

A photograph of four business professionals (three men and one woman) sitting around a table in a modern office setting, engaged in a discussion. One man is pointing at a laptop screen. The background shows large windows with blinds and a contemporary interior design.

2024 WTO Technical Assistance Annual Report

Higher results and impact

WTO
Technical Assistance
Annual Report

Higher results and impact

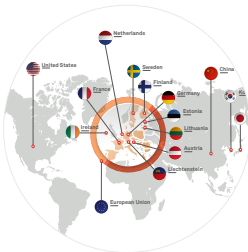
2024

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Foreword

by WTO Deputy Director-General Zhang



In 2024, the WTO started the year on a high note by welcoming two new Members at the 13th Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in February. Comoros and Timor-Leste became the 165th and 166th Members of our organization. They are also the 10th and 11th Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to join since the WTO's establishment in 1995.

Like other developing and LDC Members and Observers, Comoros and Timor-Leste benefited from WTO Technical Assistance (TA) programmes throughout their accession process. This support was instrumental in strengthening their capacity to navigate the complexities of

WTO accession, which took 17 years for Comoros and nearly 8 years for Timor-Leste. Their successful accession highlights the critical role of TA in building the expertise and institutional frameworks necessary for developing economies to fully participate in global trade.

I take this new opportunity to once again commend their governments for their hard work and reaffirm the Secretariat's commitment to supporting them in the post-accession phase and beyond as they continue to adapt to WTO rules and principles and reap the full benefits of their membership. I also extend my appreciation to the various divisions of the

“The successful WTO accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste highlights the essential role of technical assistance in fostering a more inclusive multilateral trading system.

WTO Secretariat involved in delivering TA for their unwavering dedication to equipping developing Members and Observers with the capacity to engage effectively in the multilateral trading system.

Beyond these historic accessions, 2024 also witnessed progress across various other areas where TA comes into play. For the second consecutive year since the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO TA delivered positive results, with 82% of targets fully or partially met. Most indicators point to growth, stable performance, or promising prospects.

WTO TA trained in 2024 the second-highest number of government officials on record: over 19,000 of whom more than 5,000 were from LDCs. While participation in face-to-face activities declined, e-Learning reached a record level, signalling the growing relevance and efficiency of our digital transformation. At the same time, our approach to TA delivery continued to emphasize the seamless combination of virtual, in-person, and online learning to optimize resources and maximise impact.

In response to the demand of beneficiaries, TA further expanded to cover high-priority issues with increased activities focused on topics such as agriculture, import licensing, standards, and trade negotiation skills.

This annual report also highlights TA support for initiatives addressing forward-looking issues, including digital trade.

This progress was achieved despite increasing financial constraints. In 2024, unearmarked voluntary contributions for TA reached their lowest level ever. In this challenging context, we are more grateful than ever to the donor Members whose support makes vital capacity-building efforts possible and is critical to fostering a truly inclusive multilateral trading system. The Secretariat remains committed to maximising impact with limited resources to continue meeting the needs of TA beneficiaries.

Xiangchen Zhang
Deputy Director-General

Acronyms

AIP	Accession Internship Programme	TA	Technical Assistance
ATPC	Advanced Trade Policy Course	TAMS	Technical Assistance Management System
CEECAC	Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus	TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	TPR	Trade Policy Review
CHF	Swiss Francs	TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
EU	European Union	WCP	WTO Chairs Programme
FIMIP	French Irish Mission Programme	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
GCSP	Group Coordinators Support Programme	WTO	World Trade Organization
GIP	General Internship Programme	YPP	Young Professional Programme
GTF	Global Trust Fund		
IP	Intellectual Property		
ITC	International Trade Centre		
ITPC	Introductory Trade Policy Course		
LDC	Least Developed Country		
MC13	13 th WTO Ministerial Conference		
MC14	14 th WTO Ministerial Conference		
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
NTP	Netherlands Talent Programme		
PLS	Progressive Learning Strategy		
RBM	Result-Based Management		
RTPC	Regional Trade Policy Course		
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise		
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary		
STC	Specific Trade Concern		

Executive summary



- **WTO TA overall results maintained an upward trajectory in 2024, building on the rebound recorded in 2023.**
- **2024 recorded the highest number of TA activities in the last decade, with over 19,000 participants trained throughout the year.**
- **The blended approach to TA delivery—combining virtual, in-person, and e-Learning elements—gained momentum.**
- **The number of activities focusing on Agriculture, Digital Trade, Import Licensing, Standards, Trade & Environment, and Trade Negotiation Skills increased markedly, aligning with beneficiaries demands.**

Executive summary

Higher success rate and growing engagement

In 2024, the TA success rate, which measures the achievement of objectives based on indicators approved by Members, reached 82%, up from 79% in 2023. An analysis of the results shows that fully met targets (57%) remained relatively stable (60% in 2023), while partially met targets increased to 25% (from 19%) and missed targets declined to 16% (from 19%). These year-on-year improvements reflect sustained gains in performance, building on the satisfactory results of 2023, when they fully rebounded from the downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the year, the Secretariat trained over 19,000 government officials through a steady number of 327 activities delivered to strengthen their capacities in trade-related areas, in accordance with the needs expressed by beneficiaries. This represents a 19% increase from the previous year, largely driven by a significant shift toward online learning, with the number of e-Learners surging by 45% to over 13,000. With a 78% success rate, e-Learning demonstrated strong performance compared to industry benchmarks for free online courses. Improvements in content delivery and engagement strategies also contributed to a significant reduction in the e-Learning dropout rate from 28% in 2023 to 20% in 2024, which is indicative of better retention and stronger engagement.

Face-to-face training accounted for 24% of total participants. Efforts continued to refine pedagogical methods and incorporate blended learning approaches, combining the benefits of in-person, virtual, and self-paced e-Learning formats to cater to diverse learning needs and maximise efficiency. This flexible approach has allowed for greater customization of training based on the specific objectives and requirements of each activity.

The long duration training programmes generally performed well in 2024. The success rate in the final exams of the Advanced Trade Policy Courses (ATPCs) was 100%, and 94% in the Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPCs). The proportion of participants who obtained a distinction was 23% in ATPCs and 16% in RTPCs. These results were in line with previous years, confirming the sustained impact of WTO TA programmes.

The number of national activity requests—a key indicator of Members' direct demand for WTO TA—declined by 27% from the record-high levels of 2023. Nonetheless, requests remained above historical averages, reflecting continued interest in tailored, country-specific assistance.

In addition to training courses, the Secretariat continued to offer high-value learning-by-doing programmes through on-the-job training. A total of 65 participants benefited from these programmes, maintaining the record-high intake of 2023.

In the *spotlight*



This report highlights two key areas of heightened TA focus in 2024:

- **Support for a pioneering digital trade initiative** that equips beneficiaries with essential skills to harness the economic growth potential of e-commerce.
- **Training on trade negotiation skills**, now fully resumed after a suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic.

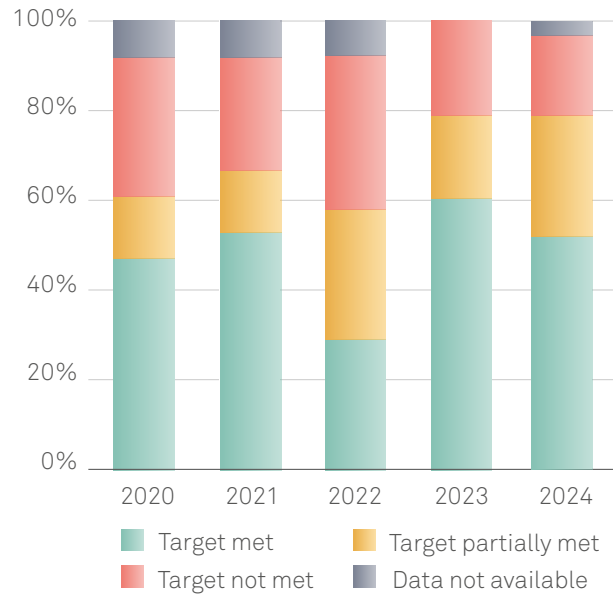


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY
RESULT
1



Implementation
of WTO Agreements



Continued support for Members and Observers

The primary objective of WTO TA is to enhance the capacity of government officials from developing and LDC Members and Observers to fulfil their WTO commitments and leverage their rights within the multilateral trading system.


The number of 'substantive' documents submitted by TA beneficiary Members, alone or jointly with others, to WTO bodies increased by 68% from the previous year, reaching 1,178, the highest figure recorded in over a decade. This serves as a proxy indicator of their growing involvement in the work of WTO bodies.

Transparency-related initiatives remained a priority to reduce notification backlogs under various WTO Agreements. Overall, developing and LDC Members submitted 86% of total Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) notifications and 74% of total notifications on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in 2024.

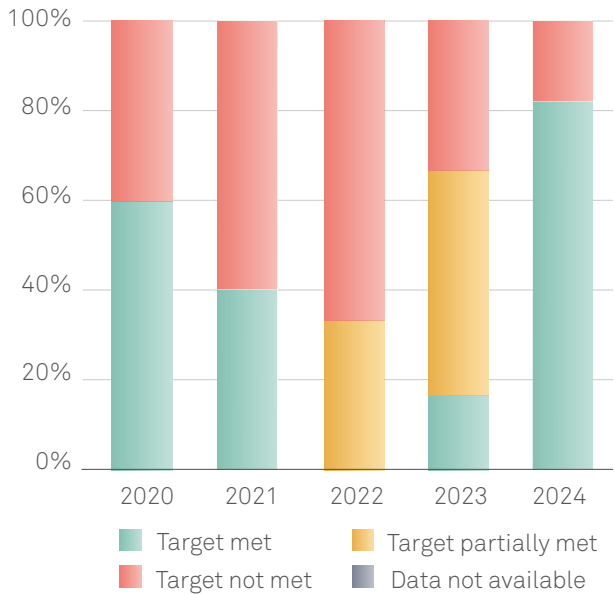
The expansion of action-oriented TA activities on transparency to Customs Valuation and Import Licensing led to exceptional progress in submitting pending notifications under these Agreements.

TA Beneficiary Members also remained active in raising Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) related to SPS measures and TBT, demonstrating continued engagement in WTO Committees.

KEY
RESULT
2



Acceding governments
are participating in
accession negotiations



Accompanying new accessions

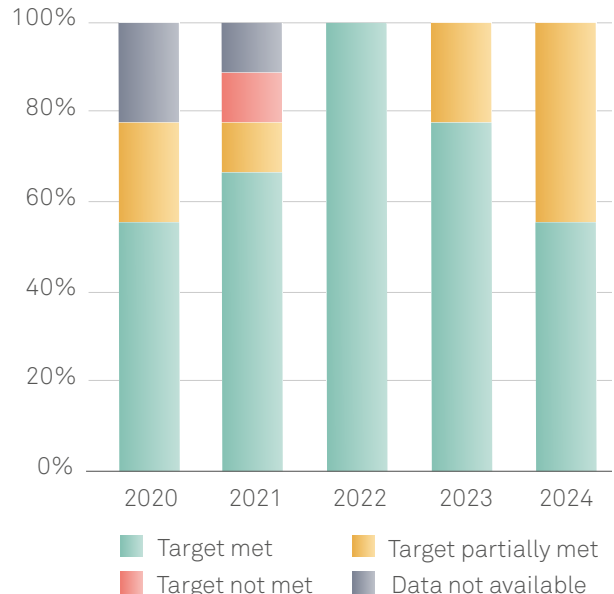
For the first time in eight years, two new Members, Comoros and Timor-Leste joined the WTO after the approval of their membership terms during the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13). This was the culmination of a long and intense process that benefited from the constant support of the Secretariat until its very final stages.

After these two accessions, the TA priorities switched to some of the 22 other governments seeking to join the WTO: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and LDCs such as Ethiopia and Somalia.

KEY
RESULT
3



Academic institutions and
other stakeholders are
analysing WTO issues and
reaching out to policy makers

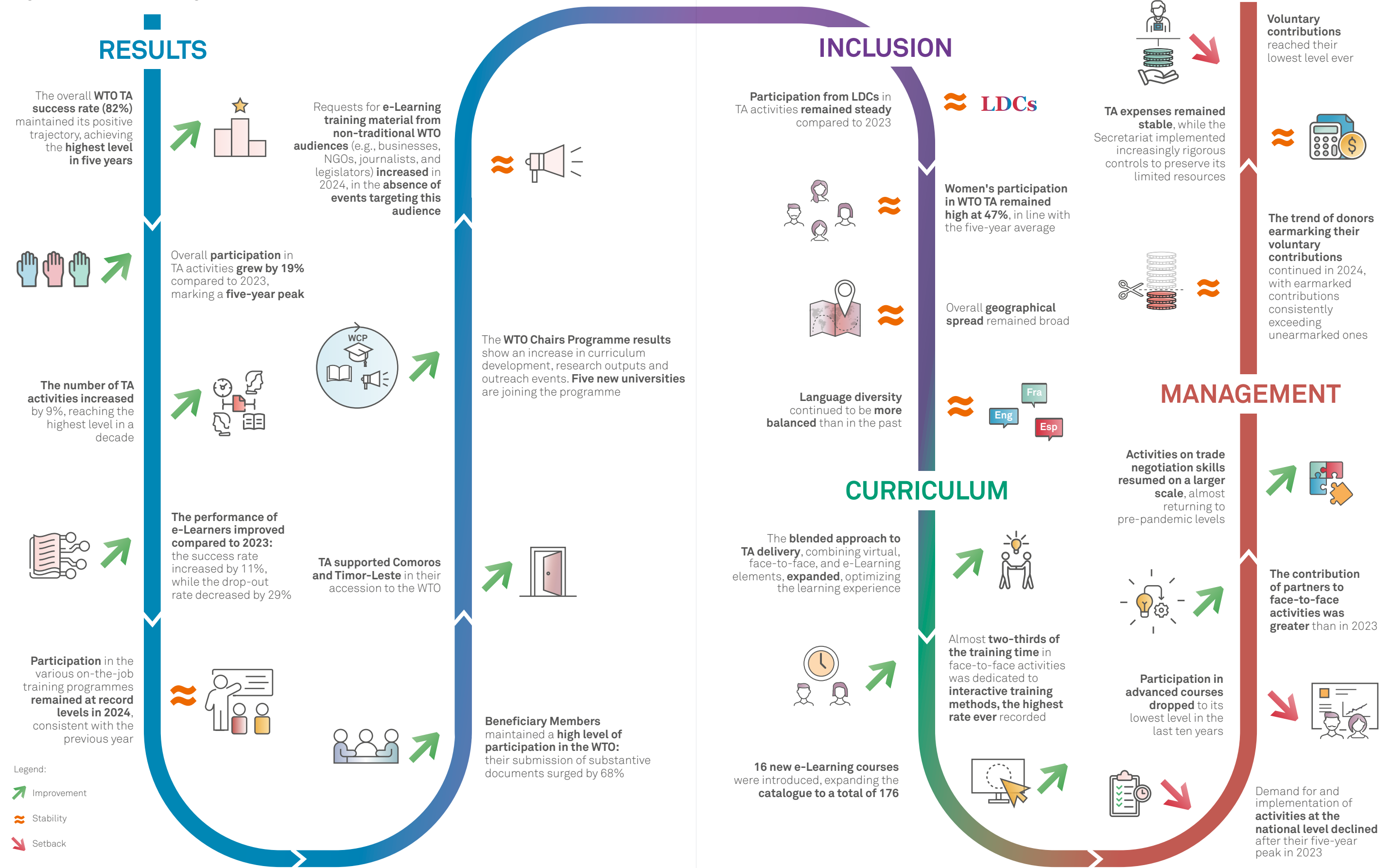


Advancing academic research and policy dialogue


The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) supports academic institutions and researchers in developing Members, reinforcing their capacity to conduct trade-related research and inform policy debate.

In Phase III of the programme, which continued through 2024, research outputs of the 15 participating Chairs grew by 16%, while outreach events expanded by 23%, reflecting the programme's increasing impact. In preparation for Phase IV in 2025, five new universities were selected, broadening the WCP global network to 39 Chairs and increasing representation of certain regions.

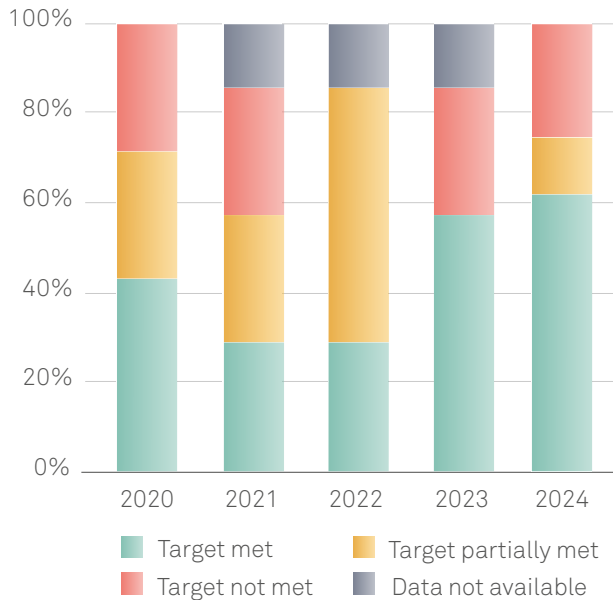
Infographic 1. 2024 results at a glance



KEY
RESULT
4



Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues



Enhancing outreach and engagement with non-traditional stakeholders

The WTO TA also engages non-governmental stakeholders such as members of parliament, journalists, civil society organizations, and the private sector who indirectly influence trade policy in their countries. Budgetary constraints in 2024 led to a sharp decline in outreach activities for these groups, with only two events conducted for journalists. Self-study training materials made available to the general public through the e-Learning platform received over 9,000 requests, illustrating the continued relevance of TA beyond government institutions.

Efforts to increase awareness about TA activities and disseminate trade-related information to a broader audience were further strengthened through the web and social media platforms. In 2024, the number of visits to WTO TA web pages doubled compared to the previous year, enhancing engagement with diverse stakeholders and raising their awareness on TA's role to foster an inclusive multilateral trading system.

Prioritizing inclusion

The main objective of the WTO TA is to level the playing field in the Multilateral Trading System so that the weakest and most vulnerable are not excluded. This requires paying a particular attention to the inclusion of LDCs and women, and to make sure that TA is widely available across the world and in the three WTO languages. The fact that Africa was again the region with the largest number of participants in TA activities in 2024, followed by Asia-Pacific, reinforced this priority, as all the LDCs except one are located in these two regions.

The share of women participation in WTO TA activities (47%) remained high. It increased in the Caribbean, Latin America, CEECAC and global activities, was stable in Asia-Pacific and e Learning, but declined in Africa and the Middle East.

Driven by e-Learning, participation in WTO TA activities increased in all regions, especially in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean. The proportion of languages used to conduct 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 (49%), while the use of French and Spanish accounted for 21% and 25% of activities respectively. The rest (5%) were activities delivered with interpretation.

A more relevant curriculum and increased participation

The Secretariat continuously refines its training content to address pressing trade-related issues, explore less conventional WTO topics, and enhance existing activities. The untapped potential of digital trade for developing economies prompted the launch of the Digital Trade for Africa project, which entered its implementation phase in 2024 with substantial TA support.

Several other training activities addressed the link between trade and environment, including the revival of the Advanced Thematic Course on Trade and Environment after a six-year hiatus. Across face-to-face and online formats, these activities engaged over 900 participants. The Secretariat also explored the intersection of trade and public health through multidisciplinary workshops. Training on trade negotiation skills, disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resumed at an accelerated pace.

The Secretariat's Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS) remained central to participant engagement, guiding them from introductory to advanced levels through tailored training pathways for Generalists—who require

broad WTO knowledge—and Specialists—who need in-depth expertise on specific WTO issues.

For the first time since it was introduced in 2010, the PLS underwent an ex-post evaluation covering 2017–23, during which over 24,000 participants across 149 countries and sovereign customs territories took part in TA activities. The evaluation confirmed the relevance and effectiveness of the PLS as a framework for WTO technical assistance, significantly improving participants' ability to engage in trade policy and negotiations. Key areas for improvement include ensuring logical course progression, reducing redundancy, strengthening prerequisites, incorporating refresher modules, and enhancing the practical application of learning.

Participation in introductory-level training declined marginally in 2024, though demand remained steady in Members with high staff turnover. The expansion of the intermediate level offers boosted participation, which represented 69% of the total, well above the five-year average of 63%, and the advanced-level participation fell to its lowest in a decade, with approximately 700 participants, half the 2023 level.

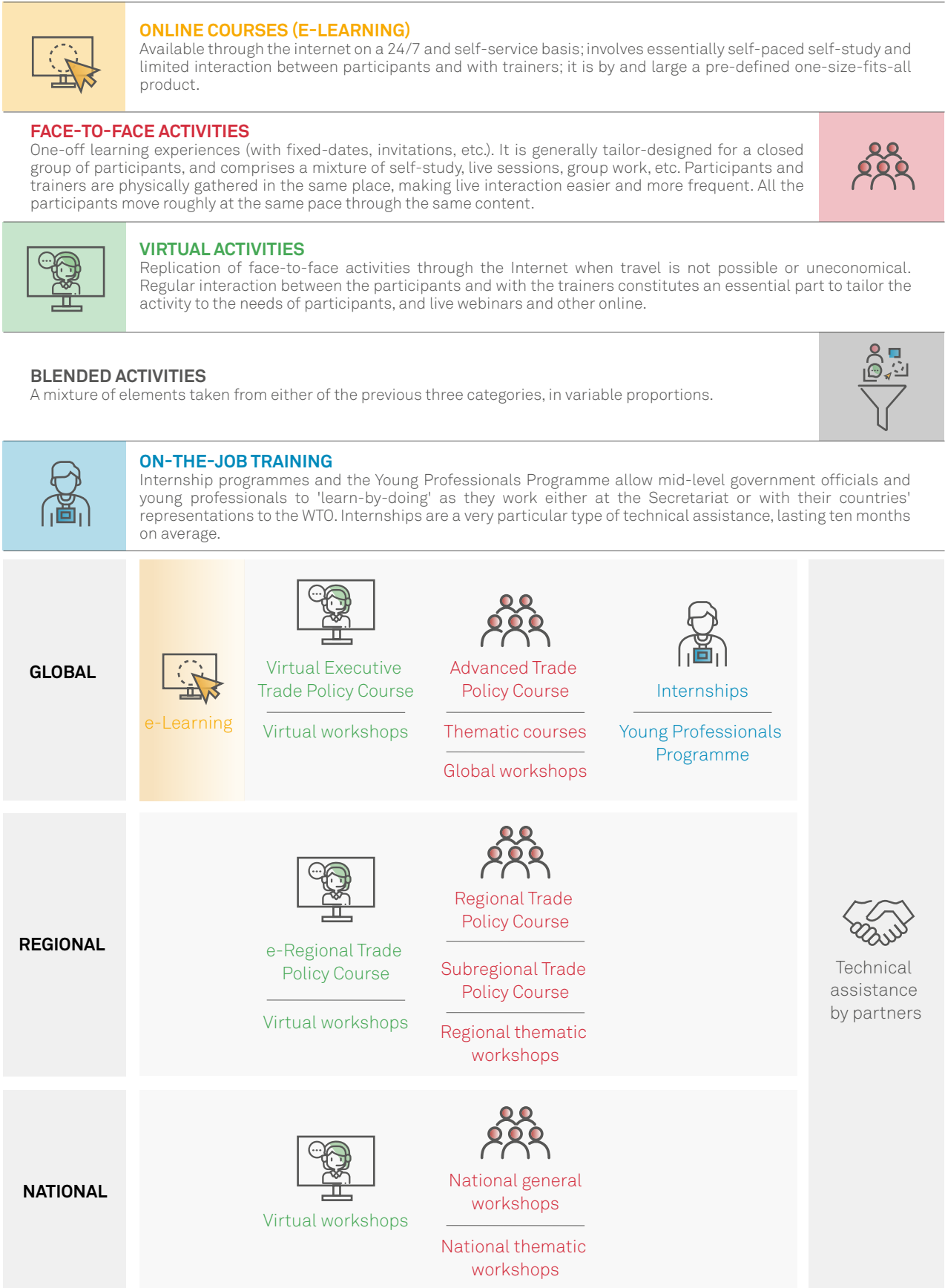
The Specialists path continued to expand, supported by an enhanced e-learning portfolio. Specialist-focused activities increased to 161 in 2024, compared to a five-year average of 122, with 60% of participants opting for specialized courses—a more balanced distribution than in 2023.

Balancing demand and financial constraints

WTO TA continued to face unprecedented financial pressures, with voluntary contributions declining to their lowest level in 25 years. In 2024, unearmarked voluntary contributions received from donor Members totalled less than CHF 3 million.

The Secretariat implemented stringent cost-control measures throughout the year to mitigate the situation. While these measures preserved the volume and quality of TA delivery, further reductions could begin to impact both participation levels and the overall effectiveness of WTO TA programmes.

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.



Financing of Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA)

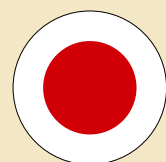


Since 2007, voluntary contributions for TA have steadily declined. In 2024, unearmarked contributions fell to a record low of less than CHF 3 million, equivalent to 13% of the annual contributions received during the peak years from 2006 to 2009.



“Japan contributed approximately EUR 230,000 to the Global Trust Fund in 2024 and donated over EUR 13.6 million to the various WTO Trust Funds for over 20 years.

Interview with Norifumi Kondo, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the WTO



Japan has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to the WTO's Global Trust Fund, which finances a significant portion of WTO TA activities. What drives this unwavering commitment?

Japan's long-standing commitment to the WTO's Global Trust Fund stems from its firm belief in the vital role the rules-based multilateral trading system plays in promoting global economic stability and inclusive growth. Japan places high value on fostering capacity-building of developing country Members including LDCs to ensure their effective participation in the multilateral trading system. Japan contributed approx. EUR 230,000 to the Global Trust Fund in 2024 and donated over EUR 13.6 million to the various WTO Trust Funds for over 20 years. By supporting WTO's technical assistance activities, Japan aims to strengthen trade-related expertise and institutional frameworks of Members, contributing to their sustainable development. This approach aligns

with Japan's broader diplomatic objective of promoting free, fair, and open trade worldwide, fostering mutual prosperity and stability.

Japan's financial support for WTO TA has also consistently been flexible, with funds not earmarked for specific activities. What does Japan suggest to make TA more effective?

Japan recognizes that it is necessary to continue the Secretariat's various technical assistance programmes to enable developing country Members including LDCs to fully enjoy the positive developmental effects of trade through further integration into the multilateral trading system. To achieve this end, Japan hopes that financial support from Members will be utilized more efficiently. In this regard, it is essential to design programmes that effectively address the unique and diverse needs of developing country Members by accurately identifying their individual challenges and achieving tangible results in overcoming them. In this context, it is especially important for Members to discuss more effective

approaches to technical assistance, drawing also on discussions in Trade Policy Review meetings, for example.

What distinctive contribution do you believe the various aspects of the WTO's TA offering make in meeting the needs of its developing and least-developed country Members for a more inclusive multilateral trading system?

Take for example the Young Professionals Programme, which allows promising young individuals from developing country Members to gain practical experience at the WTO and apply that knowledge in their home countries. I believe this programme has been providing valuable opportunities for cultivating human resources essential for effectively positioning the significance and role of the WTO and trade rules within their national economic development strategies. I hope that the former and future participants in this programme will fully utilize the invaluable experiences gained at the WTO in their career paths,



contributing to both the prosperity of their own countries and commitment of their countries to the WTO.

How do you believe the emerging capacity-building needs of WTO's developing and least-developed country Members and observers should be addressed in the coming years?

As a leading donor in the "Aid for Trade" initiative, Japan bears a critical role in empowering developing country Members through capacity-building support tailored to the specific challenges and priorities faced by each country. Addressing the diverse and evolving needs of these countries necessitates a multifaceted approach. This involves deepening coordination with relevant international organizations, leveraging public-private partnerships, and ensuring coherence with other technical assistance activities, such as those implemented bilaterally. Such efforts are essential to establishing a flexible and comprehensive support framework that ensures sustainable and inclusive outcomes. An example of such efforts is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process through which Japan has long been providing capacity-building for achieving resilient and sustainable African economies and to boost investment in Africa by Japanese companies.

Reflecting on the partnership between Japan and the WTO, what stands out as most memorable to you? Are there any anecdotes or experiences you would like to share?

