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1 ARTICLE IV

1.1 Text of Article IV

Article IV

Structure of the WTO

1. There shall be a Ministerial Conference composed of representatives of all the Members, which shall meet at least once every two years. The Ministerial Conference shall carry out the functions of the WTO and take actions necessary to this effect. The Ministerial Conference shall have the authority to take decisions on all matters under any of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, if so requested by a Member, in accordance with the specific requirements for decision-making in this Agreement and in the relevant Multilateral Trade Agreement.

2. There shall be a General Council composed of representatives of all the Members, which shall meet as appropriate. In the intervals between meetings of the Ministerial Conference, its functions shall be conducted by the General Council. The General Council shall also carry out the functions assigned to it by this Agreement. The General Council shall establish its rules of procedure and approve the rules of procedure for the Committees provided for in paragraph 7.

3. The General Council shall convene as appropriate to discharge the responsibilities of the Dispute Settlement Body provided for in the Dispute Settlement

Understanding. The Dispute Settlement Body may have its own chairman and shall establish such rules of procedure as it deems necessary for the fulfilment of those responsibilities.

4. The General Council shall convene as appropriate to discharge the responsibilities of the Trade Policy Review Body provided for in the TPRM. The Trade Policy Review Body may have its own chairman and shall establish such rules of procedure as it deems necessary for the fulfilment of those responsibilities.

5. There shall be a Council for Trade in Goods, a Council for Trade in Services and a Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Council for TRIPS"), which shall operate under the general guidance of the General Council. The Council for Trade in Goods shall oversee the functioning of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A. The Council for Trade in Services shall oversee the functioning of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS"). The Council for TRIPS shall oversee the functioning of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement on TRIPS"). These Councils shall carry out the functions assigned to them by their respective agreements and by the General Council. They shall establish their respective rules of procedure subject to the approval of the General Council. Membership in these Councils shall be open to representatives of all Members. These Councils shall meet as necessary to carry out their functions.

6. The Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for TRIPS shall establish subsidiary bodies as required. These subsidiary bodies shall establish their respective rules of procedure subject to the approval of their respective Councils.

7. The Ministerial Conference shall establish a Committee on Trade and Development, a Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions and a Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, which shall carry out the functions assigned to them by this Agreement and by the Multilateral Trade Agreements, and any additional functions assigned to them by the General Council, and may establish such additional Committees with such functions as it may deem appropriate. As part of its functions, the Committee on Trade and Development shall periodically review the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements in favour of the least-developed country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action. Membership in these Committees shall be open to representatives of all Members.

8. The bodies provided for under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements shall carry out the functions assigned to them under those Agreements and shall operate within the institutional framework of the WTO. These bodies shall keep the General Council informed of their activities on a regular basis.

1.2 Article IV:1 Ministerial Conference

1.2.1 Meetings of the Ministerial Conference

1. As of February 2018, the Ministerial Conference has met on the following 11 occasions:
 - a. First session (MC1): Singapore Ministerial Conference (9-13 December 1996)
 - b. Second session (MC2): Geneva Ministerial Conference (18-20 May 1998)
 - c. Third session (MC3): Seattle Ministerial Conference (30 November – 3 December 1999)
 - d. Fourth session (MC4): Doha Ministerial Conference (9-14 November 2011)
 - e. Fifth session (MC5): Cancún Ministerial Conference (10-14 September 2003)

- f. Sixth session (MC6): Hong Kong Ministerial Conference (13-18 December 2005)
- g. Seventh session (MC7): Geneva Ministerial Conference (15-17 December 2009)
- h. Eighth session (MC8): Geneva Ministerial Conference (15-17 December 2011)
- i. Ninth session (MC9): Bali Ministerial Conference (3-7 December 2013)
- j. Tenth session (MC10): Nairobi Ministerial Conference (15-19 December 2015)
- k. Eleventh session (MC11): Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference (10-13 December 2017)

1.2.2 Powers of the Ministerial Conference

1.2.2.1 Powers under the WTO Agreement

2. The Ministerial Conference has the general powers, under Article IV:1, to "carry out the functions of the WTO and take actions necessary to this effect". In addition, the Ministerial Conference has specific powers under other Articles of the WTO Agreement, including: the power to appoint a Director-General and to set out the powers, duties, conditions of service, and term of office of the Director-General¹; to adopt an authoritative interpretation of the Multilateral Trade Agreements²; to grant a waiver³; to adopt amendments⁴; and to decide on accessions.⁵

1.2.2.2 Powers under other Agreements

1.2.2.2.1 GATT 1994

3. Paragraph 2(b) of the GATT 1994 incorporation text provides that the references to the CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly in Articles XV:1, XV:2, XV:8, XXXVIII and the Notes *Ad* Articles XII and XVIII of the GATT 1994, and in the provisions on special exchange agreements in Articles XV:2, XV:3, XV:6, XV:7 and XV:9 of the GATT 1994, shall be deemed to be references to the WTO.

4. The other functions that the provisions of GATT 1994 assign to the CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly may be allocated to the various WTO organs by decision of the Ministerial Conference. To date, such a decision has not taken place.

1.2.2.2.2 GATS

5. Articles XII:5(b) and XII:6 give the Ministerial Conference power to establish certain procedures in connection with balance-of-payments restrictions.⁶

1.2.2.2.3 TRIPS

6. Article 64.3 gives the Ministerial Conference power to extend the non-applicability of non-violation complaints to the TRIPS Agreement on recommendation of the Council for TRIPS.⁷

1.2.3 Decisions and Declarations by the Ministerial Conference

7. Pursuant to Article IV:1, the Ministerial Conference "shall have the authority to take decisions on all matters under any of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, if so requested by a

¹ Acting pursuant to Articles IV:2, VI:2 and IX:1 of the WTO Agreement, the General Council has adopted procedures for the appointment of Directors-General on behalf of the Ministerial Conference. See paragraph 13 below and the document on Article VI:1 of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

² See the document on Article IX of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

³ See the document on Article IX of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁴ See the document on Article X of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁵ See the document on Article XII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁶ See the document on Article XII of the GATS (Practice).

⁷ See the document on Article 64.3 of the TRIPS Agreement (Practice).

Member, in accordance with the specific requirements for decision-making in this Agreement and in the relevant Multilateral Trade Agreement." The Ministerial Conference has adopted a number of decisions and declarations.⁸

1.2.4 Rules of Procedure

8. The General Council adopted the Rules of Procedure for the Ministerial Conference at its meeting of 31 January 1995⁹ and amended these Rules on 18 July 1996.¹⁰

1.3 Article IV:2 General Council

1.3.1 General

9. The General Council meets regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO. It has representatives from all Members and conducts the functions of the Ministerial Conference in the intervals between its meetings.

1.3.2 Powers of the General Council under the WTO Agreement

10. In addition to the general power to conduct the functions of the Ministerial Conference in the intervals between its meetings, the General Council is mandated to make appropriate arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations that have responsibilities related to those of the WTO under Article V:1 and for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental organizations concerned with matters related to those of the WTO under Article V:2.¹¹ Article VII:3 mandates the General Council to adopt financial regulations and the annual budget estimate.¹²

1.3.3 Rules of Procedure

11. The General Council adopted its Rules of Procedure on 31 January 1995¹³ and amended these Rules on 3 April 1995 and 18 July 1996.¹⁴

1.3.4 Procedures for reporting to and by the General Council

12. On 15 November 1995, the General Council adopted the following procedures for an annual overview of WTO activities and for reporting under the WTO¹⁵:

"1. Reporting procedures for sectoral Councils and their subsidiary bodies

All bodies constituted under Annex 1A Agreements shall be required to submit a factual report to the Council for Trade in Goods. The same shall apply to the subsidiary bodies established by the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights. The reports of the sectoral councils would be factual in nature, containing an indication of actions and decisions taken, with cross references to reports of subordinate bodies and could follow the model of the GATT 1947 Council reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The respective sectoral councils

⁸ For a list of all Ministerial Decisions and Declarations, see the WTO publication on Key WTO Ministerial Outcomes.

⁹ WT/GC/M/1, item 4.I. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/L/28.

¹⁰ WT/GC/M/13, item 9(a). At its meeting of 18 July 1996, the General Council adopted guidelines on observer status for international intergovernmental organizations, which were subsequently reproduced as an Annex 3 of the Rules of Procedure. The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/L/161.

¹¹ See the document on Article V of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

¹² See the document on Article VII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

¹³ WT/GC/M/1, item 4.I. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/L/28.

¹⁴ WT/GC/M/3, item 1; and WT/GC/M/13, item 9(a). The Rules of Procedure were amended by the General Council on 3 April 1995 with regard to Chapter V on officers for the General Council and on 18 July 1996 with regard to Annex 3 on observer status for international intergovernmental organizations for both the Ministerial Conference and the General Council (see footnote 10 above). The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/L/161.

¹⁵ WT/GC/M/8, item 11

should report in November each year to the General Council on the activities in the Council as well as in the subsidiary bodies.

2. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Trade and Development, on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

The Committee on Trade and Development shall submit a report to the General Council at the end of each year. The Committees on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments will also submit, in addition to reports submitted during the course of the year on specific issues, a short factual report at the end of the year.

3. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements

The Committees on the Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement shall be invited to report annually to the General Council.

4. Action by the General Council and the sectoral councils

The sectoral councils will take note of reports of their subsidiary bodies.

The General Council will take note of the reports by the sectoral councils, which would serve as a basis for an overview of the activities of the WTO in the course of the year. The report of the Committee on Trade and Development will be adopted by the General Council. The reports of the other subsidiary bodies mentioned in item 2 above would be duly noted.

The General Council would also take note of the reports by the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement.

5. Overview by the Ministerial Conference

The General Council will prepare a report on its activities every year which would contain a first section of a factual nature, summarizing actions and decisions taken by the General Council during the year; a section on dispute settlement; a section on trade policy reviews; and a cross reference to the reports of sectoral councils and the Committees mentioned in item 2 above.

The Ministerial Conference would carry out an overview of the activities of the WTO over the previous two years on the basis of the annual reports of the General Council. In years when the Ministerial Conference does not meet, the General Council would carry out an annual overview of the WTO activities as mentioned in item 4 above.

The overview of activities of the WTO based on these reports could be part of an Agenda item for general statements at the Ministerial Conference ..."¹⁶

1.3.5 Other procedures adopted by the General Council

13. The General Council has adopted several procedures relevant for meetings and activities of WTO bodies, including those listed below:

- a. Procedure for decisions having financial implications which may be taken by WTO bodies – 11 July 1995¹⁷;
- b. Guidelines on the arrangements for scheduling of meetings of WTO bodies – 15 November 1995¹⁸;

¹⁶ WT/L/105. (footnote omitted)

¹⁷ WT/GC/M/5, p. 11. The text of this procedure can be found in WT/L/76.

- c. Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement – 15 November 1995¹⁹;
- d. Procedures for the circulation and derestriction of WTO documents – 14 May 2002²⁰;
- e. Guidelines for appointment of officers to WTO bodies – 11 December 2002²¹; and
- f. Procedures for the appointment of Directors-General – 10 December 2002.²²

1.3.6 E-commerce

14. At the Geneva Ministerial Meeting on 20 May 1998, Ministers adopted a Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce.²³ On 25 September 1998, the General Council adopted a Decision on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce.²⁴ Successive Ministerial Conferences adopted decisions on the work programme on e-commerce, extending the moratorium on the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions and agreeing to continue the work under work programme under the auspices of the General Council.²⁵

1.4 Article IV:3 Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)

1.4.1 General

15. The General Council, acting as the DSB, discharges the responsibilities enumerated in Article 2.1 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), including: the authority to establish panels, to appoint persons to serve on the Appellate Body, to adopt panel and Appellate Body reports, to maintain surveillance of implementation of rulings and recommendations and authorize suspension of concessions and other obligations under the covered agreements.²⁶ For more information on the activities of the DSB, see the documents on the DSU (Practice).

1.4.2 Rules of Procedure

16. The DSB adopted its Rules of Procedure on 10 February 1995²⁷ and amended these Rules on 29 March 1995.²⁸ The DSB follows, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure for the General Council²⁹ with certain exceptions.

1.5 Article IV:4 Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB)

1.5.1 General

17. The General Council, acting as the TPRB, carries out reviews of the trade policies and practices of Members in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM). Reviews of Members' trade policies and practices are conducted on a rotational basis, with the frequency of reviews being determined by reference to each Member's share of world trade in

¹⁸ WT/GC/M/8, item 13. The text of the guidelines can be found in WT/L/106.

¹⁹ WT/GC/M/8, item 3. The text of the procedures can be found in WT/L/93.

²⁰ WT/GC/M/74, item 5. The text of the procedures can be found in WT/L/452,

²¹ WT/GC/M/77, item 18. The text of the guidelines can be found in WT/L/510. See also the statement of the Chair of the General Council in JOB/GC/22.

²² WT/GC/M/77, item 17. The text of the procedures can be found in WT/L/509.

²³ WT/DEC(98)/DEC/2.

²⁴ WT/L/274.

²⁵ For the Bali Ministerial Conference, see WT/MIN(13)/32 – WT/L/907. For the Nairobi Ministerial Conference, see WT/MIN(15)/42 – WT/L/977. For the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference, see WT/MIN(17)/65 – WT/L/1032 as well as WT/MIN(17)/68 and WT/MIN(17)/SR/6, Annex I.

²⁶ The powers referred to are found in Articles 6, 16, 17, 21 and 22 of the DSU.

²⁷ WT/DSB/M/1, item 1.

²⁸ WT/DSB/M/4, item 1. At its meeting on 29 March 1995, the DSB approved the provisions in Chapter V concerning officers. The text of the amended Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/DSB/9.

²⁹ WT/L/161.

a recent representative period.³⁰ For more information on the activities of the TPRB, see the documents on the TPRM (Practice).

1.5.2 Rules of Procedure

18. The TPRB adopted its Rules of Procedure at its meeting of 6 June 1995³¹ and revised these Rules on 5 October 2005, 10 November 2008, 27 January 2012, and 15 June 2017.³² The TPRB follows, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure for the General Council³³ with certain exceptions.

1.6 Article IV:5 Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services and Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

1.6.1 Council for Trade in Goods

1.6.1.1 Functions

19. The Council for Trade in Goods oversees the functioning of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A. These Agreements include: the General interpretative note to Annex 1A, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) and the GATT 1947 and their related Understandings and Protocols³⁴, the Agreement on Agriculture, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs Agreement), the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 (Anti-Dumping Agreement), the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994 (Customs Valuation Agreement), the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection, the Agreement on Rules of Origin, the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement), the Agreement on Safeguards, and the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The bodies that administer these Agreements report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods as provided by the procedures noted above in paragraph 12.

20. The Agreements in Annex 1A also specify the following functions for the Council for Trade in Goods:

- a. Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994:
 - i. To receive notifications of state trading enterprises – paragraph 1;
 - ii. To receive counter-notifications of state trading enterprises – paragraph 4; and
 - iii. To make recommendations with regard to the adequacy of notifications and the need for further information – paragraph 5.
- b. Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994:
 - i. To receive a full explanation from Members party to an interim agreement leading to the formation of a customs union or a free-trade area, if they believe

³⁰ See the document on Paragraph C of the TPRM (Practice).

³¹ The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/TPR/6.

³² WT/TPR/M/152, para. 43; WT/TPR/M/206, item VII; and WT/TPR/M/356, item 7. These revisions took account of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Appraisal of the TPRM, respectively (WT/TPR/229, WT/MIN(11)/6, WT/MIN(13)/5, and WT/MIN(17)/9). The text of the revised Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/TPR/6/Rev.4

³³ WT/L/161.

³⁴ These Understandings and Protocols include: Differential and More Favourable Treatment Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries ("Enabling Clause"), the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article II:1(b) of the GATT 1994, the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994, the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994, the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, the Understanding in Respect of Waivers of Obligations under the GATT 1994, the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994, and the Marrakesh Protocol to the GATT 1994.

that 10 years is insufficient for the period in Article XXIV:5(c) of the GATT 1994 – paragraph 3;

ii. To receive the reports of working parties that examine notifications made under Article XXIV:7(a) of the GATT 1994 – paragraph 7;

iii. To receive notifications of substantial changes to the plan and schedule in any interim agreement – paragraph 9; and

iv. To receive periodic reports from customs unions and constituents of free-trade areas – paragraph 11.

c. Agreement on Textiles and Clothing

i. The Council for Trade in Goods designated the members of the Textiles Monitoring Body – Article 8.1. It also conducted a review of the Agreement before the end of each stage of the integration process – Article 8.11. The Agreement was terminated on 1 January 2005.

d. Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures

i. To receive notifications of all applied TRIMs that are not in conformity with the TRIMs Agreement – Article 5.1 – and of TRIMs applied to certain new investments – Article 5.5;

ii. To extend the transition period for the elimination of TRIMs of a developing country Member – Article 5.3;

iii. To assign responsibilities to the Committee on TRIMS – Article 7.2; and

iv. To review operation of the *TRIMs Agreement* and as appropriate propose amendments to the text to the Ministerial Conference – Article 9.

e. Anti-Dumping Agreement

i. To approve anti-dumping action on behalf of a third country - Article 14.4.

f. Agreement on Safeguards

i. To review proposals to suspend substantially equivalent concessions - Article 8.2;

ii. To receive notifications on results of consultations, on mid-term reviews (Article 7.4), on compensation (Article 8.1), or on proposed suspension of concessions (Article 8.2) – Article 12.2; to request additional information from a Member notifying a safeguard measure - Article 12.2; and

iii. To receive reports from the Committee on Safeguards and assign functions to that Committee – Article 13.1.

21. The Council for Trade in Goods reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.³⁵

³⁵ Annual reports: WT/GC/W/25, Item IV for 1995; G/L/134 and Add.1 for 1996; G/L/213 for 1997; G/L/285 for 1998; G/L/337 for 1999; G/L/419 for 2000; G/L/492 for 2001; G/L/595 for 2002; G/L/637; G/L/665 for 2003; G/L/721 and Add.1 for 2004; G/L/763 for 2005; G/L/808 for 2006; G/L/845 for 2007; G/L/876 for 2008; G/L/911 for 2009; G/L/947 and Rev.1 for 2010; G/L/978 for 2011; G/L/1018 for 2012; G/L/1057 for 2013; G/L/1094 for 2014; G/L/1140 for 2015; G/L/1168 for 2016; and G/L/1201 for 2017.

