

***Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions
for the Greater Horn of Africa
28-30 August 2017***



WTO Accession Reforms and Regional Integration

Maika Oshikawa
Officer in Charge
Accessions Division

1995

2017



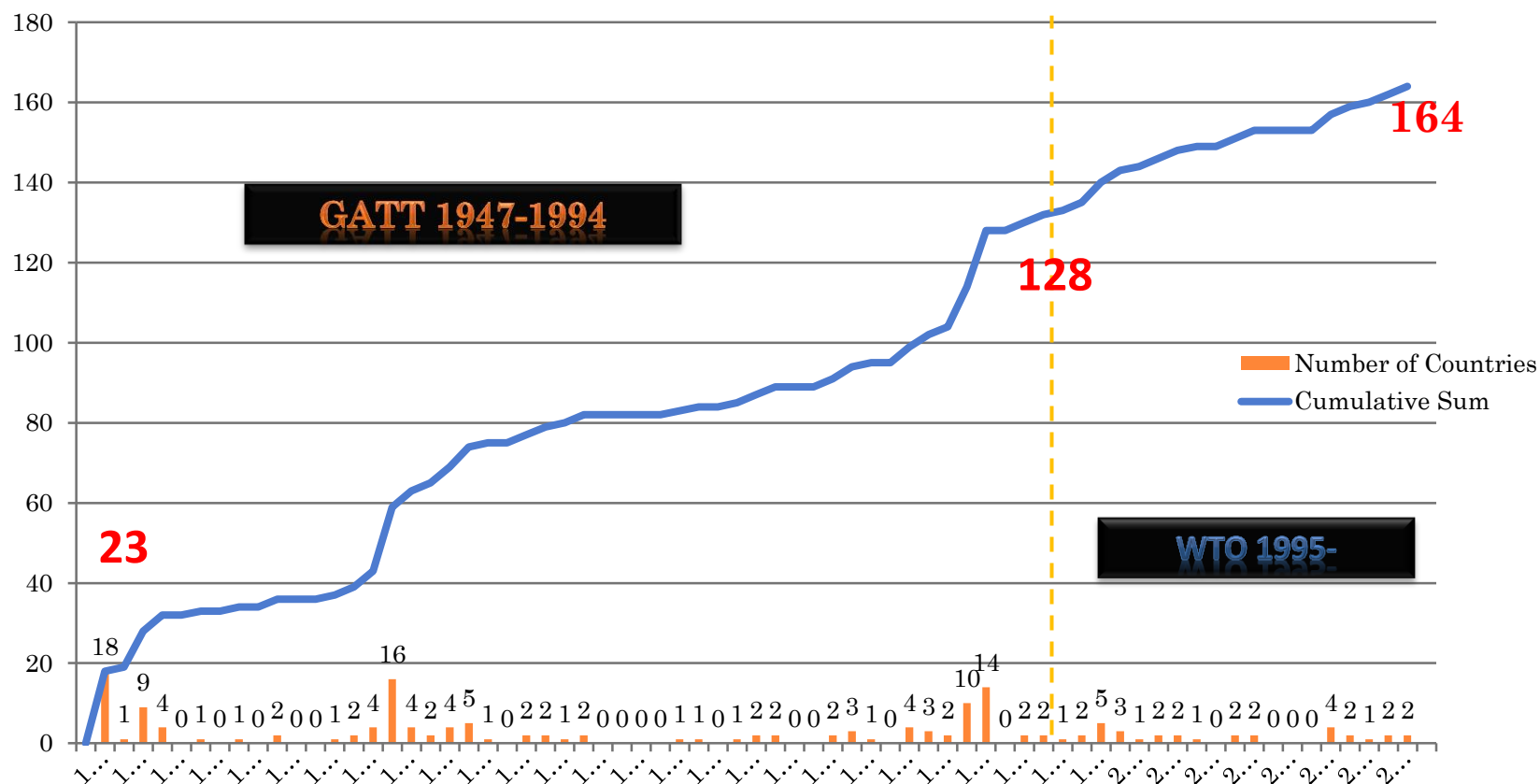
OUTLINE

- Background to WTO Accessions
- Overview of Accession Process
- State of Play in African Accessions
- WTO Accessions and Regional Integration





Evolution of the Number of Members from GATT 1947 to Today



NOTE: There were 23 founding Contracting Parties (CPs) to GATT in 1947; however, only 18 of the CPs included in this data set for the year 1948 due to countries pulling out of the Agreement before the establishment of the WTO. Thus, this data set strictly includes the 128 GATT signatories and the 36 Article XII Members.