Over the last 30 years since the WTO's establishment, the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) stands

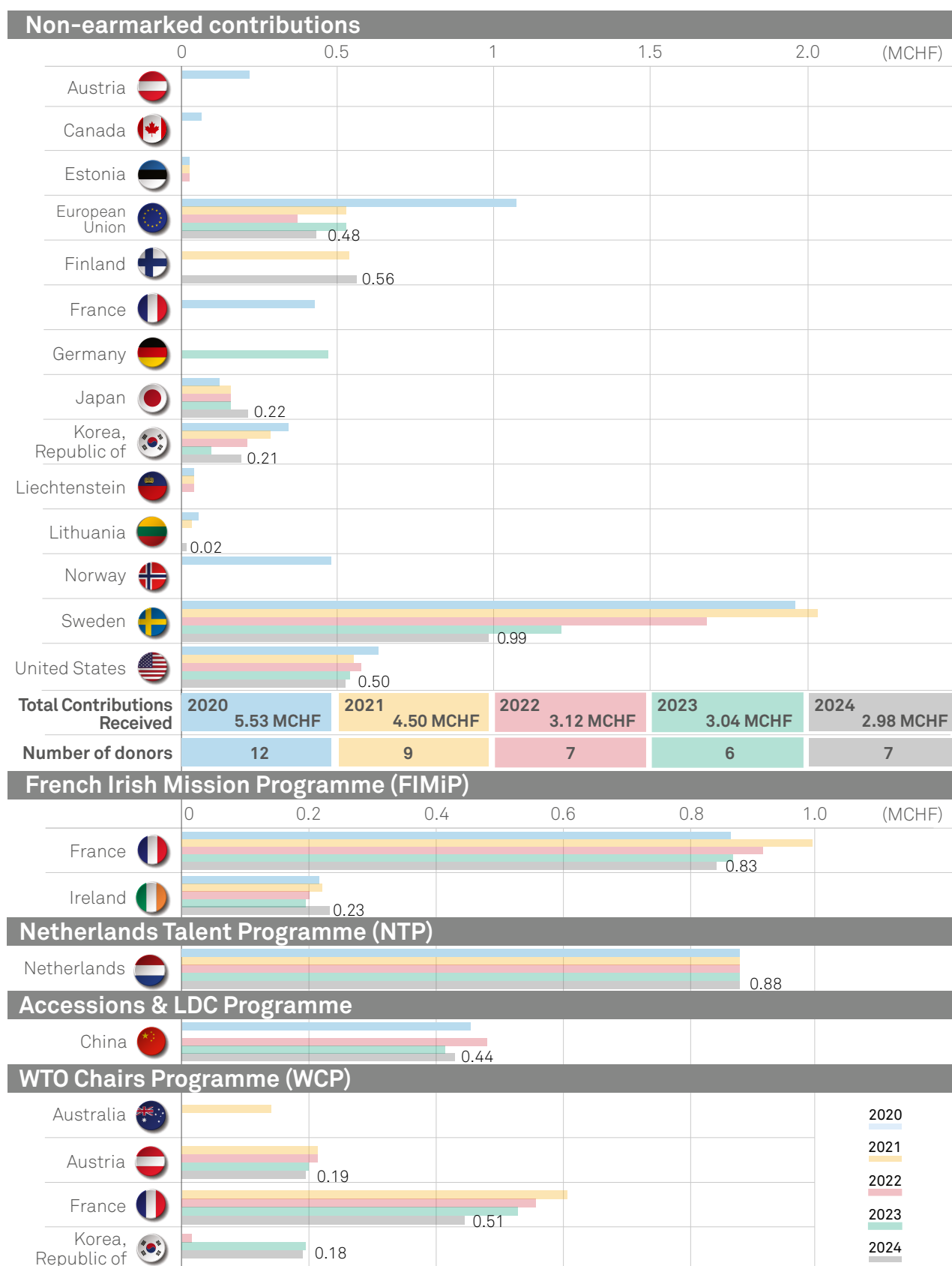
out as a landmark achievement, deemed to be about "progressive" integration - Members working together to simplify processes. Japan has actively supported its implementation by developing country Members including LDCs. At the Trade Facilitation Committee, Japan has shared its expertise by presenting best practices, such as the Single Window and Advance Ruling. Furthermore, Japan has provided technical assistance and capacity-building support. Looking ahead, Japan remains steadfast in its dedication to advancing the integration of developing country Members including LDCs into the multilateral trading system, fostering inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

Japan's donation in 2024



ACKNOWLEDGING DONORS

Figure 1. Donor overview (2020-2024)



Chapter 1

Unpacking results, tracking impact



- The number of face-to-face activities was stable, but participation in these activities declined (-18%). e-Learning reached record levels in both activity volume (+18%) and participation (+45%).
- Support for transparency expanded to include new topics such as Customs Valuation, with continued progress in reducing pending notifications.
- TA supported the conclusion of Comoros' and Timor-Leste's accession to the WTO.
- Under Phase III of the WTO Chairs Programme, the number of new or updated WTO-related courses increased by 13% and student completion of these courses rose by 24%. Research outputs and outreach events also recorded growth of 16% and 23%, respectively. Five new academic institutions were selected to join the programme as part of its phase IV.
- TA activities for the broader public—including businesses, NGOs, journalists, and legislators—dropped significantly, with only two events organized due to partners' budget constraints. The volume of training material requests stayed high (over 9,000 requests).

RESULTS FOR IMPACT

What are the expected results of WTO Technical Assistance?

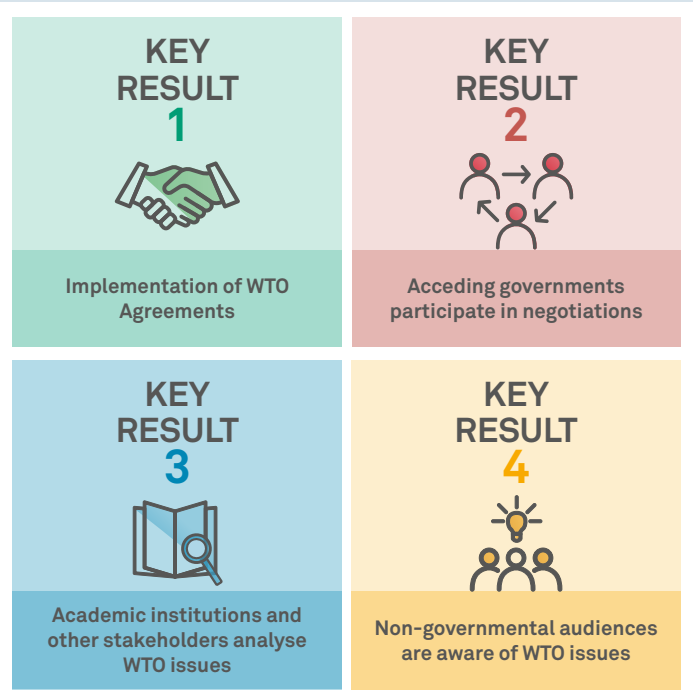
Technical Assistance (TA) is a core function of the WTO aiming to enhance human and institutional trade capacities in WTO Members and Observers. All WTO TA activities, courses and trainings are designed and delivered with the aim of producing specific and measurable results. These results must reflect 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 2024, WTO TA pursued four Key Results:

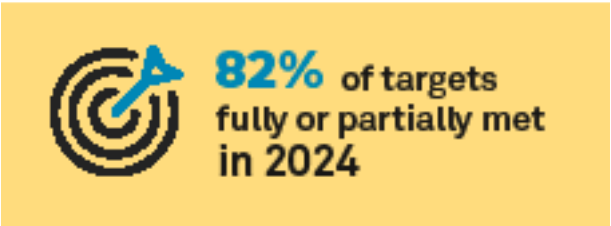
- 1. Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realizing Members' rights and obligations.
- 2. Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations.
- 3. Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers.
- 4. Non-governmental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



Sustained performance and positive outlook

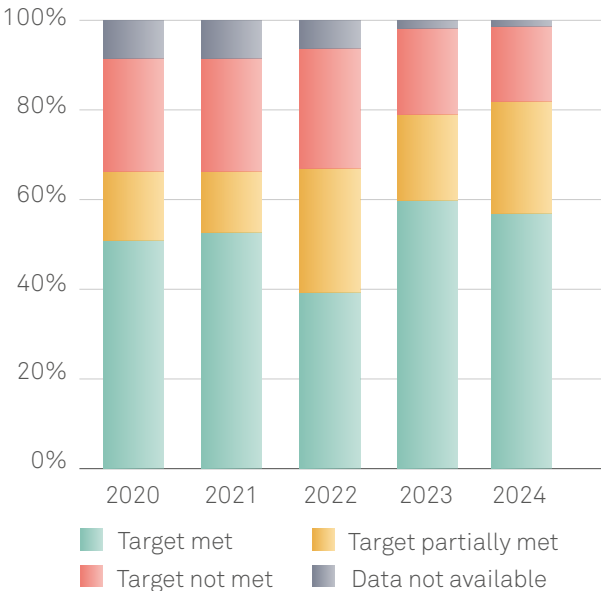


WTO TA maintained a positive momentum in 2024, building on the satisfactory results achieved in 2023. The combined proportion of fully and partially met targets increased to 82%, up from 79% in the previous year.

The proportion of fully met targets decreased to 57%, following the five-year high of 60% recorded in 2023 and the proportion of partially met targets rose to 25%, up from 19% in the previous year. Meanwhile, missed targets continued to decline, dropping to 16% in 2024. These results indicate a broader trend of enhanced performance, even when full completion was not achieved for certain indicators.

These positive results were achieved in a context where data availability reached an all-time high, with all indicators measurable in 2024, except for the periodic assessment of Members' needs and priorities, which is only conducted every odd year. This exceptional level of data availability maximises the visibility of TA results and reinforces the evaluation of the TA impact under the WTO TA results-based management strategy.

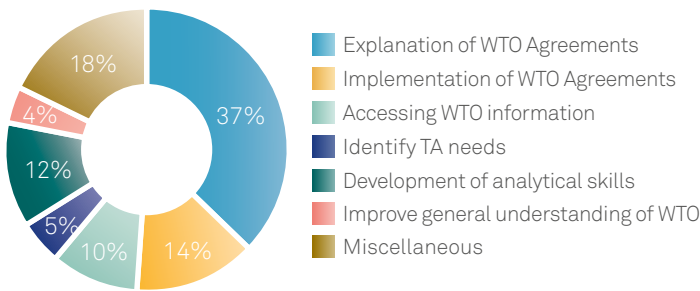
Figure 2. Success rate (2020-2024)



WTO TA and training

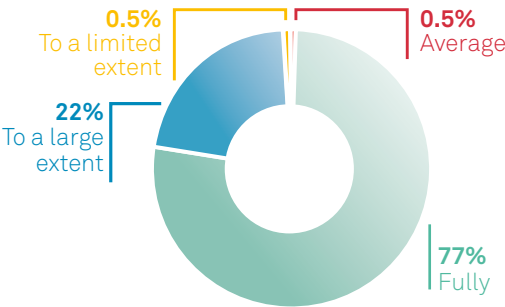


Figure 3. Objectives of TA activities in 2024



An exhaustive list of targets and indicators can be found in [Annex 1](#).

Figure 4. Achievement of TA Objectives in 2024



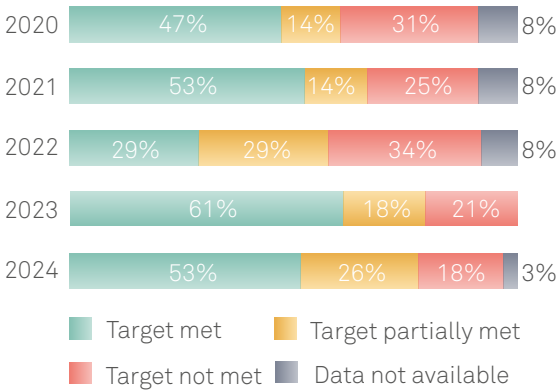
LEARNING SUCCESS

KEY RESULT

1



Implementation of WTO Agreements



Fostering trade expertise

100% success rate in ATPCs in 2024



78% success rate in e-Learning in 2024

Online courses were the standout success of 2024, with 45% increase in the audience, reaching an all-time high of 13,700 registrations, accounting for nearly three-quarters (72%) of all participants. Even more impressive, this higher popularity came with a significant rise of the overall success rate from 70% in 2023 to 78% in 2024, nearly double the rate from two years ago. Other key indicators, such as a 20% dropout rate and a 58% distinction rate (final exam scores of 90% or higher), further confirmed this very positive performance.

The Advanced Trade Policy Courses (ATPC) and Regional Trade Policy Courses (RTPC) are the WTO most comprehensive TA programmes. These intensive eight-week courses deepen participants' understanding of WTO-related issues, develop their practical skills, and expand their professional networks.

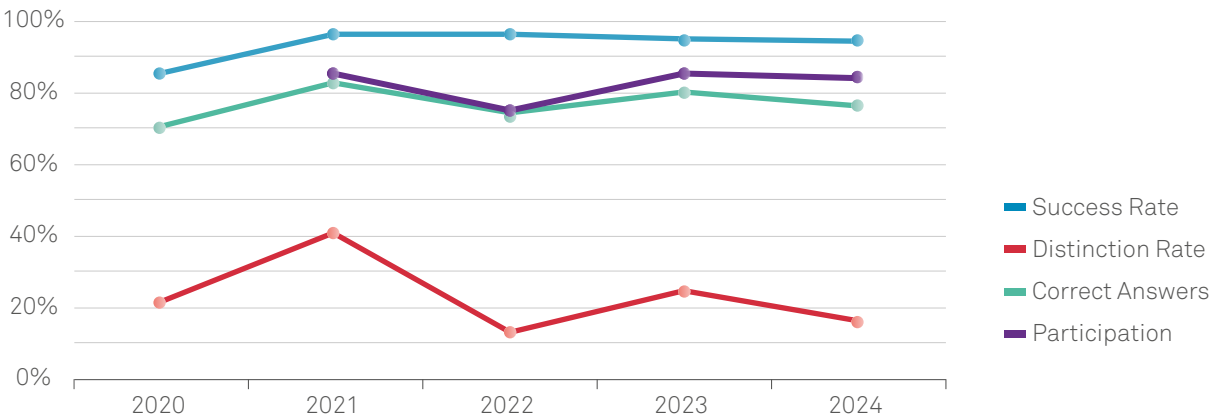
In 2024, the Secretariat hosted three ATPCs in Geneva, two in English and one in Spanish. The final assessments introduced in 2022 confirmed their high success rate, achieving a remarkable 100%. However, the proportion of participants earning a distinction (a score of 90% or higher) decreased slightly, from 26% in 2023 to 23% in 2024.

RTPCs were held in three regions in 2024: Asia-Pacific, French-speaking Africa, and the Middle East. The overall success rate (94%) and the average score in the final exams (76%) were marginally lower than in 2023 (95% and 80%, respectively). The share of participants achieving a distinction dropped significantly to 16%, following the increase to 25% the previous year.

WTO e-Learning platform

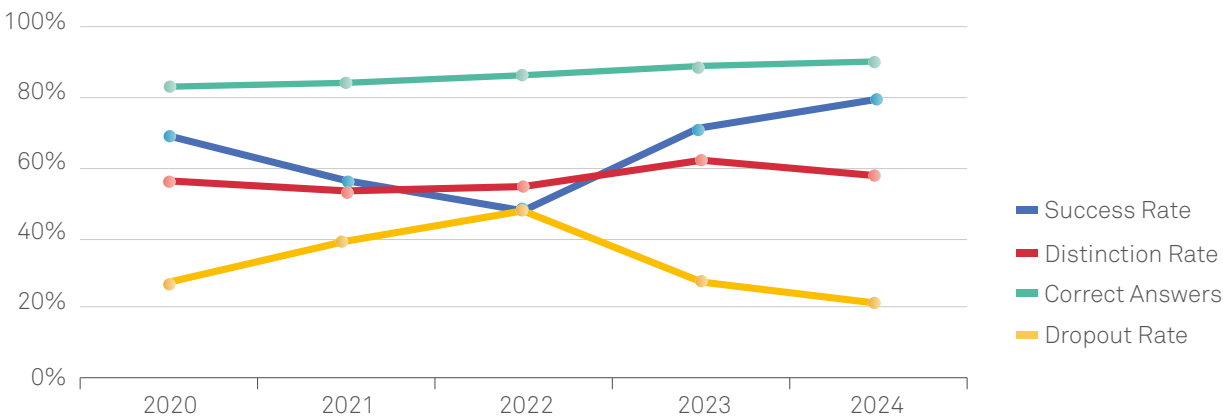


Figure 5. RTPC results (2020-2024)



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

Figure 6. e-Learning Results (2020-2024)



BOLSTERING TRANSPARENCY

Transparency is essential for ensuring predictability, stability, and trust in the global trading system. When Members notify and publish their trade regulations or any change therein, it enables businesses and governments to adapt, reducing uncertainty and fostering long-term trade prospects. Notifications also allow Members to review and address trade concerns before they escalate into disputes. WTO TA aims at

enhancing beneficiaries' capacities to meet their transparency obligations, including the notification of new trade measures, while also helping them maximise their benefits from the transparency framework.

In 2024, whether online or in person, several TA activities focusing on transparency and notifications gathered over 700 participants from all regions.

Ten-year stability in compliance with notifications obligations

Various WTO Agreements oblige Members to submit annual notifications. As a result, the overall volume of required notifications mechanically increases every year. Despite this mechanical increase, the volume of outstanding notifications from TA beneficiaries over time has been relatively stable, with an average of 3,242 recorded in the last ten years, as shown in figure 7.

As of the end of 2024, the number of outstanding notifications from TA beneficiaries under the different WTO Agreements amounted to 3,249 according to WTO notifications database, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 40 in the notification backlog. TA beneficiaries carried

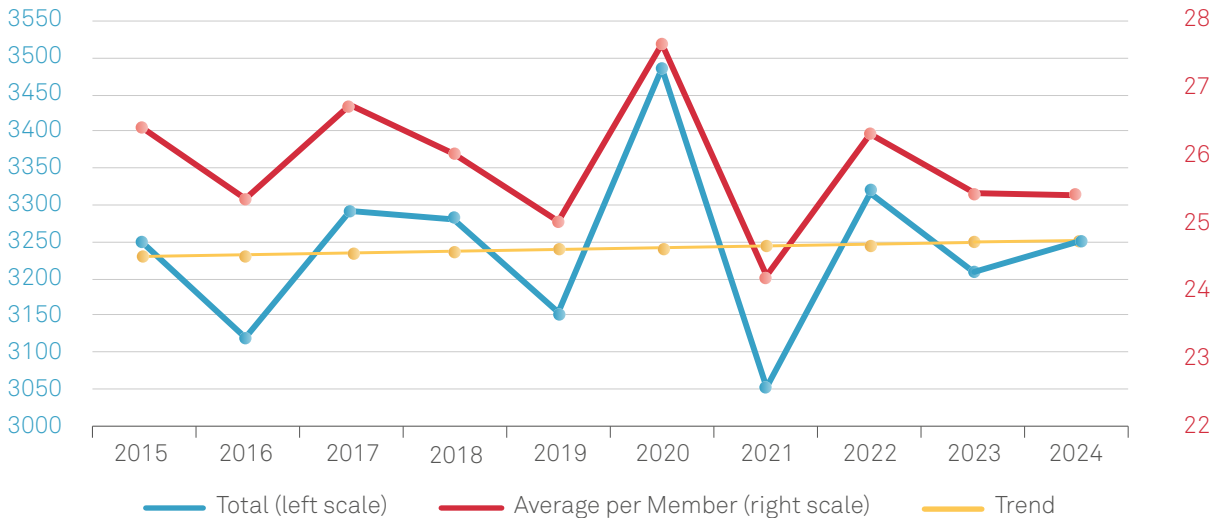
an average of 25.3 outstanding notifications, below the 2017-19 average of 26 used as a baseline in the logframe.

Whilst external factors such as domestic reforms and regional trade agreements 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 (2015-2024)

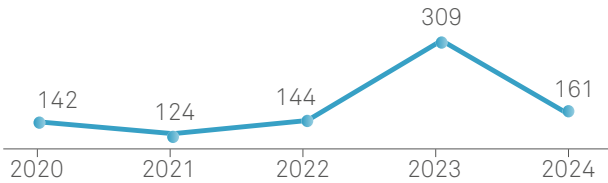


Agriculture notifications

Agricultural notifications represented approximately two-thirds of total outstanding notifications over the last five years (68% in 2024). 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.

A new procedure introduced in 2023 allowed Members to present multi-year export subsidy notifications through oral announcements in the Committee on Agriculture. Several Members cleared a significant backlog of outstanding notifications this way. In 2024, the pace of notifications returned to a more typical level, though it still reflected progress compared to previous years.

Figure 8. Reduction in agricultural notifications backlog (2020-2024)



TA activities in 2024, such as the national workshops on agriculture and notifications in Albania, Cabo Verde, and Ecuador, as well as the advanced agriculture notifications workshop in Geneva, generated a significant increase in notifications from participating Members as a result of the training.

SPS and TBT notifications

TA beneficiaries have registered a slightly higher number of notification submissions on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in comparison to 2023. Overall, developing and least-developed country Members submitted 86% of the new TBT notifications and 74% of the new SPS

notifications in 2024. As illustrated in figures 9 and 10, the performance of developing Members in the submission of new standards notifications (both SPS and TBT) has been constant since 2014, while the trend for least-developed country Members is gradually increasing.

Figure 9. Submission of new TBT notifications by development status (2015-2024)

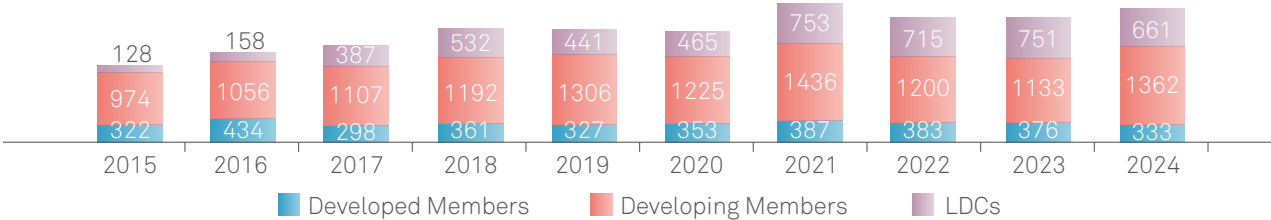
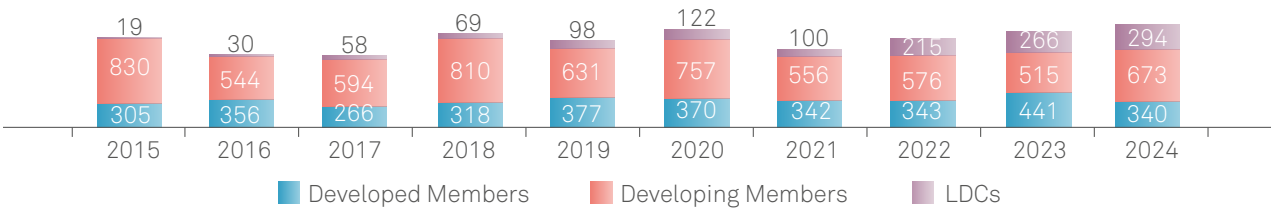


Figure 10. Submission of new SPS notifications by development status (2015-2024)



African Members were particularly active in the submission of standards notifications in 2024, with Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda making it to the top ten overall notifying Members for several consecutive years. This could suggest that, building on the tools and capacity developed with the support of the Secretariat, these Members may have established effective internal coordination mechanisms to ensure continuous compliance with transparency obligations.

A Regional push for SPS transparency in French-speaking Africa

The number of notifications submitted by French-speaking African Members remains generally low compared to other regions. In December 2024, the Secretariat organised a regional workshop in Morocco for 20 French-speaking African Members to beef up participants' expertise on the preparation, submission and use of SPS notifications through the promotion of best practices and experience sharing.

Dr. Abdelkarim Moujanni, Chief of SPS Issues and Market Access at the National Office of Food Safety of Morocco, played a key role in the workshop by advancing new regional collaboration initiatives. In this interview, he reflects on the collaborative nature of the event, the importance of South-South knowledge exchange, and the potential of Morocco's African SPS Links Initiative launched during the workshop.



“The workshop made me realise the power of South-South collaboration supported by the WTO.”

What motivated your participation in the regional SPS workshop, and what were you hoping to gain from it?

I expected to exchange best practices with colleagues from other African countries and identify ways to overcome common challenges. I also wanted to address the lack of a harmonized approach to transparency mechanisms among African countries. I hoped this workshop would provide tools and insights to streamline notification processes and improve coordination at the regional level, as these gaps often hinder our compliance with international SPS commitments.

I was also involved, through the Moroccan National Office of Food Safety, which co-organized the workshop, in presenting the African SPS Links Initiative—a project led by Morocco to enhance transparency across the continent using a mentorship-based technical assistance approach. This Initiative seeks to strengthen collaboration among African countries by connecting SPS experts, sharing best practices, and improving compliance with international SPS standards. I was keen to explore how this approach could be improved, funded, and implemented to address gaps in transparency and coordination across the continent.

How did the workshop contribute to tackling these challenges?

The launch of Morocco's African SPS Links Initiative was a highlight of the workshop, sparking new ideas for developing mentorship programmes and harmonizing transparency practices across Africa. This Initiative stood out, with participants acknowledging its potential to reshape transparency efforts across the continent. Discussions highlighted how mentorship and peer-to-peer learning among African nations could enhance capacity and foster a sense of ownership in improving transparency and compliance with international SPS standards.

The workshop made me realise the power of South-South collaboration supported by the WTO. Seeing how countries with different resource levels could mentor and learn from one another showed me that collective progress is achievable even with diverse starting points.

What were the most valuable insights or takeaways from the workshop?

The workshop surpassed my expectations. Through practical exercises and group discussions, I gained valuable insights into tools like the WTO's ePing Platform and STDF funding opportunities, and how they can be adapted to our national context. This workshop was valuable for enhancing my understanding of the WTO SPS Agreement, particularly its transparency obligations, and for exploring how African countries can strengthen their coordination in implementing SPS measures.

Optimising online platforms

TA activities on transparency equip participants with knowledge on the relevant provisions, as well as guidance on collecting the necessary information and submitting 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 SPS&TBT Platform (commonly referred to as ePing) integrate these and other functionalities.

TA training on the use of online platforms is yielding positive results. For example, the share of SPS and TBT notifications submitted via ePing rose from an average of 83% in 2019 to nearly all notifications since 2022.

“Participating in the seminar allowed me to deepen my understanding of ePing, its functionalities and practical applications. This training has equipped me with the tools to better monitor and respond to trade-related notifications, ensuring that Mexico remains proactive in addressing potential challenges.”



Bianca Bolaños Aparicio
Director of Unit
Ministry of Economy, Mexico
Participant in the National Seminar on ePing

Key WTO Online Transparency Systems in Brief:

	Dispute Settlement Database: provide information relating to the proceedings in each case.		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.
	Documents online: provides access to the WTO official documentation.		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.
	Notifications module: allows for the searching of notification documents by notifying members and WTO legal requirements.		List of WTO online systems: for a comprehensive list of WTO online systems, for a comprehensive list of WTO online systems
	Trade Concerns Database: brings together trade concerns discussed in the SPS, TBT and Market Access committees.		



Enhancing notifications through targeted training

Tailored pedagogical approaches, including mentoring and coaching, development and implementation of action plans, focus on specific deliverables, and follow-up over time, have been introduced in several TA trainings 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. This 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. By doing so, it optimizes learning time and enhances long-term impact.

Initially implemented in training on notifications for Agriculture, SPS, TBT, Subsidies, and Quantitative Restrictions, this methodology was expanded in 2024 to cover additional topics such as Customs Valuation and Import Licensing, through courses designed for both global and national audiences. The results of such activities have been promising. **For example, 11 of the 23 Members who participated in the workshop on subsidies notifications submitted formal subsidy notifications in 2024, with nearly all of them submitting these notifications for the first time.**

Customs valuation notifications

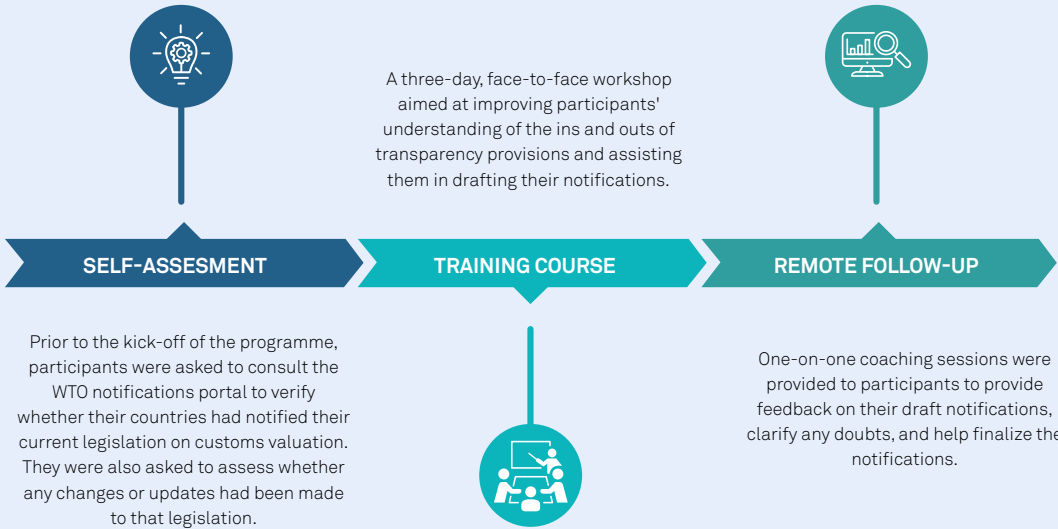


The WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation is designed to establish a fair, consistent, and impartial system for determining the value of goods at the border. Grounded in real-world commercial practices, it prohibits the use of arbitrary or fictitious customs values, fostering transparency, predictability, and a level playing field in international trade.

To uphold these principles, Members are required to notify the texts of their national legislation on customs valuation, including any amendments, as well as details on the implementation of relevant rules and procedures. However, several Members have never submitted one or more of their respective notifications.

To address this challenge, a programme was organized in May 2024 to overcome capacity constraints and other barriers that prevent developing and least-developed country Members from meeting their transparency obligations. **This new programme adopted a multi-phase, action-oriented approach, focusing on practical solutions and targeted support.**

Infographic 4. Customs valuation workshop process



During the classroom training, participants received hands-on support in preparing ready-to-submit notifications. They explored challenges and opportunities to enhance national coordination and build professional networks, attended a meeting of the Committee on Customs Valuation, and developed action plans outlining the steps and milestones to address pending notifications. Following the training, participants benefited from virtual coaching sessions aimed at improving the quality, structure, and completeness of their notifications.

The programme was conducted in English and French, bringing together 28 participants from as many Members who had never submitted their respective customs valuation notifications. **As an immediate outcome, participating Members prepared 35 draft notifications, 22 of which were formally circulated in 2024. This led to the highest number of notifications received by the Committee on Customs Valuation between two formal meetings**—specifically between May and December 2024. Further notifications are expected in 2025.



