

2023

# WTO Technical Assistance Annual Report

Back to satisfactory  
results

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**WTO**  
**Technical Assistance**  
Annual Report

Back to satisfactory results

2023

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## Foreword

*by* WTO Deputy Director-General Zhang



After three years of uncertainty, the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are now well behind us. In 2023, WTO Technical Assistance (TA) returned to its full operational capacity. The few activities that could not resume properly in 2022 were successfully relaunched in 2023, bringing the volume of activities back to pre-pandemic levels.

More than just a year of recovery, 2023 witnessed the first visible signs of sustainable transformation in TA delivery. We have emerged from this unprecedented crisis better

prepared and equipped. The constraints of the last few years and their associated effects have pushed us in a forced march towards reinventing our practices and our TA offerings. We continue to draw on the invaluable experience we have gained and to translate it into good practice.

One of the most obvious developments has been the integration and taming of digital technology in our operations. The 'blended' delivery mode, which combines face-to-face, e-Learning and virtual, is now increasingly

“More than just a year of recovery, 2023 witnessed the first visible signs of sustainable transformation in technical assistance delivery.

embedded in our training programmes. This leads to a more efficient use of Members' limited resources to maximise the relevance and effectiveness of the TA provided by the WTO.

I would like to congratulate the Members and the Secretariat for their resilience and tenacity, which have nurtured a rapid and dynamic recovery. I am particularly proud to note that in 2023, the participation of least-developed countries, one of the core TA target groups, returned sharply upwards. On the other hand, national activities are regaining momentum, driven by a dynamic demand which demonstrates beneficiaries' keen attention to obtaining tailored support to meet their needs.

I am equally delighted that the increase in activity was mirrored by significant progress in terms of results. WTO TA achieved in 2023 the best success rate of the last five years, with almost 80% of targets fully or partially met. This shows that we are capable of effectively adapting to the needs of TA beneficiaries, even in times of crisis.

Among the vast array of activities and topics covered by the WTO TA portfolio in 2023, this annual report

highlights a few initiatives that bear witness to this continuing drive for results-based performance. The initiatives in the spotlight include: TA support deployed to provide Members with more clarity on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies with a view to facilitating ratification and participation in the related negotiations, the thriving action-oriented TA approaches on transparency obligations, and TA needs of Geneva-based delegates that are being better taken into account.

Finally, our donors should be congratulated for their generous contributions throughout these difficult times. Without their continuous support, a large part of what is presented in this report would not have been possible.

Xiangchen Zhang  
Deputy Director-General

Acronyms

<b>ACWL</b>	Advisory Centre on WTO Law	<b>RCI</b>	Regional Coordinator Internship Programme
<b>AIP</b>	Accession Internship Programme	<b>RTPC</b>	Regional Trade Policy Course
<b>ATPC</b>	Advanced Trade Policy Course	<b>SCORM</b>	Sharable Content Object Reference Model
<b>CEECAC</b>	Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>CHF</b>	Swiss Francs	<b>STC</b>	Specific Trade Concern
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>TAMS</b>	Technical Assistance Management System
<b>FIMIP</b>	French and Irish Missions Internship Programme	<b>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>GPA</b>	Government Procurement Agreement	<b>TPR</b>	Trade Policy Review
<b>GTF</b>	Global Trust Fund	<b>TRIPS</b>	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
<b>IFD</b>	Investment Facilitation for Development	<b>WCP</b>	WTO Chairs Programme
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>ITPC</b>	Introductory Trade Policy Course	<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization
<b>JVI</b>	Joint Vienna Institute	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country	<b>YPP</b>	Young Professional Programme
<b>LMS</b>	Learning management System		
<b>MC12</b>	Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference		
<b>MC13</b>	Thirteen WTO Ministerial Conference		
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise		
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization		
<b>NTP</b>	Netherlands Trainee Programme		
<b>PLS</b>	Progressive Learning Strategy		
<b>RBM</b>	Result-Based Management		

Executive summary



- **WTO TA saw its results start to bounce back in 2023, after three years of decline provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, whose scars are still visible.**
- **The volume of TA activities returned to its pre-pandemic levels, although participation has yet to fully catch up.**
- **More engaging and action-oriented TA programmes with a lasting impact have gained momentum, particularly those related to notifications, supporting growing levels of compliance with transparency requirements.**
- **TA has continued to support Members' engagement in the negotiations on a second Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, while encouraging prompt ratification of the first Agreement.**
- **New initiatives were launched in 2023 to meet the capacity-building needs of Geneva-based WTO delegates.**

# Executive summary

## Higher participation, better results

Overall, the TA success rate in 2023 (79%), as measured under the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach approved by Members, was higher than the average of the three pandemic years 2020-2022 (66%) and in line with the last three pre-pandemic years 2017-2019 (80%).

Achieved targets (60%) increased significantly after their historic low in 2022 (39%), since a lower proportion of targets were partially met or not met (19% instead of 27% in 2022 in both instances).

This upturn in results was accompanied by an overall increase in the volume of activities and participation. During the year, WTO TA trained 16,095 participants through 301 activities. This represents an increase of 32% and 24% respectively over the previous year. However, while the volume of TA activities has returned to pre-pandemic levels, participation has not yet fully recovered. An important indicator of the level of demand for TA by Members, i.e., the number of requests for national activities, surged by 60% after hitting record lows in the three-year period 2020-22.

The majority of TA participants (59%) engaged in e-Learning self-paced courses, followed by face-to-face courses (35%). The delivery of virtual courses launched in 2020 to replicate the in person training experience gradually lost its attractiveness, gathering around 6% of participants. In general, an increasing number of activities combined elements of these three delivery methods offering a blended learning approach. After almost disappearing in virtual delivery, pedagogical methods such as simulations, participation in Committee meetings, coaching of participants and development of action plans were back in 2023. These methods proved particularly effective in encouraging the application in the workplace of what participants learned, increasing the return on participation for beneficiary institutions.

Any success is first and foremost the result of the work of Members themselves. However, a multiplicity of evidence gathered during the year confirmed that WTO TA contributed to strengthening the institutional capacity of beneficiary Members in terms of trade policy formulation, legislative compliance, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of international trade agreements. Several examples of these achievements are presented in this report.

Up to 98% and 95% of participants passed the final exam of the Advanced Trade Policy Courses (ATPCs) and the Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs), respectively. The proportion of participants awarded a distinction (i.e., achieving a success rate of 90% and above) was about a quarter in both courses. Excluding the distinction rate in RTPCs, which almost doubled, these results were in line with those of the previous year. Finally, in e-Learning, the success rate of participants was 70%, of which 61% earned a certificate of distinction. Only 28% of e-learners dropped out compared to 49% the previous year.

The learning-by-doing offer comprising internships and the young professionals programme attracted 65 participants, the highest number ever recorded for such programmes. The interns and young professionals joined the Secretariat or the Permanent Missions in Geneva to enhance their knowledge while working on trade-related matters. Except for one, all of them met the performance expectations, with more than one third of them exceeding those targets.



# In the *spotlight*

The report presents in three special focus sections the TA programmes which constituted the highlights of WTO TA in 2023:

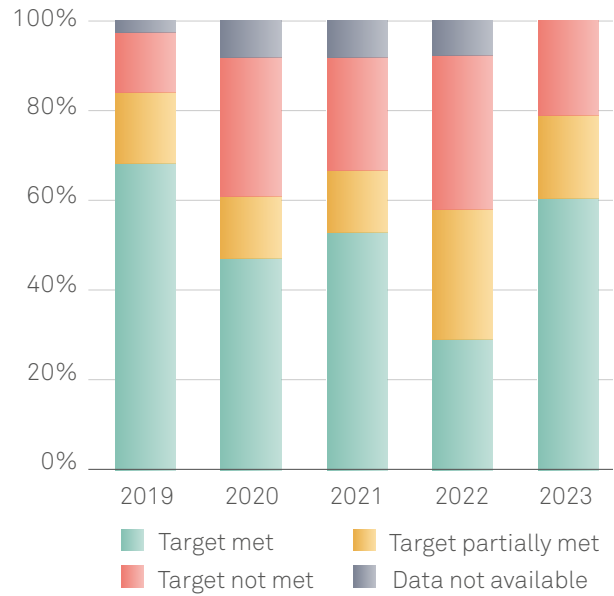
- **Action-oriented comprehensive programmes to stimulate compliance with notification obligations.**
- **World-wide series of regional workshops to support the negotiations on Fisheries subsidies and the ratification of the first Agreement on this subject adopted in June 2022.**
- **TA tailored to the needs of Geneva-based delegates to help them fulfil their mandate at the service of their countries.**

These three programmes are producing very encouraging results which are analysed in the report.





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Continued support for Members and Observers

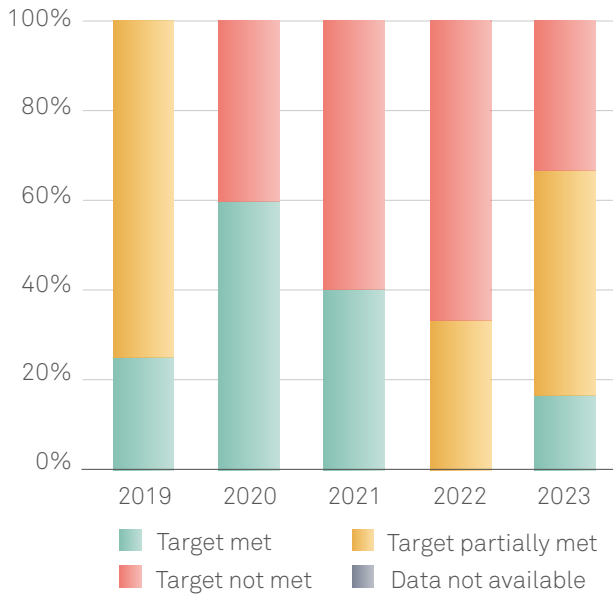
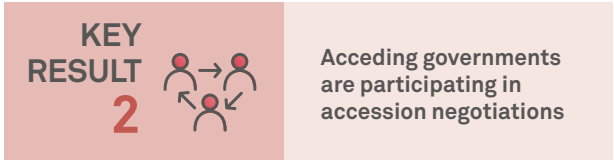
TA mainly targets government officials from developing and Least Developed Country Members and Observers. The objective is to enhance beneficiaries' capacity to better comply with their obligations under the WTO Agreements and to make full use of their rights.

Overall, the level of activity of beneficiary Members in the WTO was higher in 2023 compared to the previous year. The number of 'substantial' documents issued by these Members – a proxy indicator for their involvement in the work of the WTO bodies – increased by 19% when compared to the previous year. Efforts to enhance transparency in trade regulations and notifications led to a notable reduction in the backlog of outstanding

notifications under different WTO Agreements. Beneficiaries' average notification backlog decreased by 3%, with an extensive use of online platforms to complete these procedures. Several action-oriented trainings were provided during the year to support the beneficiaries' efforts in this domain.

Another proxy indicator is the ability of these Members to raise new Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) in relation to measures that may affect their trade. In 2023, beneficiary Members raised again the majority of new STCs on, for example, Market Access issues, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures or Technical Barriers to Trade, albeit at a slower pace than in the previous year.

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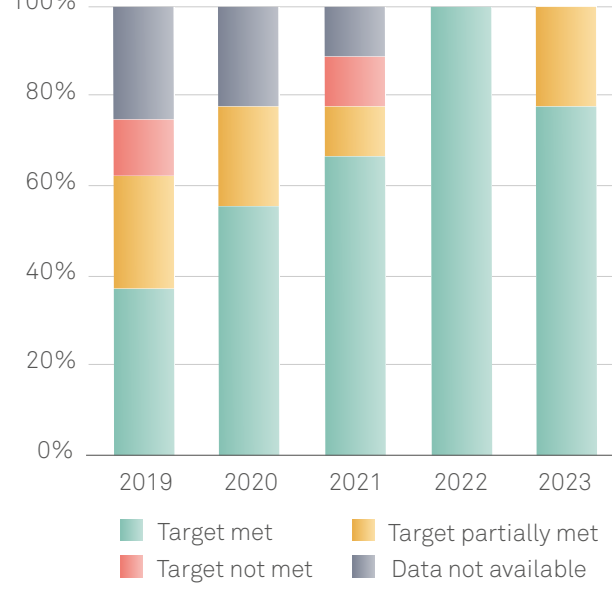


Accompanying new accessions

Another TA objective is to support the accession of new Members to the WTO. 2023 was marked by a heightened level of accession-related technical assistance activity, especially for LDCs, as Comoros and Timor-Leste completed the final stages of their accession. Bhutan moved from inactive observer in 2022 to active in 2023 and Turkmenistan launched its discussions with Members.

Nine formal Working Group meetings were held (more than double the number of the previous year) for Azerbaijan, Comoros, Timor-Leste, and Uzbekistan; and eight accession-related documents were prepared or reviewed (one more than in 2022).

Regarding plurilateral Agreements, the Parties agreed in mid-2023 on the appointment of the Chair of the Committee on Government Procurement (CGP), thus breaking an almost two-year impasse. This boosted TA results in this domain, i.e., the number of meetings and interventions made by TA-eligible Members in the CGP. However, the circulation of accession related documents decreased compared to the previous year.



WTO Chairs programme

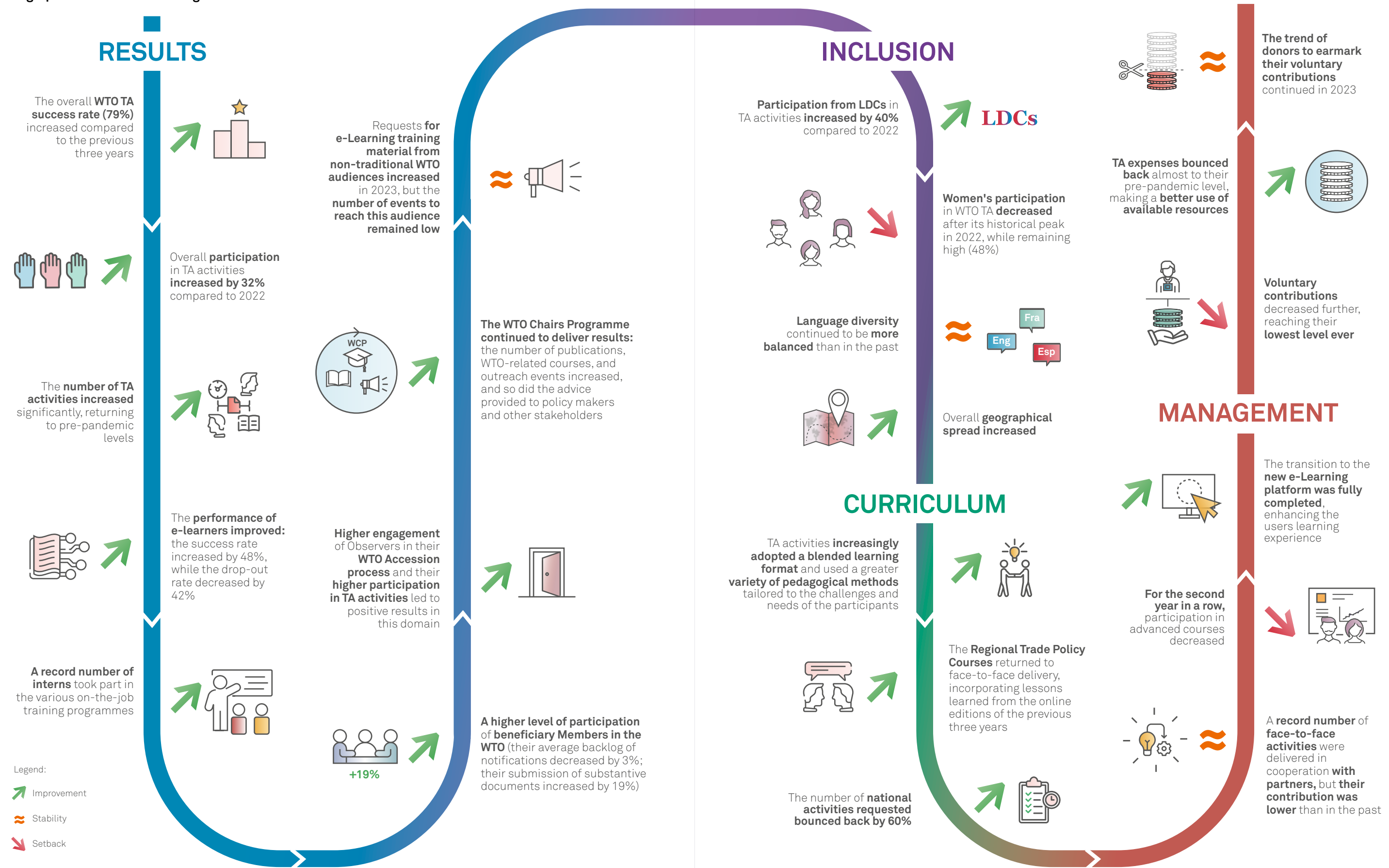
The WTO is partnering with local universities and researchers to expand knowledge about trade and WTO-related issues in developing Members and Observers. The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) has been supporting academics and their teams since 2010 to foster research, adaptation of university curricula and dissemination of results among policy makers.

Phase III of the WCP, which started in 2022, continued in 2023 on a bright note with its 16 participating chairs. Almost all benchmark indicators showed higher levels of results than in the previous year. The number of publications increased by 36%, as did the number of new or updated WTO-related courses (almost doubled), the number of outreach events (+10%), and the advice provided to policymakers and stakeholders (+37%).

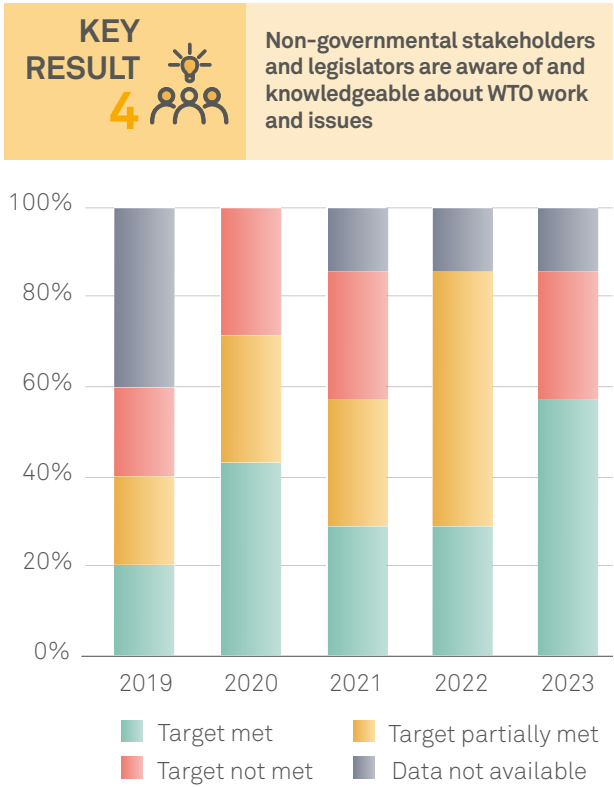


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Infographic 1. 2023 results at a glance



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Growing outreach to non-traditional actors

WTO TA also targets other stakeholders (such as legislators, the media or civil society) through outreach activities and courses. Four activities were organised for this audience as in 2022: three for journalists and one for legislators. These activities focused on the challenges facing the multilateral trading system, general understanding of WTO-related issues and preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. Meanwhile, demand for training materials by the academia or private actors surged in 2023 after years of gradual decline.

The WTO went on to strengthen its use of social media and other platforms and channels to spread awareness of trade issues among different audiences. Its number of social media followers and of views of TA webpages and news items increased in 2023.

Fostering inclusion

Efforts to make TA accessible to LDCs and inclusive in terms of gender, geography, and language continued in 2023.

LDCs remain a priority for the WTO TA. The fact that Africa was again the region with the largest number

of participants in TA activities in 2023, followed by Asia-Pacific, reinforced this priority, as all the LDCs except one are in these two regions. They were invited to 70% of all WTO TA activities organised in 2023, including activities focuses only on LDCs and their priorities. The share of participants from LDCs increased by nine percentage points compared to 2022, reaching 31% of all learners. However, the number of LDCs taking part in TA activities decreased slightly from 42 different Members and Observers in 2022 to 39 in 2023. LDCs accounted for 18% of the requests for national activities in 2023, while almost half (46%) of trainees and young professionals and 38% of e-learners were participants from LDCs.

After a record-breaking 2022, in which more women (51%) than men participated in WTO trainings for the first time, the ratio fell to 48% in 2023, the second-best performance ever along with that achieved in 2019.

Participation increased in all regions, with the exception of the Middle East, where geopolitical turmoil and security concerns played a major role, especially in the second half of the year. The proportion of languages used to conduct the TA activities has not changed much since 2021 and was more balanced than in pre-pandemic years. Half of all TA activities – both e-Learning and face-to-face – were conducted in English (52%), while the use of French and Spanish accounted for 21% and 23% of activities respectively. Finally, 15 activities (12 global and 3 regional) were conducted with interpretation in 2023.

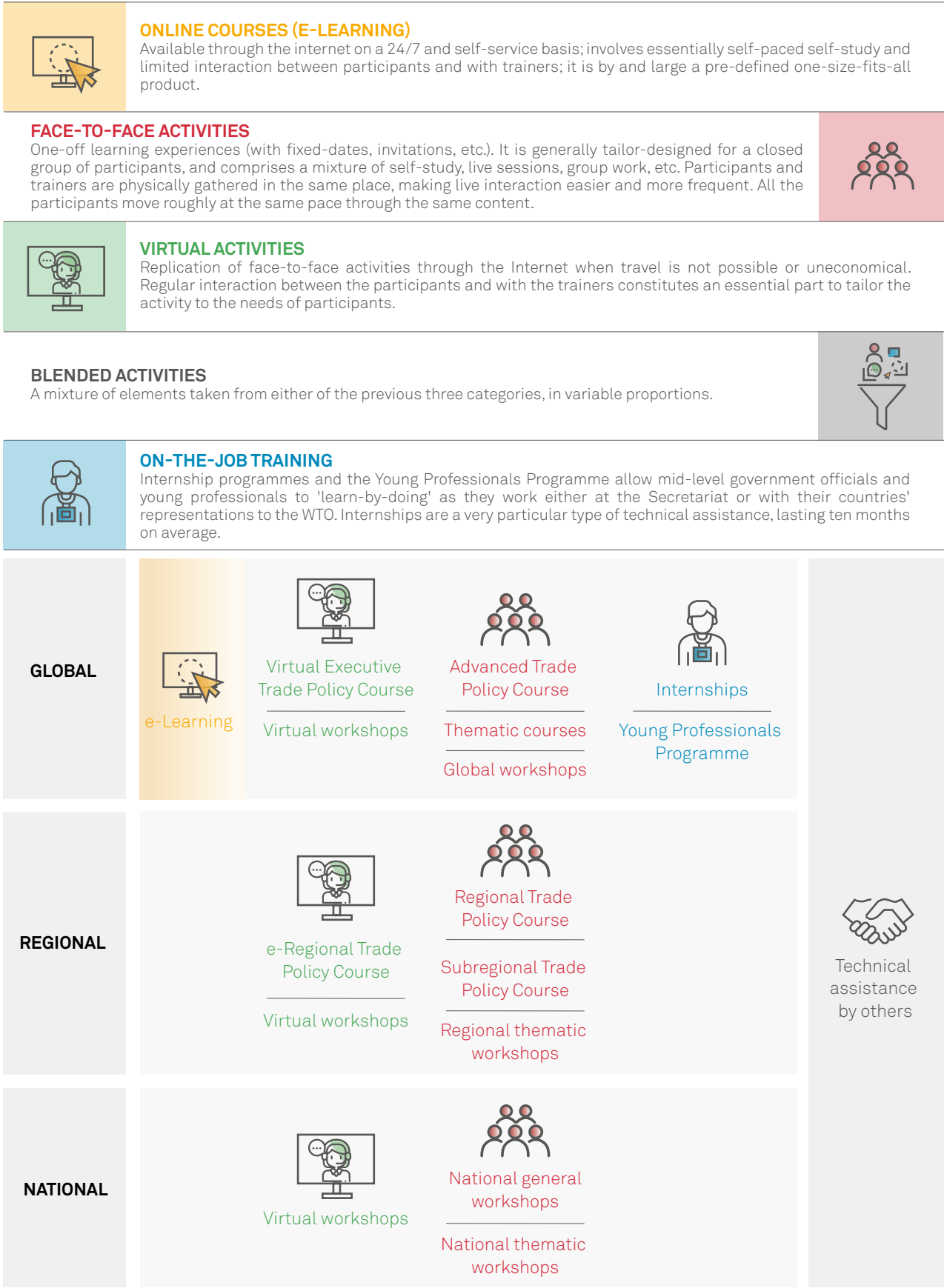
TA expenses rise, resources shrink

The resources available to finance TA activities continued to decrease in 2023. Whilst the share financed through the Regular Budget and by earmarked voluntary contributions were somewhat stable, unearmarked voluntary contributions, which had traditionally absorbed a good half of the funding, reached an historic low of CHF 3 million.

The full resumption of travel and face-to-face TA activities in 2023 sent the TA expenses back almost to their pre-pandemic level. Total expenses reached CHF 15 million during the year, twice the amount in 2022, thanks to the cash reserves accumulated during the pandemic. The current imbalance between expenses and resources is not sustainable, however.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Infographic 2. Visual map of TA Activities



# Acknowledging donors

Donor funding is essential to continue providing technical assistance to TA beneficiaries. The WTO Technical Assistance programmes are financed by the WTO Secretariat's regular budget, supplemented by extra-budgetary funds. The extra-budgetary funds represent the main channel through which the following WTO Members' voluntary contributions in recent years support the technical assistance activities.



Since 2007, voluntary contributions for TA have been declining. In 2023, unearmarked voluntary contributions reached their lowest level in 25 years, with a total of CHF 3 million, equivalent to 13% of the annual contributions received during the peak years of 2006-2009.



From 2003 to 2023 the EU has contributed approximately CHF 32,504,606 to the various WTO trust funds.





“Non-earmarked contributions give the WTO Secretariat the possibility to be more flexible in designing technical assistance for those most in need.

Interview with João Aguiar Machado,  
European Union Ambassador to the WTO



**The European Union (EU) is one of the most regular and long-standing contributors to the Global Trust Fund, which finances a sizeable proportion of WTO Technical Assistance activities. What explains your constant commitment?**

All WTO Members should be able to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system. Trade-related technical assistance activities and training via the WTO Global Trust Fund are important factors in supporting developing countries, including least-developed countries, to increase and deepen their knowledge of the WTO, to implement WTO rules, and to benefit more fully from the multilateral trading system.

Increasing global challenges underline the need for more multilateral governance and rules-based international cooperation. The WTO and the multilateral trading system remain a central element of EU trade policy. A system of global rules has proven to be the best way to ensure that trade between all countries is

fair and open. The stability and predictability provided by the rules-based multilateral trading system is a key factor in supporting sustainable development and helping deliver structural transformation in developing countries.

The European Union has contributed to the WTO Global Trust Fund since its creation in 2002, and, together with its Member States, is the most important donor, on top of its Aid for Trade worldwide (around 40% of global Aid for Trade).

Overall, the European Union has contributed CHF 33 million (EUR 34.6 million) to the various WTO trust funds over more than 20 years.

**The EU does not earmark its voluntary contributions for any specific technical assistance programme, which is much appreciated. Could you explain the rationale behind your approach?**

When international organizations such as the WTO are eligible for funding, the EU traditionally does not earmark its contributions.

The idea is that the WTO Secretariat has the full overview of needs and priorities requested by



developing countries, including least-developed countries. One aim of the Secretariat is to improve the quality and effectiveness of its technical assistance by focusing on those programmes and activities that have the highest potential to produce relevant results for these beneficiaries.

Non-earmarked contributions give the WTO Secretariat the possibility to be more flexible in designing technical assistance for those most in need. This is particularly important when budget resources are scarce.

**What aspects of the technical assistance that the WTO provides to its developing Members do you think best support your vision for the multilateral trading system?**

At the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13), Members agreed to further strengthen the WTO and the multilateral trading system in order to respond to current global challenges.

To boost the reform process, the European Union recognizes the importance of tailor-made and sustainable financial and technical assistance programmes. These

should be targeted to support those developing country Members with capacity constraints, including least developed countries, to enhance their capacity to implement WTO Agreements, monitor trade policy developments, and participate in WTO negotiations effectively. We welcome the recent MC13 decision, allowing countries to continue benefiting from LDC-specific technical assistance and capacity building for three more years after graduating from LDC status. Also, we welcome Ministers' intention to improve technical assistance to support developing Members to respond to notifications for technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

The EU sees a need to continue technical assistance activities at national, regional and multilateral level. We welcome a continued push to share best practices and experiences among Members, as well as to increase transparency related to technical assistance.

**How do you approach the future capacity-building needs of LDCs and developing WTO Members?**

Continued support for Aid for Trade is one of the pillars of the EU's partnership with LDCs and developing WTO Members. Capacity building is an important element in this support. The EU's approach to meet the future needs of our partner countries will remain at three levels, global, regional, and bilateral. Moreover, this is embedded in our Global Gateway strategy, which is the EU's all-encompassing offer to our partners. This includes, next to quality investments for sustainable and trusted connections and to fight climate change, also a wide range of support to boost competitiveness, and to strengthen global and regional supply chains. Global Gateway takes a 360-degree approach to partner countries' needs and our shared interests, combining a mix of grants, concessional loans, and

guarantees to de-risk private sector investments, plus a number of operational tools such as technical assistance, policy dialogue and trade. For capacity building to be most effective, it is essential to properly identify the partner country needs, so I hope that all developing Members will liaise with my colleagues in our Delegations around the world to discuss topics that should be prioritized.

**What do you see as the main challenges or areas in need of further action in trade-related technical assistance that the WTO, the EU and other multilateral partners need to prepare for?**

For a multitude of reasons, we do see an increase in the development and trade-related challenges for developing WTO Members in general, and LDCs in particular. At the same time, development funding is not necessarily increasing and will in any case never be enough by itself to bring about the positive development outcomes we seek. This is an important challenge also for trade-related technical assistance. To address this challenge, the EU's Global Gateway strategy that I mentioned earlier, creates a new strategic framework to bring in more partners – including the private sector – and thus more financing towards development outcomes in our partner countries, but also with regard to the implementation of specific activities. Such public-private cooperation is in our view essential for the strengthening of capacities in trade-related ecosystems in our partner countries.

In that regard, the EU, and we hope the WTO and other partners likewise, will continue to support the implementation of WTO Agreements such as the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Equally, we see clear linkages between the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and the

current activities we already are undertaking for improving of the business and investment climate.

**Would you have any anecdote to share with us concerning the partnership of the EU with the WTO regarding TA?**

We always try to be transparent about our donations to the WTO. Stakeholders have a right to know who provides funding to the Organization, and of course, it is in our interest too. The WTO Director-General knows the power of showcasing Members' contributions very well and has used it to great effect through the videos about donations to the Fish Fund. However, it is not always easy to get the timing of transparency quite right. This is what my anecdote is about. Over the years the European Union has funded the participation of least-developed countries at the WTO's ministerial conferences. MC13 was no exception, and I believe that LDC Members really made their presence felt in plenary and through the accessions of Comoros and Timor-Leste, as well as side events on cotton and aid-for-trade. However, MC13 kept us all so busy, that I only signed the press release on the EU's funding of LDC participation at MC13 when the conference was already over. Well, I think publicity is good, but it is the contribution itself that really counts.

