



1 November 2023

(23-7395)

Page: 1/9

Committee on Rules of Origin

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12 OCTOBER 2023

CHAIRPERSON: MR ELIA N. MTWEVE (TANZANIA)

Subjects discussed:

1 PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (WT/L/917 AND WT/L/917/ADD.1).....	2
A. Review of Recent Developments in Relation to Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs: Update and Report by Preference-Granting Members Wishing to Share Any Developments	2
B. Status of Notifications of Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs and Preferential Import Data – Update and Report by the Secretariat (G/RO/W/163/Rev.12)	2
C. China's Study on Utilization by LDCs of China's Preference in 2020: Presentation by China..	3
D. Understanding the Importance of Differentiating Utilization Rates of Preferential Arrangements: Lessons Learned and Best Practices - Presentation by Cambodia	4
E. Draft Report to the General Council Ahead of the Next Ministerial Conference Reporting on Preferential Rules of Origin and the Implementation of the 2013 and 2015 Ministerial and 2022 Committee Decisions (G/RO/95, WT/L/1135, and G/RO/W/223)	5
F. Modalities and Methodology for the Calculation of Utilization Rates - Update by the Secretariat (G/RO/W/161/Rev.1)	5
2 DRAFT TRANSPARENCY DECISION AND NOTIFICATION TEMPLATE ON NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN (JOB/RO/8) – UPDATE BY THE CHAIRPERSON ..	7
3 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5 AND UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ANNEX II OF THE AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN – UPDATE AND REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT (G/RO/N/254 – G/RO/N/264).....	7
4 MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS: IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CRO – REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS (G/RO/W/224)	8
5 COMPILATION OF ORIGIN-RELATED FACILITATIVE MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (G/RO/W/219) – REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT	8
6 TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN (G/RO/W/225).....	9
7 DRAFT REPORT (2023) OF THE CRO TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS (G/RO/W/226).....	9
8 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	9
9 OTHER BUSINESS.....	9

The Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) adopted the agenda for the meeting ([WTO/AIR/RO/18/Rev.1](#)). An annotated agenda had also been circulated ([JOB/RO/11](#)). The Chairperson appreciated that, for the first time, the agenda had been built using the new e-agenda. Delegations attended the meeting in person or remotely via the "Interprefy" platform.

1 PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ([WT/L/917](#) AND [WT/L/917/ADD.1](#))

1.1. The Chairperson invited preference granting Members to update the Committee about any recent developments in relation to their preferential rules of origin for LDCs. He informed that the information would be used to prepare the Committee's annual report to the General Council.

A. Review of Recent Developments in Relation to Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs: Update and Report by Preference-Granting Members Wishing to Share Any Developments

1.2. The representative of the United Kingdom recalled that his delegation had previously updated this Committee on the launch of the UK Developing Country Trading Scheme (DCTS), which had entered into force on the 19 June 2023. He reported that the UK had now submitted a notification with full details about the Scheme. He said that the scheme represented a significant improvement, since the UK rules of origin for LDCs were now much simpler and easier to navigate and added that the UK had also significantly simplified product-specific rules, taking into account the provisions of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision. Furthermore, he noted that, under the new scheme, LDCs were able to cumulate with 95 countries. The UK had also amended their legislation to allow Members that had signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the UK to remain in regional cumulation groups.

1.3. The representative of the European Union reported that the EU was in the process of extending the period of application of its current Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Regulation No. 978, of 2012, which was set to expire by the end of 2023. As a result of the extension, the new expiry date would be end-2027. He also informed the Committee that discussions were ongoing regarding the revision of the EU GSP, noting that no agreement had yet been reached on the shape of the new GSP.

1.4. The representative of Togo, on behalf of the LDC Group, thanked the delegations for their updates.

1.5. The Committee took note of the statements made.

B. Status of Notifications of Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs and Preferential Import Data – Update and Report by the Secretariat ([G/RO/W/163/Rev.12](#))

1.6. The Secretariat (Mr Simon Neumueller) updated the Committee about the latest status of notifications covering preferential rules of origin and preferential tariffs and imports ([G/RO/W/163/Rev.12](#)). He explained that only minimal changes to notifications on rules of origin had been introduced since the last update, most notably a new notification from the United Kingdom ([G/RO/LDC/N/GBR/1/Rev.1](#)). Regarding notifications to the WTO's Integrated Database (IDB), he informed the Committee that several Members had submitted their preferential import statistics and tariff rates up to 2022. He also reported that there had been updates to the data available for China and India, and that the Secretariat had been in frequent contact with the two delegations with a view to complementing the scope of the data available for the analysis of preference utilization.

