

Transparency work in the TBT Committee

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SPS Committee Workshop on Transparency

Monday, 20 June 2022

TBT transparency provisions

Notification of draft regulations 

Publication of regulations 

Establishment of National Enquiry Point (NEP) 

Designation of National Notification Authority (NNA) 

Statement of Implementation (Article 15.2)

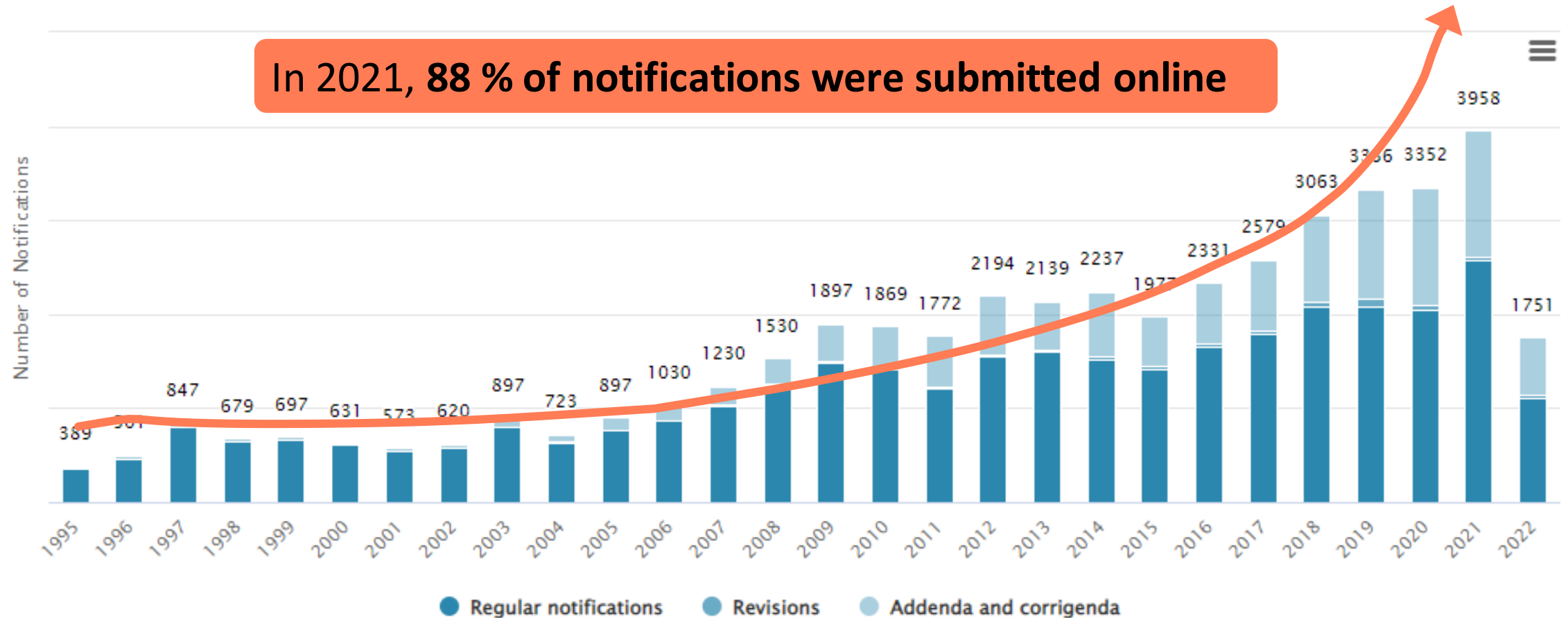
Agreements between Members (Article 10.7)

Standards-related obligations (Annex 3)

Statistics on TBT transparency

NUMBER OF TBT NOTIFICATIONS PER YEAR

In 2021, 88 % of notifications were submitted online



Statistics on TBT transparency

In 2021, **83 Members** submitted at least one notification. (142 Ms since 1995).

