WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

SECRETARIAT PRESENTATION ON THE 11TH TRIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS

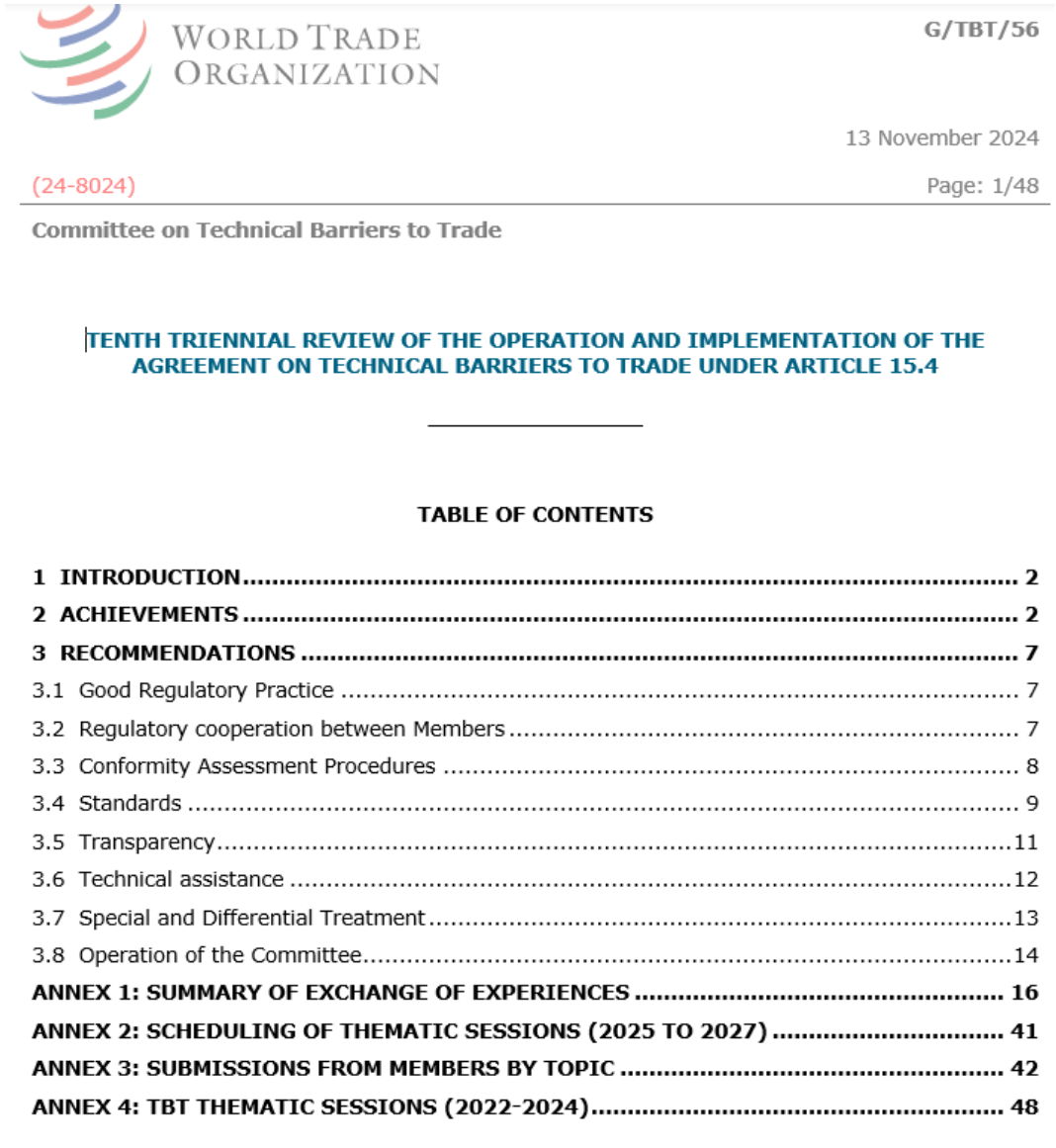
1 October 2026

Mandate

The WTO TBT Agreement

15.4 Not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and at the end of each three-year period thereafter, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement, including the provisions relating to transparency, with a view to recommending an adjustment of the rights and obligations of this Agreement where necessary to ensure mutual economic advantage and balance of rights and obligations, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 12. Having regard, *inter alia,* to the experience gained in the implementation of the Agreement, the Committee shall, where appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to the text of this Agreement to the Council for Trade in Goods.

