



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES (2021)

1. Since its 2020 annual report to the Council for Trade in Services<sup>1</sup>, the Committee on Specific Commitments (CSC) held three formal meetings, on 2 December 2020, 10 March 2021 and 29 June 2021 respectively.<sup>2</sup> At these meetings, the Committee considered three items: Implementation of Specific Commitments, Classification Issues and Scheduling Issues.

### 1 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

2. This item was included in the agenda upon a Communication from the United States dated 5 March 2020.<sup>3</sup> The United States proposed that the Committee examine conditional commitments contained in the Schedules of Specific Commitments under the GATS with a view to improving transparency of commitments. The Committee agreed on a step-by-step approach whereby the Secretariat would first prepare a factual compilation of conditional commitments contained in Members' Schedules and the Committee would then consider the next steps of the proposed exercise.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat prepared and circulated the Compilation of Conditional Commitments dated 13 November 2020, which was later revised upon the request of the Committee.<sup>4</sup> The Compilation encompasses those entries in the Schedules of Specific Commitments under the GATS which make the entry into force, implementation, or updating of specific commitments conditional upon a domestic process such as new legislation or policy review. Information related to the implementation of conditional commitments are also included in the Compilation, subject to the availability of information. Members were invited to verify and complement such information.

4. Engagement in the exercise on conditional commitments was on a voluntary basis. At the meetings during the reporting period, a number of Members provided updates on the implementation of their commitments included in the Compilation. Some Members indicated that they were holding internal consultations and would provide updates at a later stage.

### 2 CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

5. At the meeting on 10 March 2021, the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and the WTO Secretariat provided a joint presentation on the new functionalities of the UN statistical classification website helping Members navigate between the different CPC versions as well as between the CPC and other classifications. The focus of the presentation was on whether and how the correspondence could be established between the CPC Provisional Version of 1991 and the later versions of the CPC, given that the Services Sectoral Classification List (MTN.GNS/W/120) created for scheduling specific commitments under the GATS was based on the CPC Provisional Version.

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<sup>1</sup> Annual Report of the Committee on Specific Commitments to the Council for Trade in Services (2020), contained in document S/CSC/26 dated 2 December 2020.

<sup>2</sup> The reports of these meetings are contained in documents S/CSC/M/84, S/CSC/M/85 and S/CSC/M/86, which should be read in conjunction with this report.

<sup>3</sup> The communication from the United States is contained in document S/CSC/W/69.

<sup>4</sup> The Compilation of Conditional Commitments is contained in document S/CSC/70 and S/CSC/70/Rev.1.

### **3 SCHEDULING ISSUES**

6. The Committee did not engage in substantive discussions under this item.
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