

LDC Accession *acquis* and Emerging Best-Practices

Mariam Soumaré
Stefan Almehagen Sandstad
Accessions Division, WTO



Overview



1. LDC Accessions

- ❖ 9 LDC accessions concluded in 2004 - 2016
- ❖ Results: “Accession Acquis”

2. Emerging Best-Practices in the Accession of LDCs

- ❖ Policy level
- ❖ Accession process
- ❖ Substance in accession negotiations

LDC accessions concluded in 2004-2016



Article XII Member	Application Date	Membership Date	Total Time of Accession Process
<i>General Council Decision on Accession of LDCs, December 2002</i>			
Nepal	05/1989	04/2004*	14 years 11 months
Cambodia	12/1994	10/2004*	9 years 10 months
Cape Verde	11/1999	07/2008	8 years 8 months
Samoa	04/1998	05/2012*	14 years 1 months
Vanuatu	07/1995	08/2012	17 years 1 months
<i>General Council Decision on Accession of LDCs, July 2012</i>			
Lao PDR	07/1997	02/2013	15 years 7 months
Yemen	04/2000	06/2014*	14 years 2 months
Liberia	06/2007	07/2016*	8 Years 1 month
Afghanistan	11/2004	07/2016*	10 years 8 months

* Adoption of Accession Protocol by WTO membership at Ministerial Conference.

Accession Commitments by LDC Article XII Members



Article XII LDC Members	Year of WTO Member-ship	Working Party Report		Market Access commitments on Goods				Market Access commitments on Services: Number of services subsectors
		Number of Commitment Paragraphs	Transition commitments	Binding coverage	Average FBR			
					All products	Ag products	Non-Ag products	
Nepal	2004	25	4	99.4	26.0	41.4	23.7	77
Cambodia	2004	29	8	100	19.1	28.0	17.7	94
Cabo Verde	2008	27	10	100	15.8	19.3	15.2	103
Samoa	2012	37	5	100	21.1	25.8	20.4	80
Vanuatu	2012	30	2	100	39.7	43.6	39.1	69
Lao PDR	2013	26	6	100	18.8	19.3	18.7	79
Yemen	2014	28	8	100	21.1	24.9	20.5	81
Liberia	2016	31	10	100	26.7	23.8	27.2	102
Afghanistan	2016	37	7	96.6	13.5	33.6	10.3	104
Kenya	1995	N/A	N/A	14.8	95.1	100.0	57.0	50