1.7. The representative of India thanked the Secretariat and noted that India had submitted recent data regarding its import volumes, and that his delegation was working with the Secretariat to complement the information on preferential tariff rates as soon as possible.

1.8. The representative of China reported that his delegation had submitted to the WTO its data for 2021, including data specifically for the calculation of preference utilization.

1.9. The representative of Togo, on behalf of the LDC Group, welcomed the new notifications and encouraged those Members that had gaps in their notifications to provide the necessary information to facilitate the work of the CRO.

1.10. The representative of New Zealand reported that her government had been working to revise its rules of origin for LDCs to align them to the rules used in New Zealand's FTAs. The revised rules would be communicated when the review had been completed. In addition, her government had been making progress in the preparation of preferential import data to comply with the transparency

mechanism for PTAs. New Zealand had also updated its list of countries eligible for the GSP and would shortly be notifying these changes.

1.11. The Chairperson urged those delegations with pending notifications to work with their Capitals to ensure that their notifications were updated and complete.

1.12. The Committee took note of the Secretariat's report and statements made.

C. China's Study on Utilization by LDCs of China's Preference in 2020: Presentation by China

1.13. The representative of China presented an overview of the utilization of China's trade preferences by LDCs in 2020 ([G/RO/W/227](#) and [RD/RO/107](#)). He explained that the presentation had been prepared in response to the presentation delivered by the LDC Group at the CRO's previous meeting ([RD/RO/102](#)). The calculations followed the methodology agreed to by the CRO ([G/RO/W/161](#)) and considered all types of preferential tariffs available, namely the LDC Preferential Tariff Arrangement (PTA), as well as the FTAs that a small group of LDCs had signed with China (Bangladesh; Cambodia; Lao PDR; and Myanmar under the Asia-Pacific Free Trade Agreement and the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement). In relation to the denominator in the formula, he explained that China had only considered the value of imports that were destined for China's domestic market and therefore subject to customs duties. The value of goods not subject to customs duties had been excluded from the calculations (for example, re-exported or bonded goods entering special customs zone areas). In addition, goods benefitting from a temporary tariff concession equal or lower to the PTA preferences were also excluded from the calculations. The results of such calculations showed significant differences compared to the results presented in the LDC report. The utilization of China's preferences confirmed that China's LDC-PTA rules of origin were simple and convenient, and that utilization rates were generally high, albeit with low utilization by certain LDCs. The reasons for low utilization in such cases needed to be studied with the Members concerned. In this regard, China proposed to strengthen its collaboration with beneficiary Members to further understand the actual reasons and difficulties that could be hindering their preference utilization. China was willing to provide assistance and capacity building as needed. Finally, he explained that the calculations had also highlighted the need to use comprehensive data sets for the calculation of utilization rates.

1.14. The representative of India thanked China for the useful presentation. He agreed that all available preferential schemes needed to be considered in the calculation of preference utilization. When all factors were considered, India's effective utilization rate was quite high. Such factors could include imports under RTAs or other schemes, or for re-exports. He recalled that his delegation had offered to engage with the LDCs to undertake preference utilization calculations and achieve a clearer picture of their preference utilization.

1.15. The representative of Australia thanked the delegation of China for the presentation. In his view, it had been useful to clarify that apparently low utilization rates could sometimes be explained by data shortages.

1.16. The representative of Togo, on behalf of the LDC Group, thanked China for the presentation. He explained that the calculations presented by the LDC Group had been based on the data available with the Secretariat. In his view, it was the responsibility of preference-granting Members to ensure that the data concerning their preferences was complete and available through WTO databases. Furthermore, he said that it was important to keep a focus on unilateral preferences, since the Committee had been mandated to improve rules of origin in the context of PTAs. He reiterated that the LDC Group stood ready to cooperate with delegations with a view to achieving a common understanding of the data to be used when calculating utilization rates.

1.17. The Chairperson thanked the delegation of China for undertaking its own calculations and for sharing its presentation with the Committee.

1.18. The Committee took note of the statements made.

D. Understanding the Importance of Differentiating Utilization Rates of Preferential Arrangements: Lessons Learned and Best Practices - Presentation by Cambodia

1.19. The Chairperson welcomed Cambodia's Secretary of State to the meeting and invited Cambodia to deliver its presentation.

