100th Session of the CRTA

- 21 June: 100th Session of the CRTA under the Chairmanship of Amb. Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu (Kenya)
- The Committee is to consider one of the largest plurilateral RTAs to date: the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).
- As of June 2021, 349 RTAs have been notified and are currently in force.

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10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10)

- At MC10 in Nairobi, WTO members agreed "to work towards the transformation of the current provisional Transparency Mechanism into a permanent mechanism".
- 66 RTA examinations prior to establishment of the TM.

Establishment of the WTO RTA Database

- The RTA Database is a repository of the legal texts and annexes of all RTAs notified to the WTO, preferential tariff and trade data provided by RTA parties, and other related documents.
- § 21 of the TM for RTAs mandates the WTO Secretariat to "establish and maintain an updated electronic database on individual RTAs".
- Check out our Tutorial videos!

Transparency Mechanism (TM) for RTAs

- Throughout 2002 to 2006, informal consultations and various meetings of the Negotiation Group on Rules were held to find a consensus among Members and work towards the adoption of a new "Transparency Mechanism for RTAs".
- 8 May: Negotiating Group on Rules requested the WTO Secretariat to prepare a background note which could assist delegations in the preparation of submissions and proposals on RTAs.

Establishment of the CRTA

- CRTA Rules of Procedures approved by the General Council.
- 21 May: First Session of the Committee held under the Chairmanship of Amb. John Weekes (Canada).
- 6 February: During its meeting, the General Council decided to establish the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements. The decision can be found in WT/L/127.
- Up to the establishment of the CRTA, the examination of RTAs was carried out by individual working parties.

RTA Work Prior to the CRTA

- Over 190 RTAs considered under the TM as of June 2021.