Overview of Accessions

Dimitar Bratanov, Accessions Division, WTO
1. The basic procedures

2. The track record to date

3. The state of play in ongoing accessions

4. What is expected of acceding governments?
1. The basic procedures
A closer relationship with the WTO?

- Request for **observer status in the General Council** and its subsidiary bodies
  
  OR
  
  - Request for **accession under Article XII** of the Marrakesh Agreement
Observer status


- Governments have to:
  - express an intent to initiate negotiations for WTO accession within 5 years;
  - provide a description of economic and trade policies, including future reforms.

- 10 governments have been granted observer status under these procedures.

- Not to be confused with *ad hoc* observer status for WTO Ministerial Conferences.
WTO Accession: legal basis

Article XII of the Agreement Establishing the WTO (the Marrakesh Agreement)

1. Any State or separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and the other matters provided for in this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements may accede to this Agreement, on terms to be agreed between it and the WTO. Such accession shall apply to this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed thereto.

2. Decisions on accession shall be taken by the Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conference shall approve the agreement on the terms of accession by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the WTO.

3. Accession to a Plurilateral Trade Agreement shall be governed by the provisions of that Agreement.
WTO Accession: legal basis

“...by a two-thirds majority...”

• In practice, since 1995 decisions on accession have been taken by consensus in accordance with WTO practice (Article IX:1 of the Marrakesh Agreement).

• Paragraph 2 of Article XII refers to the final stage of the accession process, when the accession documents are adopted by the Ministerial Conference (or by the General Council as per Article IV:2 of the Marrakesh Agreement).
WTO Accession: legal basis

“...on terms to be agreed...”

The specific terms of accession are unique to each acceding government.

WHY?

- Legal/institutional/economic frameworks of acceding governments are different.
- Accession negotiations are WTO Member-driven and Members’ interests vary.
- The WTO rulebook and “acquis” evolve over time.
- ...

Note: while the specific terms agreed in each accession may vary, the accession process per se has remained largely unchanged since 1995.
The WTO Accession Process

Stage 1
- Working Party established
  - Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR)
  - Factual Summary
  - Elements of a Draft Working Party Report
  - Draft Working Party Report (DWPR)

Stage 2
- Multilateral process
  - Any other area of WTO rules, as necessary
  - Technical Verification of Draft Goods and Services Schedules / Small Group Consultation
  - Draft Accession Package adopted, ad referendum, by the Working Party

Stage 3
- Plurilateral process
  - Agreed elements are added to draft Report (DWPR) & draft Schedules, as applicable
  - Formal action by General Council/Ministerial Conference
  - Acceptance by Acceding Government
  - Notification of acceptance

Session 2: Overview of Accessions
Stage 1: Working Party Establishment

- The General Council considers accession requests and establishes Working Parties to examine applications and elaborate terms of membership.

- Working Party membership open to all WTO Members.

- Consultations on the selection of a Working Party Chairperson begin after circulation of all documents necessary for holding the 1st Working Party meeting.

- Observer status automatically granted to the Acceding Government upon Working Party establishment.

- Annual financial contribution of approx. CHF 30’000.

Establishment of the Working Party on the Accessions of Somalia and Timor-Leste
Stage 2: Fact-finding & negotiation

Stage 2 – the substantive phase of the process – consists of 2 basic negotiating tracks:

– Multilateral negotiations;
– Bilateral negotiations;

NOTE: plurilateral discussions are also a feature in many accessions

These negotiating tracks proceed more or less in parallel.

The accession procedures are outlined in WT/ACC/22/Rev.1, a document developed by the Secretariat in consultation with Members as a practical, non-binding guide.
Stage 3: Final steps

- Adoption of the **Accession Package** by Working Party
- General Council/Ministerial Conference approval
- Domestic ratification/acceptance
- Membership

THE ACCESSION PACKAGE

1. **Decision**
   - Protocol
3. **Schedule of Concessions & Commitments on Goods**
4. **Schedule of Specific Commitments on Services**
2. The track record to date
Session 2: Overview of Accessions

Map of WTO Members and Observers

Most recent acceding government: Curaçao (March 2020)
## Completed (36) and ongoing (23) accessions