1.6.1.2 Rules of Procedure

22. At its meeting of 31 July 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Goods³⁶, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure³⁷ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.2 Council for Trade in Services

1.6.2.1 Functions

23. The Council for Trade in Services oversees the functioning of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and has the following specific functions provided for in the GATS:

- a. To receive notifications of laws, regulations or administrative guidelines that significantly affect trade in services covered by specific commitments, and counter-notifications of measures affecting the operation of the GATS – Article III;
- b. To receive and review notifications of economic integration agreements in services, and periodic reports by parties to such agreements, and to make recommendations to the parties – Article V:7;
- c. To receive notifications of labour market integration agreements in services – Article *Vbis*;
- d. To develop necessary disciplines on measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical regulations and licensing requirements, through bodies it may establish – Article VI:4;
- e. To receive notifications concerning recognition agreements – Article VII:4;
- f. To request information from a Member concerning operations of a monopoly supplier – Article VIII:3;
- g. To receive notifications of a grant of monopoly rights regarding supply of a service covered by a specific commitment, or of a proposed modification of specific commitments – Article VIII:4 or XXI:1; to establish procedures for rectification or modification of schedules – Article XXI:5; to establish procedures for changes to Article II exemptions and scheduled commitments on financial services – Second Annex on Financial Services;
- h. To receive notifications of balance-of-payments measures – Article XII:4;
- i. To be informed of security measures – Article *XIVbis*;
- j. To carry out an assessment of trade in services, in order to establish guidelines and procedures for negotiations on progressive liberalization – Article XIX;
- k. To consult with a Member or Members upon request, or to refer to arbitration a dispute regarding whether a measure falls within the scope of a double taxation agreement – Article XXII:2;
- l. To carry out functions assigned to it to facilitate the operation of the GATS and further its objectives; to create subsidiary bodies – Article XXIV;
- m. To review Article II exemptions granted for more than five years – Annex on Article II Exemptions; and

³⁶ WT/GC/M/6, item 3. The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/L/79.

³⁷ WT/L/161.

n. To review periodically developments in the air transport sector – Annex on Air Transport Services.

24. The Council for Trade in Services reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.³⁸

1.6.2.2 Rules of Procedure

25. At its meeting of 15 November 1995, the General Council approved Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services³⁹, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁴⁰ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.3 Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

1.6.3.1 Functions

26. The Council for TRIPS oversees the functioning of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). It has the following specific functions provided for in the TRIPS Agreement:

- a. To receive notifications regarding application of the Rome Convention or the Berne Convention – Articles 1.3 and 3.1;
- b. To receive notifications of international intellectual property agreements pre-existing the WTO Agreement – Article 4(d);
- c. To conduct negotiations concerning a multilateral system for notifying and registering geographical indications for certain wines, to keep under review the application of the provisions of Section 3 (Geographical Indications), to consult with Members and to take action as agreed to facilitate the objectives of Section 3 – Articles 23.4 and 24.2;
- d. To receive notifications of laws and regulations pertaining to the TRIPS Agreement made effective by a Member – Article 63.2;
- e. To examine the scope and modalities for non-violation and situation complaints made pursuant to the TRIPS Agreement and submit its recommendations to the Ministerial Conference – Article 64.3;
- f. To grant extensions of the implementation period to least developed country Members - Article 66.1;
- g. To monitor the operation of the Agreement and Members' compliance thereunder, and to establish appropriate arrangements for cooperation with WIPO - Article 68; and
- h. To review the implementation of the Agreement periodically and refer to the Ministerial Conference certain amendments – Article 71.

27. The Council for TRIPS reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁴¹

³⁸ S/C/2 for 1995; S/C/3 for 1996; S/C/5 for 1997; S/C/6 for 1998; S/C/10 for 1999; S/C/12 for 2000; S/C/14 for 2001; S/C/16 and S/C/17 and Rev.1 for 2002; S/C/19 for 2003; S/C/22 for 2004; S/C/24 for 2005; S/C/26 for 2006; S/C/28 for 2007; S/C/30 for 2008; S/C/32 for 2009; S/C/34 for 2010; S/C/36 for 2011; S/C/39 for 2012; S/C/42 for 2013; S/C/44 for 2014; S/C/48 for 2015; S/C/50 for 2016; and S/C/53 for 2017.

³⁹ WT/GC/M/8, item 4(a). The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in S/L/15.

⁴⁰ WT/L/161.

⁴¹ Annual reports: WT/GC/W/25, item VI for 1995; IP/C/8 for 1996; IP/C/12 for 1997; IP/C/15 for 1998; IP/C/19 for 1999; IP/C/22 for 2000; IP/C/23 for 2001; IP/C/27 and Add.1 for 2002; IP/C/30 for 2003; IP/C/32 for 2004; IP/C/38 and Add.1 for 2005; IP/C/.44 for 2006; IP/C/48 for 2007; IP/C/51 for 2008; IP/C/52 and Add.1 for 2009; and IP/C/56 for 2010; IP/C/59 and Add.1 and Add. 2 for 2011; IP/C/62 for 2012;

1.6.3.2 Rules of Procedure

28. At its meeting of 15 November 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for TRIPS⁴², consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁴³ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.6.4 The Councils "shall operate under the general guidance of the General Council"

29. The Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services, and Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights all report to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures referred to in paragraph 12 above.⁴⁴

1.7 Article IV:7 Subsidiary bodies of the Ministerial Conference and General Council

30. The General Council, acting on behalf of the Ministerial Conference pursuant to Article IV:4 of the WTO Agreement, has established the following Committees pursuant to Article IV:7 of the WTO Agreement⁴⁵:

- a. Committee on Trade and Development;
- b. Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions;
- c. Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration;
- d. Committee on Trade and Environment; and
- e. Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

31. The Ministerial Conference and General Council have also established the following working parties to carry out various functions⁴⁶:

- a. Working Parties on Accession⁴⁷;
- b. Working Party on Preshipment Inspection⁴⁸;

IP/C/67 for 2013; IP/C/68 for 2014; IP/C/71 and Add.1 and Add.2 and Corr.1 for 2015; IP/C/75 for 2016; and IP/C/80 for 2017.

⁴² WT/GC/M/8, item 4(b). The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in IP/C/1.

⁴³ WT/L/161.

⁴⁴ See paragraphs 21, 24, and 27 above.

⁴⁵ In addition to the Committees listed here, the General Council also established the Committee on Market Access (WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(3)), which functions under the Council for Trade in Goods and is addressed in section 1.8 below. Furthermore, the Bali Ministerial Conference concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and established a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation under the General Council "to perform such functions as might be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force". (WT/MIN(13)/36 – WT/L/911). Following its entry into force on 22 February 2017, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is administered by the Committee on Trade Facilitation and the Preparatory Committee has ceased to meet. The Committee on Trade Facilitation functions under the Council for Trade in Goods and is addressed in section 1.8 below.

⁴⁶ In addition to the Working Parties listed here, the Singapore Ministerial Conference also established the Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment, the Working Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy, and the Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement. (WT/MIN(96)/DEC, paras. 20-21). On 1 August 2004, as a follow-up to the Cancún Ministerial Conference, the General Council adopted a decision (also known as the "July Package"), which, *inter alia*, amended the scope of the Doha negotiations so that no work towards negotiations on any of the issues concerning the relationship between trade and investment, the interaction between trade and competition, and transparency in Government Procurement would take place within the WTO during the Doha Round. (WT/L/579, item g).

⁴⁷ See the document on Article XII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

⁴⁸ Established by the General Council at its meeting of 7, 8 and 13 November 1996 "to conduct the review provided for under Article 6 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection and to report to the General Council through the Council for Trade in Goods in December 1997". (WT/GC/M/16, item 3; WT/L/196). The Working Party was extended until 31 March 1999 by the General Council at its meetings in December 1997 and

- c. Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance⁴⁹; and
- d. Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology.⁵⁰

1.7.1 Committee on Trade and Development

1.7.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

32. The General Council established the Committee on Trade and Development on 31 January 1995⁵¹, with the following terms of reference:

"1. To serve as a focal point for consideration and coordination of work on development in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its relationship to development-related activities in other multilateral agencies.¹

(footnote original) ¹ It is understood that matters relating to activities in other multilateral agencies will come under the guidance of the General Council.

2. To keep under continuous review the participation of developing country Members in the multilateral trading system and to consider measures and initiatives to assist developing country Members, and in particular the least-developed country Members, in the expansion of their trade and investment opportunities, including support for their measures of trade liberalization.²

(footnote original) ² The Committee would give consideration, *inter alia*, to any report that the Committee on Agriculture may decide to refer to it following paragraph 6 of the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries" and Article XVI of the Agreement on Agriculture.

3. To review periodically, in consultation as appropriate with the relevant bodies of the WTO, the application of special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of developing country Members, and in particular least-developed country Members, and report to the General Council for appropriate action.

4. To consider any questions which may arise with regard to either the application or the use of special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of developing country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action.

5. To provide guidelines for, and to review periodically, the technical cooperation activities of the WTO³ as they relate to developing country Members.

(footnote original) ³ The technical cooperation activities referred to in this provision do not include technical assistance for accession negotiations.

6. The Committee will establish a programme of work which may be reviewed as necessary each year."⁵²

December 1998. (WT/GC/M/25, item 8; and WT/GC/M/32, item 13). At its meeting of 15 June 1999, the General Council adopted the recommendation of the Working Party on Preshipment Inspection that the future monitoring of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection should be undertaken initially by the Committee on Customs Valuation. (WT/GC/M/40/Add.3, item 5; G/L/300, para. 23). For further information, see the document on Article 6 of the Preshipment Agreement (Practice).

⁴⁹ Established at the Doha Ministerial Conference, WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 36.

⁵⁰ Established at the Doha Ministerial Conference, WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 37.

⁵¹ WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(1).

⁵² WT/L/46. The adopted terms of reference were prepared by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 18 November 1994. (PC/IPL/M/9; PC/IPL/4).

33. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, Members decided that the Committee on Trade and Development should act as a forum to identify and debate developmental aspects of the new negotiations.⁵³

1.7.1.2 Rules of Procedure

34. On 15 November 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Trade and Development⁵⁴, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁵⁵ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.7.1.3 Reporting

35. The Committee on Trade and Development reports to the General Council on an annual basis.⁵⁶

1.7.1.4 Activities

1.7.1.4.1 Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

36. The Committee on Trade and Development adopted the decision establishing the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries⁵⁷ on 5 July 1995 with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to give particular attention to the special and specific problems of least-developed countries;

(b) to review periodically the operation of the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of the least-developed country Members;

(c) to consider specific measures to assist and facilitate the expansion of the least-developed countries' trade and investment opportunities, with a view to enabling them to achieve their development objectives;¹ and,

(footnote original) ¹ The Sub-Committee would give consideration, *inter alia*, to any report that the Committee on Agriculture may decide to refer to it following paragraph 6 of the "Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries" and Article XVI of the Agreement on Agriculture.

(d) to report to the Committee on Trade and Development for consideration and appropriate action."⁵⁸

37. At its meeting on 17 October 1996, the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries decided that its Rules of Procedure would follow *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Trade and Development.⁵⁹

38. Pursuant to paragraph 42 of the Doha Declaration⁶⁰, the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries designed a Work Programme for the Least Developed Countries, which it

⁵³ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para 51.

⁵⁴ WT/GC/M/8, item 4(c). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/COMTD/6.

⁵⁵ WT/L/161.

⁵⁶ WT/SPEC/17 for 1995; WT/COMTD/9 for 1996; WT/COMTD/13 for 1997; WT/COMTD/15 for 1998; WT/COMTD/22 for 1999; WT/COMTD/28 for 2000; WT/COMTD/33 and Corr.1 for 2001; WT/COMTD/44 for 2002; WT/COMTD/46 and WT/COMTD/48 for 2003; WT/COMTD/50 for 2004; WT/COMTD/55 for 2005; WT/COMTD/58 for 2006; WT/COMTD/ 64 for 2007; WT/COMTD/69 for 2008; WT/COMTD/70 and Add.1 for 2009; WT/COMTD/74 for 2011; WT/COMTD/79 for 2012; WT/COMTD/83 for 2013; WT/COMTD/86 for 2014; WT/COMTD/87 for 2015; WT/COMTD/91 for 2016; and WT/COMTD/96 and Corr.1 for 2017.

⁵⁷ WT/COMTD/M/2, para. 3.

⁵⁸ WT/COMTD/W/8.

⁵⁹ WT/COMTD/LLDC/1, para. 15. The text of the Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Trade and Development can be found in WT/COMTD/6.

adopted on 12 February 2002.⁶¹ On 28 June 2013, the Sub-Committee adopted a revision of the Work Programme.⁶² In its work, the Sub-Committee focuses on the implementation of the Work Programme, in particular on the issues of market access, technical assistance and accessions.

1.7.1.4.2 Technical cooperation

39. The Committee on Trade and Development has a mandate to provide guidelines for, and to review periodically, the WTO's technical assistance activities.⁶³ Under this mandate, the Committee approves of the WTO's Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan before it is implemented. The Plan for 2018-2019 was approved by the Committee in November 2017.⁶⁴ Another feature of this mandate is the consideration, on an annual basis, of Secretariat reports on the implementation and evaluation of the WTO's Technical Assistance activities. Most recently, the Committee considered the WTO's annual performance report on technical assistance and training for 2016.⁶⁵

1.7.1.4.3 Favourable and more preferential treatment for developing country and least developed country Members

40. On 13 December 1996, the Singapore Ministerial Conference adopted the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for the Least-Developed Countries⁶⁶, prepared by the Committee on Trade and Development. The Plan of Action, *inter alia*, proposed that "Developed country Members, and developing country Members on an autonomous basis, would explore the possibilities of granting preferential duty-free access for the exports of least-developed countries."⁶⁷ At a High-Level Meeting on 27-28 October 1997, as well as shortly thereafter, 28 Members announced steps taken, or to be taken to enhance market access for imports from LDCs.⁶⁸

41. Paragraph 42 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration commits WTO Members "to the objective of duty-free, quota-free market access for products originating from LDCs" and "to consider additional measures for progressive improvements in market access for LDCs."⁶⁹

42. The Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns combined with paragraph 12 of the Doha Declaration aimed to provide a two-track solution to developing country Members' issues and concerns on the implementation of the WTO agreements.⁷⁰

43. Pursuant to the Work Programme for the Least Developed Countries, adopted in 2002 and revised in 2013⁷¹, the Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries focuses on the following market access issues for LDCs in its work: (i) the identification and examination of market access barriers to products of least-developed countries in desired markets; (ii) annual reviews in the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries of market access improvements, market access measures taken by Members; and (iii) examination of possible additional measures for improvement of market access, including elimination of barriers to exports and further improvement of preferential access schemes such the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).⁷²

⁶⁰ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para 42.

⁶¹ WT/COMTD/LDC/11.

⁶² WT/COMTD/LDC/11/Rev.1.

⁶³ WT/L/46, para. 5.

⁶⁴ WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1.

⁶⁵ WT/COMTD/W/225.

⁶⁶ WT/MIN(96)/DEC, para. 14. The text of the Plan of Action can be found in WT/MIN(96)/14.

⁶⁷ WT/MIN(96)/14, para. 11.

⁶⁸ The 28 Members are: Argentina; Australia; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; the Czech Republic; Egypt; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mauritius; Morocco; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Singapore; the Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; and the United States. (See WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22, fn 4). Further, among them, the following 13 Members notified their market access measures for LDCs to the WTO: Canada; Egypt; the European Union; Japan; Mauritius; Morocco; Norway; New Zealand; the Republic of Korea; Singapore; Switzerland; Turkey; and the United States. (See WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22, fn 6).

⁶⁹ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para 42.

⁷⁰ WT/MIN(01)/17.

⁷¹ See para. 38 above.

⁷² The text of this entire paragraph can be found in WT/COMTD/LDC/11/Rev.1, Section (a), paras. 7-9.

The annual reviews of market access for LDCs in the Sub-Committee are based on factual annual studies prepared by the Secretariat.⁷³

44. The WTO maintains, beyond the specific provisions contained in the WTO Agreement, three additional legal instruments concerning favourable and more preferential treatment for developing country Members: (i) the Enabling Clause⁷⁴; (ii) the Waiver on Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least-Developed Countries⁷⁵; and (iii) the Waiver on Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries.⁷⁶ With respect to the activities of the Committee on Trade and Development and the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries concerning the Waiver on Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least-Developed Countries, see the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice). With respect to the activities of the Council for Trade in Services concerning the Waiver on Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries, see the document on Article II of the GATS (Practice).

45. The Committee on Trade and Development receives notifications of regional trade agreements among developing country Members, pursuant to the Enabling Clause. Before December 2006, the Committee reviewed regional trade agreements on the basis of procedures it adopted on 2 November 1998.⁷⁷

46. The Decision on a Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements⁷⁸, adopted by the General Council on 14 December 2006, applies to RTAs notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, Article V of the GATS, and paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. For additional information of the Transparency Mechanism, see the section 1.7.5 below, as well as the documents on Articles I and XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice). The Committee on Trade and Development is entrusted with the implementation of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs falling under paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. To perform this function, the Committee on Trade and Development convenes in a Dedicated Session.

47. On 14 December 2010, the General Council adopted a Transparency Mechanism for Preferential Trade Arrangements, applying to differential and more favourable treatment under paragraph 2 of the Enabling Clause, "preferential treatment accorded by any Member to products of least-developed countries", and "any other non-reciprocal preferential treatment authorized under the WTO Agreement".⁷⁹ This Transparency Mechanism calls for early notification of such non-reciprocal preferences. Each preferential arrangement is to be considered by the Committee on Trade and Development on the basis of a factual presentation prepared by the Secretariat, in a single formal meeting of the Committee. All information notified is to be made available on the WTO website, and the Secretariat is to maintain an electronic database accessible to the public. This Transparency Mechanism is to apply on a provisional basis until Members approve its permanent application. It is implemented in the Committee on Trade and Development where preferential trade arrangements are considered in a Dedicated Session.

