

**Trade Policy Review Body**

**TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM**

Report of the Trade Policy Review Body for 2011

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Mario Matus (Chile)

1. This Report by the Trade Policy Review Body provides a brief assessment of the TPRM, and reports on the reviews of Members conducted in 2011. Tables are annexed showing the Members that will have been reviewed up to the end of 2011, the geographical coverage of the reviews conducted to date, as well as the proposed programme of reviews for 2012.

Activities of the TPRM

2. The TPRB is required to periodically review the trade policies and practices of all Members. By the end of 2011, the TPRB will have conducted 338 reviews since its formation, at 254 review meetings (Annex I). The reviews have covered 141 of 153 Members, representing some 89% of world trade and 96% of the trade of Members.<sup>1</sup> The trade policies and practices of one Member were reviewed for the first time in 2011.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Trade Policy Review Body will have conducted 14 reviews in 2011 (Annex II).<sup>3</sup> The Secretariat's reports continue to be prepared in close consultation with the authorities of the Member under review.

4. Procedures for the reviews conducted in 2011 have run smoothly. Responses to requests for documentation and questionnaires have normally been provided at or close to the requested dates. In line with recent practice, the Secretariat has attempted to reduce the burden on Members under review of providing responses by using, to the extent possible, alternative sources of documentation, including Members' official web-sites or other authentic sites on the Internet. It has not been possible to do this for all Members under review, and requests for documentation continue to be followed up with a detailed questionnaire when sufficient information is not available from alternative sources. Secretariat visits to capitals have continued to be productive, and comments provided on Secretariat drafts have been pertinent; close contact with the Member under review is necessary to help ensure the factual accuracy and clarity of the documentation prepared for the Review.

5. Efforts continue to be made to space meetings of the TPRB as evenly as possible throughout the year and to avoid clashes with other meetings at the WTO so as to reduce pressure on Members.

6. The Trade Policy Review programme for 2012 comprises 20 review meetings for 26 Members (Annex III).

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<sup>1</sup> Members not reviewed at end 2011 are: Cap Verde, Cuba, Guinea Bissau, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Macedonia, Moldova, Myanmar, Nepal, Tonga, Ukraine, and Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup> Cambodia.

<sup>3</sup> Three reviews scheduled for 2011 had to be moved to January/February 2012 to make way in the calendar for MC8.

Coverage of least developed countries (LDCs)

7. Of the 32 least developed Members of the WTO, 29 will have been reviewed by the end of 2011.<sup>4</sup>

8. Trade Policy Reviews of LDCs have increasingly performed a technical assistance function along with increasing understanding of the trade policy structure in place and its relationship with the WTO Agreements. The reviews have helped to enhance understanding in these countries of the WTO Agreements, enabling better compliance and integration in the multilateral trading system; in some cases, better interaction between government agencies has been facilitated by the reviews. The reports' wide coverage of Members' policies also enables Members to identify any shortcomings in policy, and specific areas where further technical assistance may be required. The Secretariat Report includes a section on technical assistance and aid-for-trade needs and priorities, as identified in cooperation with the Member concerned, prepared in close collaboration with staff of the secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework as well as the WTO's Development Division and Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation.

9. When requested by the Member concerned, the Secretariat organizes ex-post seminars to discuss the outcome of the trade policy review process with domestic stakeholders. No seminars were conducted in 2011.

Monitoring of trade and trade-related measures

10. The TPRM requires Members, in between their reviews, to provide information on significant trade policy changes. The WTO Secretariat uses this and other information to prepare reports by the Director-General on a regular basis on the trade and trade-related developments of Members and Observer Governments. The reports are discussed at informal meetings of the TPRB.<sup>5</sup> The WTO Secretariat consults closely with delegations to gather complete, up-to-date and accurate information on their trade and trade-related measures, and has received good cooperation. The information is consolidated and presented in the Director-General's Annual Report on Developments in the International Trading Environment, as called for by paragraph G of Annex 3. The 2011 Annual Report will be discussed by the TPRB in December 2011.

11. A symposium was held on 1 July 2011 for TPRB Members to discuss the Financial and Economic Crisis and the Role of the WTO.

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<sup>4</sup> The least developed countries reviewed since the establishment of the Mechanism are: Angola, Bangladesh (three times), Benin (three times), Burkina Faso (three times), Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gambia (twice), Republic of Guinea (three times), Haiti, Lesotho (three times), Madagascar (twice), Malawi (twice), Maldives, Mali (three times), Mauritania (twice), Mozambique (twice), Niger (twice), Rwanda, Senegal (three times), Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands (twice), Tanzania (twice), Togo (twice), Uganda (three times), and Zambia (three times).

<sup>5</sup> An informal meeting of the TPRB was held on 21 June 2011 to discuss the trade monitoring report contained in document WT/TPR/OV/W/5.