(LDCs in red)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Europe/CIS</th>
<th>Asia Pacific</th>
<th>Middle East</th>
<th>America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 (2)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11 (6)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia, 2000</td>
<td>Cambodia*, 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albania, 2000</td>
<td>Tonga, 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Croatia, 2000</td>
<td>Viet Nam, 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lithuania, 2001</td>
<td>Samoa*, 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moldova, 2001</td>
<td>Vanuatu*, 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armenia, 2003</td>
<td>Lao PDR*, 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FYR of Macedonia, 2003</td>
<td>Afghanistan*, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ukraine, 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montenegro, 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tajikistan, 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kazakhstan, 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (6)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya, 2004</td>
<td>Andorra, 1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Tomé &amp; Principe*, 2005</td>
<td>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, 1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros*, 2007</td>
<td>Serbia, 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea, 2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia*, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What has been done so far?

36 accessions completed to date
(By accession date)
Shares of world trade

- **1995**: Original Members 88.7%, Article XII Members 7.9%, Accessing Governments 2.4%, Rest of the World 1.0%
- **2005**: Original Members 85.8%, Article XII Members 12.2%, Accessing Governments 0.3%, Rest of the World 1.7%
- **2018**: Original Members 80.2%, Article XII Members 17.8%, Accessing Governments 0.3%, Rest of the World 1.7%
WTO accession results (1/3)

Growth rate of merchandise exports of Article XII Members

Growth rate of merchandise imports of Article XII Members

Session 2: Overview of Accessions
WTO accession results (2/3)

Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members (1996-2011)

-5 years | WTO accession | +5 years
---|---|---
Article XII Members | Rest of the World

Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members (2012-2018)

-5 years | WTO accession | +5 years
---|---|---
Article XII Members | Rest of the World
WTO accession results (3/3)

Growth rate of FDI inward stocks of Article XII Members

Improvements in Business Environment

Average DTF Changes for a Member

Session 2: Overview of Accessions
3. The state of play
What remains to be done?

23 ongoing accessions, plus ....

(By application date)
Session 2: Overview of Accessions

Accession negotiations – state of play

Multilateral negotiations (Rules)

- Application
- Working Party Established
  (No documents submitted)
  - Curaçao
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Libya
  - Sao Tomé and Principe*
  - Syrian Arab Rep.

- Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime
  - Andorra
  - Iran
  - Iraq
  - Timor-Leste*
  - Somalia*
  - South Sudan*
  - Uzbekistan

- Draft Working Party Report
  - Algeria
  - Azerbaijan
  - Belarus
  - Bhutan*
  - Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Comoros*
  - Serbia

- Factual Summary of Points Raised
  - Bahamas
  - Ethiopia*
  - Sudan*

- Draft Goods and Services Schedules

Bilateral negotiations (Market Access)

- Initial Goods & Services Offer
  - Andorra
  - Ethiopia* (revised goods offer)

- Revised Goods & Services Offer
  - Algeria
  - Azerbaijan
  - Bahamas
  - Belarus
  - Bhutan*
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Comoros*
  - Serbia
  - Sudan*
  - Uzbekistan

- Turkmenistan (application for observership)
## Accessions by status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Status</th>
<th>Accession WP (establishment)</th>
<th>Last WP meeting</th>
<th>Next WP meeting (based on Secretariat's assessment)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Strategic focus** | 1. Belarus (1993)  
2. Bosnia & Herzegovina (1999)  
13WPM, February 2018  
4WPM, March 2018  
13WPM, June 2013 | 2nd half of 2020  
2nd half of 2020  
Q3 2020  
TBD |
| **Work in progress**  
On-going efforts to move the WP process | 1. Azerbaijan (1997)  
2. Bahamas (2001)  
4. South Sudan* (2017)  
5. Sudan* (1994) | 14WPM, July 2017  
4WPM, April 2019  
4WPM, January 2020  
1WPM, March 2019  
4WPM, July 2017 | 2nd half of 2020  
TBD  
2nd half of 2020  
TBD  
TBD |
| **Reactivation**  
Efforts to resume the WP process after at least 5 years | 1. Iraq (2004)  
2. Lebanese Republic (1999)  
7WPM, October 2009  
3WPM, October 2005 | TBD  
TBD  
7 July 2020 |
| **Activation**  
1st WP yet to be held | 1. Curaçao (2020)  
2. Equatorial Guinea (2008)  
4. Timor-Leste* (2016) | No WP held to date  
No WP held to date  
No WP held to date  
No WP held to date | TBD  
TBD  
TBD  
31 July 2020 (TBC) |
| **Inactive**  

