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# MSME- RELATED LANGUAGE IN REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

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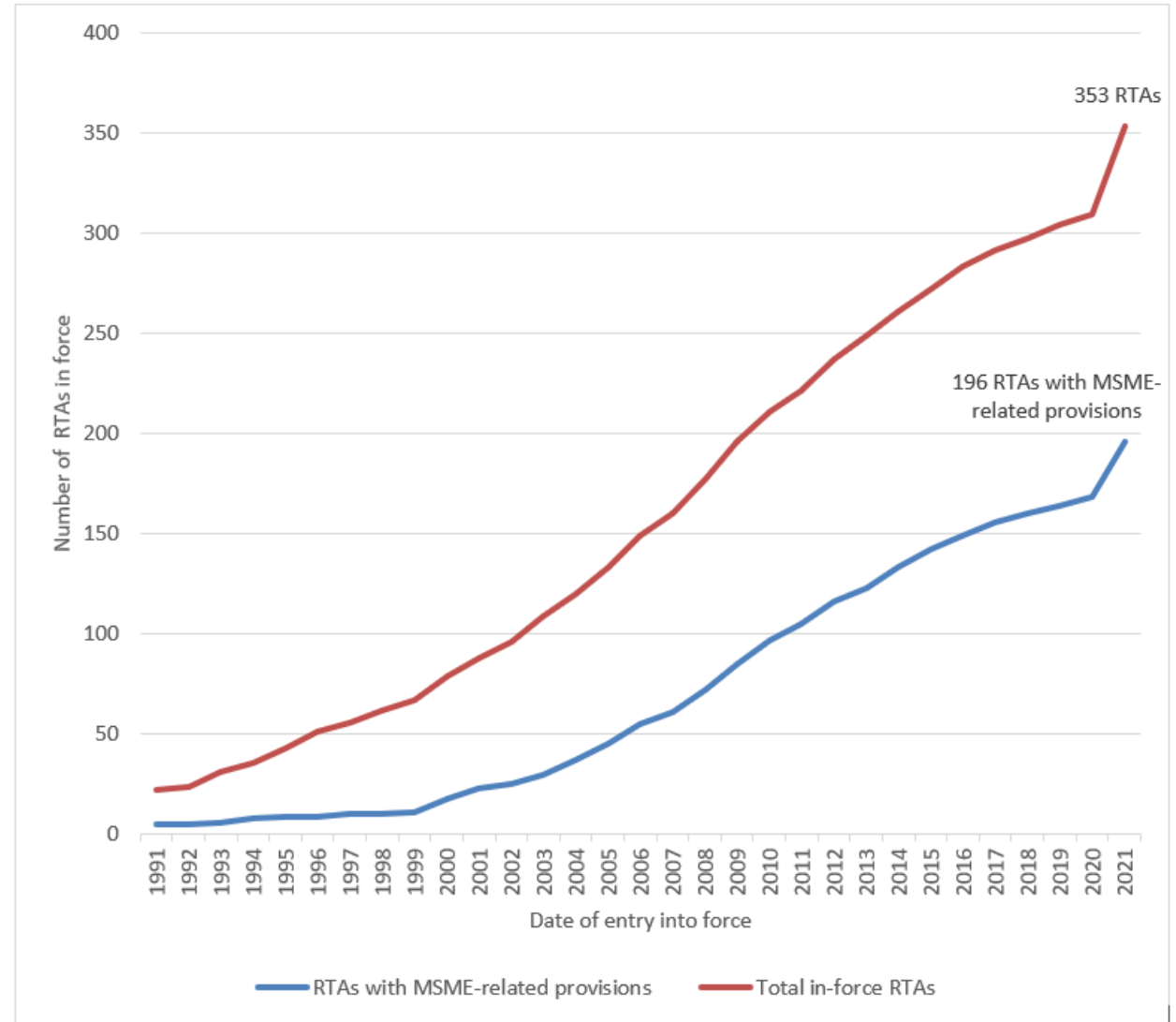
INF/MSME/W/6/Rev.3

