



GENERAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT (2022)

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

Since its previous annual report¹, the General Council has held five regular meetings on 23-24 February, 9-10 May, 25-26 July, 6-7 October and 19-20 December, and two special meetings on 31 March and 7 June. The minutes of these meetings, which remain in the record of the General Council's work, are contained in documents WT/GC/M/196, WT/GC/M/197, WT/GC/M/198, WT/GC/M/199, WT/GC/M/200, WT/GC/M/201 and WT/GC/M/202².

The following subjects are included in the report³:

1 REPORTS BY THE CHAIR OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE AND REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL 3
2 FOLLOW-UP TO OUTCOMES OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES 4
2.1 Implementation Matters from MC12 4
2.1.1 WTO Reform – Statement by the Chair 5
2.1.2 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce – Statement by the Facilitator 6
2.1.3 Paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement - Report by the TRIPS Council 6
2.2 Implementation of the Bali, Nairobi and Buenos Aires Outcomes – Statements by the Chairperson..... 6
3 WTO RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC 7
3.1 Reports 7
3.2 Intellectual Property, Transfer of Technology and Capacity Building for COVID-19 and Beyond – Statement by Brazil 7
3.3 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics – Communication from the African Group 8
4 TRIPS COUNCIL MATTERS 8
4.1 Status Report on the Considerations by the TRIPS Council on the "Proposal for a Waiver from Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19" – Statement by the Chair of the Council for TRIPS 8

1 The annual report of the General Council for 2021 was circulated in WT/GC/242 including WT/GC/242/Add.1.

2 To be issued.

3 In the meetings of the General Council in 2022, some Members delivered statements under one item covering several items, as reflected in the respective minutes.

4.2 Paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement adopted on 17 June 2022 – document WT/MIN(22)/30 (Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement of 17 June 2022) – Request from South Africa, India, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan and Argentina on behalf of the Co-Sponsors of IP/C/W/669/Rev.1	8
4.3 Annual Review of the Special Compulsory Licensing System – Paragraph 7 of the Annex to the Amended TRIPS Agreement and Paragraph 8 of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health – Report of the Council for TRIPS	9
5 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE	9
5.1 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Imposing Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa	9
5.2 Rejuvenation of Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa	10
5.2.1 Consumer Protection in E-Commerce – Communication from India	10
6 WORK PROGRAMME ON SMALL ECONOMIES – REPORTS	10
7 REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE BALI DECISION ON TRQ ADMINISTRATION – DECISION ON PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE UNDERFILL MECHANISM	11
8 THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF COTTON – STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL	11
9 DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR	11
10 TWELFTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.....	12
10.1 Statement by the Chair	12
10.2 Reports from the Chair of the General Council, the Facilitator on the WTO Response to the Pandemic, the TRIPS Council Chair, the Relevant Negotiating Group Chairs dealing with MC12 Deliverables, and Address from the Director-General and TNC Chair	12
10.3 Review of Progress on Members' Proposals for MC12	12
11 ACCESSION MATTERS.....	14
11.1 2021 Annual Report by the Director-General	14
11.2 Turkmenistan	14
12 WAIVERS.....	14
12.1 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions – Draft Decision	14
12.2 Review of Waivers Pursuant to Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement	14
13 DERESTRICTION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATING MATERIALS – DRAFT DECISION	15
14 TRADE RELATED CHALLENGES OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND WAY FORWARD – COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUEST FROM THE LDC GROUP	15
15 IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM IN PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL MC12 – COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BRAZIL; BRUNEI DARUSSALAM; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; DOMINICA; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; ECUADOR; EL SALVADOR; EUROPEAN UNION; GUATEMALA; HONDURAS; HONG KONG, CHINA; ICELAND; ISRAEL; JAPAN; KAZAKHSTAN; KENYA; REPUBLIC OF KOREA; LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC; LIECHTENSTEIN; MEXICO; REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA; MONGOLIA; MONTENEGRO; MOROCCO; NEW ZEALAND; NORWAY; PANAMA; PERU; PHILIPPINES; QATAR; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND; THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU; THAILAND; TÜRKİYE; UKRAINE; UNITED KINGDOM; URUGUAY AND VANUATU.....	16

16 INTRODUCTION OF A PAPER ON "LEGAL STATUS OF JOINT STATEMENT INITIATIVES AND THEIR NEGOTIATED OUTCOMES" – REQUEST FROM INDIA; SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA	17
17 PROPOSED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY DECLARATION FOR THE TWELFTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: RESPONDING TO MODERN SPS CHALLENGES – THE AFRICAN GROUP; ACP GROUP; ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BELIZE; BRAZIL; BURKINA FASO; CABO VERDE; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; CÔTE D'IVOIRE; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; ECUADOR; EL SALVADOR; THE GAMBIA; GUATEMALA; HONDURAS; JAPAN; MALAYSIA; MEXICO; MONGOLIA; NEW ZEALAND; PANAMA; PARAGUAY; PERU; SENEGAL; SINGAPORE; TAJIKISTAN; TOGO; UKRAINE; THE UNITED STATES; URUGUAY; AND VIET NAM	17
18 STRENGTHENING THE WTO TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVITY – COMMUNICATION FROM THE AFRICAN GROUP; CUBA AND INDIA	17
19 JOINT STATEMENT ON OPEN AND PREDICTABLE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM	18
20 PROPOSED GENERAL COUNCIL DECISION ON PROCEDURES TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WTO AGREEMENTS – ALBANIA; ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BRAZIL; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; THE EUROPEAN UNION; ICELAND; ISRAEL; JAPAN; REPUBLIC OF KOREA; LIECHTENSTEIN; MEXICO; REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA; MONTENEGRO; NEW ZEALAND; NORTH MACEDONIA; NORWAY; PARAGUAY; PERU; THE PHILIPPINES; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND; THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU; THAILAND; UNITED KINGDOM; THE UNITED STATES; AND URUGUAY	18
21 TRADE-DISRUPTIVE PRACTICES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WTO – COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	18
22 LDC VIEWS ON WTO REFORM DISCUSSIONS AND PROPOSALS – COMMUNICATION FROM CHAD ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP.....	18
23 COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	19
23.1 Reports and Recommendations	19
24 WTO PENSION PLAN	19
24.1 Election of Members and Alternate	19
24.2 Reports	19
25 ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES FOR MEMBERS IN ARREARS	19
26 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO – REPORT OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON ITS 55TH AND 56TH SESSIONS	20
27 REVIEW OF WTO ACTIVITIES	20
28 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO WTO BODIES	20
29 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON	22

1 REPORTS BY THE CHAIR OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE AND REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/196; WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; WT/GC/M/201 AND WT/GC/M/202)

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

1.2. At the February meeting, the Director-General, as TNC Chair, updated Members on developments in this area including on the Informal Heads of Delegation meeting on 3 December where Members expressed their views on the way forward following the postponement of MC12. The

representatives of Barbados (CARICOM); Switzerland; Morocco; Panama (GRULAC); Argentina; Mexico; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); the European Union; Uruguay; Australia; Indonesia; South Africa; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Mauritius; Cameroon (African Group); Nigeria; Peru; Thailand; Jamaica (ACP); India; Kazakhstan and Brazil spoke. The General Council took note of the reports⁴ of the Director-General and the negotiating groups Chairs, and of the statements.⁵

1.3. At the May meeting, the Director-General, as TNC Chair, updated Members on developments in this area including on the Informal TNC and Heads of Delegation meeting on 4 May to undertake a collective reflection on the MC12 preparatory process and how best to ensure a productive meeting in June. Her report was circulated in document JOB/GC/300. The representatives of Chad (LDCs); Cambodia; Sierra Leone; Indonesia; Argentina; Brazil and Peru spoke. The General Council took note of the report⁶ of the Director-General including at the 4 May Informal TNC and Informal HODs meeting, and of the statements⁷ that day as well as those delivered at the 4 May Informal TNC and Informal HODs meeting.⁸

1.4. At the July meeting, this agenda item was taken up together with the agenda item on "Implementation Matters from MC12 Mandates".⁹

1.5. At the October meeting, the Chair made a statement on the process of appointing the CoA SS, the NGR and the CTE SS Chairs.¹⁰ The Director-General, as TNC Chair, updated Members on developments in this area. Her report was circulated in JOB/GC/319. The representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Arab Group); Kazakhstan; Australia; Samoa (Pacific Group); Cameroon (African Group); the European Union; the United Kingdom; Japan; Qatar; Nigeria; the Republic of Korea; the United States; Peru; Chile; Nicaragua; Iceland; Senegal; Pakistan; Indonesia; South Africa; Botswana; Tanzania; and India spoke. The General Council took note of the report by the Director-General, of the Chair's statement and of the other statements.

