

Seminar on WTO Accessions Rules
4 February 2019

1994: WTO Agreement:

“common institutional framework for the conduct of trade relations among its Members in matters related to the [WTO] agreements” (Art. II:1)

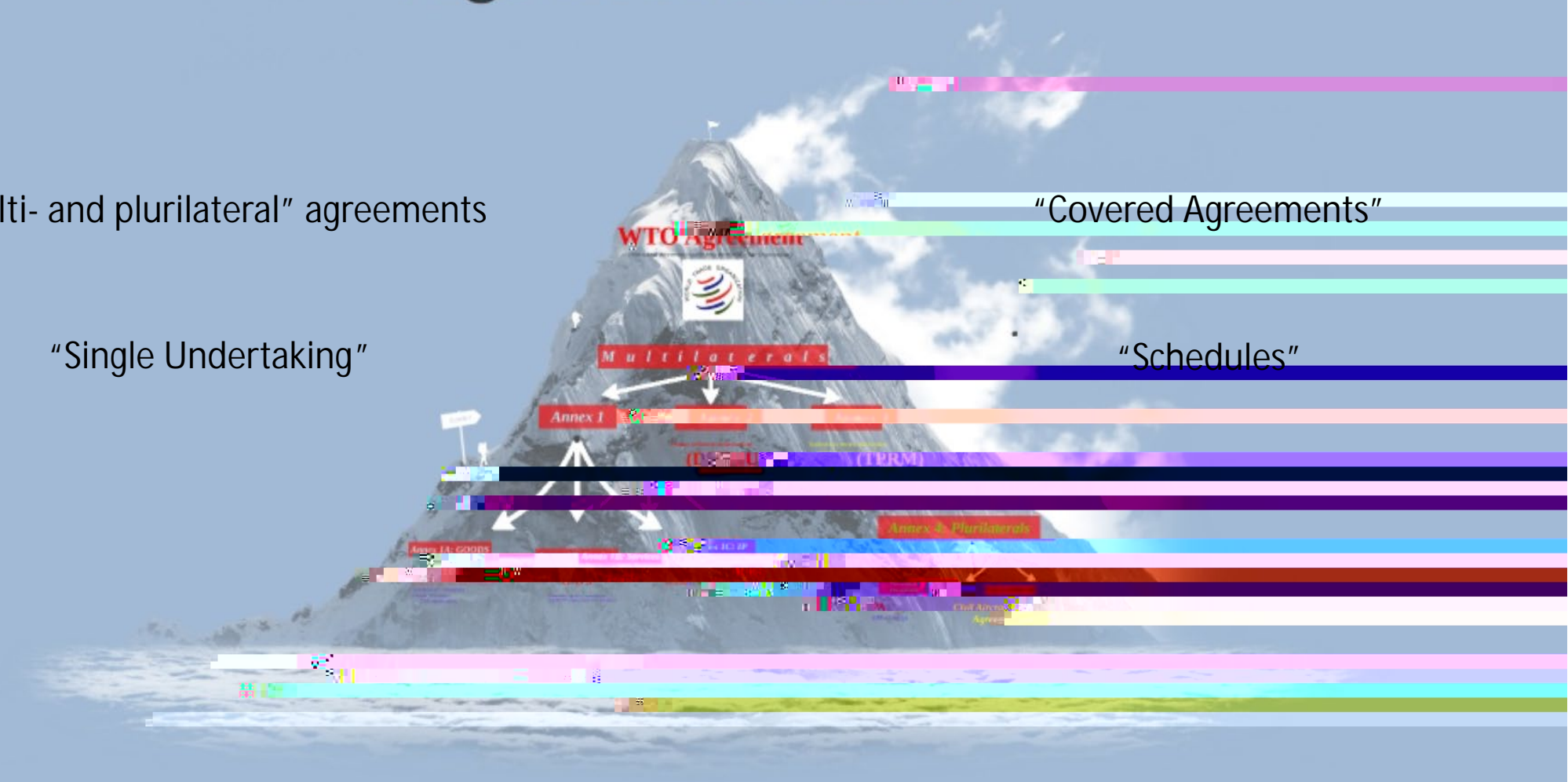