1.20. The representative of Cambodia made a presentation ([RD/RO/108](#)) about possible lessons learned and best practices in relation to the calculation and interpretation of preference utilization rates. He explained that utilization rates were a useful and powerful tool for identifying trade policy priorities for LDC and preference-granting Members. In this sense, he contended that the concept of "underutilization" was too general because it lumped together preferences that had different legal requirements, including different rules of origin. For this reason, this approach did not allow for informed decisions by policymakers. The full potential of the concept of preference utilization for trade policy required the monitoring of utilization rates for each individual preferential scheme. This point was then illustrated with differences in utilization rates between Cambodia and Japan under the ASEAN-Japan FTA and Japan's GSP for LDCs. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would follow up with a written submission detailing the advantages of monitoring the utilization rates of individual preferential schemes.

1.21. The representative of the European Union thanked the delegation of Cambodia. Her delegation looked forward to reviewing Cambodia's submission.

1.22. The representative of India thanked the delegation of Cambodia for the presentation. He noted that the presentation was insightful in its emphasis on how lumping schemes and calculations under a single umbrella could have certain implications in terms of analysis. However, the presentation assumed that differences in utilization under both preferential schemes could be explained by differences in the applicable rule of origin. In his view, other factors could also explain why utilization rates went up or down under one scheme as compared to another. Such factors also needed to be taken into consideration. In addition, he noted that individual analyses required a level of detail that was difficult to achieve in the Committee. At the end of the day, what mattered was the overall level of preference utilization by LDCs.

1.23. The representative of Nepal thanked the delegation of Cambodia for the informative and useful presentation.

1.24. The representative of Togo, on behalf of the LDC Group, thanked Cambodia for the presentation and highlighted that such presentations could be made more frequently by all preference-granting Members to enhance the Committee's understanding of how preference utilization rates were to be interpreted.

1.25. The representative of Burkina Faso thanked the delegation of Cambodia for the presentation, which well-illustrated the complexity of preference utilization rates.

1.26. The representative of Zambia thanked the delegation of Cambodia for sharing their experience of utilizing trade preferences.

1.27. The representative of Niger thanked Cambodia for reminding delegations that the Committee had adopted a methodology for the calculation of utilization rates that was simple to use and easy to understand. He believed that this was the method that should be used in the context of the work of the CRO.

1.28. The representative of Japan appreciated Cambodia's presentation and noted that the spaghetti bowl of rules of origin created complexities for all users, not only LDCs. He explained that it was important to identify the specific problems that users were facing in order to propose specific solutions. His delegation looked forward to holding constructive bilateral discussions with the LDC Group on this topic.

1.29. The representative of Bangladesh thanked Cambodia for the presentation and hoped that the preference-granting Members would consider the issues that had been raised.

1.30. The representative of Senegal thanked Cambodia for the presentation, which had included information that would be useful for the Committee's future work.

1.31. The representative of Guinea thanked Cambodia for the presentation and proposed that the Committee use the agreed formula to calculate utilization rates.

1.32. In response, the representative of Cambodia indicated that Cambodia stood ready to engage in bilateral discussions with other preference-granting Members on any matters. He also clarified that the source of the data in their calculations was the [UNCTAD utilization portal](#), which contained import statistics for four preference-granting Members. The delegation of Cambodia further requested that preference-granting Members make available their imports under each preferential scheme, whether it was under the GSP, an FTA, or any other scheme.

1.33. In conclusion, the Chairperson proposed that the Committee continue discussing the possible lessons learned in relation to the calculation and interpretation of utilization rates.

1.34. The Committee took note of the statements made and agreed to proceed accordingly.

E. Draft Report to the General Council Ahead of the Next Ministerial Conference Reporting on Preferential Rules of Origin and the Implementation of the 2013 and 2015 Ministerial and 2022 Committee Decisions ([G/RO/95](#), [WT/L/1135](#), and [G/RO/W/223](#))

1.35. The Chairperson updated the Committee on the preparation of the CRO report to the General Council ahead of MC13. As agreed at the CRO's previous formal meeting, the Secretariat had prepared a first draft report with inputs from several delegations. That report had been shared with Members in early August for their comments and corrections. He further noted that the draft and the comments received had already been discussed in the informal consultations held on 18 September. A consolidated version of the document had subsequently been prepared that reflected the changes proposed by several preference-granting Members, and by the LDC Group. However, instead of immediately presenting the latest version of the document for the Committee's review, he proposed that the Committee move into informal mode to discuss the report at the end of that day's formal meeting. Once Members had discussed the report and agreed on how it should be modified, he would request the Secretariat to circulate a clean revised version for the Committee's further consideration and approval.

