



WTO ACCESSIONS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL *

This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

* Unless otherwise specified, this Annual Report takes account of confirmed accession-related developments from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	OVERVIEW 2022 AND OUTLOOK 2023	3
1.	OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2022.....	3
2.	OUTLOOK FOR 2023.....	4
II.	DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022	6
1.	ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES: AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES	6
2.	WORKING PARTY CHAIRPERSONS	7
3.	TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACCESSION PROCESS	7
4.	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH	8
III.	STATE OF PLAY IN ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES.....	12
1.	STRATEGIC FOCUS.....	13
2.	WORK IN PROGRESS.....	13
3.	REACTIVATION	14
4.	ACTIVATION	14
5.	INACTIVE.....	14
IV.	TRADE FOR PEACE PROGRAMME	16
1.	PILLAR 1: POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS.....	16
2.	PILLAR 2: PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND OUTREACH.....	17
3.	PILLAR 3: RESEARCH	17
4.	PILLAR 4: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING.....	17
V.	POST-ACCESSION	18
VI.	TRADE AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS	18
	ANNEX 1 – ACCESSIONS DIVISION WORK INDICATORS (2019-2022).....	21
	ANNEX 2 - ACCESSIONS NEGOTIATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XII.....	22
	ANNEX 3 - WTO ACCESSIONS WORKING PARTY CHAIRPERSONS.....	23
	ANNEX 4 – LENGTH OF TIME OF COMPLETED ACCESSIONS	24
	ANNEX 5 – BASIC ECONOMIC PROFILES OF ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS AND ARTICLE XII MEMBERS	25
	ANNEX 6 – DATA ON TRADE PERFORMANCE.....	28
	ANNEX 7 – ACCESSIONS MANAGEMENT	30
	ACCESSIONS STAFF DISPOSITION 2022.....	30

I. OVERVIEW 2022 AND OUTLOOK 2023

1. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2022

1. This is my second Annual Report on WTO Accessions. I have been impressed by the active interest and engagement by a number of acceding governments in 2022, despite the multiple challenges they continued to face in managing their economies which were severely hit by higher food and energy prices caused by geopolitical tensions. The resumption of face-to-face contacts as a result of the gradual reduction of pandemic-related restrictions has enabled several accession processes to advance or resume after two years of varied progress.

2. The year started with the establishment of a new Working Party on the accession of Turkmenistan by the General Council on 23 February, bringing the total number of accessions to 24. Acceding governments were active at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in June, with 19 of them represented at a level of Minister or senior officials from capitals. Many used their presence in Geneva to resume or advance bilateral contacts with Members and the Secretariat. Useful guidance was given by Ministers on accessions in paragraph 6 of the Outcome Document:

"We underscore the importance of accessions, noting that although no new accession has taken place since July 2016, several applicants have made encouraging progress. In this regard, we remain committed to facilitate the conclusion of ongoing accessions, especially for least-developed countries fully in line with the General Council Guidelines on LDC Accessions, and to provide technical assistance, where appropriate, including in the post-accession phase."

3. The progress made in 2022 reflects the implementation of this guidance. Two LDCs, namely, Comoros and Timor-Leste, were the most active among the on-going accessions and advanced their negotiations closer to the finish line. Building on the solid progress made in 2020-21, both LDCs held two Working Party meetings – the 7th and 8th meetings¹ for Comoros, and the 3rd and 4th meetings for Timor-Leste. Progress was registered on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks of negotiations. Comoros concluded all bilateral market access negotiations, and the Secretariat consolidated the deposited protocols into draft schedules of goods and services for verification. By January 2023, Timor-Leste signed bilateral market access protocols with four Members and is advancing negotiations with six more Members. The multilateral discussions also advanced, reaching technical maturity in many chapters of the draft Reports of the respective Working Parties, as reflected in the number of draft commitment paragraphs therein. In addition, I am encouraged by the recent indications from other LDCs, including Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, that they are ready to resume their technical work soon.

4. Good progress was also registered among the accessions of non-LDCs. In June, Uzbekistan held the 5th meeting of the Working Party, based on a new set of updated negotiating inputs. In July, Iraq made a submission of eight documents in preparation for the formal reactivation of the Working Party since 2008. In December, Equatorial Guinea submitted the Memorandum of its Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR), nearly 15 years after the establishment of the Working Party. Azerbaijan was also active, holding technical sessions with the Secretariat and bilateral meetings with Members in preparation for the resumption of the Working Party process since 2017. Furthermore, contacts were re-established with the Lebanese Republic and Libya to explore the resumption of their WTO-related agenda which had been disrupted for various reasons.

5. In 2022, Working Party Chairpersons continued to play an important role in facilitating the accession processes. Working closely with the Secretariat, they set the direction of work in their respective Working Parties, with their role particularly prominent in advanced accessions or in accessions which were being re-activated. In anticipation of the resumption of activities at the level of the Working Party, eight vacancies for chairmanships were opened by the end of December for: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Serbia and Uzbekistan. Under the delegated authority of the Chairperson of the General Council, Deputy Director-General Zhang Xiangchen has started consultations with Members on these chairmanships, while taking into account the interest of the acceding governments.

¹ Due to scheduling difficulties for late 2022, the 8th meeting was held in January 2023.

6. In my last report, I stressed the importance of technical assistance (TA) not only as a key input at each stage of the accession process, but also as an important tool to bring together acceding governments, Members and partners to address the multiple needs of acceding governments. In this regard, I was pleased to note the establishment of a new Coordination Group on Accessions-related TA, launched during the Aid for Trade Global Review on 27 July. The goal of the Group is to enhance coordination among TA providers, which include bilateral, regional and international partners, aimed at increasing the effectiveness of accession-related TA and capacity building for the benefit of acceding governments. Building on its intimate knowledge of the evolving needs of acceding governments, the Secretariat can play a coordinating role, including through the organisation of or participation at TA Roundtables with partners, as it was done for the accessions of Comoros, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 2022. In addition, the Secretariat delivered about 60 TA and outreach activities, including the 10th China Round Table on Accessions on 18-20 January (virtual) and the 2nd Regional Dialogue for Arab Accessions on 7-9 February (virtual). Over 900 participants took part in these TA and outreach activities.

7. The Secretariat continued to attach great importance to transparency in WTO accessions. Efforts were made to provide timely information on new developments, through social media, especially between Working Party meetings to complement press releases and newsletters. In 2022, the Secretariat issued six newsletters (i.e. three each for the Accessions Newsletter and the Trade for Peace (T4P) Newsletter, in May, September, December/January); 21 press releases (16 on accessions and five on T4P); and 326 tweets (192 on accessions and 134 on T4P). The Secretariat continued to service the Informal Group of Acceding Governments, coordinated by Uzbekistan, which met on a regular basis, including at the level of senior officials during MC12. In addition, it organised a 3-hour briefing session for Members in September, covering the accession process and procedures, and the state of play in accessions.

8. 2022 marked the fifth year since the launch of the Trade for Peace initiative by the g7+ WTO Accessions Group. I note with satisfaction that the Trade for Peace Programme, formally launched in 2021, has successfully re-introduced peace and security into the conversation on trade and multilateral cooperation. This became particularly relevant in 2022 against the backdrop of increased fragility and conflicts in different parts of the world. The Programme, through its four pillars, has brought closer together the trade, peace and humanitarian communities to explore how trade can play a role in building and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCS). Innovative initiatives introduced in 2022 included the establishment of Trade for Peace Future Leaders, a dedicated platform for youth engagement in the trade and peace conversation, 30 September (Pillar 1: political engagement and partnerships); development of a Trade for Peace Index with the Institute for Economics and Peace (Pillar 3: research); and the launch of a 14-week Master's course on Trade for Peace at the Geneva Graduate Institute 21 September (Pillar 4: training and capacity-building). Moreover, under Pillar 2 (outreach and public dialogue), the 3rd Trade for Peace Week held from 14 to 18 November discussed FCS, focusing on definitional issues and specific challenges and needs. The Trade for Peace Podcast ran for a second season in 2022 with 11 episodes featuring 17 guests. The year ended with the second meeting of the Trade for Peace Research and Knowledge Hub on 7 December, which advanced the research agenda on the trade and peace nexus.

2. OUTLOOK FOR 2023

9. For the year ahead, the vision provided by MC12 shall guide our accession work, that is "to facilitate the conclusion of ongoing accessions, especially for LDCs" and "to provide technical assistance, where appropriate, including in the post-accession phase." In this regard, I am pleased to note that work on the accessions of Comoros and Timor-Leste could be finalised in 2023, so that the respective accession packages can be presented to Members for adoption before or at MC13. The most recent meetings of the respective Working Parties have narrowed down the list of outstanding issues, especially regarding the legislative actions required to achieve WTO conformity. In my meetings with Comorian President Azali Assoumani and Timorese President José Ramos-Horta, I have been given assurances of their commitment to finalise domestic work in the coming months. For my part, I will ensure that the Secretariat's resources are fully mobilized for the goal of bringing the two LDC accessions to the finish line, in close coordination with the Working Party Chairpersons. In parallel, the Secretariat will assist Comoros and Timor-Leste in the development of Post-Accession Strategies to prepare them for WTO membership, including the implementation of commitments. Welcoming new members into the Organization would not only fulfil the ministerial guidance, but would also reconfirm the relevance of the multilateral trading system, including its ability to take

account of the needs of the most vulnerable members of the international community, especially LDCs and FCS.

10. I believe that several other accessions can advance substantively, building on the technical progress registered in 2022. Following the recent announcement by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the plan to conclude major negotiations in the accession process in 2023, I am optimistic that Uzbekistan will change gear and accelerate the pace of negotiations. Resumptions of Working Party activity are envisaged for Azerbaijan, as well as for Ethiopia, Iraq and Sudan, taking advantage of improved stability on the domestic front. The launch of the Working Party process can be expected for the accessions of Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea and Somalia once these acceding governments provide replies to questions on their MFTRs which were submitted in 2020-2022. The Secretariat also stands ready to provide assistance to Libya, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Turkmenistan, which are all at various stages of preparing their MFTRs. Furthermore, it is hoped that the appointment of new Working Party chairpersons early in the year could create new momentum in the accessions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, which are both technically advanced and linked together by their EU accession roadmaps.

11. Technical assistance continues to play a critical part in all accessions. With the easing of restrictions linked to the pandemic, the Secretariat plans to deliver more in-person TA and training activities, in Geneva or on the ground, to support acceding governments' efforts to start, resume or advance their respective processes, in addition to the virtual mode of delivery which has by now proved its effectiveness and efficiency. These activities will be complemented by regionally focused experience-sharing dialogues, especially for Africa, the Arab region and Central Asia. In 2023, the 4th Regional Dialogue on African accessions is planned in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. A study entitled "Best Practices in WTO Accessions for Arab Countries: Lessons from Past and On-going Accessions" is being prepared jointly by the WTO, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Islamic Development Bank, to be presented at the 3rd Regional Dialogue on Arab accessions in October. The resumption of the WTO Central Asia Trade Policy Forum is also planned. Moreover, the Secretariat will continue to collaborate and cooperate with partners – bilateral, regional and international – through the Coordination Group of Accession-related TA, to help acceding governments maximise the benefits and effectiveness of TA.