1.6. At the December meeting, the Director-General, as TNC Chair, updated Members on developments in this area, including on the Formal TNC and Informal Heads of Delegation meeting on 30 November. At that meeting, Members collectively took stock of work post-MC12, including on agriculture, fisheries subsidies, and development issues – where there had been retreats and other efforts amongst Members, and a meeting of the CTD SS. Her report was circulated in document JOB/GC/326 and the 30 November meeting can be found in TN/C/M/43. The General Council took note of the report by the Director-General.

2 FOLLOW-UP TO OUTCOMES OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

2.1 Implementation Matters from MC12 (WT/GC/M/200 and WT/GC/M/201)

2.1. At the July meeting, the Chair recalled that a comprehensive discussion on this matter took place at the Informal Heads of Delegation meeting on 7 July convened by the Director-General and him – with forty-eight delegations¹¹ taking the floor. The Director-General provided her report on

⁴ The Director-General's report, and the reports of the Chairs of Negotiating Bodies were also circulated in JOB/GC/294.

⁵ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Arab Group) subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/196.

⁶ The Director-General's report was also circulated in JOB/GC/294.

⁷ Kenya subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/198.

⁸ The statements at the 4 May Informal TNC and Informal HODs Meetings by the following delegations are incorporated in the minutes of this meeting and can be found in the Annex of WT/GC/M/198: Japan; Singapore; Cameroon (African Group); Brazil; Nigeria; Australia; Chile (Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development); Philippines; Mexico; India; European Union; Norway; South Africa; Barbados (CARICOM); Switzerland; Republic of Korea; Canada; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Chad (LDCs); China; Jamaica (ACP); Malaysia; United Kingdom; Pakistan; Thailand; New Zealand; Indonesia; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka; Colombia; Ukraine; Türkiye; Uruguay; Egypt; Russian Federation; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); Peru; Panama (GRULAC, Article XII Members); Costa Rica (Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation); Nepal; Trinidad and Tobago; Chinese Taipei; Paraguay; Tunisia; The Gambia; Iceland; Guatemala and United States.

⁹ See Paragraph 2.1.

¹⁰ See also Footnote 52 and JOB/GC/318.

¹¹ The statements made on the 7 July Informal Heads of Delegation meeting by Brazil; Botswana; Australia; Jamaica (ACP); Indonesia; Cabo Verde; Malaysia; Nicaragua; Cameroon (African Group); Switzerland; Singapore; China; Cambodia; Chile; Bangladesh; Mexico; Colombia; European Union; Ecuador; South Africa; Nepal; Barbados (CARICOM); Japan; India; Nigeria; Chinese Taipei; Russian Federation; Vanuatu (Pacific

various related issues which was subsequently circulated in JOB/GC/315 and referred to her previous reports in documents JOB/GC/312 and JOB/TNC/104. The Chairs of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session and the Negotiating Group on Rules then took the floor to update¹² Members on their respective areas. In his report, which was subsequently circulated in JOB/GC/316, the Chair informed Members of his intention to undertake consultations in September on a range of issues, including (i) WTO reform; (ii) e-commerce work programme and moratorium; and (iii) the venue and date of MC13. The Chair of the TRIPS Council delivered a statement on how the TRIPS Council has been following-up on relevant Ministerial instructions from MC12. The representatives of Norway; Cameroon (African Group); Brazil; Colombia; Malaysia; Guatemala; Australia; Türkiye; the Philippines; Chile; Switzerland; Kenya (ACP); Japan; the European Union; Botswana; Iceland; Argentina; India; Singapore; the United Kingdom; the Republic of Korea; Thailand; Tunisia; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Bangladesh; Indonesia; Nepal; Guyana (CARICOM); Hong Kong, China; Mauritania (LDCs); Vanuatu (Pacific Group); South Africa; Peru; Panama; Nigeria; Ukraine; Sri Lanka; the United States; Ecuador; Mauritius; Chinese Taipei; Mexico; Senegal; Pakistan; the Russian Federation; Canada; and China spoke. The Director-General and the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules again intervened. The General Council took note of the reports of the Director-General, the Chairs of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session and the Negotiating Group on Rules, the General Council Chair, the statement by the TRIPS Council Chair, and of the other statements.

2.2. At the October meeting, the Chair recalled his report at the Informal General Council meeting on 4 October on his consultations on WTO Reform and on the E-Commerce Work Programme and Moratorium circulated in document JOB/GC/318 – where a discussion¹³ among Members had taken place thereafter. His full report was subsequently circulated in JOB/GC/320. The TRIPS Council Chair took the floor. The representatives of Morocco; Malaysia; Türkiye; Djibouti (LDCs); Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); Singapore; Cambodia; China; Sri Lanka; Norway; Jamaica; Kenya (ACP); the United States; Cameroon (African Group); the European Union; Nepal; Colombia; Switzerland; Samoa (Pacific Group); South Africa; the Russian Federation; Canada; Nigeria; Chinese Taipei; Uganda; Ecuador; Thailand; Bangladesh; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; the United Kingdom; Indonesia; India; Japan; Mauritius; the Republic of Korea; Ukraine; and Peru spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's statement, the statement of the TRIPS Council Chair and of the other statements.

2.1.1 WTO Reform – Statement by the Chair (WT/GC/M/202)

2.3. At the December meeting, the Chair made a statement¹⁴ and recalled his closing remarks at the Informal meeting on WTO reform held in November¹⁵. He also updated Members on efforts by other WTO bodies, including on the MC12 Declarations on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity and on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. The representatives of Djibouti; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); Cameroon (African Group); the European Union; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Kenya (ACP); Pakistan; China; the Russian Federation; Nigeria; the United Kingdom; Ecuador; Bangladesh; Malaysia; Japan; South Africa; Tunisia; Paraguay; Mauritius; India; Singapore; the Philippines; Jamaica (CARICOM); Ukraine; Nepal; Chinese Taipei; Chile; Brazil; Canada; Costa Rica; the Republic of Korea; Guatemala; Argentina; Switzerland; Mexico; Australia; Norway; Panama (Article XII Members); Indonesia; Colombia; Chinese Taipei and Thailand spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's statement and of the other statements.

Group); Paraguay; Tunisia; Türkiye; El Salvador; Canada; The Philippines; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); Peru; Zimbabwe; New Zealand; United States; Chad (LDCs); Costa Rica, Plurinational State of Bolivia; United Kingdom; Kazakhstan; Egypt; Uganda; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Panama were included, at their request, as part of the Minutes of the July General Council meeting and can be found in the Annex of WT/GC/M/200.

¹² Their reports can be found in the annex of JOB/GC/315.

¹³ The statements made on the 4 October Informal General Council meeting by Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Cameroon (African Group); Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Djibouti; Egypt; European Union; Fiji; India; Jamaica (CARICOM); Japan; Kenya (ACP Group); Nicaragua; Nigeria; Peru; Philippines; Switzerland; United Kingdom and Zambia were incorporated, at their request, in the Minutes of the October meeting and can be found in the Annex of WT/GC/M/201.

¹⁴ The Chair's statement was also circulated in JOB/GC/329.

¹⁵ The Chair's closing remarks can be found in JOB/GC/325.

2.1.2 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce – Statement by the Facilitator (WT/GC/M/202)

2.4. During the October meeting, the Chair informed Members of his intention to appoint a Facilitator to assist him with future discussions under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. In that regard, he sent a communication on 28 October informing Members of the appointment of H.E. Mrs. Usha Chandnee Dwarka Canabady (Mauritius) as the Facilitator on the E-commerce Work Programme and Moratorium.

2.5. At the December meeting, the Facilitator updated Members on the work conducted since her appointment as Facilitator including the dedicated discussion on 18 November and the small group consultations and shared some thoughts on the work ahead. Her statement was circulated in JOB/GC/330. The representatives of Djibouti (LDCs); Fiji (Pacific Group); the United States; Indonesia; the European Union; Nigeria; Bangladesh; China; Norway; India; Japan; Switzerland; Nepal; Viet Nam; Ecuador; Chinese Taipei; the Russian Federation; the United Kingdom; New Zealand; Brazil; Peru; the Republic of Korea; Australia and Cambodia spoke. The General Council took note of the Facilitator's statement and of the other statements.

2.1.3 Paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement - Report by the TRIPS Council (WT/GC/M/202)

2.6. At the December meeting, the TRIPS Council Chair presented the TRIPS Council's report in IP/C/95 recommending that the General Council extend the deadline on Paragraph 8 of the MC12 TRIPS Decision. The GC Chair made a statement. The representatives of South Africa; Nigeria; Pakistan; Cameroon (African Group); Argentina; Tunisia; Fiji (Pacific Group); Bangladesh; Djibouti (LDCs); Mozambique; Indonesia; the Maldives; Nepal; Paraguay; Mauritius; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Switzerland; the European Union; the United Kingdom; Japan; Chinese Taipei; India; the United States spoke. The item was suspended. The Chair provided an update on the item and the representative of South Africa again intervened. When the General Council reverted to this item, the General Council agreed to the recommendation as put forward by the TRIPS Council to extend the deadline, and the General Council agreed to revert to the matter of the duration of such deadline at its next meeting. The General Council also took note of the statements.

