



GENERAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT (2014)

The present report has been prepared in pursuance of the Procedures for an Annual Overview of WTO Activities and for Reporting under the WTO (WT/L/105).

Since its previous annual report¹, the General Council has held five meetings, on 14 March 2014, 12 May 2014, 24-25 July 2014, 21 October 2014, 10-11 December 2014 and a special meeting on 27 November 2014. The minutes of these meetings, which remain in the record of the General Council's work, are contained in documents WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; WT/GC/M/154; and WT/GC/M/155².

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1 TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/M/155)

1.1. Ministers at Doha established a Trade Negotiations Committee under the authority of the General Council to supervise the overall conduct of the negotiations (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1). In accordance with the Principles and Practices endorsed by the Trade Negotiations Committee at its first meeting in 2002 (TN/C/M/1), the TNC reports to each regular meeting of the General Council.

1.2. At the General Council meetings in March, May, July, October, and December, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reported on each occasion on the TNC's activities since his previous report to the General Council.³

1.3. At the March meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on Environment in Special Session and the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Cuba; Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Brazil (on behalf of the G-20); Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); Nigeria; Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Pakistan; Solomon Islands; India; South Africa; European Union; Qatar; Paraguay; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Jamaica; United States; Japan; Bangladesh; Egypt; Republic of Korea; and Barbados spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.4. At the May meeting, the representatives of Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Plurinational State of Bolivia; Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Barbados; Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); United States; Cuba; European Union; China; El Salvador; Pakistan; and Ecuador spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.5. At the July meeting, the representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Brazil (on behalf of the G-20); Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); St. Lucia (on behalf of the CARICOM); Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Nigeria; Solomon Islands; Papua New Guinea; Qatar; Argentina; Paraguay; Egypt; Zimbabwe; India; Jamaica; European Union; Norway; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Mexico; Oman; Japan; Barbados; South Africa; Ecuador; Switzerland; United States; Chile; Australia; China; Canada; Costa Rica; Russian Federation; Uruguay; Colombia; Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Turkey; Benin; New Zealand; Pakistan; and Cuba. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.6. At the October meeting, at the request of the Director-General, the statement he made at the formal TNC meeting on 16 October together with the reports of the Chairs of the Negotiating Bodies (JOB/TNC/42), the statement of the Chairman of the General Council (JOB/TNC/43) as well as all statements made by delegations at the TNC meeting and contained in TN/C/M/35 were incorporated by reference into the records of the General Council meeting and should form an integral part thereof. The representative of Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs) spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.7. At the December meeting, the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Brazil (also on behalf of the G-20); Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); Australia (also on behalf of the Cairns Group); Switzerland (also on behalf of the G-10); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); Hong Kong, China; Mexico; India; Japan; Cuba; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Zimbabwe; Colombia; China; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Nepal; Russian Federation; Pakistan; Ecuador; United States; Argentina; European Union; and Bangladesh spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

³ The statements by the Director-General were subsequently circulated as JOB/GC/60, JOB/GC/68, JOB/GC/69 and JOB/GC/71. For the October meeting, see paragraph 1.6.

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALI OUTCOMES – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN (WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/M/155)

2.1. At the July meeting, the Chairman drew attention to his report on the Implementation of the Bali Outcomes (JOB/GC/70) and highlighted in particular that work to implement the Bali Decisions was proceeding in each area of the Bali Package. He also noted his intention to provide regular reports to the General Council on the status of implementation in each single area, and to ask the Chairs of the relevant bodies to report as appropriate.

2.2. The representative of Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs) spoke. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the statement.

2.3. At the October meeting, the Chairman drew the General Council's attention to the statement he made at the TNC meeting on 16 October (JOB/TNC/43) and then focused on the Bali Decisions on regular work. He said that the TRIPS Council would continue its discussions on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints with a view to agreeing on its recommendation on the next Ministerial Conference. He also reported that a periodic review would be undertaken in December on Electronic Commerce; and that monitoring and evaluation exercises underpinning the Fifth Global Review on Aid for Trade – themed "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth" – had been discussed in the CTD.

2.4. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report.

2.5. At the December meeting, the Chairman provided a detailed update⁴ of the state-of-play in the implementation of each of the Bali Decisions in regular bodies. In particular, in Agriculture, he provided an update on TRQ administration and on export competition. Concerning Development and LDCs issues, he reported on the work concerning the implementation of the Decisions on the Monitoring Mechanism, on Duty-free Quota-free for LDCs, on the Operationalization of the LDC Services Waiver⁵ and on Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs, where the Committee on Rules of Origin had conducted its annual review as mandated in the Bali Decisions and that the report was contained in G/RO/76. He also provided an update concerning the Bali Decisions on regular work.

2.6. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report.

3 PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES, PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION – PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT, AND POST-BALI WORK (WT/GC/M/154)

3.1. At the 27 November Special meeting, the Chairman said that following the developments in recent weeks and intensive consultations that had taken place, there were three draft decisions for the General Council's consideration. He noted that a meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation had just taken place.

3.2. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation made a statement. He said that Members had agreed to forward the proposal for a decision by the General Council on adopting the protocol of amendment to insert the Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement as set out in WT/PCTF/W/28, with the understanding that the Trade Facilitation Agreement to be inserted into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement was the legally scrubbed text of the Agreement adopted by the Committee in the three WTO languages and circulated in document WT/L/931, and that this text therefore constituted the annex to the proposed Protocol submitted to the General Council. This was done in the understanding that the decision on the protocol would be taken up together with the draft Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, contained in document WT/GC/W/688 and the draft Decision on Post-Bali work, contained in document WT/GC/W/690. He stated that, in the event of there not being an agreement in the General Council, the proposed protocol would be back to the Preparatory Committee for further work.

