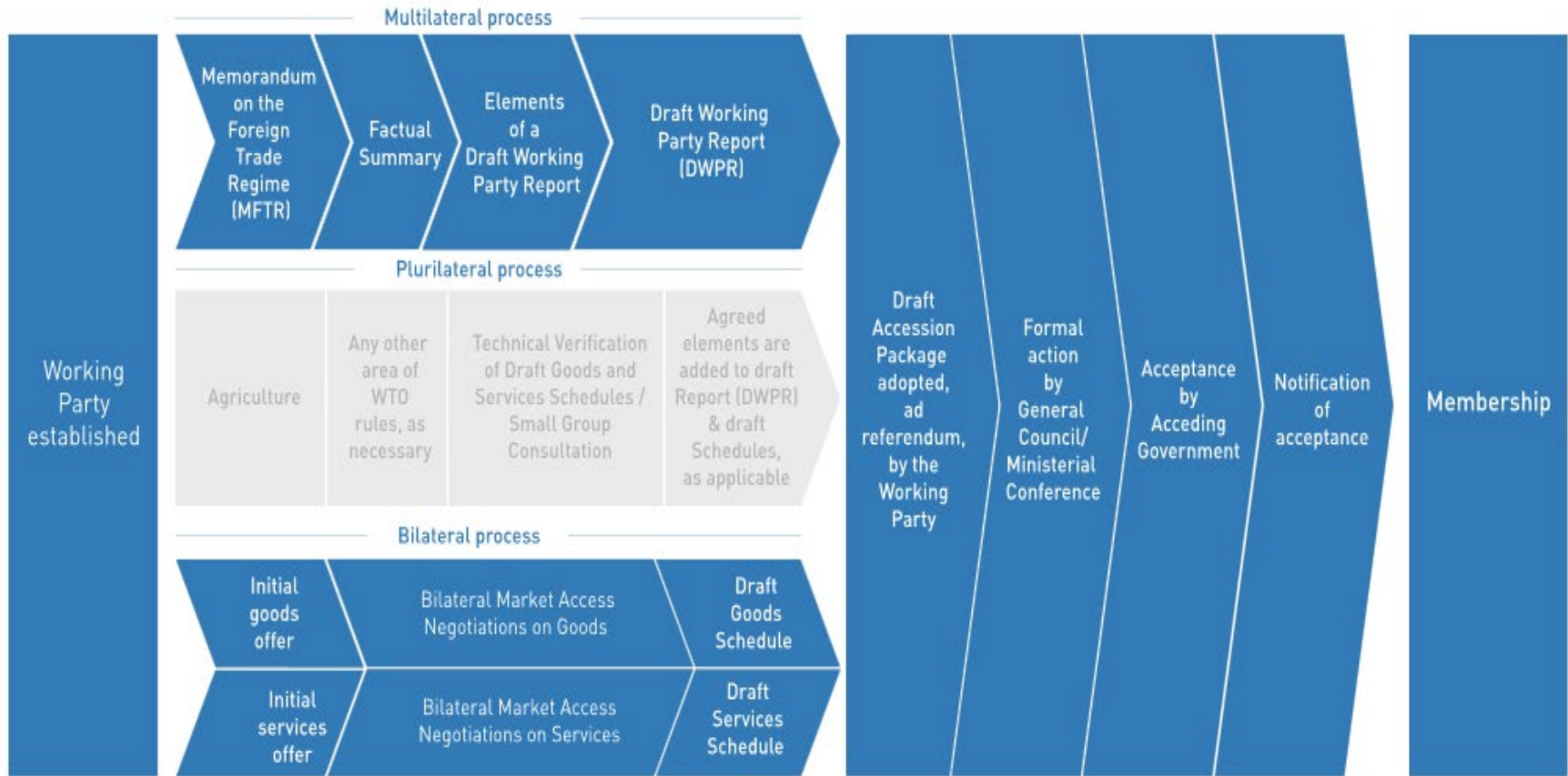




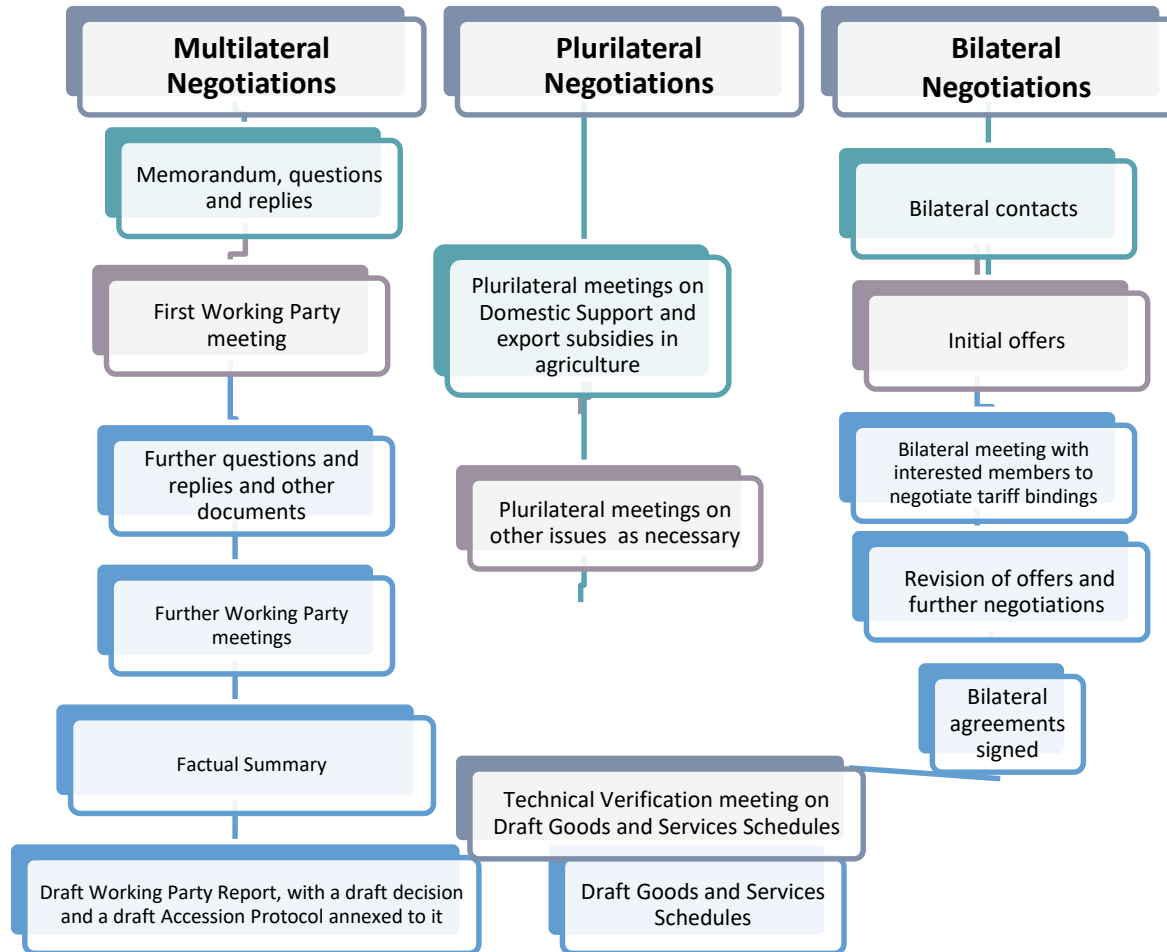
## Module 2: WTO Accession – Multilateral Negotiations

Dimitar Bratanov, Accessions Division, WTO

# Accession Process



# Multilateral Negotiations



# Multilateral Negotiations



## *Aim of multilateral negotiations:*

- i. Understand the applicant's foreign trade regime; and,
- ii. establish the terms of entry to the WTO, ensuring the conformity of the applicant's laws and practices with WTO rules and disciplines.