36 Completed Accessions: 1996-2016

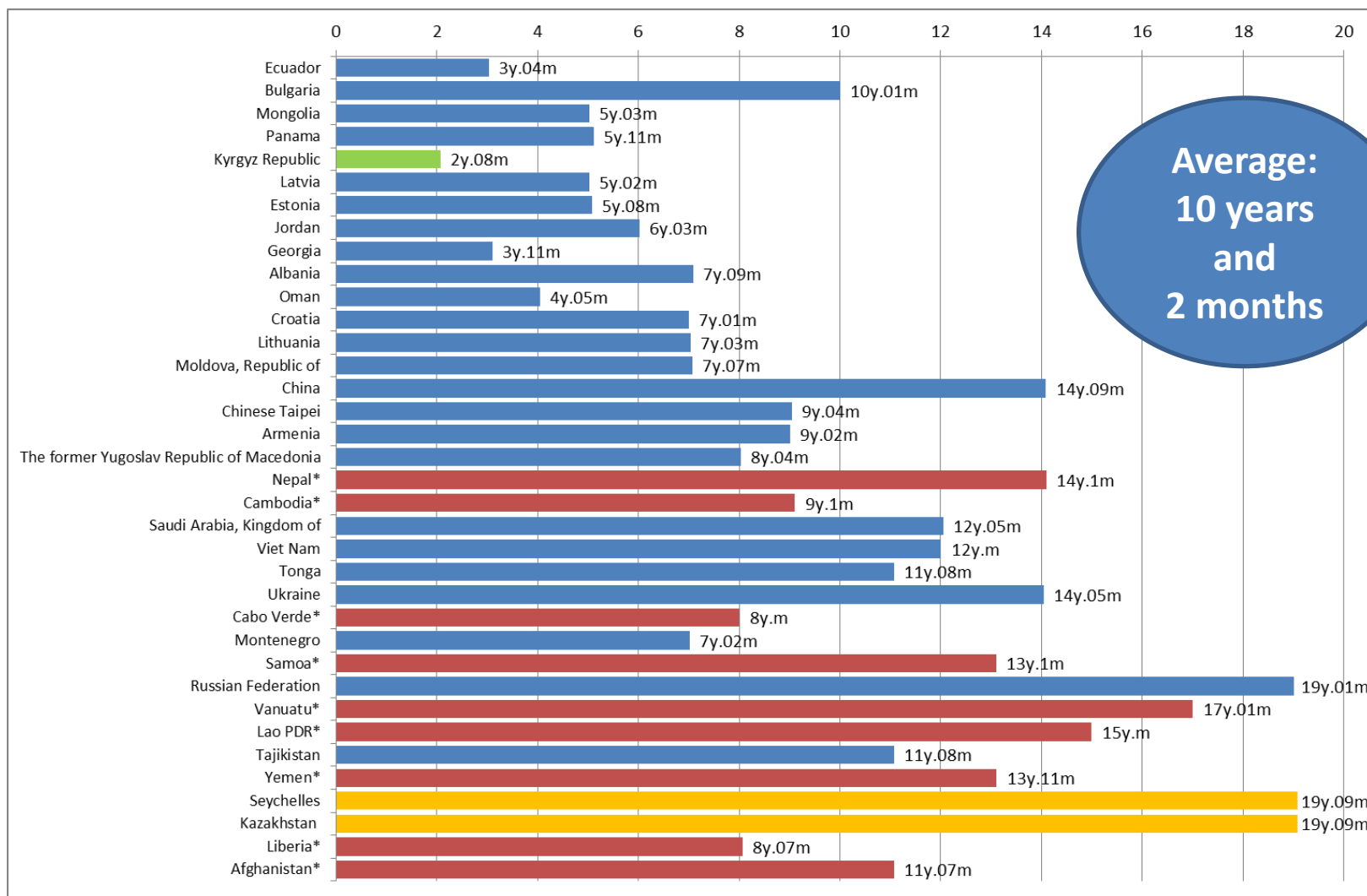


Africa (44)	Europe/CIS (45)	Asia Pacific (32)	Middle East (9)	America (34)
Cape Verde, 2008 Seychelles, 2015 Liberia, 2016	Bulgaria, 1996 Latvia, 1999 Estonia, 1999 Georgia, 2000 Albania, 2000 Croatia, 2000, Lithuania, 2001 Moldova, 2001 Armenia, 2003 FYR of Macedonia, 2003 Ukraine, 2008 Montenegro, 2012 Russian Fed. 2012 Tajikistan, 2013 Kazakhstan, 2015	Mongolia, 1997 Kyrgyz Rep., 1998 China, 2001 Chinese Taipei, 2002 Nepal, 2004 Cambodia, 2004 Tonga, 2007 Viet Nam, 2007 Samoa, 2012 Vanuatu, 2012 Lao PDR, 2013 Afghanistan, 2016	Jordan, 2000 Oman, 2000 Saudi Arabia 2005 Yemen, 2014	Ecuador, 1996 Panama, 1997
3 (2 LDCs)	15	12 (6 LDCs)	4 (1 LDC)	2



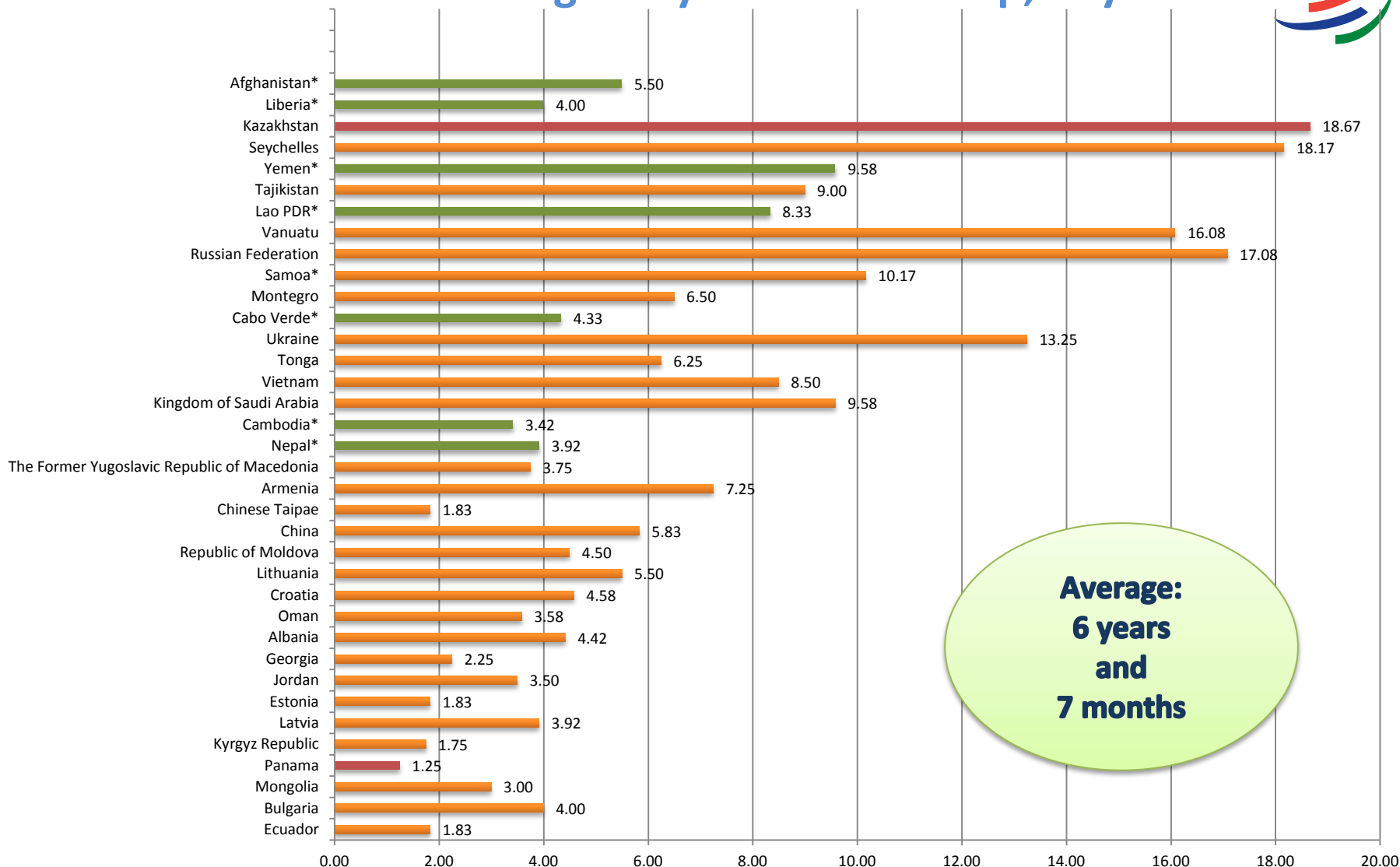
Out of 41 original WTO Members: 2 original GATT Contracting Parties; 4 joined through GATT Article XXXIII (negotiation), and 35 joined through GATT Article XXVI: 5(c) (under sponsorship /succession)