⁴ The statement by the Chairman of the General Council was subsequently circulated as JOB/GC/72.

⁵ See also WT/GC/W/693.

3.3. The General Council Chairman⁶ drew attention to:

- the draft Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, contained in document WT/GC/W/688;
- the draft Decision on the Protocol of Amendment to insert the Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement, contained in document WT/PCTF/W/28; and
- the draft Decision on Post-Bali work, contained in document WT/GC/W/690.

3.4. With respect to Trade Facilitation, he also drew attention to the Category A notifications received so far, and circulated in the series of documents carrying the symbol WT/PCTF/N.

3.5. In accordance with the Bali mandate, the General Council had to annex the Category A notifications to the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The text of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, as Members would recall, was contained in WT/L/931.

3.6. The Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, as he had said, was in document WT/GC/W/688. By adopting the Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, Members were not prejudging the nature of the permanent solution nor the legal instrument to give effect to it, to be agreed by Members in the course of the negotiations.

3.7. With respect to the Decision on Post-Bali work, circulated in document WT/GC/W/690, Members were collectively acting on the premise that the entire Bali Package could and should be pursued and that all Members would engage constructively on the implementation of all the Bali Ministerial Decisions in the relevant WTO bodies, and on the preparation of the clearly defined work programme on the remaining DDA issues mandated in para. 1.11 of the Bali Ministerial Declaration, with a new deadline to agree on the work programme by July 2015.

3.8. Therefore, in adopting the three Decisions on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, on the Protocol of Amendment for Trade Facilitation, and on Post-Bali work simultaneously, Members were reaffirming the entirety of the Bali Ministerial mandates, including the priorities that Ministers had identified at Bali.

3.9. The Chairman proposed that:

- the General Council adopt the draft Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes in document WT/GC/W/688;
- the General Council adopt the draft Decision in document WT/PCTF/W/28 and the Protocol of Amendment to insert the Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement contained therein, and open the Protocol for acceptance; in so doing, the Category A notifications should be deemed to be annexed to the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- the General Council adopt the draft Decision on Post-Bali work, in document WT/GC/W/690.

3.10. The General Council so agreed.⁷

3.11. The Director-General and the representatives of Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Myanmar (on behalf of the ASEAN); Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Dominica (on behalf of the CARICOM and the OECS); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Paraguay (on behalf of the LLDCs); United States; India; Turkey; Hong Kong, China; European Union; Uruguay; China; Sierra

⁶ The statement by the Chairman of the General Council can be found in WT/GC/165.

⁷ The Decisions have been circulated as WT/L/939 (Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes), WT/L/940 (Protocol of Amendment to insert the Agreement on Trade Facilitation into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement) and WT/L/941 (Post-Bali Work).

Leone; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Japan; Tanzania; Brazil; Barbados; Chile; Cameroon; Korea; Solomon Islands; Swaziland; and Costa Rica spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement and of the other statements.

4 PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION – REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; AND WT/GC/M/152)⁸

4.1. Ministers at Bali concluded the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WT/L/911 – WT/MIN(13)/36) subject to legal review for rectifications of a purely formal character that do not affect the substance of the Agreement. They also established a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation under the General Council, open to all Members, to perform such functions, as may be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement; and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force. Ministers provided that, in particular, the Preparatory Committee shall conduct the legal review of the Agreement in the manner decided by the Ministers; receive notifications of Category A commitments; and draw up a Protocol of Amendment of the Marrakesh Agreement to insert the Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement. Ministers also directed the General Council to meet no later than 31 July 2014 to carry out its function as mandated by them in their Decision.

4.2. At the March meeting, the Chairman recalled that, at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation held on 31 January 2014, Ambassador Esteban Conejos (Philippines) had been elected as the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee established under the General Council by the Ministerial Conference.

4.3. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation reported that Members had swiftly managed to agree on a work plan and schedule of meetings, clearing the procedural path and allowing for substantive work to commence. There had been a common understanding that the Preparatory Committee should continue the practice of the Negotiating Group to conduct its business in a Member-driven, bottom-up, transparent and inclusive manner and start with the legal review before turning to the other tasks of the Committee.

4.4. The representatives of Mexico; Uganda; Paraguay; Pakistan; Mali; Japan; and Rwanda spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation and of the statements.

4.5. At the May meeting, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation reported that Members had continued their work on the tasks assigned to the Preparatory Committee in line with the work programme adopted in March. They had already concluded the legal review of the English version of the text within their given deadline and would apply the same process in finishing the Spanish and the French versions. They would then prepare an amendment protocol on a Member-driven basis and in an inclusive and transparent manner.

4.6. The representatives of Mexico; Republic of Korea; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Qatar; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Japan; Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Costa Rica; Nigeria; and European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation and of the statements.

4.7. At the July meeting, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation said that the Committee completed the legal review of the Trade Facilitation text agreed upon in Bali, circulated as WT/L/931. He noted that the Category A notifications received by the Preparatory Committee were circulated as WT/PCTF/N documents. Regarding the Protocol of Amendment, he noted that it could not be agreed. He urged delegations to redouble their efforts and to reach out to each other in an effort to find common ground and highlighted that consequence of failure would go much beyond the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

⁸ See also item 3 above.

4.8. The representatives of Chile; Myanmar (on behalf of the ASEAN); Paraguay (on behalf of the LLDCs); Mauritius; Thailand; Zimbabwe; and Jamaica, and the General Council Chairman spoke.⁹ The General Council took note of the report of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation and of the statements.

