be accorded observer status by the Committee.

**1.2 Article XXI:3**

1. Pursuant to Article XXI:3, the Committee has reviewed annually the implementation and operation of the Agreement on Government Procurement and has annually informed the WTO General Council of developments during the periods covered by such reviews. These reviews are available in the following documents: [GPA/126](#) and [GPA/126/Corr.1](#) for 2014, [GPA/134](#) for 2015, [GPA/141](#) and [GPA/141/Corr.1](#) for 2016, [GPA/145](#) and [GPA/145/Corr.1](#) for 2017, [GPA/AR/1](#) for 2018, and [GPA/AR/2](#) for 2019.

**1.3 Article XXI:4**

2. Since the entry into force in April 2014 of the Agreement on Government Procurement, as amended by the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, the Committee on Government Procurement has approved the following requests for observer status:

Agreement on Government Procurement, as amended by the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, done at Geneva on 30 March 2012– Article XXI (Practice)

- the observer request by Tajikistan<sup>1</sup> on 25 June 2014<sup>2</sup>;
- the observer request by Pakistan<sup>3</sup> on 11 February 2015<sup>4</sup>;
- the observer request by Costa Rica<sup>5</sup> on 3 June 2015<sup>6</sup>;
- the observer request by Thailand<sup>7</sup> on 3 June 2015<sup>8</sup>;
- the observer request by Seychelles<sup>9</sup> on 16 September 2015<sup>10</sup>;
- the observer request by Kazakhstan<sup>11</sup> on 19 October 2016<sup>12</sup>;
- the observer request by Afghanistan<sup>13</sup> on 18 October 2017<sup>14</sup>;
- the observer request by Brazil<sup>15</sup> on 18 October 2017<sup>16</sup>;
- the observer request by Belarus<sup>17</sup> on 27 June 2018<sup>18</sup>;
- the observer request by Paraguay<sup>19</sup> on 27 February 2019<sup>20</sup>;
- the observer request by Philippines<sup>21</sup> on 26 June 2019<sup>22</sup>; and
- the observer request by Ecuador<sup>23</sup> on 26 June 2019.<sup>24</sup>

Current as of: March 2020

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<sup>1</sup> [GPA/W/329](#) and [Corr.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [GPA/M/56](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>3</sup> [GPA/W/330](#).

<sup>4</sup> [GPA/M/59](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>5</sup> [GPA/W/331](#).

<sup>6</sup> [GPA/M/61](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>7</sup> [GPA/W/332](#).

<sup>8</sup> [GPA/M/61](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>9</sup> [GPA/W/333](#).

<sup>10</sup> [GPA/M/62](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>11</sup> [GPA/W/338](#).

<sup>12</sup> [GPA/M/66](#), para. 5.

<sup>13</sup> [GPA/W/343](#).

<sup>14</sup> [GPA/M/69](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>15</sup> [GPA/W/344](#).

<sup>16</sup> [GPA/M/69](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>17</sup> [GPA/W/346](#).

<sup>18</sup> [GPA/M/72](#), para. 2.2.

<sup>19</sup> [GPA/147](#).

<sup>20</sup> [GPA/M/75](#), para 2.2.

<sup>21</sup> [GPA/148](#).

<sup>22</sup> [GPA/M/76](#), para. 1.2.

<sup>23</sup> [GPA/149](#).

<sup>24</sup> [GPA/M/76](#), para. 1.2.