

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

Thomas Verbeet, Economic Research and Statistics Division

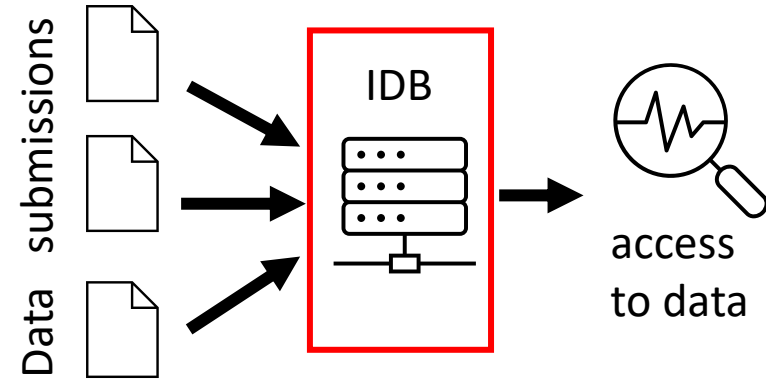
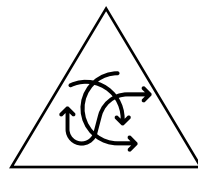
What is the WTO Integrated Database?

- 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

The image shows four WTO decision documents arranged in a collage:

- G/MA/367**: Committee on Market Access, IDB (2019), dated 2 June 2019. It is the official source of report and tariff statistics and for important developments in the trade policy regimes of Members.
- WT/L/671**: World Trade Organization, RTA (2019), dated 16 December 2019. It concerns the transparency of a centrally administered system for the administration of RTAs.
- WT/L/806**: World Trade Organization, PTA (2019), dated 16 December 2019. It concerns the transparency of a centrally administered system for the administration of PTAs.
- INF/MSME/4/Rev.2**: Recommendation on MSMEs and the WTO Integrated Database, MSME (2019), dated 16 December 2019. It concerns the transparency of a centrally administered system for the administration of MSMEs.

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

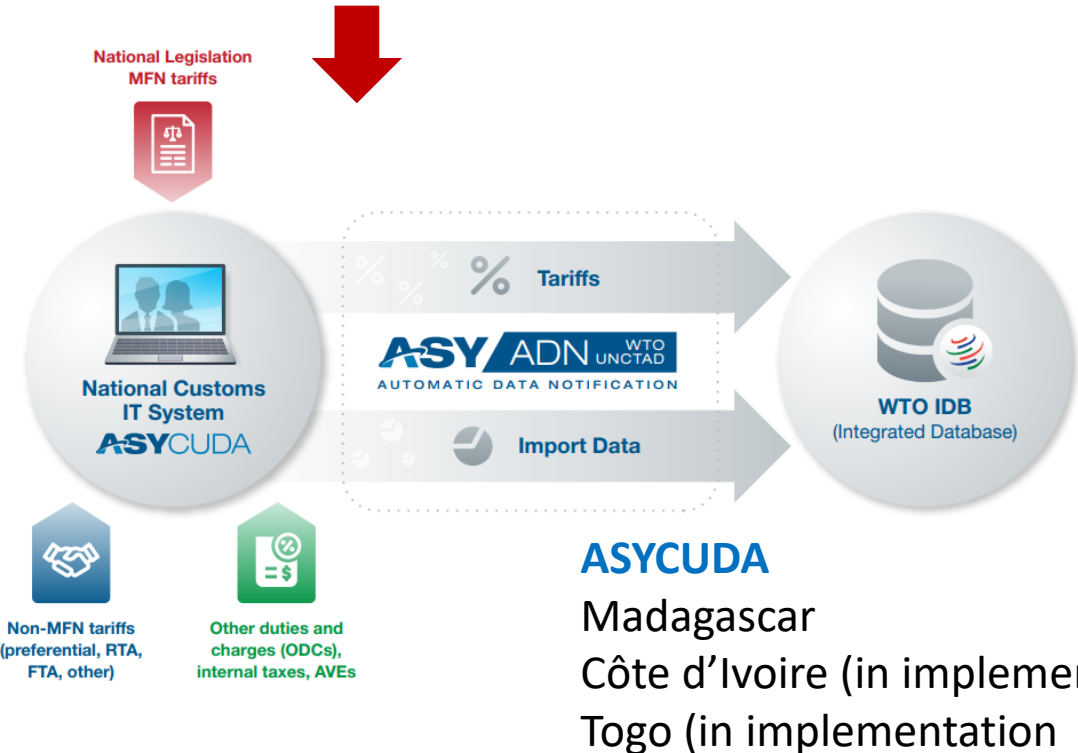
Transmission of Data

“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)





In short

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 ldb@wto.org

Thank you.