5 WORK PROGRAMME ON SMALL ECONOMIES – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/W/155)

5.1. In 2002, the General Council took note of a framework and procedures for the conduct of the Work Programme on Small Economies, which had been agreed by Ministers at Doha (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paragraph 35), under which this Work Programme would be a standing item on the General Council's agenda and which also provided that the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) would report regularly to the General Council on the progress of work in its Dedicated Sessions on this subject. In December 2013, Ministers at MC9 adopted the Decision on the Work Programme on Small Economies (WT/L/908), which reaffirmed their commitment to the Work Programme and further instructed the CTD to continue its work in Dedicated Sessions under the overall responsibility of the General Council.

5.2. At the March meeting, the Chairperson of the Dedicated Session of the CTD reported on the Work Programme on Small Economies, referring principally to the relevant Bali Decision, and on the workshop on Non-Tariff Measures held on 23 October, the full report of which had been circulated in WT/COMTD/SE/M/26.

5.3. The representative of Barbados spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

5.4. At the May meeting, the General Council Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reported the appointment of Guatemala as the new group coordinator of the proponents of Small Economies, and said that the group had been discussing upcoming priorities for 2014 and follow-up activities to the Bali Ministerial Decision.

5.5. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); St. Lucia (on behalf of the CARICOM); Maldives; and Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific WTO Members) spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

5.6. At the July meeting, the General Council Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reported that the proponents of Small Economies had been working on identifying the relevant information and analysis concerning the challenges and opportunities experienced by small economies when linking into global value chains in trade in goods and services.

5.7. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

5.8. At the October meeting, the General Council Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reported that the relevant issues and possible areas of research concerning the integration of small economies into global value chains identified by the proponents of Small Economies had been compiled in an outline circulated to Members. Work on the proposed research would start once all comments had been received.

5.9. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

⁹ On 25 July, the Chairman proposed to suspend further consideration of the item and to suspend the meeting. He said that the meeting would be reconvened at a propitious moment if there were positive developments until 31 July. The General Council meeting was not reconvened. In line with the Chairman's statement, discussions under this item were considered closed and the meeting adjourned. On 31 July, the Director-General, as Chairman of the TNC, convened an Informal TNC meeting. His statement can be found in JOB/TNC/40.

5.10. At the December meeting, the Chairperson of the Dedicated Session of the CTD reported that the outline for the study on the challenges and opportunities experienced by small economies when linking into Global Value Chains in trade in goods and services, mandated at MC9, had been agreed. The outline is contained in document WT/COMTD/SE/W/30/Rev.1.

5.11. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Swaziland; Solomon Islands (on behalf of the Pacific WTO Group); St. Lucia (on behalf of the OECS); Barbados; Jamaica; United States; and European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

6 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE – REVIEW OF PROGRESS (WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; AND WT/GC/M/155)

6.1. In line with the Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce adopted by Ministers at the second session of the Ministerial Conference (WT/MIN(98)/DEC/2), the General Council, in September 1998, adopted a Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WT/L/274). At MC9, Ministers adopted a Decision on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WT/L/907). In this Decision, Ministers decided to continue with the positive work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, and instructed the General Council and its relevant bodies to continue substantially invigorating this work. Ministers also instructed the General Council to hold periodic reviews, starting in July 2014, based on the reports submitted by the WTO bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme, namely – the Councils for Services, Goods and TRIPS and the Committee on Trade and Development.

6.2. At the May meeting, the Chairman informed Members that he had started consulting Group Coordinators on the possibility of appointing a Facilitator for E-Commerce. He also announced that the next periodic review by the General Council should take place at the July meeting. The General Council took note of the statement.

6.3. At the July meeting, the Chairman gave an overview of the work on e-commerce taking place in the relevant bodies including the reports of the CTS and CTG Chairs in documents S/C/41 and G/C/53. He announced that Ambassador Suescum (Panama) would be carrying this work forward and would be chairing the Dedicated Discussion on his behalf.

6.4. The representatives of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; European Union; and Panama spoke. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the statements.

6.5. At the December meeting, Ambassador Suescum (Panama), as the Friend of the Chair, provided an overview of the work taking place on the work programme on e-commerce. He noted that he had held bilateral consultations with several delegations and also an informal discussion on 20 November. His report is contained in WT/GC/W/692. The Chairman drew attention to the reports on the work programme on e-commerce submitted by the Chairs of the Council for Trade in Services (S/C/45) and the Goods Council (G/C/55).

6.6. The representatives of Brazil; European Union; Cuba; India; and China spoke. The General Council took note of the reports and of the statements.

7 AID FOR TRADE – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/151 AND WT/GC/M/153)

7.1. At Bali, Ministers adopted a Decision on Aid-for-Trade (WT/L/909 – WT/MIN(13)/34), in which they had welcomed the progress on Aid-for-Trade and recognised the continuing need of Aid-for-Trade for developing countries, and in particular LDCs.

7.2. At the May meeting, the General Council Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman of the CTD, introduced the new biennial Aid for Trade Work Programme, issued as document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/51, with the theme "Reducing trade costs for inclusive, sustainable growth".

7.3. The representatives of Turkey; Uganda (on behalf of the LDC Group); European Union; Cameroon; St. Lucia (on behalf of the CARICOM); and Nepal, and the Chairman spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

7.4. At the October meeting, the Director-General reported that the exact dates for the Fifth Global Review would be from 30 June to 2 July 2015. He also said that the CTD Chair had already consulted extensively on the issue of how to participate in the Aid-for-Trade monitoring and evaluation exercise which was central to the Global Review. He was counting on Members' continued engagement and requested that they transmitted details of how to participate in the exercise to their capitals.

7.5. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement.

