



# Third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa



## AFRICAN ACCESSIONS STATE OF PLAY

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# Outline

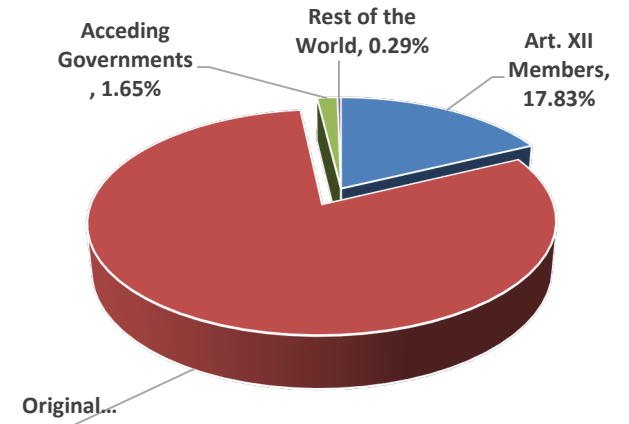
- **Why join the WTO?**
- **Accession results to date**
- **State of play in African accessions**
  - Multilateral track on rules
  - Bilateral track on market access
- **Secretariat Support to Acceding Governments**



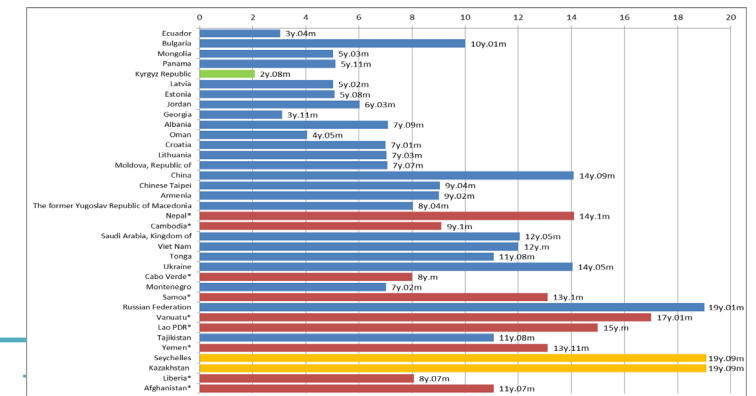
# WTO Accessions results to date

- **36 accessions**, including from **9 LDCs**, have been concluded between 1996 and 2016
  - **Last Members** joined in July 2016, i.e. Afghanistan and Liberia
  - Article XII Members account for over **20% of WTO membership**
  - Additional **18%** of world trade covered by WTO rules - today, **98.1%** world trade conducted under WTO
  
- Average length of accession: **10 years and 2 months** (but **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)
  
- **3 African Accessions** concluded to date:
  - **Cabo Verde\*** (joined in July 2008): **8 years**
  - **Seychelles** (joined in April 2015): **19 years and 9 months**
  - **Liberia\*** (joined in July 2016): **8 years and 6 months**