Structure



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/56

13 November 2024

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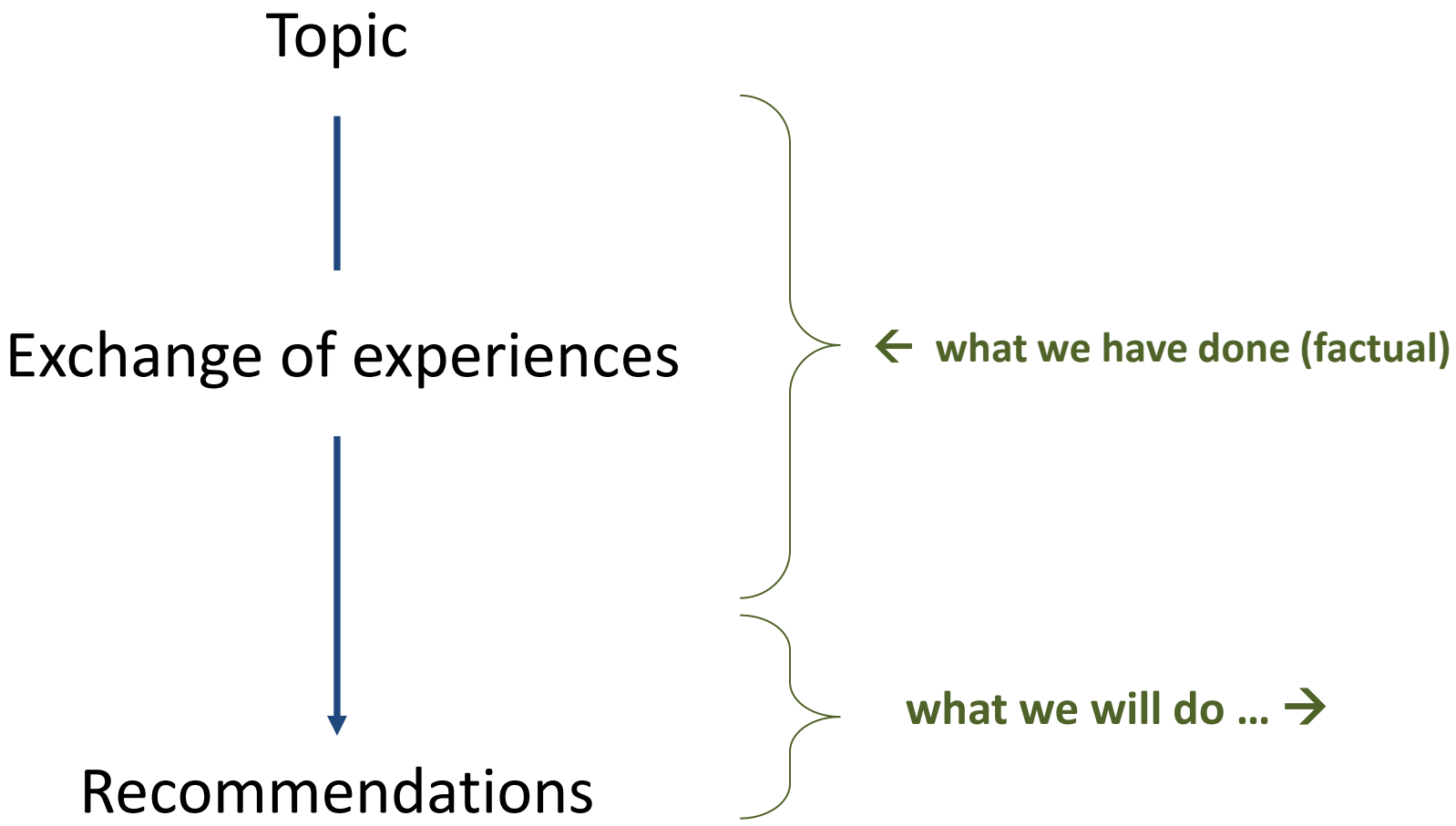
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

TENTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE UNDER ARTICLE 15.4

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Structure


Topic
Exchange of experiences
Recommendations
← what we have done (factual)
what we will do … →

Topic
(Quick explanation in box)

3.3 Conformity Assessment Procedures

"Five articles of the TBT Agreement address conformity assessment procedures, and establish obligations of a substantive and procedural nature. Articles 5 and 6 contain disciplines applying to central government bodies. Articles 7, 8 and 9 relate to conformity assessment procedures of local government bodies, non-governmental bodies and international and regional systems. The definition of a conformity assessment procedure is contained in Annex 1, Paragraph 3 of the Agreement."

G/TBT/1/Rev.15, p.13

Factual
(Detailed exchange of experiences is placed in Annex)

3.5. During the review period, most of the Committee's exchange of experiences took place in the context of thematic sessions on conformity assessment procedures, held on 8 March 2022 (accreditation[28] and digital solutions[29]), and 7 November 2023 (e-commerce).[30] Topics covered include how accreditation and related policies can be advanced to further reduce barriers to trade; the use of digital solutions for conformity certificates and quality infrastructure activities; and the best practices for addressing challenges related to the conformity assessment of goods obtained through e-commerce. A detailed summary of these discussions is found in Annex 1 to this report.

Recommendations

(most 'negotiation' is on this!)

3.6. Building on this exchange as well as on previous decisions and recommendations of the Committee, and with a view to furthering its work in the area of conformity assessment procedures, the Committee agrees:

a. to *note* the adoption of the **non-prescriptive practical guidelines to support regulators in the choice and design of appropriate and proportionate conformity assessment procedures**[31] and encourage Members to exchange experiences in respect of the use of these guidelines;

b. to *hold* thematic sessions on:

   i. **traceability requirements for bulk agricultural commodities**, to share best practices, lessons learned, and challenges in developing and implementing traceability schemes to demonstrate conformity to sustainability requirements. Discussions would be framed within the scope of the TBT Agreement and may include relevant international standards, definitions, as well as promoting interoperability between schemes;

   ii. **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)**, to explore Members' experiences in developing and operationalizing various types of MRAs across different sectors. Discussion may include strategies for increasing awareness of MRA provisions and identifying potential sectors for MRAs to address future global challenges;

   iii. **Market surveillance risk assessment methodologies**, to share experiences on the use of risk assessment methodologies for protecting citizens without unnecessarily impacting trade, and innovations in pre- and post- market inspection, surveillance and enforcement. Discussions may include how misinformation and disinformation may affect policy decisions and how Members can identify and combat it at early stages; and,

   iv. **Risk assessment and the use of first-party conformity assessment**, to share experiences on how risk assessment is conducted by Members to determine the level of risk and choice of procedure. Discussion may address benefits of first-party conformity assessment for low-risk products, and explore improving consistency in the design of conformity assessment procedures at central and sub-central levels.

There was significant engagement during the 10th Triennial Review.

In 2024, approximately 70 **submissions** and **specific comments** were received from Members