April 2022



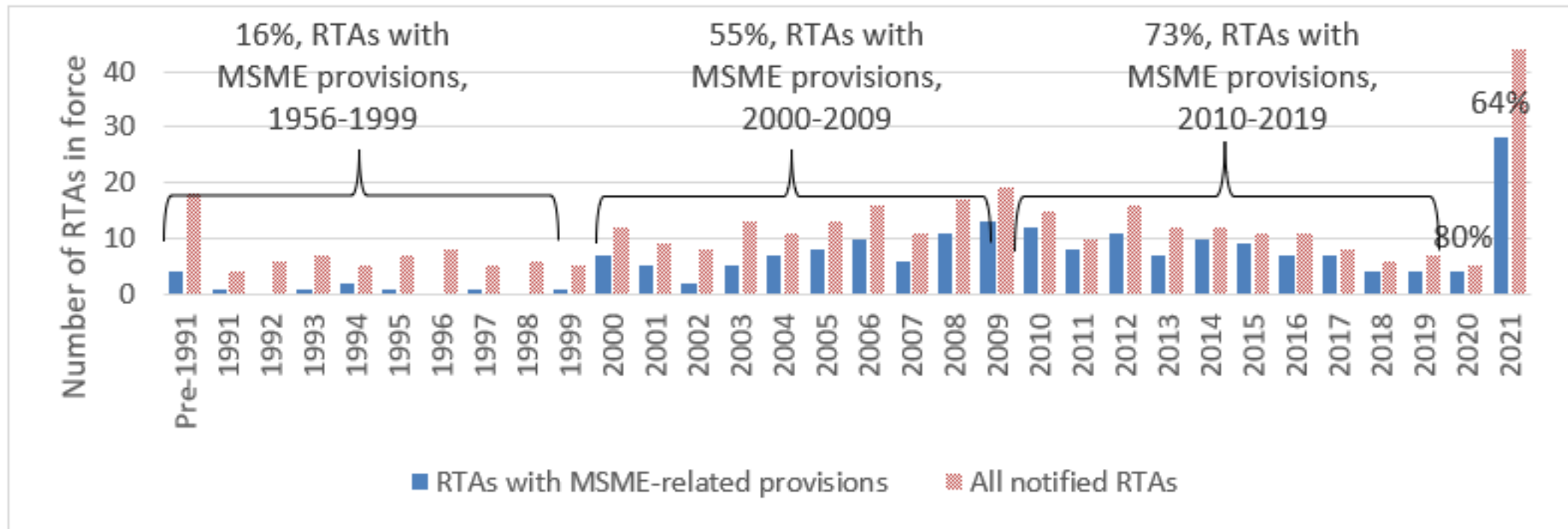
## Total number of RTAs and RTAs with MSME-related provisions, 1991-2021

- First MSME reference found in the EU – Overseas Countries and Territories Agreement, 1971
- Currently, out of 353 RTAs notified and in force, 196 (56%) include at least one MSME reference