Length of WTO accession process: From application to membership, in years



* Acceded as LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took **12 years and 9 months**

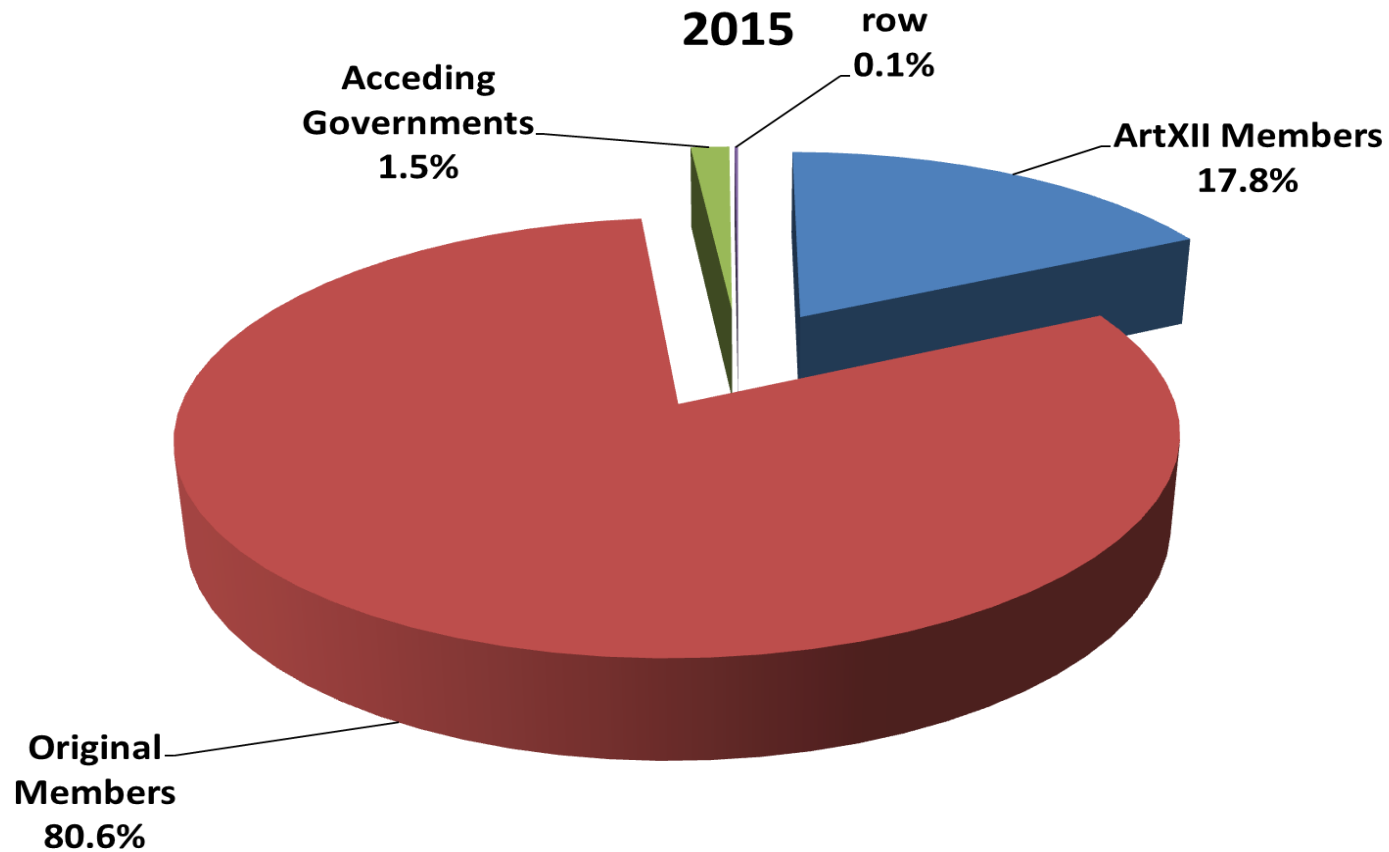
Length of WTO accession process: From the 1st Working Party to membership, in years



* Acceded as LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took **5 years and 4 months**