8 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF COTTON – STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/155)

8.1. In Paragraph 1.b of the 1 August 2004 Decision on the Doha Work Programme (WT/L/579), the General Council, *inter alia*, took note of the bilateral, multilateral, and regional efforts to make progress on the development assistance aspects of the Cotton Initiative, and instructed the Secretariat to continue to work with the development community and to provide the Council with periodic reports on relevant developments. The Council also instructed the Director-General to consult with relevant international organizations, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Trade Centre, to direct effectively existing programmes and any additional resources towards development of the economies where cotton had vital importance. The Bali Decision on Cotton (WT/L/916 – WT/MIN(13)/41) reaffirmed this mandate, and invited the Director-General to continue to provide periodic reports on this matter.

8.2. At the December meeting, the Director-General highlighted that – as indicated in the Evolving Table - the value of development assistance committed specifically to cotton was around 327 million US dollars and that the value of completed development assistance projects benefiting cotton, directly or through broader agricultural or infrastructure assistance, had also increased. The last round of the Consultative Mechanism had shown that Members were satisfied with the progress but also that a number of challenges remained. He was fully aware of the Cotton proponents' concerns about the falling prices of cotton and that it was necessary to help them compete effectively in world markets.

8.3. The representatives of Burkina Faso (on behalf of the C-4); Nigeria; and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement and of the other statements.

9 WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY – STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/152)

9.1. At the July meeting, the Director-General noted that he had launched the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility on 22 July. The Facility aimed to address concerns on how LDCs and developing Members could access the necessary support under Section 2 of the TFA. It was also meant to complement and enhance existing assistance programmes. He had been working closely on this with partner organizations – particularly the World Bank. The Facility would become operational as soon as the Protocol of amendment was adopted.

9.2. The representatives of Swaziland; Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Kenya (on behalf of the ACP Group); Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); and Niger, and the Chairman spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement and of the other statements.

10 COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

10.1 Reports and Recommendations (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; and WT/GC/M/155)

10.1. At the March meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in February (WT/BFA/141). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 1.2 of its report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/141.

10.2. At the May meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in April (WT/BFA/142). The General Council took note of the statement and adopted the report in WT/BFA/142.

10.3. At the July meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in July (WT/BFA/143). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 1.2 of its report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/143.

10.4. At the October meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget Finance and Administration on its meeting in September (WT/BFA/144). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 2.7 of its report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/144.

10.5. At the December meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget Finance and Administration on its meeting in November (WT/BFA/146). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 1.12 and 7.3 of its report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/146.

11 TRIPS COUNCIL MATTERS

11.1 Review under Paragraph 8 of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health – Report of the Council for TRIPS (WT/GC/M/155)

11.1. In August 2003, the General Council adopted a Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. Paragraph 8 of that Decision provides that the TRIPS Council shall review annually the functioning of the system set out in the Decision with a view to ensuring its effective operation, and shall annually report on its operation to the General Council.

11.2. At the December meeting, the Chairman of the TRIPS Council introduced the report of that Council (IP/C/69) on its annual review of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The report also provided an update on the status of acceptances of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement.

11.3. The Chairman and the representatives of Rwanda; European Union; and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the TRIPS Council and of the statements.

12 ACCESSION MATTERS

12.1 Belarus (WT/GC/M/152)

12.1. At the July meeting, the Chairman informed Members that, following consultations with members of the Working Parties and the authorities of Belarus, and in keeping with usual WTO practice, it had been agreed that Ambassador Mehmet Haluk Ilıcak (Turkey) would serve as Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Belarus.

12.2. The General Council took note of the statement.

12.2 Bhutan (WT/GC/M/152)

12.3. At the July meeting, the Chairman informed Members that following consultations with Members of the Working Party and the authorities of Bhutan, and in keeping with usual WTO practice, it had been agreed that Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi (Austria) would serve as Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Bhutan.

12.4. The General Council took note of the statement.

12.3 Republic of Seychelles (WT/GC/M/155)

12.5. At its December meeting, the General Council considered the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of the Republic of Seychelles (WT/ACC/SYC/64 and WT/ACC/SYC/64/Add. 1 and WT/ACC/SYC/64/Add.2).

12.6. The Chairman of the Working Party spoke.

12.7. The General Council approved the text of the Protocol of Accession of the Republic of Seychelles and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision on the Accession of the Republic of Seychelles (WT/L/944). The General Council then adopted the Report of the Working Party as a whole (WT/ACC/SYC/64 and WT/ACC/SYC/64/Add.1 and WT/ACC/SYC/64/Add.2).

12.8. The Chairman, H.E. Pierre Laporte (Seychelles), Minister of Finance, Trade and Investment, of the Republic and the Director-General spoke, following which the representatives of Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); United States; Thailand (on behalf of the ASEAN); Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); European Union; Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the GRULAC); Solomon Islands (on behalf of the Pacific WTO Group); Barbados; Mauritius; China; Dominica (on behalf of the CARICOM); Canada; Uganda; Morocco; India; Japan; South Africa; and Oman spoke. The General Council took note of the statements and of the expressions of welcome and support.

12.4 WTO Accessions: 2014 Annual Report by the Director-General (WT/GC/M/155)

12.9. At the December meeting, the Director-General introduced the 2014 Annual Report on WTO Accessions (WT/ACC/23).

12.10. The Director-General noted that the focus of this year's report was on Post-Accession, in response to the demand of some new Members, including LDCs, for support focused on the implementation of accession-specific obligations and stressed that work on accessions continued to represent a priority for the organization.

12.11. Minister Laporte (Seychelles) addressed the General Council, following which the representatives of Dominican Republic (also on behalf of the IGDC); Yemen; Russian Federation; Jamaica; European; and Algeria (as an Observer) spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Director-General and of the statements.