## *What is the difference between the Memorandum, Factual Summary and draft WP Report ?*

- i) FS: distills discussions in WP based on the Q&R process (drafted by Secretariat)
- ii) Draft Report: discussions in WP + draft commitments to be agreed between the acceding government and Working Party members.

## *What are commitment paragraphs?*

Commitment paragraphs contain the terms of entry of an Acceding Government to the WTO ... **"the Working Party took note of this/these commitment(s)"**

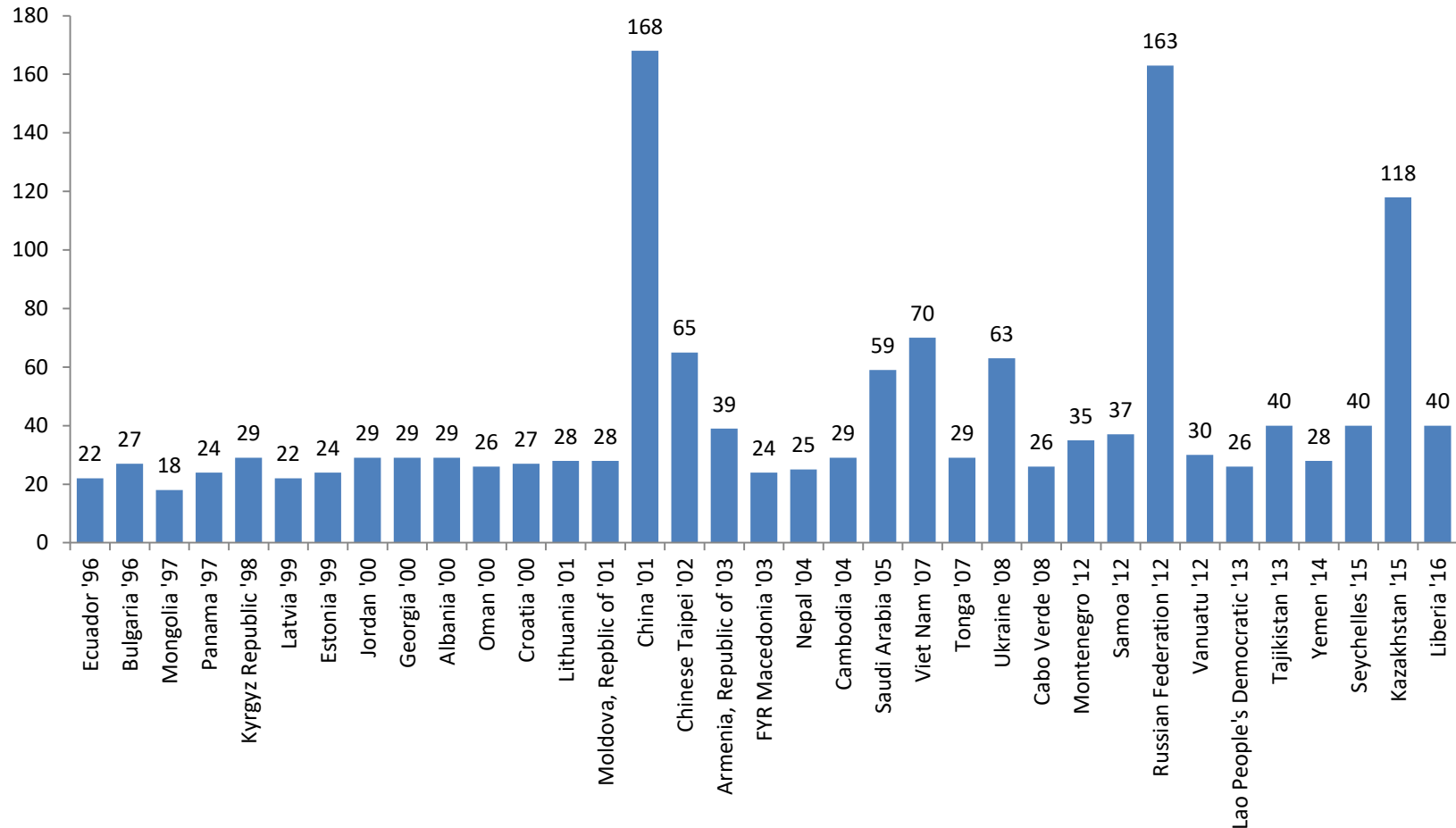
# Multilateral Negotiations



## *Different types of commitment paragraphs:*

- ❖ obligations to abide by existing WTO rules, sometimes specifying national measures to be amended in order to be brought into conformity with WTO provisions, or sometimes elaborating on the WTO provisions relating to the subject in question
- ❖ commitments not to have recourse to specific WTO provisions, e.g. those relating to transition
- ❖ specific identification of transition periods that may be used
- ❖ authorisations to depart temporarily from WTO rules or from commitments in the Goods Schedule
- ❖ obligations to abide by terms defined by the commitment paragraph (and not contained in WTO Multilateral Agreements). This may relate to obligations to comply with "other international obligations", privatisation, sub-central governments and time-frame for accession to Plurilateral Trade Agreements
- ❖ statements of fact rather than actual commitments.

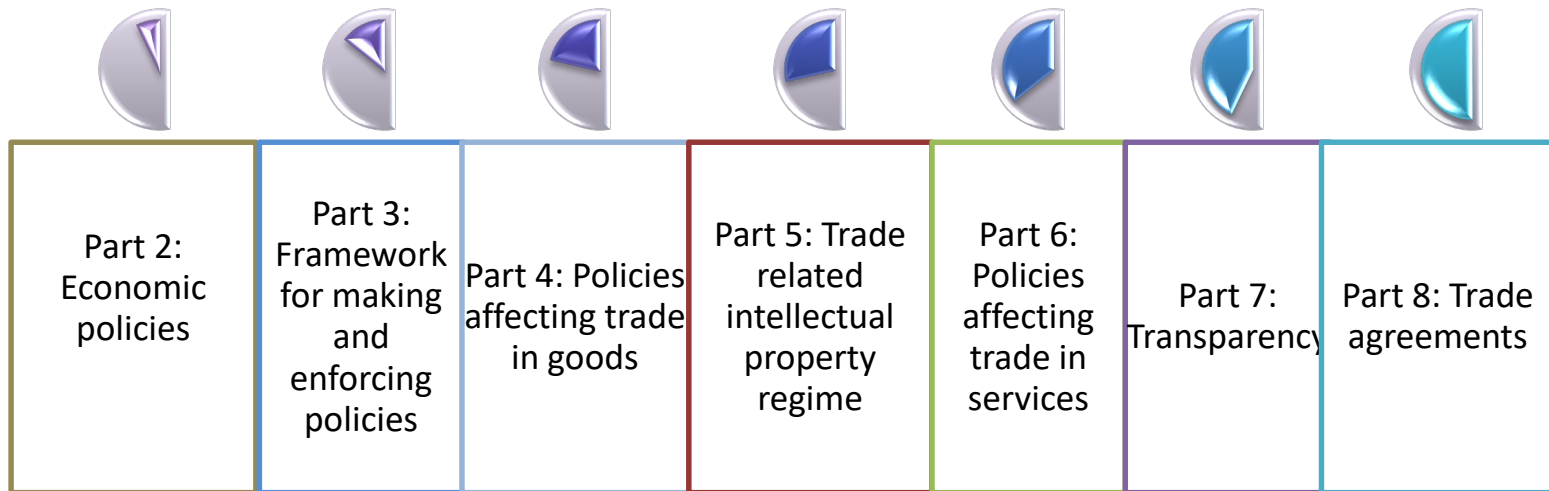
# Number of Commitments undertaken by Article XII Members



