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ANNUAL REPORT

WTO ACCESSIONS

2019

Annual Report by the Director-General





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Annual Report by the Director-General*

* Unless otherwise specified, this Annual Report takes account of confirmed accession-related developments from 1 December 2018 to until 31 December 2019.

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

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Accession Working Party Meetings in 2019



11th Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus — 15 February 2019



1st Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of South Sudan — 21 March 2019



4th Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of the Bahamas — 5 April 2019



12th Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus — 11 July 2019

I. OVERVIEW 2019 AND OUTLOOK 2020



1. 2019 was yet again a busy year for WTO accessions. Working Party activity consisted of four meetings held for three accession processes. Over half of the acceding governments were engaged in technical work to start, restart or advance their respective accessions. Thus, at the end of the year, out of the 22 ongoing accessions, 14 were considered as active, continuing their engagement with Members and/or the Secretariat. In addition, a new application for WTO accession, from Curaçao – a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands – was received for consideration by WTO Members at the last meeting of the General Council in 2019.

2. Despite sometimes difficult domestic political situations (including electoral uncertainty, unrest, conflict, and natural disasters), acceding countries have demonstrated remarkable resilience and strong commitment to continuing their accession processes. In particular, the accession of Belarus, whose Working Party met twice, made considerable progress which has been reflected in the draft Report of the Working Party. The accession Working Party of The Bahamas met once and was very active until Hurricane Dorian made landfall in September, becoming the worst natural disaster in the country's history. Finally, the Working Party on the Accession of South Sudan, which is the most recent applicant among the 22 acceding governments, held its first meeting just 15 months after the Working Party's establishment in December 2017.

3. Progress in WTO accessions requires engagement – both technical and political – from a wide range of stakeholders at the domestic, regional

and international levels. Despite the low number of accession Working Party meetings in 2019, the Secretariat was actively engaged in activities aimed at building better understanding of the accession process and associated benefits through technical assistance, training, outreach and experience sharing, on a bilateral, regional or global basis. In 2019, the Secretariat undertook technical and outreach-oriented missions to eight acceding governments and one potential applicant. In addition, the Secretariat conducted two specialised training activities in Geneva focused on accession rules (for two weeks in February) and market access for goods (for one week in November). The 8th China Round Table on WTO Accessions was held in December in Moscow, Russian Federation, with the participation of 11 acceding governments and two potential applicants. In terms of outreach activities, since the last Annual Report, the Secretariat provided regular briefings to Members through the Informal Group on Accessions (eight meetings) and the Accessions Newsletter (eight issues), as well as through meetings with regional groups (African Group, Arab Group and LDC Group). As for acceding government-specific groupings, the Secretariat provided support to the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (seven meetings) and the g7+ WTO Accessions Group (three meetings).

4. The initiative on "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions", which was launched on the margins of the 11th Ministerial Conference in December 2017, continued to enjoy strong interest and allowed the trade community to expand its partnerships with various players in the peace community, while giving more focus on the specific context of each fragile and conflict-affected (FCA) acceding country. In particular, in 2019, the Secretariat participated in the Geneva Peace Week and the Paris Peace Forum and organised several "trade for peace" sessions, including during the 7th Global Aid for Trade Review and the WTO Public Forum. These sessions brought together speakers from FCA acceding countries, including Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Timor-Leste. Given the importance of inter-agency coordination on WTO accession, the thematic section of this Report draws attention to the international community's efforts to seek greater coherence in the provision of policy advice and technical assistance to acceding governments (see Section VII).

5. The Accessions Division in 2019 was saddened by the sudden passing, in September, of Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, who served as Director of the Division from 2009 and 2016, overseeing the conclusion of 11 accessions. Chiedu was a tireless advocate for WTO membership, which he saw as a unique vehicle for modernizing domestic institutions, promoting economic growth, and gaining international recognition.



Mr Chiedu Osakwe at a briefing session on WTO Accessions to Regional Groups — October 2014

6. Looking ahead, in 2020, three accessions are technically at an advanced stage and could enter into the final phases of accession negotiations. Among the three, the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the most advanced. With a new Government in place since December 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in a position to begin addressing the outstanding issues in its accession process, possibly before MC12. Similarly, Comoros – a French-speaking LDC, whose government has a fresh mandate since last summer – could resume and advance the accession process towards its conclusion. Despite complexities linked to its membership of the Eurasian Economic Union, Belarus is expected to build on the solid progress registered in 2019 and to focus on resolving the bulk of outstanding issues in the course of next year.

7. In 2020, the significant efforts undertaken to activate or reactivate various accession processes in the preceding years are expected to begin to bear fruit, starting with the reactivation of the accession of Ethiopia early in the year. Ethiopia – the largest LDC in terms of economy and population among all LDC acceding governments – is resuming its accession

Working Party after eight years of inactivity with the accession process now recognized as an integral part of the Government's Homegrown Economic Reform Plan. The accession of Sudan, whose Working Party last met in 2017, is also expected to pick up pace in 2020, under the new government led by Prime Minister Hamdok, which has placed economic reform at the heart of its policy agenda. The accession process is also likely to become active for other LDCs, including Somalia and Timor-Leste, whose Working Parties were established in December 2016 and for Equatorial Guinea, whose Working Party was established in 2008 and graduated from LDC status in 2017. All three of these acceding governments could hold their respective first meetings in 2020. Furthermore, Uzbekistan, which has deployed considerable efforts to reactivate the process since 2018 and submitted an updated Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime in 2019, is expected to resume the Working Party process for the first time in 15 years. Moreover, the accessions of Algeria, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lebanon and Serbia have the potential to resume Working Party activity in 2020.

8. In parallel to its core mandate to service accession Working Parties, the Secretariat will continue to provide support to acceding governments and WTO Members through technical assistance, training, outreach and experience-sharing. In 2020, special efforts will be made to expand collaboration with partners, which could support efforts to ensure synergies and coherence between WTO accession and regional integration efforts. In particular, with the implementation of the AfCFTA scheduled to begin on 1 July, the Secretariat will focus its outreach efforts on Africa, through the organization of the Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa and the 9th China Round Table. A first-of-its-kind activity focusing on Arab countries accessions is also envisaged.

9. Finally, the Secretariat remains the guardian of accession knowledge and expertise, which needs to be regularly maintained, updated and upgraded. It is committed to making relevant information available to WTO Members, acceding governments, our partners and the public at large, in a timely and user-friendly manner. 2020 will see the launch of a new webpage dedicated to WTO Accessions. Moreover, the second edition of the *Handbook on Accession to the WTO*, which updates the 2008 edition to include a further ten accessions concluded since that year, is scheduled to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo — Meetings with Acceding Governments in 2019



Accession of Ethiopia—Meeting between DG Roberto Azevêdo and Prime Minister Abiy, Davos — 23 January 2019



Accession of Ethiopia—Meeting between DG Roberto Azevêdo and Ambassador Zenebe Kedebe Korcho — 30 April 2019



Accession of Belarus — Meeting between DG Roberto Azevêdo and First Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Turchin — 10 July 2019

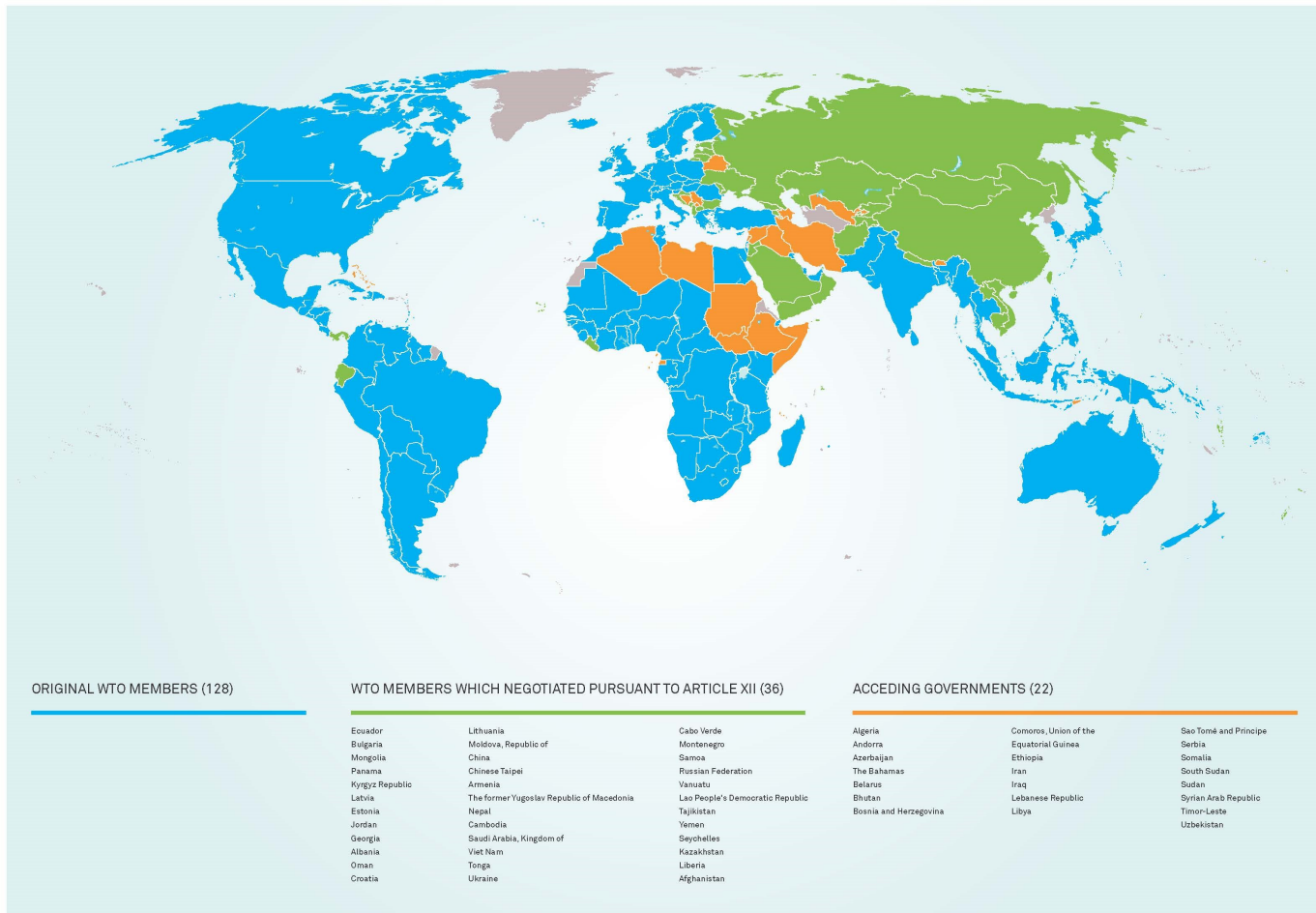


Accession of the Union of the Comoros — Meeting between DG Roberto Azevêdo and Minister Houmedi M'Saidié (Comoros) — 11 September 2019



Accession of Iraq — Meeting between DG Roberto Azevêdo and Ambassador Alkhateeb (Iraq) - 20 August 2019

Map of Acceding Governments and Article XII WTO Members



II. 2019 DEVELOPMENTS

1. ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES: AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

10. At the start of the year, 22 governments were in the process of WTO accession. These negotiations were managed through a combination of multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral meetings, in formal or informal modes. In the year under review:

- Four formal Working Party meetings were held. These were on the accessions of The Bahamas (one meeting¹), Belarus (two meetings²) and South Sudan (one meeting³).
- One meeting addressing specific technical issues in the area of agriculture was held for Belarus⁴. This plurilateral meeting was chaired by the Director of the Accessions Division.

11. In 2019, progress in the accession Working Parties was documented as follows:

- A Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) was circulated for the Working Party on the Accession of South Sudan.
- An updated MFTR was circulated for the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan.
- A Factual Summary of Points Raised was revised by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of The Bahamas.
- A Factual Summary of Points Raised was revised by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Sudan.
- A Factual Summary of Points Raised was revised by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Ethiopia.
- The draft Report of the Working Party was revised twice by the Secretariat for the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus.

12. In total, 59 accession-related documents were issued under document symbols WT/ACC, WT/ACC/SPEC and JOB/ACC series, for 6 Working Parties. During the period under review, a total of 1,826 pages of accession documents were issued.

2. WORKING PARTY CHAIRPERSONS

13. There were two changes in the status of accession Working Party Chairpersons during the period under review, in chronological order:

- H.E. Mr Morten Jespersen (Denmark) was designated as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Ethiopia on 12 December 2018, following the departure of H.E. Mr Carsten Staur (Denmark);
- H.E. Mr Mohammad Qurban Haqjo (Afghanistan) was designated as Chairperson of the Working Party of the Accession of South Sudan on 18 March 2019;
- H.E. Mr Rui Macieira (Portugal) was designated as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste on 18 March 2019, following the departure of H.E. Mr Pedro Nuno Bártolo (Portugal).



Chairpersons: Ambassador Mohammad Qurban Haqjo (Afghanistan) and Ambassador Carsten Staur (Denmark)

14. As of December 2019, of the 16 Working Parties which have a Chairperson, ten Chairpersons are Geneva-based and three Chairpersons are women. There are six vacancies for the positions of Chairpersons of Accession Working Parties (see Annex 3). These include vacancies on accessions at their initial stages, where no documentary basis for work exists at present.

15. In 2019, Working Party Chairpersons remained actively engaged. They consulted with Members and acceding governments in various formats and configurations, and engaged in outreach to improve technical and policy understanding on WTO accessions. The active engagement of Chairpersons played a significant role in advancing the accessions processes, including through country visits.

16. The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan, H.E. Ms Ji-ah Paik (Republic of Korea), led a mission, accompanied by the Director of the Accessions Division, to Tashkent from 12 to 13 March 2019, at the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan. The WTO delegation held high-level meetings with the Government, including with: H.E.

¹ The fourth meeting of the Working Party held on 5 April 2019.

² The 11th and the 12th meetings of the Working Party held on 15 February and 11 July 2019, respectively.

³ The first meeting of the Working Party held on 21 March 2019.

⁴ Held on 10 July 2019.

Mr Sardor Umurzakov, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade; H.E. Mr Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade and Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession; Mr Jamshed Sharipov, Director of the Department of Cooperation with the WTO at the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade; H.E. Mr Ilkhom Nematov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; and H.E. Mr Sakhil Saifnazarov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Industry. The meetings confirmed Uzbekistan's efforts to resume the accession process after more than a decade of dormancy and the Government's highest political commitment to WTO accession. During the mission, the Korean Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) and the ITC separately organised activities in support of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO.



Accession of Uzbekistan — Meeting between Ambassador Ji-ah Paik, Minister Sardor Umurzakov and Deputy Minister Badriddin Abidov — 12-13 March 2020

17. In keeping with systemic transparency obligations, the Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan reported on the results of the visit to Members at the Informal Group on Accessions on 4 April 2019⁵.

3. TRANSPARENCY IN THE ACCESSION PROCESS

18. Ensuring transparency and predictability in the accession process remains a key priority for the WTO Director-General and WTO Members. The transparency measures that have been in place since 2010 continued to be implemented and reinforced in 2019.

i. Informal Group on Accessions (IGA)

19. The IGA held eight meetings in 2019⁶. Consultations in the IGA focused on: (i) information exchange on accessions; (ii) Secretariat reports on technical developments in accession processes; (iii) Secretariat reports on technical-assistance and outreach activities; (iv) a report by a Working Party Chairperson; (v) planning of accession meetings; and (vi) addressing specific concerns raised by Members.



Informal Group on Accessions— 28 May 2019

ii. WTO Accessions Newsletter

20. In the period under review the Secretariat prepared seven WTO Accessions Newsletters⁷. The Newsletter ensures transparency on accession matters, reports on monthly meetings of the IGA, and enhances communication with acceding governments, Chairpersons, Members, and the broader global trade policy community. The number of subscribers to the Newsletter in 2019 was 990 (excluding subscribers from the Secretariat).

iii. 2019 Annual Outreach Dialogue with WTO Regional Groups

21. As part of the 2019 annual outreach dialogue with WTO regional groups, a briefing for least-developed countries was provided at the 87th session of the Sub-Committee on LDCs held on 6 November 2019. The annual outreach dialogue on accessions was also conducted with the Arab Group on 11 February 2019 and with the African Group on 2 May 2019. The objective of the annual outreach dialogue is to strengthen communication channels with Members and acceding governments, and to provide a platform to exchange region-specific information on WTO accessions. These outreach activities strengthen the collaboration between Members and acceding governments and assist in building greater ownership of WTO accessions.



Annual Outreach with the African Group — 2 May 2019

⁵ The report is contained in document JOB/ACC/UZE/1/Rev.1.

⁶ In 2019, the IGA met on 1 February, 7 March, 4 April, 28 May, 1 July, 13 September, 30 October, 12 December. The IGA also met on 13 December 2018, after the circulation of the 2018 Annual Report.

⁷ A newsletter was also issued in December 2018, after the circulation of the 2018 Annual Report.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

i. Technical Assistance

22. The WTO Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan for 2018–2019 establishes support for acceding governments as one of four key results that technical assistance should contribute to achieve⁸. The Plan grants priority attention to acceding LDCs. Traditionally, accession-related technical assistance and capacity building focus on training for government officials. These activities, however, also cover outreach and awareness-raising activities for Parliamentarians, the private sector, academia, civil society, and the media.

23. In 2019, acceding governments were invited to participate in numerous technical-assistance and capacity-building WTO activities, including activities at the global, regional and national levels and e-training courses. In the period under review, the Accessions Division was involved in the delivery of 20 technical-assistance activities. These included, *inter alia*: (i) national and Geneva-based seminars; (ii) sessions on accessions in advanced trade policy courses, and introductory courses for LDCs; (iii) workshops; (iv) technical missions; (v) e-Learning; (vi) presentations to students⁹; and (vii) participation in conferences.

24. Specifically, the Accessions Division, including in collaboration with other Secretariat Divisions and/or other institutions, provided tailor-made technical assistance to Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq (jointly with the World Bank), Serbia, South Sudan and Uzbekistan (jointly with the ITC). In addition, the Division undertook activities at the request of the Government of Turkmenistan, which currently has no status in the WTO. Moreover, two specialised training courses on WTO accessions were held in Geneva.



WTO/World Bank Joint workshop on the Accession of Iraq, in Beirut, Lebanon, 25-26 July 2019

25. At the invitation of the Government of the Union of Comoros, the Secretariat participated in a Donors Conference organized by the World Bank on 2 December 2019 in Paris. This Conference brought together development partners and sought to secure

financial banking for infrastructure and investment projects under the Comoros Emergence Plan for 2030. The Secretariat delivered a statement highlighting the relevance of WTO accession to the overall growth and development strategy of Comoros and met bilaterally with key government officials responsible for WTO accession.

26. At the request of the Government of Equatorial Guinea, the Secretariat undertook a technical assistance mission to Malabo from 5 to 7 March 2019. The main objective of the mission was to assist Equatorial Guinea in preparing the MFTR and to enhance the understanding of the negotiating team of the WTO Agreements with a strong focus on the accession process.

27. At the request of the Government of Ethiopia, the Secretariat undertook a technical mission to Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 January 2019. The main objective of the mission was to assist Ethiopia in the technical preparation for the resumption of the accession process after over five years of dormancy. During the 5-day technical working sessions, the Secretariat worked with the Ethiopian negotiating team to update the Factual Summary of Points Raised that would serve as the base document for the next Working Party meeting. This document was shared with the Government of Ethiopia after additional technical working sessions held in Geneva from 10 to 21 February 2019.



Accession of Ethiopia — Technical mission in Addis Ababa — January 2019

28. At the request of the Government of Iraq, the Secretariat, in partnership with the World Bank, delivered a workshop on WTO accession to Iraqi officials from 25 to 26 July, in Beirut, Lebanese Republic. The workshop provided the first opportunity to take stock of the state of play in the accession of Iraq following an informal Working Party meeting held in November 2017.

29. At the request of the Government of Serbia, the Secretariat undertook a mission to Belgrade on 4-5 March 2019. The objective of the mission was to participate in a seminar on WTO accessions, co-

⁸ WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1.

⁹ E.g. the Accessions Division met with students from the International Club ECS of the Eurasian Research Institute for Peace Development (Moscow, Russian Federation) on 28 March 2019; the Lviv National University on 11 April 2019; the American University College of Law on 14 June 2019, the University of International Business and Economics (May 2019), the Second Geneva Dialogue of East Asian Scholars (September 2019) and the Belarus State Economic University on 17 October 2019.

organized by the University of Belgrade and the IDEAS Centre, and to assist the negotiating team in revising the necessary inputs for the resumption of the Working Party process.

30. At the request of the Government of South Sudan, the Secretariat organized a technical mission to Juba from 12 to 14 February 2019 to prepare South Sudan for the first meeting of the Working Party which took place in March 2019. During the mission, the Secretariat provided technical comments on South Sudan's replies to Members' questions on the MFTR, the Legislative Action Plan and on the submission of a package of legislation. The preparation and circulation of these documents enabled the holding of the first meeting of the Working Party. The Secretariat also organized 1.5-day dedicated technical assistance sessions for the South Sudanese delegates prior to the first meeting of the Working Party on 18-19 March 2019.