Latifa Bziouèche

Senior customs inspector, Tunisia
Participant in the Customs valuation workshop

“I now have a very clear idea of the need to comply with the notification obligations under the Customs Valuation Agreement. The workshop enabled us to better understand the preparation and submission of notifications. In Tunisia, we are already very much in line with the spirit of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement and all our regulations are based on its requirements. I will now be able to hit the ground running and work with my managers and my government to make the appropriate notifications, where necessary.”

“We have noted at the meeting of the Committee on Customs Valuation that Cameroon was listed among the Members that had not yet submitted their notifications. From this workshop, we have gained the necessary skills to now prepare and present to our decision-makers what is expected of Cameroon. We received the needed capacity building to work towards submitting our notifications as soon as possible.”



Paul Olivier Libii Libii

Principal Inspector of Customs, Cameroon
Participant in the Customs valuation workshop

Import licensing notifications

The WTO Agreement on Import Licensing procedures establishes that import licences should be simple, transparent and predictable, so as not to become an obstacle to trade. For example, the Agreement requires governments to publish sufficient information for traders to know how and why the licences are granted.

Against this background, the Dominican Republic requested a workshop to strengthen technical expertise and enhance its capacity to notify import licensing regulations and procedures to the WTO. For the first time, the national workshop was organized in two parts. The first part consisted of an online training that covered the content of the Agreement, its main provisions, and the notification requirements. At the end of this phase, participants collectively conducted a self-assessment to evaluate their level of compliance and identify any gaps.

This was followed by an in-person training, during which the same participants engaged in drafting responses to the Import Licensing Questionnaire.

The questionnaire contains administrative procedures (such as technical visas, surveillance systems, licence validity, etc.) applied by Members. The responses to the questionnaire must be notified annually. The Dominican Republic had fallen behind on this requirement since 2016. During this phase, participants agreed on and planned the next steps to improve inter-agency coordination, ensuring alignment across all relevant stakeholders. They also coordinated with the trainers to establish a clear follow-up plan.

Overall, the workshop brought together more than 50 officials from 18 different agencies or units, each contributing its specialized expertise. As a direct result of this collaborative effort, the **Dominican Republic was able to consolidate the knowledge gained and formally submit its response to the questionnaire in 2024**, successfully meeting the notification requirements for the first time in several years.



Victor Orlando Bisonó Haza

Minister of Industry, Trade and MSMEs,
Dominican Republic

“The national workshop strengthened technical capacity and inter-institutional coordination, enabling the Dominican Republic, after 15 years, to submit the annual import licensing questionnaire. As a result, the Dominican Republic not only fulfilled its notification obligations but also established a sustainable framework for ongoing improvements in import licensing transparency and efficiency. A key achievement led by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and MSMEs, with the support of the WTO Secretariat, the joint efforts of the Agricultural Trade Agreements Office, and the work of our Permanent Mission to the WTO.”

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION

Higher participation of TA beneficiaries in WTO 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 least-developed country 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 2024, the number of ‘substantive’ documents submitted by developing and least-developed country Members, whether on their own or jointly with other Members, surged by 68% compared to the previous year, reaching 1,178 submissions – the highest value in over a decade for both groups. This figure significantly surpasses the 2017–2019 average of 611 documents used as a baseline in the TA Plan. Regarding the distribution of submissions, 86% came from developing and 14% 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 12 and 13, developing Members’ capacity to raise new STCs in the SPS and TBT Committees have 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 (61% of the new TBT STCs and 83% of the new SPS STCs in 2024). 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 SPS Committee Thematic Workshop on Transparency, focus exclusively on strengthening the capacity of developing Members to participate effectively in these Committees.



Zenia Aguilar
Advisor on SPS Measures
Ministry of Economy, Guatemala
Participant in the SPS Committee
Thematic Workshop on Transparency

“During the workshop, I strengthened my ability to engage more effectively in Committee discussions and gained valuable insights from best practices shared by other Members. I am confident that this experience will enable me to contribute to the consolidation of a more efficient and transparent regulatory framework, aligned with international standards, benefiting both trade and the protection of public, animal, and plant health in Guatemala.

Figure 11. Number of 'substantive' documents submitted by beneficiaries by development status (2020-2024)

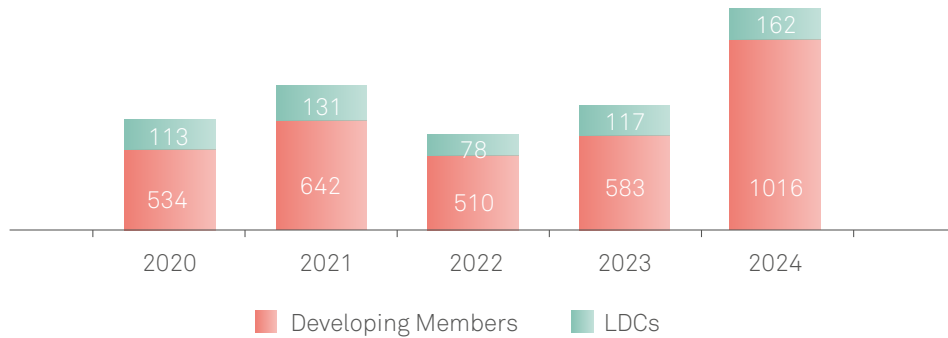


Figure 12. New STCs raised in the TBT Committee by development status (2020-2024)

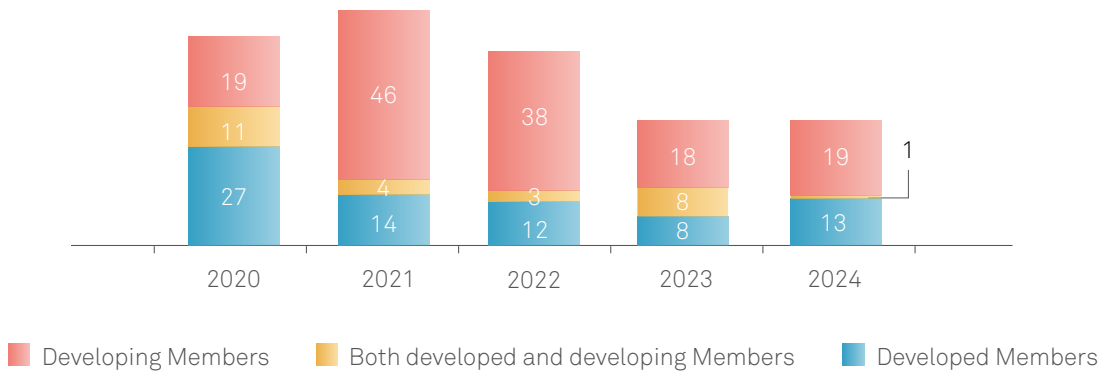
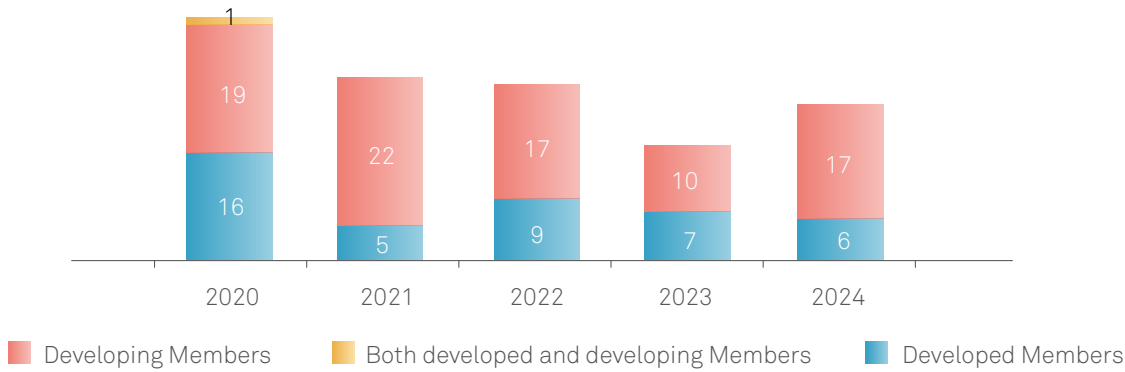


Figure 13. New STCs raised in the SPS Committee by development status (2020-2024)



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Sustained participation and performance

The six WTO TA long-term placement programmes provide mid-level government officials and young professionals valuable on-the-job training. Lasting either 10 or 12 months, these programmes offer a deeper and longer immersion than other WTO capacity-building activities. Four of the programmes place participants within the WTO Secretariat, while the other two assign them to Members' Permanent Missions. Through hands-on assignments and mentorship, participants enhance their knowledge, skills, and professional networks within the multilateral trading system.

In 2024, 65 participants joined the programmes, matching the record-high intake of 2023. Performance evaluations conducted by their respective supervisors indicated positive outcomes, with 39% exceeding expectations, an increase of 5.5 percentage points from the previous year. Another 56% met performance standards, while three participants partially met their target.

On-the-job training programmes are supported through diverse funding mechanisms. The Group Coordinators Support Programme (GCSP) and the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) are funded through the Global Trust Fund. Other programmes receive funding from earmarked voluntary contributions from France and Ireland for the French and Irish Mission Programme (FIMIIP), the Netherlands for the Netherlands Talent Programme (NTP) and China LDCs and Accessions Programme, referred to as the China Programme. The renewal of the China Programme in October 2023 enabled the recruitment of five additional participants under the China General Internship Programme (GIP), with placement across various WTO divisions. This is in addition to the five positions allocated annually to the Accessions Division.

On-the-job training programmes



Accessions Internship Programme (AIP)

Five recent graduates from Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Malawi, Oman, and Turkmenistan completed the AIP in 2024. They actively contributed to the Secretariat's accession work, assisting in files management, research, and outreach initiatives such as the Accessions Newsletter and the Trade for Peace programme. They also supported the development of publications and maintained relevant databases.

Established in 2011, the AIP provides five full-time internship opportunities annually, giving participants a comprehensive understanding of the WTO's rules-based system, with a particular focus on WTO accessions.

“My internship was an invaluable experience that significantly enhanced my professional skills in engaging with multilateral, regional, and national stakeholders on an international platform. It exposed me to the WTO accession process, including the complex negotiations and technical requirements for integrating new members into the multilateral trading system.”



Ybrayym Esenov
AIP participant
from Turkmenistan

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



General Internship Programme (GIP)

Five interns from Burkina Faso, China, India, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan were selected as the inaugural cohort of the GIP and assigned to different divisions within the Secretariat. They actively contributed to their host divisions' daily work, assisting in the Global Aid for Trade Review, the South-South dialogue on LDCs and development, cotton-related issues, and trade and environment matters.

“I had the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the WTO's work on e-commerce, and other trade-related issues. It was a genuinely eye-opening experience.”



Saniya Khanna
GIP participant from India

👤 **GIP areas of work in 2024**

WHO: young graduates
WHERE FROM: developing and least-developed country Members and Observers
WHAT: work in the WTO Secretariat
HOW LONG: 10 months on average



Netherlands Talent Programme (NTP)

In 2024, fourteen government officials from developing and least-developed countries gained deeper understanding of the WTO functions and the multilateral trading system through practical experience under the guidance of WTO staff across various divisions.

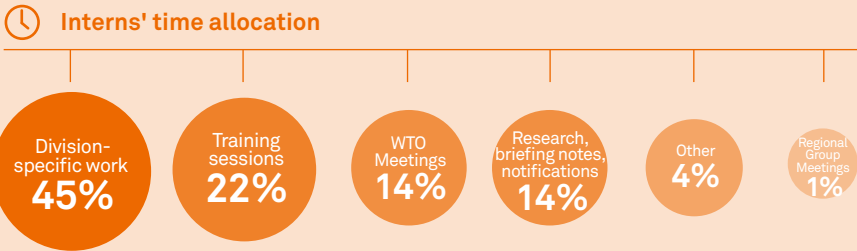
The programme was initially established as the Netherlands Trainee Programme through an agreement signed between the Netherlands and the WTO in 2000.

“The placement under the NTP provided me with the opportunity to specialize in trade in services while addressing gaps in my knowledge and skills in this area. I now feel more committed, motivated, and confident in my ability to contribute to my country's development.”



Saira Tariq
NTP participant from Pakistan

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



Young Professionals Programme (YPP)

In 2024, twenty young professionals from diverse background were selected from a pool of over 5,500 applicants. They joined the Secretariat to work in 14 divisions under the supervision of senior WTO staff. Their daily tasks included supporting the preparation of Secretariat working papers to support WTO bodies and dispute settlement panels and assisting in the follow-up of to MC13.

In response to recommendations from the previous YPP cohort, a two-weeks induction programme, monthly meetings to assess participants' feedback, and training sessions on WTO writing standards were introduced in 2024.

Launched in 2016, the YPP seeks to increase the representation of nationals from under-represented WTO Members within the Secretariat.

“It was an incredible year that deepened my skills and knowledge in international trade. I worked with various divisions on topics such as digital trade and foreign direct investment and had the valuable opportunity to engage with delegates and Members to discuss ways to maximise the benefits of trade for developing economies.”



Nicolas Grimblatt Riquelme
Young Professional from Chile

Young Professionals' areas of work in 2024

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



French Irish Mission Programme (FIMiP)

Eighteen mid-level capital-based government officials, specializing in trade matters, were selected for the FIMiP, with half of the participants coming from LDCs. They provided direct support to their respective Permanent Missions on WTO-related issues, particularly in the follow up to MC13. They also undertook research and analysis on specific WTO-related topics, followed ongoing WTO negotiations, participated in regional group meetings, and prepared reports and briefing notes for their capitals.

For the first time, FIMiP participants went on a study visit to Ireland to explore its trade policy.

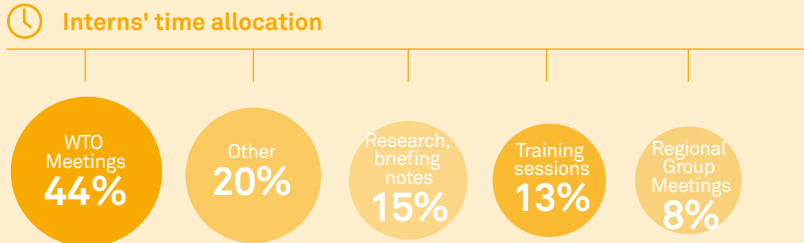
Launched in 2001, the FIMiP supports Permanent Missions in Geneva in following WTO-related work.

“The 10 months we spent at the WTO were an opportunity to strengthen our knowledge of international trade rules, to acquire practical skills in trade negotiations and to better understand the complex issues faced by developing economies and least-developed countries in global trade.”



Myrlande Ignounga Mounguengui
FIMiP participant from Gabon

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



Group Coordinators Support Programme (GCSP)

In 2024, three government officials were recruited to support their respective Permanent Missions which assumed the rotating coordination of one of the WTO groups. A participant from Samoa assisted in the coordination of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, one from Cameroon supported the African Group, and one from Mali was assigned to the Cotton 4 (C4). They helped their Missions manage the intensive workload associated with their roles as group coordinators.

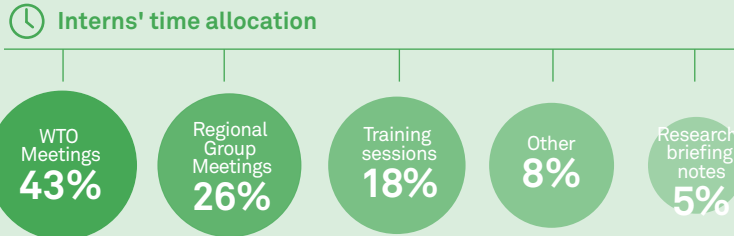
Launched in 2005 following the creation of the Global Trust Fund, the programme was previously known as the Regional Coordinator Internship Programme (RCI). It was renamed in 2024 to better reflect its scope and objectives.

“In addition to allowing me to be at the heart of the coordination of the Cotton 4, the programme provided me with invaluable experience regarding the cotton discussions at the WTO. The knowledge this programme has equipped me with will be immensely valuable for helping my country integrate more fully into global trade.”



Alassane Doumbia
GCSP participant from Mali

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

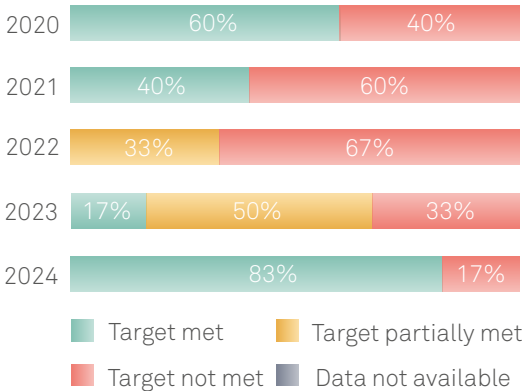


SUPPORTING ACCESSIONS

KEY RESULT

2

Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations



Supporting Comoros and Timor-Leste accession process

In 2024, for the first time in eight years, two new Members joined the WTO. Comoros and Timor-Leste had their membership approved by Members at the WTO 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) on 26 February 2024 and officially became the 165th and 166th WTO Members on 21 and 30 August, respectively.

To support the completion of Comoros and Timor-Leste's accession processes, the Secretariat assisted both governments in preparing their implementation strategies, based on their respective Accessions Packages. This support included a dedicated Round Table on Post-Accession for Timor-Leste in Geneva on

11 January, followed by a TA mission to Dili from 22 to 25 January 2024 to assist in formulating its post-accession strategy. For Comoros, the Secretariat facilitated a series of technical working sessions in Geneva, helping shape its implementation roadmap. These strategies were subsequently presented to WTO Members and development partners at the Round Tables on Post-Accessions for Comoros and Timor-Leste, held on 25 February on the margins of MC13.



Three questions to...



Comoros



Timor-Leste



Ahmed Mzé
Economic Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Comoros to the WTO



Antonio Da Conceicao
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Timor-Leste to the WTO

How would you describe the role of WTO Technical Assistance in supporting your government during the final stages of your accession process? What were the most significant challenges that this support helped to address?

From the start of negotiations to their conclusion, more than 20 government officials were trained on various WTO Agreements. These officials played a key role in both bilateral and multilateral negotiations. The technical assistance provided by the WTO Secretariat helped Comoros build the necessary expertise in trade negotiations, which was one of the major challenges in the accession process.

During the accession process, the Secretariat helped Geneva-based diplomats and capital-based officials navigate through the accession and post-accession roadmap. Visits, workshops and consultations strengthened the expertise of the negotiating team, particularly in reviewing important negotiating inputs and commitments before circulation to members at multilateral level.

Following the conclusion of your accession, what have been your immediate priorities in the post-accession phase, and how is the technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat supporting this transition?

The immediate priorities after accession include training Ministry of Trade's officials on notification procedures. A national workshop will also raise awareness of the post-accession strategy's implementation. Establishing an interministerial committee to implement the post-accession strategic plan is also under consideration. Comoros will continue to require WTO technical assistance during this transition period.

As an LDC, Timor-Leste's accession to the WTO will support ongoing improvements in infrastructure, human capital and administrative capacity, with a view to accelerating growth and economic diversification. Timor-Leste is required to comply with WTO rules and regulations. This will require significant resources from the country to implement commitments and participate in WTO meetings and disputes.

Looking ahead, what forms of technical assistance do you consider essential to ensure that your WTO membership translates into concrete economic benefits and aligns with your national development goals?

Comoros has developed a three-year post-accession strategic plan with technical assistance allocated to each sector, aiming to further strengthen government officials' capacity to adapt to the rules-based multilateral trading system.

Post-accession, comprehensive capacity-building activities are required to maximise benefits and mitigate potential challenges. Targeted technical assistance is needed to drive key reforms, essential to unlock economic potential, and support the country's transformation into a thriving, well-educated, and growing middle-class nation.



Progressing towards WTO membership

WTO TA plays a crucial role in advancing accession negotiations, particularly for LDCs, by equipping them with the necessary technical expertise required for the process.

In 2024, several in-person TA activities on accessions were delivered. In addition to Comoros and Timor-Leste, officials from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in various TA activities. These included tailored national training sessions, seminars, and roundtables covering accession-related procedures, documentation, and key WTO Agreements.

The 12th China Round Table on WTO Accessions, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 24-25 February 2024, on the margins of MC13, was the first round table held in the Middle East. Under the theme "Arab Perspectives on WTO Accessions and the Multilateral Trading System", the event highlighted the critical role of TA and capacity-building support in

assisting WTO accession efforts, stressing the importance of collaboration with development partners to promote economic growth and diversification.

In October 2024, the third edition of the course on Market Access Negotiations on Goods for WTO Accession took place in Geneva. The course convened 23 government officials from nine acceding governments (Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Participants engaged in the practical and technical aspects of bilateral market access negotiations on goods, took part in a two-day simulated negotiation exercise, and attended two roundtables with WTO Members active in accessions and negotiators from recently acceded governments.

“ I gained practical knowledge on negotiating market access, analysing non-tariff barriers and aligning trade policies with WTO principles. This training has equipped me with essential tools to engage more effectively in international trade discussions.



Bokhodirjon Bobokulov
Chief Inspector at Uzbekistan's State Customs Committee
Participant in the course on Market Access Negotiations on Goods for WTO Accession



Sharmarke Abdi Jama
Senior Trade Advisor in the Office of the President of Somalia
Participant in the course on Market Access Negotiations on Goods for WTO Accession

“ The course significantly enhanced my understanding of tariff schedules and taught me how to find a balance when it comes to stakeholders' interests in the negotiations, while also aligning with global trade rules. The combination of theoretical insights and practical exercises will be particularly beneficial to my work.

KEY RESULT 2

Figure 14. Number of key accession documents submitted (2021–2024)

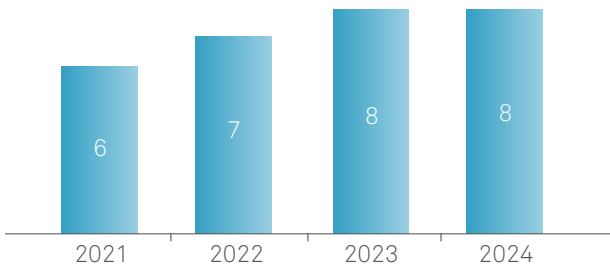


Figure 15. Accession meetings by type (2021–2024)

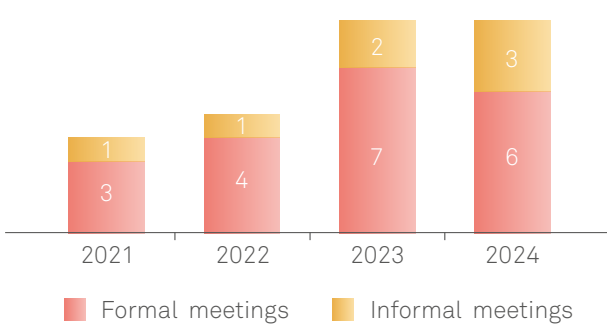
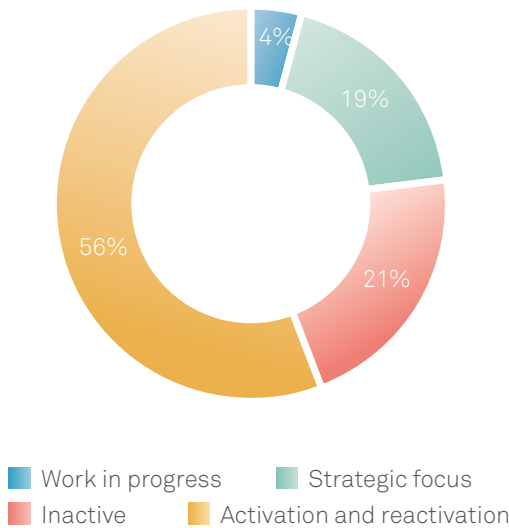


Figure 16. Observers participation in TA by accession progress status in 2024

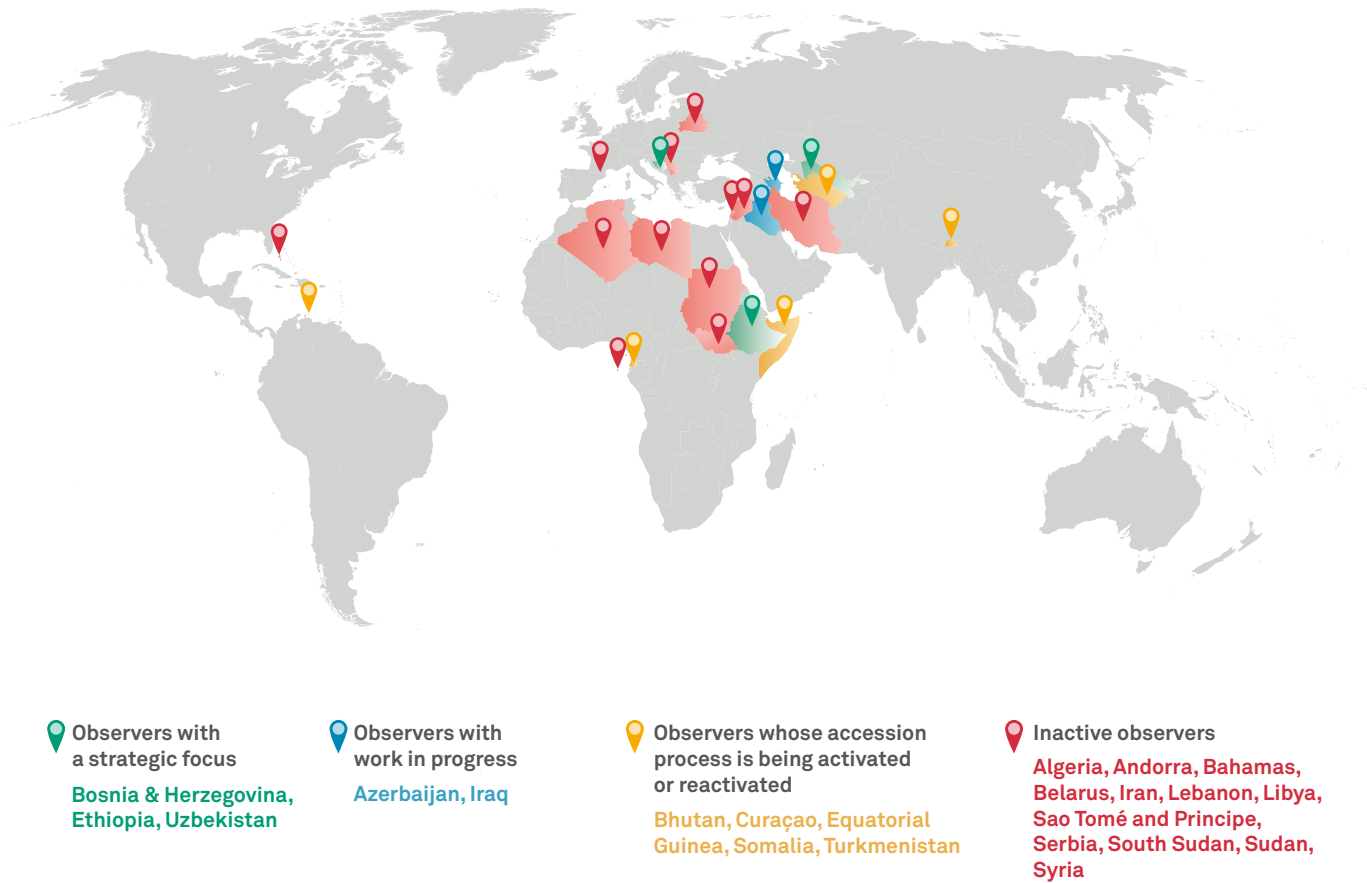


State-of-play in accession working parties

In 2024, 22 acceding governments were officially pursuing WTO accession. After the accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste, the new strategic focus became Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ethiopia, and Uzbekistan (see Infographic 5). Active engagement in accessions continued in Central Asia for Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan; in the Middle East, with the resumption of Iraq's accession; and in Africa, with work in progress in Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

KEY RESULT 2

Infographic 5. Observers by WTO Accession status in 2024



Technical Assistance for GPA Accession

TA supports governments' negotiations to accede to the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and participation in meetings of the Committee on Government Procurement (CGP). In 2024, all key indicators measuring the impact of TA on GPA accession showed notable growth compared to the previous year. The average number of accession-related documents circulated per acceding Member rose from 2.62 to 7, reflecting the active accession negotiations of Albania and Costa Rica, both of which

received TA from the Secretariat in 2023 and continued to benefit from its support in 2024. The average number of interventions by GPA-acceding Parties in CGP meetings quadrupled and the average number of bilateral meetings between GPA-acceding Parties and the CGP Chair doubled.

In 2024, national workshops were conducted for the Philippines, an observer to the CGP, and for Israel, a Party to the GPA.