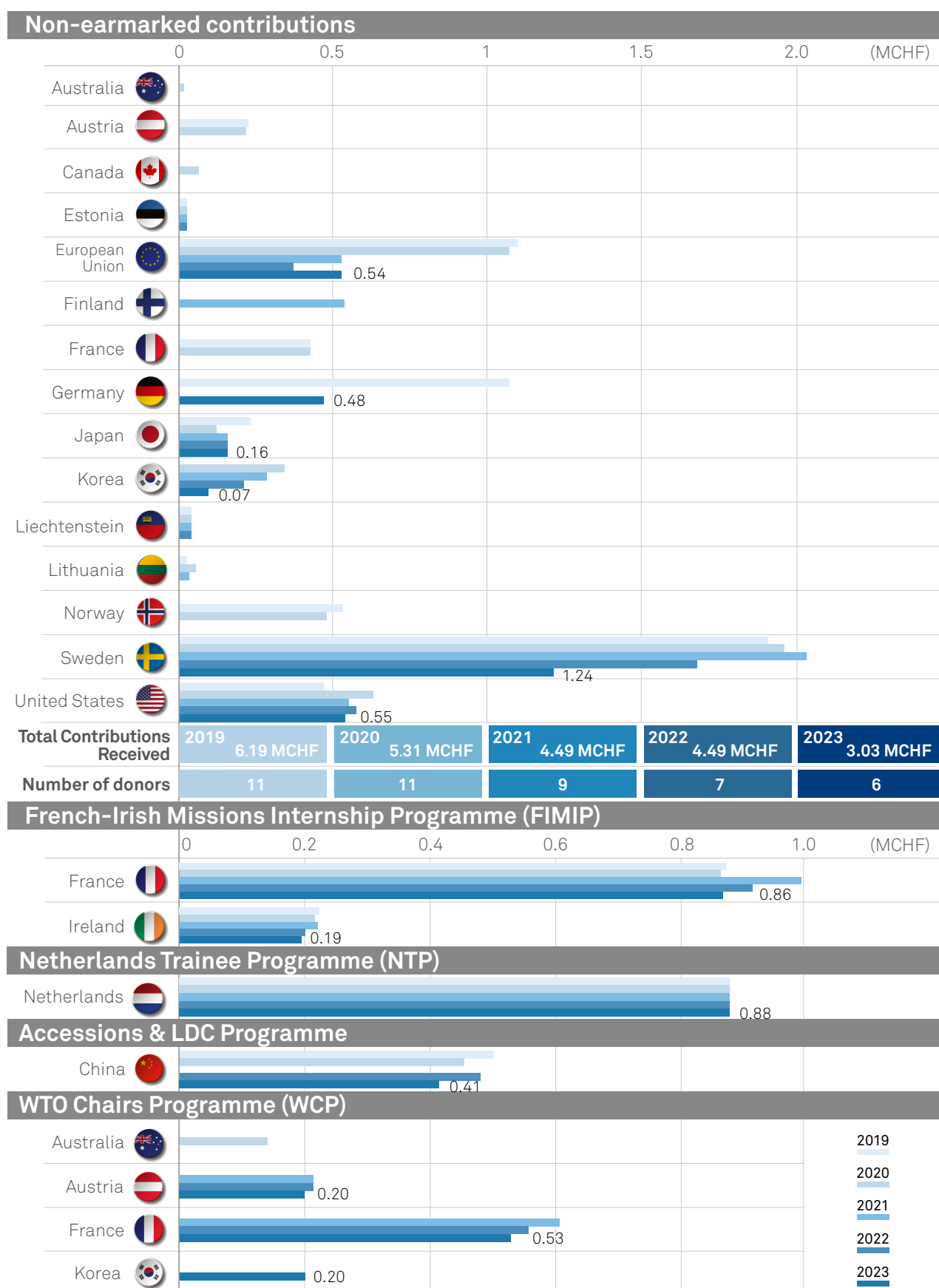
Press Release:  
EU donation





## ACKNOWLEDGING DONORS

Figure 1. Donor overview (2019–2023)



# Chapter 1

## Unpacking results, tracking impact



- With the number of TA activities and participation almost back to pre-pandemic levels, the overall success rate bounced back to almost 80% in 2023, while the proportion of missed targets shrank.
- Comoros and Timor-Leste received specifically tailored TA to support the finalisation of their accession processes. Renewed impetus in the work of the Committee on Government Procurement also stimulated demand for TA in this domain.
- 2023 recorded the highest number of participants to benefit from WTO TA internship programmes.
- The production of trade policy briefs by WTO Chairs was stepped up, along with conference papers, articles and book chapters. Advice provided to policymakers and other stakeholders also increased.
- Requests for e-Learning materials from non-traditional WTO audience increased significantly in 2023, suggesting a gradual shift towards self-learning opportunities from traditional face-to-face activities.

## RESULTS FOR IMPACT

### What are the goals of WTO Technical Assistance?

Technical Assistance (TA) is a core function of the WTO aiming to enhance human and institutional trade capacities in WTO Members and Observers. All WTO TA activities, courses and trainings are designed and delivered with the aim of producing specific and measurable results. These results must reflect the enhanced capacity of beneficiaries to enforce their rights and obligations, to take full advantage of the rules-based multilateral trading system, and to deal with the challenges and opportunities emerging from it.

In 2023, WTO TA pursued four Key Results:

1. Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realizing Members' rights and obligations.
2. Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations.
3. Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers.
4. Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues.

Each of these key results comprises several outputs, with indicators that allow to track progress and assess whether the established targets have been met. The logframe with all results, outputs and indicators is in annex 1.

Infographic 3. Key results



### Success rates pick up after 3 challenging years

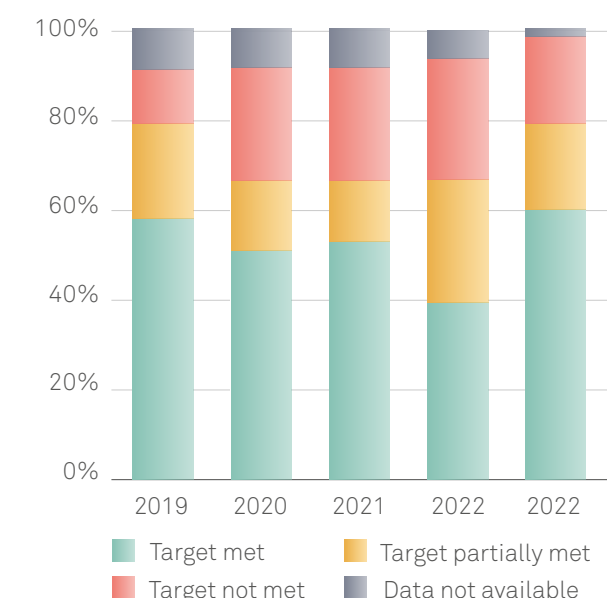
**79% of targets fully or partially met in 2023**

In 2023, WTO TA produced encouraging results which put an end to three years of uncertainty triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and marked by various shifts from face-to-face to virtual delivery and vice versa.

The proportion of targets fully met reached 60%. This represents the best overall result in five years, reversing three consecutive years of decline and surpassing the 58% achieved in 2019. At the same time, 19% of the targets were only narrowly missed, down from 27% in 2022 and 21% in 2019. However, the percentage of targets not met, although improved compared to the pandemic years, remained high at almost one fifth of the total targets (19% in 2023 compared with 12% in 2019).

Data availability, on the other hand, has significantly improved. Only one indicator, relating to the diversity of material on WTO-related issues produced by non-governmental actors, could not be measured in 2023 due to a lack of available data. This represents a 2% rate of non-available data, compared with an average of 8% in the previous four years.

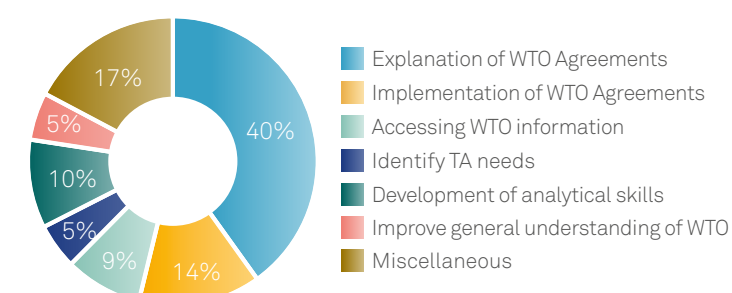
Figure 2. Success rate (2019–2023)



WTO TA and training

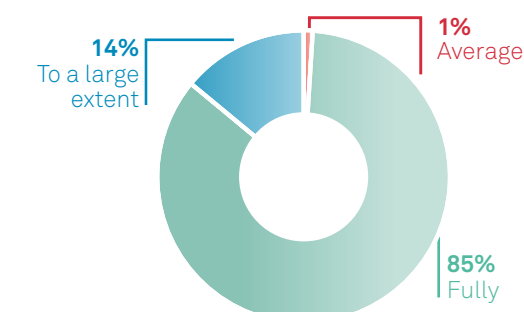


Figure 3. Objectives of TA activities in 2023



An exhaustive list of targets and indicators can be found in Annex 1.

Figure 4. Achievement of TA Objectives



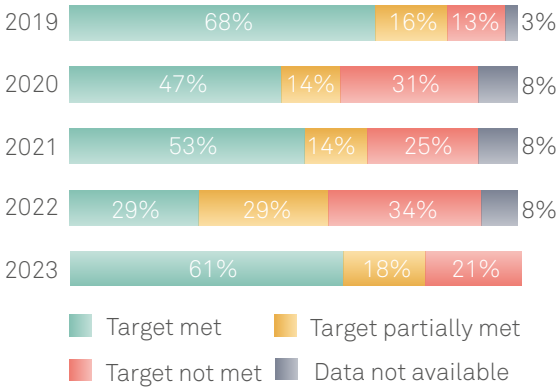
LEARNING SUCCESS

KEY RESULT

1



Implementation of WTO Agreements



Training courses back on track

The eight-week trade policy courses returned to face-to-face delivery in 2023. Four Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) were delivered in the Caribbean, Latin America, French-speaking Africa and English-speaking Africa. Three Advanced Trade Policy Courses (ATPCs) were held in Geneva, two in English and one in French.

The success rate (95%) and the rate of correct answers (80%) in the final graded assessments of the RTPCs in 2023 remained almost unchanged compared with the previous year. On the other hand, the proportion of participants awarded a distinction almost doubled, reaching 25%, although it remained below the 2017-19 average used as a baseline in the logframe (37%).

The ATPCs final assessments, introduced in 2022, recorded the same success rate of 98% as in previous years. However, the share of participants who were awarded a distinction decreased marginally from 28% to 26%. With the introduction of an end-of-course exam in the ATPCs, all generalist courses delivered by the WTO Secretariat in the three levels of the TA Progressive Learning Strategy (i.e., introductory, intermediate and advanced) now include a final assessment.



98% success rate

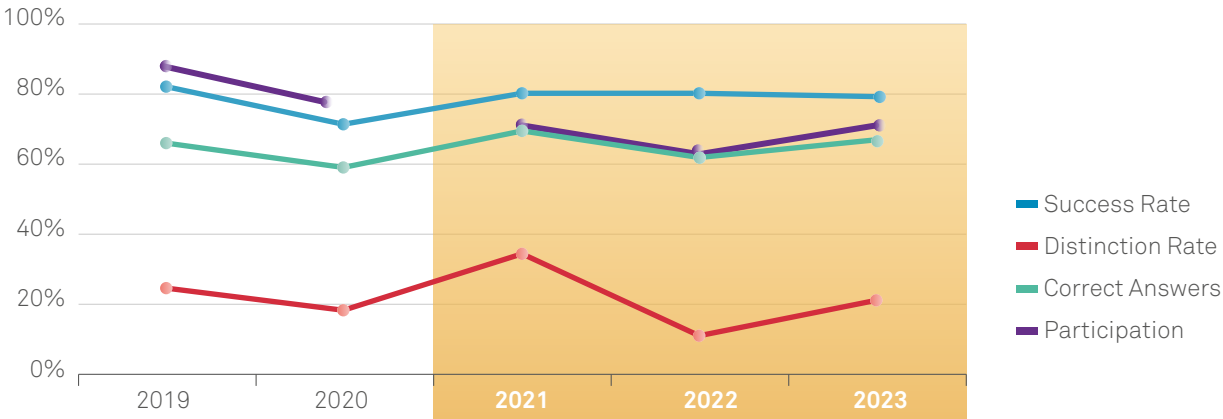
in ATPCs in 2023

Online courses also feature tools for assessing participants' performance, such as quizzes, case studies and interactive scenarios. In 2023, e-learners showed a strong commitment to completing their courses, with a substantial improvement in success and distinction rates compared with the previous year. The drop-out rate fell to 28%, which represents a significant improvement from the 49% recorded in 2022, yet higher than the 2017-19 baseline average of 24%.

WTO e-Learning platform

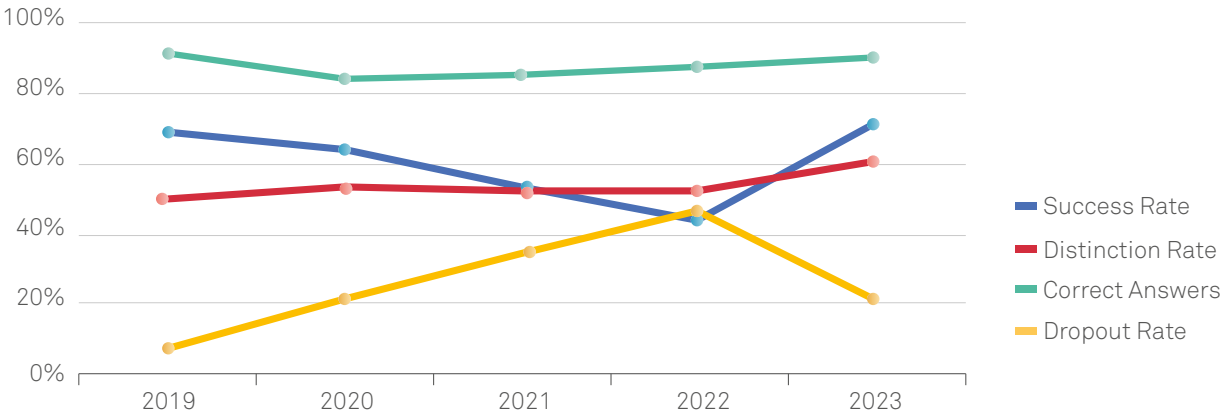


Figure 5. RTPC results (2019-2023)



As a result of the pandemic, participation could not be measured in 2020-21.

Figure 6. e-Learning Results (2019-2023)





## BOLSTERING TRANSPARENCY



**109 Pending notifications fulfilled**

Transparency is crucial for open and fair trade. Notification to the WTO of regulatory developments is the centrepiece of various Agreements. When Members duly communicate policies and regulations affecting foreign trade to trading partners, the business environment becomes more transparent and predictable, and trade prospects improve. In addition, notifications enable WTO Members to examine and address trade-related concerns in a timely manner. WTO TA aims at enhancing beneficiaries' capacities to meet their WTO transparency obligations, including the notification of new trade measures.

### Progress in complying with notifications to trading partners

Several WTO Agreements (such as those on Agriculture and Subsidies) require that notifications be submitted annually by Members. As a result, the overall volume

of required notifications mechanically increases every year. Despite this mechanical increase, the volume of outstanding notifications over time has been relatively stable, with an average of 3,241 recorded in the last nine years, as shown in figure 7.

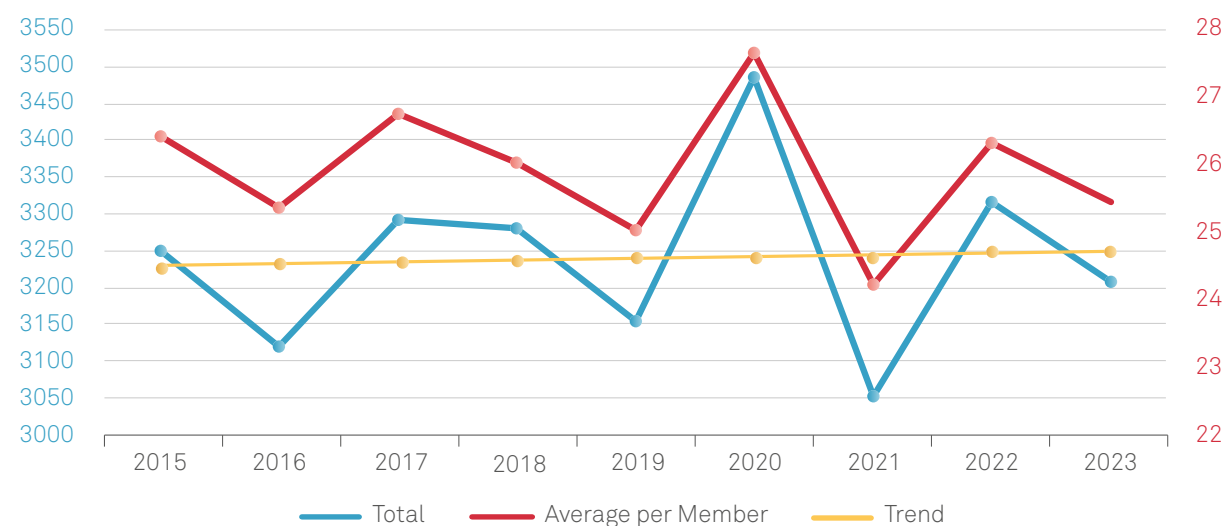
As at the end of 2023, the number of outstanding notifications under the different WTO Agreements dropped to 3,209. This represents a year-on-year decrease of 109 in the notification backlog. TA beneficiaries carried an average of 25.4 outstanding notifications, below the 2017-19 average of 26 used as a baseline in the logframe.

Whilst external factors may have played a role in these results, TA makes a significant contribution by providing beneficiary Members with the knowledge and skills they need to comply with their notification obligations.

Technical Cooperation  
Handbook on Notifications  
Requirement



Figure 7. TA Beneficiaries' pending notifications (2015-2023)



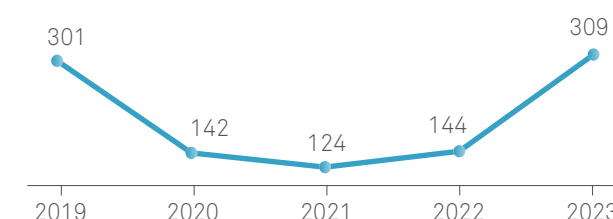
## Agriculture notifications

Agricultural notifications represented about 60% of total outstanding notifications over the last five years (66% in 2023). Since new agricultural notifications are added annually, tracking the effect of TA on agricultural notifications presents a statistical challenge. One approach is to report on the reductions in the backlog of outstanding notifications at the end of the preceding year. Efforts of TA beneficiaries in addressing the backlog of agricultural notifications is reflected in Figure 8. The backlog reduction pace in 2023 increased compared to the previous three years, returning to pre-pandemic levels.

This means that TA beneficiaries addressed the backlog of agricultural notifications at a faster pace than in the recent past. TA activities in 2023, such as the

national workshops on agriculture and notifications in El Salvador and Kazakhstan, or the advanced agriculture notifications workshop, contributed to a significant increase in notifications from participating Members.

Figure 8. Reduction in agricultural notifications backlog (2019-2023)



## SPS and TBT notifications

TA beneficiaries have maintained a rather high number of notification submissions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in recent years. Overall, developing and least-developed country Members submitted 83% of the new TBT notifications and 64% of the new SPS

notifications in 2023. As shown in figures 9 and 10, the performance of developing Members in the submission of new standards notifications has been fairly constant since 2014, while the trend for least-developed country Members is gradually increasing.

Figure 9. Submission of new TBT notifications by development status (2014-2023)

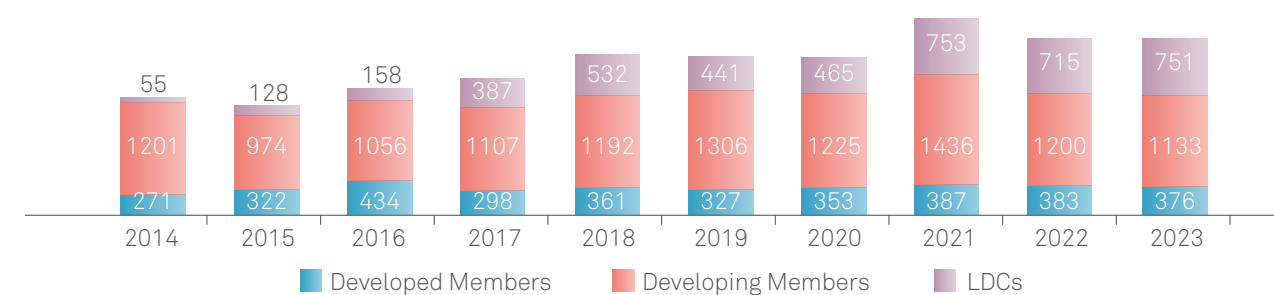
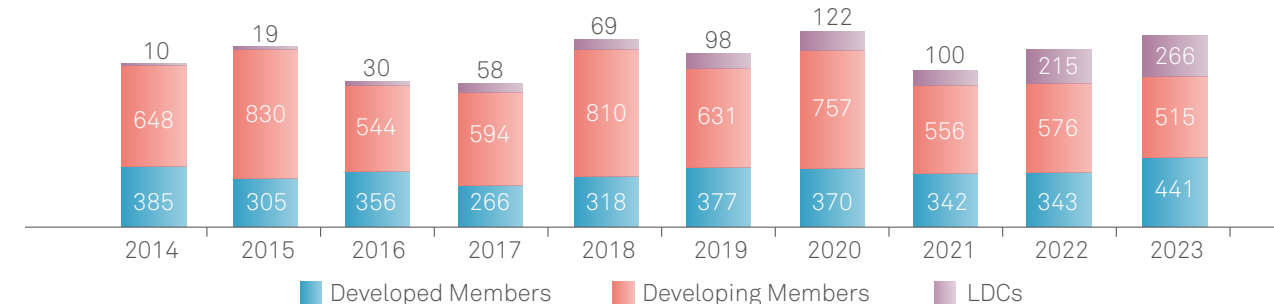


Figure 10. Submission of new SPS notifications by development status (2014-2023)

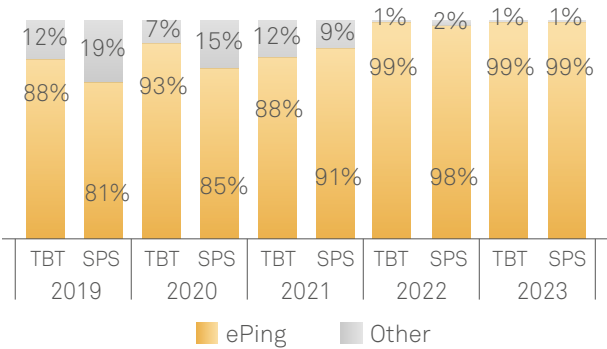


## Optimising online platforms

TA activities on transparency provide knowledge on the relevant provisions and on how to collect the necessary information and submit a notification using the appropriate format. In recent years, they have also progressively included modules on the use of available electronic tools and platforms for submission, analysis and dissemination. These specialised platforms ensure that notifications reach all Members on time while allowing for reactions, clarifications, and further circulation of the information amongst stakeholders. Most recent platforms like the ePing SPS&TBT Platform (ePing) incorporate all these elements together.

TA training on the use of online platforms is yielding positive results. For example, almost all SPS and TBT notifications are now filed through ePing since 2022.

Figure 11. SPS and TBT notifications by mode of submission (2019–2023)



### Key WTO Online Transparency Systems in Brief:

**Dispute Settlement Database:** provide information relating to the proceedings in each case.

**Documents online:** provides access to the WTO official documentation.

**Notifications module:** allows for the searching of notification documents by notifying members and WTO legal requirements.

**Trade Concerns Database:** brings together trade concerns discussed in the SPS, TBT and Market Access committees.

**eAgenda:** allows Members to raise trade concerns, submit agenda items for inclusion in the Committee meetings, upload and download statements by other Members, the Chairpersons and the Secretariat.

**ePing SPS&TBT Platform:** allows Members to search notifications, trade concerns, and National Notification Authority/National Enquiry Point, contact information, other documents, to receive alerts on product/market of interest, and to submit notifications.

For a comprehensive list of WTO online systems, for a comprehensive list of WTO online systems

## Introducing "WTO Tools and Resources" e-Learning Series

New courses and tutorials were added to the e-Learning platform in 2023 on accessing and utilizing WTO resources such as databases, thereby helping learners to navigate complex trade-related information.

The "Import Licensing Notification Portal" course and the "WTO Trade and Monitoring Online Submission and Verification of Trade Measures" course are among the resources now available, with ongoing development slated for 2024.

### WTO Tools and Resources



**Import Licensing Notification Portal**

**Language:** English

**Objectives:**

1. Learn how to use the Import Licensing ...

[Access](#)

# In the spotlight

## A concerted approach across WTO areas to boost transparency



Tailored pedagogical approaches, including mentoring and coaching, development and implementation of action plans, focus on specific deliverables, and follow-up activities, have been introduced in several TA training schemes in recent years, especially for courses on transparency obligations. The emphasis is on triggering sustainable action, building on the customary efforts to improve the knowledge and skills of government officials. The approach also benefits from the expertise in virtual TA built during the COVID-19 pandemic, which allows the Secretariat to move from one-off training activities to action-oriented programmes over prolonged periods of time. The initial results of activities increasingly employing these approaches are striking and promising.

## Pioneering Transparency Champions

In Q4 2022, two pilot thematic courses were launched to help Members better fulfil their transparency obligations in health and safety standards, and technical regulations: the Transparency Champions Programmes on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

The prime purpose was to assist participants in adopting a proactive, purposeful and consistent response to meet, and remain in compliance with, the transparency provisions of the two Agreements, which govern the need to apply standards to products, while avoiding disguised protectionism.

Further to a preliminary assessment of the beneficiaries' needs and challenges, the programmes were carried out in the following phases: (1) a face-to-face theoretical training course, (2) virtual follow-up sessions, and (3) a final face-to-face

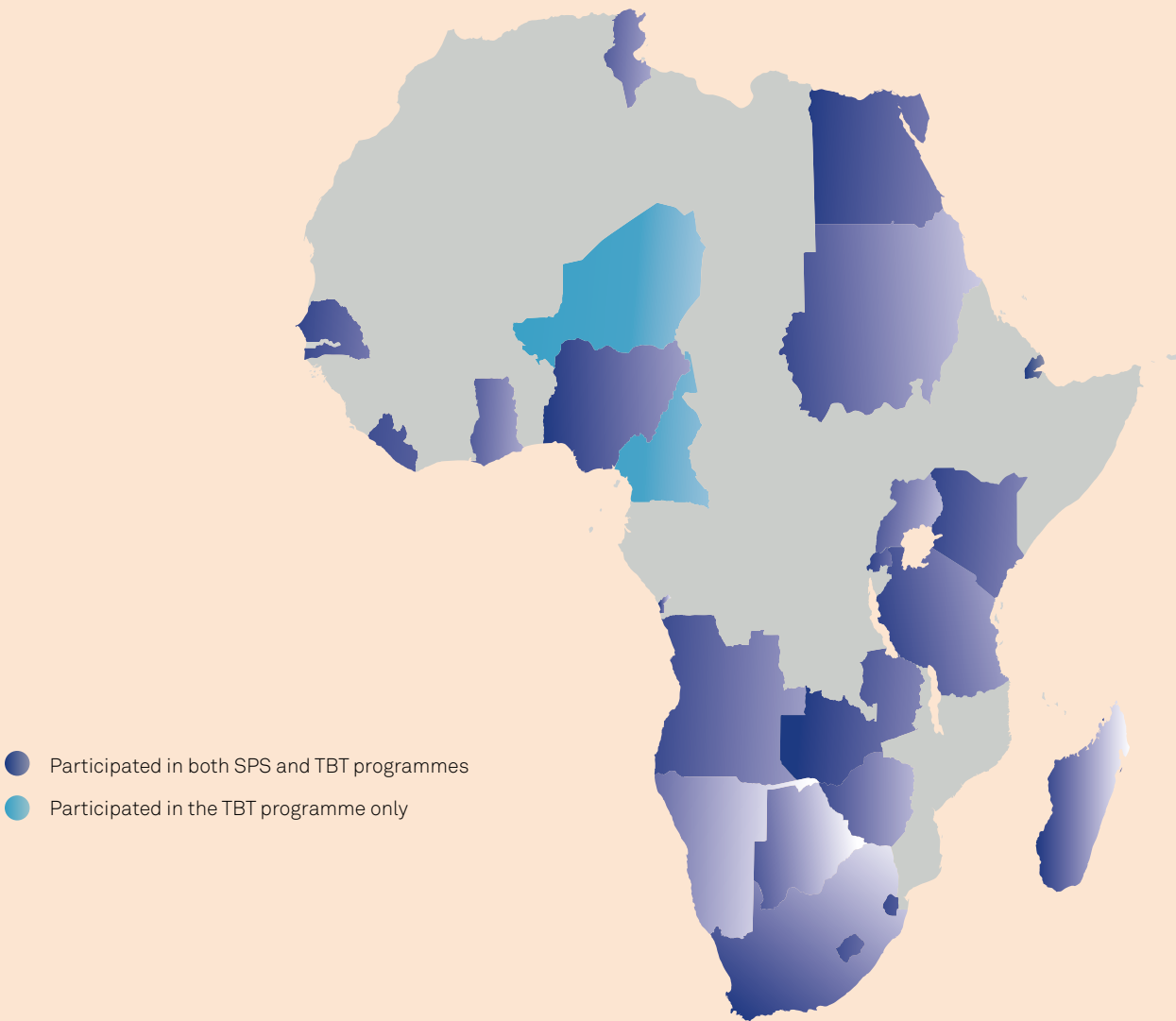
workshop to share experiences and chart the way forward. With the close support of experimented mentors assigned to participants, the implementation of tailored action plans developed during the training course was set in motion in the intermediate phase of the programmes. Progress reports allowed periodic monitoring, and an overall evaluation was carried out during the final phase.

This action-oriented approach prompts the participants to commit to action and position them as multipliers of impact. It builds on best practices drawn from the successful experience of the Advanced Course on SPS, which has been delivered regularly since 2005. What is new in the Transparency Champions Programmes is the vision to further sustain the impact by driving beneficiary government officials to take up the challenge to further champion SPS and TBT transparency back home.

SPS & TBT

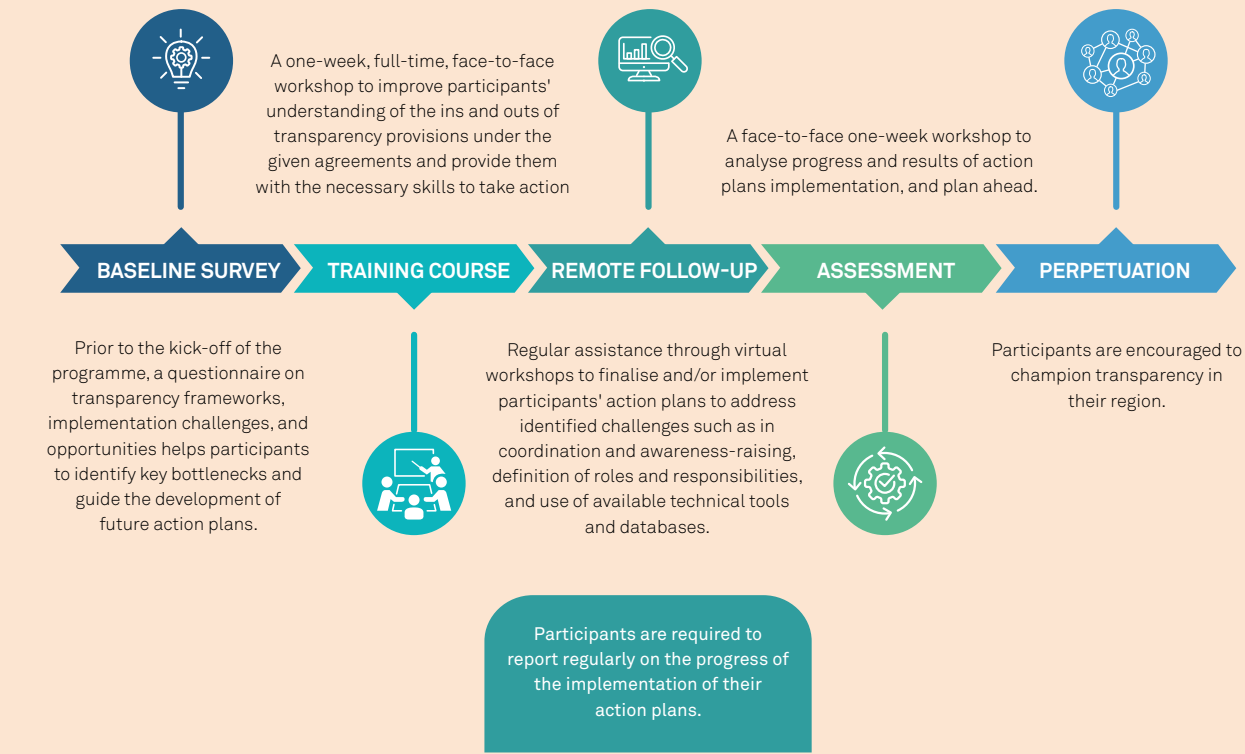
Transparency has traditionally been a recurring topic in WTO TA activities. In the last three biennial TA and training plans, covering the period 2018 - 2023, Members identified SPS measures and TBT as the main priority areas for TA, continuing the trend of previous years. In response, during this period, the Secretariat carried out more than 50 transparency-focused activities, some with the contribution of partner organizations.

Infographic 4. Transparency Champions Programmes participants



The pilot Transparency Champions Programmes targeted 24 African WTO Members, including 13 least-developed Members. A group of 18 officials participated in the SPS programme, while 26 took part in the TBT programme. The TBT group benefited from the skills and expertise of four mentors, while the SPS team had five.

Infographic 5. Transparency Champions Programmes Process



Infographic 6. Six Key Success Factors of the Transparency Champions Programmes



## Promising results

The initial results from the programmes have shown a significant improvement in the number, quality and frequency of notifications from beneficiary Members. For some of them, the notifications submitted during and upon completion of the programme equalled or exceeded the total number of notifications submitted since 1995.

**Regular new SPS notifications increased by 114%** during the programme delivery period as compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase occurred for all Members that had already notified. The most significant increase was for the Gambia, which notified three SPS measures in 2023, representing 50% of all its notifications since 1995. Kenya's notifications also surged, increasing by 30% in 2022 and 54% in 2023 by the end of the programme, while Uganda submitted 33% more notifications in 2022 than the previous year and 46% more in 2023.