13 WAIVERS

13.1 Special Treatment for Rice of the Philippines – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/152)

13.1. At the July meeting, the General Council considered a draft waiver decision in document G/C/W/665/Rev.4 which concerned the request for a waiver by the Philippines on special treatment for rice of the Philippines. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on consideration of this matter by that Council.

13.2. The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the draft Decision (WT/L/932).

13.3. The representative of the Philippines spoke. The General Council took note of the statement.

13.2 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007 and 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions – Draft Decisions (WT/GC/M/155)

13.4. At the December meeting, the General Council considered three draft waiver decisions, contained in G/C/W/702/Rev.1, G/C/W/703/Rev.1 and G/C/W/704 which concerned the Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007 and 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff

Concessions, respectively. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on consideration of this matter by that Council.

13.5. The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the three draft Decisions (WT/L/945, WT/L/946 and WT/L/947).

13.3 Review of Waivers Pursuant to Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement (WT/GC/M/152)

13.6. Under Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement "[a]ny waiver granted for a period of more than one year shall be reviewed by the Ministerial Conference not later than one year after it is granted, and thereafter annually until the waiver terminates."

13.7. At the July meeting, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- i. LDCs - Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to Pharmaceutical Products, granted on 8 July 2002 until 1 January 2016 (WT/L/478)
- ii. Preferential Treatment for Least-Developed Countries, granted on 27 May 2009 until 30 June 2019 (WT/L/759)
- iii. United States - Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, granted on 27 July 2007 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/694, WT/L/927)
- iv. United States – Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, granted on 27 May 2009 until 31 December 2014 (WT/L/753, WT/L/928)
- v. United States – African Growth and Opportunity Act, granted on 27 May 2009 until 30 September 2015 (WT/L/754, WT/L/929)
- vi. United States – Andean Trade Preference Act, granted on 27 May 2009 until 31 December 2014 (WT/L/755, WT/L/930)

13.8. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the respective waivers in documents WT/L/927, WT/L/928, WT/L/929 and WT/L/930. The General Council took note of the reports and agreed to revert to the review of multi-year waivers under Article IX.4 of the WTO Agreement at its meeting in December.

13.9. At the December meeting, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- i. Preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of least developed countries, granted on 17 December 2011 until 17 December 2026 (WT/L/847)
- ii. Kimberley process certification scheme for rough diamonds, granted on 12 December 2012 until 31 December 2018 (WT/L/876)
- iii. European Union - Application of autonomous preferential treatment to the West Balkans, granted on 30 November 2011 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/836, WT/L/935)
- iv. European Union – Application of autonomous preferential treatment to Moldova, granted on 26 November 2013 until 31 December 2015 (WT/L/903, WT/L/936)
- v. Cuba – Article XV:6 of GATT 1994, extension of waiver, granted on 14 February 2012 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/850, WT/L/937)

13.10. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the respective waivers in documents WT/L/935, WT/L/936, and WT/L/937, respectively. The General Council took note of the reports.

14 IMPROVING GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN THE WTO – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

14.1. In November 2011, the General Council agreed that the Chairperson of the General Council start a process of consultations on improving the guidelines for granting observer status to Intergovernmental Organizations in the WTO, following a communication by the Arab Group in document WT/GC/W/643, which was then supplemented by a further communication in document WT/GC/W/654.

14.1 Statement by the Chairman (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/153; and WT/GC/M/155)

14.2. At the March meeting, the Chairman urged continued engagement to address the issue, in a constructive manner and with a solution-finding spirit. He said he would brief his successor so that he could consider how to address the matter.

14.3. The representatives of Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group) and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.4. At the May meeting, the Chairman said that he would continue to seek the views of delegations, and would report to the General Council as appropriate.

14.5. The representatives of Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group) and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.6. At the October meeting, the Chairman said that he could not report any change in the positions previously expressed on this matter. He intended to continue consultations and to report to the General Council as appropriate.

14.7. The representatives of Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group), Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC) and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.8. At the December meeting, the Chairman said that he was encouraging a further exchange of information among interested parties with a view to make progress on the issue. He intended to continue consultations and to report to the General Council as appropriate.

14.9. The representatives of Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Egypt; Russian Federation; and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.2 Communication from the Arab Group (WT/GC/M/152)

14.10. At the July meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the communication from the Arab Group in document WT/GC/159, requesting the item to be placed on the agenda of the meeting. In that communication, the Arab Group had also requested to re-circulate their proposal on Improving the Guidelines for Granting IGOs Permanent Observer Status in the WTO, contained in document WT/GC/W/643.

14.11. The representatives of Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group) and Plurinational State of Bolivia, and the Chairman spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

15 TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS – COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (WT/GC/M/151 AND WT/GC/M/152)

15.1. At the May meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the communication in document WT/GC/157 submitted by the Russian Federation requesting that this item be put on the agenda.

15.2. The representatives of the Russian Federation; United States; Canada; and European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

15.3. At the July meeting, the Russian Federation made a statement on certain trade restrictive measures of the United States and some other Members against Russian companies.

15.4. The representatives of the United States; Cuba; Nicaragua; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Argentina; Plurinational State of Bolivia; European Union; Zimbabwe; Ecuador and Canada spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

16 TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES BY RUSSIA – COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (WT/GC/M/151)

16.1. At the May meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the communication in document WT/GC/158 submitted by the European Union requesting that this item be put on the agenda.

16.2. The representatives of the European Union; Ukraine; United States; Canada; Japan; Switzerland; New Zealand; Republic of Korea; Norway; Chinese Taipei; Australia; and Russian Federation spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

17 WT/DS285: UNITED STATES – MEASURES AFFECTING THE CROSS-BORDER SUPPLY OF GAMBLING AND BETTING SERVICES – COMMUNICATION FROM ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (WT/GC/M/155)

17.1. At the December meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the communication in document WT/GC/164 submitted by Antigua and Barbuda requesting that this item be put on the agenda.