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# Multilateral Negotiations

## Structure of the Draft Working Party Report





# Multilateral Negotiations



## Accessions document symbols

- **WT/ACC/...** series: Working Party documents containing factual information.
- **WT/ACC/SPEC...** series: Working Party documents relating to the negotiations on rules (e.g., draft Working Party Reports), negotiations on market access for goods and services (e.g., market access offers), and the negotiations and discussions on agricultural support and export subsidies (e.g., agriculture Supporting Tables).
- **JOB/ACC...** series: informal documents or non-papers (e.g. Factual Summary of Points Raised) and documents which relate to the activities of an accession Working Party, but have not been requested by the Working Party (e.g. statements, Chairpersons' reports).
- **WTO/AIR/ACC...** series: airgrams (i.e. convening notices for formal meetings)
- ❖ **All documents are available through the accession webpage**
  - [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/acc\\_e/acc\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/acc_e.htm)
- ❖ **Legislation submitted by acceding governments also found on the accession webpage**



# Multilateral Negotiations



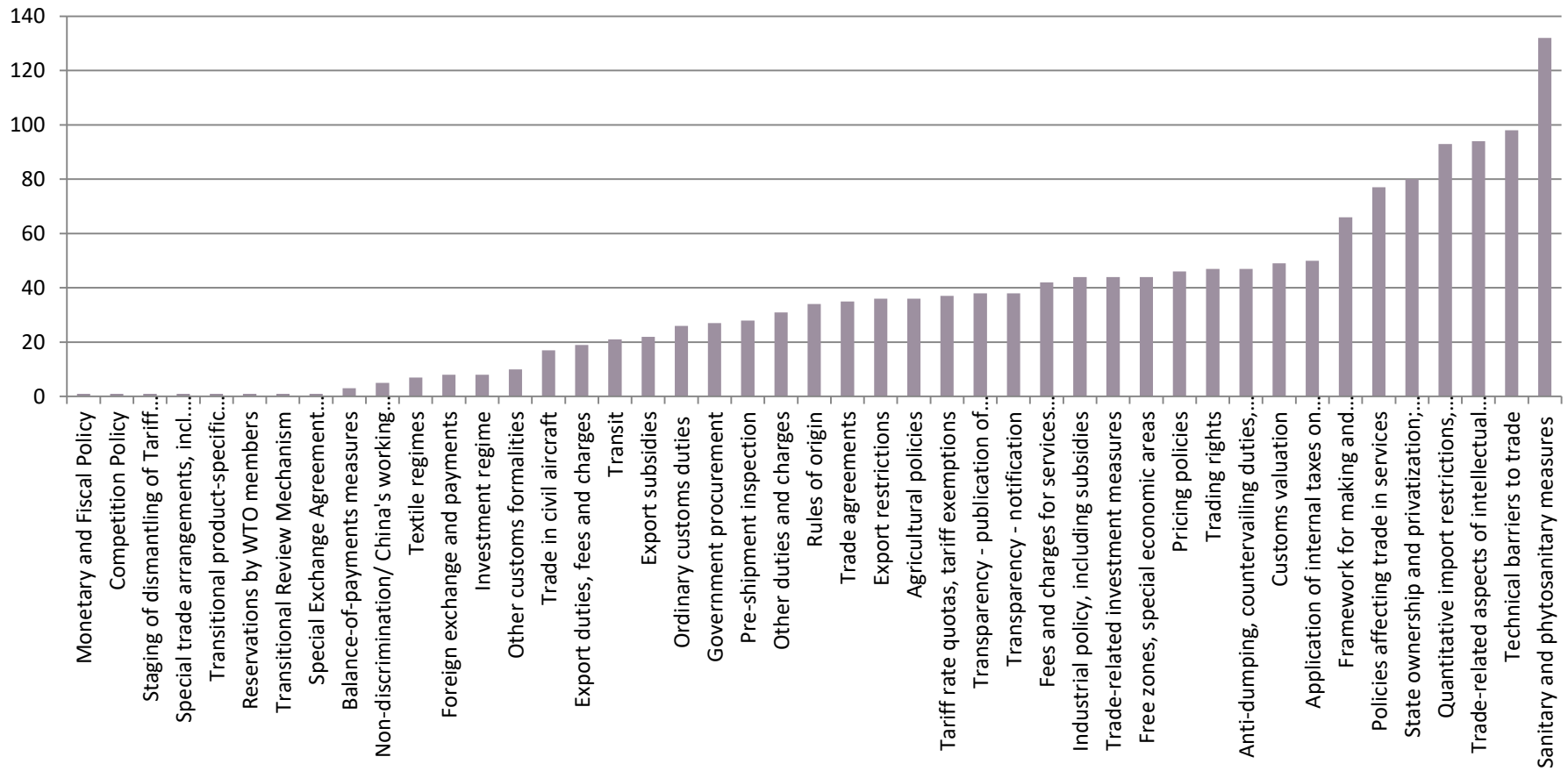
## Agenda of Working Party meetings

- (i) review of the state of play in the bilateral market access negotiations (after the submission of initial market access offers);
- (ii) examination of the applicant's foreign trade regime / draft Report;
- (iii) review of legislative developments on the basis of a legislative action plan; and
- (iv) next steps in the work of the Working Party.

# Multilateral Negotiations



## Frequency of Commitments in Multilateral Rules



# Multilateral Negotiations



## Accession Commitments Database (ACDB)

- Accession Commitments Database (ACDB) provides user friendly access to all accession commitments and related information contained in the Working Party Reports and Accession Protocols of Members that have acceded to the World Trade Organization, pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.
- To view all the commitments undertaken by all Article XII Members, please visit the **<http://acdb.wto.org>**

# End of Module 2!

## Question!

What is your take-away from this module?

