

Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

2018

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ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
Ag-IMS	Agriculture Information Management System
AIP	Accession Internship Programme
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association/Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración
APEX Brazil	Brazilian Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Export
ATPC	Advanced Trade Policy Course
BTOR	Back-to-Office Report
C4	Cotton four
CAMEX	Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBFA	Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration
CEECAC	Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and Caucasus
CEF	Centre for Economics and Finance
CHF	Swiss franc
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CONMETRO	Brazilian National Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality Council
CRN	Central Registry of Notifications
CTD	Committee on Trade and Development
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment
DG	Director General
DS	Dispute Settlement
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EU	European Union
FES	Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung
FIMIP	French & Irish Missions Internship Programme
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEMPACK	General Equilibrium Modelling PACKage
GPA	Government Procurement Agreement
GSO	Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization
GTAP	Global Trade Analysis Project
GTF	Global Trust Fund
GVCs	Global Value Chains
HK RX	Hong Kong re-exports
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IGO	Intergovernmental Organizations
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMS	Information Management System
IP	Intellectual Property
IPE	International Political Economy
IPR	Intellectual property right
ITA	Information Technology Agreement
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITPC	Intermediate-level Trade Policy Course
ITTC	Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation
LDC	Least-developed country
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MA	Market Access
MC11	11 th WTO Ministerial Conference
MCHF	Million Swiss franc
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MP	Member of Parliament
MTS	Multilateral Trading System
NAMA	Non-Agricultural Market Access
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTMs	Non-Tariff Measures

NTP	Netherlands Trainee Programme
PAM	Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLS	Progressive Learning Strategy
Q&A	Questions & Answers
QR	Quantitative Restriction
RBM	Results-Based Management
RCI	Regional Coordinator Internship Programme
RTA	Regional Trade Agreement
SCORM	Sharable Content Object Reference Model
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SJR	SCImago Journal Rank
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SNIP	Source Normalised Impact per Paper
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TA	Technical Assistance
TACTF	Technical Assistance Coordination Task Force
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TF	Trade Facilitation
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TFAF	Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
TMR	Training Material Request
TPP	Trade Policy Presentation
TPR	Trade Policy Review
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TRTA	Trade-Related Technical Assistance
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WB	World Bank Group
WCP	WTO Chairs Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
YP	Young Professionals
YPP	Young Professionals Programme

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report on the World Trade Organization Technical Assistance (WTO TA) provided by the Secretariat in 2018 follows the same logic as in previous years by focussing on three types of analysis: the main evolutions of TA in 2018 compared to 2017; an analysis of implemented TA activities by region, type, subject, language, level of training, gender of the participants, Key Results and for LDCs; and an evaluation of the delivery and results of these TA activities.

1.1 Main evolutions in 2018 compared to 2017

1.2. Further progress during the year in the implementation of the 28 recommendations formulated in the external evaluation of the WTO TA conducted in 2016 meant that, by the end of the year, 71% of the recommendations had been implemented and the others were in progress. This meant that two years after the evaluation, no recommendation had been left unattended. A detailed table on the actions undertaken in 2018 to implement each of the recommendations is included in Annex I.

1.3. In line with the implementation of Result-based management (RBM) for TA, in 2018: (i) TA workflows were simplified and streamlined; (ii) the development of a new TA management system progressed well and a first module for the management of activity requests was released in November; this meant that the new system was used for 2019 TA activities onwards; (iii) thirteen TA evaluations were conducted during the year to assess the results of four regional and two national activities, the introduction course for LDCs and of the WTO TA provided to six beneficiary countries since 2014; (iv) a review of the recommendations formulated in Back-to-Office-Reports (BTORs) showed that half of them had been either fully implemented or discontinued for lack of relevance or feasibility, and another quarter had been partially implemented; and (v) the reporting rate on TA activities was almost 100% as in previous years.

1.4. The Secretariat continued to enrich the substantive content of its TA offer and promoting good training practices in 2018: a new e-Learning cloud-based platform was configured and tested; five new online courses were released and two existing ones revised to increase their interactive multimedia content and upgrade them to Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) standards; the holistic approach to subjects like Public Health, e-Commerce, Standards and competition was deepened; connections were made between trade issues and the global economic and policy agenda in the field of Agriculture and Intellectual Property (IP); efforts were made in a number of areas (Standards, NAMA, Services, TRIPS, Government Procurement, etc.) to respond to the actual needs of beneficiaries and promote the implementation of the WTO Agreements.

1.5. The resources available to the Secretariat (from the regular budget and extra-budgetary funds) to finance TA to developing Members and Observers seemed to have stabilised since 2014, despite annual fluctuations. However, the overall resources available remained lower than actual expenses, obliging the Secretariat to tap regularly into its financial reserves. The volume of TA activities grew significantly but related expenses decreased by 8% for the first time in seven years, due to the tight management policy implemented by the Secretariat and the postponement of one programme funded by an earmarked contribution.

1.2 Implementation of TA Plan - main features of the WTO Technical Assistance in 2018

1.6. The Secretariat undertook 307 TA activities (+18% compared to 2017), both in Geneva and in other locations, and participated in 52 other TA-related activities (e.g. conferences or activities of partner institutions). A majority of these TA activities were organized in partnership with other international, regional or sub-regional institutions. Overall, 22,800 participants were trained during the year, an increase of 25% compared to 2017, mainly as a result of a 65% growth of the participation in face-to-face activities, as participation in online courses was stable. Despite this spectacular growth, total TA expenses were 5% lower than in 2017, as a result of tight resource management and the postponement of an internship programme.

1.7. During the year the proportion of face-to-face activities held outside Geneva increased compared to 2017, as a 28% growth of national requests led to an equivalent increase in the number of national activities. The relative weight of TA on activities with a general scope (i.e. multi-topic coverage) decreased further. In 2018, 36% of the 307 activities had a general scope, when that proportion was close to 50% two years ago. As in the previous two years, the other activities were

spread across specific Agreements or subjects. Standards-related activities (SPS, TBT) were in high demand, followed by services, market access for goods (including TF), TRIPS and Agriculture.

1.8. Subject-specific regional seminars were conducted in all regions. Africa and LDCs remained a priority in 2018, in line with the TA Plan. The participation of LDCs was proportionately lower in 2018 than in 2017, as demand from these countries grew at a slower pace than from other beneficiaries. Africa was back in the first place for the number of TA activities hosted, as the surge seen in Asia-Pacific in 2017 was short-lived. Overall, more than half of face-to-face activities were held at the national level and the rest at regional/global level. National activities continued to gather larger audiences - 46 persons for 3.1 days on average - when regional or global activities tended to gather smaller audiences - around 34 persons over 3.8 days on average, which facilitated the use of more interactive training methods.

1.9. Overall, 58% of the WTO TA was provided in English, 17% in French and 19% in Spanish, and the balance in more than one language. A small increase in the number of global activities with interpretation was noted during the year. This continued to mirror approximately the language preferences of Members and Observers in the WTO. These proportions were similar in face-to-face activities and online courses.

1.10. The balance between the three PLS levels of training - introduction, intermediate and advanced - changed compared to the previous year: the relative importance of the intermediate level decreased (57%). Most of the TA activity growth in 2018 benefited more advanced activities which represented 18% of the total. The volume of activities without a defined level stabilised at 9%. This is due to a number of reasons, including the fact that it is not feasible to allocate a level to outreach or academic-related activities for example, since they do not purport to train their participants over several years to progressively take them to higher levels of knowledge on WTO issues. The TA offer was almost equally shared between generalists and specialists.

1.11. The overall proportion of women amongst WTO TA participants grew above the 2012-17 average to reach 47%. There was no difference between face-to-face activities and online courses in this regard.

1.12. An overwhelming majority of the TA activities (86%) contributed to Key Result 1 "Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and making full use of Members' rights", a proportion which was even closer to 100% for e-Learning courses. Key Result 2 on accessions was next (7%), followed by Key Result 3 on benefiting academic institutions (5%) and Key Result 4 on outreach to other non-traditional audiences (MPs, journalists, civil society) (2%).

1.13. In addition to the continuous reduction of its TA resources, the main challenges faced by the Secretariat in 2018 continued to come from the limitations on the training facilities available on the WTO campus, which constrained the volume of TA that could be offered in Geneva; and the heavy workload of staff members in certain areas, which limited the TA available on specific subjects.

1.3 Evaluation of Performance in 2018 and lessons learnt

1.14. WTO TA produced excellent results in 2018. The proportion of targets met reached its highest level since 2015. Targets were met in 76% of the cases, when this proportion was 57% on average during the period 2015-17. Only 4% of the targets were not met and 15% of them were missed by a small margin. Thanks to the Secretariat's continuous efforts to enhance the quality of its TA performance indicators, significant progress was made in terms of data availability. The proportion of indicators for which no data was available decreased progressively from 18% in 2016 and 10% in 2017 to 4% in 2018.

1.15. Key Result 1, which regroups the bulk of WTO TA activities and related indicators (65%), registered the highest level of performance with targets met in 83% of cases (69% in 2017 and 71% in 2016). Key Result 4 recorded the second-best performance: targets were met in 80% of the cases against 39% in 2016 and 56% in 2017. Under Key Result 2, the rate of success went down compared to 2017 and stood at 50%. Performance of activities under Key Result 3 doubled compared to the two previous years as 50% of the targets were met, knowing that what used to be covered by Key Result 4 in previous years was split between Key Results 3 and 4 in the TA Plan

2018-19, and the former Key Result 3 was discontinued for the most part. These changes should be kept in mind when making a comparison with previous years' results.

1.16. The assessment of TA performance presented in this report is based on a combination of desk analysis and onsite evaluations conducted by the Secretariat during the year. A summary of results measured in 2018 against the targets assigned to each of the indicators included in the 2018-19 TA Plan logframe can be found in Annex II.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1. This report follows the same approach as in previous years. It goes beyond a quantitative account of the volume of WTO TA provided during the year by presenting the activities in an analytical way, and avoids repeating the description of the various programmes and activities implemented during the year, since they have already been presented to Members as part of the TA Plan.¹ The report seeks to give Members a proper understanding of the achievements of the year and of the rationale guiding the actions in this field. Significant efforts have been made to present the results of WTO TA activities according to the structure of the TA Plan adopted by Members for 2018-19.

2.2. Further to the comprehensive 2016 external evaluation of the TA provided by the WTO in 2010-15, the continuation of the work performed during the year to implement and follow-up on its recommendations has also been presented in this report to give Members as comprehensive a picture as possible.

2.3. The Secretariat keeps developing and implementing the tools to collect data so as to better measure the results produced by its TA activities in the beneficiaries. As in previous years, the report links TA activities to their associated costs, to allow Members to assess the value for money produced in 2018. However, and as noted by the 2016 external evaluation, one of the main limitations in this domain comes from the lack of capacity of many beneficiaries of WTO TA to gather sufficiently representative data to assess the results of the TA they have received.²

2.4. The report focuses on three main aspects. The first is a presentation of the main evolutions seen in the WTO TA provided in 2018 compared to the previous year, and their rationale. This required a selection amongst the many activities and programmes implemented during the year to focus on the most significant changes implemented. The second analyses the TA provided during the year by region and to LDCs, by subject covered, language used, level of training offered, participants' gender and Key Results. The last part of the report analyses in detail the immediate and long-term results of the WTO TA provided by the Secretariat during the year - and before.

3 MAIN EVOLUTIONS IN 2018 COMPARED TO 2017

3.1. This section describes the main changes observed in 2018 in the management and implementation of TA activities compared to 2017, including in terms of: (i) resources allocated to TA and the overall volume of activities implemented; (ii) progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 external evaluation; (iii) monitoring and evaluation of TA (including implementation of the Result-based management system); and (iv) changes to the design and delivery of TA activities.

3.1 Management of TA resources³

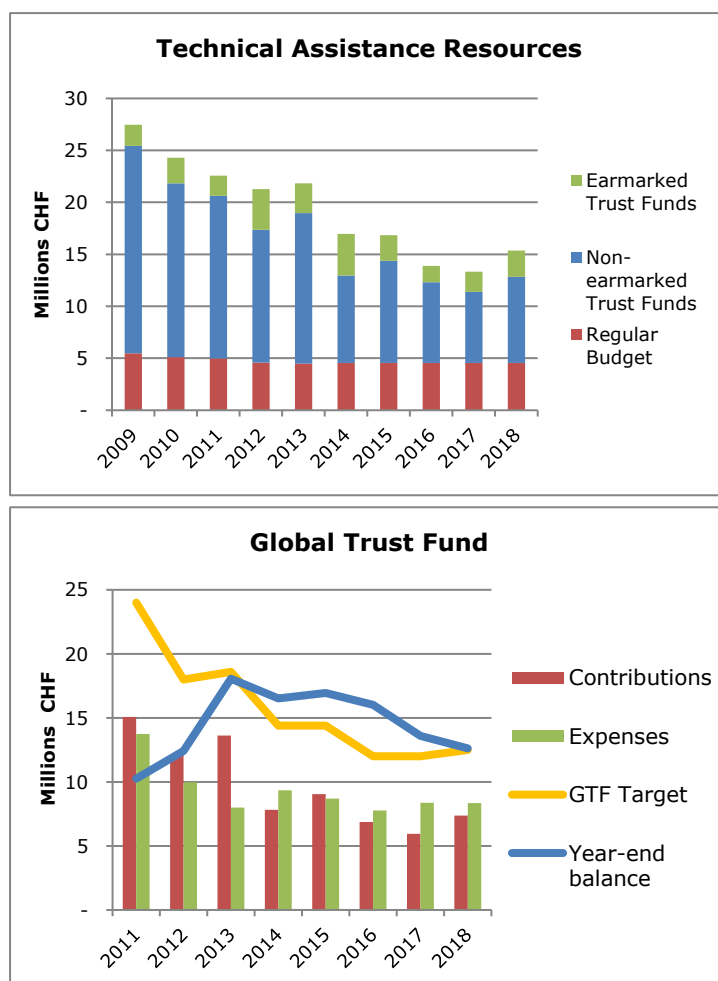
3.2. Delivery of TA in 2018 occurred in a context of stagnation of donors' contributions. As predicted in the TA Plan for 2018-19, to keep the same level of ambition and objectives for WTO TA, a tight management of resources continued to be essential.

¹ See document WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1, viewed at: https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/239616/q/WT/COMTD/W227R1.pdf

² See paragraph 4.12 in WT/COMTD/89 for an illustration.

³ For a detailed analysis of the resources and expenses of the WTO in 2018 (including TA resources), please see the WTO 2018 Financial Performance Report in document WT/BFA/W/482.

3.1.1 Resources availability for TA



3.3. In 2018, as the TA resources coming from the regular budget were constant in nominal terms (since 2012), the overall increase of TA resources meant that the relative share of the regular budget in TA funding was 30% (4 percentage points below last year's level). The Global Trust Fund (GTF) and other non-earmarked resources represented 54% of the total (+3 percentage points compared to 2017) and the balance (16%) came from contributions earmarked for specific programmes. Non-earmarked resources have progressively decreased from a peak of 20 MCHF in 2009 to 8.2 MCHF on average since 2014. Despite unavoidable annual fluctuations, both the pool of donors and the total size of their contributions seems to have stabilised over the last five years. In 2018, the return of Finland as a donor and a 12% increase in Sweden's contribution were offset by the absence of contribution from Japan, the Netherlands and Norway. This apparent stabilisation is good news. However, the current level of contributions is significantly lower than the annual target amounts approved by Members for the GTF and lower than the average expenses they finance (9.7 MCHF since 2012). Since

2014, the WTO has had to tap almost every year into its cash reserves to bridge the gap. Since the balance available in the GTF at the end of 2018 was equivalent to the target amount for 2019, the WTO will soon reach a point where, in the absence of an increase of non-earmarked contributions, it will have to reduce the ambition of its TA programme.

3.4. Since 2013, the evolution of the voluntary contributions of the various donors has been as follows:⁴

Global Trust Fund

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Australia	2,689,900	61,370	2,162,382		52,756	17,927
Austria	243,600	241,400	104,900	109,000	215,200	233,200
Denmark	491,063	482,422	400,028			
Estonia	24,160	24,640	24,120	21,800	21,520	23,320
European Union	1,232,000	317,592	1,658,552	1,294,800		1,164,800
Finland						1,159,000
France	617,000	608,500	434,400	433,200	455,600	519,300
Germany	1,233,000	1,203,000	1,060,000	1,083,000	1,139,000	1,133,000
Japan	368,744	312,019	267,413	218,634	233,669	
Korea	313,600	336,350	346,500	347,200	331,100	298,800

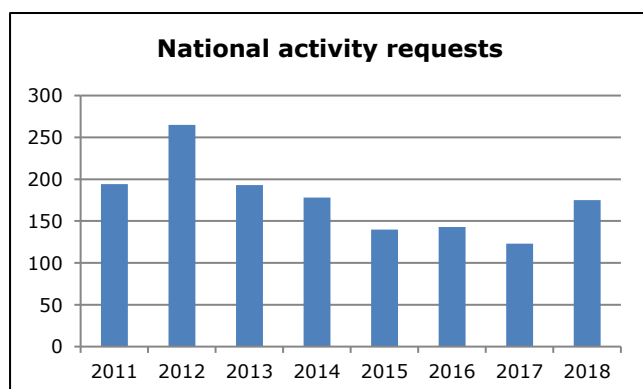
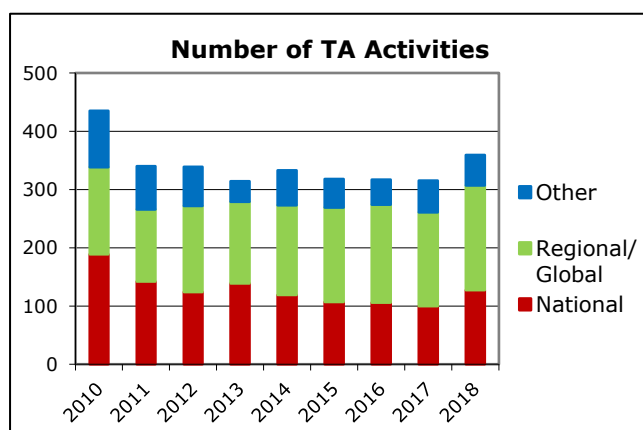
⁴ The trust funds taken into account here are those under the sole authority of the WTO which it can use to finance its TA activities (GTF and earmarked trust funds financing the Mission Internships, etc.). Trust funds managed by other entities or which finance other programmes than those of WTO (Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat and Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF)) have always been excluded, since these trust funds have their own governance and reporting mechanisms.

Global Trust Fund

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Liechtenstein	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Lithuania					20,273	30,316
Netherlands		875,000	495,000	490,000	190,598	
Norway	2,287,108	2,163,722	1,161,373	1,059,571	777,180	
Sweden	2,245,600			1,253,700	1,929,722	2,154,955
Switzerland	800,000					
Chinese Taipei	184,200					
United States	851,885	1,127,392	950,400	529,036	571,172	600,547
Total GTF	13,619,060	7,793,406	9,105,068	6,879,941	6,169,278	7,375,165

Earmarked Trust Funds

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Australia	392,120		112,640			
China	362,800		485,000	485,000	473,000	494,000
European Union	689,920	144,360		21,520	-55,161	
Finland			102,366			
France	617,000	608,500	651,600	649,800	683,400	923,200
Ireland	246,400	180,900	156,600	164,250	163,650	227,800
Netherlands		1,750,000	875,000		875,000	875,000
New Zealand		78,130				
Norway	251,582	1,300,954				
Sweden	283,300			102,291	-47,919	
Total Earmarked	2,843,122	4,062,844	2,383,206	1,422,861	2,091,970	2,520,000

3.1.2 Volume of TA activities

3.5. Building on the positive trend established since 2012 and noted by the 2016 external evaluation, the management of TA has continued to seek effectiveness in 2018 through a rigorous approval process of WTO TA activity requests that places significant attention on the relevance of the activities and their potential to produce results, favouring quality over volume.

3.6. The overall volume of WTO TA or TA-related activities increased by 14% compared to 2017 (359 activities in 2018 against 315 in 2017), reaching their highest level since 2010. Within that total, the volume of WTO TA activities *stricto sensu* increased even more (+18%) to reach 307 activities in 2018 (+46), whilst the number of *Other Activities* was stable at 52 (-2).

3.7. The number of national activities during the year increased by 28% compared to 2017. At 127, it was close to the average level in years 2011-13. National activities represented 35% of the activities organised by the WTO in 2018, in progression of 3 percentage points. As explained in the previous annual report on TA, fluctuations in the volume of national activities in absolute

and relative terms are directly correlated to the evolution of the demand from Members and, to a lesser extent, to limited Secretariat's capacity to satisfy Members' requests for activities.⁵ For the

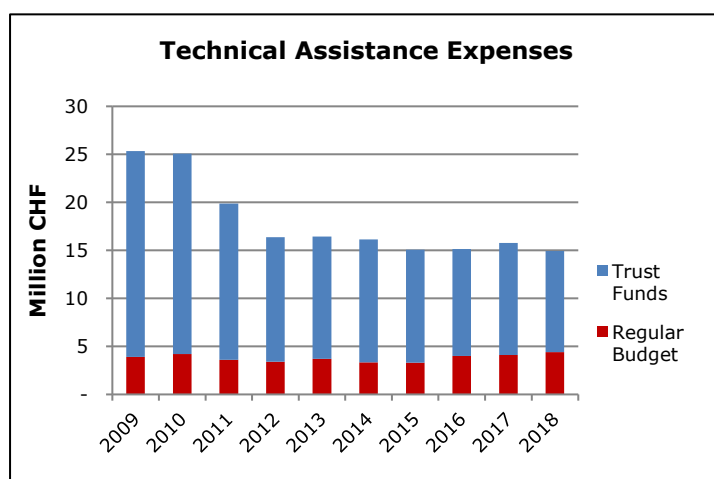
⁵ As expressed in previous annual performance reports, the Secretariat's capacity to satisfy TA demand is finite mainly in certain areas (e.g. trade remedies, TBT) due to heavy workload servicing other WTO functions combined with the current resource freeze.

first time since 2012, the number of national activity requests received by the Secretariat increased in 2018, after five successive years of decline, reaching 175 requests. By the end of 2018, 62% of the activities requested during the year were already implemented and 32% were under preparation. These rates are marginally above the average since 2011, which shows that the Secretariat had no difficulty absorbing this surge in demand. The various country assessments performed by the Secretariat in 2018 noted that several beneficiaries failed to benefit from national activities out of lack of knowledge that these could be requested.

3.8. The total number of countries presenting at least one request was also on the rise in 2018 (+11 countries) and reached 78, its highest level since 2012. The turnover among countries presenting a request remained significant: 42% of the countries that requested an activity in 2018 had not done so in 2017 and approximately a third of the 2017 requesting countries did not submit a request in 2018. The average number of requests per country rose from 1.8 in 2017 to 2.2 in 2018, as a much lower proportion of beneficiaries submitted only one or two requests (64% instead of 80%). Most of the others submitted 3 or 4 requests. The regional spread of the requests followed closely the distribution of implemented activities, described in section 4.2 below.

3.9. The number of regional and global activities also increased in 2018 (180 activities against 161 in 2017), though at a slower rate than national activities. They represented half of the activities of the year.

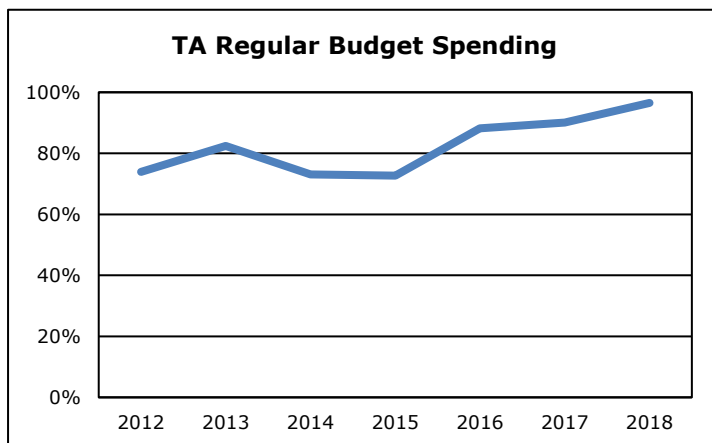
3.10. In the meantime, the volume of *Other Activities* was stable in 2018 at 52 (-2 compared to 2017) and represented 15% of the total WTO TA and TA-related activities. The Secretariat participation in the delivery of TA activities organized by other institutions represented just over half of the *Other Activities*. These activities constitute TA but are not counted as part of the WTO TA since the contribution of the Secretariat is insufficient for it to take full responsibility for the results produced. The other half included various meetings and conferences in which the Secretariat participated and which generally did not constitute WTO TA per se, but frequently lead to partnerships that facilitated the subsequent organization and delivery of WTO TA activities, such as missions to identify partners for future Intermediate-level Trade Policy Courses (ITPCs), board meetings of existing partner institutions (Middle-East Centre for Economics and Finance, Joint Vienna Institute) and onsite evaluation missions. In 2018, expenditure on *Other Activities* was CHF 0.9 million, i.e. 25% less than in 2017. In total, this expenditure represented approximately 6% of the total TA expenses compared to 7% in 2017. This confirms the sustained focus on spending TA resources on those activities for which the WTO can claim results.



3.11. TA expenditure in 2018 decreased by 8% compared to the previous year. A 7% increase in the expenses financed by the regular budget was offset by a 13% reduction of those financed by trust funds. The expenses financed by non-earmarked trust funds were stable (-1% compared to 2017), while those financed by earmarked trust funds dropped by 60%: because of the late payment of the earmarked contribution financing the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP), no intern could be recruited under this programme in 2018; and only one round table on accessions was financed

by the earmarked Chinese fund instead of two in 2017. The absence of these activities had a disproportionate impact on the overall expenses and more than offset the increase in costs resulting from the higher volume of much cheaper activities (e.g. online courses and national activities). However, despite these unavoidable annual variations, the TA expenses have been rather stable since 2012, when internal measures were introduced to improve the management of TA resources.⁶

⁶ For the purpose of this report, WTO TA expenses include all the expenses under the chapter of the regular budget dedicated to TA activities (Geneva-based training course, TA missions, Academic programme,



3.12. The proportion of the resources allocated to TA from the regular budget that was actually spent on TA activities in 2018 reached 97%, its highest share for more than a decade. The capacity of the Secretariat to fully use the funds provided for TA in the regular budget was boosted by Members' decision in 2015 to manage this part of the budget around four main envelopes instead of activity by activity. The Secretariat also undertook to maximize the use of the part of WTO's regular budget that was approved by Members for TA purposes. The proportion reached in 2018 will probably constitute a

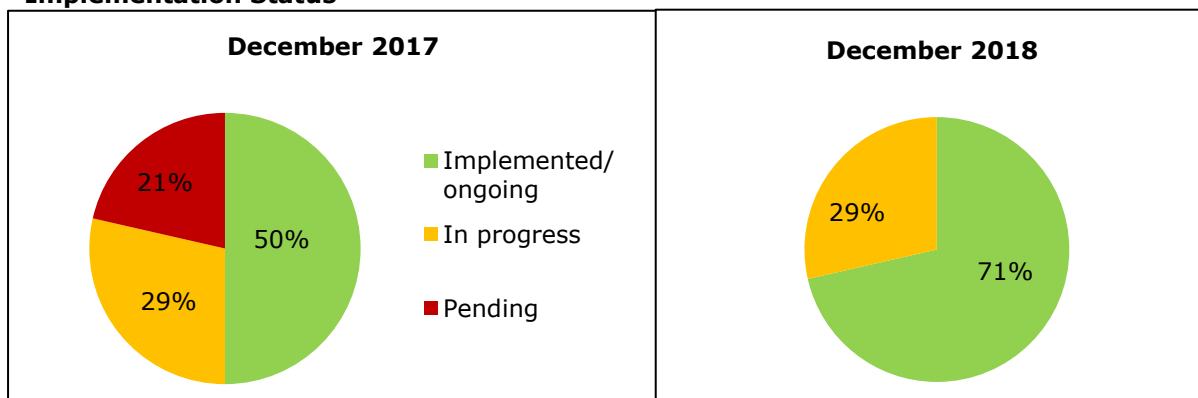
maximum difficult to surpass in the future, as overspending risks must be minimised in the current context of zero budget nominal growth.

3.2 External Evaluation Follow-up

3.13. This section provides an update on the status, as of 31 December 2018, of the 28 recommendations made by the 2016 external evaluation of the TA provided by the WTO in 2010-15.⁷ Annex I summarises the implementation status of each of the recommendations. The same codes as in 2017 have been used:

- a. **Implemented/ongoing:** recommendations calling for a specific action limited in time and fully implemented by end of 2018; and open-ended recommendations of an ongoing nature implemented by end of 2018 and which will be subject to continuation and monitoring in the future. This category also includes recommendations closed with no further action, for reasons explained in Annex I.
- b. **In progress:** recommendations calling for a specific action limited in time and for which implementation had begun by end of 2018 and will continue in the following years until completion.
- c. **Pending:** recommendations of all types for which implementation had not begun yet by end of 2018.

Implementation Status



3.14. As of 31 December 2018, all the recommendations made by the 2016 external evaluation were either implemented (71%) or in course of implementation (29%). Among the 20

Geneva Weeks, etc.) and all the expenses financed by the trust funds under the sole authority of the WTO, which it can use to finance its TA activities (including the staff costs registered in these funds). The EIF, STDF and TFAF trust funds are consequently excluded.

⁷ WT/COMTD/89, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/233110/q/WT/COMTD/89.pdf

recommendations grouped in the "*implemented/ongoing*" category, 3 were closed with no further action based on consultations with Members. No recommendation was left with no action undertaken. Recommendations of an ongoing nature continued to be monitored in 2018. Examples related to these recommendations were integrated in section 3.4 below.

3.15. During the review of the 2017 TA annual performance report at the 106th Regular Session of the CTD held on 5 July 2018, Members shared feedback on the actions undertaken by the Secretariat in 2017 to follow-up on the 2016 external evaluation (recommendation 1). The Secretariat invited Members to further disseminate the information on upcoming or past TA activities available online through the e-Dashboards and calendar of upcoming TA activities (recommendation 8). The meeting also discussed constraints and opportunities in the delivery of WTO TA (recommendation 4). Challenges faced in the organization of national activities, ways to circumvent the language barrier in national activities for officials with insufficient knowledge of WTO working languages, and support to Geneva-based Missions with limited capacity were among the issues discussed.

3.16. Four of the recommendations made by the 2016 external evaluation aimed to enhance the Result-Based Management (RBM) system (5, 26, 27 and 28). Efforts continued in 2018 to upgrade RBM tools and procedures as described below (section 3.3). The TA Coordination Task Force (TACTF) provided useful guidance to ensure the practicality and efficiency of the revised workflows and several of its members tested the new TA management system (recommendation 5).

3.17. In accordance with recommendation 18, an independent external consultant was selected in 2018 to conduct the ex-post evaluation of the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) since its inception (2010-18).

3.18. Options to integrate gender-related issues in the TA curriculum (recommendation 19) were explored by the Secretariat; relevant training materials developed by other organizations (e.g. UNCTAD, WB, etc.) were reviewed to seek synergies and avoid duplication; and the needs of the various target groups in TA beneficiaries were assessed through fact-finding missions in India, Nepal and Russia and through e-Learning chat sessions. This led to the design of a step-by-step approach: two modules (introductory and intermediate) would be developed and tested in 2019 before their deployment in all generalist face-to-face activities and in relevant specialized activities; and a standalone online course would be offered separately. Information on trade and gender issues was disseminated through e-Learning social media accounts (see section 3.4.1). Gender-related issues featured in various GPA-related activities held in 2018 including the advanced global workshop held in September, the regional workshop for CEECAC held in Moldova in October and the national workshop held in Belarus in September. The Secretariat in cooperation with Moldova, ITC and EBRD organized a workshop on Enhancing the Participation of Women Entrepreneurs and Traders in Government Procurement in June in Geneva. Finally, in the eighth Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement, the Committee decided to include as part of its 2019-20 workplan a workshop on the role of gender in the development of Standards.⁸ Such a workshop is likely to guide Members' interest in TA activities in this area in the future.

3.19. To develop new training options to follow-up on TPR recommendations, the Secretariat carried out two onsite evaluations in Colombia and the Philippines (see section 3.3 below) as part of a meta-evaluation of TPR follow-ups (recommendation 15). The meta-evaluation will analyse the trends observed over the past years in these activities according to the geographic and economic context of the beneficiaries, and undertake several onsite evaluations of TPR follow-ups in various regions. The main findings will be documented in future annual reports. The Secretariat took TPR reports into account when elaborating course materials for national, regional and global TA activities to tailor them in those specific areas targeted by TPR recommendations (thereby equally contributing to the implementation of recommendation 16). For instance, when designing the module on Trade & Gender, over 100 TPR reports were analysed to identify the prevailing patterns amongst Members in addressing gender issues in trade policies. The findings will be integrated into the course material under development. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) activities also assessed the observance of this good practice and encouraged TA beneficiaries to prioritize in their training requests their capacity gaps hindering the implementation of policy reforms recommended in their TPR.

⁸ G/TBT/41, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/249743/q/G/TBT/41.pdf

3.20. To promote language diversification in WTO regular courses (recommendation 23), the Secretariat continued to assess the feasibility of offering Geneva-based courses in French and Spanish.⁹ The course on Priority Issues of LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) held in Geneva in June was offered in English and French, with interpretation. The effectiveness of the course was assessed through questionnaires and interviews with organizers, trainers and participants. Approximately 20% of the sessions were delivered in French as original language. Most course materials were available in both languages. The course included group exercises where participants from both languages worked together. Some 60% of the participants learned more from the course with interpretation than if the course had been in English only. Interpretation made it possible for French speakers to participate in the course and gave them the opportunity to interact with participants from other regions. Several recommendations were made to overcome the challenges inherent to the bi-lingual delivery of future courses. Other Geneva-based TA activities such as the advanced global Workshop on Government Procurement and the thematic activities on NAMA, SPS and Fisheries Subsidies described in section 3.4.3 below were offered with interpretation into French and Spanish.

3.21. The Secretariat continued to seek ways to improve the learning experience of TA participants (recommendation 25). As documented in previous annual reports,¹⁰ courses based on blended-learning approaches (using a combination of online and in-situ modules, self-study and practical follow-up work) continued to be encouraged. The Secretariat started collecting detailed information on existing blended courses to assess their added-value and the applicability of this approach to other courses: for example, regional and global face-to-face activities on TRIPS and public health could include a module from the WHO-WIPO-WTO online course on Promoting Access to Medical Technologies and Innovation;¹¹ building on the success of i-trADe,¹² the web-based training platform and reference package for anti-dumping investigators (558 registered users in 2018 who spent over 8.600 hours training on the system), it has been increasingly used as a pre-requisite to apply for advanced activities and could become part of a blended course.

3.22. The Secretariat M&E of TA activities also assessed the proper functioning of the Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS). In addition to the various examples on the PLS application in section 3.4 below, highlights on the implementation of recommendation 22 include: (i) the introduction of pre-tests in the Advanced Trade Policy Courses (ATPCs) held in 2018; (ii) the improved progressivity of the curriculum of the intermediate and advanced TPCs (e.g. elimination from the Intermediate Trade Policy Courses (ITPCs) of modules on trade negotiations and international trade theory and replacement by a module on transparency and notifications); and (iii) the revision of the ITPC final exam questions as of 2019 to make their level of difficulty commensurate to an intermediate level. In-country TA effects and impact assessments allowed the Secretariat to collect anecdotal evidence on the use by former participants of the skills developed through their participation in TA activities (recommendation 22), as described in section 3.3 below. For example, to follow-up on the advanced TBT Course held in March 2018, a questionnaire asked participants six months later how they used the skills gained in their areas of priority identified during the course.

3.3 Implementation and enhancement of Results-Based Management

3.23. Further to the in-depth assessment of TA processes and as recommended by the 2016 external evaluation,¹³ the reengineering of the TA workflows and procedures continued in 2018. The electronic Staff Requisition workflow launched in October 2017 to facilitate the recruitment of external trainers was fully deployed in 2018. The system was further improved to integrate contract payment into the workflow, thus centralizing all the information on one single platform.

3.24. Pending the deployment of a new generation of management tools better tailored to the WTO needs, e-Dashboards were developed using off-the-shelf software to enhance external access to

⁹ As recommended in WT/COMTD/W/229, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/238719/q/WT/COMTD/W229.pdf.