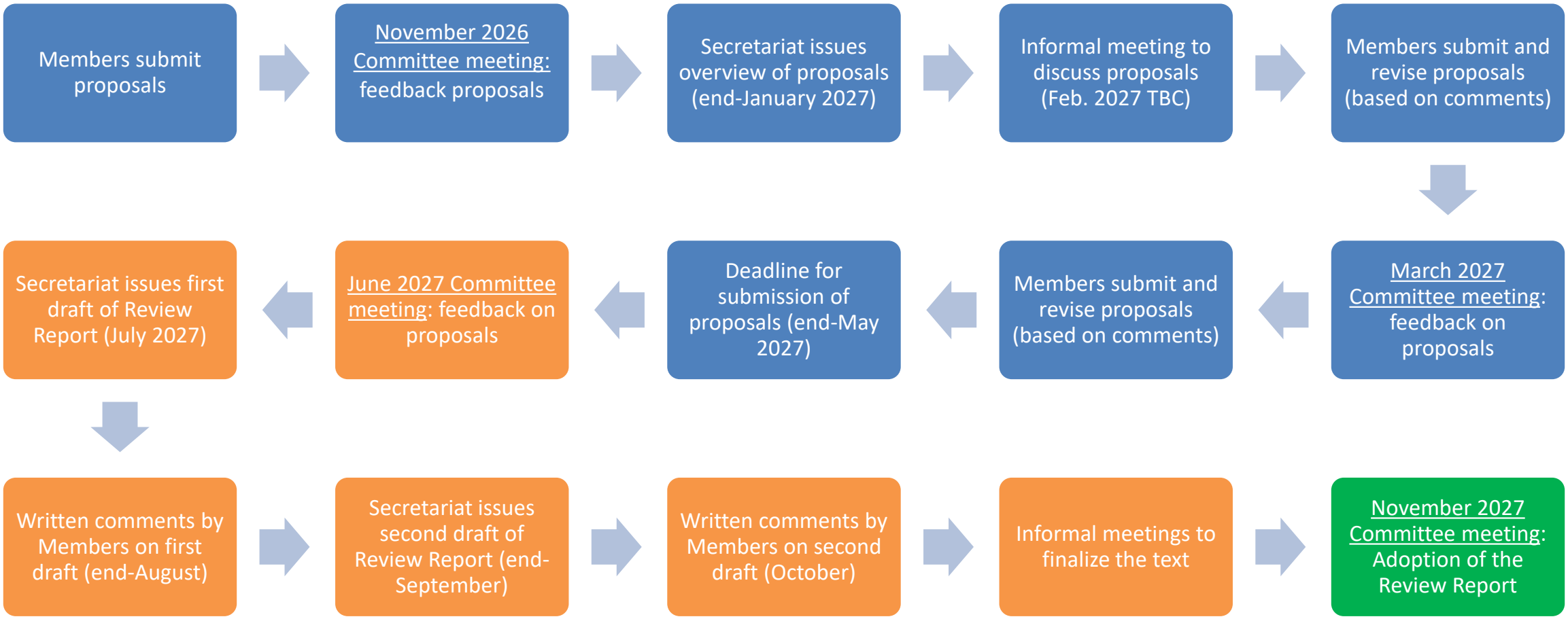
The 11th Triennial Review

- The Committee is scheduled to complete its Eleventh Triennial Review at its **last meeting in 2027**.

- As with previous Triennial Reviews, the review process will be **driven by substantive proposals from Members**.

