

Budget, finance and administration

- The Committee endorsed the revised WTO financial regulations.

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration endorsed the revised WTO financial regulations, transfers between budgetary sections during 2021 and the 2021 WTO audited financial statements, which were subsequently approved by the General Council. The Committee also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on Coherence in the Establishment of Trust Funds.

The General Council approved the 2023 scale of assessed contributions to the WTO budget upon recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee recommended to the General Council that the Secretariat use the CHF 6 million surplus from 2021 to address emergency and mandatory expenses in 2023, but one member did not join in the consensus in the General Council to adopt the recommendation.

The Committee also took note of the 2021 WTO Pension Plan audited financial

statements and the external auditors' reports for the WTO's and WTO Pension Plan's financial statements.

It noted outstanding contributions to the WTO budget from WTO members and observers and invited the General Council to urge those under administrative measures to liquidate their arrears.

The Committee took note of the establishment of the Fisheries Funding Mechanism (see

Background

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration monitors the WTO's budgetary and financial matters. It considers issues concerning human resources management, hears progress reports on the WTO pension plan and deals with financial and administrative matters concerning the WTO Secretariat. The Committee reports to the General Council.



page 58) providing targeted technical assistance to developing economies as a new trust fund under financial regulation 19.

The 2022 WTO salary survey and dependency allowances were presented to the Committee. Quarterly financial reports were considered by the Committee and taken note of, as were updates from the Chair of the WTO Pension Plan Management Board. The Committee also took note of actuarial valuations of the WTO Pension Plan as at the end of 2020 and 2021 and a draft reform proposal addressing the Pension Plan's funding gap.

The Committee reviewed the status of the WTO medical insurance plan and After Service Health Insurance, the status of implementation of internal and external audit recommendations, the annual strategic facilities plan, the annual report on diversity, the annual report on grading structure and the learning and development programme for 2021.

**Table 2: Consolidated budget for 2023
(in CHF thousands)**

Section	Total
Staff expenditure (including staff remuneration, pension and post employment benefits, health and invalidity insurance, family and international benefits)	131,565
Temporary assistance (including short-term staff, consultants and panellists)	17,575
General services (including telecommunications and post, contractual services and maintenance, energy and supplies, documentation and publications)	15,626
Travel and hospitality	7,607
Implementing partners (includes any activity or event partly/jointly/fully funded by the WTO but executed by a third-party organization)	213
Capital expenditure (including procurement of fixed assets and rental and leasing of equipment)	3,095
Financial expenditure (including bank and interest charges and building loan reimbursement)	2,080
Contributions to International Trade Centre and special reserves (including the Building Renovation Fund and Ministerial Conference Operating Fund)	19,443
TOTAL	197,204

The Office of Internal Oversight presented its report on internal audit activities for 2020-21 and reports on the status of implementation of the internal audit recommendations. Regular updates on the WTO Secretariat transformation exercise (see page 192) were provided at each Committee meeting by DDG Angela Ellard.

The Director-General presented the WTO 2022-23 mid-term budget review to the Committee, which discussed it extensively. The Committee deferred a decision until the next year.

WTO budget 2023

The WTO derives its income from annual contributions from its 164 members (see Table 3) and miscellaneous income.

The WTO's budget for 2023 is CHF 197,203,900, representing zero nominal growth since 2012 (see Table 2).