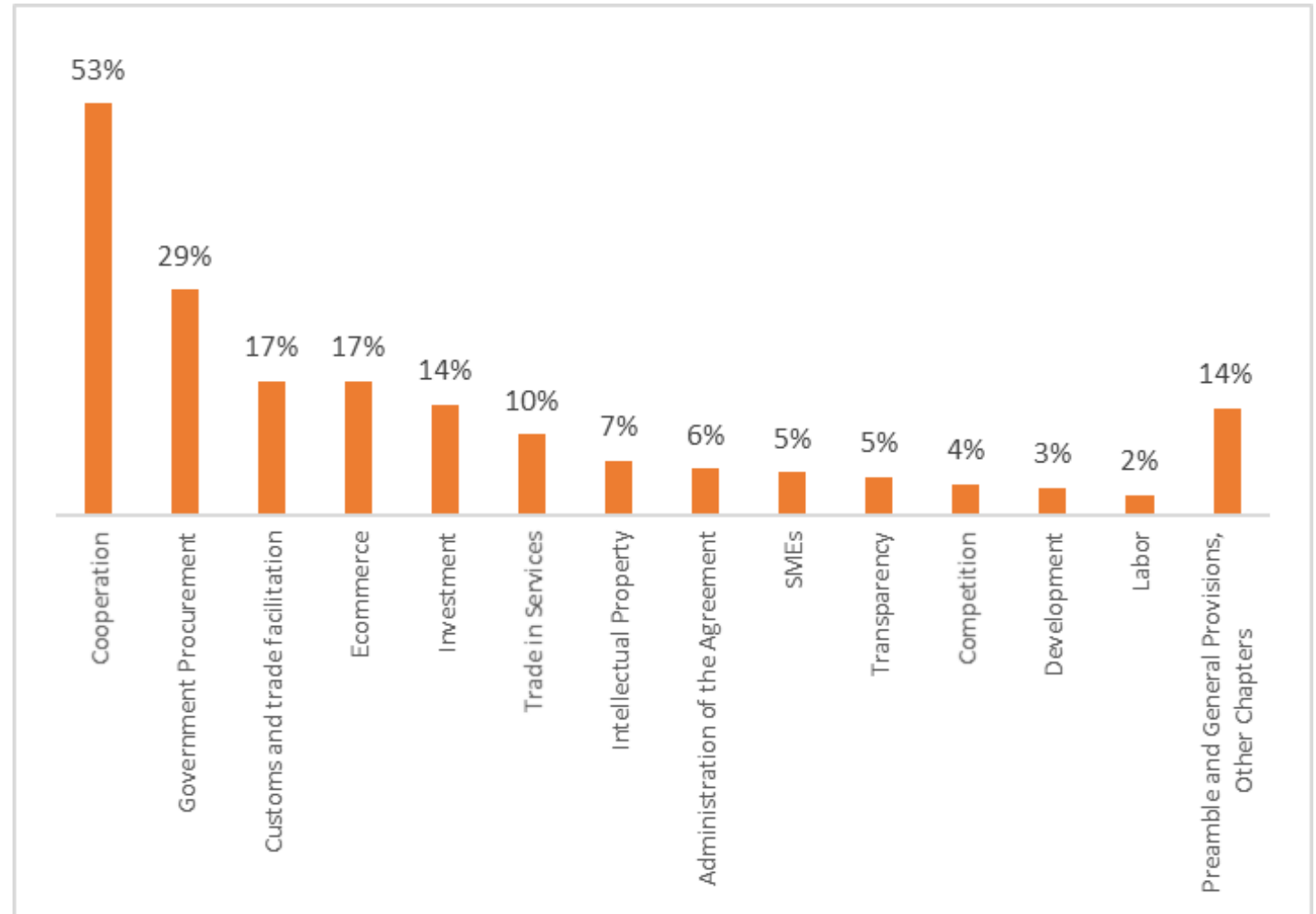
## Share of RTAs with MSME-related provisions by decade and year, 1956-2021

- The share of notified, in-force RTAs with MSME provisions has increased in recent decades.