2.2 Implementation of the Bali, Nairobi and Buenos Aires Outcomes – Statements by the Chairperson (WT/GC/M/196; WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; WT/GC/M/201; AND WT/GC/M/202)

2.7. Since July 2014, the item on implementation of the Bali outcomes has been included on the General Council's agenda at the request of the Chair, to provide an update on the work taking place in the regular bodies which were directly working on the various Bali Decisions. After the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the Ministerial Conference, reports on the implementation of the Nairobi and Buenos Aires outcomes were also provided under this item.

2.8. At the meetings in February, May, July, October and December, the Chair reported on the work taking place in WTO regular bodies with respect to the Bali, Nairobi and Buenos Aires Ministerial outcomes.¹⁶

2.9. At the February meeting, the representatives of Canada; Pakistan; Chad (LDCs); Nepal; the European Union; India; South Africa; Cambodia; Indonesia and Uruguay spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report and of the statements.

2.10. At the May meeting, the representatives of India; Canada; South Africa; the European Union; Nepal; Switzerland; Indonesia; Pakistan and Chad (LDCs) spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report and of the statements.

¹⁶ The Chair's statements were subsequently circulated in JOB/GC/295, JOB/GC/302, JOB/GC/317, JOB/GC/321 and JOB/GC/329.

2.11. At the July meeting, the representatives of the United States; Cameroon (African Group); India; Nepal; Indonesia; Nigeria; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Pakistan; Uruguay; and Bangladesh spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report and of the statements.

2.12. At the October meeting, the Director-General made a statement on the Aid for Trade Initiative. The representatives of India; Cambodia; the European Union; South Africa; Cameroon (African Group); Australia; Indonesia; and Pakistan spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report and of the statements.¹⁷

2.13. At the December meeting, the representatives of Djibouti (LDCs); India; Nepal; Cambodia; South Africa; the European Union and Indonesia spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report and of the statements.

3 WTO RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

3.1 Reports (WT/GC/M/196 and WT/GC/M/198)

3.1. As a response to calls by Members, the then General Council Chair, Ambassador Dacio Castillo (Honduras) had established on 22 June 2021 a Facilitator-led horizontal and multilateral process on the WTO Response to the Pandemic, under the auspices of the General Council. The Chair had appointed Ambassador David Walker (New Zealand), former Chair of the General Council, to facilitate this process. Upon Ambassador Walker's departure, Ambassador Castillo, as the then Chair of the General Council, took over the process in December 2021 until the end of his term, and was appointed as Facilitator in March 2022.

3.2. At the February meeting, the Chair updated Members on the process including on the Informal Open-Ended Meetings and his consultations with delegations in various configurations. His reports had been circulated in documents JOB/GC/288, JOB/GC/289 and JOB/GC/291. The representatives of China; Pakistan; Türkiye; Nigeria; Switzerland; Sri Lanka; Chinese Taipei; Brazil; the United Kingdom; Malaysia; Brunei Darussalam; the European Union; Chile; Cameroon (African Group); Bangladesh; Singapore; Barbados (CARICOM); Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); Peru; the Russian Federation; Japan; Chad (LDCs); the Republic of Korea; India; Jamaica (ACP); Guatemala; Tunisia; Nepal; Viet Nam; Morocco; Indonesia; Kenya; South Africa; the Philippines; Canada; Argentina; Thailand and Paraguay spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's report¹⁸ and of the statements.¹⁹

3.3. At the May meeting, the Facilitator updated Members on the process and referred to his reports on his consultations circulated in documents JOB/GC/298 and JOB/TNC/103. The representatives of Barbados (CARICOM); Bangladesh; Argentina; Nigeria; Norway; Cameroon (African Group); Egypt; Peru; the Russian Federation; Pakistan; Indonesia; the European Union; Singapore; Ecuador; Guatemala; Chinese Taipei; Malaysia; Tunisia; Cambodia; Jamaica (ACP); Paraguay; Türkiye; China; Chad (LDCs); India; South Africa; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Sri Lanka; the United Kingdom; Chile; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Japan; and Switzerland spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the Facilitator's report²⁰, the statement of the Director-General and of the statements.²¹

3.2 Intellectual Property, Transfer of Technology and Capacity Building for COVID-19 and Beyond – Statement by Brazil (WT/GC/M/198)

3.4. At the May meeting, the representative of Brazil presented its statement on this matter in document WT/GC/W/845²². The representatives of Türkiye; China; the United States; Thailand; Japan; Colombia; Ukraine; Argentina; South Africa; the United Kingdom; India; Guatemala; Egypt; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Cameroon (African Group); Mauritius and Viet Nam spoke. Brazil again

¹⁷ Djibouti (LDCs) subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/200.

¹⁸ The Chair's report was subsequently circulated in document JOB/GC/296.

¹⁹ Australia subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/196.

²⁰ The Facilitator's report was subsequently circulated in document JOB/GC/303.

²¹ Canada subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/198.

²² See also JOB/GC/307.

intervened. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

3.3 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics – Communication from the African Group (WT/GC/M/202)²³

3.5. At the December meeting, the representative of Cameroon (African Group) presented the African Group's communication on this matter in document WT/GC/W/858. The representatives of Nigeria; Tunisia; Kenya (ACP); Pakistan; South Africa; Djibouti (LDCs); Jamaica; the European Union; China; the United States; Switzerland; Bangladesh; India; Brazil; Indonesia; Chinese Taipei; the Russian Federation; the United Kingdom and Singapore spoke. Cameroon (African Group) again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

4 TRIPS COUNCIL MATTERS

4.1 Status Report on the Considerations by the TRIPS Council on the "Proposal for a Waiver from Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19" – Statement by the Chair of the Council for TRIPS (WT/GC/M/196 and WT/GC/M/198)

4.1. At the General Council meetings in February and May, the TRIPS Council Chair provided status reports on the "Proposal for a Waiver from Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19" in document IP/C/W/669 and its addenda and revision.²⁴

4.2. At the February meeting, the representatives of the United Kingdom; Pakistan; Peru; South Africa; Mozambique; the Maldives; Nigeria; Norway; Nepal; Tunisia; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Bangladesh; the Russian Federation; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); Barbados (CARICOM); Cameroon (African Group); the United States; Sierra Leone; Chad (LDCs); Mauritius; Indonesia; Brazil; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Japan; China; Namibia; India; Zimbabwe and the European Union spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the TRIPS Council Chair's report and of the statements.²⁵

4.3. At the May meeting, the representatives of China; Barbados (CARICOM); Nigeria; Bangladesh; Peru; Pakistan; Jamaica (ACP); Nepal; Norway; Cambodia; the Russian Federation; Indonesia; South Africa; Tanzania; the European Union; Cameroon (African Group); Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Brazil; Chad (LDCs); Paraguay; Argentina; Egypt; the United Kingdom; the Maldives; Thailand; Switzerland; New Zealand; Australia; Japan; Singapore; Guatemala; the United States; and India spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the report by the Chair of the Council for TRIPS, the statement made by the Director-General and of the other statements.

4.2 Paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement adopted on 17 June 2022 – document WT/MIN(22)/30 (Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement of 17 June 2022) – Request from South Africa, India, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan and Argentina on behalf of the Co-Sponsors of IP/C/W/669/Rev.1²⁶ (WT/GC/M/200 and WT/GC/M/201)

4.4. At the July meeting, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of co-sponsors, made a statement on this matter including a reference to the indicative schedule proposed in document RD/IP/49. The representatives of Djibouti (LDCs); Cameroon (African Group); Pakistan; Kenya

²³ Under the agenda on the "Follow Up to Outcomes of Ministerial Conferences – MC12", the Chair made a brief update on efforts by relevant WTO bodies on the MC12 Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics. His statement was circulated in JOB/GC/329.

²⁴ See JOB/IP/55 and JOB/IP/57.

²⁵ Angola subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/196.

²⁶ The TRIPS Council Chair made statements on this matter in July and October, under his own responsibility, under the agenda item "Implementation Matters from MC12". This matter was taken up at the December meeting under the agenda sub-item "Paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement - Report by the TRIPS Council" as reflected in Paragraph 2.6.