12. In response to the positive feedback received on the first briefing on WTO accessions for Members, the Secretariat plans to hold another session to support effective participation in accession negotiations. While the Secretariat's technical assistance and training has targeted acceding governments, there is a growing realization that greater familiarisation by Members with the accession process and procedures, combined with transparency, can increase the efficiency of accession negotiations, for the benefit of all. We will therefore continue to enhance and expand our transparency and communication tools, including through the greater use of social media, to keep the accession community abreast of new developments. Finally, as part of our knowledge contribution, the Secretariat has finalised the second edition of the "Handbook on Accessions to the WTO" which will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2023.

13. On the Trade for Peace front, in addition to the Secretariat extending support to the g7+ WTO Accessions Group in preparation for MC13, I also expect concrete outputs in the research pillar in the Trade for Peace Programme. These include, the Trade for Peace Index, the first publication on Trade for Peace, and two research projects focusing on trade policy instruments used during and post-conflict, and on the analysis of trade provisions in peace agreements. These projects are being undertaken with partners with expertise in the peace field. I see that the empirical outputs are critical in building the case for the role of trade in building and sustaining peace, in particular, how trade policies and measures could be utilised to promote positive peace in FCS. It is hoped that the research outputs would be made available in time for a high-level Trade for Peace Conference to be organised in the second half of the year.

14. In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Working Party Chairpersons in driving and facilitating their accession dossiers. I shall continue to work closely with them, the acceding governments and WTO Members to take a step closer to the goal of universal membership.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
WTO Director-General

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN 2022

1. ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES: AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

15. At the start of the year, 23 governments were in the process of WTO accession. With the establishment of the Working Party on the Accession of Turkmenistan by the General Council on 23 February², that number has increased to 24.

16. In the year under review, four formal Working Party meetings were held.³ These were on the accessions of Timor-Leste (third⁴ and fourth⁵ meetings), Comoros (seventh meeting⁶) and Uzbekistan (fifth meeting⁷). In addition, the Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Iraq held an informal consultation with Members.⁸

17. Progress in the accession Working Parties was documented as follows:

- A Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) was circulated to the Working Party on the Accession of Equatorial Guinea⁹.
- A revised Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) was circulated to the Working Party on the Accession of Iraq¹⁰.
- A revised Factual Summary of Points Raised was prepared by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan¹¹.
- An Elements of a draft Working Party Report¹² and a draft Report of the Working Party were prepared by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste¹³.
- The draft Report of the Working Party was revised twice by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Comoros¹⁴.
- In addition, the Chairpersons of the Accessions of Comoros and Timor-Leste issued progress reports on the respective accessions¹⁵ to the 12th Ministerial Conference.

18. In total, 69 accession documents were issued under document symbols WT/ACC, WT/ACC/SPEC and JOB/ACC series, for six Working Parties (Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) (see Annex 1).

² "WTO Members initiate Membership talks for Turkmenistan": [WTO | 2022 News items - WTO members initiate membership talks for Turkmenistan](#).

³ The meetings included: the 3rd and 4th meetings for Timor-Leste on 29 April and 30 September, the 7th meeting for Comoros on 19 May, and the 5th meeting for Uzbekistan on 21 June.

⁴ "Members commend Timor-Leste's proactive approach to advance WTO accession process": [WTO | 2022 News items - Members commend Timor-Leste's proactive approach to advance WTO accession process](#).

⁵ "Working Party welcomes strong commitment by Timor-Leste to join WTO in 2023": [WTO | 2022 News items - Working Party welcomes strong commitment by Timor-Leste to join WTO in 2023](#).

⁶ "WTO accession for the Comoros moves towards final stages": [WTO | 2022 News items - WTO accession for the Comoros moves towards final stages](#).

⁷ "Uzbekistan reaffirms commitment to intensify WTO accession efforts": [WTO | 2022 News items - Uzbekistan reaffirms commitment to intensify WTO accession efforts](#).

⁸ On 5 September.

⁹ WT/ACC/GNQ/3.

¹⁰ WT/ACC/IRQ/10/Rev.1.

¹¹ JOB/ACC/UZB/Rev.1.

¹² WT/ACC/SPEC/TLS/4.

¹³ WT/ACC/SPEC/TLS/5.

¹⁴ WT/ACC/SPEC/COM/5/Rev.4 and WT/ACC/SPEC/COM/5/Rev.5.

¹⁵ WT/ACC/COM/35 – WT/MIN(22)/1 and WT/ACC/TLS/22 – WT/MIN(22)/2.

2. WORKING PARTY CHAIRPERSONS

19. As of 31 December 2022, eight accession Working Parties had Chairpersons (see Annex 3). Of these, one was a woman.¹⁶

20. On 20 September, a vacancy was issued for the chairmanship of the Working Party on the Accession of Azerbaijan. On 22 December, vacancies were issued for the chairmanships of the Working Parties of the Accessions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Serbia, and Uzbekistan. On behalf of the Chairperson of the General Council, Deputy Director-General Zhang Xiangchen will undertake consultations on these chairmanships.

21. In 2022, Working Party Chairpersons remained actively engaged and played a significant role in advancing the accession processes. They consulted with Members and acceding governments in various formats and configurations, including virtually, and participated in outreach activities to improve technical and policy understanding on WTO accessions.

22. The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Rui Macieira (Portugal) visited Dili on 11-19 July¹⁷. During the visit, a number of activities were organized¹⁸, including: (i) bilateral meetings with government officials and the ASEAN Secretariat; (ii) High-Level Conference on WTO/ASEAN Accession of Timor-Leste (12 July)¹⁹, and (iii) meetings with the civil society, private sector and development partners.

3. TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACCESSION PROCESS

23. Ensuring transparency and predictability in the accession process remains a key priority for the Secretariat and Members. Various transparency measures continued to be implemented in 2022.

i. Briefing on WTO Accessions to Members

24. While the Secretariat did not hold regular meetings of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) in 2022, it organised a briefing session on WTO Accessions to Members on 15 September. The briefing focused on: (i) the accession process and its procedures, including the multilateral and bilateral tracks; and (ii) the state of play in ongoing accession negotiations.

ii. WTO Accessions Newsletter

25. The Newsletter ensures transparency on accession matters, including recent developments, calendar of activities, and issues of interests to the accession community. It also aims to enhance communication with acceding governments, Chairpersons, Members, partners and the broader trade policy community. The Secretariat issued three WTO Accessions Newsletters, covering developments in the period under review, in May, in September and in January 2023. The number of subscribers to the Newsletter at the end of 2022 was 1764 (excluding subscribers from the Secretariat), representing a 9.8% increase in relation to 2021. In 2022, a separate Trade for Peace (T4P) Newsletter was launched. Three editions of the T4P Newsletter were issued covering developments in the period under review, in May, in September and in January 2023. These reported on the latest developments under the four pillars of the Trade for Peace Programme (see Section IV).

¹⁶ More information on the selection process of accession Working Party Chairpersons can be found in Section 2.4 "Chairperson of Accession Working Party" of document WT/ACC/33/Rev.1.

¹⁷ See Chair's report on the visit in JOB/ACC/TLS/7.

¹⁸ "Working Party chair commends Timor-Leste's commitment to WTO accession on visit to Dili": [WTO | 2022 News items - Working Party chair commends Timor-Leste's commitment to WTO accession on visit to Dili](#).

¹⁹ "High-level conference highlights synergies between Timor-Leste's WTO and ASEAN accessions": [WTO | 2022 News items - High-level conference highlights synergies between Timor-Leste's WTO and ASEAN accessions](#)

iii. Accessions Transparency Toolbox

- WTO Accessions Intelligence Portal (AIP)

26. The Accessions Intelligence Portal (<https://www.wto.org/accessions>) aims at enhancing transparency on WTO accession negotiations. The AIP provides access to documentation and data on the WTO accession processes, including 36 completed and 24 ongoing accessions. The Portal is regularly updated based on documentation submitted by acceding governments and produced by the Secretariat with respect to ongoing accessions.²⁰ A new, more user-friendly layout of the AIP is under development, to be launched in 2023.

- Accession Commitments Database (ACDB)

27. The Accession Commitments Database (<http://acdb.wto.org>) provides access to all accession-specific commitments and related information contained in Accession Working Party Reports and Protocols of the 36 Article XII Members. The ACDB is available to the general public in the three WTO official languages.

- Register of Bilateral Market Access Agreements

28. The Register of Bilateral Market Access Agreements contains basic information regarding signed bilateral market access agreements on goods and services that have been deposited with the Secretariat. The Register lists the type of the agreement (goods; services; or both), and the dates of signature and deposit. The content of bilateral market access agreements remains confidential to the signatories and the Secretariat, which acts as the depository of the Agreements. Reports generated by the Register are available to WTO Members via a password-protected access: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/xacc_e/register_e.htm.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

i. Technical assistance

29. Technical assistance is critical to support the progress of accession negotiations, in particular for LDCs. One of the four key results of the Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan²¹ (TA Plan) for 2022-2023 focuses on the participation of acceding governments in accession negotiations. Based on lessons learnt from the implementation of technical assistance in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021, the Plan continues to prioritize the needs of LDCs, revealing the scarce capacity in a number of these countries. The TA Plan 2022-23 gives continuity to previous TA Plans, including supporting fully inclusive activities that respond to the needs of the weakest and most vulnerable beneficiaries.

30. As foreshadowed in the 2021 Annual Report by the Director-General on Accessions, the Coordination Group on Accessions-related Technical Assistance was launched on 27 July on the margins of the Global Aid for Trade Review.²² The newly launched Group serves as a forum for development partners and acceding governments to exchange information on WTO accession-specific needs and assistance on a periodic basis. Its goal is to ensure that the evolving technical assistance needs of acceding governments are met in a timely, coordinated and tailor-made manner, especially for least developed countries, both during accession as well as post-accession. Participation in the Group is open to multilateral, regional and bilateral development partners involved in providing technical assistance to acceding governments. The first substantive meeting of the Group will be convened in the first half of 2023.

²⁰ While the AIP is open to the public, some parts of the website, including access to documents of ongoing accession negotiations, remain password-protected and are only accessible to Members and acceding governments.

²¹ The plan for 2022-23 is contained in document WT/COMTD/W/260/Rev.1.

²² "Accessions-related Coordination Group launched at Aid for Trade Global Review": [WTO | 2022 News items - Accessions-related Coordination Group launched at Aid for Trade Global Review](#)

31. In 2022, a number of technical assistance and capacity building activities were delivered involving all observers²³. In line with COVID-19 related guidance most of these activities were conducted virtually, while an increasing number of them took place in hybrid as well as in-person modes. The activities included, *inter alia*, (i) technical sessions; (ii) tailored national training sessions and seminars; (iii) missions; and (iv) roundtables/dialogues.