1.7.1.4.4 Monitoring Mechanism on Special and Differential Treatment

48. At the Ninth Ministerial Conference in December 2013, Ministers adopted a Decision regarding the establishment of a Monitoring Mechanism on Special and Differential Treatment.⁸⁰ The coverage of the Mechanism extends to all special and differential provisions contained in multilateral WTO Agreements, Ministerial and General Council Decisions. The Mechanism, which acts as a focal point within the WTO to analyse and review the implementation of S&D provisions, is to review all aspects of implementation of S&D provisions with a view to facilitating integration

⁷³ The 2017 LDC market access report prepared by the Secretariat is contained in WT/COMTD/LDC/W/65/Rev.1.

⁷⁴ Officially known as the 1979 Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, see L/4903.

⁷⁵ WT/L/304.

⁷⁶ WT/L/847.

⁷⁷ WT/COMTD/16. When an agreement was notified under the Enabling Clause, it was inscribed on the agenda of the Committee on Trade and Development. Subsequent actions of the Committee might have included "noting" the agreement, requesting additional information, transferring it to the Committee on RTAs for examination, and reviewing reports made by members on changes to their agreements.

⁷⁸ WT/L/671.

⁷⁹ WT/L/806.

⁸⁰ WT/MIN(13)/45 - WT/L/920.

of developing country and least-developed country Members into the multilateral trading system. The Mechanism operates in Dedicated Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development, and meets twice a year. The monitoring of S&D provisions in the Mechanism is to be undertaken on the basis of written inputs or submissions made by Members, as well as on the basis of reports received from other WTO bodies to which submissions by Members could also be made.⁸¹ According to the Decision, the Mechanism is to be reviewed three years after its first formal meeting, and thereafter when necessary, taking into account its functioning and evolving circumstances.⁸²

1.7.1.4.5 Dedicated Session on Small Economies

49. Pursuant to the Work Programme on Small Economies established by Ministers in Paragraph 35 of the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration, the General Council took note in 2002 of a framework and procedures for the conduct of the Work Programme on Small Economies.⁸³ The Committee on Trade and Development is mandated to conduct this programme of work in Dedicated Sessions, and to report regularly on the progress of this work to the General Council. So far, the General Council has agreed on two measures in favour of small and vulnerable economies: Based on a report by the Dedicated Session⁸⁴, the General Council agreed in 2006 that small economies be allowed to use regional bodies to assist them with the implementation of their obligations under the SPS Agreement, TBT Agreement and the TRIPS Agreement.⁸⁵ In July 2007, the General Council decided to allow certain Members to continue using, under certain conditions, their export subsidy programmes until the end of 2015.⁸⁶ At every Ministerial Conference since the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference, Decisions have been taken, instructing the Committee on Trade and Development to continue its work in Dedicated Session and providing guidance on the work to be carried out.⁸⁷ At the 2017 Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Ministers adopted a Decision, which instructs the Dedicated Session to continue its work on the challenges small economies experience in their efforts to reduce trade costs, particularly in the area of trade facilitation.⁸⁸ A state of play of small economies' issues discussed in WTO bodies is provided in a compilation paper which is periodically updated by the Secretariat.⁸⁹

1.7.1.4.6 Aid for Trade

50. The Aid-for-Trade Initiative, led by the WTO, grew out of the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.⁹⁰ Members noted that Aid for Trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from WTO Agreements and more broadly to expand their trade.

51. In 2006, a Task Force was constituted by the Director-General to report to the General Council with recommendations on how to operationalize Aid for Trade. The Task Force recommended that Aid for Trade should strengthen the "demand side" by mainstreaming trade into national development frameworks of developing countries, "strengthen response" by allocating more resources to aid for trade, and strengthening the bridge between "demand" and "response". It also recommended the establishment of a monitoring body in the WTO, which would undertake a periodic global review based on reports from stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluating progress was seen to be essential in building confidence that increased Aid for Trade will be delivered and effectively used. More than a decade later, these recommendations still guide the work of the Initiative. The monitoring body meets in sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development on Aid for Trade to perform its functions. The Global Review on Aid for Trade takes place every two years and surveys the operationalization of Aid for Trade, including a monitoring and evaluation of

⁸¹ To date, no written submissions have been made.

⁸² To date, a review of the Mechanism has not taken place. Discussions, in the course of 2017, on the question of the review can be found in WT/COMTD/MMSDT/M/7 and WT/COMTD/MMSDT/M/8.

⁸³ Document WT/L/447

⁸⁴ WT/COMTD/SE/5.

⁸⁵ WT/GC/M/104.

⁸⁶ Document WT/L/691.

⁸⁷ Documents WT/MIN(05)/DEC; WT/L/844; WT/MIN(13)/33 - WT/L/908; WT/MIN(15)/40 - WT/L/975; WT/MIN(17)/63 - WT/L/1030.

⁸⁸ WT/MIN(17)/63 - WT/L/1030.

⁸⁹ WT/COMTD/SE/W/22/Rev.8.

⁹⁰ WT/MIN(05)/DEC, para. 57.

Aid for Trade. So far six Global Reviews on Aid for Trade have been organized since the first edition in 2007.

52. The importance of and continued need for the Aid-for-Trade Initiative in supporting developing country Members to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure and of according priority to the needs of LDCs, has been recognized at the Tenth Ministerial Conference.⁹¹ Activities under the Aid for Trade Initiative are carried out on the basis of biennial work programmes, which have generated impetus for Aid for Trade activities on the ground.⁹²

1.7.2 Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

1.7.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

53. The General Council established the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions on 31 January 1995⁹³, with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to conduct consultations, pursuant to Article XII:4, Article XVIII:12 and the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, on all restrictive import measures taken or maintained for balance-of-payments purposes and, pursuant to Article XII:5 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, on all restrictions adopted or maintained for balance-of-payments purposes on trade in services on which specific commitments have been undertaken; and,

(b) to carry out any additional functions assigned to it by the General Council."⁹⁴

1.7.2.2 Rules of Procedure

54. At its meeting on 13 and 15 December 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions⁹⁵, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure⁹⁶ applied *mutatis mutandis* with certain exceptions.

1.7.2.3 Reporting

55. The Committee on Balance-of-Payments reports to the General Council on an annual basis.⁹⁷ In addition, the Committee submits reports on specific consultations.⁹⁸

1.7.2.4 Activities

56. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions, see the general document on the GATT 1994 (Practice) and the documents on Articles XII, XIV, and XVIII of the GATT 1994 (Practice). For information on the activities of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions under the GATT 1947, see the document on Article XII of the GATT 1947 (GATT Analytical Index, pages 378-392).

⁹¹ Paragraph 16 of the document WT/MIN(15)/40 – WT/L/975.

⁹² The Aid for Trade Work Programme for 2016-17 is contained in WT/COMTD/AFT/W/60.

⁹³ WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(1).

⁹⁴ WT/L/45. The adopted terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 21 October 1994. (PC/IPL/M/7, paras. 2-6; PC/IPL/3).

⁹⁵ WT/GC/M/9, item 1(b). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in WT/BOP/10.

⁹⁶ WT/L/161.

⁹⁷ WT/BOP/R/10 for 1995; WT/BOP/R/19 for 1996; WT/BOP/R/37 for 1997; WT/BOP/R/44 for 1998; WT/BOP/R/47 for 1999; WT/BOP/R/55 for 2000; WT/BOP/R/59 for 2001; WT/BOP/R/67 for 2002; WT/BOP/R/72 for 2003; WT/BOP/R/74 for 2004; WT/BOP/R/81 for 2005; WT/BOP/R/85 for 2006; WT/BOP/R/88 for 2007; WT/BOP/R/90 for 2008; WT/BOP/R/96 for 2009; WT/BOP/R/101 for 2010; WT/BOP/R/104 for 2011; WT/BOP/R/105 for 2012; WT/BOP/R/107 for 2013; WT/BOP/R/108 for 2014; WT/BOP/R/111 for 2015; WT/BOP/R/112 for 2016; and WT/BOP/R/115 for 2017.

⁹⁸ These reports can be found in the document series WT/BOP/R/*.

1.7.3 Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (BFA)

1.7.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

57. The General Council established the BFA Committee at its meeting of 31 January 1995 and adopted its terms of reference⁹⁹, which were subsequently revised to read as follows:

"(i) To examine any questions arising in connection with the audited accounts, proposals for the budgets of the WTO and of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, and the financing thereof.

(ii) To study any financial and administrative questions which may be referred to it by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council, or submitted to it by the Director-General, and undertake such other studies as may be assigned to it by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council."¹⁰⁰

1.7.3.2 Rules of Procedure

58. At its meeting of 17 February 1995, the Chairman of the General Council suggested that the BFA Committee follow the Rules of Procedure for the General Council¹⁰¹, except for voting procedures, as he expected the Committee to continue to work by consensus.¹⁰²

1.7.3.3 Reporting

59. The BFA Committee reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹⁰³

1.7.3.4 Activities

60. For more information on the activities of the BFA Committee, see the document on Article VII of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

1.7.4 Committee on Trade and Environment

1.7.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

61. Pursuant to the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment, the General Council established the Committee on Trade and Environment on 31 January 1995¹⁰⁴ with the following terms of reference:

"(a) [T]o identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures, in order to promote sustainable development;

(b) [T]o make appropriate recommendations on whether any modifications of the provisions of the multilateral trading system are required, compatible with the open, equitable and non-discriminatory nature of the system, as regards, in particular:

⁹⁹ WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(1).

¹⁰⁰ WT/L/44/Rev.1. The adopted terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 21 October 1994. (PC/IPL/M/7, paras. 2-6; PC/IPL/2). At its meeting on 3 April 1995, the General Council revised the terms of reference for the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration to take into account its decision on the relationship with the International Trade Centre. (WT/GC/M/3, item 6).

¹⁰¹ WT/L/161.

¹⁰² WT/BFA/1, para. 4.

¹⁰³ WT/BFA/29 for 1996; WT/BFA/34 for 1997; WT/BFA/37 and Corr.1 for 1998; WT/BFA/43 for 1999; WT/BFA/50 for 2000; WT/BFA/55 for 2001; WT/BFA/61 for 2002; WT/BFA/66 and WT/BFA/69 for 2003; WT/BFA/74 for 2004; WT/BFA/81 for 2005; WT/BFA/92 for 2006; WT/BFA/100 for 2007; WT/BFA/108 for 2008; WT/BFA/113 and Add.1 for 2009; WT/BFA/122 and Corr.1 for 2010; WT/BFA/127 for 2011; WT/BFA/135 for 2012; WT/BFA/140 for 2013; WT/BFA/145 for 2014; WT/BFA/152 for 2015; WT/BFA/159 for 2016; and WT/BFA/170 for 2017.

¹⁰⁴ WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(3); WT/L/42.

- [T]he need for rules to enhance positive interaction between trade and environmental measures, for the promotion of sustainable development, with special consideration to the needs of developing countries, in particular those of the least developed among them; and
- [T]he avoidance of protectionist trade measures, and the adherence to effective multilateral disciplines to ensure responsiveness of the multilateral trading system to environmental objectives set forth in Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, in particular Principle 12; and
- [S]urveillance of trade measures used for environmental purposes, of trade-related aspects of environmental measures which have significant trade effects, and of effective implementation of the multilateral disciplines governing those measures".¹⁰⁵

1.7.4.2 Reporting

62. The Committee on Trade and Environment reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹⁰⁶

1.7.5 Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

1.7.5.1 Establishment and terms of reference

63. The General Council established the Committee on RTAs on 6 February 1996¹⁰⁷ with the following terms of reference:

"(a) to carry out the examination of agreements in accordance with the procedures and terms of reference adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services or the Committee on Trade and Development, as the case may be, and thereafter present its report to the relevant body for appropriate action;²

(footnote original) ² The Committee will also carry out the outstanding work of the working parties already established by the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services or the Committee on Trade and Development, within the terms of reference defined for those working parties, and report to the appropriate bodies.

(b) to consider how the required reporting on the operation of such agreements should be carried out and make appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;

(c) to develop, as appropriate, procedures to facilitate and improve the examination process;

(d) to consider the systemic implications of such agreements and regional initiatives for the multilateral trading system and the relationship between them, and make appropriate recommendations to the General Council; and

(e) to carry out any additional functions assigned to it by the General Council."¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ MTN.TNC/45(MIN), Annex II. The Marrakesh Ministerial Decision also sets out a ten-point work programme covering the three areas of the WTO, i.e. goods, services and intellectual property rights. See MTN.TNC/45(MIN), Annex II.

¹⁰⁶ WT/CTE/1 for 1996; WT/CTE/2 for 1997; WT/CTE/3 for 1998; WT/CTE/4 for 1999; WT/CTE/5 for 2000; WT/CTE/6 for 2001; WT/CTE/7 for 2002; WT/CTE/10 for 2003; WT/CTE/11 for 2004; WT/CTE/12 for 2005; WT/CTE/13 for 2006; WT/CTE/14 for 2007; WT/CTE/15 for 2008; WT/CTE/16 for 2009; WT/CTE/17 for 2010; WT/CTE/18 for 2011; WT/CTE/19 for 2012; WT/CTE/20 for 2013; WT/CTE/21 for 2014; WT/CTE/22 for 2015; WT/CTE/23 for 2016; and WT/CTE/24 for 2017.

¹⁰⁷ WT/GC/M/10, para.11.

¹⁰⁸ WT/L/127, para. 1.

1.7.5.2 Rules of Procedure

64. At its meeting on 2 October 1996, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on RTAs¹⁰⁹ consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹¹⁰ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

65. In an effort to address the issue of the reduction of documentation costs, the Committee on RTAs agreed at its 66th Session to discontinue the distribution of all documents in paper form, provided that paper copies could be supplied to delegations in the room upon request.¹¹¹

1.7.5.3 Reporting

66. The Committee on RTAs reports to the General Council on an annual basis.¹¹²

67. On 20 February 1998, under item 1(b) of its terms of reference, the Committee adopted recommendations to the Council for Trade in Goods, Council for Trade in Services and the Committee on Trade and Development on a notification format for RTAs and on carrying out reporting requirements on the operation of regional trade agreements.¹¹³ In November 1998, the relevant bodies acted on these recommendations.¹¹⁴ The Committee on RTAs then circulated schedules for the submission of biennial reports in December 1998, February 2001 and December 2003.¹¹⁵ No such schedules were circulated after 2003. On 14 December 2006, the General Council established, on a provisional basis, a new Transparency Mechanism for all RTAs. Since then, biennial reports have been *de facto* superseded by relevant reporting requirements provided for in the Transparency Mechanism.

1.7.5.4 Procedures for the consideration and examination of RTAs

68. After establishment of the Committee on RTAs and before adoption of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs, the notification of an agreement (together with its text) was considered by the Council for Trade in Goods if the RTA was notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, the Council for Trade in Services if the RTA was notified under GATS Article V, or the Committee on Trade and Development if the RTA was notified under the Enabling Clause. If examination of the agreement was provided for, the relevant body adopted the terms of reference for the examination and transferred the examination task to the CRTA.¹¹⁶ The examination was generally based on information provided by the parties to the RTA in the form of a Standard Format.¹¹⁷ The factual examination was generally completed within one or two meetings, and involved oral and written questions and replies, as well as general statements by Members. All documents were published as

¹⁰⁹ WT/GC/M/14, item 3. The text of the Rules of Procedures can be found in WT/REG/1.

¹¹⁰ WT/L/161.

¹¹¹ WT/REG/M/66 and Corr.1, para. 20.

¹¹² WT/REG/2 for 1996; WT/REG/3 for 1997; WT/REG/7 for 1998; WT/REG/8 for 1999; WT/REG/9 for 2000; WT/REG/10 for 2001; WT/REG/11 for 2002; WT/REG/12 for 2003; WT/REG/13 for 2003; WT/REG/14 for 2004; WT/REG/15 for 2005; WT/REG/17 for 2006; WT/REG/18 for 2007; WT/REG/19 for 2008; WT/REG/20 for 2009; WT/REG/21 for 2011; WT/REG/22 for 2012; WT/REG/23 for 2013; WT/REG/24 for 2014; WT/REG/25 for 2015; WT/REG/26 for 2016; and WT/REG/27 for 2017.

¹¹³ WT/REG/M/16, Item B. The text of these recommendations can be found in WT/REG/4-6.

¹¹⁴ See the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Committee on Trade and Development, the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods, and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice) regarding action by the Council for Trade in Services.

¹¹⁵ Respectively WT/REG/W/33, WT/REG/W/42 and WT/REG/W/48. For more information, see the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice). The Committee on RTAs postponed reporting obligations for 2003 to 2004 (see WT/REG/M/33, para. 9).

¹¹⁶ Examination is mandatory for RTAs notified under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994. In the case of services agreements and those notified under the Enabling Clause, examination is not automatic but can be decided by Members. By 31 December 2008, decision to submit RTAs to examination was taken for all services agreements notified and considered by the Council for Trade in Services, and for a single RTA notified under the Enabling Clause.

¹¹⁷ "Standard Format for Information on Regional Trade Agreements", WT/REG/W/6, 15 August 1996 and "Standard Format for Information on Economic Integration Agreements", WT/REG/W/14 and 6 May 1997; the Committee on RTAs took note of these documents at its meetings of 31 July 1996 and 2 May 1997, respectively.

formal documents.¹¹⁸ Once the factual examination was completed, the Secretariat was invited to draft a report of the examination, as the basis for consultations with Members. After its adoption by the Committee, the report was to be sent to the relevant body for final adoption. Since the entry into force of the WTO, the Committee on RTAs has been unable to finalize reports on any of the examinations before it.