31. At the request of the Government of Uzbekistan, on the margins of the Working Party Chairpersons's visit in March 2019 (see paragraph 16), the Secretariat participated in a "Round Table on Uzbekistan's WTO Accession: Law and Practice and Prioritization of Needs" organised by the ITC.

32. On the margins of the 7th Global Aid for Trade Review, the Secretariat delivered a presentation to a visiting delegation from Turkmenistan on the accession process, its technical steps, negotiating tracks, benefits and challenges. In addition, at the request of Turkmenistan, the Secretariat delivered a national seminar to the Government Commission on WTO Accession on the margins of the First Caspian Economic Forum in Avaza, Turkmenistan, in August 2019. The seminar aimed at facilitating discussions on Turkmenistan's potential application for accession to the WTO. The Secretariat also held bilateral meetings with high-level government officials and participated in the First Caspian Economic Forum.



First Caspian Economic Forum, 10-13 August 2019, Avaza, Turkmenistan

3. As for specialised trainings on WTO accession, the Secretariat organised a 2-week course focused on WTO Rules in the context of accession negotiations on 4 to 15 February and a one-week course on market

access negotiations on trade in goods on 18 to 22 November:

- The main objectives of the training course on WTO rules were to give participants detailed information on WTO legal disciplines at issue in accession negotiations, familiarize participants with various accession-specific documents, and enhance knowledge of the content of typical commitment paragraphs found in accession Reports. Twenty-nine participants from 15 acceding governments participated in the Seminar¹⁰.



Participants of the Seminar on WTO Accession Rules, 4-15 February 2019

- The main objective of the training course on scheduling concessions in goods for acceding governments was to enhance understanding of the practical aspects of bilateral market access negotiations on goods as well as the technical aspects of scheduling of tariff concessions. In addition to the theoretical underpinnings, the training course offered practical exercises, including a 2-day simulation exercise on market access negotiations. Twenty officials from 12 acceding governments, as well as three Article XII Members, participated in the training¹¹.

34. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with other international organizations to support acceding governments, including through accession-related technical-assistance and capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels. The partnerships allowed the WTO Secretariat to benefit from the regional and technical expertise of the partner institutions. The thematic section of this Report aims to draw attention to the relevance of interagency coordination on WTO accession and to raise awareness about the international community's efforts to provide greater coherence in the provision of policy advice to acceding governments (see Section VII).

¹⁰ Algeria, Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanese Republic, Serbia, Sudan, Uzbekistan.

¹¹ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Serbia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Outreach

35. In the year under review, the Secretariat continued to support the accession-related groups, such as the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG) and the g7+ WTO Accession Group, which aim at mobilizing acceding governments' efforts in pursuing WTO accession. Significant efforts were invested in the expansion of outreach activities to partners with interest in accessions, in particular the Bretton Woods Institutions.

36. The IGAG, which comprises all acceding governments, held 7 meetings in 2019, including on the margins of the 8th China Round Table in Moscow with the participation of capital-based officials¹². This group was launched in 2018 in direct response to the need for better coordination among acceding governments in light of increased accession activities. The Group is chaired by Belarus.



6th Meeting of the Informal Group of Acceding Governments — 25 April 2019

37. The g7+ WTO Accessions Group, which comprises nine fragile and conflict-affected LDCs associated with WTO accession¹³, held three meetings in 2019, and one outreach event (a joint session with the Government of the Netherlands entitled "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions" at the 7th Global Aid for Trade Review on 3 July). This Group was launched on the margins of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017 and aims to support its members in their WTO accession efforts, and to facilitate their integration into the multilateral trading system. The Group is coordinated by Afghanistan.

38. Partners play an important role in supporting WTO accessions. In the year under review, the Secretariat continued to work with international and regional institutions, and bilateral partners. Efforts were made to expand such partnerships in 2019. On the margins of the 7th Global Aid for Trade Review, the Secretariat organized the 2nd Forum on WTO Accession - Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for Economic Transformation and Sustainable

Peacebuilding, on 5 July 2019. The Forum brought together acceding governments and the donor community to exchange views on: (i) technical-assistance and capacity-building needs of acceding governments, especially LDCs; (ii) programmes and projects designed to address accession-specific needs; and (iii) emerging best practices in designing and delivering accession-specific technical assistance and capacity building aimed at economic transformation and peace-building. The event also celebrated the third anniversary of WTO membership of Afghanistan and Liberia, which acceded to the WTO in July 2016.



2nd Forum on WTO Accessions: Technical Assistance and Capacity Building for Economic Transformation and Sustainable Peacebuilding — 5 July 2019

39. Within the framework of the WTO-IMF-World Bank coherence mandate, the Secretariat, in partnership with the IMF and the World Bank, organised a conference entitled "Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policymaking: the case of WTO accession", during the IMF/WBG Annual Meetings in October 2019. The conference provided a platform to discuss issues of common policy interest to the three institutions in the context of WTO accessions and to explore the scope for heightened cooperation at the country level. A special focus was put on the accessions of Belarus and Ethiopia which were represented by the Chief Negotiator and the State Minister of Finance, respectively (see Section VII for more on this topic).

iii. "Trade for Peace" through WTO Accessions Initiative

40. Following the launch of the "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions" initiative in 2018, the Secretariat continued to advocate for trade integration as a pathway to promote sustainable peace. In 2019, the focus was placed on the specific country and regional context of fragile and conflict-affected acceding governments.

¹² In 2019, the IGAG met on 5 February, 27 March, 25 April, 3 October, 14 and 28 November, and 6 December.

¹³ Three Article XII Members (Afghanistan, Liberia, Yemen) and six acceding governments (Comoros, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Timor-Leste).

41. A series of activities under the theme "Trade for Peace" in the context of WTO accessions took place in 2019, including: a joint session of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group and the Government of the Netherlands entitled "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions" at the Global Aid for Trade Review 2019 on 3 July; a panel discussion on "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions: Global Peace Index 2019 and Reflections from the Bottom" (9 October), together with the Institute for Economics and Peace; and a panel discussion on "Trade, Jobs and Peace" at the Geneva Peace Week (8 November), together with the International Labour Organization. The Accessions Division also collaborated with the Graduate Institute under the Capstone Project focusing on research on the topic of "Trade for Peace".



Panel discussion on "Trade for Peace through WTO Accessions: Global Peace Index 2019 and Reflections from the Bottom" — 9 October 2019

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

42. The "China's LDCs and Accessions Programme" (the China Programme) was established by the Government of China and the WTO on 14 July 2011. The China Programme is aimed at strengthening LDCs' participation in the WTO and at

assisting acceding governments in joining the WTO. The programme supports and finances activities under five principal pillars:

- I. WTO Accessions Internship Programme;
- II. Annual China Round Tables on WTO Accessions;
- III. Increasing participation of LDCs in WTO meetings;
- IV. South-South dialogue on LDCs and development; and
- V. LDCs' Trade Policy Review follow-up workshops.

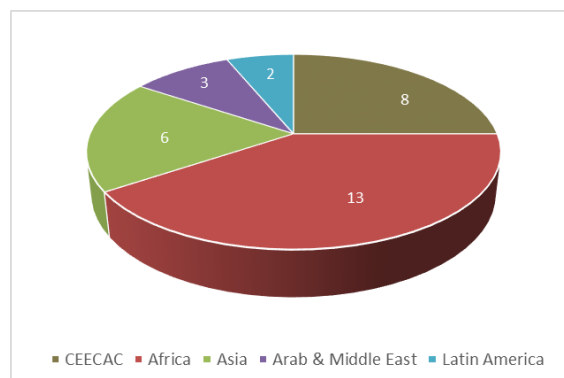
43. The Accessions Division is responsible for the implementation of Pillars I and II, as well as other accession-specific support¹⁴.

44. In 2019, China undertook the seventh renewal and extension of the Programme on 18 November, with a contribution of US\$500,000.

45. Under the WTO Accessions Internship Programme (Pillar I), eight interns worked in the Accessions Division in the year under review¹⁵. Of the 32 interns that have participated in the Programme since its launch, 14 have been from LDCs and 18 from non-LDCs¹⁶. Eleven men and 21 women have participated in the Programme. The visual breakdown of interns per region is presented in Figure 1.

46. Under Pillar II, the 8th China Round Table on WTO Accessions took place in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 4-5 December 2019, under the theme "Accessions and WTO Reform: on the Road to MC12". The Round Table was attended by representatives of 11 acceding governments¹⁷, nine Article XII Members¹⁸ and two governments expressing interest in accession¹⁹. Many of these governments were represented at the level of Minister, Deputy Minister, Ambassador and/or Chief Negotiator. In addition,

Figure 1: China Programme interns by region (2012-2019)



¹⁴ More background and information on the five pillars can be found here: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/china_programme_e.htm.

¹⁵ The 2019 China WTO Accessions Internship Programme participants were drawn from Azerbaijan (non-LDC acceding government), Belarus (non-LDC acceding government), Ethiopia (acceding LDC government), Kenya/Somalia (developing WTO Member/acceding LDC government), Nigeria (developing WTO Member), Serbia (non-LDC acceding government), Uganda (LDC WTO Member) and Uzbekistan (non-LDC acceding government).

¹⁶ An overview of former and current participants, including alumni stories, can be found here: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/pillar1_e.htm.

¹⁷ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Serbia, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan.

¹⁸ Afghanistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama, Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

¹⁹ Curaçao and Turkmenistan. Curaçao submitted a request for accession pursuant to Article XII, on 1 November 2019 (WT/ACC/CUW/1).

representatives of original WTO Members and Working Party Chairpersons; as well as various stakeholders from the host country, including government officials, academia and experts from partner institutions took part in the Round Table²⁰. The Round Table focused on: (i) contributions of accessions to WTO Reform and the implications of the Joint Initiatives (JIs) to acceding governments; (ii) the state of play in accessions; (iii) coherence and synergies between deeper regional integration efforts and the WTO accession process; and (iv) preparation for MC12. The main elements of the discussions are outlined in the Report on the Outcome of the Round Table²¹.



8th China Round Table: "Accessions and WTO Reform: on the Road to MC12", Moscow, Russian Federation— 5-6 December 2019

5. ACCESSIONS TRANSPARENCY TOOLBOX

i. WTO Accessions Intelligence Portal (AIP)

47. The Accessions Intelligence Portal (AIP), launched in 2016, forms an integral part of the WTO's initiative to enhance transparency on WTO accession negotiations²². The AIP provides access to documentation and data on the WTO accession processes, including 36 completed accessions and 22 ongoing accessions. The Portal is regularly updated based on the documentation received from the acceding governments and produced by the Secretariat with respect to ongoing accessions²³.

ii. Accession Commitments Database (ACDB)

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

iii. Secretariat Register of Bilateral Market Access Agreements

49. 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 Registers lists the sector of the agreement (goods; services; or both, as applicable), and the dates of signature and deposit.

50. Reports generated by this Register are available only to WTO Members via a password-protected access: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/xacc_e/register_e.htm. The substantive content of bilateral Market Access Agreements remains confidential to the signatories and the Secretariat, which acts as the depository of the Agreements.



Deposit of Bilateral Market Access Agreement between Switzerland and Belarus, 24 January 2019

III. STATE OF PLAY IN ACCESSION WORKING PARTIES

51. WTO accession negotiations advance on the basis of two or three tracks — with multilateral, bilateral, and in some cases, plurilateral processes running in parallel. Separately, there are domestic processes in the acceding governments to establish national negotiating positions and to decide on inputs. In 2019, there was mixed progress in the 22 ongoing accessions. A range of factors, as in the past, remain in play. They include, but are not limited to, ongoing negotiations with Members; technical complexities; domestic challenges; political choices to delay for more impact analysis; re-ordered priorities; and/or post-conflict situations. This Section provides the state of play on the ongoing accessions, as of December 2019. More details of the state of play are provided and regularly updated in the monthly Accessions Newsletter, which can be found on the WTO accession webpage.

52. Algeria: Algeria submitted a request for 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

²⁰ Original Members: Chile, European Union, Japan, Peru and Uruguay; Chairpersons of the Accession Working Parties of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Comoros; partner institutions: Eurasian Economic Commission, the International Trade Centre, the Higher School of Economics, and the WTO Expertise Center.

²¹ The Report was circulated in document WT/ACC/35, WT/GC/204 and WT/MIN(20)/1. More information on this and previous round tables can be found at https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/pillar2_e.htm

²² The AIP is available at: <https://www.wto.org/accessions>.

²³ 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.

Table 1: Current accessions by general status, as of December 2019

General Status	Accessions
Strategic focus	Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Union of the Comoros*
Work in progress	Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, South Sudan*, Sudan*
Reactivation	Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia*, Iraq, Lebanese Republic, Serbia, Uzbekistan
Activation	Somalia*, Timor-Leste*
Inactive	Andorra, Algeria, Bhutan*, Iran, Libya, Sao Tomé and Príncipe*, Syrian Arab Republic

* LDCs

"Strategic focus" indicates accessions which could be concluded in 2020, 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.

Secretariat. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing with several interested Members. Multilateral negotiations are based on the third revision of the draft Working Party Report circulated in February 2014. The 13th meeting of the Working Party will be convened following the circulation of required negotiating inputs.

53. 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.

54. 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. Multilateral negotiations are underway on the basis of the third revision of the draft Working Party Report circulated in May 2017. The 15th meeting of the Working Party is envisaged for the first half of 2020.

55. 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, 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 following the submission of required negotiating inputs.



4th Working Party Meeting on the Accession of The Bahamas — 5 April 2019

56. Belarus: Belarus submitted a request for 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 work in January 2017. In 2019, the Working Party held its 11th Meeting in February and its 12th Meeting in July. One bilateral market access agreement was concluded in this period. To date, 16 signed bilateral market access agreements have been deposited with the Secretariat. Bilateral negotiations are ongoing with a limited



12th Working Party Meeting on the Accession of Belarus — 11 July 2019

number of Members. Multilateral negotiations are underway on the basis of the fourth revision of the draft Working Party Report. The 13th meeting of the Working Party is envisaged for March 2020.

57. 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.

58. 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. In October 2019, the draft ITA Schedule of Bosnia and Herzegovina was approved by the ITA participants. Multilateral negotiations are underway on the basis of the eighth revision of the draft Working Party Report circulated in October 2017. The 14th meeting of the Working Party will be convened after the conclusion of the remaining bilateral market access agreement.

59. Union of the Comoros: The Union of the 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 fourth meeting of the Working Party was held in March 2018. To date, three bilateral market access agreements have been signed and deposited with the Secretariat. Bilateral negotiations are reportedly ongoing with four Members. Multilateral negotiations are ongoing on the basis of a draft Working Party Report circulated in February 2018. The fifth meeting of the Working Party is envisaged for the first quarter of 2020. The Union of the Comoros is subject to Category I administrative measures²⁴.



"Conférence des partenaires au développement de l'Union des Comores", Paris, 2 December 2019

60. Equatorial Guinea: Equatorial Guinea applied for WTO accession in March 2007. The Working Party was established in February 2008. No Working Party meeting has been held to date as Equatorial Guinea has not submitted any inputs to initiate the accession process. Work has reportedly begun on the preparation of a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime.

61. 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. The third meeting of the Working Party was held in March 2012. In preparation for the fourth meeting of the Working Party, a revised market access offer on goods and an initial market access offer on services were circulated in December 2019. A revised Factual Summary of Points Raised was also circulated in December 2019. The fourth meeting of the Working Party is envisaged for 30 January 2020.

62. Islamic Republic of Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran applied for WTO accession in July 1996. The Working Party on the Accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran was established in May 2005. The MFTR was circulated in November 2009. Technical inputs submitted by Iran, including replies to Members' questions on the MFTR, were circulated in 2011. To convene the first meeting of the Working Party, the Chairperson of the General Council would need to undertake consultations with Members on the designation of a Chairperson of the Working Party.



Meeting wit High-level Delegation from Iran — 17 December 2019

63. 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, an updated MFTR was circulated in February 2018. The third meeting of the Working Party will be scheduled following the submission of required negotiating inputs.

²⁴ As of December 2019.

64. 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, updated negotiating inputs, as well as the second revision of the draft Working Party Report, were circulated in April-June 2017. The eighth meeting of the Working Party will be convened subject to the submission of revised market access offers on goods and services.



Accession of Lebanon— Meeting with Minister of Economy and Trade Mansour Bteish — Beirut, 25 July 2019

65. 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 negotiating inputs to initiate the process of accession negotiations. Libya is subject to Category III administrative measures²⁵.

66. 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 of accession negotiations. Sao Tomé and Príncipe is subject to Category III administrative measures²⁶.

67. 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 of the Working Party will be convened subject to outstanding domestic legislative action and the submission of required negotiating inputs.

68. Somalia: Somalia applied for WTO accession in

December 2015. The Working Party was established in December 2016. No Working Party meeting has been held to date as Somalia has not yet submitted any inputs to initiate the process of accession negotiations. Work has reportedly begun on the preparation of a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime. Somalia is subject to Category II administrative measures²⁷.

69. 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 South Sudan's submission of required inputs. South Sudan is subject to Category I administrative measures²⁸.



1st Working Party Meeting on the Accession of South Sudan - 21 March 2019

70. 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 between 2004 and 2015, the Working Party was resumed in January 2017. The fourth meeting of the Working Party was held 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. Multilateral negotiations are ongoing on the basis of a revised Factual Summary of Points Raised circulated in January 2019. The fifth meeting of the Working Party could be envisaged for the first half of 2020, following the submission of required negotiating inputs.

71. 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



Mr Suleiman Sarra, Deputy Permanent Representative (Syrian Arab Republic) - 25 April 2019

²⁵ As of December 2019.

²⁶ As of December 2019.

²⁷ As of December 2019.

²⁸ As of December 2019.

negotiating inputs to initiate the process of its accession negotiations.

72. Timor-Leste: Timor-Leste applied for WTO accession in November 2016. The Working Party was established in December 2016. The MFTR was circulated in June 2017. The first meeting of the Working Party will be scheduled following the submission of required inputs, including replies to questions on the MFTR.

73. Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan applied for WTO accession in December 1994. The Working Party was established in December 1994 and held its first meeting in 2002. The third meeting of the Working Party took place in October 2005. Following years of inactivity between 2005 and 2018, an updated MFTR was submitted in July 2019. The fourth meeting of the Working Party could be envisaged for the first half of



Accession of Uzbekistan—Chief Negotiator Badriddin Abidov — 5 July 2019

2020 following the submission of outstanding negotiating inputs.

74. Figure 2 provides a snapshot of the state of play in current accession negotiations.

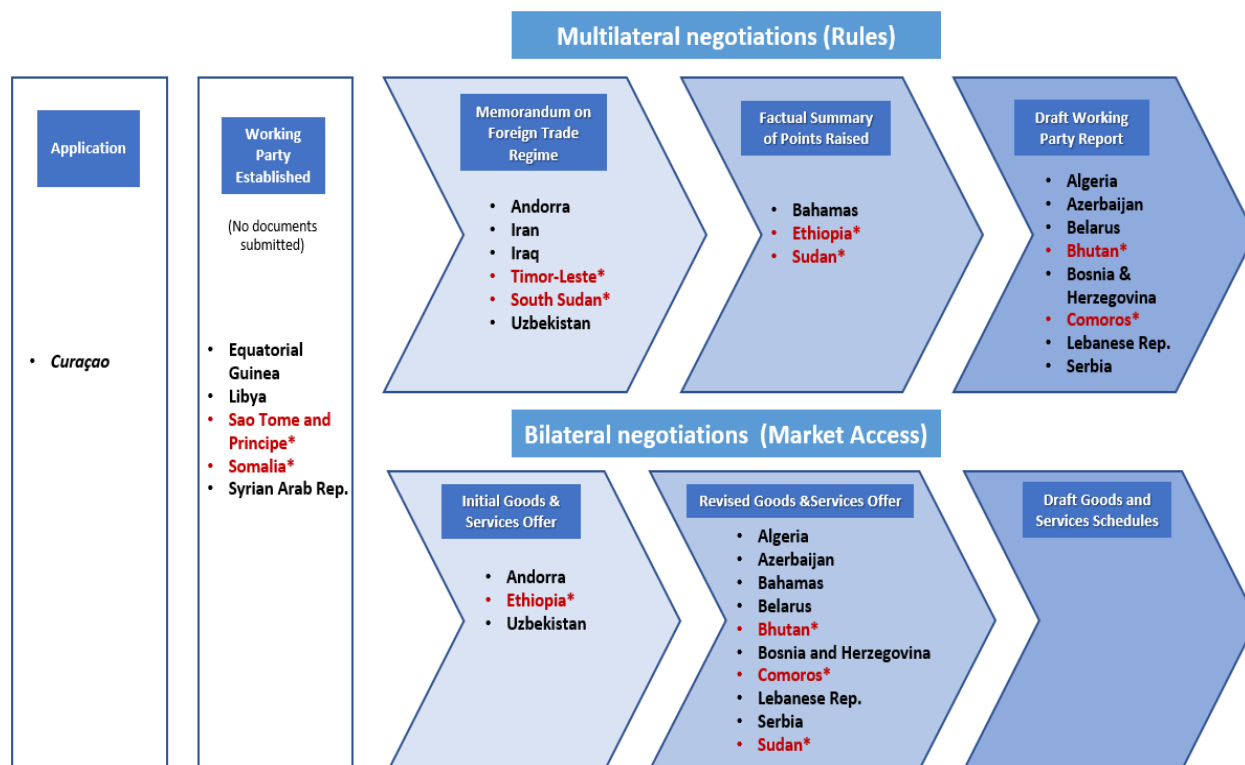
Expression of interest

75. In October 2019, a new application for WTO accession, from Curaçao – a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands - was received for consideration by WTO Members. This request was placed on the agenda of the last meeting of the General Council in 2019 by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. At the meeting, two Members signalled that they would need additional time to consider this request.