The WTO legal framework

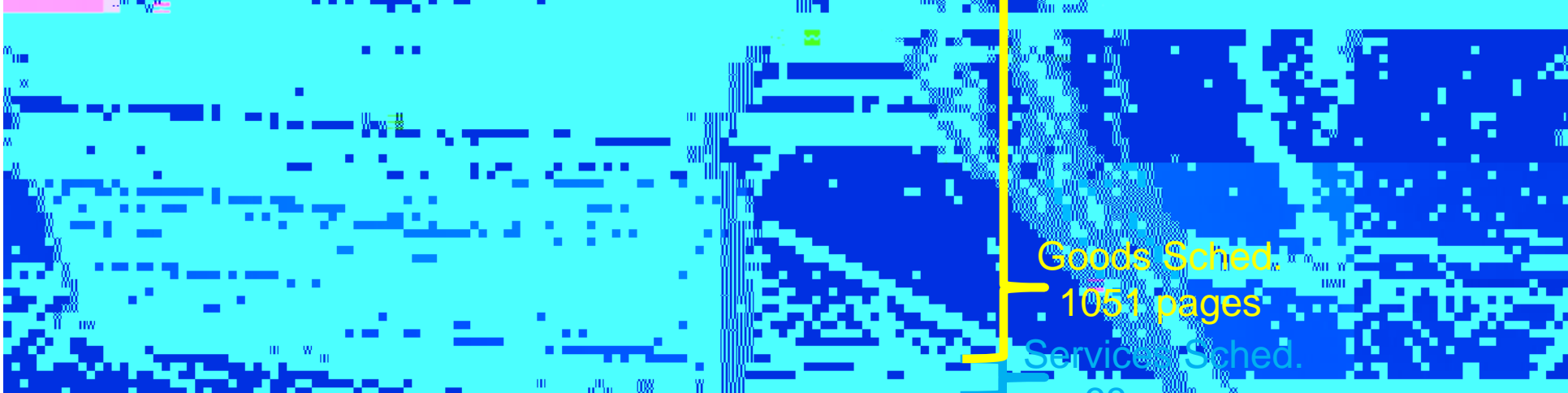
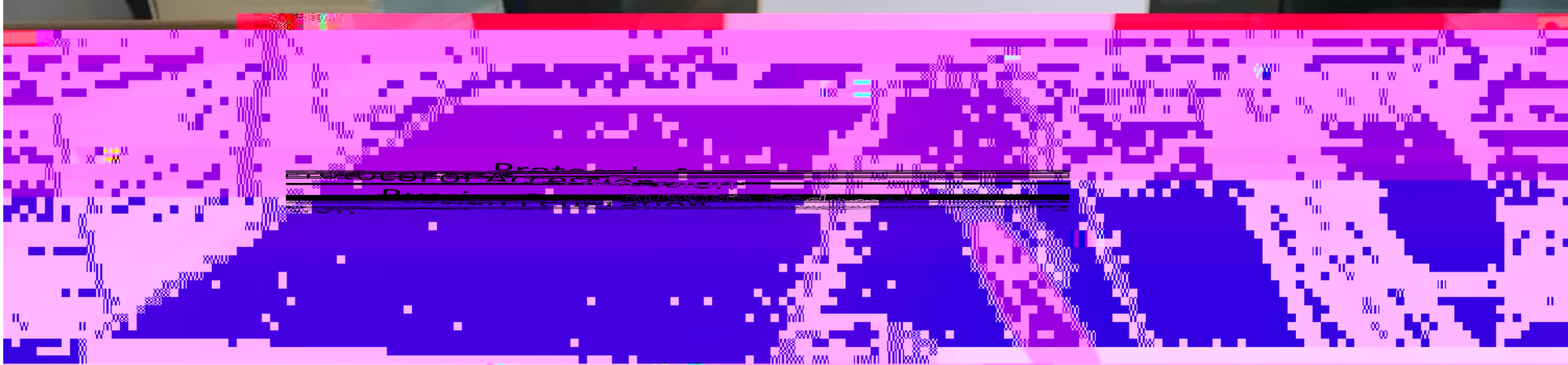
“Multi- and plurilateral” agreements

“Single Undertaking”

“Covered Agreements”

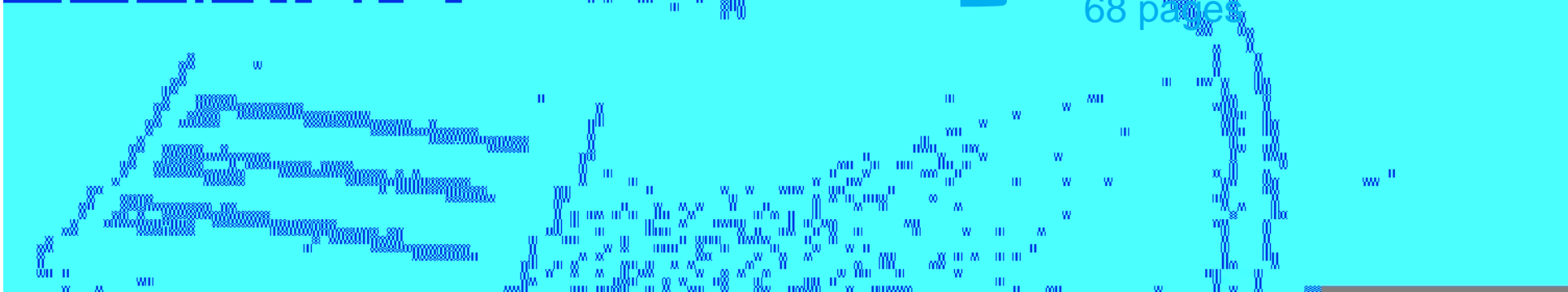
“Schedules”