¹⁰ See Section 3.4.2.1 in WT/COMTD/W/235, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/246143/q/WT/COMTD/W235.pdf and Section 3.3.3.2 in WT/COMTD/W/225, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/237541/q/WT/COMTD/W225.pdf.

¹¹ This course was described in previous TA annual performance reports.

¹² See Section 3.3.3.2 in WT/COMTD/W/225.

¹³ Recommendations 5, 26, 27 and 28

information on TA activities. These interim e-Dashboards were presented to Members at the CTD on 5 July 2018.

3.25. The definition of the requirements for a new RBM application integrating the entire TA business process into one single management system were finalized in 2018 and a software was selected to develop its infrastructure. The data model and structure for the application were also completed. A real-scale test of the *Activity Request* segment of the TA workflow was launched in November 2018, leading to the creation in the new system of all the 2019 TA activities. The development of the other streamlined segments of the workflow continued for the evaluation of, and reporting on, TA activity results, management of recommendations, use and management of external experts, requests for national activities by beneficiaries, registration of individual applications, selection of participants and Members' online access to TA data. Additional more agile functionalities are being progressively added to simplify the work of the users and facilitate monitoring at every stage of the process.

3.26. The new format of the quarterly extra-budgetary funds report to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (CBFA) was introduced for the third quarter of 2018 and presented to Members in the meeting held on 13 November 2018.¹⁴ The new report structure, organized according to the Key Results of the TA Plan, allows Members to compare financial movements against the agreed TA budget (recommendation 27).

3.27. A total of 13 evaluations of TA activities were carried out in 2018 including: onsite evaluation of four regional activities (1 in Africa, 1 in the Caribbean, 1 in CEEAC and 1 in the Middle East) and two national activities (Colombia and Philippines); six country assessments of the effects and impacts of the TA provided to Colombia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Philippines and Saint Lucia over the 2014-18 period; and one ex-post evaluation of the Introduction Course for LDCs for the period 2011-17. These evaluations identified several good practices that were subsequently disseminated in the Secretariat and recommendations for improvement (e.g. greater use of blended learning, online registration of participants and further dissemination of information on upcoming activities). Country visits identified examples of the benefits which accrued to TA beneficiaries: a 20-30% reduction of the time required by junior and mid-level staff to complete a work assignment after a training on trade information systems and databases; use of WTO online courses as part of the compulsory training curriculum of Trade Ministries for their new recruits or for staff deployment on specific topics. Feedback collected from country assessments also confirmed the relevance of the TA provided and identified some areas where further training is needed by the countries visited.

3.28. As in 2017, the Secretariat monitored the implementation of the recommendations formulated in BTORs (recommendation 28). The exercise conducted in 2018 showed some marked improvements compared to the previous year. Since then, 231 new recommendations had been issued, of which only 3% were comments which did not call for a specific action. The percentage of these "non-recommendations" dropped significantly compared to last year (24% in 2017), as trainers learnt from the 2017 exercise.

3.29. A pool of 361 recommendations comprising 223 recommendations from the 2017-18 period¹⁵ and 138 recommendations that were marked either as pending or work-in-progress at the end of the 2017 exercise were analysed to determine their status of implementation. This second monitoring exercise confirmed the need to develop a specific workflow to validate and follow-up on the recommendations emerging from the Secretariat's experience when implementing TA activities. This new workflow should be integrated into TAMS in the future.

3.30. The Secretariat continued to monitor the reporting on TA activities and to implement measures to encourage systematic reporting. As in previous years, nearly all TA and TA-related activities in 2018 were followed by a report (only 6 reports were missing out of 359 activities).

¹⁴ WT/BFA/W/46 viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/16690/Q/WT/BFA/W46.pdf

¹⁵ October 2017- October 2018

3.4 Improving the WTO TA offer

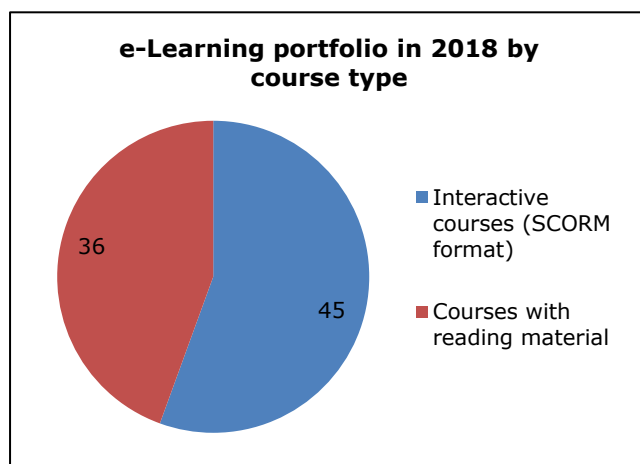
3.4.1 Improvements in the e-Learning offer

3.31. The new e-Learning cloud-based platform was configured, populated with the entire content of the e-Campus in the three WTO languages and its functionalities tested prior to its deployment during the last quarter of 2018. Further pre-release-testing in the production environment took place and the platform was open for registration mid-January 2019.

3.32. Efforts continued in 2018 to enhance the e-Learning course offer through the development of new training material and the update, upgrade and revision of existing courses. As a result, a total of 81 e-Learning courses were available for registration in 2018. Five new interactive courses were launched in English during the year: (i) "Trade Facilitation Agreement" (TFA); (ii) "CITES and the WTO – Enhancing Cooperation for Sustainable Development"; (iii) "Mainstreaming Trade – The Fundamentals"; (iv) "Agriculture Information Management System"; and (v) "Documents Online e-Subscriptions". The last two courses are short and practical courses that aim to guide the participants on how to use the two information systems in question. A second part of the course on Mainstreaming Trade is expected to be available for registration in 2019.

3.33. With the release in August 2018 of the French and Spanish versions of the course "Agriculture Xpress", the entire 2017 catalogue became available in the three languages. However, the six to ten-month time-lag between the release of a new course and the release of its French and Spanish version meant that the language coverage of the e-Learning portfolio dropped from 92% at the end of 2017 to 74% at end of 2018. The higher the number of new or upgraded courses in a given year, the lower the language coverage at the end of the year.

3.34. Significant progress in the update and/or upgrade of courses was recorded in 2018: the content in English, French and Spanish of the courses "Introduction to the WTO" and "The Multilateral Trade Agreements" was updated with the relevant information on MC11; the "Trade and Environment" and "Accession to the WTO" courses in English were upgraded to SCORM standards.

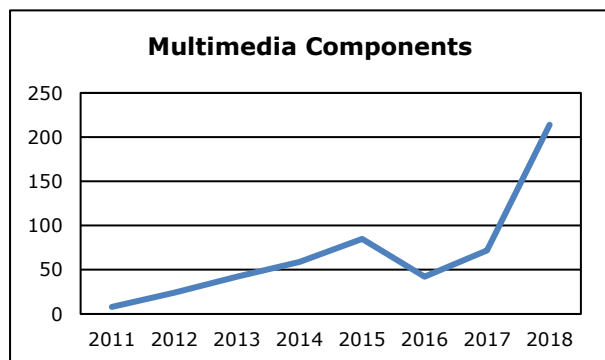


3.35. By the end of 2018, the share of the e-Learning portfolio respecting the SCORM standard had increased by a third compared to 2017, as 55% of the courses complied with this standard against 36% the previous year. This improvement owes much to the development of new courses in the SCORM standard, which is a priority. Existing pre-2014 courses based on reading materials will be progressively upgraded, resources permitting, but progress will remain slow.

3.36. The e-Learning offer by level and subject is presented in the table below and can be consulted under <https://wtolearning.csod.com>:

Level	Generalists	Specialists
Outreach and Other	Agriculture Information Management System (E) ¹⁶ Agriculture Xpress (E, F, S) ¹⁷ Documents Online (E) ¹⁸ Tailored Course (E) WTO in 10' (E, F, S)	
Introduction	Introduction to WTO (E, F, S)	
Intermediate	Accession to WTO (E, F, S) ¹⁹ Multilateral Trade Agreements (E, F, S) Legal Underpinnings (E, F, S) Mainstreaming Trade (E) ²¹ Regional Trade Agreements (E, F, S) Trade & Development (E, F, S) Trade Finance and WTO (E, F, S) Transparency – Notifications (E, F, S) Trade Economics - Theory & Policy (E, F, S)	Agriculture & WTO (E, F, S) Copyrights (E, F, S) CITES & WTO (E) ²⁰ Dispute Settlement System (E, F, S) Made in...: understanding Rules of Origin (E, F, S) Market Access for Goods and NAMA negotiations (E, F, S) Market Access Intelligence (E, F, S) Patents (E, F, S) SPS Measures (E, F, S) TBT (E, F, S) Trade & Environment (E, F, S) ²² Trade Facilitation (E) ²³ Trade in Services (E, F, S) Trade Remedies (E, F, S) TRIPS (E, F, S) TRIPS – Short Trip (E, F, S)

3.37. Interactivity in online courses supports the effective transfer of knowledge and keeps participants engaged, which are two of the main challenges in this form of training. It enhances course attractiveness and provides the trainees with up-to-date information on current developments and hence reduces the digital gap. Interactivity continued to be an area of significant focus in 2018, be it in the development or revision of courses (by including multimedia elements) and during their delivery (organizing Chat sessions and maintaining an active presence on social media).



3.38. A significant number (214) of multimedia elements were developed in English for the new and/ or revised courses in 2018 (the highest recorded since 2011). They included 10 animations, 53 audio, 21 computer-based character videos with audio, 4 downloadable take-aways, 103 Interactive exercises, 1 trailer, 1 screen-capture video, 1 video and 20 videoclips. Three types of multimedia components were introduced for the first time in 2018: i) the video clips that show the objectives of a course; ii) computer-based character videos with audio, which are characters used to guide

participants throughout their learning process and give them further information and tips; and iii) a trailer featuring the concepts covered by the course on TFA. This course contains the highest number of multimedia elements (60) and was the first one using a computer-based character (Avatar).

3.39. The 20% increase in the number of chat sessions held in 2018 (105 against 85 in 2017) was offset by the absence of new News Forum discussions due to competing priorities within the

¹⁶ Released on 9 September 2018.

¹⁷ Released in French and Spanish on 23 August 2018.

¹⁸ Released on 7 March 2018.

¹⁹ A new interactive version of the course was released in English on 6 March 2018. The old and new English versions of the course were both available on e-Campus until the old one was removed in May 2018.

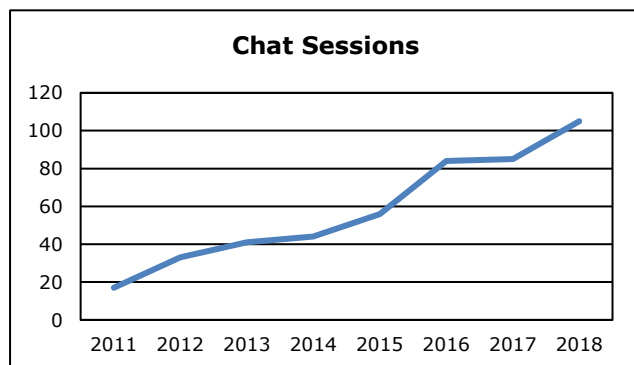
²⁰ Released on 6 November 2018.

²¹ Released on 24 October 2018.

²² A new interactive version of the course was released in English on 2 November 2018. The old and new English versions of the course were both available on e-Campus until the end of the year.

²³ Released on 28 June 2018.

e-Learning programme (new e-Learning platform and course development/update).²⁴ As a result, the total volume of interactive activities dropped by 46% compared to 2017. Existing interactive activities were progressively phased out to prepare for the launch in 2019 of larger and more diverse types of interactive activities on the new e-Learning platform (e.g. through learning communities that foster networking, provide news updates on WTO and related issues, and facilitate exchanges).



3.40. Three types of chat sessions were organised in 2018: 47 on e-Learning, which focused on matters such as registration, certificates, pre-and post-tests and promotion of new courses; 44 on substantive matters, to update participants on the latest news from the WTO and discuss on-going issues with WTO experts; and 14 of a new type entitled "e-Learning On Call" to respond to participants' growing demand for chats addressing both substantive and e-Learning process matters. Approximately 60% of the chat sessions were conducted in English,

French and Spanish simultaneously. The others took place in one of the three languages depending on the expert and the timing of the session, since attendance from the various regions and hence the language of most participants depended on the time zone.

3.41. The e-Learning programme maintained an active presence on social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube) throughout the year. Social media helps to reach out to non-government officials such as academia, journalists, NGOs, private sector and MPs. An Instagram account was launched in June to diversify outreach channels and features, and hence the profile of subscribers. The number of followers increased throughout the year for the five accounts: 779 new followers on LinkedIn, 400 new followers on Twitter, 732 new followers on Facebook, 440 new followers on YouTube and 175 new followers on Instagram. To balance and harmonize the level of activity across the various social media, and in view of lack of resources to increase the activity on LinkedIn and YouTube, the number of posts on Facebook and Twitter was substantially reduced in 2018. At the end of 2018, 510 posts were available on Facebook, 885 tweets were shared, 267 posts were published on LinkedIn, 30 videos posted on YouTube and 29 posts on Instagram.

3.42. Social media accounts were used to promote e-Learning activities such as for launching new or revised courses, advertise chat sessions and disseminate statistics on e-Learning achievements. They were also used to support participants' learning process (e.g. study tips to guide participants), to deliver substantive information on chat sessions topics and as a vehicle for micro-learning. 130 infographics were developed to deliver information that learners could easily find, understand and memorise to achieve their learning objectives. WTO events and trade-related issues were regularly addressed on the e-Learning social media accounts (e.g. highlights from the Public Forum, from the Trade & Gender Conference on Closing the Gender Gaps, etc.).

3.43. Synergies were achieved between e-Learning and face-to-face training activities. For example, participants in the three ATPCs used a virtual classroom in e-Campus to: i) access and download the training material for each module, documents on the WTO and administrative information; and ii) complete the weekly and final evaluation forms. Quotes and video-recorded interviews of participants in WTO Internships Programmes, the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) and various face-to-face TA activities or WTO events were posted on the e-Learning social media accounts to promote these activities and connect them to the relevant e-Learning courses (e.g. online course on TRIPS and participants' feedback on the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP Teachers in June, online course on Mainstreaming Trade and the adoption of by the EIF Steering Committee of the EIF's Strategic Plan 2019-22 in December). Other posts underscored the diversity of the learning experience offered by the WTO (e.g. Instagram posts in November on an ATPC moot court session or the trade negotiation module of the ITPC in Bangkok).

²⁴ The discussions developed in 2016 and 2017 remained available and 2018 participants took part in them and added comments.

3.44. The e-Learning programme continued to make training material available for self-study to TA non-beneficiaries upon request.²⁵ In 2018, 4,915 training material requests (TMR) were made, slightly less than in 2017 (-8%) but more than 2016 (+9%). The profile of the audience requesting training material remained relatively stable compared to 2017:²⁶ 57% public sector (63% in 2017); 26% academics (25% in 2017); 8% private sector (7% in 2017); and 6% others (4% in 2017).²⁷

3.4.2 Improvements in the face-to-face offer

3.45. The Secretariat regularly adjusts its curricula, the content of its trainings, its pedagogical approach, its learning aids and materials based on the feedback received from participants, the priorities identified by Members (including those highlighted in WTO regular committees and negotiating groups) and the evaluations conducted by the Secretariat itself. The purpose of these adjustments is to continuously enhance the service and response to Members' needs. This section highlights major improvements introduced in 2018 into the TA face-to-face offer. Following the practice in previous TA annual reports, this section does not aim to provide an exhaustive list of adjustments but rather seeks to highlight the variety of the evolutions through illustrative examples.

3.4.2.1 Holistic approach to trade issues

3.46. Demand for activities cutting across various WTO Agreements continued to grow in 2018 leading to increased TA integration. SPS and TBT remained the topics most frequently combined (in 4 national and 1 regional seminars), with or without elements related to TF. GPA provisions were presented in trainings on Public Health (global workshop on Trade and Public Health in October and IMF-CEF-WTO Middle East regional seminar on TRIPS in November in Kuwait). Agriculture and SPS were also combined in a regional workshop in Benin in June for French-speaking African countries.

3.47. Efforts were made in the TRIPS area to address the growing need of policymakers to understand in practical terms the interface between the TRIPS Agreement and other WTO Agreements, such as Agriculture, GATS, GPA, SPS and TBT. Interdisciplinary case studies (e.g. on Market Access for Goods covering tariffs, tariff negotiations, schedules, GATT Article XXVIII procedures, quantitative restrictions, licenses and TF) were developed and used in several activities such as the ATPCs and the global workshop on Trade and Public Health. The latter also comprised sessions addressing health services from the GATS perspective and tariff and non-tariff measures affecting access to medicines. The global thematic seminar on Competition Policy held in Geneva in June discussed the competition policy elements in the TRIPS, GPA and GATS Agreements, and reflected on ways to streamline national regulatory frameworks facilitating law enforcement and promoting an enabling business environment. The seminar addressed the growth of the digital economy and the widespread incorporation of competition policy chapters in recent RTAs.

3.48. As reported in the previous annual report, e-Commerce is also at the intersection of various WTO Agreements. Four national activities on e-Commerce were organized in 2018 and several others addressed it as part of the broader agenda on emerging trade issues.²⁸ Participants learnt about the aspects of e-Commerce directly or indirectly relating to various WTO Agreements (GATS, TRIPS, TFA, etc.) and were updated on e-Commerce related discussions at the WTO.

3.4.2.2 Connecting trade issues with the global economic and policy agenda

3.49. In June, the first ever Agriculture Policy Landscape Symposium was organised in Geneva back-to-back with the Regular Committee on Agriculture. Policy-makers and experts from academia, international organizations and think-tanks exposed participants to new perspectives and discussed current and future global trends in the agri-food systems and how they interact with domestic priorities. The Symposium allowed Members to engage on substantive issues related to agriculture and trade. While WTO rules on agriculture have reduced distortions in production and trade, the

²⁵ Following the Training material Request (TMR) procedure launched in 2015 as described in previous TA annual reports.

²⁶ For 3% of the TMRs, the applicants do not specify the sector they belong to.

²⁷ Include NGO, civil society, various professional groupings, etc.

²⁸ In Cuba in June, Indonesia in July, Kazakhstan and Russia in September, Turkey in November and Saudi Arabia in December.

Symposium concluded that there was room for improvement to enable the MTS to respond effectively to the transformation of the sector.

3.50. Several new or updated TRIPS-related activities responded to increasing demand for training addressing the implication of the recent technological developments on global trading patterns and on the design and implementation of national IP policies:

- a. In March, the Joint WIPO-WTO advanced course on Intellectual Property in Geneva explored cutting-edge issues through interactive debate and case studies. The course covered emerging issues such as "IP and e-Commerce - A Discussion on Regulatory Responses at the International Level", copyright in the digital environment, biotechnology patents, IP and economic development, climate change and competition policy.
- b. In June, the WIPO-WTO Colloquium for IP teachers in Geneva addressed the implication of technological advancements on IP policymaking for Artificial Intelligence.
- c. In October, the national workshop on Global Trade, Technology Innovation and Intellectual Property in China addressed IP policy and practice relating to innovation and trade within two sectors: the public health sector and the information and communication technology sector. The workshop promoted active dialogue, greater practical understanding of the contemporary context for the use of IP in innovation-based industries and the exchange of ideas on current policy issues, based on the lessons of practical experience.
- d. In November, a workshop on Trade in Knowledge Products in Geneva updated developing country Members on cross-border flows of knowledge, how digitisation is transforming trade, innovation and knowledge diffusion, international knowledge spill-overs through global value-chains and the economic implications of digital technologies on cross-border trade and knowledge flows.

3.4.2.3 Supporting the implementation of Members' commitments

3.51. Transparency in SPS and TBT remained a strong interest for TA beneficiaries in 2018. Training on ePing, the SPS/TBT notification alert system launched in 2016, was regularly requested for national and regional activities. Activities with a strong focus on notifications included national activities in Moldova in August and Chile in November, and a regional workshop in October in the Middle East with the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization (GSO). GSO implemented a mechanism for the joint submission of TBT and SPS notifications (one GSO member notifies regionally harmonized measures on behalf of all seven Members, and coordinates comments received). The workshop presented online notifications to relevant officials in GSO members. Considering the high demand for joint SPS/TBT trainings, an exercise was developed to address transparency provisions of Agreements in an integrated manner.

3.52. The implementation of Article 8 and Annex C of the SPS Agreement gained significant interest amongst Members since the adoption of the TFA, as it would reduce trade costs and facilitate trade. A thematic workshop on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures was held back-to-back with the SPS Committee in July to share experience on national application of international rules and standards, and to identify ways to facilitate safe trade through streamlined and efficient SPS controls.

3.53. In November, a global GPA seminar on governance issues was organised in Geneva for the first time to enhance Members' capacity to implement efficient anti-corruption measures in the government procurement sphere. It examined the role of domestic review systems and the relevance of the revised GPA in this respect, and how competition policy instruments can contribute to the efficient functioning of government procurement markets, including in deterring supplier collusion. It discussed synergies and complementarities between the GPA and tools from other international organizations in this area. In April, a national workshop supported Seychelles' internal dialogue on its GPA accession commitment. It included three practical group sessions to assess the modalities, benefits and costs of GPA accession; review the alignment of existing domestic legislation with the GPA; and prepare a mock GPA accession initial market access offer.

3.54. Demand for TA on the implementation of the system of compulsory licensing for the export of pharmaceutical products for countries in particular need increased substantially with the entry

into force in 2017 of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement. For example, a national workshop held in Georgia in June provided guidance to the Patent Office for the drafting of implementing rules for the grant of compulsory licences, as required under the amended Patent Law of December 2017. Another national workshop held in Jordan in July focused on IPRs related to agriculture, geographical indications and plant variety protection.

3.55. Training on NAMA-related notifications was a priority of the Committees on Import Licensing Procedures and on Quantitative Restrictions. The second workshop on Import Licensing Notifications and the first workshop on Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) were held in April to improve the number and quality of notifications. On QRs, applicants had to respect the following pre-requisites: i) be responsible for the preparation/coordination of QR notifications to the WTO; ii) describe the type of work they had already undertaken to prepare a QR notification; and iii) indicate in advance what steps they would take upon their return to finalize a QR notification. Selected participants had to gather specific information prior to the workshop on the notifications selected for their practical work so that draft notifications could be prepared during the workshop. The programme included individual coaching to prepare draft notifications. By the end of the workshop, 70% of participants had prepared advanced draft notifications.

3.56. At the request of the Council for Trade in Services, a thematic seminar on "Mode 4 at work" was held in October in Geneva. It discussed the scope of Mode 4, took stock of Members' commitments and MFN exemptions and of relevant RTA disciplines, and considered the main challenges to measure Mode 4 trade and its economic impact. Participants discussed regulatory measures that may have a bearing on scheduled Mode 4 commitments and addressed the challenges to realising the benefits of existing Mode 4 bindings. A national seminar on the GATS was held in St Kitts & Nevis in March. It mapped-out the trade policy applied in services sectors by identifying market access and national treatment limitations with local sectoral experts. A separate session with the private sector also considered the opportunities offered by services trade, including through electronic supply. Another national seminar in Ecuador in December examined how key GATS disciplines applied to investment in services (Mode 3), following the merger of the Ministries of Trade and Investment and the adoption of a new model for international investment treaties.

3.57. Three technical sessions on fisheries subsidies (to fishing on overfished stocks, to IUU fishing and on the social and economic role of artisanal and small-scale fisheries in developing countries) were organized in Geneva in June, July and December to support the negotiations in this domain. World-class experts clarified complex technical concepts, explained how existing international/regional/national instruments and agreements worked in practice and provided new input to negotiations.

3.4.2.4 Promoting good training practices

3.58. Efforts continued in 2018 to improve the design of course programmes and training materials (presentations, exercises, case studies, etc.), the choice of training approaches and the implementation of the PLS. Good practices identified in the past are gradually spreading across TA activities. This process is facilitated by a progressive change of generation in the Secretariat.

3.59. In the ATPCs, participants were asked to write a report on the committee meetings they attended, so they would reflect on their expectations from the meeting and then structure and internalize their new knowledge (in terms of substance and procedures) gained from the experience. In the advanced thematic course on Trade & Environment, participants applied the skills acquired through attendance to a CTE meeting in a simulation on environmental goods. A visit to Medtronic (a world leading manufacturer of medical devices) featured in the global workshop on Trade & Public Health. It showed participants how WTO IP rules can provide certainty to manage global R&D partnerships, cutting-edge manufacturing and distribution. It also illustrated the current challenges on the availability and use of patients' data for further developments.

3.60. The new case studies and exercises developed during the year included: (i) two case studies covering TRIPS-related issues, one on Stakeholders, Advocacy, Politics and Coherent Policies; and the second on Encouraging Research, Access, Pooled Procurement and Policy Interaction; (ii) an interactive booklet (true/false) exercise on TBT Transparency provisions; (iii) a case study on new substantive issues (TBT, SPS and basic principles) and procedural aspects (multiple terms of reference) better tailored to the level of complexity expected by participants in advanced Dispute

Settlement courses; (iv) an exercise on GPA accession decision support tools showing the potential impact of various factors, thus facilitating a cost/benefit analysis attuned to local conditions.

3.61. Experts from regional institutions and former TA participants were regularly involved in the delivery of TA activities to illustrate local and regional contexts and share their experience. For example, between one quarter and one third of the training days were taught by regional experts in ITPCs; former participants contributed to the national SPS/TBT seminar in Moldova in August, the advanced TBT Course in March and the regional Trade Negotiation Skills Course for CEECAC held in Austria in August.

3.62. An increasing number of TA activities now include experience sharing sessions in the form of group discussions or structured presentations by participants. For example, the regional seminar on TRIPS in Kuwait in November included presentations from the Egyptian, Lebanese and Omani participants; and in the 7th Round Table on Accessions in Kazakhstan in September, Article XII Members shared the strategies they used to reinvigorate bilateral and multilateral negotiations and boost their accession process.

4 IMPLEMENTATION OF TA PLAN AND MAIN FEATURES OF THE TA PROVIDED IN 2018

4.1. In 2018, excluding *Other Activities* which did not constitute WTO TA per se or which contributed to the TA provided by other institutions, the WTO undertook a total of 307 TA activities, both in Geneva and in other locations. Following a now well-established practice, this chapter analyses this portfolio of activities according to the following criteria: participation of LDCs, geographical distribution, product mix, subjects covered, language mix, progressivity of training, gender mix amongst participants and Key Results pursued. For each of these elements, the chapter considers the distribution of the various types of activities (global, national, regional and e-Learning) measured in terms of number of activities, participants, days of training and expenditure.

4.2. No data on the duration (in days or hours) of the online courses is presented. This is due to the self-paced nature of e-Learning. Online courses are available throughout the year and participants can register any time. Online training courses must in principle be completed within two months of the date at which they are started, but the actual number of hours or days that participants dedicate to a given course is not known to the Secretariat.

4.3. In view of the specificities of the long-term internships hosted in Geneva in terms of duration (10 months on average when the duration of most other TA activities is counted in days), cost (CHF 2 million per year on average over 2012-18 when the average cost of other TA activities is CHF 40,000) and number of participants (45±3 a year on average over 2012-18 out of 16,500 participants per year on average over the same period), they have been excluded from the analysis presented in section 4.4 (distribution by subject) onwards. This will avoid distorting the analysis of other face-to-face activities and repeating the same explanation to justify the discrepancies that may arise.

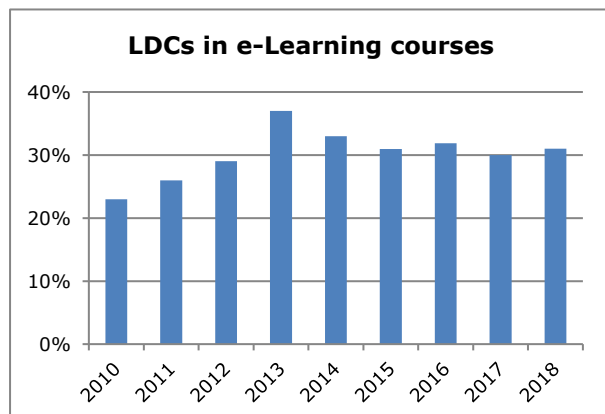
4.4. Analysing the cost of the various activities implemented in 2018 aims to provide Members with a cost-efficiency and effectiveness perspective. Whilst confirming the very high cost-efficiency of e-Learning, this information also gives a better understanding of the relative costs of the various programmes run by the Secretariat and of the financial equilibrium between them. It is hoped that this will help Members make more informed decisions related to the TA offered by the WTO.

4.1 Participation of least developed countries (LDCs)²⁹

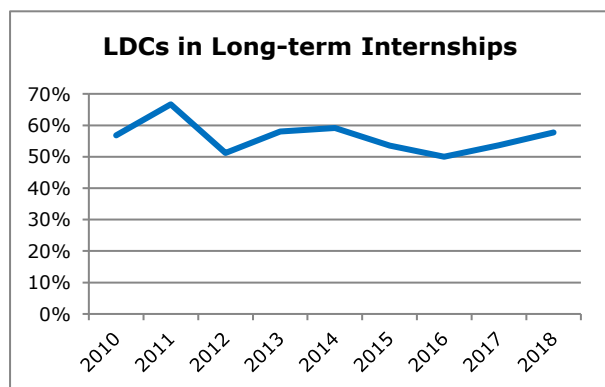
4.5. LDCs continue to be a priority for the WTO TA offer. They were invited to 62% of all WTO TA activities organised in 2018 (68% in 2017, 72% in 2016, 61% in 2015) and approximately one quarter of the face-to-face activities were specifically directed towards them. The fact that Africa and Asia-Pacific received the highest number of TA field activities in 2018 (see section 4.2) reinforced this priority, as all the LDCs except one are in these two regions. In Africa, LDCs accounted for 32% of the participants in regional activities and 46% in national ones. However, only 28% of the

²⁹ LDCs represent less than a third of all potential TA beneficiaries.

requests for national activities came from LDCs in 2018 against 31% in 2017, as demand from these countries grew at a slower pace than from non-LDC beneficiaries.³⁰



4.6. Participants from LDCs represented 31% of the total e-Learning audience in 2018, in line with the average in 2012-18 (32%±3%). This means that the participation of LDCs grew in absolute terms at the same pace as the overall audience of the WTO online courses. This also shows that, on average, these countries have today the same online learning capacities as their non-LDC counterparts. Statistics for face-to-face activities are less precise, as participants are not systematically registered in the database when they are not financed by the WTO (e.g. in national activities). Overall, a quarter of the participants in face-to-face activities were from LDCs in 2018.



4.7. Several TA programmes are designed to respond more specifically to the needs of LDCs. Excluding the Young Professionals Programme (YPP), which does not prioritise LDCs, in 2018, LDC nationals represented 58% of the total participants in the other long-term internship programmes in Geneva (4 percentage points more than in 2017). This proportion has been fluctuating between 50 and 60% since 2010. The 2018 good result was achieved despite the cancellation of the NTP, which has traditionally recruited two thirds of its interns from LDCs. The breakdown of LDC representation in each of the internship programmes in 2018 was the

following: 83% in the Regional Coordinator Internship Programme (RCI) and 50% in the Accession Internship Programme (AIP) and the Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP).

4.8. Participants from LDCs accounted for 30% of the participants in Geneva-based courses in 2018 and 3 of the 43 global activities were specifically designed for LDCs. The three-week introduction course for LDCs was held in English and gathered 24 participants; the thematic course on priority issues of LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System (MTS), 29 participants; and the South-South dialogue on LDC and development, 48 participants from LDCs.

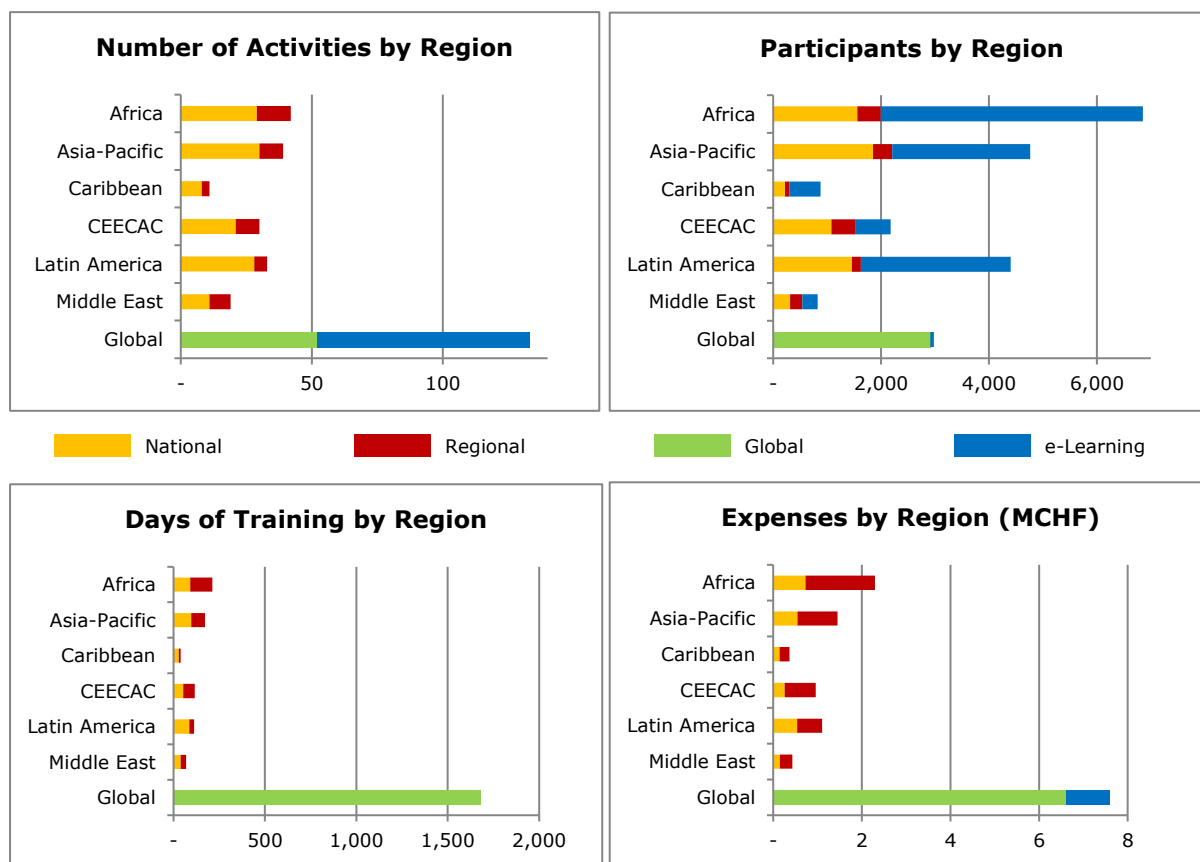
4.9. The TA Plan also considered LDCs as a priority target for TPR follow-up activities. However, these activities depend on the prior review of the trade policy of LDCs and are based on national requests and very few of them emanated from LDCs in 2018. The TPR of 10 and 5 LDCs took place in 2017 and 2018 respectively.³¹ Two TPR follow-ups (Angola and Myanmar) out of nine carried out in 2018 were held in an LDC, a lower proportion than in 2017. These follow-ups focused on the dissemination of the findings of the TPR and the reforms required to remove the concerns and inconsistencies the TPR had raised.

4.10. Whilst the Secretariat continued to prioritise LDCs in the provision of TA in 2018, factors such as the cancellation of a programme or lower demand from LDC governments led to a decrease in the proportion of participants from LDC representatives in face-to-face activities during the year compared to 2017.

³⁰ Also see the comments on the impact of administrative measures on African LDCs in section 4.2.

³¹ In 2017, the TPR of WAEMU WTO Members covered at once 7 LDCs. Since 2009, 5 LDCs are reviewed annually on average.

