



USER GUIDE TO WTO ACCESSION JARGON*

The purpose of this document is to serve as an informal user guide to WTO accession jargon. The order of terms follows largely the sequence of practices, procedural steps and events typical in most WTO accessions.

*This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

Chairperson of the Accession Working Party

Chairpersons are designated by the Chairperson of the General Council, . Consultations on the selection of a Working Party Chairperson normally begin as soon as all documents necessary for holding the first Working Party meeting are in circulation, specifically, the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime ("MFTR"), accompanying legislation, and the replies to Members' questions on the MFTR. The Working Party Chairperson is designated by the Chairperson of the General Council, in consultation with Members and the acceding government. The long-standing practice is for the Secretariat to assist the General Council Chairperson in his/her consultations. The Chairperson is normally an Ambassador/Permanent Representative, or a Deputy Permanent Representative, resident in Geneva. The Chairmanship is confirmed when an announcement is made at the General Council under "Other business". Although acceding governments are consulted during the process, the designation of a Working Party Chairperson is a decision by WTO Members.

For "Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" of 31 January 1995, see WT/L/31.

Formats of accession meetings

Accession negotiations are advanced through variable formats and types of meetings and consultations, i.e. bilateral, Plurilateral, informal and formal:

Bilateral market access negotiations are conducted between the acceding governments and interested Members.

At Plurilateral meetings, a specific issue is reviewed by a group of interested Members and the acceding government. For example, Plurilateral meetings on agriculture have been convened, as part of most completed and on-going accession processes to date. Plurilateral meetings are not open to other acceding government representatives. These meetings are typically chaired by the Director of the Accessions Division.

Informal meetings provide a platform to exchange views or information, with no official record. This meeting format is not open to other acceding government representatives. These meetings are typically chaired by the Chairperson of the accession Working Party.

Formal meetings of accession Working Parties follow an established agenda: (i) review of the state of play in the bilateral market access

Factual Summary of Points Raised
("Factual Summary")

As the examination of the foreign trade regime advances (and as follow-up to the review of the MFTR and the initial cycles of Questions and Replies), the Working Party mandates the Secretariat to prepare a Factual Summary of Points Raised, an informal document (JOB-series), which distils the written exchanges contained in the "questions and replies" and other relevant supporting documents. The Factual Summary eventually evolves into the Report of the Working Party which spells out the agreed specific commitments that the acceding government would undertake as a WTO Member. S

TBT Checklist (WT/ACC/22/Add.2 or any future revisions thereof)	Template. Checklist of Illustrative TBT Issues for Consideration in Accessions based on TBT Accession Negotiating Input Template.
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Bound rates (tariff binding)	Commitment not to increase a rate of duty beyond an agreed level. Once a rate of duty is bound, it may not be raised without compensating the affected parties.
Harmonized System	<p>The system of code numbers for identifying products by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The codes are standard up to 6 digits. Beyond that, countries can introduce national distinctions for tariffs and many other purposes.</p> <p>Under the system, the broadest categories of products are identified by 2-digit "chapters" (e.g. 04 is dairy products, eggs and other edible animal products). These are then subdivided by adding more digits. The higher the number of digits, the more detailed the categories. For example, the 4-digit code or "heading" 0403 is a group of products derived</p>

<p>4 Modes of supply</p>	<p>The GATS defines 4 ways ("modes") of delivering or trading a service:</p> <p><u>Mode 1</u> is where services are supplied from one country to another (e.g. international phone calls), officially known as "cross-border supply";</p> <p><u>Mode 2</u> is where consumers make use of a service in another country (e.g. tourism), officially known as "consumption abroad";</p> <p><u>Mode 3</u> is where a company sets itself up abroad (e.g. banks operating in overseas countries), officially known as "commercial presence"; and</p> <p><u>Mode 4</u> is where individuals travel abroad to provide services in another country (e.g. fashion models), officially known as "movement of natural persons".</p>
<p>Horizontal commitment</p>	<p>A horizontal commitment applies to trade in services in all scheduled services sectors, unless otherwise specified. It is in effect a binding, either of a measure, which constitutes a limitation on market access or national treatment, or of a situation in which there are no such limitations. Where measures constituting limitations are referred to, the commitment should describe the measure concisely, indicating the elements which make it inconsistent with Articles XVI (market access) or XVII (national treatment) of the GATS. For more information, see S/L/92.</p>
<p>Sector-specific commitment</p>	<p>A sector specific commitment applies to trade in services in a particular sector. If in the context of such a commitment, a measure is maintained which is contrary to Articles XVI or XVII of the GATS, it must be entered as a limitation in the appropriate column (either market 6(TS)7(77 426.65 292</p>

<p>Approval of terms of accession</p>	<p>In accordance with WTO practice, the Ministerial Conference/General Council adopts reports of accession Working Parties, including the entire accession packages, by consensus.</p>
<p>"Full Powers"</p>	<p>"Full Powers" would be required for the acceding government representative signing the Protocol of Accession, if the designated signatory is neither the President, nor the Prime Minister, nor the Foreign Minister. The "Full Powers" should authorize the signatory to sign the Protocol on behalf of the acceding government, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Protocol. The "Full Powers" shall be submitted to the Legal Affairs Division of the WTO Secretariat, copying the Accessions Division, well in advance of the signing ceremony. The "Full Powers" should be in one of the three WTO working languages (English, French and Spanish). If the "Full Powers" is produced in a non-WTO working language, it shall be accompanied by a courtesy translation in one of the three WTO working languages to accelerate the review of the "Full Powers" by the WTO depositary.</p>

Final Accession Package

The final accession package consists of (i) a Ministerial Conference/General Council Decision; (ii) the Accession

Services Schedule	Upon ratification of the Protocol of Accession, the Schedule reproduced in the Annex becomes the Schedule of Specific Commitments annexed to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).
Accession Commitments Database (ACDB)	This database covers all accession commitments and related information provided in the Accession Working Party Reports and Accession Protocols of the Members that have acceded to the WTO, pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement. http://acdb.wto.org/
Notification of Acceptance and Entry Into Force of the Protocol of Accession	The acceding government becomes a Member 30 days after notifying the WTO of the domestic acceptance (ratification) of its Protocol of Accession ("terms of accession"). A "Notification of Acceptance and Entry Into Force" of the Protocol of Accession is issued in the WT/LET-series.