

Trade Policy Review Body

**REPORT OF THE TPRB FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON
TRADE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-MAY 2020)

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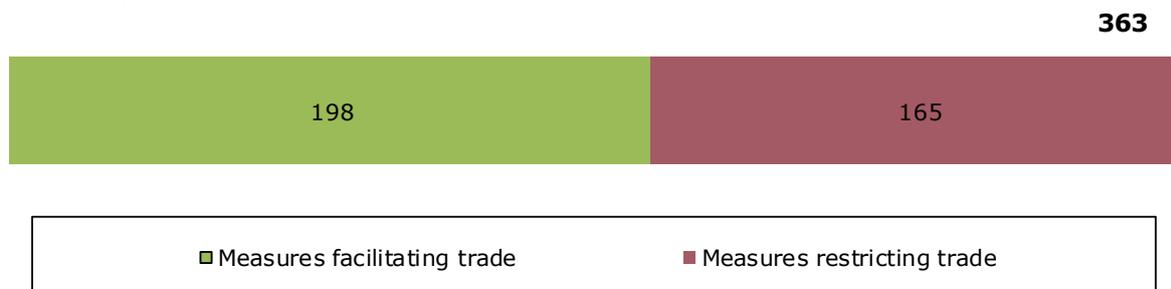
KEY FINDINGS

- This Report covers new trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members between 16 October 2019 and 15 May 2020. This period included the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already delivered an almost unprecedented shock to the global economy and caused significant social disruption. Although the full impact of the pandemic is not yet reflected fully in trade statistics, it is expected to be very substantial.
- In its trade forecast of 8 April 2020, the WTO considered two scenarios for the crisis, one relatively optimistic and the other more pessimistic. Under the optimistic scenario, the volume of world merchandise trade would fall by 12.9% and world GDP would decline by 2.5%. Under the pessimistic scenario, trade would contract by 31.9% and GDP would shrink by 8.8%. As at mid-June, preliminary trade data and trade-related indicators for the first half of 2020 were more consistent with the optimistic scenario than the pessimistic one, but actual outcomes could easily fall within or even outside of the forecast range, depending on how the crisis unfolds.
- World trade was already slowing before the pandemic struck, weighed down by heightened trade tensions and slowing global economic growth. Merchandise trade was down 0.1% in volume terms in 2019, marking the first decline since 2009. Trade growth also slowed in nominal terms in 2019, as the dollar value of merchandise exports fell by 3% to USD 18.89 trillion. Although commercial services exports increased by 2% to USD 6.03 trillion in 2019, the pace of growth was down sharply from 9% in the previous year.
- Overall, WTO Members and Observers implemented 363 new trade and trade-related measures during the review period, of which 198 were of a trade-facilitating nature and 165 were trade-restrictive. Seventy per cent of these measures (256 in total) were linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these 256 measures, 147 facilitated trade and 109 restricted trade. In the early stages of the pandemic, several of the measures introduced by WTO Members and Observers restricted the free flow of trade, principally for exports. But as at mid-May 2020, 57% of all COVID-19-related measures were trade-facilitating. Around 28% of the COVID-19-specific trade restrictions implemented by WTO Members and Observers had been repealed by mid-May.
- Excluding COVID-19-related measures, WTO Members and Observers implemented 107 trade and trade-related measures during the review period. These included 51 new measures aimed at facilitating trade. The trade coverage of these non-COVID-19-related import-facilitating measures implemented during the review period was estimated at USD 739.4 billion, the second highest figure for such measures since October 2012. WTO Members and Observers also put in place 56 new trade-restrictive measures unrelated to the pandemic. The trade coverage for these new import-restrictive measures was estimated at USD 423.1 billion, the third highest value recorded since October 2012. The trade coverage of import restrictive measures implemented since 2009, and still in force, continues to increase. It is estimated that 8.7% of world imports (USD 1.7 trillion) is affected by import-restrictive measures implemented since 2009 and still in force.
- All WTO issues regularly covered by this Report saw significant activity both before and after the outbreak of the pandemic. During the review period, 239 trade remedy actions were recorded for WTO Members. The monthly average of trade remedy actions initiated was slightly higher than the average for the last eight years, while the monthly average of trade remedy terminations was the lowest over the same time span. During the review period, initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounted for around 80% of all trade remedy initiations, which also includes safeguards and countervailing actions.
- In services, most of the new measures introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020 were trade-facilitating, but a number of new policies appeared to be trade-restrictive, including in areas related to foreign investment and in areas considered strategic or linked to national security. Most of the 99 services measures adopted by WTO Members and Observers in response to the pandemic appeared to be trade-facilitating.

- WTO Members continued to implement general economic support measures as part of their overall trade policy, a fact confirmed by Secretariat analysis despite governments' low response rate with respect to these measures. In addition, WTO Members and Observers also implemented a large number of emergency support measures in response to the economic and social turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the 468 COVID-19-related general economic support measures identified, including monetary, fiscal and financial measures as well as preferential loans, credit guarantees, and stimulus packages, collectively worth several trillion US dollars, appeared to be temporary in nature. These emergency support measures are central to governments' strategies to address the pandemic-induced economic downturn and to prepare the ground for a strong recovery. Regular monitoring of support measures introduced in the context of the pandemic will be important for Members, to be able to track their evolution and effects as the world exits the health crisis and enters a recovery period.
- WTO Members were very active in the SPS and TBT Committees during the review period, and notified a higher volume of SPS and TBT measures compared to the previous period. Most of new notifications were submitted by developing Members. From 1 February to 15 May 2020, 19 Members notified 29 SPS measures taken in response to the pandemic. The nature of most of these measures shifted, from initial restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas and additional certification requirements, to, from April, trade-facilitating measures such as the use of electronic certificates for checks. As at 15 May 2020, 14 WTO Members had submitted 53 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, covering a wide range of products including personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines and food.
- WTO Members continued to extensively use the Committee on Agriculture Review Process, and raised a total of 298 questions in relation to Members' individual notifications and on specific implementation matters. In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, three WTO Members informed the Committee of four temporary measures to respond to food security threats.
- The Report also covers developments in WTO Members in Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Several Members implemented specific IP-related measures aimed at facilitating the development and dissemination of COVID-19-related health technologies, as well as at relaxing procedural requirements and extending deadlines for administrative IP matters.
- Work continued in the first months of 2020 to advance negotiations, particularly on fisheries subsidies, building on the decision taken by Members at MC11. Groups of Members also continued to pursue their discussions on other issues, including electronic commerce, investment facilitation, women's economic empowerment, domestic regulation in services, and, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). However, the delegations' ability to engage in detailed negotiations has been constrained by restrictions on movement and the refocusing of priorities to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trade-facilitating and trade-restrictive measures by WTO Members and Observers, mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020

(By number)



Note: Including COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures, by mid-May 2020

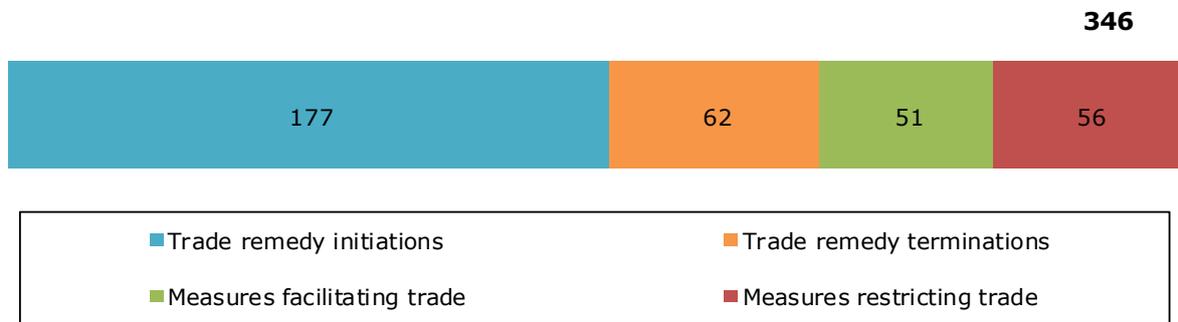
(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade and trade-related measures, mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020

(By number)



Note: COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade coverage of trade and trade-related measures, mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020

(USD billion)

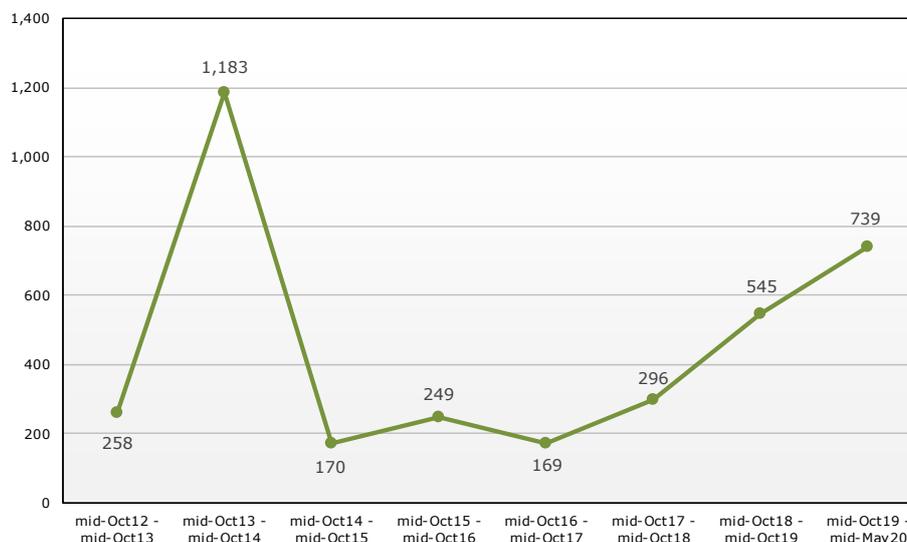


Note: COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade coverage of new import-facilitating measures in each reporting period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)

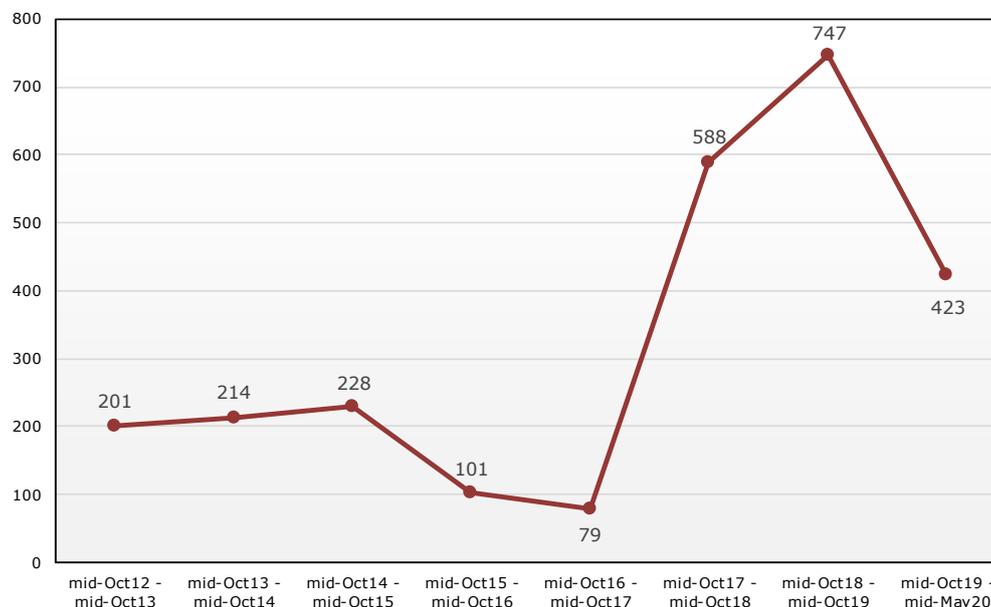


Note: These figures are estimates, and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. Liberalization associated with the 2015 Expansion of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement is not included in the figures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade coverage of new import-restrictive measures in each reporting period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)

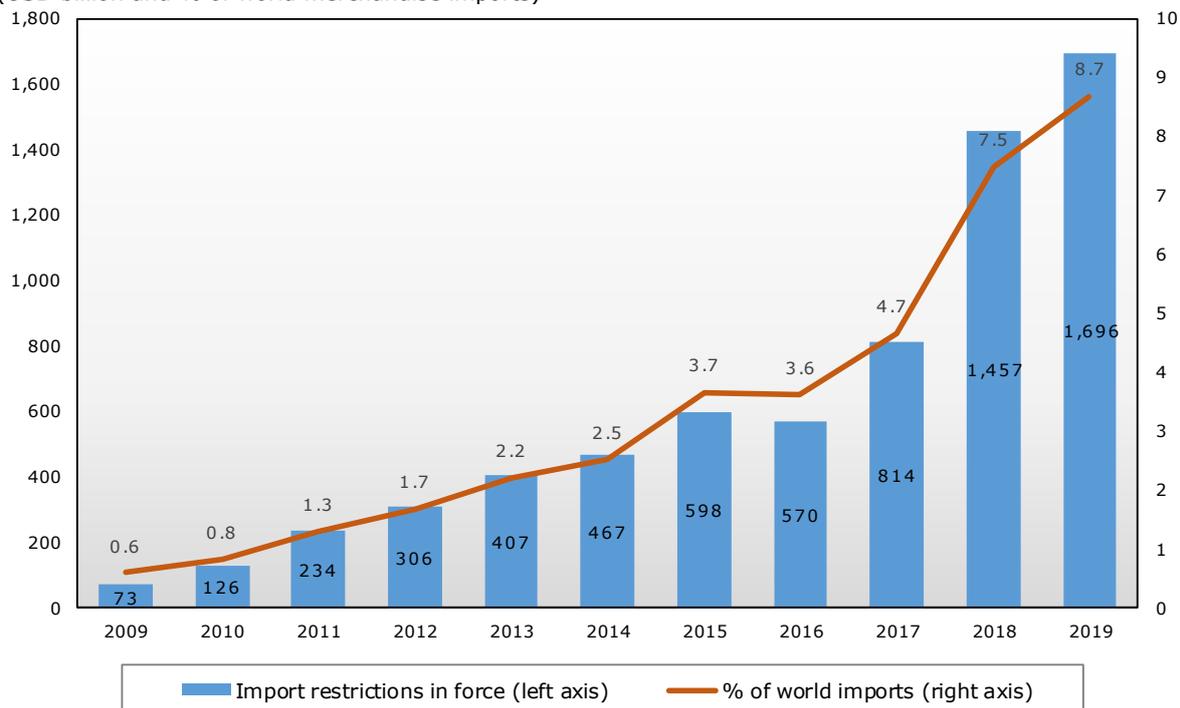


Note: These figures are estimates, and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) introduced during each reporting period, and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Cumulative trade coverage of WTO import-restrictive measures in force since 2009

(USD billion and % of world merchandise imports)



Note: The cumulative trade coverage estimated by the Secretariat is based on information available in the Trade Monitoring Database (TMDB) on import measures recorded since 2009 and considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. The estimates include import measures for which HS codes were available. The figures do not include trade remedy measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. The import values were sourced from the UNSD Comtrade database.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This WTO Trade Monitoring Report covers new trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members between 16 October 2019 and 15 May 2020.¹

This Report was prepared against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which delivered an almost unprecedented shock to the global economy and caused exceptional social disruption around the world.² The full impact of the pandemic is not yet reflected in trade statistics but is expected to be very substantial. In its trade forecast of 8 April 2020, the WTO considered two scenarios for the crisis, one relatively optimistic and the other more pessimistic. Under the optimistic scenario, the volume of world merchandise trade would fall by 12.9% and world GDP would decline by 2.5%. Under the pessimistic scenario, trade would contract by 31.9% and GDP would shrink by 8.8%. Trade is expected to rebound in 2021 under both scenarios, but only the optimistic one would see trade return to its pre-pandemic trend. The forecast only covers merchandise trade, but commercial services trade is also expected to be severely hit as a result of comprehensive travel restrictions and social distancing measures. Preliminary trade data and trade-related indicators for the first half of 2020 are thus far more consistent with the optimistic scenario than the pessimistic one, but actual outcomes could easily fall within or even outside of the forecast range, depending on how the crisis unfolds.

World trade was already slowing before the virus struck, weighed down by heightened trade tensions and slowing global economic growth. Merchandise trade was down 0.1% in volume terms in 2019, marking the first decline since 2009. Trade growth also slowed in nominal terms in 2019, as the dollar value of merchandise exports fell by 3% to USD 18.89 trillion. Although commercial services exports increased by 2% to USD 6.03 trillion in 2019, the pace of growth was down sharply from 9% in the previous year.

This Report shows that, by mid-May 2020, WTO Members had implemented 256 trade and trade-related measures explicitly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of these measures appeared to have come in two clearly identifiable waves. In the early stages of the pandemic, several of the measures introduced by WTO Members and Observers restricted the free flow of trade, principally for exports. However, as at mid-May 2020, 147 (57%) of all measures were of a trade-facilitating nature, and 109 measures (43%) could be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. Export bans accounted for the totality of the pandemic-related export restrictions recorded. In early May, some Members began to phase out export constraints, targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicine, and disinfectant. There is further evidence that a roll-back of other trade and trade-related measures taken in the early stages of the pandemic is also taking place. For instance, around 28% of the COVID-19-specific trade-restrictive measures implemented by WTO Members and Observers had been repealed by mid-May.

WTO Members and Observers also implemented 51 new measures aimed at facilitating trade during the review period, mainly through the elimination or reduction of import tariffs, the elimination of import taxes, the simplification of customs procedures and the reduction of export duties. The trade coverage of the non-COVID-19-related import-facilitating measures implemented during the review period was estimated at USD 739.4 billion, which is significantly higher than that recorded in the previous Report (USD 544.7 billion). This is the second highest trade coverage of import-facilitating measures recorded since October 2012.

This Report also shows that, during the review period, WTO Members and Observers implemented 56 new trade-restrictive measures unrelated to the pandemic, mainly through tariff increases, import bans, export duties and stricter customs procedures for exports. The trade coverage for the new non COVID-19 related import-restrictive measures was estimated at USD 423.1 billion. This represents the third highest value recorded since October 2012.

WTO Secretariat estimates of the stockpile of import restrictions implemented by WTO Members and Observers since 2009, and still in force, suggest that 8.7% of world imports are affected by these restrictions. At the end of 2019, USD 1.7 trillion out of a total USD 19.5 trillion of world imports were

¹ Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant Section.

² A dedicated webpage on the WTO website

(https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm) provides detailed information on COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures and is updated regularly.

estimated to be affected by import restrictions put in place by WTO Members and Observers over the last decade. The stockpile of import restrictions by WTO Members and Observers in force has grown steadily since 2009 – in value terms and as a percentage of world imports – and a significant increase in both took place from 2017 to 2018. This specific jump was largely explained by measures introduced on steel and aluminium, and by tariff increases introduced as part of bilateral trade tensions.

During the review period, 239 trade remedy actions were recorded for WTO Members. The monthly average of trade remedy actions initiated by WTO Members was slightly higher than the average recorded over the last eight years, while the monthly average of trade remedy terminations was the lowest over the same time span. During the review period, initiations of anti-dumping investigations continued to be the most frequent trade remedy action, accounting for around 80% of all trade remedy initiations, including safeguards and countervailing actions. The trade coverage of trade remedy initiations recorded in this Report was estimated at USD 34.7 billion (lower than the USD 46.2 billion recorded in the last Report) and that of terminations at USD 2.9 billion (lower than the USD 24.8 billion recorded in the last Report). As at 15 May 2020, only two Members had notified anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With respect to general economic support measures, only 21% of the WTO Membership shared regular support measures in response to the Director-General's request for information. As a result, the Secretariat has unfortunately again been unable to justify the inclusion of a separate annex on these measures in the Report. From the limited information received, and from the research undertaken by the Secretariat, the current review period confirmed that WTO Members appeared to continue to implement such measures as part of their overall trade policy. Many support measures with potentially important ramifications for trade were not reported by Members for this review period. It is appropriate to draw a line between these longstanding policies and the large number of new emergency support measures that WTO Members have put in place in response to the economic and social turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions at the TPRB meeting in December 2019 reinforced the notion that clearer guidance as to how the Secretariat should cover general economic support measures in the trade monitoring reports was needed. Similar views were expressed at the informal meeting of the General Council on COVID-19 measures on 15 May 2020. The review period saw an unprecedented number of general economic support measures put in place by governments as emergency responses to address the economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures, taken in response to the global health emergency, sought, above all, to support sectors of the economy heavily affected by the crisis, as economies around the world had largely shut down to curb the spread of the virus. Twenty-nine percent of the Membership volunteered COVID-19-related support measures to the Secretariat. Most of the 468 COVID-19-related general economic support measures identified, appeared to be of a temporary nature. These measures included grants, monetary measures, fiscal measures, financial measures, measures specifically targeting SMEs, loans, credit guarantees, and stimulus packages. Several measures were one-off grants, while others included disbursements staggered over a few months up to three years. Some of these measures form part of emergency rescue programmes worth several trillion US dollars.

A range of other subjects are also covered by this Report. During the review period, in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committees, WTO Members notified, a higher volume of measures compared to the previous period. Most of the new notifications were submitted by developing Members. The SPS and TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced predictability and transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives. As in previous reports, the majority of regular SPS notifications related to food safety, whereas the bulk of emergency SPS measures related to animal health. The majority of TBT measures indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective. From 1 February to 15 May 2020, 19 Members notified 29 SPS measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although, initially, these measures mainly related to restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas and increased certification requirements since the beginning of April, most of the COVID-19-related SPS notifications and communications related to measures taken to facilitate trade by allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic versions of veterinary and/or phytosanitary certificates, since the COVID-19 situation had made the transmission of original paper certificates problematic. As at 15 May 2020, 14 WTO Members also submitted 53 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, covering a wide range of products including personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines and food. In both the SPS and TBT Committees,

WTO Members have dedicated considerable time to discussing specific trade concerns (STCs), suggesting an increasing use of the Committees as forums in which trade concerns may be resolved non-litigiously. None of the STCs discussed directly referred to measures taken in response to the pandemic.

In the area of agriculture, WTO Members continued to extensively use the Committee on Agriculture Review Process and raised a total of 298 questions in relation to Members' individual notifications and on specific implementation matters (SIMs). Questions on SIMs followed the same upward trend as previous years, making 2019 the year with the highest number of questions raised since the Committee's inception. Most SIMs targeted domestic support policies including those put in place in response to the potential impact of bilateral trade deals and/or increased tariffs implemented by third parties. In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, four notifications by three WTO Members regarding export restrictions and prohibitions related to food security threats were submitted to the Committee on Agriculture (CoA). These measures, of a temporary nature, covered staple foods (i.e., eggs, pasta, wheat, wheat flour, rice and sugar) and feed. On 22 April 2020, a group of 23 WTO Members who collectively account for 63% and 55% of global exports and imports of agriculture and agro-food products, respectively, issued a joint statement pledging their support to open and predictable agri-food trade while responding to the pandemic.

The Report also outlines the numerous trade issues and concerns raised by WTO Members in the various WTO bodies between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020. Several of these trade concerns raised during the review period had already been raised in previous periods, indicating persistent and unresolved issues. Some trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body, suggesting that these concerns involve cross-cutting and technically complex issues and that WTO Members are continuing to use multiple platforms to address various aspects of such concerns.

Work on the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement advanced. Many Members concluded their domestic ratification processes, raising the total number of acceptances to about 92% of the entire WTO Membership.

On trade in services, most of the new measures introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020 were trade-facilitating. However, a significant number of new policies appeared to be trade-restrictive. A large proportion of the measures adopted during the review period related to telecommunication services, electronic commerce, and services supplied online, including different types of tax measures. As in the previous Report, various governments introduced new measures in relation to foreign investment in areas considered strategic or linked to national security. Up to mid-May 2020, most of the 99 measures affecting trade in services were adopted by WTO Members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and appeared to be trade-facilitating. The pandemic has had a strong overall impact on services sectors and services trade, and governments adopted a wide array of measures related to specific services' sectors and modes of supply in response to the crisis, including those to alleviate the impact of social distancing measures adopted for public health reasons.

The Report also draws attention to developments in Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) as, during the review period WTO Members continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks. Several Members implemented specific IP measures aimed at facilitating the development and dissemination of COVID-19-related health technologies, as well as at relaxing procedural requirements and extending deadlines for administrative IP matters. Those government measures were complemented by voluntary action by IP right holders, in particular the sharing of IPRs, in order to support research and development and equal access to relevant health technologies.

Work continued in the first months of 2020 to advance negotiations, particularly on fisheries subsidies, building on the decision taken by Members at MC11. Groups of Members also continued to pursue their discussions on other issues, including electronic commerce, investment facilitation, women's economic empowerment, domestic regulation in services, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. However, delegations' ability to engage in detailed negotiations was constrained by restrictions on movement and the refocusing of priorities regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Monitoring Report¹ reviews trade and trade-related developments during the period from 16 October 2019 to 15 May 2020.² It is a mid-year preparatory contribution to the annual report by the Director-General provided for in paragraph (g) of the Trade Policies Review Mechanism (TPRM) mandate which aims to assist the TPRB in undertaking an annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system.

1.2. This Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General of the WTO. It is a factual transparency exercise and has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of WTO Members. It is without prejudice to the negotiating positions of Members and has no legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO agreement or any provision thereof. It does not seek to pronounce itself on whether a trade measure is protectionist and it does not question the right of Members to take certain trade measures (see Box 1.2 below).

1.3. The Report aims to shed light on the very latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that restrict as well as facilitate the flow of trade. It provides an update on the main indicators of the world economy and on the state of global trade. The Reports have continued to evolve in terms of coverage and analysis of trade-related issues, reflecting discussions among and inputs from WTO Members.

1.4. The present Report has been produced in a drastically different and unprecedented context than the previous ones. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of the review period, which triggered a global health crisis with major social and economic ramifications, is covered extensively in this Report. On 24 March 2020, recognizing the unprecedented health crisis presented by the pandemic and noting that Members understandably were responding by introducing legislation and policies to seek to combat this health emergency, the Director-General made a formal request to WTO Members and Observers to provide the WTO Secretariat with information on trade and trade-related measures taken in the context of the crisis. The Director-General stressed that the request for such information was for transparency purposes only, so as to allow delegations to gain a global understanding of the trade-related responses to the crisis. He noted that a similar approach was adopted in the context of the H1N1 health emergency in 2009-10. This Report contains two separate *ad hoc* Annexes (Annexes 5 and 6) which provide information on recorded trade and trade-related measures taken by Members in the area of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic up to 15 May 2020. These Annexes are provided for transparency purposes and do not question or pass judgement on Members' right to implement any of the measures contained therein. Neither of the Annexes are exhaustive.

1.5. On 15 May 2020, a Special Virtual Meeting of the General Council was held to allow WTO Members to share information and exchange views on COVID-19 trade-related measures.

1.6. From a practical and methodological point of view, and in accordance with the long-standing practice of the WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise of verifying information and measures with Members, the WTO Secretariat implemented an *ad hoc* verification process of COVID-19-related measures with Members. In recognition of the fact that some measures did not initially have official government sources, the daily up-date of these measures was listed only on the WTO Members website, pending verification by the relevant delegation. For those trade and trade-related goods and services measures submitted by delegations, or where official sources were found, a separate list was made available on the WTO public website.³ The cooperation of WTO Members in confirming measures, providing official sources and additional information to increase transparency, was constructive and

¹ The previous WTO Trade Monitoring Report presented to the TPRB (WTO document WT/TPR/OV/22, 29 November 2019) covered measures taken over the period from mid-October 2018 to mid-October 2019. The WTO trade monitoring reports have been prepared by the WTO Secretariat since 2009. On 29 June 2020, the WTO Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of the OECD and UNCTAD, issued a report on trade and investment measures implemented by G20 economies during the period mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020 (available on the WTO website).

² Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant section. In addition to the trade policy measures implemented during the period under review and captured by this Report, other actions which impact trade flows may have been taken by WTO Members.

³ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm. This dedicated webpage on the WTO website provides detailed information on COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures and is updated regularly.

efficient, especially considering the challenges caused by remote working conditions. This was particularly evident in the constant decrease in the number of measures where official sources were lacking. WTO Members deserve credit for their active cooperation in assisting the Secretariat in this transparency exercise, including through the notification process to the relevant WTO committees. Finally, the measures listed in Annexes 5 and 6 provide a situation report up to 15 May 2020. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website.⁴ The full list of notifications received by the WTO Secretariat in context of the COVID-19 pandemic is also available on the WTO website.⁵

1.7. The organization of this Report is different compared to previous editions. Each Section, except Section 2, will first cover the regular monitoring of trade and trade-related measures implemented during the review period. Subsequently, each Section will address, where relevant, developments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.8. Section 2 of the Report provides an overview of recent economic and trade developments and will include the most recent forecasts for world trade growth taking into account the global pandemic. Section 3 presents an overview of selected trade and trade-related policy trends, including specific developments related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). Overviews of policy developments in trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

1.9. Annexes 1 - 4 to this Report include new measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period. Measures implemented outside this period are not included in these Annexes. The compilation of all measures recorded by the trade-monitoring reports since October 2008 is available in the Trade Monitoring Database.⁶ Annexes 5 and 6 include measures implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of goods and services, respectively.

1.10. Information on the measures included in this Report was collected from inputs submitted by WTO Members and Observers, as well as from other official and public sources. Replies to the Director General's initial request for information on measures taken during the period under review and replies to the requests for verification were received from 87 Members⁷ (Box 1.1), which represents 53% of the membership, and covers around 96% of world imports.⁸ Four Observers also replied to the request for information. Overall, 99 Members were covered in the Secretariat's requests for verification of measures. Participation in the verification process was uneven, and in many cases the Secretariat received only partial responses and often after the indicated deadline. Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the Annexes.

1.11. The OECD has contributed three topical boxes to this Report. The first box provides an overview of evidence and policy lessons from the face mask global value chain during the COVID-19 pandemic. The second box looks at impacts and policy responses to the pandemic in the food and agriculture sector. The third box focuses on the issue of government support and the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴ WTO. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

⁵ WTO. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

⁶ Measures listed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to this Report will feature in the TMDB after the informal meeting of the TPRB on 24 July 2020. Viewed at: <http://tmdb.wto.org>.

⁷ The European Union and its member States counted separately.

⁸ This figure includes intra-EU trade.

Box 1.2 About the WTO Trade Monitoring report

The Trade Monitoring Report is first and foremost a transparency exercise. It is intended to be purely factual and has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of WTO Members. It is without prejudice to Members' negotiating positions and has no legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO Agreement or any provision thereof.

The Report aims to shed light on the latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that facilitate as well as restrict the flow of trade and provide an update on the state of global trade. The Report neither seeks to pronounce itself on whether a trade measure is protectionist, nor does it question the right of Members to take certain trade measures. The Reports continue to evolve in terms of the coverage and analysis of trade-related issues and take into account discussions among WTO Members in the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB).

Regarding trade remedy actions, it has been highlighted in discussions among WTO Members that some of these measures are taken to address what is perceived by some as a market distortion resulting from trade practices of entities in another trading partner. The WTO Anti-dumping and Subsidies Agreements permit WTO Members to impose anti-dumping (AD) or countervailing (CVD) duties to offset what is perceived to be injurious dumping or subsidization of products exported from one Member to another. The Reports are not in a position to establish if, where or when such perceived distortive practices have taken place. The Reports have never categorized the use of trade remedies as protectionist, or WTO-inconsistent, or criticized governments for utilizing them. The main objective of monitoring these measures is to provide additional transparency and to identify emerging trends in the application of trade policy measures.

With respect to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures covered in the Report, it is important to emphasize that they are neither classified nor counted as trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating, and the increasing trend with respect to the number of notifications of such measures is carefully linked to the transparency provisions of the Agreements only. The Reports have consistently underlined the basic premise that an increased number of SPS and TBT notifications does not automatically imply greater use of protectionist or unnecessarily trade-restrictive measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures. Finally, the Reports clearly emphasize that the SPS and TBT Agreements specifically allow Members to take measures in the pursuit of a number of legitimate policy objectives.

The WTO Secretariat strives to ensure that the Trade Monitoring Reports are factual and objective. Since 2009, the Reports have sought to provide a nuanced perspective to developments in the area of international trade. For example, the Reports have consistently emphasized that although the number of specific and often long-term restrictive trade measures remains a source of serious concern, other key factors may influence trade developments. During discussions of the Trade Monitoring Reports at the TPRB, Members have also drawn attention to this point and to the fact that, with respect to both, vigilance remains imperative.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Overview

2.1. The COVID-19 pandemic has delivered an unprecedented shock to the global economy, with millions of confirmed cases worldwide. In the absence of a vaccine or other effective medical treatment, governments around the world have adopted social distancing measures to slow the spread of the disease. These require people to remain indoors and work from home if possible while minimizing travel and social contact. Entire sectors of national economies have been forced to shut down, leading to sharp declines in output and employment. The full impact of the pandemic is not yet reflected in most trade data but it is expected to be very significant. Several Sections of this Report outline the trade and trade-related measures adopted around the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2. In its trade forecast of 8 April 2020, the WTO estimated that the volume of world merchandise trade would fall between 13% and 32% in 2020, depending on the duration of the outbreak and the effectiveness of policy responses. Available GDP projections during the latest forecasting exercise did not reflect the changed circumstances in the global economy since March 2020. As a result, the WTO Secretariat found it necessary to generate its own estimates based on plausible assumptions about the course of the pandemic. If these assumptions are realized, world GDP growth could decline by between 2.5% and 8.8% in 2020.¹

2.3. The forecast considered two distinct scenarios: (i) a relatively optimistic scenario, with a sharp drop in trade and output followed by a strong recovery starting in the second half of 2020; and (ii) a more pessimistic scenario with a steeper initial decline and a prolonged, incomplete recovery. Under both scenarios, the decline in world trade was expected to exceed the trade slump during the financial crisis of 2008-09. These scenarios were presented as explorations of different possible trajectories for the crisis rather than as precise predictions. Preliminary trade data and trade-related indicators for the first half of 2020 are thus far more consistent with the optimistic scenario than the pessimistic one, but actual outcomes could easily fall within or even outside of the forecast range, depending on how the crisis unfolds.

2.4. Sectors with complex value chain linkages are likely to be among the hardest hit by the crisis. The forecast only covers merchandise trade, but commercial services trade is also likely to see strong declines since several categories of services are directly affected by world-wide transport and travel restrictions. One exception is IT services, demand for which has boomed during the crisis as companies seek technological solutions to facilitate employees working from home.

2.5. Trade was already slowing before the virus struck, weighed down by heightened trade tensions and slowing global economic growth as outlined in previous reports. The volume of world merchandise trade was down 0.7% year-on-year in the second half of 2019 after rising 0.6% in the first half. The pace of decline accelerated in the fourth quarter, with merchandise trade dropping 1.2% compared to the previous period, i.e. equivalent to a 4.6% decline on an annualized basis. For the whole of 2019, merchandise trade volume was down 0.1%, marking the first decline since 2009.

2.6. Trade growth also slowed in nominal US dollar terms in 2019. World merchandise exports fell 3% to USD 18.89 trillion for the year. World commercial services exports increased by 2% over the same period to USD 6.03 trillion, but the pace of growth was down sharply from 9% in 2018. The slowdown was broad-based, affecting most major economies and regions on both the export and import sides.

2.7. Economic growth eased in major economies in 2019, particularly towards the end of the year. There are no readily available quarterly statistics for gross domestic product (GDP) at the global level, but OECD estimates for the G20 group of economies provide a reasonable approximation. Annualized quarterly GDP growth for the G20 remained at or above 3% in the first three quarters of 2019 before dropping to 2.4% in the fourth quarter.

¹ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr855_e.htm.

2.2 Economic Developments

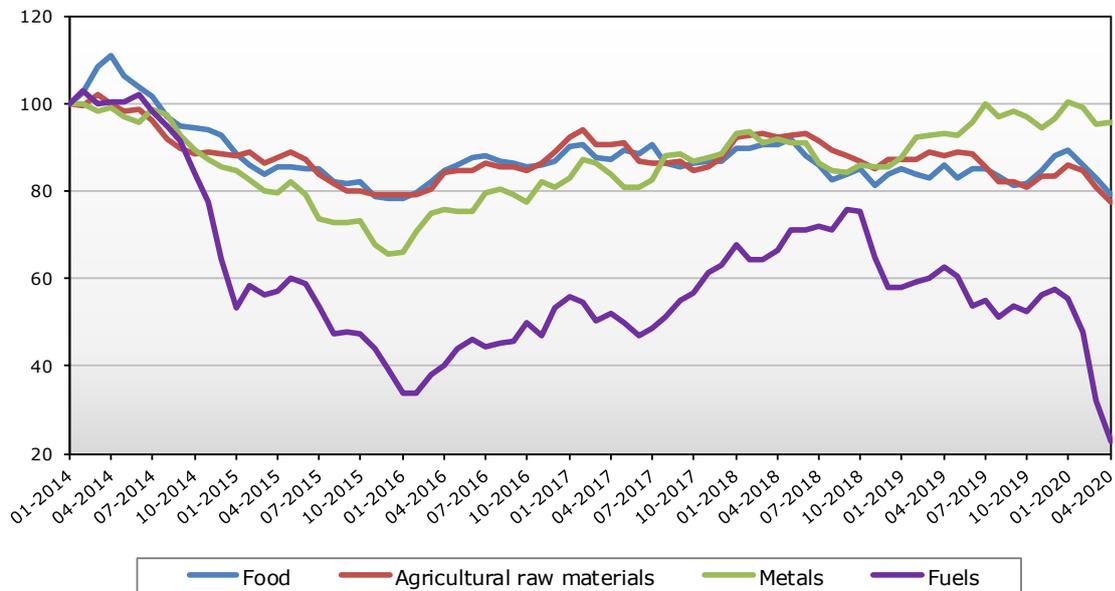
2.8. Several factors contributed to the sluggish pace of economic growth in 2019, including persistent trade tensions. Trade deals between the United States and China, on the one hand, and the United States and Japan, on the other, may have eased tensions somewhat, but any positive impact from this relaxation is likely to be overwhelmed in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. Other factors contributing to economic uncertainty during the review period include the political impasse over Brexit in the United Kingdom, and changes in monetary policy from the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank.

2.9. The United States saw quarterly GDP growth slow from an average rate of 0.6% in the first half of 2019 to 0.5% in the second half. Meanwhile, euro area growth fell from 0.3% to 0.2% and China's growth remained stable at 1.5% over the same period. GDP growth turned negative in the first quarter of 2020 in the United States (-1.3%), the euro area (-3.8%) and China (-9.8%). Further declines are expected in Q2.

2.10. Commodity prices and exchange rates strongly influence nominal trade statistics, which are usually presented in US dollars. This is illustrated by Chart 2.1, which shows recent price trends for primary commodities, and Chart 2.2, which shows effective exchange rates for major currencies.

Chart 2.1 Prices of primary commodities, January 2014 - April 2020

(Index, January 2014=100)



Source: IMF Primary Commodity Prices.

2.11. Price fluctuations in the second half of 2019 were dominated by fuels, which fell 22% year-on-year (Chart 2.1). Food prices were flat over the same period (0%), while prices for agricultural raw materials dropped 6%. In contrast, prices for metals rose 14%. Since the start of 2020, commodity prices have fallen across the board due to weak demand stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Strong declines were recorded between January and April for food (-11%), agricultural raw materials (-10%), metals (-14%) and fuels (-59%).

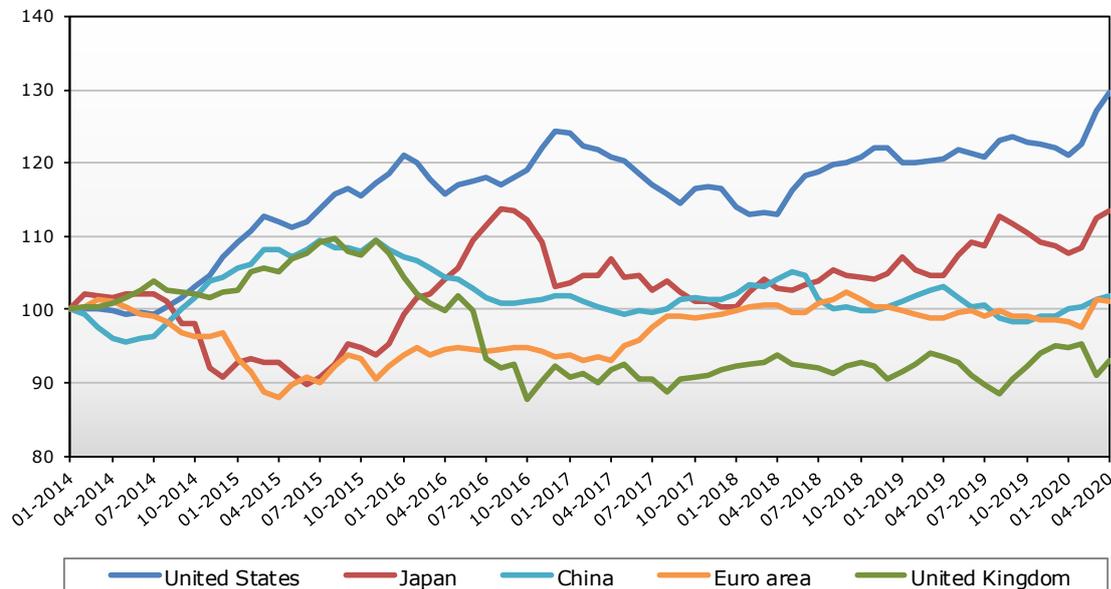
2.12. Exchange rates were relatively stable in the second half of 2019 (Chart 2.2). The US dollar appreciated 1.5% against a broad basket of currencies, while the renminbi and euro declined by 1.3% and 1.9%, respectively. The UK pound maintained its value with a decline of just 0.3% over the same period. In contrast, the Japanese yen appreciated 5.4% in the second half of the year.