4.2 Geographical distribution



4.11. Global activities, whether online or face-to-face, represented 43% of the WTO TA activities organized in 2018, marginally lower than in 2017. The 11% growth of the number of online courses, which are global activities by design, and the 18% growth of global face-to-face activities held in Geneva were more than compensated by a 21% growth of the activities held in the field and in particular of national activities (+27%). As a result, the share of online courses in the total WTO TA activities went down from 28% in 2017 to 26%. Meanwhile, the spread of the face-to-face activities across regions continued to evolve in 2018. The share of activities held in Africa continued to decline and represented 19% of the face-to-face activities, as their growth (+11%) was less than in other regions. This was essentially due to a stagnation of the number of national activities. The share of Asia-Pacific (17%) went back to its average since 2012, with a marginal reduction of the number of activities held there. The share of Latin America (15%) was stable, whilst the Caribbean (5%), CEECAC (13%) and the Middle East (8%) grew significantly.

4.12. As in previous years, Africa remained disproportionately affected in 2018 by the administrative measures taken regarding Members and Observers in arrears on their contribution to the WTO: out of the 11 Members and 2 Observers in category III at the beginning of the year, 12 were African countries (of which 11 were LDCs) and lost access to WTO TA.³² This meant that 23% of the African Members (34% of African LDCs) and 22% of the African Observers were not eligible for TA during at least part of the year. Only half of the Members concerned were able to regularise their situation during the year, sometimes at the very end. This meant that the twelve African countries concerned could not benefit from WTO TA during 80% of the year on average. Except for Côte d'Ivoire, which traditionally pays its contribution within one month into the subsequent year, all the other African LDCs affected by the administrative measures have lost access to TA almost without interruption since the reform of these measures implemented on 1 January 2013. These figures show the actual impact of the administrative measures on some of the African LDCs.

³² Members: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Niger and Sierra Leone. Observers: Libya and Sao Tomé & Príncipe.

4.13. The number of global face-to-face activities held in 2018 increased by 18% compared to 2017. It reached 52 activities, significantly above the average since 2012 (43±5). This growth was achieved despite current physical limitations imposed on the availability of proper training rooms on the WTO campus, which obliged several activities to take place in meeting rooms instead. Whilst activities with a global geographical reach held in Geneva represented 23% of face-to-face activities, they accounted for 26% of the participants, 73% of the training days delivered by the Secretariat and 54% of the TA costs. As in previous years, these activities tended to benefit individuals who stayed for extended periods of time in Geneva, as is the case for long-term internship programmes (see above).

4.14. Participation in activities held in Africa (1,995 participants) was back above its average since 2012 (1,909 participants), as it grew by 47% in 2018. The growth in the other regions was equally significant: +26% in Asia-Pacific (2,204 participants), +105% in the Caribbean (303 participants), +166% in CEECAC (1,531 participants), +33% in Latin America (1,623 participants) and +45% in the Middle East (542 participants). Overall, participation in face-to-face activities increased by 66% to reach 11,108 in 2018 after eight years of stagnation at an average of 7,800.

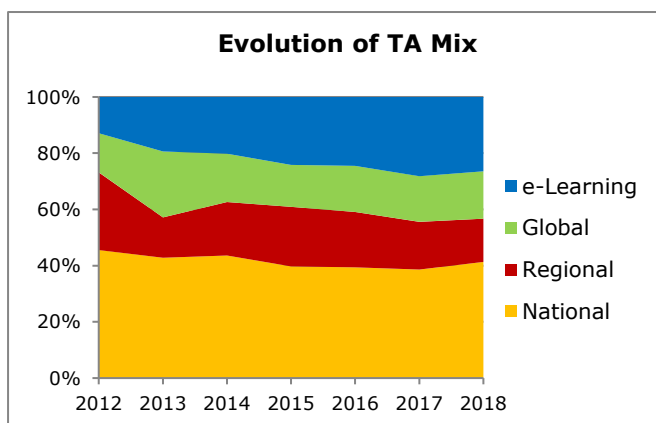
4.15. A total of 11,769 participants from all regions (153 countries) followed e-Learning courses in 2018, representing an increase of 2% compared to 2017. Participation in Africa boomed and accounted for 41% of the total number of participants (8 percentage points more than in 2017), more than erasing the previous year's decline. Latin America was the only other region in which participation also grew (+7%), leading it to become the second biggest region for online courses (24% of total participants). The relative importance of the Caribbean, Middle East, and CEECAC was stable (5%, 2% and 6% respectively). Finally, Asia-Pacific registered a 29% decrease in participation, as the significant growth seen in 2017 proved short-lived. It accounted for 22% of total participation (-9 percentage points) in e-Learning in 2018, close to its 2016 level.

4.16. As far as days of training are concerned, global face-to-face activities represented 70% of the total in 2018, as in 2017. This is due to the long duration of some Geneva-based activities, such as long-term internships that exceed the average duration of training courses (they last between six and twelve months, i.e. approximately 208 working days each on average). The share of each region in the remaining 30% of training days was closely correlated with the share of each region in the total number of activities.

4.17. The total expenditure of 14.2 MCHF was distributed following the same pattern as in 2017. Activities held in Geneva, categorized as "Global" in the graph, accounted for 54% of the total TA costs (50% excluding e-Learning). This is mainly attributable to the high cost of the various long-term internship programmes, owing to their extended duration (on average 10 months in 2018). The distribution of expenses by region in 2018 was proportional to the number of activities and participants per region.

4.3 Product mix

4.18. This section considers the share of the various categories of activities in the total volume of TA activities delivered in 2018, and the evolution of this breakdown since 2012. It also considers the evolution of the main features across categories (such as participation and duration). The categorization of the product mix is based on the reach of the activities (global, regional or national), except for e-Learning which is a standalone category owing to its distinct delivery mode.



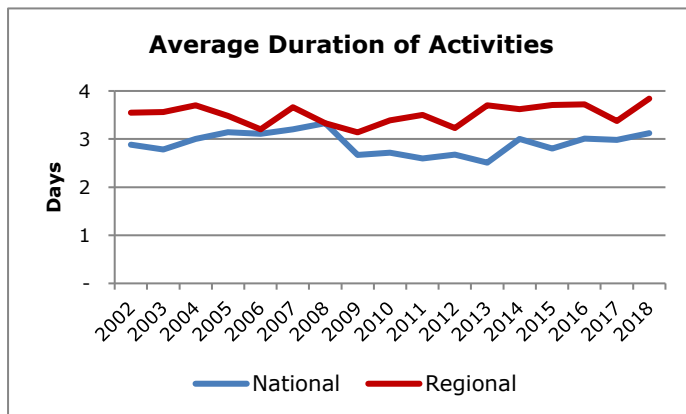
4.19. The graph shows that, the evolution of the TA portfolio mix is a slow process taking years to produce significant changes. The slow decline of the number of national activities stopped in 2018. They keep representing more than 41% of the total TA activities, in line with the average since 2012. Online courses are the second largest category of activities accounting for just over a quarter of the total. Their relative importance was marginally reduced in 2018 as a result of the significant growth of the number of face-to-face activities (+22%). The rest of the TA portfolio was split almost equally between regional and global face-

to-face activities, whose relative importance remained broadly in line with past averages. All the regions displayed the same preference for national activities in 2018. The "simplicity" of their organization (the process is less resource-intensive for the Secretariat) and the flexibility of their programme (can be tailored to the very specific needs of the requesting authority and to the desired level) and audience (the requesting authority has total discretion in selecting the participants) are factors which explain their high popularity.

Proportion of National/Regional Activities

	Africa	Asia-Pacific	Caribbean	CEECAC	Latin America	Middle East
National	69%	77%	73%	70%	85%	58%
Regional	31%	23%	27%	30%	15%	42%

4.20. National activities gathered 79% of the participants in activities held outside Geneva, broadly in line with the proportion in previous years. Since they were shorter than regional/global activities on average, they represented only 55% of the training days.

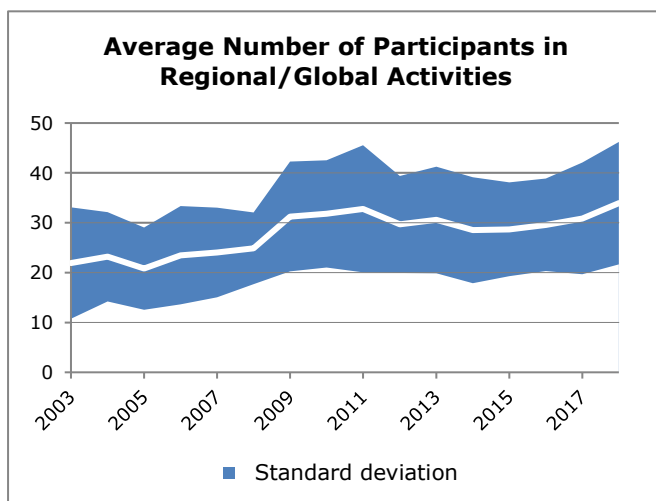
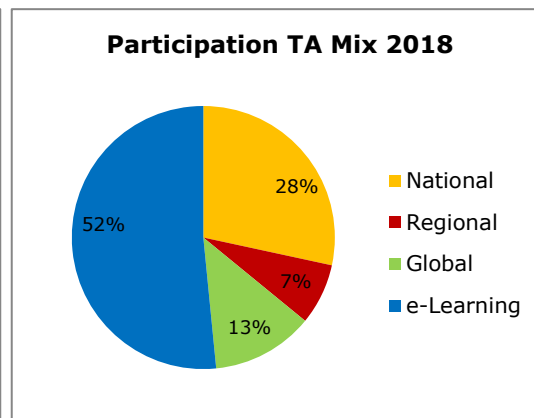
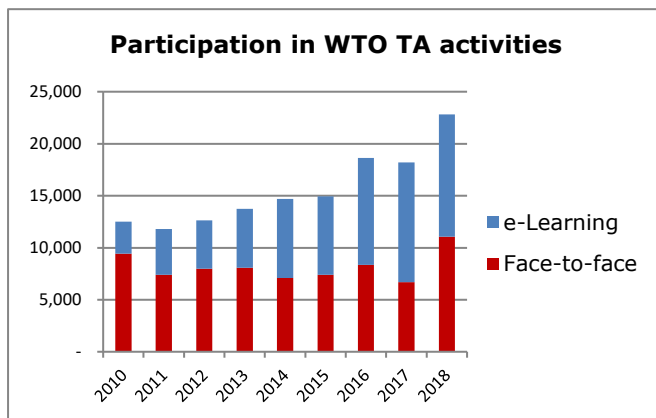


4.21. The duration of the various TA activities is highly variable across groups of products and in some cases within the same group. As explained above, the self-paced nature of online courses makes it difficult to measure their duration. Regional and global activities tend to include a wide array of products (workshops of 1 or 2 days, long-term internships and advanced courses lasting between one and eight weeks). Therefore, annual variations in the average duration of regional and global activities depend on the type of activities on offer each year. Within regional and

global activities at intermediate or advanced level, the average duration of training is significantly longer for generalists (26.3 days) than for specialists (4.4 days). Overall, excluding the longer trade policy courses (3 weeks or more), the average duration of regional and global activities was marginally longer in 2018 than in 2017 (3.8 days).

4.22. The average duration of national activities was more uniform in 2018 (3.1 days), marginally above the average since 2014. Increasing the duration of national activities, as often requested by the participants themselves and repeatedly reported in the past, remains a persistent difficulty.

4.23. The balance between national and regional activities has an incidence on the distribution of TA expenditure across regions. Regional activities cost on average close to 5 times more than national ones, since the WTO finances the travel and subsistence for both trainers and participants. This is also influenced by the cost-sharing arrangements in place with partner institutions that can be more favourable in certain regions than in others. In national activities, the WTO covers only the trainers' expenses.

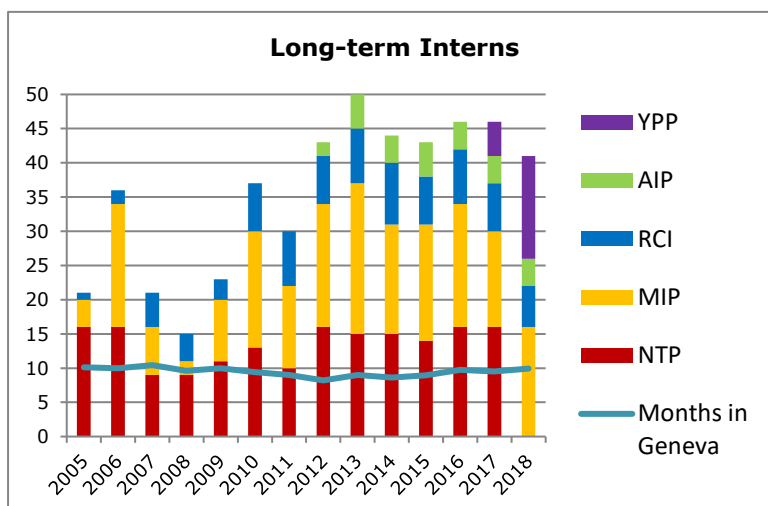


4.24. Last year's pause was just a dent in the otherwise uninterrupted growth of the number of individuals trained annually by the WTO. The WTO trained 25% more participants in 2018 than in 2017 (22,826 persons in total). Participation in face-to-face activities grew by 65% to reach its highest level in a decade (11,057). The e-Learning audience progressed marginally (+2%) and reached 11,769 participants. The 22% growth in face-to-face activities coincided with a simultaneous 36% increase of the average number of participants per activity. In 2018, just over half of the participants were trained online as a result, well below the 2014-17 average of 55%. The cost-effectiveness of e-Learning remained very high in 2018, as it trained

51.5% of the participants for 7% of the total WTO TA expenditure.

4.25. Analysing the correlation between the number of activities and of individuals trained under each TA product demonstrates that e-Learning has the highest participation per activity ratio of the TA mix. Therefore, an increase in the number of e-Learning courses has a disproportionate impact on the overall volume of beneficiaries of WTO TA. With their recommended maximum number of participants of 30 to facilitate interactivity and hands-on work, face-to-face activities do not have a similar multiplier effect. The average number of participants in regional/global activities had been stable since 2009 (30.5 persons). In 2018, it reached 34 participants, its maximum since such statistics are kept.

4.26. Long-term internship programmes are part of the global face-to-face activities held in Geneva and cover five different programmes: the Accession Internship Programme (AIP), French & Irish Missions Internship Programme (FIMIP), Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP), Regional Coordinator Internship (RCI) and the Young Professional Programme (YPP). Each of them benefits a small number of participants hosted in the Secretariat or a mission for extended periods of time during which they learn by doing. Long-term interns represented 0.4% of the total participants in face-to-face activities and 1.4% of those in global ones in 2018. They spent 10 months in Geneva on average (8 months for RCI, 11 months for YPP). No trainee was recruited under the NTP in 2018, as the earmarked contribution financing the programme was received towards the end of the year. This programme will resume in 2019. The absence of NTPs was partially compensated by the tripling



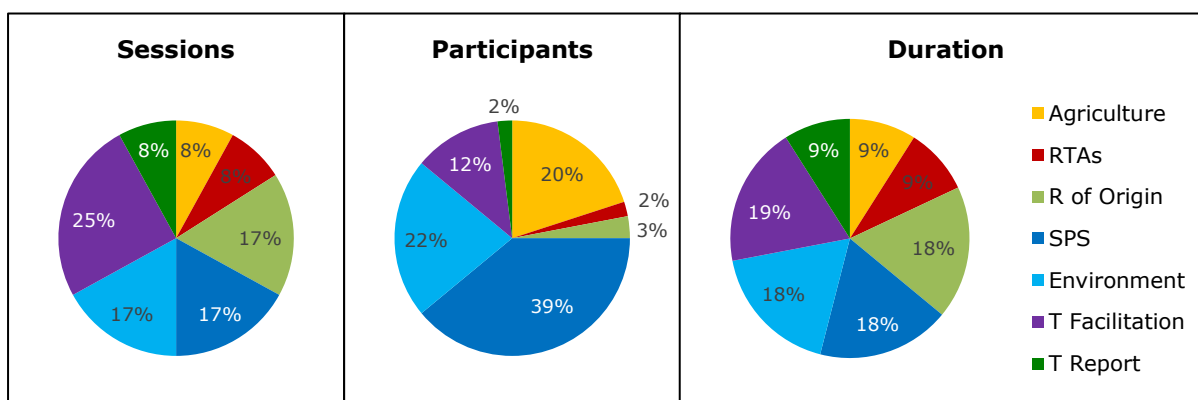
in 2018 of the number of interns in the YPP. The number of participants in the various other long-term internship programmes was stable compared to the previous three years. The total number of long-term interns went down by 11% compared to the previous year.

4.27. Except for the RCI and YPP funded entirely through the GTF, the number of long-term interns in any given year depends on the level of voluntary contribution received from donors for these specific programmes (China for AIP, France and Ireland for FIMIP,

Netherlands for NTP) and on the timing of these contributions in the year. These factors also influence the duration of the internships.

4.28. Long-term internships represented a significant share (12%) of the total WTO TA expenditure in 2018, marginally below the level in previous years (-2 percentage points). However, they have a more efficient cost/day ratio than other face-to-face activities. The analysis of costs per programme shows that the individual cost of each programme mirrored the evolution of the number of participants, as the average cost per intern per month has been stable since 2012.

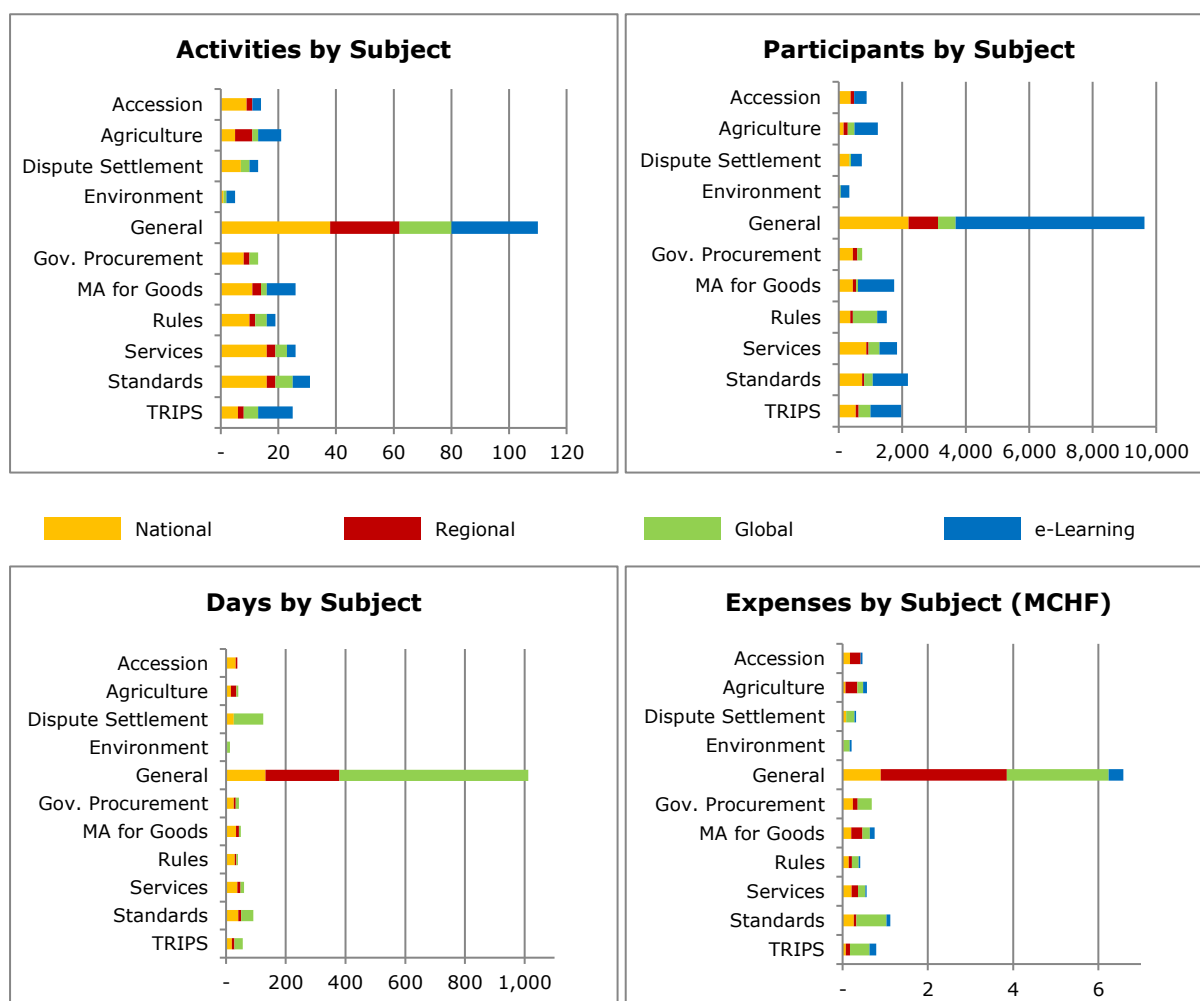
Videoconferences



4.29. Videoconference is one of the media used from time to time by the Secretariat to deliver some of its TA activities or part of them, in Geneva and in the field. Records on videoconferences are not always systematic and are mainly available for Latin America. These sessions provided a timely and very efficient response to specific requests received from Members. In 2018, 12 videoconferences (-4 compared to 2017) were held with five different partners (Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Peru and UNCTAD). They gathered at least 1,500 participants in total (twice the number in 2017),³³ sometimes in more than 30 countries at the same time through the IICA network and had a cumulated duration of 16.5 hours (+3.5 compared to 2017). As in previous years, several videoconferences were held during the short trade policy course held for ALADI members in Uruguay in November on Environment, RTAs, Trade Facilitation and the world trade report, to avoid flying a WTO official for half a day only.

³³ For the sessions organised with IICA, it has been assumed that on average ten persons in each country followed each session. Most of these have not been counted in the figures on participation mentioned above in this section.

4.4 Distribution by subject



4.30. The erosion initiated last year of the share of activities with a general scope covering, if not all WTO subjects, at least several of them, continued in 2018. Excluding the long-term internship programmes, 36% of the TA activities (-4 percentage points compared to 2017) fell in this category. They included all the activities for generalists (3 ATPCs, 4 ITPCs, 1 introduction course for LDCs, 1 Introduction Day, etc.) and other activities addressing more than one WTO subject or focusing on skills (8 activities, double the number in 2017) or themes cutting across several (if not all) WTO subjects such as TPR follow-up (11 activities); outreach activities for MPs, journalists and civil society (7 activities); etc.

4.31. Activities with a general scope gathered 42% of the total participants that benefitted from TA in 2018. National and global activities tended to be more subject-specific (only 34% and 20% of participants in activities with a general scope), and online courses and regional activities less so (54% and 51% of participants in activities with a general scope). This is again a continuation of the situation in 2017. Activities with a general scope accounted for 65% of the total training days (+7 percentage points compared to 2017) and 53% of the total expenditure (-6 percentage points compared to 2017). 45% of the expenditure on general-scope activities was spent on regional activities, followed by global (36%), national (14%) and e-Learning (5%) activities.

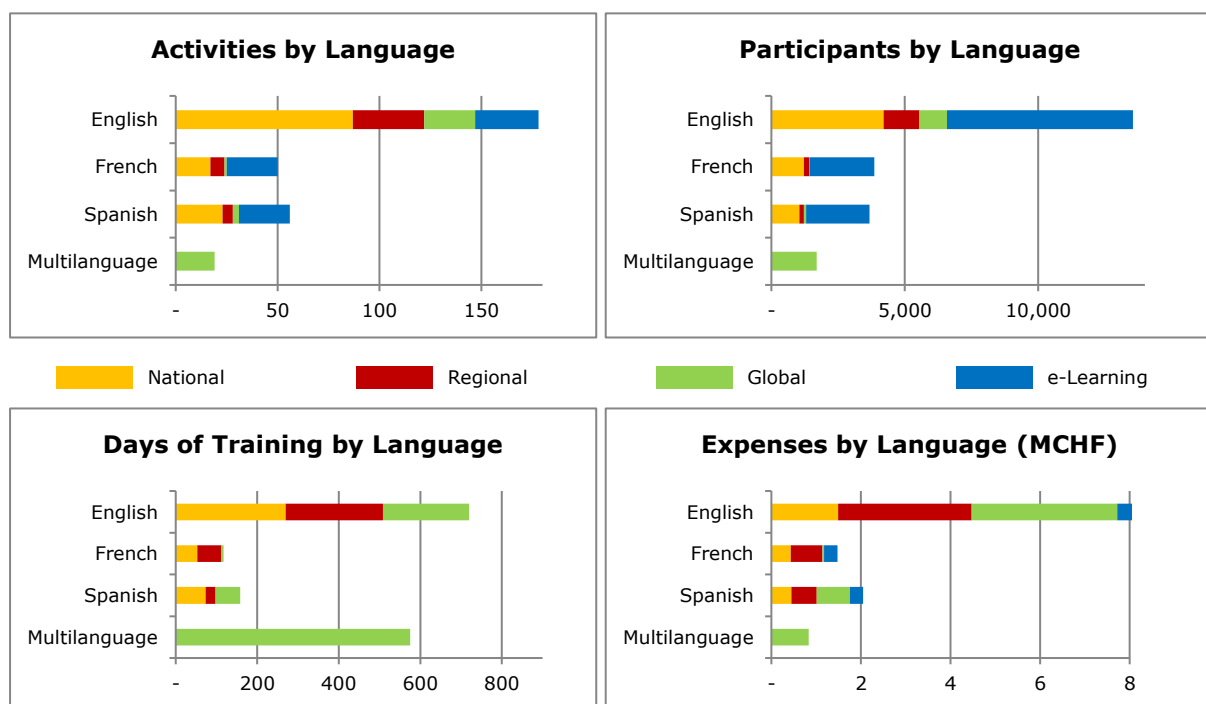
4.32. Since last year, as an increasing number of activities address both SPS and TBT at the same time, these two subjects have been grouped together in 2018 under the "Standards" denomination. Standards continued to be the most popular subject in 2018 (thanks mainly to a high number of national activities), followed by Services (also due to a high number of national activities) and Market

Access (MA) for Goods,³⁴ TRIPS (due to a relatively high number of different online courses) and Agriculture. The hierarchy was similar in terms of number of participants.

4.33. Measured by number of days, the leading position was held by activities dedicated to Dispute Settlement (8% of the total for only 4% of the total share of activities), as in 2017. This results from the offer under Article 27.2 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) of the services of two consultants throughout the year, at a relatively modest overall cost (89 days in 2018, i.e. 23% less than in 2017). Setting this aside, the hierarchy of subjects was the same as for the number of activities and participants. As in 2017, Standards, MA for Goods and TRIPS represented the three subjects on which the WTO spent the most in 2018, followed by Government Procurement, Agriculture and Services.

4.34. Participation in online courses by subject in 2018 confirms the pattern observed in previous years. The WTO introduction course continued to be the most popular course among e-Learning users (24% of the total e-Learning audience in 2018, 2 percentage points more than in 2017). SPS was the second most attended online course with 633 participants (-19% compared to 2017), followed by RTAs (+4%), Multilateral Trade Agreements (+246%), Services (+13%), Rules of Origin (+7%), etc. Together, the various TRIPS courses attracted 964 participants (-5%), making it the area with the highest number of participants. These evolutions must be assessed against the average increase of 2% in the participation in online courses in 2018.

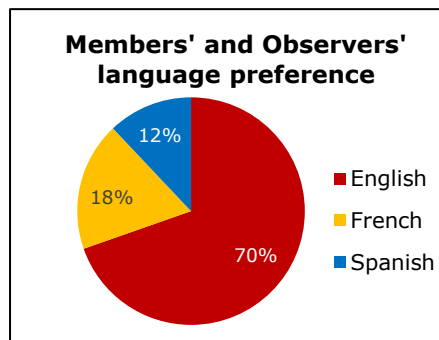
4.5 Language mix



4.35. The main evolution in 2018 was a small increase of the proportion of face-to-face activities held in at least two of the three WTO languages (and in most cases in all three languages), using interpretation services. These multilingual activities were generally global ones held in Geneva. They represented 8% of the total face-to-face activities (+1 percentage point compared to 2017). Otherwise, the pattern observed in previous years about the distribution of activities by language persisted in 2018. Face-to-face activities in English only represented 66% of the total (excluding long-term internships), consistent with the 2012-17 average of 64%. The proportion of the audiences trained face-to-face in English only (59%), of the days of training (69%) and of face-to-face expenditure (66%) was similar.

³⁴ What is meant by Market Access for Goods includes: general GATT obligations, Schedules of concessions, tariffs and non-tariff measures, the modification of tariff concessions, the Information Technology Agreement, customs valuation, pre-shipment inspection, rules of origin, import licensing procedures and TF.

4.36. The share of activities delivered only in French and Spanish in the total face-to-face activities implemented in 2018 reached 12% and 14%, respectively, a further reduction compared to previous years. This is the consequence of the continued reduction of the share of face-to-face activities held in Africa already discussed in section 4.2 above.

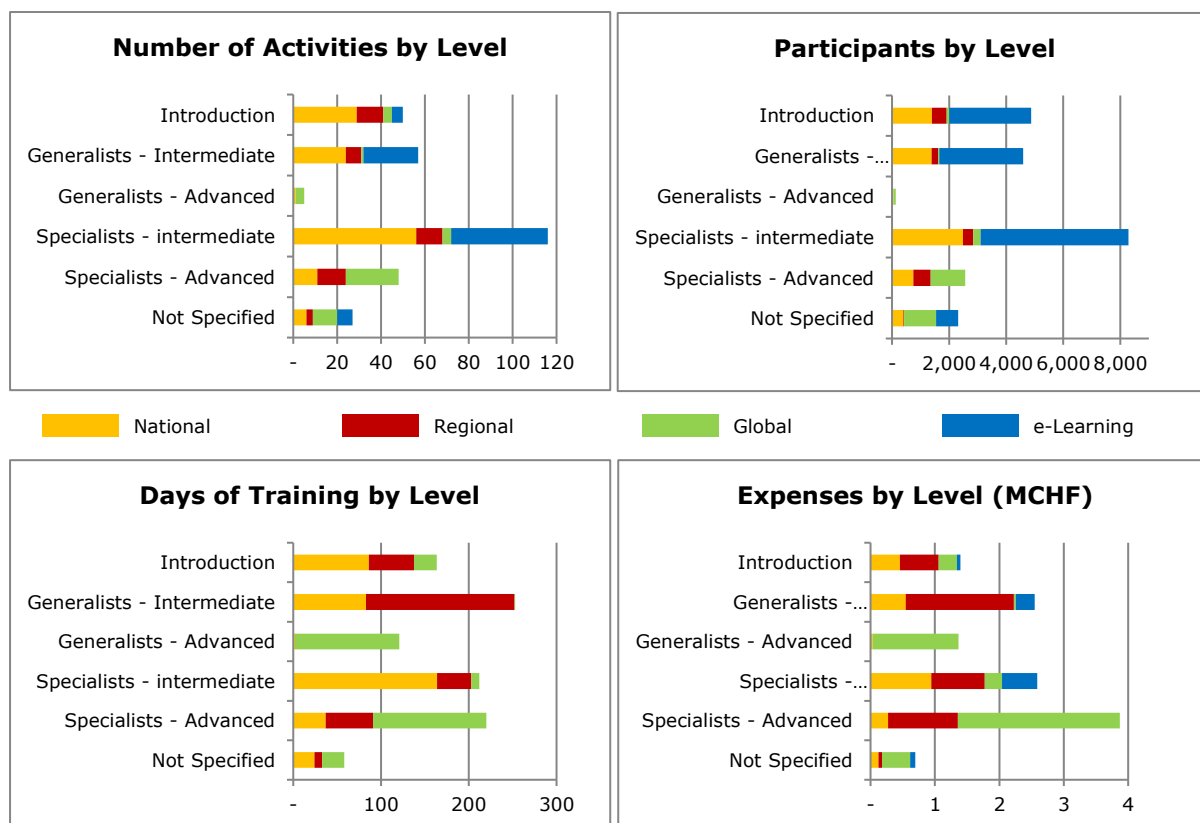


4.37. As a result, the distribution of the TA offer by language in 2018 was not entirely consistent with the distribution of working languages amongst WTO Members, even if the current WTO TA offer in terms of languages continued to match by and large beneficiary's preferences.

4.38. The size of the audience, number of training days and expenses in face-to-face activities held in French and Spanish was roughly proportional to their relative share of activities in 2018. Participation in multilingual activities was proportionately much higher and represented 15% of the total for face-to-face activities, whereas these activities were shorter (representing only 3% of the total training days). Their cost was 7% of the total for face-to-face activities, knowing that in Geneva, interpretation services – the highest extra cost item of these activities compared to monolingual activities – are not systematically charged to the TA budget but are frequently absorbed by the interpretation budget of the WTO.

4.39. Analysing the breakdown of e-Learning participants by language provides an accurate snapshot of beneficiary's actual language preferences. Except for the tailored course and the new courses released during the year, online courses were equally available in each the three languages throughout the year. Participants could choose their training language on a case by case basis. In 2018, the breakdown was similar to what was observed for face-to-face activities: 59% of participants followed courses in English, 21% in French and 20% in Spanish. The average share of the three languages since 2011 has been remarkably stable (English: 60%±1%, French: 20%±1%, and Spanish: 20%±2%).

4.6 Progressivity of training



4.40. Following the adoption of the Progressive Learning Strategy (PLS) in 2010, a set of guidelines on the substantive content of each of the three training levels (introduction, intermediate and advanced) was developed at the end of 2013. These guidelines define the core substantive elements that should be mastered by the participants. Efforts to introduce progressivity in the training courses concentrated so far on regional, global and online courses, especially for generalists. Identifying an emerging pattern in the implementation of PLS proved difficult in previous reports, as its full integration across different TA programmes is not always possible. Several activities are conceived more as isolated training events than as a component in a longer programme, even when such activities are ascribed a specific level. The analysis excludes the long-term internships considered as advanced activities for generalists.

4.41. The share of activities without a defined level was 9% in 2018, back to their average share in 2015-16 (4% in 2017), as the Secretariat refrained from systematically allocating a level to the activities which did not fit easily into the PLS. Such activities gathered 10% of the participants (2% in 2017, 8% in 2016) for 6% of the total TA training days (11% in 2017, 29% in 2016) and expenditure (5% in 2017, 4% in 2016, 8% in 2015).

4.42. Activities at introductory level continued to represent a small proportion of the total TA activities, as their share in 2018 remained within the range observed since 2012 (on average $14\% \pm 3\%$). The number of participants trained at introductory level (4,874 persons) and the financial resources allocated also remained proportionately stable in 2018 (21% and 11% respectively), even if the share of days dedicated to this level grew to 16% (+6 percentage points).

4.43. The share of activities provided at intermediate level (57%) was lower in 2018, as it went back to its 2016 level (-13 percentage points). They also accounted for 57% of participants (12,889 persons as in 2017, -13 percentage points), 45% of training days (-9 percentage points compared to 2017, but in line with 2016) and 41% of expenditure (as in 2016).

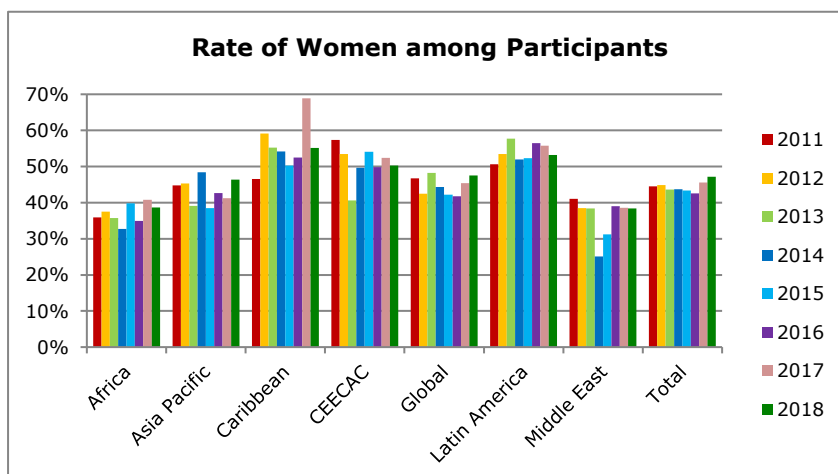
4.44. This means that most of the growth in TA activities came from advanced activities in 2018. Their relative importance grew compared to 2017, almost regardless of the indicator considered: 18% of activities (+5 percentage points, back to their 2016 level), 12% of participants (2,700 persons, +6 percentage points), 33% of training days (+8 percentage points) and 42% of expenses (+9 percentage points). As in previous years, most of advanced level trainings (77% as in 2016) were delivered through global or regional activities for both generalists and specialists in 2018.

