

TRANSPARENCY-RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NINTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Ninth Triennial Review, adopted at the TBT Committee meeting in November 2021, contained 19 recommendations related to transparency ([G/TBT/46, paras 6.29 and 7.13](#)). In March 2022, Members agreed to establish a Transparency Working Group (TWG), open to all Members, to advance with the implementation of these recommendations.

The table below provides an overview of follow-up actions and outcomes achieved until end July 2026 on these recommendations, many of which were the result of deliberations in the Transparency Working Group and its volunteer sub-groups focusing on specific topics. The delegations of Australia, Canada, Colombia, the European Union, Kenya, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States have been contributing to work under one or more subgroups. The TWG [webpage](#) contains further information on the work carried out to date.

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
1	Online tools	To request the Secretariat to improve and streamline current online TBT tools, including ePing, and work towards integrating these tools into a more comprehensive centralized platform.	The ePing SPS&TBT Platform, launched in 2022¹, replaces and brings under one roof the content and functions previously available through five distinct online tools² and offers additional functionalities – responding to the Committee's request for a centralized platform. The publicly available platform facilitates access to TBT (and SPS) notifications, STCs and Committee documents, as well as contact information of Enquiry Points/Notification Authorities. Registered users benefit from additional features, such as receiving email alerts on notifications and accessing unofficial translations of notified texts. Furthermore, government officials with administrator rights can use the platform to draft and submit notifications to the WTO, update Enquiry Points contact details, and communicate with domestic as well as international users.³ Video tutorials posted on ePing can assist public and private sector stakeholders take advantage of the various ePing functions.
2	Online tools	To request the Secretariat to explore ways of improving alerts on notifications and STCs.	Registered ePing users receive email alerts with separate sections listing notifications: 1. matching preferences from their registration 2. matching their subsequently saved "filters" 3. which are Add/Corr/Rev of their "favourites"

¹ [G/TBT/GEN/336](#) provides a summary of the launch event; https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/igo_13jul22_e.htm.

² The SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS), the TBT Information Management System (TBT IMS), the SPS Notification Submission System (SPS NSS), the TBT Notification Submission System (TBT NSS) and the SPS/TBT ePing alert system.

³ [G/TBT/GEN/363](#) explains the different levels of access available to ePing users.

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
3	Handling of comments	To encourage Members, taking into account their individual situations and practices, to provide more transparency on submitted comments and replies, including through a website or a common platform such as ePing.	Some Members are using the ePing international forum to share information on comments submitted. Notifications, to which further information has been added regarding comments and replies, are accessible here . See also video tutorial on " How to use ePing to share comments on SPS and TBT notifications ".
4	Handling of comments	To encourage Members, taking into account their individual situations and practices, and upon the request of another Member, to explain which comments were taken into account in the final technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee finalized the "Good Practice Guide on Commenting on a Notification" at its meeting of 5-7 June 2024 (G/TBT/GEN/386).
5	Timing of notifications	To discuss the processes that Members follow in order to submit notifications "at an early appropriate stage", and, in light of this discussion, to consider the need to provide further guidance in this regard.	This topic was discussed at the 11th Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 24 June 2025 (G/TBT/GEN/418, section. 2.2).
6	Timing of notifications	To discuss Member practices to the sequencing of domestic consultations and the notification of draft technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, to ensure that comments from WTO Members are duly taken into account.	This topic was discussed at the 11th Special Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange held on 24 June 2025 (G/TBT/GEN/418, section 2.2).