2.13. The US dollar has appreciated even more since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the currency's traditional safe haven role. It rose 7.1% in nominal effective terms between January

and April of 2020 as the virus spread globally. Further strengthening could increase financial strain on net foreign borrowers with large dollar-denominated debts.

Chart 2.2 Exchange rate indices for selected economies, January 2014 - April 2020^a

(Index, January 2014=100)



a Nominal effective exchange rate indices against a broad basket of currencies.

Source: Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

2.3 Merchandise trade

2.14. Chart 2.3 shows growth in the US dollar value of world merchandise trade (red line) together with contributions to trade growth by income level (stacked bars). World export and import growth may diverge slightly due to differences in the recording of transactions. Year-on-year growth was negative in all four quarters in 2019, with declines of between 2.4% and 3.3%. High-income countries contributed more to the slowdown than low-and-middle-income countries on both the export and import sides. Although the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in December 2019, they are unlikely to have had any measurable impact on trade flows since the number of cases was relatively small at the time and policies to combat the disease were not yet in place.

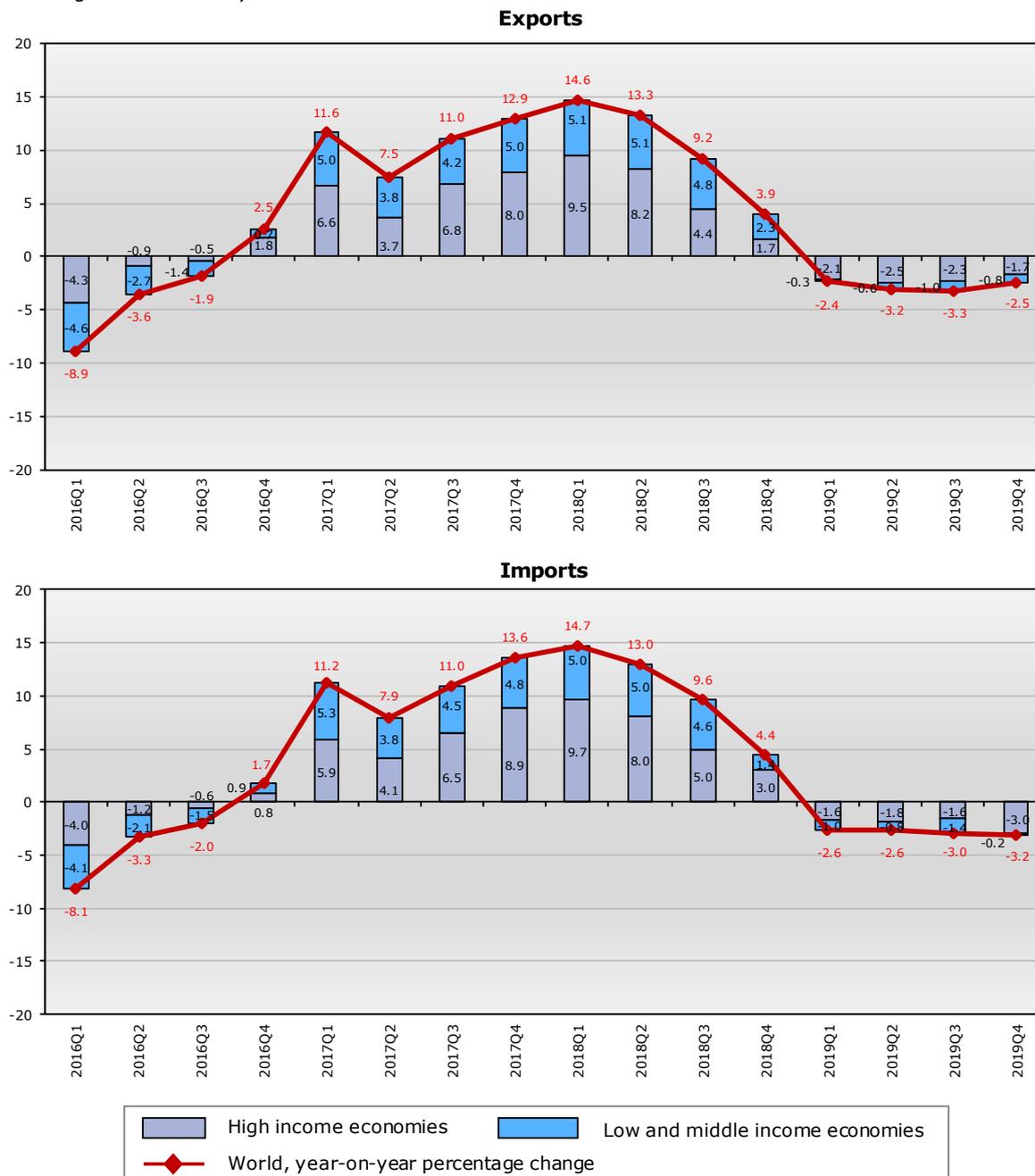
2.15. Chart 2.4 shows merchandise export and import volume indices for selected economies. Exports stalled for most countries in 2019 as the uncertainty associated with trade tensions remained high. The volume of China's exports dropped 4% in Q4 after rising 3% in Q3, leaving year-on-year growth stable at -1%. Shipments from the United States and the European Union to the rest of the world were also nearly unchanged in Q4 compared to the previous year, while intra-EU trade was down 1%. On the import side, the United States and India recorded quarterly declines of 5% and 11%, respectively, in Q4 while China's imports increased by 6%. Extra-EU imports recorded a modest decline of 2% in Q4.

2.16. Monthly merchandise trade statistics in nominal US dollar terms are more timely than quarterly statistics in volume terms. These are shown in Chart 2.5 for selected economies through March or April depending on data availability. The United States and China both recorded large year-on-year declines in imports in April, -21% and -14% respectively. Extra-imports of the European Union were down 14% in March, but a stronger contraction is expected for April fully reflecting transport and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chinese exports were up 3% in April after falling 7% in March. Meanwhile, shipments from the United States were down 29%. Extra-exports of the European Union were already down 12% March, with a larger contraction anticipated for April.

2.17. Trade figures for other countries with reported data for April were strongly negative. India's exports and imports for the month were both down 60% compared to the previous year. Shipments to and from the Republic of Korea were also down sharply, with exports dropping 25% and imports falling 16%. South Africa's exports and imports were down 61% and 37%, respectively, in April. Nominal trade statistics should be interpreted with caution since they can be strongly influenced by prices and exchange rates, but these declines clearly reflect large changes in quantities as well as prices.

Chart 2.3 Contributions to year-on-year growth in world merchandise exports and imports, 2016Q1 - 2019Q4

(% change in USD values)



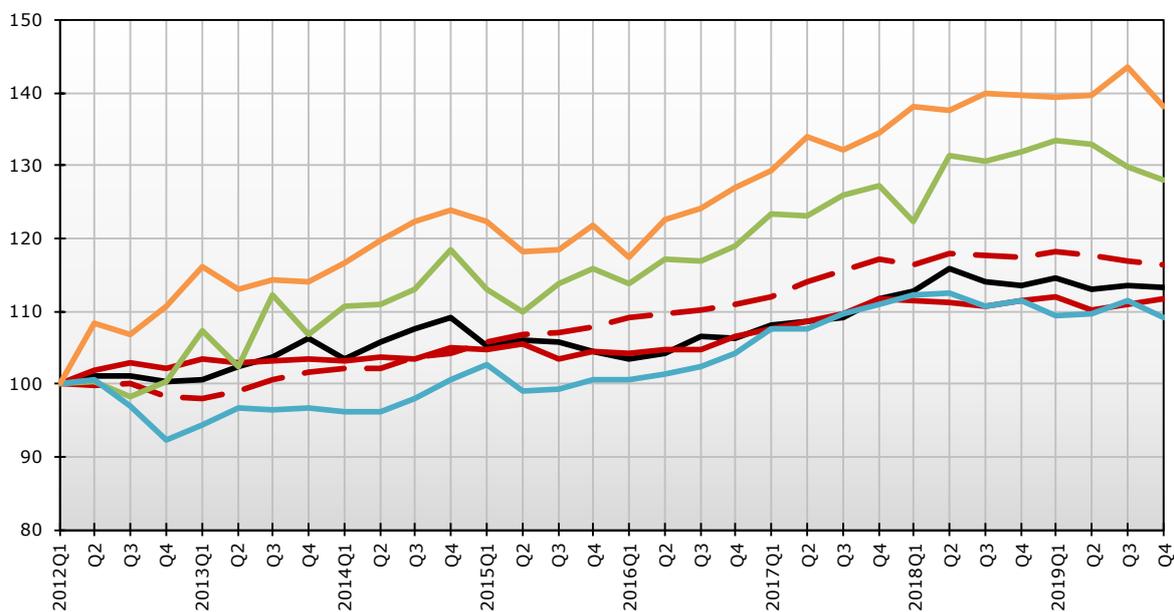
Note Due to scarce data availability, Africa and the Middle East are under-represented in world totals.

Source: WTO Secretariat estimates based on data jointly compiled by the WTO and UNCTAD.

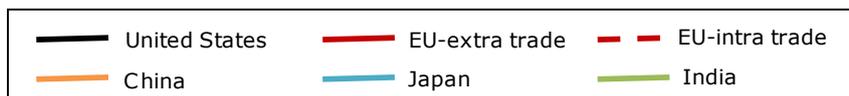
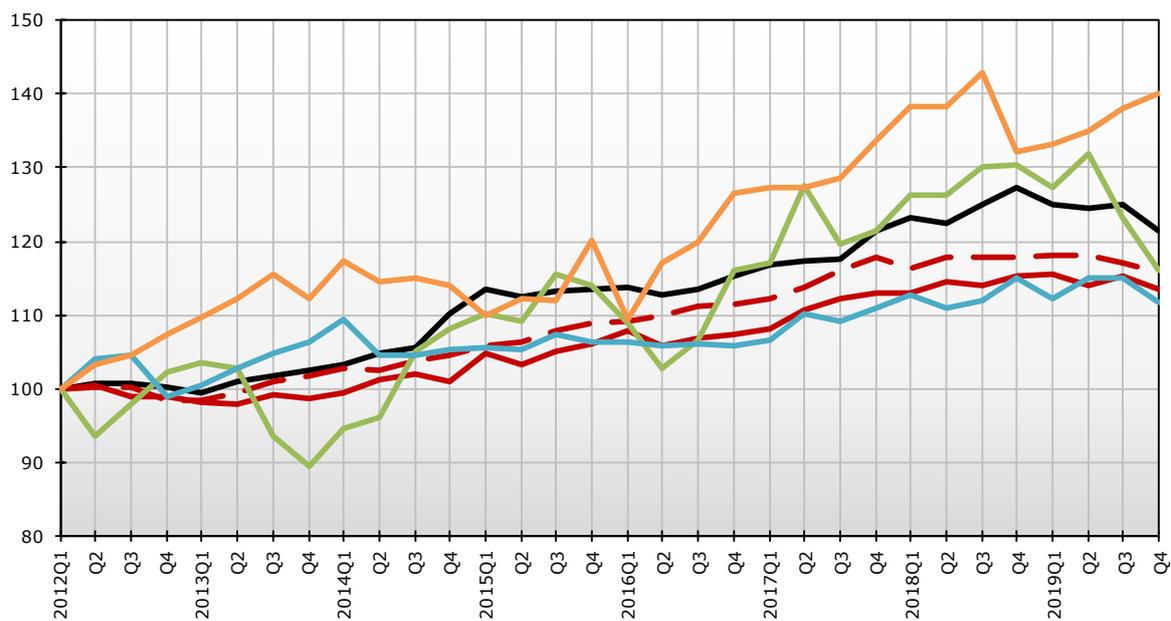
Chart 2.4 Volume of exports and imports of selected economies, 2012Q1 - 2019Q4

(Seasonally adjusted volume indices, 2012Q1 = 100)

Exports



Imports

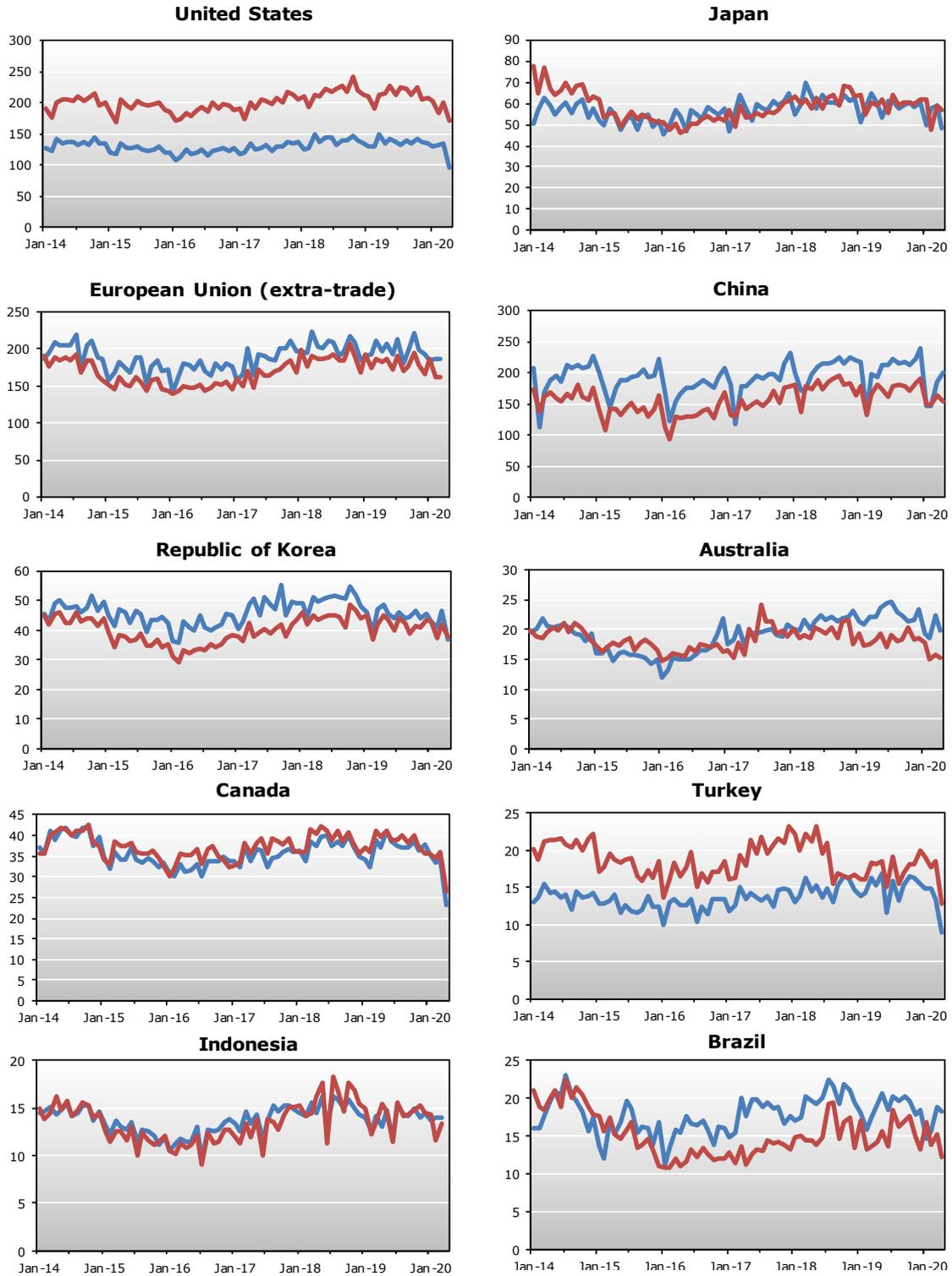


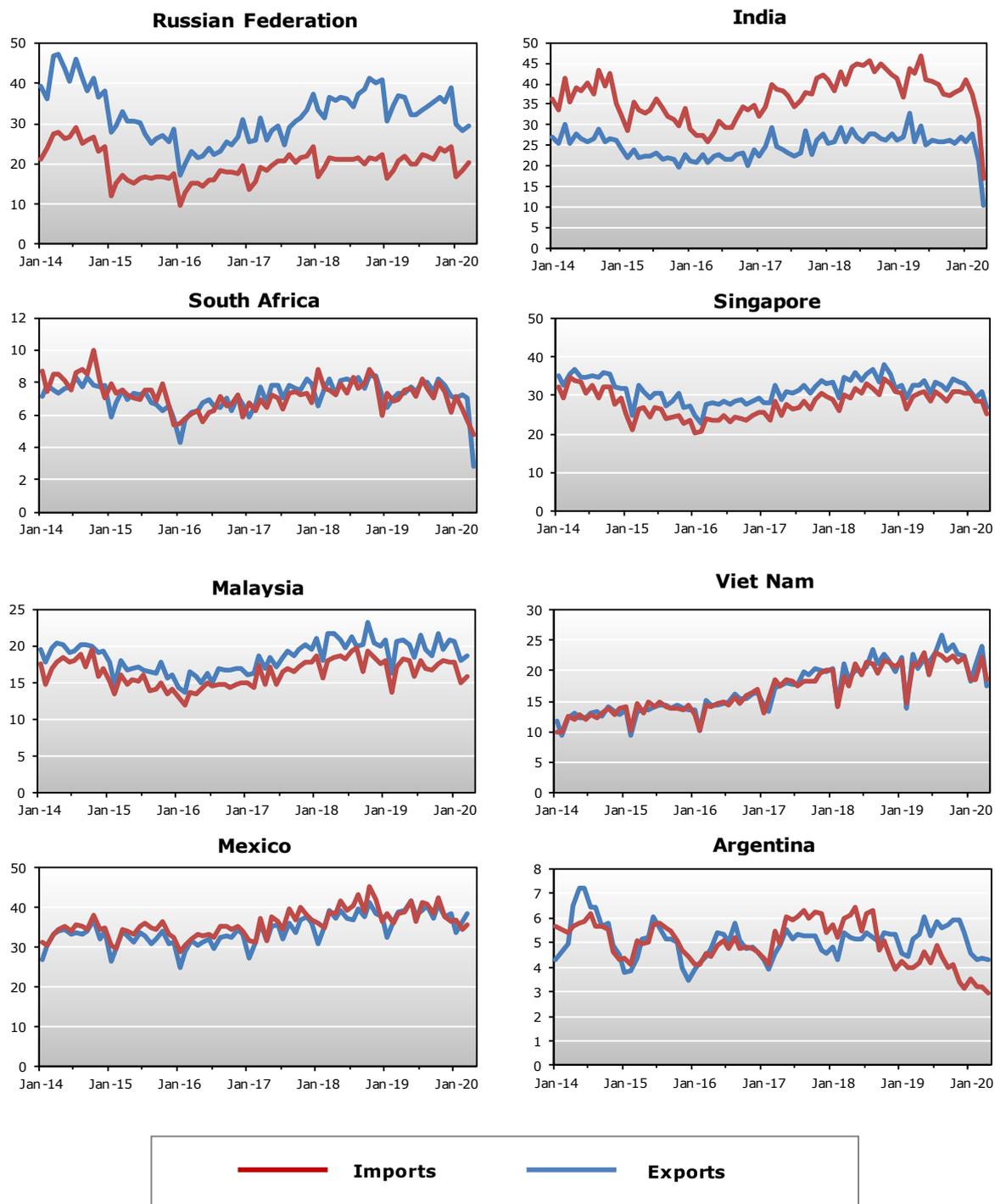
Note: Data for the United States, Japan and the European Union were obtained from national statistical sources while figures for China and India are seasonally adjusted Secretariat estimates.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

Chart 2.5 Merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, January 2014 – April 2020

(USD billion)





Source: IMF International Financial Statistics, Global Trade Information Services, the Global Trade Atlas database, and national statistics.

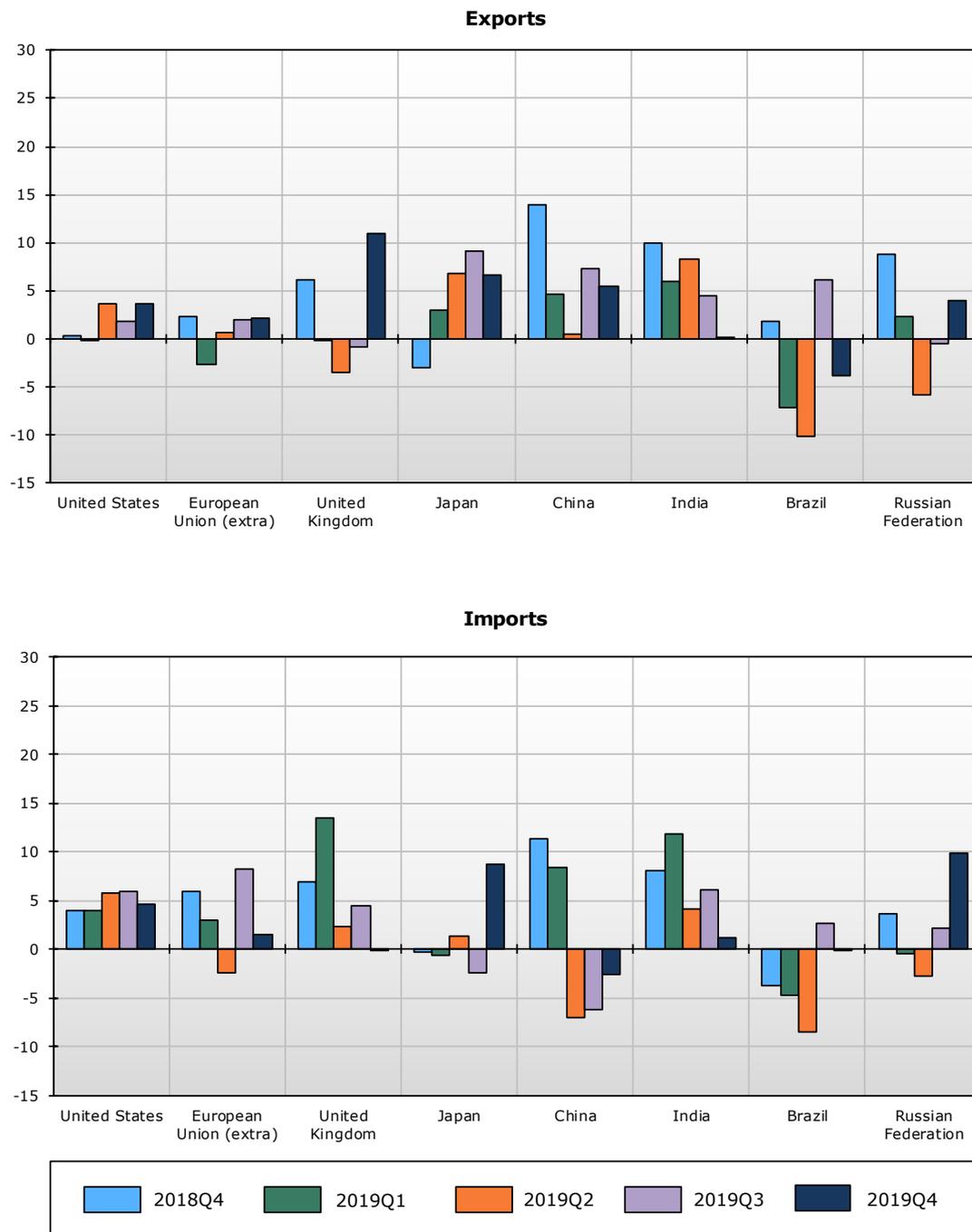
2.4 Trade in commercial services

2.18. Recent developments in commercial services trade are shown in Chart 2.6 for selected countries from 2018Q4 to 2019Q4. Services exports of major economies diverged in 2019, with high-income countries such as the United States and the Euro Area recording modest year-on-year growth in US dollar values, and Asian economies such as China, Japan and India recording faster growth. India and China both saw their export growth weaken over the course of 2019. By the fourth quarter India's export growth had slowed to near 0% from 10% in 2018. China's export growth

slowed to 6% from 14% over the same period. Other developments in trade in services are covered in Section 4.

Chart 2.6 Commercial services exports and imports of selected economies, 2018Q4-2019Q4

(Year-on-year % change in current USD values)



Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

2.19. There were no systematic trends on the import side. The United States recorded moderate growth between 4% and 6% in all four quarters. Growth fluctuated between -2% and 8% in the European Union, while China's imports contracted in the second, third and fourth quarters.

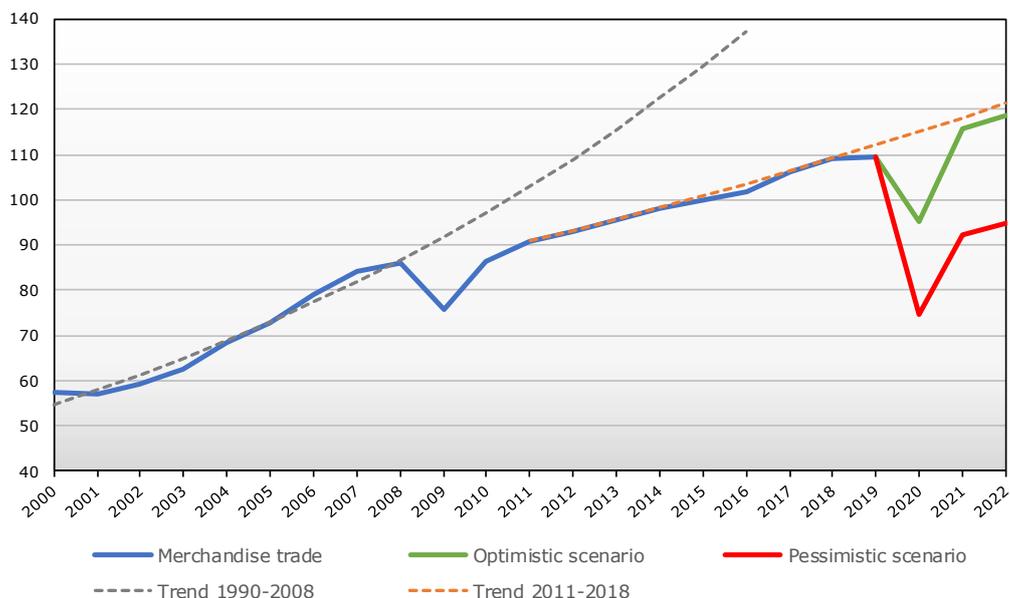
2.20. Global services trade is likely to see a strong negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic since travel restrictions prevent the delivery and consumption of services abroad. One category of services trade that may see an upturn in activity as a result of the pandemic is IT services, demand for which has risen to accommodate more people working remotely.

2.5 Trade forecast and economic outlook

2.21. The WTO's trade projections for 2020 and 2021 from last April are presented in Table 2.1 and illustrated by Chart 2.7 below. The forecast considered two scenarios for how the COVID-19 crisis might unfold: (i) an optimistic scenario where the pandemic is short-lived and social distancing policies are withdrawn fairly quickly; and (ii) a pessimistic scenario where the outbreak is prolonged and social distancing remains in place for much longer. The volume of world merchandise trade would contract by 12.9% in 2020 in the first scenario and by 31.9% in the second. World real GDP at market exchange rates would also shrink by 2.5% in the first case and 8.8% in the second (Table 2.1). Preliminary trade data and trade-related indicators for Q1 and Q2 are thus far more consistent with the optimistic scenario than the pessimistic one. However, adverse developments including a second wave of COVID-19 cases could still lead to more negative outcomes.

Chart 2.7 World merchandise trade volume, 2000-2022

Index, 2015=100



Source: WTO Secretariat.

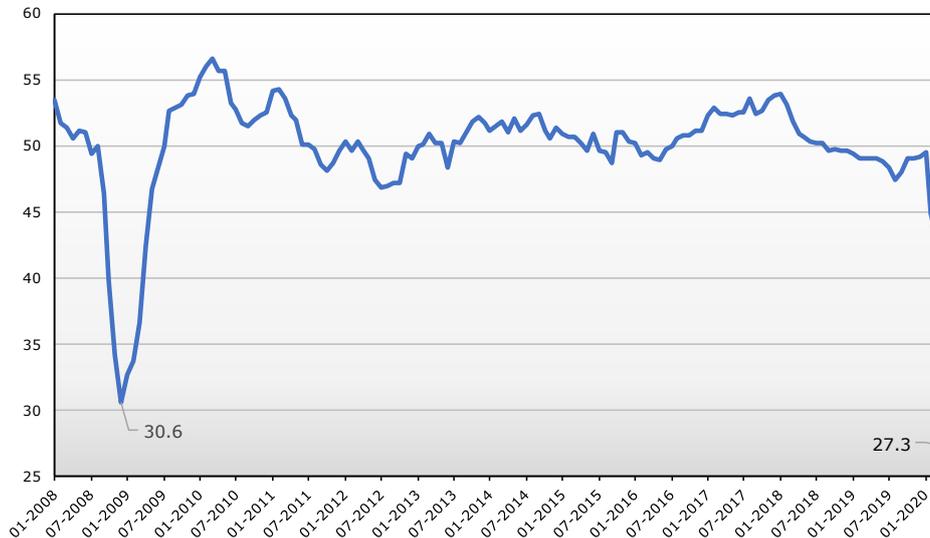
2.22. Under the more optimistic scenario, there would be a 21.3% rebound in 2021, strong enough to bring trade back to its pre-pandemic trend represented by the orange dotted line in Chart 2.7. Under a more pessimistic set of assumptions the recovery in 2021 would be larger in percentage terms (24%) but still insufficient to bring about a reversion to the pre-pandemic trend. Is it worth recalling that trade never reverted to trend following the global financial crisis just over a decade ago. A slower-than-expected economic recovery in 2021 could also see trade expansion fall short of these projections.

2.23. There is a very high degree of uncertainty associated with the current forecast due to the unprecedented nature of the shock to the global economy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections will need to be regularly checked against incoming data going forward. Trade-related indicators provide some clues as to the extent of the downturn in 2020 and how it compares to earlier crises. For instance, automobile sales were down 78% in the European Union and 47% in the United States in April compared to the previous year, signalling weak consumer demand. An index of new export orders derived from purchasing managers' indices also plunged to a record low of 27.3 in April, below the previous minimum of 30.6 from December 2008 (Chart 2.8). Together, these

statistics suggest a severe slump for merchandise trade extending into the second quarter at least, and likely beyond.

Chart 2.8 New export orders from purchasing managers' indices, January 2008 – April 2020

(Index, base =50)



Source: IHS Markit, JP Morgan Global PMI.

Table 2.1 Merchandise trade volume and real GDP growth, 2018-21

(Annual % change)

	Historical		Optimistic scenario		Pessimistic scenario	
	2018	2019	2020a	2021a	2020a	2021a
Volume of world merchandise trade ^b	2.9	-0.1	-12.9	21.3	-31.9	24.0
Exports						
North America	3.8	1.0	-17.1	23.7	-40.9	19.3
South and Central America	0.1	-2.2	-12.9	18.6	-31.3	14.3
Europe	2.0	0.1	-12.2	20.5	-32.8	22.7
Asia	3.7	0.9	-13.5	24.9	-36.2	36.1
Other regions ^c	0.7	-2.9	-8.0	8.6	-8.0	9.3
Imports						
North America	5.2	-0.4	-14.5	27.3	-33.8	29.5
South and Central America	5.3	-2.1	-22.2	23.2	-43.8	19.5
Europe	1.5	0.5	-10.3	19.9	-28.9	24.5
Asia	4.9	-0.6	-11.8	23.1	-31.5	25.1
Other regions ^c	0.3	1.5	-10.0	13.6	-22.6	18.0
Real GDP at market exchange rates	2.9	2.3	-2.5	7.4	-8.8	5.9
North America	2.8	2.2	-3.3	7.2	-9.0	5.1
South and Central America	0.6	0.1	-4.3	6.5	-11.0	4.8
Europe	2.1	1.3	-3.5	6.6	-10.8	5.4
Asia	4.2	3.9	-0.7	8.7	-7.1	7.4
Other regions ^c	2.1	1.7	-1.5	6.0	-6.7	5.2

a Figures for 2020 and 2021 are projections.

b Average of exports and imports.

c Comprise Africa, the Middle East and the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) including associate and former member States.

Source: WTO Secretariat for trade, consensus estimates for GDP.

2.24. The box below provides the latest trends in world merchandise trade as captured by the WTO's Goods Trade Barometer.

Box 2.1 The WTO Goods Trade Barometer

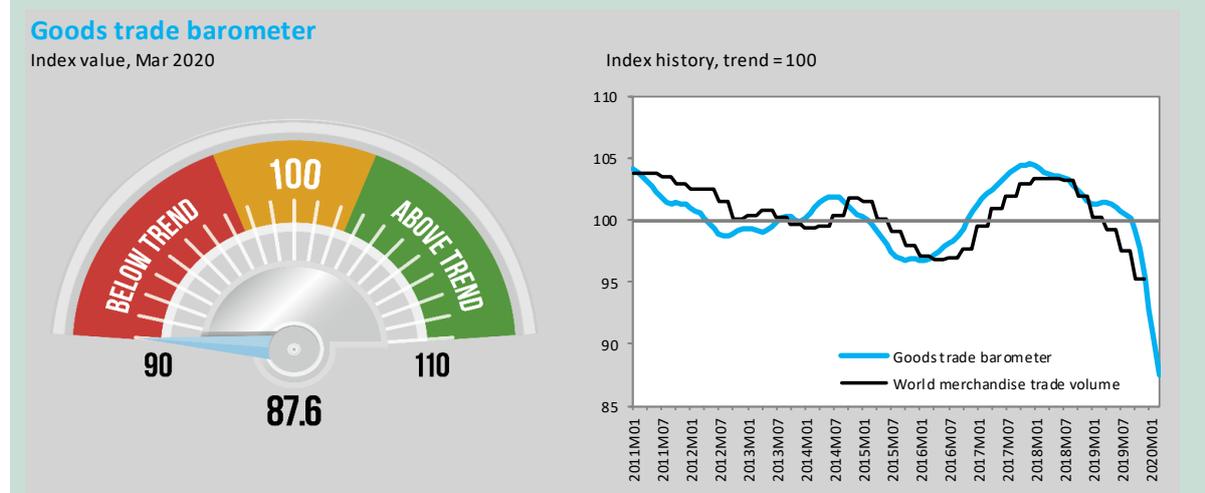
The WTO's most recent Goods Trade barometer of 20 May 2020 was the first to fully reflect the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The indicator is designed to provide "real-time" information on the trajectory of world merchandise trade relative to recent trends a few months ahead of conventional trade statistics. Information on several trade-related variables is combined to produce a single composite leading index for world trade, with values greater than 100 indicating above-trend growth and values less than 100 indicating the opposite. The Goods Trade Barometer fell precipitously to 87.6 in May, well below the index's baseline value of 100, suggesting a sharp contraction in merchandise trade extending into the second quarter. (See chart below. Note that the barometer for May is mostly based on data through the month of March).

The Barometer's component indices include the following:

- New Export Orders derived from Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMIs),
- Automobile production and sales in major economies,
- Container port throughput in twenty food equivalent units (TEU),
- An air freight index from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Customs data on trade in electronic components in physical units
- Customs data on agricultural raw materials trade in physical units.

All component indices were below trend in May. The automotive products index was weakest (79.7), reflecting sharply lower car sales and production in leading economies. A decline in the forward-looking export orders index (83.3) suggested weak trade growth in the near term. Declines in container shipping (88.5) and air freight (88.0) would seem to reflect weak demand for traded goods as well as supply-side constraints arising from efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Only electronic components (94.0) and agricultural raw materials (95.7) showed signs of stabilizing, although they too remained below trend.

Trade was already been slowing in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic as persistent trade tensions weighed on the global economy. WTO trade statistics show that the volume of world merchandise trade shrank by 0.1% in 2019, marking the first contraction since 2009.



Note: The WTO Services Trade Barometer will be updated later this year.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Overview of Trends Identified during the Review Period

Introduction

3.1. This Section seeks to provide analysis of selected trade and trade-related policy developments during the period from mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020. It is divided into two parts. The *first* part deals with regular, i.e. non-COVID-related measures implemented during the review period, including the usual calculation on trade coverage.¹ The second part, in Section 3.1.2, covers measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures in the second part are not included in the trade coverage calculations and are not counted towards the aggregate number in part one.

3.2. A total of 346 trade measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period (Chart 3.1).² This figure includes measures facilitating trade, trade remedy measures and other trade and trade-related measures. Chart 3.2 illustrates the trade coverage of the measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period. These measures are covered in detail below.

Chart 3.1 Overview of measures taken by WTO Members and Observers, mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020

(By number)



Note: COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.2 Trade coverage of measures, mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020

(USD billion)



Note: COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

¹ COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

² See Annexes 1-3. These Annexes do not include SPS and TBT measures which are covered in Sections 3.3 and 3.4. Services measures are analysed in Section 4 and are listed in Annex 4.

Measures facilitating trade

3.3. Annex 1 to this Report list measures which are clearly trade-facilitating.

3.4. During the review period, 51 new measures aimed at facilitating trade were recorded for WTO Members and Observers (Table 3.1), including 24 of a temporary nature. This represent 15% of the total number of measures recorded. Despite showing the second highest trade coverage of import-facilitating measures since 2012, the monthly average of 7.3 trade-facilitating measures recorded for the period is the lowest since 2012.

3.5. Table 3.1 shows that, as for the previous periods, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs continue to make up the bulk of trade-facilitating measures, followed by the elimination of import taxes³, and the simplification of customs procedures. On the export side, reduction of export duties was recorded.⁴

Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mi-May 20 (7 months)
Import	176	140	176	208	151	115	135	100	104	48
- Tariff	154	109	147	165	116	94	111	85	93	43
- Customs procedures	12	26	17	32	28	18	14	2	4	2
- Tax	2	4	2	6	4	3	7	5	6	3
- QRs	7	1	10	5	1	0	3	1	1	0
- Other	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	0
Export	17	8	9	40	32	24	18	14	16	2
- Duties	7	3	3	18	5	1	6	10	10	2
- QRs	8	4	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	0
- Other	2	1	3	19	26	21	12	3	5	0
Other	6	1	1	4	3	0	0	1	0	1
Total	199	149	186	252	186	139	153	115	120	51
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>7.3</i>

Note: Revisions of the data reflect changes undertaken in the TMDB to fine-tune and update the available information. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.6. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was estimated at USD 739.4 billion, i.e. 3.79% of the value of world merchandise imports.⁵ This share is the second highest reported for these types of measures since October 2012 (Table 3.2 and Chart 3.3). The HS Chapters within which most of the trade-facilitating measures were taken include electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) 28.2%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 10.2%, plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) 6.3%, and mineral fuels and oils (HS 27) 5.9%.

³ For example, imports of certain products exempted from the Special Welfare Surcharge and the Health Cess by India.

⁴ For example, reduction of export duties on leather, raw hides and skins; and increased on the VAT rebate rate on 1,084 products.

⁵ These figures include one measure by China (interim import tariffs resulting in the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products), amounting for 61.6% of the total; and one measure by the United States (reduction of *ad valorem* additional duties on products from China), amounting for 20.2% of the total.

Table 3.2 Shares of trade covered by trade-facilitating measures

	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20
Share in total world imports	6.4%	0.91%	1.51%	1.07%	1.68%	2.80%	3.79%

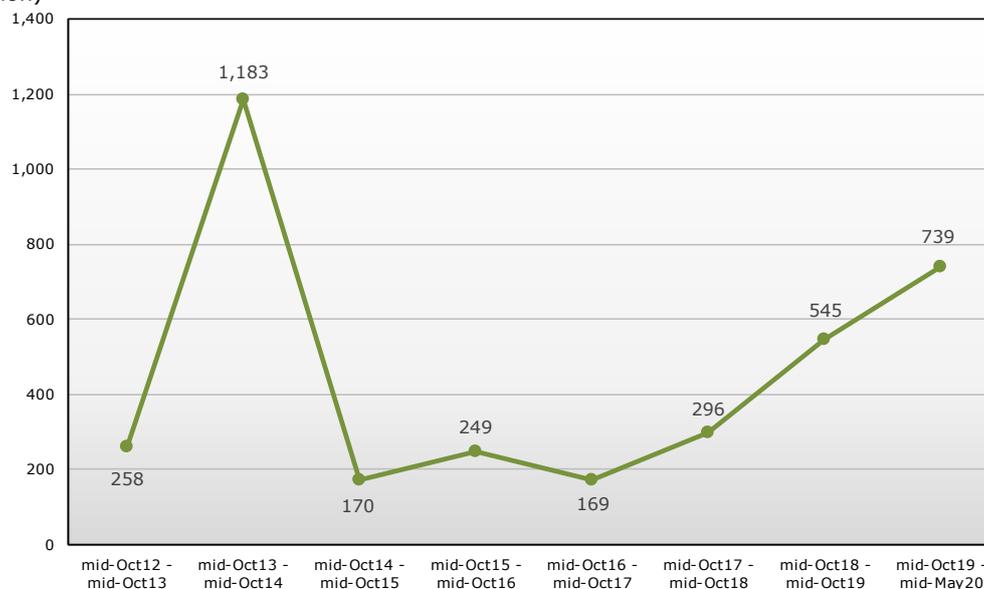
Note: Estimates are based on data for the previous full calendar year. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-October 2019 are based on data from calendar year 2018. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

3.7. Contrary to previous Reports which reported on the very significant trade coverage of measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement, the present review period includes only one such measure, i.e. by Colombia.