1.36. The representative of the European Union proposed to resume this item in the afternoon.

1.37. The representative of Togo sought to clarify the nature of the informal meeting, and whether or not it would be open to all Members.

1.38. The Chairperson clarified that the meeting would be open-ended and would begin immediately following that day's formal meeting.

1.39. It was so agreed.

F. Modalities and Methodology for the Calculation of Utilization Rates - Update by the Secretariat ([G/RO/W/161/Rev.1](#))

1.40. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present a revised note on the methodology for the calculation of utilization rates. He clarified that the note did not propose any change to the methodology that had been adopted by the CRO in 2017. Instead, it sought to better reflect the ongoing discussions in the CRO in relation to the data needed to calculate utilization rates, as well as the factors that were relevant to interpret the results of such calculations.

1.41. The Secretariat (Mr Darlan Martí) explained that the note had been updated to better reflect the most recent discussions in the CRO concerning the calculation of preference utilization rates. It contained a discussion of the benefits of considering "underutilization rates" in addition to utilization rates of individual preferential schemes. In his view, utilization and non-utilization rates (or underutilization) were complementary concepts that could be used sequentially to support the work of the CRO. In addition, in light of recent discussions in the Committee, the note also acknowledged the need for access to a wider range of import statistics. Specifically, the Secretariat needed to

access data on imports under all available preferential schemes. In this respect, he noted that the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) did not have any structural limitations. It could accommodate submissions of import statistics under PTAs, under FTAs, and even under other types of tariff concessions. However, only the notification of imports under PTAs was mandatory for WTO Members, whereas Members submitted information about imports under other preferences on a voluntary basis.

1.42. The representative of Senegal thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and asked if it would be possible to add another methodology for the calculation of underutilization that would be based on the aggregation of utilization rates under specific schemes, as opposed to a subtraction of the volume of trade that did not receive any preferences.

1.43. The representative of India acknowledged the Secretariat's emphasis on the note not proposing any change in methodology, and that it only reflected what had been discussed in the Committee. He reiterated that using the concept of underutilization represented a good way of attaining a comprehensive view of trade patterns, noting that the use of the underutilization rates addressed certain shortcomings in the calculations. He recalled that Cambodia had raised concerns with respect to this methodology, and that he looked forward to reviewing Cambodia's submission. He also sought to clarify why paragraph 4.2 of the revised note mentioned "applied internal taxes and other duties and charges". In his view, such taxes and duties were not relevant to the calculation of preference utilization rates.

1.44. The representative of Japan thanked the Secretariat and noted that there were limitations to the use of utilization rates as a tool to examine the impact of rules of origin. Other factors could also hinder preference utilization, including a lack of awareness among operators, and small preferential tariff margins. His delegation would provide further comments on the note as soon as his Capital had completed its review of it.

1.45. The representative of Togo thanked the Secretariat on behalf of the LDC Group. He confirmed that the LDC Group valued the methodology adopted by the Committee in 2017 because it was user-friendly and easy to understand.

1.46. The representative of the European Union thanked the Secretariat for the note and highlighted that it was indeed important to assess all types of preferences in order to have an overview of preference utilization. However, she agreed that rules of origin under FTAs and PTAs could differ, including in their related documentary requirements. For this reason, she likewise agreed that lumping all preferences together also presented certain disadvantages. One option could be to analyse each preference separately, although using underutilization rates was also useful to identify those products that were not receiving any preference whatsoever.

1.47. The representative of China thanked the Secretariat for the note and welcomed the methodologies. He indicated that, in China's experience, many factors could affect the calculation of utilization rates and their interpretation. As Cambodia had explained, product-specific rules of origin under a PTA and an FTA could be similar. However, importers could be choosing the FTA more often than the PTA, which could raise an interesting question about the fact that importers may choose one scheme over another irrespective of the applicable rules of origin. Regarding the IDB, he agreed that the database did not have any structural limitation. However, relying exclusively on the IDB for calculations also had its disadvantages since ultimately only Members themselves could access the full data concerning their foreign trade.

1.48. The representative of Australia said that the revised note dealt with elements that were important to the work of the Committee; however, his delegation required additional time to consider it.