Accession Results

Coverage: 98% of World Trade

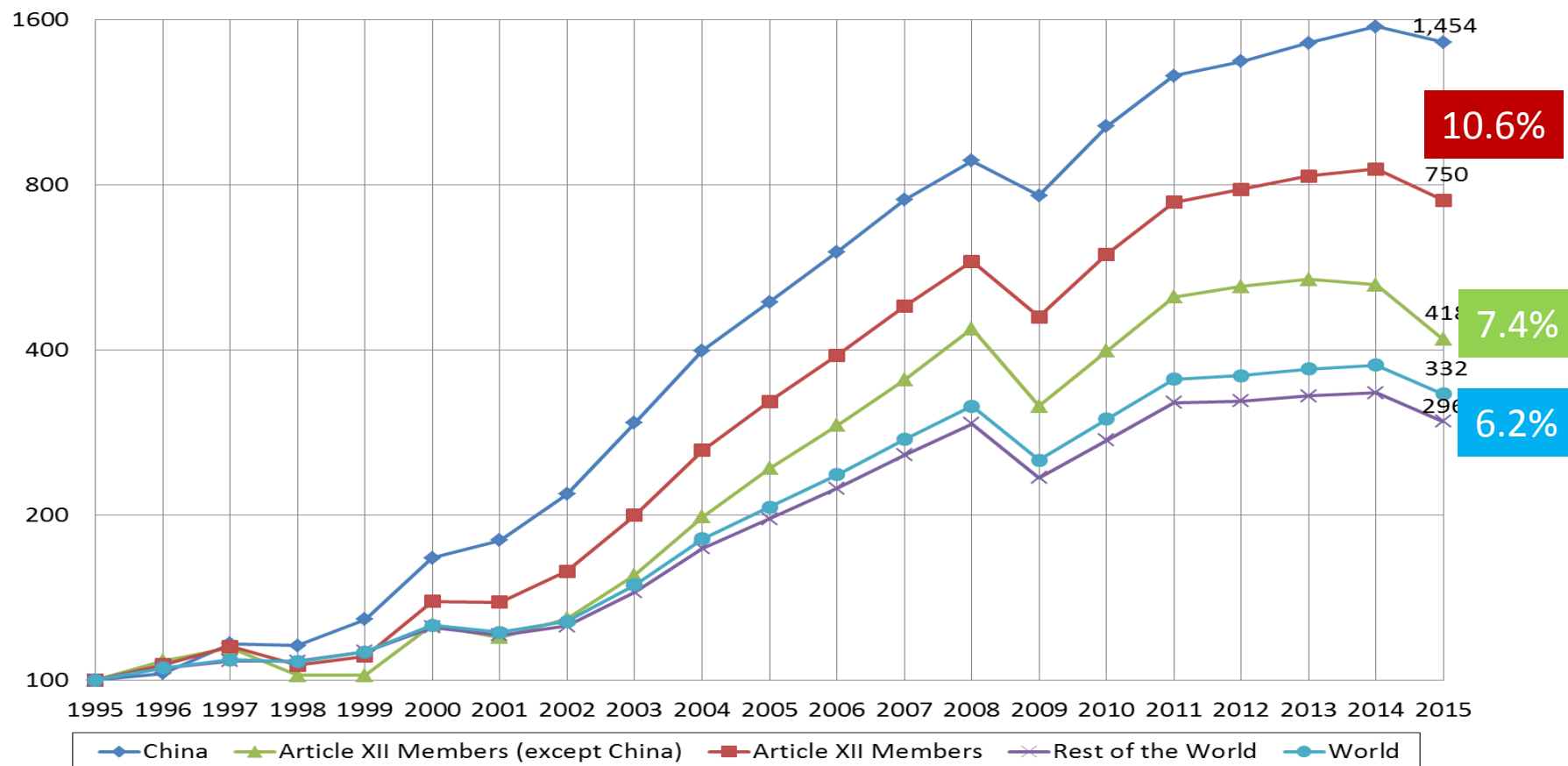




Accession Results: Trade Performance

WTO OMC

Evolution of World Trade in nominal value by membership status



REASONS FOR JOINING...





The Legal Framework

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

.....

Article XII

Accession

1. Any State or separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements may accede to this Agreement, on terms to be agreed between it and the WTO. Such accession shall apply to this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed thereto.
2. Decisions on accession shall be taken by the Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conference shall approve the agreement on the terms of accession by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the WTO.
3. Accession to a Plurilateral Trade Agreement shall be governed by the provisions of that Agreement.

- On “terms to be agreed”...



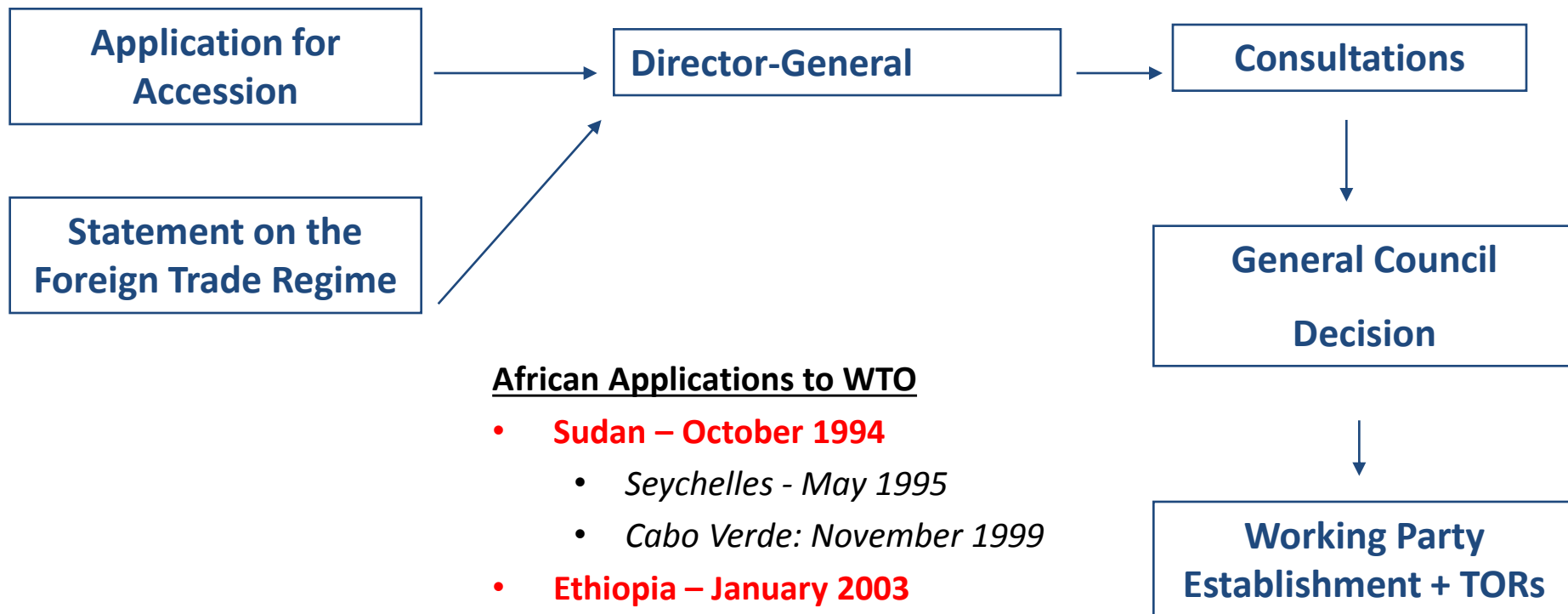
Policy Framework for LDC Accessions

Background to Doha 2001: No LDCs had joined the WTO since 1995

- ❖ 2001 Doha Mandate to ***“facilitate and accelerate negotiations with acceding LDCs”*** – paragraph 42 of Doha Ministerial Declaration
- ❖ **2002 General Council Guidelines for LDCs’ Accessions (WT/L/508)**
 - Market Access, WTO Rules, Process, TRTA and CB.
- ❖ **2012 GC Decision to *“strengthen, streamline and operationalize” the 2002 Guidelines* (WT/L/508/Add.1)**
 - Benchmarks on market access on Goods and Services
 - Transparency in accession negotiations
 - “Facilitation” by Chairs of SCLDC & Accession Working Parties
 - Special and differential treatment & transition periods
 - Technical assistance and capacity building