Chart 3.3 Trade coverage of new import-facilitating measures in each reporting period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)



Note: These figures are estimates, and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. Liberalization associated with the 2015 Expansion of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement is not included in the figures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade remedy actions

3.8. During the review period, 239 trade remedy actions were recorded for WTO Members and Observers, i.e. 69% of all non-COVID related trade measures recorded in this Report.⁶ An overview of these measures can be found in Annex 2. The monthly average of trade remedy initiations during the review period was 25.3 (Table 3.3 and Chart 3.4), slightly higher than the average over the last

⁶ A single methodology for the counting of AD and CVD investigations is being applied across the Report, i.e. based on the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation or by a termination. Thus, one AD or CVD investigation involving imports from n countries/customs territories is counted as n investigations. Similarly, the termination of an AD or CVD action is counted as n terminations.

eight years (24.5). Anti-dumping initiations, continue to be the most frequent trade remedy action, accounting for around 80% of all initiations during the review period. The monthly average of trade remedy terminations recorded is the lowest since 2012.

Table 3.3 Trade remedy actions (Annex 2)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20 (7 months)
Initiations	255	338	304	277	343	298	273	267	270	177
- AD	208	287	236	229	298	249	202	201	212	140
- CVD	23	33	45	31	34	41	55	36	32	28
- SG	24	18	23	17	11	8	16	30	26	9
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>22.8</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>22.5</i>	<i>25.3</i>
Terminations	208	186	220	212	171	157	221	167	193	62
- AD	177	160	185	167	141	128	197	149	172	55
- CVD	21	17	23	25	15	12	24	8	12	1
- SG ^a	10	9	12	20	15	17	0	10	9	6
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>8.9</i>

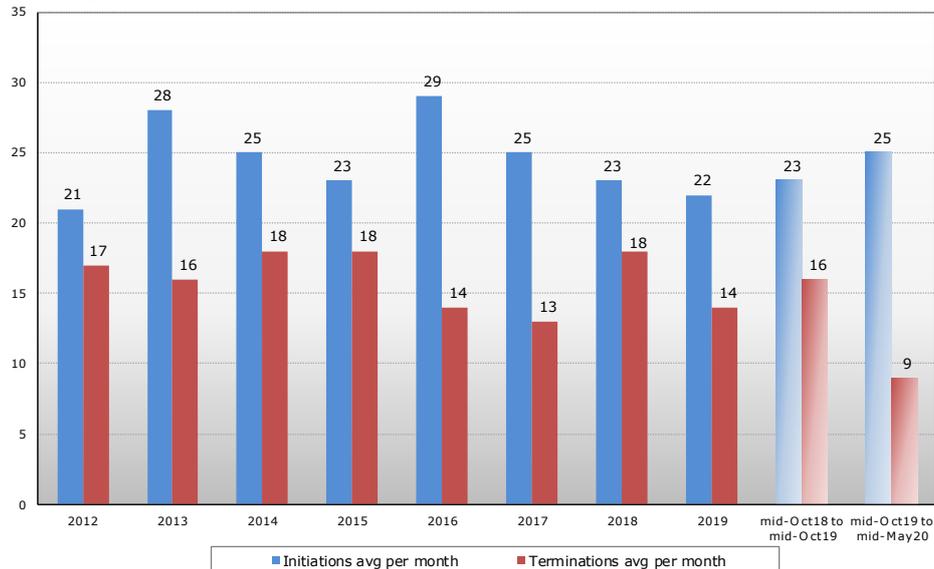
a The figure for a specific year is the sum of the following: (i) investigations terminated during the course of that specific year without any measure; and (ii) all imposed measures expired during the course of that specific year. The figures are normally taken as at October of each year.

Note: The information on trade remedy actions for 2012 to 2019 is based on the semi-annual notifications. For the present review period, the information is also based on the responses and the verifications received directly from Members. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.4 WTO trade remedies initiations and terminations

(Average per month)



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.9. In terms of products, trade remedy actions taken during the review period included initiations of investigations on iron and steel (HS 72) 11.3%, motor vehicles (HS 87) 14.1%, articles of iron and steel (HS 73) 13.1%, and aluminium and articles thereof (HS 76) 11.1%.

3.10. The trade coverage of all trade remedy investigations initiated during the review period was USD 34.7 billion, i.e. 0.18% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.4). For terminations, the trade coverage was valued at USD 2.9 billion (0.01% of the value of world merchandise imports).

Table 3.4 Share of trade covered by trade remedy initiations

	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20
Share in total world imports	0.20%	0.17%	0.55%	0.48%	0.53%	0.24%	0.18%

Note: Estimates are based on data for the previous full calendar year. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-October 2019 are based on data from calendar year 2018. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

Other trade and trade-related measures

3.11. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures which may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect.

3.12. A total of 56 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers collectively. Tariff increases account for more than half of all import-restrictive measures recorded, followed by bans.⁷ On the export side imposition of duties and stricter administrative customs procedures were recorded (Table 3.5).⁸

3.13. The measures recorded in Annex 3 cover a wide range of products. The main sectors affected (HS Chapters) were electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) 24.1%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 15%, and precious metals and stones (HS 71) 9.3%.

Table 3.5 Other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20 (7 months)
Import	135	147	133	167	99	85	113	78	81	46
- Tariff	75	86	83	107	64	47	70	46	47	24
- Customs procedures	31	28	19	32	16	19	6	6	7	2
- Tax	6	5	8	10	6	10	12	7	6	5
- QRs	16	17	8	12	12	7	16	14	12	10
- Other	7	11	15	6	1	2	9	5	9	5
Export	23	31	26	44	20	18	18	19	19	9
- Duties	3	5	12	13	6	4	9	7	6	5
- QRs	12	10	8	7	10	8	4	3	4	3
- Other	8	16	6	24	4	6	5	9	9	1
Other	12	7	12	15	12	14	0	2	2	1
- Other ^a	7	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	1	1
- Local content	5	6	11	15	8	12	0	1	1	0
Total	170	185	171	226	131	117	131	99	102	56
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>8.0</i>

a Other than local content measures.

⁷ For example, QRs on PET flakes, gold, silver, peas, palm oil, coconuts, onions, eggs, buckwheat, and e-cigarettes.

⁸ For example, export licensing requirements, and prior export authorization.

Note: Revisions of the data reflect changes undertaken in the TMDB to fine-tune and update the available information. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.14. The trade coverage of the trade-restrictive measures affecting imports implemented during the review period was estimated at USD 423.1 billion, i.e. 2.2% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.6).⁹ This represents the third highest value recorded since October 2012 (Chart 3.5).

Table 3.6 Share of trade covered by import-restrictive measures (Annex 3)

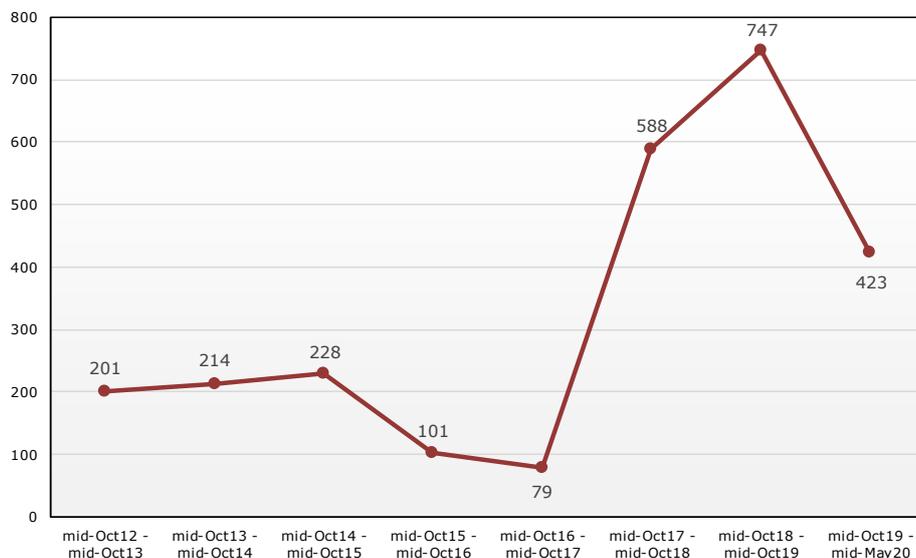
	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20
Share in total world imports	1.17%	1.23%	0.62%	0.50%	3.33%	3.84%	2.17%

Note: All data are based on data for the previous full calendar year. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-October 2019 are based on data from calendar year 2018. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

Chart 3.5 Trade coverage of new import-restrictive measures in each reporting period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)



Note: These figures are estimates, and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) introduced during each reporting period, and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

⁹ These figures include one measure by the United States (imposition of an additional duty of 15% on certain products from China), accounting for 50.8% of the total; one measure by India (increase of import tariffs on certain products), accounting for 16.8% of the total; and one measure by Argentina (further increase of the statistical fee), accounting for 15.7% of the total.

The stockpile of import-restrictive measures

3.15. Accurately estimating the roll-back of import-restrictive measures, and eventually the overall stockpile, is made more complex by the fact that a large number of temporary measures remain in place far beyond the envisaged expiry date. Moreover, the Secretariat does not always get information on changes to reported measures. As a result, the figures below are estimates based on the information recorded in the Trade Monitoring Database since 2009. These estimates are also conditioned by the availability of termination dates of the import-restrictive measures and of the HS codes of products covered.¹⁰

3.16. Table 3.7 shows that the stockpile of WTO Members and Observers import restrictions in force has grown steadily since 2009 – in value terms and as a percentage of world imports – and that a significant increase in both took place from 2017 to 2018. This specific jump is largely explained by measures introduced on steel and aluminium, and by tariff increases introduced as part of bilateral trade tensions (but excluding those that have been terminated). It is estimated that, at the end of 2019, some 8.7% of world imports were affected by import restrictions implemented since 2009 and still in force. This is the equivalent of USD 1.7 trillion out of a total USD 19.5 trillion of world imports.

3.17. Table 3.7 also shows the trade coverage for terminations of import restrictions represents 0.07% of world imports, suggesting that the roll-back of such measures remains negligible.

Table 3.7 Cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures since 2009

(USD billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total imports (world)	12,486	15,163	18,109	18,193	18,483	18,654	16,360	15,812	17,500	19,483	19,523
Total import restrictions in force	73.07	125.75	234.42	305.91	407.26	467.39	598.43	570.24	814.45	1,457.15	1,696.11
Share in world imports (%)	0.59	0.83	1.29	1.68	2.20	2.51	3.66	3.61	4.65	7.48	8.69
Total import restrictions terminated		1.68	15.43	59.41	37.15	34.05	1.51	38.09	3.88	5.45	13.12
Share in world imports (%)		0.01	0.09	0.33	0.20	0.18	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.03	0.07

Note: For some countries, 2019 import data was not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year was used for those countries.

Source: WTO calculations, based on UNSD Comtrade database.

3.1.1 COVID-19 Trade and trade-related measures

3.18. Annex 5 to this Report lists trade and trade-related measures in the area of goods which have been implemented specifically in relation or with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures contained in Annex 5 were implemented between the end of February and the middle of May 2020. The below as well as Annex 5 is an attempt to provide transparency with respect the measures taken by WTO Members and Observers in the face of the multiple challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.19. As at mid-May 2020, 256 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures had been recorded for 87 WTO Members and Observers¹¹, mostly adopted on a temporary basis. The recorded but non-confirmed measures represent 14% of the total number of measures. Although at the early stages of the pandemic a majority of measures restricted the free flow of trade, the overall picture as of mid-May shows that 147 (57%) of all measures were of a trade facilitating nature. A total of 109 measures (43%) could be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. Export bans account for the totality of export restrictive measures recorded.

3.20. The implementation of the trade and trade-related measures listed in Annex 5 appears to have come in two clearly identifiable waves. First, in the early stages of the trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO Members and Observers put in place stricter export regulations on personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks, on drugs and medicine utilized in the treatment of the virus, on certain medical equipment such as ventilators or other respiratory support equipment, and on disinfectant such as hand sanitizers. Export regulations came in the shape of new requirements for authorization to export, specific quotas and, in some cases, outright

¹⁰ Only import measures where HS codes were available are included in the calculation.

¹¹ The European Union and its member States are counted as one.

export bans. Second, subsequent restrictive trade measures targeted mainly basic food products such as sugar, cereals, buckwheat, meslin, rice, vegetables, soya beans, sunflower seeds, prepared food and oils in order to guarantee local food supplies.

3.21. As for imports, some Members increased tariffs and taxes on for example petrol and oils primarily, it seems, to generate revenue to help finance a variety of emergency economic support measures and programmes. These programmes were implemented to respond to widespread economic and social crises as a result of the pandemic (Section 3.7).

3.22. Annex 5 shows that the reduction or elimination of import tariffs make up around two-thirds of import trade facilitating measures, followed by the simplification of customs procedures (20%) and reduction/exemption of import duties and charges (11%). Certain Members and Observers (mainly net importers), reduced their tariffs on a variety of goods such as PPE, sanitizers, disinfectants, medical equipment and medicine/drugs. In many cases, tariff reductions were also accompanied by exemptions from VAT and other taxes. Less burdensome administrative customs procedures have also been implemented worldwide.

3.23. In early May, a gradual phase-out of export constraints targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicine, disinfectant, and certain food products had begun. There is further evidence that a roll back of other trade and trade related measures taken in the early stages of the pandemic is also taking place. For instance, around 28% of the COVID-19 specific restrictive measures implemented had been repealed by mid-May.

3.24. As of mid-May, 99 COVID-19 measures affecting trade in services were compiled with most of them being trade-facilitating in nature. The measures listed related to 45 WTO Members and are covered separately in Section 4 and Annex 6.¹²

3.25. By late May 2020, some 152 formal notifications and communications on COVID-19 trade-related measures had been received by the Secretariat from WTO Members and Observers. Some WTO Members notified multiple times under the same subject area. Notifications focused largely on SPS, TBT and QRs. About two thirds of the overall notifications were related to SPS and TBT measures, such as trade in PPE, food, live animals and medical equipment. Many of these measures aimed at streamlining certification procedures, and moving towards more electronic/digital procedures, including electronic certification, to facilitate access to PPE and other medical equipment necessary to combat the Pandemic, and to food. Some also focused on COVID-19 risks from international trade in live animals. In the case of the QR notifications, Members notified prohibitions and restrictions on the export of PPE, sanitizers and disinfectants, and pharmaceuticals were recorded. Some Members also restricted the export of foodstuffs and notified them to the Committee on Agriculture. Around half of the export restrictive measures were notified as temporary. These notifications are described in more detail in subsequent Sections of this Report.

3.26. Some 28 COVID-19 related measures regarding trade-related intellectual property rights were compiled for WTO Members - and verified by the respective Members - until mid-May 2020, of which 13 were substantive measures from 11 different Members and 15 administrative measures also from 11 different Members. A number of these measures were aimed at facilitating innovation or access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies, while others eased certain procedural requirements or deadlines for administrative matters. These measures are further covered in Section 5.

3.27. The below box provides a non-exhaustive overview of COVID-19 related export restrictions.

Box 3.1 COVID-19 export restrictions

How many countries have introduced export prohibitions and restrictions?

As at 18 May 2020, 85 countries and separate customs territories had introduced export prohibitions and restrictions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic (EU Members are counted separately). They include 76 WTO Members (counting the EU member States individually) and nine non-WTO members from all regions.

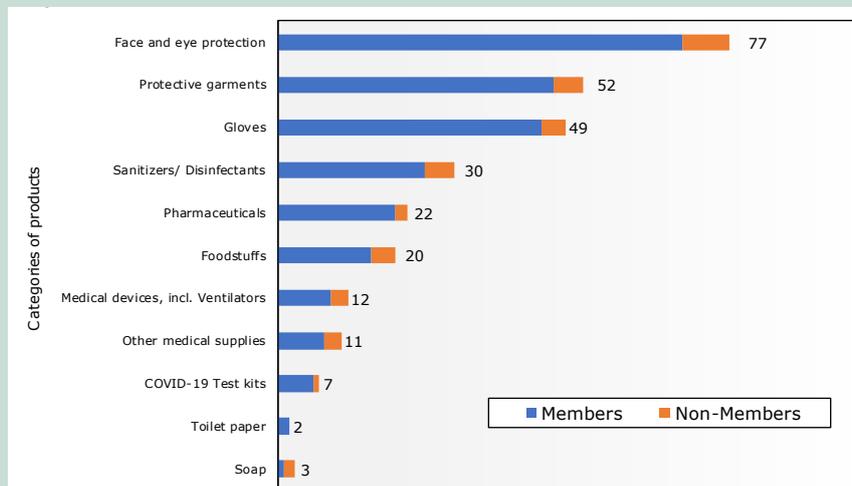
These measures took different forms, including export bans and non-automatic export licensing procedures, but have in common that they mostly prevented exports of these products. While there is considerable diversity with respect to the types of products affected by export restrictions, the majority of the measures

¹² 73% of the measures listed in the Annex have been expressly verified by Members.

have limited the exportation of face and eye protection, protective garments, and gloves, sometimes referred to as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) or Personal Protection Products (PPP). Sanitizers, pharmaceuticals and foodstuff have also been subject to export limitations, but to a lesser extent.

Figure 1 Export prohibitions and restrictions introduced to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, by type of product.

(Number)

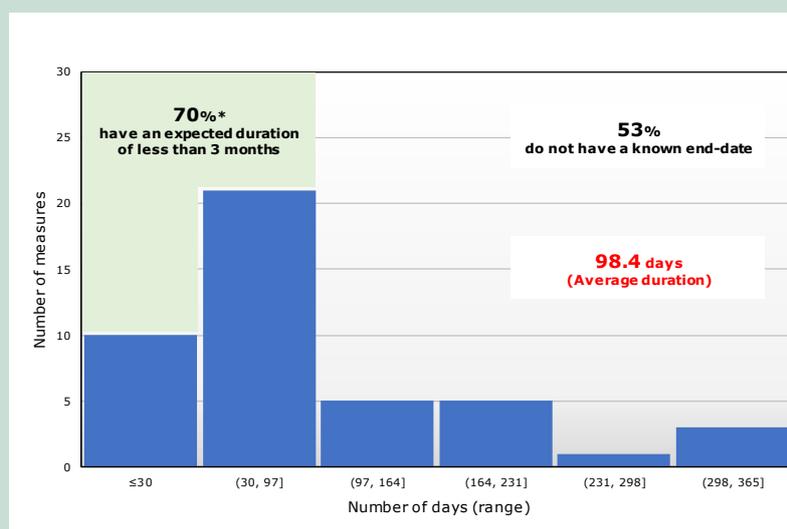


Source: WTO Secretariat based on data available in the Trade Monitoring Report.

For how long will these measures be in place?

While it is not possible to determine the duration of all measures that have been recently introduced, and these could eventually be renewed, it is possible to analyse whether the measures have a known end-date and, if they do, what is the expected duration. The information available to the WTO Secretariat suggests that roughly half of these measures have included a specific duration (47%), while the other half did not provide a clear indication of the time-frame for which they are meant to remain in place (53%). For those measures with a known end-date, the average duration is expected to be 98.4 days, with a median of 77 days. While approximately 70% of those measures are intended to be in force for less than three months, three measures indicate that they will remain in force for one year. See Figure 2.

Figure 2 Duration in weeks of export measures, number of measures



* Percentage of measures with a known date.

Source: WTO Secretariat based on data in the Trade Monitoring Report.

How much trade is affected by these export restrictions?

While it is not technically feasible to have an exact measurement of the value of exports that is being affected by the export prohibitions and restrictions (i.e. because most products covered by the measures do not have a specific tariff line or HS sub-heading that fully identifies them, and the available export data is

only at the HS sub-heading level), it is possible to calculate rough estimates of the share of world exports affected by them. One possible way of making this rough estimate for a narrow group of products is by matching the export restrictions with the HS codes covered by the joint World Customs Organization's and World Health Organization's list of COVID-19-related products. Since only part of a given HS sub-heading is related to the relevant products, these estimates have to be considered as upper limits of the affected trade flow (i.e. they may overestimate the actual value of the exports). Notwithstanding this methodological and data limitation, it would appear that the export prohibitions and restrictions affect, in particular, protective garments and disinfectants and sterilization products, where up to 21.5% and 17%, respectively, of world trade may be affected by these measures. See Table 1.

Table 1. Export prohibitions and restrictions introduced to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, by type of product

(Number)

Section (category of products)	Share of world exports (%)
COVID-19 test kits	0.1
Protective garments and the like	21.5
Disinfectants and sterilization products	17.0
Oxygen therapy equipment and pulse oximeters	4.8
Other medical devices and equipment	3.0
Other medical consumables	12.0
Vehicles	0.0
Other	0.5

Source: WTO Secretariat based on data in the Trade Monitoring Report and UN COMTRADE.

Have these measures been notified to the WTO?

In addition to the information provided by Members pursuant to the trade monitoring exercise, Members are required by the 2012 Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions (G/L/59/Rev.1) to notify every two years all prohibitions and restrictions that they maintain, including on exports. In principle, new measures should be notified no later than 6 months after their entry into force.

As at 18 May 2020, 16 Members (counting the EU member States and the United Kingdom as one) had notified the introduction of export prohibitions or restrictions in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Committee on Market Access as part of the QR notifications. Most of the notified measures relate to medical products and, in particular, PPE. Finally, three Members also notified the introduction of export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs, which were also notified to the Committee on Agriculture.

Thus far, two Members (Bangladesh, Ukraine) have notified the elimination of the measures and one Member (European Union) notified the reduction of products covered by the measures. In terms of transparency and maintaining updated information in the midst of the current crisis, these notifications have clearly increased the predictability around these trade policies.

However, it should be noted that compliance with the notification requirements remains incomplete. The confirmed information in the trade monitoring exercise shows that 22 additional Members have imposed export prohibitions and restrictions, and that an additional 11 Members may be imposing them (unconfirmed). Thus, the notification gap appears to include between 22 and 33 Members that have yet to submit a QR notification to the Committee on Market Access. Similarly, information suggests that other Members that have lifted export restrictions have also not notified these.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.28. The following box on the face mask Global Value Chain in the COVID-19 pandemic was contributed by the OECD.

Box 3.2 The face mask global value chain in the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic shortage in the supply of face masks, which is mainly explained by a sudden surge in demand well beyond pre-crisis global production capacity. For example, China was the main manufacturer of surgical masks at the onset of the crisis, with a production of 20 million masks per day. Yet this was not enough to meet domestic demand, which was estimated at 240 million masks per day to equip health, manufacturing and transport workers - more than 10 times its production capacity. Since no country can meet the demand for masks alone, trade is essential.

This surge in demand due to the pandemic resulted in bottlenecks in the face mask supply chain, as specialised inputs proved to be hard to manufacture quickly. Non-woven fabric manufactured with polypropylene, a critical component of face masks, proved to be in particularly short supply. The face mask value chain is illustrated below.

The face mask value chain and its main bottlenecks during COVID-19



Source: OECD, 2020.

Downstream bottlenecks have also appeared. While varying across countries, including due to the extent of preparedness of health infrastructure, masks have sometimes been in short supply not because of international production chains but because domestic transport, logistics and distribution have been disrupted.

To address domestic shortages of masks, many countries put in place restrictions on exports or equivalent measures such as the compulsory purchase by government of all available stocks. These export bans and compulsory purchases are generally temporary, with some already removed. Countries banning exports are not all producers or exporters of masks; non-producers, for example, may have been motivated by a desire to prevent hoarding or to avoid the export of masks already imported to be sold at a higher price abroad.

Export restrictions have several consequences. Bans are harmful for countries without production capacity but can also backfire on the country imposing them when they need to import inputs, additional masks or other essential goods. Tariffs or export licenses can delay trade, in addition to increasing prices. Export restrictions can also create uncertainty that impacts firms' investment strategies and, over time, reduce confidence in international markets.

Other countries have facilitated trade in masks and other protective equipment by removing tariffs or by suspending licensing and certification requirements. Several countries affirmed their commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and many countries temporarily eliminated import tariffs on face masks.

However, free trade and trade facilitation were not enough to address the shortage; an important increase in supply was needed, requiring government planning and incentives for firms to convert existing assembly lines and create additional capacity. Production was ramped up by the main exporters of face masks, in particular China. Ultimately, the shortage has been progressively addressed through global supply chains, with certification procedures expedited to allow masks produced by new companies to be traded.

The case of face masks in the COVID-19 context demonstrates the importance of robust and resilient supply chains. These can be achieved through strategies that prioritize risk assessment and planning, information sharing, supply redundancy, agility and reactivity. Barriers to trade can limit options available for firms to maintain operations, whereas a stable trade and investment environment offers the transparency and predictability needed to manage risks. Looking ahead, it would be excessively costly for every country to develop production capacity that matches crisis demand and encompasses the whole value chain. An alternative, more effective and cost-efficient solution in the long-term may involve the combination of strategic stocks; upstream agreements with companies for rapid conversion of assembly lines during crises (with possible government incentives and co-ordination); and supportive international trade measures.

Source: OECD, 2020.

3.29. The following box provides a non-exhaustive overview of recent collective and individual declarations or statements by WTO Members on trade-related measures affecting value chains in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 3.3 Recent collective and individual declarations or statements by WTO Members on trade-related measures affecting value chains in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, several voluntary and collective declarations or statements by WTO Members have been announced or tabled. They mostly contain pledges to ensure that supply chains remain open and connected, to reduce or eliminate tariffs for essential goods needed for the COVID-19 response, and to refrain from imposing export restrictions on such essential goods or on agricultural products. Below is a brief non-exhaustive overview of these initiatives.

On 20 March 2020, New Zealand and Singapore issued a *Joint Ministerial Statement affirming their commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation*^a. On 25 March 2020, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile and Myanmar joined this Ministerial Statement^b, followed, on 6 April, by Lao People's Democratic Republic and Uruguay^c. On 15 April 2020, New Zealand and Singapore launched a *Declaration on trade in essential goods for combating the COVID-19 pandemic*^d. Following this Declaration, New Zealand^e and Singapore^f both pledged individually to eliminate tariffs on products needed for the COVID-19 response and to refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions on essential goods. On 22 April 2020, 23 WTO Members (29 as of 29 May 2020)^g issued a Joint Statement titled "*Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products*"^h.

On 1 May 2020, the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued a *Declaration and two statements on COVID-19*. On 4 May 2020, the LDC Group issued a communication titled "*Securing LDCs emergency access to essential medical and food products to combat the COVID-19 pandemic*"ⁱ. On 5 May 2020, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers responsible for trade issued a *Statement on COVID-19*^k. Also on 5 May 2020, 42 WTO Members (46 as of 29 May 2020)^l issued a *Joint Ministerial Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system*^m. On 12 May 2020, Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Singapore issued a *Joint Ministerial Statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services, as well as the essential movement of people*ⁿ. On 14 May 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers issued a *Statement endorsing the G20 Actions to support world trade and investment in response to COVID-19*^o. Finally, also on 14 May 2020, 49 WTO Members (52 as of 26 May 2020)^p issued a *Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19*^q.

Some WTO Members have expressed their further intentions to pursue initiatives on trade-related measures affecting value chains in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 16 April 2020, the EU Commission referred to possible action by the European Union towards temporary suspension of tariffs on medical equipment, and a call for an international undertaking to suspend tariffs on COVID-19 related products and facilitate access to medicines^r.

- a Viewed at: <https://www.mti.gov.sg/-/media/MTI/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/03/Joint-Ministerial-Statement-by-SG-and-NZ-Affirming-Commitment-to-Ensuring-Supply-Chain-Connectivity.pdf>.
- b Viewed at: https://www.sgpc.gov.sg/sgpcmedia/media_releases/mti/press_release/P-20200325-2/attachment/JOINT%20MINISTERIAL%20STATEMENT%20AFFIRMING%20COMMITMENT%20TO%20ENSURING%20SUPPLY%20CHAIN%20CONNECTIVITY%20AMIDST%20THE%20COVID-19%20SITUATION.pdf.
- c Viewed at: <https://www.mti.gov.sg/-/media/MTI/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/03/Updated-Joint-Ministerial-Statement-on-supply-chain-connectivity-as-of-6-april.pdf>.
- d WTO document G/C/W/777, 16 April 2020.
- e WTO document G/C/W/778; G/MA/W/150, 16 April 2020.
- f WTO document G/C/W/779; G/MA/W/151, 16 April 2020.
- g Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; European Union; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malawi; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Paraguay; Peru; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; and Uruguay.
- h Viewed at: https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006.aspx?MetaCollection=WTO&SymbolList=%22WT%2fGC%2f208%22+OR+%22WT%2fGC%2f208%2f*%22&Serial=&IssuingDateFrom=&IssuingDateTo=&CATTITLE=&ConcernedCountryList=&OtherCountryList=&SubjectList=&TypeList=&FullTextHash=371857150&ProductList=&BodyList=&OrganizationList=&ArticleList=&Contents=&CollectionList=&RestrictionTypeName=&PostingDateFrom=&PostingDateTo=&DerestrictionDateFrom=&DerestrictionDateTo=&ReferenceList=&Language=ENGLISH&SearchPage=FE_S_S001&ActiveTabIndex=0&HSClassificationList=&ServicesClassificationList=&EnvironmentClassificationList=&ICSCClassificationList=&ICSCClassificationDescList:EnvironmentClassificationDescList:ServicesClassificationDescList:HSCClassificationDescList=&languageUIChanged=true.
- i WTO document WT/GC/210, 1 May 2020.
- j WTO document WT/GC/211, 4 May 2020.
- k WTO document WT/GC/213, 8 May 2020.
- l Afghanistan; Australia; Barbados; Benin; Cambodia; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Guyana; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Jamaica; Japan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Kuwait; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Nepal; New Zealand; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Qatar; Saint Lucia; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom and Uruguay.
- m Viewed at: https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006.aspx?MetaCollection=WTO&SymbolList=%22WT%2fGC%2f212%22+OR+%22WT%2fGC%2f212%2f*%22&Serial=&IssuingDateFrom=&IssuingDateTo=&CATTITLE=&ConcernedCountryList=&OtherCountryList=&SubjectList=&TypeList=&FullTextHash=371857150&ProductList=&BodyList=&OrganizationList=&ArticleList=&Contents=&CollectionList=&RestrictionTypeName=&PostingDateFrom=&PostingDateTo=&DerestrictionDateFrom=&DerestrictionDateTo=&ReferenceList=&Language=ENGLISH&SearchPage=FE_S_S001&ActiveTabIndex=0&HSClassificationList=&ServicesClassificationList=&EnvironmentClassificationList=&ICSCClassificationList=&ICSCClassificationDescList:EnvironmentClassificationDescList:ServicesClassificationDescList:HSCClassificationDescList=&languageUIChanged=true.
- n WTO document WT/GC/214, 13 May 2020.
- o WTO document WT/GC/216, 20 May 2020.

p	Afghanistan; Albania; Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; El Salvador; European Union; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Liechtenstein; Malaysia; Maldives; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Myanmar; New Zealand; North Macedonia; Norway; Paraguay; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; Vanuatu and Viet Nam.
q	Viewed at: https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006.aspx?MetaCollection=WTO&SymbolList=%22WT%2fGC%2f215%22+OR+%22WT%2fGC%2f215%2f*%22&Serial=&IssuingDateFrom=&IssuingDateTo=&CATTITLE=&ConcernedCountryList=&OtherCountryList=&SubjectList=&TypeList=&FullTextHash=371857150&ProductList=&BodyList=&OrganizationList=&ArticleList=&Contents=&CollectionList=&RestrictionTypeName=&PostingDateFrom=&PostingDateTo=&DerestrictionDateFrom=&DerestrictionDateTo=&ReferenceList=&Language=ENGLISH&SearchPage=FE_S_S001&ActiveTabIndex=0&HSClassificationList=&ServicesClassificationList=&EnvironmentClassificationList=&ICSClassificationList=&ICSCClassificationDescList:EnvironmentClassificationDescList:ServicesClassificationDescList:HSClassificationDescList=&languageUIChanged=true .
r	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/hogan/announcements/introductory-statement-commissioner-phil-hogan-informal-meeting-eu-trade-ministers_en .

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.2 Trade-Remedies¹³

3.30. This Section provides an assessment of trends in trade-remedy actions in the periods January-December 2017, January-December 2018 and January-December 2019.¹⁴ Concerning anti-dumping, the data indicate a slight increase in the number of new investigations initiated in 2019 compared to 2018. While the number of countervailing investigations significantly decreased in 2019, those of safeguard initiations increased. The total number of initiations for the latter two types of trade-remedy investigations remained considerably lower than for anti-dumping.

Anti-dumping measures¹⁵

3.31. Global anti-dumping initiations decreased by 19% to 202 in 2018 from 249 in the 2017, and increased, by 2.5%, to 207 in 2019 (Table 3.8). The table provides information on which Members initiated anti-dumping investigations over the last three years.

Table 3.8 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations, 2017-19

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Argentina	8	19	17
Australia	16	12	7
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	4	3	2
Brazil	7	7	1
Canada	14	14	6
Chile	1	2	0
China	24	16	14
Colombia	8	3	0
Dominican Republic	0	1	0
Egypt	0	1	6
El Salvador	1	0	0
European Union	9	8	11
India	49	32	52
Indonesia	1	0	6
Israel	3	0	0
Japan	2	0	1
Korea, Republic of	7	5	5
Madagascar	0	0	1
Malaysia	4	2	7

¹³ This Section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions under the WTO.

¹⁴ These periods coincide with the Member's semi-annual reporting periods.

¹⁵ Anti-dumping and countervailing investigations are counted on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from n countries/customs territories is counted as n investigations.

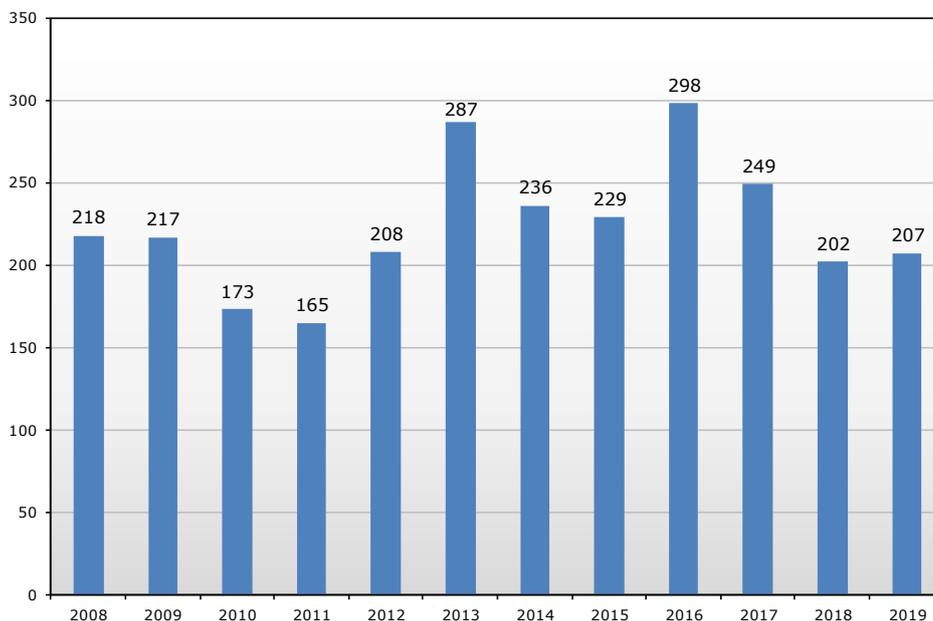
Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Mexico	8	3	6
Morocco	1	0	0
New Zealand	2	2	0
Pakistan	3	8	6
Peru	3	0	1
Russian Federation ^b	1	6	4
South Africa ^c	0	3	0
Chinese Taipei	0	2	0
Thailand	3	1	2
Turkey	8	6	2
Ukraine	7	10	8
United States	55	34	33
Viet Nam	0	2	9
Total	249	202	207

- a Notified by all GCC member States collectively as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.
- b Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan (which became a WTO Member on 30 November 2015), and Belarus (non-WTO Member) collectively.
- c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.32. Chart 3.6 shows that the number of initiations of anti-dumping investigations increased from 165 in 2011 to 287 in 2013, decreased to 236 and 229 initiations in 2014 and 2015, respectively, and increased in 2016 to 298 investigations. This is the highest number of initiations since the 311 of 2002, but still off the all-time high of 372 in 2001. A downward trend was observed in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, on the other hand, a slight increase of the number of initiations of anti-dumping investigations was observed (207).

Chart 3.6 Total anti-dumping investigation initiations, 2008-19



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.33. While anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, a decrease in the number of investigations initiated is an early indicator suggesting a likely decrease in the number of measures imposed.

3.34. Over the three periods, a total of 541 anti-dumping measures were imposed (Table 3.9). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an anti-dumping investigation to be concluded once initiated, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period.

Table 3.9 Number of anti-dumping measures imposed, 2017-19

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Argentina	2	13	13
Australia	14	5	12
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	1	0	2
Brazil	10	9	6
Canada	10	7	8
Chile	2	0	1
China	5	23	12
Colombia	1	8	0
Costa Rica	1	0	0
Dominican Republic	1	0	0
Egypt	6	0	1
El Salvador	0	1	0
European Union	11	3	4
India	47	37	13
Indonesia	3	1	1
Israel	0	0	3
Japan	1	2	0
Korea, Republic of	4	7	2
Malaysia	0	4	6
Mexico	2	7	8
Morocco	2	3	1
Pakistan	12	19	4
Peru	0	1	0
Philippines	1	0	0
Russian Federation ^b	1	0	2
Chinese Taipei	0	0	2
Thailand	7	0	0
Turkey	10	10	0
Ukraine	2	2	9
United States	33	41	33
Viet Nam	3	0	3
Total	192	203	146

a Notified by all GCC member States collectively as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.

b Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan (which became a WTO Member on 30 November 2015), and Belarus (non-WTO Member) collectively.

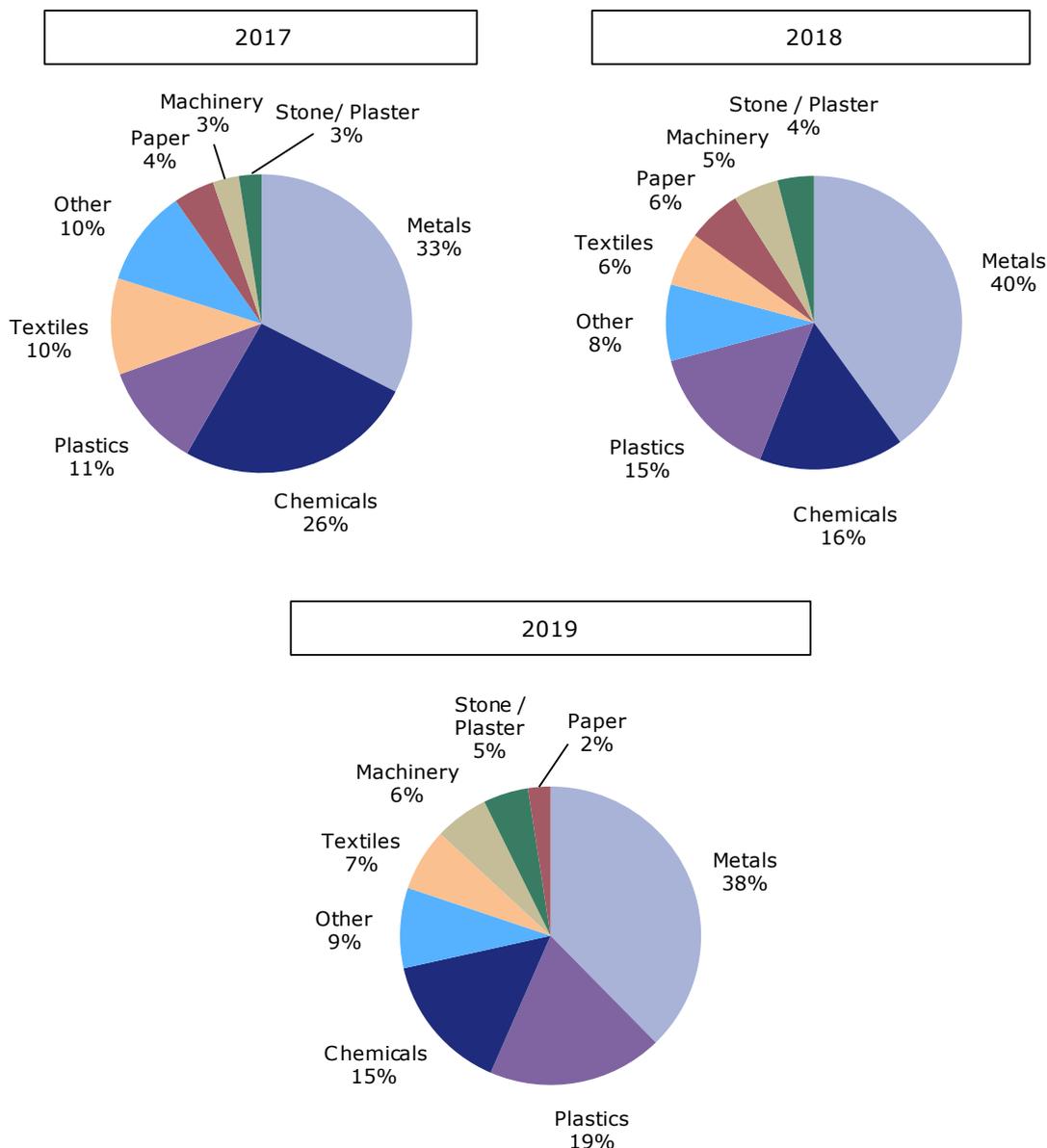
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.35. Chart 3.7 shows that there was little change in terms of the products affected by anti-dumping investigations initiated during the three periods examined, with the majority of initiations focused on products in the metals, chemicals, and plastics and rubber sectors.