1.49. In response, the Secretariat (Mr Darlan Marti) thanked delegations for their comments. He was pleased that the note had sparked so much interest, thereby confirming that this was a central element in the work of the Committee. He encouraged delegations to reach out to the Secretariat to convey their comments so that the note could faithfully reflect the ongoing discussions. He added that the note could also reflect a methodology based on the aggregation of utilization rates under individual schemes. He also clarified that internal taxes were not needed to calculate utilization rates

(paragraph 4.2 of the note simply reproduced the text of the IDB Decision). He agreed that the paragraph could be revised to make this link more explicit.

1.50. The Committee took note of the statements made.

2 DRAFT TRANSPARENCY DECISION AND NOTIFICATION TEMPLATE ON NON-PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN ([JOB/RO/8](#)) – UPDATE BY THE CHAIRPERSON

2.1. The Chairperson recalled that the Committee had been considering a draft Committee decision on improving the notification and transparency of non-preferential rules of origin. A draft Chairperson's text had already been considered by the Committee and had enjoyed wide support ([JOB/RO/8](#)). However, at the Committee's previous formal meeting, the delegations of Indonesia and India had expressed certain reservations concerning the Chairperson's text. For this reason, he had invited the delegation of India to submit specific textual changes to the draft decision so that he could consult with other Members on possible alternative language. Accordingly, he invited the delegation of India to update the Committee on their deliberations concerning possible changes to the draft decision.

2.2. The representative of Switzerland reported that he had met with Capital-based officials in India and held constructive discussions with them on this initiative in the CRO. The discussions had helped him to understand India's concerns and had also covered possible ways of addressing them; to this end, he had explored possible changes to the text and tested different options to accommodate India's concerns. Since then, he had not received a response from his Indian counterpart. Nevertheless, he encouraged the delegation of India to build on the current momentum and to continue to engage on this proposal so that the Committee could finalize and adopt a decision that was supported by almost the entire WTO Membership.

2.3. The representative of South Africa thanked the Chairperson for his brief update and indicated that his Capital was also looking into the draft decision. He welcomed the update from Switzerland. He requested to be kept updated on any proposed amendments to the document so that he could inform his Capital of any such developments.

2.4. The representative of India thanked Switzerland for its update and confirmed that Switzerland was engaging with India on the proposal; his colleagues from Capital were also part of the discussion. He informed the Committee that India had held discussions with certain other Members that had also expressed concerns over the draft decision. In this regard, he had also held informal discussions with the Chairperson on the text. However, his delegation was overstretched with other files and preparations for the Ministerial Conference; India needed more time, therefore.

2.5. In conclusion, the Chairperson noted that this item had already been on the agenda of the Committee for quite some time. Accordingly, he encouraged Members to finalize and adopt the decision so that they could focus their discussions on the actual substantive elements concerning non-preferential rules of origin. He added that updating notifications was just a steppingstone towards a more substantive discussion in the CRO on non-preferential rules of origin. He proposed to continue his consultations with a view to preparing a revised text that could be shared with the entire Committee for its consideration and eventual adoption.

2.6. The Committee agreed to proceed accordingly.

3 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 5 AND UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ANNEX II OF THE AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN – UPDATE AND REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ([G/RO/N/254](#) – [G/RO/N/264](#))

3.1. The Secretariat (Mr Darlan Marti) informed Members that the Secretariat had received one additional notification on non-preferential rules of origin since its previous meeting (Paraguay, [G/RO/N/254](#)). Including this additional notification, 44% of Members had now informed the Committee that they did not implement any non-preferential origin requirements, while 36% of Members had notified that they did. He also drew Members' attention to the multiplication of legislation in this area. The number of Members applying non-preferential rules of origin had increased from 15 in 1995 to 55 in 2023. In conclusion, the Secretariat noted that the detailed list of notifications was available on the WTO rules of origin website (section "[Non-preferential origin](#)")

and in Annex 1 of the Committee's draft report on the review of the Agreement's operation ([G/RO/W/225](#)).

3.2. The representative of [Switzerland](#) thanked the Secretariat for the update. He expressed his surprise at the increasing number of Members that had begun applying non-preferential rules of origin, which he considered to be an additional reason to improve transparency in this area. The Agreement on Rules of Origin contained an obligation to notify non-preferential rules of origin only once, and most Members had notified their practice in the years 1995-1996. The multiplication of legislation in this area only emphasized the need to improve Members' understanding of the implication of non-preferential rules of origin.