Share of world trade by membership status, 2018

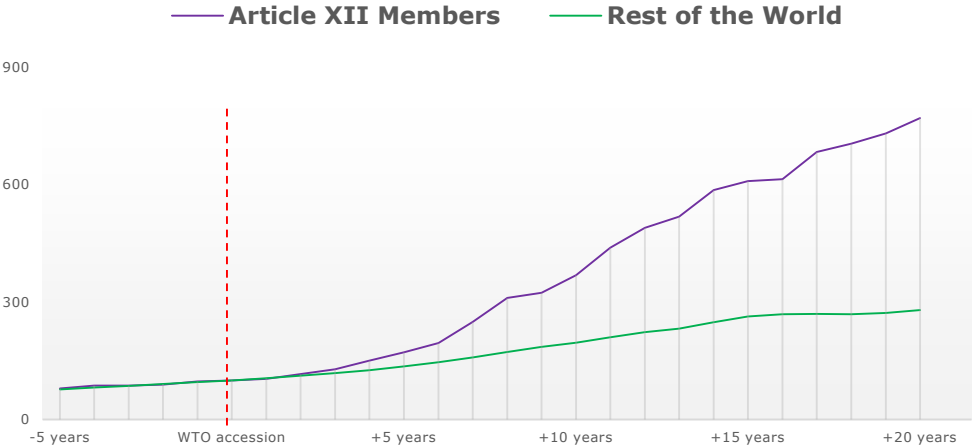


Length of WTO accession process:  
WP establishment to Membership

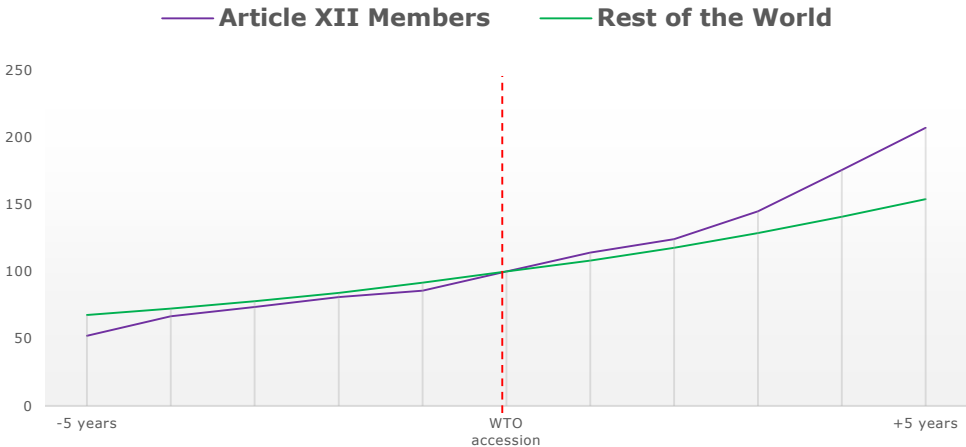


# WTO Accession Results to date (contd)

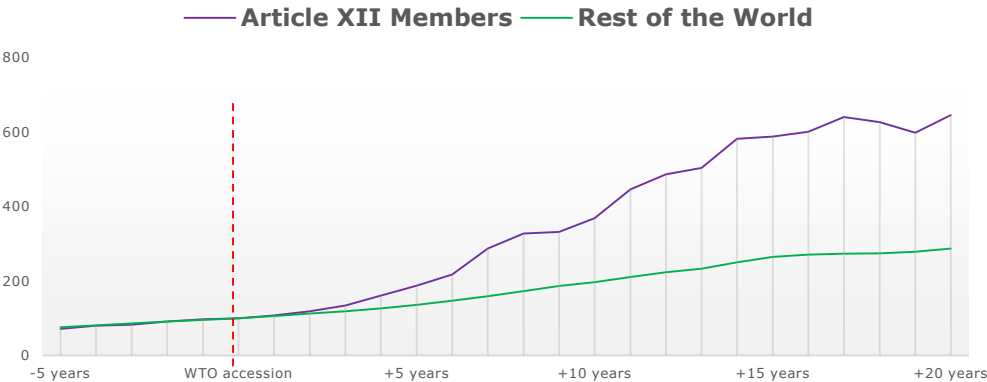
Growth rate of merchandise exports of Article XII Members