4.45. Most e-Learning courses continued to be offered at intermediate level (85% of the total) as in previous years, even if the emergence of new online course outside of the PLS structure reduced this proportion compared to 2017 (-5 percentage points). The remainder were at introductory level (6%) or with no specified PLS level (9%), since no advanced training is offered online. Participants in e-Learning courses were split between intermediate (69%, -5 percentage points too), introductory (24%, -2 percentage points) and unspecified (7%, +7 percentage points) levels in 2018.

4.46. In 2018, 37% of the activities targeted generalists, as in 2017 (16% at introductory level, 19% at intermediate level, and 2% at advanced level), and 54% targeted specialists (-3 percentage points, 38% at intermediate level and 16% at advanced level). For participants, the split between generalists and specialists was 42%-48%, as the original imbalance in favour of specialists is progressively erased over the years. Training days were shared 52%-42% between generalists and specialists, since the activities for generalists tended to be significantly longer than for specialists on average. Expenses were shared 43%-52% between generalists and specialists, in line with the distribution of activities and participants.

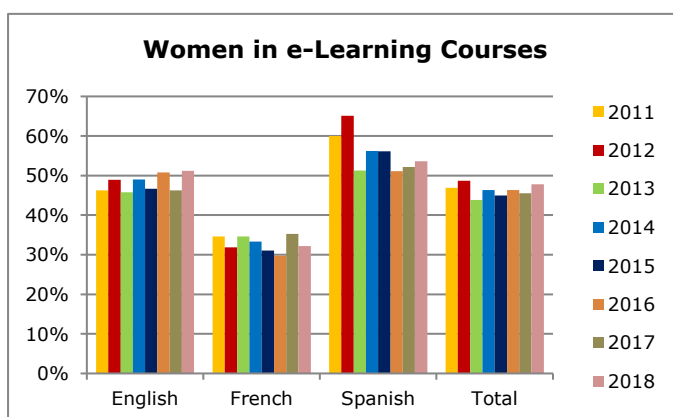
4.7 Gender mix

4.47. In 2018, female participation in WTO TA (47% of the total TA audience) continued to rise (+1 percentage points). It was higher than the 2010-17 average ($44\% \pm 1\%$).



4.48. Variations across regions of the share of women amongst WTO TA participants in 2018 followed the same pattern as in previous years: gender parity, if not female predominance was observed in the Caribbean, CEECAC and Latin America regions, even if the share of women amongst their participants decreased a bit (the share of female participation in activities in these regions was 53% on average in 2010-18);

women's participation in activities held in Asia-Pacific increased to 46% (3 percentage points above its average share in 2010-17); the participation rate of women in Africa and the Middle East, already the lowest, decreased further (39% and 38% respectively); the proportion of women in global activities reached 48% (3 percentage points above the 2010-17 average).



4.49. Information on gender distribution among e-Learning audiences does not give a materially different picture compared to face-to-face activities. Indeed, the proportion of women amongst WTO TA participants is similar regardless of the training medium (face-to-face or e-Learning). In 2018, women represented 48% of total beneficiaries of e-Learning courses, in line with the 2012-17 average (47%±2%). Despite minor fluctuations, female participation in e-Learning has been relatively stable since 2010. The breakdown of gender data per training language points to a quasi-

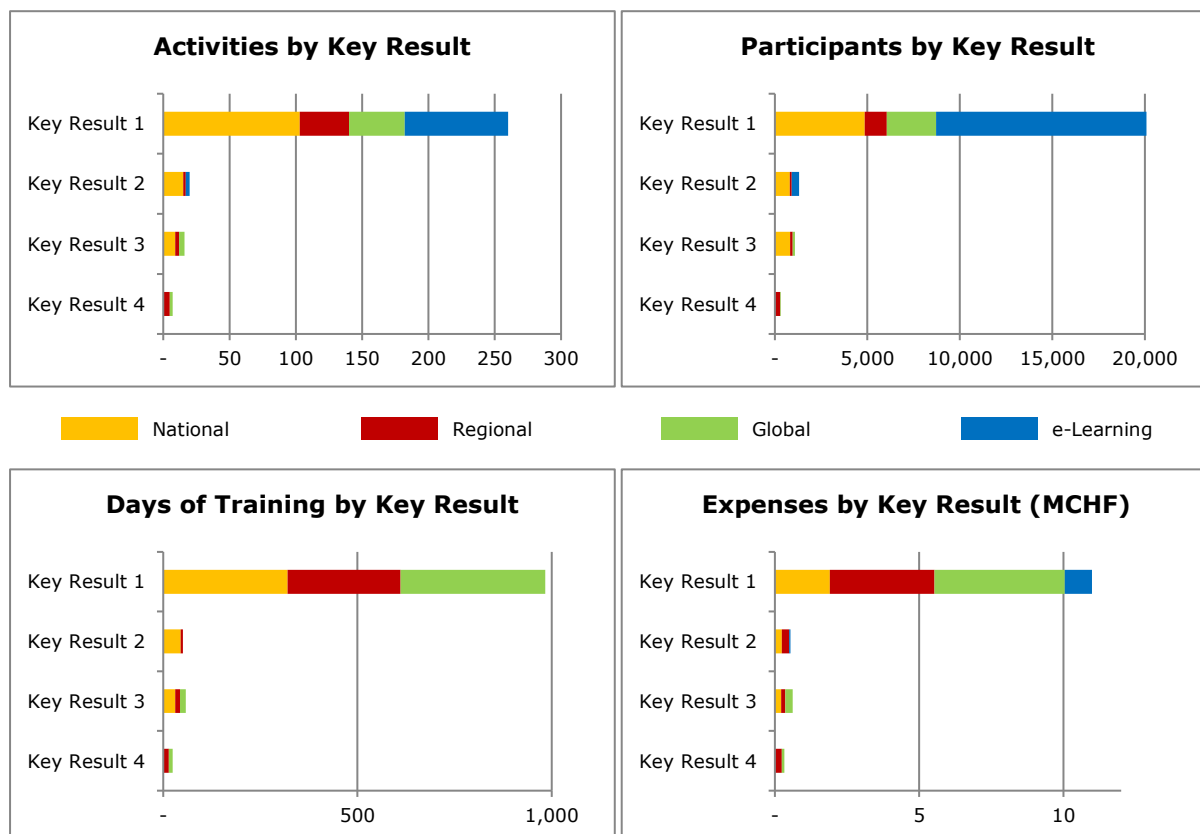
equality between female and male participation in e-Learning courses in English and Spanish (51% and 54% of women respectively), in progression in 2018 (+5 and +2 percentage points respectively). The share of women in French-speaking online courses went down by 3 percentage points in 2018, reversing part of last years' growth and now stands below the 2010-18 average. These language specificities mirror the gender preferences of the regions where French and Spanish are mainly spoken.

4.8 Key Result mix

4.50. To facilitate performance analysis in chapter 5, this section describes the main features of WTO TA (number of activities, participation, duration and expenses) by Key Result. Key Results are the outcomes around which the TA Plan is structured. Four Key Results, each comprising several outputs, have been identified in the TA Plan for 2018-19:

- a. **Key Result 1:** Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations
- b. **Key Result 2:** Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations
- c. **Key Result 3:** Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers
- d. **Key Result 4:** Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues

4.51. The TA Plan 2018-19 introduced some changes in Key Results 3 and 4 compared to the previous two TA Plans. As recommended by the 2016 external evaluation, the former Key Result 3 on the access and use of WTO-related information, which had met with a low rate of success (25% on average), was discontinued. What had been covered under Key Result 4 was then divided in two, to segregate the programmes targeting the academic world under a new Key Result 3 from those targeting other non-governmental publics under a new Key Result 4.



4.52. In 2018 as in previous years, the overwhelming majority of activities (86%, +4 percentage points) contributed to Key Result 1. That proportion was higher in e-Learning courses (96%, +4 percentage points), as most of them focus on the text of the Agreements and their provisions, and lower for national activities (81%, +4 percentage points), in which beneficiaries have a greater freedom to enlarge the agenda, and for regional activities (79%, as in 2017). Key Result 1 also gathered 88% of the participants (as in 2017), represented 63% of the training days (-19 percentage points) and 88% (+5 percentage points) of the total TA expenses. The general pre-eminence of Key Result 1 is entirely consistent with Members' needs and priorities identified in the TA Plan and the comparative advantage of the WTO.

4.53. Further to the reorganisation of Key Results in the TA Plan, Key Result 2 became the second most important one in 2018, whether measured in terms of number of activities (7%, +2 percentage points) or participants (6%, +2 percentage point). Its share of training days (5%, +3 percentage points) and expenses (4%, as in 2017) was marginally smaller than for Key Result 3. Most of these activities (57%) were implemented nationally, since the needs of acceding countries are very specific and depend entirely from the particularities of their negotiating situation. National activities gathered only 31% of those who were trained under this Key Result, as 48% of them followed the online course on accessions.

4.54. The new Key Results 3 and 4 represented 5% and 2% of the activities implemented in 2018 respectively (12% for the old Key Result 4 in 2017), 5% and 1% of the participants (7% for the old Key Result 4 in 2017), 5% and 2% of the training days (4% for the old Key Result 4 in 2017) and 5% and 3% of the total expenses (10% for the old Key Result 4 in 2017). A majority of the activities under Key Result 3 were national (56%), which gathered 77% of the participants, when regional activities were preferred under Key Result 4 (71%), gathering 89% of the participants.

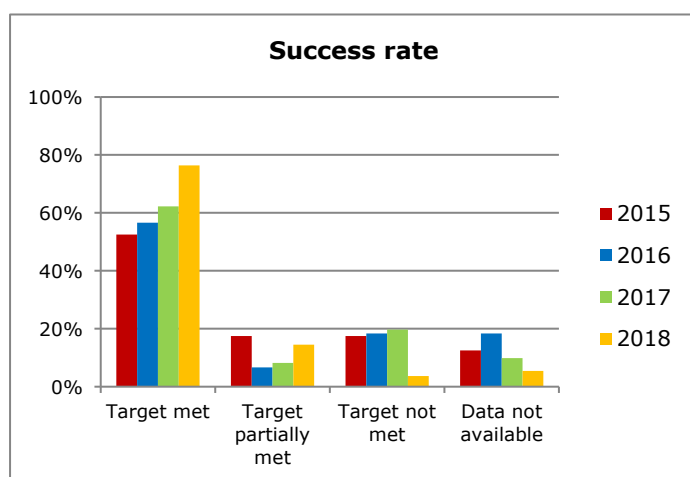
5 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE IN 2018

5.1. This section focuses on the elements that could be measured during the year and which constitute evidence of the immediate, medium-term or progress towards long-term results produced by the TA provided by the WTO to its Members and Observers, based on the indicators identified in the TA Plan 2018-19. As in previous years, this section is presented according to the structure of the TA Plan to make it easier for Members to assess the results produced against the Plan they initially approved. To that effect, each section starts with a short table summarising the situation at the end of 2018 for each of the indicators and targets retained in the logframe annexed to the TA Plan 2018-19.

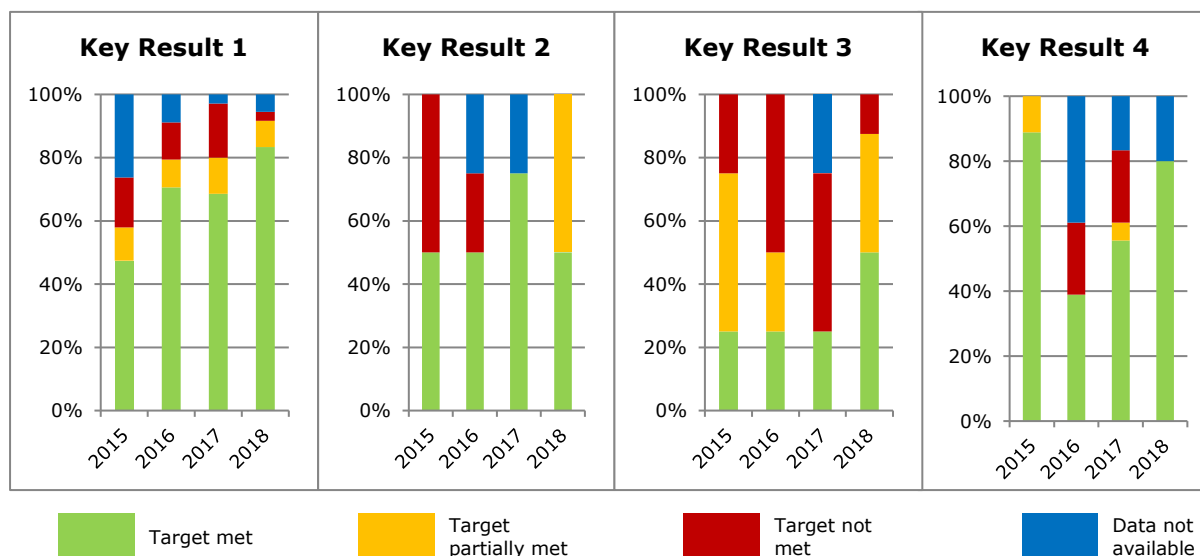
5.2. The following codes have been used in this section:

- Target met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been fully met or has been exceeded;
- Target partially met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been missed by a small margin, as significant progress has been made towards its achievement;
- Target not met: the target identified in the TA Plan logframe has been largely missed and progress towards its achievement has been limited;
- Data not available: the data available to the Secretariat is incomplete, if not missing completely, or is not reliable or strong enough to support any conclusion one way or the other.

5.3. Indicators used to measure the results of the TA provided by the Secretariat in 2018 were somewhat different from those used in 2017. Some changes in the set of TA performance indicators were introduced in the 2018-19 TA Plan compared to the previous biennium. These changes were aimed at addressing the shortcomings observed over the 2016-17 biennium in terms of suitability of indicators and availability of data. Compared to the previous TA Plan, three indicators were discontinued, and seven new ones were introduced in Key Result 1. One out of the four indicators under Key Result 2 was discontinued and replaced by a new one. Key Result 4 was completely overhauled with some indicators being moved under Key Result 3 and others discontinued, leading to only five remaining indicators. The TA performance analysis presented below confirms the effectiveness of the changes introduced in the logical framework of the current TA Plan and the positive impact of the Secretariat's effort to continuously adjust its offer to better respond to Members' needs.



5.4. Year 2018 was very successful for the WTO TA. The overall success rate reached the unprecedented level of 76% (vs. 62% in 2017 and 57% in 2016), whilst the percentage of targets not met was only of 4% against 19% on average during the previous three years. A significant improvement in data availability was also recorded in 2018, as the proportion of indicators for which no data was available dropped to 5% from 10% in 2017 and 18% in 2016. Eight targets were partially met (i.e. missed by a small margin) which represented 15% of the indicators (vs. 7% in 2016 and 8% in 2017).



5.5. The analysis of Key Results individually showed major improvements both in terms of ability to meet the objectives and in the availability of data. Key Results 1 and 4 met at least 80% of their targets and Key Results 2 and 3 at least 50%. Under Key Result 1, 83% (against 69% in 2017) of the targets were met, 8% of the targets were partially met (11% in 2017), 3% (corresponding to one target only) were not met, while data was not available for 6% of the targets. This Key Result encompasses 65% of the indicators, therefore its performance accounts for a major part of the overall TA performance.

5.6. Under Key Result 2, the success rate went down from 75% in 2017 to 50% in 2018. Targets were partially met for the other half of the indicators. The change of indicators introduced in the TA Plan 2018-19 also meant that data was entirely available under this Key Result.

5.7. Though less impressive than for Key Result 1, performance was also better in 2018 for Key Result 3 than in the previous two years, as 50% of the targets were met (against 25% in 2016 and 2017), and the rest of the targets were either partially met (25%) or not met (25% against 50% for both 2016 and 2017). This is the direct consequence of the change in the substance of this Key Result introduced in the TA Plan 2018-19.

5.8. The success rate improved by 24 percentage points under Key Result 4 (from 56% in 2017 to 80% in 2018). Key Results 2 and 4 involved few indicators (respectively 4 and 5), which means that any change registered during the year on any of the indicators has a disproportionate effect on the overall performance under these Key Results.

5.1 Impact: Developing and LDC Members are benefiting from their active participation in the WTO

Indicators	Target	2018
Share of developing Members' total trade (imports and exports) in world trade	> 40%	Target met
Share of LDC Members' total trade (imports and exports) in world trade	> 1.00%	Target met

5.9. This is the first time since the introduction of RBM in 2012 that an attempt is made to measure the impact of WTO TA on the trade share of its developing and LDC Members. Any success at that level is first and foremost the result of the work of the Members themselves. However, the 2016 external evaluation illustrated through a multiplicity of anecdotal evidence that the TA provided by the WTO had a real and tangible widespread impact on the human and institutional capacities of beneficiary countries in terms of trade policy-making, legislative compliance, multilateral/regional trade negotiations and implementation of international trade agreements. Over time, this certainly supports the growth of the share of beneficiary Members in world trade.

Share in world trade (excl. HK RX)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Developing economies WTO Members, excl. HK RX					
Exports	41.6%	41.8%	42.2%	41.4%	41.6%
Imports	39.4%	39.4%	39.4%	38.4%	39.2%
Turnover (Exports + Imports)	40.5%	40.6%	40.8%	39.9%	40.4%
LDC WTO Members					
Exports	1.00%	0.97%	0.87%	0.89%	0.94%
Imports	1.14%	1.21%	1.25%	1.22%	1.23%
Turnover (Exports + Imports)	1.07%	1.09%	1.06%	1.06%	1.09%

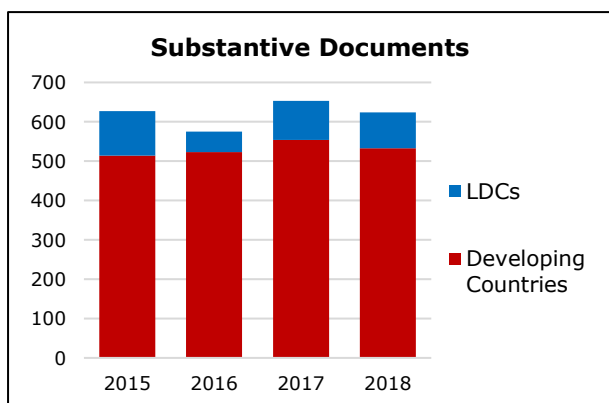
5.10. The latest year for which comprehensive trade data is available is 2017. Excluding re-exports of Hong Kong, China, the share of developing-economy Members of the WTO in world trade was 40.4%, marginally above the minimum threshold targeted by the TA Plan. **Target met**

5.11. The share of LDC WTO Members in world trade in 2017 was 1.09%, also above the minimum threshold targeted by the TA Plan. **Target met**

5.2 Key Result 1: Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations

Indicators	Target	2018
Number of documents submitted by developing and LDC Members in WTO Bodies	Increase in participation / submissions of documents	Target met
Number of outstanding notifications of TA beneficiary Members	5% decrease of outstanding notifications	Target met

5.12. As seen under section 4.8 above, this Key Result represents the bulk of the TA provided by the WTO to its Members and Observers.



5.13. To extract statistics from DocsOnline, the Secretariat focused on substantive documents (i.e. excluding the contributions from the Secretariat and documents of a procedural nature such as agendas, minutes, reports, etc.) to the preparation of which at least one developing or LDC Member had been associated. In the case of documents submitted by more than one Member, this frequently meant that developed Members or Observers had also been associated with their preparation. Notifications and documents submitted to the DSB were excluded, since these are discussed separately below. The statistics show that, the number of

substantive documents submitted by developing and LDC Members in WTO bodies tended to grow during Ministerial years (2015 and 2017) and to recede the following year. The overall trend pointed towards growth, as the total was higher in 2017 than in 2015 (+4%), and higher again in 2018 than in 2016 (+9%). However, the evolution of the number of substantive documents submitted by LDC Members was more erratic: it was lower in 2017 than in 2015 (-12%). The TA Plan 2018-19 did not provide for a clear baseline and targeted an increase in the submission of documents. **Target met**

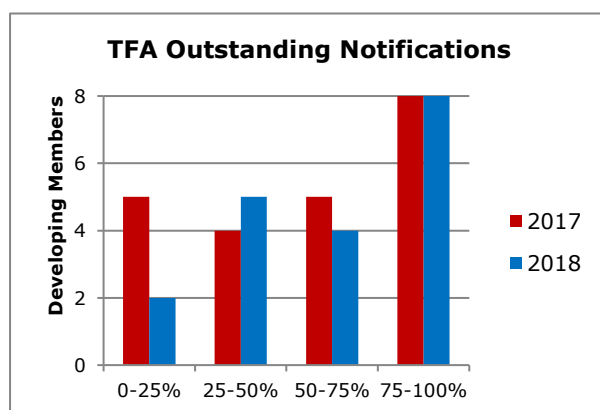
5.14. As far as beneficiary Members' outstanding notifications are concerned, according to the Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) the figure stood at 3,434 at the end of 2018, which is 20 notifications less than at the end of 2017. This apparent stability hides a significant decrease in un-complied notification obligations by beneficiary Members, as the annual agricultural notifications mechanically increase annually the volume of notifications due during the year. Once this is neutralised and focusing on those notifications which were already outstanding at the end of the

previous year, there was a 7.6% reduction in 2018. The target was an overall reduction of 5%. Many externalities may also have played a role in these results. **Target met**

5.15. Outstanding agriculture notifications represented 58.5% of the total outstanding notifications at the end of 2018. Focusing exclusively on those notifications already outstanding at the end of 2017 to neutralise the mechanical increase due to the annual notification obligations, 2018 registered a 11.4% reduction of outstanding agriculture notifications, which confirms the progress registered in previous years. 2018 has been the year with the highest number of submitted agriculture notifications since the creation of the WTO, with a total of 280, when the average over the past decade was well below 200. As agriculture has always represented the lion's share of outstanding notifications and given the complexity of notifications requirements on domestic support, an advanced workshop on agriculture notifications is offered annually in Geneva since 2009. The workshop forms part of a broader work programme aimed at improving the timeliness and completeness of notifications under the Committee on Agriculture. Its fourth day is now systematically devoted to individual sessions with staff ("notification clinic") to allow participants to discuss country-specific notification issues. Participants are also familiarised with the Ag-IMS functionality launched in 2017 for the online submission of Agriculture notifications.

5.16. Members with many outstanding agriculture notifications, LDCs and recently acceded Members are given priority in the selection for the workshop. However, the workshop can only address the knowledge gap which might impact their notification compliance. For many Members the main challenge when preparing domestic support notification is proper data collection, as many agencies and ministries are responsible for actions in the notifiable domain. It is only once annual data and information on the entire domestic support system for agricultural producers is available that the Secretariat may help in presenting and analysing that information for the finalisation of a notification. For these reasons, the correlation between improved compliance and usefulness of the workshop may not be direct and simple.³⁵

5.17. In 2018, five national activities focused on notifications and transparency provisions of the WTO Agreements.³⁶ These activities associate numerous stakeholders who have a role to play in gathering the data or information needed by the authorities to fulfil their notification obligations, or who may be interested in benefiting from other Members' notifications. In addition, all the 16 national and 10 regional/global activities organised on SPS or TBT included a session on transparency and the ePing platform to take advantage from notifications in these domains. As ePing becomes increasingly popular amongst Members, training demand grows to help users reap its full benefits. And the more users know, the more they use ePing and value transparency.³⁷ In 2018 alone the number of registered users in ePing increased by 80% and reached 5,569 in 175 countries.



5.18. In addition to the above, one regional activity for Asian investigating authorities focused on the notification of subsidies and two global activities concentrated on notification obligations on Import Licensing (annual activity since 2017) and quantitative restrictions (first ever).

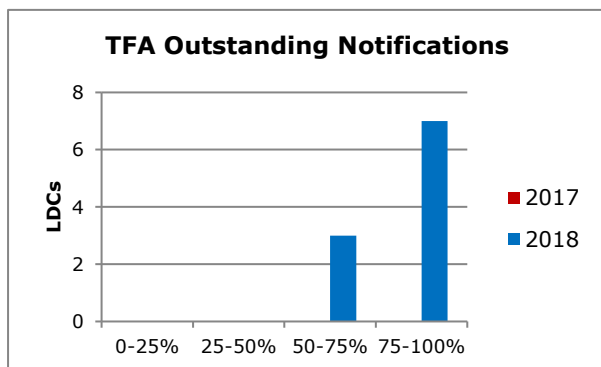
5.19. Upon entry into force of the TFA on 22 February 2017, developing Members who had ratified it had to notify their category A, B and C measures.³⁸ LDCs had one extra year to do so. By the end of 2018, 76 developing Members and 27 LDCs had ratified the TFA. 57 Developing

³⁵ See the report on compliance with agriculture notification requirements in G/AG/GEN/86/Rev.34, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDDocuments/251596/q/G/AG/GEN86R34.pdf. This report is updated several times per year.

³⁶ They took place in Belize, Gambia, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Togo.

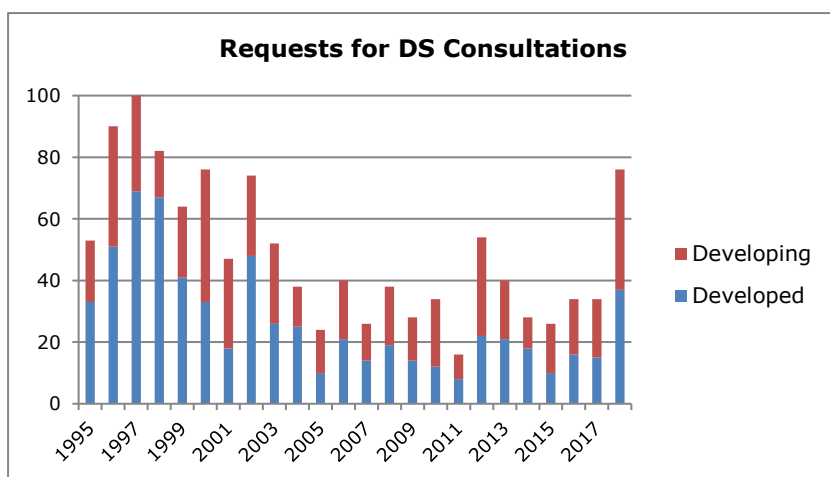
³⁷ See section 3.1.8.2 in document G/TBT/42 (viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDDocuments/251752/q/G/TBT/42.pdf) for more details on ePing, and in particular footnote 39.

³⁸ Category A: Measures that the Members will implement by the time the TFA enters into force;
Category B: Measures which the Member will need additional time to implement;
Category C: Measures for the implementation of which the Member will need TA and time.



Members (75%) and 17 LDCs (63%) had fully complied with their notification obligations. The graph shows that despite 7 new ratifications in 2018, the number of developing Members with outstanding TFA notifications went down by 14% compared to 2017. However, the remaining 19 developing Members had not yet complied with 62% of their notification obligations (45% in 2017). For LDC Members, 2018 was the first year in which their TFA notifications were due. The ten of them with outstanding TFA notifications will constitute a baseline to measure future progress. On average, they had

not yet complied with 87% of their notification obligations. In 2018, four activities (1 national and 3 regional) were organised on the TFA and addressed, *inter alia*, notifications requirements. Several other activities were financed by the TFAF and are not covered by this report.³⁹ Together, these activities contributed to helping beneficiary Members comply with their TFA notification obligations, irrespective of the origin of the funding for the activities.



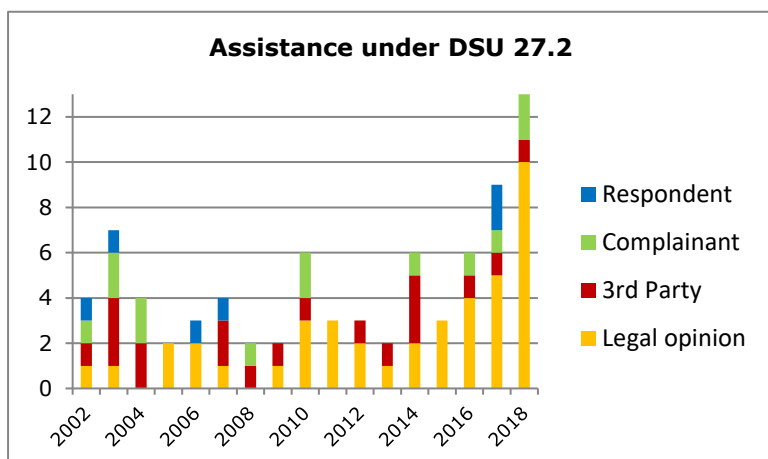
5.20. In 2018, in a context in which requests for DS consultations more than doubled compared to the previous year, the number of TA beneficiary Members involved, whether as complainant, respondent or third party remained high. There was not a single request which did not involve at least one TA beneficiary Member and for the fourth year in a row a majority of the Members involved during the year were TA beneficiaries. Out of 38 new

requests received in 2018 which led to the establishment of 25 panels:

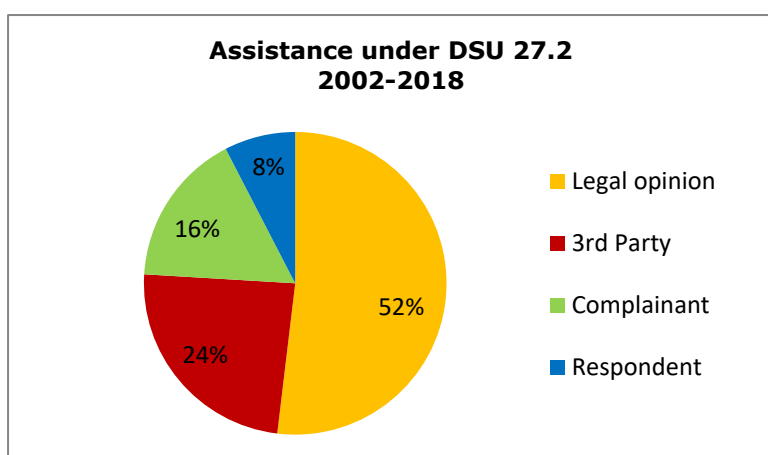
- a. 15 beneficiaries requested consultations on 20 disputes;
- b. 12 beneficiaries were respondents in 17 disputes;
- c. beneficiaries presented 58 requests to join consultations and 7 were accepted;
- d. 33 beneficiaries reserved their third-party rights on 371 occasions (i.e. in more than 11 cases each on average), 8 of them in more than three quarter of the 25 cases for which a panel was established;
- e. The UAE and Tunisia participated for the first time in a dispute as complainants, and the Kyrgyz Republic and Qatar as respondents.

5.21. This demonstrates that TA beneficiaries have become increasingly confident and capable of defending their rights in the WTO, including through the DS mechanism.

³⁹ See footnote 3 above.



5.22. The Secretariat continued to provide to developing Members the kind of additional legal advice required under Article 27.2 of the DSU. As seen for many years, demand for such services fluctuates from one year to the next. In 2018, 13 new requests for these services were presented by seven Members, which was above the annual average (4.6) and the highest level ever registered since the creation of the WTO. Two of the requesting Members had never used this service before.



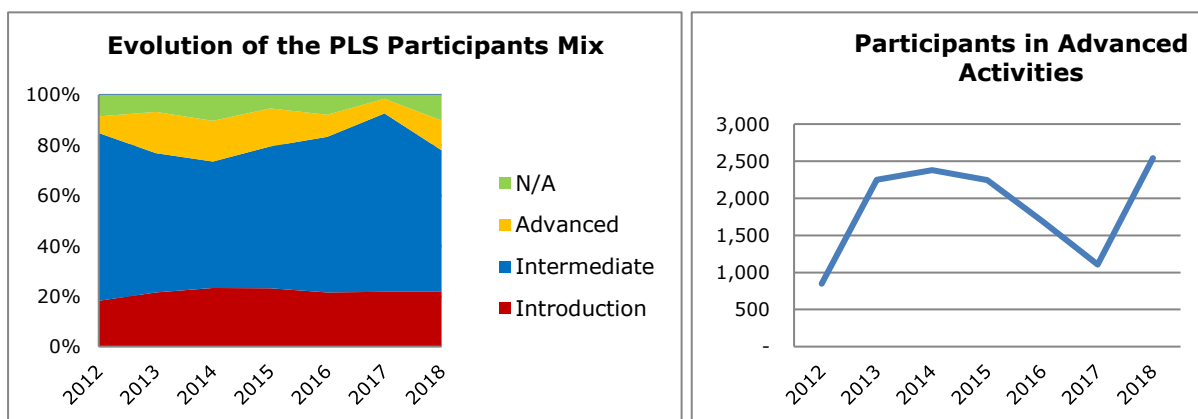
5.23. Since 2002, the 32 Members and 3 regional groups who have used the services provided by the Secretariat under Article 27.2 of the DSU have requested legal opinions in approximately half of the cases. These legal opinions may or may not (e.g. on the DSU review) be related to a potential dispute. Close to a quarter of the requests came from third parties to a dispute, and the last quarter (24%) benefited litigating parties (a complainant in two thirds of the cases).

5.2.1 Output 1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations

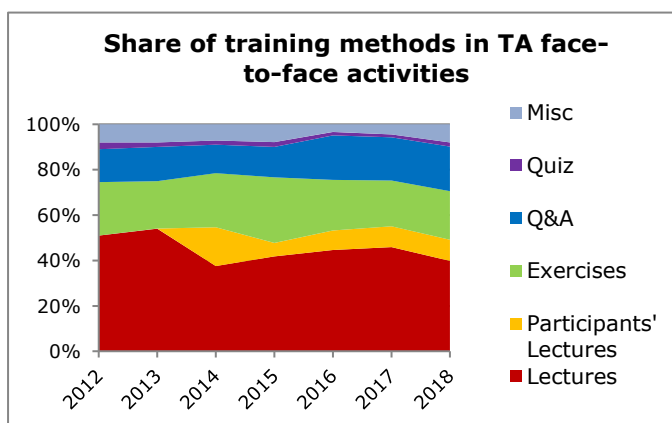
Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of participants completing each PLS level	Annual stability	Target met
Number of participants in WTO TRTA activities	Annual stability	Target met
Interactive training methods' share of time in each activity	Annual decrease in share of lectures	Target met

5.24. Section 4.3 above explained that the overall participation in TA activities increased by 25% in 2018, in line with the trend set since 2011. **Target met**

5.25. Section 4.6 then analysed the number of participants trained at each of the three levels (introduction, intermediate, advanced) in 2018. Since 2012, the graphs below show that the proportion of participants in each of the three levels fluctuated and that the decline in the proportion of participants in advanced activities was reversed in 2018. The relative importance of the introduction level was stable (22% on average). 10% of the activities had no specific level (e.g. activities for academia, symposia requested by WTO bodies, some accession activities, outreach online courses, etc.), since they did not fit into the PLS logic. In a context in which the overall participation in TA activities increased significantly in 2018, these evolutions mean that, in absolute terms, the number of participants in each of the three PLS levels also grew during the year: from 3,957 to 4,950 in the introduction level (+25%) and from 1,060 to 2,541 in the advanced level (+140%), when it decreased marginally from 12,849 to 12,772 in the intermediate level (-0.5%). These figures were largely above 2016 levels which were identified as the baseline in the TA Plan. The TA Plan had anticipated annual stability compared to 2016. **Target met**



5.26. While acknowledging that people learn in different ways and use different means of receiving information, the use of interactive training methods continued to be recommended when delivering TA activities at all three PLS levels to stimulate learning and increase the rate of knowledge retention by the participants (i.e. how much they remember after a while). Data on the various training methods used in the WTO TA face-to-face activities are collected by the trainers themselves and constitute an estimate. It may indeed be difficult to always identify with precision the share of the time dedicated to each training method. For example, different trainers may measure differently inside a lecture the time dedicated to the questions of the participants, which clearly increase the interactivity of the session.