- National activities

32. The Accessions Division, in collaboration with other Secretariat Divisions and/or other partner institutions, delivered technical assistance and advice to the following acceding governments: Azerbaijan, Comoros, Curaçao, Iraq, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:

- i. Azerbaijan: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat organised three sets of technical sessions in Geneva for visiting experts from Baku, covering (i) trade facilitation, intellectual property, services, goods, subsidies, and TBT and SPS issues, on 27-28 April; (ii) rules of origin, regional trade agreements, trade facilitation, customs valuation and WTO/ITC online market analysis tools, on 11-13 July; and (iii) services and e-commerce on 12-16 December. The Secretariat also undertook a mission to Baku on 30 June – 1 July where it delivered a presentation on the accession process and the state-of-play in Azerbaijan's accession at a workshop and held bilateral meetings with government officials in charge of accession negotiations.
- ii. Comoros: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat conducted two virtual activities: (i) a technical assistance round table jointly organized by Comoros, the WTO and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) on 13 January²⁴; and (ii) a training on trade in services on 19 July. An experience-sharing session with former accession chief negotiators of Article XII Members was organized on 18 November on post-accession (as part of the 3rd Trade for Peace Week).
- iii. Curaçao: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat held eight virtual training activities on trade in services on 25 February, 18 and 25 March, 1, 22 and 29 April, 6 and 13 May.
- iv. Iraq: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat organized two virtual technical sessions on accession documentation on 16 June and on 24 August.
- v. Sudan: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat organized a virtual technical session/training on state trading enterprises on 7 November.
- vi. Timor-Leste: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat provided technical sessions and trainings, in a virtual or hybrid mode, on: (i) market access offer on services (7-9, 15, 16 and 18 March and 12 April), (ii) Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation (2 June), (iii) customs valuation (18 July), (iv) TRIPS (18 July, with WIPO), (v) Information Technology Agreement (19 July), (vi) trading rights (19 July), (vii) post-accession (19 July, with ITC), (viii) SPS (28 September) and (ix) STEs (25 November). Assistance on the preparation of the accession documentation was provided throughout the year. In addition, experience-sharing sessions with former accession chief negotiators of Article XII Members were organized on 29 July (on ITA) and 18 November (as part of the 3rd Trade for Peace Week, on post-accession). A technical assistance round table was organized on the margins of the third Working Party meeting on 29 April. During the Chairperson's visit to Dili (see paragraph 22), a technical assistance round table with development partners was held on 13 July.

²³ In total, over 900 participants took part in these activities.

²⁴ "Comoros discusses accession, post-accession technical assistance with development partners": [WTO | 2022 News items - Comoros discusses accession, post-accession technical assistance with development partners](#)

- vii. Turkmenistan: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat conducted two virtual technical sessions covering: (i) WTO accession process on 25 March (with UNECE); and (ii) WTO accession negotiations on 25 April (with ITC). On 4-6 July, a WTO Secretariat mission led by DDG Xiangchen Zhang visited Ashgabat²⁵ to: (i) have bilateral meetings with government officials and development partners, (ii) launch the Work Programme on the Preparation of the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime of Turkmenistan (MFTR); and (iii) participate in a Round Table on Technical Assistance with Development Partners. During this visit, the Secretariat also delivered a dedicated training on the MFTR, on 5 July.
- viii. Uzbekistan: At the request of the Government, the Secretariat participated virtually at (i) a roundtable with the business community on "Challenges and opportunities of WTO accession of Uzbekistan for the private sector", jointly organised by the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade and the UNDP, on 1 December; and (iii) the first annual conference of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy's WTO Chair on "Uzbekistan's WTO accession: challenges and opportunities", on 5 December.

- Global and regional activities

33. The 10th China Round Table on WTO Accessions took place virtually on 18-20 January. Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the China Programme, the event focused on LDC accessions.²⁶ The Round Table was attended by 150 participants, including by representatives of acceding governments, WTO Members, former and current accession Chief Negotiators, WP Chairpersons, and representatives of development partners. The objectives of the event were to (i) celebrate the 10 years anniversary of the China Programme and (ii) reflect on LDCs accessions as well as ways in which the China Programme can continue to assist them in their accession journey. Opened by the Director-General and the Minister of Commerce of China, the Round Table highlighted key achievements of the China Programme and discussed the future of LDC accessions, including greater focus on FCA countries and the Trade for Peace Programme. It also reviewed the accession outcomes and post-accession performance of the nine Article XII Members that joined the WTO as LDCs, based on a dedicated study prepared for the event. The study²⁷ explored the impact of WTO accession on least developed countries and the best practices established for LDC accessions, based on the experience of the nine countries that joined the WTO as LDCs.²⁸ The Round Table also provided a timely occasion to discuss the future directions of the China Programme.

34. The second High-Level Regional Dialogue for Arab accessions²⁹ was organized virtually in collaboration with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on 7-9 February.³⁰ The Regional Dialogue was attended by 80 senior officials from nine Arab states. The event, entitled "Adaptive Approaches to WTO Accession amid COVID-19", built on the previous dialogue, which included sessions related to the accession process – the difficulties faced, the experiences learned, and potential solutions to assist acceding governments. Specific objectives of the Dialogue included, inter alia: (i) increasing participants' knowledge of the WTO accession process, accession-related rules, and the state-of-play of Arab accessions; (ii) deepening discussions by focusing on specific topics of interest to acceding governments (e.g. trade facilitation, trade in services); (iii) facilitating acceding governments to share experiences and lessons learned from the accession process by engaging with the private sector in accessions negotiations; and (iv) discussing the role of the Trade for Peace Programme in enhancing Arab fragile and conflict affected (FCA) countries in accession to use trade as a vehicle for peace and stability for their countries and for the region. Opened by the President of Comoros and the Director-General, the Dialogue called for an increase in joint efforts to support Arab acceding governments. Specific actions were agreed upon for the future WTO-AMF-IsDB collaboration, including a study on the accession and post-accession

²⁵ "DDG Zhang: Turkmenistan's WTO accession process, domestic reform are mutually beneficial": [WTO | 2022 News items - DDG Zhang: Turkmenistan's WTO accession process, domestic reform are mutually beneficial](#)

²⁶ "Tenth China Round Table looks at impact of 10 years of China Programme on LDC accessions": [WTO | 2022 News items - Tenth China Round Table looks at impact of 10 years of China Programme on LDC accessions](#)

²⁷ The study is available here: [ldcs_accession_study.pdf \(wto.org\)](#)

²⁸ "New study looks at challenges and opportunities of LDCs' accession to WTO": [WTO | 2022 News items - New study looks at challenges and opportunities of LDCs' accession to WTO](#)

²⁹ "High-level dialogue takes stock of Arab countries' ongoing WTO accessions": [WTO | 2022 News items - High-level dialogue takes stock of Arab countries' ongoing WTO accessions](#)

³⁰ The report was circulated under WT/ACC/42.

experience of Arab Article XII Members; the identification of country-specific accession needs; and a regional TA plan for Arab accessions.

ii. Outreach

35. The Secretariat continued to provide support to informal groups related to accessions, including the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG) and the g7+ WTO Accessions Group.

- Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG)

36. The IGAG, comprising 24 acceding governments and coordinated by Uzbekistan, held six meetings in 2022, including at the level of Minister/Head of Delegation at MC12.³¹ The Group discussed, among others: (i) accessions state of play, technical assistance and outreach activities; (ii) environmental initiatives at the WTO (i.e., Trade and Environmental Sustainability, Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade, and Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform); (iii) accessions and MC12 outcomes, including on WTO reform; (iv) the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation; and (v) government procurement.

- g7+ WTO Accessions Group

37. The g7+ WTO Accessions Group, which comprises nine fragile and conflict affected LDCs associated with WTO accession, held five meetings in 2022,³² including a meeting at the ministerial level held on the margins of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), on 12 June³³. In 2022, the Group focused on the development of a Work Programme on Trade for Peace for Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCS),³⁴ based on its Second Ministerial Declaration,³⁵ and the preparation for consultations with Members on the said Programme in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD), including development of a background paper on FCS, so that a decision could be taken on the Group's proposal at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). More information on the Trade for Peace Programme can be found in Section IV.

iii. China's LDCs and Accessions Programme (The China Programme)

38. The "China's LDCs and Accessions Programme" (the China Programme) was established by the Government of China and the WTO on 14 July 2011. An extension of the Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 8 December 2022³⁶. The China Programme is aimed at strengthening LDCs' participation in the WTO and at assisting acceding governments in joining the WTO. Out of the five pillars, the Accessions Division is responsible for the implementation of Pillar I "WTO Accessions Internship Programme"; and Pillar II "Annual China Round Tables on WTO Accessions".³⁷

39. Under the WTO Accessions Internship Programme (Pillar I), seven interns worked in the Accessions Division in the year under review.³⁸ Of the 43 interns that have participated in the Programme since its launch in 2011, 17 have been from LDCs and 26 from non-LDCs.³⁹ 15 men and 28 women have participated in the Programme. The breakdown of interns per region is presented in Figure 1.

³¹ In 2022, the IGAG met on 18 February (virtual), 7 April (hybrid), 12 June (hybrid, at the level of Minister/Head of Delegation at MC12), 26 July (virtual), 25 November (hybrid) and 15 December (hybrid).

³² Held on: 11 May; 19 May; 12 June (Minister-level); 15 November (Ambassador-level); 14 December (co-coordinators level).

³³ "g7+ Accessions Group urges WTO to play active role in promoting peace": [WTO | 2022 News items - g7+ Accessions Group urges WTO to play active role in promoting peace](#)

³⁴ See WTO document WT/GC/W/830.

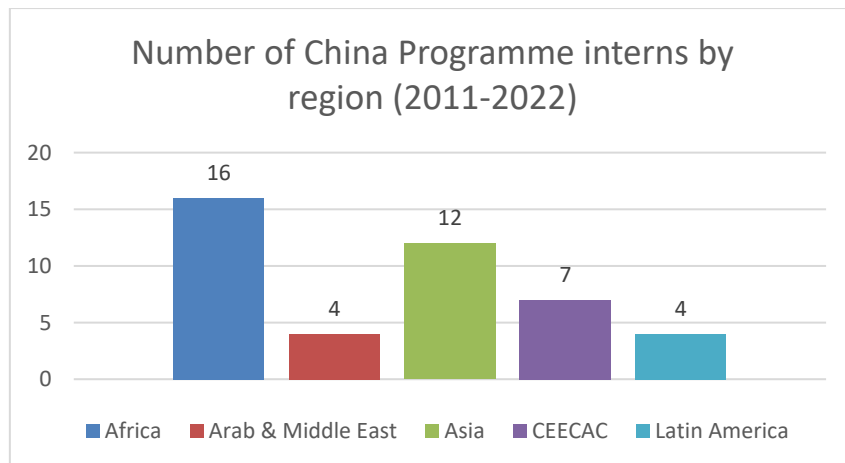
³⁵ See WTO document WT/MIN(22)/23.

³⁶ "China commits USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries": [WTO | 2023 News items - China commits USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries](#)

³⁷ More background and information on the five pillars can be found here: [WTO | WTO accessions - China's LDCs and Accessions Programme](#).