**Ad hoc TBT notifications increased by 73%** over the delivery period of the TBT programme, as against the same period the previous year. During the period covered by the programme, Ghana, Namibia and Senegal submitted respectively 70%, 43% and 30% of all their TBT notifications since 1995. Another important step was taken by Angola, which notified for the first time a measure under the TBT Agreement in 2023. Furthermore, in 2023, upon completion of the programme, the year-on-year increase in notifications was 83% for Ghana, 49% for Botswana and 32% for Rwanda.

Most of the participants have already succeeded in strengthening national coordination and ramping up the use of digital tools to reach stakeholders, while

increasing the visibility of their institutions. Significant progress has also been made in cascading knowledge. This has brought about a noticeable improvement in the functioning of National Enquiry Points (focal point institutions for regulatory enquiries) and Notification Authorities (central government authorities responsible for the implementation of the notification obligations).

Similarly, during the programmes' delivery period, many participants took advantage of seminars, workshops and field and laboratory visits to train and enrol stakeholders in ePing, the online platform for submitting and tracking SPS and TBT notifications and measures. This led to a more than threefold increase in the number of new ePing users, to a total of 92 for participating SPS Members, and a quadrupling for the TBT participating Members (595).

Figure 12. SPS notifications submitted by Transparency Champions Programme beneficiaries

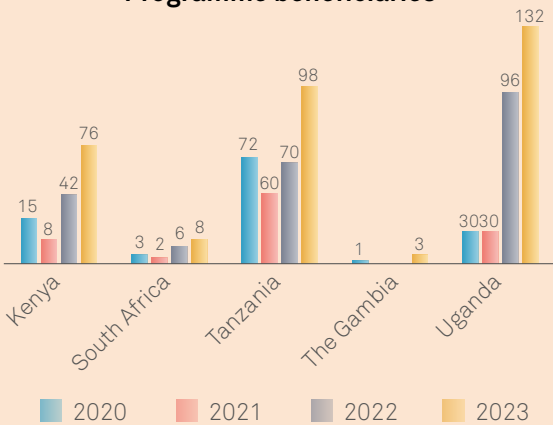
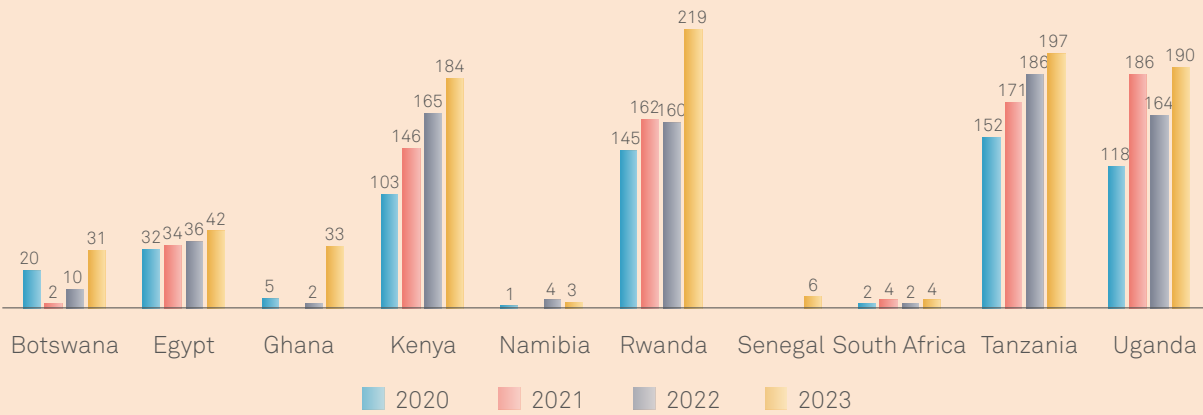


Figure 13. TBT notifications submitted by Transparency Champions Programme beneficiaries



**George Apiyo**  
Senior Information Officer, Uganda  
National Bureau of Standards  
Mentor as part of the Transparency  
Champions Programme

“As a mentor, I provided participants with best practices that they were able to adapt to their own context. During the lectures and other activities, I was able to lend practical advice, for example by showing how to practically prepare and submit notifications. I also mentored participants through the process of implementing their individual action plans, where it was very important to help them move towards feasible actions.

Watch full video  
testimonial



“Part of my action plan was to ensure that Tanzania could meet its notification obligations. I succeeded in organising a national awareness seminar that brought together around thirty participants from several ministries, which was very useful in stimulating notifications. In the next steps, I will have to ensure that the ePing tool is effectively utilised.



**Melkizedeck Killian Kody**  
Fisheries Officer, Ministry of  
Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania  
Participant in the Transparency  
Champions Programme

Watch full video  
testimonial





## Three other training programmes join the bandwagon

The same approach was introduced in 2023 or its application reinforced to stimulate notifications on subsidies, on agriculture, and of quantitative restrictions.

### Notification of Subsidies

The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures disciplines the use of subsidies and regulates measures to mitigate their effects. Compliance with its notification obligations has been poor since 1995. To overcome this, a programme was initiated in 2023 to address capacity constraints and other difficulties that prevent developing and least-developed country WTO Members from complying with their transparency obligations. This new training programme also adopted and adapted the multi-phase, action-oriented approach.

Participants benefited from hands-on support in preparing ready-to-submit notifications on concrete subsidy schemes. Following a theory-based face-to-face workshop, participants, assisted by coaches, were required to analyse potentially notifiable subsidy regimes and submit draft notifications in order to secure their participation in the final face-to-face workshop. This final phase was, among other things, an opportunity for them to present their work and share their experiences.

Of the 36 government officials from 23 Members (including 11 LDCs) who took part in the theoretical training, 32 participants from 20 Members succeeded

in preparing and submitting draft notifications and successfully completing the programme. Five of them (Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Vanuatu), submitted their first subsidies notifications ever. The notifications submitted covered a total of 34 different subsidy programmes.

The coach-led process not only nurtured participants' commitment, but also proved instrumental in providing the necessary guidance to improve the quality, structure and comprehensiveness of the information contained in the notifications. Throughout the preparation process of the draft notifications, participants also worked actively to raise awareness of compliance with subsidy notification obligations, dispel misconceptions, convince and get buy-in from leadership, coordinate at national level and with Geneva delegations, etc.

For several Members who participated in the programme, this led to improved coordination of the notification process, clarification of roles and responsibilities, and data management procedures. This initial change, with its expected long-term effects, is an important first step towards making these efforts sustainable.



**Rupesh Raj Khanal**  
Senior Section Officer, Ministry of  
Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal  
Participant in the Workshop on  
Notification of Subsidies

“The first phase of the programme was very much fruitful to update the theoretical understanding of the Agreement and its notification obligations. The second phase was very interactive and supportive. This phase was, in fact, a unique opportunity for experience sharing, mutual learning and networking with experts.

### Infographic 7. Preparing a draft subsidy notification



\*Networking featured throughout all the three components of the programme

### Notifications on Agriculture

An approach combining theoretical virtual training on relevant WTO rules and notification obligations with a follow-up hands-on in-person workshop was tested for the first time in 2021 for transparency obligations under the Agreement on Agriculture. It proved very successful. Therefore, it was replicated in 2023. The virtual first phase, covering theoretical aspects of agriculture rules and transparency requirements was held in October.

Thirty government officials attended the first phase of the programme to enhance their expertise on notification requirements in agriculture, with an in-depth look at domestic support, one of the most complex areas of the Agreement. Participants now have to work remotely on at least one of their outstanding notifications, and to collate the related information and data which they should present in the follow-up in-person workshop planned at the end of 2024.

## Notification of Quantitative Restrictions

The obligation for Members to inform the WTO of their trade prohibitions and restrictions other than tariffs and other taxes on a biennial basis was introduced in 2012. Notifications of quantitative restrictions ensure transparency in the implementation by Members of measures authorised in exceptional circumstances by the WTO, such as for the protection of the environment or human, plant and animal health.

Following the workshop, participants from The Gambia, Mongolia and Trinidad and Tobago prepared, finalised and submitted quantitative restrictions notifications for the first time. Several other Members whose officials have been selected to participate in the programme have initiated the process of preparing their first notification. For participants from Members who had already notified, the workshop also helped improve the quality of the information contained in their notifications.

The workshop on notifications of quantitative restrictions enabled developing Members to improve their understanding of the relevant WTO rules and to better comply with transparency obligations. Participants first went fishing for relevant information that could be useful for notifications. During the three-day training, dedicated sessions enabled them to make use of the information gathered to prepare draft notifications, under the guidance of specialised coaches. The workshop was followed by virtual follow-up sessions devoted to finalising draft notifications and experience-sharing.



**Akouvi Soke Klolly**  
Foreign Trade Officer, Ministry of Trade, Togo  
Participant in the Workshop on Notification of Quantitative Restrictions

“I was able to strengthen my capacity on the notification of quantitative restrictions. I leave with the necessary background that will allow me, back in Togo, to coordinate with other institutions, ministries, so that we can notify effectively to the WTO our quantitative restrictions.”

Watch full video testimonials



## ENHANCED PARTICIPATION

### TA Beneficiaries remain active in Committees

By expanding and strengthening Members' knowledge of WTO Agreements, TA activities aim at boosting beneficiaries' effective participation in the multilateral trading system. As the work of WTO bodies is based on the documents submitted by Members, developing and LDC Members' capacity to submit documents (proposals, statements, questions and replies, reports...) is a proxy indicator of their ability to actively contribute to deliberations. Notifications were excluded since these are discussed separately in the report.

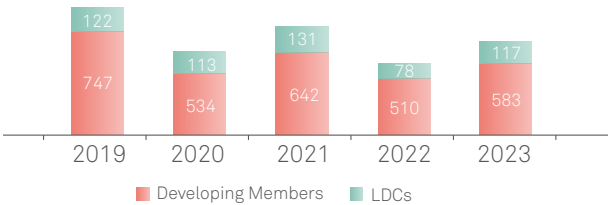
In 2023, the number of 'substantive' documents submitted by developing and least-developed country Members increased by a fifth compared to the previous year. The total submission of such documents was higher than the 2017-19 average used as a baseline in the TA Plan (700 substantive documents vs 611). Regarding the distribution of submissions, 83% came from developing and 13% from least-developed country Members.

Besides the submission of substantive documents, TA beneficiaries' involvement in the work of WTO bodies relies

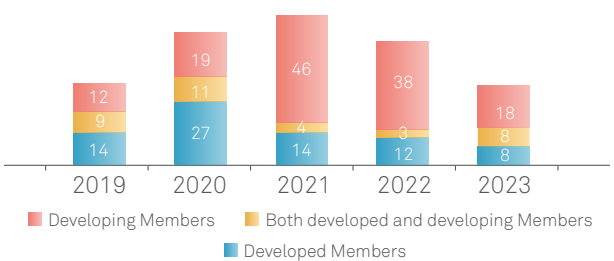
on the capacity of their delegates to participate effectively in the proceedings. Their capacity to use mechanisms such as Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) in the Committees which employ them is thus a good illustration of effective participation. STCs allow Members to address trade tensions through dialogue and cooperation. As shown in figure 15, developing Members' capacity to raise new STCs in the TBT Committee has been quite constant in recent years.

On their own or in coordination with developed Members, they have raised the majority of the new STCs over the last decade (76% of the new TBT STCs and 59% of the new SPS STCs in 2023). TA activities on standards (SPS and TBT) normally cover the rules of procedure and working practices for meetings of the respective Committees, as well as the most important topics currently under discussion. Some ad hoc activities, such as the Course on Essentials for SPS Committee Participation, focus exclusively on strengthening the capacity of developing Members to participate effectively in these Committees.

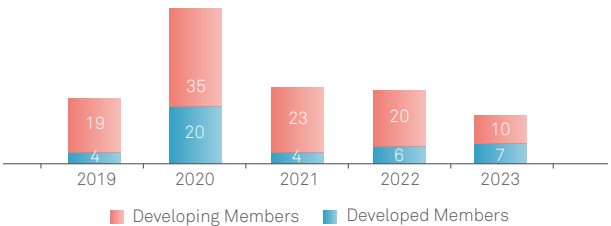
**Figure 14. Number of 'substantive' documents submitted by beneficiaries by development status (2019-2023)**



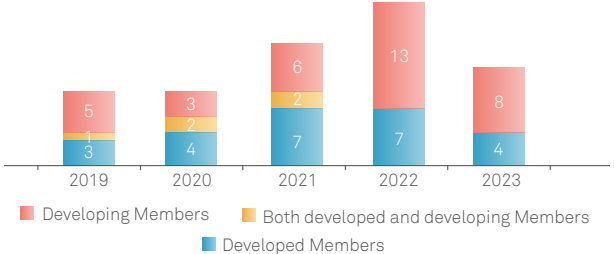
**Figure 15. New STCs raised in the TBT Committee by development status (2019-2023)**



**Figure 16. New STCs raised in the SPS Committee by developing status (2019-2023)**



**Figure 17. New STCs raised in the Market Access Committee by development status (2019-2023)**



A similar trend is observed regarding STCs raised in the Market Access (MA) Committee. Figure 17 shows that over the last decade, the share of new STCs raised by developing Members has been gradually increasing, reaching about 67% in the last two years.

Several TA activities conducted during the year were aimed at enabling beneficiaries to engage more effectively in MA Committee discussions and to participate more effectively in the WTO.

# ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

## Increased participation and performance

The five WTO TA internship programmes attracted 65 participants in 2023. This is the highest number of trainees ever recorded for these programmes, with almost half of the participants (46%) hailing from least developed countries.

Participants' performance also improved in 2023. 37% of the interns exceeded expectations, an increase of two percentage points over 2022. The remaining ones all met performance standards, except for one trainee whose performance target was only partially met.

These on-the-job training opportunities stand out for their extended duration compared to the other training activities delivered by the WTO Secretariat. Participants spend an average of around 10 months either within the Secretariat for three of the programmes, or among delegates at Members' permanent missions for the other two.

The internship programmes also have relatively higher associated costs. Funding for the Regional Coordinator Internship Programme (RCI) and the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) is sourced entirely from the un-earmarked voluntary contributions to the WTO Global Trust Fund. This ensures a more predictable financial base. Funding for other internship programmes is contingent upon voluntary contributors: China for the Accessions Internship Programme (AIP), France and Ireland for the French and Irish Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP) and the Netherlands for the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP).

Since 1998, the WTO TA internship programmes have benefited more than 800 participants from over 100 WTO Members and Observers.

Trainee programmes and internships



### Accessions Internship Programme (AIP)

Five graduates from Afghanistan, Grenada, Laos, Lebanon, and Sudan completed the AIP in 2023, bolstering their confidence to engage in the WTO accessions work.

These interns contributed to finalising the accession processes of Comoros and Timor-Leste. They also participated in various accession-related activities of the Secretariat.

Established in 2011, the AIP programme offers five full-time traineeship opportunities annually, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the WTO's rules-based system, with a focus on WTO accessions.

“Coming from an acceding country, the internship gave me clearer insight about the rules and complexities of WTO accessions, the significance of being part of the WTO, and the important role this organization plays in terms of developing better economies.



Lynn Al Wazzan  
AIP Intern from Lebanon

**WHO:** young graduates  
**WHERE FROM:** developing and LDC Members  
**WHAT:** work in the WTO Secretariat's Accessions Division  
**HOW LONG:** 10 months on average

Interns' time allocation



### Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP)

In 2023, seventeen government officials from developing and least-developed countries enhanced their trade-related skills, through the NTP. Over ten months, they delved into practical work experiences guided by WTO staff members from various divisions.

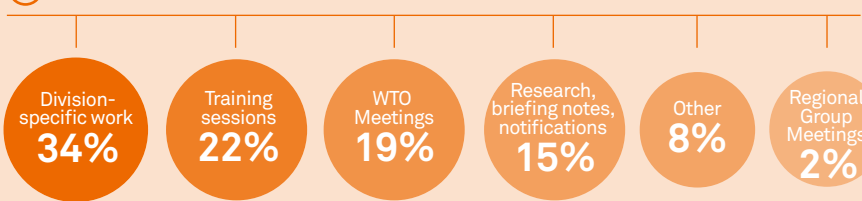


Yousaf Rasool  
NTP intern from Pakistan

“The Programme provided a useful platform to all of us to work in the WTO Secretariat, hone our skills, develop linkages for future collaborations, get familiarized with the working of the multilateral trading system, and learn to navigate through the WTO legal texts.

**WHO:** government officials  
**WHERE FROM:** developing and LDC Members and small and vulnerable economies  
**WHAT:** learn by working in the WTO Secretariat  
**HOW LONG:** 9.5 months on average

Interns' time allocation



### French-Irish Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP)

Twenty-two mid-level government officials, specializing in trade matters, were selected for the FIMIP, one of the programme's highest enrolments since its inception. Throughout their tenure, these interns provided support to their respective permanent missions, actively engaging in WTO proceedings and regional groups.

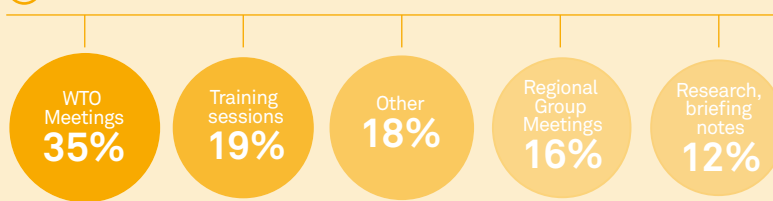
Through this multifaceted experience, they deepened their understanding of WTO Agreements and ongoing negotiations. Approximately half of their time was dedicated to the workings of various WTO committees and regional group meetings.



Finiavana Mirindra Rasamizana  
FIMIP intern from Madagascar

**WHO:** capital-based mid-level public officials  
**WHERE FROM:** developing and LDC Members  
**WHAT:** work in the permanent missions of their countries to WTO  
**HOW LONG:** 9.5 months on average

Interns' time allocation





CHAPTER 1 – ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

KEY RESULT 1

Regional Coordinator Internship (RCI)

In 2023, demands led to the recruitment of four government officials under the RCI programme to bolster the coordination efforts of the African Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Group by Kenya, the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group by Djibouti, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFs) by Fiji, and the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) by Botswana.

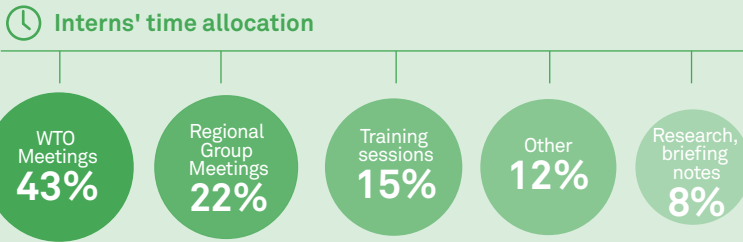
The duration of their internship corresponded to the length of their respective countries' coordination mandates. They assisted their missions with the intensive workload associated with their roles as group coordinators.

“I gained so much insight into the function of the WTO, the multilateral trading system and the Trade Policy. Working at the Mission has exposed me to a multitude of experiences, allowing me to appreciate how missions handle regular WTO work and negotiations, while at the same time keeping the country in the know of what is happening.



Thato Motlotlegi  
RCI Intern from Botswana

**WHO:** capital-based mid-level public officials  
**WHERE FROM:** Members coordinating a regional group or a group of Members and Observers at WTO  
**WHAT:** work in the permanent missions of the group coordinator  
**HOW LONG:** duration of the coordinator's mandate, 1 year maximum



Young Professionals Programme (YPP)

Seventeen young professionals from diverse backgrounds were recruited under the YPP in 2023 from a pool of over 3,500 candidates. Their daily undertakings included a variety of responsibilities, ranging from contributing to Secretariat working papers to supporting WTO bodies and dispute settlement panels. They were occasionally associated to some technical assistance activities, for example on the outcomes of MC12 and the preparation for MC13.



Shauna Andrea Ramdyhan  
YPP intern from Guyana

“This year at the WTO was a pivotal period for my career characterized by growth, team spirit and impact. Working alongside my exceptional colleagues in the Information and External Relations Division broadened my insight into communication strategies deployed by international organizations and enhanced my knowledge on presenting trade policy developments to diverse audiences.

Watch video testimonials of few 2023 YPs

👤 Young Professionals' areas of work in 2023

**WHO:** qualified young professionals  
**WHERE FROM:** priority to LDCs and developing Members with no or low professional representation in WTO Secretariat  
**WHAT:** WTO Secretariat  
**HOW LONG:** 1 year maximum



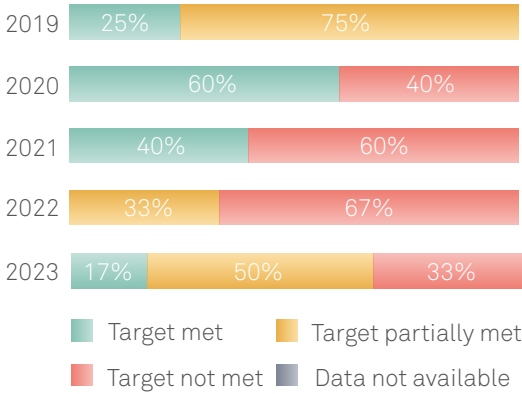
CHAPTER 1

SUPPORTING ACCESSIONS

KEY RESULT

2

Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations



KEY RESULT 2

Supporting Comoros and Timor-Leste accession process

Comoros and Timor-Leste completed the final stages of their accession process in 2023. Throughout this lengthy process, which took several years, the Secretariat provided the two acceding governments with regular technical assistance, enhancing their knowledge on WTO substantive and procedural matters in order to facilitate the advancement of their accession negotiations. The TA support continued right through to the ultimate phases of the process, further contributing to its finalisation as well as to the preparation of the post-accession implementation strategies and workplan.

In 2023, support for the preparation of accession documents was provided throughout the year to the two acceding governments. TA delivered by the Secretariat also included close consultations, guidance and coordination with Comoros and Timor-Leste. Missions to Moroni and Dili led to concerted actions with the two acceding governments with a view to finalising their accession processes by the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference.



Joaquim Amaral,  
Coordinating Minister  
for Economic Affairs of  
Timor-Leste and WTO Chief  
Negotiator, at the fifth  
meeting of the Working  
Party on the Accession  
of Timor-Leste on 20  
April 2023, at the WTO  
headquarters in Geneva.

WTO  
Accession



## Progressing towards WTO membership

WTO TA is crucial in supporting acceding governments of developing and least-developed countries. Their capacity to navigate complex and intensive processes such as WTO accession are very limited.

In 2023, in addition to the TA support provided to Comoros and Timor-Leste, the Secretariat carried out a series of activities designed to build the capacity of other acceding governments and speed up their accession process. This support included tailored national training sessions, seminars and roundtables that attracted over 1,000 participants. The Secretariat satisfied several requests for national TA activities from Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Equatorial Guinea, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, on issues such

as accession-related procedures, WTO Agreements and investment facilitation.

The 11<sup>th</sup> China Roundtable on WTO Accessions held in Vientiane, Laos, provided an opportunity for over 100 participants to discuss the latest best practices in Least Developed Countries accession and post-accession.

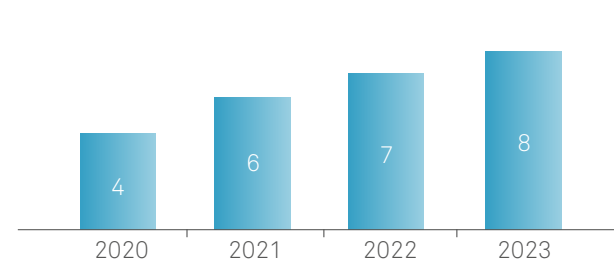
In December, in Geneva, a one-week course on WTO rules in accession negotiations also enabled 29 government officials from 11 acceding governments actively engaged in their respective accession negotiations, to improve their knowledge of WTO accession procedures and rules.

“The training has opened our eyes to appreciate the rules, procedures, and key issues that should be our focus in the ongoing negotiation process. A one-week training cannot equate our experience with that of WTO Members who have decades, if not half a century, of negotiation experience, therefore ongoing capacity building and technical assistance are essential.

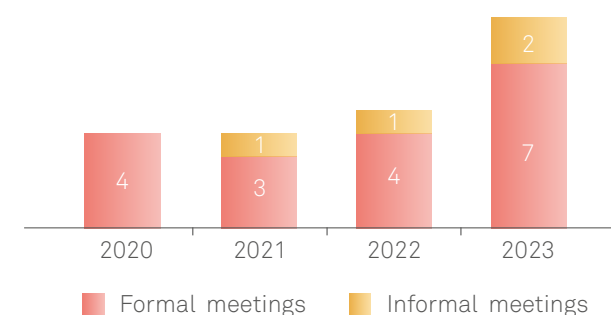


**Getahun Walegn Dagnaw**  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Advisor to the State Minister of Ethiopia  
Participant in the training on WTO rules in accessions negotiations

**Figure 18. Number of key accession documents submitted (2020-2023)**



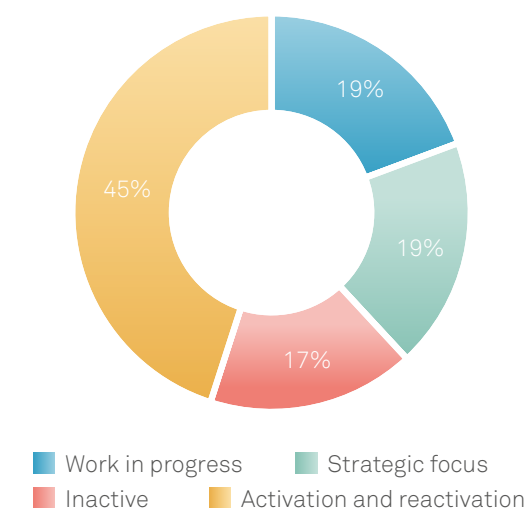
**Figure 19. Accession meetings by type (2020-2023)**



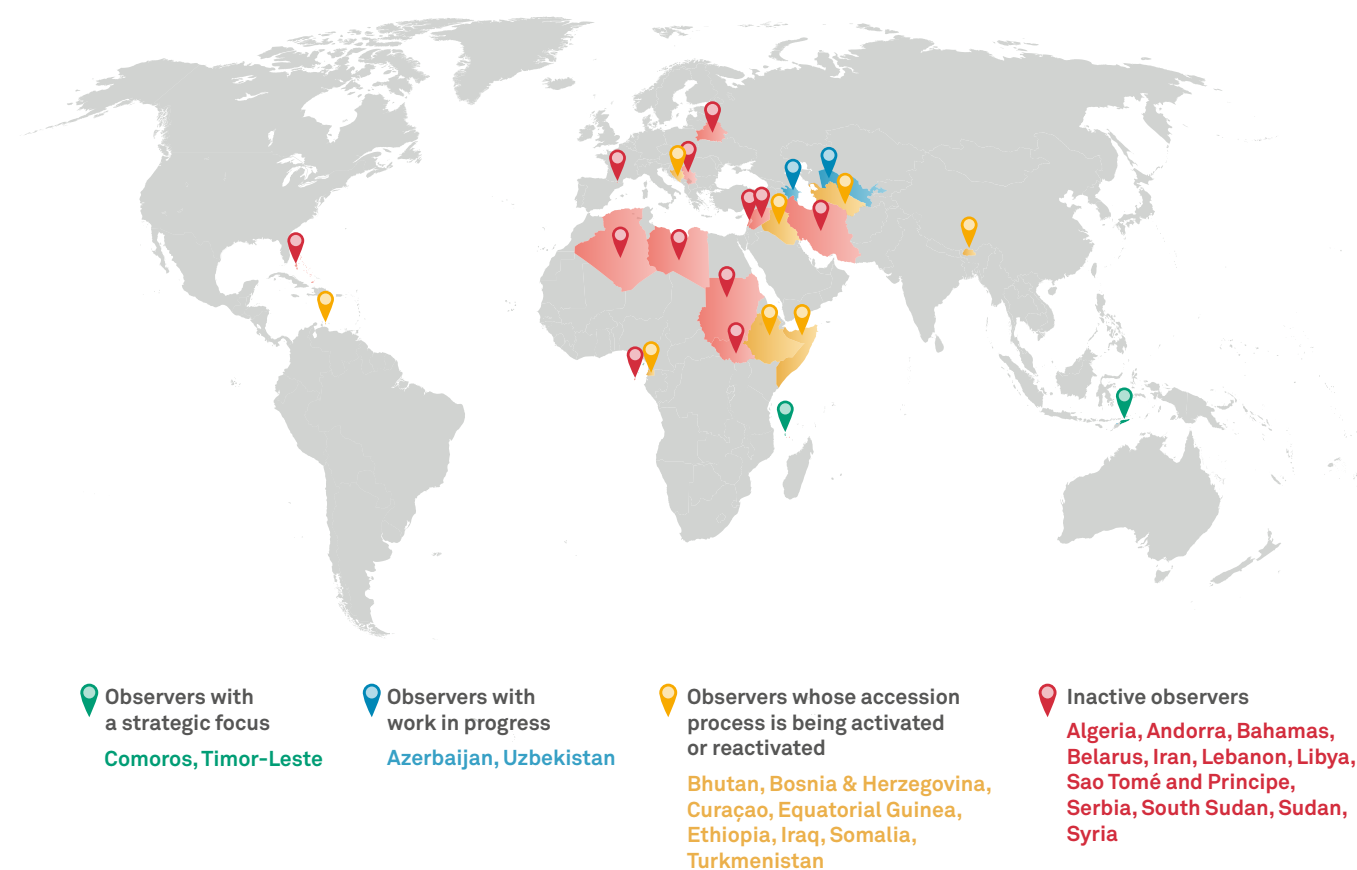
## State-of-play in accession working parties

In addition to Comoros and Timor-Leste, which took the most advanced step towards accession, 22 other acceding governments continued to work in 2023 towards WTO membership. However, only two acceding governments were still classified as in progress (Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan), with Ethiopia and Bosnia & Herzegovina moving from progress to reactivation status and Sudan becoming inactive. The declassification of Lebanon, previously listed as being activated or reactivated, further increased the number of inactive observers. Bhutan was the only acceding government to emerge from the inactive status. (See infographic 8)

**Figure 20. Observers participation in TA by accession progress status in 2023**



**Infographic 8: Observers by WTO Accession status in 2023**



## Bhutan forges ahead

Bhutan's transition from inactive observer in 2022 to active observer in 2023 was particularly striking, reflecting a firm commitment by the government to speeding up the pace and making the most of the technical assistance available.

At the request of the government, the WTO Secretariat delivered a series of national virtual training sessions on trade in services and market access negotiations on services, on goods, and agriculture.

These sessions were followed by consultations between the Secretariat and the government to relaunch the accession process. With TA support, updated negotiating inputs required for the resumption of the Working Party process were also finalised and circulated, including a revised Draft Report of the Working Party, agriculture support tables, legislative action plan, 80 pieces of legislation, action plans on TBT, SPS and TRIPS, and a revised goods offer.

The Secretariat also supported Bhutan in the preparation of an updated offer on trade in services, which was subsequently circulated, completing the package of key documentation to resume the Working Party process.



**Dorji Tashi**  
Chief Industries Officer, Ministry of Industry,  
Commerce and Employment, Bhutan,  
Participant in the Bhutan Workshop on  
Trade in Services

“The training enabled us to refine our services offer with better alignment to the WTO principles and rules. In addition, I have gained more confidence and am better positioned to convince our stakeholders and to bring them on board during the consultation meetings. However, I felt the need for more assistance regarding digital trade, e-Commerce, sectoral coverage limitations, and exclusions.

## Enabling accession to plurilateral agreements

### Government Procurement Agreement accession-related technical assistance

TA can be essential to prepare governments to be more effective participants in GPA accession negotiations and meetings of the Committee on Government Procurement (CGP). In 2023, a renewed impetus in the work of the CGP stimulated demand for TA.

Following a request from Albania, a national workshop was held in March 2023 to support the re-start of its

accession process. Attended by the members of the working group created to drive the accession process forward, the workshop focused on the technical aspects related to the submission of both the revised Replies to the Checklist of Issues and the initial market access offer. In July 2023, Albania submitted its revised Replies to the Checklist of Issues and formally restarted its accession negotiations. TA helped the Albanian authorities in deepening their knowledge about the functioning of the CGP.



**Reida Kashta**  
General Director, Public  
Procurement Agency, Albania Chair  
of the negotiation team for the  
accession of Albania to the GPA

“The accuracy of the information and exploring past accession processes gave us the certainty to continue with the next steps of reactivation of the GPA accession process of Albania.

## What is the GPA?

The Agreement on Government Procurement is a plurilateral agreement which regulates the procurement of goods and services by the procuring entities of the Parties to the Agreement, based on the principles

of openness, transparency, and non-discrimination. In 2023, 49 WTO Members were Party to the Agreement, including the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU).

Costa Rica took a proactive approach to their GPA accession journey by hosting a regional workshop for Latin America in September 2023. Before the workshop, the trade negotiation team of Costa Rica held bilateral meetings with the WTO Secretariat to clarify the process and technical aspects of GPA accession negotiations.