5.27. There was no significant change in the relative importance of the various training methods used by the Secretariat in the face-to-face activities in 2018. Lectures remained the predominant medium used by trainers to deliver TA activities. Since 2014, the share of the lectures provided by the participants themselves (as opposed to by the Secretariat staff) is measured separately. Lectures provided by the Secretariat represented approximately 40% of the time on average (6 percentage points less than in 2017), and those provided by the participants 9% (as in 2017). As in the

past, these averages hide significant differences between certain types of activities, but the general trend in 2018 points towards a rebalancing of the programme of TA activities in favour of a higher level of interactivity overall, as total lecture time (Secretariat + participants) was back below 50% for the third time in a decade. The number of activities almost entirely based on lectures was stable.⁴⁰

5.28. The use of other training methods increased overall in 2018. Exercises or case studies represented 21% of the time on average (+1 percentage point), Question & Answer 20% (+1 percentage point) and other methods 10% (+4 percentage points). The share of the activities for which statistics were available and which did not use any exercise or case study was higher (38%, i.e. -2 percentage points). A majority of the time was dedicated to exercises or case studies in 11% of the activities only (e.g. on Trade Negotiating Skills and in several national activities). Other miscellaneous training methods used in TA activities included group work or group discussions and panels among others. **Target met**

⁴⁰ In 2018, lectures (Secretariat + participants) represented more than 80% of the time in 19 activities for which statistics were available, in line with the average over the last few years.

5.2.1.1 e-Learning

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of participants in WTO TRTA activities	Annual Stability	Target met
Spread of level of development of Members' participation in e-Learning courses	Annual stability in the participation of LDCs	Target met
Spread of geographical coverage of Members' participation in e-Learning courses	Maintain spread annually	Target met
New and revised online courses released each year	3 new or revised courses/year	Target met
% of participants rating the balance between theory and practice as good or excellent in online courses	70% during the biennium	Target met
% of participants rating the quality of the user-friendliness of the e-Campus and the rate of availability of the website throughout the year in the online courses as good or excellent	70% during the biennium	Target met
e-Learning success rate	Annual increase	Target met
e-Learning drop-out rate	Annual stability	Target met
e-Learning rate of correct answers in the exam	Annual stability	Target met
e-Learning distinction rate	Annual stability	Target met

5.29. The various country assessments conducted in 2018 confirmed that the e-Learning courses are very effective as a low-cost entry portal to equip large numbers of learners with the necessary basic information on WTO, its legal texts and other key trade-related issues. Their permanent availability throughout the year is seen as a big advantage by Members and Observers, as it minimises work disruptions. At the same time, the consensus amongst beneficiaries is that there is a limit to what can be learnt online. Physical interaction with the trainers in a face-to-face activity is indispensable to go beyond that limit. This confirms the validity of the approach adopted for many years to focus online courses on the first two PLS levels (introduction and intermediate) and to offer advanced training exclusively through face-to-face activities.

5.30. Several of the above indicators have already been examined in different parts of this report:

- a. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 explained that participation in e-Learning courses increased by 2.4% in 2018 compared to 2017 and reached a total of 11,769. The TA Plan targeted annual stability using 2016 as a baseline (10,279 participants). **Target met**
- b. The share of the participants originating from LDCs in e-Learning courses is discussed in section 4.1, which showed that this indicator was stable for four years, as the participation from these countries has been growing at same rate as the participation in e-Learning courses in general. The TA Plan was targeting annual stability. **Target met**
- c. The geographical spread of e-Learning participants analysed in section 4.2 remained comprehensive despite some rebalancing of the regional origin of the participants in 2018. **Target met**
- d. As indicated in section 3.4.1 above, five new online courses, "Agriculture Information Management System", "CITES and the WTO", "Documents Online", "Mainstreaming Trade – the Fundamentals" and "Trade Facilitation" were finalised and released in English in 2018. The course "Agriculture Xpress" launched at the very end of 2017 registered its first participants during the year. On top of this, a new version of the courses on Accession and Trade & Environment was released in English in 2018 to upgrade the older versions to SCORM standards. This indicator as defined in the TA Plan failed to acknowledge the importance of the work required to translate the course content – in particular the videos and other interactive components – initially developed in English into the other two languages.⁴¹ The TA Plan targeted the release of 3 new or revised courses per year. **Target met**

5.31. Feedback from e-Learning participants revealed that 86% of them rated the balance between theory and practice in online courses as good or excellent, and 93% rated the quality of the online

⁴¹ One course was translated into Spanish and French in 2018.

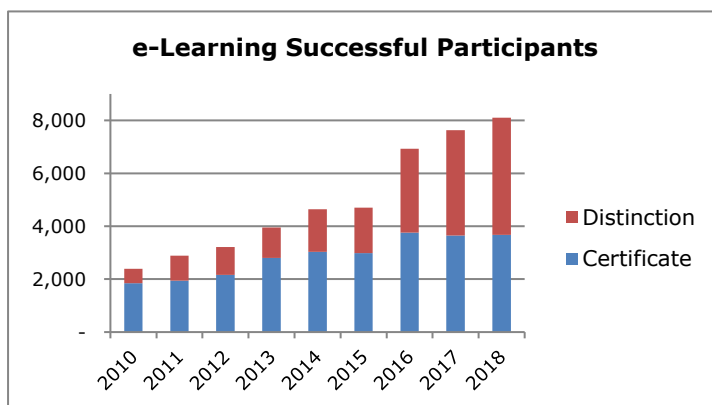
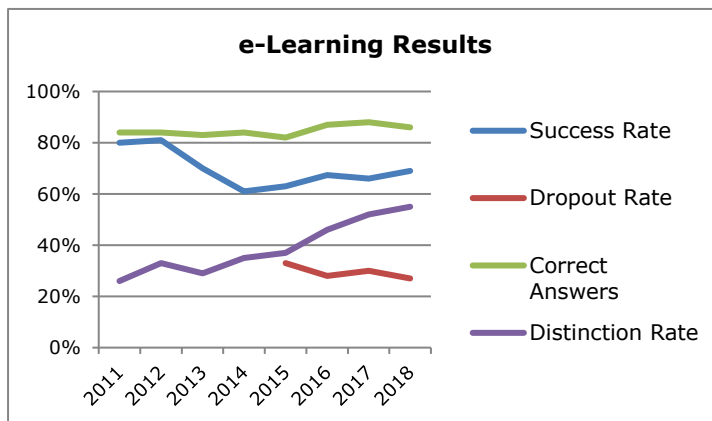
courses content as good or excellent. These figures are in line with averages from previous years. The TA Plan targeted a rate of satisfaction of 70% or above for each indicator. **Targets met**

5.32. Concerning the remaining indicators, measuring the immediate results of e-Learning courses is much easier than for most other activities, since the results of each participant can be monitored individually and completion of an online training always requires taking an exam at the end. As in previous years and as foreseen in the TA Plan 2018-19, the performance indicators below were used to measure the immediate results of a course:

- Success rate (proportion of those who passed the exams amongst those who attended the course) - the passing rate was 60% on average of correct answers in the final exam.
- Distinction rate (proportion of participants who passed the exams with more than 90% of correct answers on average amongst successful participants).
- Rate of correct answers in the exams of successful participants, knowing that the passing rate is 60% on average in the courses.
- Dropout rate (share of those who did not complete the course within two months).

Immediate results of online courses

Course	Attended	Successful	Success Rate	Dropout	Dropout Rate	Correct Answers	Distinction	Distinction Rate
Accessions	392	281	72%	80	20%	86%	182	65%
Agriculture	484	262	54%	197	41%	78%	63	24%
Agriculture IMS	35	29	83%	6	17%	100%	29	100%
Agriculture Xpress	204	184	90%	18	9%	93%	132	72%
CITES & WTO	22	22	100%	0	0%	96%	16	73%
Copyright	199	138	69%	44	22%	83%	74	54%
Development	367	249	68%	111	30%	85%	109	44%
Dispute Settlement	346	203	59%	118	34%	77%	39	19%
Doc Online	42	37	88%	4	10%	97%	35	95%
Environment	270	185	69%	77	29%	82%	63	34%
Introduction to WTO	2,791	1974	71%	795	28%	93%	1,518	77%
Legal Underpinnings	220	153	70%	63	29%	88%	104	68%
Mainstreaming Trade	21	21	100%	0	0%	93%	14	67%
MA Intelligence	174	89	51%	55	32%	73%	25	28%
Market Access Goods	254	154	61%	80	31%	77%	39	25%
Multilateral Trade Ag	550	366	67%	170	31%	81%	106	29%
Notifications	214	157	73%	46	21%	81%	41	26%
Patents	140	106	76%	20	14%	79%	39	37%
RTAs	561	450	80%	104	19%	90%	317	70%
Rules	308	216	70%	85	28%	82%	70	32%
Rules of Origin	505	341	68%	93	18%	74%	126	37%
Services	546	310	57%	211	39%	81%	96	31%
SPS	633	355	56%	259	41%	82%	111	31%
Tailored Course	110	77	70%	15	14%	75%	39	51%
TBT	481	293	61%	170	35%	81%	102	35%
Trade Economics	387	291	75%	77	20%	88%	207	71%
Trade Facilitation	202	170	84%	32	16%	90%	114	67%
Trade Finance	228	191	84%	32	14%	91%	133	70%
Short Trip to TRIPS	302	212	70%	79	26%	84%	100	47%
TRIPS	323	176	54%	130	40%	79%	60	34%
WTO in 10'	458	413	90%	43	9%	95%	333	81%
Total	11,769	8,105	69%	3,214	27%	86%	4,436	55%



5.33. The average success rate resumed its growth in 2018 after last year's pause, reaching 69%. The TA Plan had targeted an annual increase on the 2016 baseline of 67%. The current rate of success is highly satisfactory compared to the results measured in the rest of the online training industry.⁴² In 2018, the number of successful participants increased by 6% compared to 2017 to reach a total of 8,105. **Target met**

5.34. As explained in the report for 2017, the dropout rate had to be rebased a year ago, following the identification of a methodological error in the analysis of statistics on unsuccessful candidates.⁴³ This means that the 2016 baseline dropout rate identified in the TA Plan was incorrect and should have been 28%. Annual stability had been targeted in this domain. The average rate across courses was 27% in 2018, well below the average since 2015. The average rate of failure was also stable over the last four years and stood at 4% in 2018. **Target met**

5.35. At 86%, the average rate of correct answers was two percentage points lower than in 2017 and in line with the 2015-18 average. The TA Plan had targeted stability on the 2016 baseline of 85%. **Target met**

5.36. The rapid growth of the distinction rate observed since 2011 continued almost at the same pace in 2018. This rate was 55% on average (+3 percentage points compared to 2017). As explained last year, this could be the result of the Secretariat's efforts to increase e-learners' success rates by promoting interactivity and improved pedagogy in online courses. The introduction of shorter, more focused, courses may also have played a role. The new courses of the year were amongst the most successful ones in terms of distinction rates in 2018: Agriculture IMS (100%), DocOnline (95%), CITES & WTO (73%), Mainstreaming and TFA (67%). **Target met**

5.37. The very same courses as in previous years had consistently lower than average results under each of the four indicators: Agriculture, Dispute Settlement, MA Intelligence and TRIPS. These are old generation courses in several respects. Their pedagogy involves a limited level of interactivity and hardly relies on any multimedia component, and they cover a vast field of knowledge in one single course which makes them long and bulky. At the other end of the spectrum and as in previous years, Agriculture IMS, Agriculture Xpress, CITES & WTO, DocOnline, Mainstreaming Trade, Trade Finance and WTO in 10' consistently exceeded the average results for the four indicators. These are much shorter, better focused new generation courses with a highly interactive pedagogy relying on many multimedia components. The course on Introduction to the WTO also had very high distinction rate and rate of correct answers, as in 2017. These consistent results over the years confirm the validity of the analysis presented in last year's report and vindicates the approach pursued for

⁴² This rate is high compared to what can be observed elsewhere in the e-Learning industry. Although the average completion (successful or not) rate remains highly confidential for most e-Learning providers, in most Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs – i.e. courses which charge no fees, provide no tutoring and are open to large amounts of students for long periods of time) it does not exceed 10%. With a completion rate of 73% (69% successful + 4% unsuccessful), WTO e-Learning courses are as successful as the best short online courses with fixed-dates, close tutoring, a limited number of students and charging high fees, which are the most successful of all online courses.

⁴³ See §§ 5.32 and 5.33 in WT/COMTD/W/235, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2feetaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/246143/q/WT/COMTD/W235.pdf.

several years to upgrade existing courses to SCORM standards, make them more interactive and slice them into shorter more focused pieces which the participants find easier to absorb, complete and digest.

5.38. The same performance indicators can also be used to analyse the results of the courses by linguistic version, since they reach different audiences/participants.

Language	Attended	Successful	Success Rate	Dropout	Dropout Rate	Correct Answers	Distinction	Distinction Rate
English	6,968	4,888	70%	1,850	27%	87%	2,753	56%
French	2,409	1,613	67%	657	27%	83%	788	49%
Spanish	2,392	1,604	67%	707	30%	86%	895	56%
Total	11,769	8,105	69%	3,214	27%	86%	4,436	55%

5.39. The year 2018 saw a similar pattern as in previous years, with a relatively high homogeneity of the results across language versions of the same course. The exception was the lower rate of correct answers and of distinction for courses in French language versions, as in the past, even if the gap with the English and Spanish versions narrowed during the year. The improvement registered by French versions is even more remarkable since they were the only ones to register more participants than in 2017, when the English or Spanish versions stagnated or receded.

5.40. An analysis of these results by gender showed that since 2010 women's average success rate has always been a few percentage points higher than men's one. The average difference fluctuated between 2 percentage points in 2010, 2013 or 2015 and 3.6 percentage points in 2012 or 4.5 in 2011. After almost disappearing in 2016, this gap is again close to 3 percentage points since last year (2.8 percentage points in 2018). The gap is larger for the distinction rate (5 percentage points difference: 57% for women against 52% for men), meaning that the proportion of women was higher amongst high performers. However, these averages hide significant variations between the courses.

5.41. In conclusion, with the sustained improvements in most of the indicators, 2018 was another successful year for e-Learning results. All of the targets assigned for 2018 have been reached. This run of good news is highly rewarding and vindicates the e-Learning strategy followed for several years.⁴⁴

5.2.1.2 Internship programmes

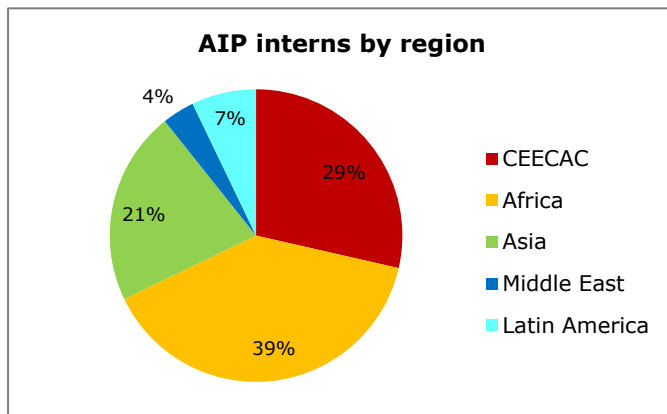
Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of interns in FIMIP, NTP ⁴⁵ and RCI	Per year: RCI: 8; FIMIP: 15	FIMIP: target met RCI: target partially met
Final evaluation rate of each intern	100% fully satisfactory	AIP: data not available, FIMIP: target met, RCI: target met

5.42. "Learning-by-doing" is the essence of an internship. Since measuring how much was actually learnt by the interns is a real challenge, a proxy indicator is to measure how much the interns did during their stay in Geneva. To that effect, the interns were requested in 2018 to report monthly how their time had been allocated between five broad categories of outputs: i) WTO meetings; ii) meetings of regional groups; iii) training sessions; iv) research, briefing notes, needs' assessments; and v) other activities. The compilation of the monthly reports gives a snapshot of the interns' work in Geneva. These data form the basis of this analysis. As indicated in Chapter 4 above, no intern was recruited under the NTP in 2018, as the earmarked contribution financing this programme was received towards the end of the year.

⁴⁴ See section 5.4 in WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/239616/q/WT/COMTD/W227R1.pdf.

⁴⁵ This activity was postponed to 2019 due to late receipt of funds

5.2.1.2.1 Accession Internship Programme (AIP)



5.43. Since its inception in 2012, 28 interns have participated in this programme, of which 13 (46%) were from LDC Members or Observers. 28% of them were from acceding governments and 68% were women. Most interns came from Africa or CEECAC, the two regions with the highest concentration of acceding governments.

5.44. Internships under the AIP generally last 10 months and may spread over two calendar years. In 2018, four new interns were recruited under this programme,⁴⁶ as in the two previous years, and four interns

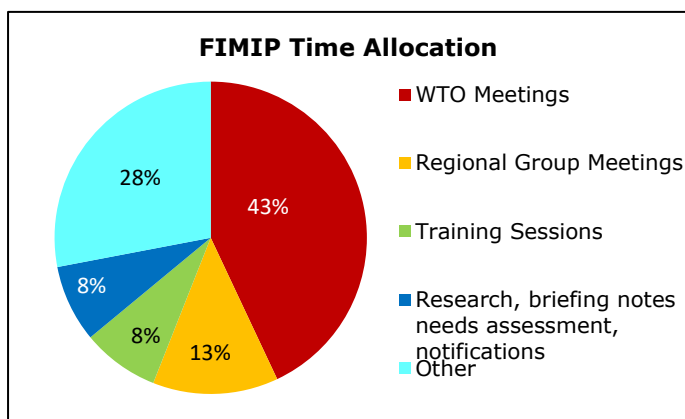
recruited in 2017 completed their internships. Participants in the AIP are either nationals of acceding governments or developing, LDC and Article XII Members. They were hosted in the Secretariat during their stay in Geneva. Participation in the AIP has remained steady since 2013 with an average of four new recruitments per year. No numerical target was assigned to the AIP in the TA Plan. However, its smooth implementation over the years is a clear sign of success.

5.45. Each intern was supervised by a professional staff member who provided day-to-day guidance, coaching and training. At the beginning of their internship, objectives were set with each intern, in consultation with the supervisor and the Director of the division. Accession interns reported weekly to the Director on their activities and the achievement of their objectives.

5.46. Unfortunately, no information on the final evaluation of the four interns who completed their internships in 2018 is available for this programme. **Data not available**

5.2.1.2.2 French-Irish Mission Internship Programme (FIMIP)

5.47. In 2018, 16 interns were selected out of the 133 applications received for this programme. During the period 2012-18, the Secretariat recruited 17 interns per year on average. The target in the TA Plan was to recruit at least 15 interns per year. **Target met**



5.48. The interns' stay in Geneva lasted 9.5 months. The availability of their monthly reports improved compared to 2017 (+ 2 percentage points to reach 91%), as did the reliability and coherence of these reports. Only one of their final reports was missing. On average, the interns spent 56% of their time on meeting-related work (WTO bodies or Regional Groupings), including attending and performing the underlying preparatory and follow-up work. This task is particularly important for small understaffed missions, as it supports their ability to attend such meetings. The

interns spent 8% of their time attending training sessions, including monthly meetings with the Secretariat, e-Learning courses, presentations by divisions, etc.; and another 8% of their time preparing research, briefing notes and notifications. A substantive share of the interns' time was devoted to other activities (28% on average), such as administrative tasks, attending bilateral meetings with other delegations or meetings of other Geneva-based organisations, networking, etc.

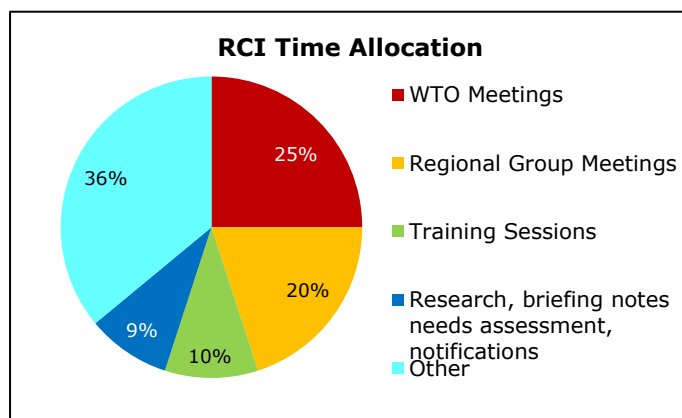
⁴⁶ From Azerbaijan, Serbia, Somalia and Uganda.

5.49. Several interns were also involved in the coordination between the Secretariat and relevant government agencies in capital regarding WTO obligations in different areas such as notifications or the ratification of the TFA. As in previous years, the interns had the opportunity to visit the permanent mission of France to get a better understanding of the formulation of trade policy in the European Union, and to meet with Ireland's representatives to discuss various trade issues and concerns. For the first time, a two-day visit to Paris was organised for the interns to meet with different senior French government officials to discuss various trade negotiating topics and development and capacity building issues.

5.50. At the end of their stay in Geneva, the interns were evaluated by their supervisor at the mission, who praised the interns for their hard work and considered that their performance had either fully met expectations or even exceeded them in some cases. Ten interns were evaluated as "fully satisfactory", and five "significantly exceeded performance requirements". **Target met**

5.2.1.2.3 Regional Coordinator Internship programme (RCI)

5.51. In 2018, six interns, including five from LDCs, were selected to work for the mission of Members or regional secretariats acting as regional coordinators for the C4, ACP, CARICOM, PIFS and the LDC group. This was the lowest RCI intake since 2010, below the annual average of 7.5 interns. The TA Plan retained the 2016 level as a baseline (7 interns) for this indicator and identified a target to recruit 8 interns per year provided sufficient requests were received from those Members or regional secretariats who act as coordinators for a region or a group of Members; and that suitable candidates were presented. In 2018, the number of interns was below the target and the baseline as only six requests were received and all of them were granted. **Target partially met**



5.52. The monthly reports of the interns were received in a timely manner in 2018. These reports show that on average 45% of the interns' time was dedicated to regional group and WTO meetings and the related work (preparation or follow-up). The interns spent the same proportion of their time training and working on research or briefing notes as their FIMIP counterparts. The remaining 36% of their time was used for other tasks and requests made by regional coordinators. These figures confirm that the RCI reinforces the capacity of the Missions acting as regional coordinator to

participate in the meetings of WTO bodies and regional groupings, and to perform the related work.

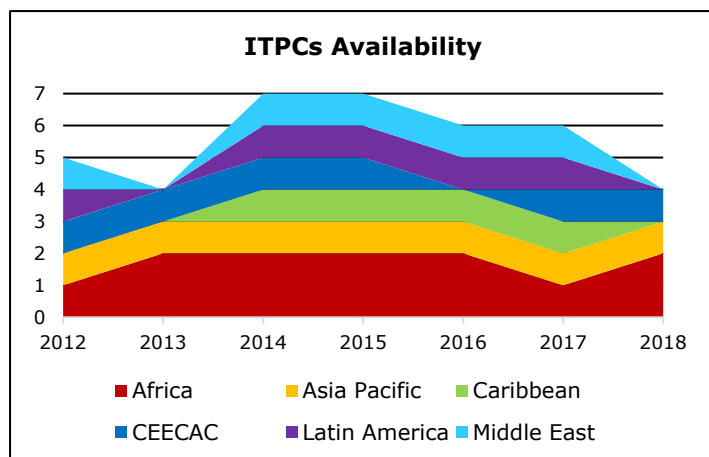
5.53. The assessment of the programme in 2018 considered all internships completed during the year regardless of the date of their recruitment. Four interns completed their internship in 2018 (two recruited in 2017 and two in 2018).⁴⁷ Three interns were evaluated as "fully satisfactory" and one "significantly exceeded performance requirement".⁴⁸ **Target met**

5.2.1.3 Intermediate Trade Policy Courses (ITPCs)

Indicators	Targets	2018
Success rate in 8-week ITPC final exam	At least 90% annually	Target met
% of participants giving an excellent rating to ITPCs' overall content and results	Annual increase	Target met

⁴⁷ The remaining 4 interns recruited in 2018 will complete their internship in 2019. Their evaluation will be considered in the 2019 report.

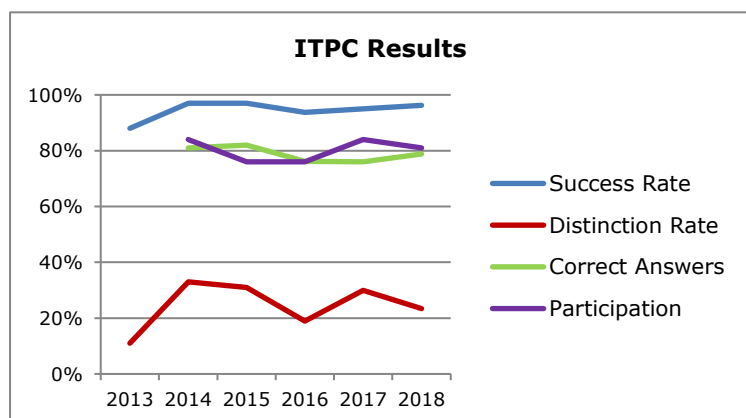
⁴⁸ The final evaluation of one intern is missing.



5.54. In 2018, the Secretariat implemented four ITPCs, two less than in the previous two years. Since 2012, ITPCs have been offered in all seven regions only twice (i.e. 29% of the time) and the average availability of ITPCs has been 80%. Asia-Pacific is the only region which did not miss a single course. Elsewhere, a course has generally been missed at the end of each four-year partnership. The overall participation in the ITPCs was consequently 26% lower in 2018, even if the average number of participants per course increased from 24 to 27 compared to 2017.

5.55. Since 2013, a final exam is used to evaluate the participants in all ITPCs. Participants take the exam at the end of a three-day revision workshop in which they revisit the entire content of the ITPC in a horizontal manner. Participants' final grades were comprised of an assessment of their participation during the course (30%) and their final exam results (70%). A final grade of 90% or above merited a certificate with distinction, whilst a grade below 60% received a certificate of attendance. Since 2016, the criteria and procedure to evaluate the participation was reviewed and reformulated to also take the opinion of the trainers into account and move to a weekly system. The final participation grade of each participant is then the average of the weekly grades. The results measured in 2018 were the following:

	Africa (French)	Africa (English)	Asia-Pacific	CEECAC	Average
Attendance	29	31	28	19	27
Passed	28	31	26	18	26
Distinction	4	6	7	8	6
Success	24	25	19	10	20
Success Rate	97%	100%	93%	95%	96%
Distinction Rate	14%	19%	25%	42%	23%
Correct Answers	68%	79%	84%	84%	79%
Participation	90%	74%	75%	84%	81%
Excellent opinion	27%	62%	72%	82%	61%
Good opinion	73%	38%	28%	18%	39%



5.56. All four ITPCs were successful, and one of them very successful, in transferring an appropriate level of knowledge and skills on WTO matters to their participants, especially on the WTO Agreements and the way to use the WTO legal texts. The average success rate of the participants was 96%, (one course had a success rate of 100%) with 79% of correct answers to the final exam on average and a distinction rate (i.e. final mark above 90%) of 23%.

These results demonstrate that, for the most part, the objectives of the ITPCs (i. deepened understanding of WTO Agreements and functioning; ii. better understanding of relevant trade policy issues in the regional context; iii. increased autonomy in using WTO information and documentation; iv. strengthened network of contacts) were satisfactorily achieved in 2018. They are also superior to the 94% success rate achieved in 2016 (TA Plan baseline) and to the 90% targeted by the TA Plan. **Target met**

5.57. There were some limited revisions of the course curriculum in 2018: to eliminate the overlap with the Advanced Trade Policy Course, the module on trade negotiation skills was reviewed. Generally, the course content of the ITPCs was highly appreciated by the participants.

5.58. In 2018, regional experts taught 23% of the course time on average (i.e. between 8 and 12.5 days out of 40, depending on the regions), a third less than in the previous year. Efforts continued to involve regional institutions who are often better positioned to present a balanced practical regional perspective than academics or government officials.

5.59. The use of interactive training methods in 2018 was characterized by a return to 2016 levels. After the decrease noted in 2017, the percentage of pure lectures grew back to 61% (while it was 52% in 2015 and 55% in 2017), whilst the use of case studies and exercises decreased to 22% and Q&A sessions to 8%. The remainder of the time involved quizzes, professional visits and other discussions.

5.60. The participants in the ITPCs for Asia-Pacific, CEECAC and English-speaking Africa gave 72% of top marks, when those in the ITPC for French-speaking Africa gave only 27%. On average, 61% of the participants considered that the courses were generally excellent, and the remaining 39% that they were generally good. Hence in total, ITPCs gathered 100% of top two marks from the participants. The TA Plan had targeted an increase on the 2016 baseline of 93%. **Target met**

5.2.1.4 Other face-to-face activities

Indicators	Targets	2018
Spread of geographical coverage of Members' participating in face-to-face TA courses	Maintain spread annually	Target met
Spread of level of development of Members' participating in face-to-face TA courses	Annual stability in the participation of LDCs	Target met
% of participants giving an excellent rating to ATPCs' and advanced thematic courses' overall content and results	Annual increase	Target met
Number of revised modules or case studies in ATPCs	Two per year	Target met
Number of participants trained on trade negotiating skills	Annual stability	Target partially met
Advanced thematic courses focused on implementation	Three in 2017 and four in 2018	Target met
Implementation of Action Plans within 12 months	Annual stability	Advanced SPS course: Target partially met Advanced TBT course: Target not met

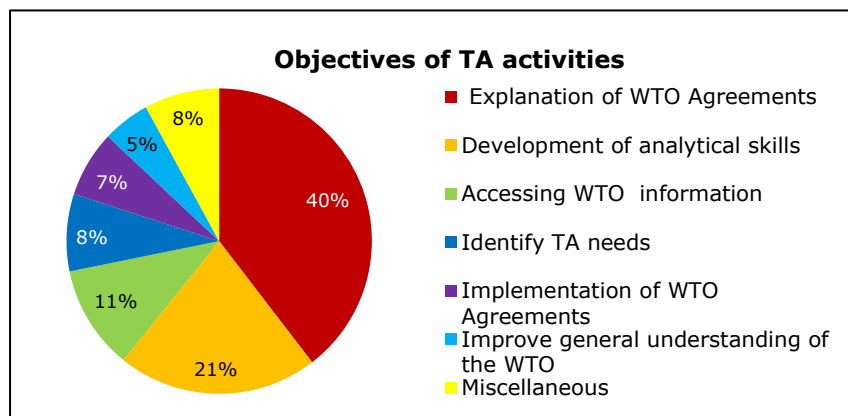
5.61. The geographical spread of participation in face-to-face TA activities was analysed in section 4.2 above. It showed a moderate reshuffling of participation levels across TA beneficiary regions. Despite this variation, and except for Africa, the share of each region in the total participation in face-to-face activities remained above its corresponding level for 2016, identified as the baseline for this indicator in the TA Plan. The TA Plan targeted a stability of the geographical spread of participation in face-to-face activities. **Target met**

5.62. Participation of LDCs in WTO TA was analysed in section 4.1. Whilst the Secretariat continued to prioritise LDCs in the provision of its TA, the decreasing demand for national activities and the cancellation or postponement of some activities targeting or prioritising LDCs negatively affected the share of participation from this category of countries.⁴⁹ Only one quarter of face-to-face activities were directed towards them against one third in the two previous years resulting in a slight decrease of participation from LDCs in 2018 compared to 2017 (25% and 29% of total participants, respectively). Nonetheless, LDCs' participation in face-to-face activities in 2018 remained above the baseline identified in the TA Plan for this indicator (22% of total participants in 2016). **Target met**

⁴⁹ One national activity was cancelled in Ethiopia and two in Togo. The NTP which gives priority to participants from LDCs did not take place in 2018.

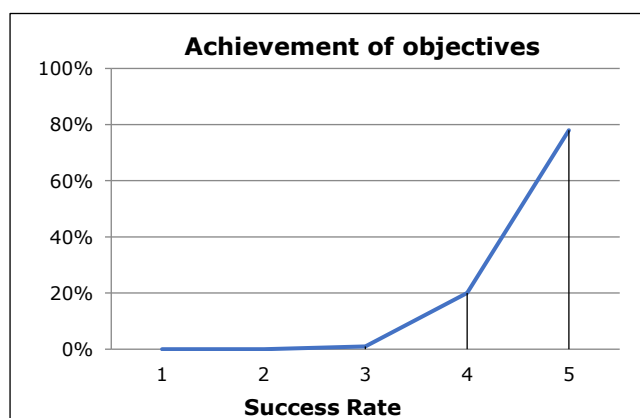
5.63. The TA Plan identified several proxy indicators related to training methodology and described in the table above to assess the extent to which face-to-face activities other than those covered in previous sections have achieved their objectives and enhanced Members' knowledge in the areas identified under Output 1.1.

5.64. No final exam is administered to measure participants' learning in most face-to-face activities.⁵⁰ The overall success of the activity and the extent to which it has met its stated objectives is evaluated by the trainers themselves in the Back to Office Report (BTOR). BTORs constitute the core evaluation tool for these activities. As their availability is critical, the Secretariat invested significant time and energy to make reporting on face-to-face activities systematic, comprehensive and structured. These efforts have brought the reporting rate up to nearly 100% since 2016.



5.65. Enhancing the understanding of beneficiaries on one or several WTO Agreements represented 40% of the objectives of TA activities in 2018 (this was slightly less than in the two previous years: 43% in 2017 and 47% in 2016). The improvement of analytical, communication or negotiating skills and of the capability to assess the implications of, and deal

with, a given WTO subject came next (21% in 2018 vs. 16% in 2016 and 15% in 2017). The remaining 39% were related to strengthening a diversity of skills such as capacity to access WTO data, ability to work in teams and the development of network of contacts. The proportion of objectives targeting the enhancement of participants' soft skills and analytical capabilities have increased in 2018 compared to 2017 (35% against 26%) reflecting the Secretariat's efforts to enhance TA's relevance and usefulness for participants. Most TA activities have several objectives, with an average of approximately 3 objectives per activity in 2018. This average has remained stable over the years.



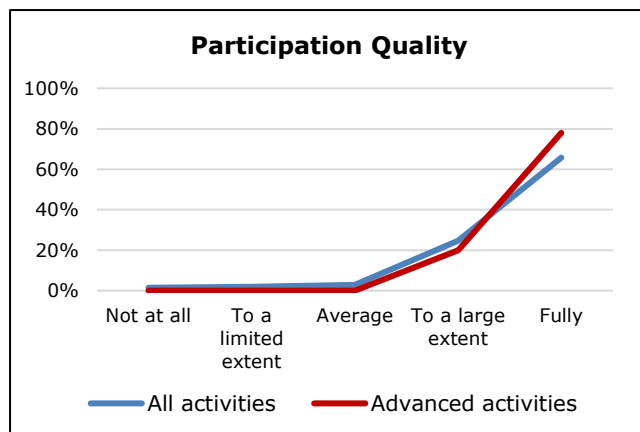
5.66. When evaluating the achievement of the immediate objectives of the activities, trainers gave an average mark of 4.7 out of a maximum of 5, in line with the figures from the previous years. Amongst the 597 immediate objectives of TA activities for which data were available in 2018, only six objectives were given a mark of 3, two a mark of 2, and none a mark of 1. Therefore, the achievement of 98% of the objectives was rated as satisfactory or outstanding in 2018. These figures show a continuation of the high performance observed since 2016.⁵¹ Nevertheless, they are to be interpreted with caution as they are based on the trainers'

subjective self-evaluations. The assessment by an independent evaluator, whenever it is available, generally gives more nuanced results. For instance, six activities were subject to an onsite evaluation by the Secretariat's internal TA Monitoring & Evaluation team (TAME) in 2018. In their BTOR, the trainers had considered that all but one of the sixteen objectives of these activities were fully achieved, when TAME assessed that only five out of the 16 objectives were fully achieved, the remaining 11 being either achieved to a large extent (7) or only moderately achieved (4). On

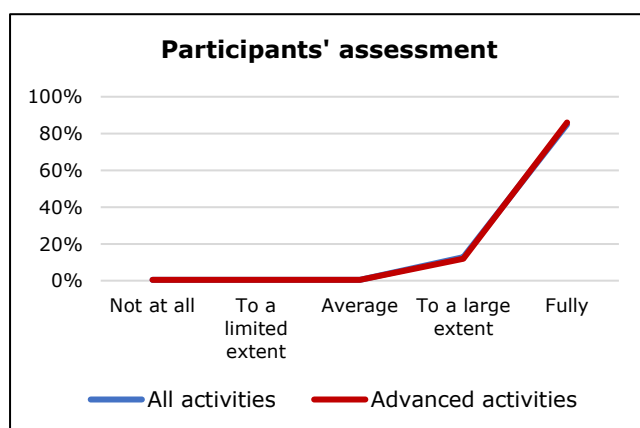
⁵⁰ To date, only the ITPC and since 2017, the Introduction Course for LDC include a final exam to assess knowledge acquisition by participants.