17.2. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda; St. Lucia (on behalf of the OECS); Dominica (on behalf of the CARICOM); Solomon Islands (on behalf of the Pacific WTO Group); Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Ecuador; Trinidad and Tobago; Jamaica; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Cuba; Barbados; India; Kenya (on behalf of the ACP); and United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

18 TENTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE – DATE AND VENUE (WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/M/155)

18.1. Article IV of the Marrakesh Agreement provided that "*There shall be a Ministerial Conference of representatives of all Members, which shall meet at least once every two years.*" At Bali, under item 3 of the Agenda, Ministers had instructed the General Council to hold consultations regarding the date and venue of the Tenth Session of the Ministerial Conference – MC10.

18.2. At the May meeting, the Chairman announced that consultations would start shortly, with a view to Members taking a decision collectively on the date and venue of the next Ministerial Conference at the July General Council meeting.

18.3. The General Council took note of the statement.

18.4. At the July meeting, the Chairman said he had held two rounds of consultations with Group coordinators and with several other delegations. There was a very broad agreement among all delegations and Group coordinators that MC10 should take place during the first fortnight of December 2015. He informed the Council that, during his consultations, the Government of Kenya had expressed an interest to host MC10.¹⁰ He also drew attention to the communication from Turkey which had been circulated on 23 July in documents WT/GC/160 and WT/GC/160/Add.1 where its government formally offered to host MC10. He would continue his consultations and hoped that Members would be in a position to take a formal decision at their October General Council meeting.

18.5. The representatives of Turkey and Kenya spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

¹⁰ Kenya circulated its offer on 31 July in document WT/GC/162.

18.6. At the October meeting, the Chairman reported that all delegations he spoke with expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the offers of the Governments of Turkey (WT/GC/160 and WT/GC/160/Add.1) and Kenya (WT/GC/162) to host MC10. Based on his consultations, he said that the General Council was not yet in a position to decide on the venue for MC10. He would continue his consultations and urged Members to come forward and meet with him to advance discussions and build consensus.

18.7. The representatives of Turkey and Kenya spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

18.8. At the December meeting, the Chairman reported that, following an intensive process of consultations and the withdrawal of Turkey's offer to host MC10 which was circulated¹¹ to all Members on 2 December and announced in a HODs meeting on 5 December, he believed that the General Council was in a position to take a decision on the matter. The Chairman therefore proposed that the Tenth Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 18 December 2015.

18.9. The General Council so agreed.

18.10. H.E. Amina Mohamed (Kenya), Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, addressed the General Council, following which the representatives of Turkey, Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); European Union; Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs); Jamaica; United States; Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the GRULAC); Malaysia (on behalf of the ASEAN, Australia, Japan and New Zealand); Swaziland; Rwanda; Jordan (on behalf of the Arab Group); Oman; China; Burundi; Mexico; Tanzania; Chile; Brazil; Morocco; India; and Nigeria spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

19 TRADE AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/152)

19.1. At the July meeting, the Director-General noted he had been actively engaged to ensure that trade was given a prominent role in the post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, for which work was entering its final phase. He noted that a proposal for Sustainable Development Goals had now been forwarded to the UN General Assembly and would be the basis for the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goals into the post-2015 development agenda. Trade was reflected in this text under Goal 17, which was to strengthen both the implementation of the goals and the global partnership for sustainable development.

19.2. The representatives of the United States; European Union; Paraguay; China; and Dominican Republic spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

20 WTO TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/155)

20.1. At the December meeting, Deputy Director-General Yi reported on the preparations for the Twentieth Anniversary of the WTO in 2015, noting that it was an opportunity to reflect on the events of the past, which could provide guidance on how future challenges could be best addressed. Work had begun on a video series entitled "Trade Starts Here" and a range of publications were being planned. Many activities were also being planned outside of Geneva, some of which involving WTO Members.

20.2. The representative of China spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

21 DERESTRICTION OF HISTORICAL BILATERAL NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTATION OF THE KENNEDY ROUND – DRAFT DECISION (WT/GC/M/152)

21.1. At the July meeting, the Chairman drew the Council's attention to the Draft Decision on the Derestriiction of Historical Bilateral Negotiating Documentation of the Kennedy Round contained in

¹¹ Turkey circulated this communication in document WT/GC/166.

document G/MA/W/113. He said that the decision was forwarded to the General Council by the Committee on Market Access through the Council for Trade in Goods following its meeting on 19 June 2014. He proposed that the General Council adopt the draft.

21.2. The General Council so agreed.¹²

22 STATEMENT ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA – STATEMENT BY PANAMA (WT/GC/M/150)

22.1. At the March meeting, the representative of Panama made a statement on its commercial relations with Venezuela.

22.2. The representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Cuba; Nicaragua; and Ecuador spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

23 UNITED NATIONS DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SIDS – STATEMENT BY BARBADOS (WT/GC/M/152)

23.1. At the July meeting, the representative of Barbados provided a detailed update on the United Nations Designated International Year of the SIDS.

23.2. The representative of New Zealand spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

24 WITHDRAWAL OF INVOCATION OF ARTICLE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CHINA – STATEMENT BY EL SALVADOR (WT/GC/M/152)

24.1. At the July meeting, the representative of El Salvador informed Members that as of 2 July 2014, its Government had withdrawn its reservation under Article XIII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization with respect to the People's Republic of China reflected in document WT/L/926.