Rowena Candice M. Ruiz
Executive Director
Government Procurement Policy Board, Philippines

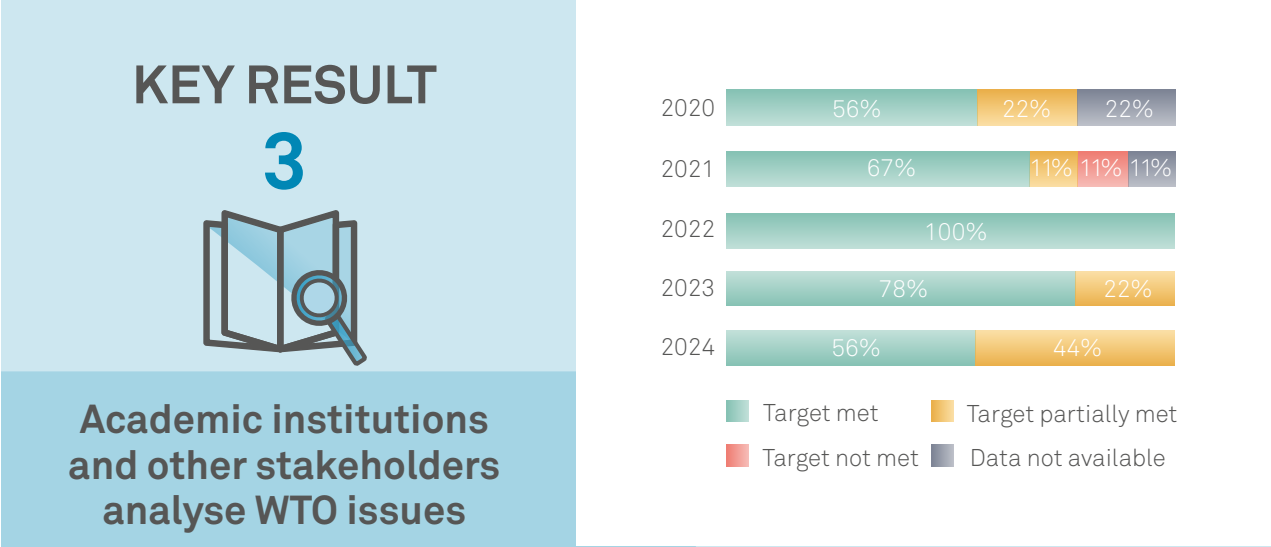
“The WTO's interactive Workshop on the GPA and government procurement chapters in FTAs enhanced the Philippines' understanding of the benefits of market opening, how related negotiations are structured and conducted, and how the GPA with its provisions on transparency, non-discrimination, the prevention of corruption and accountability, can serve as a useful benchmark for assessing how well our government procurement system safeguards good governance.

“The recent virtual training with the WTO Secretariat provided an excellent opportunity to engage directly with experts and clarify key aspects of the GPA. This allowed us to raise specific questions arising from our day-to-day responsibilities, leading to a deeper and more practical understanding of the Agreement's application.



Rodolfo C. Rivas
Chief of Staff, WTO Affairs
Israel's Economic and Trade Mission
to the WTO

FOSTERING ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT



Promoting trade research in academia

The WTO Chairs Programme's (WCP) goal is to support and promote trade-related activities in universities and research institutions across developing and LDC Members, while fostering dialogue on international trade issues with policymakers and other stakeholders. With its global network of academic institutions, the programme advances knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the multilateral trading system through activities focused on research, training, and outreach.

In 2024, WCP Chairs produced over 900 pieces of research, delivered more than 330 WTO-related courses, and engaged in over 420 exchanges with policymakers and relevant stakeholders. Five new universities – from the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Qatar, Togo, and Vanuatu – were selected to join the programme, expanding its reach

into underrepresented regions. The university selected in Togo hosted the Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC) for French-speaking Africa, contributing to fostering synergies between WTO TA programmes.

During her official visits to Chile, China, Costa Rica, Peru, and Uzbekistan, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala took the opportunity to engage directly with local WCP Chairs, interacting with students, trade experts, and women business leaders involved in the WCP Network.

Phase I and II Chairs are no longer subsidised by the WTO but have remained active and sustainable members of the WCP network, contributing especially through joint projects.

“To ensure that the WTO meets the needs of all its members, we must acknowledge the unique challenges faced by developing countries and LDCs. It's essential to take concrete steps to support their integration into the multilateral trading system. This is where the WTO Chairs Programme plays an important role.



Ambassador Ram Prasad Subedi
Nepal's Permanent Representative at the WTO
Chairperson of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development

WTO Chairs Programme



Figure 17. WCP Phase III Chairs research output (2023-2024)

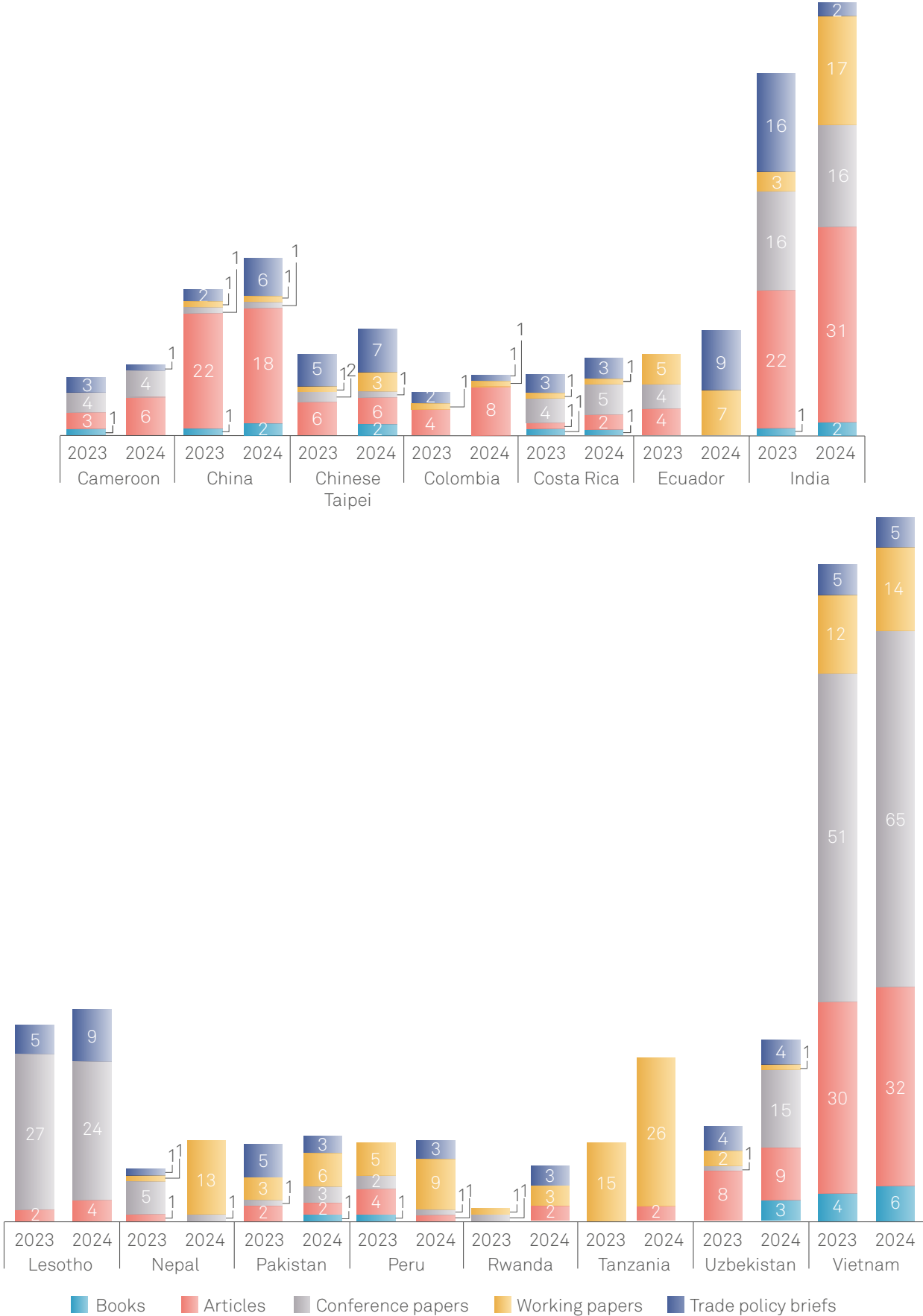


Figure 18. WCP Phase III Chairs students completing WTO-related courses (2022-2024)

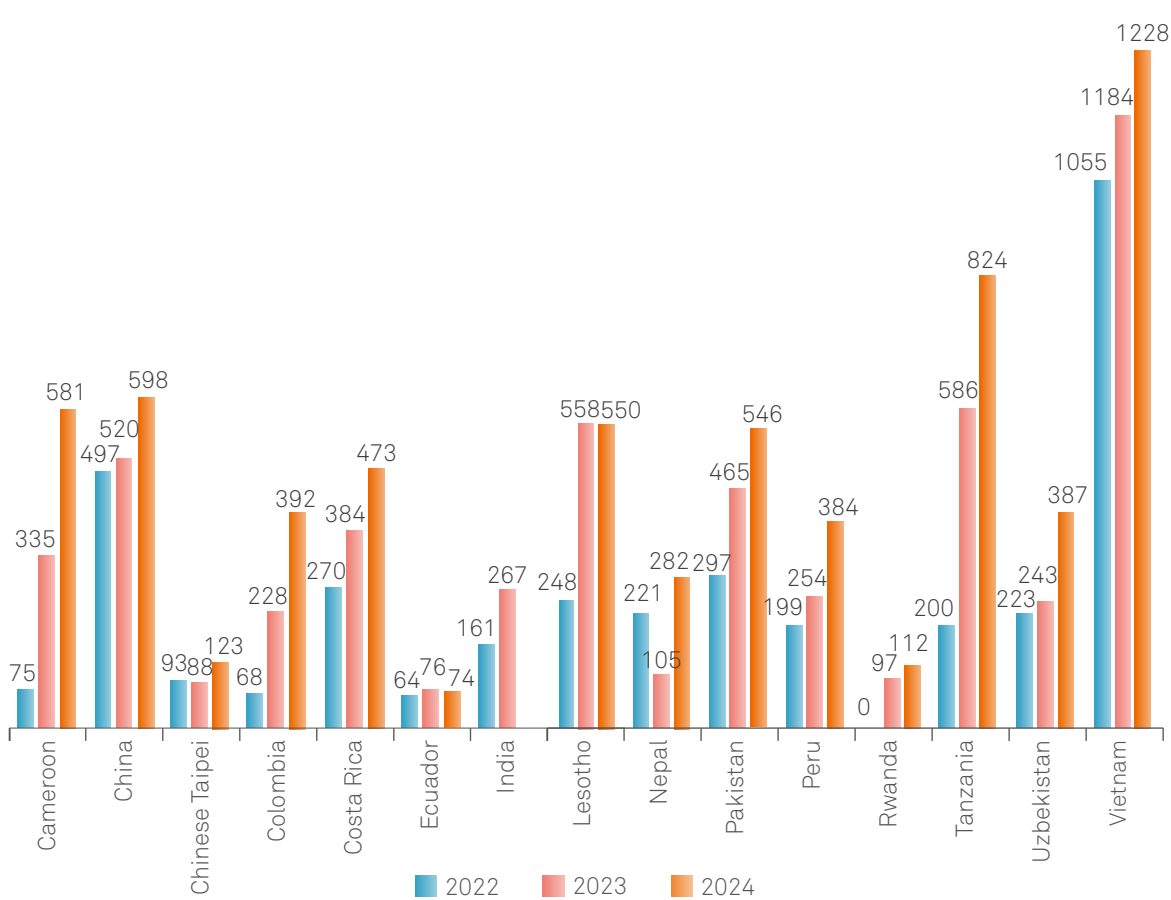
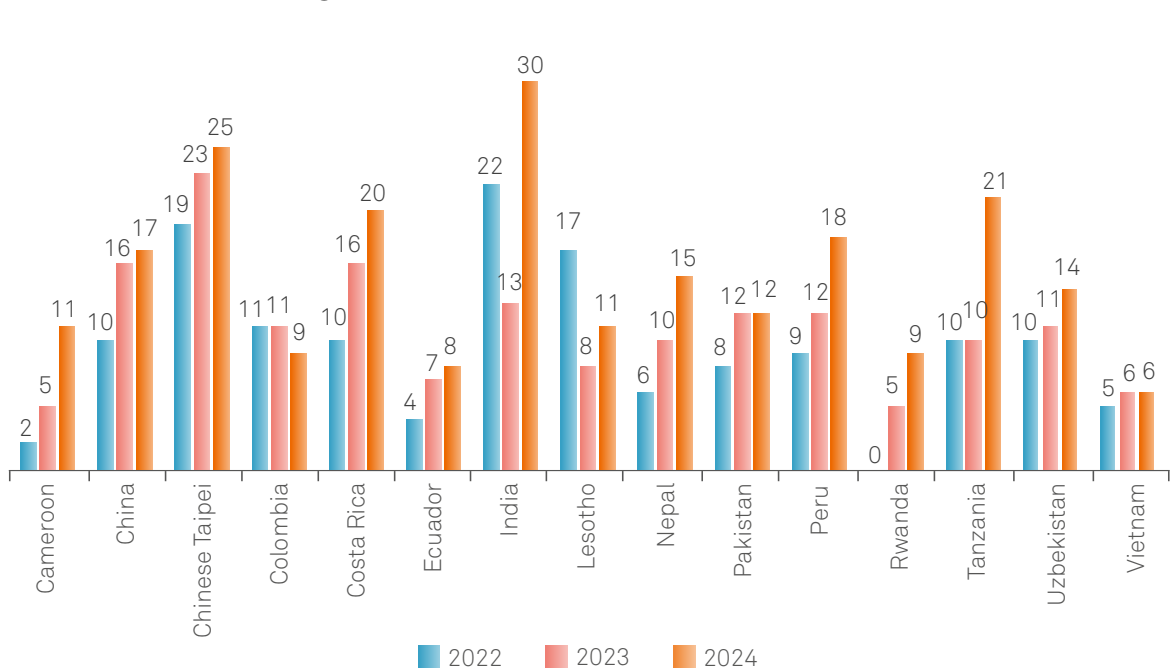
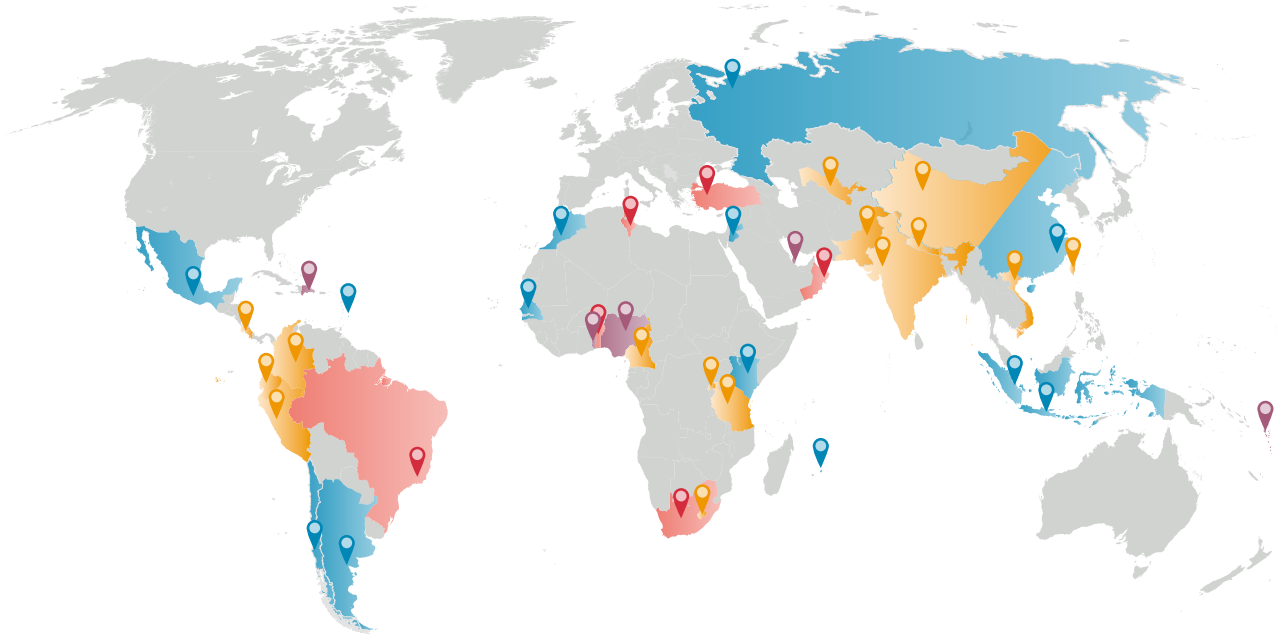


Figure 19. WCP Outreach activities (2022-2024)



Infographic 6. World map with WCP Chairs



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 (TÜRKIYE)

Phase III Chairs (2022-2025)

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), 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)

Phase IV (2025-2028)

Universidad Iberoamericana (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC), Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NIGERIA), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (QATAR), Université de Lomé (TOGO), National University of Vanuatu (VANUATU)

WCP African Network

The WCP Chairs across Africa, known as the African Trade Group, were actively engaged in research supporting inclusive economic growth and trade integration. In Tanzania, the Chair collaborated with the East African Community (EAC) to assess the market potential of the African services sector within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework. This initiative extended to capacity-building efforts in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Malawi, assisting governments in refining trade policies for AfCFTA implementation. Similarly, in Kenya, the Chair developed learning modules to enhance stakeholders' understanding of AfCFTA, with a focus on youth and women. Meanwhile, research conducted by the Chair in Kenya highlighted gender disparities in household poverty, emphasizing the need to integrate gender considerations into trade agreements and national policies. This issue was addressed in specialized workshops in Mauritius, where women entrepreneurs received training in digital marketing and SME financing, thereby strengthening their participation in inclusive trade.

Key events aimed at building research capacity through the African Trade Group were held at the WCP Chair in Mauritius. In South Africa, research efforts by the WCP Chair culminated in a publication on digital developments and employment, analysing their relationship through qualitative and quantitative methods.

In Cameroon, the Chair partnered with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and public and private stakeholders to discuss inclusive economic strategies. Cameroon also hosted an international conference on Africa's trade challenges and WTO reform, drawing over 250 participants from Africa and Europe. The event served as a preparatory step for the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference, which Cameroon will host in March 2026. In Morocco, the WCP Chair's flagship colloquium examined international trade in a fragmented world, contributing to regional policy dialogue.

WCP Asian Network

WCP Chairs in Asia deployed diverse initiatives to support governments on trade policy and regulatory frameworks. In Uzbekistan, the Chair collaborated with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and other stakeholders to provide tailored training for government officials involved in WTO accession. In Pakistan, the Chair worked closely with the Ministry of Commerce on trade policy and industrial innovation, with the Chair Holder appointed to the Prime Minister's Committee on Tariff Rationalization. In Indonesia, partnerships with government ministries focused on regulatory challenges, including EU deforestation regulations, to advance sustainable trade practices.

Some of the WCP Chairs in Asia contributed to WTO TA programmes, such as a national TA activity on the SPS and TBT Agreements in Nepal, on the Joint Statement Initiative on e-Commerce in Uzbekistan, on the Lahore School of Economics Macro Model in Pakistan, or the RTPC for Asia-Pacific hosted by the Chair in Shanghai. Students from the Chinese Taipei Chair reached the quarter-finals of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition earning two awards for their written submissions. The Chair in Pakistan secured funding from the International Growth Centre, Columbia, and Yale University, as well as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for further research.

At MC13, the China Chair in Beijing contributed to discussions on plastics pollution, climate-related subsidies, and agricultural trade sustainability, also organizing a side event ahead of China's Trade Policy Review. Collaboration with the Secretariat enabled in-depth discussions on agricultural subsidies, sustainability, and global market stability. A PhD candidate from this Chair, alongside co-authors, collaborated with the Secretariat on a firm-level study on trade and finance in China.

Several WCP Chairs in Asia focused on MSME empowerment. In Nepal and Vietnam, training sessions provided entrepreneurs with key trade navigation skills. In Vietnam, a joint workshop with the International Finance Corporation and Secretariat examined the role of trade finance in boosting MSMEs' competitiveness within global value chains. A high-level workshop brought together 180 government officials from Malaysia, Cambodia, and Myanmar to explore trade challenges. In Oman, the Chair partnered with the ITC and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to conduct a workshop on sustainable marine-based trade, incorporating free trade agreement simulations into university curricula.

Strong academic and policy collaborations also emerged across WCP Chairs. In Jordan and Oman, Chairs exchanged expertise, with Jordan hosting a session on international trade and economic growth in the MENA region, while Oman delivered a seminar on the blue economy. Jordan's Chair also explored the welfare impacts of removing fishery

subsidies. In India, a WCP Asia-Africa Conference organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, discussed resilient and responsible trade in a shifting global order.

WCP Latin American and Caribbean Network

In Colombia, an MSME training programme in Barranquilla engaged over 200 participants, covering trade's role in climate change, gender equality, and market access. The Chair also collaborated with the government and the OECD on gender, trade, and economic transformation and hosted the All-American Regional Round of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition (JHJMCC).

At the WTO Public Forum, the Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru Chairs highlighted the importance of inclusive trade, and the Costa Rican Co-Chair Holder joined the WTO Gender Hub. The Third Colloquium of Latin American WTO Chairs in Peru addressed women and trade, regional challenges, and digital commerce.

High-profile training initiatives enhanced trade negotiations and policy engagement. In Ecuador, a Model WTO competition, featuring the Vice Minister of Trade, simulated seven trade negotiations, while TA on customs law was delivered in collaboration with the Secretariat. Costa Rica facilitated trade negotiation simulations, and in Argentina, the Chair participated in a WTO Course on dispute settlement.

Chairs also worked closely with governments to shape policy. In Peru, collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs training on negotiation and trade facilitation continued. The Peru and Chile Chairs contributed to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2024 meeting. Costa Rica's Chair strengthened ties with policymakers through discussions on key trade agreements, while Ecuador's Chair engaged with ministries on multilateral trade issues. Brazil's Chair co-chaired the G20 Think20 Task Force on Trade and Investment in which the Mexican Chair also participated, reinforcing the region's role in global trade governance.

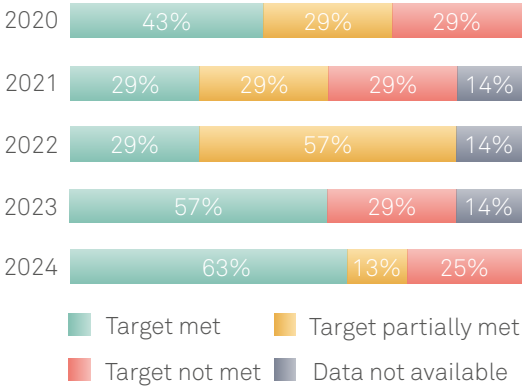
Academic integration deepened through joint teaching initiatives, with Costa Rica and Peru delivering courses in Argentina, while Tanzania updated its intellectual property curriculum in collaboration with Argentina. These initiatives highlight the WCP Chairs' ongoing impact on inclusive trade, policy development, and regional cooperation.

EXPANDING AUDIENCES

KEY RESULT

4

Non-governmental audiences are aware of WTO issues



Reaching out to non-traditional WTO actors

WTO TA seeks to also raise awareness and promote cooperation with non-governmental stakeholders such as the business community, NGOs, journalists, members of parliament, and the general public.

In 2024, two TA global outreach activities were organized for journalists to raise their awareness and improve their coverage of WTO issues. These initiatives benefitted journalists from LDCs and other developing economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities focused on challenges faced by the multilateral trading system, understanding the WTO, and MC13.

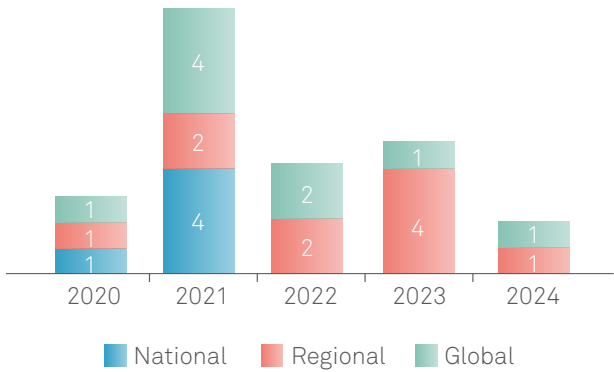
A seminar was organized in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES) in Geneva, in October 2024 to train journalists from Latin America and the Caribbean on the challenges and functioning of the multilateral trading system. In five days, it covered the outcomes of MC13, new policies on sustainable agriculture and trade, and challenges related to market access, dispute settlement, and intellectual property rights linked to public health.

To support broad media coverage of MC13 by the press from LDCs, 14 journalists from least-developed

country Members were sponsored to cover the event. This led to extensive and diverse coverage, sponsored journalists publishing more than 70 articles and 3 video news broadcasts on over 35 various WTO-related topics.

Two events for other stakeholder groups could not be organised in 2024 due to a lack of resources from WTO traditional partners to reach out to these audiences.

Figure 20. WTO TA outreach activities (2020-2024)

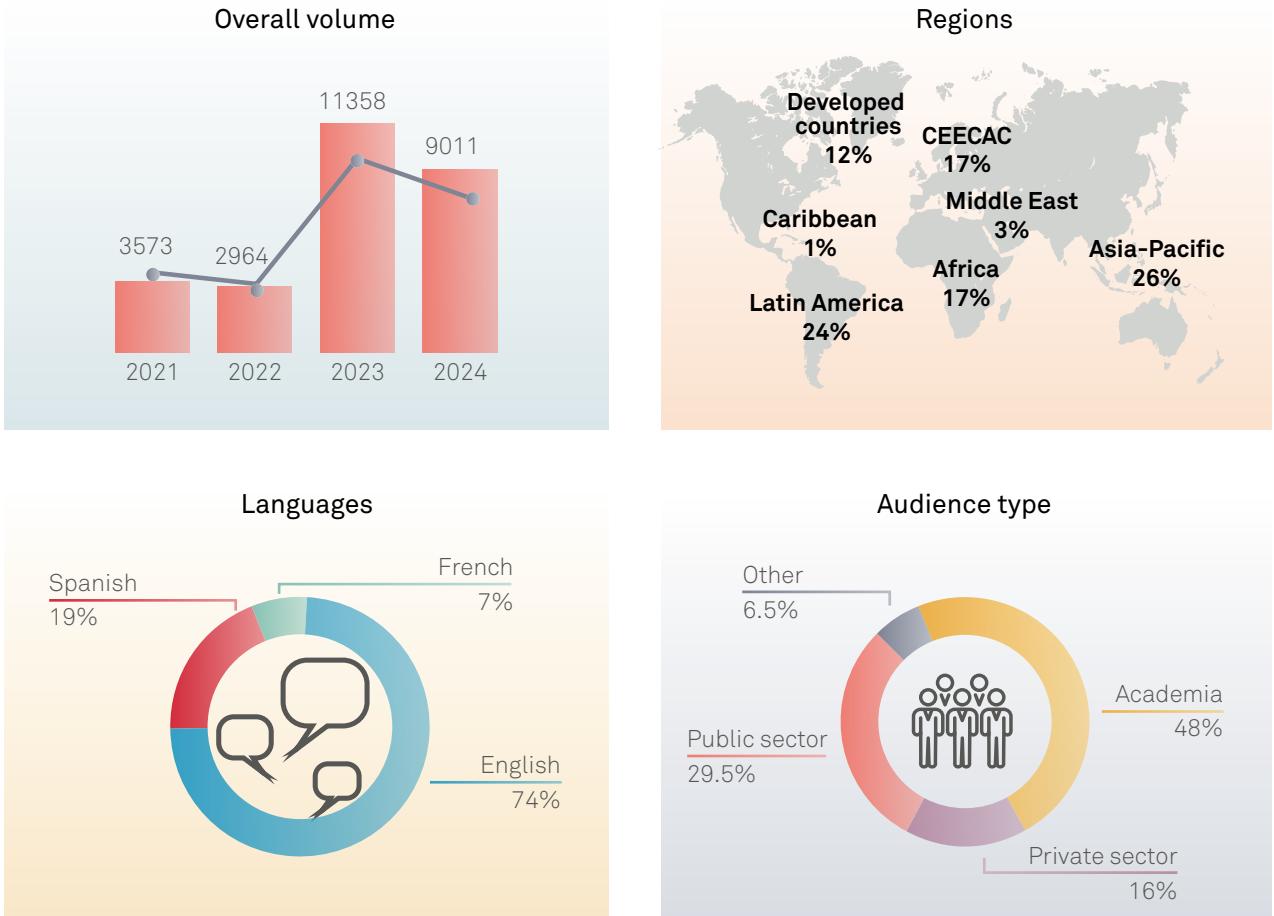


Self-study training materials

The Secretariat keeps providing self-study e-Learning training materials for use by the general public. Unlike e-Learning courses, these materials do not include access to exams or live webinars. Although the number of training material requests in 2024 saw a slight decline from 11,358 in 2023 to 9,011 in 2024, this remains well above the average levels observed in 2020-2022, showing strong public interest in WTO-related knowledge.

Most of the requests in 2024 came from academia, followed by government staff (especially from developed countries), and private sector representatives. As in previous years, requests for training materials in English were the highest in number (81%), with most self-learners coming from Asia and the Pacific region, followed by Latin America.

Infographic 7. Training Material Requests



Diversifying communication channels for WTO TA visibility

The Secretariat leverages social media to enhance the visibility of WTO TA results and impact, reaching broader audiences and providing direct access to information. In 2024, WTO TA social media platforms, particularly LinkedIn, X, and Facebook were actively used to showcase TA activities, promote upcoming courses, and highlight key outcomes.

The WTO website also saw increased engagement, with visits to TA webpages and news items doubling compared to the previous year, reaching 1.2M—well above the 2020-22 average.

Infographic 8. WTO Website Traffic by Page Category



Click here to follow WTO TA Social Media



Chapter 2

Prioritizing inclusion



- WTO TA benefited 38 LDCs and around 5,500 of their representatives, an increase of 13%.
- Women represented 47% of all participants, a marginal decline of one percentage point from the previous year.
- The geographical coverage of TA activities remained very wide, covering 141 WTO Members and Observers. The number of activities benefiting Asia-Pacific declined compared to the previous year (-27%). It was stable elsewhere.
- Just over half of TA activities were delivered in languages other than English.



INCLUSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Inclusion in world trade: an engine for the development of LDCs

WTO Technical Assistance to overcome LDC trade challenges and promote fair and sustainable global trade

By Kadra Ahmed Hassan
Ambassador of Djibouti
Permanent representative to the WTO
Coordinator of the WTO Group of LDCs



The world is experiencing multi-faceted crises that exacerbate inequalities between countries and within countries. As set out in the Marrakesh Agreement, it is essential to make concerted efforts to achieve the objectives of inclusiveness, sustainable development and less economic inequality. The WTO plays a crucial role in promoting a fair and inclusive multilateral trading system, including through technical assistance (TA) to developing countries, in particular least-developed countries (LDCs) and graduated countries, to help them better integrate into the global economy. The priority accorded to the inclusion of these countries reflects the WTO's willingness to reduce economic inequalities and foster sustainable development on a global scale.

However, LDCs continue to face major structural challenges, including little economic diversification, limited infrastructure, low

productivity and high poverty levels. LDCs account for around 13% of the world's population, but only 1.3% of world trade.

Despite significant progress, graduated countries remain vulnerable and require continuous support to consolidate their achievements. They face specific barriers in their participation in international trade. They often lack the technical and institutional capacities to negotiate and implement trade agreements, or to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization. Without strategic support, they risk remaining marginalized in the global trading system, which would exacerbate existing inequalities.

In this context, WTO technical assistance is a key tool for our countries' inclusion so that we can achieve our development and poverty reduction goals. Existing programmes help our officials and

“WTO technical assistance is a key tool for our countries' inclusion so that we can achieve our development and poverty reduction goals. Existing programmes help our officials and experts to better understand and actively participate in trade negotiations, implement WTO agreements, and harness the benefits of trade to boost economic development.”

experts to better understand and actively participate in trade negotiations, implement WTO agreements, and harness the benefits of trade to boost economic development.

It is encouraging to note that over the years, a number of specific initiatives in favour of LDCs and graduated countries have helped to initiate greater LDC inclusion. For example:

- The Aid for Trade initiative is designed to mobilize resources, particularly for LDCs, to help them overcome structural obstacles that restrict their ability to participate in international trade. This initiative funds projects related to infrastructure, productive capacity, and the strengthening of trade institutions.
- The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF): Designed exclusively for LDCs, this multilateral partnership provides technical and financial support for integrating trade into national development strategies. It has helped our countries identify their priority needs and mobilize resources to meet them. We are in the process of finalizing a third phase of the EIF with our partners.
- Exemptions and flexibilities for LDCs, such as longer transition periods for the implementation of agreements, exemptions from certain obligations, and preferential access to developed country markets. These measures aim to reduce pressure on fragile economies and give them time to develop. The recent proposal to extend these measures to graduated LDCs addresses this need.

Despite significant results, challenges remain. The available financial and technical resources remain insufficient relative to the growing needs of LDCs and graduated countries. Moreover, the increasing complexity of the global trading system, with the emergence of new technologies and standards, necessitates ongoing and tailored support.

I recommend a few measures to improve support for LDCs and graduated countries. Partners must:

- Reaffirm their commitment by integrating our specific needs into WTO agreements and programmes, including through the effective implementation of decisions taken at Ministerial Conferences.
- Provide predictable financial resources to LDCs and graduated countries, to enable them to participate effectively in WTO activities.

Moreover, it would be desirable for TA programmes to avoid duplication and strengthen partnerships with beneficiary countries by allowing for greater involvement of our experts, consultants and researchers, who bring a certain added value. Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, designed with beneficiaries, are also needed to measure the effectiveness of TA and ensure that it meets beneficiaries' needs.

The integration of LDCs and graduated countries into the multilateral trading system is a question of economic justice, and remains necessary for a trading system that is in line with the 2030 Agenda.

INCLUDING LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Enhancing LDCs' access to technical assistance and participation in global trade



38 LDC's
benefited from
WTO TA

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are a priority under the WTO TA mandate. The Secretariat continued to make targeted efforts to strengthen LDCs' human and institutional capacity to boost their effective participation in global trade. In 2024, 29% of TA beneficiaries were nationals from LDCs, representing 38 WTO Members and Observers, maintaining a stable level compared to 2023, when 31% of participants came from 39 WTO Members and Observers.

LDC participation was most prominent in on-the-job training and e-Learning programmes. In e-Learning programmes, LDC made up 33% of the total participants in 2024, a slight decline from 38% in 2023. However, there was a notable improvement in the completion rate

among LDC e-Learners, which rose from 69% in 2023 to 80% in 2024. Of those who completed their e-Learning courses, 97% passed the final tests, demonstrating their strong dedication and interest. As for on-the-job training programmes, 39% of the participants were from LDCs, a decrease from 46% in 2023.

The accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste, two LDCs, to the WTO in 2024 was the most concrete result of the TA provided by the Secretariat to LDCs. Another indicator is the number of documents submitted by LDCs, either independently or jointly with other Members, to WTO Committees, which rose from 117 in 2023 to 162 in 2024 (see Figure 11). This metric, which is a proxy to gauge LDC participation in the WTO work, reflects their growing engagement, further signalling the effectiveness and relevance of TA for LDCs.

Trade and Development



In 2024, there were **45 LDCs** worldwide, of which **37** were Members of the WTO and **7** held observer status.

Figure 21. LDCs share of participants (2020-2024)

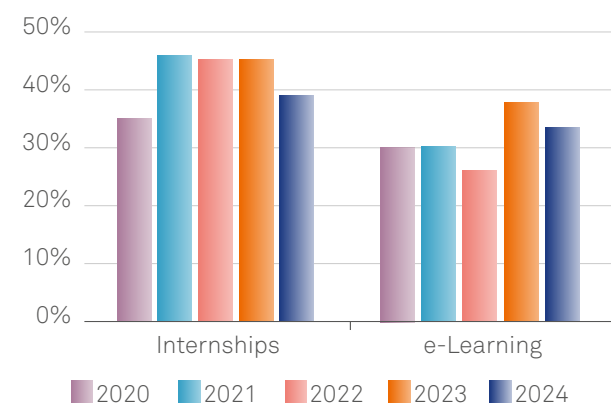
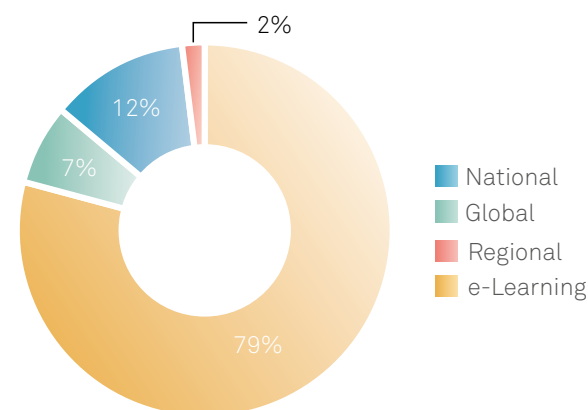


Figure 22. LDCs participation by type of training in 2024



Developing tailored activities for Least-Developed Countries

The Secretariat considers the unique needs and priorities of LDCs when planning and designing TA activities. It also delivers dedicated programmes designed to address their specific challenges. In 2024, two Introductory Trade Policy Courses (ITPC), tailored exclusively to LDCs TA needs were organized in English and in French. These

programmes attracted 53 participants from 25 LDCs, with 56% completing the training with distinction. Relunched in 2023, these targeted courses have continued to yield substantial benefits for government officials working on WTO-related issues, enhancing their expertise and capacity in trade policy.

“The Introductory Trade Policy Courses for LDCs provided a comprehensive overview of trade policies and international negotiations, equipping me with the skills to analyse their effects on LDCs. I learned to assess the benefits and costs of various trade approaches and gained insight into the significance of South-South cooperation and preferential agreements for the development of LDCs.”



Ezia Dara Nhamcalea
Financial Assistant
Chamber of Commerce of
Mozambique

Another LDC-focused TA initiative is the South-South Dialogue on LDCs and Development, which held its seventh edition in 2024. As part of a broader programme financed by China to strengthen LDCs' participation in the WTO, the event brought together 70 delegates from LDCs and their development partners. Participants explored

ways to revitalize the WTO's trade and development discussions and examined the opportunities and challenges LDCs face in integrating into global supply chains, participating in digital trade, and facilitating the green transition.



Li Chenggang
China's Ambassador and Permanent
Representative to the WTO


“China has always been committed to the development dimensions of WTO work. We are encouraged by the development outcomes from MC13 and committed to working with all members to deliver more pragmatic development outcomes for MC14.”

China's LDCs and
Accessions Programme



PROMOTING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION

Bridging the Gender Gap in Global Trade



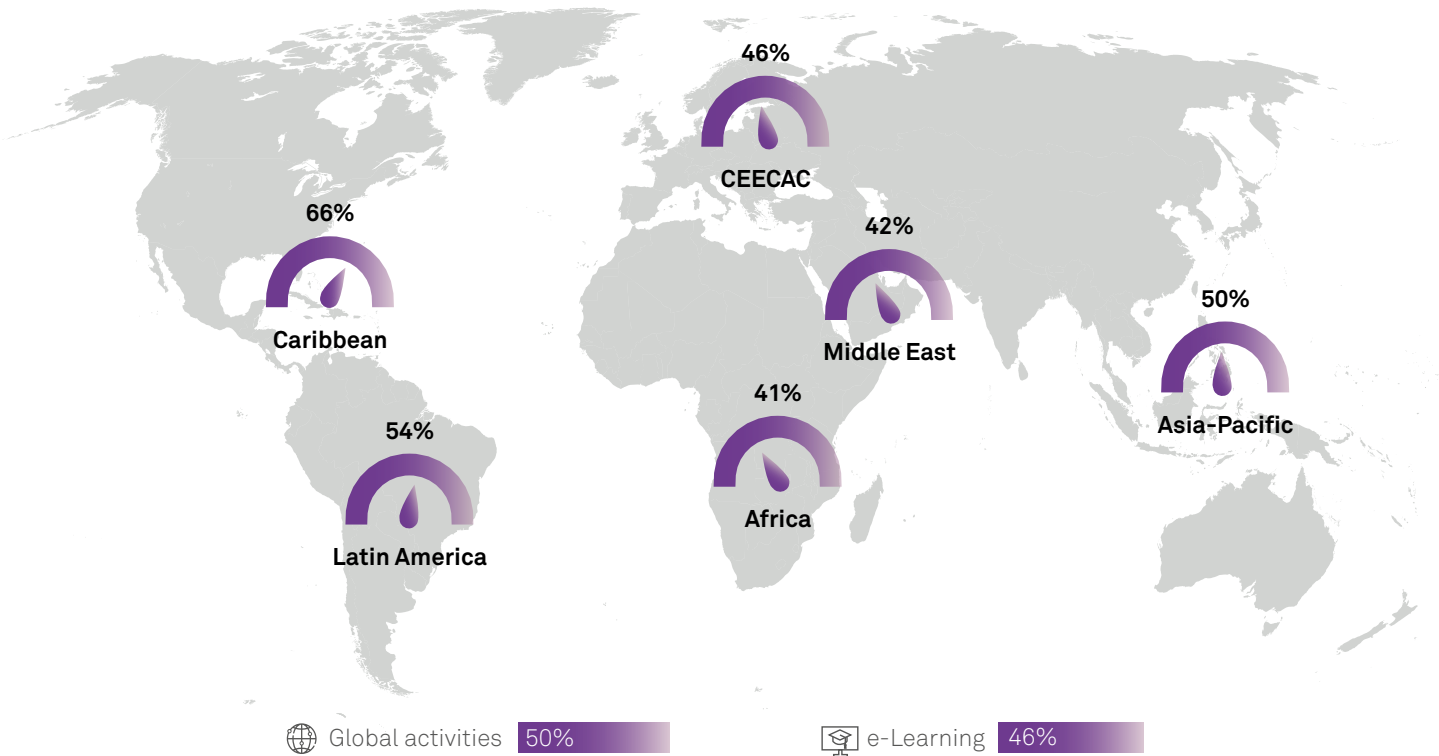
47%
of Women
participation

In delivering TA to developing and least-developed country Members and Observers, the Secretariat pays particular attention to reducing barriers to women's active and impactful participation in global trade. Efforts to promote gender balance in TA activities have continued, aiming to increase women's access to the skills needed to take full part in trade negotiations and contribute meaningfully to shaping trade regulations, thereby supporting inclusive economic growth.

Despite a marginal one-percentage-point decline from the previous year, women's participation in WTO TA remained steady at 47% in 2024, aligning with the average level of women's participation over the past five years.

The Caribbean, as in previous years, continued to have the highest proportion of women participants, reaching 66% in 2024, a notable increase from the 62.5% recorded in 2023. The rate of women participation was stable in Latin America (54%), Asia-Pacific (50%) and CEECAC (46%). In contrast, the share of women's participants in Africa and the Middle East declined further in 2024 from 43% to 41% and from 45% to 42% respectively compared to 2023 (see infographic 9). Meanwhile, global activities had a perfect balance, with women comprising 50% of participants.

Infographic 9. Women participation in TA trainings by region in 2024



Building capacity for inclusive trade

To further enhance women's participation in trade, raise awareness of gender-specific issues, and deepen understanding of the critical role of women in global trade, the Secretariat continued to develop and integrate dedicated trade and gender training modules into WTO TA activities.

In 2024, the Secretariat delivered two in-person training weeks on trade and gender—one in Spanish in April

and another in English in June—to further enhance Members' capabilities in gender-responsive trade policymaking. The 70 government officials trained in 2024 bring the total number of trained professionals since 2018 to over 600. Two expert webinars on trade and gender—one in English and one in French—expanded the reach to a broader audience of government officials from developing and least-developed country Members and Observers.



Rochelle Graham-Barnes
Research Officer, Ministry of Culture,
Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica

“Thanks to the training course on trade and gender, I feel better equipped to demonstrate why integrating gender matters and to make it a more compelling part of the conversation. I am returning with the tools and confidence to show how gender can be a driver of inclusive and impactful trade policies within the Ministries, Departments and Agencies across the Jamaican government.



Francisco Javier Vicencio Macaya
Advisor, Undersecretariat of International
Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Chile

“The training course on trade and gender provided vital elements that will help us to deepen and innovate in the implementation of Chile's Feminist Foreign Policy, which includes the introduction of gender provisions in trade agreements. It will also help us with the promotion of trade and gender issues in international bodies in which we participate.

Infographic 10. Key Takeaways from Participants in the Trade and Gender Training Course

 A STRUCTURED APPROACH The course offers guides and frameworks to support efficient gender-responsive trade policymaking.	 ROLE OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP (IWG) Through the training, beneficiaries learn about the IWG's initiatives, and how it supports Members in advancing gender-responsive policies.
 THE BIG PICTURE The course provides an understanding of the linkages between gender equality, trade, sustainable development, and economic growth.	 TOOLS AND RESOURCES The course equips participants with practical tools and databases to support policy work and data collection for gender-responsive trade initiatives.

REACHING EVERY REGION

Allowing smooth participation from around the globe



62 Members and Observers hosted WTO TA

Ensuring a broad geographical distribution of beneficiaries remains a fundamental priority of WTO TA to foster greater inclusivity across all regions. In 2024, national and regional TA activities were hosted in 62 Members and Observers from different regions. TA activities continuously covered a wide range of topics and were regularly adjusted to meet local and regional demands, providing tailored support for local audiences.

Face-to-face activities remained a key component of WTO TA delivery in 2024, with Africa continuing to be the most active region in hosting national and regional activities, followed by Latin America. The total number of face-to-face activities remained stable compared to the previous year. Most regions experienced an increase in activities, except the Asia-Pacific region where the activity volume was 27% lower.



141 Members and Observers Participated in WTO TA

In 2024, overall participation in TA activities grew compared to the previous year, with 141 Members and Observers taking part. This increase was largely driven by a surge in e-Learners, who were 45% more numerous. All regions saw increased use of e-Learning programmes, with particularly strong growth in Asia-Pacific (+62.9%) and the Caribbean (+50.6%). Africa continued to lead in overall participation in national and regional activities. The participation in activities held in the Caribbean rose by 69%, highlighting the region's growing engagement with WTO TA activities.

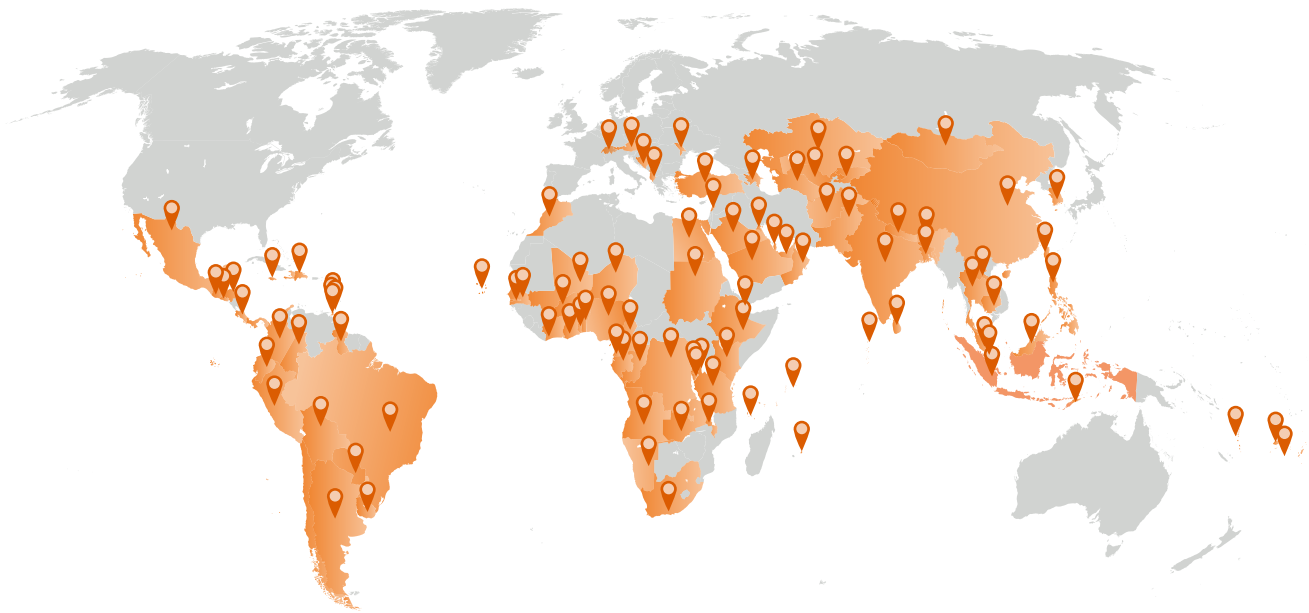
The geographical distribution of activities and participation reflected ongoing WTO's effort to support Members and Observers in strengthening their trade-related capacities, ensuring TA programmes remain accessible and align with regional and local demands.



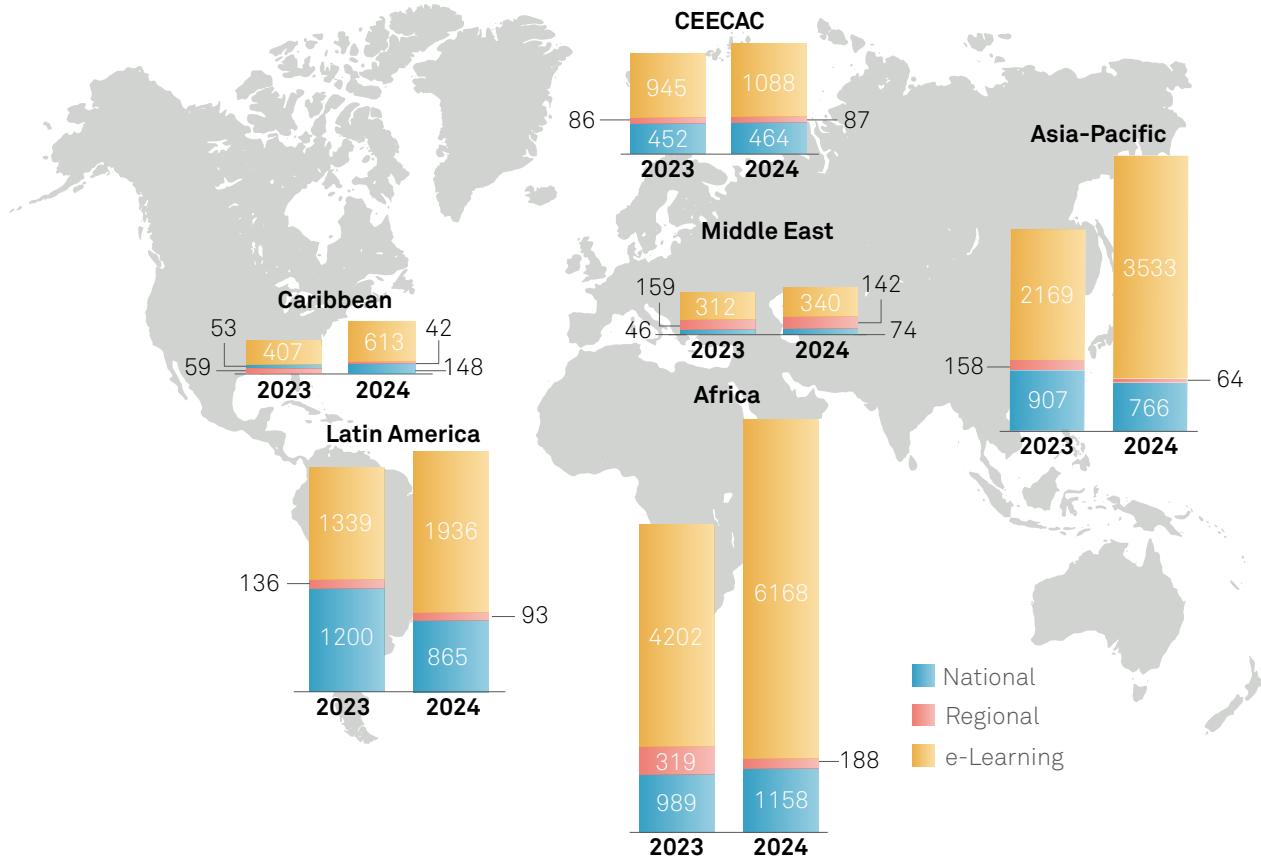
Joel Richards
Officer-in-Charge, Economic Affairs and Regional Integration Division
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in Geneva

“It is important to understand that capacity building needs are not static. A one-off event or activity, though beneficial, is not likely to plug every gap. Therefore, in an ideal world, certain types of TA activities should be repeated over time to ensure that capacity is entrenched and to also better measure progress.

Infographic 11. National and regional training activities by 'host' country in 2024



Infographic 12. Participants by region and type of training (2023–2024)



INCLUSION THROUGH LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Sustaining multilingualism for a greater outreach

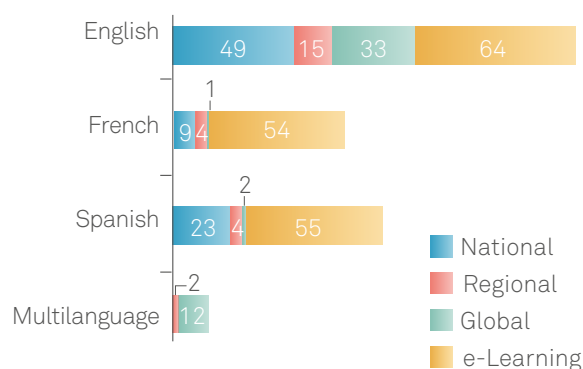
The Secretariat ensures that TA activities are delivered in the three WTO working languages: English, French, and Spanish. Offering courses in all three languages is crucial to foster inclusivity and maximise interactivity. Interpretation into additional languages also plays a key role in improving accessibility, enhancing the activity's effectiveness for beneficiaries who may not speak English or other WTO working languages, and to help them engage more effectively.

In 2024, approximately 49% of TA activities (including e-Learning courses) were delivered in English, followed by 25% in Spanish and 21% in French. The remaining 5% comprised on-the-job training programmes and face-to-face activities with interpretation into other WTO official languages, such as the SPS Committee Thematic Workshop on Transparency. A novel multilingual approach was also experimented in 2024 during the Advanced Global Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement, featuring a blend of linguistic strategies. The sessions were delivered in English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish. Participants also engaged in interactive group work based on their language skills and preferences. This format attracted a broader range of participants, enhanced engagement, promoted effective knowledge sharing across different linguistic groups, and received highly positive feedback.

Upon request by TA beneficiaries, activities are delivered in any of the WTO official languages on a case-by-case basis. In 2024, the Advanced Course on Trade in Services was conducted in French for the first time, and the Training Course on Trade and Gender was delivered in Spanish, reflecting the growing demand for capacity-building in beneficiaries' official languages.

Out of the 16 new e-Learning courses introduced in 2024, two courses were developed simultaneously in all three WTO official languages, four in English, and five were translated into French and Spanish. By the end of 2024, the e-Learning course catalogue included a total of 64 courses in English, 54 in French, and 55 in Spanish. The distribution of registrations for e-Learning courses showed a growing linguistic diversity, with 68% of participants enrolling in English, 20% in French, and 12% in Spanish, demonstrating an increase in participation from non-English speakers. Additionally, 26 live webinars were conducted in all three WTO official languages, adding an extra interactive component to the e-Learning programme. English served as the primary language for 66% of the participants in TA activities, followed by French for 18% and Spanish for 14.5% of the participants. Additionally, 1.6% of participants attended multilingual sessions with real-time interpretation.

Figure 23. Number of TA training by type and language in 2024



“What made this training particularly impactful was its delivery in French. For francophone participants like me, the opportunity to engage with complex concepts and discussions in our native language was invaluable.”

Bernardine Sindzi Indouyi

Research Officer, Ministry of Trade of Gabon
Participant in the Advanced Course on Trade in Services

Chapter 3

An evolving curriculum and participation



- Participation in e-Learning courses increased by 45% to reach its highest level ever (13,700 participations), and face-to-face activities gathered for the first time less than 25% of all participations.
- The drop-out rate of the e-Learning platform decreased significantly to 20%, down from 28% in 2023.
- TA activities on trade negotiation skills resumed on a larger scale in 2024.
- Demand for and implementation of TA activities at the national level declined after their 5-year peak in 2023.
- Almost two thirds of the training time in TA face-to-face activities was dedicated to interactive training methods in 2024, the highest rate ever.

PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Online TA participation becomes the norm

The overall participation increased by 19% compared to the previous year and was back at the average recorded between 2016 and 2019 (19,000). This growth was primarily driven by a substantial 45% growth of participation in e-Learning courses. The level of participation in online courses was the highest ever (13,700 participations), whilst participation in face-to-face activities ebbed in 2024, representing less than 25% of the total. This is a significant evolution, as prior to the pandemic, face-to-face TA activities used to represent approximately half of the participation.

Looking at the types of face-to-face activities delivered, participation in national activities outstripped global and regional ones, in line with previous years.