69. Following the adoption of the Transparency Mechanism, procedures applying to the consideration of RTAs notified to the WTO are as follows:¹¹⁹

- The Secretariat, on its own responsibility and in full consultation with the parties, prepares a factual presentation of each notified RTA. The factual presentation is primarily based on information provided by the parties, including a detailed data submission as outlined in the Annex to the decision establishing the Transparency Mechanism.
- The Secretariat's factual presentation, as well as any additional information submitted by the parties is circulated in all WTO official languages not less than ten weeks in advance of the CRTA meeting. Members' written questions or comments on the RTA under consideration should be transmitted at least four weeks before the corresponding meeting and should be distributed, together with replies, at least three working days before the corresponding meeting. As a rule, a single formal meeting is devoted to the consideration of each notified RTA and any additional exchange of information should take place in written form. Detailed minutes are produced on each meeting devoted to the RTA examination, and published as formal documents.
- The Secretariat is to prepare factual abstracts for those RTAs for which the Committee RTA had concluded the factual examination prior to 31 December 2006. These factual abstracts follow an outline developed jointly by the Secretariat and the Members; they do not contain up-to-date information, but an additional information column is retained as a standard, at least on a provisional basis.¹²⁰
- Parties to an RTA are to notify changes affecting the implementation of an RTA or the operation of an already implemented RTA, as well as a short report at the end of the RTA's implementation period.

70. The Committee on RTAs is kept regularly informed of the status of work of the Committee with respect to the Transparency Mechanism.

1.7.5.5 Activities

71. Point 1(a) of the terms of reference of the Committee on RTAs above calls for the Councils or the Committee on Trade and Development to adopt separate terms of reference for the examination of each notified regional trade agreement, and for the Committee on RTAs to carry out any examination.¹²¹ Up to the adoption of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs, the Council for Trade in Goods and the Council for Trade in Services referred for examination in the Committee on RTAs every RTA notified to them; the Committee on Trade and Development referred one RTA to the Committee on RTAs.

72. The work of the Committee has been substantially revised in the light of the General Council Decision of 14 December 2006 on a Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements.¹²²

¹¹⁸ See "Guidelines on Procedures to Improve and Facilitate the Examination Process", WT/REG/W/15 and Add.1, 6 May 1997 and 16 November 2004; the Committee on RTAs took note of these guidelines at its meetings of 2 May 1997 (WT/REG/M/10, para. 24) and 11 November 2004 (WT/REG/M/38, para. 24), respectively.

¹¹⁹ A "Proposed Timeline for Factual Presentations in the CRTA/CTD" can be consulted in the WTO website.

¹²⁰ WT/REG/M/46, paragraph 48.

¹²¹ For details on the transfer of competence of GATT 1947 working parties to WTO working parties, see the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

¹²² WT/L/671.

73. The Transparency Mechanism for RTAs is to be applied on a provisional basis.¹²³ The Transparency Mechanism applies to all RTAs notified under GATT Article XXIV, GATS Article V and paragraph 2(c) of the Enabling Clause. The main features of the mechanism, agreed upon in the Negotiating Group on Rules, include the early announcement of any RTA; guidelines regarding the notification of RTAs; the preparation by the Secretariat of factual presentation and factual abstracts of RTAs; provisions regarding subsequent notification and reporting of notified RTAs; technical support for developing countries; and the distribution of work between the Committee on RTAs – entrusted to implement the mechanism *vis-à-vis* RTAs falling under Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and Article V of the GATS – and the Committee on Trade and Development, entrusted to do the same for RTAs falling under the Enabling Clause.

1.7.5.5.1 Early announcements of RTAs

74. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Transparency Mechanism provide for Members participating in new negotiations and parties to a newly signed RTA to provide "early announcement" information to the Secretariat "[w]ithout prejudging the substance and the timing of the notification required under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, Article V of the GATS or the Enabling Clause, nor affecting Members' rights and obligations under the WTO agreements in any way". As of end 2017, a total of 106 early announcements had been received from Members, 38 for newly signed RTAs and 68 for RTAs under negotiation. Out of these 106 early announcements, 67 have been subsequently notified.

1.7.5.5.2 Notification of RTAs

75. For statistics on the number of regional trade agreements notified to the GATT/WTO, see the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice), the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice), and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice). For a complete list of RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO and in force, see the table at the end of this document.

76. At its 44th Session on 13 October 2006, the Committee on RTAs adopted a common and simplified notification format for regional trade agreements, and agreed to recommend it to the relevant bodies.¹²⁴ During 2007, the relevant bodies acted on these recommendations.¹²⁵ At its 84th Session, the Committee on RTAs discussed the key features of the notification format for RTAs.¹²⁶

77. Acting upon a request by the Chairman of the General Council made in 2009 regarding ways to improve the timeliness and completeness of notifications, the Committee on RTAs through the engagement of its Chairman, pursued actively the issue through contacts with the relevant delegations as regards when and how these agreements could be notified.¹²⁷ Further, to encourage RTA notifications, from September 2011 the Chairman of the Committee on RTAs, with the help of the Secretariat, continued to draw up and circulate in advance of CRTA meetings a list of non-notified RTAs which have been verified by their parties as being in force and appeared in factual presentations circulated between September 2009 and November 2017.¹²⁸ Members disagree on the status of some RTAs on the lists and continue to discuss ways of facilitating the notification of RTAs.

¹²³ WT/MIN(13)/DEC, para. 28. See also section 1.7.5.5.5 below concerning the review of the Transparency Mechanism.

¹²⁴ WT/REG/M/44, paras. 17-19.

¹²⁵ The notification format is circulated in documents G/L/834, WT/COMTD/63 and S/L/310. See the document on Article I of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Committee on Trade and Development, the document on Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 (Practice) regarding action taken by the Council for Trade in Goods, and the document on Article V of the GATS (Practice) regarding action by the Council for Trade in Service.

¹²⁶ WT/REG/M/84, paras. 1.38-1.52.

¹²⁷ WT/REG/M/54, para. 4.

¹²⁸ WT/REG/W/62, WT/REG/W/66, WT/REG/W/68, WT/REG/W/69, WT/REG/W/70, WT/REG/W/72, WT/REG/W/73, WT/REG/W/75/Rev.1, WT/REG/W/77, WT/REG/W/80/Rev.1, WT/REG/W/83, WT/REG/W/85, WT/REG/W/87, WT/REG/W/91, WT/REG/W/93, WT/REG/W/95, WT/REG/W/97, WT/REG/W/100/Rev.1, WT/REG/W/104, WT/REG/W/107, WT/REG/W/111, WT/REG/W/115, WT/REG/W/116, WT/REG/W/119 and WT/REG/W/122.

78. Since the 80th Session of the Committee on RTAs, discussions on the status of notifications and progress with factual presentations of notified RTAs have gained momentum on the basis of various submissions by Members.¹²⁹

1.7.5.5.3 Consideration of Regional Trade Agreements

79. As of 31 December 2017, a total of 258 RTAs had been considered under the Transparency Mechanism since its adoption in December 2006, on the basis of Factual Presentations prepared by the WTO Secretariat.¹³⁰ At that same date, there was a remaining backlog of 93 RTAs (57 RTAs under Article XXIV of the GATT, 16 under Article V of the GATS and 20 under the Enabling Clause); in addition, for four RTAs the factual presentation remained temporarily on hold.¹³¹

80. The Chairman of the Committee holds regular consultations with delegations in an effort to resolve the case of RTAs for which the factual consideration is delayed due to lack of comments from the parties. From March 2014, the Chairman of the Committee on RTAs, with the help of the Secretariat, continued to draw up and circulate in advance of CRTA meetings a list of such RTAs. From November 2017, such a list also included those RTAs for which the consideration was delayed due to lack of data.¹³²

1.7.5.5.4 Subsequent notification and reporting

81. Paragraph 14 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for parties to an RTA to notify changes affecting the implementation of an RTA or the operation of an already implemented RTA. Such notifications are to be made available on the WTO website. Up to the end of 2017, notifications of changes for 20 RTAs have been received and posted on the RTA Database. At its 87th Session, the Chairman proposed that discussions be initiated on the possible adoption of a template for the notification of changes, on the basis of draft formats prepared by the Secretariat.¹³³

82. Paragraph 15 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for parties to an RTA to present a short report at the end of the RTA's implementation period. From 2012 to 2014, the Committee on RTAs held discussions on how to operationalize this requirement. In April 2014, the Committee on RTAs took note of the Chairman's statement inviting Members to begin making notifications under paragraph 15 as they saw fit and to request any assistance needed from the Secretariat; draft outlines had been provided by the Secretariat.¹³⁴ The Committee receives annually an updated list of implementation reports due.¹³⁵ As of the end of 2017, 12 implementation reports have been received.¹³⁶

1.7.5.5.5 Review of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

83. At the time of the adoption of the Decision on the Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements in December 2006, the Chair of the General Council had noted that Members intended to conduct an initial review of the Mechanism within one year.¹³⁷ At meetings held in

¹²⁹ Member' submissions can be found in WT/REG/W/103, WT/REG/W/105, WT/REG/W/109, and WT/REG/W/124. Summaries of discussions are reflected in WT/REG/M/80-87.

¹³⁰ 140 have been considered in the CRTA under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, 110 under Article V of the GATS, and 8 in the CTD under the Enabling Clause.

¹³¹ Source: RTA Database available on the WTO website at <http://rtais.wto.org>. An RTA is placed "on hold" because it is an agreement on trade in services for which liberalization commitments have not yet been agreed by the parties. Once liberalization commitments are agreed upon, the RTA is automatically scheduled for consideration.

¹³² WT/REG/W/81, WT/REG/W/84, WT/REG/W/86, WT/REG/W/88, WT/REG/W/92, WT/REG/W/94, WT/REG/W/96, WT/REG/W/98, WT/REG/W/102, WT/REG/W/106, WT/REG/W/108, WT/REG/W/112, WT/REG/W/114, WT/REG/W/117, WT/REG/W/120 and WT/REG/W/123.

¹³³ WT/REG/M/87, para. 1.58.

¹³⁴ WT/REG/M/72, paragraphs 2.5-2.10; draft outlines in JOB/REG/1, JOB/REG/3 and JOB/REG/4.

¹³⁵ WT/REG/W/82 and WT/REG/W/90.

¹³⁶ European Union with Albania (WT/REG226/R/I), Chile (WT/REG164/R/I), Jordan (WT/REG141/R/I), Montenegro (WT/REG236/R/I), South Africa (WT/REG113/R/I), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (WT/REG129/R/I); Ukraine with Armenia (WT/REG171/R/I), Azerbaijan (WT/REG245/R/I), Kazakhstan (WT/REG247/R/I), the Kyrgyz Republic (WT/REG74/R/I), Montenegro (WT/REG338/R/I) and Tajikistan (WT/REG251/R/I).

¹³⁷ WT/GC/M/106, Item 1.

November and December 2007, the Chairs of the Committee on RTAs and of the Negotiating Group on Rules, with the full knowledge of the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development, reported that Members considered that there was not yet enough experience for the review.¹³⁸ In its meeting on 13 December 2010, the Negotiating Group on Rules agreed to promptly launch this review, aimed at making the Transparency Mechanism a permanent mechanism. The Chairman clarified that it was understood that the legal review also formed part of that review. The review would be based on Members' views on the Transparency Mechanism and proposals for improvement, a document from the Secretariat summarizing its experiences and difficulties, and the Chairs of the implementing Committees, namely the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements and the Committee on Trade and Development, were also invited to comment on their respective body's experience with the Transparency Mechanism.¹³⁹

84. At its 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th and 87th Sessions, the Committee on RTAs discussed paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration that directed Members to work towards the transformation of the RTA Transparency Mechanism from a provisional to a permanent mechanism.¹⁴⁰ At its 87th Session, the Chairman reported that his consultations had not been conclusive and proposed that the Committee continue its discussion in an informal way.¹⁴¹

1.7.5.5.6 Systemic implications of RTAs and initiatives for the multilateral trading system and the relationship between them

85. Since June 2010, discussions were held in the Committee on RTAs on a proposal for a work programme on cross-cutting issues on RTAs. Upon a Member's request, at its 68th and 70th Sessions the Committee on RTAs held discussions on some staff working papers relating to RTAs cross-cutting issues which had been made available at the WTO website.¹⁴² Some Members raised concerns as to the procedural modality to bring these issues before the Committee. The Secretariat clarified that the General Council Rules of Procedure were followed.¹⁴³ In 2014, the Committee was informed of a seminar organized by the Secretariat and open to Members, which focused on the Secretariat staff working papers issued on RTAs.¹⁴⁴

86. At its 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd and 87th Sessions, the Committee on RTAs discussed paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration that directed the future work of Members towards the systemic implications of RTAs for the multilateral trading system and its relationship with WTO rules.¹⁴⁵ At its 84th Session, the Committee held an informal discussion on trade facilitation provisions in RTAs based on a proposal by Members.¹⁴⁶ Divergent views have been expressed regarding engaging into such a systemic discussion; issues raised included *inter alia* the lack of full transparency available to the Committee on all RTAs currently in force, the fact that such topic was indeed also part of the mandate of the Committee on RTAs, whether parameters for such a discussion needed to be defined and whether the Committee should venture into recommendations for multilateral rule making. At its 87th Session, the Chairman reported that his consultations had not been conclusive and proposed that the Committee continue its discussion in an informal way.¹⁴⁷

1.7.5.5.7 Other activities related to the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

87. Paragraph 21 of the Transparency Mechanism provides for the Secretariat to establish and maintain an updated electronic database on individual RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO. The database includes all of the notifications, links to the content of the notified RTAs, and legal provisions of the RTAs. It provides information on tariff reduction; data on trade in goods and services as of the RTA's date of entry into force; key provisions in the RTA; and links to descriptions of these provisions in the factual presentation or factual abstract. In addition, in the case of RTAs for which the Secretariat has prepared a Factual Presentation, the agreed timetable

¹³⁸ WT/REG/M/48, para. 11; and WT/GC/M/112, item 10.

¹³⁹ TN/RL/M/37, paras 4-8.

¹⁴⁰ WT/REG/M/80, WT/REG/M/81, WT/REG/M/82, WT/REG/M/83, WT/REG/M/84 and WT/REG/M/87.

¹⁴¹ WT/REG/M/87, para. 1.57.

¹⁴² WT/REG/M/67, 68 and 70.

¹⁴³ WT/REG/23, para. 8.1.

¹⁴⁴ WT/REG/M/73 and 74.

¹⁴⁵ WT/REG/M/80, WT/REG/M/81, WT/REG/M/82, WT/REG/M/83, WT/REG/M/84 and WT/REG/M/87.

¹⁴⁶ WT/REG/M/84, para. 1.66.

¹⁴⁷ WT/REG/M/87, para. 1.57.

for the reduction of tariffs, on a yearly basis, is also made available. Further, it allows users to make preferential tariff analysis. Since January 2009, the database has been publicly available on the WTO website at <http://rtais.wto.org>.

88. Paragraph 22(d) of the Transparency Mechanism provides that the Secretariat is to prepare factual abstracts for RTAs that had their factual examination completed prior to 31 December 2006; these are to be placed on the WTO website. As of 31 December 2017, all factual abstracts had been made available in the RTA Database in the WTO website.

1.7.6 Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC)

89. The Doha Ministerial Declaration¹⁴⁸ provided that the overall conduct of the negotiations shall be supervised by a Trade Negotiations Committee under the authority of the General Council. The TNC was also mandated to establish appropriate negotiating mechanisms as required and supervise the progress of the negotiations.¹⁴⁹ At its first meeting held on 28 January and 1 February 2002¹⁵⁰, on the basis of proposals made by the Chairman of the General Council, the TNC appointed the Director-General in an *ex officio* capacity to chair the TNC until the deadline established in the Doha Declaration for concluding the negotiations.¹⁵¹

90. At the TNC's first meeting, Members also agreed to a comprehensive structure comprising a number of groups and bodies to organize the negotiations. According to this arrangement, each negotiating body would be responsible for the work on one or more¹⁵² of the topics listed in the Work Programme of the Doha Declaration.¹⁵³ The TNC established the following Special Sessions and Negotiating Groups to carry out the work under the Doha mandate¹⁵⁴:

- Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture¹⁵⁵;
- Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services¹⁵⁶;
- Negotiating Group on Market Access¹⁵⁷;
- Special Session of the Council for TRIPS¹⁵⁸;
- Negotiating Group on Rules¹⁵⁹;
- Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body¹⁶⁰;
- Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment¹⁶¹;
- Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development.¹⁶²

¹⁴⁸ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1.

¹⁴⁹ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 46.

¹⁵⁰ TN/C/M/1.

¹⁵¹ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 45.

¹⁵² See for example, the Negotiating Group on Rules, which deals with: anti-dumping, subsidies and regional trade agreements.

¹⁵³ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paras. 12-44.

¹⁵⁴ TN/C/M/1, item 2.

¹⁵⁵ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paras. 13-14. The Committee on Agriculture in Special Session agreed on 19 November 2004 to establish a Sub-Committee on Cotton. (TN/AG/R/16, item A(iii); and TN/AG/13).

¹⁵⁶ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 15.

¹⁵⁷ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 16.

¹⁵⁸ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paras. 17-19.

¹⁵⁹ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paras. 28-29.

¹⁶⁰ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 47.

¹⁶¹ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paras. 31-33.

¹⁶² WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 44.

1.7.7 Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance;

1.7.7.1 Establishment and terms of reference

91. The Doha Ministerial Conference established the Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance and set out its terms of reference as follows:

"We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade, debt and finance, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate and competence of the WTO to enhance the capacity of the multilateral trading system to contribute to a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of developing and least-developed countries, and to strengthen the coherence of international trade and financial policies, with a view to safeguarding the multilateral trading system from the effects of financial and monetary instability. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination."¹⁶³

1.7.7.2 Reporting

92. The Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁶⁴

1.7.8 Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology

1.7.8.1 Establishment and terms of reference

93. The Doha Ministerial Conference established the Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology and set out its terms of reference as follows:

"We agree to an examination, in a Working Group under the auspices of the General Council, of the relationship between trade and transfer of technology, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within the mandate of the WTO to increase flows of technology to developing countries. The General Council shall report to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress in the examination."¹⁶⁵

1.7.8.2 Reporting

94. The Working Group on Trade and the Transfer of Technology reports to the General Council on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁶⁶

1.8 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods

95. The Council for Trade in Goods has established the following Working Parties to date¹⁶⁷:

- a. Working Party on State Trading Enterprises; and

¹⁶³ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 36.