**Notes:** * LDCs
WTO accessions: new “themes”

- **A larger number of active accessions**
  - New applications – Somalia, Timor-Leste, South Sudan, Curacao (+ Turkmenistan)
  - Resumption of accession Working Parties after years of inactivity

- **Increased role for technical assistance?**
  - Members’ broad support for WTO accessions, at WP level or through technical assistance
  - Strong interest & support from international partners, e.g. IMF, World Bank, ITC, African Union/UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Arab Monetary Fund

- **Fragility and conflict (trade as an engine of peace?)**
4. What is expected of acceding governments?
WTO Accessions – what are the yardsticks?

- Average length of accession: **10 years and 2 months** (and 12 years and 2 months for LDCs)
  - Shortest: **2 years and 8 months** (Kyrgyz Republic, 1998)
  - Longest: **19 years and 9 months** (Kazakhstan and Seychelles, 2015)

- Accession commitments
  - **Number of accession commitment paragraphs in Working Party Report:** 17 (Mongolia) – **163** (Russian Federation)
  - **Tariff concessions:** 5.1% (Montenegro) - **39.7%** (Vanuatu) for all products; 7.6% - 43.7% (AG), 4.3% - 39.1% (Non-AG)
  - **AG Domestic Support & Export Subsidies:** 5, 8.5, 10% de minimis levels; AMS (various); export subsidies bound at zero
  - **Number of services sub-sectors with commitments:** 37 (Mongolia) – **147** (Moldova)
Policy Framework for LDC Accessions

- 2002 General Council Guidelines for LDCs’ Accessions (WT/L/508)
  - Market Access, WTO Rules, Process, technical assistance

- 2012 General Council Decision to “strengthen, streamline and operationalize” the 2002 Guidelines” (WT/L/508/Add.1)
  - Benchmarks on market access on Goods and Services
  - Transparency in accession negotiations
  - “Facilitation” by Chairs of SCLDC & Accession Working Parties
  - Special and differential treatment & transition periods
  - Technical assistance and capacity building
Length of WTO Accession Process: From 1st Working Party to Membership

Average: 6 years and 7 months

* Acceded as an LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took 5 years and 4 months
Length of WTO accession process: From application to membership, in years

- Average: 10 years and 2 months

- Acceded as an LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took 12 years and 6 months
Tariff commitments: agricultural products

(Note: average final bound rates, %)
Tariff commitments: non-agricultural products

(NOTE: average final bound rates, %)
Services: specific commitments
## Session 2: Overview of Accessions

### Accession in numbers: completed accessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Article XII Members</th>
<th>Length of accession process</th>
<th># of WP Meetings held</th>
<th># of documents issued</th>
<th># of questions replied</th>
<th># of legislation submitted to WP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ecuador (1996)</td>
<td>3yr.4mo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bulgaria (1996)</td>
<td>10yr.1mo</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mongolia (1997)</td>
<td>5yr.3mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Panama (1997)</td>
<td>5yr.11mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kyrgyz Rep. (1998)</td>
<td>2yr.8mo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Latvia (1999)</td>
<td>5yr.2mo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Estonia (1999)</td>
<td>5yr.8mo</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jordan (2000)</td>
<td>6yr.3mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Georgia (2000)</td>
<td>3yr.11mo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Albania (2002)</td>
<td>7yr.9mo</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Oman (2000)</td>
<td>4yr.5mo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Croatia (2000)</td>
<td>7yr.1mo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lithuania (2001)</td>
<td>7yr.3mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Moldova (2001)</td>
<td>7yr.7mo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>China (2001)</td>
<td>14yr.9mo</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei (2002)</td>
<td>9yr.4mo</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Armenia (2003)</td>
<td>9yr.2mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>N. Macedonia (2003)</td>
<td>8yr.4mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Article XII Members</th>
<th>Length of accession process</th>
<th># of WP Meetings held</th>
<th># of documents issued</th>
<th># of questions replied</th>
<th># of legislation submitted to WP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nepal* (2004)</td>
<td>14yr.10mo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cambodia* (2004)</td>
<td>9yr.10mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia (2005)</td>
<td>12yr.5mo</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1218</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Viet Nam (2007)</td>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>3511</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Tonga (2007)</td>
<td>11yr.8mo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ukraine (2008)</td>
<td>14yr5mo</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>3810</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Cabo Verde* (2008)</td>
<td>8yrs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Montenegro (2012)</td>
<td>7yr2mo</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1015</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Samoa* (2012)</td>
<td>13yr10mo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Vanuatu* (2012)</td>
<td>17yr1mo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lao PDR* (2013)</td>
<td>15yrs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Tajikistan (2013)</td>
<td>11yr8mo</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1296</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Yemen* (2014)</td>
<td>13yr11mo</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Seychelles (2015)</td>
<td>19yr.9mo</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Kazakhstan (2015)</td>
<td>19yr.9mo</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Liberia* (2016)</td>
<td>8yr.7mo</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Afghanistan* (2016)</td>
<td>11yr.7mo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legislation enacted by Article XII Members