Delegation of Curaçao — Ms. Giselle Mc William, Minister of Economic Development — General Council — 9 December 2019

Figure 2: State of play in ongoing accession negotiations



IV. LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' ACCESSIONS

76. Since the establishment of the WTO, nine Members have acceded as LDCs pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO²⁹. Currently, eight LDCs are in the process of WTO accession.

77. In 2012, the General Council adopted an Addendum to document WT/L/508 to strengthen, streamline and operationalize the 2002 LDC Accession Guidelines. Members are mindful of these Guidelines in ongoing active LDC accessions. The Director-General has underscored the vital importance of Members to be cognizant of these Guidelines in facilitating negotiations with LDCs.

78. In 2019, South Sudan, as the most recent LDC applicant, registered progress in its accession process by holding its first meeting of the Working Party in March, after the submission of its Memorandum on the Foreign Trade regime in December 2018, only 12 months after the establishment of the Working Party.

79. Following a period of slow progress linked to domestic political developments, the Union of the Comoros resumed preparations for the fifth meeting of Working Party envisaged for the first quarter of 2020. Ethiopia resumed work to reactivate its accession process which had been inactive since 2012 and submitted a comprehensive set of negotiating inputs in December 2019. The fourth meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 30 January 2020.

80. Sudan's accession process slowed down due to domestic political developments. However, renewed engagement was expected in early 2020 following the establishment of a transitional government in August 2019.

81. Somalia, and Timor-Leste, both at the initial stage of their accession process, were preparing documentation necessary to hold their first meeting of the Working Party as soon as possible.

82. In line with Members' priority given to LDC accessions, the Secretariat continued to give focused attention to the eight ongoing LDC accessions with a view to facilitating and accelerating their negotiations. Since 2002, the Secretariat provides regular briefings on the state of play in the accessions of LDCs to the Sub-Committee on LDCs³⁰. In addition, the Secretariat extends its support to the g7+ WTO Accessions Group,

which comprises fragile and conflict-affected LDCs associated with WTO accessions: three recently acceded members (Afghanistan, Liberia and Yemen) and five acceding governments (Comoros, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste). In January 2019, the Group accepted Sudan as its ninth member (for more information see paragraph 37 and https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/mc11g7group_e.htm).



g7+ WTO Accessions Group Meeting — 31 January 2019

83. The Secretariat continued to provide a combination of generalized start-up and tailor-made accession-specific technical assistance to acceding LDCs at all stages of their accession processes. This year, as in previous years, technical assistance to acceding LDCs' delegations in Geneva was combined with assistance to capital-based officials.

84. Members have also continued providing technical support for LDC accessions, including China (including through the "China's LDCs and Accessions Programme, see "Technical Assistance and Outreach" section), the European Union (including through dedicated programmes from its individual member States), Japan (notably for Sudan), Oman (notably for Comoros), New Zealand (notably for Timor-Leste), and the United States. Some Members provide technical assistance via national institutions and programmes, while others use platforms such as the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), which also offers a capacity building platform for acceding LDCs.

85. Under the WTO Accessions Internship Programme, to date, 14 of the 32 interns were drawn from LDCs, including three from acceding LDCs³¹ and three from Article XII LDCs³².

V. POST-ACCESSION

1. Post-accession support

The post-accession implementation support

²⁹ Article XII Members that acceded to the WTO as LDCs were: Afghanistan (2016), Cabo Verde (2008), Cambodia (2004), Lao PDR (2013), Liberia (2016), Nepal (2004), Samoa (2012), Vanuatu (2012), and Yemen (2014). Cabo Verde and Samoa graduated from LDC status in 2008 and 2014, respectively.

³⁰ In 2019, the Accessions Division provided a presentation on the state of play in LDC accessions at the 87th session of the Sub-Committee on LDCs held on 6 November 2019.

³¹ Ethiopia, Somalia and Timor-Leste.

³² Afghanistan, Liberia and Yemen.

framework, which had been developed in 2014-2016, consists of the following five pillars:

- i. Country-Specific Post-Accession Implementation Strategy;
- ii. Specialized training on WTO post-accession;
- iii. Secretariat Note on "Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession";
- iv. Dedicated webpage on "Post-accession — what next?" in the WTO Accession Website;
- v. Internal Secretariat Note on Post-Accession Implementation and Monitoring.

2. Participation of Article XII Members

The Secretariat regularly monitors the participation of Article XII Members in the work of the WTO. Overall, Article XII Members are active in all pillars of the work of the WTO. For instance, their active participation is reflected in the relatively high average number of WTO notifications when compared with the WTO average. In fact, Article XII Members have outperformed

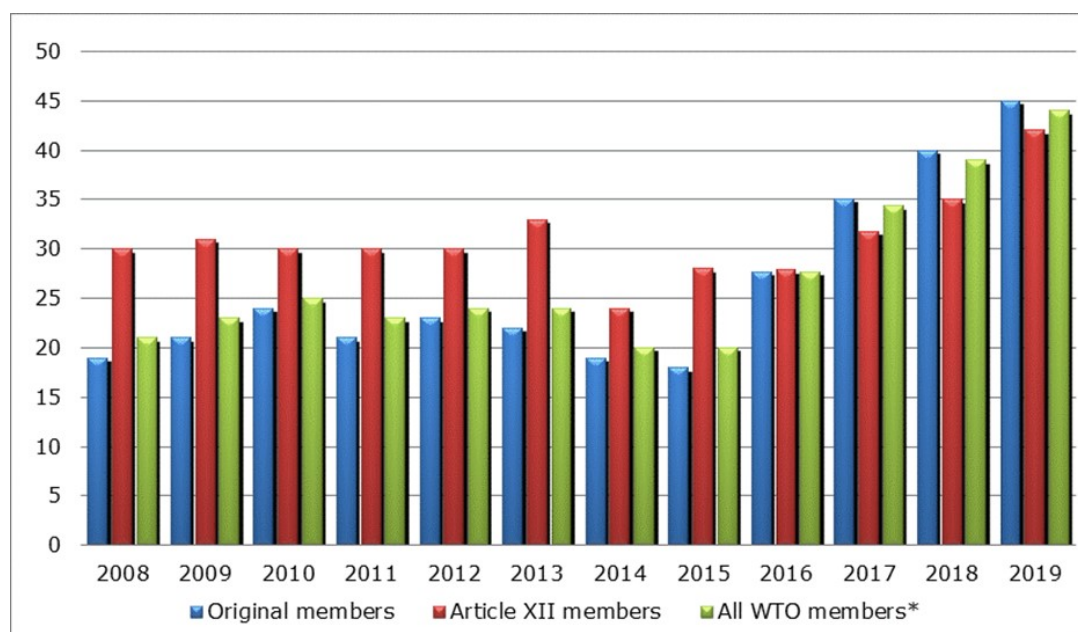
original WTO Members in most years since 2008 with the exception of 2017-2019 (see Figure 3).

88. Active participation is also evident in the Article XII Members' participation in the plurilateral agreements.

89. At present, out of 48 Members participating in the revised Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), which entered into force on 6 April 2014, ten are Article XII Members, namely: Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Chinese Taipei, and Ukraine. Currently, 17³³ out of the 34 GPA observers are Article XII Members³⁴, and ten of them are in the process of acceding to the GPA, accounting for 100% of the ongoing GPA accession negotiations. These ten Article XII Members are: Albania, China, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Oman, Russian Federation and Tajikistan³⁵.

90. 23 Article XII Members (Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania,

Figure 3: Average number of WTO notifications, 2008-2019



* This includes Original Members and Article XII Members.

Source: WTO Central Registry of Notifications.

³³ Afghanistan, Albania, China, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Viet Nam.

³⁴ In addition, on 27 June 2018, Belarus was granted observer status in the Government Procurement Committee. This is the first acceding government to become an observer to the revised GPA while still in the process of WTO accession.

³⁵ Four other Article XII Members have undertaken commitments to initiate accession to the GPA in future. They are: Afghanistan, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, and Seychelles.

Moldova, Montenegro, Oman, Panama, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Viet Nam) participate in the Information Technology Agreement.



Latvia: 20th Anniversary of WTO Membership — 6 February 2019

91. As of December 2019, 31³⁶ Article XII Members have ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement, which entered into force on 22 February 2017.

92. Article XII Members have also been active in the Joint Initiatives launched by groups of WTO Members at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017 (see Table 2).

Table 2: Participation of Article XII Members in the Joint Initiatives

No.	Member	Total	Electronic Commerce	Investment Facilitation for Development	Services Domestic Regulation	MSMEs
1.	Afghanistan	2		P		P
2.	Albania	3	P		P	P
3.	Armenia	1				P
4.	Bulgaria (EU)	4	P	P	P	P
5.	Cabo Verde	1		P		
6.	Cambodia	1		P		
7.	China	4	P	P	P	P
8.	Croatia (EU)	4	P	P	P	P
9.	Ecuador	2		P		P
10.	Estonia (EU)	4	P	P	P	P
11.	Georgia	1	P			
12.	Jordan	0				
13.	Kazakhstan	4	P	P	P	P
14.	Kyrgyz Republic	2		P		P
15.	Lao PDR	3	P	P		P
16.	Latvia (EU)	4	P	P	P	P
17.	Liberia	1		P		
18.	Lithuania (EU)	4	P	P	P	P
19.	Moldova, Republic of	4	P	P	P	P
20.	Mongolia	3	P	P		P
21.	Montenegro	4	P	P	P	P
22.	Nepal	0				
23.	North Macedonia	4	P	P	P	P
24.	Oman	0				
25.	Panama	3	P	P		P
26.	Russian Federation	4	P	P	P	P
27.	Samoa	0				
28.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	3	P	P		P
29.	Seychelles	1		P		
30.	Chinese Taipei	3	P		P	P
31.	Tajikistan	1		P		
32.	Tonga	0				
33.	Ukraine	1	P			
34.	Vanuatu	1		P		
35.	Viet Nam	1				P
36.	Yemen	1		P		
Total number of Article XII Members			19	25	13	22
Total number of Article XII Members (EU counted as one)			15	21	9	18

Note: 31 Article XII Members participate in at least one of the Joint Initiatives. Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania participate as part of the EU. 11 Article XII Members participate in all four Joint Initiatives.

³⁶ Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Lao PDR, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Viet Nam. Cabo Verde is set to ratify the TFA in February 2020.

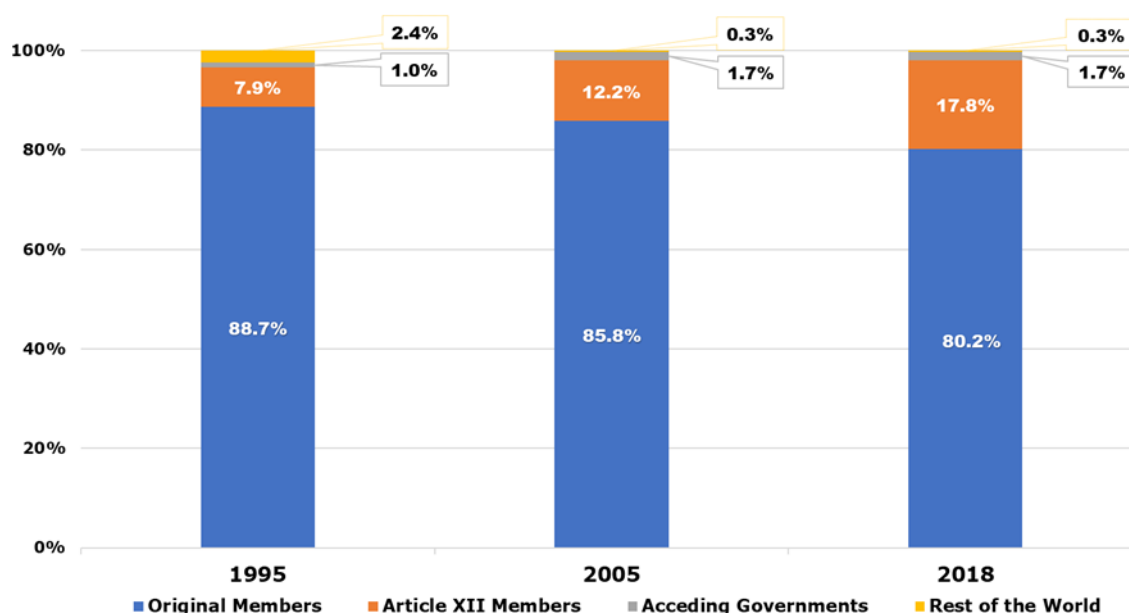
VI. TRADE AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS³⁷

93. According to the World Trade Statistical Review 2019³⁸, the volume of world merchandise trade, measured by the average of exports and imports, grew by 3% in 2018 against 4.6% growth in 2017. This was largely due to heightened trade tensions and economic policy uncertainties as well as temporary shocks. The nominal trade value increased by 10% in 2018, partly due to higher oil prices, and totalled close to US\$ 19.5 trillion. World trade in commercial services continued to expand significantly for the second consecutive year and registered solid growth of 7.7% in 2018.

94. Figure 4 below compares the evolution of

market shares of world trade of original WTO Members, the 36 Article XII Members, and the 22 acceding governments. The share of world trade of original Members has decreased from almost 89% in 1995, to just below 86% in 2005, and further down to about 80% in 2018. Conversely, the share of world trade of the 36 Article XII Members has increased from about 8% in 1995, to more than 12% in 2005, and then to almost 18% in 2018. This observation lends support to the view that the WTO accession process and subsequent WTO membership have a positive effect on the trade growth of acceded Members. The share of the 22 acceding governments has remained fairly stable over the period, standing at 1.7% in 2018.

Figure 4: Shares of world trade (1995, 2005 and 2018)



95. Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 focus specifically on the trade and economic performance of Article XII Members in the years before and after accession to the WTO by depicting growth trends in GDP, merchandise trade in goods (exports and imports), and inward foreign direct investment (FDI) stocks. These indicators demonstrate that after acceding to the WTO, Article XII Members have, on average, experienced faster growth - both in comparison with

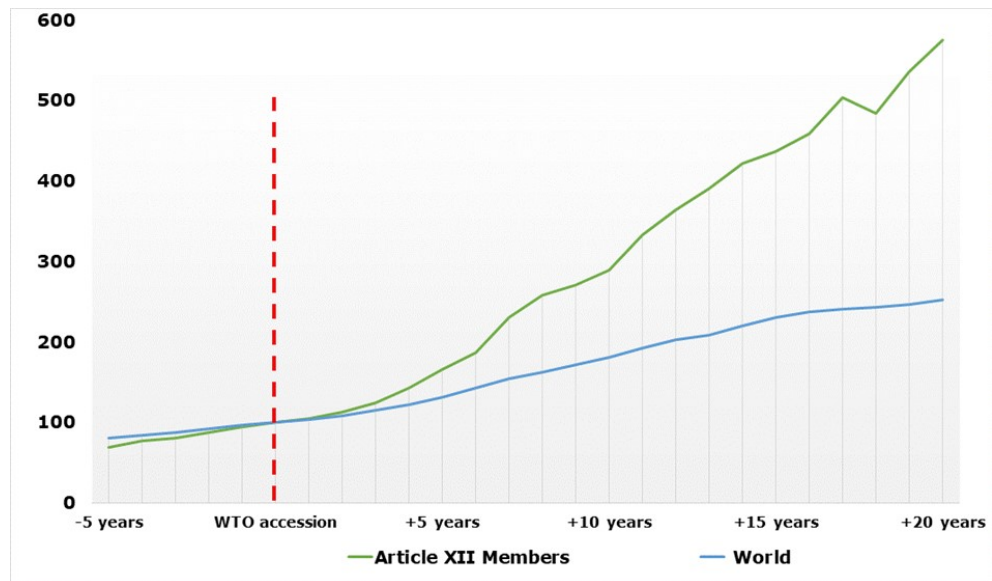
the years prior to WTO accession and when assessed relative to the world average. These results lend support to the argument that integrated open economies tend to grow faster. By signalling a government's commitment to international rules, WTO membership appears to also encourage the inflow of foreign investment.

³⁷ See Annexes 5 and 6 to this Report.

³⁸ Available at https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statistics_e/wts2019_e/wts19_toc_e.htm.

Figure 5: GDP growth rate of Article XII Members

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)

**Figure 6: Growth rate of merchandise exports of Article XII Members**

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)

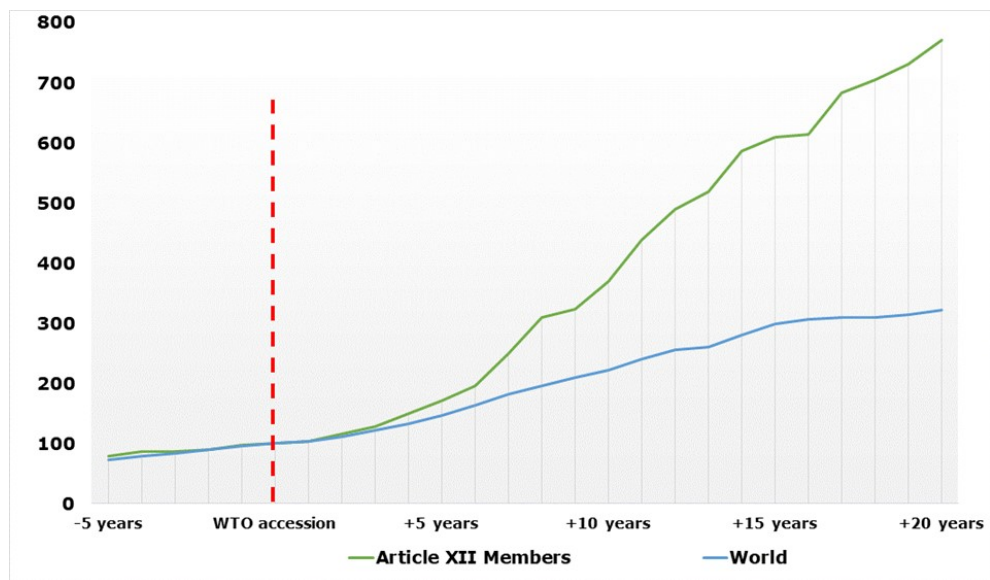


Figure 7: Growth rate of merchandise imports of Article XII Members

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)

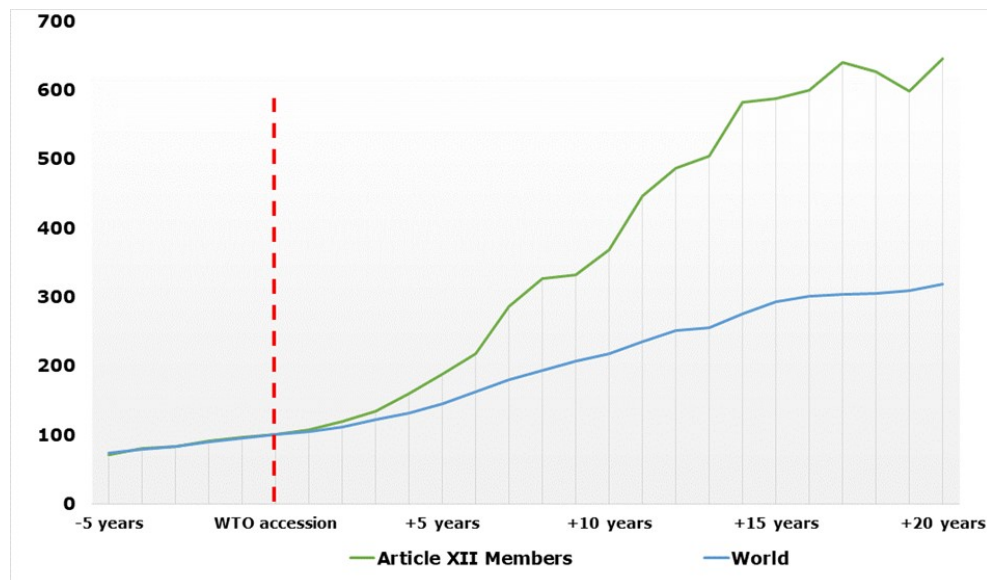
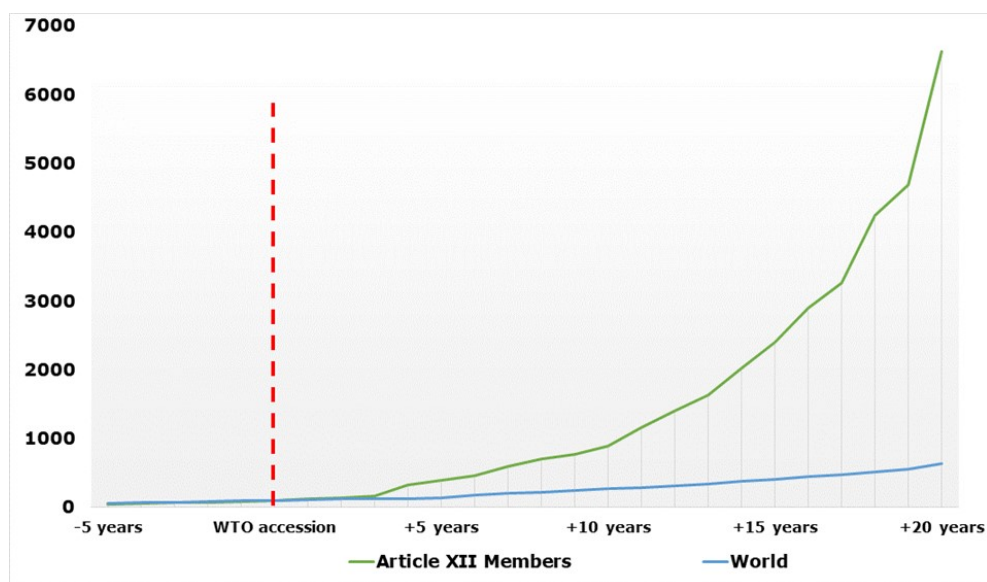


Figure 8: Growth rate of FDI inward stocks of Article XII Members

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)



96. On the services side, Article XII Members have also tended to perform better in the years following accession than in the years prior to accession. The picture is more mixed when comparing their performance relative to the world average. In

particular, for Article XII Members joining the WTO after 2012, growth in commercial services exports has been positive, but has not outperformed the world average (see Figures 9 and 10)³⁹.

