Update on the implementation of the 2019 Integrated Database (IDB) decision

Thomas Verbeet, Economic Research and Statistics Division
What is the WTO Integrated Database?

- GATT Council launched Integrated Database (IDB) in 1987 to store official, updated, reliable, complete data.
- The Committee on Market Access oversees the content, operation of, and access to, the IDB.
- Successful: 78% of all official tariff data used by international organizations originates from the WTO IDB.
- However, process reached limits

WTO Secretariat is asked to:
1. **standardize** tariff/import submissions
2. **validate + integrate** into IDB
3. **manage access** to the data
What is the 2019 IDB decision?

• Committee on Market Access adopted in May 2019 G/MA/367, the modalities and operation of the IDB
• consolidates the rules governing the IDB and links to other decisions

1. takes into account advances in technology
2. streamlines processes
   -> recommendation MSMEs Annex 5 on automatic data transmissions
3. allows integration of additional data elements
   - Reciprocal preferences (tariffs & imports)
   -> recommendation MSMEs Annex 5
   - Internal taxes and duties
   - Ad-valorem equivalents
   - Imports under TRQs
4. Enhances access to data
   - project to improve online data portal
Facilitate data notifications to the WTO

Transmission of Data

“To the extent it is technically viable, and with a view to automatically submitting the information, Members may voluntarily enter into an agreement with the Secretariat for the automatic electronic transmission of data at regular intervals or similar methods. [...]”  IDB decision G/MA/367, paragraph 8

Direct set-up
- Canada
- Uruguay
- Others (advanced talks)

ASYCUDA
- Madagascar
- Côte d’Ivoire (in implementation)
- Togo (in implementation)
The WTO Integrated Database (IDB) is a recognized multilateral data warehouse for official tariff/import data information.

The IDB decision 2019 allows to further:

a. facilitate the submission and handling of notifications
b. improve data coverage
c. enhance use for individuals, companies, governments and other international organization.

Please get in touch with idb@wto.org

Thank you.