¹⁶⁴ WT/WGTDF/1 for 2002; WT/WGTDF/1 for 2003; WT/WGTDF/3 for 2004; WT/WGTDF/4 for 2005; WT/WGTDF/5 for 2006; WT/WGTDF/6 for 2007; WT/WGTDF/7 for 2008; WT/WGTDF/8 for 2009; WT/WGTDF/9 for 2010; WT/WGTDF/10 for 2011; WT/WGTDF/11 for 2012; WT/WGTDF/12 for 2013; WT/WGTDF/13 for 2014; WT/WGTDF/14 for 2015; WT/WGTDF/15 for 2016; WT/WGTDF/16 for 2017.

¹⁶⁵ WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, para. 37.

¹⁶⁶ WT/WGTTT/4 for 2002; WT/WGTTT/5 for 2003; WT/WGTTT/6 for 2004; WT/WGTTT/7 for 2005; WT/WGTTT/8 for 2006; WT/WGTTT/9 for 2007; WT/WGTTT/10 for 2008; WT/WGTTT/11 for 2009; WT/WGTTT/12 for 2010; WT/WGTTT/13 for 2011; WT/WGTTT/14 for 2012; WT/WGTTT/15 for 2013; WT/WGTTT/16 for 2014; WT/WGTTT/17 for 2015; WT/WGTTT/18 for 2016; and WT/WGTTT/19 for 2017.

¹⁶⁷ In addition to the working parties listed here, a number of working parties on various regional trade agreements were established under the GATT 1947 and continued operations under the WTO (WT/GC/M/5, item 11). After the General Council established the Committee on RTAs on 6 February 1996, that Committee took over the functions of all working parties established to examine regional trade agreements under Article XXIV of the GATT. The Committee on RTAs functions under the General Council and is addressed in section 1.7 above.

- b. Working Group on Notification Obligations and Procedures.¹⁶⁸

96. To date, the following Committees have also been established under the purview of the Council for Trade in Goods:

- a. Committee on Market Access;
- b. Committee on Agriculture;
- c. Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;
- d. Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;
- e. Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;
- f. Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices;
- g. Committee on Customs Valuation;
- h. Committee on Rules of Origin;
- i. Committee on Import Licensing;
- j. Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures;
- k. Committee on Safeguards;
- l. Committee on Trade Facilitation; and
- m. Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products.

1.8.1 Working Party on State Trading enterprises:

1.8.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

97. The Council for Trade in Goods established the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises at its meeting on 20 February to "carry out the tasks described in paragraph 5 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994, with membership in the Working Party open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on it."¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁸ G/C/M/1, item 6. The Working Party held its last meeting on 3 July 1996.

¹⁶⁹ G/C/M/1, item 5(A). Paragraph 5 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994This provision states:

"5. A working party shall be set up, on behalf of the Council for Trade in Goods, to review notifications and counter-notifications. In the light of this review and without prejudice to paragraph 4(c) of Article XVII, the Council for Trade in Goods may make recommendations with regard to the adequacy of notifications and the need for further information. The working party shall also review, in the light of the notifications received, the adequacy of the above-mentioned questionnaire on state trading and the coverage of state trading enterprises notified under paragraph 1. It shall also develop an illustrative list showing the kinds of relationships between governments and enterprises, and the kinds of activities, engaged in by these enterprises, which may be relevant for the purposes of Article XVII. It is understood that the Secretariat will provide a general background paper for the working party on the operations of state trading enterprises as they relate to international trade. Membership of the working party shall be open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on it. It shall meet within a year of the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and thereafter at least once a year. It shall report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods."

1.8.1.2 Reporting

98. The Working Party on State Trading Enterprises reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on an annual basis under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁷⁰

1.8.1.3 Activities:

99. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises, see the document on Article XVII of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.8.2 Committee on Market Access

1.8.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

100. The General Council established the Committee on Market Access on 31 January 1995¹⁷¹, with the following terms of reference:

"The Committee on Market Access shall:

- (a) in relation to market access issues not covered by any other WTO body:
 - supervise the implementation of concessions relating to tariffs and non-tariff measures;
 - provide a forum for consultation on matters relating to tariffs and non-tariff measures;
- (b) oversee the application of procedures for modification or withdrawal of tariff concessions;
- (c) ensure that GATT Schedules are kept up-to-date, and that modifications, including those resulting from changes in tariff nomenclature, are reflected;
- (d) conduct the updating and analysis of the documentation on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, in accordance with the timetable and procedures agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1984 and 1985 (BISD 31S/227 and 228, and BISD 32S/92 and 93).
- (e) oversee the content and operation of, and access to, the Integrated Data Base;
- (f) report periodically - and in any case not less than once a year - to the Council on Trade in Goods."¹⁷²

1.8.2.2 Rules of Procedure

101. On 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Market Access¹⁷³, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁷⁴ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

¹⁷⁰ G/L/35 for 1995; G/L/128 for 1996; G/L/198 for 1997; G/L/281 for 1998; G/L/335 for 1999; G/L/418 for 2000; G/L/491 for 2001; G/L/591 for 2002; G/L/660 for 2003; G/L/716 for 2004; G/L/749 for 2005; G/L/788 for 2006; G/L/829 for 2007; G/L/857 for 2008; G/L/898 for 2009; G/L/934 for 2010; G/L/971 and Rev.1 for 2011; G/L/1007 for 2012; G/L/1046 for 2013; G/L/1090 for 2014; G/L/1124 for 2015; G/L/1156 for 2016; G/L/1196 for 2017.

¹⁷¹ WT/GC/M/1, item 7.A(2).

¹⁷² WT/L/47. The terms of reference were agreed for proposal by the Subcommittee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters at its meeting of 18 November 1994. (PC/IPL/M/9, paras. 6-8; PC/IPL/5).

¹⁷³ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/148.

¹⁷⁴ WT/L/161.

1.8.2.3 Reporting

102. The Committee on Market Access reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on an annual basis.¹⁷⁵ It also reports to the Council for Trade in Goods on a periodic basis.¹⁷⁶

1.8.2.4 Activities

103. With respect to the activities of the Committee on Market Access, see the document on Article II of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.8.3 Committee on Agriculture

1.8.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

104. Article 17 of the Agreement on Agriculture establishes the Committee on Agriculture. At its meeting on 31 January 1995¹⁷⁷ the General Council adopted the following terms of reference for the Committee on Agriculture:

"The Committee shall oversee the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture. The Committee shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement."¹⁷⁸

1.8.3.2 Rules of Procedure

105. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods adopted the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Agriculture¹⁷⁹, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁸⁰ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.3.3 Reporting

106. The Committee on Agriculture reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸¹

1.8.3.4 Activities

107. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Agriculture, see the documents on the Agreement on Agriculture (Practice).

¹⁷⁵ G/L/50 for 1995; G/L/132 for 1996; G/L/215 for 1997; G/L/284 for 1998; G/L/331 for 1999; G/L/431 for 2000; G/L/486 for 2001; G/L/582 for 2002; G/L/658 for 2003; G/L/699 for 2004; G/L/748 for 2005; G/L/801 for 2006; G/L/839 for 2007; G/L/865 for 2008; G/L/896 for 2009; G/L/938 for 2010; G/L/967 for 2011; G/L/1010 for 2012; G/L/1049 for 2013; G/L/1084 for 2014; G/L/1131 and Rev.1 for 2015; G/L/1154 for 2016; and G/L/1190 for 2017.

¹⁷⁶ G/MA/1, G/MA/4, G/MA/57, G/MA/58, G/MA/59, G/MA/60, G/MA/61, G/MA/62, G/MA/71, G/MA/107 and 111-116/Corr.1, G/MA/117, G/MA/149, G/MA/151, G/MA/154, G/MA/157, G/MA/163, G/MA/191, G/MA/193, G/MA/195, G/MA/197, G/MA/198, G/MA/216, G/MA/236, G/MA/240, G/MA/242, G/MA/243 and Corr.1, 245, G/MA/257 and Corr.1, G/MA/284, and G/MA/286.

¹⁷⁷ WT/GC/M/1, item 7(B).

¹⁷⁸ WT/L/43. These terms of reference are those agreed by the Sub-Committee on Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters of the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Organization at its meeting on 7 October 1994 (PC/IPL/1).

¹⁷⁹ G/C/M/10, item 1. Text of adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/142.

¹⁸⁰ WT/L/161.

¹⁸¹ G/L/41 for 1995; G/L/131 for 1996; G/L/211 for 1997; G/L/276 for 1998; G/L/322 for 1999; G/L/417 for 2000; G/L/483 for 2001; G/L/594 for 2002; G/L/662 for 2003; G/L/719 for 2004; G/L/746 for 2005; G/L/796 for 2006; G/L/828 for 2007; G/L/856 and Corr.1 for 2008; G/L/894 for 2009; G/L/929 for 2010; G/L/965 and Add.1 for 2011; G/L/999 for 2012; G/L/1044 for 2013; G/L/1093 for 2014; G/L/1126 for 2015; G/L/1165 for 2016; and G/L/1194 for 2017.

1.8.4 Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)

1.8.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

108. Article 12 of the SPS Agreement establishes the SPS Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. A Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is hereby established to provide a regular forum for consultations. It shall carry out the functions necessary to implement the provisions of this Agreement and the furtherance of its objectives, in particular with respect to harmonization. The Committee shall reach its decisions by consensus.

2. The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc consultations or negotiations among Members on specific sanitary or phytosanitary issues. The Committee shall encourage the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations by all Members and, in this regard, shall sponsor technical consultation and study with the objective of increasing coordination and integration between international and national systems and approaches for approving the use of food additives or for establishing tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs.

3. The Committee shall maintain close contact with the relevant international organizations in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary protection, especially with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, with the objective of securing the best available scientific and technical advice for the administration of this Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided.

4. The Committee shall develop a procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations. For this purpose, the Committee should, in conjunction with the relevant international organizations, establish a list of international standards, guidelines or recommendations relating to sanitary or phytosanitary measures which the Committee determines to have a major trade impact. The list should include an indication by Members of those international standards, guidelines or recommendations which they apply as conditions for import or on the basis of which imported products conforming to these standards can enjoy access to their markets. For those cases in which a Member does not apply an international standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, the Member should provide an indication of the reason therefor, and, in particular, whether it considers that the standard is not stringent enough to provide the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. If a Member revises its position, following its indication of the use of a standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, it should provide an explanation for its change and so inform the Secretariat as well as the relevant international organizations, unless such notification and explanation is given according to the procedures of Annex B.

5. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the Committee may decide, as appropriate, to use the information generated by the procedures, particularly for notification, which are in operation in the relevant international organizations.

6. The Committee may, on the basis of an initiative from one of the Members, through appropriate channels invite the relevant international organizations or their subsidiary bodies to examine specific matters with respect to a particular standard, guideline or recommendation, including the basis of explanations for non-use given according to paragraph 4.

7. The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, and thereafter as the need arises. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the

Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in its implementation."

1.8.4.2 Rules of Procedure

109. At its meeting on 11 June 1997, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the SPS Committee¹⁸², consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁸³ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.4.3 Reporting

110. The SPS Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸⁴

1.8.4.4 Activities

111. For more information on the activities of the SPS Committee, see the documents on the SPS Agreement (Practice).

1.8.5 Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Committee)

1.8.5.1 Establishment and terms of reference

112. Article 13 of the TBT Agreement establishes the TBT Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"13.1.A Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade is hereby established, and shall be composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives, and shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members.

13.2 The Committee shall establish working parties or other bodies as may be appropriate, which shall carry out such responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement.

13.3 It is understood that unnecessary duplication should be avoided between the work under this Agreement and that of governments in other technical bodies. The Committee shall examine this problem with a view to minimizing such duplication."

1.8.5.2 Rules of Procedure

113. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the TBT Committee¹⁸⁵, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁸⁶ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.5.3 Reporting

114. The TBT Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸² G/C/M/20, item 2. The text of the approved Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/170.

¹⁸³ WT/L/161.

¹⁸⁴ G/L/38 for 1995; G/L/118 for 1996; G/L/197 for 1997; G/L/274 and Corr.1 for 1998; G/L/315 for 1999; G/L/411 for 2000; G/L/485 for 2001; G/L/592 for 2002; G/L/661 for 2003; G/L/709 for 2004; G/L/755 for 2005; G/L/794 for 2006; G/L/842 for 2007; G/L/866 for 2008; G/L/897 and Rev. 1 and Corr. 1 for 2009; G/L/943 for 2010; G/L/969 for 2011; G/L/1013 for 2012; G/L/1039 and Rev. 1 for 2013; G/L/1086 for 2014; G/L/1129 for 2015; G/L/1164 for 2016; and G/L/1202 for 2017.

¹⁸⁵ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/150. See also G/TBT/1.

¹⁸⁶ WT/L/161.

1.8.5.4 Activities

115. For more information on the activities of the TBT Committee, see the documents on the TBT Agreement (Practice).

1.8.6 Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Committee)

1.8.6.1 Establishment and terms of reference

116. Article 24 of the SCM Agreement establishes the SCM Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"24.1 There is hereby established a Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet not less than twice a year and otherwise as envisaged by relevant provisions of this Agreement at the request of any Member. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members and it shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matter relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee.

24.2 The Committee may set up subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

24.3 The Committee shall establish a Permanent Group of Experts composed of five independent persons, highly qualified in the fields of subsidies and trade relations. The experts will be elected by the Committee and one of them will be replaced every year. The PGE may be requested to assist a panel, as provided for in paragraph 5 of Article 4. The Committee may also seek an advisory opinion on the existence and nature of any subsidy.

24.4 The PGE may be consulted by any Member and may give advisory opinions on the nature of any subsidy proposed to be introduced or currently maintained by that Member. Such advisory opinions will be confidential and may not be invoked in proceedings under Article 7.

24.5 In carrying out their functions, the Committee and any subsidiary bodies may consult with and seek information from any source they deem appropriate. However, before the Committee or a subsidiary body seeks such information from a source within the jurisdiction of a Member, it shall inform the Member involved."

1.8.6.2 Rules of Procedure

117. At its meeting of 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of procedure for meeting of the SCM Committee.¹⁸⁸

1.8.6.3 Reporting

118. The SCM Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁷ G/L/54 for 1995; G/L/122 for 1996; G/L/207 for 1997; G/L/278 for 1998; G/L/327 for 1999; G/L/412 and Corr.1 for 2000; G/L/487 for 2001; G/L/580 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/657 for 2003; G/L/710 for 2004; G/L/760 for 2005; G/L/803 for 2006; G/L/843 for 2007; G/L/871 for 2008; G/L/895 and Rev. 1 for 2009; G/L/940 for 2010; G/L/962 for 2011; G/L/1017 for 2012; G/L/1056 for 2013; G/L/1092 for 2014; G/L/1138 for 2015; G/L/1167 for 2016; and G/L/1203 for 2017.

¹⁸⁸ G/C/M/10, item 1(iv). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/144 and G/SCM/10.

¹⁸⁹ G/L/31 and Corr.1 for 1995; G/L/126 for 1996; G/L/201 for 1997; G/L/267 for 1998; G/L/341 and Corr.1 for 1999; G/L/408 for 2000; G/L/496 for 2001; G/L/585 for 2002; G/L/655 and Corr.1 for 2003; G/L/711 for 2004; G/L/754 for 2005; G/L/798 for 2006; G/L/840 for 2007; G/L/869 for 2008; G/L/906 for 2009; G/L/937 for 2010; G/L/970 for 2011; G/L/1005 for 2012; G/L/1056 for 2013; G/L/1092 for 2014; G/L/1138 for 2015; G/L/1167 for 2016; and G/L/1203 for 2017.

1.8.6.4 Activities

119. For more information on the activities of the SCM Committee, see the documents on the SCM Agreement (Practice).

1.8.6.5 Permanent Group of Experts

120. For more information on the Permanent Group of Experts, established pursuant to Article 24.3 of the SCM Agreement, as well as the Informal Group of Experts, established by the SCM Committee in a decision of 13 June 1995¹⁹⁰, see the document on Article 24 of the SCM Agreement (Practice).

1.8.7 Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

1.8.7.1 Establishment and terms of reference

121. Article 16 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement establishes the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"16.1 There is hereby established a Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet not less than twice a year and otherwise as envisaged by relevant provisions of this Agreement at the request of any Member. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members and it shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of the Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee.

16.2 The Committee may set up subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

16.3 In carrying out their functions, the Committee and any subsidiary bodies may consult with and seek information from any source they deem appropriate. However, before the Committee or a subsidiary body seeks such information from a source within the jurisdiction of a Member, it shall inform the Member involved. It shall obtain the consent of the Member and any firm to be consulted."

1.8.7.2 Rules of Procedure

122. At its meeting of 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices.¹⁹¹

1.8.7.3 Reporting

123. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁹²

1.8.7.4 Activities

124. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, see the documents on the Anti-Dumping Agreement (Practice).

¹⁹⁰ G/SCM/M/2, item N; and G/SCM/5.

¹⁹¹ G/C/M/10, item 1(ii). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/143 and G/ADP/4.

¹⁹² G/L/34 and Corr. 1 for 1995; G/L/123 and Corr.1 for 1996; G/L/204 for 1997; G/L/268 for 1998; G/L/340 and Corr.1 for 1999; G/L/404 and Corr.1 for 2000; G/L/495 and Corr.1 for 2001; G/L/581 and Corr.1 for 2002; G/L/653 for 2003; G/L/707 for 2004; G/L/758 for 2005; G/L/791 for 2006; G/L/830 for 2007; G/L/861 for 2008; G/L/902 for 2009; G/L/935 for 2010; G/L/966 for 2011; G/L/1006 and Corr.1 for 2012; G/L/1053 for 2013; G/L/1079 for 2014; G/L/1134 for 2015; G/L/1158 and Corr.1 for 2016; and G/L/1193 for 2017.

1.8.8 Committee on Customs Valuation

1.8.8.1 Establishment and terms of reference

125. Article 18 of the Agreement on Customs Valuation establishes the Committee on Customs Valuation and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. There is hereby established a Committee on Customs Valuation (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee") composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall normally meet once a year, or as is otherwise envisaged by the relevant provisions of this Agreement, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on matters relating to the administration of the customs valuation system by any Member as it might affect the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives and carrying out such other responsibilities as may be assigned to it by the Members. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee."