24.2. The General Council took note of the statement.

25 WITHDRAWAL OF NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII – STATEMENT BY UKRAINE (WT/GC/M/153)

25.1. At the October meeting, the representative of Ukraine informed Members of the withdrawal of Communication G/SECRET/34, dated 12 September 2012, concerning negotiations and consultations for modification of certain concessions included in Schedule CLXII – Ukraine under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

25.2. The General Council took note of the statement.

26 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT – STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (WT/GC/M/155)

26.1. At the December meeting, the representative of the European Union provided an update on the developments in the negotiations on the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement.

26.2. The General Council took note of the statement.

27 SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES – STATEMENT BY PARAGUAY (WT/GC/M/155)

27.1. At the December meeting, the representative of Paraguay provided an update on the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and referred to its communication in relation to this matter circulated in document WT/L/942.

¹² The decision can be found in document WT/L/933.

27.2. The General Council took note of the statement.

28 WTO PENSION PLAN

28.1 Election of Chairperson, Members, and Alternates to the Management Board (WT/GC/M/150 and WT/GC/M/152)

28.1. Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the WTO Pension Plan provides, *inter alia*, for the election by the General Council of a Chairperson, four members and four alternates to the Management Board of the Pension Plan, each for a three-year term.

28.2. At the March meeting, the Chairman, in a communication circulated in document WT/GC/W/679, indicated that the term of office of the current membership of the Management Board would expire on 7 May 2014. He proposed that the General Council agree to elect the candidates whose names were listed in that document, to serve in those positions on the Pension Plan Management Board for a three-year term.

28.3. The General Council so agreed.¹³

28.4. At the July meeting, the Chairman, in a communication circulated in document WT/GC/W/683, indicated that a member, Ms Aiko Kimura (Japan), previously elected to the Management Board by the General Council, was no longer available to serve on the Board, and that it was therefore necessary for the Council to decide on her replacement. He proposed that the General Council agree to elect Mr Robert Prochazka (Austria) to serve as member on the Management Board for the remainder of the term.

28.5. The General Council so agreed.¹⁴

28.2 Annual Report and Letter of Final Comments on the Financial Statements of the WTO Pension Plan (WT/GC/M/152)

28.6. At the July meeting, the Chairman of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan introduced the Annual Report of the Management Board for 2013 contained in document WT/L/924, and the Letter of Final Comments on the Financial Statements of the WTO Pension Plan for the Financial Year ended on 31 December 2013 in document WT/L/925/Rev.1.

28.7. The General Council took note of the Annual Report, the Letter of Final Comments, and of the statement.

28.3 Agreement on the Transfer of Pension Rights of Participants in the WTO Pension Plan (WTOPP) and in the Coordinated Agencies Plans (WT/GC/M/152 and WT/GC/M/155)

28.8. Article 10 of the Regulations of the WTO Pension Plan provides that the Management Board of the Plan can, subject to the concurrence of the General Council, approve agreements with Member Governments and with Intergovernmental Organizations with a view to securing continuity of pension rights for participants in the Pension Plan.

28.9. At the July meeting, the Chairman drew attention to WT/GC/W/682 and reported that the WTOPP Management Board had recently approved extending the agreement to three additional coordinated agencies, subject to the concurrence of the General Council: The European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT); European Institute for Securities Studies (ISS); European Union Satellite Centre (Satcen). He proposed that the General Council take note of his statement and concur with extending the Agreement on the Transfer of Pension Rights of participants in the WTO Pension Plan and the Coordinated Agencies plans to the three agencies he had just mentioned.

28.10. The General Council so agreed.

¹³ The decision can be found in document WT/L/922.

¹⁴ The decision can be found in document WT/L/934.

28.11. At the December meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the relevant document in WT/GC/W/689. The Chairman of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan introduced this matter. The Chairman proposed that the General Council take note of the statement of the Chairman of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan and concur with the Management Board's decision that the new transfer agreement with the NATO replaced and superseded the existing transfer agreement with effect from 1 January 2015.

28.12. The General Council so agreed.

29 ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES FOR MEMBERS IN ARREARS (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/151; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/M/155)

29.1. In October 2012, the General Council approved a recommendation from the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration regarding revised Administrative Measures for Members in arrears, as contained in WT/BFA/132, Annex I. These new revised Measures entered into force on 1 January 2013. These Measures required that at the end of each meeting of the General Council, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration should provide information with regard to which Members and Observers were under Administrative Measures; and, the General Council Chairperson would request Members and Observers in Categories II and III to inform the Secretariat as to when the payment of arrears might be expected.

29.2. At the General Council meetings in March, May, July, October and December, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures. The General Council took note of the statements.

30 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO (WT/GC/M/155)

30.1. At the December meeting, the General Council considered a report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its Forty-Eighth Session (ITC/AG(XLVIII)/254), which had been considered initially by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting on 27 November where it had been presented by the Chairman of the Joint Advisory Group, Ambassador Mariam Salleh (Malaysia). The Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development made a statement on the Committee's consideration of the report.

30.2. The General Council took note of the CTD Chairman's statement and adopted the report of the Joint Advisory Group.

31 REVIEW OF WTO ACTIVITIES (WT/GC/M/155)

31.1. At its December meeting, the General Council considered annual reports for 2014 from WTO bodies that had been drawn up in pursuance of the Decision concerning procedures for an annual overview of WTO activities and for reporting under the WTO in document WT/L/105. The Chairman said that the Annual Reports reflected the hard work undertaken in each WTO regular body in 2014 and they were all pieces of one well-integrated picture. They all told a piece of the story of the universe of WTO activities and reflected the discussions undertaken in each WTO body setting the stage for the continuation of Members' work in 2015.

31.2. The General Council adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development in document WT/COMTD/86, and took note of the reports of the other WTO bodies, including the reports of the Committees under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, in documents WT/DSB/64 and WT/DSB/64/Add.1, WT/TPR/340, G/L/1094, S/C/44, IP/C/68, G/L/1017, WT/CTE/21, WT/BOP/R/108, WT/BFA/145, WT/REG/24, WT/WGTDF/13, WT/WGTTT/16, GPA/126 and WT/L/938.