Initiating the Process



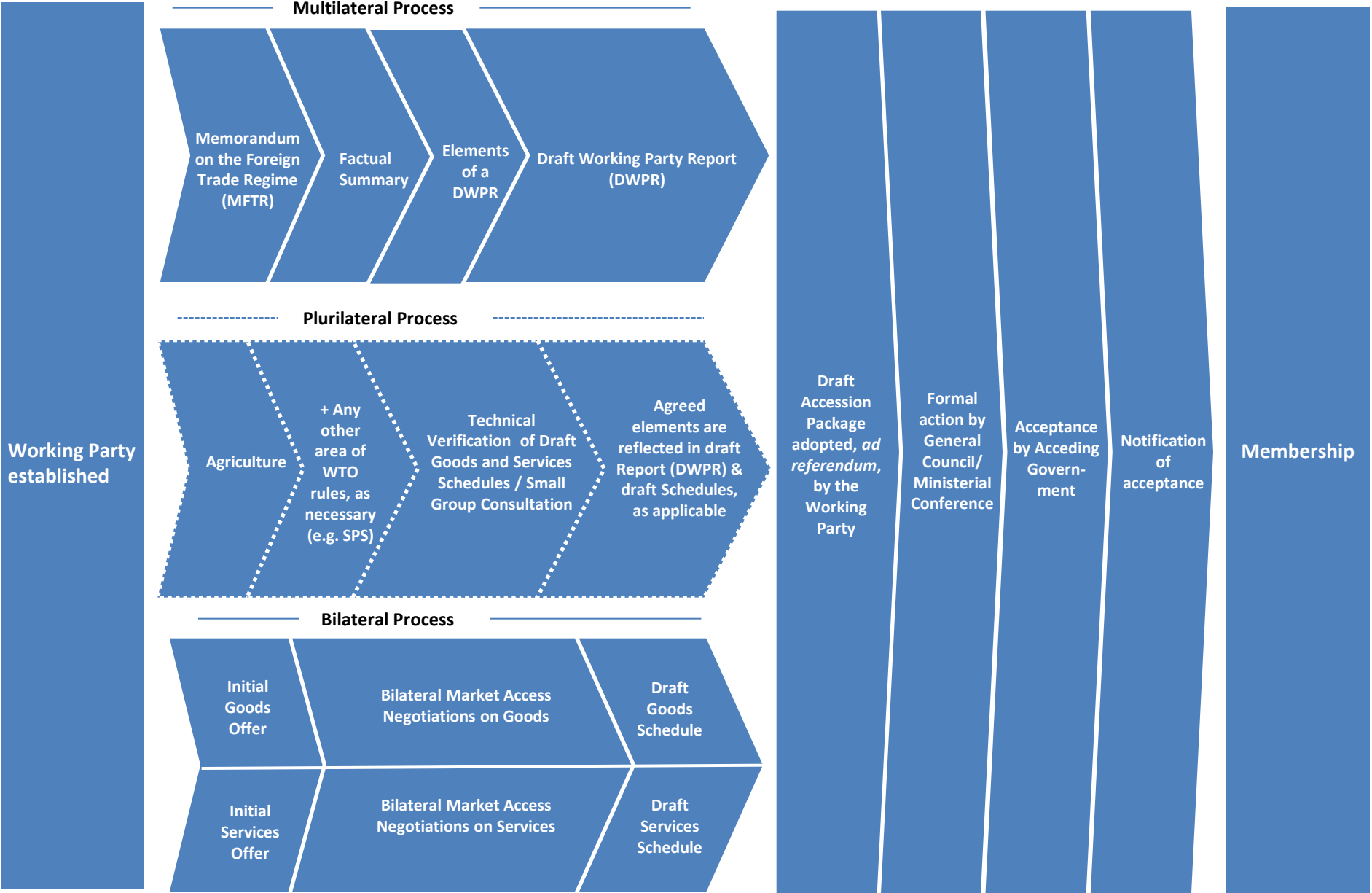
African Applications to WTO

- **Sudan – October 1994**
 - *Seychelles - May 1995*
 - *Cabo Verde: November 1999*
- **Ethiopia – January 2003**
- **Comoros – February 2007**
 - *Liberia: June 2007*
- **Somalia – November 2016**
- **South Sudan – September 2017 ?**



What is a Working Party?

- Body established by the General Council with specific terms of reference (ToRs):
 - *“To examine the application of the Government of XXX to accede to the WTO Agreement under Article XII, and to submit to the General Council recommendations which may include a draft Protocol of Accession.”*
- Working Party Chairperson
 - To be designated by the General Council Chairperson, in consultation with Members and the acceding government
 - Comoros - H.E. Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia (Peru)
 - Ethiopia - under consultation by WTO Deputy Director-General
 - Sudan - Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan)
 - Somalia - Consultations begin after the submission of MFTR



MULTILATERAL TRACK: RULES



1. Fact-finding stage

➤ Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR)

- Questions and Replies

Sudan (1999/2016), Ethiopia (2008), Comoros (2013), Somalia (2017?)

➤ 1st Working Party meeting

Sudan (2003), Ethiopia (May 2008), Comoros (December 2016)

➤ Examination of foreign trade regime, through additional meetings

- Replies to Members' questions;
- Legislation and Legislative Action Plans (LAP);
- Information on Agriculture Domestic Support and Export Subsidies;
- Questionnaires/checklists (TBT, SPS, TRIPS, State Trading, Customs Valuation, Import Licensing)

➤ Factual Summary of Points Raised

Comoros (April 2017), Sudan (September 2004/May 2017), Ethiopia (March 2012)

2. Negotiation of the terms of entry

➤ Draft Report of the Working Party

Comoros – “Elements” of a Draft Report of the Working Party (August 2017)



BILATERAL TRACK: MARKET ACCESS

Initial offers on Goods and Services

Bilateral negotiations based on “request & offer” format

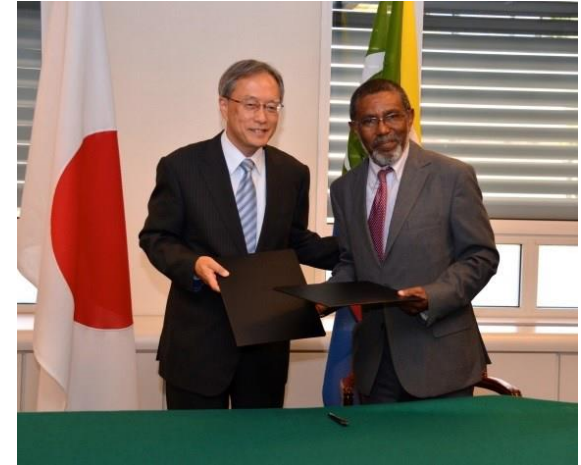
Bilateral Agreement

Draft Goods and Services Schedules

Applied on an MFN basis

Number of concluded bilateral agreements

- **Comoros: 4 (+1)**
- **Sudan: 5 (+5)**
- **Cabo Verde: 5**
- **Seychelles : 9**
- **Liberia: 6**



Signing ceremony of bilateral market access Protocol between Japan and Comoros



PLURILATERAL TRACK: ISSUE-SPECIFIC

- Issue-specific consultations with interested Members, chaired by the Secretariat
 - Agriculture, SPS, etc.
 - Technical Verification Meetings with Signatory-Members, chaired by the Secretariat
 - Draft Goods and Services Schedules
- 
- A photograph of a meeting room. The wall is covered in a dark, quilted or diamond-shaped acoustic paneling. Several people are seated around a long table in the foreground, facing away from the camera. The room is dimly lit, with small lights visible on the ceiling.