126. At its meeting of 15 June 1999, the General Council adopted the recommendation of the Working Party on Preshipment Inspection that the future monitoring of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection should be undertaken initially by the Committee on Customs Valuation, and that Preshipment Inspection should be a standing item on its agenda.¹⁹³

1.8.8.2 Rules of Procedure

127. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Customs Valuation¹⁹⁴, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁹⁵ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.8.3 Reporting

128. The Committee on Customs Valuation reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁹⁶

1.8.8.4 Activities

129. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Customs Valuation, see the documents on the Agreement on Customs Valuation (Practice).

1.8.8.5 Technical Committee on Customs Valuation

130. Article 18 of the Agreement on Customs Valuations establishes a Technical Committee on Customs Valuation "under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council (referred to in this Agreement as "the CCC") [now the World Customs Organization], which shall carry out the responsibilities described in Annex II to this Agreement and shall operate in accordance with the rules of procedure contained therein." For further information on the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, see the document on Annex II of the Agreement on Customs Valuation (Practice).

¹⁹³ WT/GC/M/40/Add.3, item 5. The text of the recommendation can be found in G/L/300, para. 23.

¹⁹⁴ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/146.

¹⁹⁵ WT/L/161.

¹⁹⁶ G/L/55 for 1995; G/L/121 for 1996; G/L/205 for 1997; G/L/277 for 1998; G/L/323 for 1999; G/L/414 for 2000; G/L/488 for 2001; G/L/590 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/654 for 2003; G/L/718 for 2004; G/L/750 for 2005; G/L/799 and Corr.1 for 2006; G/L/833 for 2007; G/L/863 for 2008; G/L/907 for 2009; G/L/942 for 2010; G/L/974 for 2011; G/L/1012 for 2012; G/L/1043 for 2013; G/L/1082 for 2014; G/L/1135 for 2015; G/L/1160 for 2016; and G/L/1199 for 2017.

1.8.9 Committee on Rules of Origin

1.8.9.1 Establishment and terms of reference

131. Article 4.1 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin establishes the Committee on Rules of Origin and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. There is hereby established a Committee on Rules of Origin (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee") composed of the representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on matters relating to the operation of Parts I, II, III and IV or the furtherance of the objectives set out in these Parts and to carry out such other responsibilities assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Council for Trade in Goods. Where appropriate, the Committee shall request information and advice from the Technical Committee referred to in paragraph 2 on matters related to this Agreement. The Committee may also request such other work from the Technical Committee as it considers appropriate for the furtherance of the above-mentioned objectives of this Agreement. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee."

1.8.9.2 Rules of Procedure

132. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of procedure for meetings of the Committee on Rules of Origin¹⁹⁷, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure¹⁹⁸ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.9.3 Reporting

133. The Committee on Rules of Origin reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.¹⁹⁹

1.8.9.4 Activities

134. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Rules of Origin, see the documents on the Agreement on Rules of Origin (Practice).

1.8.9.5 Technical Committee on Rule of Origin

135. Article 4.2 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin establishes a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"There shall be established a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (referred to in this Agreement as "the Technical Committee") under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) [now the World Customs Organization] as set out in Annex I. The Technical Committee shall carry out the technical work called for in Part IV and prescribed in Annex I. Where appropriate, the Technical Committee shall request information and advice from the Committee on matters related to this Agreement. The Technical Committee may also request such other work from the Committee as it considers appropriate for the furtherance of the above-mentioned objectives of the Agreement. The CCC Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Technical Committee."

136. For further information on the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, see the document on Annex I of the Agreement on Rules of Origin (Practice).

¹⁹⁷ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/149.

¹⁹⁸ WT/L/161.

¹⁹⁹ G/L/36 and Corr.1 for 1995; G/L/119 for 1996; G/L/210 for 1997; G/L/271 for 1998; G/L/326 for 1999; G/L/413 for 2000; G/L/490 and Rev. 1 for 2001; G/L/593 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/656 for 2003; G/L/704 for 2004; G/L/747 for 2005; G/L/790 for 2006; G/L/831 for 2007; G/L/870 for 2008; G/L/905 for 2009; G/L/939 for 2010; G/L/975 for 2011; G/L/1016 for 2012; G/L/1047 for 2013; G/L/1085 for 2014; G/L/1127 for 2015; G/L/1159 for 2016; and G/L/1188 for 2017.

1.8.10 Committee on Import Licensing

1.8.10.1 Establishment and terms of reference

137. Article 4 of the Agreement on Import Licensing establishes the Committee on Import Licensing and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"There is hereby established a Committee on Import Licensing composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman and shall meet as necessary for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives."

1.8.10.2 Rules of Procedure

138. At its meeting of 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Import Licensing²⁰⁰, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰¹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.10.3 Reporting

139. The Committee on Import Licensing reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁰²

1.8.10.4 Activities

140. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Import Licensing, see the documents on the Agreement on Import Licensing (Practice).

1.8.11 Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs Committee)

1.8.11.1 Establishment and terms of reference

141. Article 7 of the TRIMs Agreement establishes the TRIMs Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

"1. A Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") is hereby established, and shall be open to all Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and shall meet not less than once a year and otherwise at the request of any Member.

2. The Committee shall carry out responsibilities assigned to it by the Council for Trade in Goods and shall afford Members the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to the operation and implementation of this Agreement.

3. The Committee shall monitor the operation and implementation of this Agreement and shall report thereon annually to the Council for Trade in Goods."

142. At its meeting on 20 February 1995 the Council for Trade in Goods agreed that the TRIMs Committee would carry out the tasks assigned to the Council for Trade in Goods with respect to notifications of TRIMs under Articles 5.1 and 5.5 of the TRIMs Agreement.²⁰³

²⁰⁰ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/147.

²⁰¹ WT/L/161.

²⁰² G/L/29 for 1995; G/L/127 for 1996; G/L/203 for 1997; G/L/264 for 1998; G/L/336 for 1999; G/L/403 for 2000; G/L/493 for 2001; G/L/573 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/652 for 2003; G/L/715 for 2004; G/L/753 for 2005; G/L/800 for 2006; G/L/836 for 2007; G/L/868 for 2008; G/L/903 for 2009; G/L/941 and Corr.1 for 2010; G/L/968 and Corr.1 for 2011; G/L/1011 for 2012; G/L/1048 for 2013; G/L/1078 for 2014; G/L/1132 for 2015; G/L/1162 for 2016; and G/L/1187 for 2017.

²⁰³ G/C/M/1, item 2(A).

143. At its meeting on 7 May 2002, the Council for Trade in Goods agreed to "assign to the Committee on TRIMs the responsibility for conducting the work on the outstanding implementation issues contained in tirets 37-40 of document [JOB(01)/152/Rev.1]" concerning special and differential treatment for developing country Members.²⁰⁴

1.8.11.2 Rules of Procedure

144. At its meeting on 1 December 1995, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the TRIMs Committee²⁰⁵, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰⁶ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.11.3 Reporting

145. The TRIMs Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²⁰⁷

1.8.11.4 Activities

146. For more information on the activities of the TRIMs Committee, see the documents on the TRIMs Agreement (Practice).

1.8.12 Committee on Safeguards

1.8.12.1 Establishment and terms of reference

147. Article 13 of the Agreement on Safeguards establishes the Committee on Safeguards and sets out its terms of reference as follows:

1. A Committee on Safeguards is hereby established, under the authority of the Council for Trade in Goods, which shall be open to the participation of any Member indicating its wish to serve on it. The Committee will have the following functions:
 - (a) to monitor, and report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods on, the general implementation of this Agreement and make recommendations towards its improvement;
 - (b) to find, upon request of an affected Member, whether or not the procedural requirements of this Agreement have been complied with in connection with a safeguard measure, and report its findings to the Council for Trade in Goods;
 - (c) to assist Members, if they so request, in their consultations under the provisions of this Agreement;
 - (d) to examine measures covered by Article 10 and paragraph 1 of Article 11, monitor the phase out of such measures and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods;
 - (e) to review, at the request of the Member taking a safeguard measure, whether proposals to suspend concessions or other obligations are "substantially equivalent", and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods;

²⁰⁴ G/C/M/60, item VI.

²⁰⁵ G/C/M/7, item 2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/151.

²⁰⁶ WT/L/161.

²⁰⁷ G/L/37 for 1995; G/L/133 for 1996; G/L/193 for 1997; G/L/259 for 1998; G/L/319 for 1999; G/L/390 for 2000; G/L/589 and G/L/634 for 2002; G/L/649 for 2003; G/L/705 and Corr.1 for 2004; G/L/752 for 2005; G/L/793 for 2006; G/L/837 for 2007; G/L/860 for 2008; G/L/900 for 2009; G/L/928 for 2010; G/L/964 for 2011; G/L/1003 for 2012; G/L/1045 for 2013; G/L/1091 for 2014; G/L/1123 for 2015; G/L/1153 for 2016; and G/L/1197 for 2017.

- (f) to receive and review all notifications provided for in this Agreement and report as appropriate to the Council for Trade in Goods; and
- (g) to perform any other function connected with this Agreement that the Council for Trade in Goods may determine.

1.8.12.2 Rules of Procedure

148. At its meeting on 22 May 1996, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Safeguards²⁰⁸, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²⁰⁹ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.12.3 Reporting

149. The Committee on Safeguards reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹⁰

1.8.12.4 Activities

150. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Safeguards, see the documents on the Agreement on Safeguards (Practice).

1.8.13 Committee on Trade Facilitation

1.8.13.1 Establishment and terms of reference

151. Article 23 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement establishes the Trade Facilitation Committee and sets out its terms of reference as follows²¹¹:

"1.1 A Committee on Trade Facilitation is hereby established.

1.2 The Committee shall be open for participation by all Members and shall elect its own Chairperson. The Committee shall meet as needed and envisaged by the relevant provisions of this Agreement, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

1.3 The Committee may establish such subsidiary bodies as may be required. All such bodies shall report to the Committee.

1.4 The Committee shall develop procedures for the sharing by Members of relevant information and best practices as appropriate.

1.5 The Committee shall maintain close contact with other international organizations in the field of trade facilitation, such as the WCO, with the objective of securing the best available advice for the implementation and administration of this

²⁰⁸ G/C/M/10, item 1(iii). The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/170 and G/SG/4.

²⁰⁹ WT/L/161.

²¹⁰ G/L/32 for 1995; G/L/129 for 1996; G/L/200 for 1997; G/L/272 for 1998; G/L/338 for 1999; G/L/409 for 2000; G/L/494 for 2001; G/L/583 for 2002; G/L/651 for 2003; G/L/703 and Corr.1 for 2004; G/L/761 for 2005; G/L/795 for 2006; G/L/832 for 2007; G/L/862 for 2008; G/L/901 for 2009; G/L/936 for 2010; G/L/972 for 2011; G/L/1009 and Corr.1 for 2012; G/L/1054 for 2013; G/L/1087 for 2014; G/L/1130 and Corr.1 for 2015; G/L/1155 and Corr.1 for 2016; and G/L/1192 for 2017.

²¹¹ The Bali Ministerial Conference concluded negotiations on the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and established a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation under the General Council "to perform such functions as might be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force". (WT/MIN(13)/36 – WT/L/911). Following its entry into force on 22 February 2017, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation is administered by the Committee on Trade Facilitation and the Preparatory Committee has ceased to meet.

Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided. To this end, the Committee may invite representatives of such organizations or their subsidiary bodies to:

- (a) attend meetings of the Committee; and
- (b) discuss specific matters related to the implementation of this Agreement.

1.6 The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement four years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter.

1.7 Members are encouraged to raise before the Committee questions relating to issues on the implementation and application of this Agreement.

1.8 The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc discussions among Members on specific issues under this Agreement with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory solution promptly."

1.8.13.2 Reporting

152. The Trade Facilitation Committee reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²¹²

1.8.13.3 Activities

153. For further information on the activities of the Committee on Trade Facilitation, see the documents on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (Practice).

1.8.14 Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products

1.8.14.1 Establishment and terms of reference

154. The Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products and the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology establish the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products in order to carry out the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology.²¹³ These provisions state that:

"3. Participants shall meet periodically under the auspices of the Council on Trade in Goods to review the product coverage specified in the Attachments, with a view to agreeing, by consensus, whether in the light of technological developments, experience in applying the tariff concessions, or changes to the HS nomenclature, the Attachments should be modified to incorporate additional products, and to consult on non-tariff barriers to trade in information technology products. Such consultations shall be without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement.

...

5. Participants shall meet as often as necessary and no later than 30 September 1997 to consider any divergence among them in classifying information technology products, beginning with the products specified in Attachment B. Participants agree on the common objective of achieving, where appropriate, a common classification for these products within existing HS nomenclature, giving consideration to interpretations and rulings of the Customs Co-operation Council (also known as the World Customs Organization or "WCO"). In any instance in which a divergence in classification remains, participants will consider whether a joint suggestion could be

²¹² G/L/1201 for 2017.

²¹³ WT/MIN(96)/16, paras. 3, 5, 6 and 7; and G/L/160, para. 3.

made to the WCO with regard to updating existing HS nomenclature or resolving divergence in interpretation of the HS nomenclature.

6. The participants understand that Article XXIII of the General Agreement will address nullification or impairment of benefits accruing directly or indirectly to a WTO Member participant through the implementation of this Declaration as a result of the application by another WTO Member participant of any measure, whether or not that measure conflicts with the provisions of the General Agreement.

7. Each participant shall afford sympathetic consideration to any request for consultation from any other participant concerning the undertakings set out above. Such consultations shall be without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement."²¹⁴

1.8.14.2 Rules of Procedure

155. At its meeting on 30 October 1997, the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products adopted Rules of procedure for its meetings²¹⁵, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure²¹⁶ applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.8.14.3 Reporting

156. The Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Goods.²¹⁷

1.8.14.4 Activities

157. For further information on the activities of the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, see the document on Article II of the GATT 1994 (Practice).

1.9 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Services

158. The Council for Trade in Services has established the following subsidiary bodies:

- a. Committee on Trade in Financial Services;
- b. Committee on Specific Commitments;
- c. Working Party on Domestic Regulation;
- d. Working Party on GATS Rules; and
- e. Working Party on Professional Services.²¹⁸

²¹⁴ WT/MIN(96)/16, paras. 3, 5, 6 and 7.

²¹⁵ G/IT/M/2, item 1.2. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/IT/3.

²¹⁶ WT/L/161.

²¹⁷ G/L/216 for 1997; G/L/280 and Rev.1 for 1998; G/L/332 for 1999; G/L/420 for 2000; G/L/484 for 2001; G/L/577 and Add.1 for 2002; G/L/659 for 2003; G/L/706 for 2004; G/L/756 for 2005; G/L/797 for 2006; G/L/838 and Corr.1 for 2007; G/L/867 for 2008; G/L/904 for 2009; G/L/944 for 2010; G/L/973 and Rev.1 for 2011; G/L/1014 for 2012; G/L/1050 for 2013; G/L/1088 for 2014; G/L/1125 for 2015; G/L/1163 for 2016; and G/L/1200 for 2017.

²¹⁸ At its meeting on 1 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Institutional Arrangements for the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which established the Working Party on Domestic Regulation. (S/C/M/1, item C; S/L/3). At its meeting on 26 April 1999, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Domestic Regulation, pursuant to which the Working Party on Domestic Regulation was established and the Working Party on Professional Services ceased to exist. (S/C/M/35 and Corr.1, item B; S/L/70, para. 1.)

1.9.1 Committee on Trade in Financial Services

1.9.1.1 Establishment and terms of reference

159. At its meeting on 1 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Institutional Arrangements for the General Agreement on Trade in Services²¹⁹, establishing the Committee on Trade in Financial Services which "shall carry out responsibilities as assigned to it by the Council and shall afford Members the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to trade in services in the sector concerned and the operation of the sectorial annex to which it may pertain".²²⁰ The Decision goes on to specify that these responsibilities include:

- "(a) to keep under continuous review and surveillance the application of the Agreement with respect to the sector concerned;
- (b) to formulate proposals or recommendations for consideration by the Council in connection with any matter relating to trade in the sector concerned;
- (c) if there is an annex pertaining to the sector, to consider proposals for amendment of that sectorial annex, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council;
- (d) to provide a forum for technical discussions, to conduct studies on measures of Members and to conduct examinations of any other technical matters affecting trade in services in the sector concerned;
- (e) to provide technical assistance to developing country Members and developing countries negotiating accession to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization in respect of the application of obligations or other matters affecting trade in services in the sector concerned; and
- (f) to cooperate with any other subsidiary bodies established under the General Agreement on Trade in Services or any international organizations active in any sector concerned."²²¹

1.9.1.2 Rules of Procedure

160. The Committee on Trade in Financial Services follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²²²

1.9.1.3 Reporting

161. The Committee on Trade in Financial Services reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²²³

1.9.1.4 Activities

162. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Trade in Financial Services, see the documents on Articles II and XIX of the GATS (Practice).

²¹⁹ S/C/M/1, item C; S/L/1, para. 3.

²²⁰ S/L/1, para. 2.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² See, e.g. S/FIN/M/79, para. 6.1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in S/L/15.

²²³ S/FIN/1 for 1995; S/FIN/2 for 1996; S/FIN/3 for 1997; S/FIN/4 for 1999; S/FIN/5 for 2000; S/FIN/6 for 2001; S/FIN/8 and S/FIN/9 for 2002; S/FIN/10 for 2003; S/FIN/12 for 2004; S/FIN/14 for 2005; S/FIN/16 for 2006; S/FIN/18 for 2007; S/FIN/20 for 2008; S/FIN/22 for 2009; S/FIN/24 for 2010; S/FIN/25 for 2011; S/FIN/27 for 2012; S/FIN/28 for 2013; S/FIN/29 for 2014; S/FIN/30 for 2015; S/FIN/31 for 2016; and S/FIN/32 for 2017.