- Bulgaria (1996): 26
- Mongolia (1997): 33
- Latvia (1999): 77
- Georgia (2000): 106
- Albania (2000): 107
- Armenia (2003): 112
- Estonia (1999): 126
- Montenegro (2012): 133
- The FRY of Macedonia (2003): 133
- Croatia (2000): 135
- Lithuania (2001): 137
- Tajikistan (2013): 141
- Kyrgyz Republic (1998): 155
- Moldova (2001): 174
- Kazakhstan (2015): 412
- Ukraine (2008): 449
- Russian Federation (2012): 1,166
- China (2001): 2,300


Session 2: Overview of Accessions
Number of commitments undertaken by Article XII Members

Session 2: Overview of Accessions
Session 2: Overview of Accessions

Frequency of commitments undertaken by Article XII Members
In the vanguard of WTO reform?

1500+ accession specific commitments undertaken by 36 Article XII Members: tailored to individual circumstances, but patterns have emerged.

“WTO+” commitments: obligations to abide by the rules created by the commitment paragraph and not contained in the multilateral trade agreements.

Accessions rule-making = a counterpart to multilateral rule-making? E.g. transparency, export subsidies

Example 1: Before the Trade Facilitation Agreement’s entry into force, WTO accessions contributed 37 commitments on transparency in dedicated “Transparency” section of WP Reports and 200+ commitments on transparency under other WP Report headings (RoO, SPS, TBT, TRIPS…).

Example 2: While a multilateral decision to end agriculture export subsidies was taken in 2015, all Article XII Members have committed to bind such subsidies at zero since 1996.

Setting the stage for future negotiations = pressure to level the playing-field?
The aim and rationale of WTO accession

- The accession process aims to ensure that an Acceding Government’s legislation and practices will be compliant with WTO rules and that it becomes a full and effective player from its first day of membership.

- The WTO accession process involves learning and preparation for WTO membership. It benefits both the Acceding Government and the WTO.

- Why join the WTO?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceding Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster and consolidate domestic reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic diversification and modernization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better integration into global supply chains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predictable and transparent rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in the shaping of global trade rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive signalling to foreign and domestic investors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve economic resilience post- COVID-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WTO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deepen international cooperation for trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand market access for the WTO membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extend the reach of WTO rules and strengthen their application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate smoother trade flows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve universality of the multilateral trading system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Best practices

• Early identification of benefits and interests, which should be reflected in a negotiating strategy

• Impact assessment of WTO Membership

• Assessment of trade-related legislation and practices to determine conformity with WTO rules

• Establishment of a national steering committee (e.g. ministries, private sector, and civil society representatives)

• Involvement of lawmakers for sustainability of reforms, transparency and domestic mobilization.

• Identification of a 'model accession’

• Use of technical assistance & capacity building
Accession-Related Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance and Capacity building activities include *inter alia*:

- National seminars;
- Sessions on accessions in advanced trade policy courses, regional courses and introductory courses for LDCs;
- Workshops;
- Technical missions;
- Establishment/upgrade of WTO reference centres;
- E-learning courses and e-lecture series;
- Outreach dialogue with WTO groupings;
- Participation in conferences; and
- Customized briefings on accessions for delegations (including non-residents in Geneva) are also provided by the Secretariat.
Questions?

From the inside looking out you can never see how it looks from the outside looking in.

— Big Sean

accessions@wto.org

Session 2: Overview of Accessions