#### Trade Policy Review Mechanism - Paragraph C (Practice)

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he Trade Policy Review Body (referred to herein as the "TPRB") is hereby ned to carry out trade policy reviews.

ne trade policies and practices of all Members shall be subject to periodic review. Pact of individual Members on the functioning of the multilateral trading system, in terms of their share of world trade in a recent representative period, will be the ning factor in deciding on the frequency of reviews. The first four trading entities ified (counting the European Communities as one) shall be subject to review every irs. The next 16 shall be reviewed every four years. Other Members shall be devery six years, except that a longer period may be fixed for least-developed Members. It is understood that the review of entities having a common external evering more than one Member shall cover all components of policy affecting trade grelevant policies and practices of the individual Members. Exceptionally, in the f changes in a Member's trade policies or practices that may have a significant on its trading partners, the Member concerned may be requested by the TPRB, insultation, to bring forward its next review.

iscussions in the meetings of the TPRB shall be governed by the objectives set paragraph A. The focus of these discussions shall be on the Member's trade and practices, which are the subject of the assessment under the review ism.

(iv) The TPRB shall establish a basic plan for the conduct of the reviews. It may also discuss and take note of update reports from Members. The TPRB shall establish a

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## **ANNEX 2**

# **Proposed Format of Written Questions for Reference**

By the end of 2019, the TPRB has conducted 501 reviews since its inception in 1989, at 389 review meetings. The reviews have covered 157 out of 164 Members. The TPRB has conducted reviews of 16 Members in 2019, including a joint review of the members of the East Africa Community (EAC) (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania y Uganda).

ANNEX 3

Trade policy reviews conducted in 2019

Member	Meeting date	Review cycle (years)
Ecuador <sup>a</sup> (3)	5 and 7 March	7
East African Community (EAC) – Burundi <sup>b</sup> (3), Kenya (5), Rwanda <sup>b</sup> (3), Tanzania <sup>b</sup> (4), and Uganda <sup>b</sup> (5)	20 and 22 March	7
Bangladesh <sup>a,b</sup> (5)	3 and 5 April	7
	10 and 12 April	7
Papua New Guinea (3)	8 and 10 May	7
Trinidad and Tobago <sup>a</sup> (4)	22 and 24 May	7

Canada<sup>a</sup> (110.52 497.4 0.481 ID 64 >>6.92 re f 531 531d 24 M37 0 Td [(()t848.16 D 40 >.4 (@

- This new arrangement will be phased in starting from 2019. 15 This is the first amendment to the TPRM since it was established in 1989 under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and made permanent under the WTO as part of the 1994 Uruguay Round agreements. 16
- 8. Paragraph 3 of the TPRB Rules of Procedure provides as follows:

"The cycle of reviews provided for in Paragraph C (ii) of the Agreement on the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) shall be applied with a general flexibility of up to six months, if and as may be necessary. Schedules of subsequent reviews shall be established counting from the date of the previous review meeting. Members should adhere strictly to the timetables for the preparation of reviews, once agreed."17

In the context of the Sixth Appraisal, Members noted that "notwithstanding the revised review cycles (Conclusion (1) below), the general flexibility of up to six months provided for in the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the TPRB3 would remain unchanged."18

#### 1.3.2 "[R]eview of entities having a common external policy"

- A Note by the Chairperson dated 13 December 1995 stated that "individual reviews must remain the basis of the TPRM. At this stage there is no support for reviews of regional entities other than the EU."19 However, the 1999 TPRB Report on the First Appraisal of the TPRM suggested that "Efforts to maximize efficiency might include: (i) a more considered use of grouped reviews ..."20 In addition, the 2005 Report on the Second Appraisal of the TPRM welcomed "the use of grouped reviews as an instrument to make a more efficient use of resources and generate greater interest in the reviews of smaller Members" and encouraged "the identification of further opportunities for reviews of geographically or economically close trading partners, while taking due account of their rights and obligations as individual WTO Members."21
- In the Third Appraisal, it was decided to group the reviews of several Members into one TPRB meeting where such a grouping is justified by, for example, the Members' participation in a regional trade or economic agreement and those Members agreeing to being grouped. In the Fourth Appraisal, it was noted that progress had been made in grouping reviews of some countries into one meeting, while maintaining the individuality and completeness of their TPR reports by the Secretariat.<sup>22</sup> As a result, the Secretariat continues to group the reviews of Members into one TPRB meeting where Members agree to be grouped and such a grouping is justified by, for example, the Members' participation in a regional trade or economic agreement.<sup>23</sup>
- In addition, the TPRB has conducted group reviews of the WTO Members of (i) the South African Customs Union ("SACU"), (ii) the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States ("OECS"), (iii) the East African Community (EAC), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and (iv) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) WAEMU. In these cases, the Secretarizant opuriority activation (civ) was activated in (civ) was activated in

Since 1995, the TPRB has conducted reviews of the European Union and its member States.

# 1.3.3 Reviews of least-developed country Members

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### 1.4.3 Reports by the Secretariat

17. The TPRB's Rules of Procedure prescribe that "Secretariat reports should focus principally on the trade policies and practices of the Member under review, seen, to the extent necessary, in the context of overall macro-economic and structural policies." On this subject, the TPRB's 2008 report on its Third Appraisal:

"Secretariat reports should remain closely focused on the trade policies and practices of the Member under review, considered against the background of its wider economic environment. The Secretariat should also continue to prepare comprehensive and focused reports that through objective, analytical presentations assist the TPRB to arrive at a collective, fully informed eval (e)2 (v)11.4 (a)7Mt a ce47tetves47tetefae3u Tc 11 T (")fl.ov4.3 (d)2.Tv

through the WTO website, should reflect any revisions made after the distribution of the meeting documents."  $^{\rm 32}$ 

## 1.5 Follow-up work

21. In the F