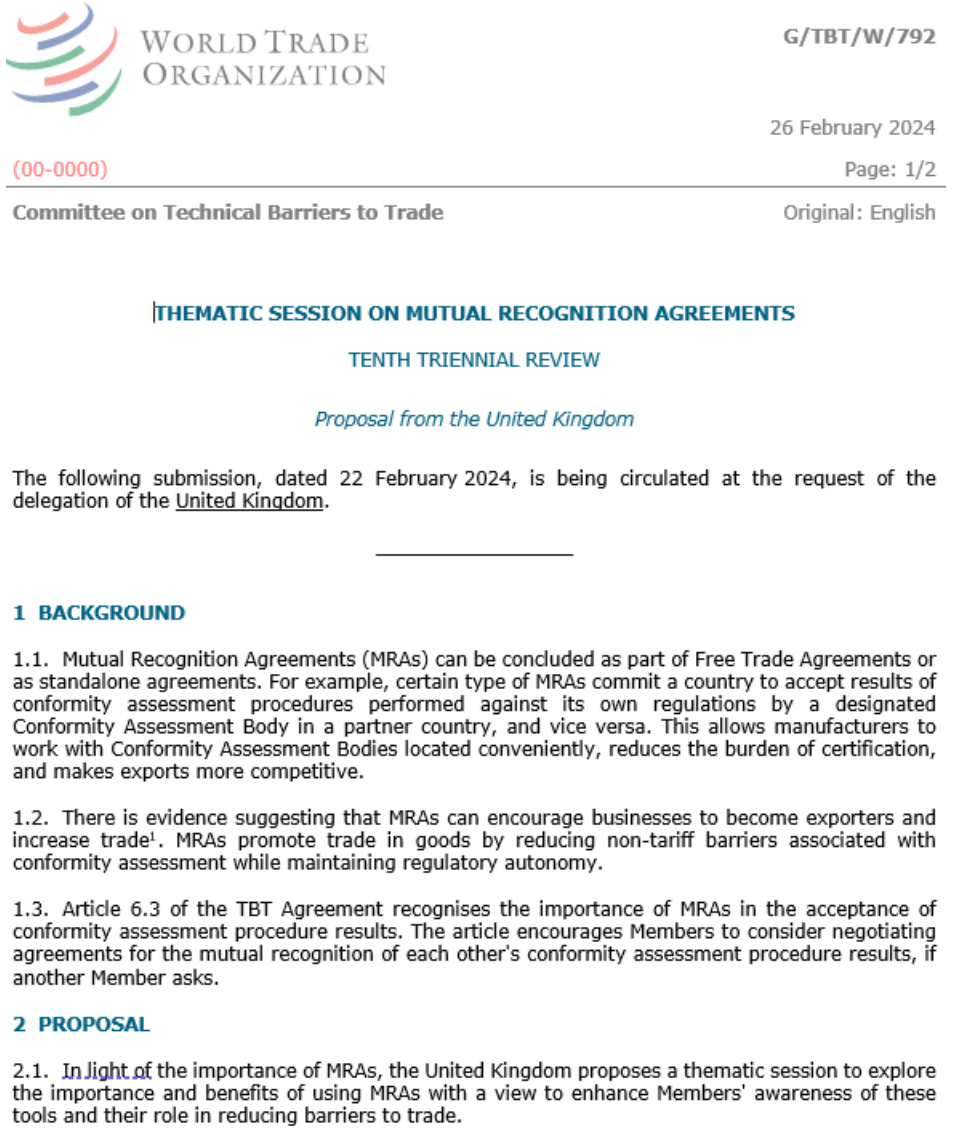
- Members are invited to **begin submitting proposals** in advance of the November 2026 meeting. Proposals will be discussed on a rolling basis at the meeting following its submission.

11th Triennial Review Timeline



What does a typical proposal look like?

- Background section
  - explaining the **context** and **problem** to be solved
- Proposal section
  - proposed **recommendations**
- Steps to issue:
  - Submit to Secretariat (tbt@wto.org)
  - Circulated as W document
  - Comments from other Members circulated as JOB documents



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G/TBT/W/792

26 February 2024

(00-0000) Page: 1/2

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade Original: English

THEMATIC SESSION ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENTS

TENTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Proposal from the United Kingdom

The following submission, dated 22 February 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom.

---

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) can be concluded as part of Free Trade Agreements or as standalone agreements. For example, certain type of MRAs commit a country to accept results of conformity assessment procedures performed against its own regulations by a designated Conformity Assessment Body in a partner country, and vice versa. This allows manufacturers to work with Conformity Assessment Bodies located conveniently, reduces the burden of certification, and makes exports more competitive.