3.36. Metal products were subject to the most initiations in each period, accounting for 33% of all initiations in 2017, 40% in 2018 and 38% in 2019. In each period, at least 78 initiations targeted metals, of which 81%-85% focused on steel products (Chapters 72 and 73 of the HS classification). Over the three periods combined, the United States (61), India (26), Australia (18), Canada (16) and the European Union (14) accounted for more than half of the 240 initiations on metals. A decrease in the number of initiations on metal products was seen in 2019, with 22 investigations initiated by India, 17 by the United States, 6 by Malaysia, 4 each by the European Union, the Russian Federation, Indonesia and Argentina, 3 each by Ukraine, Canada and Mexico and 2 each by Viet Nam and, Australia, Thailand and Pakistan. Initiations against metals across the three periods affected mostly products from China (74, of which 56 involved steel products); Republic of Korea, (19, of which 18 involved steel); Viet Nam (16, of which 14 involved steel); the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei) (11, of which 10 involved steel); Turkey (9,

of which 8 involved steel) and India (9, of which 8 involved steel). In many instances, investigations were launched on the same product from several exporting countries. For instance, eight steel products were the focus of 92 investigations.

Chart 3.7 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations, by product



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.37. Chemical products accounted for the second largest share of initiations over the three reporting periods, with a 26% share of initiations in 2017, a 16% share in 2018, and a 15% share in 2019. China accounted for 33 of the 127 new investigations on products in this sector over the three reporting periods, followed by India (30) and the United States (22). These initiations involved mostly chemical products from China (16); Korea, Republic of (10); Japan (9); Thailand (8); Russian Federation (7) and the United States (7). Similar to metals sector investigations, investigations into chemicals frequently involved the same product from different countries – 16 products accounted for 72 of the investigations in this area.

3.38. Plastics and rubber ranked third over the three periods examined, accounting for 11% of all initiations in 2017, 15% in 2018, and 19% in 2019. India (29), the United States (14) and China

(12) accounted for more than half of the 97 plastics and rubber investigations. China was once again the main subject of investigations in this sector (19), followed by Korea, Republic of (12); Thailand (9); and the United States and Chinese Taipei (6 each).

3.39. In terms of countries affected by new anti-dumping investigations, 49 exporting Members were affected in 2017, 46 in 2018, and 35 in 2019. China remained, by far, the Member most affected by anti-dumping initiations during the three periods – investigations into Chinese products accounted for 27% of all investigations during these periods. The second most affected Member during the three periods – Korea, Republic of – accounted for 7% of the total initiations, followed by Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Malaysia, and India at 4% each.

3.40. As at 15 May 2020, only two Members had anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, Brazil suspended anti-dumping duties on syringes and vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection, and Argentina suspended anti-dumping duties on syringes and parenteral solutions.

Countervailing measures

3.41. As shown in Table 3.10, the number of global initiations of countervailing duty investigations decreased significantly to 36 in 2019, compared to 55 in 2018, after having increased from 41 in 2017.

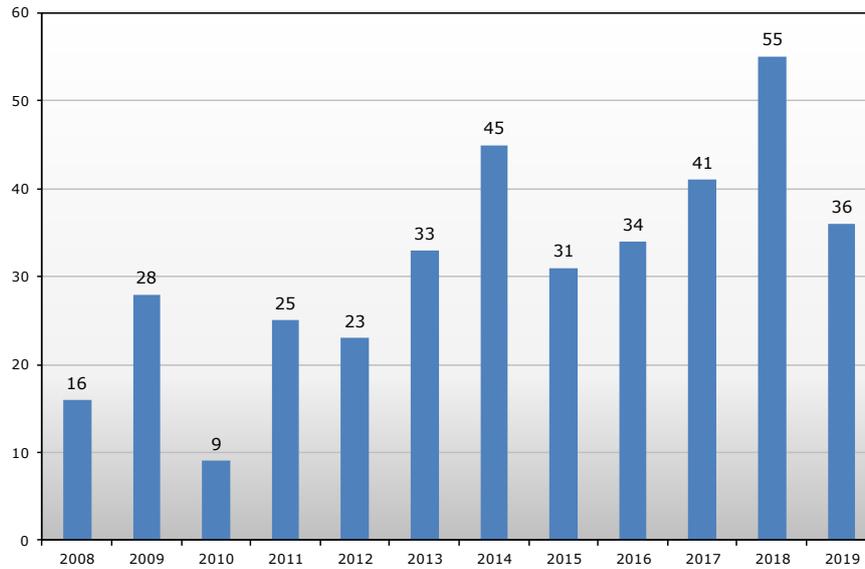
3.42. Among the 13 Members using countervailing measures during the three periods examined, the United States initiated the largest number of new investigations (65), accounting for 49% of all initiations throughout the review period. India, the second largest user (19), accounted for 14% of all initiations, followed by Canada (18) for 14%. The remaining investigations were conducted by ten other Members.

Table 3.10 Initiations of countervailing duty investigations, 2017-19

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Australia	0	3	0
Brazil	1	0	0
Canada	11	4	3
China	1	3	1
Colombia	0	0	1
European Union	2	2	5
India	0	10	9
New Zealand	1	1	0
Peru	1	1	0
Chinese Taipei	0	5	0
Turkey	0	1	0
Ukraine	0	1	0
United States	24	24	17
Total	41	55	36

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.43. Chart 3.8, reflecting annual figures, shows an upward trend in countervailing initiations from 2010 to 2014, notwithstanding some fluctuation in 2012. Following a decrease in 2015, the number of countervailing initiations increased until 2018, reaching to the peak of initiations observed in 1999 with 55 new investigations. The number of new initiations, however, decreased significantly in 2019.

Chart 3.8 Initiations of countervailing investigations, 2008-19

Source: WTO Secretariat.

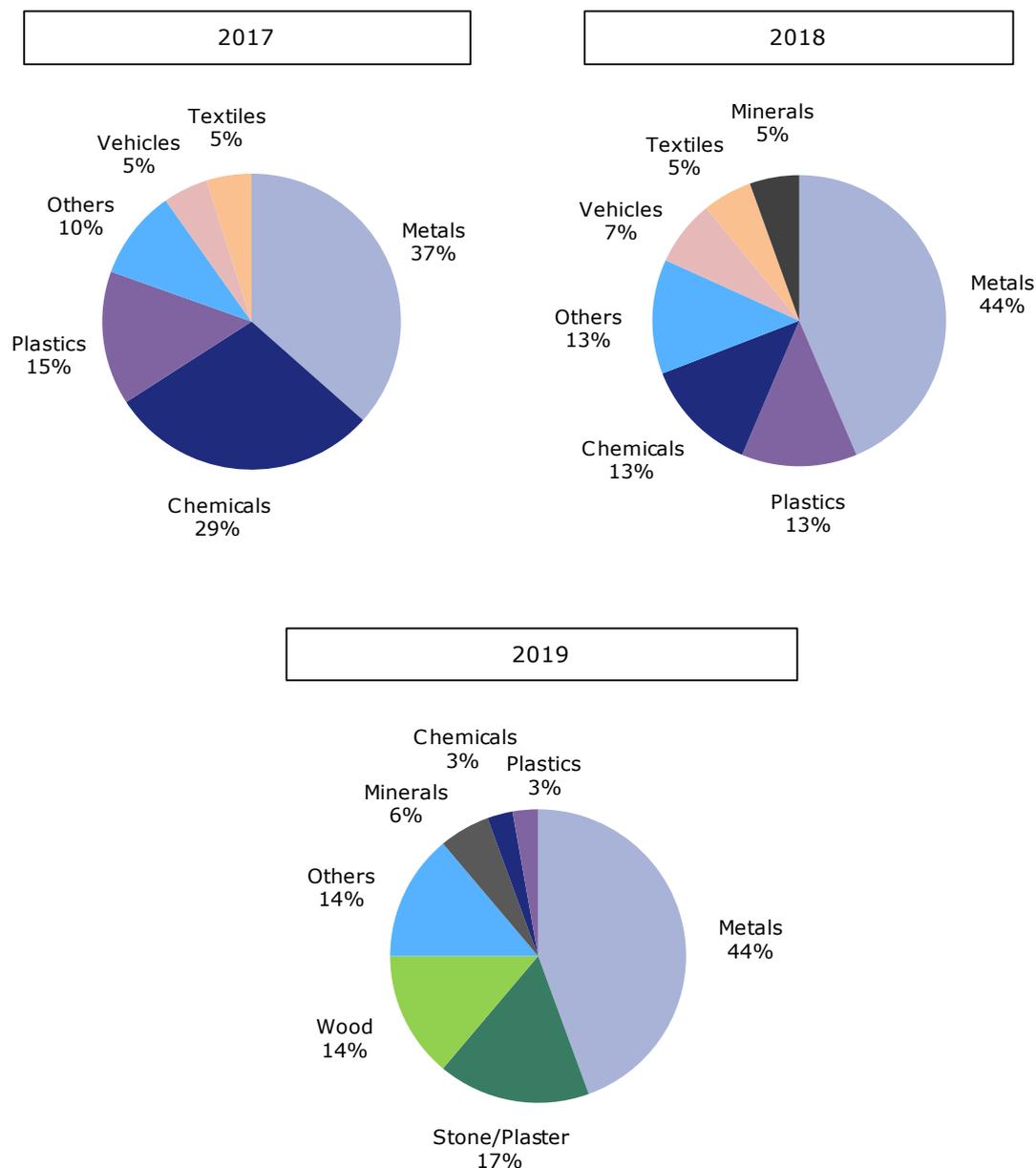
3.44. As with anti-dumping, countervailing duty investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures. However, a rise in the number of investigations initiated may be an early indicator of a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Over the three periods, a total of 81 countervailing measures were imposed (Table 3.11). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an investigation to be concluded, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period. This lag may account for the substantial increase in the number of measures applied in 2019 compared with 2018, despite the drop recorded in the number of investigations initiated.

Table 3.11 Number of countervailing measures imposed, 2017-19

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Australia	3	0	1
Brazil	0	1	1
Canada	1	6	0
China	1	1	0
European Union	1	1	3
India	1	0	5
Peru	0	1	0
Chinese Taipei	0	0	5
United States	11	18	20
Total	18	28	35

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.45. Concerning the products affected by countervailing investigations, Chart 3.9 shows that metals accounted for most of the initiations reported over the three reporting periods, with for 37% of all initiations in 2017 and 44% in both 2018 and 2019. For the three periods combined, 55 of the 132 total initiations recorded covered metals, and 33 of these targeted steel products. The United States initiated 24 of the 65 investigations on steel products. Of the 43 steel-related initiations over the three periods, 21 involved products from China.

Chart 3.9 Initiations of countervailing investigations, by product

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.46. Over the three reporting periods, chemicals and plastics were the second and third most-investigated sectors, with 20 and 14 initiations, respectively, followed by vehicles and stone/plaster products, with 6 initiations each.

3.47. In terms of Members affected by new countervailing investigations, 18 exporting Members were affected in 2017 and 14 in both 2018 and 2019. China was the most frequent target of investigations, accounting for 39% of all investigations during the three periods. India, the second most frequent target during the three periods, accounted for 11% of all initiations, followed by Viet Nam with 6%.

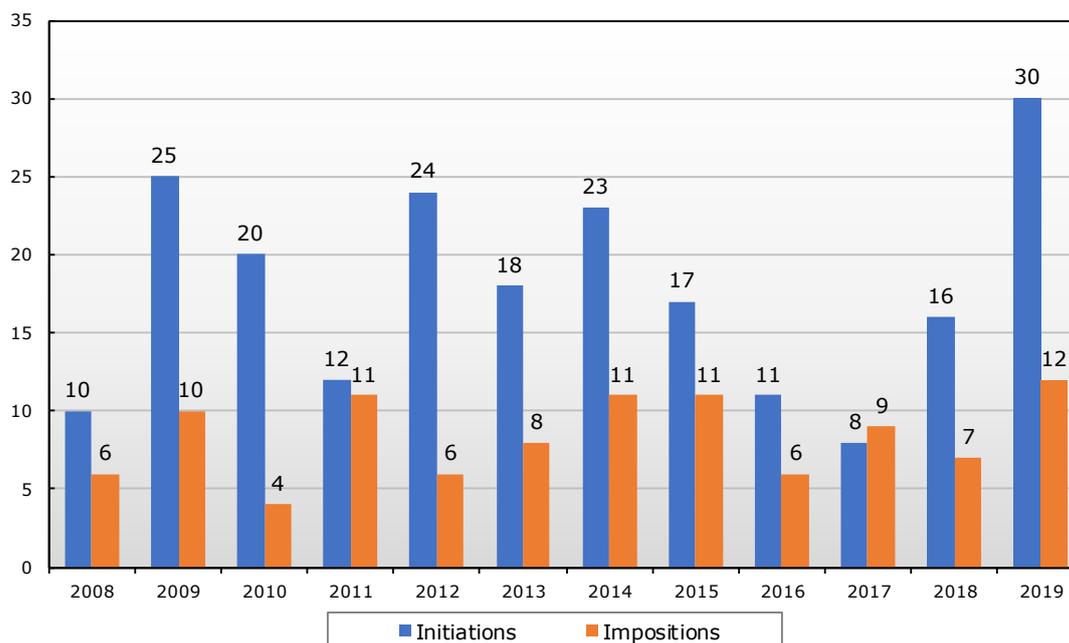
3.48. As at 15 May 2020, no countervailing duty action that referred to the COVID 19-pandemic had been notified by WTO Members.

Safeguard measures

3.49. Safeguard measures are temporary measures imposed in response to increased imports of goods that are causing serious injury and are imposed on products from all sources, i.e. all exporting countries.¹⁶ Thus, safeguards are subject to different rules and timelines than anti-dumping and countervailing measures and are, therefore, not directly comparable to these other types of trade remedies.

3.50. Chart 3.10 shows the trend of initiations of safeguard investigations side by side with the trend of impositions on a calendar-year basis. 2019 saw the second largest number of initiations (30) and the third largest number of impositions (12) since 1995. The largest number of initiations was recorded in 2002 (34). The largest and second largest number of impositions were recorded in 2003 (15) and in 2002 (14), respectively.

Chart 3.10 Initiation and imposition of safeguard measures, 2008-19



Note: Some notifications are ambiguous about the timing when the measure takes effect. For those notifications, Members sometimes subsequently file an additional notification clarifying, ex post, the timing of the taking effect. For this reason, the number of impositions indicated in past reports can differ from the figures indicated in this Report. Since impositions, if any, take place when the investigations are concluded, and investigations usually take more than 1-2 months, imposed measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period/year.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.51. Tables 3.12 and Table 3.13 show the number of safeguard initiations and impositions between 2017 and 2019, by reporting Member. As can be seen, since 2018, major trading partners such as the United States, the European Union and Canada have imposed safeguard measures. These Members were not major users in the past. The last time the United States imposed a safeguard measure was in 2002, and the European Union in 2005. For Canada, 2018 saw the very first imposition of a safeguard measure.

¹⁶ With the exception of special and differential treatment provided for developing countries in Article 9.1 of the Safeguards Agreement.

Table 3.12 Initiations of safeguard investigations, 2017-19

(Number)

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	1	0	1
Canada	0	1	0
Chile	0	1	0
Colombia	0	0	1
Costa Rica	0	1	1
Ecuador	0	0	1
Egypt	0	0	1
European Union	0	1	0
Guatemala	0	0	1
India	1	0	3
Indonesia	0	2	5
Jordan	0	0	1
Madagascar	0	3	4
Morocco	0	1	2
Panama	0	0	1
Philippines	0	2	2
Russian Federation ^b	0	1	2
South Africa ^c	0	1	1
Turkey	2	2	0
Ukraine	1	0	3
United States	2	0	0
Viet Nam	1	0	0
Total	8	16	30

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

b Indicated as the Russian Federation for the purpose of this table, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan (which became a WTO Member on 30 November 2015), and Belarus (non-WTO Member) collectively.

c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated by the Southern African Customs Union on behalf of all its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.13 Imposition of safeguard measures, 2017-19

(Number)

Reporting Member	2017	2018	2019
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1
China	1	0	0
Egypt	0	0	1
European Union	0	0	1
India	0	1	0
Indonesia	0	1	1
Jordan	1	0	0
Madagascar	0	0	2
Malaysia	2	0	0
Morocco	1	0	1
Philippines	0	0	1
Russian Federation ^b	0	0	1
South Africa ^c	1	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0
Turkey	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	0
United States	0	2	0
Viet Nam	1	1	0
Total	9	7	12

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

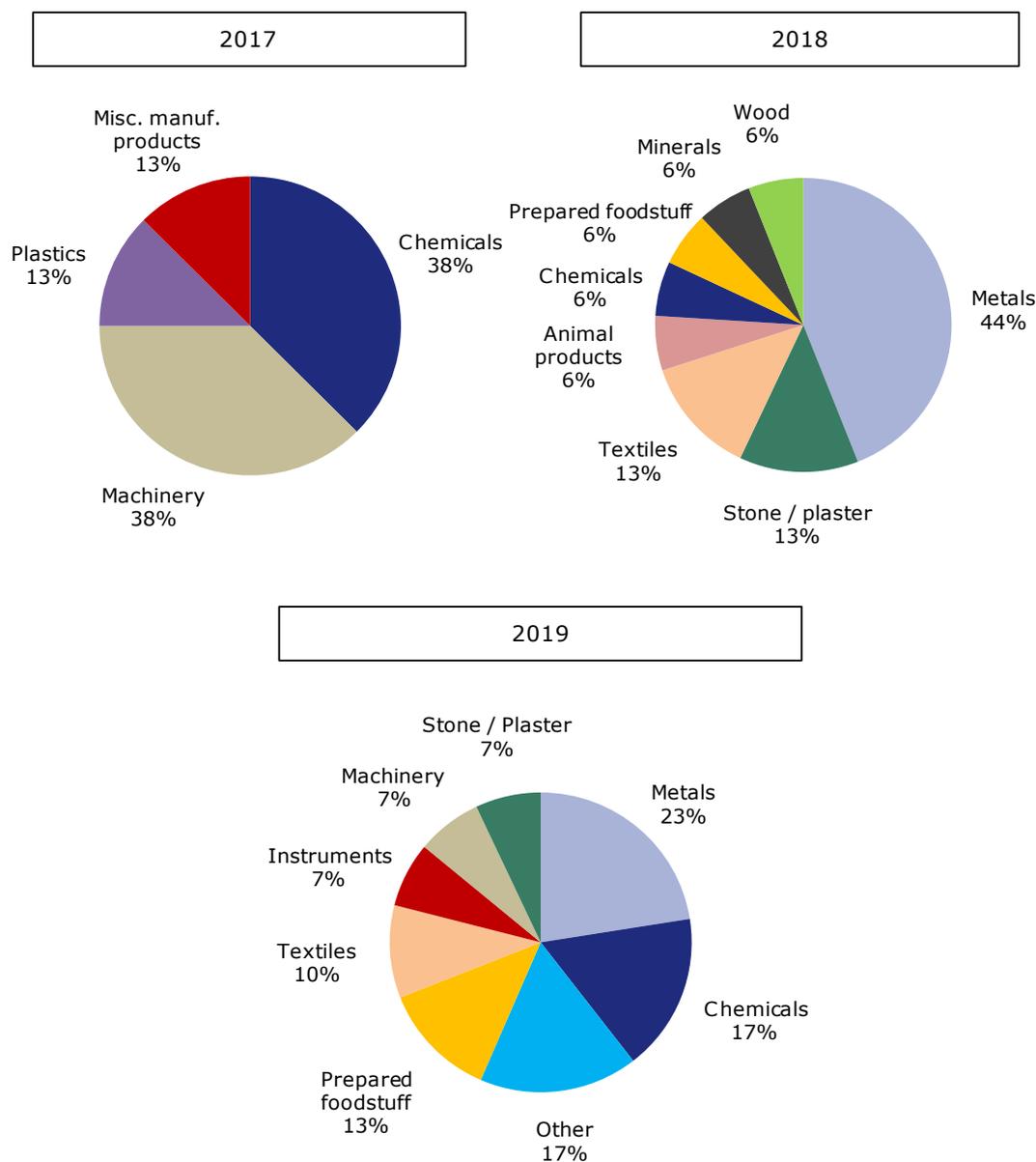
b Indicated as the Russian Federation for the purpose of this table but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan (which became a WTO Member on 30 November 2015), and Belarus (non-WTO Member) collectively.

c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated by the Southern African Customs Union on behalf of all its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.52. Chart 3.11 shows the products covered by safeguard investigations. The share of investigations initiated in the metals sector (the vast majority of which involve steel products) was exceptionally low (0%) in 2017 after the extremely high share of 91% in 2016. This share increased to 44% in 2018 and declined to 23% in 2019. Up until mid-May 2020, there has been no safeguard action notified to the WTO that referred to the COVID 19-pandemic.

Chart 3.11 Initiation of safeguard investigations, by product



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat. Up until 30 April 2020, no safeguard action notified to the WTO that referred to the COVID 19-pandemic was notified to the WTO.

3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures¹⁷

3.53. The Section below covers SPS transparency-related matters, including specific trade concerns (STCs) discussed in SPS Committee meetings, for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020. In

¹⁷ Information presented in this Section was retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). For more information, see also annual reports [G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.12](https://www.wto.org/press/2020/04/20200401_gspsgen804rev12.htm) and [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.20](https://www.wto.org/press/2020/04/20200401_gspsgen204rev20.htm).

addition, new SPS measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are reported in a separate sub-section covering the period from 1 February to 30 April 2020.

SPS activities/developments (1 October 2019-31 March 2020)

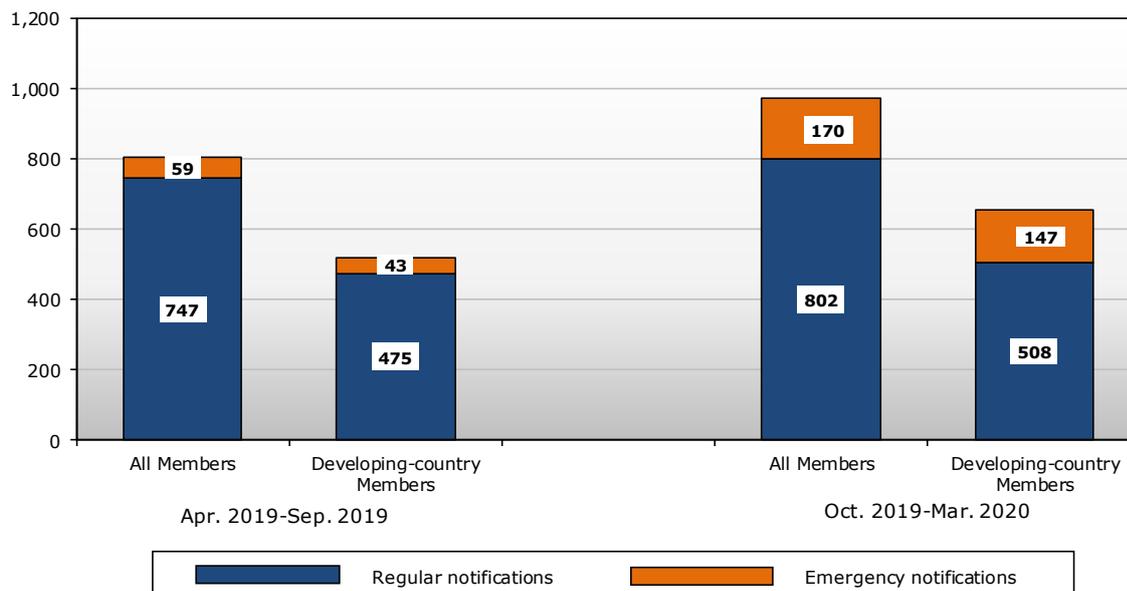
3.54. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide an advance notification of intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures¹⁸, or to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed. The main objective of complying with the SPS notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect international trade. Therefore, an increase in the number of notifications does not automatically imply greater protectionism but can be due to enhanced transparency and/or a greater number of legitimate health-protection measures.

3.55. From 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020, 972 SPS notifications (regular and emergency, including addenda) were submitted to the WTO. Notifications from developing-country Members accounted for 67% of the total. In the previous six-month period, from April through September 2019, a total of 806 notifications were submitted, of which 64% were by developing-country Members (Chart 3.12).

3.56. With respect to regular notifications (including addenda) during the period under review, WTO Members submitted 802 notifications, 63% of which were submitted by developing-country Members. In the previous six-month period, from April through September 2019, a total of 747 regular notifications were submitted, of which 64% were by developing-country Members. Overall, during the period under review, there was a 7% increase in the total number of regular notifications compared to the previous reporting period.

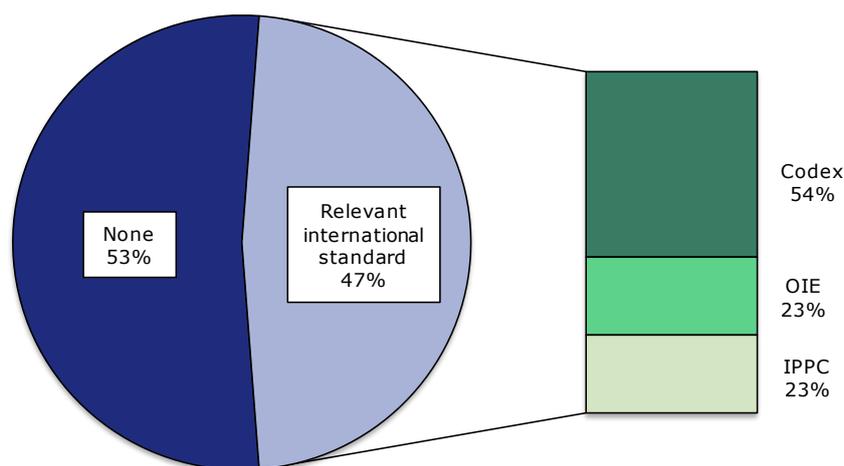
3.57. The total number of notifications of emergency measures submitted by WTO Members increased compared with the previous period. Moreover, the share of emergency notifications submitted by developing-country Members increased as compared to the previous period. In the review period, 86% of the 170 notifications of emergency measures were submitted by developing-country Members. During the previous six-month period, 73% of the 59 emergency notifications were submitted by developing-country Members. This high proportion of emergency measures notified by developing-country Members might stem from the fact that they do not have as extensive SPS regulatory frameworks as developed-country Members. Consequently, when facing emergency challenges, they are relatively more likely to have to introduce new regulations or change existing ones.

¹⁸ Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement. Annex B requires that Members notify measures whose content is not substantially the same as that of an international standard, guideline or recommendation, and when the measure may have a significant effect on trade. However, the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement, last updated in 2018 (WTO document [G/SPS/7/Rev.4](#), 4 June 2018), recommend that Members also notify measures which are based on the relevant international standards, and provide a broad interpretation of effects on trade.

Chart 3.12 Number of SPS notifications, including regular, emergency and addenda

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.58. Many Members are following the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when these are based on a relevant international standard, as this increases transparency. Of the 578 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period, 47% indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was relevant to the notified measure. Of these, 54% referred to Codex, 23% to the OIE and 23% to the IPPC (Chart 3.13). Furthermore, the notification formats include an entry enquiring whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. Of the notifications that have identified a relevant international standard, 69% indicated that the measure was in conformity with, or substantially the same as, the existing international standard, guideline or recommendation.

Chart 3.13 Regular SPS notifications (excluding addenda) and international standards

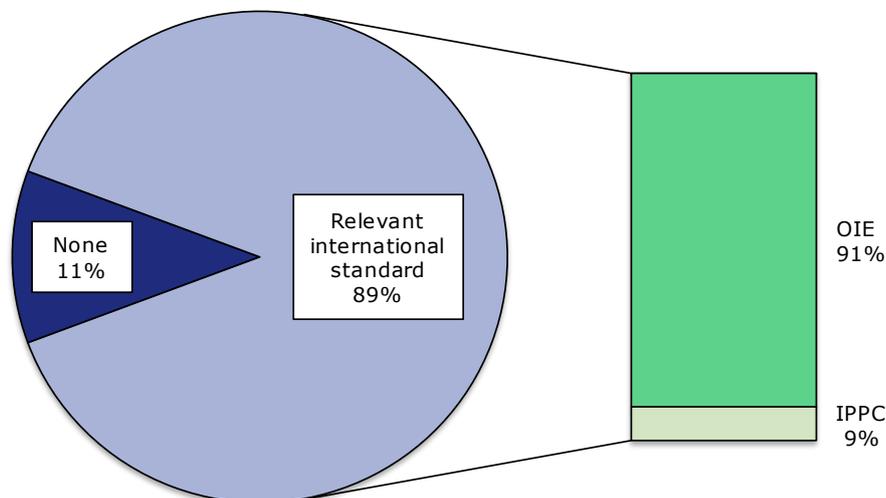
Note: Codex Alimentarius (Codex), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.59. International standards often provide useful guidance regarding measures to address disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. For example, 89% of the 133 emergency notifications (excluding addenda) submitted in the review period indicated that an international standard,

guideline or recommendation was relevant to the notified measure; in many cases this was an OIE animal health standard (Chart 3.14). 93% of these indicated that the measure was in conformity with the existing international standard.

Chart 3.14 Emergency SPS notifications (excluding addenda) and international standards



Note: World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.60. Of the 578 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period, the majority (59%) related to food safety.¹⁹ The remaining notifications related to animal health (13%), plant protection (12%), the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests (9%) and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests (7%). Several of the regular notifications identified more than one objective per measure.

3.61. Of the 133 emergency measures (excluding addenda), 49% related to animal health, followed by food safety (24%), measures related to the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests (19%), plant protection (5%) and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests (3%). Most of the notified emergency measures identified more than one objective per measure.

3.62. While there is no formal provision for "counter notification", concerns regarding the failure to notify an SPS measure, or on a notified SPS measure, can be raised as a specific trade concern (STC) at any of the three regular meetings of the SPS Committee each year. In the Committee meeting of 7-8 November 2019²⁰, five new STCs were raised.²¹ One of these related to food safety, one to animal health, another one to plant health, and two to other types of concerns (one regarding undue delays in approval procedures and another regarding lack of transparency in such procedures for the importation of animal products) (Table 3.14).

¹⁹ The objective of an SPS measure falls under one or more of the following categories: (i) food safety; (ii) animal health; (iii) plant protection; (iv) protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease; and (v) protect territory from other damages from pests. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon for more than one objective to be identified for a measure. The percentages represent the share of each objective as cited in regular and emergency notifications.

²⁰ WTO document G/SPS/R/97/Rev.1.

²¹ The 19-20 March 2020 SPS Committee meeting was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic (JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1).

Table 3.14 New STCs raised in the November 2019 SPS Committee meeting

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
465	Thailand's approval procedures for imports of pork and other animal products	Thailand	Brazil, European Union		07/11/2019	Other concerns
466	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	Philippines	European Union		07/11/2019	Animal health
467	EU sanitary requirement for importation of hoof and horn	European Union	Indonesia		07/11/2019	Other concerns
468	The Russian Federation's maximum limit of 3-monochloropropadiene (3MCPD) and glycidyl ester (GE) in palm oil products	Russian Federation	Indonesia	Colombia, Malaysia	07/11/2019	Food safety
469	EU Regulation on high risk plants (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031)	European Union	Israel	Canada, Kenya, United States	07/11/2019	Plant health

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.63. Twelve previously raised STCs were discussed at the November 2019 SPS Committee meeting. Of these, three addressed persistent problems that have been discussed 10, 15 and 37 times respectively (Table 3.15).

Table 3.15 Previously raised STCs discussed again in the November 2019 SPS Committee meeting

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective	Times subsequently raised
193	General import restrictions due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	Certain Members	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	01/06/2004	Animal health	37
382	European Union legislation on endocrine disruptors	European Union	Argentina; China; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Australia; Benin; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Honduras; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Madagascar; Malaysia;	25/03/2014	Food safety	15

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective	Times subsequently raised
				Mexico; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia			
386	Measures on imports of hibiscus flowers	Mexico	Nigeria; Senegal	Burkina Faso	26/03/2015	Plant health	2
406	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	China	European Union; United States		16/03/2016	Animal health	10
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	South Africa	European Union		02/11/2017	Animal health	6
439	US import restrictions on apples and pears	United States	European Union		01/03/2018	Plant health	5
441	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	Indonesia	European Union	Brazil	12/07/2018	Other concerns	4
447	New EU definition of the fungicide folpet	European Union	China		12/07/2018	Food safety	4
448	EU MRLs for buprofezin, chlorothalonil, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxym	European Union	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Argentina; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Dominican Republic; El Salvador; Honduras; Nicaragua; Peru; Turkey; Uruguay	01/11/2018	Food safety	3
459	New EU MRLs for lambda-cyhalothrin	European Union	China	Paraguay	18/07/2019	Food safety	1
461	Turkey's FMD-related import restrictions on live cattle	Turkey	Argentina		18/07/2019	Animal health	1
463	Ukraine's restrictions on swine products	Ukraine	Brazil		18/07/2019	Animal health	1

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.64. Out of the 17 STCs discussed during the review period, 5 related to measures implemented by Members on food safety, 6 on animal health, 3 on plant health, and 3 related to other types of concerns (i.e. control, inspection and approval procedures).

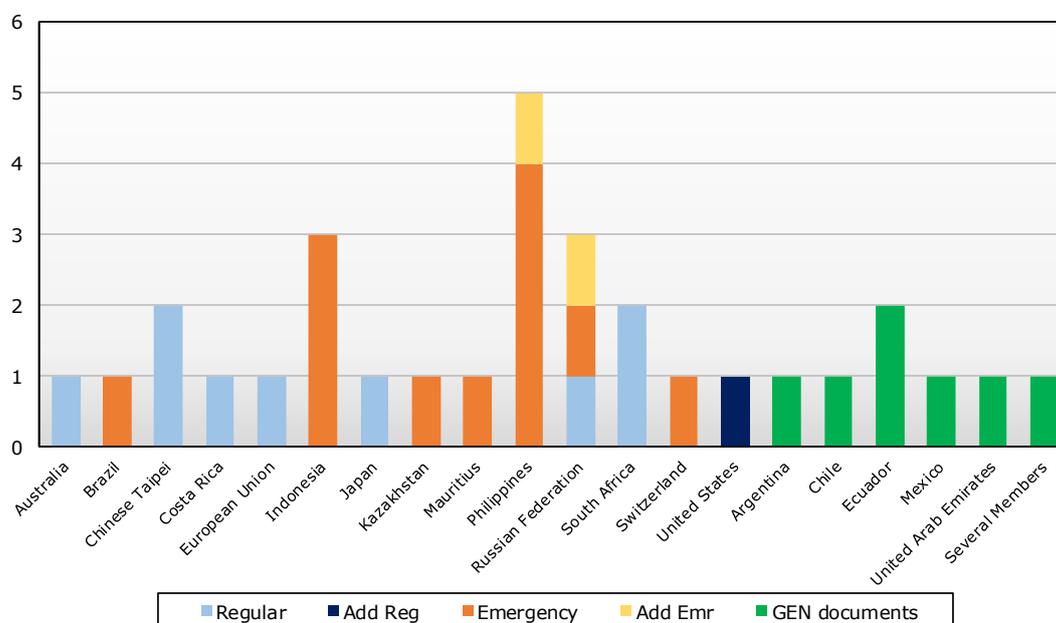
COVID-19 related SPS measures (1 February – 15 May 2020)

3.65. The SPS Agreement requires Members to base SPS-related trade measures on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, specifically those developed by the FAO/WHO Codex

Alimentarius Commission (Codex) for food safety; the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses; and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health. The three standard-setting bodies and the WHO are monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and, so far, have not recommended any trade restrictions. In the absence of relevant international standards, SPS measures must be based on a risk assessment. However, it may take some time before sufficient scientific evidence becomes available. In the wake of the pandemic, some Members felt they had to act quickly to ensure health protection. Under the SPS Agreement, Members have the right to adopt provisional measures based on the available information. As more scientific evidence emerges and a risk assessment can be carried out, these measures must be reviewed within a reasonable period of time.

3.66. From 1 February until 15 May 2020, 14 Members (counting the European Union as one) notified SPS measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ten measures were notified as regular notifications (including one addendum²²) and 12 measures²³ were notified as emergency measures. Besides, five Members submitted their measures through an information communication (GEN document); one additional GEN document was submitted by several Members. Submitted documents are displayed by Member in Chart 3.15, and by month in Chart 3.16.

Chart 3.15 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents related to COVID-19 by Member

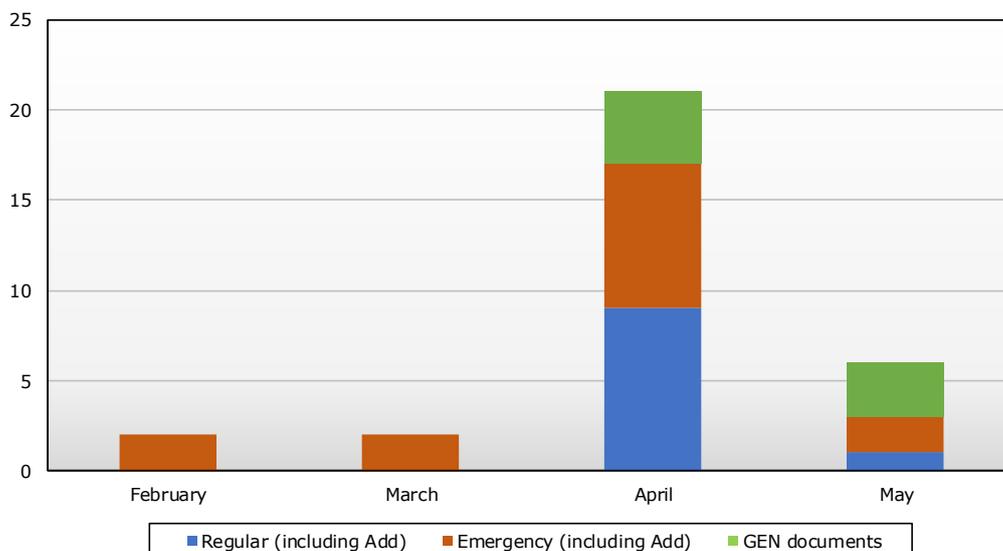


Source: WTO Secretariat.

²² Addendum to a 2019 regular notification to extend the final date for comments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

²³ Two subsequent addenda were notified, one to withdraw one of the emergency measures and a second to extend the period of application of another emergency measure.

Chart 3.16 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents related to COVID-19 by month



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.67. Initially, these measures mainly related to restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas (some of these measures were subsequently lifted) and increased certification requirements. Since the beginning of April, most notifications and communications relate to measures taken to facilitate trade by allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic versions of veterinary and/or phytosanitary certificates, since the COVID-19 situation has made transmission of original paper certificates problematic. Overall, two thirds of the 29 notifications and communications submitted were measures considered as trade facilitating.

Box 3.4 Enhancing monitoring and transparency in SPS and TBT

Accessing relevant information on SPS or TBT product requirements in export markets can represent a significant challenge, in particular for SMEs. The WTO helps address this potential trade barrier through a combination of transparency requirements included in the SPS and TBT Agreements, and online tools that make information easily accessible: the SPS and TBT Information Management Systems (SPS/TBT IMSs) and ePing.

WTO Members are required to notify proposed SPS and TBT measures if they may significantly affect international trade. Each year, the WTO receives more than 3,500 such notifications.

Publicly available online tools assist stakeholders in finding notifications of relevance to their trade:

- SPS IMS: www.spsims.wto.org,
- TBT IMS: www.tbtime.wto.org, and
- ePing: www.epingalert.org.

The SPS/TBT IMSs are search-platforms that, among other things, help identify SPS or TBT notifications by using parameters such as product, notifying Member or objective. ePing is an online alert system allowing users (governments, economic operators, and civil society) to receive daily or weekly email alerts about SPS and TBT notifications covering products and markets of interest to them.

Timely access to notifications is crucial, given the 60-day period that should normally be provided for submitting comments on regulations, usually still in draft form. The ePing platform also facilitates dialogue among the public and private sectors to discuss and share information on notifications of concern, allowing stakeholders to address potential trade problems at an early stage of the regulatory lifecycle.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)²⁴

Notifications submitted to the TBT Committee during the review period

3.68. Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are required to notify their intention to introduce new or modified TBT measures, or to notify adopted emergency measures immediately. The principal objective of complying with the TBT notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade.²⁵ Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not necessarily imply greater use of trade-restrictive measures. Rather, TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives, e.g. the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment.²⁶

3.69. From 1 October 2019 to 15 May 2020 (the "review period"), WTO Members submitted 1,329 new "regular" notifications of TBT measures,²⁷ slightly higher than the volume of regular notifications registered in the preceding seven-month period.²⁸ The majority (around 85%) of regular TBT notifications submitted during the review period continue to come from developing countries. The Members which notified the most measures during the review period - covering around 60% of all new regular notifications - were Tanzania (152), Kenya (101), Uganda (93), Brazil (91), the United States (90), Israel (66), Rwanda (58), China (54), the European Union (52)²⁹ and India (39).

3.70. Of the 1,329 new regular TBT notifications received during the review period, the majority indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective,³⁰ including, as further explained below, various measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining notifications related to consumer information, labelling, prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection, and quality requirements.