Costa Rica announced its decision to accede to the GPA on that occasion. Shortly after, it officially submitted its accession application to the CGP and responded to the Checklist of Issues, demonstrating its commitment to the accession process.



**Leonor Obando**  
Head of Intellectual Property and  
Government Procurement  
Ministry of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica

“This workshop gave Costa Rican officials the opportunity to learn about the Agreement after which we decided to apply for GPA accession. The workshop also helped us to start an internal process to complete our responses to the Checklist of Issues and initial market access offer. The responses to the Checklist of Issues were sent at the end of October 2023.

Understanding the GPA: a new e-Learning course series

Launched in August 2023, the inaugural e-Learning course on the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) features multimedia elements and practical exercises, delivering a comprehensive understanding of government procurement in relation to trade, governance, and economic development. Participants are provided with the core principles and procedural requirements of the GPA 2012, gaining valuable insights into its scope and implications.

"Objectives, Rules, and Operation of the GPA 2012 – GPA 2012 course series – Course 1" is part of a three-course series, with plans for two additional courses in the near future.

GPA 2012 in  
the e-Learning  
catalogue



Objectives, Rules and Operation of the GPA  
2012 – GPA 2012 course series – Course 1

Course level: 2 (Intermediate)

Learning Path: Generalists

Language: English...

Access



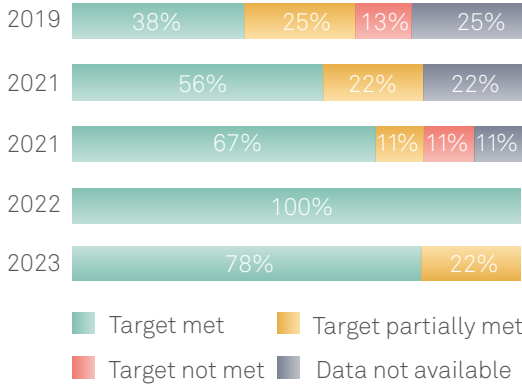
BROADENING ENGAGEMENT

KEY RESULT

3



Academic institutions  
and other stakeholders  
analyse WTO issues



Promoting trade research in academia

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) fosters research, capacity-building, and dialogue on international trade issues with policy makers and stakeholders. With its global network of 35 academic institutions, the programme advances knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the multilateral trading system. The academic sector helps understanding trade dynamics and training professionals and government officials. Collaboration with local universities, academic institutions, and researchers enriches understanding of trade-related matters among developing Members and Observers.

In 2023, the 16 chairs participating in Phase III of the WCP organised a wide range of activities aimed at enhancing teaching, research, and public debate on international trade. They produced 374 publications on a multiplicity of trade-related topics, trade policy briefs, conference papers, articles, and book chapters (+36%). The number of chair students completing WTO-related courses surged from 3,891 in 2022 to 5,602 in 2023, and the provision of advice to policymakers and stakeholders experienced a marked rise (+37%).

The programme also facilitated the exchange of ideas and expertise through a series of conferences, seminars, and workshops held around the world.

“I see the impact of the Programme's capacity-building efforts extending beyond the individual beneficiary countries – contributing to a more inclusive and balanced global trade landscape. By facilitating meaningful participation of developing countries in international trade negotiations, it is likely to foster a stronger voice for these countries in shaping the rules and regulations of the multilateral trading system.



**Ambassador José SÁNCHEZ-FUNG**  
Chair of the Committee on  
Trade and Development,  
Dominican Republic

WTO Chairs  
Programme



Figure 21. WCP Phase III Chairs research output (2022-2023)

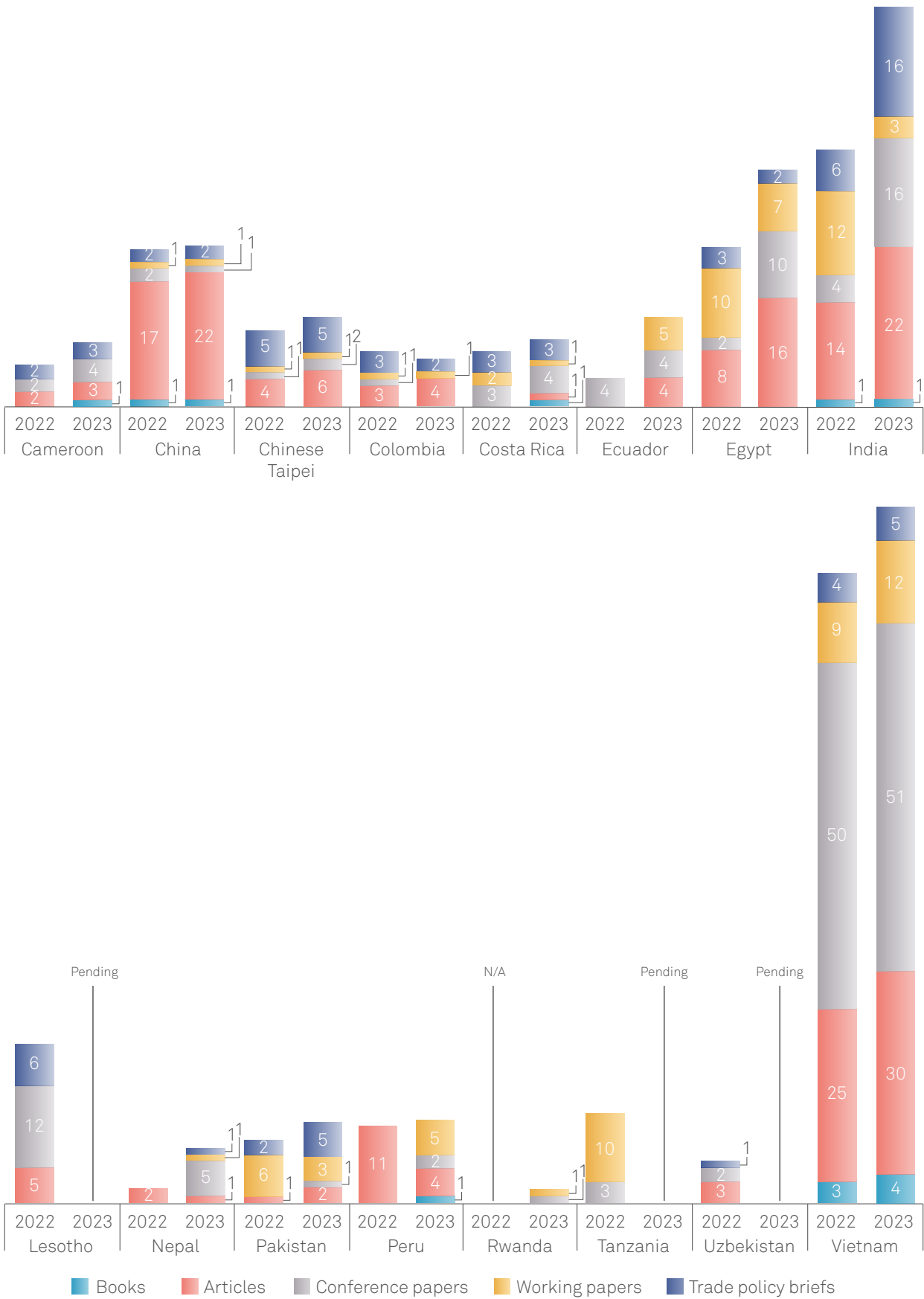


Figure 22. WCP Phase III Chairs students completing WTO-related courses (2021-2023)

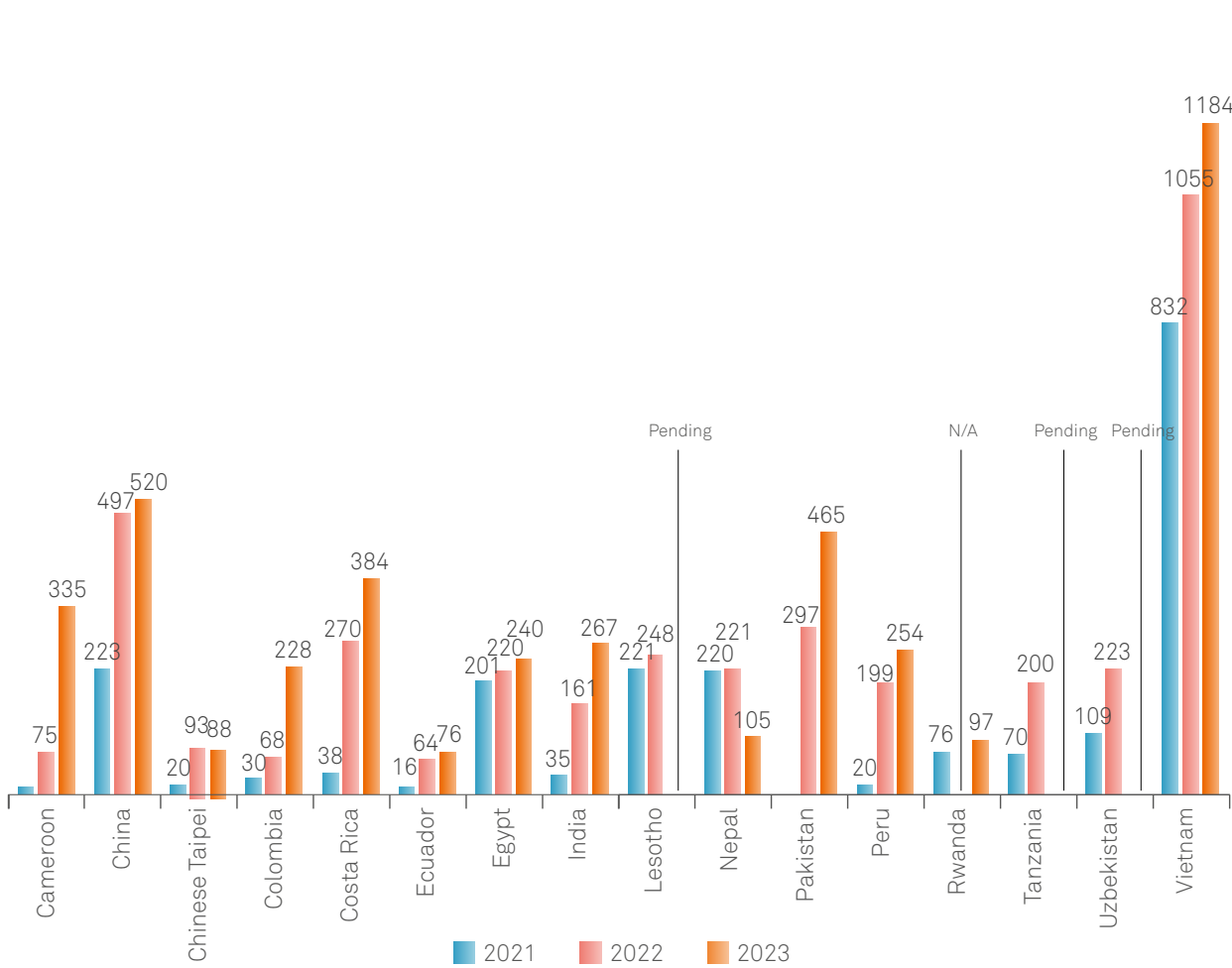
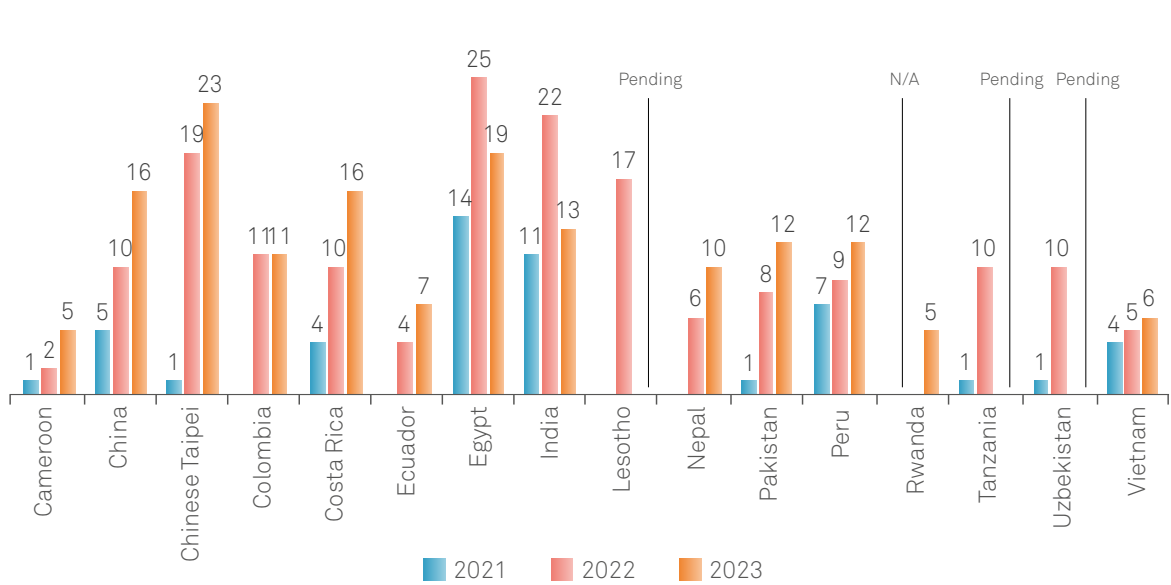
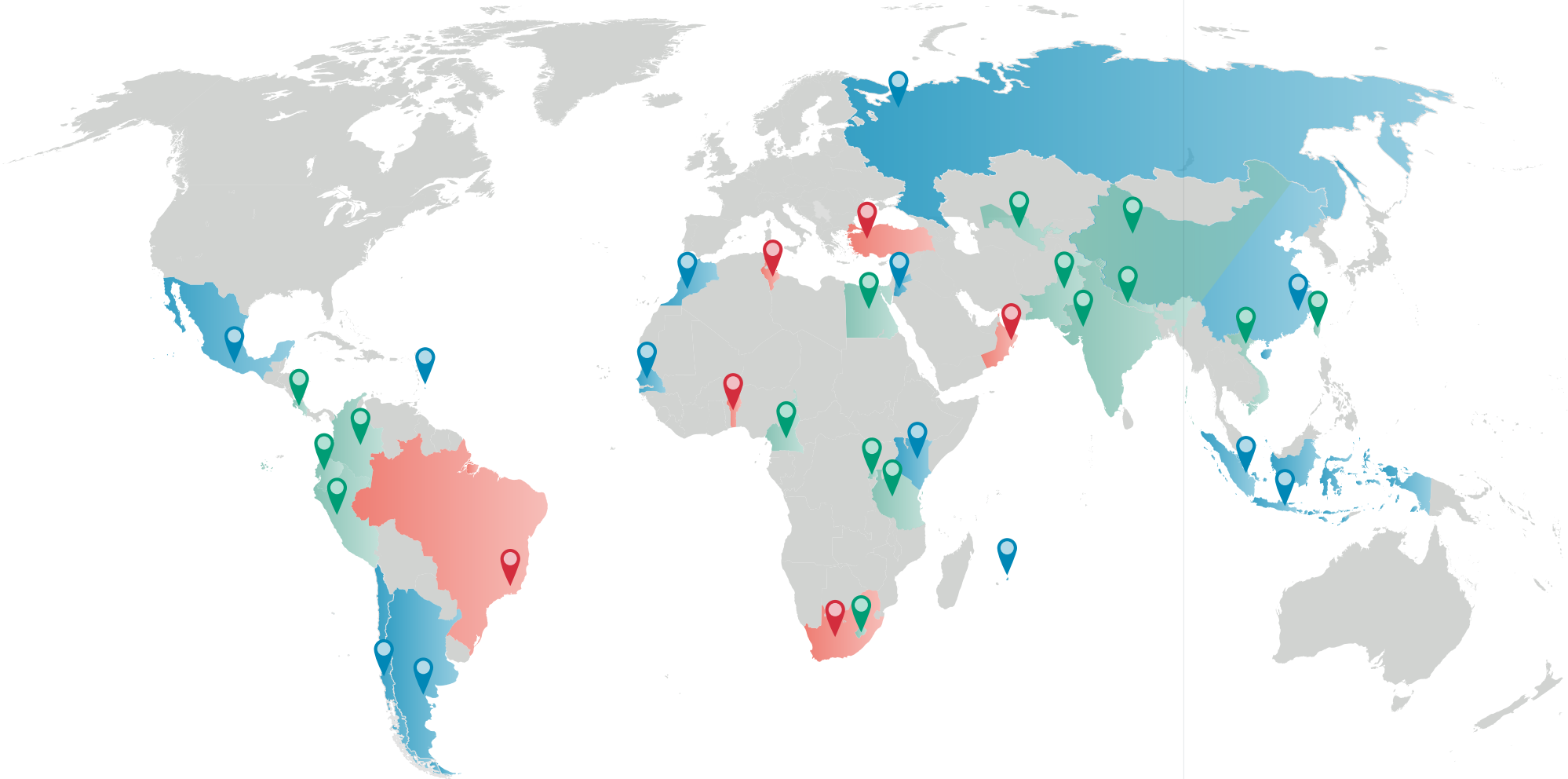


Figure 23. WCP Outreach activities (2021-2023)





Infographic 9. World map with WCP Chairs



WCP Latin American and Caribbean Network

The WCP Latin American and Caribbean Network convened for a colloquium in Costa Rica on 28-30 November 2023, addressing issues related to market access, trade facilitation, e-Commerce, trade and sustainability, and WTO reform with the participation of DDG Xiangchen Zhang.

Chairs from the region also collaborated by hosting a panel discussion from 12-14 July 2023 at the Biannual Meeting of the Society of International Economic Law Conference held in Bogotá, Colombia, focusing on opportunities and challenges facing the academic community in the region. On the occasion of a visit to the port of Buenaventura, Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala participated, along with the vice minister of Trade, the special delegate of the vice president for Gender Equality, and the vice-director of Planning, in a panel discussion on trade and sustainable transition which was moderated by the WTO Chair in Colombia.

The WTO Chair in Ecuador launched a series of podcast under the theme 'Conversations with Trade Negotiators' which features trade negotiators from the Latin American region to share their experiences and perspectives on current issues in international trade. These episodes are available on YouTube and Spotify.

The WTO Chair in Colombia developed a new online course titled "Introduction to International Trade Regulation", which is set to be widely accessible as an open-access course on Coursera, for universities throughout Latin America.

The WTO Chairs in Barbados, Chile, and Mexico co-published a book with Cambridge University Press on "Trade Policy and Gender Equality". The book explores the relationship between trade and gender with a focus on the role of women in the economy and how gender-responsive and gender-inclusive trade agreements can be instruments for international cooperation within the existing multilateral trading system.

WCP African Network

The WCP African Network jointly organized on 14-15 November 2023 a virtual conference addressing digital trade issues in Africa, with the participation of Ambassador Usha Dwarka-Canabady of Mauritius, facilitator of the Work Programme on e-Commerce. Paper presentations made during the event covered key themes such as the employment effects of digital trade, artificial intelligence, the importance of digital infrastructure, and data governance.

A high-level conference was held at the WCP Chair institution in Cameroon from 21-23 November 2023, focusing on energy and food security issues, with the goal of building economic resilience in Central Africa. Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Water and Energy, and the World Bank country office emphasized the need for concrete measures and strategies to empower Central Africa in addressing current and future challenges related to food and energy security. Ambassador Salomon Eheth of Cameroon, Coordinator of the African Group, stated that this conference will contribute to affirming the position of Cameroon, and of Central Africa at the WTO.

This was a transition year for the Chair in Rwanda after the nomination of a new professor to lead its work. WCP Advisory Board members supported him to improve the quality of the Chair's academic research, develop its local teaching capacity and connect it to the trade agenda of the government.

WCP Asian Network

WCP Chairs in Vietnam and Chinese Taipei each hosted a conference focusing on the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

with participation from other Chairs in the region. The Vietnam event held on 6-7 April 2023 focused on national and regional perspectives on the agreement for ASEAN countries, and the event in Chinese Taipei on 18-19 September 2023 looked at faithful implementation and sharing of experiences among experts from various fisheries agencies from the region.

Several WTO Chairs from Asia also gathered at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on WTO and China jointly hosted by the Chairs in Beijing and Shanghai to discuss issues related to WTO reform and MC13. It included a session dedicated to the recent study on the "Villars Framework for a Sustainable Global Trade System", emphasizing the role of green policies in international trade and the urgency of adjusting international trade rules to adapt to environmentally sustainable development.

The Chair at Lahore School of Economics in Pakistan was recognised among the world's top 200 programmes in international trade in the most recent Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, a portfolio of comparative college and university rankings.

Phase I Chairs (2010-2014)

Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (ARGENTINA), University of the West Indies (BARBADOS), Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (CHINA), University of Chile (CHILE), Universitas Gadjah Mada (INDONESIA), University of Jordan (JORDAN), University of Nairobi (KENYA), University of Mauritius (MAURITIUS), Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (MÉXICO), Mohammed V University – Souissi (MOROCCO), St Petersburg State University (RUSSIAN FEDERATION), Cheikh Anta Diop University (SENEGAL), National University of Singapore (SINGAPORE)

Phase II Chairs (2014-2018)

University Abomey-Calavi (BENIN), Getulio Vargas Foundation (BRAZIL), Sultan Qaboos University (OMAN), North-West University (SOUTH AFRICA), University of Tunis (TUNISIA), Istanbul Bilgi University (TÜRKİYE)

Phase III Chairs

Université de Yaoundé II (CAMEROON), University of International Business and Economics (CHINA), Universidad de los Andes (COLOMBIA), Universidad Nacional (COSTA RICA), Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (ECUADOR), Cairo University (EGYPT), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (INDIA), National University of Lesotho (LESOTHO), Kathmandu University School of Management (NEPAL), Lahore School of Economics (PAKISTAN), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PERU), University of Rwanda (RWANDA), National Taiwan University (CHINESE TAIPEI), Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (TANZANIA), The University of World Economy and Diplomacy of Uzbekistan (UZBEKISTAN), Foreign Trade University (VIET NAM)

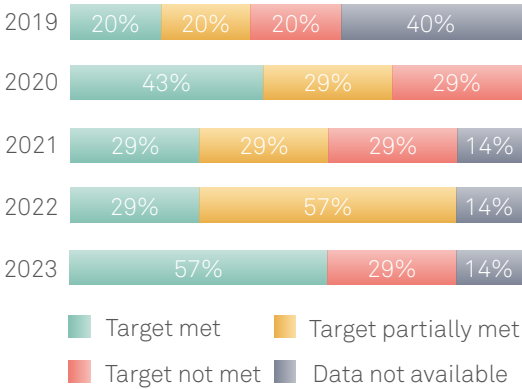
## EXPANDING AUDIENCES

KEY RESULT

4



Non-governmental audiences are aware of WTO issues



### Reaching out to non-traditional WTO actors

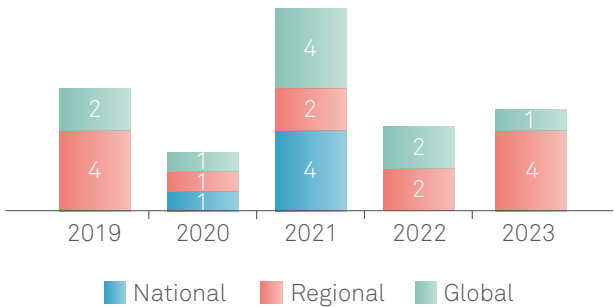
In addition to strengthening the knowledge and skills of government officials on international trade issues, WTO TA also seeks to engage with a broader public, such as the business community, NGOs, journalists, Members of parliaments and the public at large, to increase awareness and promote cooperation.

In-person TA activities for non-traditional WTO actors took place in 2023 without yet reaching the average pre-pandemic level (6-7 activities in 2018-19). Five TA outreach activities were organized; four regional and one global (see figure 24). These activities focused on challenges facing the multilateral trading system, understanding the WTO and the preparation towards MC13.

A workshop on WTO issues was organised in collaboration with the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore in May 2023 for members of parliament, academics and business leaders from the region, as well as the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The three-day workshop covered the functions, decision-making process and ongoing discussions on WTO reform, with a focus on topics such as digital trade, fisheries and the link between trade and climate change.

To prepare for MC13 and ensure the widest coverage of the Ministerial Conference by journalists from developing countries, three activities were organised in 2023 for the media: in Thailand in April, the United Arab Emirates in September, and Colombia in October. Feedback from participants was very positive and some concrete results emerged, such as the publication by participants of more than 10 news articles, follow-up requests for interviews and data, and new subscriptions to the WTO online media newsroom and mailing list for briefing notes.

Figure 24. WTO TA outreach activities (2019-2023)

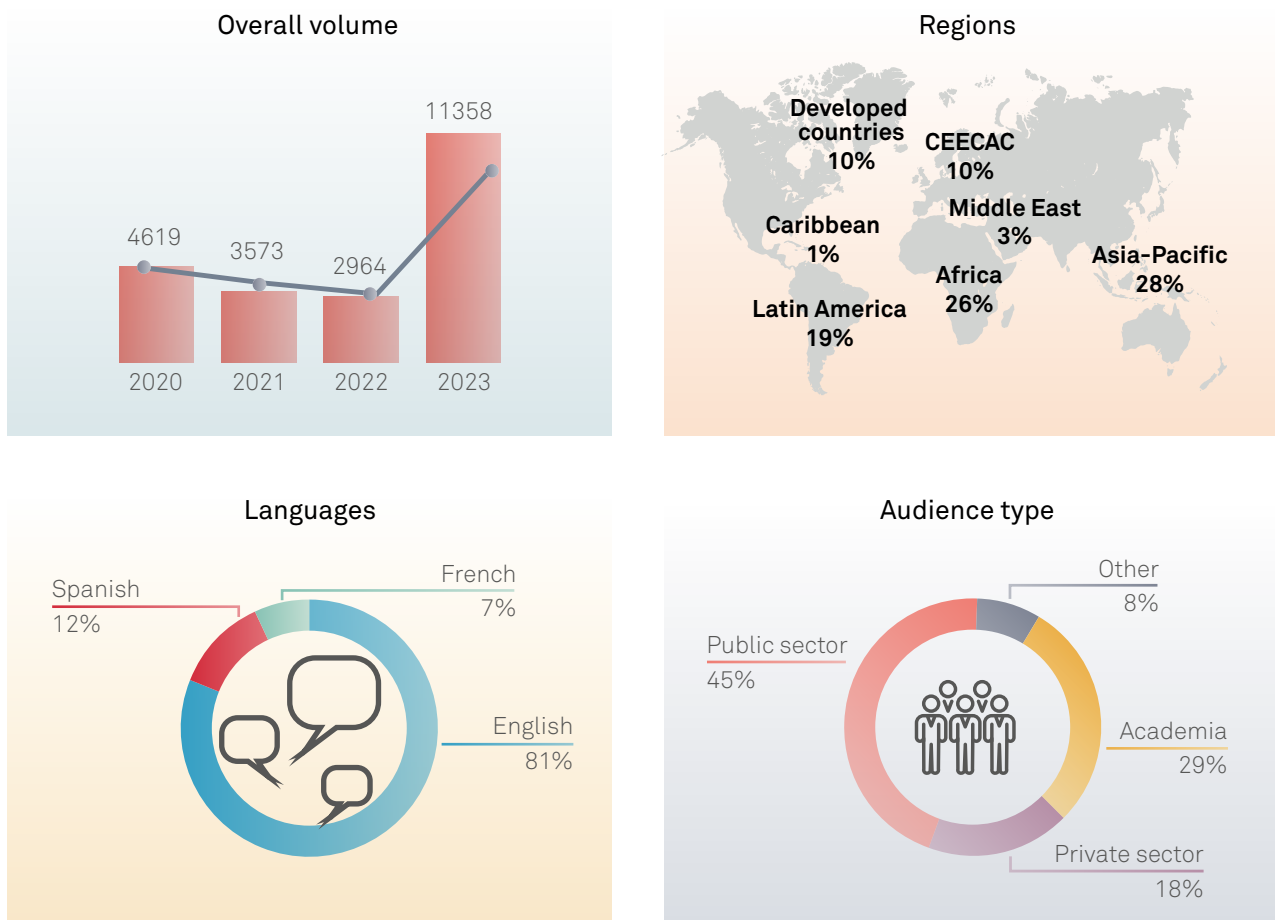


## TA training materials requests

One of the goals of the WTO is to allow the general public to use e-Learning training materials for self-study and dissemination. Requests for training materials from such participants increased significantly from 2,964 in 2022 to 11,358 in 2023. Almost half of the requests came from staff of public agencies, followed by academics,

private sector representatives and NGOs. As in the previous year, English was the language with the highest number of requests for training material (81%), while in terms of regions of origin, most self-learners were from Asia-Pacific, followed by Africa and Latin America.

Infographic 10. Training Material Requests





Diversifying promotion channels

Social media has brought WTO TA to an audience that previously could not be reached, as it has increased the visibility of results and impact and allowed direct access to information. Social media channels continue to be utilized by the Secretariat to give visibility to TA activities to its potential audiences worldwide. The WTO TA social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and YouTube) remained active throughout 2023 to promote upcoming courses and advertise impact of results. The accounts following grew on all WTO TA five social media accounts.

The WTO website also saw an increase in usage during the year. Regarding views, TA webpage and news items on this subject were well above the 2020-2022 average (370 K views).

“ This workshop for journalists not only updates my knowledge on the WTO, but also provides me with some skills to access the global trade database and establish professional working relationships with the WTO. This will enable me to write more accurate reports on global trade and its development impact on my country.



Malayvieng Vongchandy  
Vientiane Times, Lao PDR

Click here to follow WTO TA Social Media



Infographic 11. Most-Viewed pages in the WTO Website



In the spotlight  
Supporting the implementation of the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies



At the Dar Es Salam Integrated Fish Market Complex in Tanzania, an average of 400 tonnes of fish are landed each month, with a further 350 tonnes imported from other regions. Around 13,000 people visit the complex every day.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2022 in Geneva, Members adopted the first broad, binding, multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability: the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. This landmark text aims at prohibiting government support for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fishing of overexploited stocks, and fishing on the unregulated high seas. These practices have been proven to be a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world’s fish stocks, threatening more than 260 million people around the world whose livelihoods depend directly or indirectly on marine fisheries.

The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies still has some way to go. Two-thirds of Members must deposit their "instruments of acceptance" for it to enter into force. Members embarked in 2023 on a second wave of negotiations to seek consensus on issues left outstanding when the Agreement was concluded in June 2022.

To support Members in their domestic ratification processes so that the Agreement can enter into force, and to brief Members on the additional negotiations, the Secretariat deployed intense technical assistance efforts in the first half of 2023.

## A series of workshops to expedite entry into force

Over a period of seven months, eight regional workshops were carried out worldwide, covering the Pacific Islands (November 2022), the Caribbean (January 2023), the Middle East, and Latin America (February 2023), Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (March 2023), French-speaking Africa (April 2023), English-speaking Africa, and Asia (May 2023).

These regional workshops brought together more than 265 senior officials responsible for trade and fisheries management from 85 WTO Members. To maximise their political impetus, to the process, some of these activities were also combined with ministerial-level meetings with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and bilateral exchanges led by Deputy Director-General Angela Ellard.

During the two- to three-day workshops, experts from the WTO and other relevant partners raised participants' understanding of the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. One of the main challenges is

the availability of data on fisheries subsidies and on the state of fish stocks, for which many developing and LDC Members would require assistance to fulfil the requirements of the Agreement. Participants exchanged on possible strategies in this area. They informed each other on the progress in their respective national ratification processes. The workshops provided the details on the issues and dynamics in the second wave of negotiations.

Internal evaluations of two of the activities confirmed the high relevance of the workshops. They were effective in reaching their slated objectives and would help the participating Members move their national process forward.

As at end of March 2024, out of the 35 TA beneficiaries who have deposited instruments of acceptance of the Agreement, 29 had participated in one of the workshops.



**Dr Gavin Bellamy**  
Chief Executive Officer, National  
Fisheries Authority, Jamaica  
Participant in the WTO workshop  
in the Caribbean

“We explored the details of the agreement and obtained WTO experts' interpretation, while having the opportunity to clear up misconceptions about how we operate within the system. Signing such an agreement commits an entire country and future generations to providing all the necessary notifications on a timely manner. In addition to the planned support for implementation, technical assistance is also required for the operationalising phase.



**Najiya Al Saadi**  
Head of planning and follow up of fisheries  
projects, Ministry of Agriculture and  
Fisheries Wealth and Water, Oman  
Participant in the WTO workshop in the  
Middle East.

“My journey began with the fisheries subsidies negotiations in 2019. Since then, I have followed and participated in the negotiations during the 12<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. I am delighted to have participated in the workshop in Oman following the adoption of the Agreement. It is pleasing to see all the efforts made by the Members to reach an agreement and the enthusiasm generated by its implementation and kicking off the second wave of negotiations.