(ACP Group); Antigua and Barbuda (CARICOM); Barbados; Argentina; Switzerland; Indonesia; Bangladesh; the United Kingdom; Peru; Norway; Nepal; the Maldives; Sri Lanka; the European Union; Malaysia; Japan; Chile; the Republic of Korea; Colombia; Brazil; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Angola; Egypt; Zimbabwe; China; Singapore; India; and the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.²⁷

4.5. At the October meeting, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of co-sponsors, made a statement on this matter. The representatives of Argentina; Switzerland; Bangladesh; Singapore; Mexico; Nigeria; the European Union; Japan; China; the Russian Federation; Malaysia; Cameroon (African Group); Antigua and Barbuda (CARICOM); the Philippines; Kenya (ACP); Sri Lanka; the Maldives; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Nepal; Jamaica; Egypt; Peru; the Republic of Korea; Chinese Taipei; Djibouti (LDCs); the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Botswana; Indonesia; Pakistan; and India spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.²⁸

4.3 Annual Review of the Special Compulsory Licensing System – Paragraph 7 of the Annex to the Amended TRIPS Agreement and Paragraph 8 of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health – Report of the Council for TRIPS (WT/GC/M/202)

4.6. In August 2003, the General Council adopted a Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. Paragraph 8 of that Decision provided that the TRIPS Council should review annually the functioning of the system set out in the Decision with a view to ensuring its effective operation and should annually report on its operation to the General Council. In addition, in keeping with the August 2003 Decision, the General Council adopted, in December 2005, a Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, which was submitted to Members for acceptance. In accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement, the Protocol entered into force on 23 January 2017, upon acceptance by two-thirds of the WTO Members. Both the amended TRIPS Agreement and the 2003 Decision provided that the TRIPS Council should review annually the functioning of the system and should also report on its operation to the General Council.

4.7. At the December meeting, the General Council took note of the report of the TRIPS Council in document IP/C/94 and of the statement by the TRIPS Council Chair.

5 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE²⁹

5.1 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Imposing Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa (WT/GC/M/196 and WT/GC/M/198)

5.1. At the February meeting, the representative of India made a statement on this matter. The representatives of Barbados (CARICOM); South Africa; Sri Lanka; Nepal; Nigeria; Jamaica (ACP); Chad (LDCs); Cameroon (African Group); Indonesia; China; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); Chinese Taipei; Japan; Argentina; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Canada; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Hong Kong, China; Australia; Pakistan; Georgia; the United Kingdom; the United States; Mexico; Ecuador; Singapore; Thailand and the European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

5.2. At the May meeting, the representative of South Africa made a statement on this matter. The representatives of Nepal; Nigeria; Pakistan; Tanzania; the European Union; Trinidad and Tobago; the Russian Federation; Guatemala; Sri Lanka; the Philippines; Indonesia; Jamaica (ACP); Barbados

²⁷ Botswana and Canada subsequently provided their statements which can be found in WT/GC/M/200.

²⁸ Canada and Brazil subsequently provided their statements which can be found in WT/GC/M/201.

²⁹ The Chair reported on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce in February and May under the agenda item "Implementation of the Bali, Nairobi and Buenos Aires Outcomes – Statement by the Chairperson" and in July and October under the agenda item "Implementation Matters from MC12". These reports can also be found in documents JOB/GC/295, JOB/GC/302, JOB/GC/316, and JOB/GC/320. At the December meeting, the Facilitator reported on this matter under the agenda sub-item "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce – Statement by the Facilitator". Her report can also be found in document JOB/GC/330. See also Paragraph 10.9 concerning the "Review of Members Proposals for MC12" that took place at the Special General Council Meeting on 7 June (WT/GC/M/199).

(CARICOM); Hong Kong, China; Côte d'Ivoire; Ukraine; Chinese Taipei; Ecuador; Japan; Benin; Paraguay; the Republic of Korea; Brazil; China; the United Kingdom; Chad (LDCs); Kazakhstan; Peru; Singapore; the United States; India; and Australia spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.³⁰

5.2 Rejuvenation of Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa (WT/GC/M/201 and WT/GC/M/202)

5.3. At the October meeting, the representative of India made a statement on this matter. The representatives of Sri Lanka; Antigua and Barbuda (CARICOM); Indonesia; the United States; Cameroon (African Group); the European Union; the Russian Federation; South Africa; Japan; Cabo Verde; Jamaica; Switzerland; Pakistan; Brazil; Panama; the United Kingdom; Singapore; and the Republic of Korea spoke. The Director-General and the Chair then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.³¹

5.2.1 Consumer Protection in E-Commerce – Communication from India (WT/GC/M/202)

5.4. At the December meeting, the General Council took up the item on "Rejuvenation of Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa" together with this sub-item item concerning "Consumer Protection in E-Commerce – Communication from India (WT/GC/W/857)". The representative of South Africa made a statement on this matter. The representatives of Djibouti (LDCs); Kenya (ACP); Jamaica; Bangladesh; Indonesia; Sri Lanka; Pakistan; Nigeria; Thailand; Singapore and India spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

6 WORK PROGRAMME ON SMALL ECONOMIES – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/196; WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; WT/GC/M/201 AND WT/GC/M/202)

6.1. At the February meeting, the CTD Chair recalled the draft decision on the work programme was yet to be formally adopted by the Ministerial Conference and indicated his intention to consult and hold a dedicated session on how to progress in their work ahead of MC12. The Director-General and the representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Barbados (CARICOM); Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Fiji; Mauritius; Sri Lanka; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); and the Maldives spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chair of the CTD, the statement of the Director-General and of the other statements.

6.2. At the May meeting, the CTD Chair referred to the proposal of the SVE Group suggesting that work on integrating small economies into the post COVID-19 economy should advance, even if the draft Decision had as yet not been formally adopted by Ministers and called on Members to continue to engage to frame responses to the trade-related issues identified for the fuller integration of SVEs into the multilateral trading system. The representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); Barbados (CARICOM); the Maldives; Sri Lanka; Trinidad and Tobago; Cabo Verde; Vanuatu; Ecuador; and Guyana spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chair of the CTD and of the statements.

6.3. At the July meeting, the CTD Chair welcomed the MC12 Decision on the Work Programme on Small Economies in document WT/MIN(22)/25 – WT/L1136, recalled that the Committee had agreed in May to a proposed outline by the SVE Group, of a background document by the Secretariat on the topic of "integrating small economies into the post COVID-19 economy: effects of the pandemic, challenges and opportunities" and noted that a dedicated session would be convened once the document had been finalized. The Director-General took the floor. The representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Barbados; Kenya (ACP); Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOM); the Maldives; Brazil; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); and Ecuador spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chair of the CTD, the statement by the Director-General and of the other statements.

6.4. At the October meeting, the CTD Chair updated Members on the preparations of a Secretariat paper on the mandated topic "integrating small economies into the post COVID-19 economy: effects

³⁰ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS) subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/198.

³¹ Canada subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/201.

of the pandemic, challenges and opportunities" and reiterated that a meeting of the dedicated session would be convened once the document had been finalized. The representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Sri Lanka; Cameroon (African Group); Samoa (Pacific Group); Kenya (ACP); Jamaica (CARICOM); Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); and Ecuador spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chair of the CTD and of the statements.

6.5. At the December meeting, the CTD Chair informed Members that the Secretariat paper on the mandated topic "integrating small economies into the post COVID-19 economy: effects of the pandemic, challenges and opportunities" was entering the final phase of preparation and was expected to be circulated in January 2023. She thereafter planned to hold a dedicated session to begin to discuss this topic. The representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); the United Kingdom; Barbados (CARICOM); Kenya (ACP); Fiji (Pacific Group) and Jamaica spoke. The General Council took note of the report of the Chair of the CTD and of the statements.

7 REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE BALI DECISION ON TRQ ADMINISTRATION – DECISION ON PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE UNDERFILL MECHANISM (WT/GC/M/197)

7.1. At MC9, Ministers had adopted the Decision on Tariff Rate Quota Administration (WT/MIN(13)/39 – WT/L/914) which also required the Committee on Agriculture to review and monitor the implementation of Members' obligations established under the Decision. The issue of the future operation of paragraph 4 of the Underfill Mechanism was mandated to be taken up during the Review exercise.

7.2. At the March special meeting, the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture reported on this matter. The representatives of India; the Philippines; Egypt; China; the Republic of Korea; Paraguay; Costa Rica; Chile; Malaysia; Ukraine; the Russian Federation; the European Union; South Africa; the United Kingdom; Guatemala; Australia; Barbados; Argentina; the United States; Nigeria; Norway; Japan; Uruguay; Iceland; Georgia; Chinese Taipei; Switzerland; Canada; New Zealand; and the Russian Federation spoke. The Chair also spoke. The General Council then adopted³² the draft decision contained in G/AG/32/Add.1.

8 THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF COTTON – STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/M/202)

8.1. In Paragraph 1.b of the 1 August 2004 Decision in WT/L/579, the General Council, *inter alia*, took note of the bilateral, multilateral, and regional efforts to make progress on the development assistance aspects of the Cotton Initiative, and instructed the Secretariat to continue to work with the development community and to provide the Council with periodic reports on relevant developments. The Council also instructed the Director-General to consult with relevant international organizations, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Trade Centre, to direct effectively existing programmes and any additional resources towards development of the economies where cotton had vital importance. The Nairobi Decision on Cotton (WT/MIN(15)/46 – WT/L/981) reaffirmed this mandate, and invited the Director-General to continue to provide periodic reports on this matter.