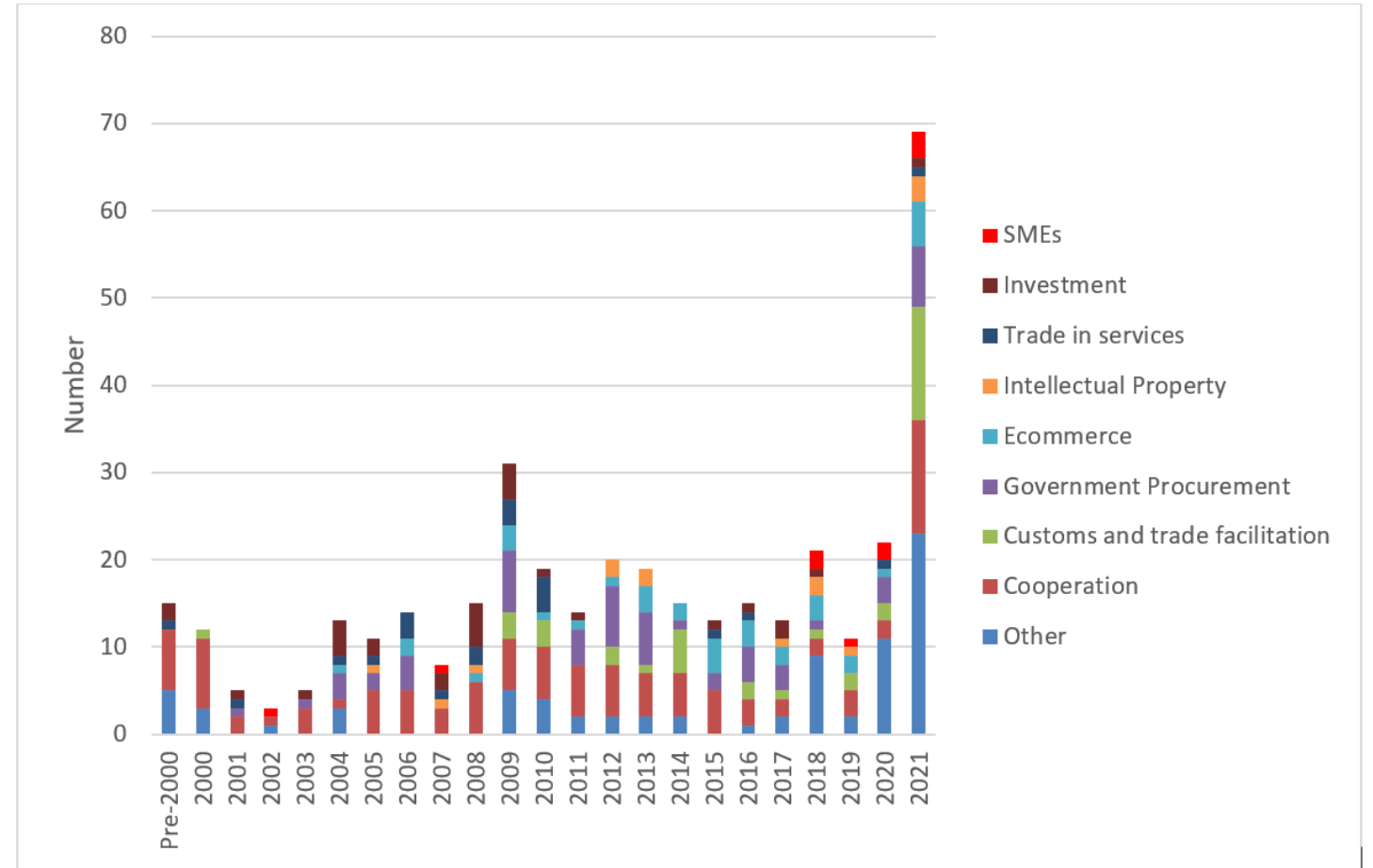
## Share of MSME-related provisions by chapter over total RTAs with MSME-related provisions

- MSME-related provisions occur principally in chapters on:
  - Cooperation
  - Government Procurement
- The first standalone MSME Chapter was in 2002



## RTA chapters with at least one MSME reference by chapter and year

- The chapters with MSME references has changed over time.
- New references in chapters like e-commerce and intellectual property have appeared.



# Annexes

- Two annexes with additional information are included in the report

## Annex 1 Members' share of in force and WTO notified RTAs with MSME references

Member	Share	RTA in force with MSME	Total RTAs in force and notified
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## Annex 2 List of the 196 in-force RTAs with MSME-related language, including chapters and total number of references

Regional Trade Agreement	Date of entry into force	Chapter(s) with MSME reference(s)	Number of references
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# Online database accessible from two locations

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

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## Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

Today, 95% of companies across the globe are MSMEs, accounting for 60% of the world's total employment. However, MSMEs face a number of obstacles when seeking to participate in international trade. To address these obstacles, 88 WTO members signed a statement at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) in December 2017 declaring their intention to create an Informal Working Group on MSMEs to explore ways in which WTO members could better support MSMEs' participation in global trade. The Informal Working Group met for the first time in March 2018. Participation in this Joint Initiative is open to all WTO members.