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
7	Submission of notifications (format and guidelines)	To encourage Members, taking into account their individual situations, to provide additional details in Item 7 of the notification format on the legitimate objectives pursued by the notified measures, building on the recommendation of the Committee from the Eighth Triennial Review.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted the "Compilation of TBT Notification Formats and Guidelines" at its meeting of 26-28 March 2025. This Compilation brings together in one document and reflects the latest updates and revisions to all TBT notification formats and related guidelines. The revised guidelines on new notifications encourage provision of additional details in item 7 on legitimate objectives, align the list of possible objectives more closely with the language in Article 2.2 of the TBT Agreement and recall that the nature of urgent problems should be specified when notifying an urgent measure. (G/TBT/59/Rev.2, section 2.2). At its 26-28 March 2025 meeting, the Committee also agreed that the TWG would pursue further work in the areas identified in Section 3 of JOB/TBT/560/Rev.2, including the possible creation of a separate section in item 7 on legitimate objectives to indicate the nature of urgent problems where applicable (see item 8bis below).
8	Submission of notifications (format and guidelines)	To amend the notification format and associated guidelines to enable a more fulsome description of content under Item 6, in particular when notified measures are published in a language other than English, French or Spanish.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted revised guidelines for the inclusion of information in new notifications, including in item 6 on description of content, at its meeting of 8-10 November 2023 (G/TBT/52). These guidelines were subsequently revised when the TBT Committee adopted a decision on the "Compilation of Notification Formats and Guidelines" at its meeting of 26-28 March 2025 (G/TBT/59/Rev.2, section 2.2).
8bis	Submission of notifications (format and guidelines)	Following deliberations in the TWG, the Committee agreed at its 26-28 March 2025 meeting that the TWG would pursue further work on areas identified in Section 3 of JOB/TBT/560/Rev.2, namely: Refinement of guidance on the "Coherent Use of Notification Formats", for example to clarify when to notify using the addendum or revision format.	- Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted a revised recommendation on the Coherent Use of Notification Formats at its meeting of 12-14 November 2025 (G/TBT/35/Rev.2).

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
		Revision of standards-related notification formats, in consultation with the ISO Secretariat.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted revised Formats for Notifications related to Standards at its meeting of 8-10 July 2026 (G/TBT/62). Further work pending on revised procedural guidance, in consultation with the ISO Secretariat.
		Further guidance on when to use the checkbox "Other" in item 3 of the format for new notifications, for example to announce an "early notice".	Following deliberations in the TWG, the Committee is working towards revised guidance on when to use the checkbox "Other" in item 3 of the format for new notifications, with a view to facilitating voluntary information-sharing on developments relevant to work under the TBT Committee that are not yet subject to a specific notification obligation under the TBT Agreement.
		Drafting of guidelines for Addenda and Article 10.7 notifications to facilitate their preparation and provide further clarity on the information to be provided.	Further work pending.
		Inclusion of information on the proposed date of publication to the notification formats, to reflect the reference in the TBT Agreement Article 2.12 to the interval between the publication and entry into force of a measure as well as the relevant Committee recommendation.	Further work pending.
		Creation of a separate section in item 7 on legitimate objectives in the format for new notifications to indicate the nature of urgent problems where applicable.	Further work pending.
9	Submission of notifications (format and guidelines)	To hold a thematic session on challenges that Members face in providing specific information on the product coverage of notified measures, with special emphasis on HS codes.	This topic was covered during the July 2022 transparency thematic session . The report of the meeting is available in G/TBT/GEN/330 . See also Secretariat presentation on product coverage in notifications JOB/TBT/449 .
10	Provision of translations	To encourage Members to announce, through ePing, the availability of the translation of either partial or the full text of another Member's notified measure into any of the official WTO languages.	Some Members are using the ePing international forum to share or ask for unofficial translations. ePing posts on the international forum regarding unofficial translations can be accessed here .