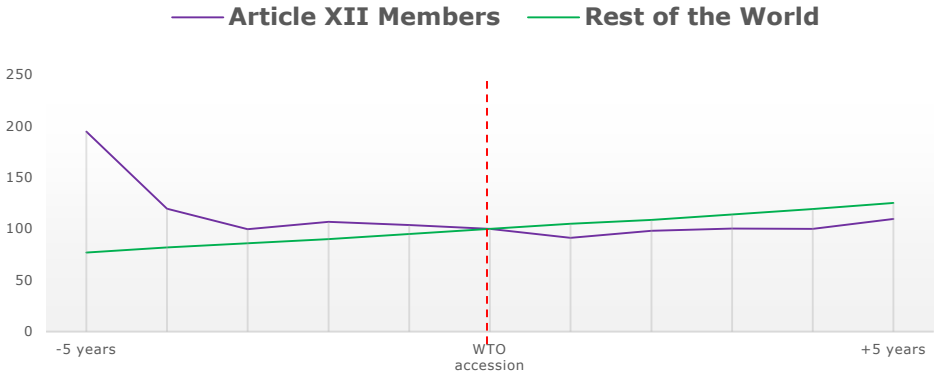
Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members (1996 2011)



Growth rate of merchandise imports of Article XII Members



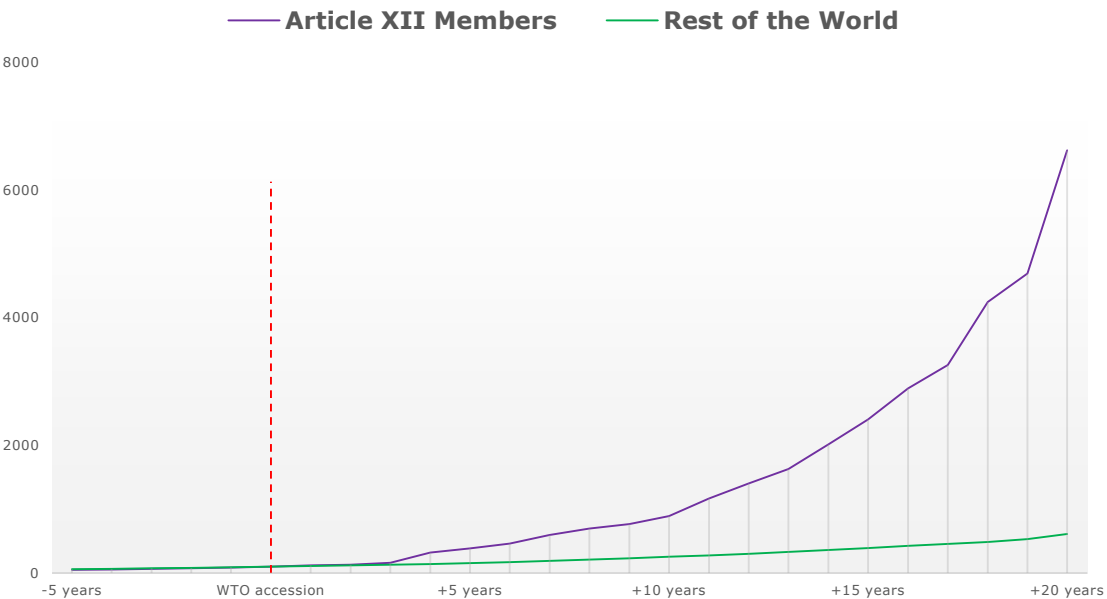
Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members (2012 2018)



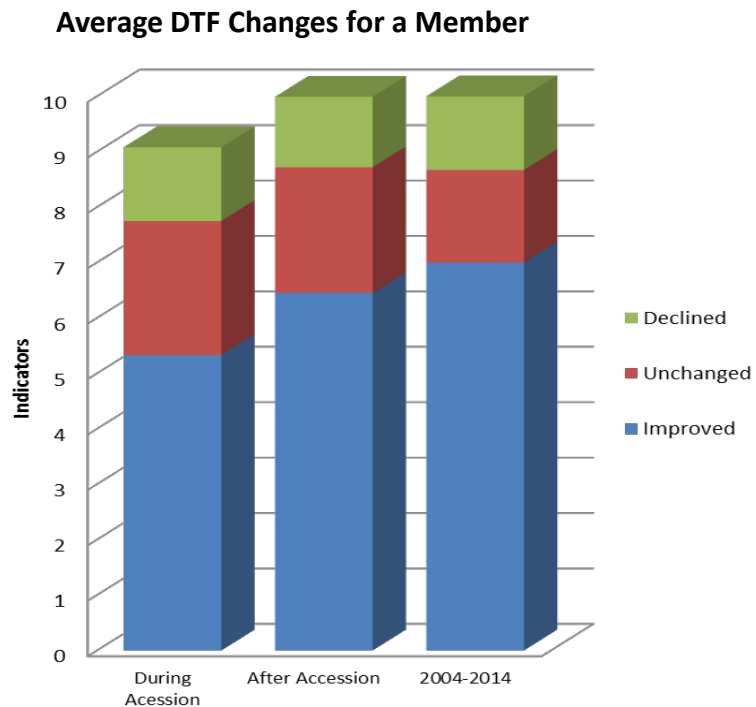
# WTO Accession Results (contd)