Figure 24. Participation by type of training in 2024

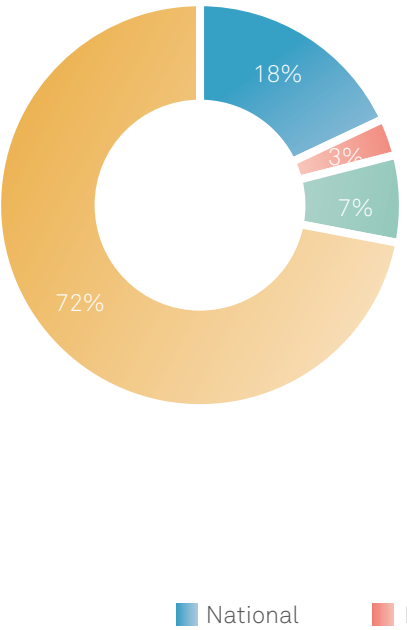


Figure 25. Participants by mode of delivery in 2024

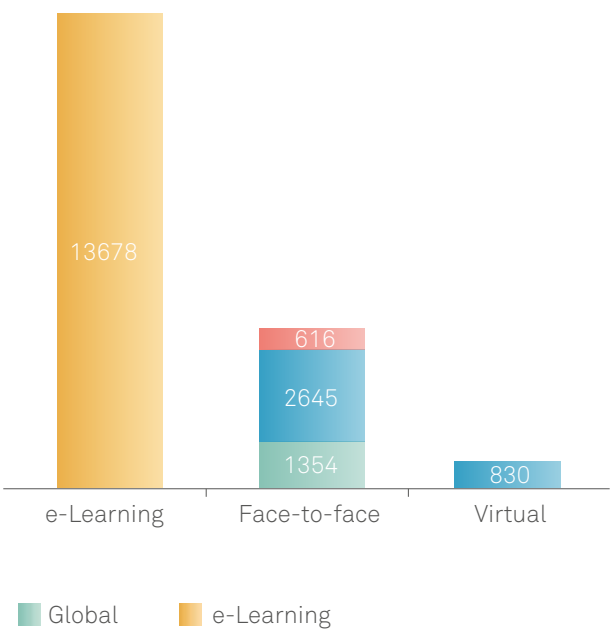


Figure 26. Participants by year and mode of training (2010-2024)

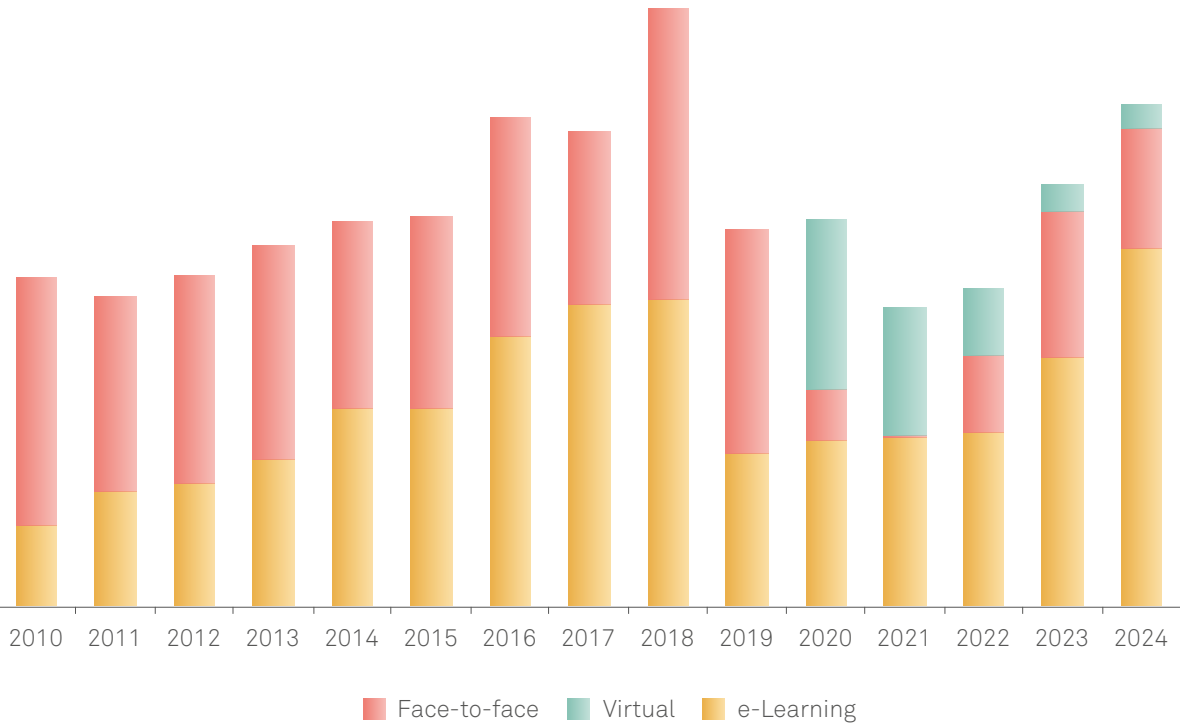
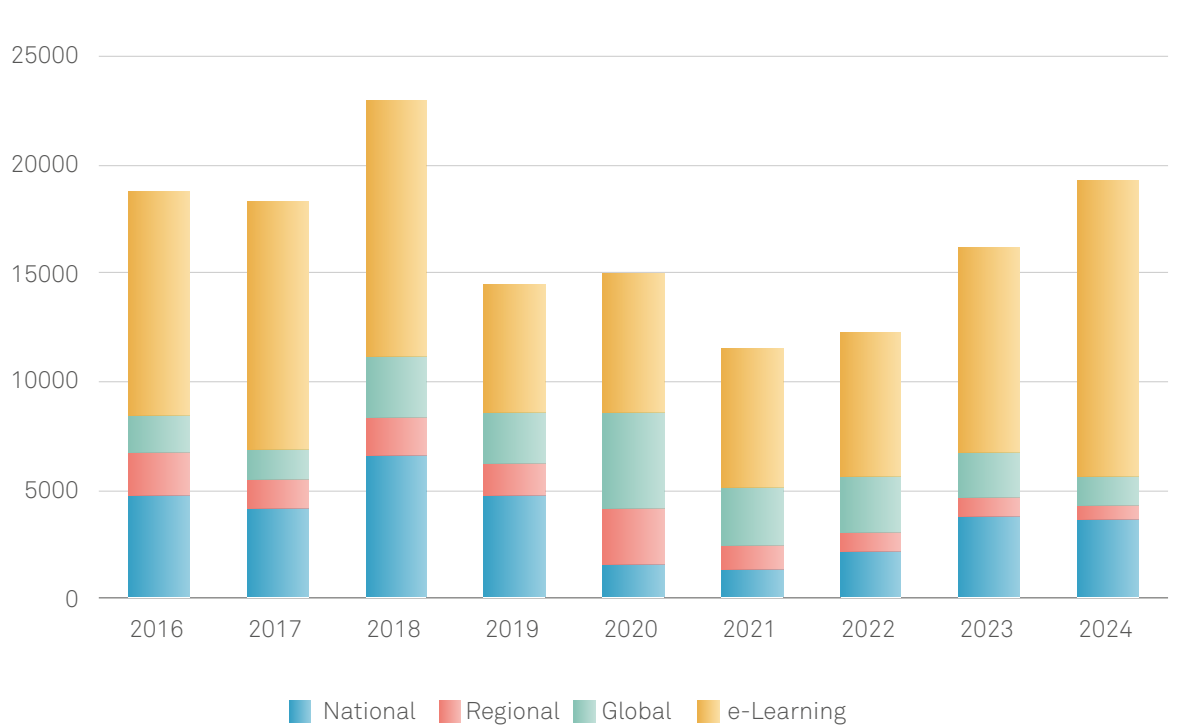
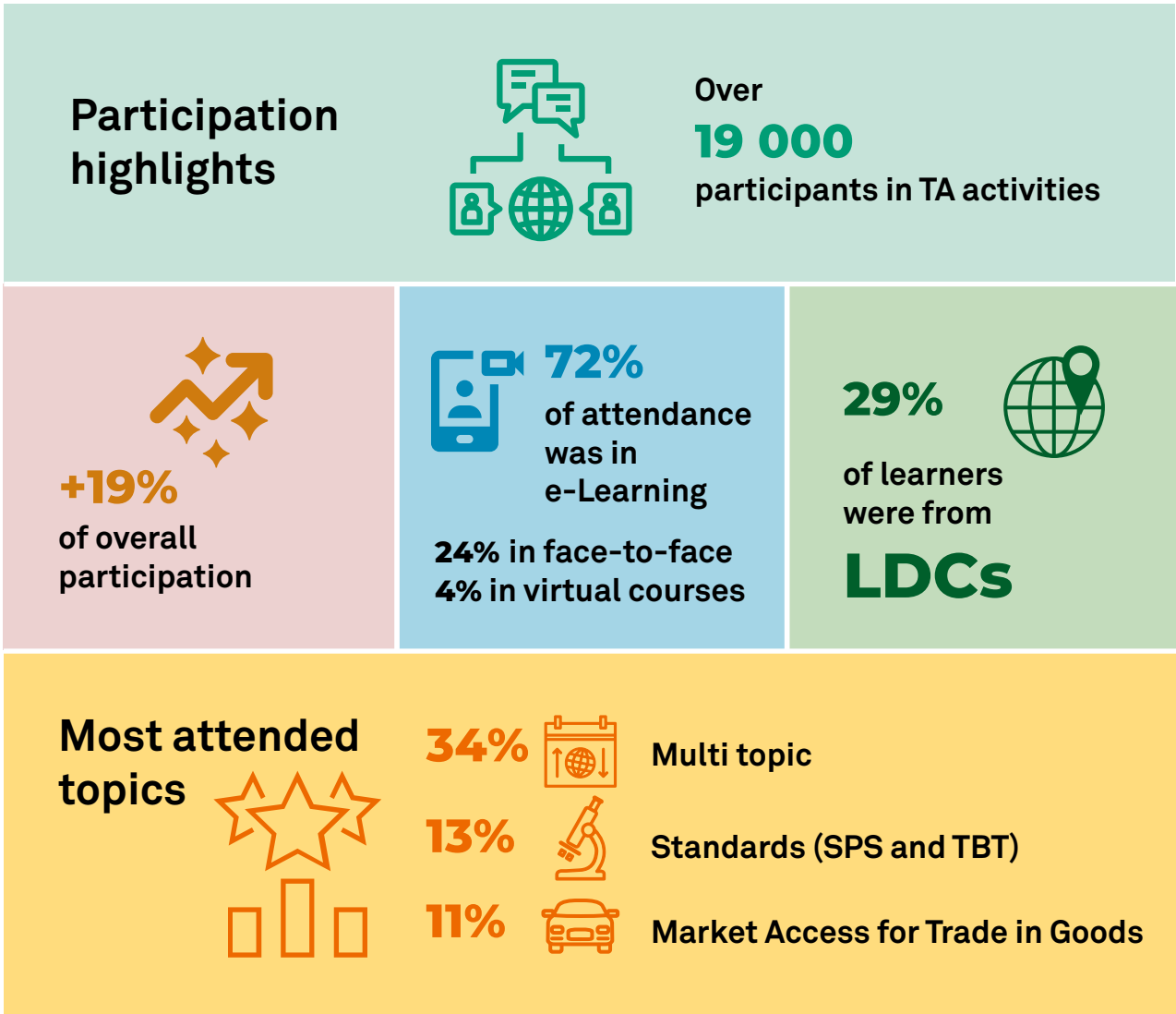


Figure 27. Participants by year and type of training (2016-2024)



Infographic 13. Participation highlights



RESPONDING TO DEMAND

Beneficiaries' priorities remain stable

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, survey questionnaires, trade policy reviews, and other diagnostic studies and evaluations, help the Secretariat identify TA needs as accurately as possible.

The survey conducted in 2023 to assess TA beneficiaries' needs in preparation for the biennial TA plan 2024-25 showed that the top 10 priority topics remained the same ones as in 2021 by and large (see figure 29). The inclusion of fisheries subsidies was the only novelty, following the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in June 2022.

Standards (SPS and TBT) and TRIPS topped the list for the majority of respondents. Trade in services, trade facilitation, agriculture and market access issues for

goods formed a second group identified as a priority by almost half of respondents. The third group, accounting for over a third of responses, included fisheries subsidies and trade remedies.

Setting aside the online courses on these subjects which are available throughout the year to respond to common training needs, the tailored activities organised in 2024 by the Secretariat largely responded to the identified priorities of TA beneficiaries. Standards, Agriculture, market access for Goods (including Trade Facilitation), trade in services, trade remedies (including fisheries subsidies), all formed part of the top 10 topics on which the largest number of TA activities were delivered (see figure 28).

Biennial TA Plan
2024 - 2025



Figure 28. Number of Activities by Subject

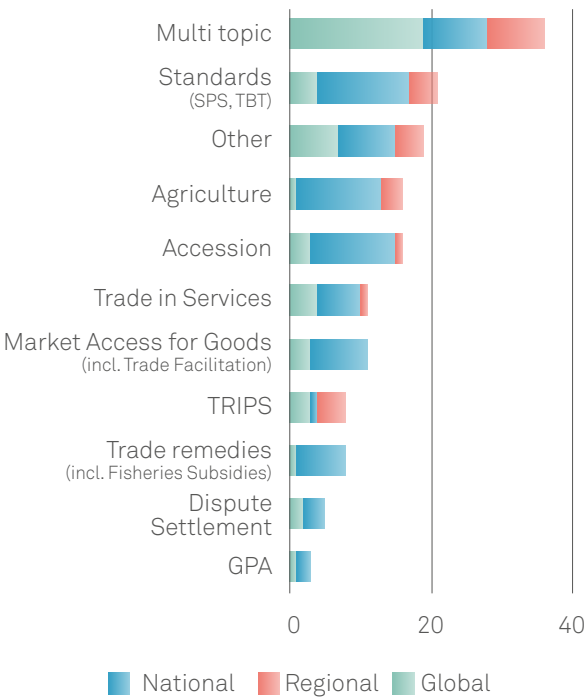
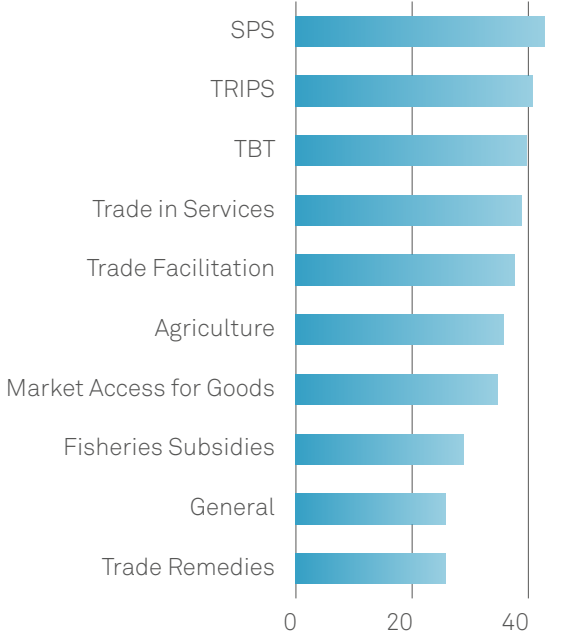


Figure 29. Beneficiaries' TA Priorities



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 2024, 93 requests were recorded, a 27% decrease compared to 2023. This remains above the average number of requests recorded during the last five years (82) but is well below the average of the five years preceding the pandemic (143). The number of countries requesting a national activity was stable (54), but the average number of requests per country decreased from 2.3 to 1.7. Beneficiaries primarily sought national activities to cover, in decreasing order, Multi-topics, Agriculture, Accessions, Standards (SPS and TBT), Trade in Services, Trade Remedies, Trade in Goods, and Trade & Environment.

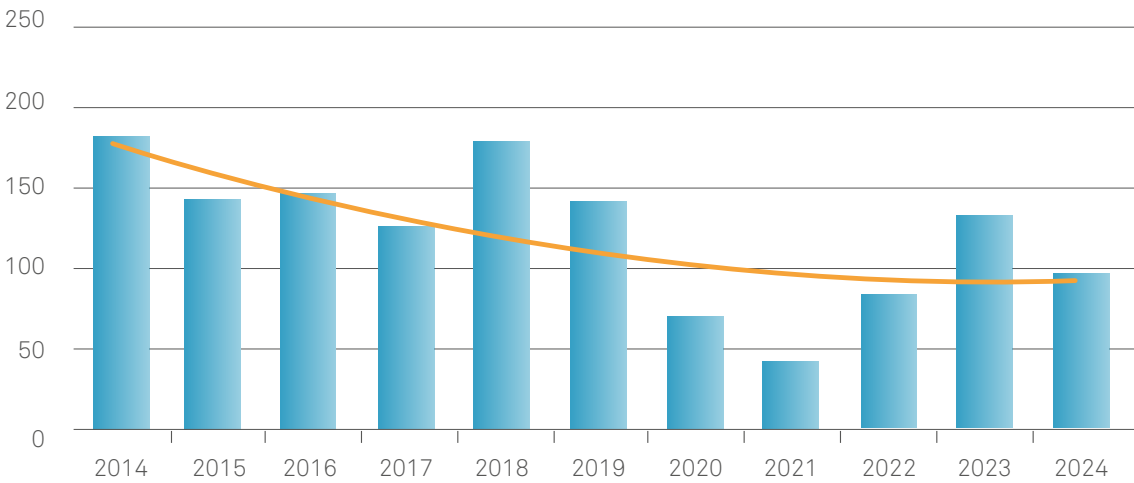
Trade Policy Reviews (TPR) give a detailed insight into each Member's situation. TPR follow-up activities are organised on request and provide an opportunity for Members to garner support for the implementation of reforms arising from the review. One TPR follow-up activity was carried out in 2024 for the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) region, with a special focus on transparency and notifications. This allowed for further dissemination of TPR findings for the five countries concerned (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa).

On the country assessment front, the TA needs of Albania, Botswana, Namibia, Thailand and Tonga were reviewed in coordination with national stakeholders (see chapter 4). These were documented in reports that were widely shared with Secretariat staff involved in TA delivery, mainly through the TA Coordination Task Force.

As part of the initiative on Digital Trade for Africa, six needs assessments were prepared and discussed with the authorities for Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda. [\[Read more: In The Spotlight | page 90\]](#)

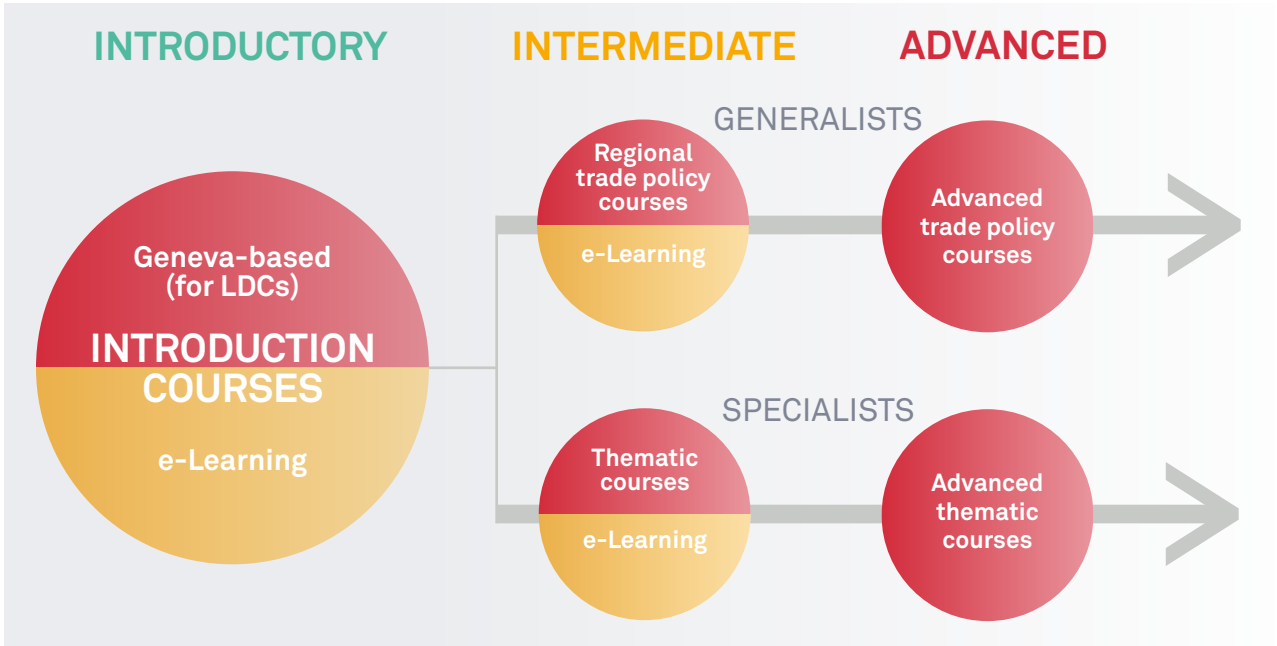
The Secretariat conducted a topic-specific survey to support the design of five TA activities on trade & public health, intellectual property and transfer of technology for LDCs, trade in services and the IT Agreements. The responses helped assess beneficiaries' understanding of these issues, so as to adapt programmes to address the perceived gaps, and to enhance the benefits of the training courses through targeted coaching sessions and a tailored approach.

Figure 30. Requests for national activities (2014–2024)



PROGRESSIVE LEARNING IN ACTION

Infographic 14. WTO TA Progressive Learning Strategy



One step at a time

Since 2010, WTO training programmes are structured around three levels which progressively take the participants to a higher understanding of trade issues. With this approach, beneficiaries engaging in courses at the higher levels already master the necessary elements to follow the training programmes.

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 been going progressively down over the last decade (10% in 2024), probably as a result of the enlargement and diversification of the WTO offer at the intermediate level. There is still an 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 several domestic agencies dealing with WTO-related matters, the WTO introductory course is mandatory for new recruits and admissions are easier for introductory courses as there are no prerequisites.

In 2024, the Secretariat continued to offer two editions of the 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. An introductory national post-accession workshop was also held in Comoros.

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 again from the previous year to reach 69% and stood well above the average of the past five years (63%). 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 three Regional Trade Policy Courses for French-speaking Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, many national activities, four regional or global activities on e-Commerce, two on trade and public health, the China Roundtable on WTO Accessions, two courses on trade and gender, and the south-south dialogue on LDCs and development.

At the **advanced level**, participants further increase their knowledge, analytical capacity and autonomy on

trade policy issues. Participation in advanced courses halved compared to 2023, falling to its lowest level in the last 10 years (approximately 700 participants). This is well below the rather stable average participation in advanced activities since 2015 (11% - See figure 31).

Multiple reasons explain this decline. Virtual or online training which now represents the bulk of the WTO TA is not suited to the level of interaction and pedagogy (case studies, simulations and other types of problem-solving exercises, action-oriented pedagogy, etc.) typical of these activities. Advanced activities tend to be significantly more resource intensive. The budget freeze of the past 12 years strained the resources of the Secretariat, leading to a much-reduced offer at the advanced level since the pandemic.

Among the most significant activities at this level were three editions of the Advanced Trade Policy Course, the WTO-WIPO executive course on intellectual property issues (see page 85) and several courses on services and transparency provisions of various agreements.

In 2024 and in line with the average since the pandemic, about 18% of the participants were involved in activities without a defined level. These were mainly e-Learning activities, outreach activities aimed at the business community, Non Governmental Organisations, journalists, Members of parliaments, etc, as well as activities with the academic world, 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.

Figure 31. Evolution of participants mix by PLS level (2015-2024)

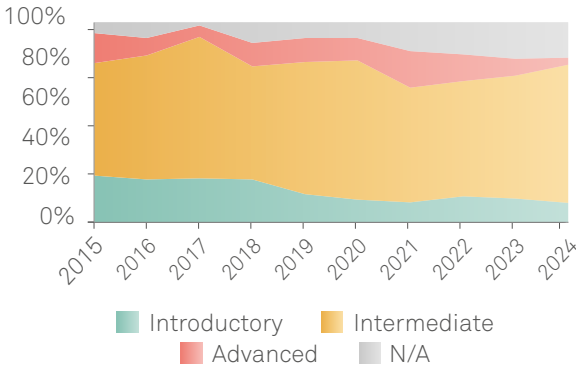


Figure 32. Number of participants in advanced activities (2014-2024)

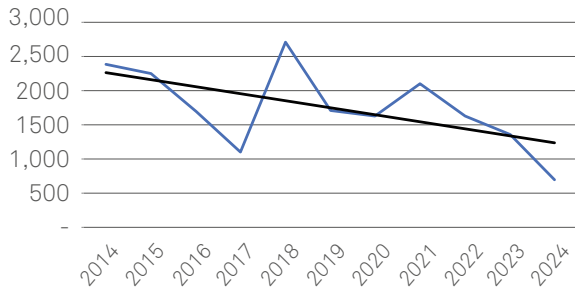


Figure 33. Number of TA activities by pathway (2019-2024)

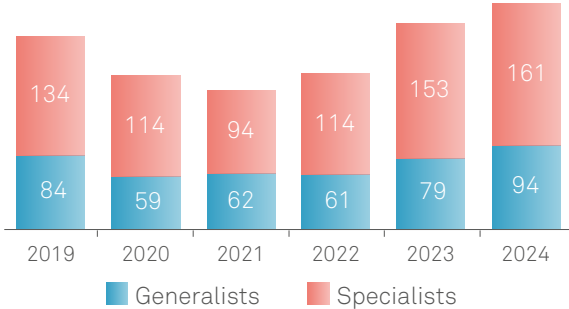
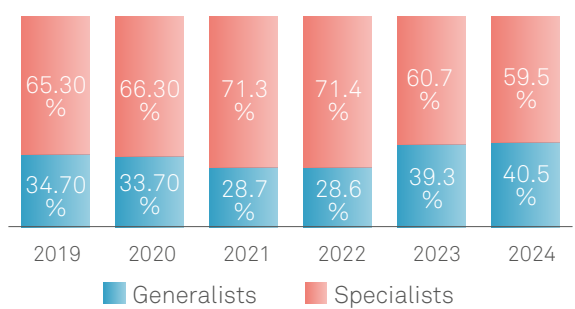


Figure 34. Participants' pathway choice (2019-2024)



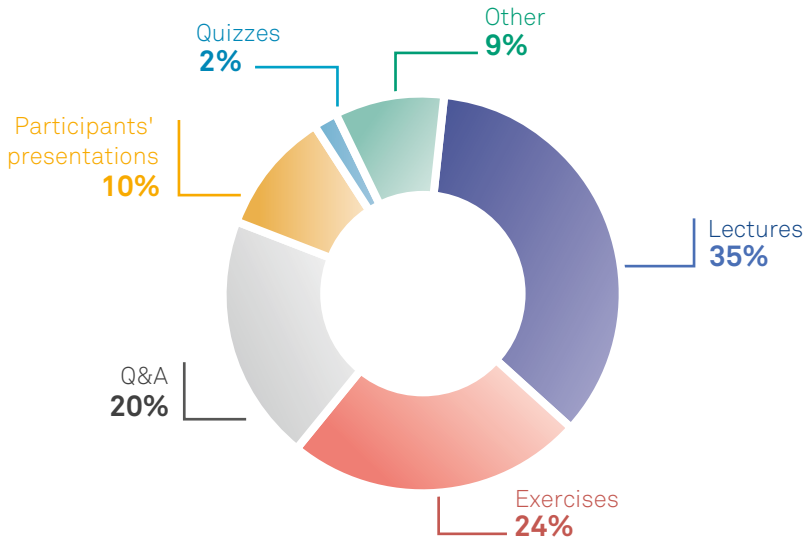
The number of activities for specialists continued to rise in 2024, driven by the diversification of the e-Learning offer. It reached 161 activities, against an average of 122 in the previous five years. As shown in figure 34, participants choosing to follow the specialised path continue to be an increasing majority (60%), although the proportions are more balanced since 2023.

The WTO TA relies on a variety of training methods to cater for people's different ways of learning and means of receiving information. Priority is given to interactive pedagogy at all three levels to stimulate learning

and increase the rate of knowledge retention by the participants over time (i.e., how much they remember after a while).

As can be seen from the figure 35, in 2024, 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 35% of the time. This marked a significant improvement on the average of previous years during which the share of interactive training methods never exceeded 60%.

Figure 35. Training methods in face-to-face-activities in 2024



Ashish KHATRI
Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal
Participant in the Advanced Trade Policy Course in English

“ I am confident that ATPC has capacitated my trade negotiation skills, expanded my knowledge of the WTO rules and disciplines to utilize the benefits of multilateralism. The practical approach of the course along with the specialized facilitators provided me with valuable insights into the legal and quantitative side of trade further refining my professional capabilities to serve my government.

Evaluation of the Progressive Learning Strategy (2017-23)

The Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS – see Infographic 14) introduced in 2010 to structure the TA offered by the WTO had never been evaluated so far. An ex-post evaluation covered the period 2017-23, including both the pre-pandemic and post-pandemic contexts, during which a total of 24,878 participants from 161 countries and sovereign custom territories took part in the TA activities covered under the PLS framework.

Relevance. The evaluation concluded that the PLS had been a relevant framework to structure the WTO training offer, as it aligned with the needs and expectations of TA beneficiaries and provided flexible learning paths that addressed diverse professional requirements. However, progressivity was not yet fully integrated in a significant portion of the TA portfolio.

Coherence. The coherence of the generalist path, in which the three successive levels of training are systematically available every year, was praised even if it remained prone to content repetitions and limited practical application of knowledge. In contrast, the specialist path lacked consistency and coherence, with notable gaps at Levels 2 and 3 depending on the year and subject matter.

Effectiveness. The PLS contributed effectively to enhancing participants' knowledge, skills, and technical growth. It promoted higher levels of learning and developed participants' autonomy, its two main objectives. It consequently built and sustained long-lasting human and institutional capacities of the TA beneficiaries to participate in the multilateral trading system.

Efficiency. The efficiency of the PLS has steadily improved through enhancements in cost, time management, and operational processes. The fact that over half of the courses part of the PLS were now delivered online contributed to a more efficient training framework as this allowed to reach a significantly wider audience. The PLS also resulted in shorter courses for generalist and contributed to better knowledge retention and application over time. As a result, these adjustments promoted a more efficient use of WTO resources.

Impact. Thanks to the structured progressive approach of the PLS, the WTO TA has significantly enhanced participants' knowledge, skills, and confidence, equipping them to assume more senior roles and to contribute meaningfully to trade policy and multilateral negotiations. As TA courses covered by the PLS cannot be isolated from other TA initiatives, its specific contributions are difficult to measure. Despite these limitations, anecdotal evidence strongly supports the role of the PLS in improving TA beneficiaries' understanding of WTO rules, highlighting its tangible and positive impact.

Areas for improvement identified by the evaluation include:

- i. ensuring logical progression across course levels;
- ii. minimizing content redundancy;
- iii. aligning course content with foundational knowledge;
- iv. strengthening prerequisites for advanced levels;
- v. incorporating refresher modules to reinforce learning; and
- vi. promoting practical application of knowledge in participants' professional roles. Addressing these challenges, the PLS can better support the development and sustainability of long-term human and institutional capacity among TA beneficiaries.



Gonzalo Ortega Pérez
*Deputy Manager
Government Procurement Division, Costa Rica
Participant completing the PLS pathway*

“ Each level builds on and deepens the concepts covered in the lower levels, reinforcing and expanding knowledge to ensure a seamless transition from basic to advanced expertise, ultimately enhancing both understanding and practical application.



Sizwe Lenox Simelane
*Assistant Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa
Participant completing the PLS pathway*

“ Upon fully completing the WTO's learning path, my colleague has strengthened trade policy advice at the regional level, delivered in-depth training on rules of origin to the business community, conducted more detailed analysis of international trade matters, and provided guidance on safeguard measures to support businesses.

FIT-FOR-PURPOSE CONTENT

A continuous effort to offer relevant content

In the face of rapid technological advancements, global health challenges, and escalating environmental concerns, the intersection of trade with issues such as the climate emergency and public health, as well as the shift toward service-based economies and the rise of e-commerce, has become increasingly critical for Members. The Secretariat continued to enhance its TA programmes to equip developing and least-developed country Members with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate these evolving trade dynamics through targeted activities.

Several training activities focused on the link between **trade and the environment**, with a particular emphasis on sustainability issues, which have increasingly become central concerns in global trade. These efforts reflect the growing recognition that achieving sustainability goals, particularly in the context of climate change, requires global cooperation and alignment across trade policies. Whether face-to-face or online, these activities engaged over 900 participants from all regions.

Various aspects of the relationship **between trade and public health** were explored through a series of multidisciplinary workshops for both regional and global audiences. Building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, these activities provided participants with opportunities to engage with international experts on designing policies that foster innovation and ensure access to health technologies. By integrating perspectives from health, trade, and intellectual property (IP) frameworks, the workshops strengthened participants' capacity to navigate the complex interplay between global trade rules, intellectual property rights, and public health priorities. In this context, a new initiative was launched in 2024: the WIPO-WTO Executive Programme on Intellectual Property (see page 85).

