

Third Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Africa

AFRICAN ACCESSIONS STATE OF PLAY

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International
Trade
Centre



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Africa



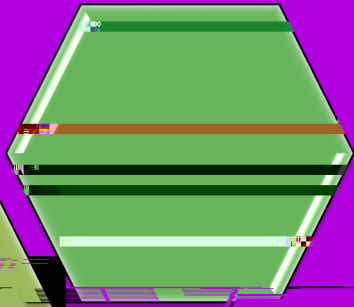
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AND DEVELOPMENT



African Union

Outline

- Why join the WTO?
- Accession results to date
- State of play in African accessions
 - Multilateral track on rules
 - Bilateral track on market access
- Secretariat Support to Acceding Governments



WTO Accessions results to date

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$\frac{3}{4}$ 36 accessions, including from 9 LDCs, have been concluded between 1996 and 2016

- Last Members joined in July 2016, i.e. Afghanistan and Liberia
- Article XII Members account for over 20% of WTO membership
- Additional 18% of world trade covered by WTO rules - today, 98.1% world trade conducted under WTO

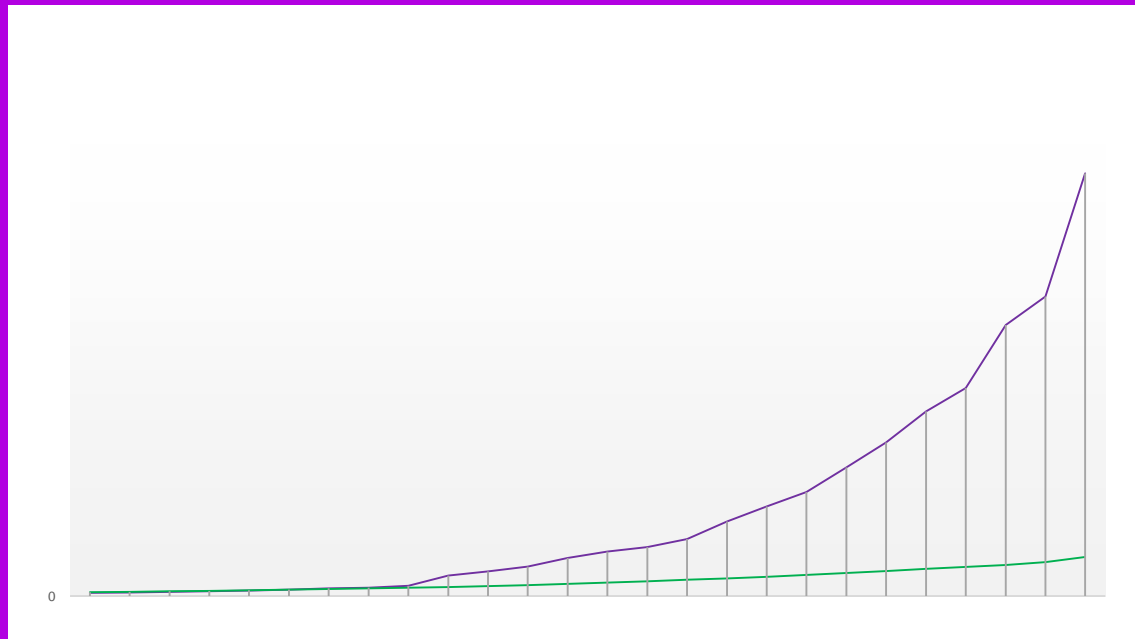
$\frac{3}{4}$ Average length of accession 10 years and 2 months (but 12 years and 2 months for LDCs)

- Shortest 2 years and 8 months (Kyrgyz Republic, 1998)
- Longest 19 years and 9 months (Kazakhstan and Seychelles, 2015)

$\frac{3}{3}$ African Accessions concluded to date:

- Cabo Verde* (joined in July 2008) 8 years

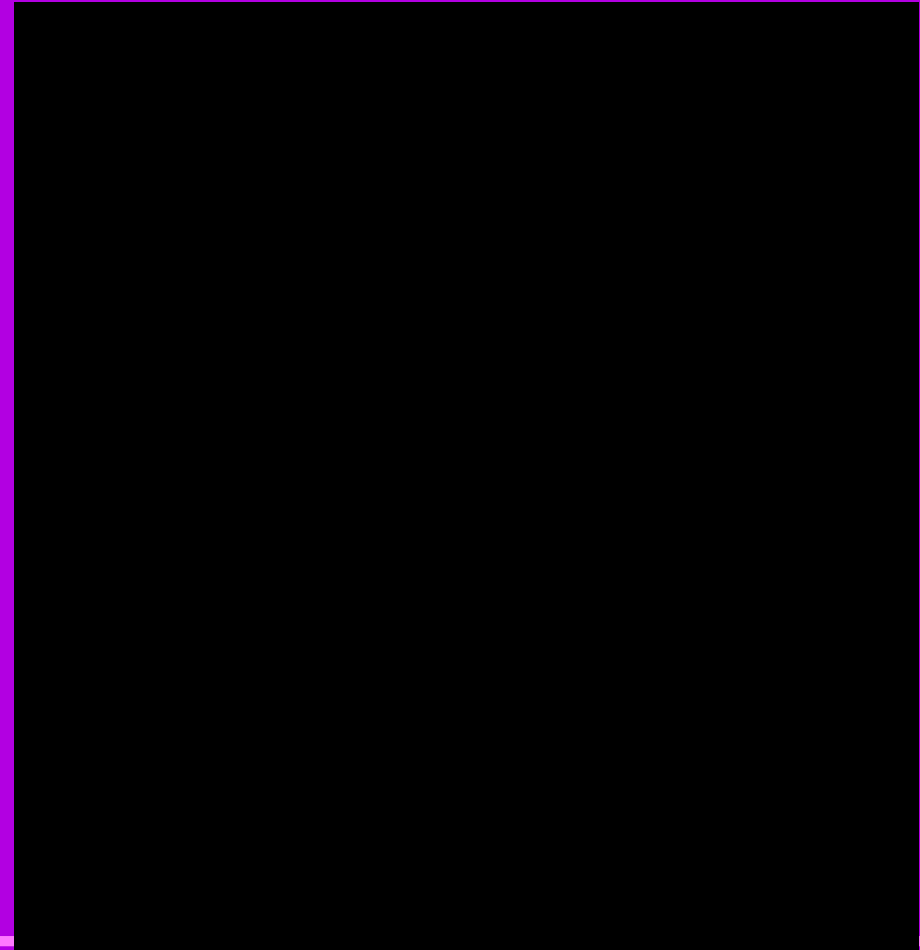
WTO Accession Results (contd)



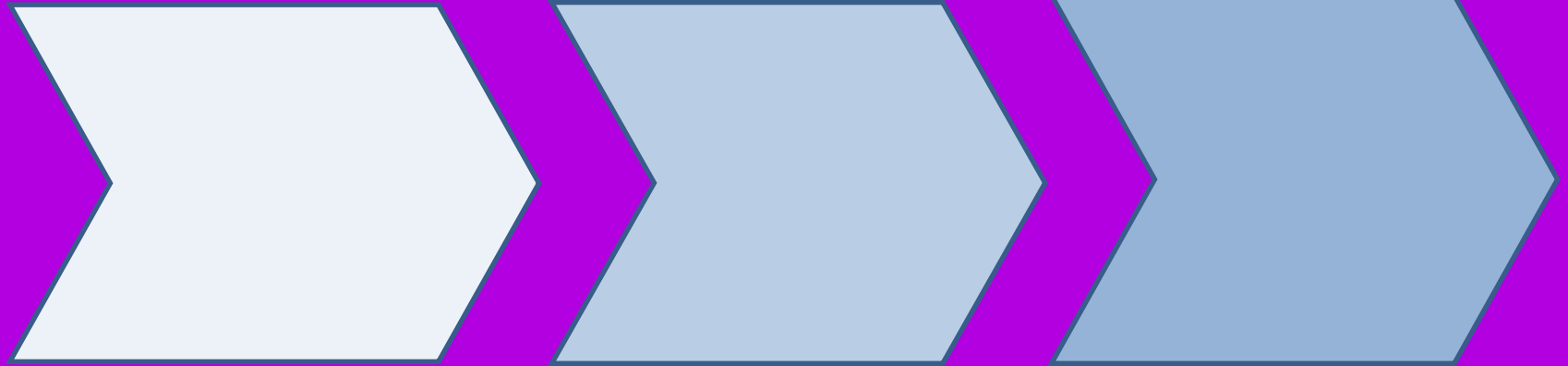
Average DTF Changes for a Member

9 On-going Accessions in Africa

- Algeria
- Comoros*
- Equatorial Guinea
- Ethiopia*
- Libya
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe*
- Somalia*
- South Sudan*
- Sudan*