1.9.2 Committee on Specific Commitments

1.9.2.1 Establishment and terms of reference

163. At its meeting on 4 October 1995, the Council for Trade in Services established the Committee on Specific Commitments.²²⁴ At its meeting on 22 November 1995 the Council for Trade in Services adopted a Decision on the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Specific Commitments²²⁵, stating:

- "1. The Committee on Specific Commitments shall carry out the following responsibilities in relation to all services sectors other than those for which standing sectoral bodies have been established:
 - (a) Oversee the implementation of specific commitments in all modes of supply, including specific commitments relating to Movement of Natural Persons, contained in Members' Schedules.
 - (b) Examine, at the request of Members, schedules of specific commitments and lists of Exemptions from Article II of the GATS, particularly with a view to improving their technical accuracy and coherence in the future.
 - (c) Oversee the application of the procedures for the modification of schedules pursuant to Article XXI of the GATS.
2. Nothing in paragraph 1 shall preclude the Committee from addressing any issues of a horizontal nature.
3. The Committee shall report to the Council for Trade in Services and formulate proposals and recommendations as necessary."²²⁶

1.9.2.2 Rules of Procedure

164. The Committee on Specific Commitments follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²²⁷

1.9.2.3 Reporting

165. The Committee on Specific Commitments reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²²⁸

1.9.2.4 Activities

166. For more information on the activities of the Committee on Specific Commitments, see the document on Article XX of the GATS (Practice).

²²⁴ S/C/M/6, item E.

²²⁵ S/C/M/7, item B.

²²⁶ S/L/16, para. 3.

²²⁷ S/CSC/M/2, p. 1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in S/L/15.

²²⁸ S/CSC/1 for 1996; S/CSC/2 for 1997; S/CSC/3 for 1998; S/CSC/4 for 1999; S/CSC/5 for 2000; S/CSC/6 for 2001; S/CSC/7 and S/CSC/8 for 2002; S/CSC/9 for 2003; S/CSC/10 for 2004; S/CSC/11 for 2005; S/CSC/12 for 2006; S/CSC/13 for 2007; S/CSC/14 for 2008; S/CSC/15 for 2009; S/CSC/16 for 2010; S/CSC/17 for 2011; S/CSC/18 for 2012; S/CSC/19 for 2013; S/CSC/20 for 2014; S/CSC/21 for 2015; S/CSC/22 for 2016; and S/CSC/23 for 2017.

1.9.3 Working Party on Domestic Regulation

1.9.3.1 Establishment and terms of reference

167. At its meeting on 26 April 1999, the Council for Trade in Services adopted the Decision on Domestic Regulation²²⁹, which establishes the Working Party on Domestic Regulation with the following terms of reference:

"2. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article VI of the GATS, the Working Party shall develop any necessary disciplines to ensure that measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures, technical standards and qualification requirements and procedures do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. This shall also encompass the tasks assigned to the Working Party on Professional Services, including the development of general disciplines for professional services as required by paragraph 2 of the Decision on Disciplines Relating to the Accountancy Sector (S/L/63).

3. In fulfilling its tasks the Working Party shall develop generally applicable disciplines and may develop disciplines as appropriate for individual sectors or groups thereof.

4. The Working Party shall report to the Council with recommendations no later than the conclusion of the forthcoming round of services negotiations."²³⁰

1.9.3.2 Rules of Procedure

168. The Working Party on Domestic Regulation follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²³¹

1.9.3.3 Reporting

169. The Working Party on Domestic Regulation reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²³²

1.9.3.4 Activities

170. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation, see the documents on Articles VI and XXIV of the GATS (Practice).

1.9.4 Working Party on GATS Rules

1.9.4.1 Establishment and terms of reference

171. At its meeting on 30 March 1995, the Council for Trade in Services established a Working Party "to conduct negotiations on the three subjects of safeguards, government procurement and subsidies"²³³, later referred to as the Working Party on GATS Rules.

1.9.4.2 Rules of Procedure

172. The Working Party on GATS Rules follows the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services.²³⁴

²²⁹ S/C/M/35 and Corr.1, item B; S/L/70, para. 1.

²³⁰ S/L/70, paras. 2-4.

²³¹ See, e.g., S/WPDR/M/60, para. 3.1. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in S/L/15.

²³² S/WPDR/1 for 1999; S/WPDR/2 and Corr.1 for 2000; S/WPDR/3 for 2001; S/WPDR/4 and S/WPDR/5 for 2002; S/WPDR/6 for 2003; S/WPDR/7 for 2004; S/WPDR/8 for 2005; S/WPDR/9 for 2006; S/WPDR/10 for 2007; S/WPDR/11 for 2008; S/WPDR/12 for 2009; S/WPDR/13 for 2010; S/WPDR/14 for 2011; S/WPDR/15 for 2012; S/WPDR/16 for 2013; S/WPDR/17 for 2014; S/WPDR/18 for 2015; S/WPDR/19 for 2016; and S/WPDR/20 for 2017.

²³³ S/C/M/2, item D.

1.9.4.3 Reporting

173. The Working Party on GATS Rules reports annually on its activities to the Council for Trade in Services under the procedures described in paragraph 12 above.²³⁵

1.9.4.4 Activities

174. For more information on the activities of the Working Party on GATS Rules, see the documents on Articles X, XII and XV of the GATS (Practice).

1.10 Article IV:6 Subsidiary bodies of the Council for TRIPS

175. The Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights has not established any subsidiary bodies to date.

1.11 Article IV: 8 Bodies provided for under Plurilateral Trade Agreements

1.11.1 Committee on Government Procurement

176. For information concerning the establishment and activities of the Committee on Government Procurement, see the documents on the Agreement on Government Procurement (Practice).

177. The Committee on Government Procurement reports to the General Council on an annual basis, since its inception in 1996.²³⁶

1.11.2 Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft

178. For information concerning the establishment and activities of the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft, see documents on the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft (Practice).

179. The Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft reports to the General Council on an annual basis.²³⁷

1.11.3 International Dairy Council and International Meat Council

180. The International Dairy Agreement and International Bovine Meat Agreement, which provided for the International Dairy Council and International Meat Council, were both terminated and deleted from Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement, and consequently these Councils no longer exist.²³⁸

Current as of: March 2018

²³⁴ See, e.g. S/WPGR/M/36, para. 21. The text of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for Trade in Services can be found in S/L/15.

²³⁵ S/WPGR/1 for 1996; S/WPGR/2 for 1997; S/WPGR/3 for 1998; S/WPGR/4 for 1999; S/WPGR/5 for 2000; S/WPGR/6 for 2001; S/WPGR/8 and S/WPGR/12 for 2002; S/WPGR/13 for 2003; S/WPGR/14 for 2004; S/WPGR/15 for 2005; S/WPGR/16 for 2006; S/WPGR/17 for 2007; S/WPGR/18 for 2008; S/WPGR/19 2009; S/WPGR/20 for 2010; S/WPGR/22 for 2011; S/WPGR/23 for 2012; S/WPGR/24 for 2013; S/WPGR/25 2014; S/WPGR/26 for 2015; S/WPGR/27 for 2016; and S/WPGR/28 for 2017.

²³⁶ GPA/8 and Add.1, 19, 25, 30, 44, 58, 73, 75, 82, 85, 89, 92, 95, 103 and Add.1, and 106 GPA/145 and Corr.1 for 2017.

²³⁷ WT/L/107 for 1995; WT/L/193 for 1996; WT/L/247 for 1997; WT/L/291 for 1998; WT/L/340 and Corr.1 for 1999; WT/L/374 for 2000; WT/L/434 for 2001; WT/L/500 for 2002; WT/L/544 and Corr.1 for 2003; WT/L/591 for 2004; WT/L/629 for 2005; WT/L/665 for 2006; WT/L/701 for 2007; WT/L/743 for 2008; WT/L/773 for 2009; WT/L/805 for 2010; WT/L/827 for 2011; WT/L/869 for 2012; WT/L/897 for 2013; WT/L/938 for 2014; WT/L/963 for 2015; WT/L/992 for 2016; and WT/L/1016 for 2017.

²³⁸ See the document on Article X of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

TABLE OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS NOTIFIED TO THE GATT/WTO AND IN FORCE, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017²³⁹

(in alphabetical order by the RTA name)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²⁴⁰	Notified under	Document References ²⁴¹ (GATT and/or WTO)
Agadir Agreement	22-Feb-16	27-Mar-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/48
Andean Community (CAN)	01-Oct-90	25-May-88	Enabling Clause	L/6737
Argentina - Brazil	15-Jun-17	01-Jul-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
Armenia - Kazakhstan	17-Jun-04	25-Dec-01	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG172/- series
Armenia - Moldova, Republic of	17-Jun-04	21-Dec-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG173/- series
Armenia - Turkmenistan	17-Jun-04	07-Jul-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG175/- series
Armenia - Ukraine	17-Jun-04	18-Dec-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG171/- series
ASEAN - Australia - New Zealand	08-Apr-10	01-Jan-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG284/- series
ASEAN - China	21-Sep-05(G) 26-Jun-08(S)	01-Jan-05(G) 01-Jul-07(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/20 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/51/- series S/C/N/463, WT/REG279/- series
ASEAN - India	19-Aug-10(G) 20-Aug-15(S)	01-Jan-10(G) 01-Jul-15(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/35 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/RTA/8/- series S/C/N/822, WT/REG372/- series
ASEAN - Japan	23-Nov-09	01-Dec-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG277/- series
ASEAN - Korea, Republic of	08-Jul-10	01-Jan-10(G) 14-Oct-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/33 WT/REG287/- series
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)	30-Oct-92	01-Jan-93	Enabling Clause	L/4581 & Corr.1, BISD 26S/321 (L/4735)
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	02-Nov-76	17-Jun-76	Enabling Clause	L/4418, BISD 25S/109 (L/4635) WT/COMTD/N/22, WT/COMTD/62/- series
APTA - Accession of China	30-Apr-04	01-Jan-02	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/19
Australia - Chile	03-Mar-09	06-Mar-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG263/- series
Australia - China	26-Jan-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG369/- series
Australia - New Zealand Closer	14-Apr-83(G)	01-Jan-83(G)	GATT Art. XXIV	L/5475 & Add.1, BISD 31S/170

²³⁹ Source: WTO RTA Database: <http://rtais.wto.org>.

²⁴⁰ Dates of the first entry into force for at least one of the Parties. (G) refers to Goods and (S) refers to Services.

²⁴¹ The document series WT/REG/*/* includes documents related to a given agreement (notification, factual presentation, minutes, etc.) notified under either Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and/or Article V of the GATS. The document series WT/COMTD/** and WT/COMTD/RTA/*/* include documents related to a given agreement notified under the Enabling Clause, with the exception of the minutes that are distributed in the document series WT/COMTD/RTA/M/*. All of these documents can be consulted in the WTO RTA Database: <http://rtais.wto.org>.

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WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²⁴⁰	Notified under	Document References ²⁴¹ (GATT and/or WTO)
Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA)	22-Nov-95(S)	01-Jan-89(S)	GATS Art. V	(L/5664) S/C/N/7, WT/REG40/- series
Australia - Papua New Guinea (PATCRA)	20-Dec-76	01-Feb-77	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4451 & Add.1, BISD 24S/63 (L/4571)
Brunei Darussalam - Japan	31-Jul-08	31-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG244/- series
Canada - Chile	30-Jul-97	05-Jul-97	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG38/- series
Canada - Colombia	07-Oct-11	15-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG301/- series
Canada - Costa Rica	13-Jan-03	01-Nov-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG147/- series
Canada - Honduras	05-Feb-15	01-Oct-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG364/- series
Canada - Israel	15-Jan-97	01-Jan-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG31/- series
Canada - Jordan	10-Apr-13	01-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG335/- series
Canada - Korea, Republic of	20-Jan-15	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG362/- series
Canada - Panama	10-Apr-13	01-Apr-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG334/- series
Canada - Peru	31-Jul-09	01-Aug-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG270/- series
Canada - Ukraine	13-Sep-17	01-Aug-17	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG388/- series
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)	14-Oct-74(G) 19-Feb-03(S)	01-Aug-73(G) 04-Jul-02(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/4083, BISD 24S/68 (L/4470) S/C/N/229, WT/REG155/- series
Central American Common Market (CACM)	24-Feb-61	04-Jun-61	GATT Art. XXIV	L/1425 & Add.1, BISD 10S/98 (L/1639)
CACM - Accession of Panama	24-Apr-17	06-May-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG384/- series
Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) 2006	26-Jul-07	01-May-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG233/- series
Chile - China	20-Jun-07(G) 18-Nov-10(S)	01-Oct-06(G) 01-Aug-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG230/- series
Chile - Colombia	14-Aug-09	08-May-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG272/- series
Chile - Costa Rica (Chile - Central America)	16-Apr-02	15-Feb-02	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG136/- series
Chile - El Salvador (Chile - Central America)	29-Jan-04(G) 05-Feb-04(S)	01-Jun-02	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG165/- series
Chile - Guatemala (Chile - Central America)	30-Mar-12	23-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG312/- series
Chile - Honduras (Chile - Central America)	28-Nov-11	19-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG303/- series
Chile - India	13-Jan-09	17-Aug-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/30, WT/COMTD/RTA/4/- series
Chile - Japan	24-Aug-07	03-Sep-07	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG234/- series

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Chile - Malaysia	12-Feb-13	25-Feb-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG330/- series
Chile - Mexico	27-Feb-01	01-Aug-99	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG125/- series
Chile - Nicaragua (Chile - Central America)	14-Jun-13	19-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG344/- series
Chile - Thailand	12-Sep-17	05-Nov-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG387/- series
Chile - Viet Nam	12-May-15	01-Jan-14	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG365/- series
China - Costa Rica	27-Feb-12	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG310/- series
China - Hong Kong, China	27-Dec-03	29-Jun-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG162/- series
China - Korea, Republic of	01-Mar-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG370/- series
China - Macao, China	27-Dec-03	17-Oct-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG163/- series
China - New Zealand	21-Apr-09	01-Oct-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG266/- series
China - Singapore	02-Mar-09	01-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG262/- series
Colombia - Mexico	13-Sep-10	01-Jan-95	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG289/- series
Colombia - Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)	31-Aug-12	12-Nov-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG316/- series
Common Economic Zone (CEZ)	18-Aug-08	20-May-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG254/- series
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	04-May-95	08-Dec-94	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/3
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - Accession of Egypt	03-Jan-17	17-Feb-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/51
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	29-Jun-99	30-Dec-94	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG82/- series
Costa Rica - Colombia	31-Oct-16	01-Aug-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG376/- series
Costa Rica - Peru	05-Jun-13	01-Jun-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG342/- series
Costa Rica - Singapore	16-Sep-13	01-Jul-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG347/- series
Dominican Republic - Central America	06-Jan-12	04-Oct-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG305/- series
Dominican Republic - Central America - United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR)	17-Mar-06	01-Mar-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG211/- series
East African Community (EAC)	09-Oct-00(G) 01-Aug-12(S)	07-Jul-00(G) 01-Jul-10(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/14 & Add.1, WT/COMTD/25/- series S/C/N/655, WT/REG346/- series
EAC - Accession of Burundi and Rwanda	01-Aug-12	01-Jul-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/14/Add.2
EC (9) Enlargement	07-Mar-72	01-Jan-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3677, C/M/107 & Corr.1,

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				L/3688/Rev.1
EC (10) Enlargement	24-Oct-79	01-Jan-81	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4845, BISD 30S/168 (L/5453)
EC (12) Enlargement	11-Dec-85	01-Jan-86	GATT Art. XXIV	L/5936, BISD 35S/293 (L/6405)
EC (15) Enlargement	15-Dec-94(G) 22-Dec-94(S)	01-Jan-95	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/7614 & Add.1, WT/REG3/- series
EC (25) Enlargement	26-Apr-04	01-May-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG170/- series
EC (27) Enlargement	27-Sep-06(G) 26-Jun-07(S)	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG220/- series
EU (28) Enlargement	25-Apr-13	01-Jul-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG337/- series
EC Treaty	24-Apr-57(G) 10-Nov-95(S)	01-Jan-58	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/626, BISD 6S/70+6S/109 (L/778), S/C/N/6, WT/REG39/- series
Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)	21-Jul-99	24-Jun-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/13, WT/COMTD/24/- series
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	06-Jul-05	24-Jul-93	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/21, WT/COMTD/54/- series
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	10-Jul-92	17-Feb-92	Enabling Clause	L/7047
EFTA - Accession of Iceland	30-Jan-70	01-Mar-70	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3328 & Add.1, BISD 18S/174 (L/3441)
EFTA - Albania	07-Feb-11	01-Nov-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG292/- series
EFTA - Bosnia and Herzegovina	06-Jan-15	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG360/- series
EFTA - Canada	04-Aug-09	01-Jul-09	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG271/- series
EFTA - Central America (Costa Rica and Panama)	19-Nov-14	19-Aug-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG357/- series
EFTA - Chile	03-Dec-04	01-Dec-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG179/- series
EFTA - Colombia	14-Sep-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG299/- series
EFTA - Egypt	17-Jul-07	01-Aug-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG232/- series
EFTA - Georgia	29-Aug-17	01-Sep-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG386/- series
EFTA - Hong Kong, China	27-Sep-12	01-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG322/- series
EFTA - Israel	30-Nov-92	01-Jan-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG14/- series
EFTA - Jordan	17-Jan-02	01-Sep-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG133/- series
EFTA - Korea, Republic of	23-Aug-06	01-Sep-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG217/- series
EFTA - Lebanon	22-Dec-06	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG224/- series
EFTA - Mexico	25-Jul-01	01-Jul-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG126/- series
EFTA - Montenegro	24-Oct-12	01-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG323/- series
EFTA - Morocco	20-Jan-00	01-Dec-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG91/- series