Figure 9: Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members

ACCESSIONS CONCLUDED PRIOR TO 2011⁴⁰

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)

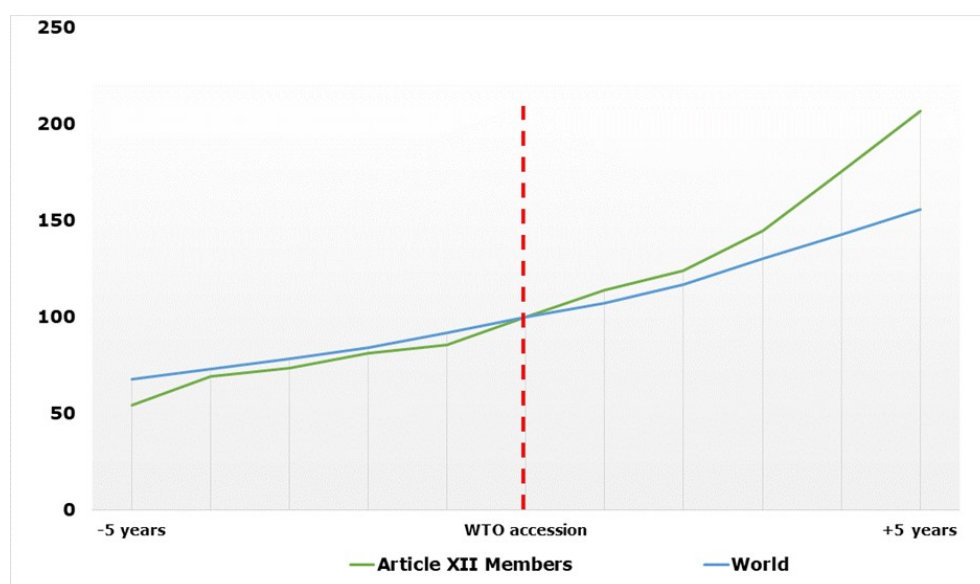
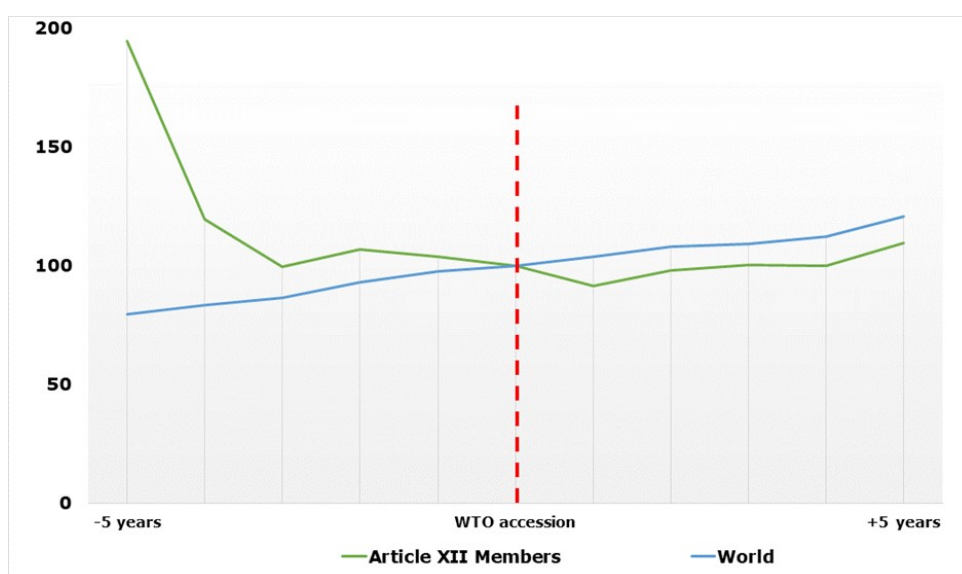


Figure 10: Growth rate of commercial services exports of Article XII Members

ACCESSIONS CONCLUDED AFTER 2012⁴¹

(Indices, WTO accession year = 100)



³⁹ To address methodological constraints linked to the implementation of the EBOPS 2010 classification, data for trade in commercial services is presented in two groups: accessions prior to 2011 and accessions after 2012. See Technical Note on the trade in commercial services datasets at: https://data.wto.org/assets/UserGuide/TechnicalNotes_en.pdf.

⁴⁰ Article XII Members who acceded prior to 2011: Ecuador, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Panama, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Jordan, Georgia, Albania, Oman, Croatia, Lithuania, Moldova, China, Chinese Taipei, Armenia, North Macedonia, Nepal, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Viet Nam, Tonga, Ukraine, Cabo Verde.

⁴¹ Article XII Members who acceded after 2012: Montenegro, Samoa, Russian Federation, Vanuatu, Lao PDR, Tajikistan, Yemen, Seychelles, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Afghanistan.

VII. GREATER COHERENCE IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC POLICYMAKING: THE CASE OF WTO ACCESSION

1. INTRODUCTION

97. The WTO accession process typically involves domestic structural reforms encompassing a wide range of national trade and economic policies. This requires efficient coordination and management of domestic inter-ministerial and inter-agency processes, in addition to consultations with other stakeholders such as the parliament, business and academia. Governments embarking on economic reform frequently reach out to international intergovernmental organizations for policy advice. Better collaboration between international organizations has, therefore, the potential to provide a significant boost to domestic economic and institutional reform efforts. In particular, enhanced international inter-agency cooperation can improve the articulation and coordination of policies and help reform-minded governments in avoiding basic policy inconsistencies. Enhanced cooperation could also help the international organizations to be more effective in implementing the mandates set by their respective member governments.

98. Globally, the WTO Secretariat has worked with nearly 200 international organizations in different areas, which include research and publications, statistics, technical assistance and training. There are about 140 international organizations that have observer status in various WTO bodies⁴². In addition, the WTO Agreements, ministerial declarations and decisions, and General Council decisions provide a formal mandate for cooperation between the WTO and some international organizations. Collaboration with other international organizations also takes place in the area of WTO accession negotiations.

99. This thematic section aims to draw attention to the relevance of inter-agency coordination on WTO accession and to raise awareness about the international community's efforts to provide greater coherence in the provision of policy advice to acceding governments. It will, *inter alia*, (i) describe the origins of the WTO's mandate for cooperation with other international organizations; (ii) describe in greater detail the framework of cooperation between the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank, with emphasis on the provisions relevant to WTO accession; and (iii) provide examples of collaboration between the

WTO and other international organizations on WTO accessions.

2. THE ORIGINS OF WTO COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

100. Historically, WTO relations with other international organizations, and in particular with the United Nations (UN), including on the joint partnership for the International Trade Centre (ITC), has been governed by the global "Arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations" agreed on 15 November 1995 between the secretariats of the WTO and the UN through an exchange of letters⁴³. This global arrangement was the result of consultations held between the WTO Director-General and the UN Secretary-General within the framework of the UN General Assembly Resolution 49/97 on "Strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade" of 19 December 1994⁴⁴ and the WTO General Council decision of 3 April 1995 mandating the Director-General to conclude such an arrangement based upon the previous UN/GATT relations⁴⁵. To date, the arrangement and practices that existed between the United Nations and the GATT⁴⁶ continue to guide WTO relations with the United Nations in the areas of information and document exchange, reciprocal representation and cooperation between the secretariats.

101. Recognizing the particular need for greater global policy coherence on trade, money and finance, at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, WTO Ministers agreed to seek closer cooperation between the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank⁴⁷. They also adopted a Declaration on the Contribution of the WTO to Achieving Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policymaking which recognized that "difficulties the origins of which lie outside the trade field cannot be redressed through measures taken in the trade field alone" and that "the interlinkages between the different aspects of economic policy require that the international institutions with responsibilities in each of these areas follow consistent and mutually supportive policies". The "Coherence Mandate" established in Marrakesh was also enshrined in the WTO Agreement. In particular, Article III of the WTO Agreement provides for specific cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank as one of the core functions of the WTO (see next section).

⁴² https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/coher_e.htm.

⁴³ WTO document WT/GC/W/10.

⁴⁴ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/49/97>.

⁴⁵ WTO document WT/GC/M/3.

⁴⁶ GATT document L/4306/Add.1 and United Nations document A/AC.179/5.

⁴⁷ Marrakesh Declaration of 15 April 1994, paragraph 3.

102. The aspiration towards greater coherence in global policymaking was also reflected throughout the WTO Agreements. Article V of the WTO Agreement stipulates that the WTO "General Council shall make appropriate arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations that have responsibilities related to those of the WTO"⁴⁸. More specifically, Article XXVI of the GATS instructs the WTO General Council to "make appropriate arrangements for consultation and cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies as well as with other intergovernmental organizations concerned with services." In the preamble of the TRIPS Agreement, WTO Members also expressed their desire "to establish a mutually supportive relationship between the WTO and the World Intellectual Property Organization...as well as other relevant international organizations".

103. The WTO's cooperation with international institutions has also given rise to the signing of memoranda of understanding and framework agreements, which define areas for cooperation and consultations on matters of common concerns and interests. The scope for cooperation defined in such inter-institutional arrangements typically covers the provision of joint technical assistance and capacity-building activities, research and analysis, and exchange of information and data, including through observership and consultations between staffs. Examples include memoranda of understanding between the WTO and the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and UNCTAD, and framework agreements concluded between the WTO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the IMF, and the World Bank. Given the high importance attached by WTO Ministers to cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank, as expressed in the WTO's founding documents, the agreements with these two institutions contain particularly detailed provisions.

3. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE WTO AND THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK

104. In July 1995, the WTO General Council mandated the Director-General to negotiate specific agreements on the relationship between the WTO and the IMF and the World Bank⁴⁹. On the basis of this mandate, separate cooperation Agreements between the WTO and the IMF and the World Bank were developed⁵⁰ and subsequently approved by the

General Council in November 1996⁵¹. These agreements sought to strengthen the cooperative relationship between the WTO and the respective institution by laying down a formal basis and detailed provisions for mutual collaboration.

105. The WTO Director-General was invited⁵² by WTO Members to build on the concluded Agreements and pursue consultations on coherence in global economic policymaking, as provided for in paragraph 2 of each Agreement. WTO Members also instructed⁵³ the Director-General to keep them informed and to consult with them on implementation issues relating to the cooperation Agreements. These consultations are to include *inter alia* reports on the Director-General's coherence consultations⁵⁴ with IMF/World Bank counterparts, issues of observership, joint research or technical cooperation projects, and the general scope of contacts between the WTO and the IMF and the WTO and the World Bank.

3.1 Areas of mutual interest to the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank in the context of WTO accessions

106. The WTO accession process involves domestic structural reforms across a wide range of economic areas. In particular, throughout the accession process, WTO Members scrutinize the acceding governments' trade and economic regimes to assess compliance with the WTO Agreements. This includes all relevant aspects of trade in goods and services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property. At the same time, WTO acceding governments, which are also members of the IMF and the World Bank, may undergo a process of country surveillance by the IMF and interact with the World Bank within the country partnership strategy/frameworks to advance their development and reform agendas. In this context, the trade and economic policy discussions taking place in WTO accession negotiations, the IMF country surveillance reports, and the World Bank country partnership frameworks may overlap. In turn, this provides scope for heightened cooperation between the three organizations.

107. Table 3 outlines indicative areas of mutual interest where trade and economic policy issues discussed in the context of WTO accession negotiations overlap with the work of the IMF and the

⁴⁸ A number of international organizations are referenced in the WTO Agreements, e.g., FAO, ILO, IMF, IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention), ITU (International Telecommunication Union), ISO (International Organization for Standardization), ITC, OECD, United Nations, UNCTAD, UNEP, World Bank, WCO, WHO, OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) and WIPO.

⁴⁹ See WT/GC/M/5.

⁵⁰ WT/GC/W/43.

⁵¹ WT/L/194 (General Council Decision). See full texts of Agreements in WT/L/195.

⁵² WT/L/194.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ E.g., WT/GC/13, and the WT/TF/COH/S document series.

World Bank. These areas have been identified by analysing the content of IMF Article IV Staff Reports, World Bank Country Partnership Strategies/Frameworks, and WTO accession Working Party Reports:

- WTO accession, or the WTO in general, has been specifically mentioned in the recent IMF Article IV Staff Reports of nine⁵⁵ currently acceding governments. Trade-related aspects of economic policy relevant to WTO accession have been mentioned in another four⁵⁶ (see Annex 8).
- World Bank Country Partnership Strategies/Frameworks have been agreed with twelve⁵⁷ currently acceding agreements. While the WTO/WTO accession has been specifically mentioned in four cases⁵⁸, accession-related trade and investment regulatory reforms have been discussed in all twelve existing Country Partnership Strategies/Frameworks with WTO acceding governments.

108. Table 4 lists the specific references to the IMF and/or the World Bank found in accession Working Party Reports by policy area. All thirty-six adopted WTO accession Working Party Reports contain at least one reference to the IMF and/or the World Bank, typically in the descriptive parts of the text⁵⁹. The principal areas concerned are monetary and fiscal policies; foreign exchange and payment systems; state ownership and privatization; import regulations; and government procurement. In particular, the IMF and the World Bank have been referenced in the context of the delivery of technical assistance, financial aid, and policy advice to acceding governments for economic and structural adjustment reform programmes. In some cases, references (to the IMF) are also made in the legally-binding commitment paragraphs of accession Working Party Reports:

- A number of accession Working Party Reports note that the IMF/World Bank have assisted the acceding governments in efforts to implement **monetary and fiscal policy** reforms, including with regard to taxation and revenue collection, as well as poverty reduction strategy programmes⁶⁰.

Table 3: Indicative areas of mutual interest to the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank in the context of WTO accessions

Policy areas discussed in accession Working Party Reports		IMF Article IV Staff Reports	World Bank Country Partnership Strategies/ Frameworks
Economic Policies	Monetary and Fiscal Policies	✓	
	Foreign Exchange and Payments	✓	
	Investment Regime	✓	✓
	State-ownership, State-trading and Privatization	✓	✓
	Pricing Policies	✓	✓
	Competition Policy	✓	✓
Trade facilitation		✓	✓
Import regulations/customs/import tariffs		✓	✓
Taxation		✓	✓
Subsidies		✓	✓
Agricultural policies		✓	✓
Government/public procurement		✓	✓
Financial services		✓	✓
Telecommunication services			✓
Transparency		✓	✓

⁵⁵ Azerbaijan, The Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Iran, Somalia, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

⁵⁶ Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, and Syrian Arab Republic.

⁵⁷ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanese Republic, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan.

⁵⁸ Belarus and Ethiopia, Somalia and Timor-Leste.

⁵⁹ The most ubiquitous reference is to membership of the acceding government in the IMF/World Bank.

⁶⁰ Albania, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, Tajikistan, Viet Nam and Yemen.

- Discussions on **foreign exchange and payment systems** typically focus on the liberalization of exchange measures relating to current and capital transactions in accordance with IMF obligations. In particular, Working Party Reports discuss the acceding governments' acceptance of obligations under Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement⁶¹ (avoidance of restrictions on current payments, avoidance of discriminatory currency practices, and currency convertibility) and the application or non-application of import restrictions for balance of payment reasons⁶². In some cases the IMF/World Bank have also supported acceding governments in putting in place legislation on foreign exchange-related measures⁶³. In three cases, specific accession commitment paragraphs (i.e., WTO contractually-binding obligations) relate to obligations under the IMF:
 - * Pursuant to Article XV:6 of the GATT 1994, Chinese Taipei, as non-member of the IMF, concluded a Special Exchange Agreement with the WTO with a view to incorporating obligations consistent with Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement⁶⁴. Pursuant to the Agreement, Chinese Taipei neither imposes restrictions on payments and transfers relating to current account transactions nor engages in discriminatory or multiple currency practices without the approval of the WTO. Chinese Taipei also committed to furnish WTO Members with information within the scope of Section 5 of Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement.
- * China and Viet Nam undertook commitments to implement their foreign exchange obligations in accordance with the provisions of the WTO Agreement and related WTO declarations and decisions that concern the IMF. Specifically, they committed to act in accordance with their obligations under Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement⁶⁵. In the context of its WTO transitional review mechanism, China committed to provide WTO Members with information on exchange measures pursuant to its obligation under Section 5 of Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement⁶⁶. Particular reference has also been made to IMF Article IV consultation missions monitoring foreign exchange regulations in China and Viet Nam⁶⁷.
 - Several Working Party Reports have recorded that the World Bank has played an important role in providing assistance to acceding governments - including through financial aid - to modernize their economies through the restructuring of **state-owned enterprises (SOEs)** and the implementation of **privatization** reform programmes aimed at improving economic efficiency⁶⁸.
 - A number of Reports make references to IMF/World Bank policy advice provided to acceding governments aimed at simplifying and improving **import regulation procedures** including taxation (application of internal taxes on imports), customs formalities, duties and tariffs⁶⁹. Some acceding governments have introduced trade-related reforms of import regulations based on IMF/World Bank policy advice⁷⁰.

⁶¹ Armenia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Nepal, North Macedonia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Tonga, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen.

⁶² Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Moldova and Nepal.

⁶³ Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

⁶⁴ Annex II of Protocol of Accession of Chinese Taipei.

⁶⁵ Para. 35 of Working Party Report on the Accession of China (WT/ACC/CHN/49); para. 31 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Viet Nam (WT/ACC/VNM/48).

⁶⁶ Para. 36 of Working Party Report on the Accession of China (WT/ACC/CHN/49); Section 18.1 and Annex 1A of Protocol of Accession of China.

⁶⁷ Para. 28 of Working Party Report on the Accession of China (WT/ACC/CHN/49); para. 24 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Viet Nam (WT/ACC/VNM/48).

⁶⁸ Albania, Bulgaria, Jordan, Lao PDR, North Macedonia and Saudi Arabia.

⁶⁹ Albania, Croatia, Liberia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Tonga, Viet Nam and Yemen.

⁷⁰ E.g., Viet Nam replaced its non-tariff measures with import duties with a view to fulfilling its commitments vis-à-vis the IMF and the World Bank (para. 149 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Viet Nam (WT/ACC/VNM/48)). Tonga substantially revised its Customs and Excise Act with the assistance of the IMF (para. 87 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Tonga (WT/ACC/TON/17)).

- In some cases, acceding governments have discussed carrying out **government procurement** based on the recommendations, norms, guidelines, standards and legal documents of the World Bank⁷¹.
- One acceding government⁷² undertook specific commitments in the area of **trade in services** (insurance) that the necessary regulatory reforms be consistent and in line with the financial services transparency code of the IMF.
- On **transparency**, one acceding government⁷³

undertook a commitment to supply WTO Members with economic data, namely (i) current account data on services by sources and destination; and (ii) capital account data for inward and outward direct investment by source and destination, in line with the statistical requirements of the IMF. The World Bank provided technical assistance to one acceding government⁷⁴ in establishing an investment promotion website dedicated to the publication of all trade-related regulation.