³⁸ The 2022 China WTO Accessions Internship Programme participants were from Afghanistan, Brazil, Ghana, Lebanon, Lao PDR, Sudan and Viet Nam.

³⁹ An overview of former and current participants, including alumni stories, can be found here: [WTO | WTO accessions - The China WTO accession internship programme](#).

Figure 1: China Programme interns by region (2011-2022)

III. STATE OF PLAY IN ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES

40. Table 1 provides an overview of 24 accessions by the status of accession negotiations, as of 31 December 2022. A range of factors remained in play in accession negotiations. Election cycles, domestic political dynamics, reorganized government priorities, regional integration efforts, geopolitics and/or fragile and conflict-affected situations had an impact on progress in many accessions. In 2022, good progress was registered in several accessions, especially of Comoros, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan where the respective Working Parties held meetings. Technical progress was also made in the accessions of Azerbaijan and Iraq. This section provides the state of play on the ongoing accessions, as of December 2022. More details of the state of play are provided and regularly updated in the Accessions Newsletter.

Table 1: Current accessions by general status

General Status	Accession
1. Strategic focus (2)	Comoros*, Timor-Leste*
2. Work in progress (5)	Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia*, Sudan*, Uzbekistan
3. Reactivation (2)	Iraq, Lebanese Republic
4. Activation (4)	Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia*, Turkmenistan
5. Inactive (11)	Algeria, Andorra, The Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan*, Iran, Libya, Sao Tomé and Príncipe*, Serbia, South Sudan*, Syrian Arab Republic

* Least-Developed Countries (LDCs)

"Strategic focus" indicates accessions which could be concluded in 2023, based on the level of technical advancement of the dossiers.

"Work in progress" indicates technical advancement and regular exchange of information with WTO Members and the Secretariat.

"Reactivation" indicates exchange of information with the Secretariat and/or WTO Members with the objective of early resumption of activities at the level of the Working Party after a period of dormancy/inactivity.

"Activation" indicates exchange of information with the Secretariat with the objective to begin the Working Party process.

"Inactive" indicates no activities at the level of the Working Party for at least three years.

1. STRATEGIC FOCUS

41. Comoros: Comoros applied for WTO accession in March 2007. The Working Party was established in October 2007 and held its first meeting in December 2016. The seventh meeting was held on 19 May 2022. To date, seven bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat. Technical work on the consolidation of the draft Goods and Services Schedules has been completed. The draft Working Party Report is in its fourth revision, circulated in October 2022. The eighth meeting of the Working Party⁴⁰ took place on 19 January 2023.⁴¹

42. Timor-Leste: Timor-Leste applied for WTO accession in November 2016. The Working Party was established in December 2016 and held its first meeting in October 2020. The third and fourth meetings of the Working Party took place on 29 April and 30 September 2022, respectively. As of the end of December 2022, two bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral negotiations are ongoing with eight interested Members. Multilateral negotiations are ongoing on the basis of the draft Working Party Report circulated in August 2022. The fifth meeting is envisaged for the first quarter of 2023, subject to the submission of required inputs.

2. WORK IN PROGRESS

43. Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan applied for WTO accession in June 1997. The Working Party was established in July 1997 and held its first meeting in 2002. The 14th meeting of the Working Party was held in July 2017. To date, four bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. In preparation for the 15th meeting of the Working Party, the fourth revision of the draft Working Party Report was circulated in July 2021. The 15th meeting is envisaged for the first half of 2023, once a new Working Party Chairperson is appointed.

44. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for WTO accession in May 1999. The Working Party was established in July 1999 and held its first meeting in 2003. The 13th meeting of the Working Party was held in February 2018. To date, 16 bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral negotiation is outstanding with one Member. Multilateral negotiations are underway on the basis of the eighth revision of the draft Working Party Report circulated in October 2017. The 14th meeting will be convened after the conclusion of the remaining bilateral market access negotiation. No progress was registered in 2022.

45. Ethiopia: Ethiopia applied for WTO accession in January 2003. The Working Party was established in February 2003 and held its first meeting in May 2008. At its fourth meeting of the Working Party held in January 2020, the Working Party agreed to transform the Factual Summary of Points Raised to an Elements of the draft Report of the Working Party. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. The fifth meeting will be convened subject to the submission of required negotiating inputs. No progress was registered in 2022.⁴²

46. Sudan: Sudan applied for WTO accession in October 1994. The Working Party was established in October 1994 and held its first meeting in 2003. After years of dormancy, the Working Party resumed its work in January 2017 and held the fourth meeting in July 2017. To date, three bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral market access negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. At its fifth meeting held in July 2021, the Working Party agreed to transform the Factual Summary of Points Raised to an Elements of a draft Working Party Report. The sixth meeting will take place, following the submission of required negotiating inputs.

47. Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan applied for WTO accession in December 1994. The Working Party was established in December 1994 and held its first meeting in 2002. After years of dormancy, the Working Party resumed its work at the fourth meeting in July 2020 and held its fifth meeting in June 2022. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. In preparation for

⁴⁰ "Members commend Comoros' efforts to clear final hurdles on path to WTO accession by MC13": [WTO | 2023 News items - Members commend Comoros' efforts to clear final hurdles on path to WTO accession by MC13](#)

⁴¹ Since January 2023, Comoros is in Category II administrative measures.

⁴² Since January 2023, Ethiopia is in Category II administrative measures.

the sixth meeting of the Working Party, a revised Factual Summary of Points Raised was circulated in November 2022. The sixth meeting is envisaged for the first quarter of 2023 once a new Chairperson is appointed.

3. REACTIVATION

48. Iraq: Iraq applied for WTO accession in September 2004. The Working Party was established in December 2004 and held its first meeting in 2007. The second meeting of the Working Party was held in April 2008 and an informal meeting of the Working Party was held in November 2017. In preparation for the third meeting of the Working Party, Iraq circulated an updated MFTR and seven other documents in June-July 2022. The third meeting will be convened following the submission of initial market access offers on goods and services. Iraq is subject to Category II administrative measures.⁴³

49. Lebanese Republic: The Lebanese Republic applied for WTO accession in January 1999. The Working Party was established in April 1999 and held its first meeting in 2002. The seventh meeting of the Working Party was held in October 2009. In preparation for the eighth meeting of the Working Party, negotiating inputs as well as the second revision of the Draft Working Party Report, were circulated in April-June 2017. The eighth meeting will be convened subject to the submission of updated negotiating inputs to reflect changes introduced since 2017 and revised market access offers on goods and services. No progress was registered in 2022.⁴⁴

4. ACTIVATION

50. Curaçao: Curaçao applied for WTO accession in October 2019. The Working Party was established in March 2020. The Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime was circulated in September 2021. The first meeting of the Working Party will be convened following the submission of replies to questions raised by Members on the Memorandum. No progress was registered in 2022.

51. Equatorial Guinea: Equatorial Guinea applied for WTO accession in March 2007. The Working Party was established in February 2008. The Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime was circulated in December 2022. The first meeting of the Working Party will be convened following the submission of replies to questions raised by Members on the Memorandum.

52. Somalia: Somalia applied for WTO accession in November 2016. The Working Party was established in December 2016. In May 2020, the Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime was circulated. The first meeting of the Working Party will be convened subject to the submission of replies to questions raised by Members on the Memorandum. Somalia is subject to Category III administrative measures.⁴⁵

53. Turkmenistan: Turkmenistan applied for WTO accession in November 2021. The Working Party was established in February 2022. No Working Party meeting has been held to date. The Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime is under preparation.

5. INACTIVE

54. Algeria: Algeria applied for WTO accession in June 1987. The Working Party was established in June 1987 and held its first meeting in 1998. The 12th meeting of the Working Party was held in March 2014. To date, six bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat while several bilateral negotiations remain outstanding. The draft Working Party Report is in its third revision that was circulated in February 2014. The 13th meeting of the Working Party will be convened subject to the submission of required negotiating inputs. No progress was registered in 2022.

⁴³ As of December 2022. Since January 2023, Iraq is in Category III administrative measures.

⁴⁴ Since January 2023, the Lebanese Republic is in Category II administrative measures.

⁴⁵ As of December 2022.

55. Andorra: Andorra applied for WTO accession in July 1997. The Working Party was established in October 1997. The Working Party held its first and only meeting in October 1999. This accession process is inactive, and there are no indications of any intention to re-start the process.

56. The Bahamas: The Bahamas applied for WTO accession in May 2001. The Working Party was established in July 2001 and held its first meeting in 2010. The fourth meeting of the Working Party was held in April 2019. To date, one bilateral market access agreement has been concluded in principle, while bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. On the multilateral level, the Working Party agreed to transform the Factual Summary of Points Raised into an Elements of a draft Working Party Report. The fifth meeting will be convened subject to the submission of required negotiating inputs. No progress was registered in 2022.

57. Belarus: Belarus applied for WTO accession in September 1993. The Working Party was established in October 1993 and held its first meeting in 1997. Following a period of inactivity, during which no formal Working Party meetings were held between 2005 and 2016, the Working Party resumed its work in January 2017. The 12th meeting took place in July 2019. The draft Working Party Report is in its fourth revision. To date, 16 bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. No progress was registered in 2022.

58. Bhutan: Bhutan applied for WTO accession in September 1999. The Working Party was established in October 1999 and held its first meeting in 2004. The fourth meeting of the Working Party was held in January 2008. The first version of the draft Working Party Report was circulated in December 2007. The most recent market access offers on goods and services were circulated in November 2007. There has been no activity in the Working Party since the fourth meeting.

59. Islamic Republic of Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran applied for WTO accession in July 1996. The Working Party was established in May 2005. Following the circulation of the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime in November 2009, Iran submitted technical inputs, including replies to Members' questions on the Memorandum, in 2011. The first meeting of the Working Party will be convened, following consultations of the Chairperson of the General Council with Members on the designation of a Chairperson of the Working Party. The Islamic Republic of Iran is subject to Category II administrative measures.⁴⁶

60. Libya: Libya applied for WTO accession in June 2004. The Working Party was established in September 2004. No Working Party meeting has been held to date as Libya has not submitted any inputs to initiate the process. Libya is subject to Category III administrative measures.⁴⁷

61. Sao Tomé and Príncipe: Sao Tomé and Príncipe applied for WTO accession in February 2005. The Working Party was established in June 2005. No Working Party meeting has been held to date as Sao Tomé and Príncipe has not submitted any inputs to initiate the process. Sao Tomé and Príncipe is subject to Category III administrative measures.⁴⁸

62. Serbia: Serbia applied for WTO accession in December 2004. The Working Party was established in February 2005 and held its first meeting in 2005. The 13th meeting of the Working Party was held in June 2013. To date, 13 bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat, while bilateral market access negotiations remain with a limited number of Members. Multilateral negotiations are based on the seventh revision of the Draft Working Party Report circulated in October 2012. The 14th meeting will be convened subject to outstanding domestic legislative action and the submission of required negotiating inputs. No progress was registered in 2022.