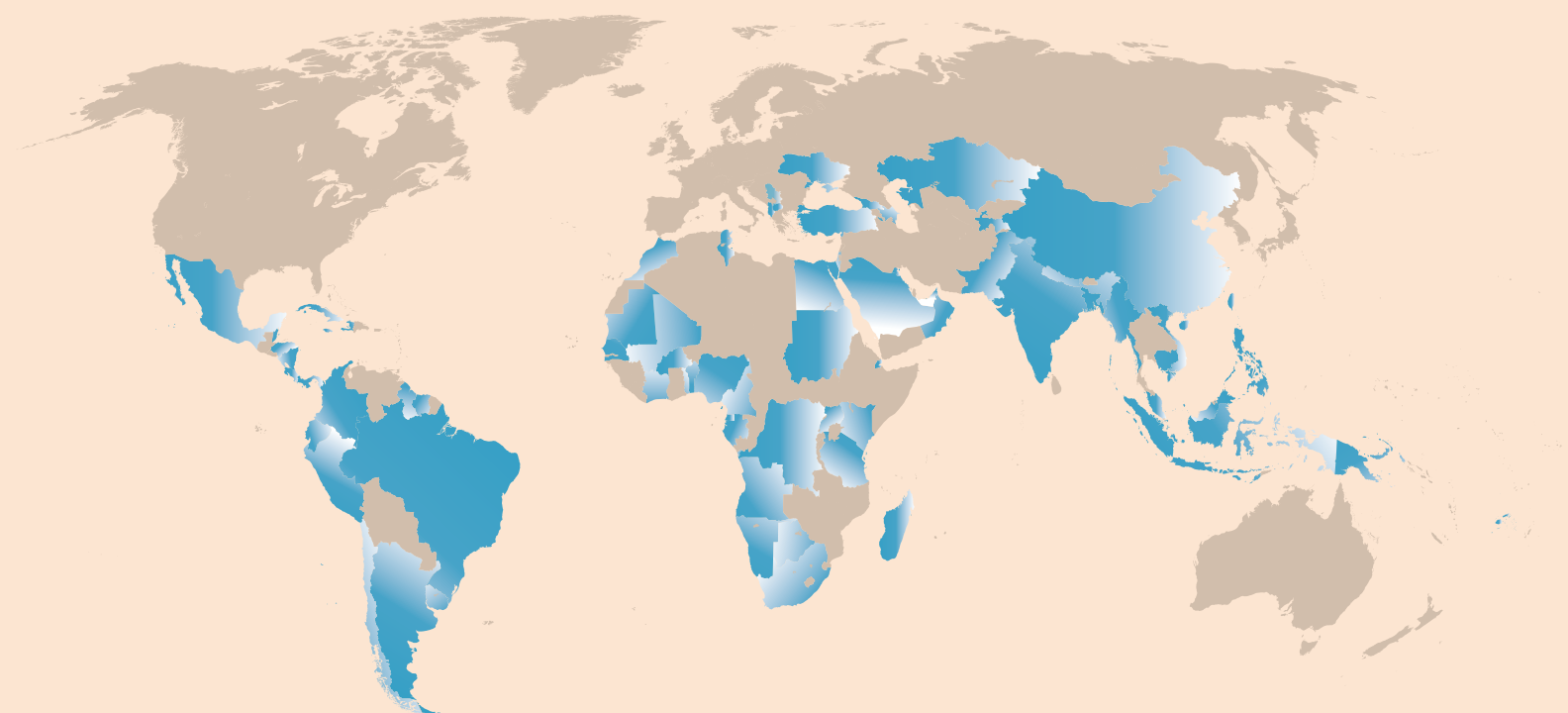


**WTO Deputy Director-General Angela Ellard**  
at the WTO workshop in Asia.

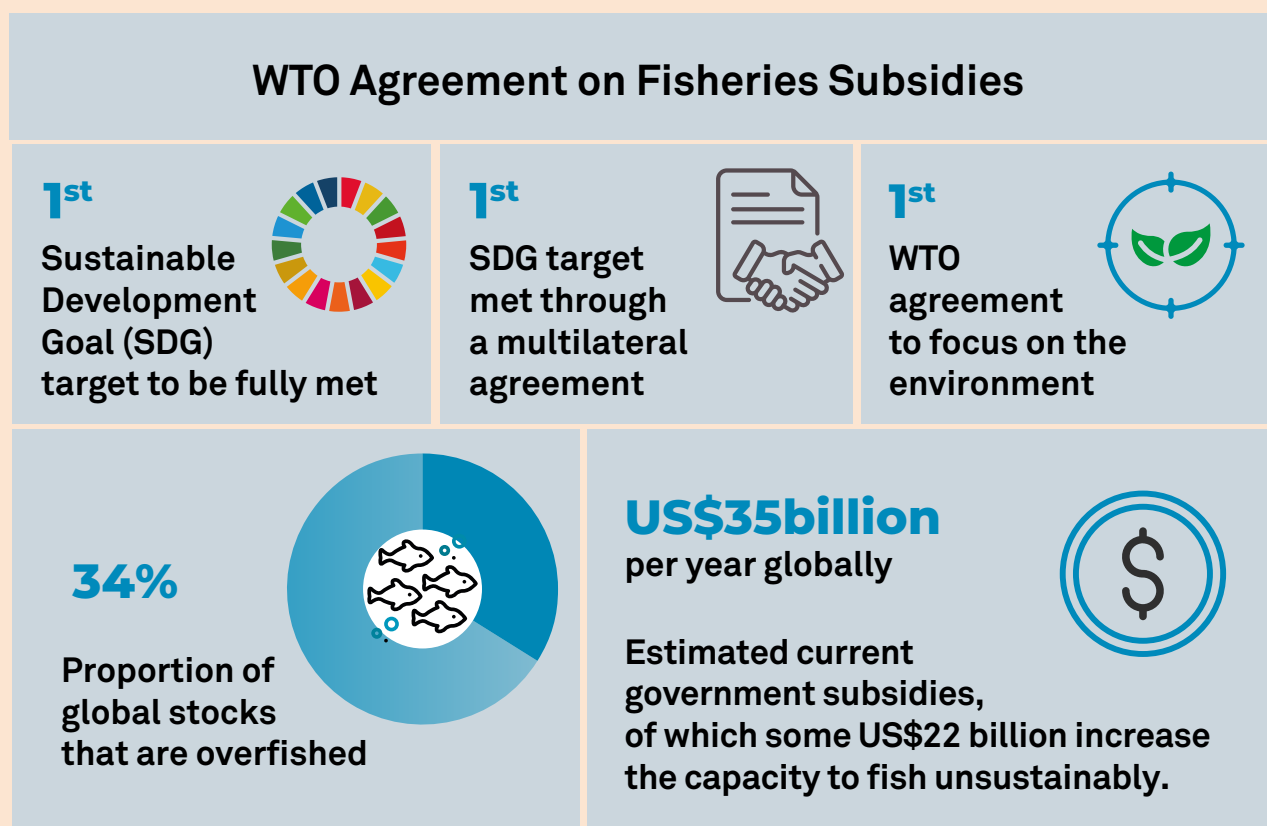
“With millions in the region depending directly and indirectly on the marine fishing industry for their livelihoods, it is crucial that we work together toward sustainable management of our ocean resources for the long term.



Infographic 12. WTO Members who participated in different workshops on fisheries subsidies in 2023



Infographic 13. Key facts on fisheries



# Chapter 2

## Prioritizing inclusion



- The participation of Least Developed Countries, one of the main target group of beneficiaries of WTO TA, increased significantly.
- Following a record year in 2022, women participation in TA activities remained high in 2023.
- After three years' suspension, face-to-face regional trade policy courses resumed in 2023, contributing to wider geographical coverage and incorporating more interactive tools.
- The delivery of TA in languages other than English as well as their geographical reach further increased.



## INCLUSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Investing in skills and fostering inclusion: lessons from WTO Technical Assistance in 2023

By **Taufiqur Rahman**, Director, Development Division, WTO



I believe every child in every household in every country deserves an opportunity for a better life. There is no doubt that trade can bring new economic opportunities, thereby helping to raise living standards. Over the past 30 years, since the establishment of the WTO, trade has contributed to lifting millions out of poverty.

However, ensuring shared prosperity worldwide requires an inclusive trade-policy so that the benefits of trade can reach more people across the globe. The voices of small businesses, women, youth and persons with disabilities in trade policy making can help the international community better address their concerns. Skilled trade experts can unleash new trade opportunities that the multilateral trading system has to offer.

Still, for too many talented women and men in the developing world, performing to the best of their potential to enable so many Members to participate meaningfully in global trade remains hampered by inadequate access to trade-related training. The WTO offers opportunities for individuals willing

to build expertise in trade to help them build the institutional capacity of their national authorities to take full advantage of the opportunities of the Multilateral Trading System.

In 2023, the WTO Secretariat helped over 16,000 people to sharpen their skills in trade-related topics. It is very encouraging that women benefited from nearly half (48%) of all our technical assistance efforts. We have also helped to raise awareness of businesses, non-governmental organizations and media on the latest developments of WTO's work.

We welcomed 17 Young Professionals, mostly women, to work with us in the WTO Secretariat. We also contributed to skills development of 48 interns – 25 men and 23 women – from 45 WTO Members and Observers. Some of them have been deepening their knowledge and technical skills by working hand in hand with us in the Secretariat, while others have been gaining diplomatic and negotiating skills by assisting their respective permanent missions to the WTO.

**“For too many talented women and men in the developing world, performing to the best of their potential to enable so many Members to participate meaningfully in global trade remains hampered by inadequate access to trade-related training.”**

I trust that the skills we have helped to build to date will enable trade negotiators and experts from developing and least-developed countries to realize evolving trade opportunities, with hopes for a better future for all.

## INCLUDING LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Increasing participation in technical assistance activities, growing engagement in WTO work



**WTO TA  
Benefited  
39 LDC's**

In 2023, nationals of least developed countries (LDCs) accounted for 31% of overall participation in Technical Assistance (TA) activities, representing 39 WTO Members and Observers, predominantly from Africa. Compared to the previous year, this amounts to an increase of almost 10 percentage points in LDC access to TA. Such progress constitutes an important achievement for WTO TA, whose mandate makes LDCs a priority. Because of more complex human and institutional capacity constraints that hinder their effective participation in global trade, technical assistance is vital for LDC Members and Observers. Their increasing participation in TA activities implies growing capacities developed to enable their inclusion in the multilateral trading system, which offers many opportunities to unlock growth, economic development, and prosperity.

Among the TA programmes in which LDC participation was most significant in 2023 were on-the-job training and e-Learning. LDC nationals made up almost half (46%) of trainees and young professionals, a slight increase on the previous year. The proportion of LDC participants in e-Learning programmes increased to 38% in 2023, compared with 26% in 2022. Their completion rate of e-Learning courses (69%) is roughly in line with the performance of e learners from developing TA beneficiaries (70%).

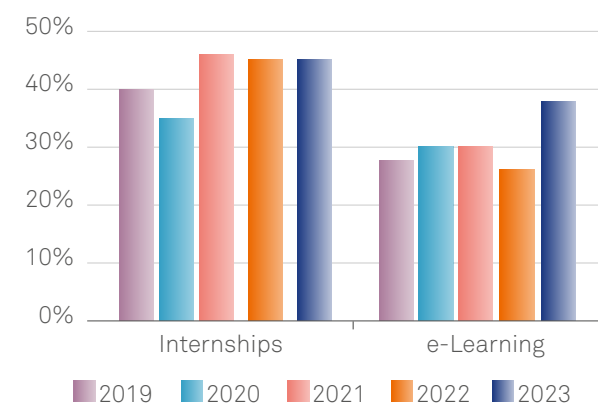
Regarding LDC Members' participation in WTO work, the quantity of documents they submitted, on their own or together with other Members, to WTO Committees increased from 78 in 2022 to 117 in 2023, underscoring their growing engagement within the system (see [page 41](#)). This heightened involvement is particularly prominent in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, which collectively house almost all of the LDC Members and Observers.

Trade and Development

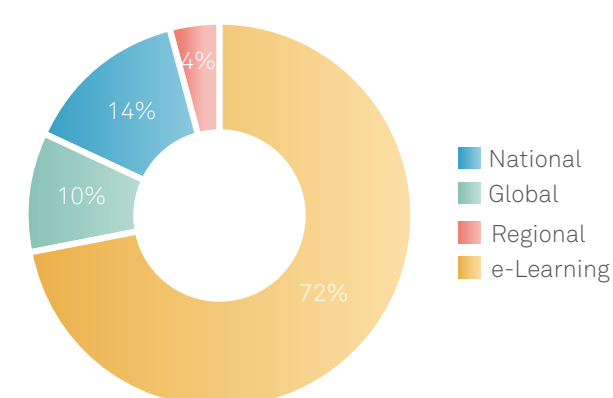


**In 2023, there were 46 LDCs globally, with 35 being Members of the WTO and 8 holding observer status.**

**Figure 25. LDCs share of participants (2019-2023)**



**Figure 26. LDCs participation by type of training in 2023**

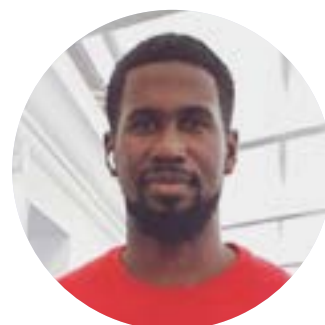


## Designing exclusive activities for least-developed countries

In addition to the attention given to the needs of Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) in all Technical Assistance (TA) activities, the WTO Secretariat delivers every year a series of programmes uniquely designed to address their specific concerns.

The relaunch in 2023 of the WTO Introductory Trade Policy Courses for LDCs yielded substantial benefits, after three years of suspension due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Two courses were organised in French and English, drawing a total of 57 participants from 28 LDC Members to improve their understanding of WTO principles and procedures.

“The Introductory Trade Policy Course for LDCs has broadened my knowledge of the WTO and its various Agreements. It has been an enriching experience which has prepared me to better contribute to the Gambia’s trade policy space as well as help the country meet its obligations as a WTO Member.



**Aziz Bala-Gaye**  
Assistant Director  
Ministry of Trade, Industry,  
Regional Integration and  
Employment, The Gambia

A Workshop on best practices deriving from Trade Policy Reviews was also organised for LDCs. The activity brought together participants from 17 LDCs. The discussions, which took place from 7 to 9 November 2023 in Shanghai, China, focused on national and regional experiences regarding the opportunities offered to LDCs by the Trade Policy Review Mechanism of the WTO.

Other efforts tailored to the needs of LDC Members included the Annual South-South dialogue on LDCs

and development – a two-day retreat examining the evolving pattern of South-South cooperation on trade – which held its sixth edition on 28 - 29 September 2023 in Lausanne, Switzerland. The forum brought together 80 delegates from LDCs and their development partners and facilitated robust discussions on trade priorities and digital integration, signalling a heightened commitment to LDCs' integration into the multilateral trading system. LDC graduation, trade support and WTO reform featured prominently in Members' discussions.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> South-South Dialogue on LDCs and Development stressed that LDCs' trade priorities form an integral part of broader trade and development discussions, including in the context of WTO reform.



“We need to keep examining development-related matters across the spectrum of the WTO – from regular Committee work to trade negotiations to dispute settlement.

## Creating pathways for sustainable and innovative technology transfers

Facilitating the development of Least Developed Countries' technological infrastructure for sustainable development is key in their economic transformation. This is a guiding principle of the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement).

Since the TRIPS Agreement came into force, continued efforts have been made through technical assistance geared towards the implementation of its Article 66.2, which encourages developed countries to provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories to promote and stimulate technology transfer to LDCs. The main objective of this Article is to enable LDCs to create a sound and viable technological base.

For the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row, in 2023, 30 participants from 18 LDC Members of the WTO joined the collaborative discussions held from 14 to 16 March to strengthen their capacity to identify priority needs for establishing a robust technological base and to leverage technological advancements for their development.

LDCs' priority areas for their technological development, as surveyed by the WTO Secretariat, were examined and consultations were held to improve coordination with cooperation partners in support of technology transfer.



**Ambassador Kadra Ahmed Hassan of Djibouti**, Coordinator of the WTO Group of LDCs.

TRIPS Workshop on  
Technology Transfer for  
LDC Members



“The LDC Group recognizes that science and technology can provide key solutions across many areas of sustainable development and thus help fulfil a wide range of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



## PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

### Bridging the Gender Gap in Global Trade



**48%**  
of Women  
participation

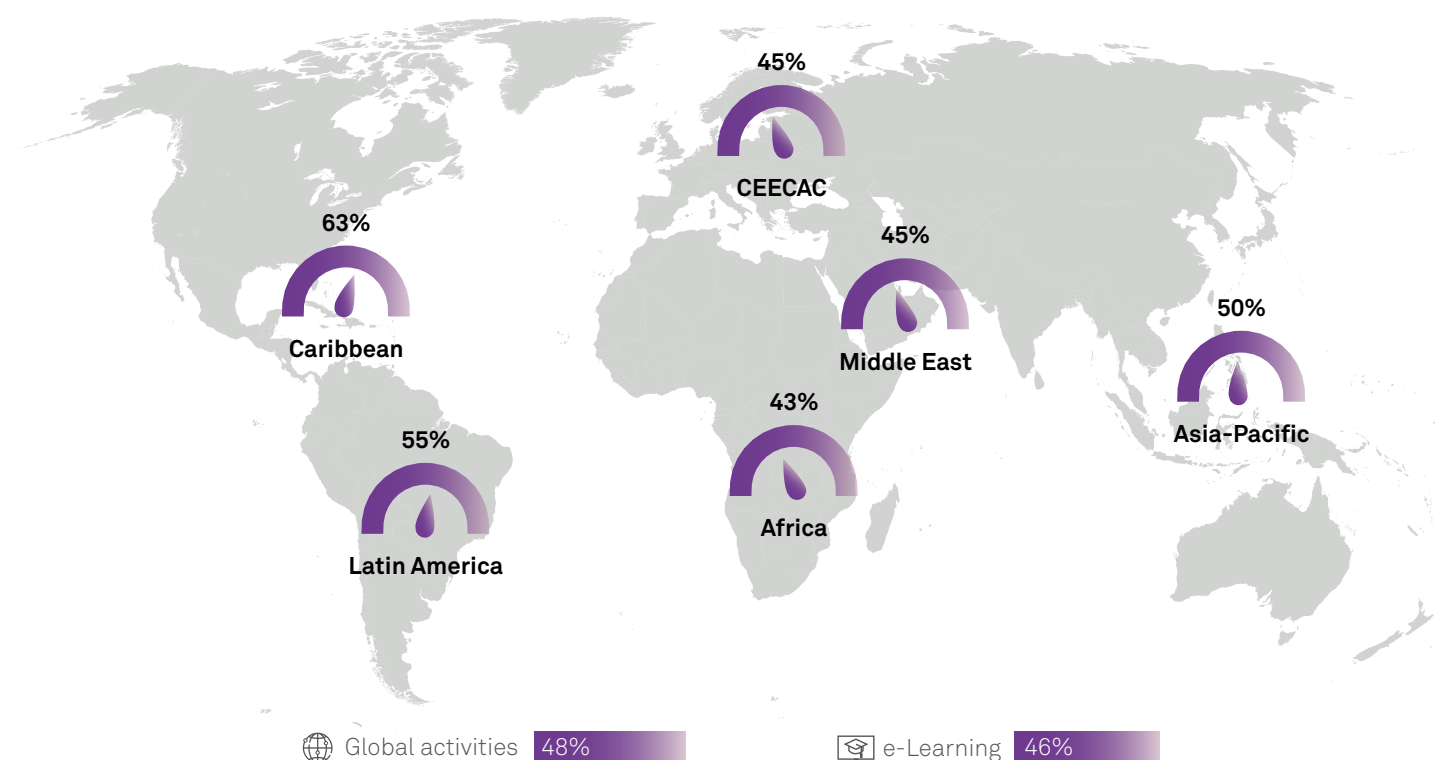
Strengthening women's participation in global trade is an integral part of the WTO Technical Assistance mandate. The Secretariat is raising awareness of the impact of trade on women's economic empowerment, of women's economic empowerment on development, and of the way in which trade and trade regulations affect women and men differently.

Women's participation in WTO TA activities in 2023 was sustained at 48%, following a record year in 2022 when it reached 51%. This consistently high level of women's participation ensures increasingly improved capacity to support their inclusion at national, regional and multilateral levels in global trade issues.

As in the past, the Caribbean region boasted the highest proportion of female participation at 63%, surpassing the 56% recorded in 2022. Other regions such as Africa, the Middle East, and Central Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus, have also seen an increase in women participation as compared to 2022 (See Infographic 14). The involvement of women in Asia Pacific remained stagnant at the same level as men, while it declined in Latin America.

The Secretariat's commitment to ensuring gender equality in TA activities remains constant, with continued efforts on incorporating a gender perspective into TA initiatives. These efforts include capacity-building programmes, mentorship schemes, promoting gender-responsive trade policies, and fostering partnerships with other organizations to advance gender equality in trade.

Infographic 14. Women participation in TA trainings by region in 2023



### Training Programmes tailored to trade and gender issues

In 2023, two training courses on trade and gender were delivered in May and July to improve the knowledge of government officials and trade negotiators to promote gender equality in trade and through trade. A total of 45 participants from various ministries, including trade, foreign affairs, and finance, strengthened their capacity to analyse, formulate and implement trade policies that support women's access to trade and economic opportunities. The courses also allowed participants to familiarise themselves with trade and gender issues related to standards, innovation and violence against women. Around 73% of participants in the two courses were women and 26% were men.

The key takeaway for many participants was the enhanced capacity to integrate gender issues in trade policies. They also expressed the desire to foster closer collaboration between their ministries and other governmental institutions on trade and gender, and to increase their involvement in the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender established in 2020, which brings together WTO Members and Observers seeking to intensify efforts to increase women's participation in global trade. Participants expressed a greater sense of empowerment to advocate for gender-inclusive trade programmes within their ministries and integrate gender considerations in Free Trade Agreement provisions.

Watch full video  
testimonials



**Inès Monwanou,**  
Director of Economic  
and International Trade  
Relations at Benin's  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs

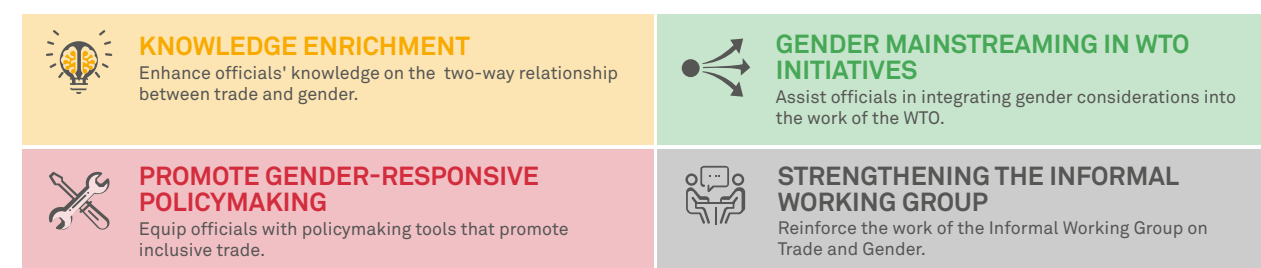


**Eric Ambassa,**  
International Trade  
Contractual Executive  
at Cameroon's  
Ministry of Trade

“The course will help me to propose measures and take decisions that will integrate gender aspects into trade policy, particularly regarding the development of women's entrepreneurship.”

“It is important to have a grasp of what is being done in the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender and to stay well informed about all other activities and negotiations taking place at the WTO.”

Infographic 15. Trade and Gender TA - four main objectives



## ACCOMMODATING THE NEEDS OF PARTICIPANTS WITH DISABILITIES

The WTO Technical Assistance (TA) also pays particular attention to ensuring that its programmes are accessible to persons with disabilities. Multiple barriers prevent them from participating in the various aspects of society, including business and employment, but also to the knowledge and skills necessary for their direct inclusion in global trade issues.

According to a study authored by Dr Amrita Bahri, Associate Professor of International Trade Law at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) part of the WTO Chairs Programme, "International trade can empower people with disabilities and help them mitigate the barriers that impede their access to economic opportunities." Dr Bahri's report, which is the first comprehensive one on trade and disability, shows that "to ensure free trade agreements enhance inclusive trade and further sustainable development, making persons with disabilities winners of trade agreements is not only the right thing to do, it also makes complete business sense."

In 2023, two government officials with disabilities completed the highest level of the WTO TA Progressive Learning Strategy. One of them, Jean François ADJI YAPI, is Head of Sub-Regional Cooperation at Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion.

"I was somewhat apprehensive before joining the course because of the arrangements required for persons with disabilities, which are not always available everywhere. But I was pleased to find, when I arrived at the WTO, that everything was in place so that I could take part in the programme and progress as smoothly as the other participants," he said.

The Advanced Trade Policy Course enabled him to improve his ability to carry out WTO-related work, while enhancing his knowledge and skills in trade policy formulation, monitoring and implementation of WTO Agreements, WTO negotiations and dispute settlement.

Watch  
full video  
testimonials



**Jean François ADJI YAPI**  
Head of Sub-Regional Cooperation,  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME  
Promotion, Côte d'Ivoire

“ Since 2012, I have benefited from several online courses and other training programmes, including the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course, which I attended in 2019 before progressing to the advanced level.

## REACHING EVERY REGION

Allowing smooth participation from around the globe



**70 Members and  
Observers hosted  
WTO TA**

Broad geographical distribution of beneficiaries is also a priority for WTO Technical Assistance (TA) to ensure greater inclusivity. In 2023, national and regional TA activities were conducted in 70 Members and Observers from varied regions. These initiatives, addressing diverse topics, consistently adjusted their content to suit local or regional circumstances, thus offering tailored support to beneficiaries.

Face-to-face activities increased following the complete easing in 2023 of restrictions imposed in the previous years by the COVID 19 pandemic. Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America remained at the forefront of hosting national and regional trainings. Almost all regions experienced a surge in activities compared to the previous year.

There was a substantial rise in participation in TA activities in 2023 across all regions, except the Middle East, which saw a modest decrease. Africa continued to lead in training participation in 2023, reflecting a dynamic engagement in TA activities, followed by Asia-Pacific and Latin America. E-Learners surged across almost all regions during the year, with notable increases in Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus (CEEAC) and Africa.

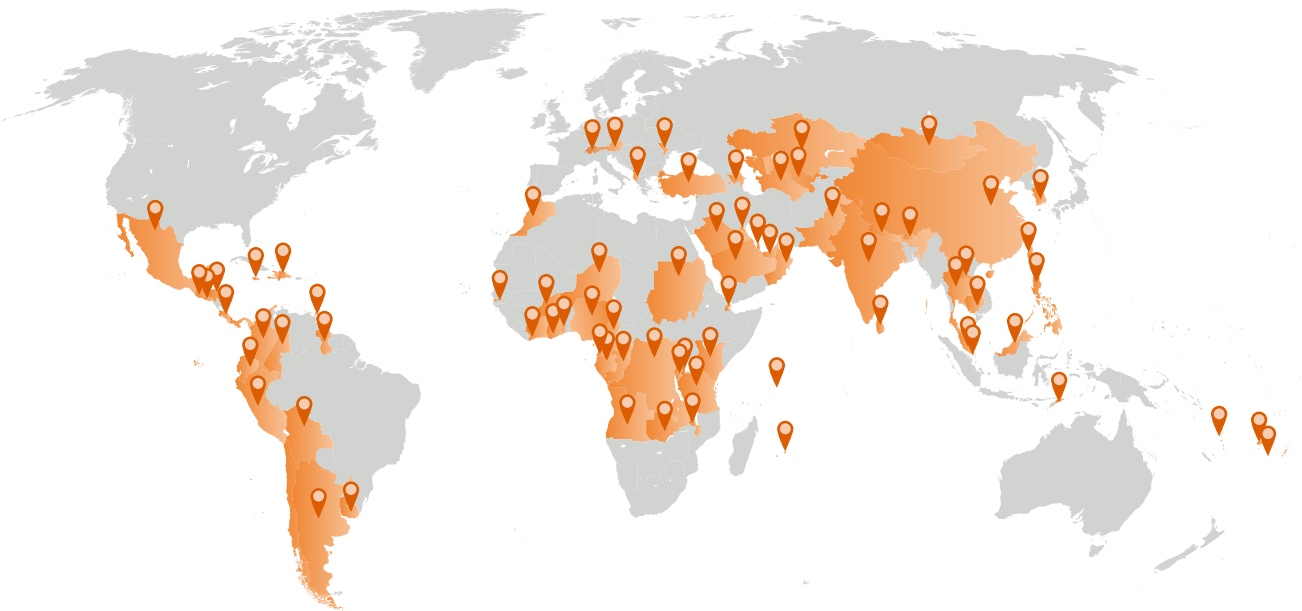
In-person Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs) resumed after three years of online delivery imposed by travel restrictions provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Four courses were delivered for the Caribbean, Latin America, French-speaking Africa and English-speaking Africa, involving a total of 92 participants. The RTPCs were organized in partnership with local academic institutions with the involvement of regional experts in the delivery of the courses. The ongoing geopolitical turmoil in the CEEAC region and the Middle East hampered the resumption of RTPCs in these regions.



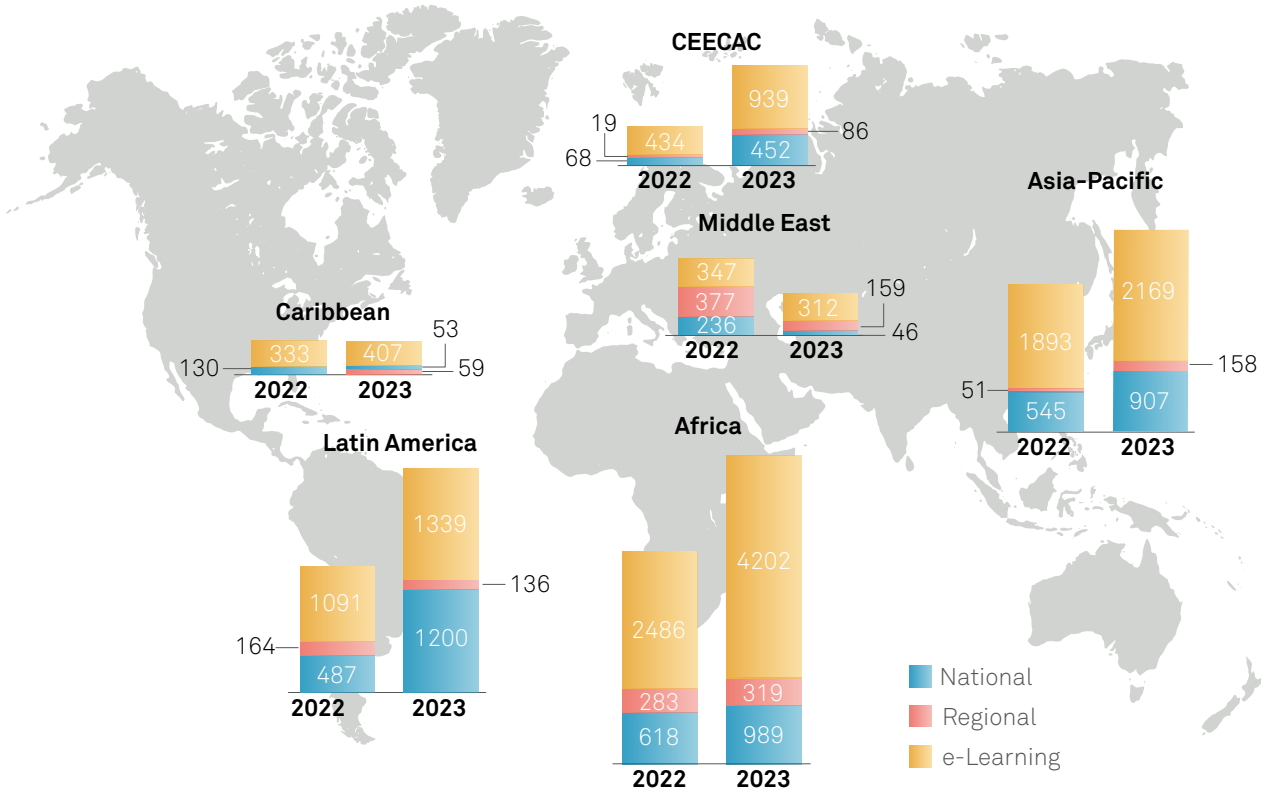
**Gifty A. Botwe**  
Commercial Officer, Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral Trade  
Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana,  
Participant in the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course in Mauritius

“ The course did not only equip me with the essential skills and knowledge to effectively assist in trade negotiations and analysis but also empowered me to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of national trade policies.

Infographic 16. National and regional training activities by 'host' country in 2023



Infographic 17. Participants by region and type of training (2022-2023)



# INCLUSION THROUGH LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

## Sustaining multilingualism for a greater outreach

The WTO Secretariat ensures that Technical Assistance (TA) activities are delivered in the three WTO working languages: English, French, and Spanish. Offering courses in all three languages is crucial for fostering inclusivity and maximizing interactivity. Interpretation into other languages is occasionally provided by partners to enhance the activity's effectiveness for beneficiaries who do not speak English or any other WTO working language.

In 2023, to ensure broader accessibility, activities such as the Workshop on Services Trade Policy in Africa, the Advanced Global e-Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement, and the Workshop on Subsidies Notifications were all organized with simultaneous interpretation. This multilingual approach enriched language diversity in WTO TA activities, providing comprehensive access to resources and fostering global participation in a cost-efficient manner.