Growth rate of FDI inward stocks of Article XII Members

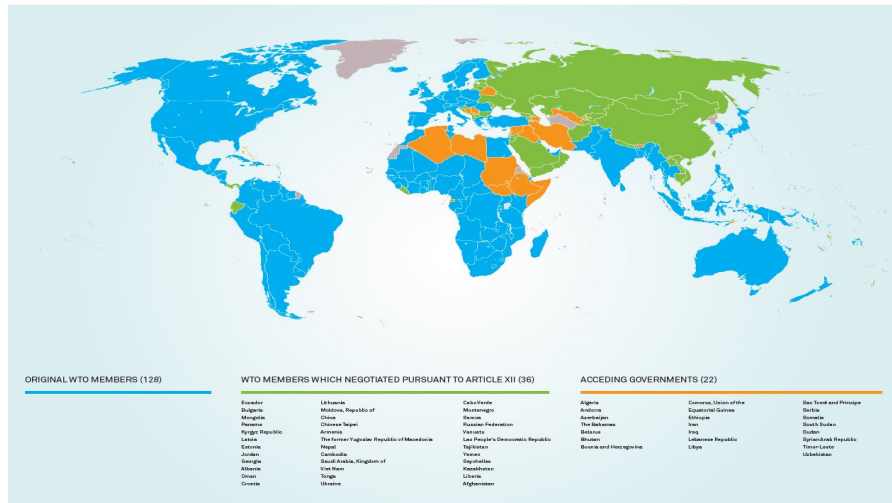


Improvements in Business Environment





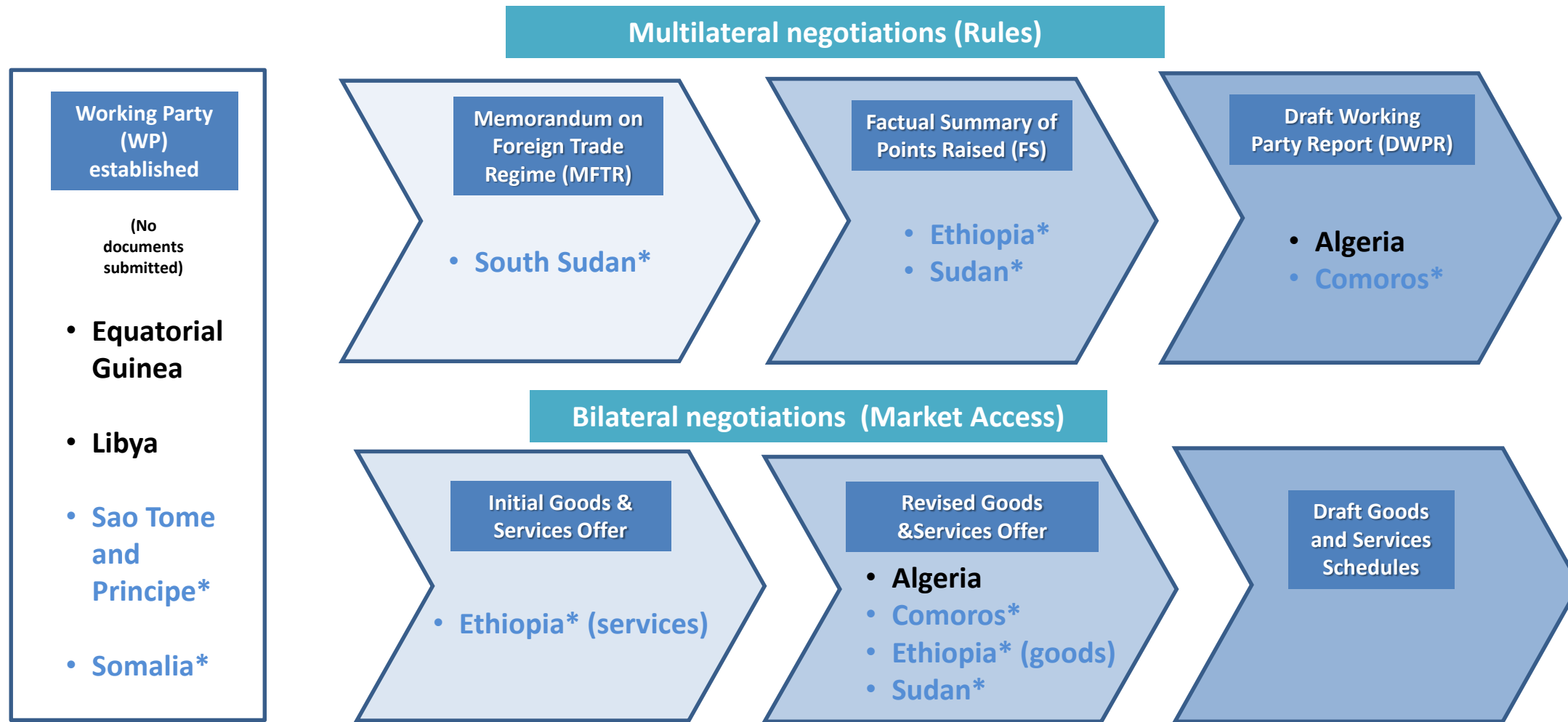
# 9 On-going Accessions in Africa



- **Algeria**
- **Comoros\***
- **Equatorial Guinea**
- **Ethiopia\***
- **Libya**
- **Sao Tomé & Príncipe\***
- **Somalia\***
- **South Sudan\***
- **Sudan\***



# Accession Negotiations – State of Play





# African Accessions by status



General Status	Accession WP (establishment)	Last WP meeting	Next envisaged WP meeting (based on Secretariat's assessment)
<b>Strategic focus 2020</b>	<b>1. Comoros* (2007)</b>	<b>- 4WPM, March 2018</b>	<b>- Q2 2020</b>
<b>Work in progress</b> <i>On-going efforts to move the WP process</i>	<b>1. Ethiopia* (2003)</b> <b>2. South Sudan* (2017)</b> <b>3. Sudan* (1994)</b>	<b>- 4WPM, 30 January 2020</b> <b>- 1WPM, March 2019</b> <b>- 4WPM, July 2017</b>	<b>- Q4 2020</b> <b>- 2020</b> <b>- Q2 2020</b>
<b>Activation</b> <i>Efforts to start the WP process with MFTR</i>	<b>1. Equatorial Guinea (2008)</b> <b>2. Somalia* (2016)</b>	<b>- No WP held to date</b> <b>- No WP held to date</b>	<b>- October 2020</b> <b>- 2020</b>
<b>Inactive</b> <i>No WP held at least during last 5 years</i>	<b>1. Algeria (1987)</b> <b>2. Libya (2004)</b> <b>3. Sao Tomé and Príncipe* (2005)</b>	<b>- 12WPM, March 2014</b> <b>- No WP held to date</b> <b>- No WP held to date</b>	