3.71. A total of 989 "follow up-notifications"³¹ were submitted during the review period, a 43% increase over those submitted during the preceding seven-month period (693). The continuing and

²⁴ For the TBT Section, the review period covers 1 October 2019 to 15 May 2020.

²⁵ Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are not *required* to notify all proposed TBT measures (technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures). Rather, as a minimum, they are only required to notify those measures that *may have* a "significant effect on trade" of other Members and *are not* "in accordance with" any pre-existing "relevant international standards" (in the case of technical regulations), or any "relevant guides or recommendations issued by an international standardizing body" (in the case of conformity assessment procedures). However, the TBT Committee, in its Sixth Triennial Review, encouraged Members, "for the purpose of enhancing predictability and transparency in situations where it is difficult to establish or foresee whether a draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure may have a 'significant effect on trade of other Members', to notify such measures". This recommendation was reiterated by the TBT Committee at its Eighth, and last, Triennial Review (November 2018).

²⁶ TBT Agreement obligations are also subject to 25 separate technical assistance and special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions, conferring developing-country Members, and LDC Members in particular, with certain flexibilities. The TBT Agreement contains more S&D provisions than any other WTO agreement apart from the GATT 1994. For more information see WT/CMTD/W/239 (October 2018), Section 2.5 (TBT), and also the comparative table on pages 5-6.

²⁷ Viewed at: <http://tbtiims.wto.org>. These numbers only concern "regular" notifications (in which the original draft measure is submitted) and do not include "follow-up" notifications.

²⁸ From 1 March to 30 September 2019, the overall number of new regular notifications was 1,284.

²⁹ Forty EU-wide regular notifications plus 12 notifications from certain individual EU member States: the Czech Republic (4); Sweden (3); Spain (2); Lithuania (2) and France (1).

³⁰ A TBT measure may pursue a variety of legitimate objectives, although historically the majority fall under one of the following categories: the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon that more than one objective is identified for a measure.

³¹ "Follow-up" notifications can take the form of "addenda", "corrigenda", or "supplements". They can also be in the form of "revisions" when the original measure has been substantially re-drafted prior to its adoption or entry into force. "Follow-up" notifications are meant to indicate any pertinent new information available after the original measure was notified. Such new information may include, for instance: the extension of a notification comment period (addenda); the withdrawal or revocation of a measure (addenda); when a measure is substantially redrafted prior to adoption or entry into force (revision); or when the adopted final text of a measure becomes available (addenda). See G/TBT/35/Rev.1 for further information on different types of TBT notifications.

frequent use by Members of this type of notification is a positive development, as it increases transparency and predictability across the measures' regulatory lifecycle.

Measures discussed in the TBT Committee (STCs)

3.72. WTO Members use the TBT Committee as a forum for discussing trade issues related to specific TBT measures (technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These STCs normally relate to proposed draft measures notified to the TBT Committee or to the implementation of existing measures. Issues can range from simple requests for additional information and clarification to questions on the consistency of measures with TBT Agreement disciplines.

3.73. A total of 198 (45 new and 153 previously-raised) STCs were discussed during the three Committee meetings that fell within the review period: 62 (12 new and 50 previously raised) at the November 2019 meeting, 64 (12 new and 52 previously raised) at the February 2020 meeting and 72 (21 new and 51 previously raised) at the May 2020 meeting.

3.74. As depicted in Table 3.16, these 45 new STCs concerned TBT measures by India (8), the European Union (6), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (4), Colombia (3), Russian Federation (3), the United States (3), Brazil (2), and Mexico, China, Mongolia, France, Peru, Ecuador, Ghana, Qatar, Turkey, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Armenia, New Zealand, Australia and Myanmar (1 each). These new STCs covered regulations on a range of products (cheese, grape and wine products, pre-packed food, cosmetic and hygiene products, motor vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment, medical devices, alcoholic beverages, etc.), dealing with a variety of issues (labelling and packaging, conformity assessment procedures, harmonization, product quality, halal certification, health and safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency, etc.).

Table 3.16 New STCs raised in the TBT Committee meetings of November 2019, February 2020 and May 2020

New STCs
European Union: Revised Draft EU Regulation on Ecological Design Requirements for External Power Supply (ID 596) (raised by China)
Brazil: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply – MAPA Ordinance 79 of 13 May 2019 establishing a public consultation to amend Technical Regulation 67, 5 November 2018, regarding the procedures and requirements for export and import certification of beverages, fermented acetic, wines and wine and grapes derived products (ID 597) (raised by United States, South Africa and New Zealand)
India: Air conditioners and their related parts (Quality Control) Order, 2018 (ID 598) (raised by Republic of Korea and United States)
Ecuador: Energy Efficiency Requirements for Clothes Dryers for Domestic Use (ID 599) (raised by Republic of Korea)
Ghana: Administrative Process for Homologation of Model of Motor Vehicle and its Variants (ID 600) (raised by United States and Canada)
United States: Modernization of the Labelling and Advertising Regulations for Wine, Distilled Spirits, and Malt Beverages (ID 601) (raised by European Union)
Qatar: Ministry of Public Health Circular regarding shelf life for cheese (ID 602) (raised by United States and European Union)
Turkey: Draft Amendment of the Regulation on Cosmetics (ID 603) (raised by United States)
Brazil: Ordinance 259, of 27 May 2019, which makes corrections and updates to the Conformity Assessment Requirements for Medical Devices Subject to the Health Surveillance System in Ordinance 54, of 1 February 2016 (ID 604) (raised by United States)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Electrical Clothes Dryers Energy Performance Requirements and Labelling (ID 605) (raised by Republic of Korea)
Republic of Korea: Ballast Water Management Act (ID 606) (raised by European Union)
Pakistan: Amendment to Pakistan's Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950: Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) 237 on labelling, shelf-life, and halal certification (ID 607) (raised by United States and European Union)
Mexico: Draft Amendment to Mexican Official Standard NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010: General specifications for the labelling of pre-packed food and non-alcoholic beverages (ID 608) (raised by European Union, United States, Switzerland, Costa Rica and Guatemala)
Colombia: Food Prioritized for its Sodium Content, Certification Requirements (ID 609) (raised by United States and Guatemala)
United States: Act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products (State of New York - Senate Bill 501B/Assembly Bill 6296A) (ID 610) (raised by European Union)

New STCs
China: Draft Administrative Measures for Registration of Overseas Producers of Imported Foods (ID 611) (raised by Mexico, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States, Japan, European Union and Chinese Taipei)
Russian Federation: Law No. 425 - on Amending Article 4 of Russian Federation Law on Protecting Consumer Rights (ID 612) (raised by United States, Japan and European Union)
India: Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations (ID 613) (raised by United States and European Union)
European Union: Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products (ID 614) (raised by Dominican Republic, Canada, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saber Conformity Assessment Online Platform / Saleem Product Safety Program (ID 615) (raised by the European Union)
Mongolia: Mandatory Requirement for Enrichment of Agricultural Products with Vitamins (ID 616) (raised by Russian Federation)
France: Mandatory Labelling of SAR Radio Equipment (ID 617) (raised by China)
Peru: Supreme Decree No. 015-2019-SA, which amends the Manual of Advertising Warnings approved by Supreme Decree No. 012-2018-SA (ID 618) (raised by Costa Rica, Chile, United States, Brazil, Colombia, European Union and Guatemala)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Electrical Clothes Washing Machines – Energy and Water performance Requirements and Labelling (ID 619) (raised by Republic of Korea)
Bangladesh: Hazardous Waste (E-waste) Management Rules, 2019 (ID 620) (raised by Canada, United States, Russian Federation and European Union)
Viet Nam: Draft Circular replacing the Circular No.05/2019/TT-BTTTT dated 9 July 2019 specifying the list of products and goods with unsafe capability under management responsibility of Ministry of Information and Communications (ID 621) (raised by United States)
India: Draft Chemicals (Management and Safety) Rules, 2020 (ID 622) (raised by United States)
Colombia: Issuing the Technical Regulation on rational energy-use labelling for certain types of electrical and gas end-use equipment, for marketing in Colombia (ID 623) (raised by Republic of Korea and United States)
Russian Federation; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Armenia: Requirements for energy efficiency of energy related devices (ID 624) (raised by Republic of Korea)
United States: Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment Activities (ID 625) (raised by European Union)
European Union: Revision of the Batteries Directive (ID 626) (raised by Japan)
European Union: Non-renewal of the approval of the active substance mancozeb (ID 627) (raised by Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, United States, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Indonesia and Nicaragua)
European Union: Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards botanical species containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives (ID 628) (raised by Mexico)
New Zealand: Consumer Information Standards (Origin of Food) Regulations 2019 (ID 629) (raised by Canada)
India: Quality Control Orders for Chemical and Petrochemical Substances (ID 630) (raised by Canada, European Union and Chinese Taipei)
India: Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 27 January 2020 regarding operationalization of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2020 (ID 631) (raised by United States)
India: Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 (IND/131); Amendment in Policy Condition No. 2(iii) to Chapter 95 of ITC (HS), 2017- Schedule-I (Import Policy) (IND/143) (ID 632) (raised by United States, European Union and Canada)
India: FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and the new implementing veterinary certificate for dairy products (ID 633) (raised by European Union)
European Union: EU Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/2013 for Energy Labelling of Electronic Displays (ID 634) (raised by China)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: SASO 2663 Air Conditioner Minimum Energy Performance, labelling and testing requirements for low capacity window type and single-slit, and related certifications (ID 635) (raised by China)
Australia: Maturation requirements for imported alcohol (ID 636) (raised by Brazil)
Russian Federation: Regulation on safety of alcoholic beverages, Technical Regulation TR EAEU 047/2018 (ID 637) (raised by Mexico)
Colombia: SIC External Circular 002 on Notices for Mobile Device Packaging (ID 638) (raised by United States)
India: Expansion of BIS certification to plugs, socket outlets and power cords (ID 639) (raised by China)
Myanmar: Regulation on importation of alcoholic beverages (ID 640) (raised by Mexico)

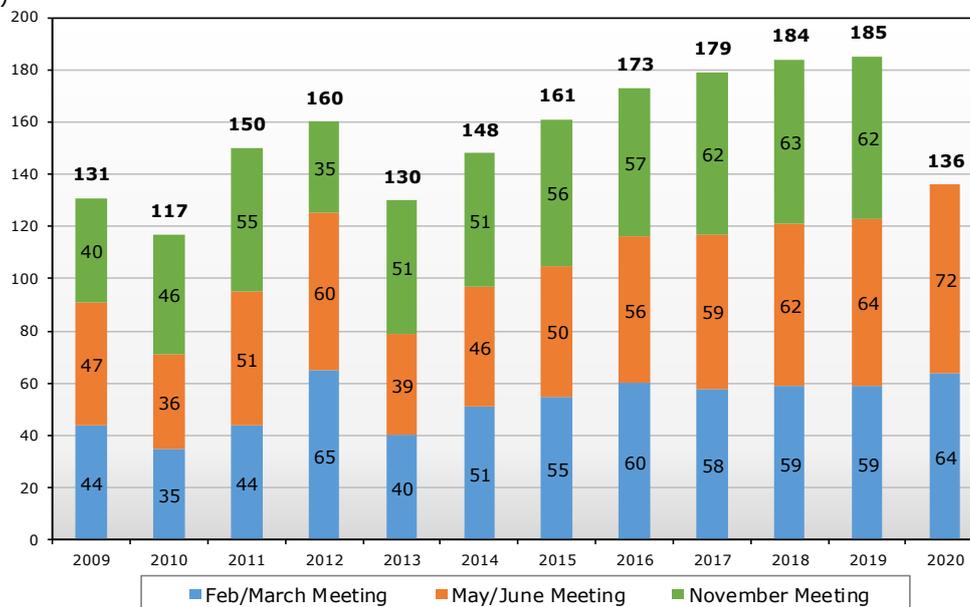
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.75. As indicated in Chart 3.17, STCs are frequently discussed in the regular meetings of the TBT Committee, with around 60 discussed per meeting in recent years. Depending on the extent of the trade-restrictiveness and the importance of the issue to the Member(s) raising the STC, the same measure may come up at one or more meetings of the TBT Committee. For example, an STC

may be discussed at only one meeting as a new STC, and subsequently a resolution to the trade concern may be found. Alternatively, an STC may be discussed at subsequent meetings, as a previously raised STC. Previously raised STCs, in particular long-standing ("persistent") ones, generally involve more serious and/or complex concerns. Since 1995, Members have raised 638 new STCs.

Chart 3.17 STCs raised per committee meeting from 2009 to May 2020

(Number)



Note: The methodology of counting previously raised STCs has been revised. The new methodology counts an STC each time it is raised: if raised for the first time, it is counted as a new STC, and if it is raised again, it is counted as a previously raised STC.

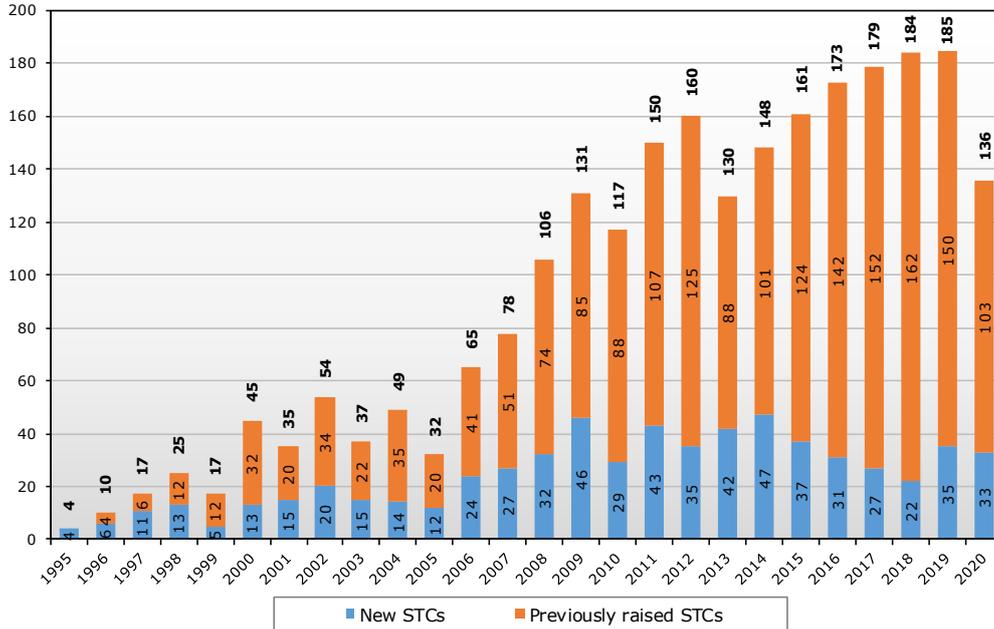
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.76. Overall, the number of new and previously raised STCs has been increasing every year. During the three Committee meetings held in 2019, for example, 185 STCs were discussed, which represents a 137% increase compared to 2007, when only 78 STCs were raised. The 185 STCs reviewed by Members in 2019 constitutes a new peak in the Committee's discussions and, in addition, the number of new STCs increased to 35, 13 more than in 2018 (Chart 3.18). This breaks the declining trend in the number of new concerns raised in the Committee since 2014 (47). On the other hand, the number of previously raised STCs dropped to 150, 12 fewer than 2018.³² The overall trend suggests an increasing use of the TBT Committee as a forum for Members to raise and resolve trade concerns non-litigiously.

³² See Twenty-Fifth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement, G/TBT/44 (19 February 2020), para. 4.2.

Chart 3.18 STCs raised from 1995 to May 2020

(Number)



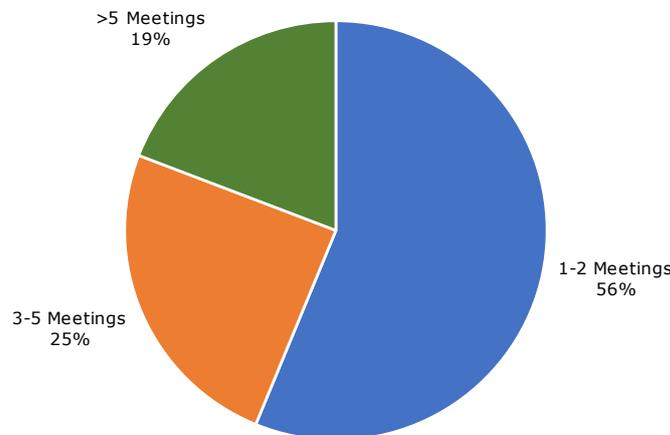
Note: The methodology of counting previously raised STCs has been revised. The new methodology counts an STC each time it is raised: if raised for the first time, it is counted as a new STC, and if it is raised again, it is counted as a previously raised STC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.77. The number of times that an STC is raised may be related to the importance Members attach to the concern or may provide insight into whether progress was made in addressing concerns. STCs which are raised at only one or two meetings may represent concerns for which some progress was found. On the other hand, longstanding STCs raised at five or more meetings may represent concerns for which less progress has been made. As mentioned above, STCs frequently discussed at subsequent meetings as previously raised STCs usually represent more serious concerns. From 1995 to 2019, for instance, the majority of STCs (56%) have been raised at one or two Committee meetings, while 25% were raised three to five times. Only 19% of STCs were raised more than five times (Chart 3.19).

Chart 3.19 STCs raised in the TBT Committee, 1995-19

(Number of times raised)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.78. During the three Committee meetings covered by the review period, seven "persistent" STCs – i.e. those previously raised STCs raised more than 16 times in Committee meetings – were discussed (Table 3.17). All of these persistent STCs concerned measures by G20 economies.

Table 3.17 Persistent STCs raised between 1 October 2019 and 15 May 2020

Persistent STCs
India: New Telecommunications related Rules (Department of Telecommunications, No. 842-725/2005-VAS/Vol.III (3 December 2009); No. 10-15/2009-AS-III/193 (18 March 2010); and Nos. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol.II/(Pt.)/(25-29) (28 July 2010); Department of Telecommunications, No. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol.II/(Pt.)/(30) (28 July 2010) and accompanying template, "Security and Business Continuity Agreement") (ID 274) – raised <u>29 times</u> since 2010
China: Requirements for information security products, including, <i>inter alia</i> , the Office of State Commercial Cryptography Administration (OSCCA) 1999 Regulation on commercial encryption products and its on-going revision and the Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) (ID 294) – raised <u>28 times</u> since 2011
Russian Federation: Draft Technical Regulation on Alcohol Drinks Safety (published on 24 October 2011) (ID 332) – raised <u>25 times</u> since 2012
European Union: Draft Implementing Regulations amending Regulation (EC) No. 607/2009 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products (ID 345) – raised <u>23 times</u> since 2012
India: Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012 (ID 367) – raised <u>22 times</u> since 2013
European Union: Hazard-based approach to plant protection products and setting of import tolerances (ID 393) – raised <u>21 times</u> since 2013
China: Regulations for the Supervision and Administration of Medical Devices (Order No. 650 of the State Council) (ID 428) – raised <u>18 times</u> since 2014

Source: WTO Secretariat.

COVID-19 related TBT notifications during the review period³³

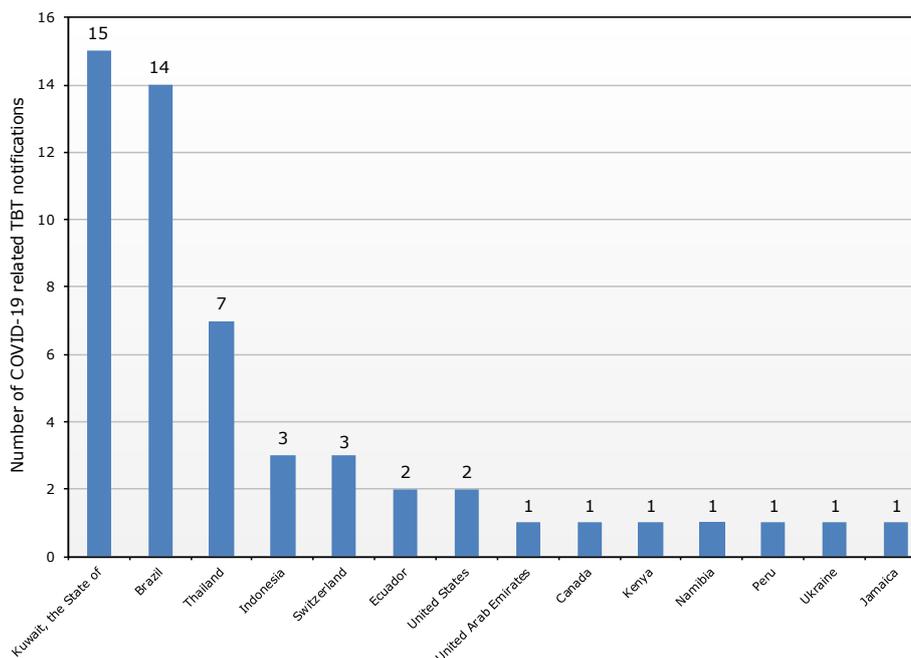
3.79. During the review period, WTO Members submitted 53 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴ Most of these were submitted under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement.³⁵ Under these provisions, WTO Members can adopt measures directly and immediately notify them to the WTO, without providing the usual 60-day comment period (or six-month transition period prior to entry into force).

3.80. As indicated in Chart 3.20, TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were submitted by 14 WTO Members. Around half of the notified measures were reported as temporary, often applying for a period of six-months.

³³ For further information see also the Information Note "[Standards, Regulations and COVID-19 – what actions taken by WTO Members?](#)" (WTO, 2020).

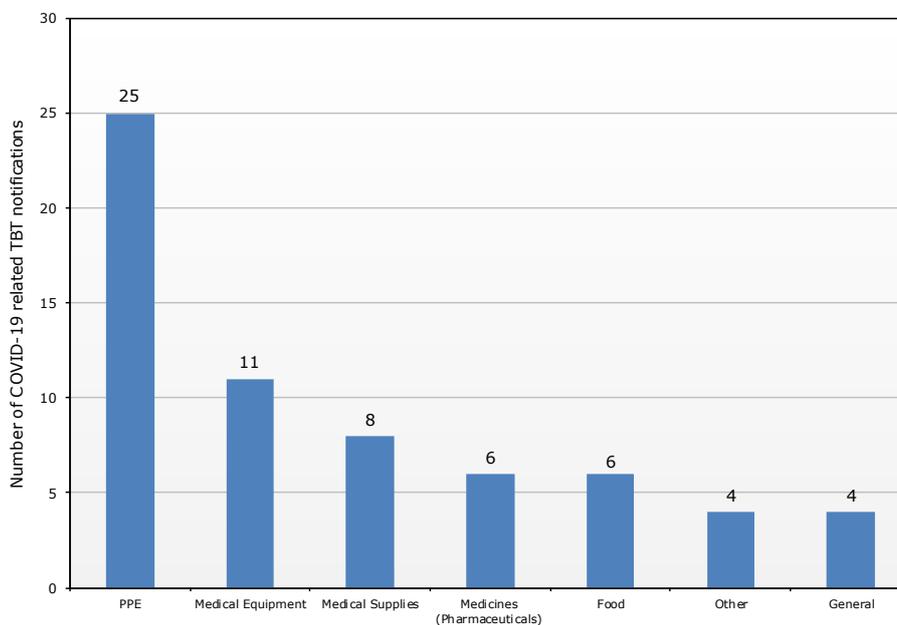
³⁴ TBT Notifications are classified as COVID-19 related if they contain the terms "coronavirus", "COVID", "SARS-COV-2" or "nCoV". This includes not only regular notifications but also eight follow-up notifications (in the form of revisions or addenda to previous regular notifications).

³⁵ Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), Articles 2.10, 2.12, 5.7, and 5.9.

Chart 3.20 COVID-19-related TBT notifications, by Member

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.81. TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic cover a wide range of products including personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines, food and general coverage (Chart 3.21).^{36,37}

Chart 3.21 Product coverage of COVID-19 related TBT notifications (as of 15 May 2020)

Source: WTO Secretariat.

³⁶ With respect to medical goods, this Report adopts the product categories developed in the Information Note "[Trade in Medical Goods in the Context of Tackling COVID-19](#)" (WTO, 2020), pg 2 and Annex 1.

³⁷ The category of "General" includes notifications without a specific product scope. The "Other" category includes, for instance, clothing, textiles and tobacco products.

3.82. The notified measures broadly fall into three main categories: streamlining certification procedures; ensuring the safety of medical goods; and making food available by relaxing technical regulations.

TBT Committee discussions during the COVID-19 pandemic

3.83. The TBT Committee continued its regular work on STCs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee held, on an exceptional basis, its 13-14 May 2020 meeting by a written procedure made possible by the new online "eAgenda platform". Members exchanged statements on 72 STCs, of which 21 were new. Using the platform facilitated broad participation.

3.84. Although none of the STCs discussed during the written procedure related to COVID-19 measures (see above), Members made various points related to COVID-19 in their statements. For instance, some Members mentioned the challenges faced by developing countries, in particular, in addressing the pandemic due to the lack of financial and health resources - a challenge exacerbated by the implementation of measures on agricultural products which creates additional burdens in international trade.

3.85. Several Members called for extended transition periods, as well as flexibility in production and labelling requirements in order to allow Members to maintain critical resources needed during the crisis, which would otherwise be diverted to comply with such additional requirements. WTO Members also cited the global health emergency when announcing logistical issues resulting in implementation delays of certain measures.

3.86. Finally, Members urged the need for international cooperation in all areas to face the COVID-19 pandemic, including by the promotion of measures that facilitate trade rather than create additional obstacles to trade which would hinder the process of global economic recovery.

3.5 Trade Concerns Raised in Other WTO Bodies³⁸

3.87. During the review period, a number of trade issues and concerns were raised by Members in formal meetings of various WTO bodies. This Section provides a factual overview of such concerns raised between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020.³⁹ The trade concerns covered in this Section have neither the status nor the procedural framework of the STCs raised in the SPS and TBT Committees. Nevertheless, they provide an up-to-date insight into which trade issues are being discussed by Members across the WTO and, as such, add important transparency. This Section does not reproduce the full substantive description of the trade concerns outlined by WTO Members, but provides a reference to the formal meeting(s) where a particular issue featured. A full account and context of the concerns is provided in the formal meeting records of the respective WTO bodies. The list of concerns and issues mentioned in this Section is not exhaustive.

3.88. At the 3 March 2020 meeting of the *General Council*⁴⁰ concerns were raised on Kazakhstan's border restrictions of goods in transit⁴¹ (raised by Kyrgyz Republic).

3.89. At the *Council for Trade in Goods* (CTG) meeting on 14 and 15 November 2019⁴², new concerns were raised on the use by the European Union of trade remedy instruments and, in particular, the amendments introduced by EU Regulations 2017/2321 and 2018/825 as to the calculation of the "normal value" of products subject to anti-dumping investigations and the right of the European Union not to apply the "lesser duty rule" in calculating the amount of anti-dumping duty (raised by Russian Federation).

3.90. At the same meeting, concerns were again raised on: (i) the European Union's proposed modification of EU TRQ commitments in response to Brexit (raised by Australia, Brazil, Canada,

³⁸ This Section does not include the SPS and TBT Committees (covered separately). Issues raised in this Section may subsequently have become the subject of a dispute.

³⁹ Members and Observers are encouraged to communicate to the Trade Monitoring Section of the WTO's Trade Policy Review Division trade issues which they have raised in WTO bodies and which they believe are relevant to the monitoring exercise.

⁴⁰ WTO document WT/GC/M/182.

⁴¹ WTO documents G/C/W/774, and G/TFA/W/20.

⁴² WTO document G/C/M/136.

Chile, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States, and Uruguay); (ii) the EU enlargement to include Croatia (raised by Russian Federation); (iii) the EU implementation of non-tariff barriers on agricultural products (raised by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Uruguay); (iv) a selective tax by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates on certain imported products (raised by European Union, Switzerland, and United States); (v) Indonesia's import and export restricting policies and practices (raised by European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and United States); (vi) India's customs duties on ICT products (raised by Canada and United States); (vii) European Union's quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs – the registration of certain terms of cheese as geographical indications (raised by Argentina, United States, and Uruguay); (viii) Egypt's manufacturer registration system (raised by European Union and Russian Federation); (ix) Mongolia's quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on importations of certain agricultural products (raised by Russian Federation); and (x) Viet Nam's decree on the regulation on conditions for automobile manufacturing, assembly, and import, and automotive warranty and maintenance services (raised by Russian Federation and United States).

3.91. Additional concerns were repeated on: (xi) China's measures restricting the import of scrap materials (raised by United States); (xii) India's quantitative restrictions on imports of certain pulses (raised by Australia, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation, and United States); (xiii) China's customs duties on certain integrated circuits (raised by European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei); (xiv) EU draft implementing regulations regarding protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products (raised by United States); (xv) China's draft new export control law (raised by Japan); (xvi) US proposal on communication equipment or services released by the FCC (raised by China); (xvii) Australia's discriminatory market access prohibition on 5G equipment (raised by China); (xviii) US measures regarding market access prohibition for ICT products (raised by China); (xix) US export control measures for ICT products (raised by China); (xx) EU Regulation EC No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) (raised by Russian Federation and United States); (xxi) US measures on aviation security equipment (raised by China); (xxii) Russian Federation trade-restricting practices (raised by European Union and United States); (xxiii) EU amendments to Directive 2009/28/EC, Renewable Energy Directive (raised by Colombia and Malaysia); (xxiv) EU Medical Device Regulation and *In Vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (raised by United States); and (xxv) Angola's import restricting practices (raised by Russian Federation).

3.92. At the 11 November 2019⁴³ meeting of the *Committee on Market Access (CMA)*⁴⁴ new and persistent trade concerns were raised as per Table 3.18.

Table 3.18 Concerns raised at the Committee on Market Access

Measure implemented by	Raised by
Angola – Import Restriction Practices	United States
China - Customs Duties on Certain Integrated Circuits	European Union and Chinese Taipei
Croatia – Regulation of Import and Sale of Certain Oil Products	Russian Federation
Enlargement of the European Union to include Croatia - Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
European Union – Renegotiation of Tariff Rate Quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
India – Customs Duties on Telecommunication and Other Products	China and United States
India – Quantitative Restrictions on Certain Pulses	Australia; Canada; European Union; Russian Federation; and United States
Indonesia - Customs Duties on Certain Telecommunication Products	United States

⁴³ WTO document G/MA/M/71 (forthcoming).

⁴⁴ The Committee on Market Access was meant to have another meeting on 2 April 2020, but it had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Measure implemented by	Raised by
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Digital Stamp Tax	Switzerland
Mongolia – Quantitative Restrictions and Prohibitions on Importations of Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – Quantitative Restrictions on Exports of Scrap and Waste of Ferrous Metals	European Union
United Kingdom - Renegotiation of Tariff Rate Quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.93. At the same meeting, Members also raised concerns in the context of the review of notifications under the 2012 Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions.⁴⁵

3.94. At the meeting of the *Committee on Import Licensing* (CIL) on 4 October 2019⁴⁶, persistent trade concerns were raised on: (i) Indonesia's import licensing regime for cell phones, handheld computers and tablets (raised by United States); (ii) Ghana's import procedures and permits for poultry (raised by United States); (iii) India's import licensing requirements for boric acid (raised by the United States); (iv) India's quantitative restrictions on certain pulses (raised by Australia and Canada); (v) China's importation of waste, and changes to import licensing for certain recoverable materials (raised by European Union and United States); (vi) Thailand's import procedures on feed wheat (raised by European Union); (vii) Brazil's import licensing on industrial nitrocellulose (raised by European Union); and (viii) Myanmar's import licensing requirement for agricultural products (raised by United States).

3.95. At the meeting of the *Committee on Customs Valuation* on 25 October 2020⁴⁷, concerns were repeated on Pakistan's determination of the customs value of uncoated offset paper for writing, printing and photocopying imported from Thailand (raised by Thailand).

3.96. At the meeting of the *Trade Facilitation Committee* on 11 February 2020⁴⁸, concerns were raised on Kazakhstan's border restrictions of goods in transit⁴⁹ (raised by Kyrgyz Republic).

3.97. At the meetings of the *Committee on Agriculture* (CoA), a total of 298 questions were raised, on individual notifications (159 questions), on Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6 (123 questions on 72 SIMs) and on overdue notifications (16 questions). These questions were raised in the context of the 92nd and 93rd CoA meetings.⁵⁰ The 92nd CoA meeting took place on 30-31 October 2019, while the 93rd CoA meeting, initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020 was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The questions already raised for the 93rd meeting were included in Section 3.6 of the Report for reference only, as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the 93rd CoA meeting.

3.98. At the meeting of the *Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices* (ADP)⁵¹ on 20 November 2019, concerns were raised as per Table 3.19.

⁴⁵ WTO document G/L/59/Rev.1.

⁴⁶ WTO document G/LIC/M/50.

⁴⁷ WTO document G/VAL/M/69.

⁴⁸ WTO document G/TFA/M/10.

⁴⁹ WTO document G/TFA/W/20.

⁵⁰ The content of the questions raised under the review process for the 92nd and 93rd CoA meetings are available in WTO documents G/AG/W/202, issued on 17 October 2019 and G/AG/W/205, issued on 13 March 2020, respectively. The questions, responses and follow-up comments are available through the Q&A section of the Agriculture Information Management System. Viewed at: <http://agims.wto.org/>.

⁵¹ WTO document G/ADP/M/57.

Table 3.19 Concerns raised on anti-dumping practices

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Russian Federation	
Investigation on zinc plated or coated flat-rolled steel products	Ukraine
Measures on forged work-rolls	Ukraine
Brazil	
Measures on tyres for passenger cars	Ukraine
Canada	
Normal value review on certain carbon and alloy steel line pipes	Korea, Republic of
Final determination on certain hot-rolled steel plate	Korea, Republic of
Final determination on oil country tubular goods (OCTG)	Korea, Republic of
Investigation on certain OCTG	Turkey
China	
Investigation on phenol	Korea, Republic of
Final determination on methylisobutyl ketone	Korea, Republic of
Final determination on styrene monomer	Korea, Republic of
Final determination on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber	Korea, Republic of
Preliminary determination on stainless billets, hot-rolled plates and coils	Japan
European Union	
Initiation of expiry review of measures on ammonium nitrate	Russian Federation
Measures on mixtures of urea and ammonium nitrate	Russian Federation
India	
Investigation on coated/plated tin mill flat rolled steel products	Japan
Malaysia	
Investigation on steel concrete reinforcing bar products	Turkey
Mexico	
Continued application of measures on cold-rolled sheets (since June 1999)	Kazakhstan
Turkey	
Measures on unbleached kraft liner paper	Brazil
Ukraine	
Investigation on rolling bearings	Kazakhstan
Measure on cement	Russian Federation
United States	
Annual review of measures on OCTG	Korea, Republic of
Annual review of measures on circular welded non-alloy steel pipe	Korea, Republic of
Annual review on measures on welded line pipe	Korea, Republic of
Annual review on measures on heavy-walled rectangular welded carbon steel pipes and tubes	Korea, Republic of
Annual review on measures on large-diameter welded pipe	Korea, Republic of
Annual review on measures on corrosion-resistant steel	Korea, Republic of

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.99. Additional issues and concerns raised at the 20 November 2019 ADP meeting on: (i) the non-notification by some Members of their legislative status in the ADP Committee, albeit doing so in the context of the TPRB forum (raised by United States); (ii) the EU amendments to its anti-dumping regulation pertaining to the non-application of the lesser duty rule in the case of the price distortions of raw materials in the exporting country, and the European Union's use of the cost adjustment methodology in its investigations (raised by Russian Federation); (iii) the United States' application of adverse facts available and the determination of particular market situation in investigations (raised by Korea, Republic of); and (iv) Mexico's non-market economy methodologies applied in an anti-dumping investigation and in reviews pertaining to certain products from Kazakhstan (raised by Kazakhstan).

3.100. At the meeting of the *Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*⁵² on 19 November 2019 concerns were raised on China's certain alleged subsidy programmes in the steel sector (raised by European Union, and United States).

3.101. Additional concerns were raised on: (i) the elimination of export subsidies by the Members that received extensions under Article 27.4 of the SCM Agreement; (ii) the low and declining level of compliance with the notification and transparency obligations in the SCM Agreement; (iii) requests

⁵² WTO document G/SCM/M/111.

for information pursuant to Articles 25.8 and 25.9 (raised by United States); (iv) subsidies and overcapacity (raised by Canada, European Union, Japan, and United States); and (v) the implementation of paragraph 2 of the Ministerial Decision on Fisheries Subsidies (raised by Argentina, Australia, Canada, European Union, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and United States).

3.102. At the meetings of the *Trade-Related Investment Measures* (TRIMs) Committee on 6 June and 13 November 2019⁵³ new or persistent issues were raised, as per Table 3.20:

Table 3.20 Concerns raised at the TRIMs Committee

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Argentina	
Argentina – Act 27,263 on the development and strengthening regime of the Argentine autopartism ⁵⁴	Mexico
China	
Local content provisions in cybersecurity measures (including provisions on insurance system informatization) ⁵⁵	United States
Indonesia	
Comprehensive review of localization measures	European Union, Japan, United States
Local content requirements for pharmaceutical products and medical devices ⁵⁶	European Union, Japan, United States
Russian Federation	
Measures implementing Russia's import substitution policy ⁵⁷	European Union, United States
Measures to support the automotive industry to replace the automotive investment incentive programmes	United States

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.103. At the meeting of the *Committee on Safeguards*⁵⁸, on 18 November 2019, concerns were raised on specific safeguard actions as per Table 3.21.

Table 3.21 Concerns raised at the Committee on Safeguards

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Canada	
Investigation on certain steel products	Japan
Colombia	
Investigation on sheets of paperboard and polyethylene	Brazil
Egypt	
Investigation on semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel and steel rebar for construction purposes	Ukraine
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Russian Federation^a	
Investigation on certain flat-rolled steel products	Japan
European Union	
Investigation on certain steel products	Japan; Korea, Republic of; Russian Federation; Switzerland; Turkey
Guatemala	
Investigation on flat-rolled products of other alloy steel	Korea, Republic of
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; and United Arab Emirates^b	

⁵³ WTO documents G/TRIMS/M/46 and G/TRIMS/M/47.

⁵⁴ WTO documents G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/1, 1 May 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/2, 22 May 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/3, 11 October 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/4, 5 February 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/5, 3 May 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/6, 7 June 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/7, 25 September 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/8, 22 October 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/9, 24 April 2019; and G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/10, 28 October 2019.

⁵⁵ WTO document G/TRIMS/Q/CHN/1, 3 June 2016.

⁵⁶ WTO documents G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/3, 21 September 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/4, 28 February 2019; and G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/5, 14 May 2019.

⁵⁷ WTO documents G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/4, 26 May 2016; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/5, 27 September 2016; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/6, 27 April 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/8, 24 January 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/7, 8 November 2017 and G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/9, 22 March 2018.

⁵⁸ WTO document G/SG/M/56.

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Certain steel products	European Union; Japan; Korea, Republic of; Norway; Switzerland; Ukraine
India	
Investigation on single mode optical fibre	Japan
Investigation on phenol	Japan; Korea, Republic of
Indonesia	
Investigation on fabrics	Chinese Taipei
Investigation on yarn of synthetic and artificial staple fibres	United States
Madagascar	
Investigation on soap	United States
Investigation on lubricating oils	United States
Investigation on edible vegetable oils and margarines	United States
Investigation on pasta	Mauritius, United States, Egypt
Morocco	
Investigation on welded pipes and tubes of iron or steel	European Union, Ukraine, United States
Philippines	
Investigation on ceramic floor and wall tiles	Chinese Taipei, European Union
Turkey	
Investigation on yarn of nylon or other polyamides	Chinese Taipei, European Union; United States
Ukraine	
Investigation on complex fertilizers	European Union, Kazakhstan, Ukraine
Investigation on flexible porous plates, blocks and sheets of polyurethane foams	European Union
United States	
Measures taken following Section 232 investigations	Turkey
Viet Nam	
Investigation on certain semi-finished and finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel	Japan

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the Eurasian Economic Union.

b Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.104. At the meeting of *Working Party on State Trade Enterprises* (STEs) on 1 November 2019⁵⁹, trade concerns were raised on: (i) India's decision not to identify certain entities as STEs in its 2018 and 2019 notifications (raised by United States and European Union); (ii) Brazil's notification of no STEs (raised by United States); (iii) the continued non-notification of STEs by the Russian Federation (raised by United States, European Union and Ukraine); (iv) the continued non-notification of STEs by the United Arab Emirates (raised by United States and European Union); and (v) the low level of compliance with the notification obligations relating to STEs (raised by United States).

3.105. At the meeting of the *Council for Trade in Services* (CTS) held on 30 October 2019, concerns were reiterated about cybersecurity measures by China and Viet Nam (raised by Japan and United States).⁶⁰

3.106. At the meeting of the *Committee on Trade and Development* (CTD) on 22 November 2019,⁶¹ the LDC Group expressed concerns regarding the under-utilization of LDCs' export potential and highlighted the need to determine the barriers to preference utilization, and how these barriers could be removed. Members were also informed that the LDC Group had recently circulated a communication containing some of the LDCs' concerns in the e-commerce area. At the meeting of the CTD's Dedicated Session on Small Economies on 1 November 2019⁶², trade concerns about the vulnerability of small economies to natural disasters were reiterated. Concerns were additionally expressed regarding the challenges faced by small economies in attracting investments.

⁵⁹ WTO document G/STR/M/36.

⁶⁰ WTO document S/C/M/141.

⁶¹ WTO document WT/COMTD/M/110.

⁶² WTO document WT/COMTD/SE/M/39.