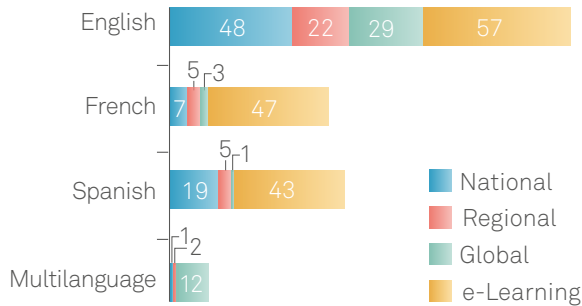
A one-week advanced course on dispute Settlement was delivered in Spanish in 2023. The previous Spanish-language edition took place back in 2018. During the week in Geneva, participants engaged with several Spanish-speaking key stakeholders, such as officials from the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), Geneva-based delegates and lawyers from private firms. Their contributions were highly appreciated by the participants.

In an effort to enhance linguistic diversity in the e-Learning catalogue, 21 online courses were launched

in 2023, comprising five new ones in English, along with translations of eight courses in French and eight in Spanish. At the end of 2023, the e-Learning course catalogue featured a total of 58 courses in English, 51 in French, and 51 in Spanish. Registrations for e-Learning courses by language in 2023 stood at 74% for English, 16% for French, and 10% for Spanish. Live webinars covering various trade topics and the e-Learning programme were conducted in all three official WTO languages, bringing an extra dimension to the learning process.

In general, English served as the primary instructional language for the majority of participants (68%). Approximately 14% of learners utilised Spanish, while 13% followed activities in French. Five per cent participated in multilingual training sessions with real-time interpretation.

Figure 27. Number of TA training by type and language in 2023



**Pamela Huaman Linares**  
General Directorate for International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Peru  
Participant in the Advanced Course on Dispute Settlement in Spanish

Watch full video testimonials



“ The fact that the advanced course on dispute settlement was conducted entirely in my day-to-day working language – Spanish – increased its relevance and usefulness.







# Chapter 3

## An evolving curriculum and participation



- The demand for, and implementation of TA activities at national level increased, enabling a more targeted response to TA needs.
- In 2023, TA activities increasingly blended face-to-face, virtual and e-Learning components to maximise their effectiveness and efficiency, drawing on the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The number of participants following TA advanced activities decreased compared to recent years.
- The transition to the new e-Learning platform was fully completed.
- Almost three quarters of face-to-face TA activities in 2023, were delivered in collaboration with a partner – the highest rate ever. However, partners' average contribution to the activities was among the lowest recorded in recent years.

# PARTICIPATION LEVELS

## Towards full recovery in TA participation levels

Participation levels in TA activities bounced back in 2023, following three years of decline due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the number of participants increased by 32% compared to the previous year, reaching 16,095 learners. The level of participation exceeded that of 2019 but remained below the average recorded between 2016 and 2019 (19,000).

Driving this growth was the number of learners attending face-to-face courses (+91%) and e Learning courses (+42%). On the other hand, participation in virtual activities dropped sharply compared to the previous year (-62%).

Looking at the types of face-to-face activities delivered, participation in national activities outstripped global and regional ones, which represents an increase in access to a more personalised response to domestic TA needs.

As in previous years, the courses with a general scope (covering several topics horizontally) accounted for the largest share of participation (40%). These were followed by activities on standards (14%), market access for goods and TRIPS (7% each). This distribution reflects the priority topics of Members and Observers (see [page 79](#)).

TA dashboards on participation



Figure 28. Participation by type of training in 2023

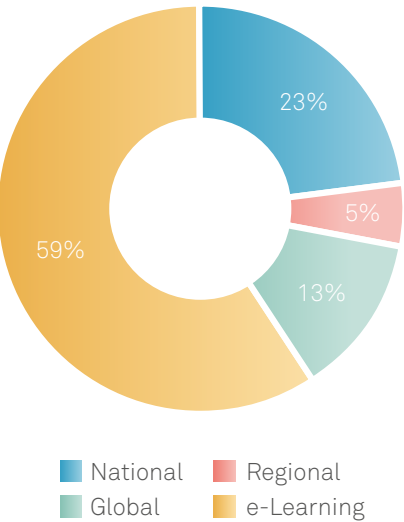


Figure 29. Participants by mode of delivery in 2023

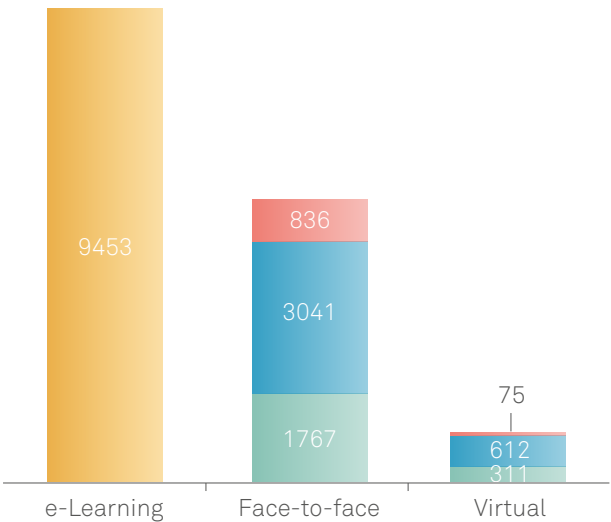


Figure 30. Participants by year and mode of training (2019-2023)

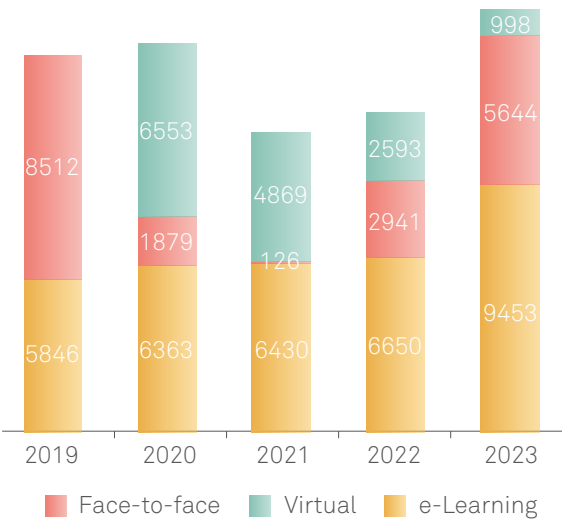
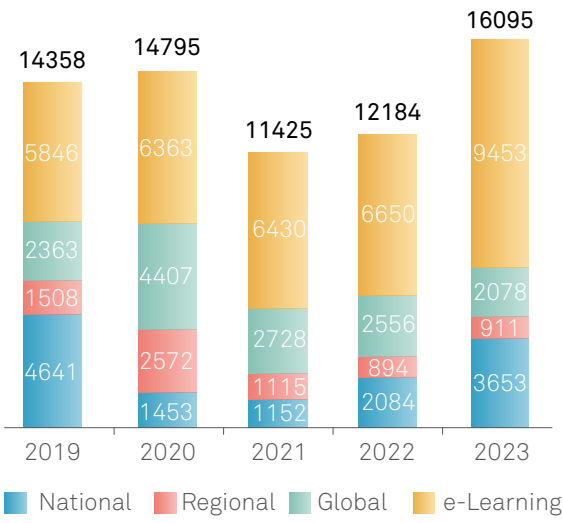
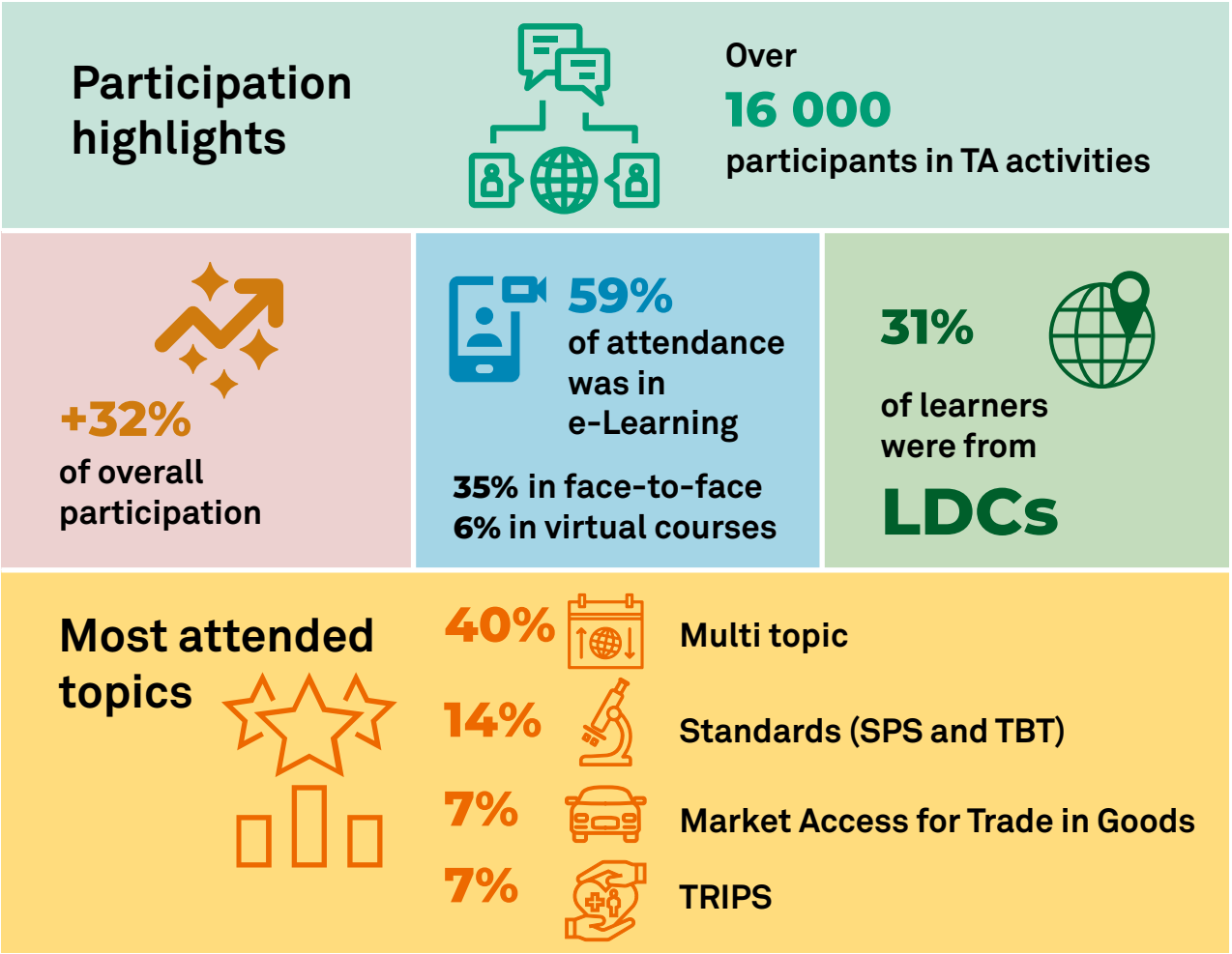


Figure 31. Participants by year and type of training (2019-2023)



Infographic 18. Participation highlights



RESPONDING TO DEMAND

Beneficiaries' priorities remain consistent

A thorough assessment of beneficiaries' needs and priorities is critical to ensure that TA delivery remains relevant and effective. Regular consultations with beneficiaries, requests for national activities, surveys questionnaires, trade policy reviews, and other diagnostic studies and evaluations help the Secretariat identify institutional gaps as accurately as possible.

Read also: In the Spotlight | Responding to the needs of Geneva-based delegates | [Page 93](#).

Fisheries subsidies have joined the top 10 priority topics for TA beneficiaries as identified in the survey conducted in 2023 to assess their TA needs in preparation for the biennial TA plan 2024-2025. This is a natural development following the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in June 2022.

The survey, which received the largest number of responses ever recorded (over 60% of the total number of potential beneficiaries), showed that other priority

topics have not changed significantly since the last study carried out in 2021.

Standards (both SPS and TBT) and TRIPS continue to top the list by far for the majority of respondents. Trade in services, trade facilitation, agriculture and market access issues for goods form a second group identified as a priority by almost half of respondents. The third group, accounting for over a third of responses, includes fisheries subsidies and trade remedies.

The survey also probed whether beneficiaries considered that WTO TA should broaden the range of issues covered to topics under discussion in the WTO, for which no multilateral agreement exists. Almost all respondents agreed and identified the following main topics (in order of priority): e-Commerce, trade and environment-related issues, investment facilitation, trade and gender issues, and MSMEs.



Keeping up with Members' TA needs

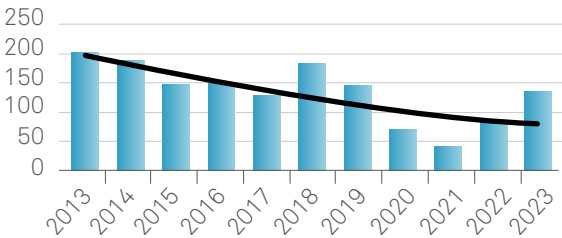
Requests for national activities are one of the best ways of gauging the specific needs of a beneficiary at a given time. The ensuing bilateral exchanges between the Secretariat and the authorities of the requesting Member make it possible to identify needs precisely and to design the most appropriate TA activity. In 2023, a 60% year-on-year increase in requests for national activities was recorded in all regions. This sharp increase shows that many beneficiaries were waiting for the full resumption of face-to-face activities to reinstate their requests. However, the volume of requests (128) was below the average recorded in the five years preceding the pandemic (143). It is too early to ascertain whether this recent trend will last.

Trade Policy Reviews (TPR) give a detailed insight into each Member's situation. TPR follow-up activities provide a crucial opportunity for Members to garner support for the implementation of reforms arising from the review. Three national TPR follow-up activities were carried out in 2023 in Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Moldova. This allowed for further dissemination of TPR findings to various domestic stakeholders and other development partners, while identifying specific pathways for TA activities that would help these Members achieve their trade policy objectives.

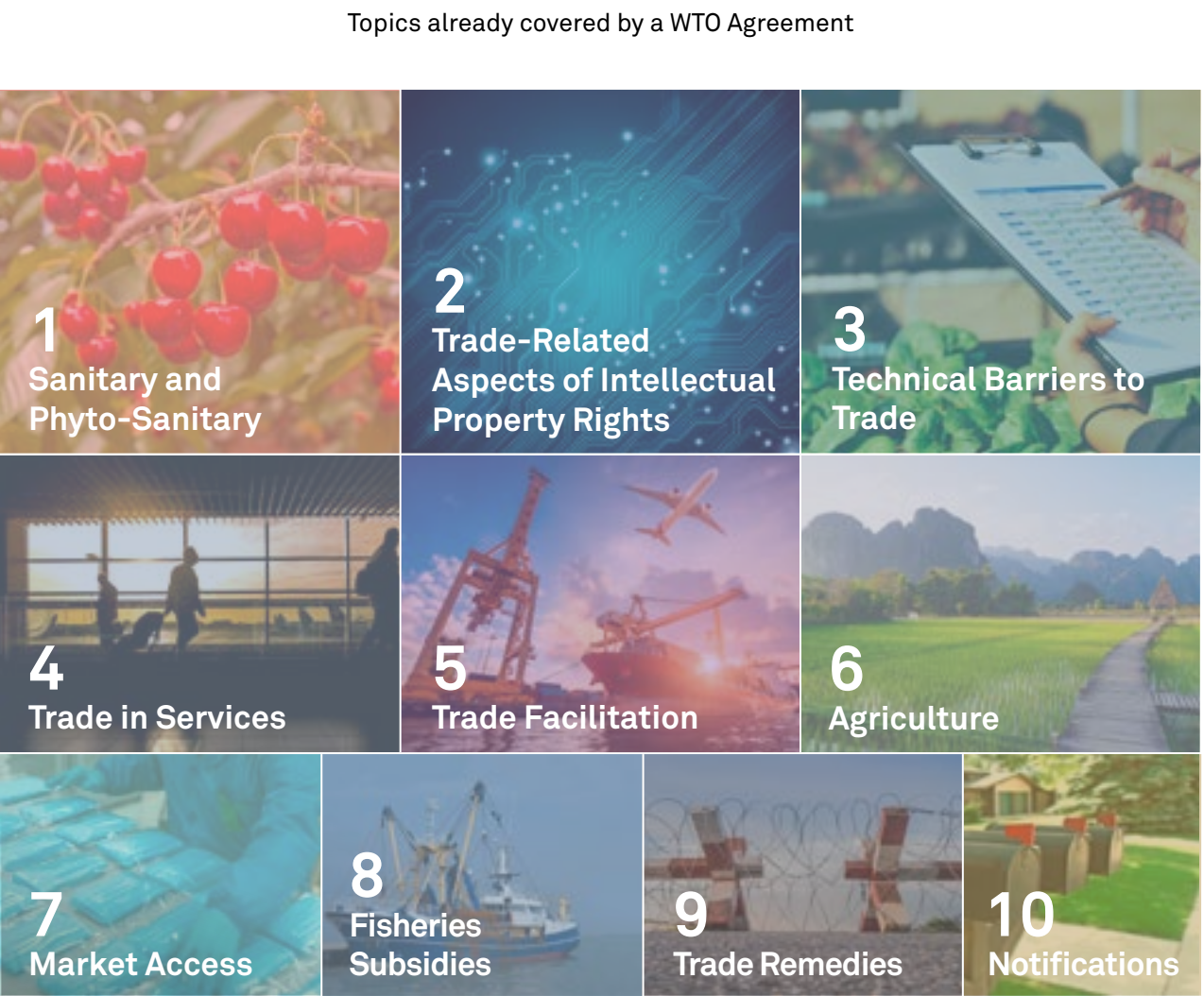
The TA needs of Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia and Tanzania were reviewed in coordination with national stakeholders (see [page 80](#)). These were documented in reports that were widely shared with Secretariat staff involved in TA delivery, mainly through the TA Coordination Task Force.

The Secretariat conducted a topic-specific survey to support the design of five TA activities on investment facilitation, intellectual property and transfer of technology for LDCs, quantitative restrictions, and SPS & TBT. The responses helped assess beneficiaries' understanding of these issues, so as to adapt programmes to address the perceived gaps, and to enhance the benefits of the training courses through coaching.

Figure 32. Requests for national activities (2013-2023)



Infographic 19. Beneficiaries' Top TA Priorities for 2024-2025 (Source TA Plan)





# Implementation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement: Ecuador takes a proactive approach to assessing its needs

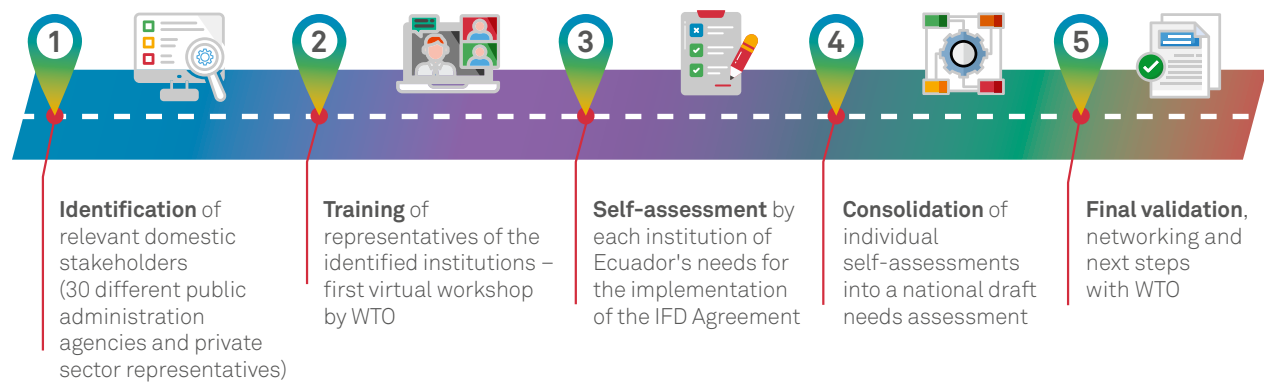
In 2023, Ecuador conducted a needs assessment in preparation for the implementation of the future Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD). After the conclusion of the IFD negotiations in the summer of 2023, while the text of a plurilateral agreement was undergoing legal review, Ecuador embarked on a six-month needs assessment process. This was the first pilot project on IFD.

The Secretariat supported Ecuador throughout the entire process which culminated in a national validation workshop at which domestic stakeholders reached a consensus on the implementation schedule of the provisions of the future Agreement, and on the technical assistance needed by Ecuador to comply with these provisions.

Ecuador's full ownership of the project contributed greatly to this outcome, in addition to a well-honed process that included training key stakeholders on the provisions of the IFD Agreement, facilitating self-assessments of the various needs anticipated by the different stakeholders, and consolidating the identified needs, which were discussed and validated during the national workshop.

This project created of a strong network among the investment facilitation focal points from various agencies, which will support the future implementation of the IFD Agreement.

Infographic 20. IFD needs assessment: Ecuador's approach in 2023



## What is the IFD Agreement?

The Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) was launched in 2017 by a group of developing and LDC Members. It aims at developing a plurilateral Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development that will improve the investment and business climate and make it easier for investors in all

sectors of the economy to invest, conduct their day-to-day business and expand their operations. Facilitating greater participation of developing and LDC Members in global investment flows also constitutes a core objective of the future Agreement.

Investment facilitation  
for development



# Three Questions to Nicole Olmedo - Ecuador IFD Focal Point

Effective coordination was essential for this pilot needs assessment in anticipation of the implementation of the IFD Agreement. One of the key actors in this process was the Ecuador focal point and coordinator for the project. Nicole Olmedo was instrumental at every stage of the operation, guiding stakeholders through the Agreement and the self-assessment process, consolidating identified needs, and moving things forward in time for the final validation workshop.



“I am confident that the lessons learned will contribute significantly to strengthening the investment environment in the country and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Q. Ecuador stands out as the first Member to undertake a needs assessment for IFD. What are your thoughts on this project? What steps and approaches have you implemented?**

Although being pioneers meant having few references on how to proceed, this allowed us to build a process tailored to the Ecuadorian reality, which played a key role in the success of the project.

Firstly, in composing the project team, we decided to include several professionals with experience in the field of investment, from the perspective of attraction, facilitation and national implementation. Then, we drew up a roadmap for data collection and analysis. This roadmap included the identification of public and private entities involved in the life of the investment, training sessions to familiarise the entities with the IFD Agreement and its provisions, organization of the validation workshop, among other things.

Finally, we advertised the validation workshop on the official channels of the focal point team, invited the participants well in advance, distributed the self-assessments and sought the active participation of each entity involved.

**Q. What were the main challenges along the way and how did you cope with them?**

One of the first challenges we encountered was the lack of knowledge of the entities involved regarding IFD, the WTO and its role, and, in general, public international law

on trade and investment. To remedy this, we decided to organise several training sessions with the assistance of the WTO Secretariat, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and delegates from our permanent mission.

Another challenge was the lack of interest from some of the entities involved. The presence of our partners (WTO, IDB and International Trade Centre) was a key factor. This synergy allowed us to foster knowledge sharing, strengthen technical capacities and ensure alignment with international best practices in investment facilitation. But it also helped institutionalise this project, which made it attractive to the entities involved, raising the level of interest and priority.

I am confident that the lessons learned will contribute significantly to strengthening the investment environment in the country and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Q. What were the results of the IFD needs assessment?**

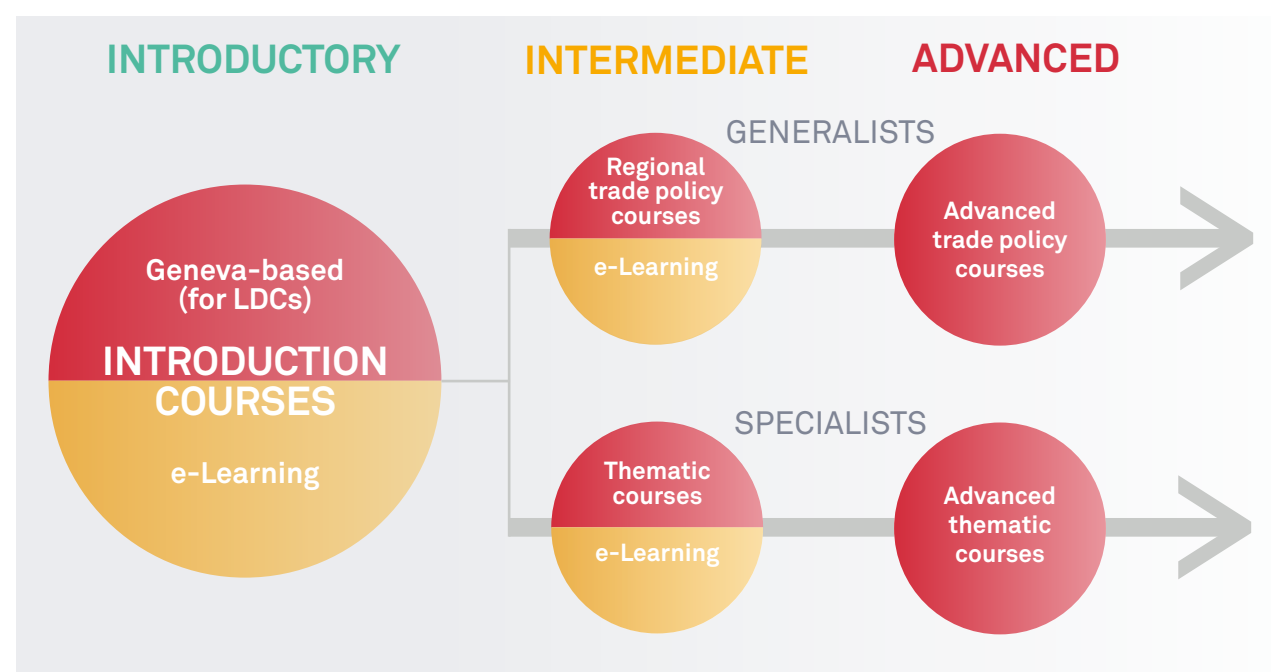
A total of 45 officials from different public institutions competent in investment matters met to validate the needs assessment on the IFD Agreement and Ecuador's compliance with its provisions. We found that 8% of the provisions of the IFD Agreement are already fully met, while 92% are partially complied with. Of that 92%, we were able to identify that 8% could be complied with upon entry into force of the Agreement, 54% could be complied with in a further period of time not exceeding three years, and the remaining 38% would require further analysis and support.



## PROGRESSIVE LEARNING IN ACTION

### One step at a time

Infographic 21. WTO TA Progressive Learning Strategy



The **introductory level** offers participants an initiation to the role, structure and functioning of the WTO, and its economic and legal underpinnings. The online course 'Introduction to the WTO' and other e-Learning programmes are the mainstay at this initial level.

The share of beginners introduced to WTO through this introductory level has remained somewhat stable since 2019 (12% in 2023). There is a sustained appetite for introductory courses among beneficiaries, as completion of this level is a prerequisite for enrolment in higher level activities, while many Members face a significant turnover of staff. In addition, in several domestic agencies dealing with WTO-related matters, the WTO introductory course is mandatory for new recruits. Admissions are easier for introductory courses as there are no prerequisites.

In 2023, for the second consecutive year in over a decade, the Secretariat offered two editions of the face-to-face Introductory Trade Policy Course for LDCs, one in English and the other in French. Activities at this level also included the regular editions of the introductory course for Members of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Introduction Day offered to newly recruited Geneva-based delegates. National activities introducing the WTO were also held in Thailand and Tonga.

After completing the introductory level, participants can deepen their knowledge of a specific area or opt for a more horizontal exposure to trade policy content.

The number of learners engaging in **intermediate level** activities increased from the previous year and was in line with the average of the past five years (61.5%). This remains the level that, in both online and face-to-face activities, accommodates most learners.

Among the most significant activities at this level, in terms of duration and number of participants, were four Regional Trade Policy Courses making a return to their face-to-face version, the China Roundtable on WTO Accessions, three courses on trade and gender, and the south-south dialogue on LDCs and development.

At the **advanced level**, participants can use WTO training products to increase their analytical capacity and autonomy on trade policy issues. Capacity building at an advanced level is essential to enable government officials to acquire the deeper knowledge and develop the necessary skills that will ultimately allow them to contribute to implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations.

For the second year in a row, participation in advanced courses decreased, falling below the average of the last 10 years (approximately 1,800 participants). However, the reasons for this decline are not very clear. On the one hand, it could be attributed to a reduced offer. During the pandemic, these activities were the most affected, as virtual training was not suited to the level of interaction and pedagogy (case studies, simulations and other types of problem-solving exercises) typical of these activities. After the resumption of face to face training in 2023, there was a delay in fully relaunching the advanced level activities after almost three years on hold. Moreover, apart from the peak in 2018, this gradual decline was visible even before the pandemic.

Among the most significant activities at this level, in terms of duration and number of participants, were three editions of the Advanced Trade Policy Courses, the WTO-WIPO course on intellectual property, workshops on fisheries subsidies, the advanced course on SPS and the Advanced Global e-Workshop on the Agreement on Government Procurement.

Given the complexity of tracking participants' progression through the learning ladder, a complete integration of the Progressive Learning Strategy is not always possible. In 2023, about 18% of the participants were involved in activities without a defined level. These were mainly e-Learning activities, but also outreach activities aimed at the business community, Non-Governmental Organization, journalists, Members of parliaments, etc, as well as quasi-academic activities, such as the John Jackson Moot Court, or activities with the involvement of partners with whom it was difficult to establish a precise audience level.



**Ainur Amirbekova,**  
Director of the Department of International  
Integration, Ministry of Trade and  
Integration, Kazakhstan  
Participant in the Advanced Trade Policy  
Course in English

“As a trade policy analyst, I need to master several WTO Agreements and have a solid and broad knowledge of various international trade issues. In this sense, the ATPC fits my profile perfectly. Participating in this course has given me the opportunity to develop new skills through practice and case-based learning. This will help my agency to improve the formulation and implementation of trade policies.

Figure 33. Evolution of participants mix by PLS level (2019-2023)

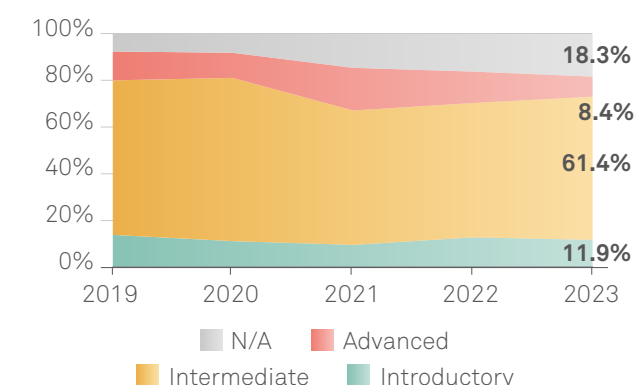
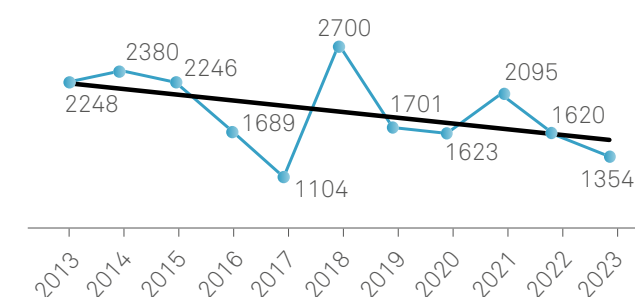


Figure 34. Number of participants in advanced activities (2013-2023)



**Seydou Kassogue**

Department of Trade, Consumer Affairs and Competition at Mali's Ministry of Industry and Trade  
Participant in Advanced Trade Policy Course in French

“Throughout my professional career, I have worked more in the area of internal trade and the implementation of internal legislation. I did not have a solid background in foreign trade and trade agreements apart from the online courses I took. In one year, I was able to progress through all the levels of the WTO Progressive Learning Strategy, i.e. from the introductory course to the advanced course.