**Annex I**

**TRADE POLICY REVIEWS  
WTO Members reviewed, 1989-2011**

Europe/Middle East	Asia/Pacific	Africa	America
Albania	Australia (6)	Angola <sup>b</sup>	Argentina (3)
Armenia	Bangladesh <sup>b</sup> (3)	Benin <sup>b,2</sup> (3)	Antigua and Barbuda <sup>2</sup> (2)
Austria <sup>1</sup>	Brunei Darussalam (2)	Botswana <sup>2</sup> (3)	Barbados (2)
Bahrain (2)	Cambodia <sup>a,b</sup>	Burkina Faso <sup>b,2</sup> (3)	Belize (2)
Bulgaria <sup>1</sup>	China (3)	Burundi <sup>b</sup>	Bolivia (3)
Croatia	Fiji (2)	Cameroon <sup>2</sup> (3)	Brazil (5)
Cyprus <sup>1</sup>	Georgia	Chad <sup>b</sup>	Canada (9)
Czech Republic <sup>1</sup> (2)	Hong Kong, China (6)	Central African Republic <sup>b</sup>	Chile (4)
European Union (10)	India (5)	Congo, D.R. <sup>b</sup>	Colombia (3)
Finland <sup>1</sup>	Indonesia (5)	Congo, Rep. of	Costa Rica (3)
Hungary <sup>1</sup> (2)	Japan (10)	Côte d'Ivoire	Dominica <sup>2</sup> (2)
Iceland (3)	Korea, Rep. of (5)	Djibouti <sup>b</sup>	Dominican Republic (3)
Israel (3)	Kyrgyz Republic	Egypt (3)	Ecuador (2)
Liechtenstein <sup>2</sup> (3)	Macao, China (3)	Gabon <sup>2</sup> (2)	El Salvador (3)
Norway (5)	Malaysia (5)	Gambia <sup>b</sup> (2)	Guatemala (2)
Poland <sup>1</sup> (2)	Maldives <sup>b</sup> (2)	Ghana (3)	Grenada <sup>2</sup> (2)
Qatar	Mongolia	Guinea, Republic of <sup>b</sup> (3)	Guyana (2)
Romania <sup>1</sup> (3)	New Zealand (4)	Kenya <sup>2</sup> (3)	Haiti <sup>b</sup>
Slovak Republic <sup>1</sup> (2)	Pakistan (3)	Lesotho <sup>b,2</sup> (3)	Honduras (2)
Slovenia <sup>1</sup>	Papua New Guinea (2)	Madagascar <sup>b</sup> (2)	Jamaica (3)
Sweden <sup>1</sup> (2)	Philippines (3)	Malawi <sup>b</sup> (2)	Mexico (4)
Switzerland <sup>2</sup> (5)	Singapore (5)	Mali <sup>2</sup> (3)	Nicaragua (2)
Turkey (4)	Solomon Islands <sup>b</sup> (2)	Mauritania <sup>b</sup> (2)	Panama
United Arab Emirates	Sri Lanka (3)	Mauritius (3)	Paraguay (3)
Jordan	Chinese Taipei (2)	Morocco (4)	Peru (3)
Oman	Thailand (6)	Mozambique <sup>b</sup> (2)	St.Kitts and Nevis <sup>2</sup> (2)
		Namibia <sup>2</sup> (3)	St.Lucia <sup>2</sup> (2)
		Niger <sup>b,2</sup> (2)	St.Vincent & Grenadines <sup>2</sup> (2)
		Nigeria (4)	Suriname
		Rwanda <sup>b</sup>	Trinidad and Tobago (2)
		Senegal <sup>b,2</sup> (3)	United States (10)
		Sierra Leone <sup>b</sup>	Uruguay (3)
		South Africa <sup>2</sup> (4)	Venezuela (2)
		Swaziland <sup>2</sup> (3)	
		Tanzania <sup>b,2</sup> (2)	
		Togo <sup>b</sup> (2)	
		Tunisia (2)	
		Uganda <sup>b,2</sup> (3)	
		Zambia <sup>b</sup> (3)	
		Zimbabwe (2)	
42 Members (60 reviews)	26 Members (91 reviews)	40 Members (92 reviews)	33 Members (95 reviews)

( ) Number of reviews completed where this is greater than one.

a First review in 2011.

b Least developed Member.

1 Now included in European Union (EU27).

2 Joint review but counted as individual Members for statistical purposes from 2009.

Reviews conducted at end-2011 = 338 reviews at 254 review meetings

WTO Members reviewed = 141 out of 153 Members

Least developed WTO Members reviewed = 29 out of 32

Share of world trade of WTO Members reviewed  
(excluding significant double counting and intra-EC trade) = around 89%

**Annex II****Trade Policy Reviews conducted in 2011**

<b>Member<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Meeting date (scheduled)</b>	<b>Review cycle (years)</b>
Jamaica (3)	18/01/2011	6
Japan (10)	15/02/2011	2
Australia (6)	05/04/2011	4
Paraguay (3)	27/04/2011	6
Canada (9)	20/06/2011	4
Nigeria (4)	28/06/2011	6
European Union (10)	06/07/2011	2
India (5)	14/09/2011	4
Guinea Conakry* (3)	28/09/2011	6
Mauritania* (2)	28/09/2011	6
Zimbabwe (2)	19/10/2011	6
Cambodia*	01/11/2011	6
Ecuador (2)	14/11/2011	6
Thailand (6)	28/11/2011	4

\* Least developed country.

a Figures in brackets indicate number of reviews.

**Annex III****Proposed programme of reviews for 2012**

Two-year cycle	China; United States
Four-year cycle	Korea, Rep. of; Norway; Singapore; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Turkey
Six-year cycle	Bangladesh*; Colombia; Côte d'Ivoire; EAC (Kenya, Tanzania*, Uganda*, Burundi*, Rwanda*); Guinea Bissau*; Iceland; Israel; Kuwait; Nepal*; Nicaragua; the Philippines; Trinidad and Tobago; Togo*; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay

\* Least developed country.