61% of new STCs referred to notifications.

TBT TOP 10 NOTIFYING MEMBERS

Member

United States of America	4706
Brazil	2914
Uganda	2736
European Union	1874
China	1764
Israel	1622
Ecuador	1574
Kenya	1512
Mexico	1320
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	1297

TBT Triennial Review

- Every **3 years**
- adopt recommendations; establish work programme
- **8th** Review concluded in 2018 (G/TBT/41)
 - 16 transparency-related recommendations
 - See JOB/TBT/273/Rev.8 on follow up actions
- **9th** Review concluded end-2021 (G/TBT/46)
 - 19 transparency-related recommendations



9th Triennial review: Snapshot recommendations (I)

- **Online tools**

- improve and **streamline current online TBT tools**, including ePing
 - *Building on 2015 recommendation to build alert service*
 - *Feedback from “Friends of Online Tools” (3 meetings in 2021)*



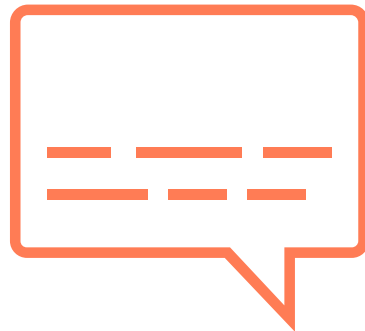
- **Formats and guidelines**

- Improve **product coverage info, description of content**, reference to **legitimate objectives** in regular notifications; new format for Article 15.2 notifications...

9th Triennial review: snapshot recommendations (II)

- **Translations:**

- announce, through **ePing**, the **availability of translations** of notified measure into any of the official WTO languages
- explore the use of IT tools, such as **translation software** to provide unofficial translations of notified documents



9th Triennial review: snapshot recommendations (III)

- **Coordination**

- hold **thematic session** on good practices and challenges for domestic **coordination** and engagement with **regulators and the private sector**

- **Commenting**

- **disseminate** on voluntary basis **comments** and replies, including through a website or a common platform such as **ePing**
- develop **good practice guide** on how to prepare a comment on notifications



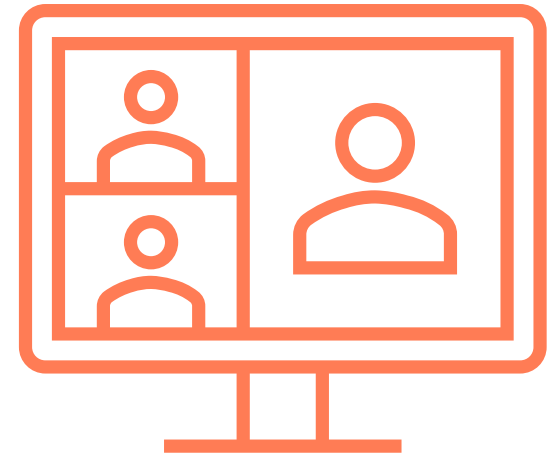
Transparency working group

- TBT Committee established new working group at March 2022 meeting to advance with transparency-related recommendations
 - Open to all Members
 - Hybrid
 - Report back to TBT Committee
- First meeting held in April 2022
- Current topics:
 - Notification formats
 - Product coverage in notifications (HS/ICS)



Upcoming TBT Committee meetings

- 12 July 2022: Thematic sessions
 - [Transparency](#) (product coverage and domestic coordination)
 - [MSME access to information](#)
- 13 – 15 July 2022: regular meeting



Reference documents

- [WTO Agreement Series TBT Handbook](#)
- [TBT Enquiry Point guide](#)
- [TBT thematic sessions, including transparency](#)
- [TBT Annual Review Report for 2021](#) (G/TBT/47)
- [TBT Triennial Review Report 2021](#) (G/TBT/46)
- [Coherent use of notification formats](#) (G/TBT/35/Rev.1)

