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## **1 ARTICLE V OF THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

### **1.1 Text of Article V**

#### **Article V**

##### *Relations with Other Organizations*

1. The General Council shall make appropriate arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations that have responsibilities related to those of the WTO.
2. The General Council may make appropriate arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental organizations concerned with matters related to those of the WTO.

### **1.2 Article V:1**

#### **1.2.1 "Shall make appropriate arrangements for effective cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations"**

1. As of 30 June 2022, the General Council has made arrangements for effective cooperation with: the United Nations<sup>1</sup>, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)<sup>2</sup>, the International Telecommunication Union<sup>3</sup>, the World Organization on Animal Health (OIE)<sup>4</sup>, the World Bank<sup>5</sup>, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.<sup>6</sup>

#### **1.2.2 Observer status**

2. The General Council has allowed some intergovernmental organizations to observe its meetings.<sup>7</sup> In 1995 and 1996, the General Council accorded *ad hoc* observer status to seven international intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), IMF, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the Organisation for

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<sup>1</sup> [WT/GC/W/10](#).

<sup>2</sup> [WT/L/195](#).

<sup>3</sup> [S/C/11](#).

<sup>4</sup> [WT/L/272](#).

<sup>5</sup> [WT/L/195](#).

<sup>6</sup> [IP/C/6](#).

<sup>7</sup> See "

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>8</sup> Subsequently, the IMF and the World Bank were granted permanent observer status in General Council meetings by the terms of their respective cooperation agreements.<sup>9</sup> In its meetings of 7 February 1997, the General Council granted permanent observer status to the United Nations, UNCTAD, FAO, WIPO, and the OECD.<sup>10</sup> In the General Council meeting of 10 December 1997, the International Trade Centre (ITC), as a joint technical cooperation agency between the WTO and UNCTAD, was "invited, as appropriate, to attend meetings of those WTO bodies it wished to attend without having to submit a request for observer status".<sup>11</sup>

3. To date, no other intergovernmental organizations have been granted permanent observer status in General Council meetings pursuant to the guidelines for "Observer Status for International Intergovernmental Organizations in the WTO" set out in Annex 3 to the "Rules of Procedure for Sessions of the Ministerial Conference and Meetings of the General Council."<sup>12</sup>

4. Intergovernmental organizations were accorded observer status at various Ministerial