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Trade Policy Review Mechanism

“Early harvest” of the Uruguay Round:

- Provisionally established at the Montreal Mid-Term Review of the Round in December 1988.
- First TPRs: Australia, Morocco and the United States

1994 - Annex 3 of the Agreement Establishing the WTO
Objective of the TPRM:

• Facilitate smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system by enhancing transparency.

• Process of multilateral peer review of domestic trade policies covering goods, services and intellectual property.
Trade Policy Review Mechanism

...since 1995:

- 157 Members have been reviewed
- +500 Trade Policy Reports by the Secretariat
- +6800 paragraphs on TRIPS-related issues
Review Periods:

- Four Members with the largest shares of world trade are reviewed every three years: European Union, the United States, Japan and China;
- The next 16 Members are reviewed every five years;
- Others are reviewed every seven years;
- A longer review period may be envisaged for least-developed country Members.
Evolution with the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement and their relation to national development policies on:

- Fostering research and innovation;
- Promoting exports;
- Attracting foreign direct investment;
- Participating in global value chains; and
- Overall improvement of competitiveness.
Questions on enacted laws or reforms to modernize the intellectual property regime, so that it can:

- Respond to technological evolution and new ways of doing business;
- Coherently implement obligations under the TRIPS Agreement, WIPO Instruments and Free Trade Agreements;
- Modernize institutions and procedures for the administration of intellectual property rights.
Q&R Process

Contemporary issues raised by Members:

• Copyrights and related rights in the digital environment;
• Registration of holograms, colour marks, sound marks and position marks;
• Geographical indications for non-agricultural products;
• Patent quality;
• Protection of trade Secrets;
• Protection of the collective knowledge of indigenous peoples related to biodiversity;
• TRIPS and Competition Policy;
• Enforcement, online and at the border; and
• Valuation and composition of assets related to intellectual property.
Intellectual Property as a component of national policies to support, for example:

- Micro, small and medium enterprises;
- Disadvantaged or remote regions;
- Environmentally friendly innovation; and
- Women entrepreneurs.
Looking at the Future

- Tracking the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement
- Mainstreaming IP into economic and trade policies
- Insights into policy choices and experience
- Real-life examples
- Develop “best practices”
Thank you!

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