8.2. At the December meeting, the Director-General reported that work on the development assistance aspects of cotton had continued to progress remarkably well throughout 2022 and highlighted the excellent results both in the Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton, and in special activities and initiatives. The representatives of Djibouti (LDCs); Cameroon (African Group); Chad (C-4 and the 36 African Country Cotton and Cotton Product Producers and/or Exporters); Kenya (ACP); China; the European Union and India spoke. The General Council took note of the statement by the Director-General and of the other statements.

9 DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AND VENUE OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR (WT/GC/M/202)

9.1. At the December meeting, the General Council formally agreed that the Thirteenth Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference would be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi in the week of 26 February 2024, and that the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference would be

³² The decision was subsequently circulated in document WT/L/1132.

hosted by Cameroon. The Chair and the Director-General made their respective statements. The representatives of Cameroon; the United Arab Emirates; Brazil; Djibouti (LDCs); Kenya; Morocco; Kazakhstan; India; Tunisia; Mozambique; Nigeria and Indonesia spoke. The General Council took note of the statements by the Chair and the Director-General and of the other statements.

10 TWELFTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

10.1 Statement by the Chair (WT/GC/M/196 and WT/GC/M/198)

10.1. At the February meeting, the Chair reported on his consultations on a range of MC12-related issues including on how to proceed with work on the WTO response to the pandemic; how to proceed on the substantive issues under the General Council, including the Outcome Document; and on reconvening MC12, and on the Informal Meeting of the General Council on 25 January. His report had been circulated in JOB/GC/289. The Director-General then spoke. The General Council agreed that MC12 was reconvened in the week of 13 June 2022, with exact dates to be defined³³, and took note of the Chair's statement and of the other statements.³⁴

10.2. At the May meeting, the Chair recalled that he had reported to Members at the 4 May Informal TNC/HODs meeting on the main takeaways from his recent consultations held in April, and his report had been circulated in JOB/TNC/103. In particular, he had reported on a range of MC12 related matters, including: the type and structure of a possible Ministerial outcome document; the organization of work at the Conference, including the format of the plenary session; possible thematic sessions, including a general session focusing on the "Challenges facing the Multilateral Trading System". The representatives of Ukraine; China; Namibia; Cameroon (African Group); Nepal; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); South Africa; Thailand; the United Kingdom; Jamaica (ACP); Canada; India; Kenya; Egypt; the United States; Brazil; the European Union; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Mauritius; Nigeria; and Guyana spoke. The General Council took note of the Chair's statement and of the other statements.

10.2 Reports from the Chair of the General Council, the Facilitator on the WTO Response to the Pandemic, the TRIPS Council Chair, the Relevant Negotiating Group Chairs dealing with MC12 Deliverables, and Address from the Director-General and TNC Chair (WT/GC/M/199)

10.3. At the June special General Council meeting, the Chair recalled that work had continued intensively in the negotiating bodies, in dedicated processes and in the TRIPS Council. He noted that it was essential to urgently go back to work in the various areas to finalize outcomes for the Conference. The reports and updates from Chairs during that meeting were aimed to allow Members to assess what was required from the WTO membership – particularly, of delegations in Geneva – in the few days that were left ahead of MC12. The Chair, the Facilitator on the WTO Response to the Pandemic, the TRIPS Council Chair, the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules, the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session, the Chair of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session, and the Director-General and TNC Chair reported on their respective areas. The General Council took note of the GC Chair's report as well as of the report of the Director-General and that of the other Chairs and Facilitator. The General Council further took note that work was continuing in the immediate next few days and that any results from that work would be in front of Ministers at MC12.

10.3 Review of Progress on Members' Proposals for MC12 (WT/GC/M/199)

10.4. At the June special General Council meeting, a number of Members provided updates with respect to proposals in different areas, including on their efforts as to whether they had been able to generate convergence around those proposals.

³³ At the Informal General Council meeting on 28 March, based on his consultations, the Chair noted that "it is foreseen that the Conference begins with a short opening ceremony on Sunday, 12 June, in the afternoon, without a debate, and then moves on to business from 13 until 15 June." See also JOB/GC/297.

³⁴ At the request of the delegations of Chad (LDCs), Nepal and Paraguay, the statements sent to the Secretariat are incorporated in the minutes of the February General Council meeting under this agenda item and can be found in Annex 1 of document WT/GC/M/196.

10.5. The representative of Guatemala, on behalf of co-sponsors, updated Members on the discussions on the Proposed Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges in document WT/MIN(22)/W/3. The representatives of Senegal; Jamaica (ACP); the European Union; Argentina; Uruguay; Cameroon (African Group); Norway; Tajikistan; Guatemala; the Philippines; Viet Nam; Malaysia; and Nigeria spoke. The Chair said that Members should be in a position to submit this proposal for adoption to the Ministerial Conference, pending the confirmation of two delegations, which he invited to contact him as soon as possible, and noted that he would report to Ministers accordingly at the Opening Session. The General Council took note of the statements.³⁵

10.6. The representative of Brazil presented its communication in document JOB/GC/310 which contained an MC12 proposal on the frequency of Ministerial Conferences. The representatives of Nigeria; South Africa; the United States; the European Union; and Kazakhstan spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The Chair noted that further discussion on this proposal was needed. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.7. The representatives of Bangladesh (Focal Point for LDC Graduation) and Chad (LDCs) updated Members on the LDC proposals related to "a smooth transition package in favour of Members graduating from the LDC category" including document WT/GC/W/829. The representatives of Senegal; the United States; China; and the European Union spoke. The Chair noted that work was still continuing on this issue and that Members were ready to continue this discussion in a constructive and cooperative spirit. The General Council took note of the statements.³⁶

10.8. The representative of Indonesia, on behalf of co-sponsors, introduced their submission in WT/MIN(22)/W/4 on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes. The representatives of Jamaica; Egypt; Cameroon; China; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; South Africa; Australia; and India spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The Chair noted that this was an issue that required further work and further discussion among Members. The General Council took note of the statements. The representative of Brazil introduced its submission in WT/MIN(22)/W/5 on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes. The representatives of Uruguay; the United States; Mexico; Paraguay; the United Kingdom; and Argentina spoke. The Chair noted that work still needed to be done to achieve convergence on that important issue and that the discussion would continue. The General Council took note of the statements. The representative of Sri Lanka introduced its proposal regarding a Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the Food Security Crisis in WT/GC/W/848. The representatives of Pakistan and India spoke. The General Council took note of the statements. The representatives of Brazil; Sri Lanka; and Uruguay again intervened on this proposal as well as those on public stockholding for food security purposes. The Director-General and the Chair of the CoA SS then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.9. The representative of Switzerland, on behalf of co-sponsors, made a statement on the e-commerce work programme and moratorium and referred to their submission subsequently circulated in WT/MIN(22)/W/10. The representative of India referred to the Chair's statement noting that its proposal subsequently circulated in WT/MIN(22)/W/9 was also in consideration. The Chair noted that both drafts would be put forward to the Ministerial Conference. The representatives of the European Union; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the United Kingdom; South Africa; and Barbados (CARICOM) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.³⁷

³⁵ See also Paragraphs 17.1 and 17.2 concerning the "Proposed Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges".

³⁶ See also Paragraphs 14.1 to 14.4 concerning the "Trade Related Challenges of the Least-Developed Countries and Way Forward – Communications and Request from the LDC Group".

³⁷ The Chair reported on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce in February and May under the agenda item "Implementation of the Bali, Nairobi and Buenos Aires Outcomes – Statement by the Chairperson" and in July and October under the agenda item "Implementation Matters from MC12". These reports can also be found in documents JOB/GC/295, JOB/GC/302, JOB/GC/316, and JOB/GC/320. At the December meeting, the Facilitator reported on this matter under the agenda sub-item "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce – Statement by the Facilitator". Her report can also be found in document JOB/GC/330. See also Paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4.

11 ACCESSION MATTERS

11.1 2021 Annual Report by the Director-General (WT/GC/M/196)

11.1. At the February meeting, the Director-General presented the 2021 Annual Report on WTO Accessions (WT/ACC/40 – WT/GC/243) and reported the sustained level of accession activities in 2021 as well as the focused on acceding LDCs and the underlying challenges they faced. The representative of the Russian Federation spoke. The General Council took note of the Annual Report on Accessions and of the statements.³⁸

11.2 Turkmenistan (WT/GC/M/196)

11.2. At the February meeting, the General Council agreed to establish the Working Party to examine the request for accession of Turkmenistan in document WT/ACC/TKM/1, with standard terms of reference and composition as the Chair read out in the meeting. The representative of Turkmenistan (Observer) addressed the General Council. The Director-General and the representatives of Kazakhstan; Türkiye; the United States; Panama (Article XII Members); Mongolia (LLDCs); China; the Russian Federation; the Republic of Korea; India; Morocco; Japan; Tajikistan; the European Union; Cameroon (African Group); Kyrgyz Republic; Chad (LDCs); the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Arab Group); Singapore; Jamaica (ACP); Cambodia; and Uzbekistan (Observer – Informal Group of Acceding Governments) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

12 WAIVERS

12.1 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/202)

12.1. At the December meeting, the General Council considered five draft waiver decisions, contained in G/C/W/815, G/C/W/816, G/C/W/817, G/C/W/818 and G/C/W/820 which concerned the Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions, respectively. The Chair of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of this matter by that Council. The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the five draft Decisions which were subsequently circulated in WT/L/1160, WT/L/1161, WT/L/1162, WT/L/1163, WT/L/1164 and WT/L/1164/Add.1.