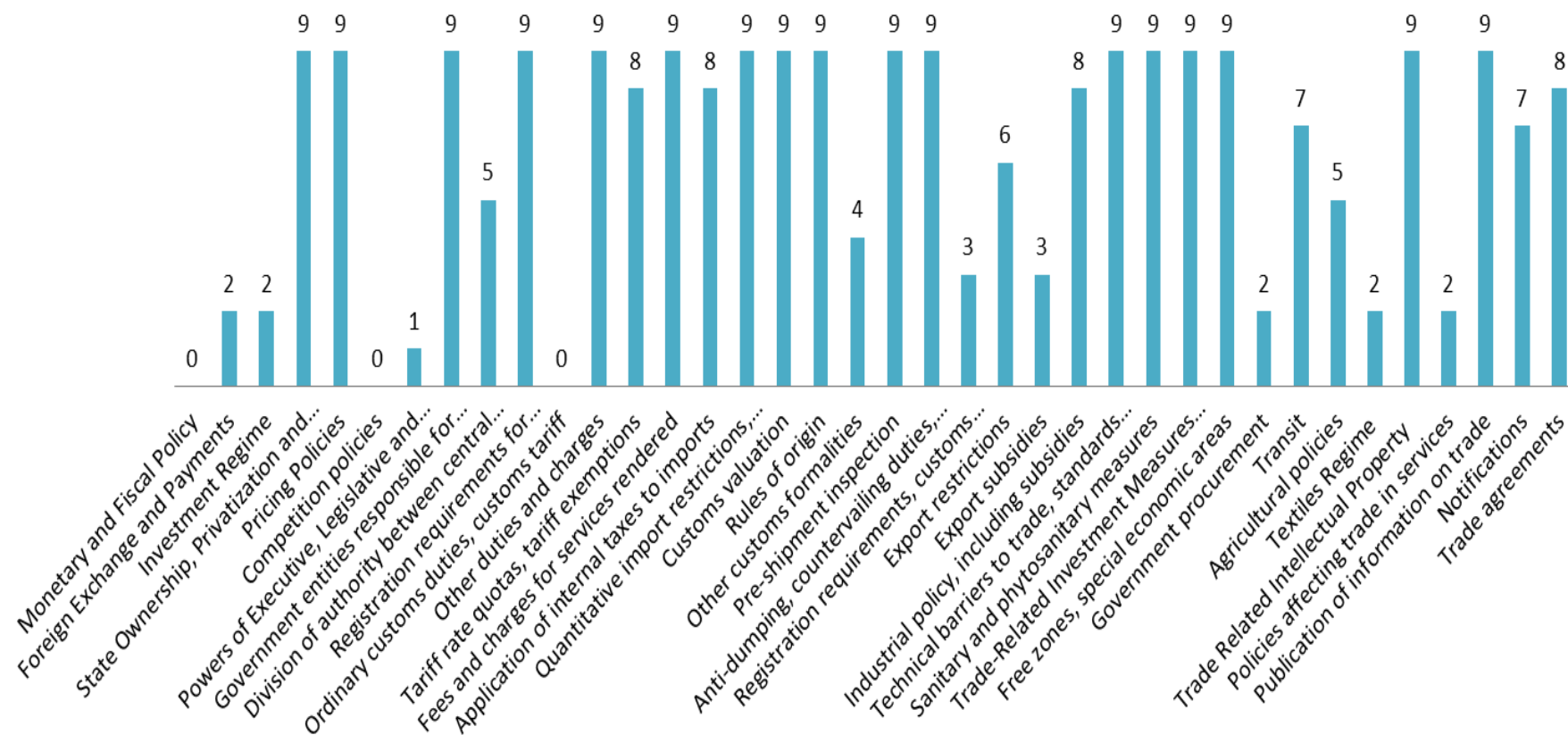
Number of Commitments by Chapter of WP Report



- ❖ 9 Article XII LDCs made commitments in 35 out of 38 sections of WP Reports.