Table 4: References to the IMF and World Bank in accession Working Party Reports of Article XII Members

Policy areas discussed in accession Working Party Reports		Reference to IMF	Reference to World Bank
Membership in the IMF/WB		Albania, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Panama, Russian Federation, Samoa, Tajikistan, Tonga, Vanuatu	Albania, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Samoa
Economic policies (general)		Panama	
Economic policies	Monetary and fiscal policies (including poverty reduction strategy programmes)	Albania, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, Tajikistan, Viet Nam, Yemen	Liberia, Moldova, Montenegro, Yemen
	Foreign exchange and payments (including import restrictions and surcharges for balance of payment reasons)	Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Oman, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Tonga, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen	Liberia, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Viet Nam
	Investment Regime		Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Moldova, Nepal
	State-ownership, State-trading and Privatization		Albania, Bulgaria, Jordan, Lao PDR, North Macedonia, Saudi Arabia
Import regulations, customs, tariffs, (including taxation and trading rights)		Albania, Liberia, Seychelles, Tonga, Viet Nam, Yemen	Croatia, Liberia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Viet Nam
Subsidies		Cabo Verde	Croatia
Agricultural policies		Albania	Jordan, Yemen
Sanitary and phytosanitary measures			Jordan, Lao PDR
Government/public procurement			Cabo Verde, Moldova, Seychelles, Tajikistan
Export regulations		Russian Federation	
Policies affecting trade in services		Saudi Arabia	Afghanistan, Samoa
Transparency		China	Tonga

⁷¹ Cabo Verde, Seychelles and Tajikistan.

⁷² Saudi Arabia, paras. 296, 298 and 299 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Saudi Arabia (WT/ACC/SAU/61).

⁷³ China, para. 322 of Working Party Report on the Accession of China (WT/ACC/CHN/49); Section 18.1 and Annex 1A of Protocol of Accession of China.

⁷⁴ Tonga, para. 179 of Working Party Report on the Accession of Tonga (WT/ACC/TON/17).

3.2 Implementation of the Coherence Mandate in the area of WTO accession

109. The cooperation Agreements provide a formal basis for collaboration between the WTO and the IMF and the World Bank. In the context of WTO accession, this collaboration has been expressed through the (i) use of observer status rights; (ii) access to documents; (iii) use of documents in Working Party meetings; (iv) technical cooperation; and (v) consultations between staff. A detailed outline of the provisions of the WTO-IMF and WTO-World Bank cooperation Agreements relevant to WTO accession is provided in Annex 9.

3.2.1 Observer status

110. The cooperation Agreements provide for the mutual granting of observer status in the relevant bodies of the three institutions⁷⁵. More specifically, the cooperation Agreements provide for observer status in meetings where matters of particular common interest are discussed. Accession Working Parties are thus open to representatives of the IMF and the World Bank.

111. Accession Working Party meetings have sometimes been attended by representatives of the IMF and the World Bank. Attendance of Working Party meetings provides IMF and World Bank country teams with an opportunity to follow discussions and to hear from the government officials directly responsible for policy areas covered by the IMF and the World Bank.

3.2.2 Access to meetings' agenda, documents and reports

112. Pursuant to the cooperation Agreements, the WTO shall make available to the IMF or the World Bank in advance the official documents of the meetings to which the other organization is invited, and vice versa⁷⁶. In addition, the WTO-IMF Agreement specifically calls on the IMF to promptly provide, for the confidential use of the WTO Secretariat, the staff reports and related background staff papers on Article IV consultations on common members as well as on IMF members seeking accession to the WTO, subject to the consent of the member concerned⁷⁷. The World

Bank shall also arrange for the timely exchange of information, reports and other documents with the WTO⁷⁸. In turn, the WTO provides for the confidential use of the IMF and the World Bank staff the records and reports of WTO councils, bodies and committees⁷⁹.

113. Accession-relevant documents are in principle available through the respective document portals of the three institutions. On an operational level, however, these documents do not always reach the relevant desk officers/country teams. More could be done, therefore, to facilitate the sharing of accession-relevant documents between interested country teams (e.g. meeting agendas, "Questions and Replies" documents).

3.2.3 Use of documents in accession Working Party meetings

114. In accordance with the cooperation agreement between the WTO and the IMF, the two organizations may communicate their views in writing to each other on issues of mutual interest. Such views are to be included in the official record of the relevant body or organ⁸⁰.

115. Such an exchange of views in writing has taken place once⁸¹. In addition, there have been cases where acceding governments have presented to their respective Working Parties legislation/consultation documents relating to projects with the IMF/World Bank⁸². Relevant reports/papers by the IMF and the World Bank have also been presented to accession Working Parties at the request of WTO Members⁸³. The presentation of documents prepared by another institution in an accession Working Party may be initiated by WTO Members or by the acceding governments.

3.2.4 Technical cooperation

116. The cooperation Agreements provide for collaboration between staffs on *inter alia* joint research and technical cooperation activities⁸⁴.

117. Technical cooperation between the WTO Secretariat and the staff of the IMF and the World Bank

⁷⁵ Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the WTO-IMF Agreement and paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the WTO-World Bank Agreement.

⁷⁶ Paragraph 7 of the WTO-IMF Agreement and paragraph 6 of the WTO-World Bank Agreement.

⁷⁷ Paragraphs 11 of the WTO-IMF Agreement.

⁷⁸ Paragraph 9 of the WTO-World Bank Agreement.

⁷⁹ Paragraphs 12 and 9 of Agreements with the IMF and the World Bank, respectively.

⁸⁰ Paragraph 8 of the WTO-IMF Agreement.

⁸¹ In the context of China's accession to the WTO. In March 1996, an official written communication from the IMF (WT/SPEC/23) was circulated to the Working Party on the Accession of China, in which the IMF Managing Director suggested that all references to exchange measures under Fund jurisdiction be dropped from the draft Accession Protocol of China.

⁸² Armenia, Cambodia, Croatia, Kyrgyz Republic and Seychelles.

⁸³ As requested by the members of the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus, three IMF and World Bank documents were presented to the Working Party, specifically IMF Country Report No. 12/113, IMF Country Report No. 12/114 and World Bank Report No. 66614-BY (circulated as WTO documents WT/ACC/BLR/63, WT/ACC/BLR/64 and WT/ACC/BLR/65).

⁸⁴ Paragraphs 9 and 7 of Agreements with the IMF and the World Bank respectively.

on WTO accession has been generally successful. The WTO Secretariat and the World Bank have collaborated closely on accession-related technical assistance⁸⁵ and are currently working on a joint research publication on the impacts of WTO accession. In another recent case⁸⁶, the WTO Director-General sent a written communication to the IMF Managing Director seeking IMF support for implementing a VAT reform programme in an acceding government.

3.2.5 Consultations between staff

118. In addition to providing for an exchange of views on policy issues⁸⁷, the cooperation Agreements mandate the WTO Secretariat and the IMF's staff to consult on issues of possible inconsistency between measures under discussion with a common member and respective obligations under the IMF/WTO⁸⁸. The

staff of the WTO and the World Bank should also consult and exchange views on issues of mutual interest with a view to ensuring the adoption of consistent and mutually supportive policies⁸⁹.

119. There is a long-standing tradition of consultations between IMF/World Bank staff and the WTO Secretariat on issues related to WTO accession. These consultations can be initiated by the WTO Secretariat or by IMF/World Bank staff. Although conducted in a largely ad hoc manner, such contacts have been generally successful (see Table 5 and Annex 10 for an illustrative list of recent consultations). Consultations and technical meetings have taken place (i) on an ad hoc basis; (ii) on the margins of the meetings of Working Parties on accessions; (iii) during the missions of the WTO Secretariat to acceding

Table 5: Ongoing WTO accessions and the IMF and World Bank

	Acceding government	Working Party Establishment	Accession status (last Working Party meeting)	Reference to WTO accession in recent IMF Article IV Staff Reports	Information exchange/ technical assistance with World Bank
1	Algeria	17 June 1987	14WPM, 31 March 2014	NO (June 2018)	YES
2	Andorra	22 October 1997	No WPM held to date	n.a.	
3	Azerbaijan	July 1997	14WPM, July 2017	YES (September 2019)	
4	The Bahamas	July 2001	4WPM, April 2019	YES (July 2019)	
5	Belarus	October 1993	12WPM, July 2019	YES (January 2019)	YES
6	Bhutan*	6 October 1999	4WPM, 30 January 2008	NO (October 2018)	
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	July 1999	13WPM, February 2018	YES (February 2018)	
8	Comoros*	October 2007	4WPM, March 2018	NO (June 2018)	YES
9	Equatorial Guinea	February 2008	No WPM held to date	NO (November 2016)	
10	Ethiopia*	February 2003	4WPM, January 2020	YES (January 2020)	YES
11	Iran	26 May 2005	No WPM held to date	YES (March 2018)	
12	Iraq	December 2004	2WPM, April 2008	NO (July 2019)	YES
13	Lebanese Republic	April 1999	7WPM, October 2009	NO (October 2019)	
14	Libya	27 July 2004	No WPM held to date	NO (May 2013)	
15	Sao Tomé et Príncipe*	26 May 2005	No WPM held to date	NO (August 2018)	
16	Serbia	February 2005	13WPM, June 2013	NO (reference to EU accession, which is directly linked to WTO accession, July 2019)	
17	Somalia*	December 2016	No WPM held to date	YES (August 2019)	YES
18	South Sudan*	December 2017	1WPM, March 2019	NO (June 2019)	YES
19	Sudan*	October 1994	4WPM, July 2017	YES (November 2017)	YES
20	Syrian Arab Republic	4 May 2010	No WPM held to date	NO (March 2010)	
21	Timor-Leste*	December 2016	No WPM held to date	NO (May 2019)	YES
22	Uzbekistan	December 1994	3WPM, October 2005	YES (May 2019)	YES

* LDCs.

⁸⁵ Most recent examples include a joint scoping workshop on WTO accession for Iraq, a joint training on trade in services and market access negotiations for Uzbekistan.

⁸⁶ DG Azevêdo letter to MD Christine Lagarde in April 2017 concerning the implementation of VAT in Comoros.

⁸⁷ Paragraphs 9 and 7 of Agreements with the IMF and the World Bank respectively.

⁸⁸ Paragraph 10 of the WTO-IMF Agreement.

⁸⁹ Paragraph 8 of the WTO-World Bank Agreement.

governments with IMF country missions and World Bank country teams; (iv) during Article IV consultation or other IMF missions; and (v) during the spring and annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group. Information-exchange can be valuable at all stages of the WTO accession process, in particular at the early and intermediate stages of the accession process, when structural reform programmes are being introduced and implemented.

4. Examples of collaboration on accessions-related Technical Assistance

120. In the past five years, there have been five accession-related technical assistance and capacity-building activities organized by the WTO Secretariat in partnership with other international organizations – namely the African Union Commission, ITC, UN, and the World Bank (see Table 6). Some of these activities have targeted particular acceding governments while

Table 6: Collaboration on technical assistance and capacity building for acceding governments (2016–2020)

	Beneficiary Government	Partner Organizations	Date / Venue	Format	Objectives
1.	Afghanistan	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	11–15 July 2016, Thailand	Policy Dialogue	Post-accession support
2.	Iraq	World Bank	25–26 July 2019, Lebanese Republic	Scoping Workshop	Reactivation
3.	Uzbekistan	World Bank	14–18 May 2018, Uzbekistan	Workshop	Reactivation
4.	Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan	International Trade Centre (ITC)	3–6 December 2018, Djibouti	Regional Dialogue	Reactivation, coordination and synergy in accessions in Africa
5.	Algeria, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan	African Union Commission, ITC, UN Economic Commission for Africa, World Bank	12–14 February 2020, Ethiopia	Regional Dialogue	Reactivation, coordination and synergy in accessions in Africa

others have been organized on a regional basis. Most of these activities have focused on launching or reactivating inactive accession processes. In one case, the objective of the activity was to prepare a newly acceded WTO Member for the immediate post-accession period. The partnerships allowed the WTO Secretariat to benefit from the regional and technical expertise of the partner institutions. In addition, in several cases, the local presence of a partner institution facilitated logistical arrangements.

121. Within the framework of the WTO-IMF-World Bank coherence mandate, the WTO Secretariat, in partnership with the IMF and the World Bank, organised a conference entitled "Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policymaking: the case of WTO accession" as a side event during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in October 2019. This conference provided a platform to discuss issues of common policy interest to the three institutions in the context of WTO

accessions and to explore the scope for heightened cooperation at the country level. Participants⁹⁰ recognized that better information-exchange between the three institutions would (i) result in better alignment in the provision of trade-related technical assistance; and (ii) enable the WTO Secretariat to facilitate the conversation between WTO Members and acceding governments. A follow-up event is envisaged during the 2020 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings.

5. CONCLUSION: TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

122. The WTO's institutional cooperation with other international organizations on WTO accessions has been generally successful. In many cases, it has its roots in long-established partnership arrangements. In particular, the formal frameworks for cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank have provided a solid basis for cooperation on WTO accession in areas of mutual interest. More effective collaboration between

⁹⁰ The conference was attended by the representatives of five acceding governments (Belarus, Ethiopia, Iraq, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan), one potential applicant (Turkmenistan) and three WTO Members (European Union, Switzerland and United States). On the IMF side, attendees were largely drawn from the country teams working with currently acceding countries. On the World Bank side, attendees were drawn from the Global Trade team as well as the country teams working with acceding countries.

international organizations would potentially contribute towards the implementation of mutually supportive and complementary objectives and could benefit acceding governments at all stages of the accession process, including in the immediate post-accession phase:

- From the WTO's perspective, it would facilitate the accession process for the benefit of WTO acceding governments and the multilateral trading system.
- From the perspective of other international organizations, it could help inform policy advice and calibrate expectations.
- For WTO acceding governments, it would promote the adoption of more coherent economic reform programmes, which build in a WTO accession-specific reform agenda into a broader long-term vision of economic development and modernization.

123. Building on the areas of mutual interest and the existing channels of cooperation, such as the ones stipulated in the cooperation Agreements with the IMF and the World Bank, heightened collaboration could take place at both institutional and country levels and could include:

- practical steps - e.g., promote attendance of WTO accession Working Parties meetings; facilitate document-sharing; identify contact points for individual WTO accessions.
- dedicated projects - e.g., specific joint research or on-the-ground technical assistance and capacity-building projects.



WTO-IMF-World Bank Conference on Coherence,
Washington, DC — 16 October 2019

WTO Accessions Newsletters in 2019

January/February 2019

[illegible]

February/March 2019

[illegible]

April/May 2019

[illegible]

June/July 2019

[illegible]

August/September 2019

[illegible]

October/November 2019

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

N° 96 – October/November 2019

WTO ACCESSIONS NEWSLETTER

updating, enlarging and strengthening the world's multilateral trading system

Accession Strategic Focus

Accession Strategic Priorities

- 1. Timely and effective accession process
- 2. High quality accession process
- 3. Mutual satisfaction of WTO and applicant

Joining this year

- Accession Strategic Focus: **Timely and effective accession process**
- **2019 Accession Strategic Focus:**
 - **2019 Accession Strategic Focus:** **High quality accession process**
 - **2019 Accession Strategic Focus:** **Mutual satisfaction of WTO and applicant**
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Accession Strategic Focus

The WTO's accession process is a complex and multi-stage process. It involves a series of steps, from the initial application to the final accession. The process is designed to ensure that the accession process is timely, effective, and mutually satisfactory for both the WTO and the applicant. The process is also designed to ensure that the accession process is high quality and that the accession process is mutually satisfactory for both the WTO and the applicant.

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WTO and Applicant Strategic Focus

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Accession Strategic Focus

- **Accession Strategic Focus:** **Timely and effective accession process**
- **Accession Strategic Focus:** **High quality accession process**
- **Accession Strategic Focus:** **Mutual satisfaction of WTO and applicant**
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WTO and Applicant Strategic Focus

December 2019

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ANNEX 1 - ACCESSIONS DIVISION WORK INDICATORS (2017-2019)

	2017	2018	2019
Membership & Accessions			
New WTO member	0	0	0
Acceding Government	21	22	22
(New application)	(1)	(0)	(1)
Active Accessions	10	16	14
Accession-related Meetings & Missions			
Working Party meetings	11	5	4
Informal Group on Accessions (IGA)	10	10	8
Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG)	-	3	7*
Transparency & outreach	22	25	20
Missions	8	19	17
Document outputs			
Newsletter	12	10	7
Pages of accession documents to WPs	2,915	2,647	1,826

Source: Accessions Division internal data.

* Includes the meeting of the IGAG on 6 December 2019 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

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/777 & 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 WT/MIN(01)/3	Add.1 Add.1	Add.2 Add.2	WT/L/432	WT/L/432
16.	Chinese Taipei	01/01/2002	WT/ACC/TPKM/18 WT/MIN(01)/4	Add.1 Add.1	Add.2 Add.2	WT/L/433	WT/L/433
17.	Armenia	05/02/2003	WT/ACC/ARM/23 & Corr.1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/506	WT/L/506
18.	The former Yugoslav Republic of 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 WT/MIN(05)/4	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/644	WT/L/644
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 WT/MIN(11)/7	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/841	WT/MIN(11)/28 WT/L/841
27.	Samoa	10/05/2012	WT/ACC/SAM/30 WT/MIN(11)/1	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/840	WT/MIN(11)/27 WT/L/840
28.	Russian Federation	22/08/2012	WT/ACC/RUS/70 WT/MIN(11)/2	Add.1	Add.2	WT/L/839	WT/MIN(11)/24 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/L/905	WT/MIN(13)/24 WT/L/905
33.	Seychelles, Republic of	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/L/973	WT/MIN(15)/38 WT/L/973
36.	Afghanistan	29/07/2016	WT/ACC/AFG/36	Add.1	Add.2	WT/MIN(15)/39 WT/L/974	WT/MIN(15)/39 WT/L/974

ANNEX 3 - WTO ACCESSIONS WORKING PARTY (WP) CHAIRPERSONS

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	Pending	
3.	Azerbaijan	16 July 1997	H.E. Dr Walter WERNER (Germany)	N
4.	The Bahamas	18 July 2001	H.E. Mr H.E. Mr. Andrew STAINES (United Kingdom)	Y
5.	Belarus	27 October 1993	H.E. Mr Kemal MADENOĞLU (Turkey)	Y
6.	Bhutan	6 October 1999	H.E. Dr Elisabeth TICHY-FISSELBERGER (Austria)	Y
7.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 July 1999	H.E. Mr. Atanas PAPARIZOV (Bulgaria)	Y
8.	Comoros, Union of the	9 October 2007	H.E. Mr Luis Enrique CHÁVEZ BASAGOITIA (Peru)	N
9.	Equatorial Guinea	5 February 2008	Pending	
10.	Ethiopia	10 February 2003	H.E. Mr Morten JESPERSEN (Denmark)	Y
11.	Iran	26 May 2005	Pending	
12.	Iraq	13 December 2004	H.E. Mr Omar HILALE (Morocco)	N
13.	Lebanese Republic	14 April 1999	Mr Jean-Paul THUILLIER (France)	N
14.	Libya	27 July 2004	Mr Victor ECHEVARRÍA UGARTE (Spain)	N
15.	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	26 May 2005	Pending	
16.	Serbia	15 February 2005	H.E. Mrs. Marie-Claire SWÄRD CAPRA (Sweden)	N
17.	Somalia	7 December 2016	Pending	
18.	South Sudan	13 December 2017	H.E. Mr. Mohammad Qurban HAQJO (Afghanistan)	Y
19.	Sudan	25 October 1994	Mr. Katsuro NAGAI (Japan)	Y
20.	Syrian Arab Republic	4 May 2010	Pending	
21.	Timor-Leste	7 December 2016	H.E. Mr. Rui MACIEIRA (Portugal)	Y
22.	Uzbekistan	21 December 1994	H.E. Ms Ji-ah PAIK (Republic of Korea)	Y

* As of December 2019.

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.	The former Yugoslav Republic of 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

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

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

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 ⁴ (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ⁴ (millions USD)
Algeria	42,228.43	180,441	4,060	1,171	28.8	40,883	47,002	3,040	10,452
Andorra	77.01				No data available				
Azerbaijan	9,942.33	45,418	4,225	1,933	45.8	21,500	11,000	4,661	6,679
The Bahamas	385.64	12,803	32,949	11,149	33.8	630	3,560	3,235	2,080
Belarus	9,485.39	59,643	5,695	3,795	66.6	33,716	38,391	8,700	5,369
Bhutan	754.39	2,627	2,964	1,210	40.8	620	1,020	183	230
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,323.93	19,881	5,220	2,460	47.1	7,500	12,000	2,078	609
Comoros, Union of the*	832.32	742	807	251 ⁵	31.4 ⁵	52	301	75 ⁶	84 ⁶
Equatorial Guinea	1,308.97	13,734	9,769	5,892 ⁵	45.0 ⁵	6,100	2,110	281 ⁶	1,415 ⁶
Ethiopia*	109,224.56	80,279	816	141	17.3	2,803	15,195	4,498	6,695
Iran	81,800.27	452,275	5,271	1,060	21.0	107,900	49,354	9,773 ⁶	15,132 ⁶
Iraq	38,433.60	226,070	5,296	1,577	29.8	89,355	47,850	5,306	17,785
Lebanese Republic	6,848.93	56,409	8,857	4,202	47.4	3,830	20,396	15,295	14,338
Libya	6,678.57	43,587	4,791	2,173 ⁷	62.8 ⁷	21,253	12,493	107 ⁸	3,749 ⁸
Sao Tome and Principe*	211.03	449	1,875	656	35.0	15	153	82	61
Serbia	6,982.08	50,651	6,426	3,389	52.7	19,227	25,882	7,056	5,724
Somalia*	15,008.15				No data available				

¹ For the year 2018. Source: World Bank, Population: All Countries and Economies, available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>.