1<sup>st</sup> WP Meeting on the Accession of South Sudan – 21 March 2019



WP Meeting on the Accession of Ethiopia – 30 January 2020

# Accession Negotiations – Multilateral Track: Rules

Accession	WP Established	MFTR	1 <sup>st</sup> WP Meeting	Last WP Meeting	Factual Summary	Draft Working Party Report	# of documents issued	# of questions responded
Algeria	07/1987	07/1996 08/2001	04/1998	12WPM 03/2014	05/2003	06/2004 (E-DWPR) 08/2005 (DWPR) 06/2006 (Rev.1) 02/2013 (Rev.2) 02/2014 (Rev.3)	105	1897
Sudan*	10/1994	01/1999 10/2016	07/2003	4WPM 07/2017	09/2004 06/2017 12/2017 01/2019 02/2020	-	108	917
Ethiopia*	02/2003	01/2007	05/2008	4WPM 01/2020	03/2012 12/2019	-	53	642
Libya	07/2004	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sao Tome & Principe*	02/2005	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Comoros*	10/2007	10/2013	12/2016	4WPM 03/2018	04/2017	09/2017 (E-DWPR) 02/2018 (DWPR) 02/2020 (Rev.1)	45	638
Equatorial Guinea	02/2008	Q1/2020?	-	-	-	-	1	-
Somalia*	12/2016	Q1/2020?	-	-	-	-	1	-
South Sudan*	12/2017	12/2018	03/2019	1WPM 03/2019	-	-	7	8

Notes: \* LDC. Italic – to be issued.

# African/LDC Accession Outcomes – Rules

Accession	WP established	MFTR	1WP meeting	Final WP meeting	Membership	Duration	Factual Summary	DWPR (First & late revision)	# of documents issued	# of questions responded
Nepal*	06/1989	<b>08/1998</b>	05/2000	3WPM 08/2003	04/2004	14 years 10 months	N/A	<b>06/2003 08/2003(Rev.2)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>466</b>
Cambodia*	12/1994	<b>06/1999</b>	05/2001	5WPM 07/2003	10/2004	9 years 9 months	<b>10/2002</b>	<b>03/2003</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>460</b>
Cape Verde*	07/2000	<b>07/2003</b>	03/2004	6WPM 12/2007	07/2008	8 years	<b>10/2004</b>	<b>06/2005 (E-DWPR) 11/2005 11/2007 (Rev3)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>888</b>
Samoa*	07/1998	<b>02/2000</b>	03/2002	2WPM 10/2011	05/2012	13 years 9 months	—	<b>06/2003 09/2011 (Rev6)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>914</b>
Vanuatu*	07/1995	<b>11/1995</b>	07/1996	2WPM 05/2011	08/2012	17 years 1 month	—	<b>09/1999</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>343</b>
Lao PDR*	02/1998	<b>03/2001</b>	10/2004	10WPM 09/2012	02/2013	14 years 11 months	<b>10/2007</b>	<b>08/2010 (E-DWPR) 02/2012 08/2012 (Rev2)</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1224</b>
Yemen*	07/2000	<b>11/2002</b>	11/2004	11WPM 09/2013	06/2014	13 years 11 months	<b>09/2005</b>	<b>09/2008(E-DWPR) 12/2009 12/2012 (Rev.5)</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1164</b>
Seychelles	07/1995	<b>08/1996</b>	02/1997	7WPM 10/2014	04/2015	19 years 9 months	<b>06/2012</b>	<b>05/2013 (E-DWPR) 09/2013 09/2014 (Rev. 2)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1043</b>
Liberia*	12/2007	<b>04/2011</b>	07/2012	4WPM 10/2015	07/2016	8 years 6 months	-	<b>03/2015 09/2015 (Rev 3)</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>264</b>
Afghanistan*	12/2004	<b>03/2009</b>	01/2011	5WPM 11/2015	07/2016	11 years 7 months	<b>05/2012</b>	<b>11/2012 (E-DWPR) 06/2013 06/2013 (Rev 1)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>773</b>