Accession of Sudan- Plurilateral Meeting on Agriculture- July 2017



ACCESSION PACKAGE



Accession Package of the Russian Federation



1

- Decision
- Protocol

2

- Report of the Working Party

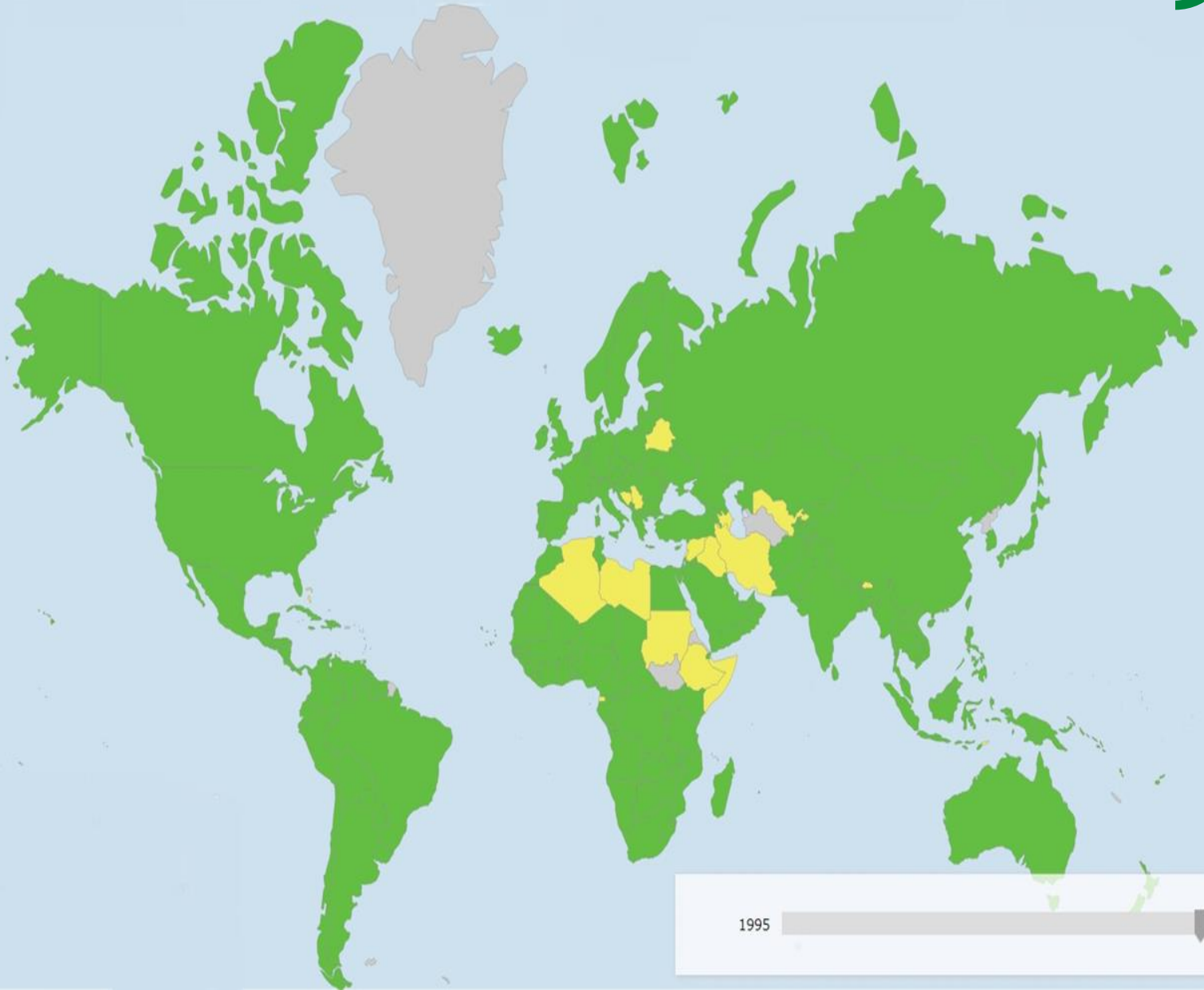
3

- Schedule of Concessions and Commitments on Goods

4

- Schedule of Specific Commitments on Services

What remains?



1995

2017

21 On-going Accessions

(By Application Date)



21 On-going Accessions (and potential candidates)



Africa	Europe/CIS	Asia Pacific	Middle East	America
Algeria, 1987 Sudan, 1994 Ethiopia, 2003 Libya, 2004 Sao Tomé & Príncipe, 2005 Comoros, 2007 Equatorial Guinea, 2008 Somalia, 2016	Belarus, 1993 Uzbekistan, 1994 Azerbaijan, 1997 Andorra, 1997 Bosnia & Herzegovina, 1999 Serbia, 2005	Bhutan, 1999 Timor-Leste, 2016	Lebanese Rep. , 1999 Iraq, 2004 IR of Iran, 2005 Syrian Arab Rep. 2010	Bahamas, 2001
8 (6 LDCs)	6	2 (2 LDCs)	4	1
Eritrea South Sudan	Monaco San Marino Turkmenistan	DPR of Korea Kiribati Marshall Islands Micronesia Nauru Palau Tuvalu		

CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY



- 21 accession Working Parties in process
 - ✓ On average, 16.1 years since application
 - ✓ 7LDCs
 - ✓ In addition, expression of interest: South Sudan, Turkmenistan?