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EFTA - Palestinian Authority	23-Jul-99	01-Jul-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG79/- series
EFTA - Peru	30-Jun-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG295/- series
EFTA - SACU	29-Oct-08	01-May-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG256/- series
EFTA - Serbia	24-Nov-10	01-Oct-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG290/- series
EFTA - Singapore	14-Jan-03	01-Jan-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG148/- series
EFTA - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11-Dec-00	01-May-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG117/- series
EFTA - Tunisia	03-Jun-05	01-Jun-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG201/- series
EFTA - Turkey	06-Mar-92	01-Apr-92	GATT Art. XXIV	L/6989 & Add.1, BISD 40S/48 (L/7336)
EFTA - Ukraine	18-Jun-12	01-Jun-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG315/- series
Egypt - Turkey	05-Oct-07	01-Mar-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/23, WT/COMTD/RTA/1/- series
El Salvador - Cuba	27-Nov-13	01-Aug-12	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/43
El Salvador- Honduras - Chinese Taipei	06-Apr-10	01-Mar-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG283/- series
EU - Albania	07-Mar-07(G) 07-Oct-09(S)	01-Dec-06(G) 01-Apr-09(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG226/- series
EU - Algeria	24-Jul-06	01-Sep-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG221/- series
EU - Andorra	23-Feb-98	01-Jul-91	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG53/- series
EU - Bosnia and Herzegovina	11-Jul-08(G) 12-Jan-16(S)	01-Jul-08(G) 01-Jun-15(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG242/- series
EU - Cameroon	24-Sep-09	04-Aug-14	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG274/- series
EU - Canada	19-Sep-17	21-Sep-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG389/- series
EU - CARIFORUM States EPA	16-Oct-08	01-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG255/- series
EU - Central America	26-Feb-13	01-Aug-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG332/- series
EU - Chile	03-Feb-04(G) 28-Oct-05(S)	01-Feb-03(G) 01-Mar-05(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG164/- series
EU - Colombia and Peru and Ecuador	26-Feb-13	01-Mar-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG333/- series
EU - Colombia and Peru - Accession of Ecuador	02-Mar-17	01-Jan-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG380/- series
EU - Côte d'Ivoire	11-Dec-08	03-Sep-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG258/- series
EU - Eastern and Southern Africa States Interim EPA	09-Feb-12	14-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG307/- series
EU - Egypt	03-Sep-04	01-Jun-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG177/- series
EU - Faroe Islands	17-Feb-97	01-Jan-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG21/- series
EU - Georgia	02-Jul-14	01-Sep-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG354/- series
EU - Ghana	03-Apr-17	15-Dec-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG382/- series

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EU - Iceland	24-Nov-72	01-Apr-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3780 & Add.1, BISD 20S/158 (L/3902)
EU - Israel	20-Sep-00	01-Jun-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG110/- series
EU - Jordan	17-Dec-02	01-May-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG141/- series
EU - Korea, Republic of	07-Jul-11	01-Jul-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG296/- series
EU - Lebanon	26-May-03	01-Mar-03	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG153/- series
EU - Mexico	25-Jul-00(G) 21-Jun-02(S)	01-Jul-00(G) 01-Oct-00(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG109/- series
EU - Moldova, Republic of	30-Jun-14	01-Sep-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG352/- series
EU - Montenegro	16-Jan-08(G) 18-Jun-10(S)	01-Jan-08(G) 01-May-10(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG236/- series
EU - Morocco	13-Oct-00	01-Mar-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG112/- series
EU - Norway	13-Jul-73	01-Jul-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3872, BISD 21S/83 (L/3996)
EU – Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)	14-Dec-70	01-Jan-71	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3467, BISD 18S/143 (L/3611)
EU - Palestinian Authority	29-May-97	01-Jul-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG43/- series
EU - Papua New Guinea / Fiji	18-Oct-11	20-Dec-09	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG302/- series
EU - SADC	03-Apr-17	10-Oct-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG/381/- series
EU - San Marino	24-Feb-10	01-Apr-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG280/- series
EU - Serbia	31-May-10(G) 20-Dec-13(S)	01-Feb-10(G) 01-Sep-13(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG285/- series
EU - South Africa	02-Nov-00	01-Jan-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG113/- series
EU - Switzerland - Liechtenstein	27-Oct-72	01-Jan-73	GATT Art. XXIV	L/3758 & Add.1, BISD 20S/196 (L/3898)
EU - Syria	15-Jul-77	01-Jul-77	GATT Art. XXIV	L/4522, BISD 25S/123 (L/4661)
EU - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	23-Oct-01(G) 02-Oct-09(S)	01-Jun-01(G) 01-Apr-04(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG129/- series
EU - Tunisia	15-Jan-99	01-Mar-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG69/- series
EU - Turkey	22-Dec-95	01-Jan-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG22/- series
EU - Ukraine	01-Jul-14	23-Apr-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG353/- series
Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)	12-Dec-14	01-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG358/- series
EAEU - Accession of Armenia	29-Dec-14	02-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG363/- series
EAEU - Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic	01-Sep-15	12-Aug-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG366/- series
EAEU - Viet Nam	04-May-17	05-Oct-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG385/- series
European Economic Area (EEA)	13-Sep-96	01-Jan-94	GATS Art. V	S/C/N/28, WT/REG138/- series

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European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	14-Nov-59(G) 15-Jul-02(S)	03-May-60(G) 01-Jun-02(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/1105, BISD 9S/70 (L/1235) S/C/N/207 & Corr.1
Faroe Islands - Norway	12-Feb-96	01-Jul-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG25/- series
Faroe Islands - Switzerland	12-Feb-96	01-Mar-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG24/- series
Georgia - Armenia	08-Feb-01	11-Nov-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG119/- series
Georgia - Azerbaijan	08-Feb-01	10-Jul-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG120/- series
Georgia - Kazakhstan	08-Feb-01	16-Jul-99	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG123/- series
Georgia - Russian Federation	08-Feb-01	10-May-94	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG118/- series
Georgia - Turkmenistan	08-Feb-01	01-Jan-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG122/- series
Georgia - Ukraine	08-Feb-01	04-Jun-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG121/- series
Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP)	25-Sep-89	19-Apr-89	Enabling Clause	L/6564 & Add.1
GUAM	03-Apr-17	10-Dec-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG/383/- series
Guatemala - Chinese Taipei	11-Jul-11	01-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG297/- series
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	03-Oct-06	01-Jan-03	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause	WT/REG276/- series, WT/COMTD/N/25, WT/COMTD/66/- series
GCC - Singapore	30-Jun-15	01-Sep-13	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/45/Rev.1 S/C/N/807/Rev.1
Hong Kong, China - Chile	15-Oct-14	09-Oct-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG356/- series
Hong Kong, China - Macao, China	18-Dec-17	27-Oct-17	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG390/- series
Hong Kong, China - New Zealand	03-Jan-11	01-Jan-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG291/- series
Iceland - China	10-Oct-14	01-Jul-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG355/- series
Iceland - Faroe Islands	10-Jul-08	01-Nov-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG243/- series
India - Afghanistan	08-Mar-10	13-May-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/32
India - Bhutan	30-Jun-08	29-Jul-06	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/28
India - Japan	14-Sep-11	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG300/- series
India - Malaysia	06-Sep-11	01-Jul-11	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/37, WT/COMTD/RTA/5/- series S/C/N/599, WT/REG329/- series
India - Nepal	02-Aug-10	27-Oct-09	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/34
India - Singapore	03-May-07	01-Aug-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG228/- series
India - Sri Lanka	17-Jun-02	15-Dec-01	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/16
India - Thailand	18-Jun-17	01-Sep-04	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/54
Israel - Mexico	22-Feb-01	01-Jul-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG124/- series
Japan - Australia	12-Jan-15	15-Jan-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG361/- series

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Japan - Indonesia	27-Jun-08	01-Jul-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG241/- series
Japan - Malaysia	12-Jul-06	13-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG216/- series
Japan - Mexico	31-Mar-05	01-Apr-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG198/- series
Japan - Mongolia	01-Jun-16	07-Jun-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG373/- series
Japan - Peru	24-Feb-12	01-Mar-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG309/- series
Japan - Philippines	11-Dec-08	11-Dec-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG257/- series
Japan - Singapore	08-Nov-02	30-Nov-02	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG140/- series
Japan - Switzerland	01-Sep-09	01-Sep-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG273/- series
Japan - Thailand	25-Oct-07	01-Nov-07	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG235/- series
Japan - Viet Nam	01-Oct-09	01-Oct-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG275/- series
Jordan - Singapore	07-Jul-06	22-Aug-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG215/- series
Korea, Republic of - Colombia	05-Oct-16	15-Jul-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG375/- series
Korea, Republic of - Australia	22-Dec-14	12-Dec-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG359/- series
Korea, Republic of - Chile	08-Apr-04	01-Apr-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG169/- series
Korea, Republic of - India	01-Jul-10	01-Jan-10	GATT Art. XXIV & Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/REG286/- series WT/COMTD/N/36
Korea, Republic of - New Zealand	21-Dec-15	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG367/- series
Korea, Republic of - Singapore	21-Feb-06	02-Mar-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG210/- series
Korea, Republic of - Turkey	30-Apr-13	01-May-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG339/- series
Korea, Republic of - United States	15-Mar-12	15-Mar-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG311/- series
Korea, Republic of - Viet Nam	02-Mar-16	20-Dec-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG371/- series
Kyrgyz Republic - Armenia	12-Dec-00	27-Oct-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG114/- series
Kyrgyz Republic - Kazakhstan	29-Jun-99	11-Nov-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG81/- series
Kyrgyz Republic - Moldova, Republic of	15-Jun-99	21-Nov-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG76/- series
Kyrgyz Republic - Ukraine	15-Jun-99	19-Jan-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG74/- series
Kyrgyz Republic - Uzbekistan	15-Jun-99	20-Mar-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG75/- series
Lao People's Democratic Republic - Thailand	26-Nov-91	20-Jun-91	Enabling Clause	L/6947
Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)	01-Jul-82	18-Mar-81	Enabling Clause	L/5342
LAIA - Accession of Cuba	23-Sep-99	26-Aug-99	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/10
Malaysia - Australia	13-May-13	01-Jan-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG340/- series
Mauritius - Pakistan	02-Oct-15	30-Nov-07	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/47, WT/COMTD/RTA/7/- series
Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)	03-Aug-99	01-Jan-94	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/9, WT/COMTD/21/-

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WTO Agreement – Article IV (Practice)

RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force ²⁴⁰	Notified under	Document References ²⁴¹ (GATT and/or WTO)
				series
MERCOSUR - India	23-Feb-10	01-Jun-09	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/31, WT/COMTD/RTA/6/- series
Mexico - Central America	20-Jan-14	01-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG349/- series
Mexico - Panama	06-Jun-16	01-Jul-15	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG374/- series
Mexico - Uruguay	28-Jun-13	15-Jul-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG345/- series
New Zealand - Chinese Taipei	25-Nov-13	01-Dec-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG348/- series
New Zealand - Malaysia	07-Feb-12	01-Aug-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG306/- series
New Zealand - Singapore	04-Sep-01	01-Jan-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG127/- series
Nicaragua - Chinese Taipei	09-Jul-09	01-Jan-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG267/- series
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	29-Jan-93(G) 01-Mar-95(S)	01-Jan-94	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	L/7176, S/C/N/4, WT/REG4/- series
Pacific Alliance	03-Nov-16	01-May-16	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG377/- series
Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)	28-Aug-08	13-Apr-03	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/29
Pakistan - China	18-Jan-08(G) 20-May-10(S)	01-Jul-07(G) 10-Oct-09(S)	GATT Art. XXIV GATS Art. V	WT/REG237/- series
Pakistan - Malaysia	19-Feb-08	01-Jan-08	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	WT/COMTD/N/24, WT/COMTD/RTA/3/- series S/C/N/440, WT/REG265/- series
Pakistan - Sri Lanka	11-Jun-08	12-Jun-05	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/27, WT/COMTD/RTA/2/- series
Panama - Dominican Republic	21-Mar-16	08-Jun-87	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/49
Panama - Chile	17-Apr-08	07-Mar-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG239/- series
Panama - Chinese Taipei	28-Jul-09	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG268/- series
Panama - Costa Rica (Panama - Central America)	07-Apr-09	23-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG264/- series
Panama - El Salvador (Panama - Central America)	24-Feb-05	11-Apr-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG196/- series
Panama - Guatemala (Panama - Central America)	22-Apr-13	20-Jun-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG336/- series
Panama - Honduras (Panama - Central America)	16-Dec-09	09-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG278/- series
Panama - Nicaragua (Panama - Central America)	25-Feb-13	21-Nov-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG331/- series
Panama - Peru	23-Apr-12	01-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG313/- series
Panama - Singapore	04-Apr-07	24-Jul-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG227/- series

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RTA Name	Date of notification	Date of entry into force²⁴⁰	Notified under	Document References²⁴¹ (GATT and/or WTO)
Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA)	03-Oct-06	01-Jan-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG223/- series
Peru - Chile	29-Nov-11	01-Mar-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	W/REG304/- series
Peru - China	03-Mar-10	01-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG281/- series
Peru - Korea, Republic of	09-Aug-11	01-Aug-11	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG298/- series
Peru - Mexico	22-Feb-12	01-Feb-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG308/- series
Peru - Singapore	30-Jul-09	01-Aug-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG269/- series
Protocol on Trade Negotiations (PTN)	09-Nov-71	11-Feb-73	Enabling Clause	L/3598
Russian Federation - Azerbaijan	13-Sep-12	17-Feb-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG317/- series
Russian Federation - Belarus - Kazakhstan	21-Dec-12	03-Dec-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG325/- series
Russian Federation - Serbia	21-Dec-12	03-Jun-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG326/- series
Russian Federation - Turkmenistan	18-Jan-13	06-Apr-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/RE328/- series
Russian Federation - Uzbekistan	18-Jan-13	25-Mar-93	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG327/- series
Singapore - Australia	25-Sep-03	28-Jul-03	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG158/- series
Singapore - Chinese Taipei	22-Apr-14	19-Apr-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG350/- series
South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	21-Apr-08	01-Jan-06	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/26
SAFTA - Accession of Afghanistan	29-Jul-16	07-Aug-11	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/50
South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA)	21-Apr-97	07-Dec-95	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/10
South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)	07-Jan-81	01-Jan-81	Enabling Clause	L/5100
Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	25-Jun-07	15-Jul-04	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG231/- series
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	02-Aug-04	01-Sep-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG176/- series
SADC - Accession of Seychelles	08-Jan-16	25-May-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG368/- series
Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	17-Feb-91(G) 05-Dec-06(S)	29-Nov-91(G) 07-Dec-05(S)	Enabling Clause GATS Art. V	L/6985, WT/COMTD/1/- series S/C/N/388 & Corr.1, WT/REG238/- series
MERCOSUR - Chile	15-Jun-17	10-Mar-17	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
MERCOSUR - Mexico	15-Jun-17	28-Dec-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/53
MERCOSUR - SACU	19-Jul-17	01-Apr-16	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/55
Switzerland - China	30-Jun-14	01-Jul-14	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG351/- series
Thailand - Australia	27-Dec-04	01-Jan-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG185/- series

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Thailand - New Zealand	01-Dec-05	01-Jul-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG207/- series
Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership	18-May-07	28-May-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG229/- series
Treaty on a Free Trade Area between members of the CIS	06-Jun-13	20-Sep-12	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG343/- series
Turkey - Albania	09-May-08	01-May-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG240/- series
Turkey - Bosnia and Herzegovina	29-Aug-03	01-Jul-03	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG157/- series
Turkey - Chile	25-Feb-11	01-Mar-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG293/- series
Turkey - Georgia	18-Feb-09	01-Nov-08	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG261/- series
Turkey - Israel	16-Apr-98	01-May-97	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG/60/- series
Turkey - Jordan	07-Mar-11	01-Mar-11	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG294/- series
Turkey - Malaysia	20-Feb-17	01-Aug-15	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG379/- series
Turkey - Mauritius	30-May-13	01-Jun-13	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG341/- series
Turkey - Moldova, Republic of	13-Dec-16	01-Nov-16	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG378/- series
Turkey - Montenegro	12-Mar-10	01-Mar-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG282/- series
Turkey - Morocco	10-Feb-06	01-Jan-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG209/- series
Turkey - Palestinian Authority	01-Sep-05	01-Jun-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG204/- series
Turkey - Serbia	10-Aug-10	01-Sep-10	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG288/- series
Turkey - Syria	15-Feb-07	01-Jan-07	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG225/- series
Turkey - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	05-Jan-01	01-Sep-00	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG115/- series
Turkey - Tunisia	01-Sep-05	01-Jul-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG203/- series
Ukraine - Azerbaijan	18-Aug-08	02-Sep-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG245/- series
Ukraine - Belarus	18-Aug-08	11-Nov-06	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG246/- series
Ukraine - Kazakhstan	18-Aug-08	19-Oct-98	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG247/- series
Ukraine - Moldova, Republic of	18-Aug-08	19-May-05	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG249/- series
Ukraine - Montenegro	25-Apr-13	01-Jan-13	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG338/- series
Ukraine - Tajikistan	18-Aug-08	11-Jul-02	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG251/- series
Ukraine - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18-Aug-08	05-Jul-01	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG248/- series
Ukraine - Uzbekistan	18-Aug-08	01-Jan-96	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG253/- series
Ukraine -Turkmenistan	18-Aug-08	04-Nov-95	GATT Art. XXIV	WT/REG252/- series
United States - Australia	22-Dec-04	01-Jan-05	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG184/- series
United States - Bahrain	08-Sep-06	01-Aug-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG219/- series
United States - Chile	16-Dec-03	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG160/- series

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United States - Colombia	08-May-12	15-May-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG314/- series
United States - Israel	13-Sep-85	19-Aug-85	GATT Art. XXIV	L/5862 & Add.1, BISD 34S/58 (L/6140)
United States - Jordan	15-Jan-02	17-Dec-01	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG134/- series
United States - Morocco	30-Dec-05	01-Jan-06	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG208/- series
United States - Oman	30-Jan-09	01-Jan-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG259/- series
United States - Panama	29-Oct-12	31-Oct-12	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG324/- series
United States - Peru	03-Feb-09	01-Feb-09	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG260/- series
United States - Singapore	17-Dec-03	01-Jan-04	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	WT/REG161/- series
West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)	27-Oct-99	01-Jan-00	Enabling Clause	WT/COMTD/N/11 & Add.1-2, WT/COMTD/23/- series