# Accession Negotiations – Bilateral Track: Market Access

Accession	WP established	1 <sup>st</sup> WP meeting	Last WP meeting	Market Access Offer (initial & latest)	Market Access Negotiations (based on Secretariat's record)
Algeria	07/1987	04/1998	12WPM 03/2014	<b>03/2002</b> <b>11/2013 (Rev.3)</b>	- 6 concluded: <b>Cuba, Switzerland, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina</b> & 15 on-going
Sudan*	10/1994	07/2003	4WPM 07/2017	<b>07/2004</b> <b>02/2018 (Rev.4)</b>	6 concluded: <b>Brazil, China, India, Japan, Jordan, Nigeria</b> & 5 on-going
Ethiopia*	02/2003	05/2008	4WPM 01/2020	<b>02/2012 [goods]</b> <b>12/2019 [services]</b> <b>12/2019 (goods-Rev.1)</b>	6 on-going
Libya	07/2004	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome & Principe*	02/2005	-	-	-	-
Comoros	10/2007	12/2016	4WPM 03/2018	<b>10/2016</b> <b>02/2020 (Rev.2)</b>	3 concluded: <b>Brazil, Japan, Oman</b> & 4 on-going
Equatorial Guinea	02/2008	-	-	-	-
Somalia*	12/2016	-	-	-	-
South Sudan*	12/2017	03/2019	1WPM 03/2019	-	-

# African/LDC Accession Outcomes – Market Access

Accession	WP established	Membership	Market Access Agreements concluded	Average Final Bound Duty (%)	Services Sub-sectors Commitments
<b>Nepal*</b>	06/1989	04/2004	<b>6: Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Cambodia*</b>	12/1994	10/2004	<b>8: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, EU, India, Japan, Korea, Panama</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Cape Verde*</b>	07/2000	07/2008	<b>5: Brazil, Canada, EU, Japan, United States</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Samoa*</b>	07/1998	05/2012	<b>9: Australia, Canada, China, EU, Honduras, Japan, New Zealand, Ukraine, US</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Vanuatu*</b>	07/1995	08/2012	<b>3: Australia, Japan, New Zealand</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Lao PDR*</b>	02/1998	02/2013	<b>9: Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, EU, Japan, Korea, Ukraine, US</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Yemen*</b>	07/2000	06/2014	<b>10: Australia, Canada, China, EU, Korea, Japan, Honduras, El Salvador, US, Ukraine</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Seychelles</b>	07/1995	04/2015	<b>9: Oman, Mauritius, Canada, Switzerland, South Africa, EU, Thailand, Japan, US</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Liberia*</b>	12/2007	07/2016	<b>6: Canada, EU, Japan, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, US</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Afghanistan*</b>	12/2004	07/2016	<b>9: Canada, Chinese Taipei, EU, Japan, Korea, Norway, Thailand, Turkey, US</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>103</b>

# WTO Accessions and AfCFTA Status

Acceding Government	WTO Accession		AfCFTA		Membership in REC
	WP established	Status	Signed	Ratified (deposited with AUC)	
Comoros*	10/2007	Strategic focus	21/03/2018		COMESA, SADC
Ethiopia*	02/2003	Work in Progress	21/03/2018	10/04/2019	COMESA
South Sudan*	12/2017	Work in Progress	21/03/2018		EAC, COMESA
Sudan*	10/1994	Work in Progress	21/03/2018		COMESA
Equatorial Guinea	02/2008	Activation	21/03/2018	07/07/2019	CEMAC, ECCAS
Somalia*	12/2016	Activation	21/03/2018		COMESA
Algeria	07/1987	Inactive	21/03/2018		UMA
Libya	09/2004	Inactive	21/03/2018		UMA
Sao Tome & Principe*	02/2005	Inactive	21/03/2018	27/06/2019	ECCAS