63. South Sudan: South Sudan applied for WTO accession in December 2017. The Working Party was established in December 2017 and held its first meeting in March 2019. The second meeting of the Working Party will be convened subject to the submission of required inputs. No progress was registered in 2022.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ As of December 2022. Since January 2023, Iran is in Category III administrative measures.

⁴⁷ As of December 2022.

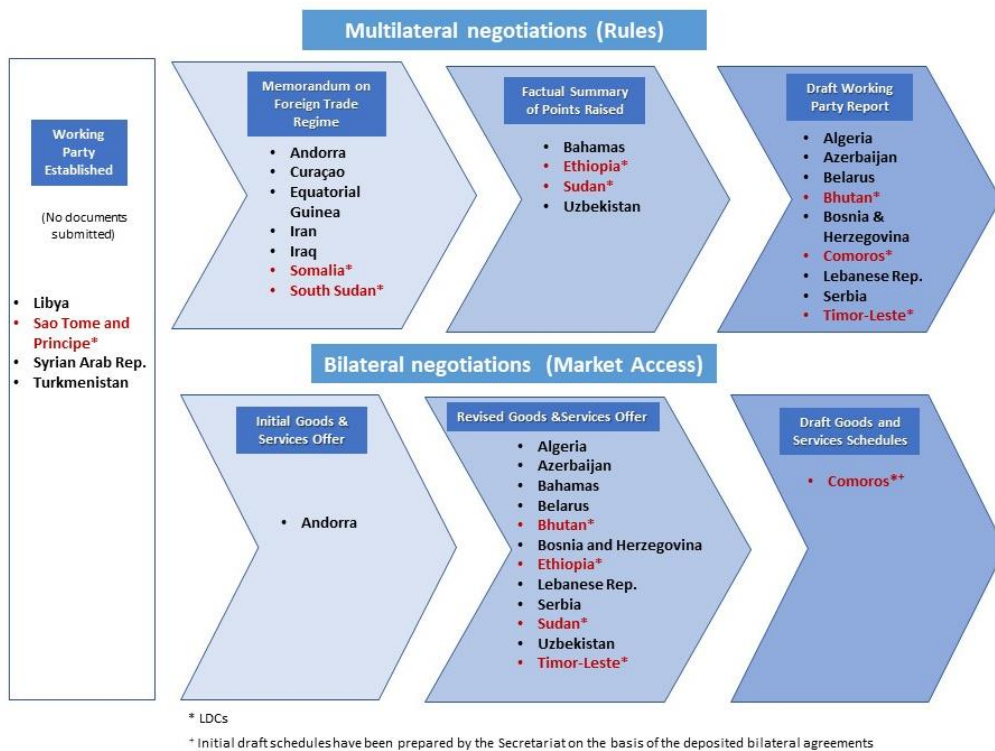
⁴⁸ As of December 2022.

⁴⁹ Since January 2023, South Sudan is in Category II administrative measures.

64. **Syrian Arab Republic:** The Syrian Arab Republic applied for WTO accession in October 2001. The Working Party was established in May 2010. No Working Party meeting has been held to date as the Syrian Arab Republic has not submitted any negotiating inputs to initiate the process. The Syrian Arab Republic is subject to Category III administrative measures.⁵⁰

65. Figure 2 provides a snapshot of the state of play in accession negotiations, as of 31 December 2022.

Figure 2: State of play in ongoing accession negotiations



IV. TRADE FOR PEACE PROGRAMME

66. The Trade for Peace (T4P) Programme has been implemented through its four pillars: (1) Political Engagement and Partnerships; (2) Public Dialogue and Outreach; (3) Research; and (4) Training and Capacity Building.

1. PILLAR 1: POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

67. Since the launch of the T4P Network in March 2021, the Secretariat continued to collaborate with different partners under this pillar, while supporting the work of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group, coordinated by Liberia and Timor-Leste (see paragraph 37).

68. In 2022, a new initiative entitled "Trade for Peace Future Leaders" was launched during the 2022 WTO Public Forum in September⁵¹. The initiative seeks to: (i) raise awareness on the reality of youth involvement in conflict and on the role they can play in building peace through trade; (ii) provide a platform for youth voices undertaking peacebuilding efforts through trade; and (iii) foster creative-thinking and innovative solutions for trade and peace. It is implemented through two channels: (1) Dialogue and (2) Action.⁵²

⁵⁰ As of December 2022.

⁵¹ "Public Forum Session highlights importance of youth engagement in trade and peacebuilding": [WTO | 2022 News items - Public Forum session highlights importance of youth engagement in trade and peacebuilding](#)

⁵² More details are available on the dedicated webpage: [WTO | Accessions - Trade for peace - Pillar 1: Political Engagement and Partnerships](#)

2. PILLAR 2: PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND OUTREACH

69. In 2022, under Pillar 2, the Secretariat organized outreach activities which aimed at deepening the understanding of the trade-peace nexus. These activities included: (i) World Bank Fragility Forum - Trade for Peace: Addressing Fragility Through Economic Integration⁵³ (15 March); (ii) Graduate Institute Summer Programme on the United Nations in a Changing World – Presentation on the WTO and Trade for Peace (7 July); (iii) Summer Program of International Organizations 2022 (SPIO), LEDECO & CUFE – Presentation on the WTO, Trade for Peace and the Role of China (19 July); (iv) Aid for Trade Global Review 2022 – The Role of Trade in Addressing Climate-Induced Fragility (27 July); (v) 2022 WTO Public Forum – The Missing Peace: Improving Youth Participation in Shaping an Inclusive Trade Future (30 September); (vi) 3rd edition of the Trade for Peace Week – Fragility and Conflict: Building Peace Through Trade and Economic Integration⁵⁴ (14 to 18 November); and (vii) Special Session of T4P Week – Youth Engagement in Trade and Peace (18 November).

70. In 2022, the T4P Podcast⁵⁵ featured 14 episodes with 22 guests. As of 24 November 2022, episodes were downloaded 4127 times from listeners from 120 countries. Two seasons have been aired to date and the Youth Series has been launched this year as part of the T4P: Future Leaders initiative. A new segment was introduced in Season 2, called "rapid fire" which aims at getting to know the guest better, as requested by the audience.

3. PILLAR 3: RESEARCH

71. In 2022, under Pillar 3, several research works have been in development, including: (i) the T4P Index, (ii) the Publication and (iii) two research projects.

72. The T4P Index, developed in collaboration with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), aims to shed light on the ways in which trade-related and peace-related indicators interact, to determine the conditions under which trade can help peace flourish and vice versa. Following a Call for Papers issued in August 2021⁵⁶, 57 submissions were received for the first publication on Trade for Peace. In 2022, the selection process took place and 12 submissions have been selected to proceed to the next stage. The publication is envisaged for February 2024. In addition, two research projects are under development looking at (i) the use of trade policy measures during and after conflict; and (ii) trade and economic provisions in peace negotiations and agreements.

73. The Trade for Peace Research and Knowledge Hub held its second meeting⁵⁷ on 7 December to discuss the state of play on the above research work. Experts from 10 institutions participated in the meeting.

4. PILLAR 4: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

74. In September, a master's level course on Trade for Peace⁵⁸ was launched as part of the Master in International Development Studies (MINT) at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The course, which is the first of this kind, consisted of 14 lectures delivered by 17 leading academics and practitioners working on trade, peace, development and humanitarian affairs. Twenty-six students from various disciplines from the Graduate Institute were enrolled in the course. Discussion is underway with the Graduate Institute for the development of an executive training programme on Trade for Peace targeting senior officials from the trade, peace and humanitarian communities.

⁵³ "DDG Zhang: trade for peace, one of the raisons d'être of the multilateral trading system": [WTO | 2022 News items - DDG Zhang: trade for peace, one of the raisons d'être of the multilateral trading system](#)

⁵⁴ "Trade for Peace Week looks at fragile and conflict-affected states' WTO integration": [WTO | 2022 News items - Trade for Peace Week looks at fragile and conflict-affected states' WTO integration](#)

⁵⁵ The podcast is available here: [Trade for Peace | a podcast by Trade for Peace \(podbean.com\)](#)

⁵⁶ "Call for papers issued for WTO Trade for Peace Programme": [WTO | 2021 News items - Call for papers issued for WTO Trade for Peace Programme](#)

⁵⁷ "Trade for Peace Research and Knowledge Hub reviews latest research collaboration": [WTO | 2022 News items - Trade for Peace Research and Knowledge Hub reviews latest research collaboration](#)

⁵⁸ "First Interdisciplinary Master's Course on Trade for Peace successfully concludes": [WTO | 2022 News items - First Interdisciplinary Master's Course on Trade for Peace successfully concludes](#)

V. POST-ACCESSION

75. The post-accession implementation support framework consists of five pillars:

- i. Country-Specific Post-Accession Implementation Strategy;
- ii. Specialized training and outreach on WTO post-accession;
- iii. Secretariat Note on "Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession" (document WT/ACC/27);
- iv. Dedicated webpage on "Post-accession — what next?" on the WTO website;⁵⁹
- v. Internal Secretariat Note on Post-Accession Implementation and Monitoring.

76. In 2022, the Secretariat continued monitoring the participation of Article XII Members in the work of the WTO and organized technical assistance and outreach sessions on post-accession (pillars ii and v). The 10th China Round Table on WTO Accessions, organized on 18-20 January 2022, reviewed a study assessing the accession outcomes and post-accession performance of the nine countries that joined the WTO as LDCs: Nepal, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Samoa, Vanuatu, Lao PDR, Yemen, Liberia and Afghanistan (see paragraph 33).

77. Representatives of Article XII Members continued taking part in discussions in various accession-related TA and outreach activities, including under the WTO Trade for Peace Programme, as reported under Sections II.4 and IV, to share their post-accession experiences and give advice to current acceders.

VI. TRADE AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS

78. This section provides an overview of recent developments in world trade, underlining the gradual global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the specific performance of Article XII Members.⁶⁰ Further, the section explores acceded Members' participation in global value chains (GVCs), as an indicator of their integration into the global economy and access to international markets.

79. According to the World Trade Statistical Review 2022⁶¹, world merchandise trade volume rebounded by 9.7% in 2021. The nominal value of world trade in goods and services increased by 24% in 2021 and amounted to US\$ 27.3 trillion: trade in goods grew by 27% while trade in commercial services expanded by 16%. Both trade in goods and services continued to grow at double-digits in nominal values in the first half of 2022 due to higher food and energy prices and more spending on travel and transport services. World merchandise trade volume was predicted to grow 3.5% in 2022, followed by a more moderate 1.0% rise in 2023, as several shocks hit the global economy.⁶²

80. Article XII Members also showed signs of recovery from the pandemic in 2021. The merchandise trade of recently acceded governments increased by 30% reaching a nominal value of US\$ 9.7 trillion, in a faster pace if compared to the 27% increase in world trade in goods. Trade in commercial services for Article XII Members recorded a significantly better performance than the world average, having increased by 24% in 2021.⁶³

⁵⁹ Available at [WTO | WTO accessions - Post-accession – what next?](#)

⁶⁰ The following Members joined the WTO pursuant to Art. XII of the Marrakesh Agreement (in order of accession): Ecuador, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Panama, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Jordan, Georgia, Albania, Oman, Croatia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, China, Chinese Taipei, Armenia, North Macedonia, Nepal, Cambodia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Viet Nam, Tonga, Ukraine, Cabo Verde, Montenegro, Samoa, Russian Federation, Vanuatu, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, Yemen, Seychelles, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Afghanistan.