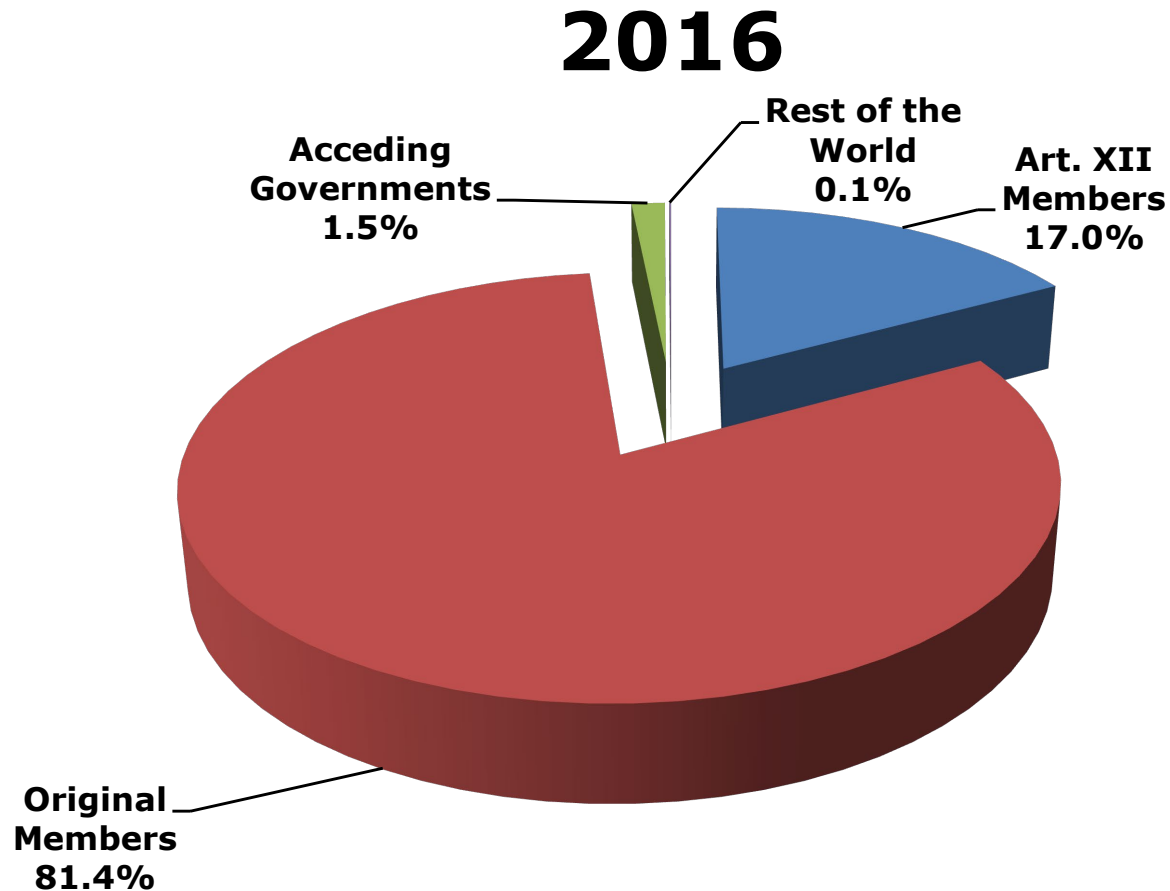


# Module 3: WTO Accession – Outcomes

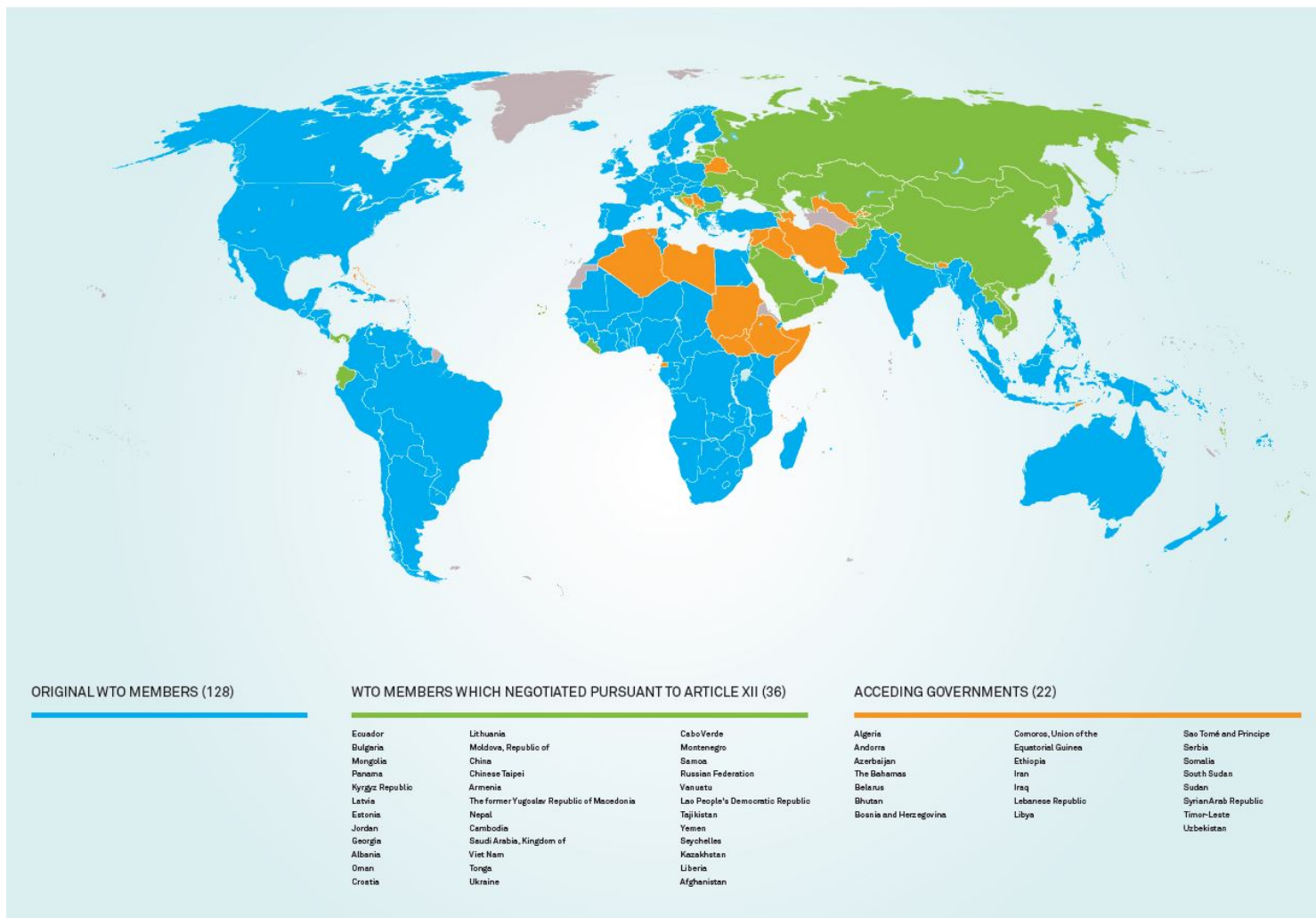
Dimitar Bratanov, Accessions Division,  
WTO