Watch  
full video  
testimonial

**Magdaline Morijoi**

Senior Trade Development Officer  
Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry (MITI),  
Kenya

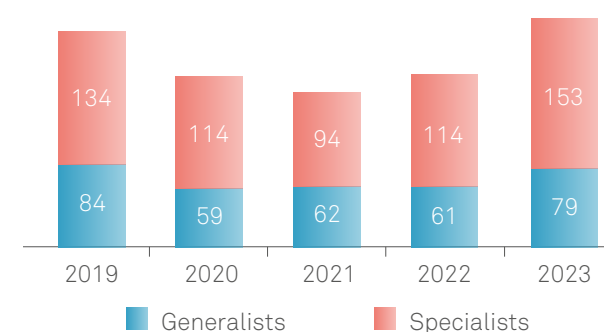
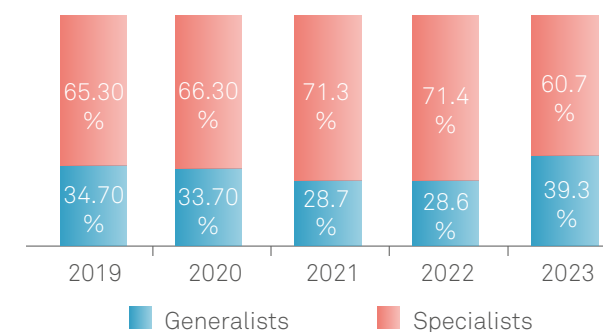
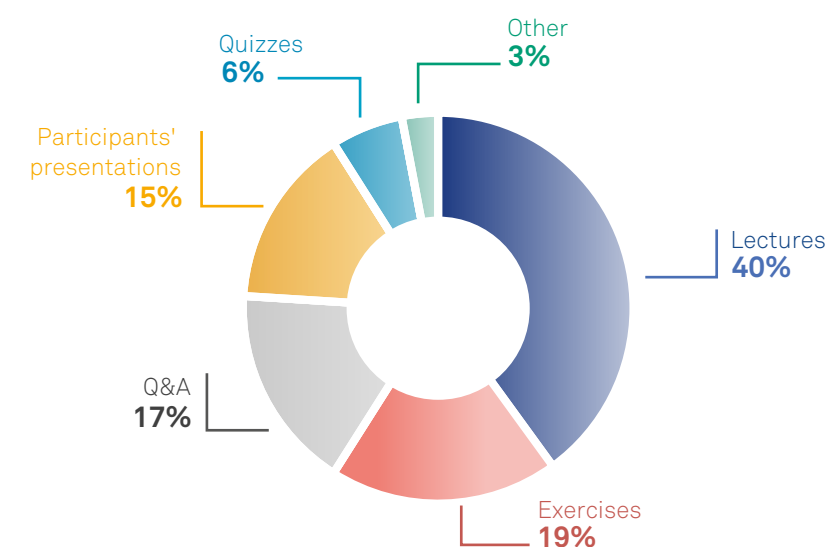
“During my first months at the Kenyan Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry, I enrolled on around 11 WTO's online courses, including introductory ones. Although this initially overloaded me with information, it turned out to be crucial in allowing me to gain a general knowledge of WTO issues, which I was then able to deepen in my daily work.

Besides tailoring courses to participants' knowledge levels, WTO offers two differentiated learning paths. The 'generalists' approach targets government officials who need a broad knowledge of the WTO to conduct their work (e.g., delegates posted to Geneva missions or trade policy advisors). 'Specialists' courses are for officials requiring in-depth knowledge in a specific area, such as government procurement or e-commerce.

The number of activities for specialists increased in 2023, fully recovering its pre-pandemic level (153 vs an average of 149 in the biennium 2018-19). As shown in figure 36, participants choosing to follow the specialised path continue to be an increasing majority (over 60%).

While acknowledging that people learn in different ways and use different means of receiving information, the use of interactive training methods remains a recommended best practice when delivering TA activities at all three levels to stimulate learning and increase the rate of knowledge retention by the participants (i.e., how much they remember after a while).

As can be seen from figure 37, in 2023, most of the time used by trainers to deliver TA activities involved the use of a mix of interactive methods (exercises, case studies, simulations, Q&A, roundtable discussions, etc.), while pure lectures accounted for an average of approximately 40% of the time. Improvement towards a greater reliance on interactive training methods is slow and the figures are barely in line with the targets defined in the TA Plan.

**Figure 35. Number of TA activities by level (2019-2023)****Figure 36. Participants' pathway choice (2019-2023)****Figure 37. Share of training methods in TA face-to-face activities in 2023**

FIT-FOR-PURPOSE CONTENT

A continuous effort to offer relevant content

Throughout the year, the Secretariat continued to improve the content of activities and make them relevant, valuable, and accessible to participants. Specific activities were developed on the most pressing trade-related issues.

Several training activities focused on the link between trade and the health crisis, and on the importance of trade rules to effectively address challenges and opportunities in **trade and public health**, building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. These activities gathered over 500 participants from all regions. For example, the symposium on trade, public health and climate change, organised in October in collaboration with WHO and WIPO, saw participants engage with experts from international organizations, the private sector and civil society to strengthen the understanding of these issues and develop evidence-based approaches to effectively address them.

**Artificial intelligence** and green technology were among the topics covered by an advanced course on intellectual property policy issues, organised in collaboration with WIPO, which focused on new and emerging issues that cut across intellectual property and public policy.

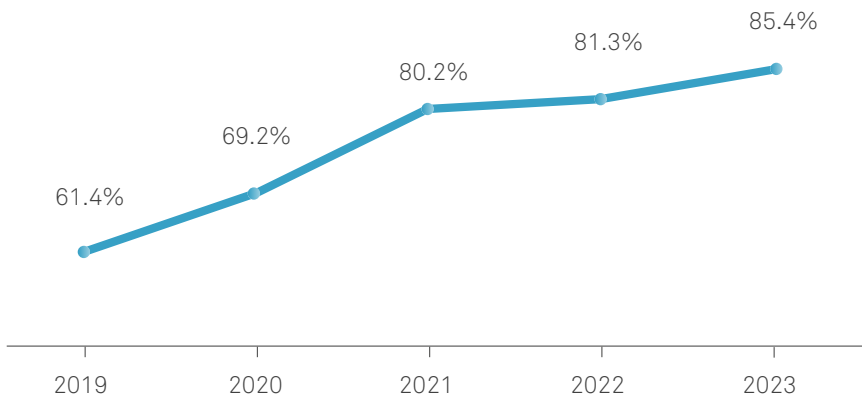
New TA initiatives were also launched in 2023 to meet the capacity-building needs of the WTO delegates based in Geneva (See [page 93](#), and a large series of regional workshops were undertaken to support an early ratification of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and Members' engagement in the second wave of negotiations on outstanding issues. (See [page 59](#)).

The advanced training offering was enhanced by a new course on services aspects of **e-Commerce**. This course organised in response to the high level of interest shown by Members in capacity building in this area explored the relationships and interdependence between the various service sectors that are enablers of e-Commerce or are enabled by it.

Being the year between two **ministerial conferences**, several courses were organised in 2023 to take stock of the commitments made by Members during MC12 (the so-called 'Geneva Package') and to support the negotiations in the run-up to MC13. These initiatives helped participants to grasp the key aspects of the negotiations, understand the priorities of the different Members and facilitate the implementation of the adopted decisions.

In 2023, the entire course catalogue was migrated to the new **e-Learning** platform (Moodle) launched in December 2022. The year also saw an ongoing effort to refine and expand the features and functionality of the platform to enhance the learning experience for participants while increasing the interactivity of online courses. The 21 new courses introduced were in SCORM format and included interactive training components. This elevated the share of interactive online courses to 85% of the catalogue. SCORM is a collection of standards and specifications for web-based electronic educational technology that aims at easing the use and sharing of contents. All courses remain subject to ongoing revisions aimed at enhancing interactivity.

Figure 38. e-Learning courses compliance with SCORM (2019-2023)



**Irene Farinas**  
Director, Food and Drug Administration,  
Philippines,  
Participant in the technical symposium  
on human health and climate change

Watch  
full video  
testimonial



“ This symposium made me feel empowered in terms of policy formulation as I now have all the information needed to support development of sound evidence-based regulations and balancing trade as well as public health.



**Sizwe Lenox Simelane**  
Assistant Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry  
and Competition, South Africa,  
Participant in the WTO Thematic Course on the  
Services Aspects of Electronic Commerce

“ My participation in the new course on the services aspects of e-Commerce came at a particularly opportune time, as it strengthened my understanding of the emerging issues in these sectors and provided me with useful tools that I can immediately put into practice in the services negotiations I am currently involved in, within the context of the AfCFTA and the SADC.



## BLENDED LEARNING – THE NEW NORMAL Expanding blended modalities to reinforce learning

Blended learning, i.e., the approach that combines online interaction (via synchronous and/or asynchronous sessions) with physical classroom methods within the same activity and for the same audience, is not a new concept in education. However, it has expanded enormously due to improvements in technologies and virtual platforms adopted in recent years. Blended learning is now evolving into a mainstream approach within educational institutions, a trend that is also taking place across WTO TA activities.

Prior to the pandemic, WTO blended TA activities were very rare and linked to one or two specific trade topics. The disruptive effect of COVID-19 forced TA to move 100% online to ensure continuity of learning. With the removal of travel restrictions in the latter part of 2022, the Secretariat started exploring the possibility of delivering courses in a blended format, implementing four such activities on different trade-related topics.

In 2023, the Secretariat, free from external constraints as to the mode of delivery, had full autonomy to adopt this format depending on the objectives of the TA activities and the needs of their audiences. Blended learning became a strategic rather than a fallback or emergency option.

Eight blended activities were implemented in 2023. They reached over 250 participants and covered a wide range of trade topics such as agriculture, competition policy, digital trade, subsidies, and SPS & TBT measures. Four of these activities had a global audience, two were aimed at participants from Africa, one for Latin America and one for Asia.

Internal evaluations of some of these activities and feedback from participants evidenced a number of advantages of the blended format, including increased engagement of participants through a more active form of learning, better retention of knowledge over time, customisation of content, flexibility offered to the audience, and efficient use of participants' time both in the classroom and online. Disadvantages and initial lessons learned include the need for a considerable time commitment from both trainers (course planning and designing, feedback) and participants (completion of assignments, availability spread over several weeks or months) as well as the difficulty of keeping drop-out rates low over time. However, this remains an interesting development that combines learning modes according to their relative strengths, which deserves to be closely observed in the years to come.

Infographic 22. Types of activities by mode of delivery

	<b>ONLINE COURSES (E-LEARNING)</b>	Available through the internet on a 24/7 and self-service basis; involves essentially self-paced self-study and limited interaction between participants and with trainers; it is by and large a pre-defined one-size-fits-all product.
	<b>FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES</b>	One-off learning experiences (with fixed-dates, invitations, etc.). It is generally tailor-designed for a closed group of participants, and comprises a mixture of self-study, live sessions, group work, etc. Participants and trainers are physically gathered in the same place, making live interaction easier and more frequent. All the participants move roughly at the same pace through the same content.
	<b>VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Replication of face-to-face activities through the Internet when travel is not possible or uneconomical. Regular interaction between the participants and with the trainers constitutes an essential part to tailor the activity to the needs of participants.
	<b>BLENDED ACTIVITIES</b>	A mixture of elements taken from either of the previous three categories, in variable proportions.
	<b>ON-THE-JOB TRAINING</b>	Internship programmes and the Young Professionals Programme allow mid-level government officials and young professionals to 'learn-by-doing' as they work either at the Secretariat or with their countries' representations to the WTO. Internships are a very particular type of technical assistance, lasting ten months on average.

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: THE POWER OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS IN 2023

Online tools are increasingly used in technical assistance activities. This enables, for example, paperless materials to be made available to participants. To take this further, the Secretariat has introduced Virtual Classrooms to facilitate the delivery of face-to-face and virtual training and other technical assistance activities, both in Geneva and across regions.

Virtual Classrooms are meticulously crafted to integrate communication tools, webinars, interactive activities,

assessments, progress tracking mechanisms, and networking opportunities, with a view to optimizing the impact and outcomes of each training activity. They provide course trainers with privileged access to automatic reporting on their activities, as well as direct monitoring on courses completion required for participants' selection to future TA activities.

In 2023, 14 virtual classrooms available in the three WTO languages were created in support of various TA activities.

### Trainers and participants reflect on their experiences

In their feedback, several participants commended the Virtual Classrooms for their accessibility, organized course materials, and user-friendly interface. They highlighted the easy access to resources, instant communication, and the availability of comprehensive

materials on WTO issues. Overall, the feedback received reflects a very positive impression about the platform's role in facilitating effective learning and knowledge enhancement.

Infographic 23. The benefits of Virtual Classrooms

	<b>PREPARATION AND ENGAGEMENT</b>	Virtual Classrooms empower trainers to provide pre-workshop materials and assignments, preparing participants for in-person/live sessions and optimizing preparation and learning time.
	<b>REINFORCEMENT AND REVIEW</b>	Post-workshop, the virtual classroom becomes a source of reference materials to which participants can return when needed.
	<b>COLLABORATIVE LEARNING</b>	Virtual Classrooms allow participants to stay in touch with each other and create a network.
	<b>RESOURCE CENTRALIZATION</b>	Virtual Classrooms centralize course materials and activities, simplifying access and navigation for participants. This feature also allows course's organizers to easily reproduce and adapt course content and activities for future iterations of the training event.
	<b>ASSESSMENT AND PROGRESS TRACKING</b>	Trainers administer assessments online, and monitor participants' progress.

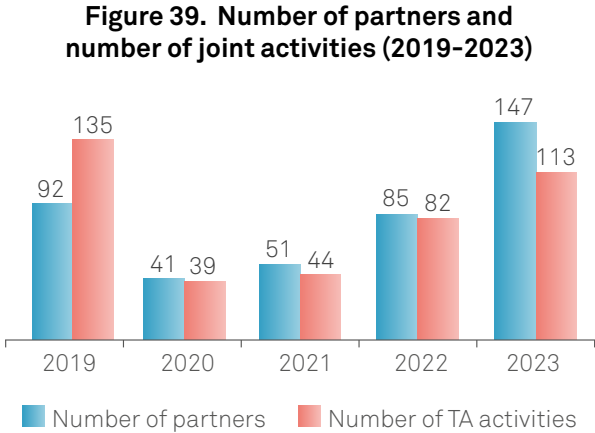
## WTO PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

### A variety of collaborations to optimise training efforts

Partners play a key role in facilitating the efficient delivery of activities by bringing additional knowledge and skills. The WTO maintains and expands its extensive network of partnerships and collaborations with other institutions to add mutual value and avoid duplication of efforts. Partners make four broad types of contributions to the TA activities of the WTO: substance (the content being delivered); costs (budget sharing); logistics (operational arrangements); and outreach with non-traditional WTO audiences.

In 2023, WTO partnered with 147 institutions to deliver 113 activities that reached over 5,300 beneficiaries. The share of face-to-face and virtual activities co-delivered with a partner was the highest ever recorded (73%). However, as the figure 40 shows, the contribution of partners was drastically reduced, with very few institutions making a significant contribution to substance, logistics or costs.

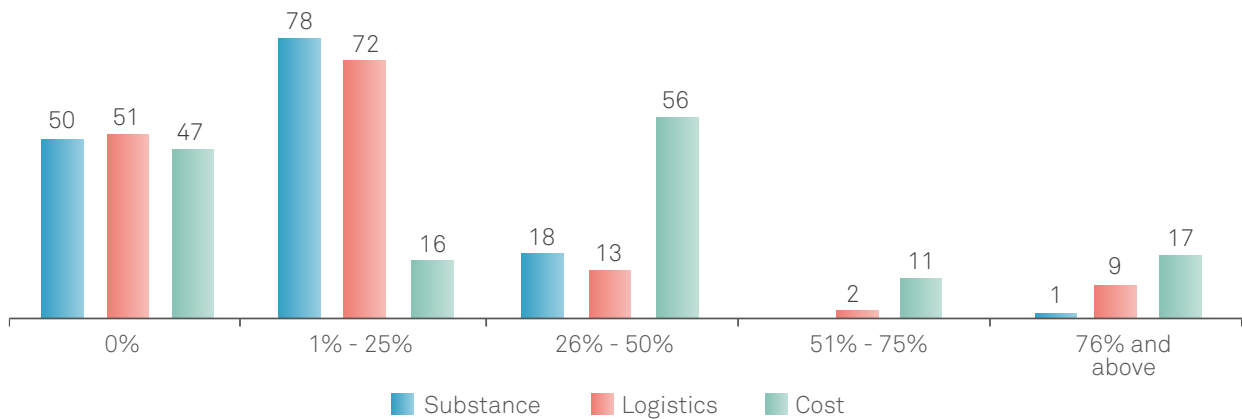
Examples of institutions with which the WTO partnered in 2023 include the African Union, Inter-American Institute for Agriculture Cooperation, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization and many others.



Partners contributing to WTO TA



**Figure 40. Partners' contribution to courses by type of contribution in 2023**



## Government Procurement Markets

### A partnership with EBRD to foster open, fair and transparent conditions of competition.



Since 2011, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Legal Transition Programme has actively supported countries pursuing accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), working in cooperation with the Secretariat. In 2022, the EBRD was granted observer status in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement. The EBRD launched in 2014 a Facility to support countries seeking accession to the GPA. The cooperation between the EBRD and the Secretariat has grown ever closer, as evidenced by numerous jointly organized TA activities in various regions of the world. Michael Strauss, EBRD General Counsel describes the development and prospects of this partnership.

#### Q. Can you please explain how the EBRD GPA Technical Cooperation Facility works?

Since the EBRD's own procurement policies and rules are based on the WTO's Agreement on Government Procurement, the Bank has a keen interest in promoting the GPA policy standards and the opening of government procurement markets to international trade.

The much-awaited adoption of the revised GPA in 2012 and the success of Moldova's negotiations in 2015 sparked further interest among transition economies. This growing interest in the GPA from the countries where the EBRD invests led to the creation of the EBRD GPA Technical Cooperation Facility. This programme aims to promote GPA accession to transition economies.

The assistance provided includes the identification and resolution of regulatory issues related to GPA accession, advice on the preparation and submission of market offers during GPA negotiations, support to government representatives during bilateral negotiations in Geneva, and the fulfilment of accession commitments and the implementation of GPA standards in local procurement practice.

#### Q. How do you see the WTO-EBRD partnership?

Behind our joint efforts to facilitate accession to the GPA, there is a shared belief that the process of becoming a GPA Party incentivises governments to enhance the transparency of their procurement systems and opens new opportunities for businesses, large and small, to operate in the domestic and cross-border procurement markets.

I am delighted to say that from the seven WTO Members that have become GPA Parties in the last decade, four acceded with assistance from the EBRD: Montenegro in 2015, Moldova and Ukraine in 2016, and North Macedonia this year. Additionally, the EBRD supported Armenia with the ratification of the GPA 2012 and encouraged Belarus, a non-WTO member, to become an GPA observer to the Committee on Government Procurement in 2018

#### Q. How do you see the cooperation of the WTO Secretariat and the EBRD moving forward?

Currently, the EBRD GPA Technical Cooperation Facility is supporting the government of Albania to resume GPA negotiations. There is also the possibility of a revised offer from Tajikistan once their legislative reform is completed. In addition, the Facility is working with new GPA Parties to develop new eProcurement solutions and reporting mechanisms supporting the implementation of GPA standards in domestic practice.

The Bank is also contributing to an ongoing effort between the OECD and the WTO Secretariat regarding the OECD taxonomy of measures affecting trade in government procurement.



EBRD's Public Procurement Technical Cooperation



## Leveraging synergies with JVI to deliver high quality training

The WTO collaboration with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) reached 25 years in 2023. More than 130 training activities have been jointly organised within the framework of this partnership, an average of five activities per year. The partnership provides training in economics, trade and finance to the 31 eligible beneficiaries from the Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Some 3,200 government officials and 80 members of parliament have been trained on all WTO topics.

In terms of added value to the content of the training activities, both partners bring on board their specialized knowledge and institutional role by preparing and delivering various activities each year, on applied economic policy, structural reforms and trade related issues. In terms of logistics, the WTO relies on JVI's state-of-the-art training facilities and field support for its regional activities. These features are regularly praised by participants, which further reinforces the value of the collaboration.



JVI Programme  
Overview



**Hervé Joly**  
JVI's Director

“For us, the partnership with the WTO is a seal of quality and an excellent complement to the JVI curriculum. The demand for WTO trade policy training remains strong and feedback from participants is very high on the quality and relevance of the courses offered.”

## In the spotlight

### Responding to the needs of Geneva-based delegates



Geneva-based delegates play a central role in Members' participation in the day-to-day work of the WTO. In addition to their liaison role, they provide Members with a permanent voice and a constant involvement in the WTO's ongoing affairs. The WTO would not be able to function without their daily involvement in its operations.

To carry out their mission successfully, Geneva-based delegates require a combination of in depth understanding of WTO issues and diplomatic know-how in the conduct of WTO matters. Traditional WTO TA programmes are designed to address the needs to understand the substance of the issues covered by the WTO bodies. What has been new in 2023 is the development of instruments and programmes to assist the delegates with the other aspects of their jobs as representatives of their countries. This was discussed by Members in the context of their work on WTO reform to improve the functioning of the WTO bodies, following the mandate received at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

Several initiatives were therefore launched to meet the technical assistance needs of Geneva-based delegates.

Among the various initiatives put in place for Geneva-based delegates proper induction, two briefing sessions were organised in March and September to introduce new Delegates to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee work and functioning. A total of 75 new or currently active SPS delegates attended the sessions in person or virtually. They were provided with an overview of relevant procedures and tools to facilitate their participation in the SPS Committee meetings.



**Tayutic MENA RETANA**  
Counsellor, Permanent  
Mission of Costa Rica to  
the WTO  
Chair of the SPS  
Committee

“The SPS briefing sessions are delivered in a succinct and user friendly manner, enhancing delegates' practical understanding of the procedures and tools that they need to be familiar with, to effectively participate in SPS Committee meetings.”

In November, the Secretariat organized training sessions focusing on the practical use of the e-Agenda tool with a view to trialing it in meetings in order to facilitate the proceedings.

In 2023, the Council for Trade in Goods and its subsidiary bodies discussed a large number of proposals to improve the deliberative function of the WTO, many of which resulted in concrete actions to assist delegates. Beyond the introduction or expansion of digital tools (e.g., notifications portal, eDelegates portal, eAgenda in the Council and Committee on Import Licencing) to improve transparency, the Secretariat developed its assistance to delegates so they could better understand

how these bodies work in practice through modifying and standardizing the information in the WTO webpage to serve as a manual for delegates and better describe the functioning of these bodies; the development of e-learning training module on import licencing; and the introduction of regular introductory sessions in most of the Council's subsidiary bodies.

An annual introductory session on the functioning of the Committee on Agriculture for new Geneva- and capital-based agriculture delegates was held in November 2023.





# Chapter 4

## Evolution of TA management and resources



- Unearmarked voluntary contributions to the Global Trust Fund stabilised in 2023, at their lowest level since the creation of the fund.
- While some traditional contributors returned in 2023, the average level of contributions to the fund decreased.
- The Secretariat made concerted efforts to rationalise logistics expenses, effectively managing overall expenditures.
- TA expenses returned to their pre-pandemic level.



## A FRAMEWORK FOR RESULTS

Since adopting Result-based management (RBM), TA Plans outline the three result levels and their causal relationships through a Logical Framework Matrix or logframe. This matrix provides detailed performance indicators, baseline values, targets to be reached, evidence to be collected, and assumptions made to measure annually the results achieved through the implementation of the TA Plan (See [Annex 1](#)).

The logframe serves as the foundation to monitor and evaluate progress towards the expected results. It forms the backbone of TA annual reporting to Members, where performance is analysed, and achievements are identified. Monitoring is carried out by the programme managers, organizers, and trainers who focus on

activities' immediate outputs, and ultimately by the Monitoring & Evaluation section of the Secretariat according to the TA Monitoring & Evaluation plan.

TA Monitoring & Evaluation  
Plan 2022 – 2023



Biennial Technical Assistance  
and Training Plan 2022 – 2023



## Measuring TA results

The TA Monitoring & Evaluation plan explains how the various results of TA activities will be measured during the year. Specific evaluation tools are used to assess different kinds of results (reaction of participants, learning by participants, subsequent change of behaviour of participants, etc.). In 2023, the Secretariat conducted 12 different assessments: 8 onsite evaluations (3 global activities held in Geneva, 4 regional activities for Africa, Asia and CEECAC, and 1 national activity in Ecuador) and 4 country assessments of the effects and impact of TA provided to Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia and

Tanzania. The immediate results of the other activities were assessed by the trainers themselves in their Back-to-Office Reports.

These various evaluations confirmed the relevance of the TA provided by the WTO to beneficiaries. The TA activities were found to be effective in achieving their intended objectives, which were reached efficiently in most cases. The onsite evaluations identified several good practices and recommendations for improvement, which were disseminated within the Secretariat.

## TA Management System: Stabilised

The TA Management System, or TAMS, is the online tool with which the Secretariat organises, monitors and evaluates TA activities, in compliance with the Result-based Management (RBM) approach adopted by Members. TAMS has increased the efficiency of the Secretariat by automating and accelerating certain steps of the procedure. Beneficiaries can now submit their TA national requests directly through TAMS and, since the end of 2023, invitations to TA activities are sent automatically by the system to their intended beneficiaries.

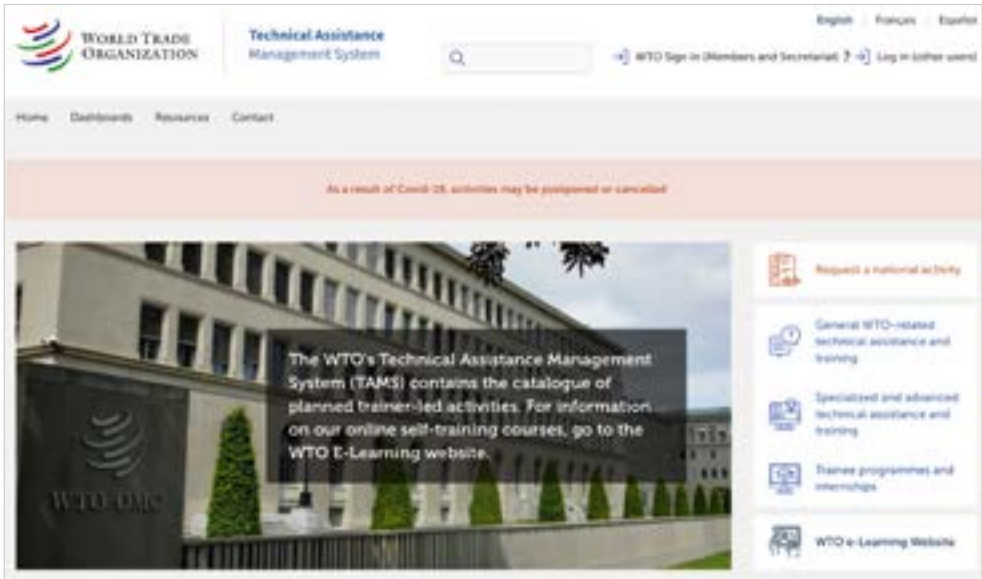
progressively enriched during the year and now also includes data on the voluntary contributions received to finance TA. In turn TAMS raised the level of accountability of the Secretariat in this domain.

The complexity of the system which involves most Secretariat divisions, a lack of experience of the consultant developing it and resource limitations meant that further developments of TAMS remained very limited in 2023, as has been the case since 2021.

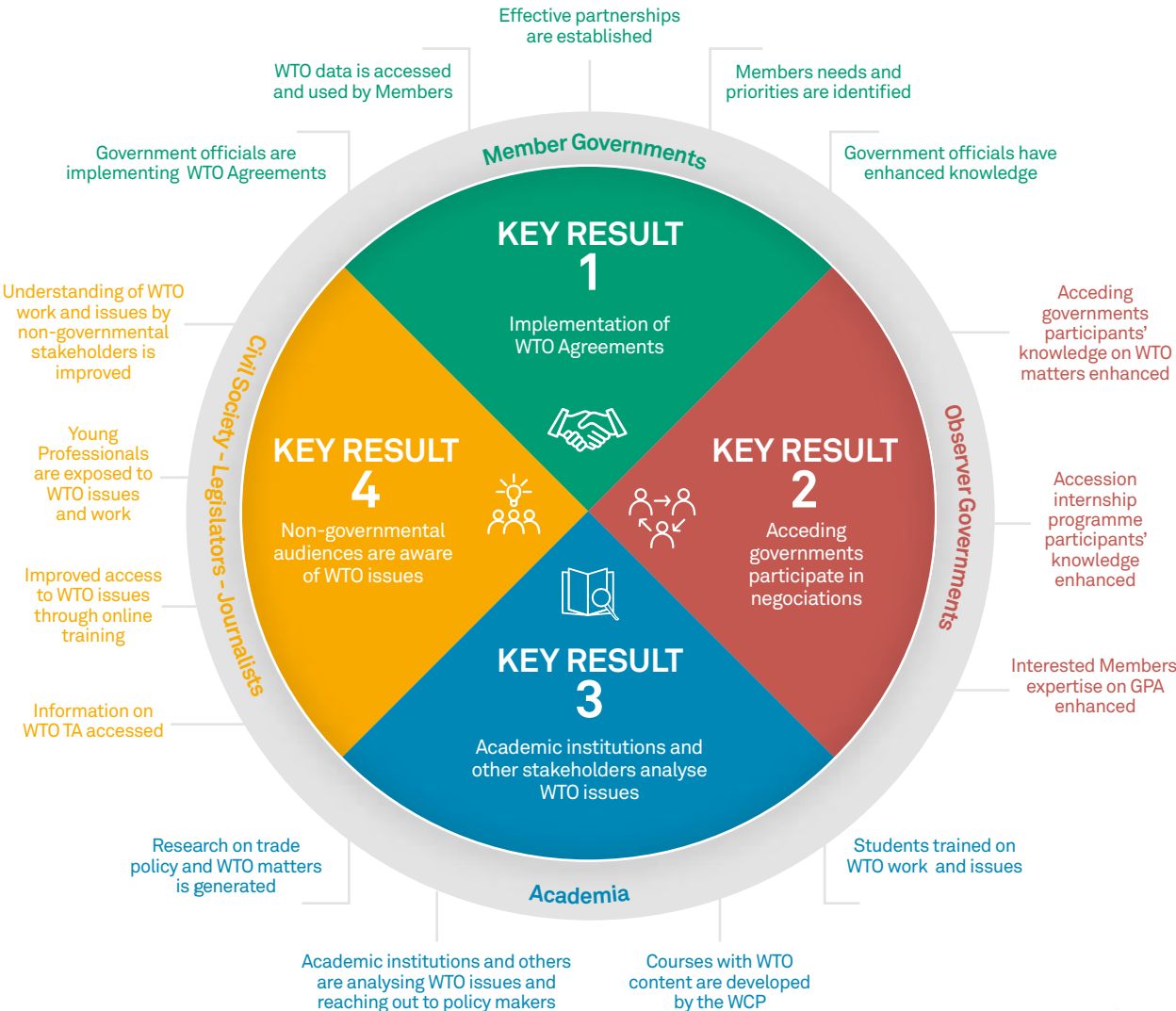
TA Management System



TAMS also increased TA transparency through the TA dashboard which gives access to real-time data on the activities implemented or planned and on the participation in them. The TA dashboard was



Infographic 24. WTO TA Framework for impact





MANAGING TA RESOURCES

TA Resources: Always lower!

The WTO TA is traditionally financed through a combination of Regular Budget funding and voluntary contributions to trust funds, earmarked or not, as illustrated in the detailed accounts presented in Annex 2. Members kept the Regular Budget envelope for TA constant at CHF 4.4 million since 2012, period during which the overall WTO budget was frozen. After a rapid growth during the first decade following the creation of the WTO, voluntary contributions for TA have regularly decreased since 2007. A total of CHF 3 million of unearmarked voluntary contributions was received in 2023 from 6 donors, the lowest level for 25 years, equivalent to 13% of the annual contributions received during the peak years of 2006-9.

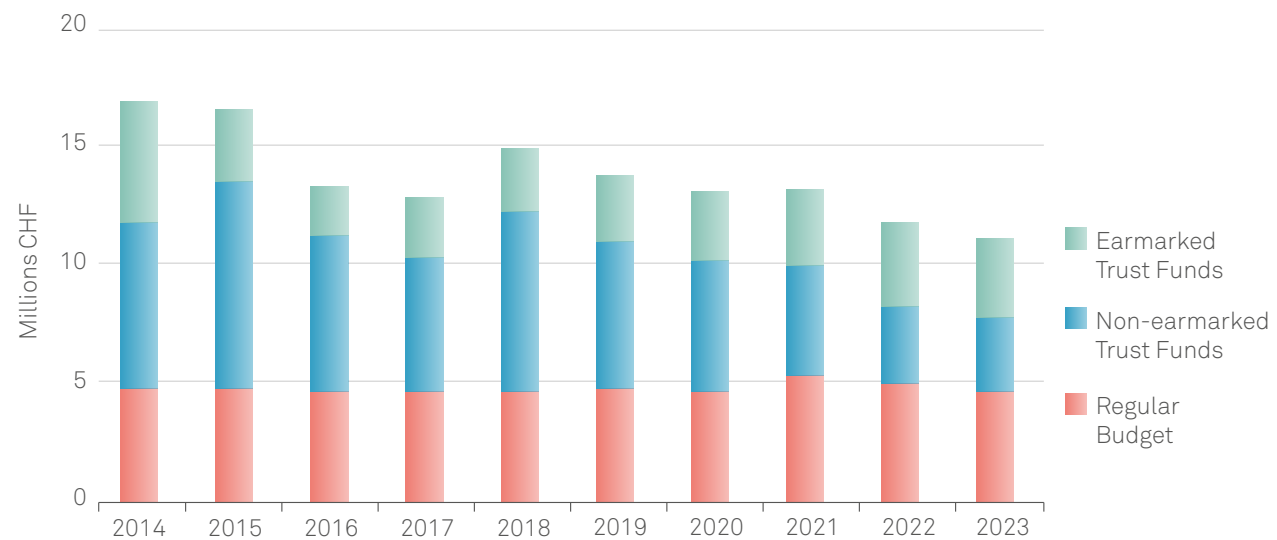
Some donors had suspended their voluntary contribution during the pandemic, as TA spending was much lower due to the interruption of most face-to-face TA activities.