⁶¹ Available at [WTO | World Trade Statistical Review 2022](#).

⁶² "Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds": [WTO | 2022 Press Releases - Trade growth to slow sharply in 2023 as global economy faces strong headwinds - Press/909](#).

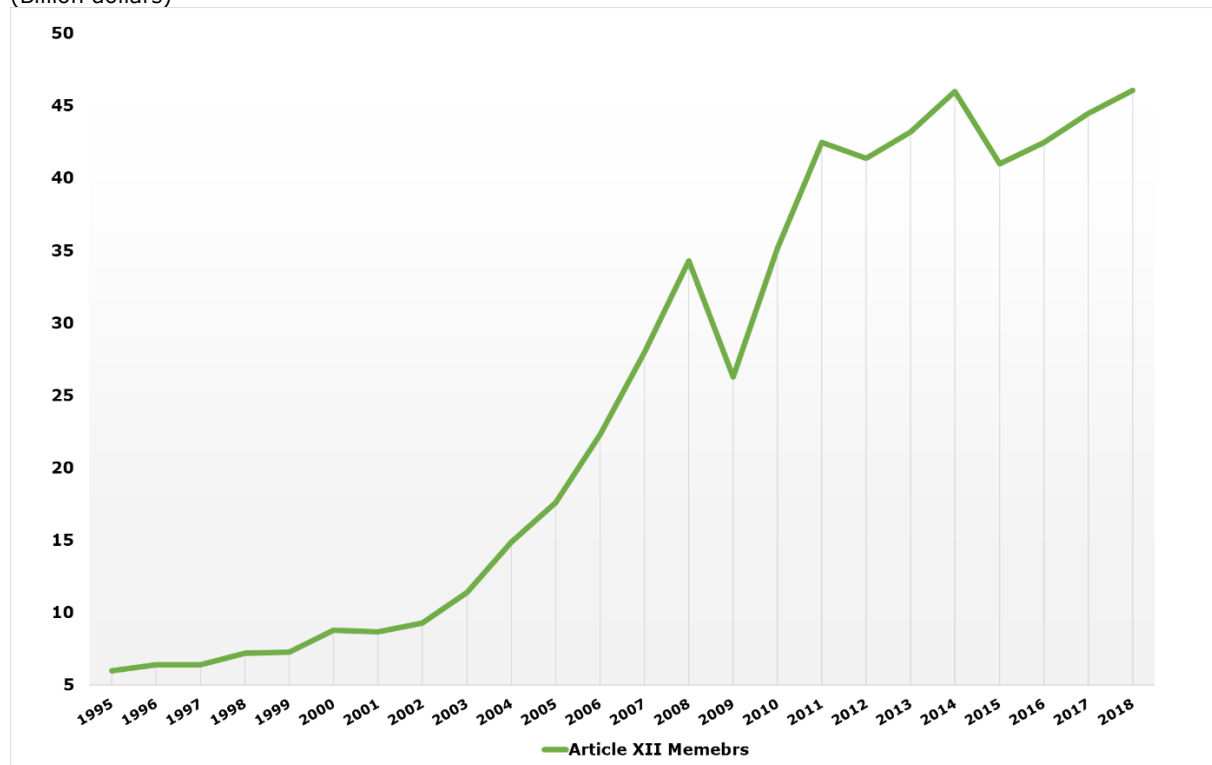
⁶³ See also Annexes 5 and 6 to this Report.

81. Deep institutional and economic reforms enshrined in the WTO accession provide governments with enhanced opportunities to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), achieve economic diversification and build resilience⁶⁴, including through greater participation in GVCs, which account for over 50% of world merchandise trade⁶⁵. In this context, the analysis of GVCs has been regarded as fully complementary to the analysis of FDI and has been used to examine countries' participation in global production networks and identify further opportunities for investment.⁶⁶

82. Figure 3 shows a historical upward trend in the average GVC participation index of Article XII Members since the creation of WTO in 1995. The GVC participation index is measured as a sum of domestic value added of a country embedded in exports of other countries (forward GVC participation) and foreign value added embedded in the country's exports (backward GVC participation).⁶⁷ Figure 4 focuses specifically on GVC participation of Article XII Members in the years before and after accession. It reveals that Article XII Members have gradually increased their participation in GVCs in years before accession, but they continued to integrate into the GVCs at a much faster pace after acceding to the WTO.

Figure 3: Global value chain participation of Article XII Members over time

(Billion dollars)



Source: Calculations using UNCTAD-Eora Global Value Chain Database.

⁶⁴ See previous Annual Reports by the Director-General on WTO Accessions (WT/ACC/36, WT/ACC/38, WT/ACC/40).

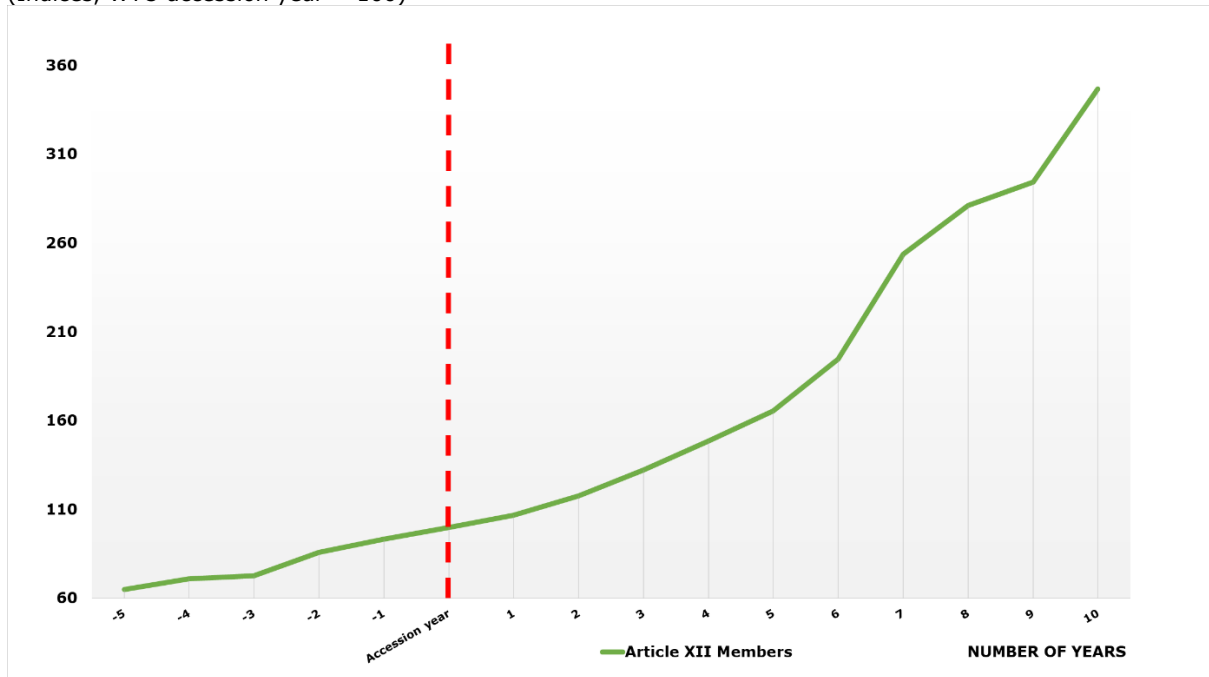
⁶⁵ [WTO | The future of global value chains and the role of the WTO](#)

⁶⁶ See Casella, B., R. Bolwijn, D. Moran and K. Kanemoto. Improving the analysis of global value chains: the UNCTAD-Eora Database. 2019. *Transnational Corporations* 26(3). New York and Geneva: United Nations. Available at: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/diaeia2019d3a5_en.pdf.

⁶⁷ See methodology at UNCTAD-Eora Global Value Chain Database (<https://worldmrio.com/unctadgvc/>), which includes data until 2018.

Figure 4: Global value chain participation before and after accession

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)



Source: Calculations using UNCTAD-Eora Global Value Chain Database.

ANNEX 1 – ACCESSIONS DIVISION WORK INDICATORS (2019-2022)

	2018	2019	2020		2021		2022	
			Membership & Accessions					
New WTO member	0	0	0		0		0	
Acceding Government (New application)	21	22	23		23		24	
	0	-1	(1) ⁺		(1)		0	
Active Accessions	16	14	16		16		13	
			Accession-related Meetings & Missions					
WP meetings	5	4	4		3		4	
IGA	10	8	6		4		0	
IGAG	3	7	5		5		6	
Technical assistance & outreach	25	20	27		45		59*	
Trade for Peace Programme	-	-	-		30		48	
g7 plus WTO Accessions Group	-	-	-		16		5	
Missions	19	17	3		1		5	
Media coverage			Accessions	T4P	Accessions	T4P	Accessions	T4P
Press Releases	-	12	15	5	11	10	16	5
Tweets	-	100	243	-	169	158	192	134
			Document Outputs				Accessions	T4P
Newsletter	10	7	6		4		3	3
Pages of acc. documents to WPs	2647	2106	1759		1645		1854	

* Counting methodology: all activities in 2022 including specific sessions covering different topics

Source: Accessions Division internal data.