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
11	Provision of translations	To request the Secretariat to explore the use of available IT tools, such as translation software, in order to provide unofficial translations of notified documents into the three official WTO languages through TBT online tools.	In March 2025, the Secretariat introduced a new function in ePing which allows registered users to request and obtain (AI-generated) unofficial translations of notified regulations into English, French or Spanish.
12	Domestic coordination	To hold a thematic session on good practices and challenges for domestic coordination and engagement with regulators and the private sector, including with respect to notifications.	This topic was covered during the July 2022 transparency thematic session . The report of the meeting is available in G/TBT/GEN/330 .
13	Article 10.7 notifications	To encourage Members to notify information on mutual recognition, unilateral recognition or harmonization in preferential trade agreements or their annexes, and/or in thematic, sectorial or product-specific arrangements to which that Member is a part.	The Committee agreed at its 26-28 March 2025 meeting that the TWG would pursue further work on areas identified in Section 3 of JOB/TBT/560/Rev.2, including the development of guidelines to facilitate the preparation of Article 10.7 notifications. Eleven Article 10.7 notifications have been circulated since the adoption of the Ninth Triennial Review report in November 2021: Brazil (1), Korea (1), Namibia (4), UK (3), US (2). A total of 174 Article 10.7 notifications have been circulated since 1995.
14	Article 10.7 notifications	To encourage Members to provide a hyperlink to the full text of the corresponding agreement, arrangement or annex, and, for this purpose, to amend the notification format to include a "Text of the agreement/arrangement/annex" field.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted a decision on the "Compilation of Notification Formats and Guidelines" at its meeting of 26-28 March 2025 (G/TBT/59/Rev.2). The revised format for Article 10.7 notifications includes a dedicated field for the inclusion of hyperlinks.

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
15	Statements on implementation and administration (Article 15.2)	To request the Secretariat to develop a notification format under Article 15.2 that allows Members to notify information that underpins or assists in the implementation of the TBT Agreement.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee adopted the "Guidelines for Submitting Article 15.2 Notifications" at its meeting of 13-15 March 2024 (G/TBT/55). A template, based on the guidelines for submitting Article 15.2 notifications, is available in Members' notification submission dashboard in ePing. As of end July 2026, 14 Members have submitted their new or revised Article 15.2 notifications using the new template. From October 2023, all new Article 15.2 notifications are circulated in a new symbol series (G/TBT/15.2/N/"ISO code for Member") to clearly identify the notifying Member. Article 15.2 notifications issued prior to October 2023 remain in the G/TBT/2 symbol series.
16	Statements on implementation and administration (Article 15.2)	To encourage Members to notify, under Article 15.2, their National Quality Infrastructure laws and any subsequent changes to such laws.	This recommendation is reflected in the adopted "Guidelines for Submitting Article 15.2 Notifications" (G/TBT/55).
17	Statements on implementation and administration (Article 15.2)	To also encourage Members to notify, under Article 15.2, information on where Members' comments on draft technical regulations can be submitted, such as online consultation platforms.	This recommendation is reflected in the adopted "Guidelines for Submitting Article 15.2 Notifications" (G/TBT/55).

No.	Topic	Recommendation	Follow-up actions by the TBT Committee/Transparency Working Group (TWG)/Secretariat
18	Technical assistance	To request the Secretariat to organize trainings on HS and ICS codes in notifications, starting with a focus on medical technology as a case study; and, in light of these discussions, to request the Secretariat to provide an update to the Committee on suggestions for increasing the uniformity in the use of ICS and/or HS codes and/or product names used in notifications.	The Secretariat organized a workshop on HS Codes, which was held during the June 2023 Special Meeting on Information Exchange. The report of the meeting is available in G/TBT/GEN/358. The Secretariat made a presentation on product coverage in TBT notifications at the 6 April 2022 TWG meeting, available in JOB/TBT/449. At the 17 October 2024 TWG meeting, the Secretariat's Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) team also provided an update on the "product dictionary" project, which aims to facilitate searches using product names and/or HS codes. It is expected to be launched WTO-wide by the end of 2026.
19	Technical assistance	To develop a good practice guide on how to improve product coverage in notifications, and how to prepare a comment on notifications, building on the recommendation of the Committee from the Eighth Triennial Review.	Following deliberations in the TWG, the TBT Committee finalized the "Good Practice Guide on Commenting on a Notification" at its meeting of 5-7 June 2024, available in G/TBT/GEN/386. The timeline of work towards the development of the good practice guide is available here.