3.107. The above Section provides evidence of the numerous trade concerns raised in the various WTO bodies between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020. During the review period, several meetings of WTO Committees and Councils were postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although fewer meetings took place during the review period, several conclusions presented in previous Reports remain valid. For example, several trade concerns raised during the review period had already been raised in previous periods, indicating persistent and unresolved issues. Also, during the review period, some trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body, suggesting that these concerns involve cross-cutting and technically complex issues. It suggests that WTO Members are continuing to use multiple platforms within the WTO committee structure to address various aspects of such concerns. Systemically, this is significant because of the increased transparency which it brings, but also because it demonstrates that Members are actively using the WTO committees to engage trading partners on real or potential areas of trade friction. At the same time, however, the repetition and non-resolution of the same trade concerns and issues in various WTO bodies may also be a source of concern. The Secretariat will continue to closely monitor developments in this area.

3.6 Policy Developments in Agriculture

3.108. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum for Members to discuss matters related to agriculture trade, and to consult on matters relating to Members' implementation of commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The review work by the CoA is based on notifications Members make in relation to their commitments. There is also a provision in Article 18.6 of the AoA that allows Members to raise any matter relevant to the implementation of the commitments under the AoA.

3.109. During the period under review (mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020) the CoA was scheduled to meet for the 92nd and 93rd time. While the 92nd meeting took place on 30-31 October 2019, the 93rd CoA meeting scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020 was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although that meeting was postponed, Members, following Committee meeting procedures, submitted questions and concerns for the scheduled 93rd meeting.⁶³ This report covers the questions and concerns raised for the 93rd meeting for reference only, as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the 93rd CoA meeting.

3.110. Members posed a total of 298 questions for the 92nd and 93rd CoA meetings⁶⁴, including questions both on individual notifications and on Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6. The majority of questions concerning individual notifications were related to domestic support notifications (over 65%). Half of the SIMs related to domestic support policies, 33% related to policies affecting market access and the remaining 17% to policies in the area of export competition and other types of policies.

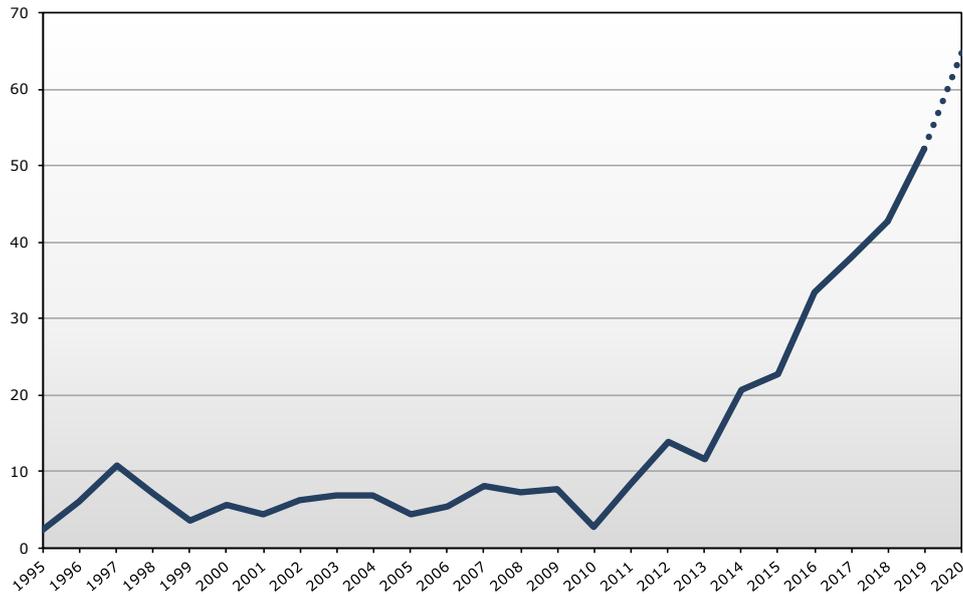
3.111. In total, 15 Members raised 123 questions on 72 SIMs (Article 18.6) for the 92nd (30-31 October 2019) and 93rd (postponed) CoA meetings.⁶⁵ As can be seen in Chart 3.22, the average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting has been on the rise since 2011, reaching an average of 51 questions in 2019. These numbers include questions that were repeated from one meeting to the next because responses were not provided within the relevant timeframes.

⁶³ WTO document WTO/AIR/AG/41, 20 February 2020.

⁶⁴ Under the review process of the CoA, Members may raise questions and concerns with respect to Members' individual notifications, and on Specific Implementation Matters under Article 18.6. These questions are to be raised at least 11 days in advance of the CoA meetings and the related responses are to be provided by the relevant Member(s) during the formal meetings of the CoA.

⁶⁵ Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Thailand, Ukraine and United States.

Chart 3.22 Average number of questions per meeting raised under Article 18.6 1995-2020^a



- a 2020 data cover questions raised for the 93rd CoA meeting scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020 and postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These questions are shown as reference only and may change up to the actual convening of the 93rd CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.112. Out of the 72 SIMs raised in the CoA during the period under review, 43 were discussed for the first time. The remaining matters had been discussed at least once in previous Committee meetings in the context of matters raised under Article 18.6.

3.113. Domestic Support: More than half of the new SIMs raised related to domestic support policies aimed at producers of alcoholic beverages (Russian Federation's excise duties on wine and champagne), cereals (Turkey's Turkish Grain Board), coffee (Colombia's coffee price stabilization fund), corn (Japan's corn policies and US biofuels policies), meat and live animals (China's state reserves programmes) and rice and palm oil (Thailand's support to rice and palm oil). Members also raised questions concerning domestic support policies with a wider scope, such as Angola's fuel subsidies, Brazil's subsidized loans, China's agricultural insurance, European Union's European Court of Auditors report, Russian Federation's state programme for rural territories development, Switzerland's financing of security stocks in agricultural sectors, and US farm support. A number of matters raised sought to obtain additional information on policies targeting environmental or SPS-related objectives (EU environmental policies, EU production subsidies resulting from the implementation of SPS measures, and EU eco schemes payments); other matters raised related to policies put in place in response to the potential impact of new trade deals or increased tariffs implemented by other Members (China's exemptions to retaliatory tariffs, Japan's supplementary budget to address the impact of a new trade deal, European Union's compensation to farmers to adjust to new trade deals, and European Union's planned policy measures against US tariffs). Two SIMs related to information on US domestic support policies and notification practices. Finally, one SIM raised sought an update from the United Kingdom regarding its agricultural policy resulting from Brexit.

3.114. Market Access: Around 33% of the SIMs raised related to measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade of agricultural products, including eggs (Thailand's "license" charge on eggs), beef and pork (Japan's beef special safeguard and pork safeguard), rice (Chinese Taipei's rice TRQ tender system), and dairy products (Nigeria's foreign currency exchange restrictions for dairy imports). SIMs relating to more than one specific commodity were also raised (Angola's potential import restrictions, Canada's review of the TRQ system, Egypt's import licensing regime, the European Union's deforestation and forest degradation strategy, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licences, and Viet Nam's potential tariff reductions on certain

agricultural products). Some matters were raised in relation to potential new trade agreements (China-US economic and trade agreement and Japan-US trade agreement).

3.115. Export Competition and other areas: A total of three SIMs were raised to seek clarification on policies that potentially subsidized exports of agricultural products (India's export subsidies/export credits, Russian Federation's export subsidies and China's state trading enterprises). Two additional SIMs were raised by Colombia seeking to obtain general information on agricultural policies being implemented by the European Union (EU "From Farm to Fork" (F2F) strategy and EU border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions).

3.116. Table 3.22 lists the SIMs that were discussed for the first time during the two CoA meetings covered by the Report. The complete list of questions and answers can be accessed through the Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS) by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.22.⁶⁶

Table 3.22 SIM (Article 18.6) - new issues

Specific Implementation Matter (SIM)	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	CoA Meetings	ID number
United States - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada, Ukraine		3	93	93078, 93080, 93082
Canada's review of the TRQ system	Australia, New Zealand	Poultry, dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, eggs	3	92, 93	93045, 93046, 92088
China - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada		2	93	93049, 93050
EU environmental policies	New Zealand, Paraguay		2	93	93057, 93059,
Nigeria's foreign currency exchange restrictions for dairy imports	European Union, New Zealand	dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	93	93073, 93016
Turkey's Turkish Grain Board (TMO)	United States	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	2	93	93019, 93021
Thailand's support to rice and palm oil	United States	Rice, vegetable oils and fats	2	92	92014, 92015
US farm support	Canada, European Union		2	92	92020, 92050
Brazil's subsidized loans	India		1	93	93044
China's exemptions to retaliatory tariffs	Canada		1	93	93052
China's agricultural insurance	Canada		1	93	93051
Chinese Taipei's rice TRQ tender system	Australia	Rice	1	93	93053
Colombia's coffee price stabilization fund	United States	Coffee	1	93	93006
Egypt's import licence regime	Brazil	Live animals, bovine, swine, sheep and goat, poultry, horses, other, bovine, poultry	1	93	93054
EU "From farm to fork" (F2F) strategy	Colombia		1	93	93127
EU border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions	Colombia		1	93	93143
EU production subsidies resulting from implementation of SPS measures	Paraguay		1	93	93060

⁶⁶ In the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>), select the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and input the ID number of the question concerned.

Specific Implementation Matter (SIM)	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	CoA Meetings	ID number
India's export subsidies /export credits	United States		1	93	93007
Japan - Japan-US Trade Agreement	Canada		1	93	93071
Japan's supplementary budget to address impact of new trade deal	Australia		1	93	93069
Japan's beef special safeguard (SSG) and pork safeguard (SG)	Canada	Bovine, swine	1	93	93070
Russian Federation's export subsidies	European Union		1	93	93017
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licences	Brazil		1	93	93074
Thailand's "licence" charge on eggs	New Zealand	Eggs	1	93	93075
EU deforestation and forest degradation strategy	Colombia		1	93	93128
US domestic support policies and notifications	India		1	93	93085
United Kingdom's policy update resulting from Brexit	Canada		1	93	93077
United States - Japan-US Trade Agreement	Canada		1	93	93081
Viet Nam's potential tariff reductions on certain agricultural products	Ukraine	Swine, poultry, fresh vegetables, wheat	1	93	93083
China's state trading enterprises	United States	Seeds	1	92	92004
Angola's fuel subsidies	Ukraine		1	92	92087
Angola's potential import restrictions	Canada		1	92	92045
China's state reserves programmes	Canada	Meat, bovine, swine, sheep and goat, poultry, horses, other	1	92	92047
EU compensation for farmers to adjust to new trade deals	Australia		1	92	92089
EU planned policy measures against U.S. tariffs	Australia		1	92	92090
EU European Court of Auditors report	Brazil		1	92	92093
EU Eco schemes payments	Brazil		1	92	92092
Japan's corn policies	Australia	Corn	1	92	92097
Russian Federation's state programme for rural territories development	European Union		1	92	92017
Russian Federation's excise duties on wine and champagne	European Union	Alcoholic	1	92	92121
Switzerland's financing of security stocks in agricultural sectors	European Union	Sugar, fats and oils, cereals and animal feed products	1	92	92019
US biofuel policies	Ukraine	Corn, seeds	1	92	92103
US practices of Dispute Settlement notifications	China		1	92	92086

Note: The 93rd CoA meeting, initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SIMs pertaining to the 93rd meeting are for reference only as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.117. Other SIMs that were discussed during the period under review related to follow-up questions on outstanding areas of concern (Table 3.23). A number of these issues have been raised

in the CoA multiple times. Two issues were raised in 15 CoA meetings, attracting 56 and 27 questions each (i.e. Canada's new milk ingredient class and Canada's wine sale policy). Questions related to India's pulse policies, Philippine's rice waiver and Mongolia's quota regime for importation were raised in 10, 8 and 7 CoA meetings, respectively. The US proposed domestic support measures and India's sugar policies were both discussed in six CoA meetings, attracting 25 and 12 questions, respectively. Other policies from Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Switzerland Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States were also the subject of repeated concerns under Article 18.6. The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.23.⁶⁷

Table 3.23 SIM (Article 18.6) - questions previously raised

Specific Implementation Matter (SIM)	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
Canada's New Milk Ingredient Class	Australia, India, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	56	15	79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	93048, 93002, 93003, 92076, 92078, 92002, 91132, 90018, 90120, 90039, 89020, 89053, 89055, 88120, 88121, 88065, 88064, 88061, 87015, 87063, 87064, 87065, 87159, 87160, 86002, 86030, 86033, 85002, 85003, 85004, 85005, 85006, 85008, 85011, 85051, 85052, 85053, 85054, 85055, 85056, 84012, 84018, 84020, 84021, 84022, 84023, 84025, 84027, 84029, 84030, 84035, 84111, 84107, 84031, 83054, 83039, 82012, 82059, 82013, 82001, 81001, 81009, 81049, 81054, 81055, 81056, 80003, 80005, 80006, 80025, 79035
Canada's wine sale policy	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Alcoholic	27	15	79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	93004, 93005, 92003, 91137, 90040, 89021, 89054, 88096, 87016, 87066, 86034, 85012, 85057, 84017, 84106, 84033, 84112, 84105, 83007, 83041, 83104, 83135, 82057, 82002, 81003, 81011, 81024, 81046, 81047, 81097, 80008, 80009, 80094, 80095, 79003
India's pulses policies	Australia, Canada, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States	Processed vegetables	47	10	84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	93058, 93066, 93067, 92096, 92008, 92094, 92049, 91005, 91008, 91075, 91076, 91077, 91140, 90032, 90088, 90029, 90004, 90043, 89004, 89007, 89024, 89057, 88060, 88066, 88092, 88095, 88109, 87001, 87017, 87073, 87074, 87087, 87088, 87077, 87070, 87071, 87072, 87075, 87076, 86061, 86062, 86063, 86065, 86039, 86035, 85064, 84044

⁶⁷ In the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>), select the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and input the ID number of the question concerned.

Specific Implementation Matter (SIM)	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
Philippines' rice waiver	Australia, Japan, Thailand, United States	Rice	11	8	84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92	92100, 92099, 91012, 89063, 88032, 87082, 86008, 85071, 84057, 84015, 84079
Mongolia's quota regime for importation	Russian Federation	Milk, cereal	7	7	86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93	93072, 92098, 91011, 90027, 88104, 87094, 86001
US proposed domestic support measures	Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Ukraine	Swine, milk, fresh vegetables, wheat, corn, coarse grains	25	6	88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	93079, 93084, 93144, 93086, 93087, 92082, 92072, 92102, 91013, 91014, 91016, 91023, 91024, 91027, 91063, 91080, 90035, 89047, 89066, 88030, 88048, 88028, 88047, 88029, 88098
India's sugar policies	Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	12	6	87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93	93001, 92007, 92048, 90033, 89058, 89090, 88046, 88130, 88129, 88128, 88127, 88039, 88042, 88043, 87002, 87079
India's skim milk powder export subsidies	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	7	5	88, 89, 90, 91, 93	93008, 91151, 90002, 89026, 88070, 88037, 88122, 88040
India's support to rice exports	Japan, Thailand, United States	Rice	4	4	90, 91, 92, 93	93009, 92013, 91153, 90111, 90130
European Union - Modification of agricultural schedule of commitments	Canada, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia		6	4	89, 90, 91, 92	92101, 92091, 91015, 90087, 90028, 90128, 90129, 89001
India's dairy loans	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	4	4	89, 91, 92, 93	93011, 92011, 91149, 89027
US support to the cotton sector	Brazil, European Union, India	Cotton	4	4	86, 87, 90, 92	92073, 90036, 87103, 86069
Brazil's wheat quota	Ukraine, Canada	Wheat	3	3	91, 92, 93	93043, 92046, 91001
Canada's compensation for farmers after trade concessions	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, poultry, dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, eggs	5	3	91, 92, 93	93047, 92075, 92077, 92001, 91002, 91018
India's short-term crop loans	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter,	3	3	91, 92, 93	93012, 92010, 91147

Specific Implementation Matter (SIM)	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
India's Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA)	Australia, United States	cheese, other Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	5	3	91, 92, 93	93065, 93010, 92095, 91006, 91154
India's wheat public stockpiling	United States	Wheat	3	3	91, 92, 93	93014, 92009, 91141
Indonesia's Measure 18 in DS477 and DS478	New Zealand		3	3	91, 92, 93	93068, 92081, 91010
EU coupled payments	Brazil, India		3	3	91, 92, 93	93055, 92071, 91061
United Kingdom's modification of agricultural schedule of commitments	Indonesia, India		3	3	83, 88, 93	93076, 88011, 83069
Nigeria's import prohibitions on certain agricultural products and use of reference prices for customs valuation purposes	United States	Swine, poultry, fruit, cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains, waters	4	3	48, 51, 93	93015 48012, 51004, 51005
India's wheat policies	United States, Ukraine	Wheat	2	2	91, 93	93013, 91009
China's rice policies	United States	Rice	5	2	91, 92	92005, 91133, 91134, 91135, 91136
Egypt's export subsidy and Arrears Program	United States		2	2	91, 93	93042, 91138
India's National Dairy Plan Phase I	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	2	91, 92	92012, 91152
EU support package to Irish beef farmers	Australia	Bovine	2	2	91, 92	92079, 91004
Turkey's flour export and Turkish Grain Board	European Union, United States	Wheat	2	2	90, 93	93018, 90009
EU intervention policy	New Zealand, United States	Milk powders	2	2	90, 92	92080, 92006, 90026
Switzerland's "Loi Chocolatière" and implementation of the Nairobi Decision on Export competition	European Union	Cocoa (other)	2	2	90, 92	92018, 90020

Note: The 93rd CoA meeting, initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SIMs pertaining to the meeting are for reference only, as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.118. Members continued taking steps towards the implementation of the December 2015 Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition. Out of the 16 Members with positive export subsidy commitment levels in their schedules at the time of adoption of the Decision, 11 have had their revised export subsidy schedules certified (Australia, Colombia, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States and Uruguay); 2 Members (Canada and European Union) circulated their draft revised schedules which are still pending for certification; and 3 Members still have to circulate their revised draft export subsidy schedules (Brazil, Indonesia and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

3.119. In addition to the Committee's annual dedicated discussion on the implementation of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on export competition, Members have the possibility to ask questions in connection with this Decision at any CoA meeting. During the two meetings covered by this Report, nine questions were raised regarding policies in the area of export subsidies, export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes and international food aid (Table 3.24). The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.24.⁶⁸

Table 3.24 Questions asked at the 92nd and 93rd CoA meetings in connection with the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on export competition

ID number	CoA meeting	Question raised by	Question answered by	Areas
93024	93	United States	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93142	93	United States	Viet Nam	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93173	93	United States	Japan	Export subsidies
93174	93	Australia	Myanmar	Export subsidies
93175	93	United States	Russian Federation	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93176	93	United States	Thailand	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
92031	92	United States	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes; state trading enterprises; international food aid
92032	92	United States	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
92044	92	European Union	Russian Federation	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes

Note: The 93rd CoA meeting, initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SIMs pertaining to the meeting are for reference only, as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

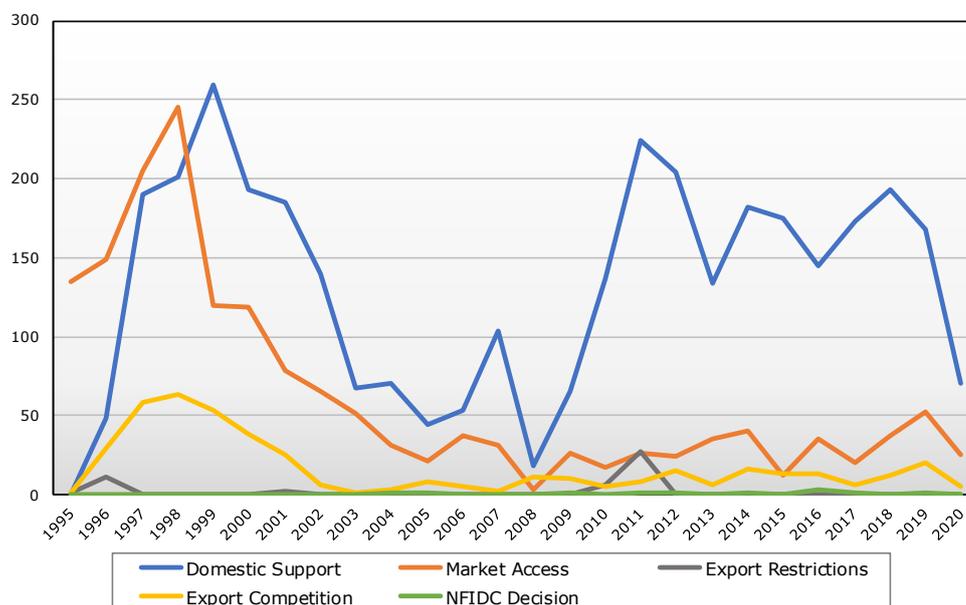
3.120. The CoA continued its review of the implementation of Members' commitments under the Agreement. This review is largely carried out based on the notifications submitted by Members. There are 12 distinct notification requirements applicable in the domain of agriculture, covering the following areas: market access, domestic support, export subsidies, export prohibitions or restrictions and the follow-up to the Marrakesh Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDC) Decision. The applicability of a notification requirement to a Member is largely dependent on its specific commitments under the AoA. Out of the 12 notification requirements, the following 5 are "regular" or "annual" notification requirements: (i) imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2); (ii) special SGs (MA:5); (iii) domestic support (DS:1); (iv) export subsidies (ES:1); and (v) total exports (ES:2). Annual notifications are required to be submitted no later than a certain number of days following the end of the year in question, in accordance with the deadlines set out in WTO document G/AG/2.

3.121. More than 5,570 questions have been raised in connection with individual notifications under the CoA's review process from 1995-2020 (including information pertaining to the 93rd CoA meeting originally scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020 and postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Throughout the years, the majority of these questions focused on domestic support

⁶⁸ In the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>), select the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and input the ID number of the question concerned.

notifications (DS:1 and DS:2), followed by questions concerning market access, in particular TRQs (MA:1 and MA:2) (Chart 3.23). Specifically, since 2010, the prevalence of questions concerning domestic support notifications has been considerably high, representing between 70% and 80% of all the questions raised in the CoA concerning individual notifications.

Chart 3.23 Questions raised on individual notifications per topic per year, 1995-2020^a

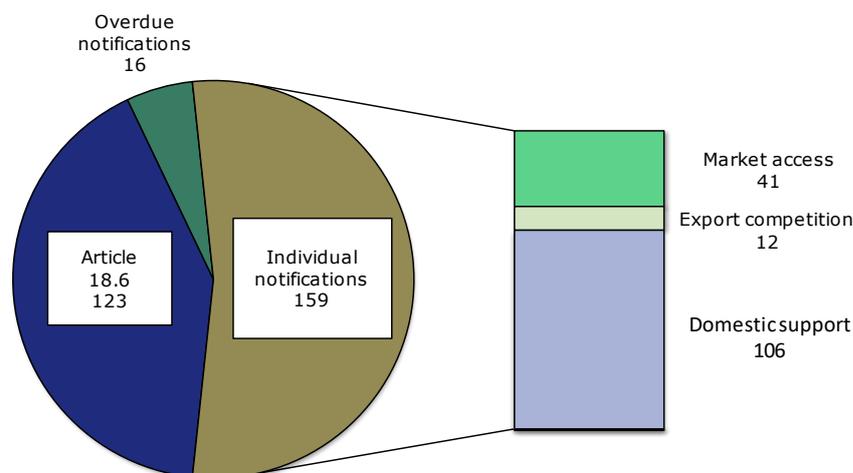


- a 2020 data cover questions raised for the 93rd CoA meeting initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020 and postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. These questions are shown as reference only and may change up to the actual convening of the meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.122. From 15 October 2019 to 15 May 2020, WTO Members submitted 212 notifications, (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 159 questions were posed concerning individual notifications during the CoA meetings that took place during this period. As seen in Chart 3.24, and in line with the historical trend, most of the questions raised related to domestic support notifications (67%). A total of 16 questions were asked of China, Egypt, European Union, India, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, South Africa, Turkey and Viet Nam concerning overdue notifications.

Chart 3.24 Number of questions raised per topic, mid-October 2019 – mid-May 2020^a



- a This chart includes questions raised for the 92nd (October 2019) and 93rd CoA meetings. The 93rd CoA meeting, initially scheduled to take place on 24-25 March 2020, was postponed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These questions are covered for reference only, as Members may still add or remove questions until the actual convening of the 93rd meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Policy developments in agriculture in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

3.123. On 22 April 2020, a group of 23 Members who collectively account for 63% and 55% of global exports and imports of agriculture and agro-food products, respectively, circulated a joint statement entitled "Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products".⁶⁹ This statement, presented to the General Council and to the CoA, pledges support to open and predictable agri-food trade while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, the communication encouraged Members to implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade, and noted that export restrictions and similar trade-restrictive measures on agriculture and agri-food products could potentially create an unpredictable trading environment that would adversely affect food availability and result in price spikes, increased price volatility, and lead to shortages of important food products.

3.124. In their communication, the co-sponsors made a number of commitments to ensure the well-functioning of global agriculture and agri-food supply chains, including ensuring the WTO-consistency of emergency measures related to agriculture and agri-food products and designed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. They asked that those measures be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, and not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains for agriculture and agri-food products. The co-sponsors also committed to ensuring the transparency and predictability of those measures and to provide an opportunity for Members to review them.

3.125. The Agreement on Agriculture establishes disciplines for cases where Members institute export prohibitions or restrictions in order to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs (Article 12 of the AoA). Transparency is at the heart of these disciplines. The AoA states that (i) Members are to give due consideration to the effects of such prohibition or restriction on importing Members' food security; and (ii) before any Member institutes an export prohibition or restriction, it shall give notice in writing, as far in advance as practicable, to the Committee on Agriculture, comprising such information as the nature and the duration of such measure, and shall consult, upon request, with any other Member having a substantial interest as an importer with respect to any matter related to the measure in question. These written notices are referred to as Table ER:1 notifications. The AoA includes a special and differential treatment provision whereby the above requirements do not apply to developing country Members unless the measure is taken by a developing country Member which is a net-food exporter of the specific foodstuff concerned.

3.126. A total of four notifications informing of export restrictions and prohibitions in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic were submitted to the CoA during the period under review. The first was received on 31 March 2020. The products covered by these restrictions are eggs, feed, pasta, rice, sugar, wheat and wheat flour. The durations of these restrictions and the symbol of the notifications can be found in Table 3.25. All these notifications can be accessed through the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>).

Table 3.25 Notified export restrictions (Table ER:1) in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic

Issue date	Member	Notification number	Duration of restriction	Relevant products subject to measures
31/03/2020	Thailand	G/AG/N/THA/107	One week	Eggs
2/04/2020	Thailand	G/AG/N/THA/107/Add.1	Extension of the measure by 1 month	Eggs
31/03/2020	Kyrgyz Republic	G/AG/N/KGZ/8	6 months	Wheat, wheat flour, rice, pasta, sugar, eggs, feed
2/04/2020	North Macedonia	G/AG/N/MKD/26	40 days	Wheat and wheat flour

Source: WTO Secretariat.

⁶⁹ WTO documents G/AG/30 and WT/GC/208.

Box 3.5 COVID-19 and the food and agriculture sector: Impacts and policy responses

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt by the agriculture and food sector, both directly and as a result of necessary measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus.

Production. Agricultural sectors in many countries are experiencing seasonal labour shortages. Looking ahead, farmers may also face further difficulties in sourcing agricultural inputs due to restrictions on the movement of people and goods. In some cases, disruptions downstream from farms are causing surpluses to accumulate, straining storage and processing facilities, and increasing food losses.

Shifts in consumer demand. The collapse in consumption of food away from home and the economic shock related to the pandemic are affecting demand for higher value premium products and those with more service addition. Lower oil prices are also reducing demand for biofuel crops.

Food supply chains disruption. Production and distribution costs have increased and the available workforce has also been reduced. Transport and logistics services are causing disruptions, while border closures and additional procedures have led to congestion and delays, affecting the transit of perishable products.

Livelihoods. Finally, and potentially most important of all, the impacts on livelihoods and food security in developing countries may be more severe, because food systems are more labour-intensive, food supply chains are less well developed, and the macroeconomic shock of the pandemic risks plunging large numbers of people into poverty. A high incidence of sickness among farmers and farm workers could have a substantial negative impact on agricultural production. How damaging these impacts turn out to be will depend on national and international policy responses in the short, medium and long term. The OECD has tracked domestic and trade policy responses across 54 countries, with more than 400 recorded policy interventions.

At the *domestic level*, governments have implemented sector-wide and institutional measures, such as exempting key agriculture and food production and marketing activities from lockdown restrictions. Many governments have also introduced measures to safeguard the health of their workforce in agriculture and food and to ensure the availability of seasonal labour. Most have also taken a wide set of measures to support the sector through expanded direct financial aid, although some provided support via input and output measures for specific food chains. Many governments have also provided additional food assistance to vulnerable populations and acted to ensure affordability of consumer food. A number of governments have taken steps to deter panic buying and hoarding by ensuring the release of timely information about the availability and safety of food stocks.

Governments have also taken specific steps *to address disruptions in food chains and agricultural trade*. In many cases, these measures have effectively addressed bottlenecks and allowed food products to move within and across borders. Governments in many countries adopted logistics and transportation measures to facilitate the transportation of food and agriculture products, such as setting up priority lanes for transportation of agriculture commodities, speeding transportation, exempting truck drivers from quarantine, simplifying procedures and easing access to essential agricultural inputs such as pesticides and veterinary medicines. Exporting countries have taken diverse measures to ease agricultural trade flows, including updating the manual of importer requirements for exporters; setting up funds to support the additional freight costs of aviation-based exporters of specific products with established markets; and providing flexibility around packaging and labelling requirements. A number of importers have reduced tariffs or expanded, or introduced additional flexibilities to, TRQs. Governments have also made greater use of digital tools to facilitate border procedures and reduce delays, for example, by allowing electronic copies of SPS certificates.

Many countries have also engaged in *international co-operation efforts*. G20 Agriculture Ministers have discouraged trade restrictions, stressed the need to take the necessary actions to improve the functioning of food chains, support affected populations and advance towards more resilient and sustainable food systems^a. G20 Trade and Investment Ministers also stressed the importance of refraining from export restrictions on agricultural products and avoiding unnecessary stockpiling^b. At the initiative of Canada, 23 WTO Members have committed to keep supply chains open and remove any existing trade restrictive measures on agricultural products^c. Agricultural ministers of 25 Latin American countries also committed to a series of actions, including assisting vulnerable producers and consumers, and ensuring the well-functioning of markets and limiting disruption of international trade^d. G20 members and major grain trading countries are also using the Agriculture Market Information Systems (AMIS) to share information and improve global market transparency.

At the same time, several countries have imposed trade restrictions, including for food staples. Mostly these have taken the form of temporary export bans or export quotas. These measures are particularly harmful. There is a need to keep domestic, regional and international agro-food markets open, transparent and predictable. Well-functioning domestic markets, regional co-operation and an open international trading system are important to connect producers to market opportunities, and help food get to where it is needed.

Co-operative global solutions may also be needed to address the needs of the poorest countries and ensure that COVID-19 pandemic does not result in a food crisis and that the food and nutrition security needs of vulnerable populations are met.

Finally, looking beyond the immediate impacts of the pandemic, there is an opportunity to enhance the resilience, sustainability, and productivity of the agriculture and food sector. Governments, international

organisations and other stakeholders can work together to learn from the crisis and accelerate investments and reforms to strengthen the resilience of food systems to a range of risks, including those associated with climate change^e.

- a Viewed at: https://q20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_Agriculture%20Ministers%20Meeting_Statement_EN.pdf.
- b Viewed at: https://q20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_Statement_G20%20Second%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Ministerial%20Meeting_EN.pdf.
- c Viewed at: <https://t.co/bmRPVVBPDn?amp=1>.
- d Viewed at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rlc/docs/covid19/statement_ministers_agriculture_26countries.pdf.
- e OECD(2020), COVID-19 and the Food and Agriculture Sector: Issues and Policy Responses, OECD publishing, Paris, viewed at https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=130_130816-9uut45lj4q&title=Covid-19-and-the-food-and-agriculture-sector-Issues-and-policy-responses.

Source: OECD (2020), Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2020, OECD Publishing, Paris.

3.7 General Economic Support

3.127. At the December 2019 TPRB meeting dedicated to discussing the Director-General's Overview of Developments in the International Trading System, several WTO Members expressed concern about the poor response rate to the Director-General's request for information on general economic support measures, and about the absence of an annex on such measures. In addition, introducing his Report to the meeting, the Director-General repeated his call to the WTO Membership to provide the Secretariat with guidance on how such measures should be reflected in future Trade Monitoring Reports.

3.128. Since July 2017, the Secretariat has been unable to justify the inclusion of a separate annex on general economic support measures in the Trade Monitoring Reports. This has been partly due to the low participation and response rate of WTO Members to the request for information, and partly because such an annex would have been biased against those Members that traditionally share and publish detailed information of such measures and programmes. Compounding the lack of information volunteered by Members, some delegations have often insisted on excluding general economic support measures identified by the Secretariat from public sources and for which verification was sought. The December 2019 TPRB meeting generated an exchange of views on how to address this issue, with several Members emphasizing the need to preserve and strengthen transparency through the trade monitoring exercise and expressing their strong support for the independent reporting of the Secretariat.

3.129. In response to the Director-General's March 2020 request for information for this Trade Monitoring Report, 34 WTO Members⁷⁰ (European Union⁷¹; Hong Kong, China; Peru; Switzerland; Thailand; and Turkey) volunteered information on general economic support measures. Although many Members may not have introduced support measures during the review period, the participation rate remains low with 21% of the Membership having shared regular support measures. The Secretariat's own research suggests that many support measures with potentially important ramifications for trade were implemented by Members during the review period.

3.130. Overall, 57 general economic support measures not explicitly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic were received from WTO Members. These measures, as well as those identified by the Secretariat, showed that the sectors which received significant financial disbursements included agriculture, food, transport and energy. Several support measures targeted investment in technology, industrial support, support to research and development and innovation programmes. Fiscal measures, soft loans, export incentive measures and loan guarantees for SMEs were also put in place. Several of these measures were multi-year programmes, with financial disbursements staggered over the lifetime of a project, while other measures were one-off grants or aid schemes.

⁷⁰ Counting the EU(27) and its members and the United Kingdom separately.

⁷¹ The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continues to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. During the transition period, the information provided by the European Union which is relevant to this document continues to cover the United Kingdom.

COVID-19 related economic support measures

3.131. In response to the Director-General's March 2020 request for information for this Trade Monitoring Report, 47 Members⁷² (Argentina; Australia; Canada; Chile; Costa Rica; European Union; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Macao, China; Maldives; Moldova, Republic of; Norway; Peru; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; South Africa; Switzerland; Turkey) and one Observer (Azerbaijan) volunteered information on COVID-19 related general economic support measures. This represents a low participation rate as, only 29% of the membership have shared COVID-19 related support measures with the Secretariat.

3.132. The review period saw an unprecedented number of general economic support measures put in place by governments as emergency responses to address the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of COVID-19 related support measures and the scope of their coverage to some extent resemble measures put in place during the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC). However, as the pandemic has accelerated it has become clear that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are different and more comprehensive compared to what was implemented in the context of the GFC. Above all, these measures have been taken in response to a global health emergency and they seek to address the profound social and economic disruption caused by it. To curb the spread of the virus, economies around the world have largely shut down and governments have adopted massive rescue packages with great urgency. These have included support measures to sectors of the economy heavily affected by the crisis; funds to increase the capacity of national healthcare systems and to provide incentives to research into vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for COVID-19; aid schemes to support SMEs and larger companies; compensation schemes for the loss of revenue or additional costs related to the financial impacts of the pandemic outbreak; financial support to households, self-employed workers and employees; and wage subsidies to help cover payrolls of companies affected by the crisis. Specific sectors targeted so far have included health, aviation, tourism, catering, cleaning and security, agriculture, fisheries, childcare, creative industries and sport.

3.133. Another set of support measures put in place by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have included measures implemented by central banks to ease monetary policies; reduce policy rates, statutory reserve ratios and repo rates; issue and purchase governmental bonds; and ease debt terms and reschedule deferrals on credit instalments to lower funding costs across the economy. Government responses have also included financial and fiscal measures to ensure economic stability, including strengthening the supply of credit to households and businesses; providing the banking system with additional liquidities; easing lending and borrowing terms; granting moratoriums; granting credit guarantees; and reducing taxes and fees. High-income economies' responses have been significantly more generous in terms of the number and variety of measures implemented and funds allocated, compared to low-income economies. Poorer economies' responses have been less numerous and have relied, to a large extent, on funding or other assistance obtained from international organizations and/or donors.

3.134. From the Secretariat's own research and from Members submissions, 468 support measures were put in place by 79 WTO Members⁷³ and 3 Observers⁷⁴ in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the beginning of March 2020 up to 15 May 2020. Several of these measures have been revised and expanded over time by governments to adjust to the increasing severity of the pandemic. The Secretariat based its research on COVID-19-related support measures primarily on official government and central banks' websites. Some 7% of the measures were sourced from media reports. Given the extent of the crisis, the number of measures identified by the Secretariat or communicated by Members is not exhaustive. In addition, financial support programmes provided by the IMF, the World Bank and regional banks (such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Asian Development Bank or the African Development Bank) were not covered by the Secretariat's research.

3.135. Of the 468 COVID-19 related economic support measures identified during the review period, 301 (64%) were submitted to the Secretariat by 47 WTO Members⁷⁵ (Argentina; Australia; Canada;

⁷² Counting the EU(27) and its members and the United Kingdom separately.

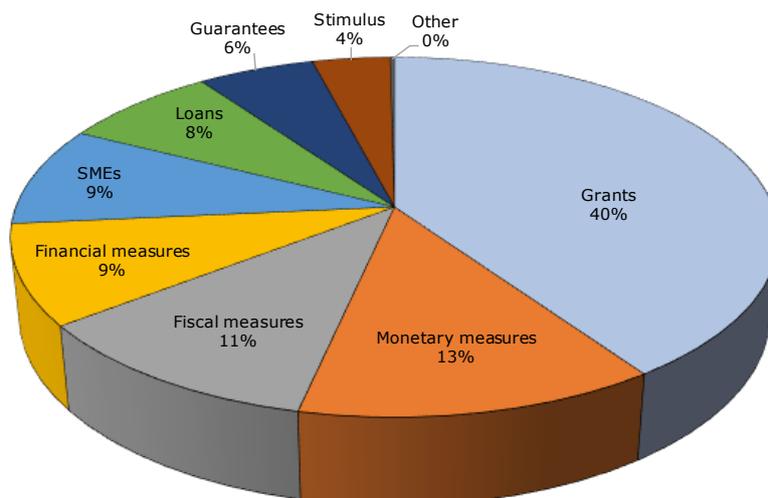
⁷³ Counting the EU(27), its member States and the United Kingdom separately.

⁷⁴ Azerbaijan, Ethiopia and Serbia.

⁷⁵ Counting the EU(27), its member States and the United Kingdom separately.

Chile; Costa Rica; European Union⁷⁶; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Macao, China; Maldives; Republic of Moldova; Norway; Peru; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; South Africa; Switzerland⁷⁷; and Turkey) and one Observer (Azerbaijan). During the review period, the COVID-19-related support measures gathered by the Secretariat and submitted by Members fell into the following categories: 40% of measures were grants, 13% monetary measures, 11% fiscal measures, 9% financial measures, 9% specifically targeting SMEs, 8% loans, 6% credit guarantees, and 4% stimulus packages (Chart 3.25). The COVID-19-related general economic support measures appeared, on the face of it, to be of a temporary nature. Several were one-off grants, and others included disbursements staggered over a few months up to three years. Some of these measures form part of rescue plans and stimulus packages worth several trillion US dollars.

Chart 3.25 COVID-19 related economic support measures, by type



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.136. The above has captured activities in the area of general economic support between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020. In the context of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic it is, however, clear that the introduction of new and/or modified measures to reflect changing circumstances has continued with considerable regularity. This is particularly the case for many central banks which have been particularly explicit about the need to maintain flexibility in terms of the tools, lending programmes and interest rate decisions required to deal with new challenges as they emerge.

3.137. The Trade Monitoring exercise does not make any judgement as to the WTO compatibility of any of the measures referred to in this Section. While it is possible that these measures, whether taken as part of a Member's overall commercial strategy or as part of a Member's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, may affect trade in some way, it is not always straightforward to conclude that they restrict or facilitate trade (and by how much), or that they distort competition. Nevertheless, and recognising that other international organizations are often better placed to report on and analyse many of these measures, providing a brief overview of such measures taken during the review period represents an important element of transparency of developments in the international trading system. The Secretariat will continue to monitor and report on general economic support measures within the resources available to it. An important element of this will be to monitor time-limited support measures introduced in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic so that Members can track their evolution and effects as the world exits the health crisis and enters a recovery period.

⁷⁶ The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continues to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. During the transition period, the information provided by the European Union which is relevant to this document continues to cover the United Kingdom.

⁷⁷ Through the MSMEs Informal Group information exchange platform.

3.138. The following box on Government support and the COVID-19 pandemic was contributed by the OECD.

Box 3.6 Government support and the COVID-19 pandemic

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic call for urgent action to support households and firms alike, but the design of this support will be critical in ensuring that it does not result in enduring global market distortions. While the prime concern of governments at present is to reinvigorate economic activity, experience from the 2008-09 crisis suggests that poorly designed stimulus packages can have negative, long-lasting consequences for both global trade and national welfare. While there is an urgent need to deploy measures quickly, care should be taken to ensure that today's stimulus does not sow the seeds of enduring trade distortions that prove politically difficult and economically costly to unwind. Experience tells us that support could more effectively be focused on measures that benefit smaller businesses (which are generally the least capable of coping with shocks and less likely to distort global trade, while offering the biggest 'bang for the buck' in terms of employment and social stability), as well as on investments to strengthen broader health and social safety nets that help people and ultimately help kick-start demand after the immediate crisis.