# Accession Results

## Coverage: 98% of World Trade



# Map of WTO Members and Observers





# ACCESSION PACKAGE



Accession Package of the Russian Federation



1

- Decision
- Protocol

2

- Report of the Working Party

3

- Schedule of Concessions and Commitments on Goods

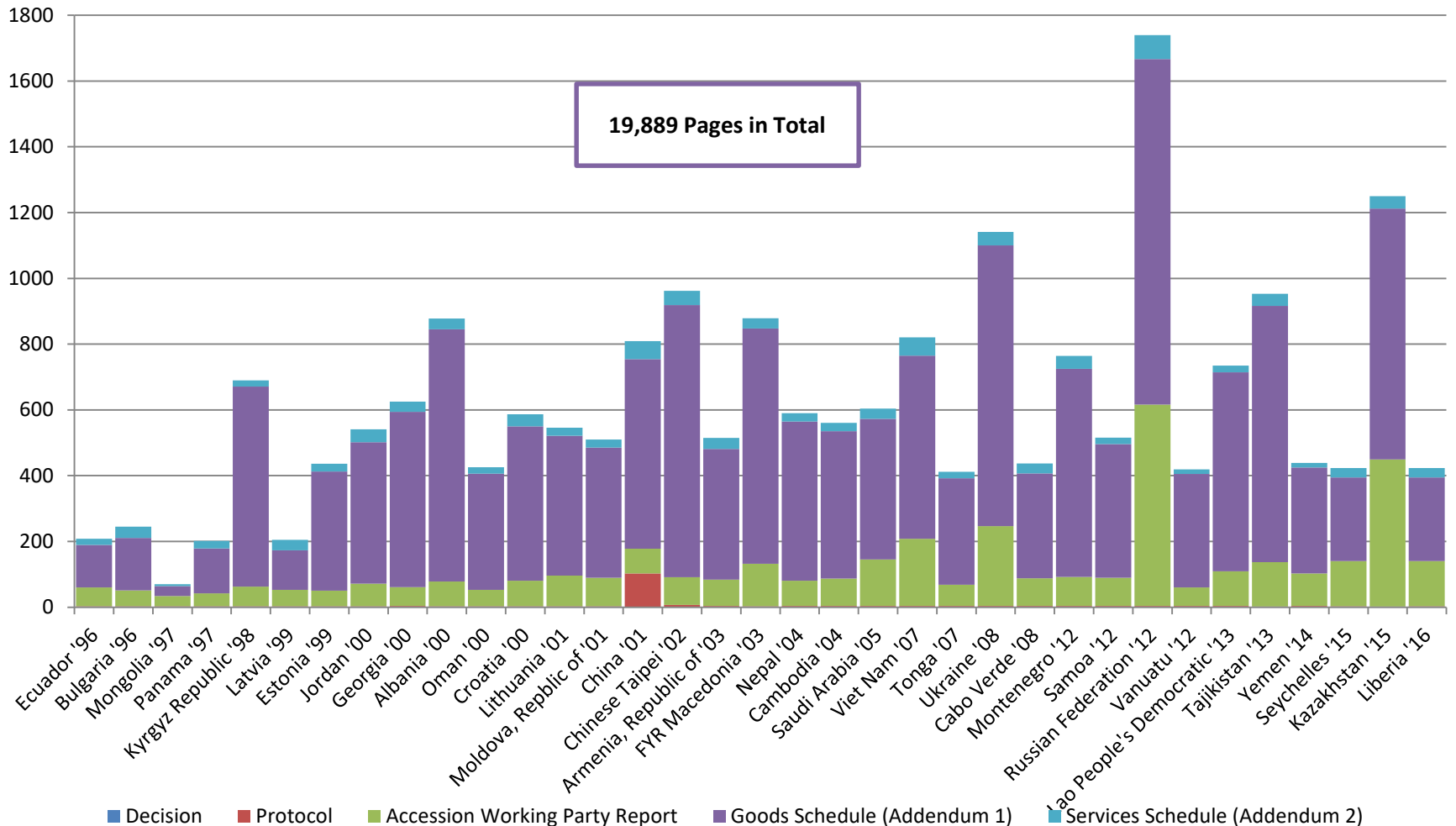
4

- Schedule of Specific Commitments on Services

# Accession Package Volume

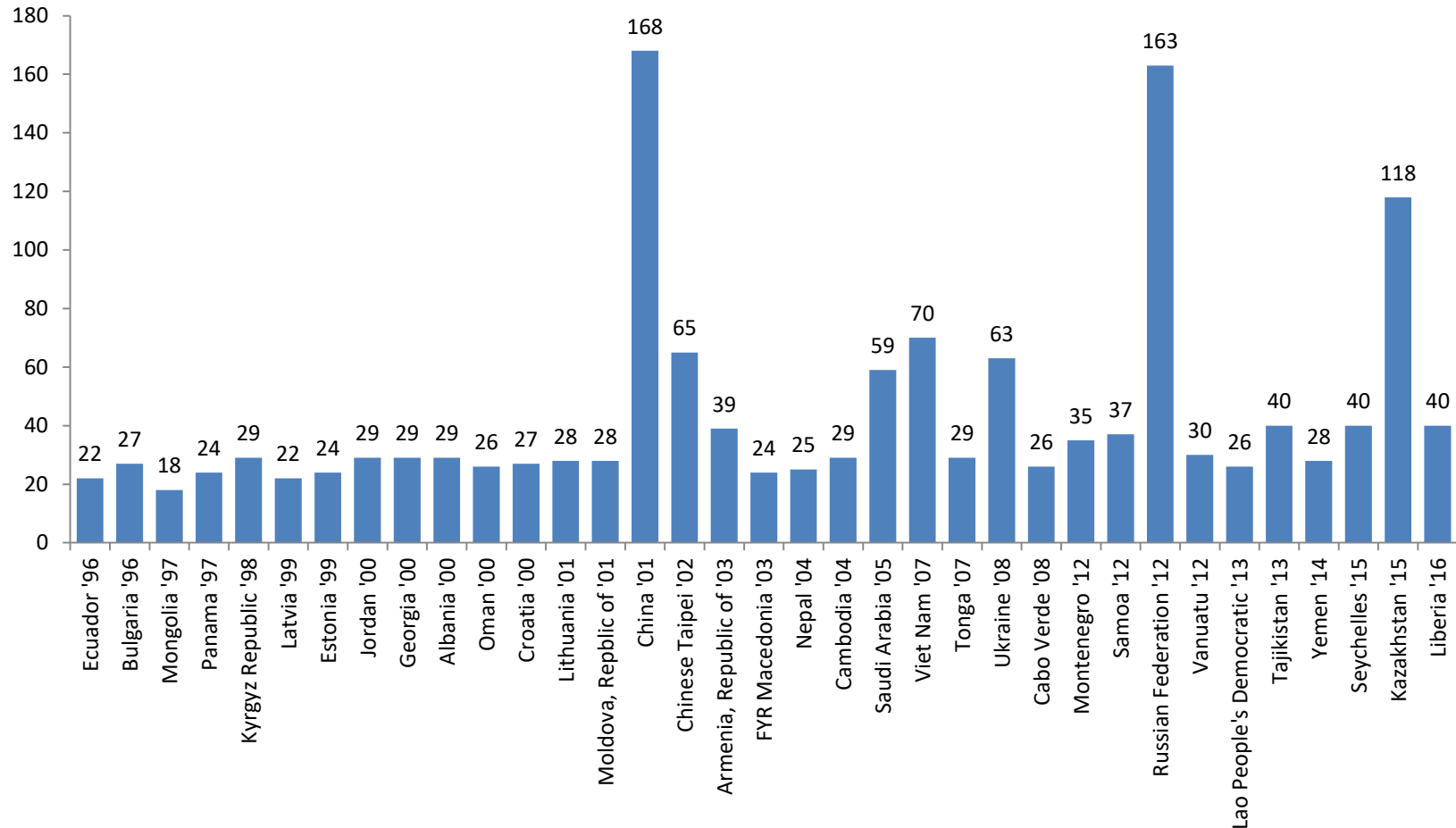


## Accession Package Volume (Page Number)



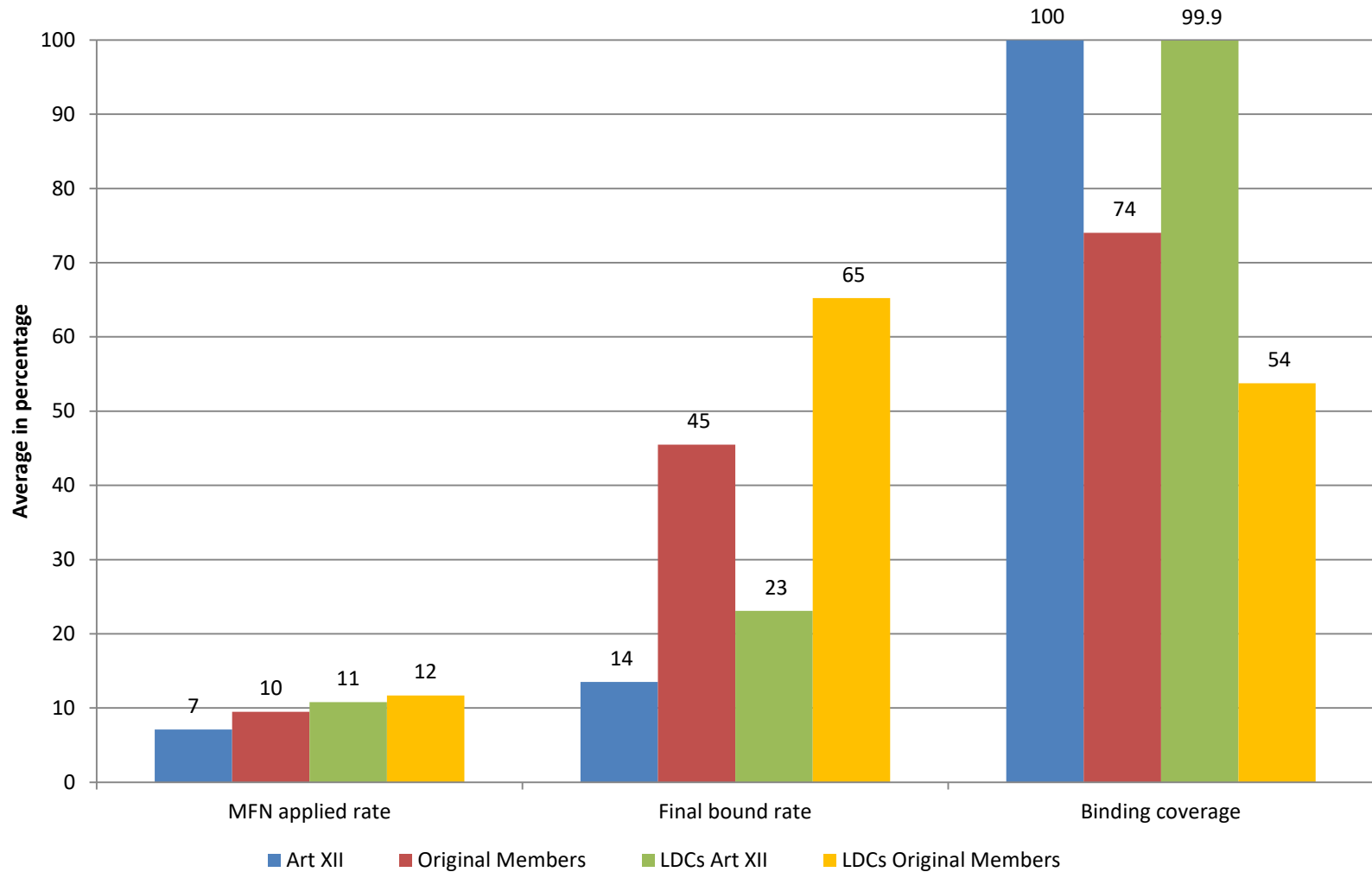
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# Number of Commitments undertaken by Article XII Members