Multilateral negotiations (Rules)



- Equatorial Guinea

- Libya

- Sao Tome and Principe*

-

Bilateral negotiations (Market Access)

African Accessions by status



General Status	Accession WP (establishment)	Last WP meeting	Next envisaged WP meeting (based on Secretariat's assessment)
Strategic focus 2020	1. Comoros* (2007)	- 4WPM, March 2018	- Q2 2020
Work in progress On-going efforts to move the WP process	1. Ethiopia* (2003) 2. South Sudan* (2017) 3. Sudan* (1994)	- 4WPM, 30 January 2020 - 1WPM, March 2019 - 4WPM, July 2017	- Q4 2020 - 2020 - Q2 2020
Activation Efforts to start the WP process with MFTR	1. Equatorial Guinea (2008) 2. Somalia* (2016)	- No WP held to date - No WP held to date	- October 2020 - 2020
Inactive No WP held at least during last 5 years	1. Algeria (1987) 2. Libya (2004) 3. Sao Tomé and Príncipe* (2005)	- 12WPM, March 2014 - No WP held to date - No WP held to date	



1st WP Meeting on the Accession of South Sudan – 21 March 2019



WP Meeting on the Accession of Ethiopia – 30 January 2020

Accession Negotiations – Multilateral Track: Rules

Accession	WP Established	MFTR	1 st WP Meeting	Last WP Meeting	Factual Summary	Draft Working Party Report	# of documents issued	# of questions responded
Algeria	07/1987	07/1996 08/2001	04/1998	12WPM 03/2014	05/2003	06/2004 (E-DWPR) 08/2005 (DWPR) 06/2006 (Rev.1) 02/2013 (Rev.2) 02/2014 (Rev.3)	105	1897
Sudan*	10/1994	01/1999 10/2016	07/2003	4WPM 07/2017	09/2004 06/2017 12/2017 01/2019 02/2020	-	108	917
Ethiopia*	02/2003	01/2007	05/2008	4WPM 01/2020	03/2012 12/2019	-	53	642
Libya	07/2004	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sao Tome & Principe*	02/2005	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Comoros*	10/2007	10/2013	12/2016	4WPM 03/2018	04/2017	09/2017 (E-DWPR) 02/2018 (DWPR) 02/2020 (Rev.1)	45	638
Equatorial Guinea	02/2008	Q1/2020?	-	-	-	-	1	-
Somalia*	12/2016	Q1/2020?	-	-	-	-	1	-
South Sudan*	12/2017	12/2018	03/2019	1WPM 03/2019	-	-	7	8

Notes: * LDC. Italic – to be issued.



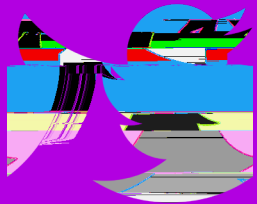
<p>Training & Technical Assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National activities – Tailor-made to individual accession, depending on the accession stage • Geneva-based specialised training courses on WTO Accessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 2019: WTO Rules (2 weeks, February) & Market Access on Goods (one week, November) 9 2020: Agriculture (12-16 October 2020) & Market Access on Services (one week, TBC)
<p>Experience-sharing on WTO Accessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China Round Table – annual, various topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 9th China Round Table, 7-8 June, Nu Sultan, Kazakhstan • African Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions - annual, issues of interest to African accessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 3rd Dialogue, Addis Ababa 12-14 February 2020, in partnership with AUC, UNECA, ITC, UNE

Information Dissemination on WTO Accessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accession Information Portal (AIP)– documentation, Commitments Database (ACDB)• Accession Newsletter – monthly reporting on developments in WTO accessions• Twitter - @OshikawaMaika• DG Annual Report on WTO Accessions	

Useful information

Learn more about WTO Accessions [here](#) or click:

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/acc_e.htm



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