

Questions on subsidies related to the environment asked by Members in Trade Policy Reviews

- Looked at Q&A segments of 7 recent Trade Policy Reviews during 2020-2023
- Identified around 65 questions on subsidies related to environment
- Types of questions: Questions can relate to environmental objectives, environmental impacts, trade impacts, impacts on third countries, design characteristics, eligibility criteria, and asking for further programme details.

Examples: Questions related to environmental objective of subsidies

- Could you elaborate more on the topic of subsidies and other public incentives provided to support the renewable energy sector?
- What are the strategies/incentives offered to achieve the target of reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050?
- In view of the Government's net-zero goals, what actions are taken to promote the use of low-carbon ("green") hydrogen?
- Please provide a comprehensive list of trade measures with an aim to promote decarbonization and environmental protection.
- What trade-related measures have been taken to fulfill commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? Have you identified any trade-related challenges arising from the implementation of MEAs?
- Taking into account the growing need for sustainable agricultural practices, which measures related to climate mitigating effects or reducing environmental impact have been implemented? What is the share in the total support covered by such measures?

Examples: Questions related to the impact of subsidies on the environment

- How is it ensured that support to agricultural production takes into account its environmental impact?
- What environmental sustainability criteria are applicants required to meet in order to be eligible for concessional credit and subsidized insurance programs?
- What is the impact of introduction of certain incentives, such as lower tax rates/incentives, advisory services, and outreach programs on conservation of forest? Is there any increase in private landowners adhering to voluntary guidelines and adopting best management practices?

Examples: Questions related to impacts on trade and third countries

- How can you ensure that subsidies do not harm the interests of other members or affect normal international trade, and are in line with the WTO's principle of non-discrimination?
- How will the [trade policies] contribute to decarbonisation and the achievement of climate goals without becoming a form of trade protectionism.
- How do you intend to implement these incentives so that the domestic content requirements do not create a distortion in the markets and foreign manufacturers and investors of similar products under similar conditions are not put at a disadvantage?
- In formulating environmental policies and measures, have you given any consideration to how to ensure that such measures, while aiming to achieve the environmental goals, would not create barriers hampering international trade and competition?