3.3. The Committee took note of the update and statement made.

4 MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS: IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CRO – REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS ([G/RO/W/224](#))

4.1. The [Chairperson](#) recalled previous discussions in the Committee about measures to improve the functioning of the CRO and facilitate the work of delegations. He recalled that seven measures had been adopted at the Committee's previous meeting. Most of these measures had since been implemented, including the use of an annotated agenda and an eAgenda. In addition, he informed the Committee that a [manual on the work of the CRO](#) had been prepared and could be found on the rules of origin portal of the WTO website. He asked Members to consider a draft report by the CRO to the Council for Trade in Goods describing the Committee's discussions on this topic ([G/RO/W/224](#) and [G/RO/W/224/Corr.1](#)). In addition, he invited delegations to inform him if there were any other measures that the Committee needed to consider to further improve its work.

4.2. The representative of the [European Union](#) thanked the Chairperson for the document and confirmed that the EU had no further comments.

4.3. The [Chairperson](#) noted that delegations could propose additional measures for discussion at any time. Finally, he proposed that the Committee adopt the Report.

4.4. It was so agreed¹.

5 COMPILATION OF ORIGIN-RELATED FACILITATIVE MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ([G/RO/W/219](#)) – REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT

5.1. The [Chairperson](#) recalled the discussions at the Committee's previous formal meeting on a compilation prepared by the Secretariat of measures taken by Members to facilitate compliance with origin-related requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic ([G/RO/W/219](#)). He explained that the compilation had been made from notifications submitted to the Committees on Market Access and Trade Facilitation, as well as from measures identified in the context of the WTO trade monitoring mechanism. Members had been requested to review the Secretariat's compilation of measures and update it as necessary. He confirmed that the Secretariat had received updates from the following Members: the European Union; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; and the Russian Federation. A revised version of the document would therefore be circulated. He opened the floor for delegations wishing to provide any additional updates.

5.2. The representative of [Japan](#) thanked the Secretariat for its compilation of the relevant measures. He confirmed that Japan did not have additional update to provide but added that it would continue to contribute to the work of the Secretariat.

5.3. The representative of [Canada](#) appreciated the opportunity to review the Secretariat's compilation and provide any factual updates. She confirmed that Canada's Border Services Agency (CBSA) had implemented an e-Longroom initiative, which created a new process for providing electronic copies of release documents to the CBSA. The e-Longroom was a permanent service that offered a modernized processing of trade documents.

¹ The report was subsequently submitted to the Council for Trade in Goods ([G/L/1493](#) and [G/RO/98](#)).

5.4. The Chairperson requested delegations to send any corrections or additional information to the Secretariat. He informed the Committee that a revised version of the document would be circulated shortly after that day's meeting.

5.5. It was so agreed.²

6 TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN ([G/RO/W/225](#))

6.1. The Chairperson invited Members to share their views on the operation and implementation of the Agreement on Rules of Origin and to complete an annual review of its implementation, as required by Article 6.1 of the Agreement. To help the Committee conduct the review, the Secretariat had prepared a background note describing the activities of the Committee under Parts II and III of the Agreement ([G/RO/W/225](#)). This draft report would be revised in case of any comments. If not, it would be considered for adoption.

6.2. The representative of Australia requested that the bracketed text in the draft report be updated prior to considering its adoption.

6.3. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to revise and circulate the report for Members' consideration. If no objections were received within a given time-frame, the Committee would consider that the review had been completed and that the report had been adopted.

6.4. The Committee agreed to proceed accordingly.³

7 DRAFT REPORT (2023) OF THE CRO TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS ([G/RO/W/226](#))

7.1. The Chairperson requested Members to consider the draft annual report of the Committee to the CTG ([G/RO/W/226](#)). The draft report would be revised in case of any comments. If not, it would be considered for adoption.

7.2. In the absence of any comment, Members adopted the report.

8 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

8.1. The Chairperson informed delegations that new dates had been identified for the formal meetings of the CRO in 2024, namely 7 May and 28 November.⁴

8.2. The Committee took note of these dates.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. There were no items raised under "Other Business".

9.2. The meeting was adjourned.

² A revised compilation was subsequently circulated ([G/RO/W/219/Rev.1](#)).

³ A revised report was circulated ([G/RO/W/225/Rev.1](#)) for adoption.

⁴ Members were subsequently informed about changes to those dates. The formal meetings of the CRO will be held on 29 April and 21 November 2024.