12.2 Review of Waivers Pursuant to Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement (WT/GC/M/200 and WT/GC/M/202)

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

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

- a. Least-Developed Country Members – Obligations under Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to Pharmaceutical Products, granted on 30 November 2015 until 1 January 2033 (WT/L/971)
- b. Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, granted on 26 July 2018 through 31 December 2024 (WT/L/1039)
- c. Canada – CARIBCAN, granted on 28 July 2015 until 31 December 2023 (WT/L/958, WT/L/1146)
- d. European Union – Application of autonomous preferential treatment to the Western Balkans – granted on 28 July 2021 until 31 December 2026 (WT/LL/1114, WT/L/1147)

³⁸ See Paragraph 11.2 for the list of other delegations who intervened on the two accession-related items.

12.4. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the waiver in documents WT/L/1146 and WT/L/1147. The representatives Canada; Barbados; and Bahamas (CARICOM – Observer) spoke. The General Council took note of the reports contained in documents WT/L/1146 and WT/L/1147, and of the statements.

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

- a. Preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of least developed countries, granted on 17 December 2011 until 31 December 2030 (WT/L/847, WT/L/982)
- b. Preferential tariff treatment for least developed countries, granted on 16 October 2019 until 30 June 2029 (WT/L/1069)
- c. Cuba – Article XV:6 – Extension of waiver, granted on 23 November 2021 until 31 December 2026 (WT/L/1128, WT/L/1157)
- d. United States – African Growth and Opportunity Act, granted on 30 November 2015 until 30 September 2025 (WT/L/970, WT/L/1153)
- e. United States – Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, granted on 16 October 2019 until 30 September 2025 (WT/L/1070, WT/L/1154)
- f. United States – Former trust territory of the Pacific Islands, granted on 7 December 2016 until 31 December 2026 (WT/L/1000, WT/L/1155)
- g. United States – Trade preferences granted to Nepal, granted on 7 December 2016 until 31 December 2025 (WT/L/1001, WT/L/1156)

12.6. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the waiver in documents WT/L/1153, WT/L/1154, WT/L/1155, WT/L/1156 and WT/L/1157. The representatives of Cuba; Jamaica; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS and CARICOM) and Mauritius spoke. The General Council took note of the reports contained in documents WT/L/1153, WT/L/1154, WT/L/1155, WT/L/1156 and WT/L/1157, and of the statements.

13 DERESTRICTION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATING MATERIALS – DRAFT DECISION (WT/GC/M/202)

13.1. At the December meeting, the Chair drew the Council's attention to the Draft Decision on the Derestriiction of the Uruguay Round Negotiating Materials contained in document G/C/W/822. He said that the decision was forwarded to the General Council by the Council for Trade in Goods and proposed that the General Council adopt the draft. The General Council so agreed.³⁹

14 TRADE RELATED CHALLENGES OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND WAY FORWARD – COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUEST FROM THE LDC GROUP (WT/GC/M/196; WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; WT/GC/M/201; AND WT/GC/M/202)⁴⁰

14.1. At the February meeting, the representative of Chad (LDCs) presented the LDC Group's communications in documents WT/GC/W/806, WT/GC/W/807, and WT/GC/W/829. The representatives of Angola; Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation); Nepal; Jamaica (ACP); Vanuatu (Pacific Group); the United States; Cambodia; China; South Africa; the Philippines; the European Union; Nigeria; Japan; Cameroon (African Group); the Republic of Korea and India spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. Chad (LDCs) intervened again. The Chair then made a statement. The General Council took note of the statements.

³⁹ The decision was subsequently circulated in WT/L/1159.

⁴⁰ See also Paragraph 10.7 concerning the "Review of Members Proposals for MC12" that took place at the Special General Council Meeting on 7 June (WT/GC/M/199).

14.2. At the May meeting, the representatives of Chad (LDCs) and Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) updated Members on the communications in documents WT/GC/W/806, WT/GC/W/807 and WT/GC/W/829. The representatives of China; Cambodia; Cameroon (African Group); Senegal; Nepal; Tanzania; the United States; Angola; the European Union; Jamaica (ACP); Togo; the Republic of Korea; Nigeria; South Africa; India; Vanuatu; Japan; the United Kingdom; Canada; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia spoke. Chad (LDCs) and Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) again intervened. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.3. At the July meeting, the representatives of Djibouti (LDCs) and Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) updated Members on the communications in documents WT/GC/W/806, WT/GC/W/807 and WT/GC/W/829. The representatives of Angola; Kenya (ACP); Cambodia; Nepal; South Africa; Senegal; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); Nigeria; the United Kingdom; Norway; the European Union; the United States; India; Pakistan; Indonesia; China; Australia; Japan; Brazil; Botswana; and Egypt spoke. Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) again intervened. The Director-General and the Chair then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.⁴¹

14.4. At the October meeting, the representatives of Djibouti (LDCs) and Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) presented the LDC Group's revised proposal in document WT/GC/W/807/Rev.1. The representatives of Angola; Pakistan; Cambodia; Nepal; Cameroon (African Group); Norway; the United Kingdom; Nigeria; the United States; the European Union; Kenya (ACP); India; Switzerland; South Africa; Singapore; New Zealand; Japan; China; the Republic of Korea; Cabo Verde; Indonesia; Brazil; Australia; and Canada spoke. The Director-General and the Chair then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

14.5. At the December meeting, the representatives of Djibouti (LDCs) and Bangladesh (LDC Focal Point on Graduation) presented the LDC Group's revised proposal in document WT/GC/W/807/Rev.2. The representatives of Zambia; Cameroon (African Group); Kenya (ACP); Tunisia; Senegal; Lao PDR; the European Union; Nepal; Cambodia; Tanzania; Nigeria; South Africa; Mauritius; the United States; Switzerland; Norway; Brazil; the United Kingdom; Australia; Chad; China; Japan; the Russian Federation; Samoa (Pacific Group); Jamaica; the Republic of Korea; Singapore and India spoke. Djibouti (LDCs) again intervened. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

15 IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM IN PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL MC12 – COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BRAZIL; BRUNEI DARUSSALAM; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; DOMINICA; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; ECUADOR; EL SALVADOR; EUROPEAN UNION; GUATEMALA; HONDURAS; HONG KONG, CHINA; ICELAND; ISRAEL; JAPAN; KAZAKHSTAN; KENYA; REPUBLIC OF KOREA; LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC; LIECHTENSTEIN; MEXICO; REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA; MONGOLIA; MONTENEGRO; MOROCCO; NEW ZEALAND; NORWAY; PANAMA; PERU; PHILIPPINES; QATAR; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND; THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU; THAILAND; TÜRKİYE; UKRAINE; UNITED KINGDOM; URUGUAY AND VANUATU (WT/GC/M/196)

15.1. At the February meeting, the representative of Vanuatu, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented their communication in document WT/GC/W/841/Rev.1.⁴² The representatives of the Dominican Republic; Ukraine; Uruguay; Costa Rica; Brazil; Mexico; Australia; Canada; Guatemala; the United Kingdom; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Brunei Darussalam; Mongolia; Peru; Japan; the Russian Federation; Nigeria; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Colombia; India; the Philippines; Paraguay; Kenya; New Zealand; Sierra Leone; Türkiye; South Africa; Singapore; the Republic of Korea and China spoke. Vanuatu again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

⁴¹ Canada subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/200.

⁴² Further revisions of this document can be found in WT/GC/W/841/Rev.2, WT/GC/W/841/Rev.3 and WT/GC/W/841/Rev.4.