ANNEX 2 - ACCESSIONS NEGOTIATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XII

Government*	Membership Date	Working Party Report	Goods Schedule	Services Schedule	Protocol of Accession	General Council Decision
1. Ecuador	21/01/1996	WT/L/77 & Corr.1	Add.1 & Corr.1, 2	Add.2	WT/ACC/ECU/6	WT/ACC/ECU/5
2. Bulgaria	01/12/1996	WT/ACC/BGR/5 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/BGR/7	WT/ACC/BGR/6
3. Mongolia	29/01/1997	WT/ACC/MNG/9 & Corr.1	Add.1 & Corr.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/MNG/11	WT/ACC/MNG/10
4. Panama	06/09/1997	WT/ACC/PAN/19 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/PAN/21	WT/ACC/PAN/20
5. Kyrgyz Republic	20/12/1998	WT/ACC/KGZ/26 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/KGZ/29	WT/ACC/KGZ/28
6. Latvia	10/02/1999	WT/ACC/LVA/32	Add.1 & Corr.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/LVA/35	WT/ACC/LVA/34
7. Estonia	13/11/1999	WT/ACC/EST/28	Add.1	Add.2 & Corr.1	WT/ACC/EST/30	WT/ACC/EST/29
8. Jordan	11/04/2000	WT/ACC/JOR/33 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/JOR/35	WT/ACC/JOR/34
9. Georgia	14/06/2000	WT/ACC/GEO/31	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/GEO/33	WT/ACC/GEO/32
10. Albania	08/09/2000	WT/ACC/ALB/51 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2 & Corr.1, 2	WT/ACC/ALB/53 & Corr.1	WT/ACC/ALB/52 & Corr.1
11. Oman	09/11/2000	WT/ACC/OMN/26	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/OMN/28	WT/ACC/OMN/27
12. Croatia	30/11/2000	WT/ACC/HRV/59	Add.1	Add.2 & Corr.1, 2	WT/ACC/HRV/61	WT/ACC/HRV/60
13. Lithuania	31/05/2001	WT/ACC/LTU/52	Add.1 & Corr.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/LTU/54	WT/ACC/LTU/53
14. Moldova, Republic of	26/07/2001	WT/ACC/MOL/37 & Corr.1-4	Add.1	Add.2	WT/ACC/MOL/40	WT/ACC/MOL/39
15. China	11/12/2001	WT/ACC/CHN/49 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/432	WT/L/432
		WT/MIN(01)/3	Add.1	Add.2		
16. Chinese Taipei	01/01/2002	WT/ACC/TPKM/18	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/433	WT/L/433
		WT/MIN(01)/4	Add.1	Add.2		
17. Armenia	05/02/2003	WT/ACC/ARM/23 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/506	WT/L/506
18. North Macedonia	04/04/2003	WT/ACC/807/27	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/494	WT/L/494
19. Nepal	23/04/2004	WT/ACC/NPL/16	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(03)/19	WT/MIN(03)/19
20. Cambodia	13/10/2004	WT/ACC/KHM/21	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(03)/18	WT/MIN(03)/18
21. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	11/12/2005	WT/ACC/SAU/61	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/627	WT/L/627
22. Viet Nam	11/01/2007	WT/ACC/VNM/48	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/662	WT/L/662
23. Tonga	27/07/2007	WT/ACC/TON/17	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/644	WT/L/644
		WT/MIN(05)/4				
24. Ukraine	16/05/2008	WT/ACC/UKR/152	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/718	WT/L/718
25. Cabo Verde	23/07/2008	WT/ACC/CPV/30	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/715	WT/L/715
26. Montenegro	29/04/2012	WT/ACC/CGR/38	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/841	WT/MIN(11)/28
		WT/MIN(11)/7				WT/L/841
27. Samoa	10/05/2012	WT/ACC/SAM/30	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/840	WT/MIN(11)/27
		WT/MIN(11)/1				WT/L/840
28. Russian Federation	22/08/2012	WT/ACC/RUS/70	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/839	WT/MIN(11)/24
		WT/MIN(11)/2				WT/L/839
29. Vanuatu	24/08/2012	WT/ACC/VUT/17	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/862	WT/L/823
30. Lao People's Democratic Republic	02/02/2013	WT/ACC/LAO/45	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/865	WT/L/865
31. Tajikistan	02/03/2013	WT/ACC/TJK/30	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/872	WT/L/872
32. Yemen	26/06/2014	WT/ACC/YEM/42	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(13)/24	WT/MIN(13)/24
					WT/L/905	WT/L/905
33. Seychelles	26/04/2015	WT/ACC/SYC/64	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/944	WT/L/944
34. Kazakhstan	30/11/2015	WT/ACC/KAZ/93	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/957	WT/L/957
35. Liberia	14/07/2016	WT/ACC/LBR/23	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(15)/38	WT/MIN(15)/38
					WT/L/973	WT/L/973
36. Afghanistan	29/07/2016	WT/ACC/AFG/36	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(15)/39	WT/MIN(15)/39
					WT/L/974	WT/L/974

* Sorted by date of membership.

ANNEX 3 - WTO ACCESSIONS WORKING PARTY CHAIRPERSONS

As of 31 December 2022

No.	Government	Date Working Party established	WP Chairperson*	Geneva-based (Y/N)
1.	Algeria	17 June 1987	H.E. Mr. José Luís CANCELA GÓMEZ (Uruguay)	Y
2.	Andorra	22 October 1997	N.A.*	
3.	Azerbaijan	16 July 1997	Pending	
4.	The Bahamas	18 July 2001	H.E. Miss Cheryl K. SPENCER (Jamaica)	Y
5.	Belarus	27 October 1993	Pending	
6.	Bhutan	6 October 1999	Pending	
7.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 July 1999	Pending	
8.	Comoros, Union of the	9 October 2007	H.E. Mr. Omar ZNIBER (Morocco)	Y
9.	Curaçao	3 March 2020	Pending	
10.	Equatorial Guinea	5 February 2008	Pending	
11.	Ethiopia	10 February 2003	Pending	
12.	Iran	26 May 2005	Pending	
13.	Iraq	13 December 2004	Pending	
14.	Lebanese Republic	14 April 1999	Mr. Etienne OUDOT DE DAINVILLE (France)	Y
15.	Libya	27 July 2004	N.A.*	
16.	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	26 May 2005	N.A.*	
17.	Serbia	15 February 2005	Pending	
18.	Somalia	7 December 2016	H.E. Mr Mikael ANZÉN (Sweden)	Y
19.	South Sudan	13 December 2017	H.E. Dr. Ahmed Ihab GAMALELDIN (Egypt)	Y
20.	Sudan	25 October 1994	Mr. Naoki HIKOTA (Japan)	Y
21.	Syrian Arab Republic	4 May 2010	N.A.*	
22.	Timor-Leste	7 December 2016	H.E. Mr. Rui MACIEIRA (Portugal)	Y
23.	Turkmenistan	23 February 2022	N.A.*	
24.	Uzbekistan	21 December 1994	Pending	

* The Chairperson is appointed after the circulation of a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime by the acceding government.

ANNEX 4 – LENGTH OF TIME OF COMPLETED ACCESSIONS

No.	Article XII Member	Date of WP Establishment	Date of Membership	Total Time of Accession Process
1.	Ecuador	09/1992	01/1996	3 years 4 months
2.	Bulgaria	11/1986	12/1996	10 years 1 month
3.	Mongolia	10/1991	01/1997	5 years 3 months
4.	Panama	10/1991	09/1997	5 years 11 months
5.	Kyrgyz Republic	04/1996	12/1998	2 years 8 months
6.	Latvia	12/1993	02/1999	5 years 2 months
7.	Estonia	03/1994	11/1999	5 years 8 months
8.	Jordan	01/1994	04/2000	6 years 3 months
9.	Georgia	07/1996	06/2000	3 years 11 months
10.	Albania	12/1992	09/2000	7 years 9 months
11.	Oman	06/1996	11/2000	4 years 5 months
12.	Croatia	10/1993	11/2000	7 years 1 month
13.	Lithuania	02/1994	05/2001	7 years 3 months
14.	Moldova, Republic of	12/1993	07/2001	7 years 7 months
15.	China	03/1987	12/2001	14 years 9 months
16.	Chinese Taipei	09/1992	01/2002	9 years 4 months
17.	Armenia	12/1993	02/2003	9 years 2 months
18.	North Macedonia	12/1994	04/2003	8 years 4 months
19.	Nepal*	06/1989	04/2004	14 years 10 months
20.	Cambodia*	12/1994	10/2004	9 years 10 months
21.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	07/1993	12/2005	12 years 5 months
22.	Viet Nam	01/1995	01/2007	12 years
23.	Tonga	11/1995	07/2007	11 years 8 months
24.	Ukraine	12/1993	05/2008	14 years 5 months
25.	Cabo Verde*	07/2000	07/2008	8 years
26.	Montenegro	02/2005	04/2012	7 years 2 months
27.	Samoa*	07/1998	05/2012	13 years 10 months
28.	Russian Federation	07/1993	08/2012	19 years 1 month
29.	Vanuatu*	07/1995	08/2012	17 years 1 month
30.	Lao PDR*	02/1998	02/2013	15 years
31.	Tajikistan	07/2001	03/2013	11 years 8 months
32.	Yemen*	07/2000	06/2014	13 years 11 months
33.	Seychelles	07/1995	04/2015	19 years 9 months
34.	Kazakhstan	02/1996	11/2015	19 years 9 months
35.	Liberia*	12/2007	07/2016	8 years 7 months
36.	Afghanistan*	12/2004	07/2016	11 years 7 months

Overall Average	10 years 2 months
LDCs Accessions	12 years 6 months
Non-LDCs Accessions	9 years 4 months

* LDCs. Cabo Verde, Samoa and Vanuatu acceded to the WTO as LDCs. They graduated from LDC status in 2007, 2014, and 2020, respectively.

ANNEX 5 – BASIC ECONOMIC PROFILES OF ACCEding GOVERNMENTS AND ARTICLE XII MEMBERS

Table 5-1: Acceding Governments

Acceding Government	Population ¹ (thousands)	GDP ² (millions USD)	GDP per Capita ³ (USD)	Trade per capita ³ (USD)	Trade as % GDP ³	Merchandise exports ² (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ² (millions USD)	
Algeria	44,177.97	164,564	3,668	913	24.9	36,700	36,000	2,974	6,405	
Andorra	79.03	No data available								
Azerbaijan	10,137.75	54,622	4,823	1,883	39.0	22,207	11,706	3,763	5,839	
The Bahamas	407.91	11,126	29,609	9,880	33.4	565	3,201	2,952	1,535	
Belarus	9,340.31	68,208	6,880	4,461	64.8	39,762	41,387	10,222	5,667	
Bhutan	771.61	2,397	3,249	1,349 ⁴	40.6 ⁴	784	1 220	133	210	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,270.94	22,419	5,983	2,800	46.8	8,614	13,029	2,246	687	
Comoros, Union of the*	821.63	1,295	1,375	247	18.0	34	328	46	112	
Curaçao	152.37	No data available					302	1,206	788	413
Equatorial Guinea	1,634.47	12,701	8,094	4,175 ⁵	41.8 ⁵	5,700	1,900	512 ⁶	2,009 ⁶	
Ethiopia*	120,283.03	99,269	986	139	14.1	3,949	15,973	5,386	6,640	
Iran	87,923.43	1,426,300	11,966	752	6.3	71,646	48,978	5,605	10,560	
Iraq	43,533.59	209,507	5,090	1,561	30.7	86,298	66,217	4,023	13,142	
Lebanese Republic	5,592.63	27,320 ⁷	6,515 ⁴	3,042 ⁴	46.7 ⁴	4,590	13,857	4,931 ⁷	4,743 ⁷	
Libya	6,735.28	32,352	4,568	3 399 ⁸	59.7 ⁸	28,986	18,972	167 ⁹	6,007 ⁹	
Sao Tome and Principe*	223.11	520	2,183	534	24.5	21	166	38	47	
Serbia	6,834.33	63,068	8,087	4,470	55.3	25,564	33,797	9,199	7,433	
Somalia*	17,065.58	No data available							415 ⁹	1,555 ⁹
South Sudan*	10,748.27	5,167	416	223	53.6	No data available		153	1,521	
Sudan*	45,657.20	35,151	775	167	21.6	4,279	9,238	1,838	1,305	
Syrian Arab Republic	21,324.37	60,043 ¹⁰	2,642 ¹¹	867 ¹¹	32.8 ¹¹	739	6,463	2,434 ¹²	2,818 ¹⁰	
Timor-Leste*	1,320.94	2,362	1,596	342	21.5	616	873	17	229	
Turkmenistan	6,341.85	63,428	9,342	No data available			9,212	4,026	No data available	
Uzbekistan	34,915.10	69,202	1,858	613	33.0	14,081	23,740	2,246	4,693	