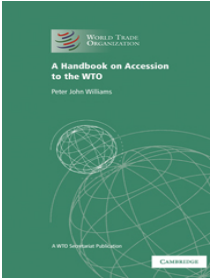
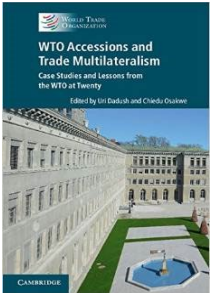
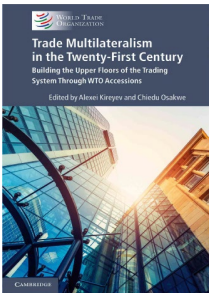


# Secretariat Support to Acceding Governments



<b>Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National activities – Tailor-made to individual accession, depending on the accession stage</b></li> <li>• <b>Geneva-based specialised training courses on WTO Accessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2019: WTO Rules (2 weeks, February) &amp; Market Access on Goods (one week, November)</li> <li>✓ 2020: Agriculture (12-16 October 2020) &amp; Market Access on Services (one week, TBC)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Experience-sharing on WTO Accessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>China Round Table – annual, various topics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 9<sup>th</sup> China Round Table, 6-7 June, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>African Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions - annual, issues of interest to African accessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3rd Dialogue, Addis Ababa, 12-14 February 2020, in partnership with AUC, UNECA, ITC, WB</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>WTO/Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) Seminar on Arab Accessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Week of 7 September, 2020, Abu Dhabi</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Support to Accession-related Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) – Secretariat’s monthly briefings to WTO Members</b></li> <li>• <b>Informal Group of Acceeding Governments (IGAG) – Regular meetings of Acceeding Governments</b></li> <li>• <b>g7+ WTO Accession Group – Regular meetings of FCA acceding and post-accession LDCs</b></li> <li>• <b>Informal Dialogue of Acceeding LDCs – ad hoc, including during MC</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Partnership with Peace Community - Geneva Peace-building Platform, Paris Peace Forum, Fragility Forum, Institute for Economics and Peace, ILO, Nespresso, Graduate Institute etc</b></li> <li>• <b>Outreach activities – country-specific focus, Public Forum, etc</b></li> </ul>

# Secretariat Support to Acceding Governments (contd)

<b>Information Dissemination on WTO Accessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accession Information Portal (AIP)</b> – documentation, Commitments Database (ACDB)</li> <li>• <b>Accession Newsletter</b> – monthly reporting on developments in WTO accessions</li> <li>• <b>Twitter</b> - @OshikawaMaika</li> <li>• <b>DG Annual Report on WTO Accessions</b> with different thematic focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2019: Coherence in WTO Accessions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Publications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• «A Handbook on Accession to the WTO», 2008</li> <li>• «WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons for the WTO at Twenty», 2015</li> <li>• «Trade Multilateralism in the Twenty-First Century: Building the Upper Floors of the Trading System through WTO Accessions», 2017</li> <li>• <u>Upcoming in 2020:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ «Accession Handbook – 2nd Edition»</li> <li>✓ «Eurasian Perspective on Trade and the WTO: Lessons from Accessions, Regional Integration and Economic Transformation»</li> <li>✓ «Acceding to the WTO: An Evidence-based Analysis»</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	 
<b>Collaboration with Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various TA, experience-sharing and outreach activities</li> <li>• WTO Accession Forum on Technical Assistance</li> <li>• Coherence in WTO Accessions – collaboration with IMF and the WB</li> </ul>	

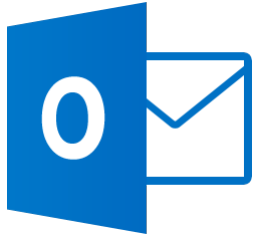
# Useful information

Learn more about WTO Accessions [here](#) or click:

[https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/acc\\_e/acc\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/acc_e.htm)



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