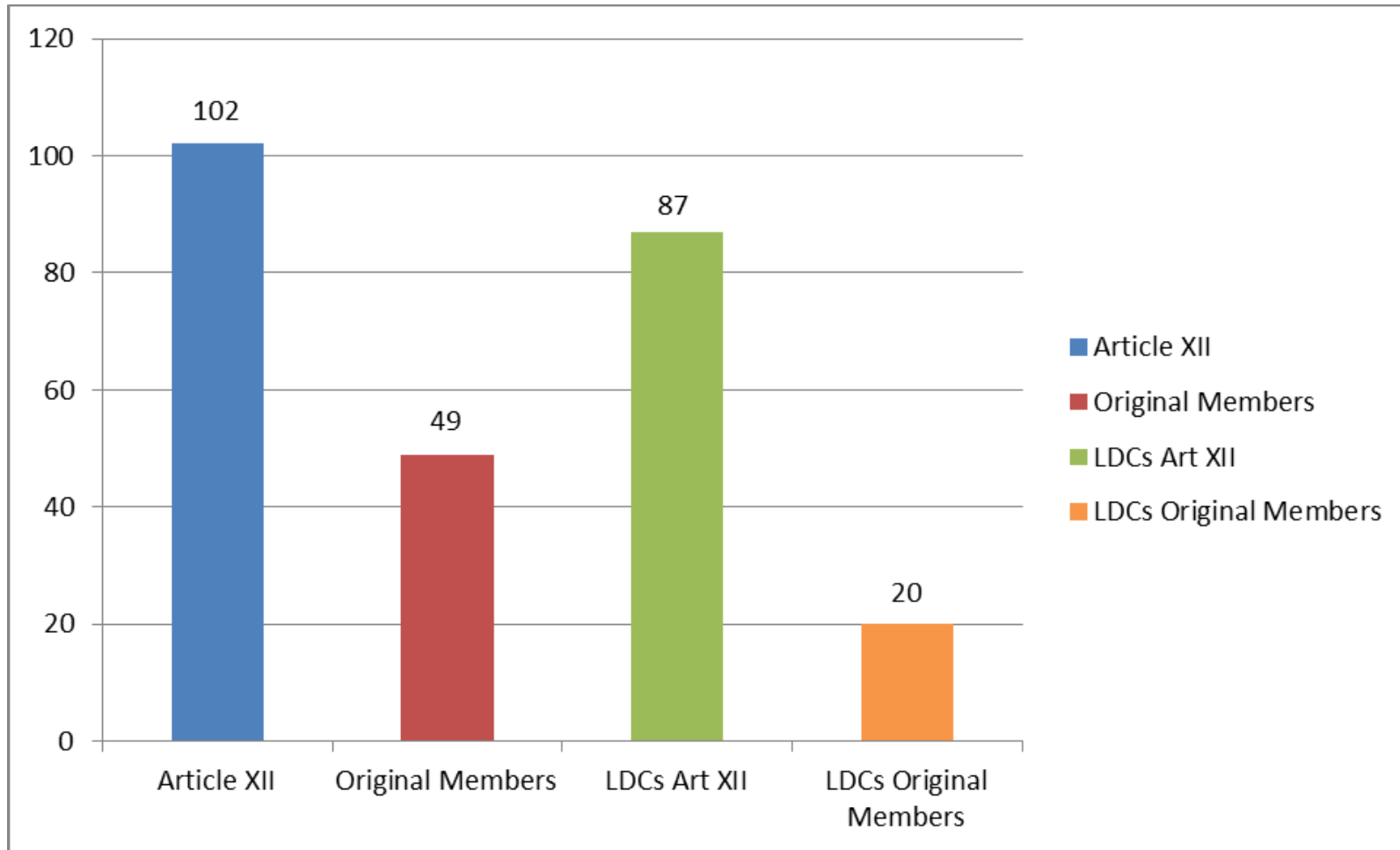


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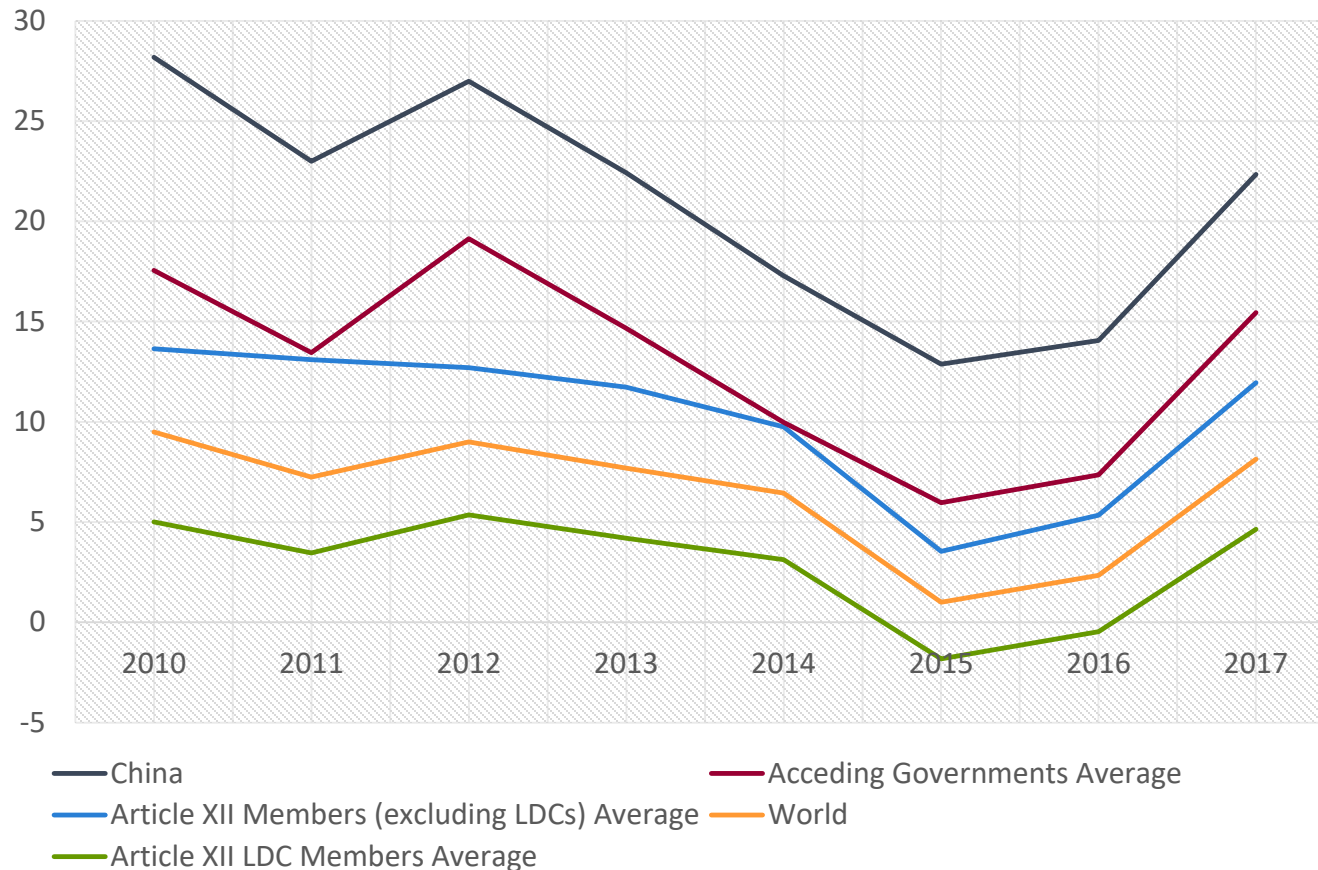
# Accessions Results - Goods



