





8. For services, the approach chosen in the guidelines had to be different. Market access for services is not quantifiable in a manner comparable to access for goods. That is why the new guidelines introduce notional quantitative benchmarks coupled with qualitative elements. The guidelines stipulate that LDCs shall not be required to commit to market openings in the services sectors and sub-sectors beyond those that have been committed by existing LDC Members.

9. The new guidelines also introduce provisions on "transparency" in the accession negotiation process. For each accession a particular Accession Working Party is established. They accompany each negotiation and approve the final overall conclusion of the negotiations and have now obtained a greater role in reviewing the outcomes of bilateral market access negotiations.

10. Another new element in the 2012 guidelines is that they provide scope for discussion of difficulties encountered during the negotiations in the Sub-Committee on LDCs. As a final element of transparency, the guidelines have codified the practice according to which the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee and Chairpersons of other LDC Accession Working Parties can assist the Chairperson for the relevant Working Party as "facilitators" for the conclusion of the negotiations, if serious difficulties in the negotiations call for such a particular "facilitation".

11. Last but not least, the new guidelines contain provisions for technical assistance and capacity building to help acceding LDCs to complete their accession negotiations and to respect their commitments upon membership of the WTO.

12. The new guidelines can, hopefully, contribute to greater clarity and predictability in the accession negotiations, and thus - as intended - facilitate and accelerate these negotiations. It will soon be possible to verify if the inten