Support packages that are time-limited, targeted, cash-based, and consistent with longer-term objectives are the basis for ensuring a sustainable recovery. One way to ensure that necessary economic stimulus does not end up distorting trade and global competition is to make support measures time-limited, e.g. through sunset clauses. This will help mitigate the risk that temporary support becomes entrenched and outlives its purpose. Another is to favour measures that are targeted at those companies and sectors that experience the most disruption as a direct result of the pandemic, with a view to avoiding windfall benefits or rescuing firms that would have failed absent the pandemic. This will help minimise the risk that stimulus spawns a new cohort of corporate zombies that restrict competition, dampen domestic productivity growth, distort international markets, impede the economic recovery and, in some cases, aggravate economic disparities.

Where support targets households directly, governments should favour measures that leave consumers free to decide how to spend the cash they receive. This contrasts with measures that tie support to the consumption of specific goods or services (e.g. fossil-fuel subsidies or subsidised purchases of locally made products), which can distort relative prices, send inaccurate signals to producers, and reduce consumer choice. Additionally, governments could reap additional benefits by aiming for support measures that achieve 'double dividends' and help ensure that longer-term policy objectives (e.g. climate-change mitigation) are not sacrificed for short-term economic stimulus.

Support provided through the financial system will play a critical role but needs scrutiny. Many responses to date appear to include financing on preferential terms. Crisis conditions can dramatically reduce the availability of private finance, starving firms of operating capital when it is needed most, especially MSMEs. Government intervention is essential to fill in the gaps left by private financial institutions, but care should be exercised to ensure that firm-specific credit risks are distinguished from more systemic risks that stem from the crisis. This is important to prevent capital from being misallocated. Governments may also have to inject equity into heavily indebted firms. This form of support can be particularly disruptive to competition and effective resource allocation, underscoring the need for transparency and a clear exit strategy.

Policy transparency is fundamental at all stages of the crisis response. Transparency is valuable ex ante to help manage business expectations and co-ordination, foster public support domestically, as well as enable countries to exchange information on what each is doing to stimulate the economy. It is a key ingredient in building the trust that governments need at home and abroad in troubled times. As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a need for governments to evaluate the measures they introduced; policy transparency will enable greater accountability and oversight, and help countries to learn from current experience to better prepare for the future.

Source: OECD.

3.8 Other Selected Trade Policy Developments

3.139. The following Section provides a brief overview of the other selected trade policy issues where important developments took place during the review period. It also includes follow-up to a number of issues which saw outcomes at MC11.

Trade and environment

3.140. Discussions at the 26-27 November 2019 meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) continued to raise important global issues at the intersection between trade and environmental policies. WTO Members held dedicated discussions at the CTE, and at side-events – in what was labelled "Environment Week" – on trade's potential role in facilitating the "circular economy" and on plastics pollution. Delegations shared their experience on measures adopted to promote a circular economy and resource efficiency, and address plastics, e-waste and marine

pollution. Relevant international organizations also briefed delegations on their work on these issues.⁷⁸ Several Member-driven workshops on the topic were held back-to-back with the CTE meeting⁷⁹, providing Members with the opportunity to report on these events at the formal meeting of the CTE. Most Members have used this setting to reiterate more strongly the importance of trade and environment matters, including in the lead-up to MC12.

3.141. Delegations were also briefed on the relevant outcomes of the latest Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)⁸⁰, where Canada shared its recent trade measures adopted to combat the practice of shark finning.⁸¹ Delegations were further briefed on ongoing work related to, *inter alia*, areas of potential interest in relation to market access for environmental services, a symposium on the links between trade and natural disasters, an initiative launched by New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Costa Rica and Fiji to negotiate an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), and relevant work on trade and the environment by observer organizations.⁸²

3.142. Given the strong interest in the topic of circular economy, the Chairperson of the CTE informed Members that the next meeting, scheduled for March 2020, would continue to focus on the issue.⁸³ Several Members had also announced their intention to organize workshops on circular economy and on plastic pollution back-to-back with the CTE. However, due to contingency measures adopted in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting of the CTE was postponed to a later date.

Trade facilitation

3.143. The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017, when two thirds of WTO Members presented their corresponding instruments of acceptance. At the conclusion of the review period, the data registered for 151 ratifications, which represents 92% of the Membership. Six additional instruments of acceptance were received by the Secretariat after 1 October 2019.

3.144. Members also remained active in the presentation of implementation notifications. The notifications of 37 Members comprised 9 category A commitments, 42 category B commitments and 26 category C commitments (Chart 3.26). Among the 37 Members, 6 made a category shift from B to C and 5 made a category shift from C to B. One Member notified, and was granted, a request for additional time to implement a provision. Under Article 16.2 (b) of the TFA, nine least-developed country Members requested, and were granted, an extension of the deadline of 22 February 2020 in order to submit the definitive dates for notifying their category B provisions.

3.145. Notifications were also made on the transparency side. Twenty-eight Members presented notifications under Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2, of which three Members made transparency notifications in relation to COVID-19 measures. Furthermore, two Members notified their technical assistance and capacity building activities, in accordance to Article 22 of the TFA. With regard to notifications under Article 22.3, 11 Members made notifications relating to contact points for coordinating capacity-building support. Four Members notified their arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support.

⁷⁸ Annual Report 2019, WTO documents WT/CTE/26 and WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020.

⁷⁹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 2.40-46.

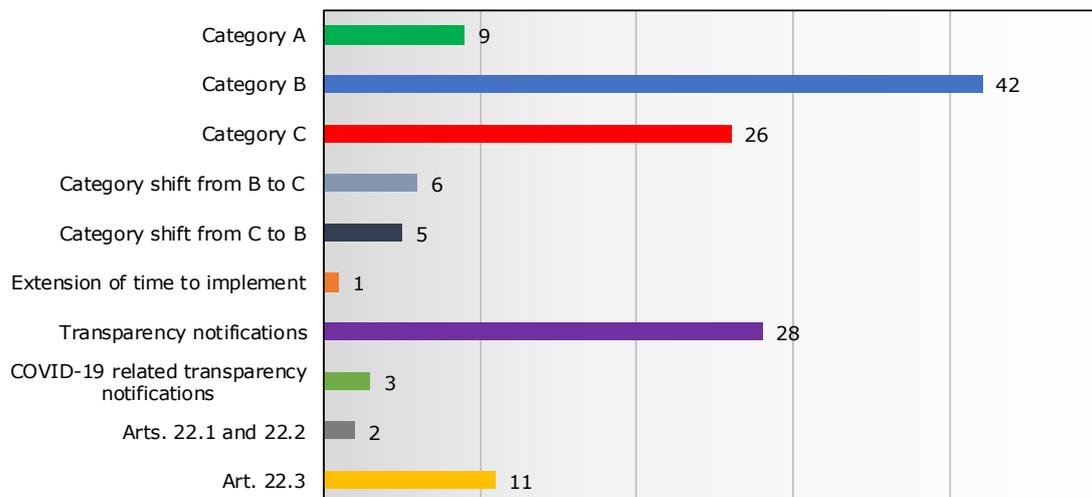
⁸⁰ Annual Report 2019, WTO document WT/CTE/26, 9 December 2019, para. 2.1.

⁸¹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 3.11-18.

⁸² WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 1.17-24, 2.24 and 4.2-5.

⁸³ Annual Report 2019, WTO document WT/CTE/26, para. 4.8 and WT/CTE/M/68, para. 6.10, 17 March 2020.

Chart 3.26 Number of WTO Members that presented TFA notifications, 1 October 2019 to 15 May 2020



Source: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Database. Viewed at: <https://tfadatabase.org>.

3.146. During the review period, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (the Facility, or TFAF) organized or participated in nine demand-driven activities contributing to the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in WTO Members. Training and presentations by WTO officials were delivered to over 350 participants, representing around 90 WTO Members, of which 33 were LDCs. These activities led to 31 notifications being submitted to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee by Members that had participated in TFAF training, within a period of eight weeks. In addition, the TFAF also supported 14 Members to submit an expression of interest as a first step to applying for a TFAF grant, i.e. assistance available for Members that have been unable to identify support from "traditional" donors and development partners.

3.147. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the TFAF has been acting on its mandate to coordinate other international organizations working to implement the TFA. The Facility immediately gathered together relevant resources and tools from partners at the World Customs Organization, the World Bank Group, UNCTAD, the Global Alliance/World Economic Forum, the International Air Transport Association, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the International Railway Union and others, to provide links and a brief explanation of each, and published these on the Facility website.⁸⁴

Regional trade agreements (RTAs)

3.148. Between October 2019 and May 2020, five new RTAs were notified to the WTO. Of these, two were notified under GATT Article XXIV and GATS V (covering trade in goods and services), two under GATT Article XXIV and one under the Enabling Clause (covering only trade in goods). These bring the total to 303 RTAs notified and in force (corresponding to 490 notifications in goods, services and accessions).

3.149. Among the RTAs notified during this period, six involved WTO Members in Asia, and one each in Latin America, the Middle East, the CIS region and Europe. While most RTAs notified to the WTO are bilateral, some RTA negotiations involve several parties. Such plurilateral RTAs include the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is due to enter into force later in 2020; the agreement between the European Union and MERCOSUR (completed but not signed); the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) between ten parties (due to be signed at the end of 2020); and the African Continental Free Trade Area between 54 African economies (ratified by 28 so far), which is expected to be implemented on 1 July 2020.

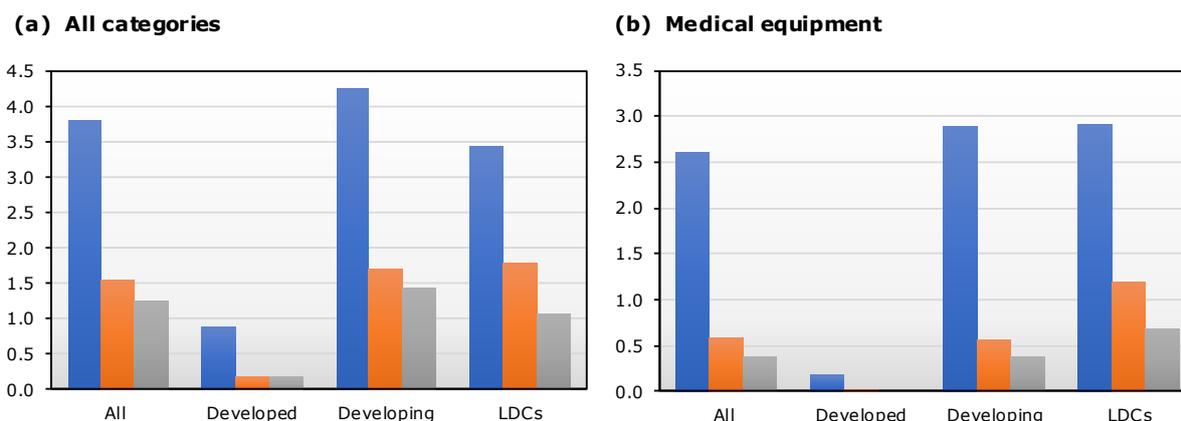
⁸⁴ WTO TFAF. Viewed at: <https://www.tfafacility.org/covid-19-resources>

3.150. RTAs benefit their parties by reducing tariffs and other restrictions, both at, and behind, the border. In the current period of supply shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such close cooperation between RTA partners can help meet domestic demand. In fact, all the world's top ten exporters of medical products⁸⁵ are party to between 14 and 44 RTAs.⁸⁶ Germany and the United States, which account together for over a quarter of exports of medical products, export 67% and 28%, respectively, to their RTA partners, while China exports around 28% of its exports of such products to its RTA partners. The share of exports of personal protective products to RTA partners is higher than for the other categories for all the traders except China.⁸⁷

3.151. With regard to RTAs that have been notified to the WTO, almost 84% of the tariffs for medical products were scheduled to have been eliminated by 2020, with 99.5% eliminated by developed Members, and 84.3% and 68.4% by developing and least-developed Members, respectively.⁸⁸ Once these RTAs are fully implemented, only 0.5% of medical products will remain subject to duties in developed Members, while 11% and almost 19% of medical product imports will remain dutiable from RTA partners in developing and least-developed Members, respectively.

3.152. In comparison with the average applied MFN tariff for the sample of countries analysed of 3.8%, the current preferential tariff is half that at 1.6% (Chart 3.27). The average for developed Members is 0.2%, compared to an MFN average of 0.9%, while for developing and least-developed Members the preferential average is 1.7% and 1.8%, respectively (compared to a corresponding MFN average of 4.3% and 3.3%, respectively). While average preferential rates are considerably lower than MFN rates for all the four categories of medical products, liberalization is more marked in medical supplies and personal protection products for all Members. Average preferential tariffs nevertheless remain highest in these categories for developing and least-developed Members.

Chart 3.27 Average MFN rates vs Commitments in RTAs for medical products, 2020

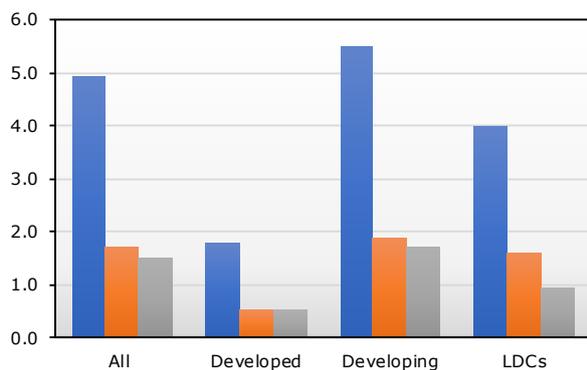
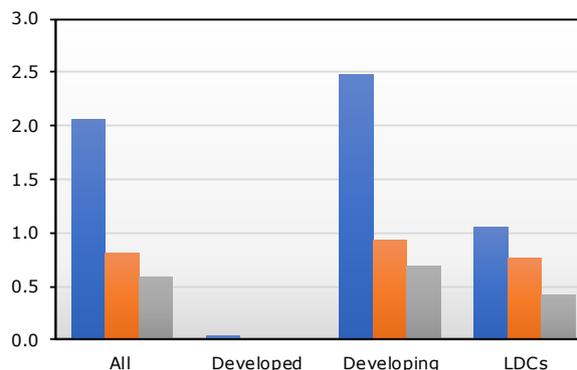
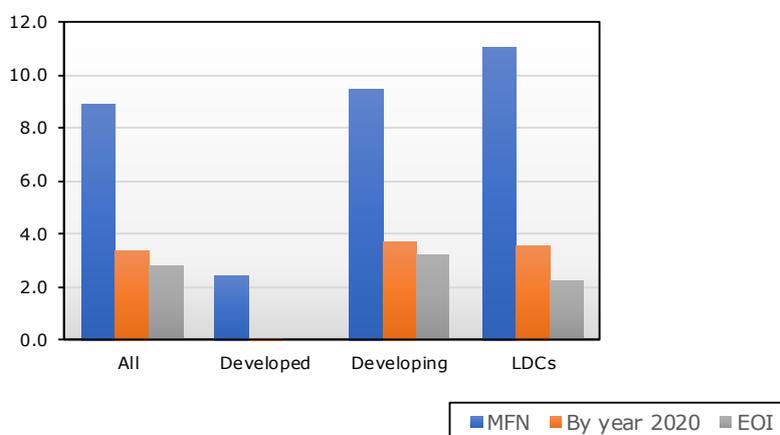


⁸⁵ The list of medical products under four categories (medical equipment; medical supplies; medicines; and personal protective products) has been compiled by the WTO Secretariat, as contained in the Information Note "Trade in Medical Goods in the Context of Tackling COVID-19". Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/rese_03apr20_e.pdf.

⁸⁶ With the exception of China, Switzerland and the United States, all the others, including the United Kingdom, are currently party to the European Union's customs union. While the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union on 1 February 2020, it remains part of the customs union up to 31 December 2020.

⁸⁷ Figures on trade with RTA partners represent total trade and not necessarily trade under preferences which are not systematically reported by Members. For example, products may not qualify as originating and thus not benefit from the preferential tariff, or exporters/importers may decide not to claim preferential treatment for various reasons.

⁸⁸ The data includes RTAs notified to the WTO under Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 as well as paragraph 2c of the Enabling Clause (the latter for the most part covering only a small number of tariff lines). Calculations of MFN average tariffs include *ad valorem* equivalents (AVEs) for tariffs including specific duties; for the preferential tariff only the *ad valorem* part of the tariff has been taken into account and specific duties have been excluded. While the MFN rates reflect current applied tariffs, the preferential rates are those that the parties committed to apply in their RTAs. Thus, actual applied preferential rates may be different.

(c) Medical supplies**(d) Medicines****(e) Personal protective products**

Source: WTO RTA Database and WTO IDB.

3.153. While the data reported here refers to tariffs eliminated by RTAs, there may be reasons why imports do not enter under preferences but instead under the applied MFN rate of duty. One key reason for this is the rules of origin. For pharmaceuticals, for example, alternative rules of origin are used to facilitate compliance. These could be based on the production process (such as a chemical reaction rule, or a change in particle size rule), or a change in tariff classification. As the complexity of these rules increases (for example, the combination of several such requirements), the likelihood of the use of preferences diminishes.

3.154. Other provisions in RTAs may simplify trade in medical products. For example, a number of RTAs have sector-specific provisions, including regarding pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Such sector-specific provisions currently involve mainly Members in Asia, the United States, the European Union, Canada and some countries in Latin America. Most of these RTAs focus mainly on cooperation, transparency, and/or procedures to obtain a product registration certificate. Some recent RTAs have gone further by including protocols on the acceptance of good manufacturing practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical products and acceptance of GMP certificates issued by authorities they recognize as equivalent. These RTAs also usually agree to discuss further provisions on standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures through Committees or sub-Committees set up by the RTA. More generally, several WTO Members have negotiated and signed bilateral mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) recognizing conformity assessment done by regulatory authorities in the other countries. Such MRAs can speed up the provision of critical supplies and reduce the cost of conducting inspections of sites in other countries.

3.155. Finally, as countries attempt to tackle the pandemic, some have imposed restrictions or bans on exports of medical products. While around a third of notified RTAs contain explicit bans on the use of export restrictions⁸⁹, they do permit them if they are in conformity with WTO rules.

Government procurement

3.156. The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) continues to gain importance as an instrument for promoting trade and good governance in government procurement markets. Currently, the Agreement has 20 Parties, covering 48 WTO Members^{90,91}. Thirty-five WTO Members/Observers participate as Observers in the GPA Committee, with Ecuador and the Philippines having been granted Observer status in June 2019 and the United Kingdom in February 2020. Switzerland indicated that its domestic procedures to ratify the revised GPA have been concluded, which will allow it to deposit its instrument of ratification of the revised GPA in December 2020. Subsequently, the revised GPA is expected to be applicable to all its Parties as of the beginning of 2021.

3.157. Important progress was made on several accessions to the Agreement.⁹² China circulated a further revised market access offer in October 2019 and has indicated that it is at the final stage of internal approval procedures to circulate revised replies to the Checklist of Issues that will update the GPA Committee on recent developments in relation to China's government procurement legislation and regime. Tajikistan circulated a further revised market access offer in February 2020. In line with a previous decision of the Committee on the United Kingdom's accession to the GPA in its own right, the United Kingdom circulated its revised replies to the Checklist of Issues in April 2020 and reconfirmed its intention to become a Party in its own right after the expiry of the withdrawal agreement with the European Union. North Macedonia, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation also actively pursued accession to the GPA. Kazakhstan initiated its GPA accession process by submitting its letter of application in November 2019 in keeping with the provisions included in its WTO accession protocol. The accessions of four other WTO Members – Albania, Georgia, Jordan and Oman – are pending. An additional four Members have provisions regarding accession to the Agreement in their respective Protocols of Accession to the WTO, namely Afghanistan, Mongolia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Seychelles.

3.158. The GPA Committee continued to advance its Work Programmes, concerning notably (i) sustainable procurement; (ii) the collection and reporting of statistical data; and (iii) SMEs.⁹³ Discussions were also carried out with regard to the restriction and derestriction of Committee documents and enhancing information sharing in the Committee.

3.159. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, various WTO Members have adopted policies and/or guidance on government procurement during the outbreak in emergency situations. These measures aim, for example, at achieving enhanced efficiency of procurement activities to ensure timely access to health-related goods and services. Guidance was issued to draw government procurement authorities' and suppliers' attention to the availability of emergency procurement provisions in existing government procurement legislation. Such provisions allow procuring entities to deviate from standard procurement procedures to address difficulties and challenges arising in situations of extreme urgency, like the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of GPA Parties provided information on their measures to the WTO, for transparency purposes.⁹⁴

⁸⁹ Based on a survey of 287 RTAs for which information is available.

⁹⁰ Counting the European Union and its 27 member States and the United Kingdom, all of which are covered by the Agreement, as one Party.

⁹¹ In line with the decision of the GPA Committee of 27 February 2019 (GPA/CD/2) and the Withdrawal Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that provides for a transition period during which European Union law would apply to and in the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom is covered by the GPA until the date of expiry of that transition period. During such a transition period, the United Kingdom is treated as a member State of the European Union.

⁹² WTO document GPA/AR/2.

⁹³ WTO document GPA/AR/2.

⁹⁴ WTO document RD/GPA/103.

Aid for Trade

3.160. Global Aid-for-Trade (AFT) disbursements provided in the period 2006-18 totalled USD 451.6 billion.⁹⁵ From a baseline of USD 20.3 billion for the year 2006 to USD 45.1 billion in 2018, disbursements increased by 122% overall. Spending on AFT support in 2018 was broadly equivalent to 2017 (a record year, during which disbursements reached a high of USD 45.2 billion). In 2018, 56% of support went to economic infrastructure, 41% to building productive capacity and 3% to trade policy and regulations. In terms of geographic distribution, the two largest recipients were Africa (38% of disbursements) and Asia (36%), followed by Europe (8%), the Americas (7%) and Oceania (1%). Ten percent of disbursements supported projects implemented at a global level.

3.161. LDCs, a particular focus group of the AFT initiative, received USD 13.5 billion in AFT funding (30% of the total in 2018). The 2018 total represents an increase of USD 0.7 billion on the 2017 funding figure. Lower-middle income countries received 38% of the total; upper-middle income countries, 14%.

3.162. The top ten AFT donors in 2018 were EU institutions (USD 7.5 billion), Japan (USD 7.3 billion), the World Bank Group (USD 6.4 billion), Germany (USD 4.7 billion), France (USD 2.5 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 2.4 billion), the United States (USD 2.2 billion), the State of Kuwait (USD 1.4 billion), the Asian Development Bank (USD 1.2 billion) and the African Development Bank (USD 1.0 billion). The top ten recipients for 2018 were India (USD 3.5 billion), Bangladesh (USD 2.1 billion), Egypt (USD 1.9 billion), Ethiopia (USD 1.7 billion), Indonesia (USD 1.4 billion), Turkey (1.4 billion), Viet Nam (USD 1.4 billion), Kenya (USD 925.6 million) and Tanzania (USD 845.4 million). USD 4.4 billion were disbursed for projects at a global level, USD 1.2 billion for Sub-Saharan-wide projects and USD 1.0 billion for African-wide projects. Global commitments of AFT reached a total of USD 602.7 billion in the period 2006-18. At USD 57.7 billion for the year 2018, they were slightly lower than their record high registered in 2017 (USD 60.0 billion).

3.163. In the current biennial, work taking place within the framework of the WTO-led AFT initiative is planned around the 2020-21 Work Programme, themed "Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade" (WT/COMTD/AFT/W/81). The focus of the programme lies in the opportunities that digital connectivity and sustainability offer for economic and export diversification – and how AFT can help empower different economic actors to realize these opportunities. The centrepiece of the Work Programme is expected to be the 8th Global Review of Aid for Trade. Understanding the opportunities that green growth and digital connectivity offer to meet multiple targets in the 2030 Agenda while promoting economic and export diversification will be a particular focus of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercise underpinning the 8th Global Review.

3.164. Box 3.7 summarizes trade and development support mobilized until mid-May 2020 by the IMF and multilateral development banks in emergency response to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information covered in the box is not exhaustive.

Box 3.7 Emergency trade and development support in emergency response to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The IMF announced that its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis would be fivefold:

- Providing emergency financing to meet the expected demand of USD 100 billion by 102 of its member countries to date;
- Approving immediate debt service relief to 25 countries under the IMF's revamped Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust which the Fund is working to triple from USD 500 billion to USD 1.4 trillion to cover and extend the duration of relief;
- Calling for bilateral debt relief, which the G20 responded to on April 15 by suspending repayment of official bilateral credit from the poorest countries^a;
- Enhancing liquidity by approving the establishment of a Short-term Liquidity Line (SLL) to further strengthen global financial safety; and

⁹⁵ AFT figures were collected and compiled from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through the Creditor Reporting System. As at 1 May 2020, figures available encompassed the period 2006-18 (i.e. from inception of the Aft initiative to the latest year for which figures were compiled).

- Adjusting existing lending arrangements as well as augmenting existing lending programmes to accommodate urgent new needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Bank Group (WBG) announced a USD 14 billion package, addressing the immediate health and social consequences of the outbreak. Furthermore, it looks to allocate as much as USD 160 billion in financial support to aid in economic recovery efforts over the next 15 months. In April 2020, along with the IMF, the WBG addressing the G20 called for debt suspension for the poorest and most fragile countries.

Among regional developments, the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) tripled its initial response package to USD 20 billion to support its Developing Member Countries to aid in pandemic response efforts^b.

In early April 2020, the African Development Bank (AfDB) unveiled the creation of a USD 10 billion package. The COVID-19 Response Facility, which entails USD 5.5 billion for sovereign operation in AfDB counties and USD 3.1 billion for sovereign and regional operations for countries under the African Development Fund for the most fragile countries. An additional USD 1.35 will be devoted to private sector operations^c.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) set up a comprehensive USD 2 billion package, dedicating a significant portion of it to support and empower the MSME sector in member countries^d.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) unveiled an emergency EUR 1 billion "Solidarity Package" of measures to help companies across its regions deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) injected an additional USD 3.2 billion in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, approximately USD 12 billion is available for members to aid in relief and support efforts.

The BRICS Bank/New Development Bank approved emergency assistance of RMB 7 billion (approximately USD 985 million) to aid in Chinese relief efforts. Notably, this is the Bank's first assistance programmes for outbreaks within its member cohort.

a IMF. Viewed at: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/FAQ/imf-response-to-covid-19>.

b AsDB. Viewed at: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-triples-covid-19-response-package-20-billion>.

c AfDB. Viewed at: <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-unveils-10-billion-response-facility-curb-covid-19-35174>

d ISDB. Viewed at: <https://www.isdb.org/fr/node/44432>.

Source: IMF.

3.165. The following box provides a non-exhaustive overview of the challenges faced by LDCs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 3.8 COVID-19 and LDCs

The COVID-19 pandemic has created very serious challenges to the trade and economic growth of the least-developed countries (LDCs). These challenges come against the backdrop of a greater decline of their exports of goods and services in 2019 (1.6%) as compared to the decline of world exports (1.2%).

Trade-related measures have been one of the important policy instruments adopted by LDC governments to cushion the adverse consequences of the pandemic. Over a quarter of LDCs have put in place measures to simplify import procedures along with temporary waivers of customs duties on essential medical supplies as well as on food products.

For example, Bangladesh formally notified to the WTO its temporary elimination of import tariffs on protective garment, disinfectant and COVID-19 test kits (G/MA/W/156). Official sources from Chad have confirmed similar measures, while Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao PDR and Zambia have autonomously liberalized tariffs on medical goods and food products. Liberia is an illustration of an LDC removing non-tariff measures to expedite imports, by lifting the pre-shipment inspection requirements.

In order to ensure food security during the pandemic period, some LDCs had introduced export restricting measures but withdrew them within a month, such as Myanmar (temporary deferral of issuing of new export licensing on rice). Temporary export bans have also been noted for Cambodia (rice), Mali (sugar, meat, wheat and rice), Sudan (maize) and The Gambia (essential commodities and petroleum).

The LDC Group issued communication (WT/GC/211) in which they called on WTO Members to refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions on medical goods and food, and to facilitate flows of these goods to LDCs for their domestic use. Some LDCs have also joined other members to support open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products (WT/GC/208/Rev.2) as well as in stressing the importance of transparent and rules-based global trading system (WT/GC/212/Rev.1).

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, two thirds of LDCs have put in place containment measures. Since LDCs are spread across the globe, they have been affected to different degrees and at different times as the epicenter of the pandemic has shifted between continents. Despite significant resource constraints, LDC governments had to roll out stimulus packages to strengthen the capacity of the health sector and expand social safety nets, cushioning SMEs, export-oriented industries and affected businesses. Most of

the measures aim at providing liquidity, invoking moratoria on loan payments, alleviating tax burden, ensuring workers' salaries and supporting the most vulnerable communities. Food distribution, direct cash transfers and cuts on utility bills form an integral part of social relief packages taken by LDCs, and some include targeted support to women and youth, such as "Youth Entrepreneurship Fund" in Chad.

SMEs feature in the stimulus packages of several LDCs, with the measures ranging from low interest loans, to salary support, to VAT exemptions. In Bangladesh, SMEs can access working capital loan program at concessional interest rates where the Government shares the interest payment with these enterprises. In Nepal, SMEs stand to benefit from refinancing facilities and tax exemptions ranging from 25 to 75% for the fiscal year budget 2020-2021. SME-focused measures across LDCs in Africa vary from rent subsidies in Lesotho to emergency cash transfer programs in Malawi to VAT suspension in Rwanda. In addition, affected businesses in Rwanda can benefit from bailout funding under the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) amounting to USD 200 million managed by the Central Bank.⁹⁶ In the Pacific, the Government of Vanuatu announced to provide VT60,000 to SMEs with annual turnover of less than VT200 million, according to the national authority.⁹⁷

Businesses operating in the tourism sector – one of the badly hit sectors from COVID-19 – are also included in the stimulus packages of LDCs. For instance, the Government of Bhutan waived rent bills for tourism-related businesses leasing government buildings. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Myanmar waived the license fee for hotels and tourism-operators for a period of one year. Hotels and catering sectors in Togo have been granted a VAT reduction, while tax deferrals have been offered to hotels and restaurants in Mali.

The international community provided a timely response in supporting the LDCs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with the G20 Leaders' statement, the G20 Finance Ministers launched the "Debt Service Suspension Initiative for Poorest Countries" on 15 April 2020.⁹⁸ This initiative allows for a suspension of principal repayments and interest payments by LDCs and other countries eligible to benefit from the International Development Association (IDA) from 1 May 2020 until the end of 2020.

The international financial institutions have come forward with rapid facilities to ease the liquidity crisis in the poorest countries, as well as to strengthen national systems for public health emergencies. Over 60% of LDCs have already received emergency financing support from the IMF, with the total amount reaching USD 5 billion (USD 3.7 billion in special drawing rights).⁹⁹ Around 90% of the IMF's emergency financing to LDCs has been channeled through the rapid credit facility and the rapid financing instrument aimed at providing liquidity.¹⁰⁰ The World Bank's support in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic amounts to USD 160 billion, with grants and concessional financing to IDA-eligible countries accounting for nearly one-third of the total amount.¹⁰¹ As of 8 June 2020, 30 LDCs have already started the implementation of the COVID-19 preparedness and response projects amounting to nearly USD 700 million under the COVID-19 Fast Track Facility.¹⁰²

International Financial Corporation has also announced COVID-19 support of USD 14 billion, with nearly 60% of which (USD 8 billion) focusing on providing trade finance, working-capital support and medium-term financing to private companies. Businesses across LDCs and other IDA-eligible countries stand to benefit from at least 40% of the USD 8 billion package. In addition, several IFC projects also contribute to the COVID-19 pandemic response. IFC is providing USD 11 million loan to expand a network of clinical diagnostic laboratories across nine countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including five LDCs: Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.¹⁰³

The duration of the pandemic remains uncertain, and its economic impact threatens to be more severe than the current projections. With drastic fall of export earnings, looming protracted recession at global level, and dwindling resources of LDC governments, concerted support from international community remains key for LDCs to rebound from the crisis.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

⁹⁶ Viewed at: <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/covid-19-businesses-invited-apply-bailout-govt-rolls-out-rwf100bn-fund> accessed on 9 June 2020.

⁹⁷ Government of Vanuatu, Finance and Treasury. Viewed at: <https://doft.gov.vu/index.php/covid-19>, accessed on 9 June 2020.

⁹⁸ G20 Finance Ministers' Communiqué. Viewed at: [https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_FMFCBG_Communiq%C3%A9_EN%20\(2\).pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_FMFCBG_Communiq%C3%A9_EN%20(2).pdf), accessed on 15 May 2020.

⁹⁹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Togo, Uganda, Yemen.

¹⁰⁰ IMF COVID-19 Lending Tracker, <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker>, accessed on 05 June 2020.

¹⁰¹ See: <https://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries>, accessed on 20 May 2020.

¹⁰² See: <https://ida.worldbank.org/financing/responding-covid-19>, accessed on 7 June 2020.

¹⁰³ See <https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/projectDetail/SII/40794>, accessed on 7 June 2020.

Trade finance

3.166. During the review period, importers as well as exporters experienced major difficulties as result of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of cost and availability of short-term trade financing. According to the expert group on trade finance, which met on 30 March,¹⁰⁴ an increased perception of risk by financial institutions, and liquidity issues experienced either by financial institutions or by other providers of trade finance, are the main reasons for these difficulties. Global banks have been cutting down their lines of credit or confirmation of letters of credit for economies assessed as high-risk – mostly developing and least-developed economies. Indeed, the perception of the risk of non-payment is high, as banks anticipate an increasing number of failures among their clients. Liquidity issues exacerbate the COVID-19 measures put in place by governments by reducing economic activity and delaying or extending the terms of payments. Developed countries are also facing serious trade finance challenges, despite banks providing massive payment advances to core customers. "Force Majeure" payment clauses¹⁰⁵ in trade finance contracts have been activated in selected sectors, such as air transport, tourism, automobile and machinery industries.

3.167. As during the 2008-09 financial crisis, many governments have introduced schemes to support companies involved in international trade, in the form of guarantees, working capital, pre-shipment finance, import guarantees or reinsurance capacity by public insurers (export credit agencies). The Berne Union, the International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers, is keeping a record of the measures announced. The European Union has temporarily waived some rules on state aid, to allow export credit agencies of member States to provide support to traders. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have also implemented emergency support programmes and facilities dedicated to trade finance and working capital for companies impacted by the collapse of trade as a result of the pandemic. The demand for trade finance facilities has traditionally been an indicator of market gaps. This demand has increased by 40% for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), 80% for the AsDB, and 100% for the EBRD, the AfDB and Afreximbank. This demand either comes directly from the companies, for example as working capital for the purchase of inputs, or from food producers to access advanced cash for their exports, or from banks in developing countries facing withdrawal in the confirmation of their letters of credit by global banks. Requests for multilateral bank facilities have come from over 80 countries, showing the global extent of the crisis. The US Federal Reserve reactivated US dollar swaps with several central banks, a positive development for international trade and trade finance, 80% of which still relies on the US currency. The ECB and Chinese central banks have also stepped in, to ensure enough liquidity in inter-bank markets.

3.168. The WTO is closely monitoring the situation, as reduced support by the banking system and declines in inter-firm trade credit can have significant knock-on effects on traders' solvency within the value chains, and therefore harm recovery. Trade finance is an area in which international statistics are scarce. The WTO is in contact with MDBs and representatives of the private sector as part of its monitoring effort. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the expert group on trade finance has met virtually. In other developments, the B20 issued a Statement on Finance and Trade, including a call to "enable continued trade during the crisis via trade finance".

Fisheries subsidies

3.169. Although end-2019 had been seen as the deadline for an agreement on WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies it was not possible to achieve this objective. However, in a series of meetings of the Negotiating Group on Rules in late 2019, Members stated that they were fully committed to reaching an agreement at the next WTO Ministerial Conference that was to take place in June 2020 in Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan. They also affirmed that they were looking for an ambitious outcome based on the mandate from target 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the MC11 Ministerial Decision, to reach an agreement on disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, with appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and LDC Members being an integral part of these negotiations.

¹⁰⁴ WTO document WT/WGTDF/W/95.

¹⁰⁵ "Force Majeure" clauses seek to delay, postpone, suspend or even cancel contract obligations. In the case of trade finance, clauses have been invoked to cancel orders, delay payments, or postpone deliveries.

3.170. Considerable progress was made in late 2019, and in the first months of 2020, as the Chair and facilitators engaged with delegations, the facilitators prepared new drafts of their working documents and the Chair was asked to prepare a draft consolidated text on which Members could focus as they prepared for senior-level involvement and the June Ministerial Conference where a final decision would be made.

3.171. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, MC12, scheduled for June 2020, was postponed without a new date being set. The ability of delegations to engage in detailed negotiations has been severely curtailed by restrictions on movement and the refocusing of priorities to address the pandemic. Furthermore, the complex legal, technical and political issues must be addressed and the logistical challenges that many delegations have with remote technologies and with long-distance coordination have meant that it has not been possible to use virtual meetings to continue negotiating discussions. Despite these difficulties, delegations have continued to engage in exchanges about proposals using written procedures, and Members indicate that they remain committed to a meaningful outcome in line with the mandate.

Electronic commerce

3.172. Discussions on electronic commerce in the WTO are continuing under two parallel tracks – multilaterally, under the General Council and its relevant subsidiary bodies, and under the Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce initiative. At the multilateral level, efforts are ongoing to reinvigorate the 1998 Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. Since MC11, WTO Members have been focusing on the impact and scope of the decision not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions (the Moratorium). In October 2019, the General Council Chair began consultations with Members on the way forward on the Work Programme and the Moratorium. This resulted in a decision by the General Council in December 2019 to reinvigorate the Work Programme and to extend the Moratorium until MC12. Members also agreed to conduct structured discussions in early 2020 based on all trade-related topics of interest brought forward by Members, including on the scope, definition and impact of the Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions.

3.173. In March 2020, two submissions by Members on the impact of the Moratorium were circulated.¹⁰⁶ A workshop to look at different aspects concerning the imposition of customs duties on electronic transmissions scheduled for March 2020, as well as all other meetings, including an informal open-ended meeting to discuss Members' submissions, were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce initiative, 76 WTO Members issued a Joint Statement in January 2019 launching WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce. Since then, eight additional Members have joined, bringing the total number of participants to 84. Negotiations are organized around six focus groups: enabling digital trade/e-commerce; openness and digital trade/e-commerce; trust and digital trade/e-commerce; cross-cutting issues, such as transparency, domestic regulation, and cooperation; telecommunications; and market access and customs duties on electronic transmissions. To ensure that the development dimension remains integral to the discussions, delegations are also encouraged to consider the unique opportunities and challenges faced by developing countries and LDCs, as well as by MSMEs, in relation to each issue under discussion.

3.174. To date, seven negotiating clusters have been held and over 30 proposals have been submitted. Negotiations are based on streamlined texts of Members' proposals. In 2020, more time had been allocated for small-group and informal meetings to assist delegations in further streamlining the text and reducing the number of different textual options. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March and April clusters of meetings were postponed. The co-conveners of the discussions encourage all WTO Members to participate in order to further enhance the benefits of e-commerce for businesses, consumers and the global economy. Some Members expressed opposition to these negotiations on the grounds that they are not part of the current negotiating mandate.

Investment facilitation

3.175. Discussions on investment facilitation for development continued during the review period. In November 2019, in the aftermath of the informal Shanghai WTO Ministerial meeting, 98 WTO Members issued a Joint Ministerial Statement, committing to work towards a concrete outcome on

¹⁰⁶ WTO documents WT/GC/W/798 and WT/GC/W/799.

Investment Facilitation for Development at MC12, and encouraging all WTO Members to actively participate in this process.¹⁰⁷ Other Members oppose discussions on investment facilitation in the WTO, mostly on the grounds that they are not part of the current negotiating mandate.

3.176. In December 2019, participating WTO Members agreed to move into negotiating mode in March 2020, and requested the Coordinator to prepare a "streamlined text", aimed at assisting Members to further develop the elements and specific provisions of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development.¹⁰⁸ At an organizational meeting open to all WTO Members held in February 2020, participating delegations adopted a calendar of meetings and a methodology of work for the period March-May 2020.¹⁰⁹ The meetings due to be held in March and April 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By mid-May 2020, negotiating proposals had been submitted by China¹¹⁰, the European Union¹¹¹, Japan¹¹² and Turkey.¹¹³ As agreed at the organizational meeting, the Coordinator prepared an "informal consolidated text", on the basis of the "streamlined text" and written proposals and text contributions submitted by Members thus far. The informal consolidated text is intended to help Members further develop the elements and specific provisions of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development in the current negotiating phase of the Structured Discussions, as well as to assist delegations in conducting consultations in their respective capitals and in outreach efforts. The structure, content and wording of this text do not, in any way, prejudice the position or views of any delegation on the issues under negotiation.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)

3.177. During the reporting period, the Informal Working Group on MSMEs held four open-ended meetings to discuss group proposals for MC12. Additionally, the Group held two workshops on MSME-related topics, including a checklist for MC12 submitted by DIHK, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce; and on Trade Enablement of MSMEs through the Use of Technology from South-African based Global Trade Solution. An annual report, detailing the activities of the Group in 2019, was adopted at the end-of-year wrap-up session in December 2019.¹¹⁴ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined the Group in November 2019, bringing the number of WTO Members participating in the initiative to 91. Outreach efforts focused on the horizontal nature of MSMEs, including their presence in every economy and in a variety of trade topics. Some Members oppose, or do not support, discussions on this issue, noting that it is not part of the original Doha Round discussions and that focusing on DDA issues should be the priority.