LDC Commitment Coverage

■ LDC Commitment Coverage



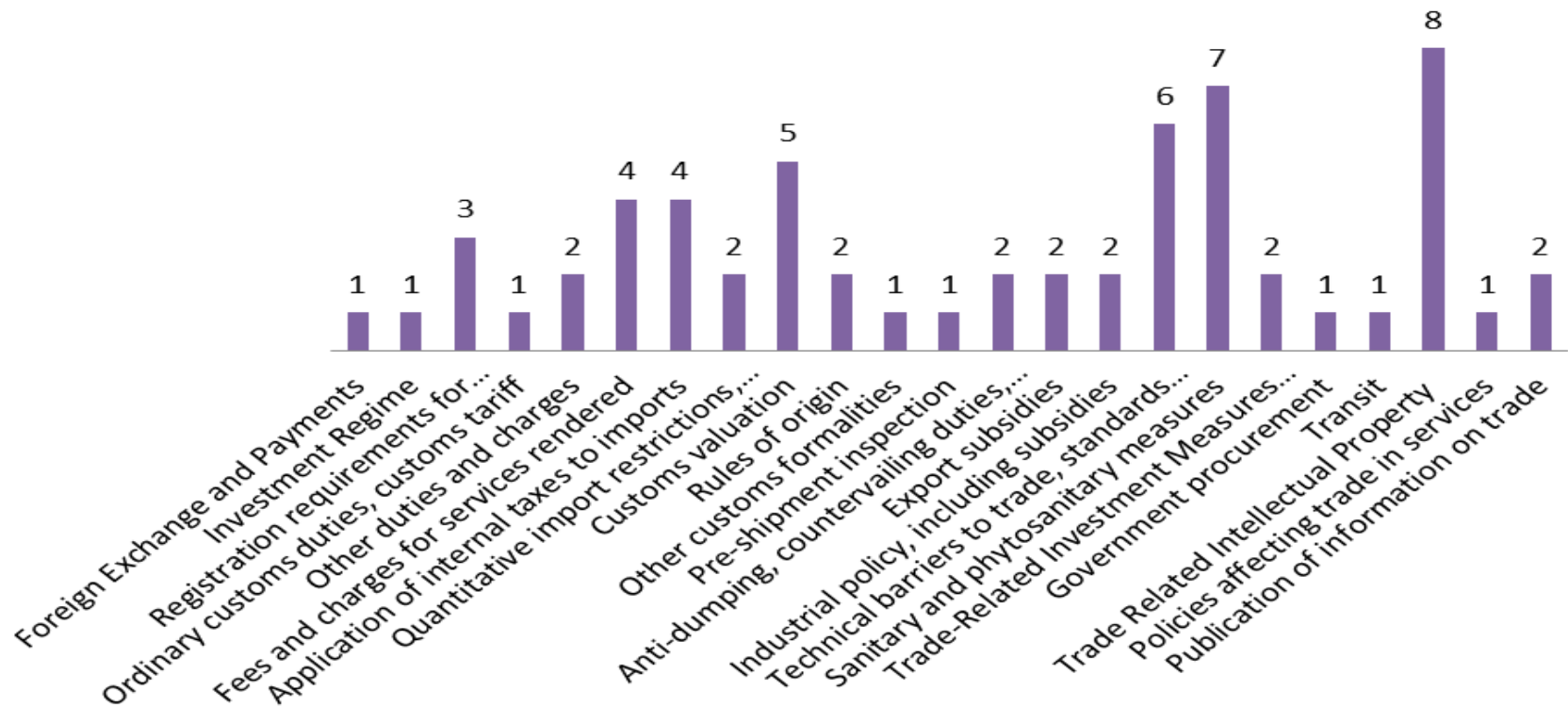
Transitional periods