² For 2018 unless otherwise indicated.

³ For 2016–2018 unless otherwise indicated.

⁴ For 2018 unless otherwise indicated.

⁵ For 2014–2016.

⁶ For 2016.

⁷ For 2015–2017.

⁸ For 2017.

ANNEX 5 – BASIC ECONOMIC PROFILES OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS AND ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS (cont'd)

Table 5-1: Acceding Governments (Cont'd)

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 ⁴ (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ⁴ (millions USD)
South Sudan*	10,975.92	3,929	260	169	64.9	n/a	n/a	217	596
Sudan*	41,801.53	33,903	1,104	171	15.5	3,485	7,850	1,486	1,063
Syrian Arab Republic	16,906.28	60,043 ⁹	2,642 ¹⁰	867 ¹⁰	32.8 ¹⁰	2,000	5,600	2,434 ¹¹	2,818 ¹¹
Timor-Leste*	1,267.97	3,090	2,255	458	20.3	47	565	223	349
Uzbekistan	32,955.40	41,241	1,631	442	27.1	11,218	17,306	4,283	1,241

Table 5-2: Article XII Members

Article XII Member	Population ¹ (thousands)	GDP ² (millions USD)	GDP per Capita ³ (USD)	Trade per capita ³ (USD)	Trade as % GDP ³	Merchandise exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ⁴ (millions USD)
Afghanistan*	37,172.39	19,585	558	128	22.9	875	7,407	482	1,196
Albania	2,866.38	15,202	4,652	1,759	37.8	2,876	5,941	3,566	2,193
Armenia	2,951.78	12,411	3,844	1,620	42.1	2,412	4,963	2,018	2,174
Bulgaria	7,024.22	64,963	8,342	5,322	63.8	33,151	37,901	9,917	6,024
Cabo Verde	543.77	1,970	3,301	1,810	54.8	76	816	669	370

⁹ For 2010.¹⁰ For 2008–2010.¹¹ For 2011.

ANNEX 5 – BASIC ECONOMIC PROFILES OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS AND ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS (cont'd)

Table 5-2: Article XII Members (Cont'd)

Article XII Member	Population ¹ (thousands)	GDP ² (millions USD)	GDP per Capita ³ (USD)	Trade per capita ³ (USD)	Trade as % GDP ³	Merchandise exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Merchandise imports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services exports ⁴ (millions USD)	Commercial services imports ⁴ (millions USD)
Cambodia*	16,249.80	24,523	1,390	1,087	78.2	14,350	19,070	5,249	2,982
China	1,392,730.00	13,407,398	8,803	1,682	19.1	2,487,045	2,135,905	265,088	520,569
Croatia	4,089.40	60,688	13,514	6,695	49.5	17,372	28,100	16,551	5,285
Ecuador	17,084.36	107,511	6,194	1,317	21.3	21,606	23,193	2,407	3,166
Estonia	1,320.88	30,312	20,489	15,192	74.1	17,006	19,132	7,639	5,483
Georgia	3,731.00	16,324	4,100	2,271	55.4	3,354	9,119	4,392	2,171
Jordan	9,956.01	42,371	4,211	1,878	44.6	7,773	20,216	7,021	4,662
Kazakhstan	18,276.50	170,539	8,624	2,593	30.1	60,956	32,534	7,026	11,739
Kyrgyz Republic	6,315.80	8,093	1,204	608	50.5	1,765	4,907	822	952
Lao PDR*	7,061.51	18,434	2,566	935	36.4	5,260	6,340	915	1,149
Latvia	1,926.54	34,881	15,908	9,500	59.7	15,643	19,257	6,165	3,386
Liberia*	4,818.98	3,249	751	213	27.9	490	1,100	21	217
Lithuania	2,789.53	53,323	16,980	13,256	78.1	33,407	36,515	11,494	6,771
Moldova	3,545.88	11,404	2,739	1,181	43.1	2,707	5,764	1,432	1,066
Mongolia	3,170.21	13,038	3,736	2,155	57.7	7,012	5,875	1,109	3,068
Montenegro	622.35	5,402	7,820	4,192	53.6	472	3,010	1,832	723
Nepal*	28,087.87	28,812	852	265	31.1	840	13,465	1,780	2,275
Oman	4,829.48	82,243	17,654	8,806 ⁷	51 ⁷	46,637	25,412	4,010 ⁸	10,811 ⁸
Panama	4,176.87	65,206	15,084	6,566	43.5	11,480	23,006	13,671	4,392
Russian Federation	144,478.05	1,630,659	10,399	2,525	24.3	444,008	249,055	63,836	93,342
Samoa	196.13	861	4,196	1,652 ⁷	40 ⁷	46	363	243 ⁸	87 ⁸
Saudi Arabia	33,699.95	782,483	21,703	6,598	30.4	299,100	135,016	17,386	55,477
Seychelles	96.76	1,573	15,894	16,635	104.7	573	1,284	1,008	528
Chinese Taipei	¹²	589,391	23,979	14,865	62.0	335,909	286,333	49,913	56,143
Tajikistan	9,100.84	7,520	808	224	27.8	1,209	2,447	238	434
North Macedonia	2,082.96	12,669	5,567	3,480	62.5	6,908	9,052	1,838	1,397
Tonga	103.20	470	4,465	1,938	43.4	15	270	87	99
Ukraine	44,622.52	124,603	2,605	1,345	51.6	47,348	57,046	15,472	13,676
Vanuatu*	292.68	928	3,117	1,522 ⁷	50.9 ⁷	70	350	360 ⁸	155 ⁸
Viet Nam	95,540.40	241,272	2,360	2,359	100.0	245,635	244,195	14,919	18,175
Yemen*	28,498.69	26,914	942	254 ⁵	18.5 ⁵	2,500	8,400	309 ⁶	1,450 ⁶

* LDCs.

Source: WTO Data Portal, unless otherwise indicated. For dates of establishment of Working Parties for Acceding Governments, and dates of Membership for Article XII Members, see Annex 4.

¹² Data unavailable.

ANNEX 6 – DATA ON TRADE PERFORMANCE

Table 6-1: Value of merchandise trade and annual percentage change (1995–2018)

(Billion dollars and percentage)		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Article XII Members	Value	857	911	975	899	941	1,208	1,194	1,360	1,747	2,307	2,846	3,469	4,217	5,122	3,999
	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%	21.6%	21.4%	-21.9%
World	Value	10,453	10,953	11,331	11,186	11,645	13,183	12,679	13,242	15,459	18,797	21,379	24,592	28,353	32,732	25,337
	Year-on-year percentage change		4.8%	3.5%	-1.3%	4.1%	13.2%	-3.8%	4.4%	16.7%	21.6%	13.7%	15.0%	15.3%	15.4%	-22.6%

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Article XII Members	Value	5,279	6,578	6,926	7,277	7,330	6,341	5,923	6,739	7,660
	Annual percentage change	32.0%	24.6%	5.3%	5.1%	0.7%	-13.5%	-6.6%	13.8%	13.7%
World	Value	30,812	36,841	37,201	37,970	38,106	33,232	32,180	35,754	39,341
	Year-on-year percentage change	21.6%	19.6%	1.0%	2.1%	0.4%	-12.8%	-3.2%	11.1%	10.0%

Source: WTO Data Portal

Table 6-2: Value of trade in commercial services* and annual percentage change (1995–2018)

(Billion dollars and percentage)		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Article XII Members	Value	155	168	189	177	179	200	210	237	274	349	412	490	629	736	639
	Annual percentage change		8.6%	12.5%	-6.3%	0.7%	12.1%	4.7%	12.9%	15.8%	27.2%	18.0%	18.9%	28.4%	17.0%	-13.2%
World	Value	2,369	2,536	2,629	2,653	2,784	2,955	2,975	3,159	3,644	4,396	5,126	5,763	6,866	7,759	6,898
	Year-on-year percentage change		7.1%	3.7%	0.9%	4.9%	6.1%	0.7%	6.2%	15.4%	20.6%	16.6%	12.4%	19.1%	13.0%	-11.1%

(Billion dollars and percentage)

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Article XII Members	Value	789	929	1,004	1,105	1,225	1,156	1,154	1,220	1,359
	Annual percentage change	23.4%	17.8%	8.1%	10.0%	10.9%	-5.6%	-0.2%	5.7%	11.4%
World	Value	7,546	8,486	8,773	9,330	10,017	9,432	9,502	10,354	11,254
	Annual percentage change	9.4%	12.4%	3.4%	6.3%	7.4%	-5.8%	0.7%	8.9%	8.7%

* 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 Data Portal

ANNEX 7 – ACCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

Accession Working Party	Code	Secretary	Co-Secretary	Administrative Manager/Support
Maika Oshikawa, Director				
1. Algeria	DZA	Bratanov	Soumaré	Tandara-Stenier
2. Andorra	<u>AND</u>	<u>accessions@wto.org</u> - No Activity		
3. Azerbaijan	AZE	Rasulov	Zhang <i>Gozikhonov</i>	Lazorenko
4. Bahamas	BHS	Lee	<i>Onyebuchi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
5. Belarus	BLR	Bratanov	Rasulov <i>Trakhalina</i>	Lazorenko
6. Bhutan**	BTN	Lee	<i>Gebremariam</i>	Tandara-Stenier
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	Varyanik	Zhang <i>Trakhalina</i>	Tandara-Stenier
8. Comoros**	COM	Bratanov	Soumaré	Tandara-Stenier
9. Equatorial Guinea	GNQ	Perez-Esteve	Soumaré	Lazorenko
10. Ethiopia**	ETH	Varyanik	Soumaré <i>Gebre-</i> <i>mariam</i>	Lazorenko
11. Iran	IRN	Varyanik	<i>Gozikhonov</i>	Tandara-Stenier
12. Iraq	IRQ	Lee	Zhang <i>Onyebuchi</i>	Lazorenko
13. Lebanese Republic	LBN	Perez-Esteve	Varyanik <i>Onyebuchi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
14. Libya	LBY	Bratanov	<i>Gozikhonov</i>	Lazorenko
15. Sao Tome et Principe**	STP	Soumaré	<i>Gebremariam</i>	Lazorenko
16. Serbia	SRB	Varyanik	Zhang <i>Trakhalina</i>	Tandara-Stenier
17. Somalia**	SOM	Perez-Esteve	Soumaré <i>Gebremariam</i>	Lazorenko
18. South Sudan**	SSD	Perez-Esteve	Soumaré <i>Gebremariam</i>	Lazorenko
19. Sudan**	SDN	Lee	<i>Gebremariam</i> <i>Onyebuchi</i>	Tandara-Stenier
20. Syrian Arab Republic	SYR	Perez-Esteve	<i>Onyebuchi</i>	Lazorenko
21. Timor-Leste**	TLS	Varyanik	<i>Gebremariam</i>	Lazorenko
22. Uzbekistan	UZB	Rasulov	Zhang <i>Gozikhonov</i>	Lazorenko

*

LDCs.

1

Application circulated (WT/L/852), but not considered by the General Council.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
1	Algeria 2018 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Algeria, June 2018	Press Release: Executive Board Assessment Directors supported the efforts to raise more nonhydrocarbon revenue, improve public spending efficiency and management, and expand the subsidy reform while protecting the poor. They welcomed the authorities' intention to advance reforms to foster private sector development by improving the business environment, enhancing access to finance, and strengthening governance, transparency, and competition. Directors also saw merit in taking steps to reduce skills mismatches, improve the functioning of the labor market, foster greater labor market participation of women, and further open the economy to trade and foreign direct investment. p. 2. Staff Report: POLICY DISCUSSIONS A. Risks from the New Economic Strategy 12. The new strategy entails serious risks. In an environment where external risks remain tilted to the downside (Box 1), the new strategy may further exacerbate macroeconomic imbalances and, possibly, social tensions, as it risks to: • <i>Put further pressures on foreign reserves.</i> With largely inflexible domestic supply, at least in the short run, liquidity injections will fuel import demand. The extent to which this demand is met will depend on the effectiveness of the new trade barriers, but pressures that cannot leak through the balance of payments (resulting in greater reserve loss) will further fuel inflation instead. As foreign reserves decline, pressure on the exchange rate will increase. Expectations of a significant exchange rate depreciation would intensify the demand for foreign exchange (FX) on the parallel market, which would further incentivize rent-seeking behaviors. If sustained, these pressures may eventually force a disorderly exchange rate adjustment. p. 11. 13. In staff's baseline scenario, based on the authorities' planned policies, the economy moves along a narrow path with weak growth and high inflation. Quantifying the implications of the new strategy is difficult because of the unknown effectiveness of some measures (<i>e.g., how much will trade restrictions shave off imports?</i>) and uncertainties about how fast and how widely inflationary expectations may adjust. The scenario is based on the 2018–20 MTBF fiscal path. It assumes a moderate nominal exchange rate depreciation and some progress on reforms. Growth accelerates in 2018 and then slows as fiscal consolidation resumes. The fall in reserves is somewhat curtailed initially by higher oil prices than in 2017 and by import restrictions. Inflation, however, accelerates. p. 11. C. Reforms for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 22. Key structural reforms, carefully sequenced and timely implemented, are needed to reshape the country's growth model. Irrespective of the policy mix adopted by the authorities, deep reforms are needed to diversify the economy and foster private sector development. ... Reforms should be designed to ensure a fair distribution of the burden of adjustment and to reduce inequalities. Priorities include: • Opening the economy to more foreign investment and trade. The recent hardening of import barriers creates distortions, will contribute to higher prices, and will likely drive more activities underground. Instead, it would be preferable to promote exports and develop domestic production by improving the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular through simplified product market regulations and expanded powers for the competition authorities. Moreover, there is scope for Algeria to attract more FDI. Relaxing the 51-49 rule could help increase production capacity, improve domestic competition, and help technology transfers. p. 18.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		STAFF APPRAISAL 30. <i>Timely progress on structural reforms is crucial.</i> To foster private sector development and reduce the dependence on oil and gas, action is needed to remove key constraints to private sector development. Priorities include reducing red tape, improving access to finance, strengthening governance, transparency and competition, further <i>opening the economy to trade and foreign investment</i>, improving the functioning of the labor markets, and fostering greater female labor force participation. To increase the effectiveness of economic policies, Algeria also needs to strengthen its economic policy framework, including to improve PFM and the efficiency of public spending. p. 22.
2	Andorra	X
3	Azerbaijan 2019 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for the Republic of Azerbaijan, September 2019	Press Release: Executive Board Assessment <i>Directors emphasized the importance of pressing ahead with structural reforms</i> to foster diversified, private sector led and inclusive economic growth. In this context, they welcomed the progress in improving the business environment and <i>encouraged the authorities to make further efforts to reduce the economic footprint of the state and open the economy to greater international trade and investment</i>. Directors also emphasized the importance of addressing governance weaknesses, including by strengthening the AML/CFT and anti-corruption frameworks. In addition, Directors stressed that better data and transparency would improve decision making, promote private sector participation, and reduce vulnerabilities to corruption. Staff Report: KEY ISSUES Main Policy Recommendations • Promote inclusive, diversified, and private sector-led growth. <i>Reducing administrative burden for businesses, encouraging competition, and strengthening governance and transparency would reduce the cost of doing business</i>, foster entrepreneurship, and attract foreign capital. Prioritizing investment for healthcare and education, improving its efficiency, and better targeting of social protection would help nurture human capital and improve productivity. • <i>Strengthen policy frameworks and institutions</i>. Priorities include reforms in public financial and investment management, <i>oversight of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and governance</i>, as well as fiscal accounting and transparency. Stronger financial regulation and supervision and <i>modernization of monetary and foreign exchange (FX) operations</i> are also needed. Addressing governance weaknesses is essential to reduce vulnerabilities to corruption. More integrated policies, along with better data availability, would support decision making and credibility, and attract investment.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession			
		CONTEXT			
		Azerbaijan: Implementation of IMF Recommendations			
		2017 Article IV Recommendations	Policy Actions Taken		
		Structural Policy			
		Complete the WTO membership process and apply the OECD's Investment Guidelines and diversify the economy away from oil.	Continued to implement the government's 2020 Structural Reform agenda. Nonhydrocarbon exports rose but export concentration in hydrocarbons remains high.	No progress on WTO accession.	
		RECENT DEVELOPMENTS			
		11. The authorities are taking steps to address impediments to growth. Azerbaijan's Doing Business score rose by 8.45 points to 78.6, with improvements in obtaining credit, construction permits and electricity connections; registering property, paying taxes, and labor regulations. The authorities are also putting in place institutional infrastructure to provide services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), implement e-government, and create specialized business courts. They are developing a new utility tariff schedule to reduce subsidies and improve SOE health. Digitalization of customs services and launching of the Green Corridor regime in February 2019 have simplified customs clearance procedures, reducing opportunities for corruption. While applauding progress in e-government, a recent EU business climate report stressed the importance of following through on announced reforms and continuing improvements in transparency, education, and market development. p. 7-8.			
		POLICY DISCUSSIONS			
		A. Rules-Based Fiscal Policy			
		18. In staff's view, improvements in the efficiency of public spending, tax policy, and revenue collection would allow the fiscal position to be consolidated in a growth-friendly way. p. 11.			
		23. Staff and the authorities agreed that SOE restructuring is important to reduce demands on the public purse and improve economic efficiency. The largest of over 5,000 active SOEs operate as monopolies in strategic sectors and are too big to fail. Past devaluations, sluggish growth, quasi-fiscal activity, and poor governance have weakened the financial position of most SOEs, which required increased budget support. In response, the authorities have strengthened financial accounting practices, created an SOE monitoring commission, and issued new SOE governance guidelines. They agreed with the importance of adjusting tariff schedules to achieve viability and prioritizing investments to replace aging capital in the electricity, gas, water, railroad and shipping sector SOEs. Staff recommended that commercial and noncommercial activities be separated, and a commercial performance framework enacted. This would help to accelerate privatization. p. 13.			
		D. Fostering Sustainable, Diversified, and Inclusive Growth			
		34. There was a shared view that promoting inclusive growth is critical for Azerbaijan's economic advancement and resilience (Annex V). The authorities are continuing discussions with the UN on achieving Sustainable Development Goals. They expected that recent spending packages, tax exemptions, and the consumer loan restructuring program will increase the purchasing power of the population. Staff cautioned that broad-based increases in wages that are disconnected from productivity growth are also likely to raise the cost of doing business, disincentivize private sector employment, and weaken competitiveness. In this context, staff emphasized the increased importance of lowering entry barriers, including			

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
4	The Bahamas 2019 Article IV Consultation - Press Release; and Staff Report, July 2019	by applying the Anti-Monopoly Law, to improve market efficiency. <i>The authorities are continuing discussions with the WTO on accession, and staff encouraged completing the WTO membership process, to inject a needed dose of competition into domestic markets and foster diversification.</i> Applying the OECD's Investment Guidelines would also attract nonoil FDI and know-how. Regarding financial inclusion, staff emphasized the need for expanding financial literacy and promoting competition in the banking sector, to stimulate SMEs and reduce the reliance on tax incentives. Staff noted that continued skill mismatches highlight the importance of prioritizing and improving the efficiency of public spending on education. p. 17. STAFF APPRAISAL 41. <i>Transitioning to a new diversified, private sector-led growth model requires removal of structural impediments. Opening to international trade and investment, reducing the size of the public sector, and improving financial inclusion and governance are essential for a competitive and efficient private sector to develop. Recently announced institutional and regulatory reforms are positive steps that should be followed by effective implementation, monitoring, and assessment to ensure that the underlying policy goals are realized. Better data and transparency would improve decision-making and promote private sector growth and reduce vulnerabilities to corruption.</i> p. 19. Press Release: Executive Board Assessment Directors stressed the importance of advancing structural reforms to boost competitiveness and unlock the economy's potential for high and inclusive growth. <i>In view of the planned accession to the WTO</i>, they recommended prioritizing reforms that tackle high energy costs, improve access to credit, and address skill mismatches in the labor market. Lowering the cost of doing business would help attract needed foreign direct investment. Staff Report: POLICY DISCUSSIONS A. Fiscal Policy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 17. Tax policy could play a better role in achieving public policy objectives, including greater equality in income distribution. The Bahamas does not levy taxes on income, capital gains, or inheritance. Instead, the VAT and business license fees are the main tax policy tools, with property taxation playing a small role. The government is removing preferential tax treatment of offshore entities by unifying the business fee licensing framework (Annex VII). <i>The Bahamas is also seeking membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) by 2020, a process which is expected to reduce revenue from trade.</i> In the short-term, staff encouraged seeing through efforts to complete a comprehensive land/property registry and recommended building comprehensive real estate price indices to provide a basis for market-value-based property taxation, and consider an increase in its tax rate or rate structure. Global trends in taxation present an opportunity for a comprehensive approach to reform the tax system with a view to increasing its efficiency and enhancing progressivity. For the medium-term, income taxation can help achieve a more equitable income distribution, reduce distortions arising from a tiered business license fee system (especially if applied in the context of the VAT), and contain the increasing non-residents' profit repatriation. p. 10. E. Enhancing Competitiveness 32. Decisive structural reforms are needed to enhance competitiveness. Long-standing structural impediments continue to weaken competitiveness and constrain private investment and growth. The World Bank's ease of doing business index (DBI) points to onerous