The Secretariat also expanded its advanced training offer with a new course on **analysing trade in services**. Designed to respond to Members' strong interest in deepening their understanding of analytical tools, the course focused on developing national frameworks for assessing services trade policies and formulating negotiating strategies. Participants explored key databases on services trade policies, including the Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP), the Services Trade Policy Database (STPD), and the Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI). Additionally, they enhanced their knowledge of measurement methodologies for trade in services statistics.

Building on the success of its first edition in 2023, the second edition of the advanced course on services aspects of electronic commerce was held in 2024. This programme provided an in-depth exploration of the link between services and **e-Commerce**, focusing on how Members see WTO rules applying to e-Commerce. The course also discussed how digital technologies are transforming the way services are supplied and highlighted the crucial role of services in enabling, or being enabled by, digital trade.

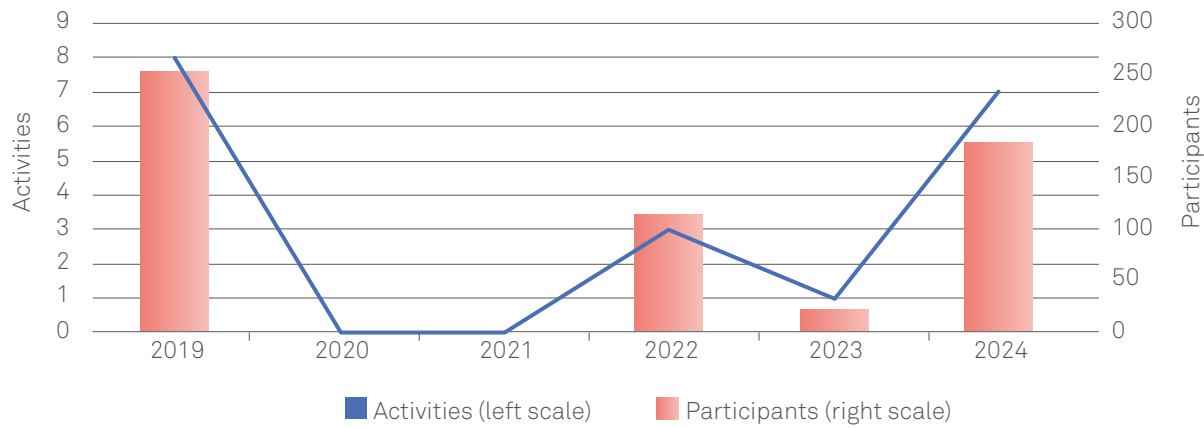
Training on **trade negotiation skills** plays a pivotal role in equipping government officials with the tools and techniques needed to participate in the work of the WTO in which Members constantly engage in negotiations on trade-related issues and defend the interests of their country [Read more: In The Spotlight | page 86]. Their practical and immersive pedagogy, characterized by real-world simulations, hands-on exercises, and scenarios, is a key factor behind their wide acceptance and resounding success among TA beneficiaries. These activities were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the difficulty of replicating their pedagogy (i.e., negotiation simulations based on continuous exchanges between groups of participants) in a virtual learning environment. After a slow resumption in 2022, they rebounded at a faster pace in 2024.



“This course enhanced my understanding of key legal provisions and introduced a comprehensive set of tools that are invaluable for quantifying qualitative information. With this knowledge, I can better understand how applied and preferential regimes operate across different countries. Grasping this will enable us to engage more strategically.

Tricia Gideon
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Belize
Participant in the Advanced Course on Analysing Trade in Services

Figure 36. Trade negotiation skills training (2019-2024)



Fofonga Ola Anisi
Trade Officer
Ministry of Trade and Economic
Development of Tonga
Participant in the National Seminar on
Trade Negotiation Skills

“The seminar was very useful in providing us with a deeper understanding of the WTO negotiation process and key negotiation issues. The simulations and exercises in groups allowed us to apply strategies, tactics, and the essential soft skills required by negotiators. A critical takeaway is the importance of thorough preparation, which will help us navigate and manage future trade negotiations more effectively.”

“The course provided valuable insights into how WTO services rules apply to e-Commerce, helping me bridge the gap between the two disciplines. I appreciated the expertise of trainers and participants in WTO negotiations, which enhanced my understanding of best practices. The knowledge gained will be highly relevant for my work, especially in advocating for the benefits of Chile’s latest bilateral trade agreements.



Romualdo Guasta Leyton
Advisor on Digital Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile
Participant in the Advanced Course on
Services Aspects of Electronic Commerce

Being the year of the **13th WTO Ministerial Conference**, several courses were organized in 2024 to take stock of the commitments made by Members during MC13. These initiatives helped participants grasp the key aspects of the negotiations, understand Members' priorities, and facilitate the implementation of adopted decisions.

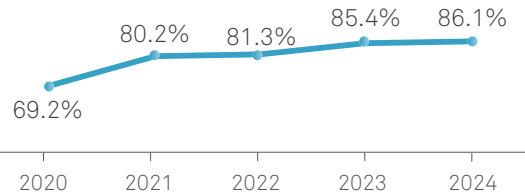
In 2024, **e-Learning** introduced 16 new asynchronous courses, bringing the total number of WTO e-Learning course to 176. Among the newly introduced courses was the "Trade in the Digital Era" series which equips participants with essential tools and concepts to enhance their understanding of digital trade. Another new course,

"Administration and Enforcement of the GPA 2012," was added to the GPA e-Learning series. It focuses on the work of the Committee on Government Procurement and on how the Agreement is enforced at both national and international levels.

The use of live sessions was further expanded, offering interactive webinars that complement self-study. These sessions provide real-time engagement with WTO experts, allowing participants to clarify doubts instantly, discuss complex topics, and engage in peer-to-peer learning. In parallel, efforts continued to refine and expand the interactivity of online courses. This elevated the share of interactive online courses to 86% of the catalogue.

The adoption of **blended learning**—integrating virtual, in-person, and e-Learning components within the same activity—continued to gain traction in 2024. Over the year, several activities followed this approach, covering a wide range of trade-related topics, including agriculture, government procurement, market access, and SPS & TBT measures. Most were designed for a global audience, and some were aimed at regional audiences.

Figure 37. e-Learning courses using an interactive format (2020-2024)



“This online platform makes learning easy by providing access to course objectives, interactive reading materials, revision questions, and a final test to reinforce what we have learned.



Kelvin Mwea
Trade Advisory Services
Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency



Patricio Murphy
Senior Economist
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina

“I have taken many WTO e-Learning courses and greatly appreciate the Live Sessions series, which complements autonomous learning. These webinars add a valuable human touch to my online learning journey!”

e-Learning
catalogue:



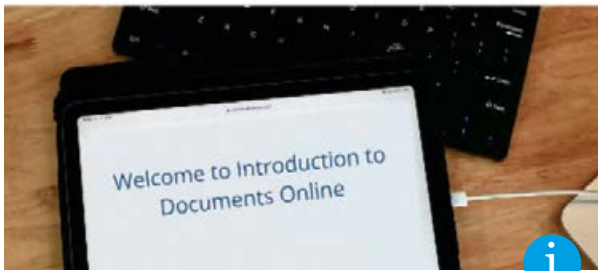
Infographic 15. Types of activities by mode of delivery

	ONLINE COURSES (E-LEARNING)	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.
	FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES	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.
	VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES	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, and live webinars and other online.
	BLENDED ACTIVITIES	A mixture of elements taken from either of the previous three categories, in variable proportions.
	ON-THE-JOB TRAINING	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.

Expanding "WTO Tools and Resources" e-Learning Series

In 2024, additional new courses and tutorials were introduced to the e-Learning platform to help users better access and utilize WTO resources, including key databases. These additions aim to help learners navigate complex trade-related information more effectively.

Among the newly available resources is the "Introduction to Documents Online" course, which provides comprehensive guidance on the official WTO document repository.



Introduction to Documents Online (DOL)

Language: English

Objectives:

You will learn about:

1. Documents Online (DOL) and ...

[Access](#)

WTO Tools and
Resources



A Participant's reflections:

Advanced Course on Trade and Environment



Bril Palmer
Principal Trade Analyst
Ministry of Trade,
Vanuatu

What are your main takeaways from the course?

My key takeaways from the course are:

- **Trade and Environmental Justice:** While trade has historically contributed to global environmental degradation, it also has the potential to drive solutions. Mechanisms such as **decarbonization and decoupling** can help align trade with environmental justice.
- **Interconnected Planetary Crises:** Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are deeply interlinked drivers of environmental degradation. In Vanuatu, climate change is the most pressing issue, often overshadowing the other crises. However, this course expanded my perspective on their interconnected nature.
- **Tailored Approaches:** "One size does not fit all." The diverse experiences shared by colleagues from different countries reinforced the importance of **context-specific strategies** in addressing environmental challenges effectively.
- **Collaboration & Co-Creation:** The course emphasized the value of **experience-sharing, collective problem-solving, and bottom-up approaches** in trade and environmental policymaking.

These insights have deepened my understanding of the intricate relationship between trade and the environment. They reaffirm that trade is not just a driver of economic growth but also a powerful tool for environmental

conservation and sustainable development. It is essential to move beyond siloed thinking and recognize the intrinsic connections between trade and environmental policies.

How did this course contribute to enhancing your knowledge and skills?

This course significantly enriched my knowledge and professional skills by:

- **Providing Practical Trade-Environment Solutions:** I gained insights into the **Trade-Related Climate Measures (TrCM)** discussed in the WTO.
- **Expanding My Global Perspective:** Engaging with participants from diverse backgrounds helped me **analyse trade and environmental challenges through different national lenses**, sharpening my critical thinking and policy analysis skills.
- **Enhancing My Understanding of TrCM in the WTO Framework:** As a trade and development specialist, balancing sustainability and economic growth is a constant challenge. This course introduced me to practical applications of TrCM and prompted deeper reflection on their feasibility in various national contexts.
- **Providing Hands-On Experience in Trade-Environment Discussions:** Participating in Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) and the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) offered a firsthand look at real-world policymaking. This exposure enhanced my understanding of how trade and environmental issues are debated, negotiated, and implemented at the WTO.

These learnings will be particularly valuable in my professional role, equipping me with practical tools and a broader analytical lens to contribute to sustainable trade policies in my country.

Empowering IP policy makers: launch of a New Executive Programme

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the WTO launched in June 2024 the inaugural WIPO-WTO Executive Programme on Intellectual Property Issues. This two-week programme convened senior officials from developing and least-developed countries to explore IP's evolving role as a strategic public policy tool. Discussions centred on three key areas: IP's role in empowering women and SMEs in the digital economy, its impact on healthcare innovation and access to medicines, and its contribution to advancing climate change technologies and promoting sustainable food systems.

Through their hands-on engagement, participants developed their capacity to shape policies that foster innovation and economic growth.

The programme's timing was particularly good as it followed immediately the adoption of WIPO's new Treaty on IP, Genetic Resources, and Traditional Knowledge in May 2024. This provided participants a unique opportunity to engage with experts from WIPO and the WTO, discussing the treaty's global and national policy implications and its potential impact on the future of IP governance.



Lali Amiranashvili
Director
National Intellectual Property Center, Georgia

“The Executive Programme provided me with an invaluable, career-advancing experience, equipping me with the expertise and global networks needed to navigate the complex and evolving fields of IP, trade, and innovation.”

In the *spotlight*

Boosting government officials' trade negotiation skills



In an organization created to provide a forum for trade negotiations, enhancing the capacities of Members and Observers to conduct trade negotiations is a must. Intensive training courses are designed to equip government officials with the required skills, strategies and tactics.

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions led to the suspension of trade negotiation skills training as the highly interactive nature of negotiation simulations could not be adequately replicated online. Following a gradual restart in 2022, these training programmes experienced a resurgence in 2024 to respond to the consistent demand and strong interest from beneficiaries.

Seven national workshops on trade negotiation skills were conducted in El Salvador, Jamaica, the Kyrgyz Republic, Oman, the Philippines, Qatar, and Tonga. In addition, a regional workshop in Grenada brought together local participants from Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. A total of 182 government officials took part in these training programmes.

"I recognize the critical role that trade negotiations play in shaping the future of our region. I am mindful that the complexities of global trade are constantly evolving, and that the imperative to engage, learn, and adapt has never been greater than now."

In Jamaica, Michelle Parkins, Chief Technical Director at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Mines, highlighted a critical capacity-building need.

"Upon rejoining this Ministry just over a year ago, I recognized two critical needs: first, the need to build capacity in trade-related areas; and second, the need to evolve beyond merely executing our operational responsibilities to include all international trade considerations and impacts."



Irvine Daniel Jr.
Coordinator
Ministry of Trade,
St. Kitts & Nevis
Participant in the
Regional Workshop in
Grenada

“The activity significantly boosted my professional confidence in engaging in trade negotiations. It also reignited my passion for trade policy, inspiring me to further my development in this field. In the immediate term, I plan to use my newfound skills to engage local stakeholders more effectively. I aim to help them better articulate their objectives and develop more informed positions in order to secure more favourable outcomes in trade negotiations.

The comprehensive curriculum covered all stages of trade negotiations—from preparation, through initial consultations, to the final agreements. Participants engaged in both theoretical and practical exercises, including simulation and case studies based on real-world data.

At the regional workshop in Grenada in December, Joseph Andall, Grenada's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Export Development, emphasized the timeliness and importance of the training for the region.

She further emphasized the importance of the TA provided by the WTO and the significance of trade negotiations skills: "Over the years, I have witnessed the importance of skilled negotiation in securing favourable trade outcomes. It is vital that we continue to sharpen our skills, particularly in a global arena with 165 WTO member states. Effective negotiations also help to resolve conflicts amicably and avoid the costly processes of dispute settlement or litigation."

CHAPTER 3

WTO PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Reinforcing 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. Partners are logically not expected to contribute a majority of the substance of the WTO TA activities, and a share of substance of 20% is generally considered as already significant.

In 2024, as TA resources became increasingly tight (see Chapter 4), the Secretariat insisted with its partners on cost-sharing arrangements in addition to their expected contribution to the substance of the joint activities. WTO partnered with 133 institutions to deliver 102 activities that reached over 4,100 beneficiaries. Overall, 66% of face-to-face and virtual activities were co-delivered with a partner, well above the 2020-22 average (57%). In the meantime, and as the figure 39 shows, the number of partners contributing in a meaningful way to the substance, the funding or

logistics of the activities increased, with a higher number of institutions contributing several of these elements for a given activity (substance, logistics or costs).

Examples of institutions with which the WTO partnered in 2024 include the Joint Vienna Institute, World Bank, World Economic Forum, World Intellectual Property Organisation and many others.

Figure 38. Number of partners and number of joint activities (2020-2024)

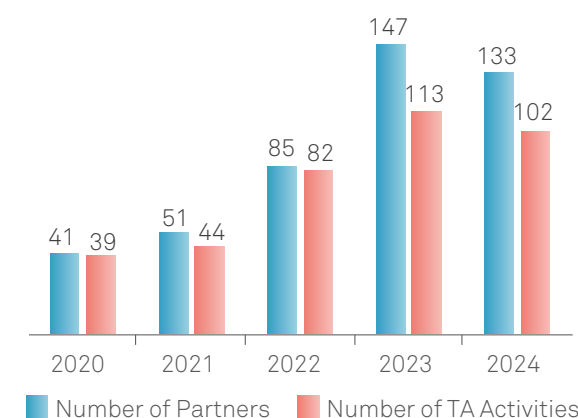


Figure 39. Partners' contribution to courses by type of contribution in 2024

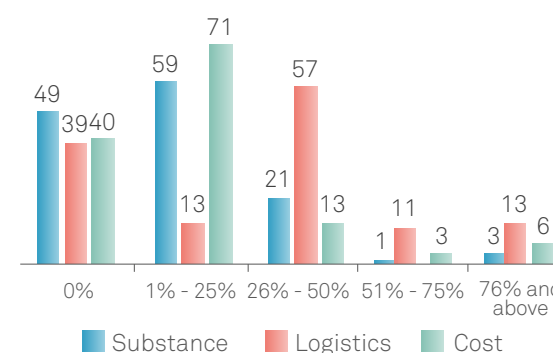
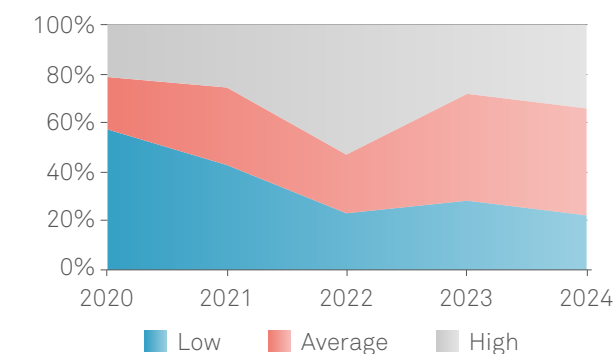


Figure 40. Evolution of Partners' contribution (2020-2024)



Complementary and multifaceted collaboration with the World Bank



An interview with Pierre Sauvé,
Senior Trade Specialist at the World Bank's
Geneva Office

The WTO and the World Bank have built extensive partnerships over the years, engaging in various collaborations in trade research, capacity building, and other trade-related initiatives. Working in synergy, the two organizations enhance each other's efforts to better support developing Members and Observers.

Pierre Sauvé has played a key role in these collaborations over the past decade. He describes **“a strong and evolving partnership, with ties that continue to deepen, especially in support of WTO accessions as well as in joint analytics on frontier issues in trade governance.”**

The World Bank actively contributes to TA activities provided by the WTO Secretariat to acceding governments. In 2024, this included joint WTO-World Bank training programmes for negotiating teams from Uzbekistan, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

Beyond these joint efforts, the Bank also works independently with WTO acceding governments that seek its support in better situating their WTO accession-related commitments into broader national development strategies. This approach enables governments to leverage the accession process as a catalyst for essential economic reforms that might not otherwise be prioritized. According to Pierre Sauvé, joint initiatives on the WTO accession

front therefore supplement an existing **“natural complementarity between the WTO accession process and economic reform policies supported at the national level by the World Bank.”**

Trade in services stands out as a key area of collaboration, building on a co-publication released in 2023 on Trade in Services for Development. The study revealed **“untapped potential for both trade and development, especially in light of the structural shift towards a growing share of services in employment, growth, and productivity and in light of the sector's contribution to inclusive and sustainable growth.”**

In response to the key challenges identified in the report, a dedicated Trade in Services for Development (TS4D) work programme was launched at the WTO Public Forum in 2024 to help developing WTO Members better leverage services trade for development. This initiative features new and enhanced analytical tools, jointly developed by the World Bank and the WTO, including steps to improve regulatory transparency and a competitiveness checklist to facilitate self-assessment of services trade performance.

The TS4D work programme encompasses a range of TA components, such as ongoing training and outreach activities designed to familiarise trade officials with the analytical tools on offer and the knowledge required

to use them effectively. Continued efforts also focus on enhancing services trade statistics and identifying best practices for trade and investment promotion in services, an area that has received inadequate attention to date.

The World Bank has played a pivotal role in developing the analytical framework for the Investment Facilitation Self-Assessment Guide, a key tool supporting the implementation of a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD). Meanwhile, the World Bank continues to work closely with the WTO in helping Members fully implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which **“remains a crucial area of focus for export expansion and trade cost reduction that continues to command significant donor support in light of the tangible results flowing from our collaboration.”**

Collaboration between the World Bank and the WTO has witnessed significant strengthening in policy research. **“Analytical work provides frameworks that inform operational commitments.”** Several joint studies

have been conducted as part of key thematic projects recently launched, such as the Digital Trade for Africa project [\[Read more: In The Spotlight | page 90\]](#).

The World Bank is also a frequent ad hoc participant in various WTO TA activities, particularly on trade in services. Every year, meetings are organized with the cohort of WTO Young Professionals to introduce them to the Bank's work on trade and development.

Beyond the joint initiatives and capacity-building activities undertaken with the WTO, **“the work carried out by the World Bank in areas where the WTO has no direct mandate to intervene can generate a range of positive externalities liable to enhance Members' capacity to participate more meaningfully in the WTO and reap the development dividends trade can help generate.”**

Trade in services for
development



In the *spotlight*



Technical Assistance at the Heart of Pioneering Initiatives on Digital Trade

A survey conducted in 2023 as part of the preparation of the WTO TA 2024–2025 plan highlighted digital trade as the top priority for TA beneficiaries in areas without multilateral agreements. In recent years, the WTO Secretariat, in

partnership with the World Bank, has launched an important initiative addressing this topical issue. The project, which saw the implementation of several activities in 2024, includes TA support.



On the sidelines of the WTO 13th Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in February 2024, the Digital Trade for Africa project was presented by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Vice Presidents Pablo Saavedra and Ousmane Diagana, and the Trade Ministers of Benin and Rwanda, Shadiya Alimatou Assouman and Jean Chrysostome Ngabitsinze.

Digital Trade for Africa: Unlocking the Development Potential of e-Commerce

In July 2023, the WTO and the World Bank presented a joint policy note to African officials titled Turning Digital Trade into a Catalyst for African Development. This note was prepared as part of the Digital Trade for Africa project, a collaborative WTO-World Bank initiative aimed at helping African countries fully harness the benefits of digital trade and enhance their development prospects. The publication underscores, among other things, the need for an adequate regulatory framework to unlock the transformative potential of digital trade in boosting economic growth, generating quality jobs, and reducing poverty across the continent. The WTO and the World Bank joined forces to support African Members in developing this enabling regulatory environment.

Pilot Needs Assessments in 2024

In 2024, the Digital Trade for Africa project entered its second phase, resulting in digital trade needs assessments conducted by the World Bank and the WTO in six of the ten¹ pilot economies that had expressed interest: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Rwanda. The assessments offered in-depth analyses of the domestic policy and regulatory frameworks for digital trade, benchmarking them against international best practices.

Strengthening Participation and Policy Dialogue

The needs assessments laid the groundwork for broader policy dialogues with government officials and other stakeholders, aimed at plugging the gaps and enhancing the participation of African Members in digital trade. In December 2024, the China Programme funded a workshop in Gaborone, Botswana, under its newly established pillar for experience sharing among LDCs. This activity brought together 12 LDC Members and Observers, the six pilot countries, to take stock of the findings of the digital trade needs assessments, explore how existing WTO rules apply to digital trade, gain insights into the WTO's ongoing initiatives and consider their next moves in this area.

Upon conclusion of the workshop, participants formulated several solutions to key identified challenges, including establishing national committees on digital trade, developing and harmonizing regulations, raising awareness through training and capacity-building initiatives, fostering public-private partnerships, and exploring participation in the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to facilitate access to digital technologies.

Looking ahead, most participants planned to share the workshop outcomes with their authorities, with some considering organizing high-level roundtables with key decision-makers, conducting national needs assessments to identify gaps, and formulating recommendations to strengthen digital trade frameworks. The project intends to continue building the pilot countries' understanding of WTO rules and ongoing discussions on digital trade issues through targeted TA efforts.



Participants at the Digital Trade workshop in Gaborone, Botswana, in December 2024 engage in group discussions, reflecting on digital trade challenges in their countries, exploring potential solutions, sharing key takeaways from the workshop, and planning their next steps.

Turning Digital Trade into
a Catalyst for African
Development.



1 Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo.

*At the presentation of the Digital Trade for Africa project,
on the sidelines of the WTO 13th Ministerial Conference,
Abu Dhabi, UAE, February 2024.*



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
WTO Director-General

“The future of trade is digital and green — and it should be inclusive. Digital trade is one of the fastest growing segments of trade in the world today. Young people and women on the African continent have shown that they are able to take advantage of these opportunities. Africa has only 1 per cent share of digitally delivered services trade, but I see it as an opportunity for the continent to grab on.



Pablo Saavedra
*World Bank's Vice President
for Equitable Growth,
Finance and Institutions
Global Practice*

“The global economy is experiencing again in 2024 probably a third year of deceleration in growth and that has implications for trade, investment etc. But the growth of digitally delivered service is a glimmer of hope, a bright light. The question is how to make this a tool for inclusive growth [in Africa]. This requires many ingredients that we need to put together for this to work.

Chapter 4

Evolution of TA management and resources



- Unearmarked voluntary contributions shrank to their lowest level ever, reaching only 25% of the targeted amount for the year.
- The Secretariat enforced stringent controls on TA expenses to preserve its limited TA resources.

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.

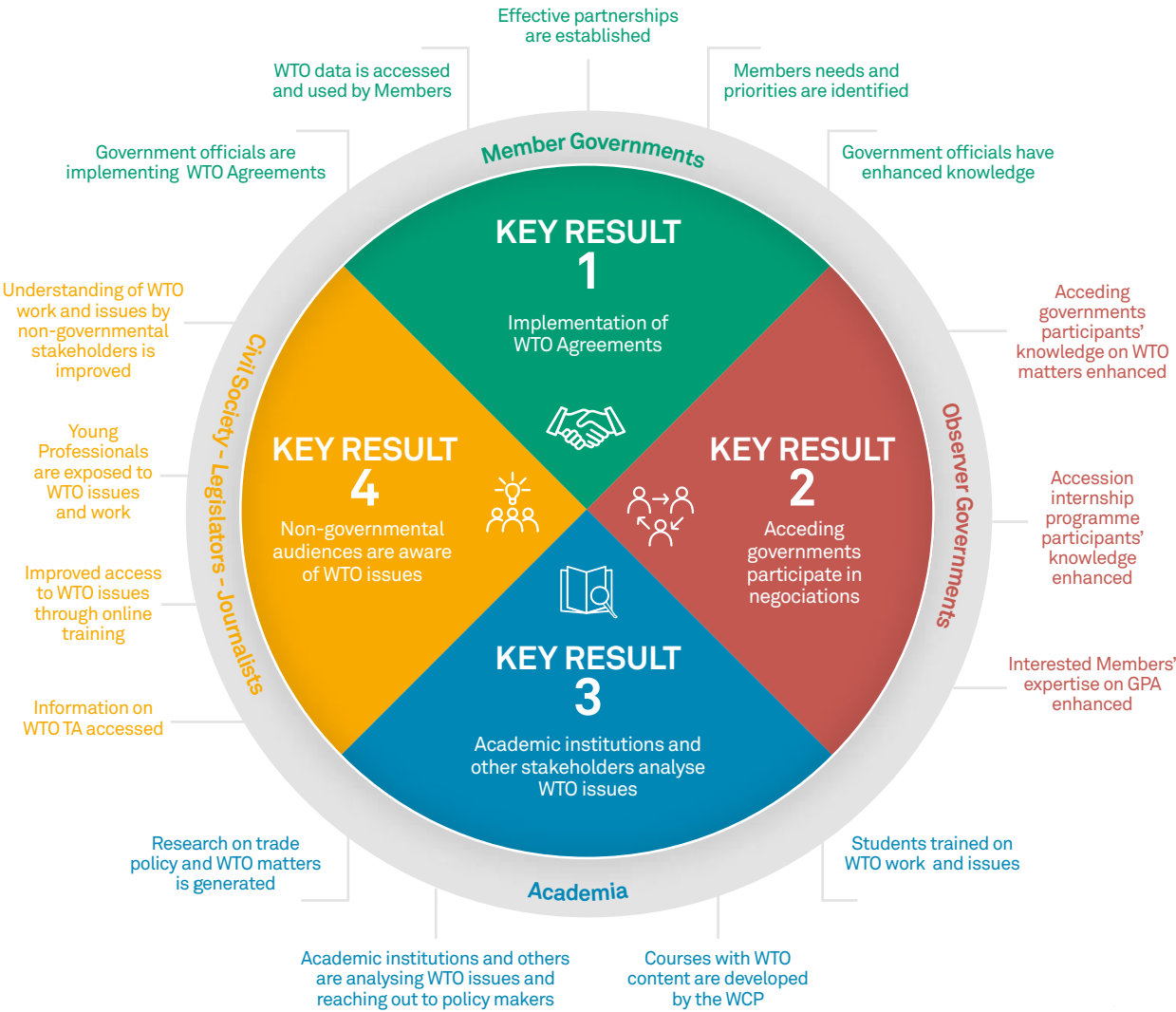
TA Monitoring & Evaluation Plan 2024 – 2025



Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2024 – 2025



Infographic 16. WTO TA Framework for impact



RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT

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 2024, the Secretariat conducted 14 different assessments: 8 onsite evaluations (3 global activities held in Geneva on customs valuation notifications, trade & Gender, and Trade & Value Added Statistics; 3 regional activities for Africa on post TPR notifications and Digital Trade, and Asia on Trade & Public Health; and 2 national activities in Albania on Agriculture notifications, and in Tonga on Trade negotiations and Agriculture); 5 country assessments of the effects and impact of TA provided to Albania, Botswana, Namibia, Thailand and Tonga; and one ex-post evaluation of the Progressive Learning Strategy (see Chapter 3). 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. With some variations, 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.

The details of the results which could be measured in 2024 based on these parameters can be found in Annex 1. These results are analysed in greater detail in Chapter 1.

TA Management System

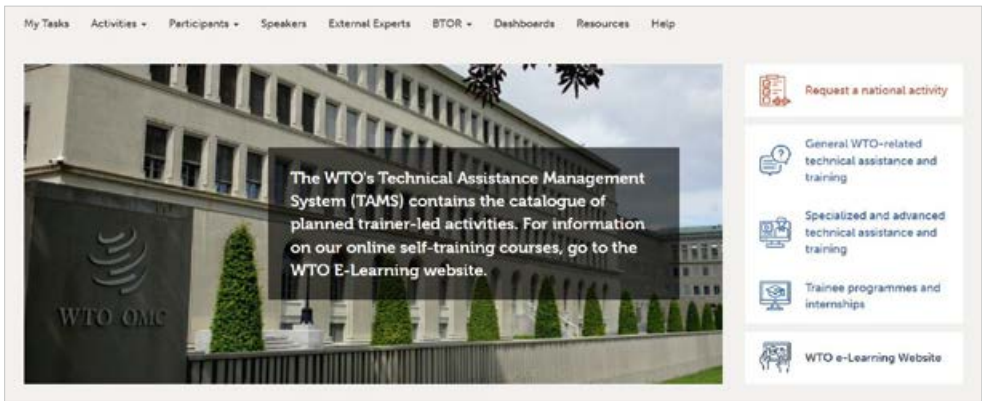
The TA Management System, or TAMS, is the online tool with which the Secretariat organises, monitors and evaluates TA activities, in compliance with the Result-based Management (RBM) approach adopted by Members. TAMS has increased the efficiency of the Secretariat by automating and accelerating certain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

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 is regularly enriched with new data and graphs. TAMS is a critical tool

to raise the level of accountability of the Secretariat on the implementation of the TA Plan.