Table 5-2: Article XII Members

Article XII Member	Population ¹ (thousands)	GDP ² (millions USD)	GDP per Capita ² (USD)	Trade per capita ³ (USD)	Trade as % GDP ³	Merchandise exports ² (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ² (millions USD)
Afghanistan*	40,099.46	20,136 ⁷	593 ⁴	136 ⁴	23.0 ⁴	1,037	5,574	597 ⁷	1,042 ⁷
Albania	2,811.67	18,314	5,662	1,969	34.8	3,559	7,718	4,030	1,917
Armenia	2,790.97	13,928	4,522	1,842	40.7	3,023	5,357	1,643	1,237
Bulgaria	6,877.74	80,327	10,569	6,385	60.4	41,018	46,195	10,957	5,653
Cabo Verde	587.92	1,947	3,375	1,545	45.8	54	800	248	209
Cambodia*	16,589.02	26,187	1,666	1,512	90.8	17,362	28,369	648	2,088
China	1,412,360.00	17,458,036	11,019	2,007	18.2	3,363,835	2,688,634	390,613	438,076
Croatia	3,899.00	67,838	15,418	7,683	49.8	22,812	34,588	16,770	5,120
Ecuador	17,797.74	106,166	5,969	1,442	24.2	26,699	25,687	2,003	4,471
Estonia	1,330.93	36,287	24,577	18,345	74.6	21,518	23,609	9,883	8,215
Georgia	3,708.61	18,696	4,657	2,431	52.2	4,242	10,105	2,464	1,763
Jordan	11,148.28	45,354	4,372	1,686	38.6	9,357	21,613	4,245	4,025
Kazakhstan	19,000.99	190,814	9,598	2,890	30.1	60,625	41,171	5,609	7,520
Kyrgyz Republic	6,691.80	8,538	1,288	625	48.5	1,659	5,570	519	694
Lao PDR*	7,425.06	18,552	2,560	945	36.9	7,695	6,275	125	252
Latvia	1,884.49	38,965	18,685	11,538	61.7	20,823	24,447	5,661	3,601
Liberia*	5,193.42	3,483	682	218	31.9	879	1,478	4	202
Lithuania	2,800.84	65,479	21,087	15,616	74.1	40,828	44,585	15,158	8,981
Moldova	2,615.20	13,672	4,704	1,986	42.2	3,144	7,177	1,603	1,144
Mongolia	3,347.78	15,098	4,231	2,499	59.1	9,247	6,849	715	2,027
Montenegro	619.21	5,813	8,650	4,339	50.2	515	2,956	1,792	742
Nepal*	30,034.99	34,520	1,175	275	23.4	1,684	15,893	708	1,514
North Macedonia	2,065.09	13,889	6,218	4,323	69.5	8,186	11,386	2,055	1,397
Oman	4,520.47	83,656	17,018	7,969 ⁴	47.7 ⁴	44,591	30,995	2,223 ⁷	8,333 ⁷
Panama	4,351.27	63,605	14,380	5,657	39.3	13,161	20,596	10,678	4,199
Russian Federation	143,449.29	1,775,548	11,300	2,789	24.7	493,820	303,994	55,652	74,708
Samoa	218.76	788	4,113	1,517	36.9	29	368	69	89
Saudi Arabia	35,950.40	833,541	22,357	6,281	28.1	276,179	152,850	9,702	62,046
Seychelles	99.26	1,464	14,945	14,832	99.2	464	1,133	879	449
Chinese Taipei	¹³	789,505	29,348	16,380	55.8	447,693	382,101	51,871	39,046
Tajikistan	9,750.06	8,474	876	274	31.3	2,150	4,210	143	524

Article XII Member	Population ¹ (thousands)	GDP ² (millions USD)	GDP per Capita ² (USD)	Trade per capita ³ (USD)	Trade as % GDP ³	Merchandise exports ² (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ² (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ² (millions USD)
Tonga	106.02	501	5,023	1,939	38.6	16	276	40	65
Ukraine	43,792.86	198,316	4,087	1,713	41.9	68,075	72,527	18,309	13,345
Vanuatu	319.14	950	3,172	1,522 ⁵	50.9 ⁵	54	339	31	120
Viet Nam	97,468.03	366,201	3,549	2,359 ¹⁴	100.0 ¹⁴	335,929	331,582	3,498	19,215
Yemen*	32,981.64	22,018	692	254 ¹⁵	18.5 ¹⁵	662	5,204	241 ⁹	1,848 ⁹

* Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Source: WTO Stats Portal (accessed in January 2023), unless otherwise indicated. For dates of Membership for Article XII Members, and dates of establishment of Working Parties for Acceding Governments, see Annexes 2 and 3, respectively.

- 1 For the year 2021. Source: World Bank, Population: All Countries and Economies, available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL> (accessed in January 2023).
- 2 For 2021 unless otherwise indicated.
- 3 For 2019–2021 unless otherwise indicated.
- 4 For 2018–2020.
- 5 For 2015–2017.
- 6 For 2017.
- 7 For 2020.
- 8 For 2017–2019.
- 9 For 2019.
- 10 For 2010.
- 11 For 2008–2010
- 12 For 2011.
- 13 No data available.
- 14 For 2016–2018.
- 15 For 2014–2016.

ANNEX 6 – DATA ON TRADE PERFORMANCE

Table 6-1: Value of merchandise trade and annual percentage change (1995–2021)

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Article XII Members	Value	857	911	975	899	941	1,208	1,194	1,360	1,746	2,307	2,845	3,469	4,217
	Annual percentage change		6.2%	7.1%	-7.8%	4.6%	28.4%	-1.1%	13.9%	28.4%	32.1%	23.3%	21.9%	21.5%
World	Value	10,453	10,953	11,331	11,186	11,646	13,102	12,603	13,157	15,362	18,696	21,296	24,500	28,301
	Year-on-year percentage change		4.8%	3.4%	-1.3%	4.1%	12.5%	-3.8%	4.4%	16.8%	21.7%	13.9%	15.1%	15.5%

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Article XII Members	Value	5,122	3,998	5,278	6,573	6,926	7,270	7,321	6,344	5,942	6,753	7,635	7,592	7,456	9,725
	Annual percentage change	21.5%	-21.9%	32.0%	24.6%	5.4%	5.0%	0.7%	-13.3%	-6.3%	13.6%	13.1%	-0.6%	-1.8%	30.4%
World	Value	32,667	25,281	30,741	36,775	37,171	37,929	38,065	33,291	32,242	35,718	39,368	38,352	35,527	44,915
	Year-on-year percentage change	15.4%	-22.6%	21.6%	19.6%	1.1%	2.0%	0.4%	-12.5%	-3.2%	10.8%	10.2%	-2.6%	-7.4%	26.4%

Source: WTO Stats Portal (accessed in January 2023).

Table 6-2: Value of trade in commercial services* and annual percentage change (1995–2021)

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Article XII Members	Value	155	168	189	177	179	200	210	237	274	349	411	488	639
	Annual percentage change		8.4%	12.5%	-6.3%	1.1%	11.7%	5.0%	12.9%	15.6%	27.4%	17.7%	18.8%	31.0%
World	Value	2,369	2,536	2,629	2,653	2,784	2,955	2,975	3,159	3,644	4,396	5,179	5,846	6,973
	Year-on-year percentage change		7.0%	3.7%	0.9%	4.9%	6.1%	0.7%	6.2%	15.4%	20.6%	17.8%	12.9%	19.3%

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Article XII Members	Value	755	671	788	929	1,009	1,109	1,229	1,158	1,156	1,241	1,396	1,405	1,083	1,343
	Annual percentage change	18.1%	-11.0%	17.4%	17.8%	8.6%	10.0%	10.8%	-5.8%	-0.1%	7.3%	12.5%	0.7%	-22.9%	24.0%
World	Value	7,868	7,046	7,676	8,623	8,905	9,442	10,210	9,739	9,863	10,710	11,745	12,147	9,924	11,533
	Year-on-year percentage change	12.8%	-10.4%	9.0%	12.3%	3.3%	6.0%	8.1%	-4.6%	1.3%	8.6%	9.7%	3.4%	-18.3%	16.2%

* From 2005 onwards, the commercial services values are compiled using a new services classification in the balance of payments (BPM 6). Thus, figures are not directly comparable to those from earlier years.

Source: WTO Stats Portal (accessed in January 2023).

ANNEX 7 – ACCESSIONS MANAGEMENT**Accession Working Party Management - 2022**

Accession Working Party	Code	Secretary	Co-Secretary	Administrative Manager/Support
1. Algeria	DZA	Tvarusko	Marchand <i>Sisomphone</i>	Tandara-Stenier
2. Andorra	<u>AND</u>	accessions@wto.org - No Activity		
3. Azerbaijan	AZE	Rasulov	Tvarusko <i>Ahmadi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
4. Bahamas	BHS	Tvarusko	Miashiro <i>Sisomphone</i>	Tandara-Stenier
5. Belarus	BLR	Bratanov	Tvarusko	Wardak
6. Bhutan*	BTN	Rasulov	<i>Sisomphone</i>	Tandara-Stenier
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	Varyanik	Tvarusko	Tandara-Stenier
8. Comoros*	COM	Bratanov	Tvarusko	Tandara-Stenier
9. Curaçao	CUW	Bratanov	Marchand	Tandara-Stenier
10. Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	Perez-Esteve	Miashiro	Wardak
11. Ethiopia*	ETH	Tvarusko	Miashiro <i>Sisomphone</i>	Wardak
12. Iran	IRN	Varyanik	<i>Ahmadi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
13. Iraq	IRQ	Hassan	Marchand <i>Kabbara</i>	Wardak
14. Lebanese Republic	LBN	Hassan	Marchand <i>Kabbara</i>	Tandara-Stenier
15. Libya	LBY	Bratanov	<i>Ahmadi</i>	Wardak
16. Sao Tome et Principe*	STP	Pérez-Esteve	Miashiro	Wardak
17. Serbia	SRB	Varyanik	Tvarusko	Tandara-Stenier
18. Somalia*	SOM	Perez-Esteve	Tvarusko	Wardak
19. South Sudan*	SSD	Perez-Esteve	Tvarusko	Wardak
20. Sudan*	SDN	Hassan	Marchand <i>Kabbara</i>	Tandara-Stenier
21. Syrian Arab Republic	SYR	Perez-Esteve	<i>Kabbara</i>	Wardak
22. Timor-Leste*	TLS	Varyanik	Miashiro	Wardak
23. Turkmenistan	TKM	Varyanik	Rasulov <i>Ahmadi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
24. Uzbekistan	UZB	Rasulov	Tvarusko <i>Ahmadi</i>	Tandara-Stenier

* Least developed countries (LDCs)

ACCESSIONS STAFF DISPOSITION 2022

- Director;
- Eight Professionals;
- Two Administrative Managers; and
- Four rotating interns under the WTO Accessions Internship Programme