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		underlined that the nuclear power plant will deliver some cost savings for electricity generation. <i>Finally, they reiterated their priority goal of stimulating private initiative and levelling the playing field between private and state-owned companies, as well as their continued commitment for WTO membership and EEU integration.</i> p. 16. STAFF APPRAISAL 48. Other market-based measures could complement these efforts. Household utility prices need to be raised faster to cost recovery levels to limit costly cross subsidization by firms. Prices should be gradually liberalized, to avoid distorting market signals and pressuring firm margins, including SOEs. <i>Finally, the authorities are encouraged to continue their efforts to join the WTO, which would help diversify exports to the benefit of the country.</i> p. 19. Statement by Raci Kaya, Executive Director for the Republic of Belarus and Alexander Zaborovskiy, Advisor to the Executive Director for the Republic of Belarus: Liberalization and growth-friendly structural policies will keep up the momentum. The Government's Action Program up to 2020 stipulates the following priority areas: development of the business environment by creating favorable business conditions, ensuring fair competition, and protecting property rights. The policies to promote de-monopolization are being determined with the support of the IFC. On December 19, 2018, the Parliament approved amendments to the Criminal Code to decriminalize economic offences along with the efforts to create more favorable conditions for economic activities. The thresholds of damage when criminal liability applies have been increased substantially. In addition, economic crimes not representing a great danger to the society, committed for the first time, will not entail heavy penalties. This has been done primarily to ensure that insignificant errors made by small and medium-sized businesses do not become devastating for entrepreneurs. <i>The new Government also announced its intention to successfully complete the ongoing negotiations on Belarus' accession to the World Trade Organization in 2020.</i>
6	Bhutan 2018 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Bhutan, October 2018	Staff Report: STAFF APPRAISAL Box 2. Goods and Services Tax Furthermore, the potential to increase <i>indirect tax revenues from other sources, such as raising customs duties</i>, is severely limited by Bhutan's free trade agreement with India (which covers 90 percent of imports), as well as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation preferences and the preferential trade agreement with Bangladesh. Thus, indirect tax revenues will rely heavily on GST implementation. p. 17.
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina 2017 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for	Staff Report: Appendix I. Supplementary Letter of Intent (to Ms. Christine Lagarde) Program Implementation 9. We have made progress in advancing our structural reform agenda. Nine of the 24 structural benchmarks have been met, while one was elevated to a prior action. We are proposing new deadlines for some of the structural benchmarks that were not met, as they will take a longer time than expected to meet because of a heavy legislative agenda, and the need for adequate consultative processes. We are also proposing to drop four structural benchmarks, largely because the underlying risks are mitigated through other actions. More specifically:

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
	Bosnia and Herzegovina, February 2018	... k. <i>The amendments to the FBiH Law on Internal Trade, a key requirement for future WTO accession, were adopted in September 2017.</i> p. 57-58. Program modalities 26. We believe that our economic program continues to be on course and the policies set forth in our Letter of Intent of July 31, 2016, and this Supplementary Letter of Intent are adequate to achieve the objectives of our economic program. We stand ready, however, to take any additional measures that may be needed to achieve the objectives of our economic program. We will consult with the IMF on the adoption of additional policy measures and in advance of any revision to the policies contained in our economic program, in accordance with IMF policies on such consultation. We will continue to provide IMF staff with the necessary information for assessing progress in implementing our program and will maintain a close policy dialogue with IMF staff. <i>We will also refrain from introducing or intensifying any exchange and trade restrictions and other measures or policies that could worsen balance of payments difficulties.</i> p. 63 Statement by Anthony De Lannoy, Executive Director for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Zorica Kalezic, Advisor to the Executive Director: Program performance and economic outlook The authorities admit that the complex institutional set-up and resulting fragile political situation has at times slowed down program implementation. They remain, however, strongly committed to the program and are determined to resist any pressures to backtrack. The EFF arrangement plays a pivotal role in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic policy and reform agenda. <i>It also plays a catalytic role in fortifying the single economic space within Bosnia and Herzegovina, while boosting cooperation with other IFIs, and paving the way for eventual EU and WTO integration.</i> p. 1.
8	Comoros	X
9	Equatorial Guinea 2016 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report, and Statement by the Executive Director for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, November 2016	Staff Report: POLICY DISCUSSIONS: CHARTING AN ECONOMIC RESET AND A PATH TO RECOVERY B. A Decisive Move to Promote Nonoil Growth 21. Discussions with the authorities focused on measures to improve the nonoil sector's competitiveness and facilitate export diversification: • Address current real exchange rate overvaluation, a fundamental prerequisite to promote non-oil growth. Beyond fiscal consolidation, it requires reducing costs and productivity-boosting structural reforms. The government wage bill is relatively small and the ongoing retrenchment in the construction sector means that wages will remain depressed. <i>Therefore, measures to reduce factor costs, such as external trade facilitation, easing barriers to FDI inflows and lowering telecommunication charges, should be a priority.</i> • Improve the business climate and efficiency of public services to foster private sector development. While staff welcomed the authorities' plan to establish a "one-stop shop" for investors, it underscored that in itself this was insufficient to address the weak business climate. As an initial step, they could finalize discussions on business climate diagnostics and reforms with the World Bank. • Advocate further integration with CEMAC by <i>lowering trade policy barriers through behind-the-border measures.</i> Equatorial Guinea could tap into economies of scale by encouraging regional integration. p. 14.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
10	Ethiopia 2019 Article IV Consultation and requests for a three-year arrangement under the extended credit facility and an arrangement under the extended fund facility – Press Release and Staff Report, January 2020	Press Release: The authorities have announced a <i>Homegrown Economic Reform Plan, consisting of a mix of macroeconomic, structural and sectoral policies, to address vulnerabilities and tackle structural bottlenecks inhibiting private sector activity</i>. The macroeconomic policy measures envisaged under the Plan to address external imbalances, debt vulnerabilities, and inflation are expected to contribute to a slower growth in real GDP of 6.2 percent in 2019/20. Public expenditure restraint and tighter monetary policy are expected to contribute to a gradual reduction in inflation. Reserves are expected to improve to around US\$4 billion by end 2019/20, sufficient to cover 2 months of prospective imports, due to higher external financing flows, including from the Fund. Executive Board Assessment: Directors supported a comprehensive approach to addressing the exchange rate overvaluation and foreign exchange shortages. They agreed with the priority placed on increasing exchange rate flexibility, reducing inflation, strengthening competitiveness, and rebuilding international reserves. They recommended a reform roadmap to transition to a market clearing exchange rate regime. <i>Directors also supported monetary tightening, complemented by spending restraint by state owned enterprises (SOEs) and the phasing out of central bank financing of the government and the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE). Continued efforts are needed to modernize the monetary policy framework and further develop financial markets to deepen inclusion.</i> Staff Report: Annex III. Authorities' Response to Past IMF Policy Recommendations Structural 4. Undertaking structural reforms to improve business environment. Progress has been in this area. A high-level committee led by the Prime Minister has focused on improving the doing business index. The ten key indicators identified, include starting a business, construction permits, registering property, getting electricity, getting credit, paying taxes, trading across borders, resolving insolvency, protecting minority rights, and enforcing contracts. Progress is reviewed on a monthly basis. An example of a concrete step taken to address private sector access to finance is the NBE issuance of legislation to expand the range of eligible collateral to include moveable assets such as machinery, transport equipment and livestock. <i>After nearly seven years of discontinued negotiations, Ethiopia has initiated the accession process to join the WTO and the AfCFTA has been ratified.</i> IV. THE ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND POLICIES FOR 2019–2022 A. Fiscal Policy and Reforms In addition, we believe that the recent initiatives in improving business climate and the ongoing reforms to boost private sector activity, including addressing the issues of exchange rate overvaluation, FX shortages, availability of credit, and reliability of supply of electricity and other inputs, will help boost Ethiopia's exports, particularly in the agro-processing, tourism, mining, and manufacturing sectors. This will bolster our future ability to service debt and reduce our reliance on external financing over time. <i>In this context, a successful accession to the World Trade Organization, on which the current government has resumed discussions, should also support expansion of market access for Ethiopia's exports.</i> E. Structural Reforms to Ensure Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 42. The government continues to place a high priority on improving the business climate in Ethiopia. A high-level committee, chaired by the Prime

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		Minister, has been set up to address impediments to private sector development and is monitoring reform efforts. Early results from this work include new legislation to expand the range of eligible collateral to include moveable assets, which was approved this fiscal year, and efforts to address impediments to the registration and operations of business, including obtaining licenses and construction permits. In addition to addressing FX shortages and access to finance problems through eliminating the financial repression, the reform agenda will ease other constraints to doing business and enhance productivity. As laid out in our HERP, we intend to tackle the institutional and structural bottlenecks to productivity and job creation and implement sectoral reforms in key strategic sectors. We plan to expedite ongoing efforts to allow privatization in key sectors; create a secure and predictable market access to exports, including by expediting accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Joint management action plan, July 2019– June 2020 The World Bank work program in the next 12 months: Technical Assistance • Support to tariff reforms in preparation for WTO accession (February 2020 – June 2022)
11	Iran 2018 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for the Islamic Republic of Iran, March 2018	Staff Report: POLICY DISCUSSIONS Enhancing Growth and Job Creation Potential 40. Reducing trade barriers would stimulate exports. Lack of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements reduce market access for Iranian firms. The tariffs applied to Iran's exports by its trading partners averaged 8.9 percent in 2014 (compared to a global average of 2.9 percent). Domestic import tariffs averaged 20.9 percent in 2017/18 and restrictions on service trade (the fourth highest in the world) work to protect inefficient enterprises. It takes 25 days to clear exports. Proposed Customs Law amendments tackle these constraints by introducing e-processes, supply chain management and restricting the release of goods from bonded warehouses to licensed brokers to counter smuggling. p. 20. 43. The authorities acknowledged the need for wide ranging reforms to increase non-oil growth and job creation. They saw the Customs Law amendments in parliament as necessary to combat smuggling and lower trade costs. They noted that their WTO membership process is stalled but are hopeful that with international support it could restart. To increase youth employment, they plan to roll-out nationally a pilot internship program for university graduates and offer a two-year waiver of employer social security contributions for firms retaining interns. They noted this would assist women in finding work given half of tertiary-level graduates are female. They have removed gender caps in recruitment rounds at most ministries and have evaluated the contribution of household work to GDP but stressed that greater efforts are needed to bring women into formal sector employment. p. 22. STAFF APPRAISAL 51. Faster implementation of business climate reforms would allow the private sector to develop, lifting growth and job creation. Reducing red tape, modernizing regulations, strengthening the bankruptcy framework and easing market entry will help private firms grow and create jobs. An effective anti-corruption framework in line with international standards would also bolster accountability, improve the business climate, and help attract foreign investment. A review of labor regulation could improve incentives for firms to hire and address informality. Development of non-oil exports will require lowering the costs to trade, better infrastructure, and pursuing non-preferential trade agreements. p. 24. Appendix I: External Sector Assessment B. Exchange Rate Assessment

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		Real effective exchange rate approach. The official REER was overvalued by 16 percent and the market REER by 1 percent at end- 2016/17. The overvaluation was mostly driven by the financial home bias and lack of trade openness. Exchange rate unification and transition to a more flexible exchange rate would allow the economy to better manage terms of trade shocks, and greater trade openness would improve growth prospects. p. 44.
12	Iraq	X
13	Lebanese Republic	X
14	Libya	X
15	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	X
16	Serbia 2019 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; Informational Annex; and Statement by the Executive Director for Republic of Serbia, July 2019 (mentions the EU accession, which is linked to WTO accession)	Press Release: At the conclusion of the Executive Board meeting, Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, made the following statement: "Serbia's macroeconomic performance, supported by the Policy Coordination Instrument, has been strong. Growth has been robust, public debt is declining, employment is rising, the financial sector is sound, and inflation is low. Continued strong program implementation and determined structural reforms are important to address the challenges and accelerate income convergence with the EU." Executive Board Assessment Executive Directors welcomed Serbia's strong macroeconomic performance supported by the Policy Coordination Instrument. Economic growth has been robust, public debt is declining, and inflation is low. Directors emphasized that continued commitment to strong policies and determined implementation of structural reforms is key to sustaining macroeconomic and financial stability, addressing external and internal challenges, fostering growth, and advancing the EU convergence agenda. Staff Report: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Context. Macroeconomic stability has been maintained with robust economic growth, declining public debt, as well as low and stable inflation. While Serbia continues to address structural challenges, supported by the Policy Coordination Instrument, more determined efforts are needed to ensure faster income convergence with the EU. CONTEXT 2. Nevertheless, structural reforms are needed to ensure faster income convergence with the EU. Improving the private investment climate through the better provision of public services and reducing the grey economy should remain government priorities. Creating opportunities for skilled workers within Serbia is critical to limit 'brain drain'. Fiscal achievements need to be better anchored to preserve hard-won gains. Fighting corruption and improving governance frameworks can also bring positive economic dividends, particularly for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). The 30-month Policy Coordination Instrument (PCI) approved in July 2018 is supporting the authorities' program to address vulnerabilities and create conditions for accelerated growth. p.4. POLICY DISCUSSIONS

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		C. FINANCIAL SECTOR POLICIES 28. <i>The authorities continue to implement their capital account liberalization strategy.</i> Many capital account transactions, such as FDI and long-term flows, have already been liberalized. Further steps were taken in 2018 to liberalize the capital account including portfolio flows and derivative transactions by eliminating constraints on non-deliverable derivatives. Transactions outside the regulated market are allowed for hedging purposes only. To limit balance of payments pressures, the further capital account liberalization required in the context of EU accession will be gradual, particularly in removing restrictions on short-term capital flows and the ability of residents to open deposit accounts abroad. p.19. Annex II. Reassessing the Role of State-Owned Enterprises in Serbia: Governance and Performance 2. <i>In recent years, the authorities have renewed their privatization efforts, successfully privatizing more than 50 companies since end-2014.</i> Steps have also been taken to reduce losses and lower fiscal risks from the SOE sector as a whole, including systemic enterprises. However, contingent liabilities stemming from unfinished reforms of SOEs could arise and broader governance reform of the state-owned sector would be a major step in achieving a level playing field for business, improving efficiency of public resource use and managing fiscal risks. Improved governance will also help advance the EU accession agenda. p.51. Appendix I. Program Statement (to Ms. Christine Lagarde) ECONOMIC POLICIES D. Financial Sector Policies 22. We will continue to strengthen financial sector regulatory and supervisory frameworks, to fully align them with international standards. The NBS has adopted in December 2018 regulatory measures that limit banks' portfolio of long-term cash and consumer loans and set debt-to-income limits on loans to individuals. We will continue to enhance the prudential framework for banks and insurance companies to ensure full compliance with international standards and EU requirements. We will further harmonize our financial legal framework with EU Acquis taking into account the specificities of the Serbian financial market. p.85. Statement by the Staff Representative on the Republic of Serbia 4. On June 27, Serbia opened negotiations with the European Union on Chapter 9, which covers the field of financial services. This takes the total number of open EU accession chapters to seventeen, of which two have been provisionally closed. Statement by Mr. Inderbinen and Mr. Djokovic on Republic of Serbia On behalf of the Serbian authorities, we thank staff for their engagement, constructive interactions and sound policy advice, as well as for a comprehensive and balanced report. The authorities are also grateful to the Executive Board and management for their continued guidance and support. The ongoing candid dialogue between Serbia and the Fund is highly valued. The Policy Coordination Instrument remains pivotal in guiding macroeconomic policies and structural reforms, with the overarching goal of fostering growth, while preserving macro and financial stability. The sustained reform momentum under the program is all the more relevant for Serbia in the context of the EU integration process. p.1.
17	Somalia 2019 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the	Appendix I. Letter of Intent (to Ms. Christine Lagarde) Attachment I. Supplemental Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies for 2019-21 C. Economic and Financial Policies for 2019-21 14. To support the aim of moving towards greater fiscal self-sufficiency, we will broaden domestic revenue mobilization efforts to the FMS. To this end, we will (i) roll out the enacted Revenue Bills' tax instruments to facilitate the collection of domestic revenue across FGS and FMS (SB#8);

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
	Executive Director for, August 2019	and, (ii) report fiscal performance for general government operations covering FGS and FMS (SB#2). With successful implementation of customs front-end declaration functionality at the Port of Mogadishu, work on incorporating the verification of the manifest and goods inspection will follow shortly (SBs#6, 7 and 9). We will also work to roll out customs reforms to other main ports and further advance efforts to modernize customs administration, with the support of our international partners (SB#11). <i>We are committed to the preparation of an ad valorem schedule to facilitate the transition to a modern system of customs tariffs by May 2020, and are committed to implementation as early as feasible in 2020, depending on progress on capacity building and in line with article 20 of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Customs valuation methodology).</i> At the same time, developing an audit strategy at the LMTO will improve oversight and governance of Inland Revenue Department (SB#10), which will safeguard revenues. We will strengthen ongoing revenue reforms, in particular by enhancing LMTO capacity, establishing a tax academy, and enhancing the collection of sales taxes on goods and services, including by expanding it to the FMS. Moving forward, we will continue to identify new measures to mobilize revenues with the continued assistance of TA from IMF. We will also develop a medium-term strategy to inform our approaches for increasing domestic revenues and financing our development spending over the medium term. p.64-65.
18	South Sudan	X
19	Sudan 2017 Article IV Consultation – Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Sudan, November 2017	Staff Report: CONTEXT 2. The permanent revocation of U.S. sanctions on trade and financial flows on October 12, 2017 has strengthened optimism and is a unique opportunity to implement ambitious reforms. In revoking the sanctions, the U.S. government cited progress made on cessation of hostilities in internal conflicts, and improved cooperation on regional stability, counterterrorism, and humanitarian access. <i>Sanctions revocation will lead to significant reductions in costs of imports, trade, and international financial services, potentially also opening new import sources and export destinations.</i> Domestic optimism has risen since January 2017—when the sanctions were initially suspended—and there are indications that prospective foreign investor interest in Sudan could be substantial. However, most investors (and correspondent banks) are proceeding cautiously, while concerns about macroeconomic policies and the investment climate persist. DEVELOPMENTS, OUTLOOK, AND RISKS <i>The recent improvement in the current account deficit primarily reflects weaker imports due to (i) the strong depreciation of the parallel exchange rate, and the introduction in late 2016 of a commercial bank incentive rate close to the parallel rate for many formal transactions; 3 (ii) fuel and electricity price hikes in November 2016 which helped curb domestic demand; (iii) quantitative import restrictions adopted in 2016, including a negative list and a prohibited list of selected imports; and (iv) lower international import prices which improved the terms of trade</i> POLICY DISCUSSIONS A. Exchange Rate Reforms to Boost Competitiveness and Public Finances 13. Staff recommended unifying all exchange rates at the same time, thus eliminating distortions upfront and sending a clear signal to investors about the credibility of the authorities' reform agenda. <i>This would also be consistent with the authorities' plans to embark on deep macroeconomic and structural reforms to strengthen economic growth and facilitate WTO membership.</i> Upfront unification would also reduce the risk of delay and interference from vested interests. Prior to reform, however, it would be important to review banks' financial positions and asset quality to assess their resilience to exchange rate changes and identify measures to address potential risks. The authorities requested Fund Technical Assistance (TA) to help them conduct bank stress tests and identify appropriate remedial measures as needed. p. 10.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		14. <i>With the heavier import duty burden, there may be a need to reduce import tariff rates to mitigate their distortionary impact—the World Bank has recommended that the number of tariff peaks should be reduced; the maximum tariff rate reduced from 40 percent to 25 percent; and tariffs on food phased out.</i> [Footnote: A World Bank report found that the tariff schedule has a high proportion of peaks (15 percent and above), with an economy-wide average of 20 percent and a numerous tariff lines taxed at a 40 percent rate. About 54 percent of imports are exempted from taxation, via tax holidays and exemptions in the Investment Law, regional trade agreements, and weaknesses in customs administration that are being addressed.] <i>The negative impact on revenues caused by tariff rate reduction and simplification should be offset by broadening the tax base and strengthening customs administration.</i> p. 11. D. Supply Side Reforms 29. <i>The authorities have intensified efforts to modernize the business environment, notably in the context of their application for WTO membership.</i> A high-level committee and eight sub-committees have been formed to coordinate this effort, and they have already identified 151 laws to be amended or completely modernized; staff encouraged them to press on with this effort. The authorities also continue to develop measures to fight corruption, including the Auditor General Act of 2017 which permits the Auditor General to audit any entity with at least 1 per cent government ownership, the establishment of a Special Prosecutor General to investigate cases of abuse of public funds, and the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Commission. p. 15. STAFF APPRAISAL 42. While exchange rate <i>and trade policy reform would be important contributions to competitiveness</i>, the business climate will also need to be overhauled to support investment and growth. Sudan ranks very low in the 2017 World Bank doing business rankings, with major weaknesses in getting credit, protecting minority investors, and trading across borders. <i>The authorities have intensified efforts to modernize the business environment in the context of their application for WTO membership</i>, and staff encourages them to press on with this effort. Also, the business environment would benefit from intensified anti-corruption measures. Efforts to boost investment and productivity in key sectors such as agriculture, gold, and oil, as well as better public infrastructure and human capital, could also bear large dividends. p. 17. Statement by Mr. Mkwezalamba, Executive Director for Sudan, and Mr. Ismail, Advisor to Executive Director for Sudan: To improve the business environment, the authorities are undertaking a comprehensive overhaul of the legal framework that governs investment in Sudan. <i>In this regard, a high-level committee chaired by the Vice President and eight sub-committees have been established to review and modernize investment laws in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession efforts.</i>
20	Syrian Arab Republic 2009 Article IV Consultation—Staff Report; and Public Information Notice, March 2010	Staff Report: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Staff Recommendations <i>Accelerate structural reforms, including by modernizing regulations, continuing to streamline the extensive subsidies system, and further liberalizing trade.</i> p. 3. II. POLICY DISCUSSIONS D. Structural Reforms and Other Issues 20. <i>The authorities intend to continue to advance structural reforms in order to accelerate growth, diversify the economy, and create employment. Progress has been made in many areas, including reducing import tariffs, shortening the import negative list, reforming fuel</i>

