



## REPORT (2023) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. Since the last review<sup>1</sup>, the Committee on Market Access held two formal meetings (26-27 April and 16-17 October) and four informal meetings (21 February, 3 July, 18 September, and 21 November). The annotated agendas of the formal meetings were circulated in documents [JOB/MA/159](#) and [JOB/MA/169](#), and the minutes are contained in documents [G/MA/M/78](#) and [G/MA/M/79](#) (to be issued). In addition, in 2023 the Committee organised an experience-sharing session on trade in COVID-19 related goods, a capacity building workshop on the notification of quantitative restrictions, and two informal open-ended consultations on thematic sessions (see below).

2. At its formal meeting of 26-27 April, the Committee took note that the consultations in the Council for Trade in Goods concerning the election of the Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies remained ongoing and agreed that the Secretariat would send a written communication with the proposed candidate and set a deadline for objections. On 5 June, the Secretariat informed Members that Ms. Renata Cristaldo Oviedo (Paraguay) had been nominated, and on 8 June a second communication confirmed that she had been elected. At its meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note that the Chairperson would continue consultations on the appointment of a vice-chairperson and would update the Committee as appropriate.

### HARMONIZED SYSTEM (HS) RELATED WAIVERS

3. At its formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver ([G/C/W/831](#)), the HS2007 "collective" waiver ([G/C/W/832](#)), the HS2012 "collective" waiver ([G/C/W/833](#)), the HS2017 "collective" waiver ([G/C/W/834](#)), and the HS2022 "collective" waiver ([G/C/W/835/Rev.1](#)). The Committee agreed to forward the draft waiver decisions to the General Council, through the Council for Trade in Goods, for appropriate action.

### INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

4. At its formal meetings, the Committee took note of a revised report by the Secretariat ([G/MA/W/158/Rev.6](#) and [G/MA/W/158/Rev.7](#)) with a broad overview of all HS transposition exercises.<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction of Harmonized System 1996 (HS1996) changes to Schedules of concessions

5. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS96 changes to Schedules of concessions. The Secretariat informed that the technical work under the previous transposition procedures (GATT document L/6905) remained pending for one Member.

### Introduction of Harmonized System 2002 (HS2002) Changes to Schedules of concessions

6. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2002 changes to Schedules of concessions using the CTS database ([WT/L/605](#) and [WT/L/807](#)), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2002 changes of Members had been examined. At the formal

<sup>1</sup> [G/L/1439](#), dated 1 November 2022.

<sup>2</sup> See also Goods Schedules e-Library <https://goods-schedules.wto.org/>.

meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note that 116 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2002 and circulated for certification. Technical work remained pending for one Member.

### **Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 (HS2007) changes to Schedules of concessions**

7. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2007 changes to Schedules of concessions using the CTS database ([WT/L/673](#) and [WT/L/830](#)), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2007 changes of Members had been examined. At the formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note that 113 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2007 and circulated for certification.

### **Introduction of Harmonized System 2012 (HS2012) changes to Schedules of concessions**

8. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2012 changes to Schedules of concessions using the CTS database ([WT/L/831](#)), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2012 changes of Members had been examined. At the formal meeting of 16 - 17 October, the Committee took note that 104 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2012 and circulated for certification.

### **Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 (HS2017) changes to Schedules of concessions**

9. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2017 changes to Schedules of concessions using the CTS database ([WT/L/995](#)), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2017 changes of Members had been examined. At the formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note that 85 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2017 and circulated for certification.

### **Introduction of Harmonized System 2022 (HS2022) changes to Schedules of concessions**

10. At its formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note that work concerning the introduction of HS2022 changes to Schedules of concessions using the CTS database ([WT/L/1123](#)) has started with the development of the programs to prepare the draft HS2022 transposition files.

### **Harmonized System "multiple transposition" procedures**

11. At its informal meetings of 21 February and 3 July, the Committee discussed Japan's proposal for a multiple transposition of Members' Schedules of concessions into the most recent version of the HS. Based on this proposal, the Secretariat prepared a technical note in document [JOB/MA/164](#) explaining the technical aspect of such a potential process. The Committee will continue to discuss this proposal at its next informal meeting in November.

### **DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ("QR DECISION")**

12. At its meetings in 2023, the Committee examined quantitative restrictions (QR) notifications which had been submitted by 21 Members: Australia; Costa Rica; The Gambia; Georgia, Hong Kong, China; Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Türkiye; Ukraine; United Kingdom; the United States; and Uruguay. Most of these notifications were complete notifications of all QRs in force for the biennial periods 2020-2022 and 2022-2024. The Committee also took note of the Secretariat's factual analysis of all notified QRs ([G/MA/W/114/Rev.5](#)) that were recorded in the QR database<sup>3</sup> and of the report with the status of QR notifications ([G/MA/QR/13](#)).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://QR.wto.org/>.