# Accessions Results - Services



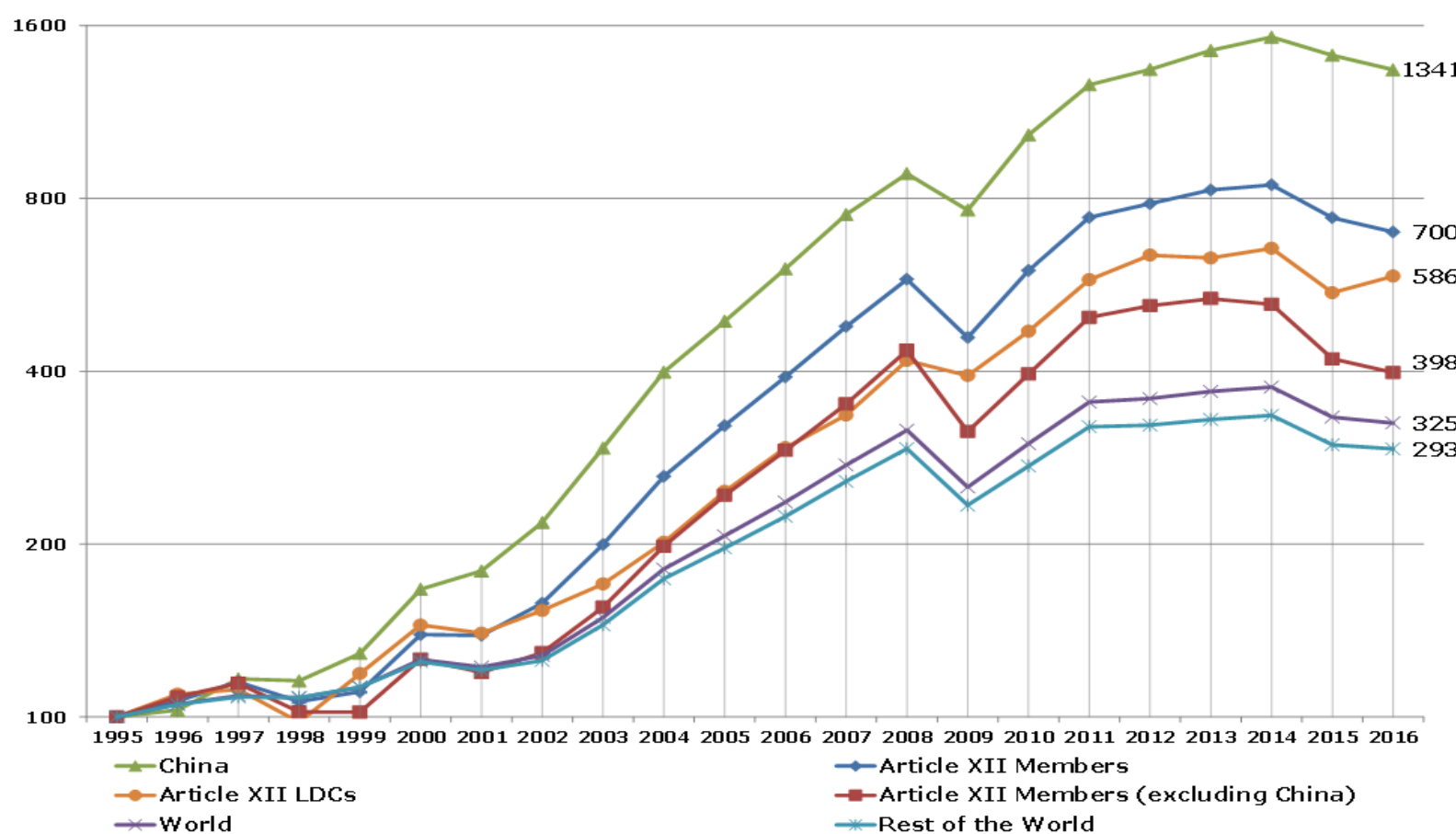
# Accession Results: Annual GDP Growth Rate