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
21	Timor-Leste	<i>and agricultural subsidies</i>, and establishing a one-stop window for approving private investment. <i>Furthermore, to further liberalize current transactions</i>, each citizen is now allowed to purchase up to \$10,000 per month from a local bank and to transfer them abroad in payment for current transactions or credit cards bills. <i>The authorities noted that reference prices and customs duties that vary by country of origin were put in place in order to protect against unfair trade practices.</i> p. 13-14. III. STAFF APPRAISAL 32. <i>The progress made in transition to a market economy is welcome, but the remaining structural reform agenda is substantial.</i> Emphasis should be placed on further reducing the number of goods subject to administrative pricing, and modernizing of the legal and regulatory framework in order to encourage private investment and enhance competitiveness. <i>The staff recommends that the authorities reverse the recent introduction of customs duties that vary by country of origin, and address suspected unfair trade practices by other measures</i> such as enhancing customs' capacity to examine invoices through computerization and cross border cooperation. p. 16. X
22	Uzbekistan 2019 Article IV Consultation – Press Release and Staff Report, May 2019	Staff Report: OUTLOOKS, RISKS, AND REGIONAL SPILLOVERS B. External Sector Assessment 10. The external position has deteriorated significantly, reflecting several structural and policy shifts (Table 3, Figure 5). <i>First, FX and trade liberalization constituted a regime change, removing policy props that had repressed imports in the past.</i> p. 7. D. Regional Spillovers 15. Uzbekistan has taken the lead on improving regional cooperation. The previous state-led growth model sought to minimize regional trade and infrastructure interdependencies. Given Uzbekistan's central geographic location and large population size, this stance cast a pall over regional trade and cooperation. <i>Since the start of reforms, significant progress has already been made in boosting regional trade and promoting regional integration</i>, including by reconnecting regional energy and transportation networks as well as by defusing the region's age-old disputes about water rights. p. 9. POLICY DISCUSSIONS D. Prioritizing Structural Reforms Reforms Targeting Availability of Economic Resources 32. <i>SOE reform will be key to improve resource allocation.</i> In the past, SOEs absorbed disproportionate shares of skilled labor, energy, and financial resources, while facing weak competition enforcement and enjoying a wealth of investment preferences. Staff therefore welcomed the authorities' decision to accelerate SOE restructuring along three prongs. First, the new Agency for Management of State Assets has been given a mandate to strengthen corporate governance. Second, the government has started unbundling SOE activities in the energy and transportation sectors, and it has also made some progress on separating SOE management, supervision, and regulation. Third, the government is classifying SOEs into those that will be privatized, opened for minority stakes, or remain under full state ownership. 33. <i>Price liberalization is closely linked to SOE reform.</i> During the second half of 2018, the government liberalized bread prices and brought energy prices for businesses closer to cost recovery levels. But significant cost recovery gaps remain, and the mission encouraged continued price adjustments, especially in the energy sector, to reduce SOE losses, save energy, and attract foreign investors to the energy sector. To reduce policy uncertainty, future price increases should follow a pre-announced calendar. To alleviate the impact on vulnerable households, the government plans to continue to improve targeting and coverage of social benefits. [Footnote: The World Bank is assisting the government in developing a unified social registry, a first step toward modernizing the social safety net.] Authorities' views 35. <i>They noted that SOE reform should benefit from studying earlier experiences in other transition economies.</i> p. 17. Reforms Targeting Reducing Cost of Doing Business Authorities' views 37. <i>Efforts to liberalize the foreign trade regime are gathering momentum as part of the WTO accession process.</i> As a double-landlocked country, Uzbekistan already faces high trading costs due to geographic challenges, which are further compounded by the high costs, time delays, and uncertainties imposed by present trade regulations. <i>The authorities noted that applying WTO principles, including the Trade Facilitation Agreement, would help address regulatory weaknesses in trade facilitation and import licensing.</i> p. 18.

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession
		Reforms Targeting Strengthening Public Governance 40. The regulatory framework is undergoing significant upgrades. The authorities noted that streamlining and rationalizing the vast number of existing regulations, even in a relatively narrow field like competition regulations, is a Herculean task. Areas that are receiving particular attention include the legal and regulatory frameworks in the airline, wholesale trade, and energy sectors.... <i>Regarding wholesale trade, the government recently abolished trading licenses and advance payment requirements. On energy, the government has established a new tariff commission under the Cabinet of Ministers with the goal of adjusting prices to cost recovery levels.</i> p. 18. STAFF APPRAISAL 48. Uzbekistan has successfully implemented a first wave of significant economic reforms. Reflecting the overarching need to create more and better jobs, <i>the country has adopted a wide ranging reform agenda to open the economy</i>, level the economic playing field, and improve public governance. <i>Foreign exchange liberalization, tax reform</i>, and a major upgrade in the quality and availability of economic statistics spearheaded the early reforms. Uzbekistan is also leading efforts to improve regional cooperation, <i>key for promoting regional trade</i> and supply chains, while reconnecting the region's public infrastructure networks. p. 20. 57. <i>The government needs to prioritize its vast structural reform agenda.</i> The government is rightly concerned that an unfocused, sprawling structural reform agenda could overburden its scarce implementation capacity while delaying the economic pay-offs from reforms. Liberalization of prices and steps to restructure SOEs promise to address constraints on resources for the private sector. <i>WTO accession and reforms to the trade regime should also help reduce cost. And the authorities' plans to improve public governance should prove especially beneficial for the investment climate.</i> p.21. Annex II. External Sector Assessment Current Account 1. Background. FX market liberalization, the removal of trade restrictions, especially on regional trade, and booming investment shifted the current account (CA) from a surplus of 2½ percent of GDP in 2017 to a deficit of 7 percent of GDP in 2018. A shift to relatively high and persistent CA deficits has been a typical feature of transitions from state-led to more market-based economies (Box 1). p.41. Annex VI. Recommendations of the 2018 Article IV Consultation (p.63.)

ANNEX 8 – REFERENCE TO WTO AND/OR WTO ACCESSION IN RECENT IMF ARTICLE IV STAFF REPORTS (cont'd)

No.	Acceding Government	Reference to WTO and/or WTO accession or issues relevant to WTO accession				
		PROMOTING STRUCTURAL REFORM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Fund Recommendations	Authorities' Views	Developments since March 2018	Assessment
			<i>Uzbekistan should further liberalize trade, including by acceding to the WTO</i>	The authorities noted efforts to promote diversification and increase value-added in exports.	After the depreciation and cut in import tariffs in 2017, exports and imports rose 18 and 38 percent, respectively, in US dollars in 2018. In June 2018, the President signed a resolution to streamline customs and tariff regulations. <i>In March 2019, an inter-agency commission on joining the WTO began meeting.</i>	The 2017 trade and exchange rate reforms continue to promote development of trade in 2018. <i>Some steps were taken on WTO accession.</i>

ANNEX 9 — PROVISIONS OF THE COHERENCE MANDATE RELEVANT TO WTO ACCESSION

Accession-relevant elements of the Coherence Mandate	Agreement with the IMF ¹	Agreement with the World Bank ²
<i>Use of observer status rights</i>	Para. 5 provides that the WTO Secretariat shall be invited to ordinary meetings of the Executive Board on general and regional trade policy issues, including the formulation of Fund policies on trade matters, and to discussions of the World Economic Outlook when there is a significant trade content. Under para. 5, when consultations between the staffs of the Fund and the WTO lead to the conclusion that matters of particular common interest to both organizations will be under discussion at other meetings of the Executive Board, including country-specific meetings, or at meetings of the Fund's Committee on Liaison with the WTO, the Managing Director will recommend that the WTO Secretariat be invited to send an observer. Para. 6 provides that the Fund staff shall be invited to the Ministerial Conference, General Council, Trade Policy Review Body, the three sectoral councils, Committee on Trade and Development, Committee on Regional Trading Agreements, Committee on TRIMs, and Committee on Trade and Environment, and their subsidiary bodies (excluding the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, the DSB and dispute settlement panels). The Fund staff shall also be invited to send an observer to DSB meetings where matters of jurisdictional relevance to the Fund are considered. Under para. 6, the WTO shall invite the Fund to send a member of its staff as observer to other meetings of the DSB as well as other WTO bodies for which attendance is not provided above (excluding the Budget Committee and dispute settlement panels), where the Fund and the WTO expect that particular matters of common interest to both organizations will be under discussion.	Para. 3 provides that the WTO shall be granted observer status at the Annual Meetings of the Bank's Board of Governors, and that the Bank shall be granted observer status at meetings of the WTO's Ministerial Conference. Para. 4 then provides that the WTO Secretariat shall be invited to meetings of the Executive Directors on general and regional trade policy issues, including the formulation of World Bank policies on trade matters. Under para. 4, when consultations between the staffs of the Bank and the WTO lead to the conclusion that matters of particular common interest to both organizations will be under discussion at other meetings of the Executive Directors, including country-specific matters, the President of the Bank will recommend that the WTO Secretariat be invited to send an observer. Para. 5 provides that the Bank staff shall be invited to the General Council, Trade Policy Review Body, the three sectoral councils, Committee on Trade and Development, Committee on Regional Trading Agreements, Committee on TRIMs, and Committee on Trade and Environment, and their subsidiary bodies (excluding the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, the DSB and dispute settlement panels). Under para. 5, the WTO shall invite the Bank to send a member of its staff as observer to meetings of other WTO bodies for which attendance is not provided above (excluding the Budget Committee and dispute settlement panels), where the Bank and the WTO

¹ WT/L/195.² Ibid.

ANNEX 9 — PROVISIONS OF THE COHERENCE MANDATE RELEVANT TO WTO ACCESSION (cont'd)

Accession-relevant elements of the Coherence Mandate	Agreement with the IMF ¹	Agreement with the World Bank ²
	WTO observership in the Interim and Development Committees is dealt with by an accompanying letter addressed to the WTO Director-General from the Managing Director of the Fund. In respect of the Interim and Development Committees, and in order to foster closer cooperation between the two institutions, the Managing Director of the Fund has recommended that the Director-General of the WTO be invited regularly as an observer to these committees' plenary sessions, as well as to those restricted sessions where matters of common interest are to be addressed.	expect that particular matters of common interest to both organizations will be under discussion. WTO observership in the Development Committee is dealt with by an accompanying letter addressed to the WTO Director-General from the President of the World Bank. In respect of the Development Committee, and in order to foster closer cooperation between the two institutions, the President of the Bank has recommended that the Director-General of the WTO be invited regularly as an observer to this committee's plenary sessions, as well as to those restricted sessions where matters of common interest are to be addressed.
Access to meetings' agenda, documents and reports	Under para. 7, the WTO and the Fund shall make available to each other in advance the agendas, and relevant documents, for the meetings to which they are invited pursuant to the terms of the agreement. The Fund shall make available to the WTO Secretariat agendas of meetings of the Executive Board at the time of their circulation in the Fund, and the WTO shall make available to the Fund the agendas of the DSB at the time of their circulation in the WTO. According to para. 11, the Fund shall provide the WTO, promptly after circulation to the Executive Board, for the confidential use of its Secretariat, with staff reports and related background staff papers on Article IV consultations and on use of Fund resources on common members and on Fund members seeking accession to the WTO, subject to the consent of the member. Para. 12 commits the WTO to providing the Fund, for the confidential use of its management and staff, with TPR reports, summary records and reports of Councils, Bodies and Committees, and reports of WTO Members to these organs.	Under para. 6, the WTO and the Bank shall make available to each other in advance the agendas, and relevant documents, for the meetings to which they are invited pursuant to the terms of the agreement. The Bank shall make available to the WTO Secretariat agendas of meetings of the Executive Directors at the time of their circulation in the Bank, and the WTO shall make available to the Bank the agendas of other bodies at the time of their circulation in the WTO. Under para. 9, subject to such limitations as may be necessary for safeguarding of confidential material, the WTO and the Bank shall arrange the timely exchange of information, reports and other documents of mutual interest.

ANNEX 9 — PROVISIONS OF THE COHERENCE MANDATE RELEVANT TO WTO ACCESSION (cont'd)

Accession-relevant elements of the Coherence Mandate	Agreement with the IMF ¹	Agreement with the World Bank ²
<i>Use of documents in accession Working Party meetings</i>	Para. 8 provides for communication in writing from either institution to the other or any of its organs or bodies (excluding dispute settlement) on matters of mutual interest, which becomes part of the official record of such organs and bodies. It further provides that the Fund shall inform in writing the relevant WTO body (including dispute settlement panels) "considering exchange measures within the Fund's jurisdiction whether such measures are consistent with the Articles of Agreement of the Fund".	
<i>Technical cooperation</i>	Para. 9 states that the Director-General and the Managing Director shall ensure cooperation between the staffs of the two institutions and, to that end, shall agree on appropriate procedures for collaboration, including access to databases, and exchanges of views on jurisdictional and policy issues.	Para. 7 provides that the Director-General and the Bank's President shall ensure cooperation between the staffs of the two institutions who, to that end, as appropriate, shall share access to databases, undertake joint research and technical cooperation activities and exchange views on policy issues.
<i>Consultations between staff</i>	While para. 9 provides for cooperation between staffs and for exchange of views on jurisdictional and policy issues, para. 10 calls for consultations on issues of possible inconsistency.	Para. 8 mandates staff consultations with the view to ensuring the adoption of consistent and mutually supportive policies. To this end, staffs shall keep each other regularly informed of their programmes and activities in matters related to international trade.

ANNEX 10 – COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WTO, THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK ON WTO ACCESSIONS

Acceding Government	IMF		World Bank
	WTO Secretariat contacts with the IMF		WTO Secretariat contacts with the World Bank
	Conference on coherence in WTO accessions The WTO Secretariat, in partnership with the IMF and the World Bank, organised a conference entitled "Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policymaking: the case of WTO accession" on 16 October 2019. The conference provided a platform to discuss issues of common policy interest to the three institutions in the context of WTO accessions and to explore the scope for heightened cooperation at the country level. Participants (about 60) included the representatives of five acceding governments (Belarus, Ethiopia, Iraq, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan), one potential applicant (Turkmenistan) and three WTO Members (European Union, Switzerland and United States). On the IMF side, attendees were largely drawn from the country teams working with currently acceding countries. On the World Bank side, attendees were drawn from the Global Trade team as well as the country teams working with acceding countries.		
1	Algeria		2011: DDG Jara meeting with World Bank IFC office (Mr. A.H. Allaoua, Senior Manager) in Algiers to exchange information on economic developments and the status of the WTO accession process. - February 2020: Algeria participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.
2	Andorra	X	X
3	Azerbaijan	November/December 2017, June 2018: telephone calls with Mission Chiefs.	X
4	The Bahamas	March 2018: met with Mission Chief and the team in Nassau.	X
5	Belarus	- November 2017 and November 2018: met with IMF team in Minsk and discussed Belarus economic reform, especially SOEs. 20 August 2019: held a conference call with IMF and the World Bank to discuss the Belarus-specific coherence event in Washington in October 2019. - October 2019: met with IMF country team, led by the Mission Chief, in Washington, on the margins of the Annual Meetings.	2012: as requested by WTO Members, and following a written exchange with the IMF/World Bank, the WTO Secretariat circulated the most recent economic country assessment on Belarus for the information of the Working Party, namely (i) the IMF 2012 Article IV Consultation Staff Report; (ii) the IMF Country Report; and (iii) the World Bank Executive Summary of the Belarus Country Economic Memorandum. - September 2017: phone call with IMF country team (David Moore) to discuss the latest state of play in Belarus' accession negotiations. - November 2017: met with IMF Mission Chief in Minsk. Discussions focused on exchanging information on relevant economic and policy

ANNEX 10 – COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WTO, THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK ON WTO ACCESSIONS (cont'd)

Acceding Government	IMF		World Bank	
	WTO Secretariat contacts with the IMF		WTO Secretariat contacts with the World Bank	
			developments in Belarus, especially in the area of structural reforms, including SOE reforms, and on the relevance of the WTO accession process to ongoing work under the IMF Article IV consultations. – November 2018: met with World Bank country team in Minsk to review the state of play and explore how WTO/World Bank work overlaps in the area of SOEs reform; – April 2019: videoconference call with the World Bank (country team in Minsk) to discuss the state of play in the accession of Belarus and the status of structural reforms in Belarus. – July 2019: Mr. Alex Kremer, World Bank Country Manager for Belarus represented the World Bank as observer at the 12th Working Party Meeting of Belarus. – 20 August 2019: held a conference call with IMF and the World Bank to discuss the Belarus-specific coherence event in Washington in October 2019. – 29 August 2019: videoconference call with the World Bank (country team in Minsk) to discuss the coherence event in Washington in October 2019.	
6 Bhutan*		X		X
7 Bosnia and Herzegovina		X		X
8 Comoros*	– March 2017: WTO delegation met with IMF representative in Moroni. – April 2017: WTO DG Azevêdo addressed a letter to IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde seeking IMF support for Comoros' reform on VAT, which is linked to WTO accession. – 2017-2018: maintained e-mail exchanges.		– October 2019: Met with World Bank country team in Washington, on the margin of the Annual Meetings. – December 2019: Met with World Bank at the "Conference of Partners for the Development of the Comoros" in Paris. – February 2020: Comoros participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.	
9 Equatorial Guinea		X	– February 2020: Equatorial Guinea participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.	

ANNEX 10 – COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WTO, THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK ON WTO ACCESSIONS (cont'd)

Acceding Government		IMF	World Bank
		WTO Secretariat contacts with the IMF	WTO Secretariat contacts with the World Bank
10	Ethiopia*	February 2019: contact with an IMF consultant (Michael Daly, former WTO staff) on IMF TA Mission on Tax Policy.	- January 2019: met with country team in Addis. - February 2020: The third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa took place in Addis Ababa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat, the World Bank and the Government of Ethiopia, among others.
11	Iran	X	X
12	Iraq	X	25-26 July: Jointly delivered a workshop on WTO accession to Iraqi officials in Beirut.
13	Lebanese Republic	X	X
14	Libya	X	X
15	São Tomé and Príncipe*	X	X
16	Serbia	X	X
17	Somalia*	July 2018: met with Finance Minister of Somalia and discussed the possibility of presenting WTO accession to a committee of senior officials and IFIs.	February 2020: Somalia participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.
18	South Sudan*	[Comment: IMF has no representation in Juba.]	February 2020: South Sudan participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.
19	Sudan*	- April and December 2018: met with IMF representative in Khartoum to discuss Sudan's import ban and FX restrictions for imports. - Explored the possibility for IMF to report to the next Working Party meeting on the outcome of the 2019 Article IV Mission. - October 2019: met with country team, led by the Mission Chief, in Washington, on the margins of the Annual Meetings.	- April 2018: met with World Bank team in Khartoum. - February 2020: Sudan participated in the third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa, co-organized by the WTO Secretariat and the World Bank, among others.
20	Syrian Arab Republic	X	X
21	Timor-Leste*	X	November 2016: met with World Bank team in Dili.

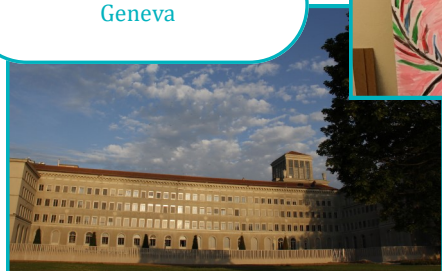
ANNEX 10 – COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE WTO, THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK ON WTO ACCESSIONS (cont'd)

Acceding Government		IMF	World Bank
		WTO Secretariat contacts with the IMF	
22	Uzbekistan	May 2018: met with Mission Chief in Tashkent.	- May 2018: participated in World Bank/USAID conference on WTO accession. - October 2018: World Bank participated in WTO workshop on market access for trade in goods. - March 2019: jointly delivered a workshop on market access for trade in services. - October 2019: Met with World Bank Country Manager in Washington, on the margins of the Annual Meetings. - January 2020: World Bank participated in WTO workshop on trade in services in Geneva.

* LDCs.

Accessions Division Team

WTO Headquarters —
Geneva



Accessions Division Team —
27 November 2019

WTO Accessions—Annual Report by the Director-General

2017



2016



2015



2014



Accessions Division

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