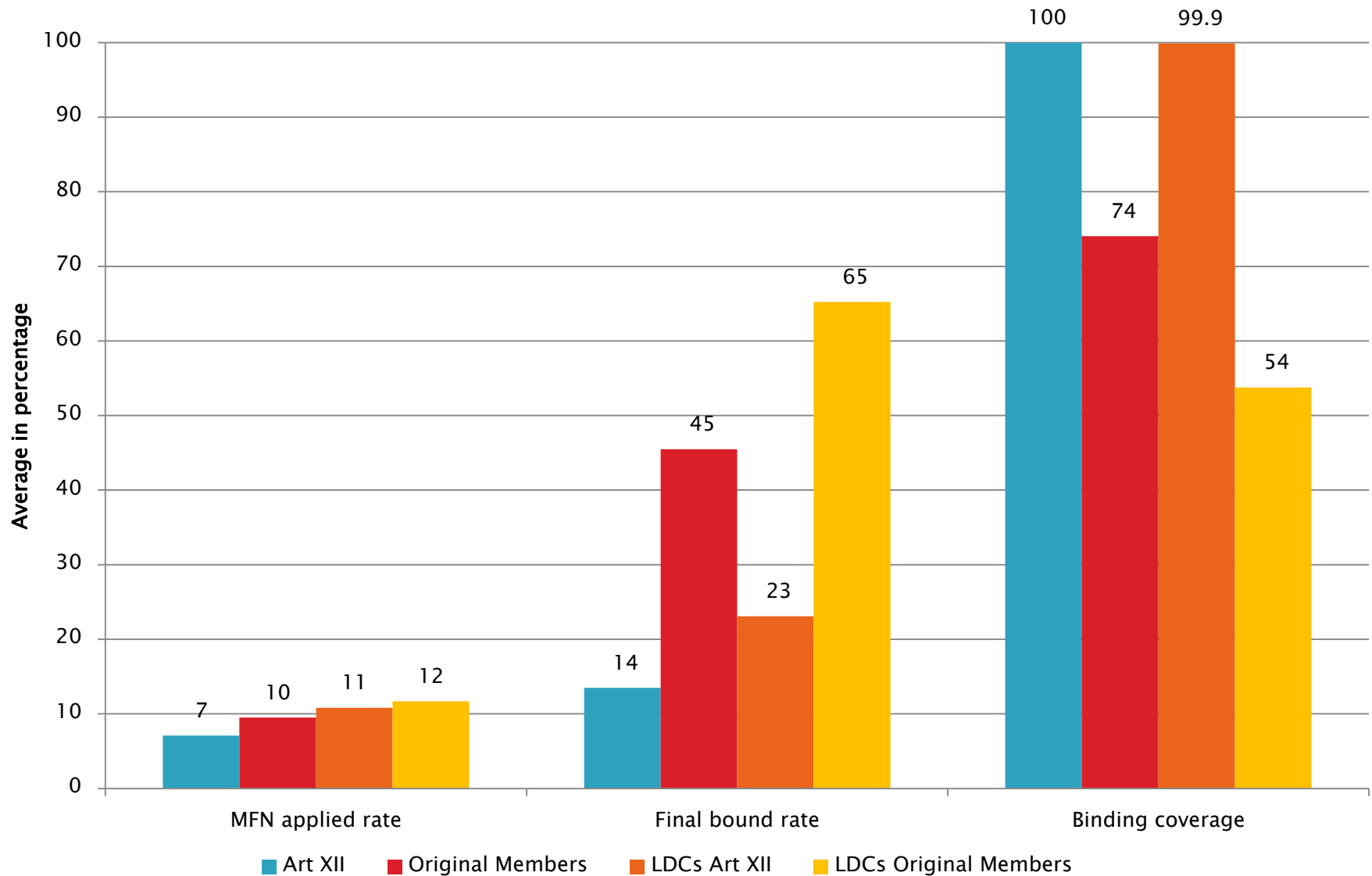
- ❖ 9 Article XII LDCs granted transitional periods in 23 out of 38 sections of WP Reports