[State of eLay briefing note](#)

**On this page:**

- Participation
- Outcomes and current discussions
- App of Informal Group
- Charters of Group
- Key documents
- Meetings

**NEWS**

### Working group on small business welcomes three more members

At its first meeting of the year, on 8 February, the Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Med...

**Participation**

As of December 2021, there were [34 WTO members](#) participating in discussions of the Informal Working Group. These participants cover [80%](#) of the world and all levels of development, accounting for around 80 per cent of world exports.

The [MSME package](#) of recommendations and declarations, adopted in December 2020, was sponsored by 97 WTO members. As is the case for all the joint initiatives, participation in the MSME Informal Working Group is open to all WTO members. The initiative is currently coordinated by Ambassador José Luis Cancedo of Uruguay. In the lead-up to MC12 in Buenos Aires and up to January 2018, discussions were led by Chile's Ambassador to the WTO, H.E. Né Hector Cazanueva.

**Outcomes and current discussions**

A [package of MSME-related information on Regional Trade Agreements](#) was launched in 2019.

In December 2020, the Group endorsed a package of six recommendations and declarations aimed at addressing challenges smaller businesses face when they trade internationally [TIP MSMEs](#).

**Events, workshops and training**

- 8 February 2022: MSME Informal Working Group. Check-in with the Private Sector
- Registration
- 8 December 2021: Digital Champions for Small Business Awards Ceremony
- Video
- 8 December 2021: Launch of the Trade4MSMEs web platform
- Video

**Full list**

**Newsletters**

- 2020-Summer
- 2021-Winter
- 2020-Summer
- 2020-Summer
- 2020-Winter
- 2020-Summer

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## Small business and trade

The participation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in international trade has remained limited for numerous reasons. These include lack of relevant skills, lack of knowledge about international markets, non-tariff barriers, cumbersome regulations and border procedures, and limited access to finance, in particular trade finance. The smaller the company, the greater the challenges faced in participating in international trade. The WTO has launched a number of initiatives to help MSMEs play a more active role in world trade.

**See also:**

- Trade finance
- Trade Dialogues
- MSME provisions in regional trade agreements
- MSME references in trade policy reviews

**NEWS**

### DDG González: The WTO's work on trade facilitation benefits small businesses

10 MARCH 2022

Deputy Director-General Anabel González joined Robert Skidmore, host of the Trade Spaining p...

**Events, workshops and training**

- 21 March 2022: Global Supply Chains Forum - "Easing supply chain bottlenecks for a sustainable future"
- 8 February 2022: MSME Informal Working Group. Check-in with the Private Sector
- Registration
- 2 December 2021: Digital Champions for Small Business Awards Ceremony
- Video

**Full list**

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WTO initiatives

# MSME Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements, Online Database

- [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/msmesandtra\\_e/rtaprovisions\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/msmesandtra_e/rtaprovisions_e.htm)

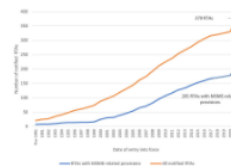
TRADE TOPICS

## MSME provisions in regional trade agreements

Regional trade agreements (RTAs) have grown in scope and number over the years. The number and diversity of provisions related to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in these RTAs have increased as well. This page provides an overview of MSME-related provisions in RTAs notified to the WTO. For more information about these provisions, see the analysis published by the WTO Secretariat in September 2019 [here](#).

See also:

- Trade finance
- Trade Dialogues



Last updated on 13 January 2022

Regional Trade Agreement	Date of entry into force	Chapter	MSME related provisions
Agadir Agreement	2007-03-27		
Andean Community	1988-05-25	Cooperation	Los Países Miembros se obligan a promover un proceso de desarrollo industrial conjunto, para alcanzar, entre otros, los siguientes objetivos: a) La expansión, especialización, diversificación y promoción de la actividad industrial; b) El aprovechamiento de las economías de escala; c) La óptima utilización de los recursos disponibles en el área, especialmente a través de la industrialización de los recursos naturales; d) El mejoramiento de la productividad; e) Un mayor grado de relación, vinculación y complementación entre las empresas industriales de la Subregión; f) La distribución equitativa de beneficios; y g) Una mejor participación de la industria subregional en el contexto