31.3. The General Council then adopted the draft Annual Report for 2014 of the General Council contained in document WT/GC/W/687, on the understanding that the Secretariat would make the necessary adjustments to that report to include matters that had been considered at that meeting.

32 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO WTO BODIES (WT/GC/M/150; WT/GC/M/152; WT/GC/M/153; AND WT/GC/M/155)

32.1. At the March meeting, the Chairman recalled that in accordance with the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies approved by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/L/510), he, together with his colleagues – Ambassador Fried (Canada), Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, and Ambassador Matus (Chile), former Chairman of the General Council – had conducted consultations with Delegations on a slate of names for the appointment of Chairs to WTO regular bodies listed in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the Annex to the Guidelines. They had also consulted on the appointment of Chairpersons to four negotiating bodies, namely: the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session, the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session, the TRIPS Council in Special Session and the Services Council in Special Session. In undertaking the process set out in the Guidelines, he had put into effect the practical steps to improve their implementation agreed by the General Council in July 2012 (JOB/GC/22).

32.2. In line with the practical steps, they had started their consultations by meeting first with Group Coordinators. Subsequently, and in accordance with Paragraph 7(d) of the Guidelines, they had provided a specified time-period in which they would be available to hear the views and suggestions of interested delegations. Those consultations had taken place over two weeks, in order to provide a greater opportunity for all interested delegations to meet with them. They had consulted all delegations that had come forward and had requested a meeting, and regularly had kept Group Coordinators informed of progress. That process had included an informal open-ended Heads-of-Delegation meeting which had been held the previous day.

32.3. On the WTO regular bodies, based on consultations, there was a consensus on the following slate of names:

General Council	H.E. Mr. Jonathan FRIED (Canada)
Dispute Settlement Body	H.E. Mr Fernando DE MATEO (Mexico)
Trade Policy Review Body	H.E. Ms Mariam MD SALLEH (Malaysia)
Council for Trade in Goods	H.E. Mr Joaquim REITER (Sweden)
Council for Trade in Services	H.E. Mr CHOI Seokyoung (Rep. of Korea)
Council for TRIPS	H.E. Mr Mothusi PALAI (Botswana)
Committee on Trade and Development	H.E. Mr Pierre Claver NDAYIRAGIJE (Burundi)
Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions	H.E. Mr Martin EYJÓLFSSON (Iceland)
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	H.E. Mr Francisco LIMA (El Salvador)
Committee on Trade and Environment	H.E. Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Finland)
Committee on Regional Trade Agreements	H.E. Francisco PIREZ GORDILLO (Uruguay)
Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	H.E. Mr Bertrand de CROMBRUGGHE de PICQUENDAELE (Belgium)
Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology	H.E. Mr Abdolazeez AL-OTAIBI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

32.4. Appointments for those bodies would be for one year, in keeping with the general rule in the Guidelines. The appointments would be made formally by the WTO bodies concerned at their subsequent meetings in 2014.

32.5. On the negotiating bodies, following consultations, there was consensus on the following appointments:

Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session	H.E. Mr Harald NEPLE (Norway)
Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session	H.E. Ms Wiboonlasana RUAMRAKSA (Thailand)
Council for TRIPS in Special Session	H.E. Mr Dacio CASTILLO (Honduras)
Council for Services in Special Session	H.E. Mr Gabriel DUQUE (Colombia)

32.6. Those appointments would also be made formally by the bodies concerned at their next meeting. The General Council took note of the statement and of the consensus on the slate of names for the appointment of officers.

32.7. The representatives of Chinese Taipei; Dominican Republic; and Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); and the Chairman spoke.

32.8. In keeping with Paragraph 7.3 of the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies – the outgoing Chairpersons of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) and the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) were to conduct consultations to select Chairpersons for the bodies established under their respective Councils. In relation to this, both Chairpersons announced that they would be starting consultations for the appointment of Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services. The General Council took note of the statements.

32.9. At the July meeting, the Chairman announced that Ambassador Joakim Reiter (Sweden) would soon relinquish his post and it would be necessary to hold consultations to appoint a new Chair for the Council for Trade in Goods. He intended to take up consultations on that appointment after the summer break, with the assistance of Ambassador Fernando De Mateo (Mexico), Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body.

32.10. The General Council took note of the statement.

32.11. At the October meeting, the Chairman reported that having followed the guidelines in WT/L/510 and the practical steps built by Members, consensus was reached on the appointment of Ambassador Atanas Atanasov Paparizov (Bulgaria) as Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods for the remainder of the term. Ambassador Paparizov would formally be appointed at the next meeting of the Goods Council.

32.12. The General Council took note of the statement.

32.13. At the December meeting, the Chairman said that in accordance with the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers to WTO bodies in document WT/L/510 and the practical steps to improve the implementation of the Guidelines (JOB/GC/22) agreed to by the General Council in July 2012, he would be starting the selection process for the appointment of chairpersons to the WTO bodies in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Annex to the Guidelines. In accordance with paragraph 7.1(b) of the Guidelines, he would be assisted in the selection process by the serving Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, Ambassador Fernando de Mateo (Mexico).

32.14. The General Council took note of the statement, which had been made pursuant to the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers.

33 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (WT/GC/M/150)

33.1. At the March meeting, the Chairman, as the outgoing presiding officer of the General Council, made a statement. The General Council then unanimously elected H.E. Mr Jonathan Fried (Canada) to the Chair.

33.2. The Director-General, the newly-elected Chairman, and the representatives of Japan and European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.