Transitional Periods granted to LDCs

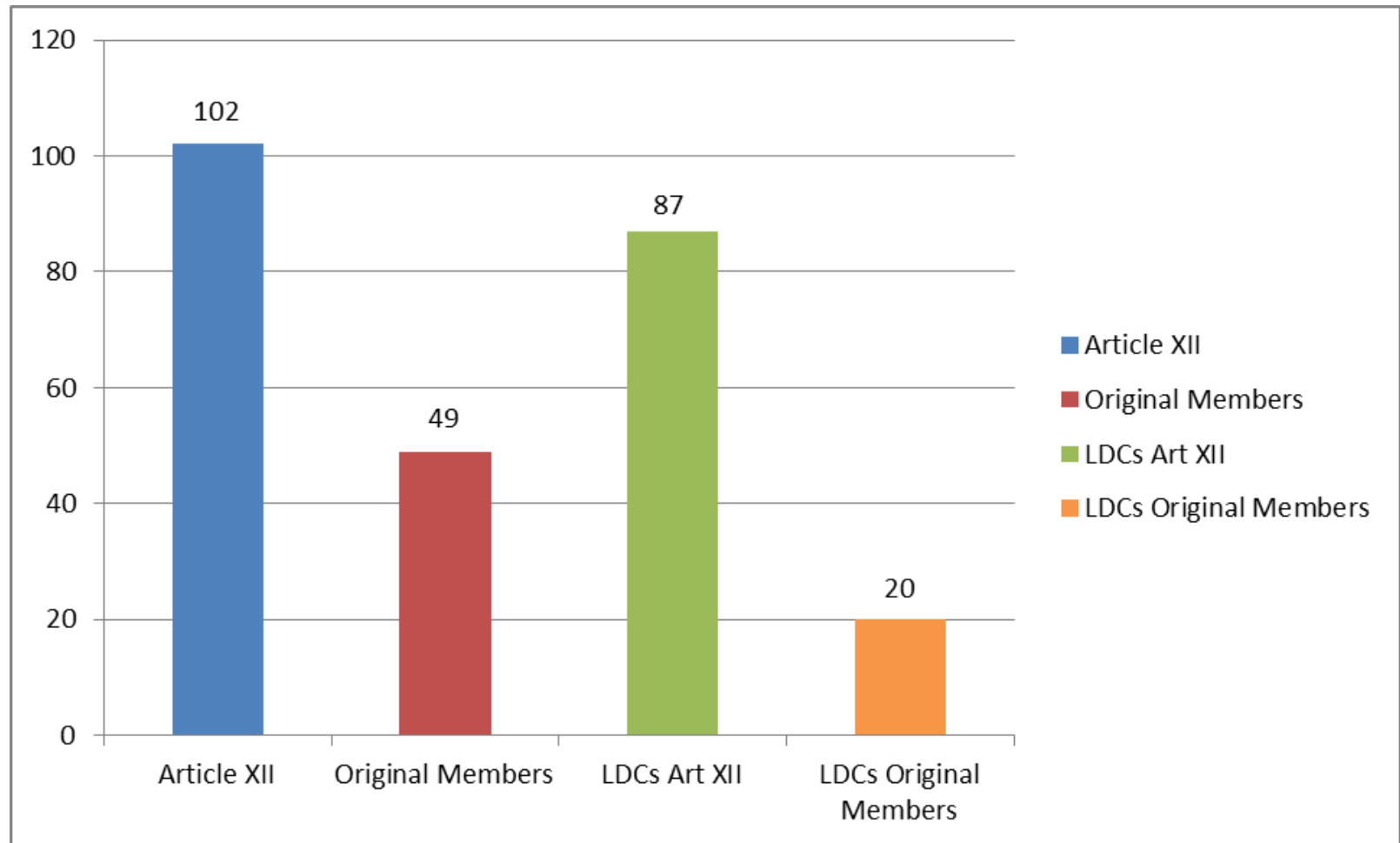
■ Number of Article XII LDCs



Accessions Results: Goods



Accessions Results: Services



EMERGING BEST PRACTICES IN LDC ACCESSIONS – LESSONS LEARNED



- ❖ Policy level
- ❖ Accession process
- ❖ Substance in accession negotiations



- ❖ Conduct a study on the implications of WTO accession
- ❖ Develop an accession reform strategy as an integral part of the structural reform agenda

Accession Process



❖ Domestic Process

- ❖ Secure high level political commitment (Head of State)
- ❖ Appoint an accession chief negotiator (possibly, at the cabinet level)
- ❖ Identify a competent negotiating team
- ❖ Transparency and outreach

Accession Process



❖ Working Party Process

- ❖ Establish a network of "friends of accession"
- ❖ Engage with key negotiating partners in formal and informal settings
- ❖ Avoid long intervals between meetings i.e. more than 12 months
- ❖ Actively engage with your WP Chairperson
- ❖ Request technical assistance

Substance in accession negotiations



❖ Market Access

❖ Have a negotiating strategy

- ❖ Identify specific tariff lines for sensitive products which require protection, ex-outs and/or longer transition

- ❖ Align offers with CET, if applicable

- ❖ Structure services offers as a tool to attract FDI, and put in place necessary regulations before full liberalization/implementation

Substance in accession negotiations



❖ Rules

- ❖ Study possible implications of accession commitments before agreeing to them
- ❖ Consider requesting transition periods for implementation of such commitments after accession, with detailed action plans for implementation of difficult commitments with clear timelines
- ❖ Refer the benchmarks on market access in the LDC Guidelines and the LDC accession *acquis*

Thank you!



WTO ACCESSIONS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR



* This Annual Report refers to work of certified accession-related developments up until 31 December 2014.
The document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is subject to review by the members of the Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Trade and Environment.