## COMMITTEE WORK ON TRADE IN COVID-19 RELATED GOODS

13. On 24 March 2023, the Committee organized the sixth experience-sharing session on trade in COVID-19 related goods.<sup>4</sup> In the first part of the session, least developed countries (LDC) shared their experiences and practices on trade-related measures and challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5</sup> In the second part of the session, Members shared their reflections across the entire series of experience-sharing sessions organized by the CMA on trade in COVID-19 related goods.

14. Based on Members' discussions and presentations during the entire series of experience-sharing sessions which took place in 2022 and 2023, and at Members' request, the Secretariat prepared a document summarizing the main lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. On 31 March 2023, the lesson learned document was submitted for review and adoption by the Members and was circulated in document in [G/MA/409](#) on 20 April 2023, as agreed by the Members.

15. At the meeting of 26-27 April, the Committee took note of an updated report by the Secretariat summarising export restrictions and trade easing measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic ([G/MA/W/168/Rev.4](#)). In addition, the Committee took note of an updated document listing all notifications which had been submitted by Members to the Committee on Market Access relating to COVID-19 ([G/MA/W/157/Rev.6](#)). It was agreed that these documents would only be updated if the Secretariat received additional information from Members about these measures.

16. At the meetings of 26-27 April and 16-17 October, the Committee took note of the statements by a representative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) on the 71st and 72nd sessions of the Harmonized System Committee (HSC), where negotiations were ongoing with respect to the classification proposals of certain COVID-19 essential goods based on the communication sent by the CMA to the HSC<sup>6</sup>, and other matters of interest to the Committee.

## MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS – IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE

17. At its informal meetings of 21 February, 3 July and 18 September, the Committee conducted discussions on how to improve its functioning, following instructions by the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods. Three main documents were prepared under the Chairperson's responsibility to compile Members' submissions and inform the Committee's discussions: (i) the preliminary list of issues for discussions ([JOB/MA/162](#)); (ii) the table with the current status of work by the Committee after its informal meeting of 3 July 2023 ([JOB/MA/165](#)); and (iii) the proposals adopted by the Committee following written procedures ([JOB/MA/166](#), [JOB/MA/166/Corr.1](#), and [G/MA/411](#)).

18. At its formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note of the Chairperson's report in relation to this work and adopted the Committee's report to the Council for Trade in Goods, as circulated in document [JOB/MA/170](#).

## THEMATIC SESSIONS

19. On 9 February, the former Chairperson started consultations with Members on whether the Committee should engage in a technical dialogue, either through experience sharing sessions or other formats, and on which topics (see [RD/MA/110](#)). At the informal meeting of 3 July, the Chairperson invited Members to submit concrete proposals for thematic sessions based on the list circulated in [RD/MA/110](#) or other topics of interest. At the informal meeting of 18 September, the Committee considered a proposal by the United Kingdom on thematic sessions on supply chain resilience ([JOB/MA/167](#)). On 2 October, the Chairperson organized informal open-ended consultations to further discuss the UK proposal. At its formal meeting of 16-17 October, the Committee took note of the Chairperson's report on the informal consultations and agreed to hold

<sup>4</sup> The first five experience sharing sessions took place on 4 March 2022, 26 April 2022, 18 July 2022, 16 September 2022 and 21 November 2022, respectively. The summary reports are available in documents [JOB/MA/152](#), [JOB/MA/152/Add.1](#), [JOB/MA/152/Add.2/Rev.1](#), [JOB/MA/152/Add.3](#), and [JOB/MA/152/Add.4](#).

<sup>5</sup> The summary report is available in document [JOB/MA/152/Add.5](#). Representatives from eight LDC Members participated as speakers: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Myanmar, Niger, Togo and Zambia.

<sup>6</sup> [G/MA/406](#) of 30 May 2022.

an introductory session on supply chain resilience with the participation of other international organizations on 21 November 2023.

## DATABASES

20. At its formal meetings in 2023, the Secretariat reported on the status of work concerning the Integrated Data Base (IDB) and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. The reports provided information on, *inter alia*: the use of information in the databases; the Members that have concluded an agreement for the automatic transmission of data; the status of software development and technical assistance. The Committee also took note of the documents which reflected the status of submissions to the IDB ([G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.57](#), and [G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.58](#)).

21. At its meetings of 2023, the Committee took note of a report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 16 of the IDB Decision (G/MA/367), which requires the Secretariat to maintain a list of Members' official websites in which tariff information or import data are publicly available ([G/MA/IDB/W/13/Rev.8](#) and [G/MA/IDB/W/13/Rev.9](#)).<sup>7</sup>

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

22. On 6 February 2023, the Secretariat gave a presentation on the work of the CMA to the LDC Group.

23. On 24-26 April, the Secretariat organized a Capacity Building Workshop on the Notification of Quantitative Restrictions.<sup>8</sup> The objective of this workshop was to train capital-based officials in charge of the QR notifications to prepare such notifications for the first time, or to improve existing ones.