Goods Sched.
1051 pages

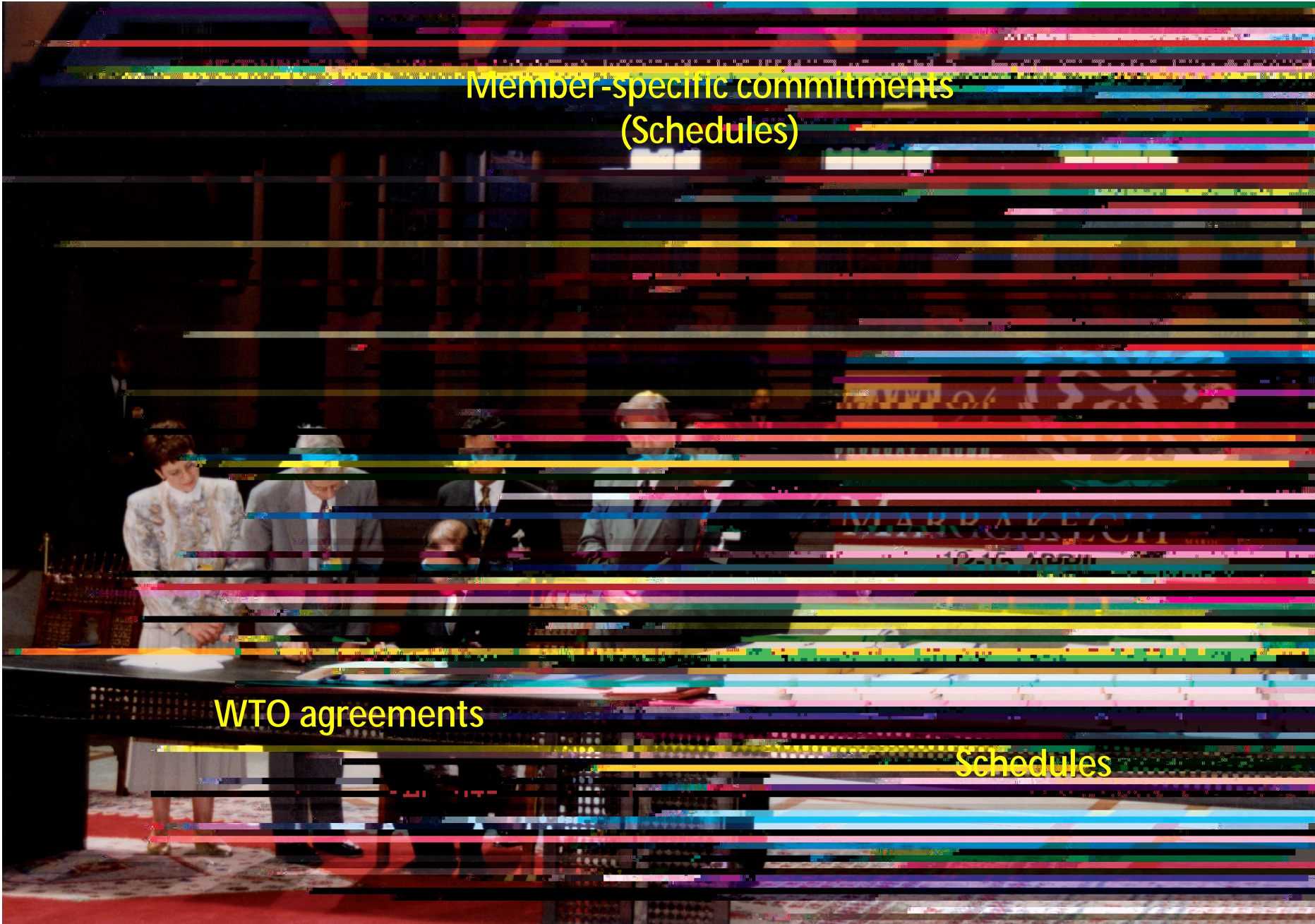
Services Sched.
68 pages



Member-specific commitments (Schedules)

WTO agreements

Schedules



- often – but not always! – relatively straightforward concepts (MFN, NT, transparency)
- sometimes expressed in *relatively*



- Exemptions, derogations, carve-outs
- Exceptions: general and national security
 - “Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption or enforcement by any contracting party of measures:
 - (a) necessary to protect public morals;
 - (b) necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health; ...” (*Art. XX GATT*)
- RTAs
- Development flexibilities: S&D and TFA commitment categories
- Waivers (time-limited and exceptional)