⁵¹ The achievement of 98% of the objectives was rated as "Satisfactory" or "Outstanding" in 2017. In 2016, this rate was 92%.

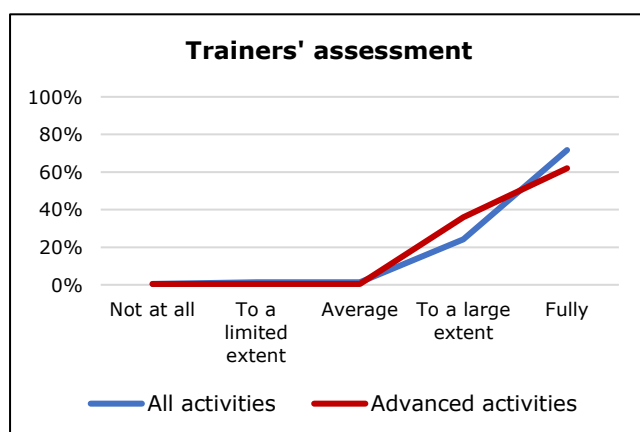
average, this meant that trainers were 0.9 point (on a five-point scale) more optimistic about the results of the TA activities than a more independent observer. Assuming that this discrepancy is indicative of the situation across the entire WTO TA portfolio, this would mean that the success rates reported above were inflated by 18% on average, as the achievement of almost two thirds of the objectives was probably lower than reported by the trainers, in 25% of the cases by a good margin.



5.67. Another element of performance of face-to-face activities that can be extracted from the BTORs is the quality of participation. 2018's data showed that the Secretariat kept up the pace of high performance achieved on this front since 2016. In 91% of the BTORs, the quality of participation was considered generally satisfactory (66% fully and 25% to a large extent). This assessment was even better for the advanced activities for which data are available, as 98% of them had a satisfactory level of participation.



5.68. Trainers were mostly positive when assessing the overall content and results of the activities as 72% of the activities were deemed fully satisfactory and the remaining satisfactory to a large extent. Advanced activities received a slightly lower rating as only 62% of them were considered by trainers as fully satisfactory.



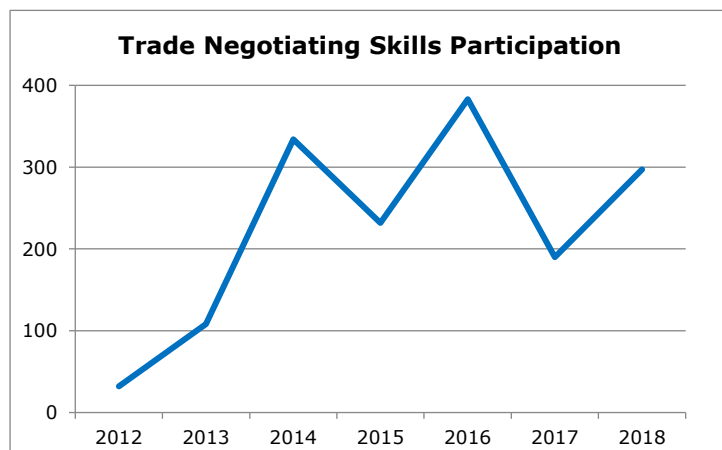
5.69. Participants were generally more enthusiastic than the trainers in their assessment of activities' overall content and results. As in previous years, only the top two ratings were used in 2018.⁵² The content and results of the activities, regardless of their level, were considered fully satisfactory in 85% of the cases and to a large extent the rest of the time. Participants' assessments of advanced activities followed the same trend with a higher level of satisfaction in the other advanced activities compared to the ATPCs. In the ATPCs, courses' overall content and results were fully satisfactory in 67% and to a large extent in 33% of cases. Results in the advanced thematic activities were slightly better with 89% fully satisfactory and 11% to a large extent. For both categories of activities, participants gave an excellent rating in 100% of cases. The baseline identified in the TA Plan was 100% of excellent rating by participants for the ATPCs and 91% for the advanced thematic courses.

Target met

5.70. Revision of modules and case studies in the ATPCs was identified as another proxy indicator for face-to-face activities' performance. Efforts initiated in 2017 to reform the Trade Policy Presentations (TPP) project continued in 2018. This module was repackaged over four weeks and was delivered in the middle of the course. A new case study was developed for the module on market access. The case study is based on a real-life scenario and gives participants the opportunity to test their knowledge on tariffs, tariff negotiations, schedules, GATT Article XXVIII procedures, quantitative restrictions, licenses and TF. It made the module more concise, practical and

⁵² "Fully satisfactory" and "Satisfactory to a large extent", which are considered as excellent ratings.

interactive. The case studies on Agriculture and on Intellectual Property were also revised. In 2018, participants were required to submit a written report on each committee meeting they attended. Though these reports were not graded, they were used as the basis for discussion during the weekly evaluation sessions. A pre-test was administered at the beginning of the course to identify participants' knowledge gaps and adjust the course accordingly. The TA Plan targeted the revision of two modules or case studies per year. **Target met**



5.71. After a significant drop in the number of participants trained on trade negotiation skills in 2017, year 2018 saw a return to 2014-16 yearly average. The Secretariat delivered eight activities (2 nationals and 6 regionals).⁵³ Two other activities originally planned in 2018 (a national one in Togo and a regional one in Morocco) were cancelled due to logistical challenges. This caused the total number of activities to remain marginally below the historical record reached in 2016 (9 activities) although it surpassed the level in 2017 (5 activities). Participation in these

activities has consequently surged by 56% in 2018 compared to 2017, which exceeded the annual stability of participation targeted by the TA Plan. Despite this increase, participation level in 2018 was 22% below the 2016 record, retained as the baseline in the TA Plan. **Target partially met**

5.72. Whilst the vast majority of the TA provided by the WTO focuses on the implementation of the WTO Agreements in a general sense, few activities have explored innovative methodologies combining problem identification, development of an action plan, promotion of leadership, individual coaching of participants, simulations, independent study and follow-up over a long period. As acknowledged in the TA Plan 2018-19 and in the 2016 external evaluation, these latter approaches allow participants to learn by doing and stimulate their implementation capacity. Section 3.4.2 provided various illustrations of the Secretariat's efforts to further expand the focus on implementation in its advanced thematic activities. In 2018, four activities embodied several of the above-mentioned approaches: the advanced course on SPS (which also held a follow-up session in the 2017 course), the advanced workshop on agriculture notifications, the advanced course on TBT and the new advanced course on Quantitative Restrictions (QR) launched in 2018. The latter consisted in a mix of lectures, discussions, round tables and practical exercises. It strengthened participants' problem identification and solving skills by requiring them, since the application stage, to identify specific QR notifications challenges that they would address during the course; and by offering them bilateral coaching for the preparation of draft notifications. The target identified in the TA Plan was to organize four advanced thematic activities focused on implementation in 2018.

Target met

5.73. Among the activities focusing on implementation, only the SPS advanced course comprised a mix of preparation of an action plan by participants, provision of continuous distant coaching and the organization of a follow-up training session. The follow-up session of the 2017 advanced SPS course took place in July 2018. Among the 23 participants who attended the main session in October-November 2017, only those who had submitted two progress reports on the implementation of their action plans were invited to the follow-up activity. Three of the 22 participants who met the requirement could not attend for reasons beyond their control. The remaining nineteen participants attended the follow-up activity. They shared a wealth of information on the lessons learnt and experiences in the implementation of their action plans. Returning participants demonstrated their leadership and communication skills, as well as confidence, in their presentation of action plans. These are part of the soft skills that the Advanced SPS Course aims to transmit. All participants

⁵³ On average, a national activity on TNS gather around 24 participants while a regional has around 42 participants.

made efforts to implement their action plans and, as expected, experienced varying levels of success, often influenced by the level of support received from their supervisors.

5.74. Assessing the actual implementation rate of action plans on a yearly basis is difficult because these plans may require a longer period for proper implementation and may not be finalized at the time of reporting during the Follow-up Session. This depends on the level of ambition of the action plan and the extent to which it is within the sole control of the participant. Participants are encouraged to choose ambitious action plans and to adapt them to the circumstances. For instance, some participants target the development of guidelines or training materials, while others target the strengthening of specific SPS-related processes or systems. The latter may require two years or more to be implemented. These factors lead to significant variations in the level of implementation of the action plans among participants during the reporting period. Six participants (26%) made limited progress in the implementation of their action plans and one participant (4%) did not report any progress at all. The other 70% had either completed or made significant progress in the implementation of their action plans. This is seven percentage points less than in 2017 but remains above the implementation rate recorded in 2016,⁵⁴ which was identified as the baseline for this indicator in the TA Plan. However, the TA Plan had targeted an annual stability of the implementation rate. **Target partially met**

5.75. The advanced course on TBT had adopted a similar approach in 2015 but was subsequently discontinued in 2016 and 2017. When it resumed in 2018, it did not include a fully-fledged follow-up component nor coaches to support participants in the development and implementation of their action plans. Instead participants were asked to work in four thematic groups (transparency, conformity assessment, regulatory framework and participation in the work of the TBT Committee) and to present their action plans within these topics on the last day of the course. Five months after the activity, participants were asked to respond to a follow-up questionnaire on the extent to which they had been able to implement their action plans. The response rate to the follow-up questionnaire was much lower than in 2016 (54% in 2018 versus 76% in 2016). By the end of this period, 39% of participants reported no progress, 17% reported limited progress, 17% reported partial completion and 26% full completion of their action plans. In 2016, at the time of the follow-up course, 24% of the participants had reported no progress, 7% limited progress, 34% partial completion and 34% full completion of their action plans. In sum, after six months only 43% of participants had either completed or made a significant progress in the implementation of their action plans in 2018, while in 2016 the equivalent proportion was of 69%. At the other end of the spectrum, the proportion of those who had made very limited or no progress almost doubled (31% in 2016 against 57% in 2018). These results are also relatively poor compared with those of the Advanced SPS course discussed in the previous paragraph. This lower performance demonstrates the importance of continued coaching and of a follow-up training session to maintain participants' motivation for the completion of their action plans. **Target not met**

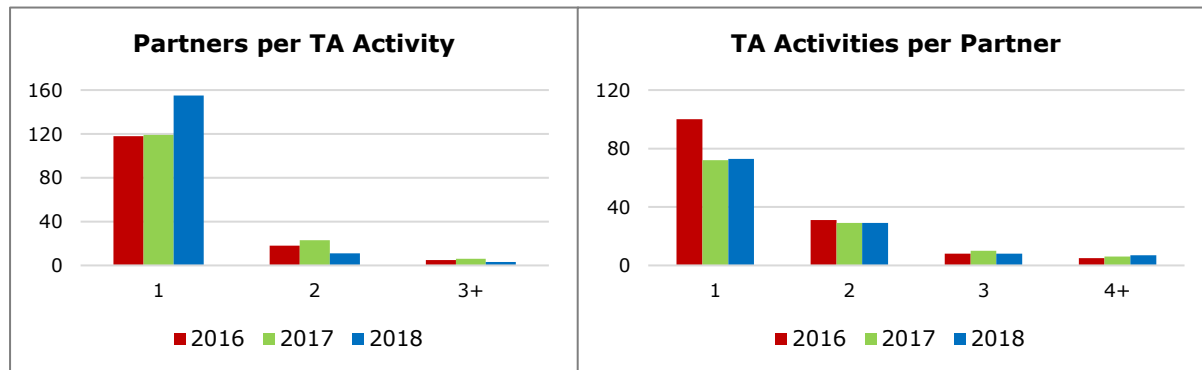
5.2.2 Output 1.2: Effective partnerships established resulting in substantive contributions of human and financial resources for TA activities

Indicators	Targets	2018
Proportion of activities with the involvement of a partner	Annual stability	Target met
Proportion of partners' contribution to the TA activities	Annual increase of substantive contributions	Target met

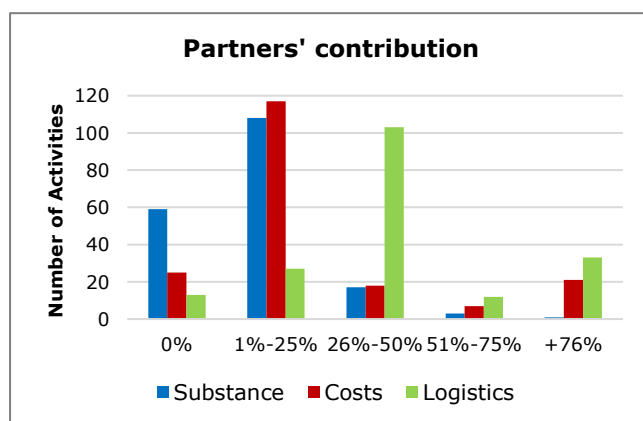
5.76. As foreseen in the TA Plan, in 2018 the Secretariat continued to leverage strategic partnerships to deliver better-tailored TA activities in a cost-efficient manner. The cooperation with an extensive network of partners was essential for the achievement of the TA outcomes. Detailed data on the contributions of the partners to the WTO TA activities are collected since 2016. However, the Aid for Trade partnerships and trusts funds partly or entirely administered by the WTO (EIF, TFAF and STDF), which also contribute substantively and financially to the implementation of TA and the achievement of the objectives of the activities concerned, were not considered as separate partnerships for this indicator even if, for instance, the STDF was involved in the delivery of most SPS TA activities in 2018 and the TFAF in many TA activities on MA for goods.

⁵⁴ Slightly over 60% of participants had made significant progress or had fully implemented their action plans at the date of reporting.

5.77. In 2018, the Secretariat cooperated with 117 different partners to organize and deliver 169 TA activities. In addition, the Secretariat participated as a partner in 30 TA activities organized by other institutions. Together, these 199 activities represent 59% of the TA activities which the WTO organized or in which it participated in 2018. The proportion was 60% in 2017 and 54% in 2016. The TA Plan targeted stability since 2016. **Target met**



5.78. In 2018, 62% of WTO TA partners were involved in one single WTO TA activity, and 25% in two. 92% of the TA activities which involved a partnership were organised with one single partner and 7% with two partners. This means that in the vast majority of cases and as already noted in previous years, a specific partnership was developed in order to organize one single activity with this partner and with this partner only. In 2018, a partnership with 8 new partners was developed and the overall number of partners remained stable compared to 2017.



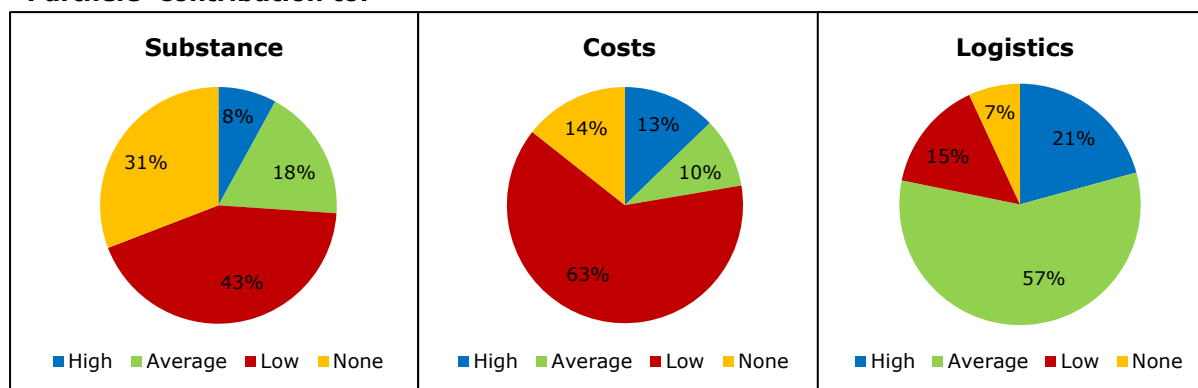
5.79. The TA Plan identified four domains in which partners could usefully add value to the TA provided by the WTO: substance, cost-sharing, logistics and outreach. For an activity to qualify as WTO TA, it was assumed that the Secretariat would need to provide a majority of its substance. This means that the contribution of partners to substance will be considered as low between 0% and 19%, as average between 20% and 39% and as high above 40%. No comparable limit exists for partners' contribution to costs and logistics, which may reach up to 100% without compromising the WTO nature of a TA activity. Partners' contribution to costs

and logistics will consequently be considered as low between 0% and 34%, as average between 35% and 69% and as high above 70%.

5.80. The partnerships allowed the WTO to reach out to a wider public than its traditional audience in 11% of cases. This is two percentage points more than in 2017, but in line with recent averages. This proportion was considerably higher for the activities under Key Results 3 and 4 (33%, 3 percentage points less than in 2017).

5.81. In terms of substance, the average contribution from partners continued to decrease in 2018. The share of partners who did not contribute at all to the substance of TA activities increased from 23% to 31% compared to 2017, while the share of partners who made a high and average contribution shrunk from 11% to 8% and from 22% to 18% respectively. This evolution illustrates how challenging the involvement of partners in TA activities can often be.

5.82. In 62% of cases, the partners were the governmental authorities hosting national activities who bear the domestic costs and take care of invitations and the local logistics. Contribution of the host government to the substance of national activities was highly encouraged. It exceeded 20% of the total substance in 14% of the cases.

Partners' contribution to:

5.83. Analysing these three dimensions together shows that approximately 40% of the partners made a very modest contribution to the 2018 TA activities in any area, against 16% in 2017 and 26% in 2016. In 43% of cases, the partner made an average contribution to WTO's activities participating mainly in logistics and cost-sharing. Like in previous years, logistics is the area where the Secretariat received the highest contribution from its partners. Partners took care of most of the logistical arrangements related to the implementation of its TA activities in 24% of the cases. That proportion was much higher in 2017 (44%) but lower in 2016 (17%). Partners did not provide any logistical support in only 7% of the cases.

5.84. Partners' overall contribution in the three areas was high in 17% of cases (13% in 2017, 18% in 2016). This was particularly the case for outreach activities and the WCP, and activities with WIPO on Intellectual Property Rights. Contributions were average in 43% of the activities (46% in 2017, 26% in 2016) and low in 40% of the activities (41% in 2017 and 56% in 2016). The TA Plan had targeted an annual increase of the contribution from partners compared to the 2016 level.

Target met**5.2.3 Output 1.3: Members' needs and priorities are identified**

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of needs assessments conducted annually, either independently or as part of a TPR	Increase during the biennium	Target Met

5.85. The successive TA Plans emphasized the importance of assessing Members' TA needs on a regular basis to ensure that the WTO TA offer meets their priorities.⁵⁵ Consultations were held in 2017 in preparation of the TA Plan 2018-19 through the circulation of questionnaires to Members. In total, the Secretariat received responses from 85 beneficiaries, representing approximately 60% of total potential beneficiaries. The information gathered was representative of beneficiaries' views concerning their TA priorities and desired outputs for the 2018-19 biennium. It showed that beneficiaries' priority needs were, in order of decreasing importance, on the following subjects: Trade Facilitation, Services, SPS, TBT, negotiation skills, Trade Remedies, Agriculture, MA for Goods, TRIPS, e-Commerce, RTAs, development, Notifications, TPR follow-up and Dispute Settlement.⁵⁶ Informal consultations between the Secretariat and Members held in 2018 confirmed these priorities, which have been stable for several years. The analysis presented in section 4 above showed that the TA provided by the WTO in 2018 responded to a very large extent to these needs and priorities.

5.86. Most of the consultations held with Members and Observers about their needs and priorities are informal and not systematically documented. This was the case when analysing and responding to the requests for national activities. These requests always trigger multiple bilateral exchanges between the Secretariat and the authorities of the requesting country, to specify more precisely their actual needs in order to design the most suited TA activity. As reported in previous years, this process continued to be a challenge for a number of beneficiaries who found it difficult to define precisely the shortcomings they sought to address or the objectives they wanted to reach at the end

⁵⁵ See section 6.1.3 in documents WT/COMTD/W/211 and WT/COMTD/W/277/Rev.1, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/239616/q/WT/COMTD/W227R1.pdf.

⁵⁶ See section 4 in document WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1.

of the activity. Another difficulty came from requests seeking the Secretariat's advice on negotiating strategies, for example for regional trade agreements. As such requests fall clearly outside of the Secretariat's mandate, they had to be denied and the requests had to be re-focused. The result of these consultations is embodied in the national activity request eventually submitted. As indicated in section 3.1.2 of this report, after five successive years of decline in the number of national activity requests and hence a commensurate decrease in the number of needs assessments carried-out, 2018 recorded a 45% increase in the number of national activity requests compared to 2017, leading to a comparable increase in the number of needs analysis.

5.87. The focus of national requests submitted in 2018 showed that the need for general capacity building remained high (20% of the requests). This confirms the importance of the challenges identified by Members during the 2018-19 TA Plan consultations (overall weak institutional capacity with a high staff turnover leading to loss of institutional memory).⁵⁷ Out of the 14 most frequently requested topics in 2018, 12 had been identified as top priorities in the TA Plan, although not in the same order: Standards,⁵⁸ Trade Remedies, Services, TPR follow-up, MA for Goods, Trade Facilitation, Notifications, Dispute Settlement, TRIPS, Trade Negotiations, e-Commerce and Agriculture. Topics such as RTAs and development received a lower priority in national activity requests in 2018, in favour of topics such as Accession, GPA and environment.

5.88. As already noted last year, needs assessment prior to the delivery of advanced activities continued to rely frequently on pre-course questionnaires in one form or another. The responses received were used to tailor the content of the activities to the specificities of the participating countries. In 2018, pre-course questionnaires were used in preparation of the advanced thematic courses on RTAs, Services, SPS, Services statistics, etc. For the workshop on Quantitative Restrictions, participants were required as part of the selection process to identify real-case notifications which they would finalise during the workshop. The SPS course for the Middle East held in Kuwait followed-up to a 2016 regional workshop. Its programme was built on the results of the needs' assessment carried-out by the Secretariat among the participants of the 2016 edition. This workshop was more advanced and included sessions on risk assessment and risk assessment techniques, as requested by participants.

5.89. As part of the in-country effect and impact assessments carried out by the Secretariat in 2018, TA needs were discussed with national stakeholders and documented in reports shared widely with Secretariat staff involved in TA delivery, mainly through the TA Coordination Task Force. Six such in-country assessments were undertaken in 2018 as described in section 3.3 above.

5.90. The 2018-19 TA Plan saw the TPR (including both the TPR process and TPR follow-up activities) as a crucial opportunity to identify TA needs, as it referred to the TPR in the indicator for Output 1.3.⁵⁹ In 2018, 17 TPRs were completed, among which 15 concerned TA beneficiary Members: Armenia, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mauritania, Montenegro, Nepal, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Uruguay and Vanuatu. None of these reviews analysed capacity building needs of Members.⁶⁰ The Secretariat carried out 10 TPR follow-up activities⁶¹ including 9 national workshops in Angola, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Myanmar, Paraguay, Philippines and Togo; and one regional activity for the eight WAEMU Members held in Benin. In all these activities, participants discussed TA needs required for the implementation of trade policy reforms recommended by the TPR, either as part of a dedicated session or across various sessions of the programme.

5.91. The TA Plan had targeted an increase in the number of needs assessments conducted during the biennium by the Secretariat. The number of responses to the questionnaire used for Members' consultations during the elaboration of the TA Plan 2016-17 was used as a baseline (71 responses received in 2015) against which the evolution in the needs' assessments for the 2018-19 biennium would be appraised. In 2017, 85 responses were received for the identification of priority needs for

⁵⁷ See section 4 in document WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/239616/q/WT/COMTD/W227R1.pdf.

⁵⁸ SPS and TBT were grouped under a single category named Standards to account for activities addressing both topics together.

⁵⁹ See Annex 1 in document WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/239616/q/WT/COMTD/W227R1.pdf

⁶⁰ This is more frequently done during TPR follow-up activities.

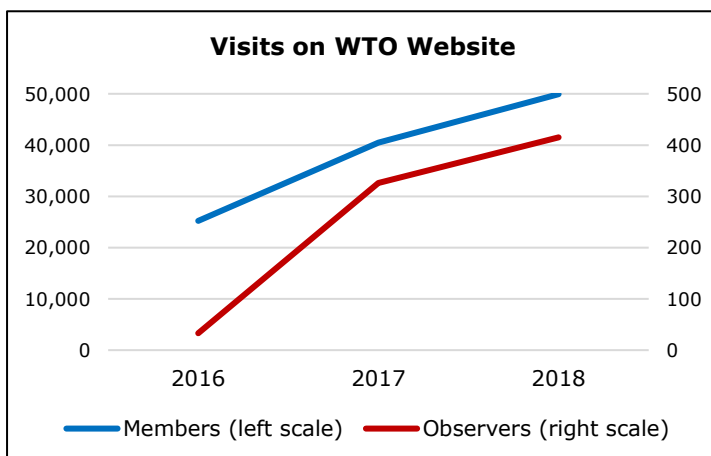
⁶¹ Out of 11 requests for TPR follow-up activities made by Members including one cancelled and one postponed to 2019.

the 2018-19 TA Plan. Although it predates the reporting year, this figure is applicable for the entire biennium and shows a 20% increase compared to the baseline. This improvement is also accompanied by a consolidation in 2018 of the Secretariat's efforts (documented in previous annual reports) to carry-out needs' assessments as part of the preparation of TA activities, as illustrated by the anecdotal evidence mentioned above. **Target met**

5.2.4 Output 1.4: WTO data accessed and used by Members to analyse trade-related matters

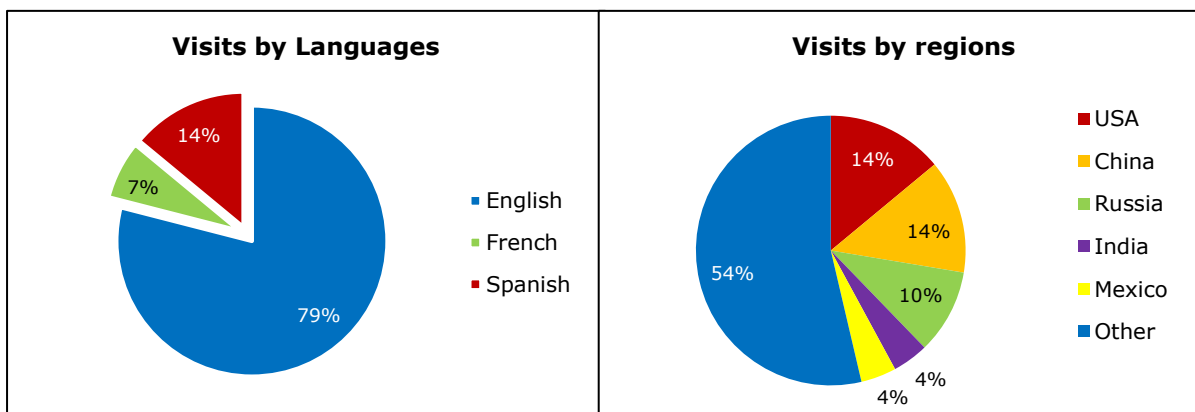
Indicators	Targets	2018
Visits by Members' logging into the WTO website	Annual stability	Target met
Number of officials trained annually on what is available and how to retrieve the information from WTO databases	Annual increase	Target met
Number of requests for training on WTO databases	Annual increase	Data not available

5.92. Access to relevant and timely data on trade-related matters is key to allow Members and Observers to improve their analysis of trade developments and trade negotiating positions. According to the responses from the TA questionnaire, the WTO website is the main source of information for most TA beneficiaries. The WTO website is constantly updated and its main features are regularly improved, for example to periodically review its content and to include more interactive elements such as videos and links to WTO social media accounts. The public and Members' website were merged in 2017 to facilitate access. Journalists have subsequently been granted the possibility to create a personal account and since 2019, registration is open to any other interested individual. The features and functionalities of the website vary according to the category of users. For instance, delegates and government officials have access to some restricted web pages and to documents through DocsOnline.

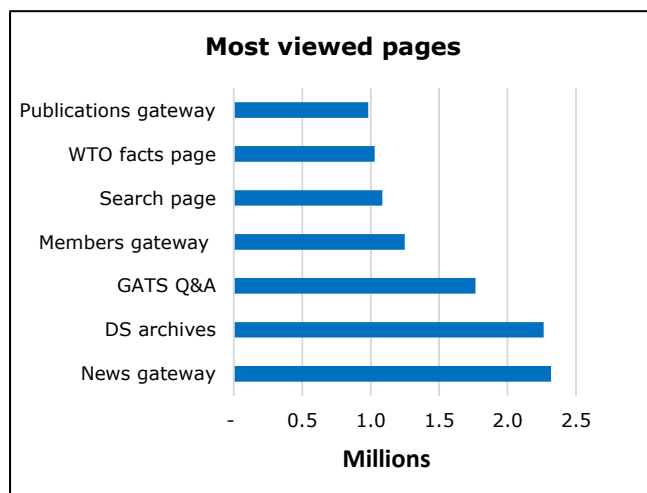


5.93. Over the last three years, as users became more and more aware of the benefits of accessing the website by logging into the system, the number of visits has increased significantly. Visits of delegates and government officials from Members increased by 19% between 2017 (40,452 visits) and 2018 (49,927) and almost doubled between 2016 (25,218 visits) and 2018. Visits from Observers grew from 33 in 2016 to 326 in 2017 (i.e. x 10). The upward trend continued in 2018 but at a slower pace (+127%). The TA Plan targeted stability, which was largely exceeded.

Target met

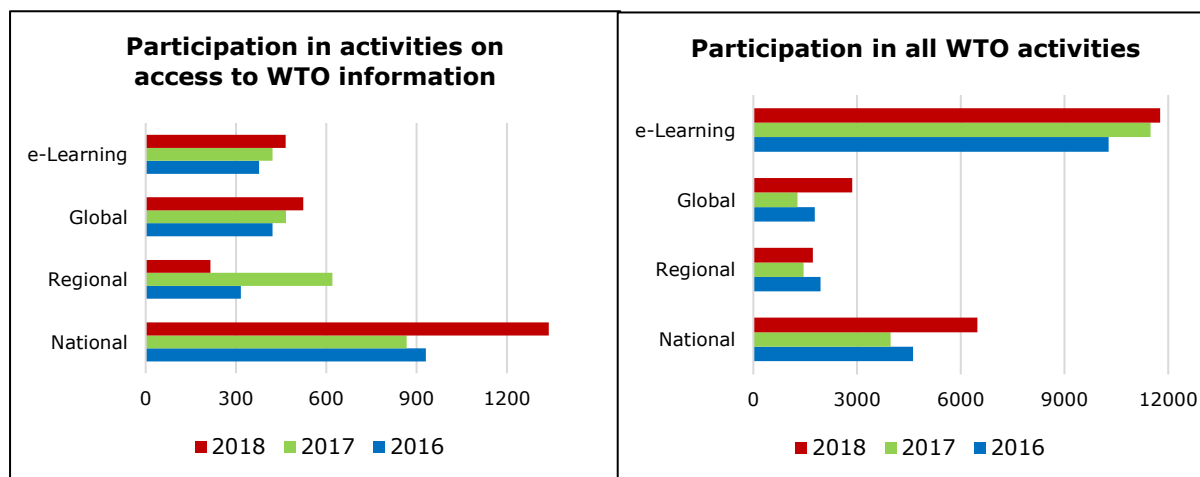


5.94. Most users (79%) accessed the website in the English language version. Access to the Spanish and French versions of the website represented respectively 14% and 7% of the visits. Almost one third of the top users of the WTO website were from developed countries. Visits from the US and China each represented around 14% of the total, followed by Russia (10%), India and Mexico (4% each). Other key users in the top-ten included the UK and the Netherlands (approximately 4% each), France, Canada and Germany (approximately 3% each).



5.95. In 2018, visitors were interested in information of a general nature, such as WTO news (WTO news gateway accounted for 22% of the views) and basic facts about the WTO (WTO facts page attracted 10% of the views).⁶² The topics of most interest in 2018 were dispute settlement (the archives on dispute settlement accounted for 21% of the views), in particular for those disputes on steel and aluminium products and those related to the EU energy package; and trade in services (17% of the views). The WTO publications (9% of views) and consulting restricted documents in the case of delegates and government officials (the Members' gateway collected 12% of the views) were also popular.

5.96. The Secretariat provides a wide array of online and face-to-face activities to enhance participants' ability to access WTO data and related information. In 2018, the Secretariat organised 73 such activities at the global, regional and national levels, slightly more than in the two previous years (62 in 2017 and 58 in 2016). In 2016-18, these activities represented 23% of the total WTO TA portfolio. Training on information sources and databases was either part of activities for generalists including the Introduction Course for LDCs, the Intermediate Trade Policy Courses, the Advanced Trade Policy Courses and long-term internships, or addressed to in thematic activities (e.g. on notifications, Agriculture, NAMA, Services, Standards, Trade in Services Statistics, etc.).



5.97. In generalist activities (Introduction Course, ITPCs, Intermediate Course on Priority Issues for LDCs and ATPCs) for which building participants' ability to find autonomously WTO-related information is one of the main objectives, several sessions were dedicated to presenting WTO information tools and resources. In 2018, 281 participants, long-term interns and YPs were taught how to access WTO tariff information and trade data, where to find information on the WTO website, library and DocsOnline, and how to use other tools such as the Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal, databases on non-tariff measures (e.g. ePing, IMS, etc.) and tools for trade analysis.

⁶² Excluding the homepage which captured 8,971,519 views.

5.98. In 2018, at least 65 subject-specific face-to-face activities covered training on information resources.⁶³ For instance, five national activities on notifications obligation with a total of 179 participants were held in Belize, Gambia, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Togo, and 10 TBT activities trained 288 participants on the ePing alert system.

5.99. Four online courses incorporating specific modules on accessing WTO data and information are available: the courses on WTO Market Intelligence and on Transparency and Notification Obligations which have long been part of the e-Learning portfolio and are available in the three WTO languages; and two new courses launched in 2018 on "Doc Online e-Subscription" and "Agriculture IMS" (see section 3.4.1). In 2018, 465 participants were trained through these four courses.

5.100. In total, these activities benefited 2,542 participants (11.14% of the total participation in all WTO TA in 2018). This figure has improved progressively over the last three years (2,045 in 2016 and 2,374 in 2017). The TA Plan targeted an annual increase in the number of officials trained.

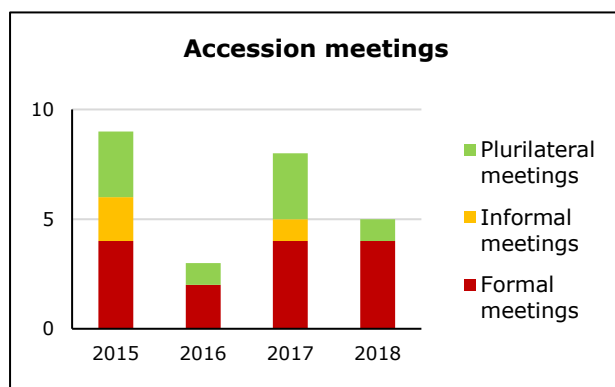
Target met

5.101. The TA Plan had also identified the number of requests for training on WTO databases as an indicator for this output. Such information is not available as most of the requests for activities received by the Secretariat are not sufficiently detailed and focus first on the subject rather than the means to address it (e.g. through accessing WTO information). **Data not available**

5.3 Key Result 2: Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations⁶⁴

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of Acceding governments, including LDCs, with a formal or informal Working Party meeting held	Annual increase	Target partially met

5.102. The Annual Report on WTO Accessions for 2018 presented the main developments of the year on the accession front.⁶⁵ The focus was on the accessions of Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, and Comoros, which were identified as strategic priorities. Efforts were made in 2018 to reactivate the accessions of Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Lebanon, Serbia and Uzbekistan, while work started with Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste on their first TA activities after the establishment of their respective Working Parties in the last 2 years.



5.103. In 2018, four formal Working Party meetings and one plurilateral meeting were held. No informal Working Party meeting took place during the year:

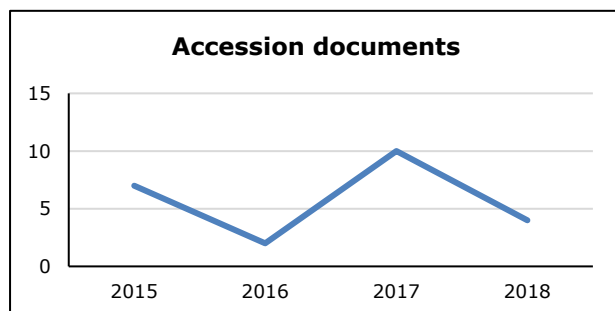
- four formal Working Party meetings (7 in 2017 for 5 countries; 3 in 2016 for 2 countries): Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Comoros (one meeting each);
- one plurilateral meeting addressing specific technical issues on Agriculture was held in the Bahamas, against three in 2017;
- no informal meeting (1 in 2017) and no technical verification meeting (as in 2017).

