

Budget, finance and administration

► On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, the General Council approved the 2022-23 budget for the WTO.

The General Council approved the 2022-23 budgets for the WTO and the International Trade Centre (see Table 2) in November upon recommendation of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration.

At the beginning of the year, the 2021 WTO salary survey and dependency allowances were presented to the Committee. The Committee took note of outstanding contributions from WTO members and observers and invited the General Council to urge those under administrative measures to liquidate their arrears.

Quarterly financial reports were considered by the Committee and taken note of, as were updates from the chairs of the WTO Pension Plan management board and the working group on trust funds. The Committee further reviewed the status of the WTO medical insurance plan and After Service Health Insurance, the annual strategic facilities plan, and the learning and development programme for 2019 and 2020.

The ITC briefed the Committee on its contributions to WTO objectives. The engagement was very constructive and enhanced visibility of the interrelationship between the two organizations.

Background

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration monitors the WTO's budgetary and financial matters. It considers issues concerning human resources management, hears progress reports on the WTO pension plan and deals with financial and administrative matters concerning the WTO Secretariat. The Committee reports to the General Council.

On financial matters, upon recommendation of the Committee, the General Council approved the WTO 2020 Financial Performance Report, transfers between budgetary sections outlined in the report, the 2020 WTO audited financial statements and the utilization of the accumulated budgetary surplus for 2020. The Committee continued deliberations on the revision of selected financial regulations.

The Committee took note of the performance audit conducted by the external auditors on the WTO's management of the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences.

The Office of Internal Oversight presented its report on internal audit activities for 2020-21 and reports on the status of the implementation of the internal audit recommendations.

WTO budget 2022

The WTO derives its income from annual contributions from its 164 members (see Table 3) and miscellaneous income.

The WTO's budget for 2022 is:
CHF 197,204,000

Table 2: Consolidated budget for 2022
(in thousands of Swiss francs)

Section	Budget 2022
Staff expenditure (including staff remuneration, pension and post employment benefits, health and invalidity insurance, family and international benefits)	131,565
Temporary assistance (including short-term staff, consultants, panellists and Appellate Body member fees)	17,275
General services (including telecommunications and post, contractual services and maintenance, energy and supplies, documentation and publication)	15,626
Travel and hospitality	7,907
Implementing partners (includes any activity or event partly/jointly/fully funded by the WTO but executed by a third-party organization)	213
Capital expenditure (including procurement of fixed assets and rental and leasing of equipment)	3,095
Financial expenditure (including bank and interest charges and building loan reimbursement)	2,080
Contributions to International Trade Centre and special reserves (including Building Renovation Fund and Ministerial Conference Operating Fund)	19,443
TOTAL	197,204