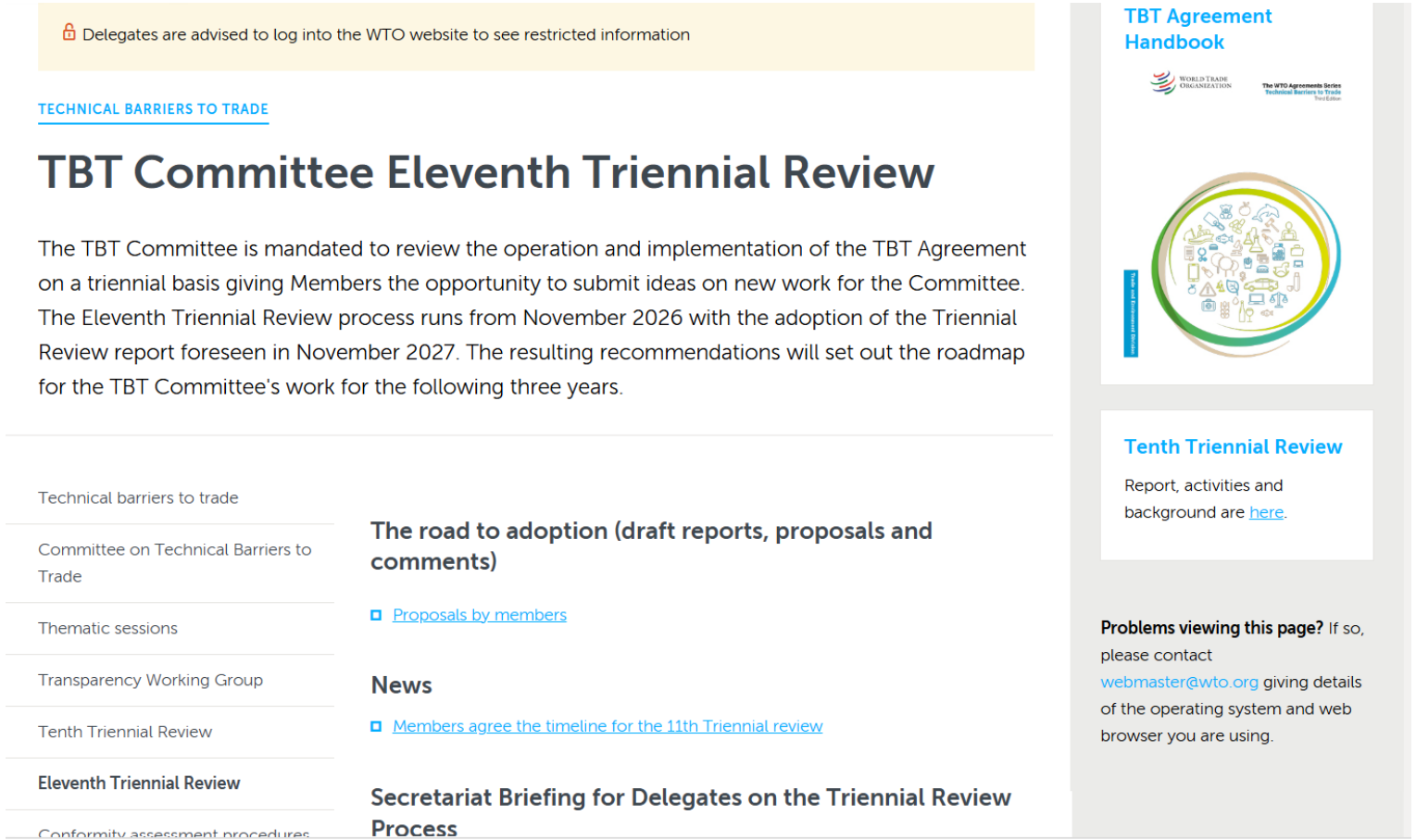
1.2. There is evidence suggesting that MRAs can encourage businesses to become exporters and increase trade[1]. MRAs promote trade in goods by reducing non-tariff barriers associated with conformity assessment while maintaining regulatory autonomy.

1.3. Article 6.3 of the TBT Agreement recognises the importance of MRAs in the acceptance of conformity assessment procedure results. The article encourages Members to consider negotiating agreements for the mutual recognition of each other's conformity assessment procedure results, if another Member asks.

2 PROPOSAL

2.1. In light of the importance of MRAs, the United Kingdom proposes a thematic session to explore the importance and benefits of using MRAs with a view to enhance Members' awareness of these tools and their role in reducing barriers to trade.

