

1	ARTICLE XII OF THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION	1
1.1	Text of Article XII	1
1.2	Article XII:1	1
1.2.1	"Any State or separate customs territory ... may accede to this Agreement"	1
1.2.2	Working parties on accession..... -0 0 11... 1	

2. In addition, Grenada ¹, Papua New Guinea ², Qatar ³, St. Kitts and Nevis ⁴ and the United Arab Emirates ⁵ completed accession in 1995 -96 under Article XII of the WTO Agreement through simplified procedures. ⁶

1.2.2 Working parties on accession

Herzegovina ¹⁶, Comoros ¹⁷, Curaçao ¹⁸, Equatorial Guinea ¹⁹, Ethiopia ²⁰, Iran ²¹, Iraq ²², Lebanese Republic ²³, Libya ²⁴, Sao Tome and Principe ²⁵, Serbia ²⁶, Somalia ²⁷, South Sudan ²⁸, Syrian Arab Republic ²⁹, Timor -Leste ³⁰, and Turkmenistan. ³¹

1.2.3 Observer status for applicants for accession

10. At its first meeting on 31 January 1995, the General Council decided to grant observer status to governments for which accession processes had already begun ³², as was the practice under the GATT 1947. ³³

11. Governments may seek observer status in the General Council and its subsidiary bodies before they make an application to accede. The status is granted for five years and observer governments are expected to take a decision on requesting accession within that period of time. It is possible to request an extension of the observer status. ³⁴

1.2.4 Accession by least -developed countries

12. At the High -Level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries, 10-12 October 2007, the High Level Meeting adopted the Integrated Initiatives for Least-Developed Countries (IILDC) Decision, which provides for the accession of least-developed countries to the WTO. ³⁵

1.3 Article XII:2

1.3.1 Decision -making procedures on accession

15. Regarding decision -making procedures applicable to requests for accessions to the WTO, see the document on Article IX of the WTO Agreement (Practice).

1.4 Article XII:3: Acceptance of or accession to a Plurilateral Trade Agreement

16. Article XXIV of the Agreement on Government Procurement provides for accession " on terms to be agreed between that government and the Parties". Article 9.1 of the Agreement on Civil Aircraft addresses accession.

17. The International Bovine Meat Agreement and the International Dairy Agreement were