⁶³ This refers to only those activities that included a specific objective on access to WTO information.

⁶⁴ The reporting period for Key Result 2 was adjusted to coincide with the period covered in the annual report on WTO Accessions for 2018 (WT/ACC/33), as has been the practice in previous years. This avoids distortions between different WTO reports, which may result from minor differences in their cut-off dates.

⁶⁵ WT/ACC/33, viewed at https://docs.wto.org/dol2festaff/Pages/FE_Search/DDFDocuments/250376/q/WT/ACC/33.pdf.

5.104. The TA Plan targeted an annual increase. However, despite a lower number of Working Party meetings held in 2018 than in 2017, the number remains above the 2016 baseline (three meetings) defined in the TA plan. **Target partially met**



5.105. Four documents were prepared or revised during the year as opposed to ten in 2017: the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime of Iraq was updated; a Factual Summary of Points Raised was circulated to the Working Party on the accession of the Bahamas; a draft Report of the Working Party was prepared for the Working Party on the accession of Comoros; and a draft Report of the Working Party was revised for the accession of Belarus.

5.106. The above statistics show that the production of documents in the field of accession follows the same pattern already noted at the beginning of section 5.2 above for the submission to WTO bodies of substantive documents by developing and LDC Members. The overall trend points towards growth in the level of activity on accessions. The number of documents produced and updated was higher in 2017 than in 2015 (+30%) and higher again in 2018 than in 2016 (+50%).

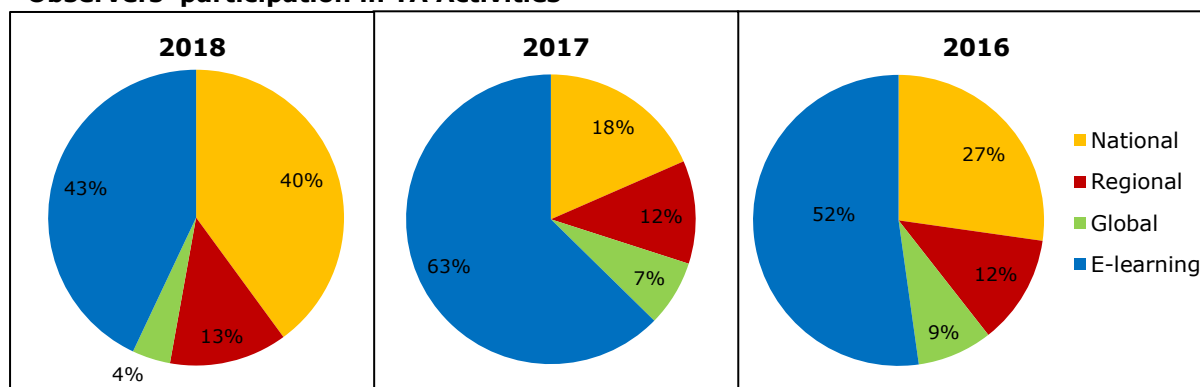
5.3.1 Output 2.1: Acceding governments are familiar with WTO substantive and procedural matters

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of participants from acceding governments attending Outcome 1 TA activities	Annual stability	Target met
Number of roadmaps and endgame plans designed	Annual stability	Target met

5.107. In 2018, 15 out of the 22 Observers had an active accession process. The accessions of Algeria, Andorra, Bhutan, Iran, Libya, Sao Tomé & Príncipe and Syria were inactive. Acceding governments were invited to 104 face-to-face activities (i.e. 46% of the face-to-face activities, against 37% in 2017) and to all 81 online activities, i.e. to 185 TA activities in total (142 in 2017: 69 face-to-face activities and 73 online courses). Libya and Sao Tomé & Príncipe were under category III administrative measures and could not be invited to TA activities. On average, the 20 other acceding governments were invited to 60 face-to-face activities each (32 in 2017).

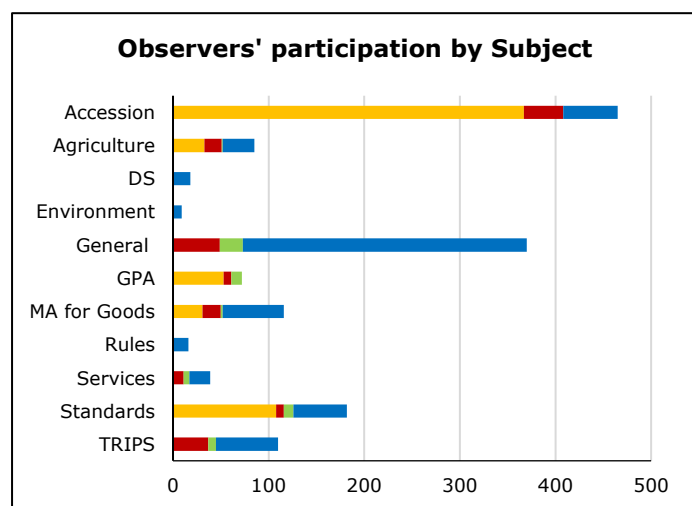
5.108. In total, 1,482 participants from acceding countries participated in TA activities in 2018, whether online or face-to-face (+9% and +35% compared to 2017 and 2016 respectively). The TA Plan had targeted annual stability compared to 2016. **Target met**

Observers' participation in TA Activities



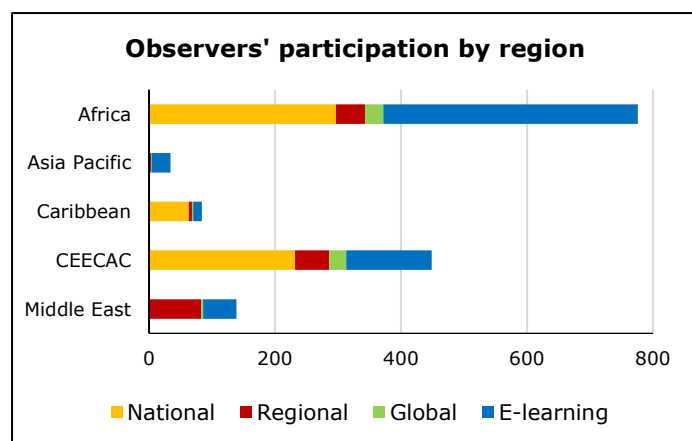
5.109. The balance between Observers' participation in global, regional, national or online activities was very different from the two previous years. Participation in national activities boomed in 2018 (x2.4 compared to 2017). 14 national activities were held in acceding countries (7 in 2017 and 10 in 2016). Azerbaijan and Belarus hosted three activities each; Bahamas, Sudan and South Sudan

two each; and Algeria, Serbia and Uzbekistan one each. In total, national activities attracted 592 individuals in 2018 (250 in 2017 and 300 in 2016). Participation to online courses was 25% lower in 2018 (637 persons vs. 849 in 2017 and 575 in 2016). Countries who hosted national TA activities represented 72% of the total participation from Observers. Sudan remained the Observer with the highest number of participants, followed by Algeria, Belarus and South Sudan.⁶⁶ Participation from Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia dropped sharply compared to 2017.



5.110. Accession was the most popular subject amongst Observers in 2018, essentially because of the surge in national activities. Activities with a more general scope came second, mainly through e-Learning, followed by Standards (SPS and TBT), also essentially through national activities.

5.111. As in previous years, accessions-related TA focused on the regions with the largest number of ongoing accessions (Africa, CEECAC and the Middle East). In 2018, the Secretariat launched a new initiative on "Trade for Peace" to promote WTO accession as a new path towards economic growth, development and stability, thereby contributing to peace, leading to the organization of 4 activities in Geneva and Africa.



5.112. As last year, five roadmaps were prepared in 2018: one for each Observer who held a Working Party meeting during the year (Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Comoros); and one for the resumption after ten years of the accession process of Uzbekistan. No accession process was mature enough to warrant the development of an endgame plan. The baseline in the TA Plan was 4 roadmaps in 2016 and the target annual stability. **Target met**

5.3.2 Output 2.2: Interested Members have expertise on GPA rules, accession negotiations, best practices and core access obligations

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of GPA accession-related documents circulated for all currently active GPA accessions involving TA-eligible Members	Annual stability	Target partially met

5.113. Accession to the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) remained active in 2018 with no GPA accession process completed during the year. There were five active GPA accession negotiations involving TA-eligible Members: China, Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Russia and Tajikistan.

5.114. TA provided by the Secretariat in support of the GPA accession process aims to strengthen GPA-acceding Members' capacity to effectively negotiate their GPA accession and build their implementation readiness; and to enhance the expertise among non-GPA Members to support their decision-making regarding possible future GPA accession. A total of 12 GPA-related activities were held in 2018 against 7 in 2017. Among these, two regional activities (in Thailand for the Asia Pacific region and in Moldova for the CEECAC region), two advanced global courses, and one national

⁶⁶ The Working Party for the accession of South Sudan was established in December 2017.

activity benefitted four of the TA-eligible Members currently in accession to GPA;⁶⁷ and 6 national activities benefitted countries currently considering GPA-accession.

GPA Documents circulated	2016	2017	2018
Documents related to GPA accessions (GPA/ACC/* Series)	53	25	28
All other GPA Documents ⁶⁸	4	1	-
Total	57	26	28
Average Number of documents circulated per GPA acceding Member	9.5	5.2	5.6

5.115. The TA Plan identified the volume of documentation related to GPA accession circulated by TA-eligible GPA acceding countries as a proxy to measure the extent to which TA provided by the Secretariat enhanced the capacity of Members to effectively complete their accession negotiations. The total number of documents circulated in 2018 was marginally higher than in 2017 but remained nearly half that of 2016. The average number of documents per GPA acceding Member stood at 5.6, also well below the 2016 level. The TA Plan targeted stability of this indicator and identified the 2016 level as baseline. **Target partially met**

5.4 Key Result 3: Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of consultative processes in which WTO Chairs or young professionals have been involved	Annual stability	Target met

5.116. For the reasons identified in the 2016 external evaluation and discussed in the 2016 TA Annual Report, measuring the actual contribution of the Chairs to their countries' trade policy and assessing the sustainability the results achieved remain a challenge. This is rooted in the long gestation of academic programmes' impact, which makes it difficult to report annually or biennially on outcomes in terms of policy influence. It also lies in the attribution dilemma, i.e. the difficulty of identifying the results directly attributable to the programme, which can only be addressed through extensive independent field-based data collection. This has led to a systematic unavailability of data to assess the performance of the Chairs at the outcome level in the 2016- 2017 TA annual reports for the indicators identified in the 2016-17 TA Plan. The results of the WCP independent evaluation launched in December 2018 are expected in July 2019. Meanwhile, the 2018-19 TA Plan identified a new proxy indicator to assess the Chairs' contribution to their country's trade policy formulation.

5.117. Several activities carried out during the year by the Chairs under the research and outreach pillars were directly related to their government's current trade policy agenda. For instance, the Chair in Oman carried out a research project on dates that identified potential market outlets for Omani dates and on investments required to address supply-side constraints. The results were discussed at a workshop involving farmers, exporters, supply-chain operators and policy makers. A roadmap and recommendations on how to enhance production, quality and export of dates were submitted to the government as input to the elaboration of an export diversification strategy. The Chair in Brazil conducted a research project on regulatory coherence and convergence, voluntary standards and the agenda of the national TBT Committee. The Chair recorded online courses on good regulatory practices and regulatory coherence and convergence in international trade for government's internal use. This had a direct influence on the government's orientations in ongoing bilateral talks with several trading partners (see below).

5.118. In addition, the Chairs were involved in at least 17 consultative processes on a variety of trade-related matters:

- a. The Chairholder in Brazil and another staff of the Chair were included as official members of the Brazilian delegation to MC11 and were involved in Follow-up discussions with the Brazilian Government on MC11-related matters in 2018; consultation with the US about Brazil's standardization policy and bilateral arrangements; government's consultations on the creation of the Regulation Committee for Foreign Trade; several Brazil-Argentina,

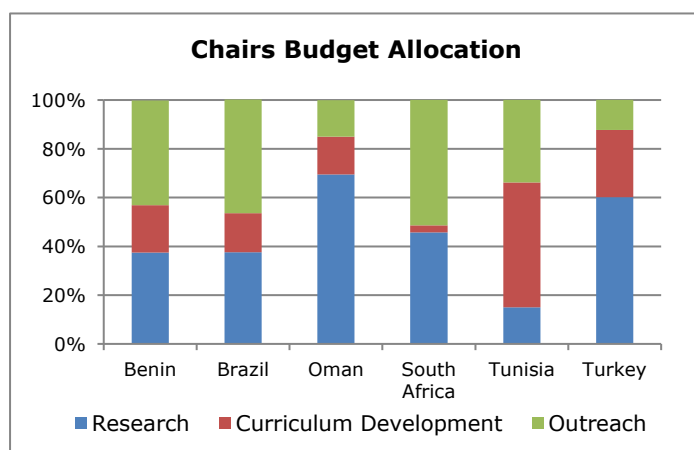
⁶⁷ National workshop held in China in December 2018.

⁶⁸ This includes documents such as: responses to comments and questions raised, responses to questionnaires on specific topics, compilation of submissions, various statistics, etc.

Brazil-EU, Brazil-US, Brazil-UK, and Brazil-New-Zealand discussions on issues of bilateral regulatory convergence; deliberations of the Brazil Committee on TBT, a public body in charge of making recommendations to CONMETRO, a ministerial-level council chaired by the WCP Chairholder; discussions led by the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management on performance of Brazil's foreign trade policy and regulatory coherence; consultations with the Brazilian Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Export (APEX Brazil) on SPS and TBT issues; public hearing at the Foreign Trade Committee of the Brazilian Federal Senate to present views on regulatory coherence and convergence; and consultations held with the Foreign Trade Chamber (CAMEX) on regulatory coherence and conversion.

- b. The Chairholder in Turkey provided policy advice and was involved in discussions led by the government; she was appointed as advisor to the Turkish Minister of Trade for matters related to the WTO dispute settlement, WTO reform and arbitration in general; further to the workshop on e-Commerce organized by the Chair in 2017, a joint consultation agenda was set up by stakeholders and high level officials from the Ministry of Trade to identifying revisions required in e-Commerce legislation; it addresses taxation, eligible products and sanctions in case of offence; the Chair was heavily involved in these consultations and maintained intensive dialogue with the DG of Internal Commerce; a Chair team member is acting as a climate change negotiator for the Turkish Foreign Ministry; another team member was appointed as advisor for the Turkish Competition Authority.
- c. In Tunisia, the Chairholder was appointed as a member of the Council of Economic Analysis, reports to the Head of the Tunisian government and has shared several recommendations drawn from the research carried-out under the WCP with the Council.
- d. In South Africa, a member of the WCP team participates in the Economic Research Advisory Network led by the Department of Trade and Industry; this Network provides advice on policy reform to promote competitiveness and foster sustainable industrial development; the Chair continued its consultations with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in land resource management to promote pro-poor agriculture exports with specific emphasis on vegetables and meat.
- e. The previous Chairholder in Benin was nominated as Head of the Directorate General of Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs at the Ministry of Planning and Development; the work carried-out under the WCP will influence the SDG's implementation consultations; this will strengthen the ties between the Ministry and the Chair in the future.

5.119. The 2018-19 TA Plan targeted an annual stability in the number of consultative process in which the Chairs were involved⁶⁹. The baseline was 13 processes in 2016. **Target met**



5.120. The WCP is structured around three main pillars: research, curriculum development and outreach. These pillars collectively contribute to Key Result 3 either directly for the research and outreach pillars or indirectly for the pillar on curriculum development, which aims to create a sustainable pool of expertise to continue analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers beyond the lifetime of the Programme. The relative importance given to each pillar is the responsibility of each Chair, who are expected to tailor the programme to the needs of their country. This led to significant variations

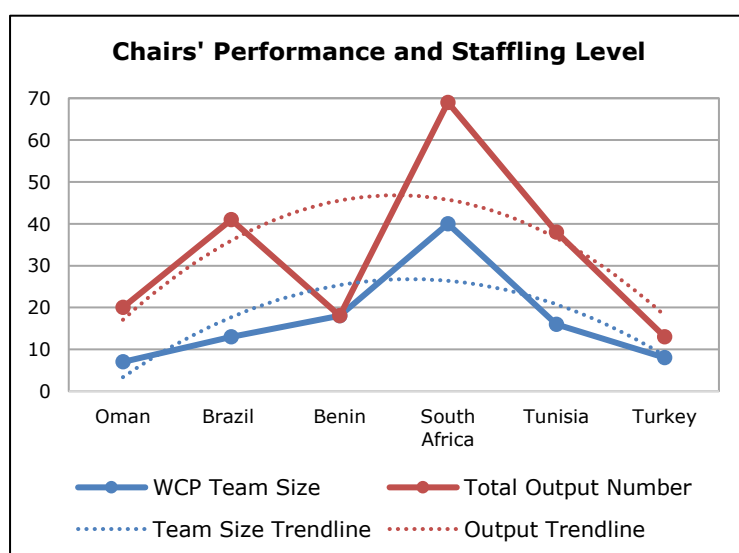
in budget allocation to each pillar among the six active Chairs. A cursory analysis of budget allocation by the Chairs over the 2016-2018 period does not reveal a specific pattern. Some trends include: a gradual increase in the budget allocated to curriculum development by the Chair in Benin; a steady

⁶⁹ Consultative processes involving the Chairs include consultations where one or more staff members of the Chair were involved, as well as any studies or policy papers commissioned to the Chair by the Government.

increase in the research budget in Brazil; a consistent decrease in the resources dedicated to curriculum development by the Chair in South Africa, while giving equivalent importance to the remaining pillars; a stabilization of resources allocated to the three pillars after a drastic reallocation in 2017 of outreach resources to research by the Chair in Oman; and an increase in both research and curriculum development budgets in Turkey, at the expense of outreach. As explained in previous annual reports, there is no systematic nor direct correlation between Chairs' choices in terms of budget allocation in any given year and the output achieved under each pillar that same year, for the reason explained above. Some examples of positive correlation can be occasionally observed but remain too anecdotal to draw any useful conclusion. They include: Benin reported significant progress in the development of new diplomas; Brazil nearly doubled the size of research outputs compared to 2017; outputs under curriculum development have stabilized in South Africa since 2017; and Oman's research outputs grew steadily during the 2016-18 period.

5.121. The WCP teams are comprised of faculty members and PhD students. The variation in the size of WCP teams since 2016 are mainly attributable to the turnover in PhD students. Overall, the size of the teams was stable since 2016, except in Oman in 2017 and in South Africa and Tunisia in 2018.

	Benin	Brazil	Oman	South Africa	Tunisia	Turkey
WCP Team in 2016	18	13	4	24	8	10
WCP Team in 2017	18	10	10	25	9	8
WCP Team in 2018	18	13	7	40	16	8

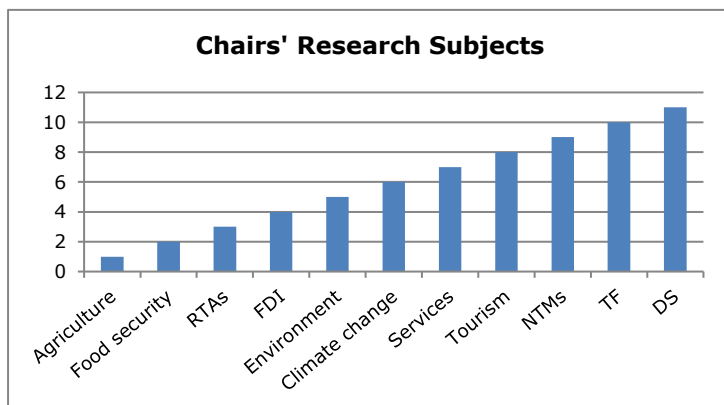


5.122. A comparison between the size of the WCP Team and the volume of outputs (sum of number of research products, number of outreach events and number of new/updated courses) produced in 2018 shows a correlation between Chairs' staffing level and their productivity, if no proportionality. The WCP Team in Brazil was twice as big as in Oman in 2018 and produced twice the number of outputs, while the team in Tunisia was twice as big as in Turkey but produced three times more outputs. This and the case of Benin (no output produced in 2018) indicate that a good staffing level contributes to Chairs' performance but is not enough.

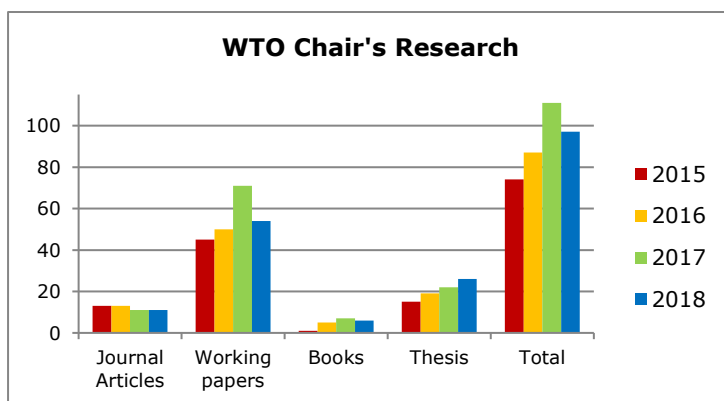
5.4.1 Output 3.1: Research on trade policy and WTO-related matters generated by WTO Chairs and other academics through provision of grants

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of publications in internationally peer-reviewed journals	Annual increase	Target partially met
Quality of research papers as measured by SJR and SNIP ratings of the journals in which the Chairs' research is published	Annual increase	Target partially met

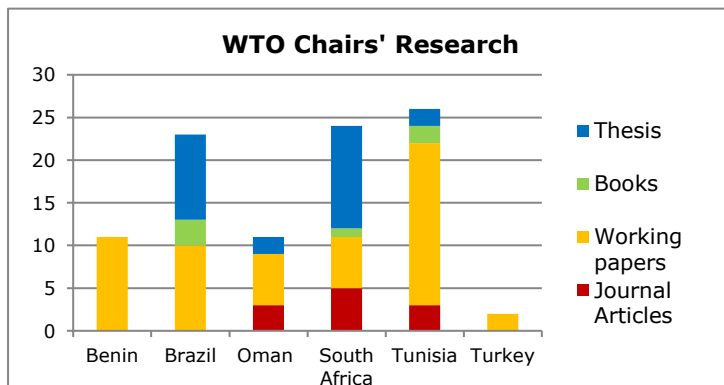
5.123. A relatively wide range of trade-related subjects were covered by Chairs' research in 2018. Topics related to Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs), Services, Regional Integration (RTAs), Agriculture, Environment, Dispute Settlement and GVCs were regularly present on the research agenda of the Chairs since 2015, as documented in previous annual reports, although their relative importance varied over the years.



5.124. In 2018, Dispute Settlement and Services (alone or together with Tourism-related themes) attracted a higher level of interest than in previous years. Trade Facilitation and Non-Tariff Measures remained high on the Chairs' agenda: together they triggered the highest number of researches. The interest in Environment and Climate Change grew, in particular on renewable energy, energy subsidies, etc. (11 researches in 2018 against 4 in 2017).



5.125. The research conducted by the Chairs took different forms and was published through a variety of channels. These have traditionally been grouped in previous TA annual reports into:⁷⁰ Thesis (for Masters' or PhD research), Working Papers (presented in public fora such as seminars or conferences), Books (including book chapters) and Journal Articles (published in peer-reviewed journals). For this report the name *Publications* will be used to designate research outputs deemed publicly accessible, i.e. Books (or book chapters), Working Papers and Journal Articles.



5.126. Since the launch of the WCP Phase II in 2014, the most productive year for the Chairs' research has been 2017.⁷¹ The total volume of research output decreased by 13% in 2018, whilst remaining high. On average, each Chair produced 24 research outputs in 2018, against 28 in 2017, 22 in 2016 and 19 in 2015. The average number of research products

per Chair during Phase II has been 23 per year. The 2018 overall decrease resulted mainly from a drop in the number of Working Papers. Brazil produced more Working Papers, but the other Chairs less, especially South Africa. The number of PhD and Master's thesis increased by 18% in 2018.

5.127. A total of 71 publicly accessible publications were produced by the Chairs in 2018 against 89 in 2017 (-20%). The average number of publications per Chair was 12 in 2018 against 15 in 2017. However, the Chairs produced the same number of peer-reviewed articles as in 2017 (11 articles). The Chairs in Oman, South Africa and Tunisia published in peer-reviewed journals in 2018. While South Africa remains the leading Chair in terms of publication in peer-reviewed journals for the third consecutive year, it produced significantly less articles than in 2017 (6 against 10 in 2017). Tunisia secured publication in a peer-reviewed journal after an unsuccessful 2017 year and Oman increased its number of published articles compared to 2017 (from 1 to 3). The Chairs reported a pipeline of 24 research papers at different stages of submission to peer-reviewed journals (pending review, peer-reviewed, being amended, resubmitted after amendment, pending publication). The

⁷⁰ For the second consecutive year, no data was available regarding possible Newsletters published by the Chairs. This category was not considered in the analysis of the evolution of publications over time.

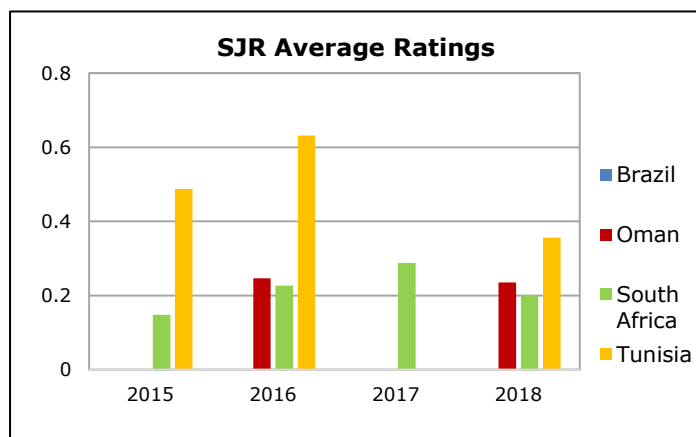
⁷¹ Phase II of the WCP started in 2014 and concluded in 2018. No output was considered for 2014, the inception year.

number of peer-reviewed publications remained stable while the TA plan targeted an annual increase of this indicator. **Target partially met**

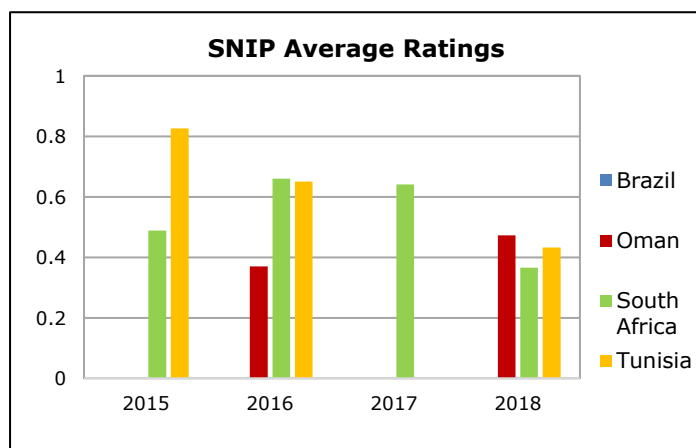
5.128. The ranking of the peer-reviewed journals in which the Chairs publish their articles has been used since 2016 as a proxy to measure the quality of their research. Two systems of journal ranking have been used: SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), which measures the “scientific influence” of scholarly journals by accounting for both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals where such citations come from; and Source Normalised Impact per Paper (SNIP) rating, which measures how often a journal is cited taking into account the citation potential in its subject field. The SNIP and SJR scores of the Journal of International Economics, which is the primary outlet for theoretical and empirical research in international economics, are provided as reference/benchmark.

Ratings of Journals in which the WTO Chairs published Articles in 2018

Journal	SJR	SNIP
Acta Commercii	N/A	N/A
Africa Growth Agenda	N/A	N/A
Economics Bulletin	0.21	0.355
Environmental Science and Pollution Research	0.858	0.942
International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy	0.465	0.954
International Journal of Trade, Economics and Finance	N/A	N/A
SAGE Open	0.241	0.466
South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences	0.212	0.42
South African Journal of Economics	0.329	0.67
South African Journal of International Affairs	0.466	0.74
Statéco	N/A	N/A
Journal of International Economics	2.67	3.72



5.129. Seven out of the 11 articles published by the Chairs in 2018 were published in journals for which SJR and SNIP ratings were available. For these journals, the average SJR was 0.34 and the average SNIP 0.61. These are slightly over the average SJR rating (0.29) and below the average SNIP rating (0.64) of the journals in which articles were published in 2017, but below the average achieved in 2016 for both ratings (0.38 and 0.69). The TA Plan targeted an annual increase in both ratings. The increase was achieved for SNIP only. **Target partially met**

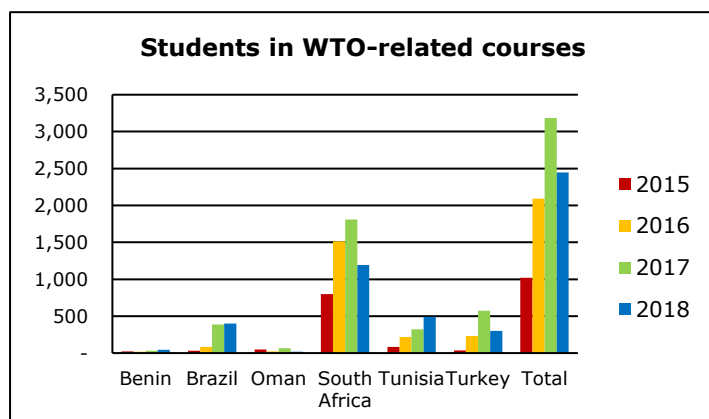


5.130. The Chairs of Brazil, Oman, South Africa and Tunisia are the only Chairs who published articles in peer-reviewed journals during Phase II of the WCP. The SJR/SNIP average ratings presented in the charts reflect more or less the evolution of Chairs' access to peer-reviewed journal over the years, with two exceptions: the peer-reviewed journals in which the Chairs in Brazil published 2 articles in 2016 and the Chair in Oman 1 article in 2017 have no SJR and SNIP ratings; they do not appear on the chart. An absence of SJR or SNIP scores cannot be equated with poor quality, though.

5.131. The evolution of the average SJR and SNIP scores of the publications of the Chairs during Phase II is inconclusive. The Chair in South Africa was the only one who published in journals with SJR/SNIP rankings every year, Tunisia missed a year and Oman two. Increases have been followed by decreases, making it difficult to detect any real trend after five years.

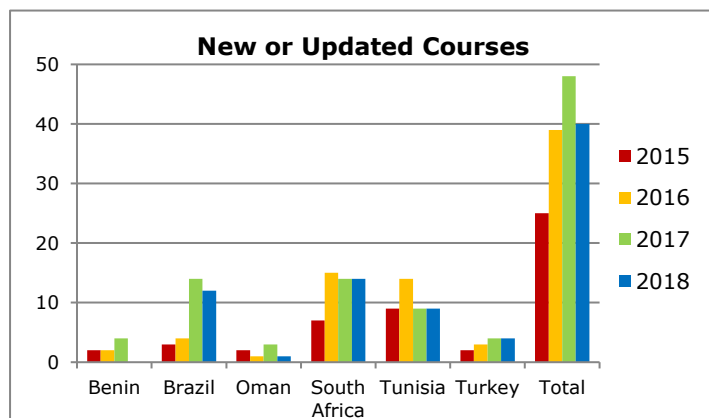
5.4.2 Output 3.2: Courses developed by the relevant academic institutions have WTO content and students are being trained on WTO-related subjects by the WTO and its Chairs

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of students in WTO-related courses or getting a degree per year	Annual increase	Target partially met



5.132. A new generation of undergraduate and graduate students benefitted from training on WTO-related topics in 2018. The overall number of students attending courses organized by the Chairs (2,445 students) decreased by 23% compared to 2017 but remained above the annual average during Phase II (2,185 students per year). Increases in the number of students in Benin (+50%), Brazil (+3%) and Tunisia (+53%) were offset by decreases in Oman (-72%), South Africa (-34%) and Turkey (-48%). The Chair from South Africa

continued to host the largest share of students trained by the Chairs (49% of the total in 2018) and accounted for most of the decrease in 2018. The TA Plan targeted an annual increase in the number of students in WTO-related courses, which was not achieved. However, the total for 2018 is above the 2016 baseline. **Target partially met**



5.133. After two consecutive years of increase, the total number of newly designed or updated courses introduced by the Chairs dropped by 17% in 2018. However, it remained above the annual average during Phase II (40 course in 2018 against 38 on average). The 2018 decrease is attributable to the Chair in Benin who did not update nor create any new course in 2018 and the Chairs in Brazil and Oman who developed or updated 2 courses less each than in 2017. The activity of the other Chairs was stable. In relative terms, the Chair in South

Africa remained the best performing Chair in this domain, as it produced one third of the new/updated courses released in 2018, followed by the Chair in Brazil (30%), Tunisia (23%) and Turkey (10%).

5.134. New courses and programmes developed during the year sought to address the latest developments and challenges in international trade. For instance, the Chair in Oman developed a course on environment economics with a specific focus on the use of the Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis for environmental policy making; the Chair in South Africa updated its course on Advanced Research Methodology covering methods such as GTAP GEMPACK for policy analysis; the Chairs in Turkey and Tunisia each launched a "moot court" course to groom students for the ELSA Moot Court Competition.

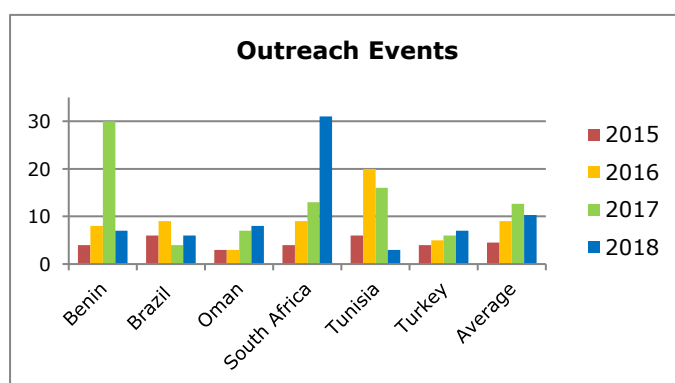
5.135. As in previous years, several partnerships supported curriculum development and diversification by the Chairs. For example, a new partnership between the Chair in Tunisia and the Middle East Centre of the London School of Economics led to the creation of the International Political

Economy (IPE) Minor; the Chair in Benin developed the Master 2 in Law and Management in cooperation with l'Université Senghor d'Alexandrie (Egypt); the Chair in Brazil continued its collaboration with a large network of national universities or research centres to develop its post-doctoral programme on Trade Regulation.

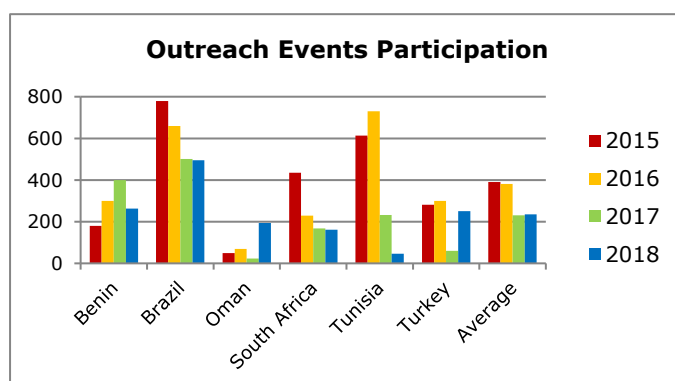
5.4.3 Output 3.3: The WTO Chairs are reaching out to other stakeholders and key decision-makers

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of outreach events per year	Annual increase	Target not met
Involvement of key decision-makers	Annual increase	Target met

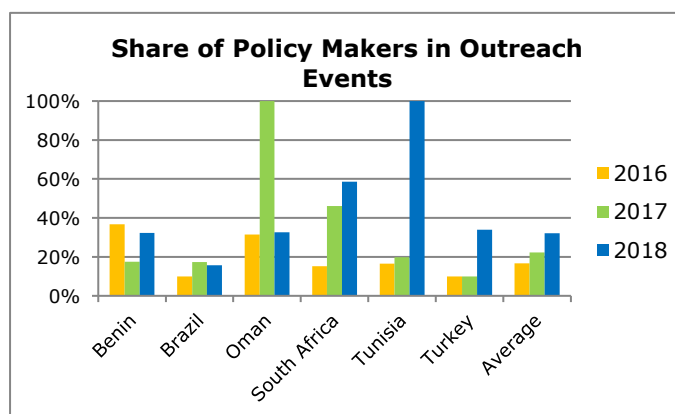
5.136. The third pillar of the WCP requires the Chairs to increase the visibility of WTO-related academic research and its influence on trade policy formulation by reaching out to decision makers and other stakeholders.