Want to find out more?



Delegates are advised to log into the WTO website to see restricted information

TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

TBT Committee Eleventh Triennial Review

The TBT Committee is mandated to review the operation and implementation of the TBT Agreement on a triennial basis giving Members the opportunity to submit ideas on new work for the Committee. The Eleventh Triennial Review process runs from November 2026 with the adoption of the Triennial Review report foreseen in November 2027. The resulting recommendations will set out the roadmap for the TBT Committee's work for the following three years.

Technical barriers to trade
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
Thematic sessions
Transparency Working Group
Tenth Triennial Review
Eleventh Triennial Review
Conformity assessment procedures

The road to adoption (draft reports, proposals and comments)

- Proposals by members

News

- Members agree the timeline for the 11th Triennial review

Secretariat Briefing for Delegates on the Triennial Review Process

TBT Agreement Handbook

Tenth Triennial Review

Report, activities and background are here.

Problems viewing this page? If so, please contact webmaster@wto.org giving details of the operating system and web browser you are using.

ANNEX 3: SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS BY TOPIC[256]

Member	Symbol	Date	Title
Good Regulatory Practice			
Brazil	JOB/TBT/567	27 September 2024	Comments from Brazil on JOB/TBT/554
United States	JOB/TBT/554	11 September 2024	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/551
Brazil	G/TBT/W/810	30 May 2024	Thematic session on enhancing and consolidating good regulatory practices
Russian Federation	G/TBT/W/800	25 April 2024	Thematic session on national approaches to RTA provisions in the field of Technical Barriers to Trade
Regulatory Cooperation Between Members			
European Union	JOB/TBT/561	26 September 2024	Comments from the European Union on JOB/TBT/554
Canada	JOB/TBT/559	13 September 2024	Comments from Canada on JOB/TBT/551
United States	JOB/TBT/554	11 September 2024	Comments from the United States on JOB/TBT/551
United States	G/TBT/W/815	3 June 2024	Thematic session on regulatory cooperation and facilitating trade of lithium-ion batteries and alternatives
United States	G/TBT/W/804	23 May 2024	Leveraging standards and conformity assessment to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change in buildings
United States	G/TBT/W/789/Rev.1	23 May 2024	Thematic session to combat misinformation and disinformation across various sectors – Revision
United States	G/TBT/W/786/Rev.1	22 May 2024	Thematic session on food contact plastic packaging – Revision
United States	G/TBT/W/802	17 May 2024	Thematic session on additive manufacturing
Canada	JOB/TBT/547	25 April 2024	Canada's comments on various proposals
Australia	G/TBT/W/781/Rev.1	1 March 2024	Medical device regulation – Revision

For the rest see the Annex 3 in G/TBT/56

Reference materials

- Decisions and Recommendations



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/1/Rev.15

15 November 2022

(22-8507) Page: 1/95

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE WTO COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE SINCE 1 JANUARY 1995

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT[1]

Revision

The present document contains the fifteenth revision of the compilation of the TBT Committee's Decisions and Recommendations. This revision, which supersedes all previous G/TBT/1 documents, is in two parts. Part 1 contains the Committee's decisions and recommendations adopted since 1 January 1995. Part 2 contains the Committee's Rules of Procedure including Guidelines for Observer Status for Governments and International Intergovernmental Organizations.

- Annual Review of the implementation of the Agreement



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/61

20 February 2026

(26-1238) Page: 1/77

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE TBT AGREEMENT

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT[1]

The WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (the Committee) will conduct its thirty-first Annual Review of the implementation and operation of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (the TBT Agreement) under Article 15.3 at its next meeting on 4-6 March 2026. This document contains information on developments in the Committee relating to the implementation and operation of the TBT Agreement from 1 January to 31 December 2025.



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The WTO Agreements Series
Technical Barriers to Trade
Third Edition

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Trade and Environment Division



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Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement

10 key outcomes from 2025

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Thank you for your attention

Any questions?