A project to integrate TAMS and the e-Learning platform into a single TA portal centralising the WTO catalogue of TA activities, TA requests and applications, and TA data was eventually launched in 2024. The complexity of the system and its underlying processes which involve most Secretariat divisions have delayed progress so far.

TA Management System



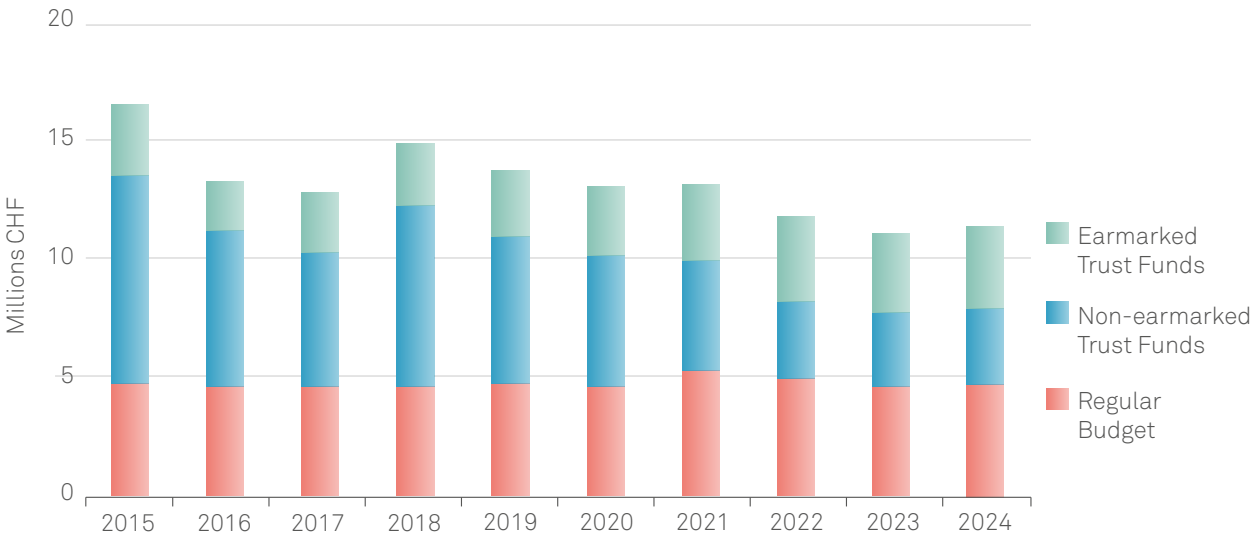
MANAGING TA RESOURCES

TA Resources: Racing to the bottom!

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](#) (see also figure 41). Whilst Members kept the Regular Budget envelope for TA constant at CHF 4.5 million since 2012, some savings in other parts of the budget allowed the Secretariat to increase a bit the share of TA expenses which it could finance. After a rapid growth during the first decade following the creation of the WTO, voluntary contributions for TA have regularly decreased since 2007.

Less than CHF 3 million of unearmarked voluntary contributions were received in 2024 from 7 donors, the lowest level for 25 years, equivalent to 13% of the contributions received during the peak years of 2006-9. Meanwhile, earmarked voluntary contributions remained constant. They now systematically exceed 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 (2015-2024)



TA Expenditure: Stringent controls

Overall, TA expenses in 2024 remained almost at the same level as in the previous year, confirming that the pandemic years were definitely over. Total TA expenses amounted to CHF 13.7 million, marginally below the 2015-19 average. The overall TA expenses 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 2024.

Ever more stringent controls on TA expenses were progressively implemented during the year to preserve as much as possible the TA cash reserves and maximise the return for TA beneficiaries. Measures taken included a reduction in the number of trainers or external speakers financed, greater pressure on TA partners to finance part of the activity costs, preference given to cheaper venues for TA activities, negotiation of more favourable hotel and transport conditions, etc. So far, the Secretariat broadly preserved the quality and volume of its TA activities but is now reaching the limit of what can reasonably be achieved. Further savings will impact TA volumes or quality, if not both.

Analysed by Key Results, [Figure 47](#) shows that the largest share of expenses went to Key Result 1, as foreseen by the TA Plan. It represented 69% of the total TA expenses in 2024, a significantly higher proportion than in 2023. Half of that amount corresponded to global activities held in Geneva, 22% to regional ones, 21% to the various long-term placement programmes and the balance to national activities (7%). 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 100% in 2024 ([see figures 44 and 45](#)).

Key Result 2 carried 3% of the TA expenses, in line with the previous year, as several accession processes remained active in 2024. Key Result 3 carried 7% of the TA expenses, as in 2023, mainly to support the WTO Chairs Programme which is financed through earmarked voluntary contributions. Key Result 4 carried 8% of the total TA expenses, as in 2023, of which 97% 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 13% of the TA expenses – a much lower proportion compared to 2023 – with staffing representing the bulk of these costs.

Figure 42. Technical Assistance Expenses (2015-2024)

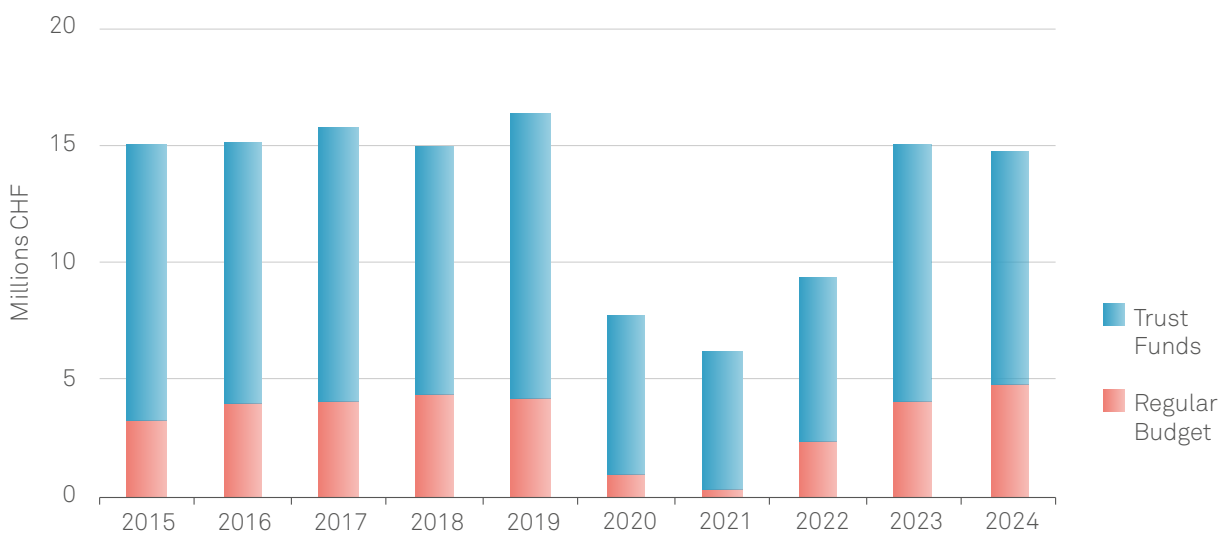


Figure 43. TA Expenses Mix (2019-2024)

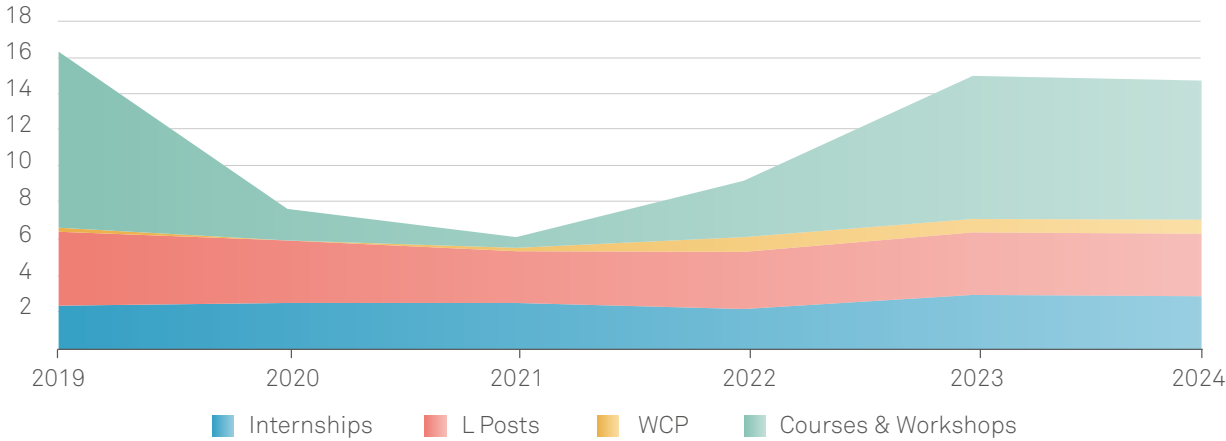


Figure 44. Unearmarked funds (2015-2024)

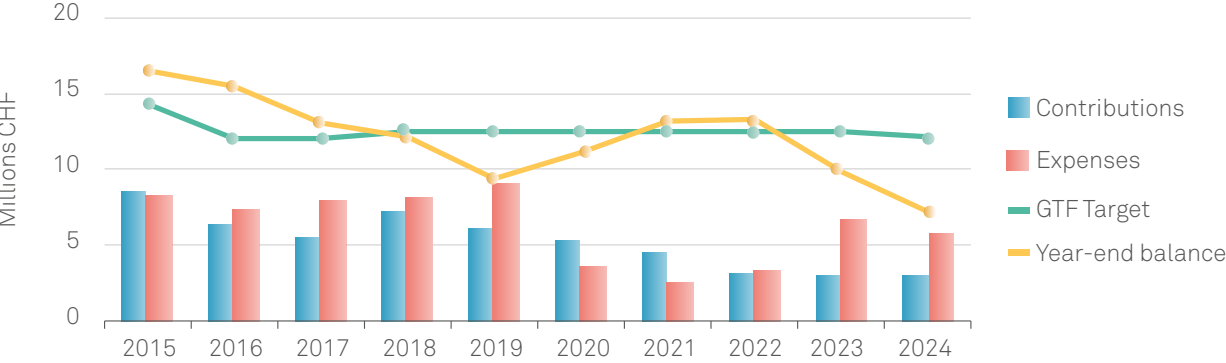


Figure 45. TA Expenses Funding (2007-2024)

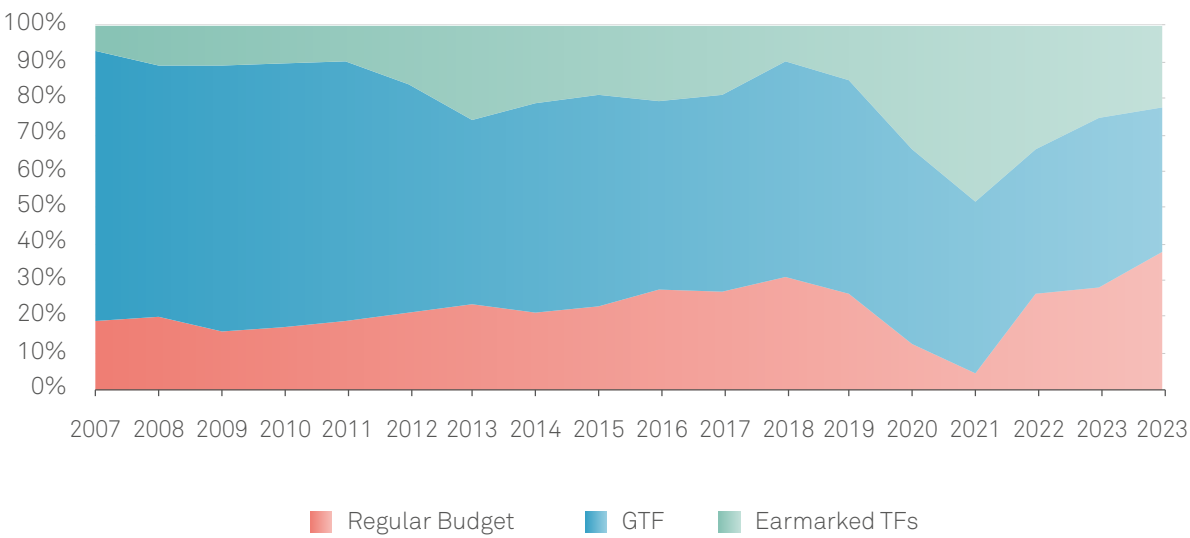


Figure 46. Activity expenses by Region (2024)
(thousands of CHF)

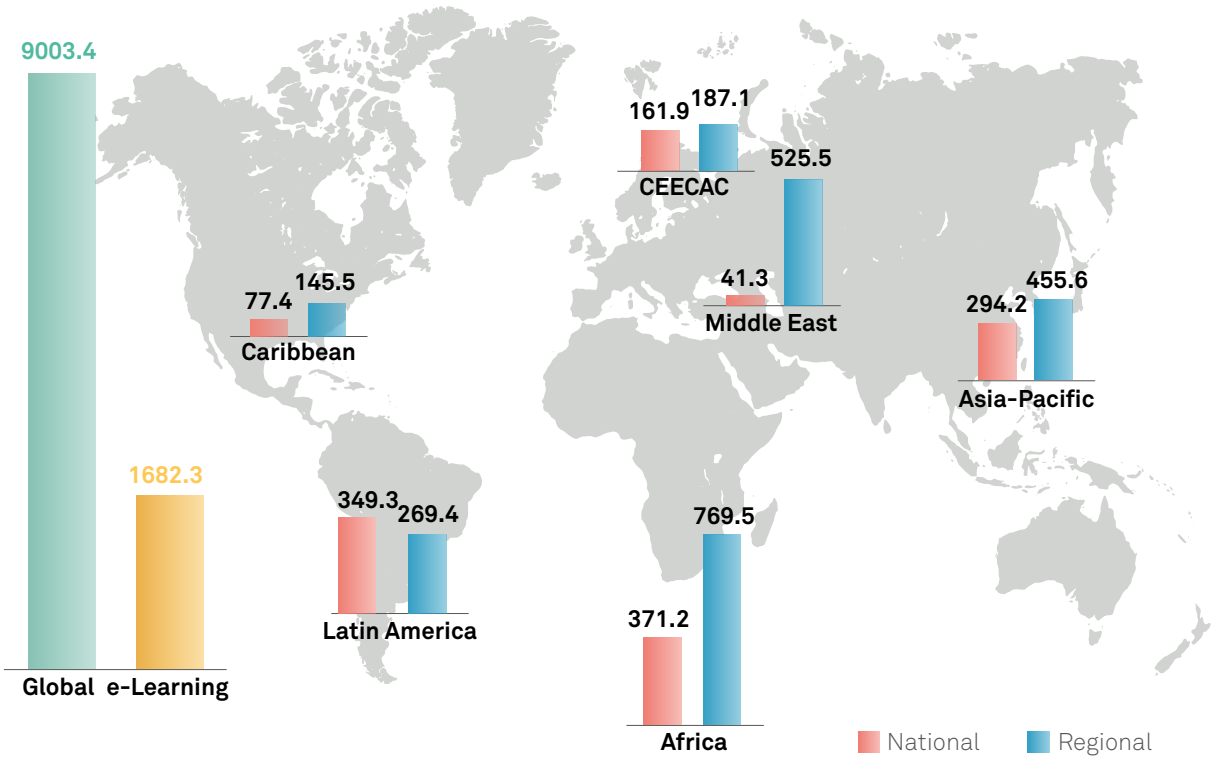
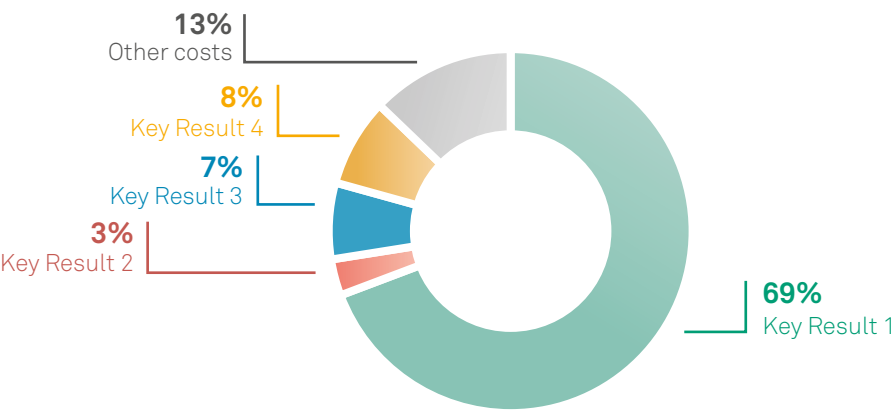


Figure 47. TA expenditure by Key Result in 2024



Annexes

ANNEX 1. MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

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

2024 Measure

2024 Assessment

Impact

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

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

2019-21 average: 41.96%

> 40%

42.3% in 2023

Target met

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

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

2019-21 average: 1.1%

> 1.00%

1.14% in 2023

Target met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2024 Measure	2024 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 2019-22: 587	Increase	1016	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 2019-22: 103	Increase	162	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	25.38	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	1,844	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	12,174	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 completing PLS level 3	Annual average 2017-19: 1,833	Increase	692	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	93	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	141	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 LDCs participating in TA courses	2017-19 average: 43	Stability	38	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%	35% lectures 65% interactive methods	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	94%	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	2022: 98.1%	Stability	100%	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	2024 average: 16%	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	2022: 28.3%	Stability	2024 average: 23.15%	Target partially met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2024 Measure	2024 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	2024 average: 89%	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 overall content and results in ATPCs with the two top marks	2017-19 average: 93%	Stability	2024 average: 97.7%	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	98%	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	183	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 advanced thematic courses using pre-diagnostics, coaching, leadership, action plans or follow-ups	2019: 5	Stability	5	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 in NTP	2019-22 average: 15	Stability	14	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 interns in FIMIP	2019-22 average: 20	Stability	18	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 interns in RCI	2017-19 average: 6	Stability	3	Target not 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 2020-22	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 7 Fully meets expectations: 10 Partly satisfactory: 1	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 NTP intern	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2020-22	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 6 Fully meets expectations: 7 Partly satisfactory: 1	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 RCI intern	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2020-22	Stability	Fully meets expectations: 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	16	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	2022: 77%	Increase	86%	Target met
1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and onduct of trade negotiations	Percentage of participants rating the quality of the online courses content with the two top marks	2020-22 average: 96%	Stability	97%	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	2020-22 average: 94%	Stability	99%	Target met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2024 Measure	2024 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	2019-22 average: 61.5%	Stability	78%	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	20%	Target 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	2020-22 average: 54%	Stability	58%	Target met
1.2: Effective partnerships established	Proportion of activities with the involvement of a partner	2020-22 average: 57%	Stability	66%	Target met
1.2: Effective partnerships established	Proportion of partners' contribution to the TA activities	2017-22 average: 47% low contributions	Decrease proportion of low contributions	23% low contributions	Target met
1.3: Members' needs and priorities identified periodically	Number of responses to TA questionnaires	2019-22 average: 82	Stability	No TA questionnaire sent in 2024	N/A
1.3: Members' needs and priorities identified periodically	Number of TPR Follow-ups	2017-19 average: 8	Stability	1	Target not met
1.4: WTO data and databases accessed by Members	Visits by Members' logging in to the WTO website	2020-2022 average: 87,866	Increase	135,635	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	56	Target partially met
Key Result 2 – Outcome					
2: Acceding governments/separate customs territories 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: 6 Informal meetings: 3	Target met
Key Result 2 – Output					
2.1: Acceding governments/separate customs territories participants' knowledge on WTO substantive and procedural matters enhanced	Number of participants from observer governments/separate customs territories attending TA activities focused on accessions	2017-19 average: 1,179	Stability	Face to face and Virtual: 448 e-Learning: 35	Target not met
2.2: Accession Internship programme participants' knowledge enhanced	Final evaluation rate of each AIP intern by supervisor	100% at least fully satisfactory	Stability	5 fully satisfactory	Target 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	7	Target 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	6.2	Target 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	1.8	Target met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2024 Measure	2024 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	2018-19 average Semantic similarity: 0.60 Normalised entropy: 0.92	Stability	Semantic similarity: 0.63 (negative evolution) Normalised entropy: 0.93 (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	Phase III Chair average 2020-22: 171 Rolling Programme New Chair: To be collected	Phase III Chairs: Increase New Chairs: To be determined	Phase III Chairs: 432 publications in total Increase: 15 Chairs Stable: 0 Chair Decrease: 0 Chair	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	Phase III Chairs: Individual baselines established based on past outputs Rolling Programme New Chair: To be collected	Positive evaluation	Phase III Chairs evolution: Positive: 24 assessments Stable: 3 assessments Negative: 2 assessments	Target met
3.2: Courses with WTO content developed by the WCP Chairs	Number of students completing a WTO-related courses	Phase III Chairs: 2020-22 average: 2,490 Rolling Programme New Chair to be elected: To be collected	Phase III Chairs: Increase New Chairs: To be determined	Phase III Chairs: 6970 students in total Increase: 13 Chairs Stable: 1 Chair Decrease: 1 Chair	Target met
3.2: Courses with WTO content developed by the WCP Chairs	Number of new or updated WTO-related courses	Phase III Chairs: Average 2020-22: 28 Rolling Programme New Chair: To be collected	Phase III Chairs: Increase New Chairs: To be determined	Phase III Chairs: 134 courses in total Increase: 11 Chairs Stable: 1 Chair Decrease: 3 Chairs	Target partially met
3.3: WTO Chairs' research disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders	Number of outreach events per year	Phase III Chairs: Average 2020-22: 86 Rolling Programme New Chair: To be collected	Phase III Chairs: Increase New Chairs: To be determined	Phase III Chairs: 226 events in total Increase: 12 Chairs Stable: 2 Chairs Decrease 1 Chair	Target met
3.3: WTO Chairs' research disseminated to policy makers and other stakeholders	Advice provided to governmental policy makers and other stakeholders	Phase III Chairs: Average 2022-22: 109 Rolling Programme New Chair: To be collected	Phase III Chairs: Increase New Chairs: To be determined	Phase III Chairs: 349 advices in total Increase: 8 Chairs Stable: 3 Chairs Decrease: 4 Chairs	Target partially met
3.4: Students trained on WTO work and issues	Number of students participating in competitions supported by the WTO	2022: 344	Stability	328	Target partially 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	2 students graduating with a PhD	Target partially met

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

ANNEX 1 – MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2024

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	2024 Measure	2024 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	In 2017: 26 WTO related topics covered	Stability	37	Target met
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 activities	Stability	2	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: 0 Journalists: 28 Civil society: 0	Target not met
4.2: Improved access to WTO issues through eLearning training material for self-study	Number of training material consulted	2020-22 average: 3,718	Increase	9,011	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	2020-22 average: 327,668	Increase	Page views: 897,909 News items viewed: 377,231	Target met
4.4: Young professionals are exposed to WTO work and issues	Number of Young Professionals selected annually by the WTO	2020-22 average: 13	Increase	20	Target met
4.4: Young professionals are exposed to WTO work and issues	Final evaluation rate of each young professional's performance by their supervisor	100% at least fully satisfactory in 2020-22	Stability	20 fully satisfactory	Target met
4.5: China General Internship Programme Participants' knowledge enhanced	Final evaluation rate of each China GIP intern by supervisor	100% fully satisfactory	Stability	Exceeded expectations: 1 Fully satisfactory: 3 Partially satisfactory: 1	Target partially 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		GTF¹		Other TFs²		Total		
					Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget Fund 2024	Expenses Fund 2024	Budget Funds 2024	Expenses Funds 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	
Introduction	Generalist	E/F/S	Geneva-based courses for LDCs - introduction and focus activities - Geneva weeks	Global	462	498	-	-	-	-	462	498	
Advanced	Generalist	E/F/S	Applied Advanced Trade Policy Courses (Geneva)	Global	1,382	1,359	-	-	-	-	1,382	1,359	
Intermediate	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	-	-	3,080	1,141	-	-	3,080	1,141	
Advanced	Specialist	E/F/S	Geneva-based Advanced Thematic Courses and topic specific symposia for Capital-based officials	Global	1,740	1,942	700	404	-	-	2,440	2,346	
Advanced	Specialist	E/F/S	Advisory role on legal issues (Art. 27.2 of DSU)	Global	60	26	-	-	-	-	60	26	
Intermediate Advanced	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	National activities, including assistance for needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation missions	All regions	690	600	-	22	-	-	690	622	
Intermediate	Generalist	E/F/S	Regional workshops	All regions	-	41	3,000	890	-	-	3,000	931	
		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	122	95	122	
Advanced	Generalist	E/F/S	Internships in the framework of the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP)	Global	-	-	-	-	774	733	774	733	
Advanced	Generalist	E/F/S	Regional Coordinator Internships Programme (RCI)	Global	-	-	210	103	-	-	210	103	
Advanced	Generalist	E/F/S	French-Irish Missions Internship Programme (FIMIP)	Global	-	-	-	-	1,061	965	1,061	965	
Introduction	Generalist	E/F/S	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: WTO General Internship Programme (GIP)	Global	-	-	-	-	-	104	-	104	
Introduction	Generalist	E/F/S	Online courses: introduction level	Capital-based officials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Intermediate	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	Online courses: intermediate level (Generalists and Specialists)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Generalist / Specialist	English	Online course: tailored course - Create your own eLearning Courses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			Sub-total		4,334	4,467	6,990	2,560	1,930	1,924	13,254	8,951	
			Overheads @13%		-		909	333	251	250	1,160	583	
			Total		4,334	4,467	7,899	2,893	2,181	2,174	14,414	9,534	

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

Level	Path	Language(s)	Title	Target region	Regular Budget		GTF ¹		Other TFs ²		Total	
					Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024
Intermediate Advanced	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	National Seminars on Accessions	All regions	50	97	-	-	-	-	50	97
Intermediate Advanced	Generalist / Specialist	E/F/S	Other activities on Accessions	All regions	-	83	300		-		300	83
		E	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: WTO Accession Round Table meetings	Global	-	-	-	-	230	91	230	91
Introduction	Generalist	E/F/S	China's LDCs and Accessions Programme: WTO Accessions Internship Programme (AIP)	Global	-	-	-	-	100	112	100	112
Intermediate	Generalist	E/F/S	Online course: Accession to the WTO	Global	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total					50	180	300	-	330	203	680	383
Overheads @13%					-		39	-	43	26	82	26
Total					50	180	339	-	373	229	762	410

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 ¹		Other TFs ²		Total	
					Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024
	Generalist	E/F/S	WTO Chairs Programme - Phase III	All regions	-	-	-	-	1,300	710	1,300	710
	Generalist	E/F/S	WTO Chairs Programme - Phase IV	All regions	-	-	-	-	265	-	265	-
		E/F/S	WTO support programme for doctoral students	Global	-	-	65	48	-	-	65	48
		E/F/S	Support to Moot Court Competition; WIPO-WTO Colloquium for Teachers of IP law; donation of WTO publications to Academic institutions	All regions	25	32	80	39	-	-	105	71
Sub-total					25	32	145	87	1,565	710	1,735	829
Overheads @13%					-	-	19	11	203	92	222	104
Total					25	32	164	98	1,768	802	1,957	933

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 ¹		Other TFs ²		Total	
					Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024
		E/F/S	National outreach activities		15	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
		E/F/S	Other outreach activities for legislators, journalists, civil society and businesses	All regions	-	32	610	-	-	-	610	32
	Specialist	E/F/S	WTO Young Professionals' programme (YPP)	Global	-	-	996	927	-	-	996	927
		E/F/S	Online training material for self-study	All regions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total					15	32	1,606	927	-	-	1,621	959
Overheads @13%					-	-	209	121	-	-	209	121
Total					15	32	1,815	1,048	-	-	1,830	1,079

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

Other Costs	Title	Target Region	Regular Budget		GTF ¹		Other TFs ²		Total		
			Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget Fund 2024	Expenses Fund 2024	Budget Funds 2024	Expenses Funds 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	
	L-Posts		-	-	1,700	1,515	-	-	1,700	1,515	
	Implementation of RBM and development of eLearning courses		125	46	-	-	-	-	125	46	
	Sub-total		125	46	1,700	1,515	-	-	1,825	1,561	
	Overheads @13%		-	-	221	197	-	-	221	197	
	Total		125	46	1,921	1,712	-	-	2,046	1,757	

Summary Grand Total – (thousands CHF)

Summary Grand Total	Title	Target Region	Regular Budget		GTF ¹		Other TFs ²		Total		
			Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	Budget Fund 2024	Expenses Fund 2024	Budget Funds 2024	Expenses Funds 2024	Budget 2024	Expenses 2024	
	Sub-total		4,549	4,757	10,741	5,089	3,825	2,837	19,115	12,683	
	Overheads @13%		-	-	1,396	662	497	369	1,894	1,030	
	Total		4,549	4,757	12,137	5,751	4,322	3,206	21,009	13,713	

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 Programme (FIMiP), Netherlands Talent Programme (NTP) and China LDCs & Accessions 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

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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.

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