## TRADE CONCERNS

24. At its formal meetings in 2023, the Committee took note of the following trade concerns<sup>9</sup>:

ID <sup>10</sup>	Title	Member(s) raising the concern (alphabetical order) <sup>11</sup>
<a href="#">ID 46</a>	Angola – Import restricting practices	European Union, United States
<a href="#">ID 94</a>	Australia - Maturation requirements for imported alcohol	Brazil
<a href="#">ID 39</a>	Australia - Discriminatory market access prohibition on 5G equipment	China
<a href="#">ID 79</a>	Canada – Discriminatory market access prohibition on 5G equipment	China
<a href="#">ID 58</a>	China — Trade disruptive and restrictive measures	Australia
<a href="#">ID 80</a>	China — Draft of Chinese recommended national standards (GB/T) for office devices (information security technology-security specification for office devices)	Japan
<a href="#">ID 81</a>	China — Draft revision of Chinese government procurement law	Japan
<a href="#">ID 107</a>	China - Export control measure on gallium and germanium products	European Union, Japan
<a href="#">ID 106</a>	China; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China - Restriction on imports of aquatic products from Japan after the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea	Japan
<a href="#">ID 82</a>	Dominican Republic – Discriminatory taxation on some food imported products	European Union
<a href="#">ID 86</a>	European Union - MRL reduction of certain substances to meet environmental objectives in third countries <sup>12</sup>	Argentina, Australia, Indonesia, Paraguay

<sup>7</sup> See also [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/markacc\\_e/tariffandimpofwebsites\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/markacc_e/tariffandimpofwebsites_e.htm).

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/markacc\\_e/qres\\_2404202310\\_e/qres\\_2404202310\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/markacc_e/qres_2404202310_e/qres_2404202310_e.htm).

<sup>9</sup> The concerns are listed in alphabetical order.

<sup>10</sup> For more information see also <https://tradeconcerns.wto.org/en>.

<sup>11</sup> The column lists the Member(s) that raised the concern in any or all the formal meetings that are covered by this report.

<sup>12</sup> This trade concern was raised with the title "Draft Commission regulation amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) no. 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regard maximum residue levels for clothianidin and thiamethoxam in certain products" in the formal meeting of 26-27 April 2023.

ID <sup>10</sup>	Title	Member(s) raising the concern (alphabetical order) <sup>11</sup>
<a href="#">ID 96</a>	European Union – Proposal for a regulation of the European parliament and of the council on shipments of waste and amending regulation (EU) No. 1257/2013 and (EU) No. 2020/1056	Indonesia
<a href="#">ID 69</a>	European Union - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism	China, Indonesia, Russian Federation
<a href="#">ID 84</a>	European Union – Deforestation-Free Commodities (DFC)	Indonesia, Russian Federation
<a href="#">ID 35</a>	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar - Selective tax on certain imported products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
<a href="#">ID 36</a>	India - Quantitative restrictions on imports of certain pulses	Australia, Canada
<a href="#">ID 98</a>	India - Quality control order for chemical and petrochemical substances	Indonesia, Thailand
<a href="#">ID 87</a>	India – Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on solar photovoltaic cells and modules	China
<a href="#">ID 88</a>	India – Approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM) of solar photovoltaic modules	China
<a href="#">ID 61</a>	India – Import policies on tyres	European Union, Indonesia, The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, Thailand
<a href="#">ID 62</a>	India – Import restriction on air conditioners	Japan Thailand
<a href="#">ID 105</a>	India – Import restrictions on pcs, tablets, and other electronic products	China
<a href="#">ID 99</a>	Indonesia – Commodity balance mechanism	European Union
<a href="#">ID 42</a>	Indonesia - Customs duties on certain telecommunication products	European Union, United States
<a href="#">ID 64</a>	Mexico – Import quota on glyphosate	United States
<a href="#">ID 50</a>	Nepal - Import ban on energy drinks	Thailand
<a href="#">ID 74</a>	Peru – Tax treatment of pisco	United Kingdom
<a href="#">ID 56</a>	Sri Lanka – Import ban on various products	European Union
<a href="#">ID 104</a>	Thailand- Licensing regime for wheat	European Union
<a href="#">ID 100</a>	Türkiye – Discriminatory additional tariffs on electric vehicles	China
<a href="#">ID 101</a>	United States – Disruptive and restrictive measures in the name of national security	China
<a href="#">ID 102</a>	United States, Japan, Netherlands - US-Japan-Netherlands agreement on chip export restrictions	China
<a href="#">ID 103</a>	United States – A series of disruptive policy measures on the global semiconductor industry chain and supply chain	China
<a href="#">ID 101</a>	United States – Disruptive and restrictive measures in the name of national security	China
<a href="#">ID 90</a>	United States – Section 301 tariffs on certain goods from China	China
<a href="#">ID 91</a>	United States – Quantitative restrictions on imports of sturgeon	European Union