# Accession Results: Trade Performance

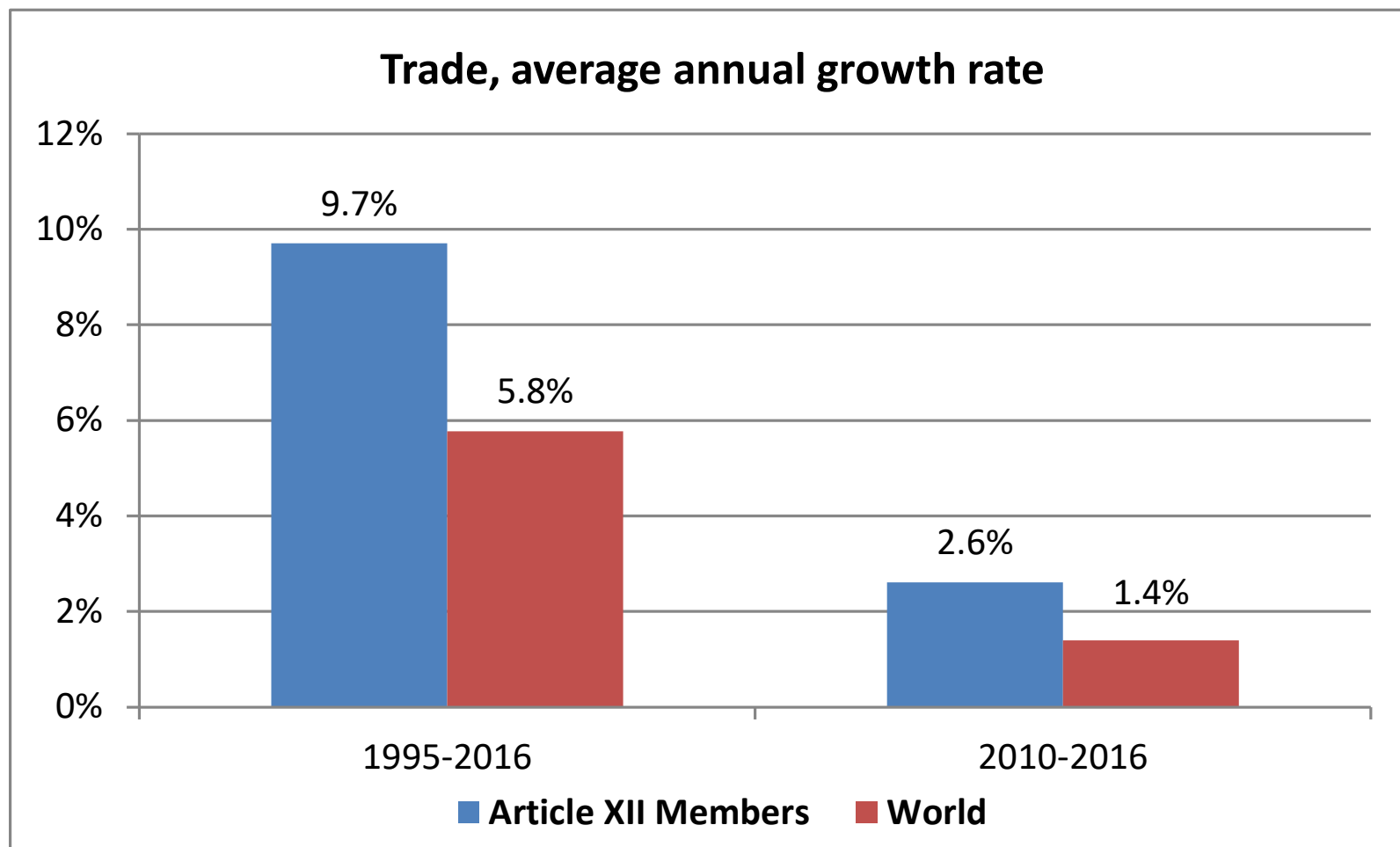


Evolution of World Trade in nominal value by membership status





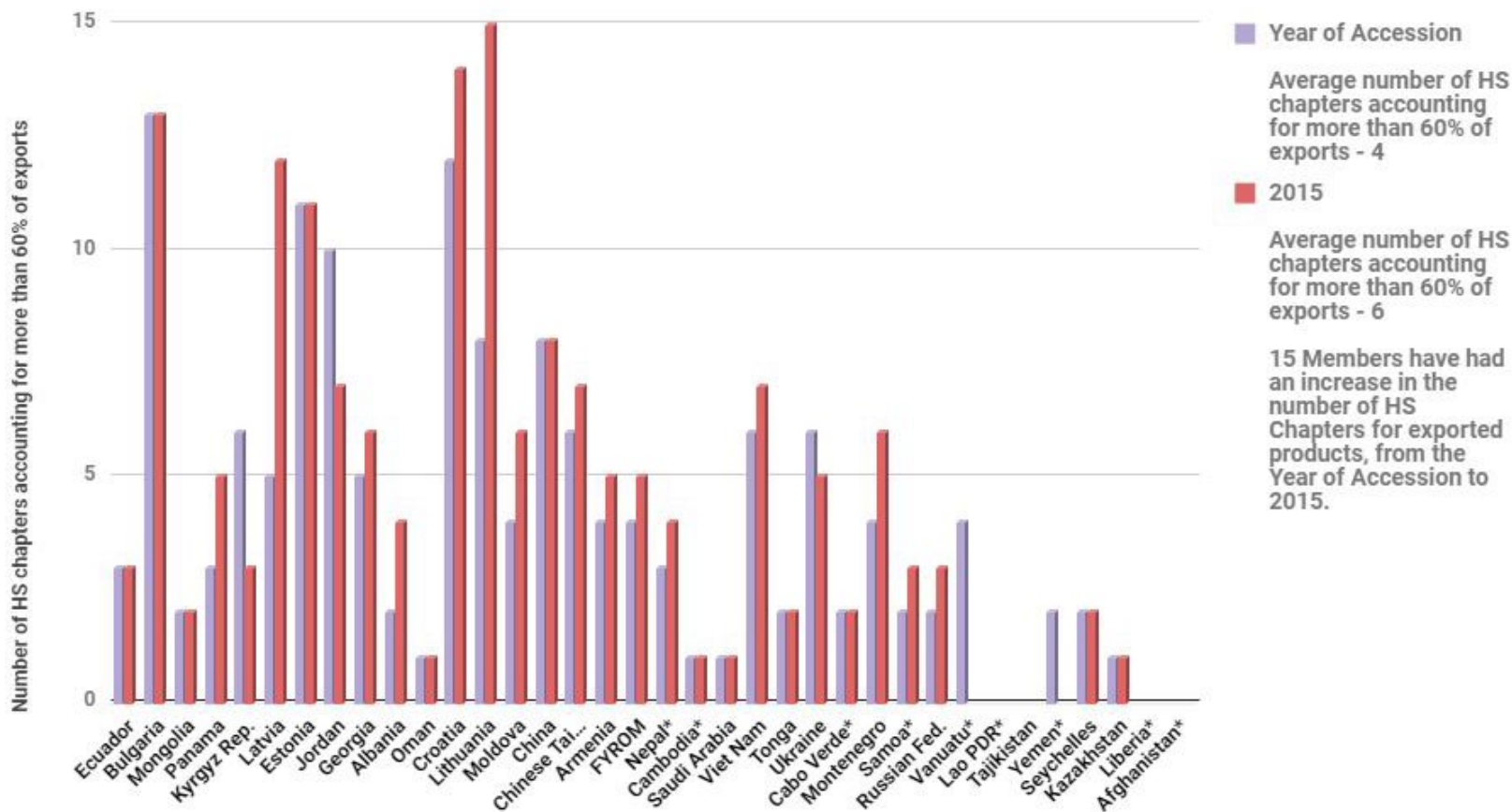
# Accession Results: Trade Growth



# WTO Accessions, Structural Reforms & Export Diversification



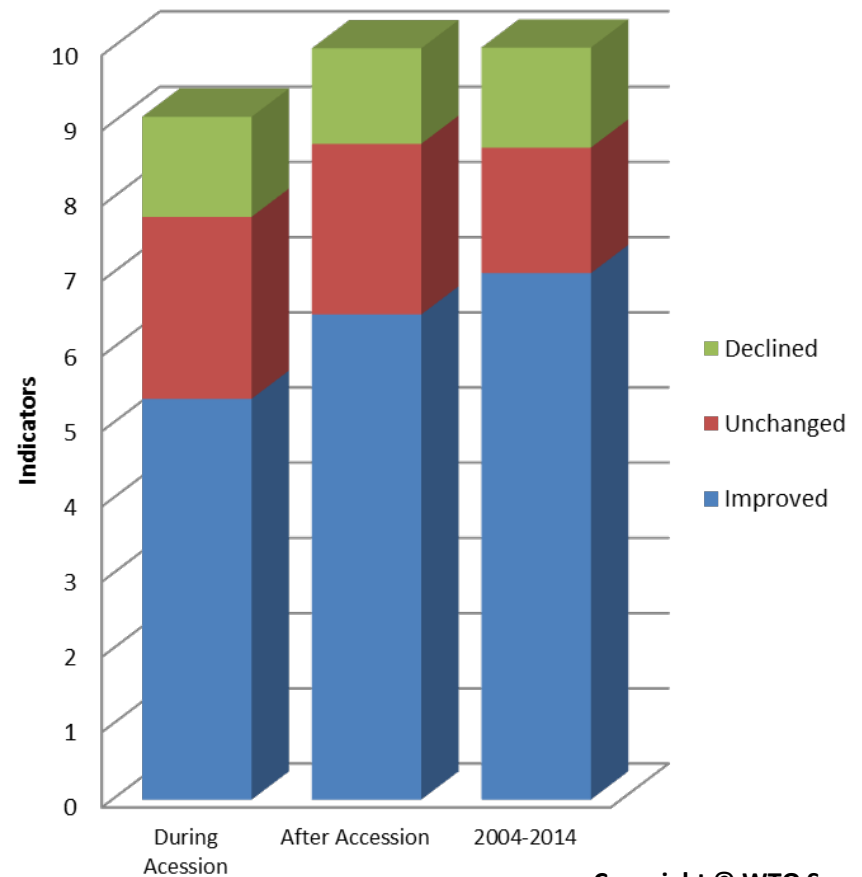
WTO Accession & Export Diversification



# Accession & the Business Environment

- Sample of 12 Article XII Members: 2004-14
- World Bank “Doing Business” Distance to Frontier (DTF) scores for 10 indicators (e.g. Starting a Business)
- Consistent improvement across sampled members

Average DTF Changes for a Member



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# Domestic Reforms and Growth



## Members acceded pursuant to Article XII have:

- Faster trade and GDP growth
- More resilience in crises
- Increased competitiveness and export diversification
- Greater attractiveness to FDI

## LDC graduation

- ✓ Cabo Verde (December 2007)
- ✓ Samoa (January 2014)
- ✓ Vanuatu (recommended for 2020)

# End of Module 3!

**Question!**

What is your take-away from this module?