5.137. The number of outreach events organized by the Chairs dropped by 18% in 2018, ending the increase seen since 2015. It remained higher than the Phase II average (55 events per year in total). In 2018, each Chair organized 10 events on average, against 13 in 2017. The Chairs in Benin and Tunisia organized significantly fewer events than in 2017 (-80% approximately), when the Chair in South Africa held 140% more. The TA plan targeted an annual increase in the total number of events. **Target not met**



5.138. The size of the audience reached by the events organized by the Chairs in 2018 was stable compared to 2017, but remained 40% below the 2015-16 peak and 24% below the Phase II average (1,400 participants in 2018 against 1,855 on average). On average, each Chair reached 234 participants in 2018, i.e. 23 participants per event on average against 42 in 2016. The smaller the audience of an event, generally the higher the interaction among those present, provided the event reached its targeted audience.



5.139. The participation of key decision makers in these events is used as a proxy to assess the impact of the Chairs' outreach efforts. Key trade policy makers include trade officials and civil servants from the various ministries, regulatory bodies and other public agencies involved in the formulation of the national trade policy. Collectively, they influence and contribute to the decisions affecting the trade regime of their country. A total of 452 key policy makers participated in the outreach events organised by the Chairs in 2018, representing 32% of the audience on average. These two figures are higher

than in 2017. The most significant increases in the proportion of policy-makers were in Tunisia (x5 compared to 2017), Turkey (x3.5) and Benin (+78%), whereas it dropped by two thirds in Oman.

As in Oman in 2017, the Chair in Tunisia chose in 2018 to organize a limited number of outreach events targeting exclusively key policy makers. The TA Plan had targeted an increase in the involvement of key decision-makers during the year. **Target met**

5.4.4 Output 3.4: Young professionals under the Young Professional Programme are exposed to WTO issues and work

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of YPs hosted annually by the WTO	Per year: 15	Target met
Final evaluation rate of each YP by their supervisor	100% fully satisfactory	Target met

5.140. The purpose of the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) is to help enhance the knowledge of WTO issues among Young Professionals (YPs) from developing and LDC Members. Priority is given to candidates from Members with no professional representation in the Secretariat. Nationals from 33 under-represented Members have benefited from the YPP since its inception in 2017.

5.141. The very positive feedbacks from the supervisors of the first YPs in 2017 led the Secretariat to triple its intake in 2018. The recommendations made by YPs in 2017 were fully implemented in 2018: organization of a one-day Induction programme and a guided tour of the WTO building; creation of an YPP alumni group; and early issuance and wider dissemination of the YPP Vacancy Notice. Following a merit-based recruitment process, fifteen YPs were selected out of an initial pool of 1502 applicants. Selected YPs were nationals of Members with no professional representation in the Secretariat.⁷² **Target met**

5.142. YPs were hosted by 13 Secretariat divisions for a period of 12 months (January to December 2018). The specific objectives of each YP were defined jointly with their respective supervisors at the beginning of the programme and progress towards their achievement was regularly monitored thereafter. All fifteen YPs indicated that they fully achieved their specific objectives; benefited tremendously from the Programme; and enhanced their knowledge of the WTO. They expanded their professional network in the WTO community.

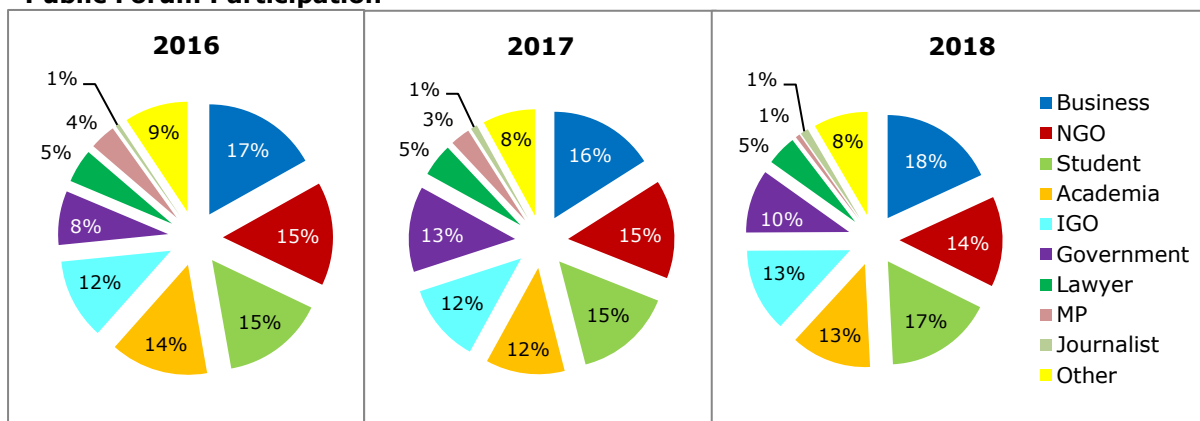
5.143. The YPs made valuable contributions to the work of their respective divisions, under the supervision of a senior staff member. Some of their key achievements include: a substantial contribution to the updated Analytical Index; a publication on the WTO contribution to the SDGs; contributing to drafting several working papers published by the WTO; assisting in servicing WTO bodies, attending meetings and preparing minutes; and, preparing and co-delivering presentations in TA events held in Geneva. All fifteen YPs easily integrated in the work of the divisions and their supervisors were very pleased with the quality of their work as reflected in the final evaluations: 7 YPs were significantly exceeded performance requirements and the 8 others were rated as fully satisfactory. This exceeds the target in the TA Plan of 100% fully satisfactory ratings. **Target met**

5.5 Key Result 4: Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues

Indicators	Targets	2018
Richness of debates and reports on trade issues, diversity of WTO-related topics covered by papers produced by this group of stakeholders	Annual stability	Target met

5.144. In 2018, the outreach activities focused on the way forward post-MC11 and the impact of current trade tensions on the MTS. Seven activities were organised at the global and regional levels to raise the awareness on trade-related matters of non-traditional audiences, such as legislators, journalists and representatives of civil society. The WTO is also using so-called social media to reach out to a larger public of non-specialists. For example, the communication on WTO official Twitter account about the regional activities for CEECAC and Latin American countries and about one global activity in Geneva registered 6,111; 20,754; and 52,294 views respectively.

⁷² The YPs were from: Antigua Barbuda, Armenia, Cameroon, El Salvador, Georgia, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Thailand, Togo.

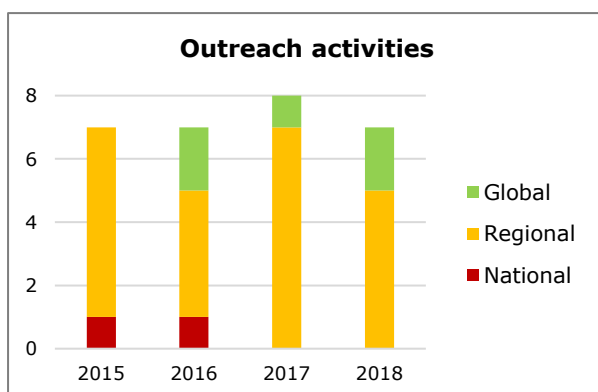
Public Forum Participation⁷³

5.145. The 2018 WTO Public Forum is the WTO largest annual outreach event. It gathers for three days hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds in Geneva. In 2018, 1,268 individuals participated on the theme "Trade 2030" (1,221 in 2017 and 1,072 in 2016), including MPs, leading global business people, students, academics and non-governmental organisations. Academics and students represented 30% of the participants, representatives from NGOs and IGOs 27%, representatives from the private sector 23%, etc. With minor annual fluctuations, these proportions have been stable since 2016.

5.146. The TA Plan had identified the richness of debates and reports on trade issues and the diversity of WTO-related topics covered by papers produced by non-governmental stakeholders and legislators as the indicator to measure the achievement of the Key Result. It referred to the diversity of participants in the Public Forum, media reports and statements by stakeholders as a source of evidence of this richness and diversity. Unfortunately, data on media reports and the statements made by legislators, business associations and NGOs following these activities were not available in 2018. The diversity of participants in the Public Forum is consequently the only source of evidence available. The TA Plan targeted annual stability. **Target met**

5.5.1 Output 4.1: Specific outreach activities organised for legislators, journalists, business and NGOs on WTO issues and trade policies

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of seminars, workshops conducted	Annual stability	Target met



5.147. The Secretariat held seven outreach activities in 2018, at regional (5) and global levels (2). This was one activity less than in 2017 but remains within the average of the last four years. Regional activities were held in Austria and Serbia for the CEECAC region, in Singapore for Asia-Pacific, in Kenya for Africa and in Mexico for Latin America. This year, no outreach activity was held for the Middle-East. In partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES), two global seminars for journalists from developing countries took place in Geneva: in April for French-speaking journalists and in December for English-speaking journalists. The

TA Plan targeted the stability compared to the 2016 level. **Target met**

⁷³ In the absence of media reports and statements made by this category of stakeholders, the diversity of participation in the Public Forum was taken as a proxy although the Public Forum is not a TA activity per se.

5.5.2 Output 4.2: Improved understanding by journalists, civil society and business of WTO issues and trade policies

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of key stakeholders reached during the year	Annual stability	Target met

5.148. The regional activity for CEECAC in Austria gathered 19 legislators and four government officials from various countries in the region. They had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the roles and missions of the WTO, were debriefed on MC11 and the new issues, and held roundtable discussions on the challenges and opportunities for the CEECAC region in the MTS. The 9th regional workshop for Asian & Pacific MPs took place in Singapore in May with 53 MPs from the region. The discussions focused mainly on the agenda post-MC11 and on raising trade tensions. The 2nd WTO-PAM regional workshop for Eastern European and Western Balkans Countries was held in Serbia in July and was attended by 135 legislators and 12 Ambassadors accredited to Belgrade. Some topics such as WTO accessions and investment facilitation generated a lot of interests and rich debates among participants. The WTO-FES regional workshop for civil society, business and media from Africa took place in Kenya in October and was attended by 15 journalists and 18 representatives of the civil society. The regional outreach workshop for Latin-American economics and trade journalists also took place in October in Mexico and was attended by 29 journalists from 14 countries. It aimed at contributing to a better press coverage of the WTO and its activities in the region.

5.149. Two global seminars on international trade policy for African and Asian journalists were organised in Geneva in partnership with FES, gathering 15 French-speaking African journalists in April and 14 English-speaking journalists from Africa and Asia in December. Enhancing the volume and quality of media coverage of the WTO and trade issues in developing countries, and in Africa in particular, is one of the priorities of the Secretariat in terms of outreach. These activities built the capacity of journalists on trade-related matters and taught them how to retrieve autonomously WTO-related data and information through various sources.

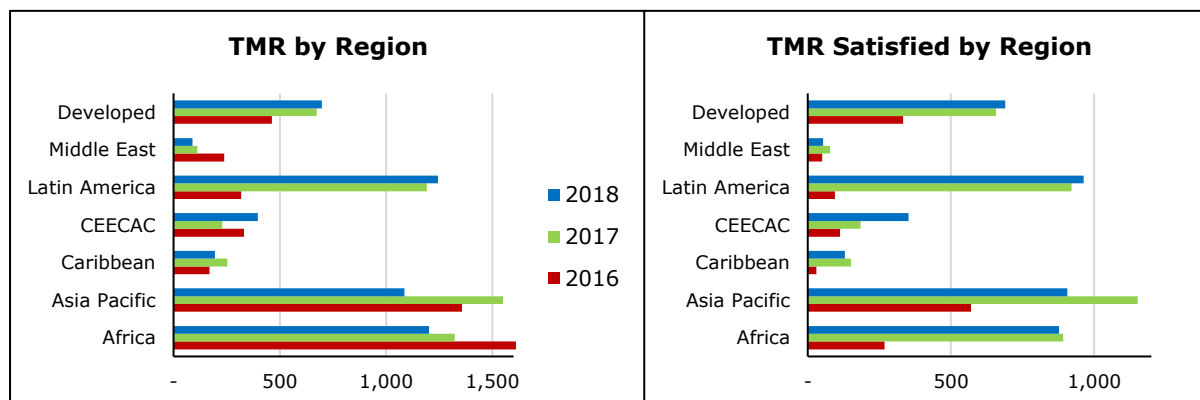
5.150. As in 2016, the annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO was held in the WTO in Geneva in December. This event is a joint undertaking of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament and aims at bringing legislators' perspectives on international trade and the WTO to the attention of negotiators and other stakeholders. More than 400 legislators specialized on trade issues in their respective parliaments attended the conference. The theme of the 2018 edition was "WTO: The way forward". It addressed the challenges and opportunities facing the WTO and the role of MPs in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth. Participants examined recent WTO developments and obtained first-hand information on the state of multilateral trade negotiations. They considered possible parliamentary contributions to these multilateral processes.

5.151. Overall, the seven outreach activities and the annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO reached 607 legislators, 73 journalists and 18 representatives of the civil society (NGOs and private sector). The baseline in the TA Plan was 492 legislators, 37 journalists and 50 civil society reached in 2016. The target was annual stability. **Target met**

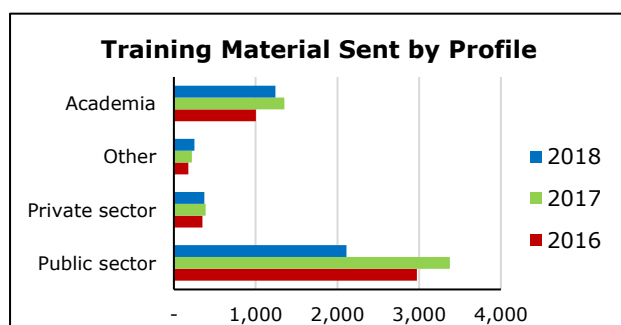
5.5.3 Output 4.3: Improved access to WTO issues through online training material for self-study

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of downloaded training materials	Annual stability	Target met

5.152. This Output was introduced by the TA Plan 2018-19. It seeks to capture information related to the access of WTO online training materials for self-study by individuals not eligible to register for WTO online courses. Access to WTO online courses is restricted to government officials from developing countries. Other stakeholders such as academics, the private sector, legislators, etc. or government officials from developed countries cannot register for these courses. Since 2015, the Secretariat monitors the use of the Training Material Request (TMR) facility. The data collected show a continued interest from non-traditional TA audiences.



5.153. The received 4,915 TMRs in 2018, 8% less than in 2017 but 9% more than in 2016. TMRs from Africa and the Middle East decreased progressively since 2016; TMRs from the Caribbean and Asia Pacific dropped in 2018 after increasing in 2017; and TMRs from Latin America and developed countries stabilised after booming in 2017. All the TMRs were satisfied, except those from individuals already registered in the same course at the time of the request. Those individuals were invited to complete the course or to access the training materials directly through their personal profile in the e-Learning platform. In total, 3,976 (i.e. 81%) TMRs were satisfied by the Secretariat in 2018. This shows a marked improvement compared to the two previous years: 32% (or 1,460) in 2016 and 76% (4,035) in 2017. The TA Plan had targeted annual stability at the 2016 level. **Target met**



5.154. More than half of the TMRs (61%) were presented by government officials, 19% of whom were even registered in the same course at the time they made their request. Requests from developed countries accounted only for 14% of all the TMRs received. The satisfaction rate of TMRs from developed countries was 99% and only 75% for their less developed counterparts, as the persons concerned were encouraged to complete the online courses already started.

5.155. The origin of TMRs by profiles was different across regions. In developed countries and Asia-Pacific, government officials accounted for less than half of the TMRs and academia for more than a third, whereas in the other regions, the proportion of TMRs submitted by government officials was between 66% in Latin America and 86% in the Caribbean. In terms of subject, General training on the WTO Agreements (36%), TRIPS (16%), Market Access for Goods (11%), Standards (11%) and Agriculture (7%) attracted together 80% of the TMRs.

5.5.4 Output 4.4: Information on trade-related TA provided, including through the ITTC Newsletter

Indicators	Targets	2018
Number of views	Annual stability	Data not available

5.156. The Secretariat uses several channels to disseminate information on its TA activities. These channels include the WTO website, social media and a Newsletter on TRTA. Access to information

through the WTO website was discussed in section 5.2.4 above. Social media channels are increasingly used by the Secretariat to give visibility to its TA activities. For instance, promotion materials such as short videos and media stories were used to promote the YPP in 2018. This was very effective in disseminating information on this relatively new programme, helping to triple the applications received between the first two years.



5.157. The Secretariat disseminates information on its TA activities through the TRTA Newsletters since 2009. This electronic publication is issued once or twice a year,⁷⁴ available in the three WTO languages. In 2018, the Secretariat published a Newsletter in August. It included a summary of the main issues discussed during MC11, presented the objectives of WTO TA and recalled the importance of voluntary contributions for TA. Two special focus articles were dedicated to the WTO TA in Latin America and Caribe, and to the FIMIP. A list of TA activities planned in the second part of the year was also included.

5.158. The European rules for mass distribution through e-mails changed in 2018, making the 2016 baseline included in the TA Plan obsolete. Addressees are now required to explicitly authorise the communication from the sender, which reduced considerably the number of Newsletter recipients. However, the proportion of readers among the recipients increased markedly between 2016 and 2018 (from 12% to 52%). Whilst circulation figures now look much less impressive, they may be more realistic. In terms of language preferences, most readers

downloaded the Newsletter in English (60%). French and Spanish readers shared the rest almost equally. The Newsletter was also downloaded 568 times from the WTO website in 2018. The stability targeted by the TA Plan cannot be assessed, due to the change of the regulatory environment. **Data not available**

⁷⁴ Two editions were issued in 2015 and 2017, and one in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

ANNEX I
FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TA EXTERNAL EVALUATION

The details of the WTO Management Response to the various recommendations of the 2016 external evaluation can be found in document WT/COMTD/90. They have not been reproduced here to make the table easier to read. The true meaning of *Agreed* or *Partially agreed* in the table below refers to the comments contained in the Management Response.

#	Recommendation	WTO Response	Action in 2018	Status
1	Use the review and response to this Evaluation as the first opportunity in a decade to consider and communicate the Organization's agreed commitment, vision and basic approach to technical assistance, taking account of the strong base established and remaining challenges identified.	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 external evaluation presented to the CTD on 5 July 2018 as part of the agenda item dedicated to 2017 TA Annual Performance Report (WTO/AIR/COMTD/14/Rev.1, item C.). 	Implemented/ongoing
2	If justified by the results of this deliberation, re-affirm the crucial role and need for sufficiently substantial and reliable Regular Budget allocations as the contribution by all Members to maintaining the foundations of the TA programme and recognise voluntary support to a Global TA Trust Fund as the most essential supplementary funding for TA activities.	This is more appropriate for Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in GTF carry-over balance since 2014 highlighted in the 2017 TA Annual Report (WT/COMTD/W/235 - section 3.1.1.). Members strongly supported the need for continuous replenishment of the GTF during the CTD held on 5 July 2018. ITTC enhanced the visibility of GTF donors on the WTO TA webpage to encourage contributions. 	Implemented/ongoing
3	Include a commitment to use WTO's TA activities wherever possible to strengthen sustainable training capacities within beneficiary countries and regions, e.g., by engaging more local trainers, academic centres, and past participants in WTO training. In consultation with delivery partners, the Secretariat should identify and share existing good practices and promising candidates for these roles.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members validated the continuation of past approach. Good practice to strengthen sustainable training capacity is highlighted in TA Annual Performance Reports as appropriate. 	Implemented/ongoing
4	Use the reviews of Annual TA Reports and biennial Plans as more important strategic openings than in the past to take stock of progress and key issues in WTO's TA.	This is more appropriate for Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2016 Annual Performance Report on TA and Training (WT/COMTD/W/235) was discussed in the CTD meeting of 5 July 2018 (WTO/AIR/COMTD/14/Rev.1, item C.). 	Implemented/ongoing

#	Recommendation	WTO Response	Action in 2018	Status
5	Strengthen mechanisms at Senior Management level for strategic monitoring, direction and problem-solving in this area of shared responsibility across the Organization. It should be supported by a clearly-mandated inter-divisional task force chaired by ITTC and charged with identifying cross-cutting problems and opportunities and proposing appropriate actions.	Partially agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TACTF provided input and oversight for the implementation of the recommendations 8, 10, 14, 22 and 23. Progress made in the implementation of adjusted RBM workflows that promote shared responsibility for TA results across the Organization. 	In progress
6	Ensure that adequate administrative resources (financial and human) are made available to maintain and extend the investment to date in WTO's improving TA capacity. As the key organising and coordinating centre for TA, the longstanding structures and staffing of ITTC should be reviewed and if necessary revised to ensure that they can meet the needs of a transformed Programme.	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some simplification of ITTC's structure took place in 2018 as a result of natural staff movements (i.e. internal mobility, retirement, etc.). 	In Progress
7	Seek agreement and suggestions from beneficiary Members for direct focal point contacts in capitals to expedite and follow up essential and timely communications with all relevant stakeholders in country (e.g., on needs assessments, course nominations) while keeping Geneva missions fully informed.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of Members' decision in 2017 not to pursue this recommendation, it is considered closed with no further action required. 	Implemented/ongoing
8	Re-double efforts to produce the most user-friendly information materials possible on course offerings and take all available steps to ensure that they reach all the appropriate target users in good time (i.e. not just core or focal point ministries).	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An online calendar of events was established and is broadly accessible on WTO public website. This webpage was presented to Members during the CTD meeting on 05 July 2018 and disseminated widely through existing channels (e.g. through existing Committee's distribution lists, ITTC newsletter, e-Learning social media accounts, etc.). 	Implemented/ongoing
9	Consider and propose options for opening up at least some WTO training courses or topics (e.g., in e-learning) to wider audiences in all countries, perhaps on a fee-paying basis.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In view of Members' rejection of options presented in WT/COMTD/W/226, this recommendation is considered closed with no further action required. 	Implemented/ongoing
10	In collaboration with Members, improve the selection process for intermediate and advanced courses to ensure the level of participants is more uniform.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection process reviewed by the TACTF at its meeting of 8 February 2018 considering trainers' experience, participants' feedback and input from beneficiary Members. Current selection system is efficient and does not require revision. 	Implemented/ongoing

#	Recommendation	WTO Response	Action in 2018	Status
11	Continue to monitor and report on participation of women and men with a view to addressing remaining gender imbalances of participation in WTO TA.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same approach since 2012. • Data for 2017 in WT/COMTD/W/235 Section 4.7. 	Implemented/ongoing
12	Study and propose ways to share good practices and otherwise help Members grapple with informing and engaging private sector actors in WTO-related issues affecting them. One suggestion was made for a specifically designed course for the private sector which the government could request as a national level activity.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action suggested by Members in the TA Plan 2018-2019 (WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1, Section 3,3,5 par. 56). Therefore, this recommendation is closed with no further action required. 	Implemented/ongoing
13	Reinforce the staff capacity to service the interactive requirements of the vital e-learning courses, including accessible service across time-zones.	Partially agreed – Already partially implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in staff allocation to e-Learning in the context of zero nominal budget growth. • This recommendation is considered closed. However, it could be revisited should the TA regular budget increase. 	Implemented/ongoing
14	Examine and report on the pros and cons of discontinuing the "Advanced Trade Policy Course" (ATPC) in favour of expanded advanced offerings at the regional level, allowing for wider participation and deeper contextualisation. Also consider the possibility of short executive courses suitable for the ministerial or permanent secretary levels.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several improvements in ATPC curriculum were highlighted in this report (chapter 3 of this report). 	In Progress
15	Investigate and report on the possibilities for developing new training options to follow-up on recommendations from Trade Policy Reviews (TPR).	Agreed – Already partially implemented – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations and Members' consultation in 2017 did not lead to any other training option (see WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1 Section 3.3.5 and §§ 59 and 133). The recommendation was closed with no further action required. • The Secretariat will continue to report on approaches used in TPR follow-up activities, as appropriate (chapter 3 of this report). 	Implemented/ongoing
16	Safeguard the credibility and usefulness of national and regional courses by ensuring sufficient advance consultation in countries so that "off-the-shelf" presentations are tailored to specific contexts, and by soliciting specific questions or pertinent issues of stakeholders prior to the training.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements of course materials and curricula are reported in chapter 3 of this report. • Efforts will continue to expand this positive trend through dissemination of good practice. 	Implemented/ongoing

#	Recommendation	WTO Response	Action in 2018	Status
17	In collaboration with the External Relations Division, examine and propose alternative approaches to reference centres to help Members provide information and outreach on WTO issues to key opinion-leaders in tune with current technologies.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Members' consultation in 2017 (see WT/COMTD/W/227/Rev.1 Section 3.3.5 and § 57), the recommendation was closed with no further action required. 	Implemented/ongoing
18	In light of the planned final evaluation of the WTO Chairs Programme, which should be an independent external evaluation, be prepared to explore and propose alternative approaches to building working and policy-oriented links with a wider range of academic centres, e.g., through involving them more systematically in helping deliver WTO courses wherever practicable.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An external evaluator was selected and initiated the evaluation in December 2018. The evaluation is expected to conclude in July 2019. The recommendations contained in the report will feed into the preparation of the TA Plan for 2020-2021. 	In Progress
19	Take every opportunity to integrate issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women into TA programmes and training material in the context of emerging initiatives on social and poverty implications of trade, including the Sustainable Development Goals.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with Members Training package on Gender & Trade issues to be launched in 2019. Several activities addressed gender issues in 2018 (chapter 3 of this report). 	In progress
20	Consider including workshops to explore issues of multilateral nature for which Agreements are yet to be concluded, for example the Singapore issues.	Agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several activities implemented in 2018 in response to Members' requests (chapter 3 of this report). 	Implemented/ongoing
21	In consultation with Human Resources and delivering Divisions, ensure that a coherent system of training for trainers and trainer-evaluation is put in place and applied as needed.	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToT remained on offer on a voluntary basis. 	In progress
22	Continue work to apply the PLS and consider introducing pre-tests and examinations in all training courses, in addition to following up with a sample of trainees in appropriate courses after 6-12 months to establish how they are using the skills gained.	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TACTF considered this recommendation at its meeting on 15 February 2018. Onsite and ex-post evaluations of activities carried out in 2018 gathered useful information in this regard to be considered by TACTF in future meetings. Actions carried-out in various TA activities in relation to this recommendation are highlighted in chapter 3 of this report. 	In progress
23	Regularly review and report on the availability of course-offerings in French, Spanish and other languages relative to the size of the pools of potential trainees.	Agreed – Already implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language diversification continued to be monitored as documented in chapters 3 and 4 of this report. 	Implemented/ongoing

#	Recommendation	WTO Response	Action in 2018	Status
24	Share good TA practices (e.g. on Advanced Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and new Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) courses and thematic approaches) for possible inspiration and adaptation by others and ensure that innovation is promoted within the TA procedures and systems.	Agreed – Already implemented – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meetings of the TACTF provided an opportunity to share good TA practices. Onsite and ex-post evaluation of activities and country assessments identified good practice disseminated through internal reports. Thirteen such evaluations performed in 2018 (chapter 3 of this report). 	Implemented/ongoing
25	Benchmark WTO courses (including e-learning) against offerings by other institutions with a view to improving the learning experience and increasing interaction and interest for course participants, e.g., possibly pilot courses blending e-learning and in situ participation. Ensure that relevant training materials are available to participants in advance.	Partially agreed – Already partially implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of blended-learning approaches are described in TA Annual Reports. Chapter 3 of this report highlights some recent developments in this regard. 	Implemented/ongoing
26	Strengthen practical and clearly understandable measures to track and improve results, calling on facilitation and training attuned to WTO's business model, work to get "buy-in" across the Organization for a clear and sensible logical framework and meaningful indicators to guide the Programme; spell out a practicable M&E plan, including manageable and useful monitoring and frequency and levels of evaluation coverage.	Agreed – Already partially implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business requirements for new TA management system (TAMS) finalized and software for application development selected. TAMS was launched in 2018 and the first segment of TA workflows was tested. TAMS simplifies TA procedures and workflows and tracks TA results. TAMS user-friendliness enhances buy-in of RBM procedures across the Organization M&E workplan for 2018 implemented (chapter 3 of this report) 	In progress
27	Further strengthen financial reporting on actual expenditure against budget by instrument and result areas and at portfolio level across all funding sources.	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly CBFA reports linking expenditure to Key Results of the TA Plans were introduced for the CBFA meeting of 13 November 2018. 	Implemented/ongoing
28	Monitor and follow-up on issues raised in the participant evaluation forms and back-to-office reports. Consider introducing a requirement for internal briefing/training of colleagues by training participants and interns, with country authorities taking responsibility to ensure that such sharing takes place.	Partially agreed – This will also need to involve Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up on BTOR recommendations was carried-out in 2018. 	Implemented/ongoing

ANNEX II

MAIN RESULTS MEASURED IN 2018

The information contained in the *Remarks* column in this annex summarises the analysis presented in section 5 of the report. Their true meaning can only be understood in the light of the comments included in this section. One should be careful not to read too much in the dry statements included in this table. The assessment is mainly based on a desk analysis and was complemented in 2018 with only a limited number of field visits. When relevant and useful, some of the findings of the 2016 external evaluation have also been taken into account.

	Results	Indicators	Targets	Remarks
Impact	Developing and LDC Members are benefiting from their active participation in the WTO	Share of developing Members' total trade (imports and exports) in world trade	> 40%	Target met
		Share of LDC Members' total trade in the world trade	> 1.00%	Target met
Outcome	1: Government officials are implementing WTO Agreements and fully realising Members' rights and obligations	Number of documents submitted by developing and LDC Members in WTO Bodies	Increase in participation/submissions of documents	Target met
		Number of outstanding notifications by TA beneficiaries Members	5% decrease of outstanding notifications	Target met
Output	1.1: Government officials have enhanced knowledge about the WTO Agreements, formulation of trade policies and conduct of trade negotiations	Number of participants completing each PLS level	Annual stability	Target met
		Number of participants in WTO face-to-face TRTA activities	Annual stability	Target met
		Interactive training methods' share of time in each activity (e.g. exercises, case studies, simulations, Q&A, presentation by participants, participation in Committee meetings, etc.)	Annual decrease in share of lectures	Target met
		Spread of level of development of Members' participation in TA face-to-face courses	Annual stability	Target met
		Spread of geographical coverage of Members' participation in TA face-to-face courses	Maintain spread annually as indicated in the TA Plan	Target met
		Success rate in 8-week ITPC final exam	At least 90% annually	Target met
		% of participants giving an excellent rating to ITCs' overall content and results	Annual increase	Target met
		% of participants giving an excellent rating to ATPCs' and advanced thematic courses' overall content and results	Annual increase	Target met
		Number of revised modules or case studies in ATPCs	Two per year	Target met
		Number of participants trained on trade negotiating skills	Annual stability	Target partially met
		Advanced thematic courses focused on implementation	Three in 2017 and four in 2018	Target met
		Implementation of Action Plans within 12 months (Advanced SPS course)	Annual stability	Target partially met
		Implementation of Action Plans within 12 months (Advanced TBT course)	Annual stability	Target not met

	Results	Indicators	Targets	Remarks
		Number of interns in FIMIP	Per year: FIMIP: 15	Target met
		Number of interns in RCI	Per year: RCI: 8	Target partially met
		Final evaluation rate of each intern by their supervisor (FIMIP)	100% fully satisfactory	Target met
		Final evaluation rate of each intern by their supervisor (RCI)	100% fully satisfactory	Target met
		Final evaluation rate of each intern by their supervisor (AIP)	100% fully satisfactory	Data not available
		Number of participants in WTO e-Learning TRTA activities	Annual stability	Target met
		Spread of level of development of Members' participation in TA online courses	Annual stability	Target met
		Spread of geographical coverage of Members' participation in TA online courses	Maintain spread annually as indicated in the TA Plan	Target met
		New and revised online courses released each year	3 new or revised courses/year	Target met
		% of participants rating the balance between theory and practice as good or excellent in online courses	70% during the biennium	Target met
		% of participants rating the quality of the user-friendliness of the e-Campus and the rate of availability of the website throughout the year in the online courses as good or excellent	70% during the biennium	Target met
		e-Learning success rate	Annual increase	Target met
		e-Learning drop-out rate	Annual stability	Target met
		e-Learning rate of correct answers in the exam	Annual stability	Target met
		e-Learning distinction rate	Annual stability	Target met
Output	1.2: Effective partnerships established resulting in substantive contributions of human and financial resources for TA activities	Proportion of activities with the involvement of a partner	Annual stability	Target met
		Proportion of partners' contribution to the TA activities	Annual increase of substantive contributions	Target met
Output	1.3: Members' needs and priorities identified	Number of needs assessments conducted annually, either independently or as part of a TPR	Increase during the biennium	Target met
Output	1.4: WTO data accessed and used by Members to analyse trade-related matters	Visits by Members' logging in to the WTO website	Annual stability	Target met
		Number of officials trained annually on what is available and how to retrieve the information from WTO databases	Annual increase	Target met
		Number of requests for training on WTO Databases	Annual increase	Data not available
Outcome	2: Acceding governments are participating in accession negotiations	Number of acceding governments, including LDCs, with a formal or informal Working Party meeting held	Annual increase	Target partially met

	Results	Indicators	Targets	Remarks
Output	2.1: Acceding governments are familiar with WTO substantive and procedural matters	Number of participants from acceding governments attending Outcome 1 TA activities	Annual stability	Target met
		Number of roadmaps and endgame plans designed	Annual stability	Target met
Output	2.2: Interested Members have expertise on GPA rules, accession negotiations, best practices and core access obligations	No. of GPA accession-related documents circulated for all currently active GPA accessions involving TA-eligible Members	Annual stability	Target partially met
Outcome	3: Academic institutions and other stakeholders are analysing WTO issues and reaching out to policy makers	Number of consultative processes in which WTO Chairs or young professionals have been involved	Annual stability	Target met
Output	3.1: Research on trade policy and WTO-related matters generated by WTO Chairs and other academics through provision of grants	Number of publications in internationally peer-reviewed journals	Annual increase	Target partially met
		Quality of research papers as measured by SJR and SNIP ratings of the journals in which the Chairs' research is published	Annual increase	Target partially met
Output	3.2: Courses developed by the relevant academic institutions have WTO content and students are being trained on WTO-related subjects by the WTO and its Chairs	Number of students in WTO-related courses or getting a degree per year	Annual increase	Target partially met
Output	3.3: The WTO Chairs are reaching out to other stakeholders and key decision	Number of outreach events per year	Annual increase	Target not met
		Involvement of key decision-makers	Annual increase	Target met
Output	3.4: YPPs are exposed to WTO issues and work	Number of YPs hosted annually by the WTO	Per year: 15	Target met
		Final evaluation rate of each intern by their supervisor	100% fully satisfactory	Target met
Outcome	4: Non-governmental stakeholders and legislators are aware of and knowledgeable about WTO work and issues	Richness of debates and reports on trade issues, diversity of WTO related topics covered by papers produced by this group of stakeholders	Annual stability	Target met
Output	4.1: Specific outreach activities organized for legislators, journalists, business and NGOs on WTO issues and trade policies	Number of seminars, workshops conducted	Annual stability	Target met
Output	4.2: Improved understanding by journalists, civil society and businesses of WTO issues and trade policies	Number of key stakeholders reached during the year	Annual stability	Target met
Output	4.3: Improved access to WTO issues through online training material for self-study	Number of downloaded training materials	Annual stability	Target met
Output	4.4: Information on trade-related TA provided including through the ITTC Newsletter	Number of views	Annual stability	Data not available