16 INTRODUCTION OF A PAPER ON "LEGAL STATUS OF JOINT STATEMENT INITIATIVES AND THEIR NEGOTIATED OUTCOMES" – REQUEST FROM INDIA; SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA (WT/GC/M/196 AND WT/GC/M/198)

16.1. At the February meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of co-sponsors, presented their communication in document WT/GC/W/819/Rev.1. The representatives of Bangladesh; South Africa; Nepal; the Republic of Korea; Japan; the European Union; Namibia; the Philippines; Indonesia; Australia; Chile; Chinese Taipei; Malaysia; Nigeria; Costa Rica; Norway; Singapore; the United Kingdom; the United States and Paraguay spoke. India again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

16.2. At the May meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented their communication in document WT/GC/W/819/Rev.1. The representatives of Nepal; Costa Rica; Bangladesh; Nigeria; Namibia; the Russian Federation; Malaysia; Pakistan; South Africa; Egypt; Guatemala; and Brazil spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

17 PROPOSED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY DECLARATION FOR THE TWELFTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: RESPONDING TO MODERN SPS CHALLENGES – THE AFRICAN GROUP; ACP GROUP; ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BELIZE; BRAZIL; BURKINA FASO; CABO VERDE; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; CÔTE D'IVOIRE; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; ECUADOR; EL SALVADOR; THE GAMBIA; GUATEMALA; HONDURAS; JAPAN; MALAYSIA; MEXICO; MONGOLIA; NEW ZEALAND; PANAMA; PARAGUAY; PERU; SENEGAL; SINGAPORE; TAJIKISTAN; TOGO; UKRAINE; THE UNITED STATES; URUGUAY; AND VIET NAM (WT/GC/M/196 AND WT/GC/M/198)⁴³

17.1. At the February meeting, the representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the co-sponsors, updated Members on their proposal in document WT/GC/W/835/Rev.1 – G/SPS/GEN/1758/Rev.10. The representatives of the European Union; Mauritius; Mongolia; Jamaica (ACP); Nigeria; Cameroon (African Group); the United States and the Russian Federation spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.⁴⁴

17.2. At the May meeting, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of the co-sponsors, updated Members on their proposal in document WT/GC/W/835/Rev.2 – G/SPS/GEN/1758/Rev.11. The representatives of Morocco; Malaysia; Mauritius; Tajikistan; Côte d'Ivoire; China; Colombia; the European Union; the Russian Federation; Jamaica (ACP); Cameroon (African Group); Norway; Egypt; Guatemala; Bangladesh; and the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.⁴⁵

18 STRENGTHENING THE WTO TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVITY – COMMUNICATION FROM THE AFRICAN GROUP; CUBA AND INDIA (WT/GC/M/196 AND WT/GC/M/200)

18.1. At the February meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented the revised joint submission in document WT/GC/W/778/Rev.4. The representatives of South Africa; Cameroon (African Group); the United States; Cuba; Jamaica (ACP); China; Canada; Australia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

18.2. At the July meeting, the representative of Cameroon (African Group), on behalf of the co-sponsors made a statement on the revised joint submission in document WT/GC/W/778/Rev.5. The representatives of South Africa; Pakistan; New Zealand; Nepal; Bangladesh; India; Cuba; China; the European Union; Indonesia; Egypt; the United Kingdom; and the Plurinational State of Bolivia spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.⁴⁶

⁴³ See also Paragraph 10.5 concerning the "Review of Members' proposals" that took place at the Special General Council meeting held on 7 June 2022 (WT/GC/M/199).

⁴⁴ Colombia and India subsequently provided their statements which can be found in WT/GC/M/196.

⁴⁵ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS) subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/198.

⁴⁶ Botswana and Canada subsequently provided their statements which can be found in WT/GC/M/200.

19 JOINT STATEMENT ON OPEN AND PREDICTABLE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM (WT/GC/M/198)

19.1. At the May meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented a joint statement in document WT/GC/248. The representatives of Ukraine; Norway; Nigeria; Japan; Ecuador; Mexico; Iceland; New Zealand; Uruguay; Guatemala; Canada; Switzerland; China; the United States; Brazil; Cameroon (African Group); Chinese Taipei; the European Union; Barbados (CARICOM); the Republic of Korea; Singapore; Colombia; Jamaica (ACP); Paraguay; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); South Africa; Mauritius; Costa Rica; Tanzania; Peru; India; Egypt; the Russian Federation; Georgia; Indonesia; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Arab Group); and Australia spoke. The United Kingdom again intervened. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.

20 PROPOSED GENERAL COUNCIL DECISION ON PROCEDURES TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WTO AGREEMENTS – ALBANIA; ARGENTINA; AUSTRALIA; BRAZIL; CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; THE EUROPEAN UNION; ICELAND; ISRAEL; JAPAN; REPUBLIC OF KOREA; LIECHTENSTEIN; MEXICO; REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA; MONTENEGRO; NEW ZEALAND; NORTH MACEDONIA; NORWAY; PARAGUAY; PERU; THE PHILIPPINES; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND; THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU; THAILAND; UNITED KINGDOM; THE UNITED STATES; AND URUGUAY (WT/GC/M/198 AND WT/GC/M/200)

20.1. At the May meeting, the representative of the United States, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented their communication in document JOB/GC/204/Rev.9 – JOB/CTG/14/Rev.9. The representatives of the Republic of Korea; Japan; the European Union; Uruguay; Barbados (CARICOM); Iceland; Colombia; Chinese Taipei; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (OECS); Guatemala; the Philippines; Thailand; Peru; South Africa; Jamaica (ACP); Switzerland; Mexico; Singapore; Montenegro; Viet Nam; Brunei Darussalam; Pakistan; Brazil; Bangladesh; India; Indonesia; the Republic of Moldova; Vanuatu; and Morocco spoke. The United States again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

20.2. At the July meeting, the representative of the United States, on behalf of the co-sponsors, presented the revised communication in document JOB/GC/204/Rev.11 – JOB/CTG/14/Rev.11. The representatives of China; Ukraine; Cameroon (African Group); Barbados (CARICOM); Sri Lanka; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Brunei Darussalam; Vanuatu (Pacific Group); South Africa; Nigeria; Nicaragua; India; Bangladesh; Chile; Indonesia; Brazil; Switzerland; Kenya; Uruguay; the European Union; the Republic of Korea; Australia; Japan; Egypt; the United Kingdom; Canada; the Philippines; Singapore; Peru; and Mexico spoke. The United States again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.⁴⁷

21 TRADE-DISRUPTIVE PRACTICES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WTO – COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (WT/GC/M/198)

21.1. At the May meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation presented its communication in document WT/GC/245. The representatives of the European Union; Canada; Australia; New Zealand; Norway; the United Kingdom; Iceland; Switzerland; Japan; Chinese Taipei; the United States; the Republic of Korea; Ukraine; Cuba; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and Belarus (Observer) spoke. The Russian Federation again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

22 LDC VIEWS ON WTO REFORM DISCUSSIONS AND PROPOSALS – COMMUNICATION FROM CHAD ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP (WT/GC/M/198)

22.1. At the May meeting, the representatives of Chad (LDCs) and Cambodia (LDC Focal Point on WTO Reform), on behalf of the LDC Group, presented their revised communication in document JOB/GC/223/Rev.1. The representatives of Bangladesh; Nepal; Jamaica (ACP); the European Union; Chile; China; New Zealand; India; Canada; Norway; the United Kingdom; Brazil; Indonesia;

⁴⁷ Djibouti (LDCs) subsequently provided its statement which can be found in WT/GC/M/200.

South Africa; Japan; Nigeria; the Republic of Korea; Thailand; Singapore; and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia spoke. Chad (LDCs) again intervened. The General Council took note of the statements.

23 COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

23.1 Reports and Recommendations (WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; WT/GC/M/201 and WT/GC/M/202)

23.1. At the May meeting, the CBFA Chair introduced the CBFA report in document WT/BFA/202 including the Committee's recommendation. The General Council approved the Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 7.10 of the report contained in WT/BFA/202, took note of the statement by the CBFA Chair and adopted the CBFA report.

23.2. At the July meeting, the CBFA Chair introduced the CBFA reports in documents WT/BFA/203 and WT/BFA/204. The Director-General took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements by the CBFA Chair and of the Director-General and adopted the two CBFA reports.

23.3. At the October meeting, the CBFA Chair introduced the CBFA report in document WT/BFA/205. The General Council took note of the statement by the CBFA Chair and adopted the CBFA report.

23.4. At the December meeting, the CBFA Chair introduced the CBFA reports in documents WT/BFA/206, WT/BFA/207, WT/BFA/208 and WT/BFA/209. The representatives of India; Singapore; the European Union; Switzerland; Japan; Cameroon (African Group); the United Kingdom; the Republic of Korea; Nigeria; China and Türkiye spoke. India again intervened⁴⁸. Canada spoke. The Director-General then took the floor⁴⁹. The General Council approved the Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the report contained in WT/BFA/206, paragraph 3.3. of the report contained in WT/BFA/208, and paragraph 5.8 of the report contained in WT/BFA/209. The recommendation contained in paragraph 4.101 of the report contained in WT/BFA/209 was not adopted. The General Council took note of the statement by the CBFA Chair and of the other statements and adopted the reports in WT/BFA/206, WT/BFA/207, WT/BFA/208 and WT/BFA/209.

24 WTO PENSION PLAN

24.1 Election of Members and Alternate (WT/GC/M/198 and WT/GC/M/200)

24.1. At the May meeting, the General Council elected Mrs. Wendy Teresa Goico Campagna (Dominican Republic), to serve as Member, and Mrs. Brigitte Lueth (Austria), to serve as Alternate on the Board for the remainder of the term, i.e., until July 2023.

