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¹ Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.



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The implementation of the disciplines will reduce trade costs and improve overall economic performance, including an increase in real income and real exports, as well as more active participation in international services trade

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The implementation of the disciplines will, among various benefits, reduce the costs of business start-up procedures, lead to broader financial inclusion, and boost participation in global value chains

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Over time, RTAs have started addressing trade impediments resulting from a lack of transparency and procedural red tape. Several “new generation” agreements – adopted across all income groups and regions of the world – include a comprehensive set of regulatory obligations largely equivalent to the disciplines on services domestic regulation.

Figure 3: WTO members with domestic regulation disciplines in reviewed RTAs

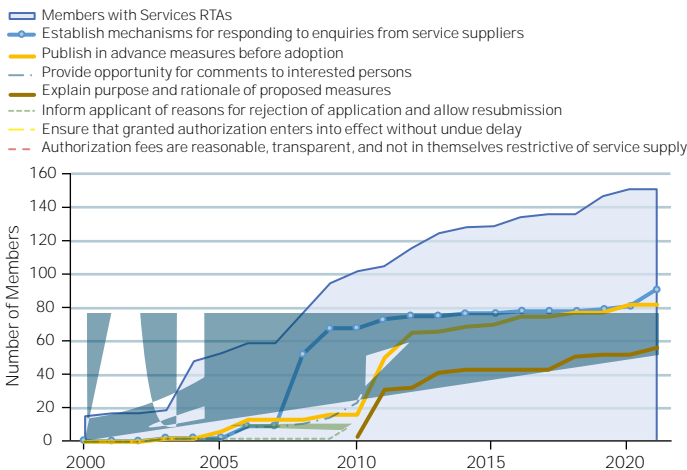
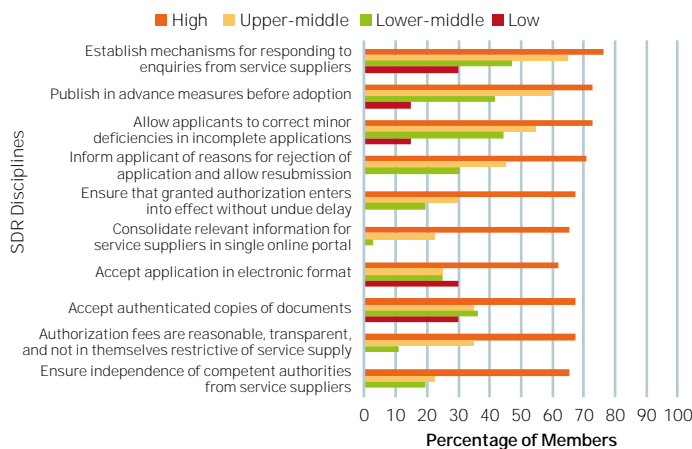


Figure 4: Percentage of WTO members with domestic regulation disciplines in reviewed RTAs, by income groups



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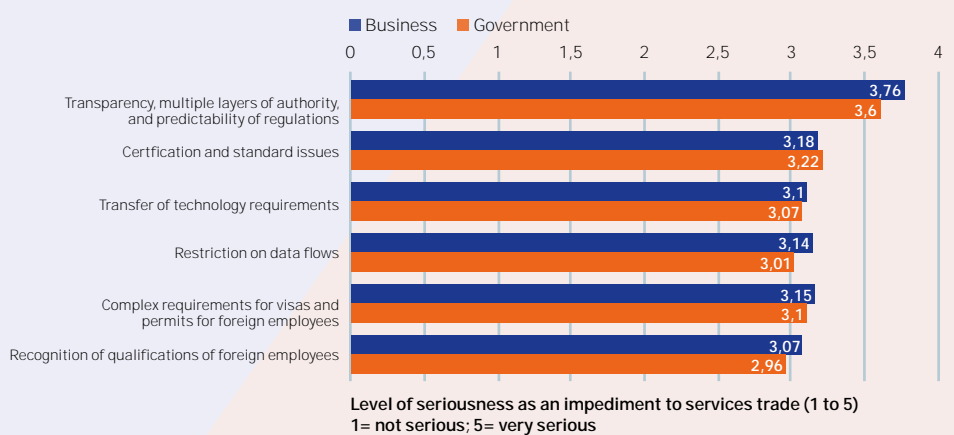
As a result, RTAs have started addressing trade impediments resulting from a lack of transparency and procedural red tape. Several “new generation” agreements – adopted across all income groups and regions of the world – include a comprehensive set of regulatory obligations largely equivalent to the disciplines on services domestic regulation.

Services Domestic Regulation – Locking in Good Regulatory Practices, WTO Secretariat, *World Trade Review*, 2021, p. 1.

The Trade Effects of a New Agreement on Services Domestic Regulation, WTO Secretariat, *World Trade Review*, February 2024.

BOX 1 PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION COUNCIL (PECC): BUSINESS SURVEY ON IMPEDIMENTS TO SERVICES TRADE

In 2016, PECC conducted a business survey on impediments to services trade. The survey identified several key areas of concern for businesses, including transparency, certification and standard issues, and complex requirements for visas and permits for foreign employees. The survey results show that businesses rate these areas as significant impediments to services trade.



Source: PECC, *Business Survey on Impediments to Services Trade*, 2016-2017 (2016).