



TRADE POLICY REVIEWS

Observations in relation to
the work of the FFSR initiative



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TRADE POLICY REVIEWS IN A NUTSHELL

WHAT ARE TPRS?

- Periodic reviews of WTO members' **trade policies and practices**

WHO CARRIES OUT TPRS?

- **WTO members**, based on reports prepared by the WTO secretariat and Member under review

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR THE MEMBER UNDER REVIEW?

- Receive an **independent expert assessment** of your trade policies and practices
- Showcase your economic and trade policy achievements, explain challenges, promote **improved understanding** by trading partners
- Receive feedback, identify gaps, and **inform domestic policy reform efforts**
- Foster **inter-agency dialogue** and coordination, promote **policy coherence**

TRADE POLICY REVIEW GOALS

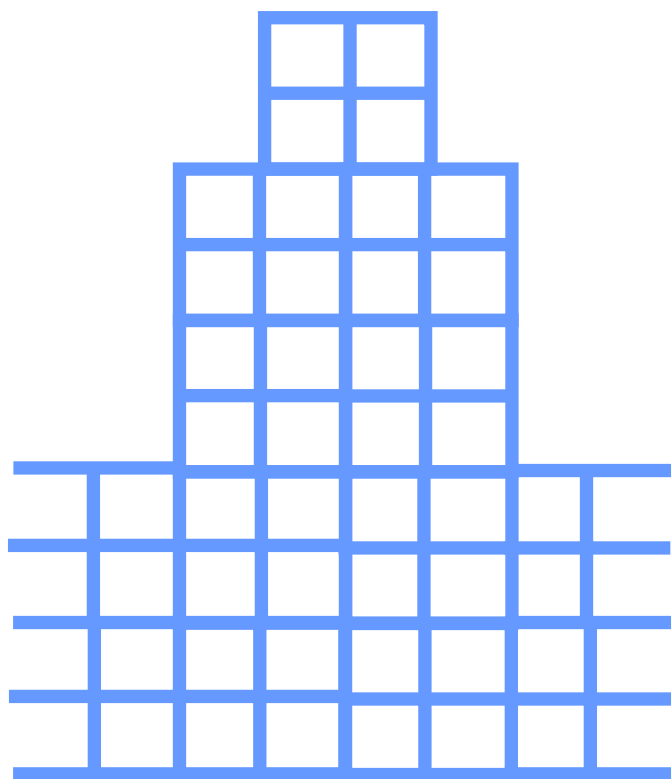
- ❑ To improve the **functioning of the rules-based trading system** through improved adherence by WTO members to WTO rules and disciplines
- ❑ To achieve **greater transparency** in, and **understanding** of, the trade policies and practices of WTO Members

But not intended to...

- Serve as the basis for the enforcement of specific obligations under WTO Agreements
- Serve as the basis for dispute settlement proceedings
- Impose new policy commitments on WTO members

FREQUENCY OF REVIEWS

According to share of world trade (%)



 **3 years** (US, EU, Japan, China)

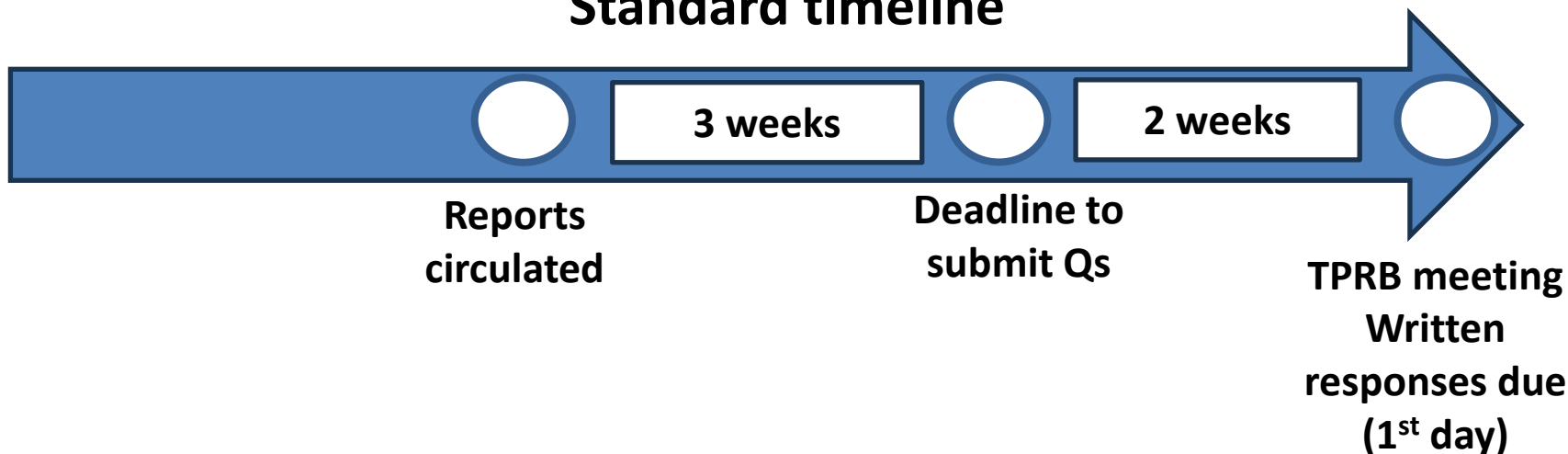
 **5 years** (next 16 Members in terms of trade participation)

 **7 years** (all other Members)

QUESTION AND ANSWER PROCESS



Standard timeline



Alternative timeline



POST-TPRB MEETING:

- ❑ **Response** of member under Review to any outstanding questions: 1 month after the meeting
- ❑ **Questions and answers** and **minutes of meeting** made publicly available on WTO website around 6 weeks after review meeting
- ❑ **TPR follow-up exercise:** if requested to: (a) discuss and disseminate the results of the review and (b) identify the trade-related technical assistance and capacity building needs.

TPR meetings in 2024



Date of meeting	TPR Member	Deadline to submit advance written questions
18-20 March	Angola	4 March
22-24 April	Morocco	8 April
12-14 June*	Iceland	8 May
19-21 June	Canada	15 May
1-3 July	Mozambique	17 June
10 July	Jamaica	26 June
17-19 July	China	3 July
25-27 September	Kazakhstan	11 September
9-11 October	Malawi	25 September
23-25 October	Maldives	9 October
13-15 November	Nigeria	30 October
20-22 November	Paraguay	16 October
27-29 November	Brunei Darussalam	13 November
11-13 December	Solomon Islands	6 November

*In **bold**: co-sponsor of the FFSR Initiative

7TH APPRAISAL OF THE TPRM

- ❑ **Trade Policy Review Mechanism undergoes periodic appraisals**

“The Trade Policy Review Body shall undertake an appraisal of the operation of the TPRM not more than five years after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the WTO... it may subsequently undertake appraisals of the TPRM at intervals to be determined by it or as requested by the Ministerial Conference.” (Annex 3, Marrakesh Agreement)

- ❑ **Previous (6th) appraisal** took place in 2016

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE 7TH APPRAISAL

- ❑ Outcome reached in **July 2023**
- ❑ Overarching goal of several Members: strengthening TPRM while **reducing burden** on Members
- ❑ Main **outcomes**:
 - **IT system** to facilitate Q&As
 - **Secretariat report**: more concise, coverage of emerging issues
 - Role of Trade Policy Review Body in times of **crisis**
- ❑ **Next appraisal**: no later than 2027



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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