24.2. At the July meeting, the General Council elected Mr. Leong Darryl (Singapore) to serve as member on the Board for the remainder of the term, i.e., until July 2023.

24.2 Reports (WT/GC/M/201)

24.3. At the October meeting, the Chair of the WTOPP Management Board presented to the General Council the 2021 Annual Report of the World Trade Organization Pension Plan and the 2021 Report of the Independent External Auditor which could be found in documents WT/L/1150 and WT/L/1149, respectively. The representative of the United States spoke. The Chair then took the floor. The General Council took note of the reports, of the WTOPP Management Board Chair's statement and of the other statements.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES FOR MEMBERS IN ARREARS (WT/GC/M/196; WT/GC/M/198; WT/GC/M/200; AND WT/GC/M/201)

25.1. In October 2012, the General Council approved a recommendation from the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration regarding revised Administrative Measures for Members in arrears, as contained in WT/BFA/132, Annex I. These new revised Measures entered into force on

⁴⁸ See also JOB/GC/327 – JOB/BFA/73.

⁴⁹ See also JOB/GC/328- JOB/BFA/74.

1 January 2013. These Measures required that at the end of each meeting of the General Council, the Chair of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration should provide information with regard to which Members and Observers were under Administrative Measures; and, the General Council Chair would request Members and Observers in Categories II and III to inform the Secretariat as to when the payment of arrears might be expected.

25.2. At the General Council meetings in February, May, July, October and December⁵⁰, the Chair of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures and the Chair requested Members and Observers in Categories II and III to inform the Secretariat as to when the payment of arrears might be expected. The representative of Cuba spoke at the July meeting. The General Council took note of the statements.

26 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO – REPORT OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON ITS 55TH AND 56TH SESSIONS (WT/GC/M/198 AND WT/GC/M/202)

26.1. At the May meeting, the General Council considered a report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its Fifty-Fifth Session (ITC/AG(LV)/284), which had been considered initially by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting on 25 March where it had been presented by the Chair of the Joint Advisory Group, Ambassador Paul Bekkers (Netherlands). The CTD Chair made a statement on the Committee's consideration of the report. The representatives of Guatemala (SVEs); Tajikistan; the Republic of Korea; Chile; Ukraine; Cameroon (African Group); Nigeria; Tanzania; Chad (LDCs); the Russian Federation; the Gambia; and the International Trade Centre (Observer) spoke. The Director-General then took the floor. The General Council took note of the CTD Chair's statement and of the other statements and adopted the report of the Joint Advisory Group.

26.2. At the December meeting, the General Council considered a report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its Fifty-Sixth Session (ITC/AG(LVI)/288), which had been considered initially by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting on 17 November where it had been presented by the Chair of the Joint Advisory Group, Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady (Mauritius). The CTD Chair made a statement on the Committee's consideration of the report. The representatives of the United Kingdom; Barbados; the European Union; the United States; Antigua and Barbuda (OECS); Kenya (ACP); Jamaica; Mauritius and the International Trade Centre (Observer) spoke. The General Council took note of the CTD Chair's statement and of the other statements and adopted the report of the Joint Advisory Group.

27 REVIEW OF WTO ACTIVITIES (WT/GC/M/202)

27.1. At the December meeting, the General Council considered Annual Reports for 2022 from WTO bodies that had been drawn up in pursuance of the Decision concerning procedures for an annual overview of WTO activities and for reporting under the WTO in document WT/L/105.

27.2. The General Council took note of the Chair's statement, adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development in document WT/COMTD/102 and took note of the reports of other WTO bodies, including the reports of the bodies under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, in documents WT/DSB/84, WT/TPR/488, G/L/1463, S/C/62, IP/C/93, G/L/1468, WT/CTE/29, WT/BOP/R/120, WT/BFA/210, WT/REG/33, WT/WGTDF/21, WT/WGTTT/24, GPA/AR/5, and WT/L/1158 – TCA/20. The General Council also adopted the draft Annual Report for 2022 of the General Council (WT/GC/W/856), on the understanding that the Secretariat would make the necessary adjustments to include matters considered at that meeting.

28 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO WTO BODIES (WT/GC/M/196 AND WT/GC/M/200)

28.1. At the February meeting, the Chair recalled in accordance with the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies approved by the General Council in 2002 (WT/L/510), and the related practical steps to improve their implementation (JOB/GC/22), he, together with the Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, Ambassador Didier Chambovey (Switzerland), had conducted

⁵⁰ This item was taken up under "Other Business" at the March, May, July, October and December meetings. See also JOB/GC/331 and JOB/GC/322.

consultations on a slate of names for the appointment of Chairpersons to WTO regular bodies listed in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the Annex to the Guidelines. Responding to the call by Members to begin the process early, allow sufficient time for consultations and ensure transparency at all stages, they had begun the process in early December 2021, and consultations had continued over a period of approximately five weeks. In line with the practical steps, they had consulted regularly with the coordinators of the four broad regional groups, namely: (i) Africa, (ii) Asia and the Pacific; (iii) developed countries, and (iv) Latin America and the Caribbean – and had remained available throughout for any individual delegation wishing to consult with them. In particular, they had met with group coordinators five times since on 9 and 15 December, and 13, 24 and 25 January. He had also reported on the process at the Special Session of the General Council on 15 December and at the Informal Meeting of the General Council on 25 January and had sent three communications to Members on this matter on 17 December, 25 January, and 16 February.

28.2. The full slate of names for the WTO regular bodies in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 resulting from the consultations read as followed:

General Council	H.E. Mr. Didier Chambovey (Switzerland)
Dispute Settlement Body	H.E. Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme (Botswana)
Trade Policy Review Body	H.E. Mr. Angel Villalobos (México)
Council for Trade in Goods	H.E. Mr. Etienne Oudot De Dainville (France)
Council for Trade in Services	H.E. Kemvichet Long (Cambodia)
Council for TRIPS	H.E. Dr. Lansana Gberie (Sierra Leone)
Committee on Trade and Development	H.E. Mrs. Usha Dwarka-Canabady (Mauritius)
Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions	H.E. Mr. Saqer Abdullah Almoqbel (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	H.E. Dr. Bettina Waldmann (Germany)
Committee on Trade and Environment	H.E. Mr. Simon Manley (United Kingdom)
Committee on Regional Trade Agreements	H.E. Mr. Taeho Lee (Republic of Korea)
Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	H.E. Mr. Donatas Tamulaitis (Lithuania)
Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology	H.E. Mr. Luis Chuquihuara Chil (Perú)

28.3. The General Council took note of the Chair's statement and of the consensus on the slate of names for the appointment of officers in the WTO bodies. The Chairs of the CTG and CTS then made statements on the consultations on the Chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies of the two Councils in accordance with the relevant guidelines. The representatives of Botswana; Cameroon (African Group); Kazakhstan; Jamaica (ACP); India; Thailand; Panama (GRULAC and Article XII Members); Mauritius; Chad (LDCs); Nigeria; the Philippines; Türkiye; China; the Dominican Republic; Chile; Indonesia; Guatemala; Chinese Taipei; Nepal; South Africa; Japan;

Sierra Leone; Honduras; Bangladesh; Hong Kong, China; Sri Lanka; Singapore; Malaysia and Colombia spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

28.4. At the July meeting⁵¹, the Chair made a statement on the process to appoint a Chair of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. The Director-General, as TNC Chair, took the floor. The General Council took note of the statements.⁵²

28.5. At the December meeting, the Chair said that in accordance with the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers to WTO bodies in document WT/L/510 and the practical steps to improve the implementation of the Guidelines (JOB/GC/22), he would be starting the selection process for the appointment of chairpersons to the WTO bodies in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Annex to the Guidelines. In accordance with paragraph 7.1(b) of the Guidelines, he would be assisted in the selection process by the serving Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, Ambassador Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme (Botswana) and Former Chair of the General Council, Ambassador Dacio Castillo (Honduras). He also reported that Ambassador Molokomme, Ambassador Castillo and himself had already met with group coordinators on 12 December where some expressions of interest pursuant to the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers were received. The General Council took note of the statement by the Chair.

29 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (WT/GC/M/190)

29.1. At the February meeting, the Chair, H.E. Mr. Dacio Castillo (Honduras), as the outgoing presiding officer of the General Council, made a statement. The General Council then unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Didier Chambovey (Switzerland) to the Chair.

29.2. The Director-General and the newly elected Chair spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.⁵³

⁵¹ This item was taken up under "Other Business".

⁵² At the October meeting, the Chair provided a brief update on the process of appointment of a new Chair for the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session, as well as for the Negotiating Group on Rules and the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session under the agenda item on the "Report by the Chair of the Trade Negotiations Committee and Report by the Director-General. See Paragraph 1.5, Footnote 10 and JOB/GC/318.

⁵³ See Paragraph 28.3 for the list of delegations who took the floor to pay tribute to the outgoing Chair of the General Council.