In 2023 and further to the resumption of TA expenses after the end of the travel restrictions, one donor resumed its voluntary contribution to the WTO, but at only half its pre-pandemic level.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala met with donor representatives late in July to alert them to this situation and urge them to increase their contributions to finance TA and sustain the WTO efforts in this domain.

Meanwhile, earmarked voluntary contributions remained constant. For the second consecutive year, they exceeded unearmarked voluntary contributions, reversing the logic which had presided over the creation of the Global Trust Fund (GTF) more than 20 years ago. As a result, the donor-driven proportion of the WTO TA offer keeps increasing.

Figure 41. Technical Assistance Resources (2014-2023)



TA Expenditure: Back to their pre-pandemic level

In 2023, TA expenses bounced almost back to their 2019 level, the last pre-pandemic year, as face-to-face TA activities were again fully available during the entire year. Total TA expenses amounted to CHF 15.1 million, marginally below the 2015-19 average, as the recent inflation in airline tickets and hotels was compensated by a still lower number of TA activities.

The overall TA expenses almost doubled in 2023 compared to the previous year. However, they remained within the available TA resources during the year, thanks to the reserves accumulated during the pandemic and the Secretariat was able to fully respond to the TA requests of beneficiaries. This has dented the unearmarked year-end balance which stood well below the target amount for the following year at the end of 2023 (See [figure 44](#)).

Analysed by Key Results, Figure 46 shows that the largest share of expenses went to Key Result 1, as foreseen by the TA Plan. It represented 62% of the total TA expenses in 2023. A quarter of that amount corresponded to the

various long-term internship programmes, 39% to global activities held in Geneva, 29% to regional ones and the balance to national activities (8%). Most of the resources from the Regular Budget have been dedicated to this Key Result. The overall rate of utilisation of the Regular budget grew to 92% in 2023 as a result, almost double the rate in 2022.

Key Result 2 carried 2.5% of the TA expenses, a marked increase compared to 2022, because of the renewed dynamism of several accession processes. Key Result 3 carried 6% of the TA expenses, mainly to support the WTO Chairs Programme which is financed through earmarked voluntary contributions. Key Result 4 carried 7% of the total TA expenses, of which 83% went towards the Young Professional Programme. Other expenses, such as staffing (L-posts), implementation of the Result-Based Management and development of e-Learning courses, carried 23% of the TA expenses – a stable proportion compared to 2022 – with staffing representing the bulk of these costs.

Figure 42. Technical Assistance Expenses (2014-2023)

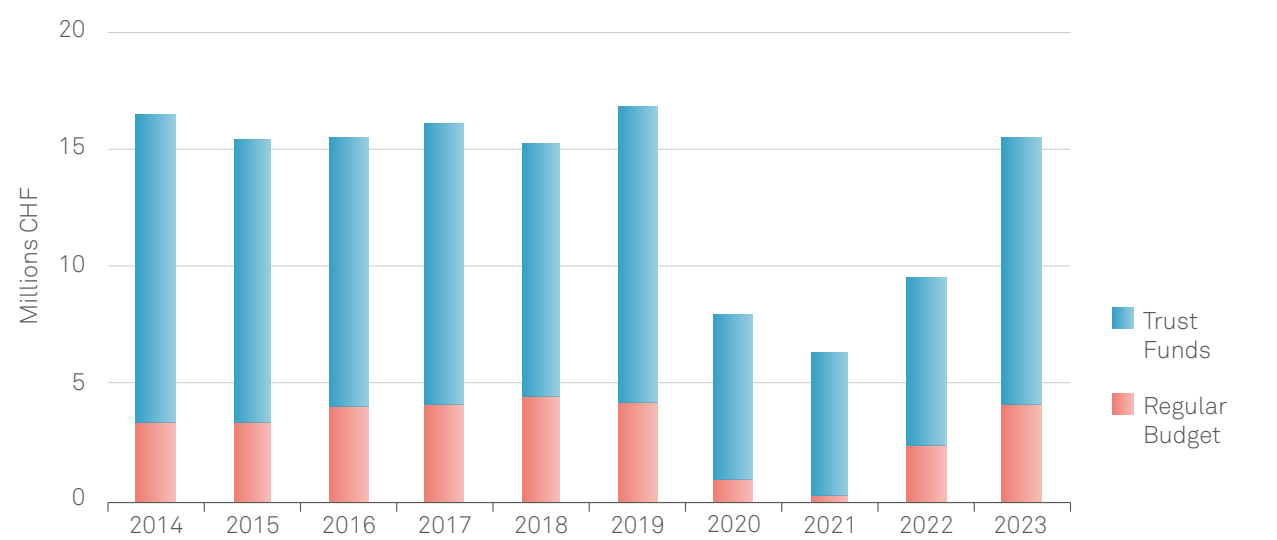


Figure 43. TA Expenses Mix (2014–2023)

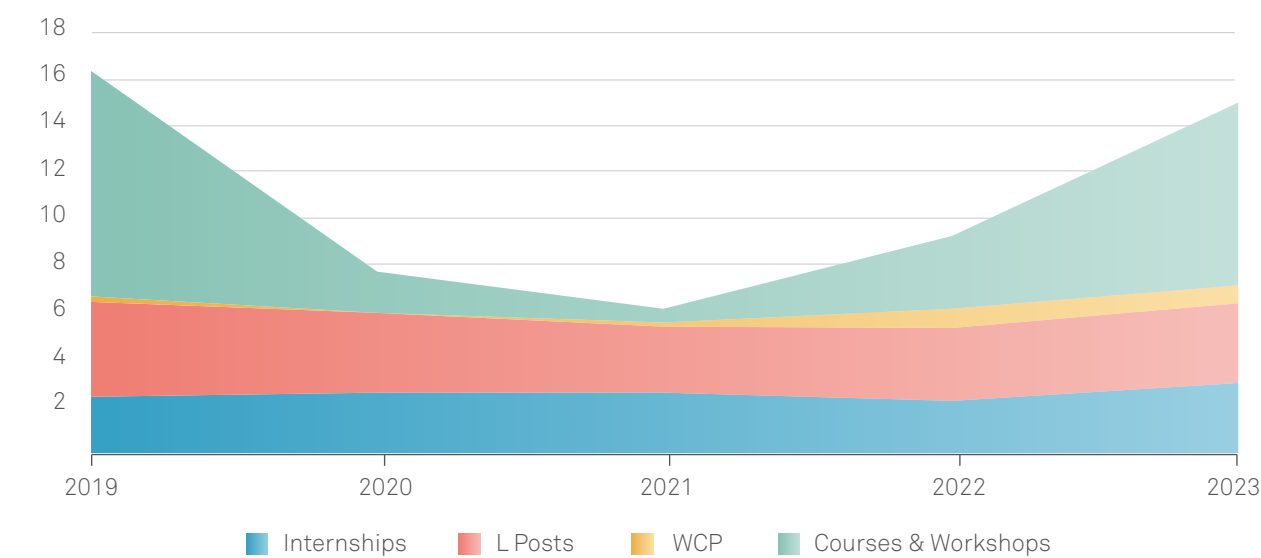


Figure 44. Unearmarked funds (2014–2023)

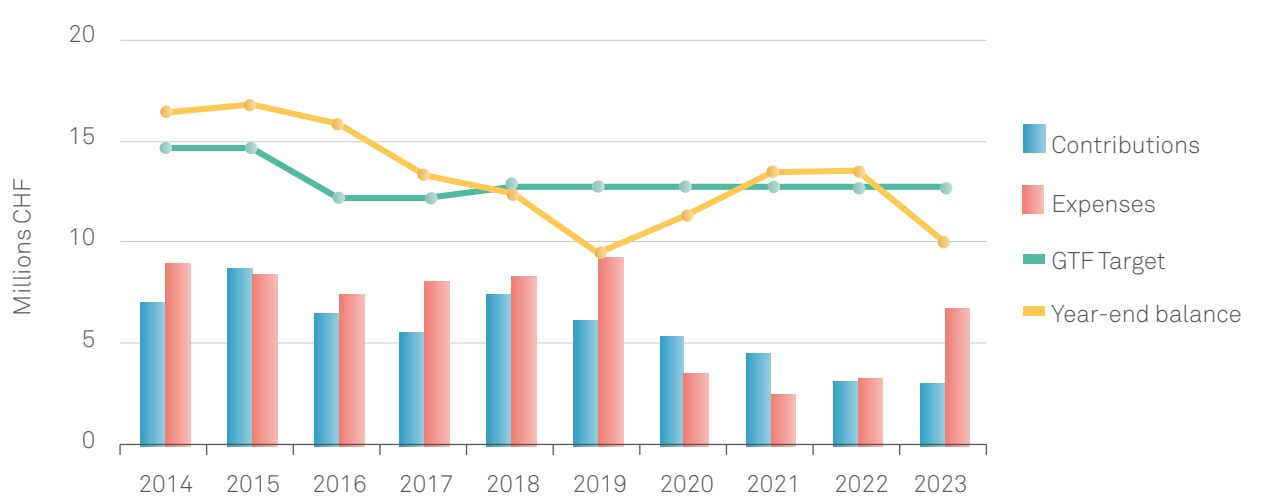


Figure 45. Activity expenses by Region (2023)  
(thousands of CHF)

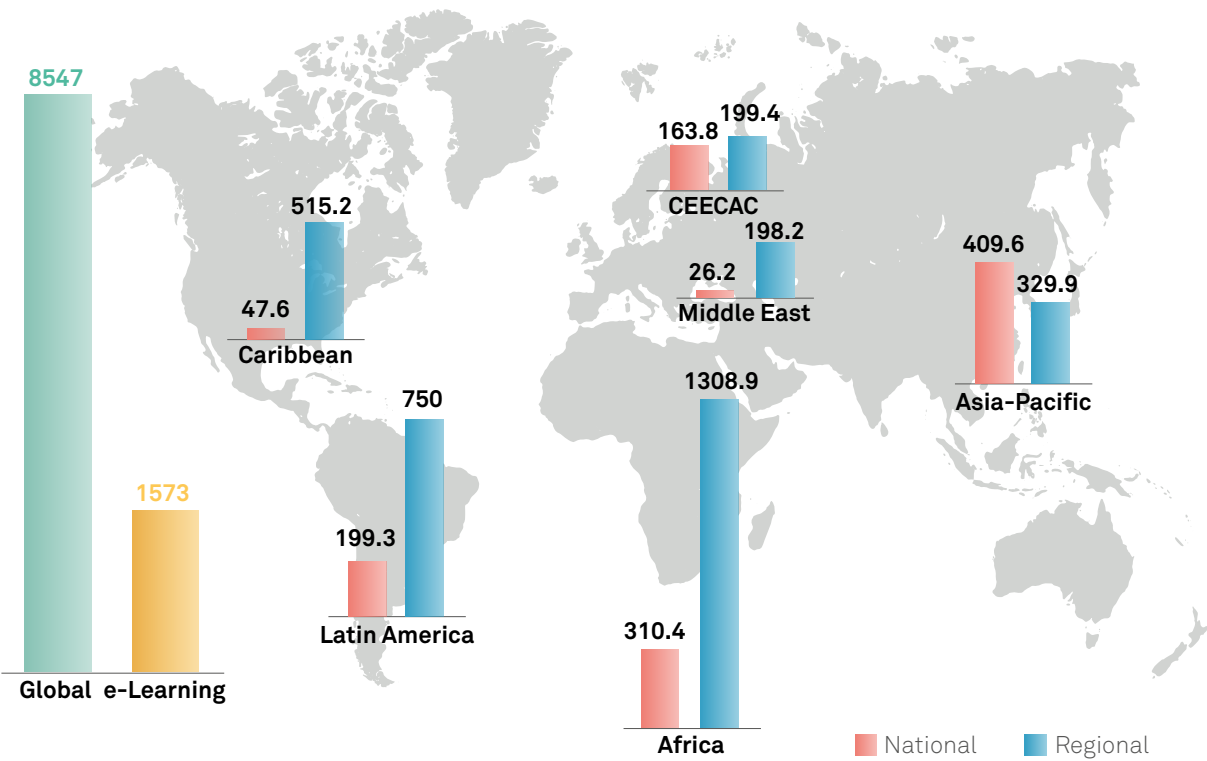
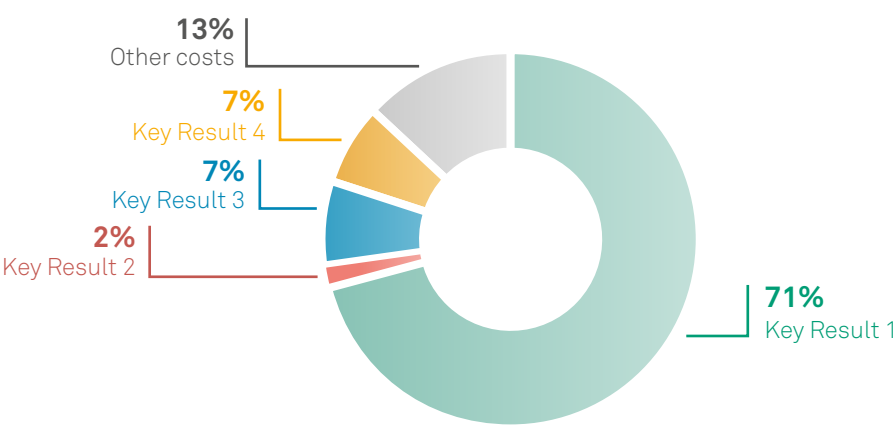


Figure 46. TA expenditure by Key Result in 2023



# Annexes

## ANNEX 1. MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

The information contained in the Measure and Assessment columns in this annex summarises the analysis of the results of TA performed by the Secretariat, based on the Logical Framework adopted by Members as part of the TA Plan for 2023-24. The statements included in the table do not present any background or explanation of the circumstances or reasons leading to the measured result. Therefore, they should be read in conjunction with the more comprehensive analysis provided in the rest of the report. The following codes have been used in the table:

- Target met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been fully met or has been exceeded;
- Target partially met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been missed by a small margin, as significant progress has been made towards its achievement;

- Target not met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been largely missed and progress towards its achievement has been limited;
- Data not available: the data available to the Secretariat is incomplete, if not missing completely, or is not reliable or strong enough to support a conclusion one way or the other;
- Not applicable (N/A): The TA activities which should have been used to measure results did not take place, depriving the Secretariat of an assessment basis.



### Expected Results

### Indicators

### Baseline

### Targets

### 2022 Measure

### 2022 Assessment

### 2023 Measure

### 2023 Assessment

### Impact

Developing and LDC Members are benefiting from their active participation in the WTO

Share of developing Members' total trade (imports and exports)

2018-20 average: 41.3%

> 40%

43.0% in 2021

Target met

43.0% in 2022

Target met

Developing and LDC Members are benefiting from their active participation in the WTO

Share of LDC Members' total trade (import and exports)

2018-20 average: 1.1%

> 1.00%

1.15% in 2021

Target met

1.18% in 2022

Target met



ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2022 Measure	2022 Assessment	2023 Measure	2023 Assessment
Key Result 1 – Outcome							
1: Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations	Number of documents submitted by beneficiary developing Members to WTO Bodies	Annual average 2017-19: 611	Increase	510	Target not met	700	Target met
1: Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations	Number of documents submitted by beneficiary LDC Members to WTO Bodies	Annual average 2017-19: 99	Increase	78	Target not met	117	Target met
1: Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations	Number of outstanding notifications by TA beneficiary Members	26 per beneficiary Member on average in 2017-19	Decrease	26.33	Target not met	25.47	Target met
Key Result 1 – Output							
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of participants completing PLS level 1	Annual average 2017-19: 3,608	Stability	e-L: 593 Face-to-face & virtual: 369 Total: 962	Target not met	e-L: 1,624 Face-to-face & virtual: 287 Total: 1,911	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of participants completing PLS level 2	Annual average 2017-19: 11,746	Stability	e-L: 1,767 Face-to-face & virtual: 2,812 Total: 4,579	Target not met	e-L: 5,717 Face-to-face & virtual: 4,273 Total: 9,890	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of participants completing PLS level 3	Annual average 2017-19: 1,833	Increase	Face-to-face & virtual: 1,620	Target not met	Face-to-face & virtual: 1,354	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of national activities requested	2017-19 average: 145	Increase	87	Target not met	128	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of beneficiary Members and Observers participating in TA courses	2017-19 average: 163	Stability	156	Target partially met	142	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of beneficiary LDCs participating in TA courses	2017-19 average: 43	Stability	42	Target partially met	39	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Interactive training methods' share of time in each activity (exercises, case studies, simulations, Q&A, participation in Committee meetings, etc.)	2017-19 average: - 42% lectures - 58% interactive methods	Increase share of interactive training methods to an average of at least 60%	Lectures: 36% Interactive methods: 64%	Target met	Lectures: 40% Interactive methods: 60%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Success rate in 8-week RTPCs	2017-19 average: 96%	Stability	96%	Target met	2023 average: 94.57%	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Success rate in 8-week ATPCs	No baseline	Stability	98%	N/A	2023 average: 98.77%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Distinction rate in 8-week RTPCs	2017-19 average: 37%	Stability	13%	Target not met	2023 average: 25.29%	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Distinction rate in 8-week ATPCs	No baseline	Stability	28%	N/A	2023 average: 26.25%	Target partially met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2022 Measure	2022 Assessment	2023 Measure	2023 Assessment
Key Result 1 – Output							
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the overall content and results in RTPCs with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 98%	Stability	96%	Target partially met	2023 average: 97.65%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the overall content and results in ATPCs with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 93%	Stability	2022 average: 96%	Target met	2023 average: 94%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the overall content and results in advanced thematic courses with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 96%	Stability	2022 average: 86%	Target partially met	2023 average: 94%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of participants trained in advanced trade negotiating skills	2017-19 average: 238	Stability	70	Target not met	22	Target not met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of advanced thematic courses using pre-diagnostics, coaching, leadership, action plans or follow-ups	2019: 5	Stability	4	Target partially met	6	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of interns in NTP	2017-19 average: 14	Stability	12	Target partially met	17	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of interns in FIMIP	2017-19 average: 17	Increase	19	Target met	22	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of interns in RCI	2017-19 average: 6	Stability	5	Target partially met	4	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Final evaluation rate of each FIMIP intern	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2017-19	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 11 Fully satisfactory: 8	Target met	Exceeded expectations: 11 Fully satisfactory: 11	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Final evaluation rate of each NTP intern	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2017-19	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 3 Fully satisfactory: 9	Target met	Exceeded expectations: 12 Fully satisfactory: 5	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Final evaluation rate of each RCI intern	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2017-19	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 2 Fully satisfactory: 2	Target met	Exceeded expectations: 1 Fully satisfactory: 3	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	New, revised or translated online courses released during the year	2017-19 average: 10	Stability	8	Target partially met	5 new courses 16 translations	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of online courses in SCORM format	62% in 2019	Increase to 100% by end of biennium	81%	Target partially met	85%	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the quality of the online courses content with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 94%	Stability	93%	Target met	94%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the effectiveness of the eLearning website with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 94%	Stability	87%	Target partially met	94%	Target met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2022 Measure	2022 Assessment	2023 Measure	2023 Assessment
Key Result 1 – Ouput							
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	e-Learning success rate	2017-19 average: 68%	Stability	47%	Target not met	70%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	e-Learning drop-out rate	2017-19 average: 24%	Stability	49%	Target not met	28%	Target partially met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	e-Learning distinction rate	2017-19 average: 53%	Stability	54%	Target met	61%	Target met
1.2: Effective partnerships established	Proportion of activities with the involvement of a partner	2016-18 average: 54%	Stability	62%	Target met	73%	Target met
1.2: Effective partnerships established	Proportion of partners' contribution to the TA activities	2017-19 average: 47% low contributions	Decrease proportion of low contributions	47%	Target partially met	61%	Target not met
1.3: Members' needs and priorities identified periodically	Number of responses to TA questionnaires	2017-19 average: 76	Stability	No TA questionnaire sent in 2022	N/A	87	Target met
1.3: Members' needs and priorities identified periodically	Number of TPR Follow-ups	2017-19 average: 8	Stability	1	Target not met	3	Target not met
1.4: WTO data and databases accessed by Members	Visits by Members' logging in to the WTO website	60,427 in 2019	Increase	133,600	Target met	143,484	Target met
1.4: WTO data and databases accessed by Members	Number of TA activities including training on WTO databases as one of their objectives	2017-19 average: 60	Increase	36 activities	Target not met	61 activities	Target met
Key Result 2 – Outcome							
2: Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations	Number of formal or informal Working Party meetings held for acceding beneficiary governments	2017-19 average: 6	Stability	Formal meetings: 4 Informal meetings: 1	Target partially met	Formal meetings: 9 Informal meetings: 0 Technical verification meetings: 2	Target met
Key Result 2 – Output							
2.1: Acceding governments participants' knowledge on WTO substantive and procedural matters enhanced	Number of participants from acceding governments attending TA activities focused on accessions	2017-19 average: 1,179	Stability	Face-to-face & virtual: 123 e-Learning: 246	Target not met	Face-to-face & virtual: 459 e-Learning: 44	Target not met
2.2: Accession Internship programme participants' knowledge enhanced	Final evaluation rate of each AIP intern	100% at least fully satisfactory	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 1 Fully satisfactory: 1 Not satisfactory: 1	Target not met	Exceeded expectations: 0 Fully satisfactory: 4 Partially satisfactory: 1 Not satisfactory: 0	Target partially met
2.3: Interested Members' expertise on GPA rules, accession negotiations enhanced	Average no. of relevant accession-related documents circulated per TA-eligible GPA acceding Member	2017-19 average: 5.2	Stability	26 documents for 7 active accession 3.71 doc / accession	Target partially met	21 documents for 8 active accessions 2.62 doc / accession	Target not met
2.3: Interested Members' expertise on GPA rules, accession negotiations enhanced	Average no. of interventions made by TA-eligible GPA-acceding Parties during meetings of the CGP	2018-20 average: 2.9	Stability	No CGP Meeting	Target not met	1.6	Target partially met
2.3: Interested Members' expertise on GPA rules, accession negotiations enhanced	Average no. of bilateral meetings of TA-eligible GPA-acceding Parties with Chair of the CGP	2018-20 average: 1.29	Stability	No CGP Chair	Target not met	0.9	Target partially met



ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2022 Measure	2022 Assessment	2023 Measure	2023 Assessment
Key Result 3 – Outcome							
3: Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers	Diversity of WTO related topics covered by activities	2019-21 average: Semantic similarity: 0.64 Normalised entropy: 0.90	Stability	Semantic similarity: 0.59 (positive evolution) Normalised entropy: 0.91 (positive evolution)	Target met	Semantic similarity: 0.67 (negative evolution) Normalised entropy: 0.94 (positive evolution)	Target met
Key Result 3 – Output							
3.1: Research on trade policy and WTO-related matters generated by the WCP	Number of publications	2020-21 average: 119	Stability in 2022 Increase in 2023	275	Target met	374	Target met
3.1: Research on trade policy and WTO-related matters generated by the WCP	Assessment of the quality of the key research output per Chair per year by the Advisory Board	N/A	Positive evaluation	Positive evaluation: 7 Minor improvements: 5 Significant improvements: 3 N/A: 1	Target met	Excellent: 15 Positive (suggestions): 9 Satisfactory (improvements): 6 Significant revision: 2	Target partially met
3.2: Courses with WTO content developed by the WCP Chairs	Number of students completing a WTO-related courses	2020-21 average: 1,938	Stability in 2022 Increase in 2023	3,891	Target met	5,602	Target met
3.2: Courses with WTO content developed by the WCP Chairs	Number of new or updated WTO-related courses	2020-21 average: 7.5	Stability in 2022 Increase in 2023	68	Target met	119	Target met
3.3: WTO Chairs' research disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders	Number of outreach events per year	2020-21 average: 44.5	Stability in 2022 Increase in 2023	168	Target met	184	Target met
3.3: WTO Chairs' research disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders	Advice provided to governmental policy makers and other stakeholders	2020-21 average: 76.5	Stability in 2022 Increase in 2023	175	Target met	240	Target met
3.4: Students trained on WTO work and issues	Number of students participating in competitions supported by the WTO	2020-21 average: 344	Stability	344	Target met	377	Target met
3.4: Students trained on WTO work and issues	Number of PhD students supervised graduating with a PhD	Students supervised graduate with a PhD each year: 5	Stability	5 students graduated with a PhD	Target met	3 students graduated with a PhD	Target partially met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2023

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2022 Measure	2022 Assessment	2023 Measure	2023 Assessment
Key Result 4 – Outcome							
4: Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues	Diversity of WTO related topics covered by statements, reports, and papers produced by this group of stakeholders	26 reports in 2017	Stability	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Key Result 4 – Output							
4.1: Understanding of WTO work and issues by non-governmental stakeholders and legislators improved	Number of seminars, workshops conducted	2017-19 average: 7	Stability	5	Target partially met	5	Target not met
4.1: Understanding of WTO work and issues by non-governmental stakeholders improved	Number of key non-governmental stakeholders and legislators reached during the year	2017-19 average: 355 legislators 73 journalists 28 civil society	Stability	Legislators: 426 Journalists: 16 Civil Society: 0 Private Sector: 63	Target partially met	Legislators: 37 Journalists: 61 Civil Society: 0 Private Sector: 0	Target not met
4.2: Improved access to WTO issues through eLearning training material for self-study	Number of training material consulted	2017-19 average: 3,336	Stability	2,964	Target partially met	11,358	Target met
4.3 Information on WTO trade-related TA accessed	Number of views of the web pages on technical assistance including news items on this subject	2017: 62,963	Stability	382,849	Target met	601,516	Target met
4.4: Young professionals are exposed to WTO work and issues	Number of Young Professionals selected annually by the WTO	2018-19 average: 15	Stability	13	Target partially met	17	Target met
4.4: Young professionals are exposed to WTO work and issues	Final evaluation rate of each intern's performance by their supervisor	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2019-20	Stability	15 fully satisfactory	Target met	17 fully satisfactory	Target met

ANNEX 2. ACTIVITY MATRIX

Key Result 1 – Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members’ rights and obligations (thousands CHF)

Level	Path	Language(s)	Title	Target region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
					Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
Level 1	Generalist	E/F/S	Geneva-based courses for LDCs - introduction and focus activities - Geneva weeks	Global	441	446	-	-	-	-	441	446
Level 3	Generalist	E/F/S	Applied Advanced Trade Policy Courses	Global	1,382	1,332	-	-	-	-	1,382	1,332
Level 2	Generalist	E/F/S	Intermediate level activities for: Africa; Middle East; Asia and Pacific Economies; Caribbean; Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus; Latin America	All regions	-	-	3,172	1,539	-	-	3,172	1,539
Level 3/2	Specialist	E/F/S	Geneva-based Advanced Thematic Courses and topic specific symposia for Capital-based officials	Global	1,810	1,398	950	412	-	-	2,760	1,810
Level 3	Specialist	E/F/S	Advisory role on legal issues (Art. 27.2 of DSU)		60	29	-	-	-	-	60	29
Level 2	Generalist	E/F/S	Regional and/or sub-regional general capacity-building activities	All regions	-	-	370	69	-	-	370	69
Level 2/3	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	National seminars and workshops, including assistance for needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation	All regions	680	675	40	-	-	-	720	675
Level 2	Specialist	E/F/S	Regional and sub-regional topic-specific seminars	All regions	-	-	3,000	1,040	-	-	3,000	1,040
		E/F/S	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: Participation of LDCs' in selected WTO meetings; LDCs TPR follow-up workshops; and, South-South Dialogue	All regions	-	-	-	-	95	198	95	198
Level 3	Generalist	E/F/S	Internships in the framework of the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP)	Global	-	-	-	-	774	861	774	861
Level 3	Generalist	E/F/S	Regional Coordinator Internships Programme (RCI)	Global	-	-	210	173	-	-	210	173
Level 3	Generalist	E/F/S	French-Irish Missions Internship Programme (FIMIP)	Global	-	-	-	-	1,061	1,097	1,061	1,097
Level 1	Generalist	E/F/S	Online courses: introduction level	Capital-based officials	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level 2	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	Online courses: intermediate level (Generalists and Specialists)		X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Generalist / Specialist	English	Online course: tailored course - Create your own eLearning Courses		X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			Sub-total		4,373	3,880	7,742	3,233	1,930	2,156	14,045	9,269
			Overheads @13%		-		1,006	420	251	280	1,257	701
			Total		4,373	3,880	8,748	3,654	2,181	2,436	15,302	9,970



Key Result 2 – Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations (thousands CHF)

Level	Path	Language(s)	Title	Target region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
					Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
2/3	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	National Seminars, courses and workshops on Accessions	All regions	50	134	313	-	-	-	363	134
		E	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: WTO Accession Round Table meetings	Global	-	-	-	-	230	106	230	106
1	Generalist	E/F/S	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: WTO Accessions Internship Programme (AIP)	Global	-	-	-	-	100	85	100	85
2	Generalist	E/F/S	Online course: Accession to the WTO	Global	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total					50	134	313	-	330	192	693	325
Overheads @13%					-		41	-	43	25	84	25
Total					50	134	354	-	373	216	777	350

Key Result 3 – Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers (thousands CHF)

Level	Path	Language(s)	Title	Target region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
					Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
	Generalist	E/F/S	WTO Chairs Programme	All regions	-	-	1,300	760	-	-	1,300	760
		E/F/S	WTO support programme for doctoral students		-	-	65	19	-	-	65	19
		E/F/S	Donation of WTO publications to academic institutions and other academic activities		1	1	-	64	-	-	1	65
Sub-total					1	1	1,365	843	-	-	1,366	845
Overheads @13%					-	-	177	110	-	-	177	110
Total					1	1	1,542	953	-	-	1,543	954

Key Result 4 – Non-governmental stakeholders are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues (thousands CHF)

Level	Path	Language(s)	Title	Target region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
					Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
		E/F/S	Outreach for legislators, journalists, civil society and businesses	All regions			605	140	-	-	605	140
	Specialist	E/F/S	WTO Young Professionals' programme (YPP)		-	-	657	794	-	-	657	794
		E/F/S	Online training material for self-study	All regions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total					-	-	1,262	933	-	-	1,262	933
Overheads @13%					-	-	164	121	-	-	164	121
Total					-	-	1,426	1,054	-	-	1,426	1,054

Other costs – Programme staff and Monitoring & Evaluation (thousands CHF)

Other Costs	Title	Target Region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
			Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
	L-Posts		-	-	1,700	1,433	-	-	1,700	1,433
	Implementation of RBM and development of e-Learning courses		125	69	-	-	-	-	125	69
	Transfer Balance from TDA 22		-	-	-	101	-	-	-	101
	Sub-total		125	69	1,700	1,533	-	-	1,825	1,603
	Overheads @13%		-	-	221	199	-	-	221	199
	Total		125	69	1,921	1,732	-	-	2,046	1,802

Summary Grand Total (thousands CHF)

Summary Grand Total	Title	Target Region	Regular Budget		GTF <sup>1</sup>		Other TFs <sup>2</sup>		Total	
			Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023	Budget 2023	Expenses 2023
	Sub-total		4,549	4,084	12,382	6,543	2,260	2,347	19,191	12,975
	Overheads @13%		-	-	1,610	851	294	305	1,903	1'156
	Total		4,549	4,084	13,992	7,394	2,554	2,652	21,094	14,130

1 The Global Trust Fund (GTF) includes unearmarked funds and funds earmarked to finance the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP)

2 Other trust funds include those financing the French-Irish Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP), Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP) and China LDC & Accession Programme, which are under the sole authority of the WTO and which it can use to finance its TA activities. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) trust funds are consequently excluded. These trust funds have their own governance and reporting mechanisms

# Acknowledging donors

Donor funding is essential to continue providing technical assistance to TA beneficiaries. The WTO Technical Assistance programmes are financed by the WTO Secretariat's regular budget, supplemented by extra-budgetary funds. The extra-budgetary funds represent the main channel through which the following WTO Members' voluntary contributions in recent years support the technical assistance activities.



Financing of Trade-Related  
Technical Assistance (TRTA)



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## Enhancing Understanding and Knowledge of the Multilateral Trading System

This report was prepared on behalf of the WTO Secretariat by the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (ITTC), the division managing, coordinating, and evaluating the organization and delivery of WTO technical assistance (TA) activities. It benefitted from the input provided by all divisions involved in the implementation of the TA programme. As a tool to assess WTO TA performance and communicate on its achievements, the report identifies a variety of concrete results produced, and which could be measured during the year. It highlights how the WTO responds to the evolving needs of its developing and least developed Members and Observers through a constant adaptation of its offer for a an ever-greater relevance and quality. Throughout the report are testimonials recounting the perspectives and experiences of those by and for whom WTO TA makes a difference.

The colours, boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on the maps in this report do not imply any judgment, official endorsement or acceptance by the World Trade Organization as to the legal status or frontier of any territory.



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