2017 Strategic Focus

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Comoros*

Maintenance

- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Sudan*

Activation/Re-activation

- Equatorial Guinea
- Ethiopia*
- Iraq
- Lebanese Republic
- Serbia
- Somalia*
- Timor-Leste*

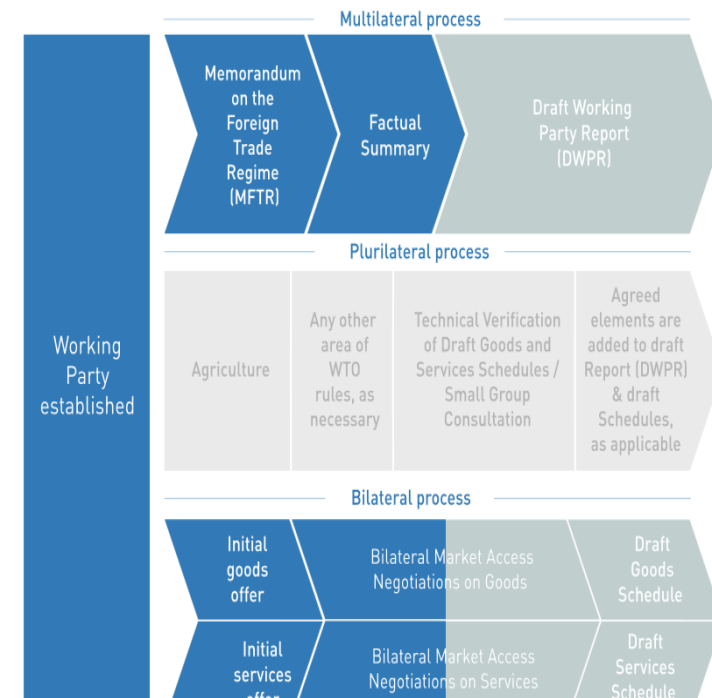
Dormant/WP-inactive

- Andorra
- Algeria
- The Bahamas
- Bhutan*
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Libya
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe*
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Uzbekistan

Comoros - 2017 Strategic Focus



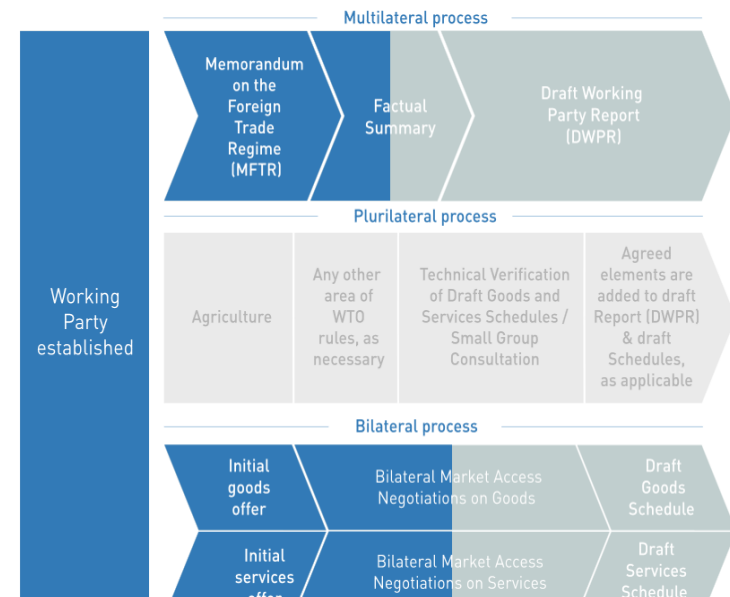
- WP Establishment: October 2007
- WP Chair: Amb. Luis Enrique CHÁVEZ BASAGOITIA (Peru)
- MFTR submitted in 2013
- **25 documents circulated in 2016/2017**
- 1st WP meeting in December 2016
- Chair's visit to Moroni in March 2017
- 2nd WP meeting in June 2017
 - ✓ Factual Summary discussed
- Experts in Geneva end July 2017
 - ✓ Conclusion of 4 bilateral MA negotiations
- Next Steps
 - ✓ Circulation of Elements of DWPR shortly
 - ✓ 3rd WP meeting: September 2017



Sudan – 2018 Strategic Focus



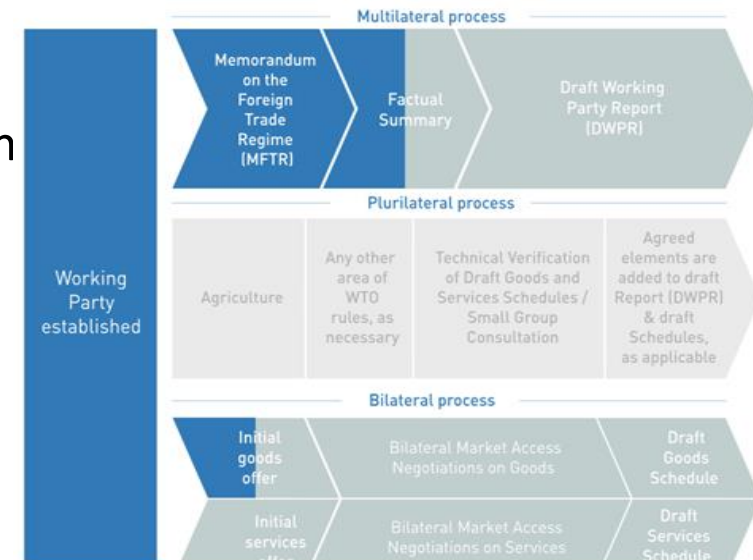
- WP Establishment: October 1994
- No-activity between 2004 (2nd WP meeting) and 2015
- Reactivation announced at the General Council in July 2016
 - ✓ Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan) appointed as WP Chairperson
- Over 30 documents circulated in 2016/2017
- 3rd WP meeting: January 2017
- Chair's visit to Khartoum: April 2017
- 4th WP meeting: July 2017
 - ✓ Factual Summary discussed
- Next steps
 - ✓ 5th Working Party meeting: Oct/Nov 2017
 - ✓ New Roadmap for a 2018 conclusion



Ethiopia – Reactivation



- WP Establishment: February 2003
 - ✓ 1997-2002: Observer Status
- MFTR circulated in 2007
- Working Party Meetings: 3
 - ✓ 1st meeting held in May 2008 and last meeting in March 2012
- No activity held since 2012
- Recent developments
 - ✓ 5th China Round Table, Cambodia, in March
 - ✓ Secretariat visit to Addis in April 2017
- Next steps
 - ✓ WP Chairman: consultation by DDG Shark
 - ✓ Submission of updated documentation?



New WTO Applications



Somalia

- Application received in December 2015
- Working Party established in December 2016
- First training on WTO Accession for Somali officials in August 2017
- Next step: Preparation of MFTR by end 2017?

South Sudan

- Application for observer status circulated in April 2012
- Application for observer status re-submitted in November 2015
- Since early 2017, South Sudan has expressed in its interest in application for WTO accession
- Joining the Nairobi Regional Dialogue with funding from EIF



Other African Accessions

Algeria

- ✓ WP Establishment: 1987 (30 years - the longest running accession)
- ✓ 12 WP meetings - last meeting in March 2014
- ✓ No activity *since March 2014*.

Equatorial Guinea

- ✓ WP Establishment: 2008
- ✓ No documentary inputs to initiate WTO accession process
- ✓ TA request for MFTR & Minister's visit to Geneva in fall 2017

Libya

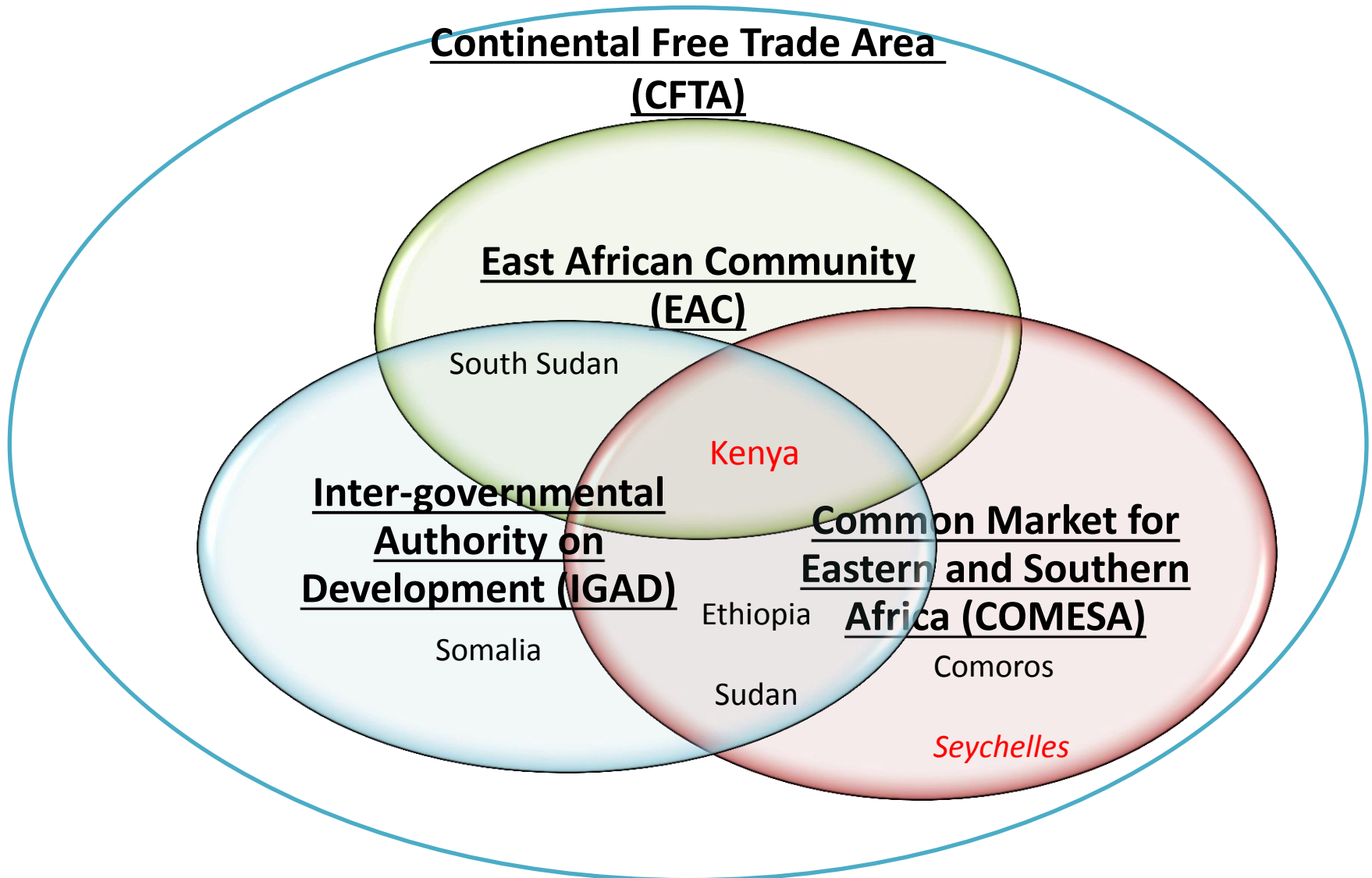
- ✓ WP Establishment: 2004
- ✓ No documentary inputs to initiate WTO accession process

Sao Tomé and Príncipe

- ✓ WP Establishment: 2005
- ✓ No documentary inputs to initiate WTO accession process



WTO Accessions and Regional Integration



Issues for WTO Accessions and Regional Integration

- Sequencing between WTO accession and regional integration?
- Synergies and coherence in negotiating positions amongst different negotiations.
- Regional integration issues covered in WTO accession negotiations
 - All instruments covered by regional agreements
 - CET in bilateral market access negotiations on goods
- Critical importance of internal coordination





WTO OMC

ACCESSION PUBLICATIONS



WTACC20



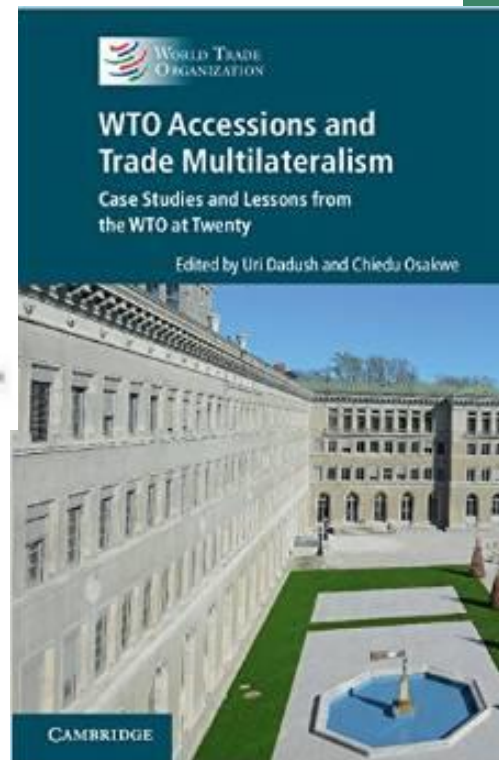
WTO ACCESSIONS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL



* The Annual Report takes account of certified accessions in November 2015.
The document has been prepared under the leadership and the guidance of Members in their regular and



WTO Accessions Newsletter





QUESTIONS?