3.178. The Group's planned series of meetings and discussions in the lead-up to MC12, continued on an informal basis after the COVID-19 outbreak. Issues currently under consideration by the Group include support for the ITC Global Trade Helpdesk; support for initiatives in other formal WTO Committees including the full implementation of the TFA and the Market Access Decision to voluntarily provide information to the Integrated Database¹¹⁵; Members' voluntary inclusion of MSME-related information in WTO TPRs; MSME inclusion in the development of trade regulations; and support for MSME access to trade finance. The Group is also developing a web platform for MSMEs and policymakers that links to relevant MSME trade information for small businesses and policymakers, including links to customs' requirements for MSMEs, and studies and best practices for policymakers. Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of MSMEs, the Group continues to regularly invite Chairs and secretaries of WTO committees and bodies to brief the Group on MSME-related developments in their respective bodies. The Group works closely with various other

¹⁰⁷ WTO document WT/L/1072/Rev.1, 22 November 2019. This joint ministerial statement follows upon the one issued by 70 WTO Members in December 2017 in the margins of MC11, which called for beginning "structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation" (document WT/MIN(17)/59, 13 December 2017).

¹⁰⁸ WTO document INF/IFD/R/10, 17 January 2020, provides an informal summary of the meeting held on 12 December 2019. The streamlined text was issued as document INF/IFD/RD/45 on 17 January 2020.

¹⁰⁹ WTO document INF/IFD/R/11 (dated 9 March 2020), provides an informal summary of the meeting held on 27 February 2020. The working methodology is contained in the Annex to document INF/IFD/W/16 (Annotated agenda for the meeting on 27 February 2020). The schedule of meetings for the period up until May 2020 is contained in document INF/IFD/W/15/Rev.1

¹¹⁰ WTO document INF/IFD/RD/48, 27 March 2020.

¹¹¹ WTO document INF/IFD/RD/46, 27 February 2020.

¹¹² WTO document INF/IFD/RD/47, 25 March 2020.

¹¹³ WTO document INF/IFD/RD/49, 31 March 2020.

¹¹⁴ WTO document INF/MSME/R/13, 9 December 2019.

¹¹⁵ WTO document G/MA//367, 28 May 2019.

intergovernmental organizations, including the International Trade Center (ITC) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

3.179. The importance of MSMEs to the global economy has become even more evident in the current COVID-19 crisis. The Group issued a joint declaration of support for MSMEs noting the unprecedented impact of the crisis on them and the need to build their resilience. The Group underscored the need to enhance MSME access to regulatory and market information, affordable trade finance, and streamlined customs procedures and requirements. Many governments have put in place urgent stimulus and backstop measures to support their MSMEs, and the Group invited its members to provide information on the COVID-19 crisis-linked MSME support measures put in place. The Group continued discussions on the way forward following the crisis, including for the finalization of the MC12 package.

Women's economic empowerment

3.180. Launched in December 2017, in the margins of the MC11, the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment provides a platform for WTO Members to share information and best practices on how they have been integrating gender into their trade policies and strategies. The Declaration, signed by 127 WTO Members and Observers, representing 75% of world trade, seeks to ensure that the WTO works to make trade more inclusive and to increase the participation of women in trade. However, some other Members are of the view that the empowerment of women is not a trade issue.

3.181. The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) was identified by the proponents of the Declaration as one of the WTO instruments which could support Members in gathering and sharing information on their trade policies in support of women's economic empowerment. Indeed, some governments have included in their recent TPR reports information on this issue. Members are using various and complementary trade instruments to integrate gender into their trade policy. Some Members have reviewed and updated their aid-for-trade strategies, including a stronger focus on women's empowerment. Others are integrating gender chapters in their bilateral trade agreements and in their preferential trade agreements. As part of their work on regional integration, they have also focussed on trade and gender issues. At the domestic level, many Members continue to integrate gender issues in their national development strategies and as part of their trade policy objectives.

4 POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1. This Section on policy developments in trade in services is composed of three parts. The first, as in past reports, discusses new measures affecting trade in services introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020. The second part outlines measures affecting trade in services that have been adopted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to mid-May 2020. The third part of this Section examines the early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade in services in different sectors and modes of supply.

REGULAR MONITORING OF MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES

4.2. Many new measures affecting trade in services were introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2019 and mid-May 2020. While most of the new measures are trade facilitating, a significant number of new policies appear to be trade restrictive. A large proportion of the measures adopted during the period under review relate to telecommunication services, e-commerce, and services supplied online, including different types of tax measures. Like in the previous Report, various governments have introduced new measures in relation to foreign investment in areas considered strategic or linked to national security. Annex 4 provides additional information on 101 entries for new measures, which concern 41 WTO Members and 2 Observers.¹

Measures Affecting Supply Through Commercial Presence Across Various Sectors

4.3. WTO Members adopted a number of new measures in relation to their foreign investment regimes that affect supply through commercial presence (mode 3). For example, Japan amended its Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and now requires overseas investors to seek prior notification from the Government before obtaining a 1% or higher stake in a listed Japanese firm engaged in business related to weapons, nuclear energy, semiconductors, railroads and other areas. Prior to the amendments, the threshold was set at 10%.

4.4. The German Government adopted amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Act that tighten the screening of foreign investment by specifying that all proposed foreign investments will be examined for any "likely adverse impact" on public order, safety or security. Before the modifications, the criterion related to the "actual and serious threat" posed. In France, new measures expand and clarify authorizations for foreign investment in the country. On 1 April 2020, the thresholds for foreign investments by non-EU investors that are subject to prior authorization were lowered from 33.33% to 25% of voting rights in a French entity. The new measures also provide for additional sectors of activities that fall under the foreign investment regulations, including print and digital media, and critical technologies.

4.5. In the United States, new regulations broadened the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) by expanding its review powers over foreign investments in United States businesses. The new regulations implement the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA), which aims to allow the CFIUS to better address national security concerns. Under the new regime, the CFIUS has express jurisdiction to review non-controlling investments in critical technology, critical infrastructure and sensitive personal data businesses.

4.6. The Security Cabinet of Israel established an advisory committee that will assess national security implications of foreign investment in finance, communications, infrastructures, transportation and the energy sector. In Algeria, a WTO Observer, the 2020 Finance Law, enacted on 1 January 2020, abolished the rule that limited foreign capital ownership in companies to a maximum of 49% in non-strategic sectors. On 25 December 2019, the Government of Uzbekistan, another Observer, adopted a new Investment Law, which provides that foreign invested companies shall be treated to the same as domestic companies.

¹ The inclusion of any measure in the Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether a measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

Measures in relation to communication services, e-commerce, and digitally enabled services

4.7. A number of governments adopted digital services taxes, extended their domestic sales or value-added taxes to services supplied online, including from abroad, or adopted other types of tax measures in relation to communication and other services.²

4.8. In October 2019, Austria adopted a new law introducing a 5% tax on online advertising for companies with global annual revenues of over EUR 750 million and advertising revenues of over EUR 25 million in the country. In Turkey, the Government adopted, in December 2019, a digital services tax (DST) in the form of a 7.5% tax on revenue gained from digital advertising and the sale of any audio, visual or digital content services through digital platforms. Related social media platforms and digital intermediary services are also subject to the DST. The Tax applies to services deemed to have been provided in Turkey. Companies are subject to the Tax if their revenues from the relevant services are at least EUR 750 million globally and TRY 20 million in Turkey.

4.9. In Italy, the Budget Law for 2020 introduced a 3% digital service tax on revenues derived from certain digital services provided to users located in the country. The tax applies to entities that meet certain revenue thresholds, namely a total amount of worldwide revenues equal to or exceeding EUR 750 million and an amount of revenues from qualified digital services in Italy equal to or exceeding EUR 5.5 million. Digital services subject to the tax fall into three categories: digital targeted advertising, intermediation services, and data transmission services. In the United Kingdom, the Government introduced the digital services tax, a new 2% tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces that derive value from UK users. These businesses will be liable to the tax when the group's worldwide revenues from these digital activities exceed GBP 500 million and when more than GBP 25 million of these revenues are derived from UK users.

4.10. On 23 March 2020, the Parliament of India passed an amended national budget, which expands the scope of India's equalization levy to include a new 2% tax on the sale of all goods and services by non-Indian companies over the Internet into India. The tax is levied on non-resident e-commerce operators.

4.11. On 2 March 2020, the President of Chile signed into law a bill that requires non-resident suppliers of digital services to register and collect the value-added tax of 19%. In Singapore, since 1 January 2020, the goods and services tax (GST) to business-to-consumer (B2C) digital services imported into Singapore was imposed. Foreign suppliers of digital services and electronic marketplace operators must register under the Overseas Vendor Registration regime and account for the GST if their annual global turnover and B2C digital services provided to customers in Singapore exceeds certain thresholds. Previously, only services procured from local businesses were subject to the GST.

4.12. In Malaysia, from 1 January 2020, foreign-based service suppliers that provide digital services to consumers in Malaysia are required to charge the 6% service tax, like domestic suppliers. The law applies only to foreign suppliers with an annual turnover of at least MYR 500,000 in relation to the provision of digital services to consumers in country. A new law adopted in Ecuador introduces a special consumption tax on paid television services and certain fixed and mobile voice and data services, with rates between 10% and 15%.

4.13. In Kenya, the Finance Act 2019 broadened the coverage of the Income Tax Act to include income accruing from the digital marketplace, and a change to the VAT Act subjected digital market services to the value-added tax. The law defines a digital marketplace as a platform that enables direct interactions between buyers and sellers of goods and services through electronic means. In Chad, the Government exempted fixed communications and Internet services from the 18% tax on monthly turnover imposed on mobile operators.

4.14. In Argentina, the Government adopted new measures to tax certain transactions involving the acquisition of foreign currency. The tax applies since 23 December 2019 to a number of transactions, including: purchases by Argentine residents abroad through credit, debit or purchase,

² Some laws introducing digital services taxes indicated that the taxes would be repealed once an international solution was achieved on the topic.

including cash withdrawals made outside Argentina, purchases made online through portals or virtual websites in foreign currency, purchases of services rendered abroad through Argentine travel agencies, and purchases of ground, air and maritime passenger services for foreign destinations (except ground passenger services to neighbouring countries). The tax rate is 30%, except for the purchase of digital services, which are subject to an 8% rate.

4.15. Aside from tax measures, various other policy changes took place in relation to the communication sector, e-commerce, or digitally-enabled services. For example, in Indonesia, the Government issued a new regulation (GR 80), effective since 25 November 2019, that aims to regulate e-commerce activities in the country. The regulation requires all e-commerce businesses to obtain a business licence to carry out these activities. The regulation also applies to entities incorporated and located outside of Indonesia that conduct e-commerce business activities in the country. Foreign suppliers meeting certain thresholds relating to their business activities in Indonesia are required to appoint an Indonesian representative to act on their behalf. GR 80 stipulates that personal data collected by e-commerce companies cannot be transferred offshore, unless the receiving jurisdiction is deemed to have the same level of protection of personal data as Indonesia. Further, e-commerce operators must prioritize the use of an Indonesian domain name, and assist government policies, such as those in relation to local content.

4.16. The Government of Indonesia also issued, in October 2019, a new regulation (GR 71) on electronic systems and transactions, which allows private sector electronic system operators to transfer, process, and store data outside of the country. Public electronic system operators must still keep their electronic systems and data in Indonesia, unless otherwise provided. In Kenya, the Government adopted the Data Protection Act, which sets out requirements on how personally identifiable data obtained by firms and government entities can be handled, stored and shared. The Act requires proof that personal data will be secure as a condition for transferring the data outside Kenya. The Act also requires the consent of the data subject as a condition for the cross-border transfer of sensitive personal data.

4.17. In Pakistan, the Government adopted a new law regulating social media platforms. It requires platforms to block or remove posts that are considered objectionable. The law also requires social media companies to set up a physical presence in the country. On 7 April 2020, the President of the Russian Federation signed a new law aimed at improving the system of universal communication services in the country. Under this law, at least one Internet access point should be created in areas with a population of 100 to 500 people that do not have data transmission services and Internet access.

4.18. In Thailand, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission published new criteria and procedures for granting licences to foreign satellites providing services in the country. In Uganda, the Communications Commission modified its licensing framework for the telecom sector, introducing various licence categories and requiring all national telecom operators to float at least 20% of their shares on the Uganda Securities Exchange within two years of acquiring the new licence.

4.19. In the United States, an Executive Order issued on 4 April 2020 formalized, through the establishment of a Committee, the *ad hoc* working group known as "Team Telecom" which will assist the Federal Communications Commission in the review of foreign participation in U.S. telecommunication services, with the objective of enhancing national security. Team Telecom now has 120 days to conduct national security reviews of licence applications.

4.20. In December 2019, the Government of France issued a decree to assist the implementation of a law that aims to preserve national security interests in the context of the launch of the 5G network. Operators will be required to obtain prior approval from the French Prime Minister to operate 5G technology. In Italy, a new law adopted in November 2019 established a "National Cyber Security Perimeter" and modified the foreign direct investment (FDI) regime in relation to "special powers", which allow the Government to impose conditions on, or veto, certain transactions in strategic sectors. Among other things, the new law specifies the criteria used to assess whether a foreign investment is likely to affect national security or public order. The law provides that the assessment should now also consider whether foreign contracts and acquisitions could compromise the integrity and security of networks and data passing through these networks.

Financial Services

4.21. Governments adopted a number of new measures in relation to financial services during the period under review. These include instances where governments removed or relaxed foreign equity limits, or introduced new discriminatory measures.

4.22. For example, in India, the 49% foreign equity limitation for insurance intermediaries (e.g. brokers or agents) was eliminated on 1 January 2020. In China, the restriction on foreign ownership in joint-venture life insurance companies was removed on 1 January 2020, and foreign ownership can now reach 100%. China also removed the 51% foreign ownership limit in fund management companies, in securities companies, in foreign-invested futures companies.

4.23. In Indonesia, the Government adopted a new regulation relaxing foreign equity limits in insurance services. Since 2018, foreign equity ownership in insurance companies has been capped at 80%. Further capital increases had to respect the 80:20 ratio between foreign and domestic shareholders. The new regulation, effective from 20 January 2020, relaxed this rule and clarified the ability of insurers to conduct capital increases and manage their Sharia operations.

4.24. The Bank of Ghana extended by six months, until 31 December 2020, the deadline for meeting new minimum capital requirements applicable to all existing payment service providers, electronic money issuers, banks, and specialized deposit-taking institutions. It increased the minimum capital requirements for payment service providers from GHS 5 million to GHS 20 million. The new minimum capital requirements serve to operationalize the Payment Systems and Services Act, adopted in 2019. Among other things, the Act requires payment service companies to have at least 30% domestic equity participation, to maintain minimum capital in Ghana, and to process all retail electronic payment transactions within the country.

4.25. In Uganda, the Government adopted a new measure requiring the purchase of marine insurance from local suppliers from 1 June 2020. All imports must have a valid marine insurance cover underwritten by a Ugandan-registered insurance company before clearance by the Uganda Revenue Authority. In Nigeria, the Central Bank issued new regulations on the operations of indirect participants in the payment system, thereby allowing mobile network operators, among others, to provide mobile money services for the first time.

4.26. The Central Bank of Malaysia issued new rules that, since 11 November 2019, require electronic trading platforms and networks to obtain prior approval from the Central Bank before offering services in the country. In the Philippines, a new measure allows foreign banks to open Islamic bank branches. Conventional banks, whether domestic or foreign, will be allowed to open Islamic banking unit or to establish a subsidiary Islamic bank.

4.27. The Government of Viet Nam adopted new measures to regulate the cross-border supply of auxiliary insurance services. Offshore service providers are required to be from countries with which Viet Nam has contracted market access commitments on the cross-border supply of such services. In addition, in the case of cross-border supply to insurance companies or insurance brokerage companies, the supplier must also meet specific requirements, such as having been lawfully operating for at least ten years. For cross-border supply to individuals and to other organizations, the foreign supplier must cooperate with a supplier of auxiliary insurance services that is legally established in Viet Nam.

Transport services

4.28. In the European Union, as regards maritime transport, the European Commission prolonged for another four years the regulation outlining the conditions under which liner shipping consortia can provide joint services without infringing EU antitrust rules that prohibit anti-competitive agreements between companies. The Consortia Block Exemption Regulation allows, under certain conditions, liner shipping operators with a combined market share of below 30% to enter into cooperation agreements to provide joint liner shipping services. The current Consortia Block Exemption Regulation was due to expire on 25 April 2020.

4.29. In Costa Rica, a new measure removes limits on maximum foreign equity for international land transport services of passengers. Previously, companies providing these services were required

to have at least 60% of their equity owned by investors that were citizens of Central America. On 18 November 2019, the Government of Viet Nam issued a decree that increases from 30% to 34%, the maximum foreign equity in airlines.

Other services sectors

4.30. With respect to health services, telemedicine in India is now regulated by practical guidelines released by the Medical Council of India, through its Board of Governors. They permit the practice of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) through telemedicine. In Indonesia, the Ministry of Health issued a new regulation on telemedicine services that provides official directions on the scope of telemedicine, requirements, rights and obligations, cost, funding and supervision. In addition, the Minister of Health issued a new regulation on the classification and licensing of hospitals, which removed limits on foreign investment in certain types of hospitals. Singapore approved the Healthcare Services Bill, a new regulatory regime that introduced a services-based licensing regime, where healthcare service providers must obtain a licence based on the type of service they provide, rather than the previous premises-based licensing regime. In the United Arab Emirates, the Dubai Health Authority issued standards that set out the minimum requirements for the supply of telehealth services.

4.31. In the distribution services sector, Indonesia issued a new regulation on franchising. The measure removes the requirement to use 80% locally sourced raw materials, equipment or products and instead obliges the franchisor to prioritize the use of local goods and services so long as the goods and services meet the quality set by the franchisor. The new regulation also removes the restriction on the maximum number of outlets. Under the previous framework, a franchisor's maximum number of outlets was 150 for "modern shop businesses" and 250 for food and beverage businesses. The Government of Saudi Arabia adopted the New Franchise Law, effective from 22 April 2020, that establishes a regulatory framework for relationships between franchisors and franchisees.

4.32. In China, foreign education institutions, and other organizations or individuals, are allowed to set up non-compulsory vocational training institutions in pilot free trade zones. In Costa Rica, the Government adopted a new law to regulate the supply of tourism services through the rental of homes, apartments, villas, chalets, cottages, and rooms. It seeks to protect the rights of services users and to regulate the services platforms or intermediary companies. The law also requires hosts to register with the Tourism Institute and to pay the 13% VAT.

Measures affecting supply through the movement of natural persons

4.33. A new measure by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia requires foreign nationals travelling for business to obtain a visa before submitting a Business Visit Visa application.

4.34. In Germany, a new immigration law, effective from March 2020, expands the framework under which qualified professionals from non-EU Members can work in Germany. The measure allows vocationally trained foreign nationals to be employed in Germany in occupations that are not experiencing a skills shortage. It abolishes the requirement to verify the unavailability of German or EU nationals before allowing non-EU citizens to take up a skilled occupation. In France, the Ministry of Home Affairs implemented changes to its Talent Passport programme, including expedited and streamlined application processing.

4.35. The Government of Nigeria introduced a new visa avenue for highly skilled foreign nationals and a 90-day visa-on-arrival for all African Union nationals, frequently travelling executives and emergency relief workers. Thailand's Department of Employment introduced changes to streamline the work permit process by allowing filing at the One-Stop Service Centre and faster in-country processing. In China, foreign high-level management and technical personnel engaged in technical cooperation and economic and trade activities may now apply for a visa or residence permit valid for two to five years.

Air services agreements

4.36. Table 4.1 presents information on air services agreements (ASAs) concluded or amended during the period under review. These include both new ASAs and revisions of existing ones. As far

as can be assessed from available sources, the vast majority of these ASAs provides for more liberal access conditions than was previously the case.

Table 4.1 Air Transport Agreements³ concluded or amended during the reporting period (October 2019-May 2020)

Parties		Date of signature	Source
Belize	Chinese Taipei	08.10.2019	https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2019/10/08/deputy-prime-minister-tourism-minister-and-nemo-minister-visit-taiwan/
Jamaica	South Africa	08.10.2019	https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-and-south-africa-sign-air-service-agreement/
Solomon Islands	United Arab Emirates	11.10.2019	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-signs-air-services-agreement-with-turkey-and-uae/9406
Solomon Islands	Turkey	11.10.2019	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-signs-air-services-agreement-with-turkey-and-uae/9406
United States	Kazakhstan	6.01.2020	Washington Trade Daily, 7 January 2020
Gabon	Burkina Faso	1.10.2019	https://www.agenceecofin.com/transports/0110-69674-le-burkina-faso-et-le-gabon-signent-un-accord-aerien-qui-ouvre-l-afrique-centrale-a-air-burkina
Turkey	Serbia	10.2019	https://www.exyuaviation.com/2019/10/serbia-turkey-approve-rigid-air.html
Morocco	Mexico	2.11.2019	https://aaco.org/media-center/news/aeropolitical/morocco-and-mexico-sign-mou-to-establish-direct-air-service
Barbados	Germany	11.2019	https://www.eturbonews.com/380104/european-expansion-new-direct-flight-from-germany-to-barbados/
Ukraine	Qatar	11.11.2019	https://112.international/finance/ukraine-and-qatar-liberalize-air-transportations-45457.html
Chinese Taipei	Nauru	13.12.2019	https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3836462
Saint Lucia	United Arab Emirates	12.2019	https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/saint-lucia-negotiates-and-signs-new-bilateral-air-services-agreement/
India	Switzerland	12.2019	https://www.traveldailymedia.com/india-swiss-air-service-pact-to-be-amended/
Pakistan	Saudi Arabia	01.2020	https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/599048-pakistan-saudi-arabia-revise-air-service-agreement
Bahamas	United States	27.01.2020	https://ewnews.com/bahamas-and-united-states-sign-into-force-historic-air-service-agreement
Bangladesh	Japan	03.02.2020	https://www.newagebd.net/article/98579/dhaka-tokyo-air-service-deal-revised
United States	Kenya	02.2020	https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-02-06-us-kenya-add-all-cargo-rights-to-air-transport-agreement/
Somalia	Rwanda	07.02.2020	https://allafrica.com/stories/202002080045.html
Rwanda	Tunisia	08.02.2020	https://www.ktpress.rw/2020/02/rwanda-tunisia-sign-air-service-agreement/
Ghana	Trinidad and Tobago	08.03.2020	https://www.looptt.com/content/trinidad-and-tobago-ghana-sign-air-service-agreement-mou

Source: WTO Secretariat.

MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES ADOPTED IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19⁴

4.37. As part of its Trade Monitoring exercise, the Secretariat compiled information on 99 measures affecting trade in services that were adopted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to mid-May 2020.

³ The term "Air Transport Agreements" is used here to refer to Air Services Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Exchange of Notes, and other such relevant instruments.

⁴ The information in this Section, and in Annex 6, was compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in services taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or question the right of WTO Members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine or indicate whether the measures listed in the table in Annex 6 have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures relating to services. Further, the objective is not to list all COVID-19 related measures taken by governments around the world to limit movement, nor all the measures taken to ease the impact of border restrictions or other limits on movement.

4.38. Most of these measures appear to be trade-facilitating. This includes measures to ensure that more telecommunications capacity is made available to operators; measures to facilitate access by the population to Internet and mobile data and to online education and health services; measures to provide – and in certain instances reintroduce – flexibility for suppliers of transport services and facilitate the continued supply of cross-border transport of freight; and lighter requirements imposed on banks (liquidity and capital requirements) to ensure that they are well-positioned to continue to provide credit. In addition, two Members relaxed some limitations on the supply of Voice over Internet Protocol services. At the same time, various governments took measures to tighten foreign investment regimes, thereby affecting supply under mode 3 (commercial presence).

4.39. Annex 6 provides additional information on trade in services COVID-19-related measures, the bulk of which relate to financial services (43%), telecommunication services (19%), transport services (14%), and health services (6%) or apply across various sectors (12%). Measures were compiled for 45 WTO Members. Seventy-three percent of measures listed in the Annex were expressly verified by Members. A number of the measures taken by governments in response to the crisis were announced as temporary, and two have already been withdrawn, as indicated in the Annex.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.40. Various WTO Members have introduced measures tightening foreign investment regimes to prevent foreign takeovers in sectors considered of strategic importance, thereby affecting supply under mode 3 in various sectors, including telecommunication, health and transport services.

4.41. On 25 March 2020, the European Commission issued new guidelines for screening FDI in companies and critical assets located in the European Union. The measure aims to respond to the increased potential risk to strategic industries as a result of the economic shock resulting from COVID-19. Among other things, the new guidelines call on member States to make full use of existing FDI screening mechanisms and to take fully into account the risks to critical health infrastructures, the supply of critical inputs, and other critical sectors.

4.42. In Spain, the Government changed its rules on foreign investment to prevent non-EU and non-EFTA investors from taking control of strategic Spanish companies. The new measure requires prior authorization for investments in a number of sectors, including critical infrastructure (e.g., energy, transportation, water, health, communications, media, and data processing or storage), sectors with access to sensitive information, and other sectors if the Government considers the investment may affect public security, public order or public health. Prior authorization is also required, irrespective of the sector, if the foreign investor is directly or indirectly controlled by a foreign government. The new requirement concerns situations where foreign investors come to hold a stake of 10% or more of the share capital of a Spanish company or where, as a result of the transaction, they participate effectively in the management, or control, the Spanish company.

4.43. On 29 March, Australia announced temporary changes to its foreign investment review framework in order to safeguard national interests during the crisis. During this period, all proposed foreign investments subject to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 require approval, regardless of value or of the nature of the foreign investor. This change is achieved by reducing the monetary screening thresholds to AUD 0. In Italy, on 9 April 2020, the Government widened its foreign investment screening powers to new sectors, such as food security, health, banks and insurance companies, financial infrastructure, and acquisitions of 10% or more of shares in local companies.

4.44. The Government of Canada issued, on 18 April, a Policy Statement indicating that it would subject certain foreign investments to enhanced scrutiny under the Investment Canada Act. FDI of any value in Canadian businesses that are related to public health or are involved in the supply of critical goods and services to Canadians or the Government are now to be scrutinized with particular attention. The Government also subjected all foreign investments by state-owned investors, regardless of their value, or by private investors assessed as being closely tied to or subject to direction from foreign governments, to enhanced scrutiny under the Act.

4.45. In India, the Government amended its FDI policy in order to curb takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies as a result of the pandemic. The amendment provides that an entity of a country

that shares a land border with India - or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country - can invest only with prior government permission

4.46. In France, the Minister for the Economy and Finance announced, on 29 April 2020, an update to the screening procedure for FDI in the context of the current health and economic crisis. The new measure includes biotechnologies in the list of critical technologies that are likely to be subject to screening. Also, the threshold for triggering a screening procedure is lowered from 25% to 10% of voting rights in the acquired company.

4.47. China adopted new policies aiming to facilitate and retain foreign investment. In February 2020, the Government issued a circular requiring local departments of commerce to, among other things, help foreign-invested enterprises to resume normal production and operation and strengthen services for large foreign-invested projects.

Measures affecting telecommunication services and e-commerce

4.48. WTO Members have adopted various measures in relation to telecommunication services. In both developed and developing economies, operators suspended data limits and boosted capacity in response to the pandemic at no additional cost, and many governments temporarily issued additional spectrum to operators, or took other measures to facilitate the operation of telecommunication suppliers.

4.49. For example, the National Communications Authority of Ghana temporarily granted additional spectrum at no cost for three months to the country's two largest mobile network operators in order to help cope with a significant increase in Internet traffic during the COVID-19 lockdown. To ensure that effective health-related information can be transmitted to and from rural areas, Kenya fast-tracked the issuance of an operating licence to Alphabet's Loon services to extend the availability of wifi to remote locations. In Oman, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority allocated additional mobile spectrum to the licensed network operators on a temporary basis and at no financial cost..

4.50. A number of governments also adopted different types of measures to ensure access to telecommunication services. For instance, in Colombia, the Government required mobile telephony operators to maintain minimum service levels despite not receiving adequate remuneration from users. In the United States, the Federal Communication Commission launched the Keep Americans Connected Initiative to ensure that Americans did not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity in the context of COVID-19.

4.51. However, the COVID-19 crisis also led to the postponement of a number of auctions of 5G the spectrum. For instance, Austria's Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications delayed its upcoming second 5G auction, which had been expected to take place in April. In Spain, the Government delayed plans to auction for 5G services spectrum, the so-called "second digital dividend ban".

4.52. The crisis resulted in certain WTO Members lifting restrictions on Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services. In the United Arab Emirates, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority decided, on 24 March 2020, to allow certain VoIP applications so as to facilitate work from home and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. While certain applications have been allowed, others remain banned. In a similar fashion, Oman's telecom regulator unblocked access to certain VoIP apps to facilitate operations of organizations, educational institutions, and government bodies during the pandemic.

4.53. Finally, in reaction to the crisis, Indonesia introduced a tax on e-commerce activities carried out by foreign suppliers with a significant economic presence in the country. As part of the COVID-19 emergency bill signed by the President on 31 March 2020, a new regulation requires foreign suppliers of digital services to register and charge the VAT. The measure also provides for the imposition of a tax on e-commerce activities carried out by foreign-based suppliers with a significant economic presence in Indonesia. Significant economic presence will be further determined by authorities, taking into account such factors as gross revenue, sales, and active users in Indonesia.

Transport services measures

4.54. Mobility-related measures and border restrictions imposed by WTO Members for public health considerations have naturally affected transport services significantly, in particular cross-border transport services. In a second-phase response to the crisis, several governments have revised some of their travel and border measures, for example to ensure that the movement of "essential" foreign services workers, including transport workers, was not overly burdened.

4.55. In air transport services, governments responded to the crisis in various ways. Several regulators suspended "use it or lose it" slot requirements that require airlines to continue operating slots for a minimum share of time in order to keep their entitlements for the following travel season. Regulatory requirements were also eased in other areas, such as to provide flexibility to airlines and flight crews.⁵

4.56. For instance, in Mexico, the Federal Agency for Civil Aviation extended by three months the validity of permits, licences and certificates for technical personnel. In the United Kingdom, the Civil Aviation Authority issued several regulatory exemptions to support the sector, including extending the validity periods of licences, certificates and ratings. On 30 March 2020, the European Union suspended its rule requiring air carriers to operate slots for at least 80% of the time to keep the entitlement in the next equivalent season for the whole summer season. In the United Arab Emirates, the General Civil Aviation Authority published a decision providing flexibility in relation to the validity periods for licences, ratings, and certificates applicable to flight crew and cabin crew. The Russian Federation exempted flight crews from the 14-day quarantine.

4.57. With respect to maritime transport, governments adopted various port measures since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. From February 2020, all major ports adopted a 14-day quarantine period for vessels arriving from, or transiting through, affected countries. Many ports have ceased calls for passenger ships. While cargo vessels may still call and operate at most ports, they are subject to enhanced maritime health declarations and screening requirements. In addition, strict restrictions have been imposed on crew disembarkation, shore leave, and substitution.⁶

4.58. As regards road transport, most countries have suspended or largely reduced cross-border passenger transport services. Borders have generally remained open for freight transportation, although drivers are subject to border controls for quarantine purposes. In order to mitigate disruptions and facilitate freight transport, a number of governments adopted different types of relief measures. For instance, in the European Union, member States adopted such measures as the suspension of weekend traffic bans for heavy vehicles, and a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting goods.⁷ On 16 March 2020, the European Commission issued guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available. The guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the internal market.

Health services measures

4.59. In Brazil, the Government adopted a new measure in March that permits, on an exceptional and temporary basis, the use of telemedicine for medical services, including for medical consultations and digital medicine prescriptions. In France, the Government relaxed rules on the use of

⁵ Numerous governments have also announced support measures in favour of the sector, such as reductions in airport, air navigation and other charges, and broader financial support measures, including loan guarantees, long-term loans and the acquisition of equity stakes in airlines.

⁶ In view of increased port restrictions, on 21 February 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Health Organization issued a Joint Statement on the Response to the COVID-19 outbreak. On 27 March 2020, the IMO circulated to its member States a preliminary list of recommendations for governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic, proposed by a broad cross-section of global industry associations representing the maritime transportation sector. The purpose of this list is to assist governments in avoiding the introduction of obstacles to ship and port operations, including the movement of seafarers and marine personnel when implementing policies and measures to address COVID-19. Recommendations cover measures to provide ship access to berths in ports, facilitate crew changes and port operation and ensure public health.

⁷ As the European Union member States are gradually easing lockdowns, the relaxations of driving and rest time rules ended on 31 May 2020.

telemedicine services. Until 31 May 2020, all persons affected by COVID-19 (and other patients under certain circumstances) could benefit from telemedicine services even in the absence of a pre-existing relationship between the healthcare provider and the patient.

4.60. In South Africa, the Health Professions Council issued guidance on the application of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to facilitate the use of video or phone calls by doctors and therapists to treat patients. Previously, such services were essentially limited to cases where there was an already-established practitioner-patient relationship.

4.61. In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to adopt a USD 200 million telehealth programme to support healthcare providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme aims to help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services. The FCC also launched a Connected Care Pilot Program. This three-year Program will provide up to USD 100 million of support from the Universal Service Fund to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services.

4.62. Measures were also taken to facilitate the temporary movement, or prolonged stay, of foreign health workers. For example, in the United Kingdom, since 31 March 2020, visas for doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 are automatically extended for one year, without the imposition of fees. In Australia, the Government introduced new measures in response to COVID-19 to allow some temporary work visa holders employed in critical sectors, including health, aged and disability care and childcare, to remain in Australia and continue working until it is safe and practicable for them to return.

Financial services measures

4.63. In view of the key role of the financial services sector in supporting all other economic activities by stabilizing markets and ensuring the flow of credits and payments, Central Banks and financial regulators around the world have proactively intervened. Interventions included coordinated actions by central banks to ensure availability of liquidity in US dollars for international transactions, and a range of monetary and regulatory measures by governments to alleviate the economic and financial stability impact in their jurisdictions.

4.64. Monetary authorities have been active and creative with different monetary instruments, including the lowering of key/base interest rates, quantitative easing, and reductions of reserve requirements. In addition to the reduction of counter-cyclical capital buffers, regulatory authorities in various jurisdictions (e.g. Brazil; Canada; India; Hong Kong, China; Republic of Korea; Philippines) have loosened requirements regarding liquidity and capital requirements, to ensure that banks are well-positioned to continue to provide credit to the economy. Bans on the short-selling of selected stocks have been imposed by certain jurisdictions with a view to stabilizing capital markets (e.g. Belgium, Indonesia). Some authorities have eased loan-loss provisions to allow banks to extend loan maturities for firms and households or allowed for forbearance of non-performing loans, while others have relaxed the cap on foreign currency forward positions.

4.65. Many central banks have lifted certain restrictions and requirements applied to e-payment systems. This was seen particularly in Africa, where mobile payments are common. Ghana, for example, adopted new policies related to mobile money transactions for a period of three months, so that smaller withdrawals are not charged, and transaction limits and balance levels were increased. Rwanda removed fees on all mobile money transactions with increased daily and monthly limits depending on the type of user.

EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON TRADE IN SERVICES

4.66. This sub-section aims to provide information on the early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade in services in different sectors and modes of supply.⁸

⁸ This section draws from the Secretariat's Information Note, "Trade in Services in the Context of COVID-19", which was made available on the WTO website on 29 May 2020.

4.67. Services sectors have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Given the sector's role in providing inputs for other economic activities, including facilitating supply chains and trade in goods, disruptions in services supply are having a broad economic and trade impact. Furthermore, since services account for most of women's employment globally and a large share of micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) activity, the disruption in services supply also impacts social and economic inclusiveness.

4.68. Drops in demand and supply have strongly impacted services trade, though the type and extent of the impact varies by sector and mode of supply. Services that rely on physical proximity between suppliers and consumers have been most impacted by mobility restrictions and social distancing measures imposed for public health reasons. While direct contact can sometimes be substituted by remote supply, but this is not necessarily the case in all services sectors or countries. Sectors such as distribution (especially retailing services), tourism and passenger transport have been heavily affected. Mobility-related measures have created significant disruptions in air, maritime and land transportation, with severe repercussions on goods trade and supply chains.

4.69. As a result, trade in certain modes of supply has experienced severe downturns. Supply under mode 2 (consumption abroad), which is particularly relevant for tourism, has been paralysed. Travel restrictions have also severely limited mode 4, which involves the temporary movement of natural persons across borders. The pandemic is also negatively affecting the supply of services through mode 3 (commercial presence), both due to its impact on existing operations in foreign markets and its influence on decisions concerning the set-up of new establishments.⁹

4.70. The decline in merchandise trade resulting from the economic slowdown is contributing to a decrease in related services trade, such as the international maritime transport of freight. Furthermore, mobility restrictions on people are also affecting cross-border freight transport services, and thereby trade in goods. For example, strict restrictions on maritime crew disembarkation and substitution have led to shipping disruptions, with significant repercussions on goods trade and the viability of supply chains.

4.71. As highlighted in the discussion on specific sectors below, the crisis is focussing greater attention toward online supply in sectors such as retail, health, education, telecommunication or audiovisual services. The crisis is accelerating companies' efforts to expand their online operations and is creating new consumer habits and behaviours that are likely to contribute to a profound and long-term shift towards online services and the digital economy. In the future, increased supply of services through digital networks can strongly impact trade, leading to increased supply through mode 1 (cross-border supply). The crisis is also underscoring the importance of transport, financial, distribution and logistics services in facilitating trade and economic growth.

Tourism and travel-related services

4.72. The global tourism and travel sector has arguably been the hardest hit by the crisis so far, given that mobility restrictions and border closures halted the movement of tourists abroad. The sector largely relies on mode 2 trade. Domestic travel restrictions and "work-from-home" requirements continue to further impact the sector by limiting domestic tourism activities, which are relevant to supplies through commercial presence (mode 3).

4.73. In March 2020, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated that preliminary estimates pointed to a 45% decline in international tourism in 2020. This could rise to 70% if recovery cannot begin until September.¹⁰ The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimated on 27 March 2020 that international tourist arrivals could decline by 20 to 30% in 2020. This could translate into a loss of USD 300 to USD 450 billion in international tourism receipts (exports) – almost one-third of the USD 1.5 trillion generated globally in 2019 and equivalent to between five and seven years' lost growth.¹¹ The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) estimated

⁹ UNCTAD projected that the COVID-19 pandemic could bring global foreign direct investment flows to their lowest levels since the 2008-09 financial crisis:
https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2299&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#6;

¹⁰ Viewed at: <http://www.oecd.org/about/Secretary-General/extraordinary-g20-tourism-ministerial-virtual-meeting-april-2020.htm>

¹¹ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/international-tourism-arrivals-could-fall-in-2020>.

on 26 March 2020 that the number of travel and tourism jobs at immediate risk could reach 100 million.¹² In May, the UNWTO stated that current scenarios pointed to a potential decline of 58 to 78% in international tourist arrivals for the year, depending on containment measures and the duration of travel restrictions, with 100 to 120 million direct tourism jobs at risk.¹³

4.74. The sector's decline has broad economic consequences given its overall economic importance for many countries and regions. According to the WTTC, direct, indirect and induced tourism impact in 2019 contributed USD 8.9 trillion to global GDP (10.3%) and 330 million jobs (1 in 10).¹⁴ For some economies, in particular smaller ones, tourism accounts not only for the largest share of total exports, but also for a significant share of GDP (e.g. 67% for Seychelles, 62% for St Kitts and Nevis, and 48% for Vanuatu).¹⁵ According to balance-of-payments statistics, travel represented 25% of world commercial services exports in 2018, and accounted for 32% of services exports of developing countries, and 50% in the case of least-developed countries (LDCs).

Distribution services

4.75. Distribution services have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as social distancing measures in several countries have involved the closure of shops considered non-essential (typically excluding grocery stores and pharmacies). Naturally, this has significantly impacted supply through mode 3 (commercial presence), which is significant in this sector.

4.76. For example, in January/February 2020, at the peak of the outbreak in China, data published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) found that retail trade in China had declined by 20.5% compared to the previous year.¹⁶ Even though sales in physical stores increased significantly from mid-March in China as restrictions were eased, consumers remained cautious and sales in physical stores did not recover to their pre-crisis levels. Similar trends may be expected in other economies, with variations depending on the impact of the pandemic and social distancing policies adopted. In the United Kingdom, for instance, total retail sales declined by 18% in April, as many stores closed during the lockdown.¹⁷ In different economies, a substantial number of retailers have filed for bankruptcy or closed stores.¹⁸

4.77. The closure of many retailers of non-essential goods and other efforts to ensure social distancing have led to increased online sales by wholesalers and retailers, particularly of healthcare and household products, including groceries. Facing reduced visitors, several brick-and-mortar outlets are therefore also shifting to or expanding their online presence and their delivery and pickup services. In China in early 2020, online sales of certain products that traditionally had limited online penetration, such as various daily essential products, increased between 50% and 150% compared to the previous year.¹⁹ However, reduced household spending as a result of the economic slowdown and uncertainty are negatively impacting sales of non-essential goods, both through online platforms and in physical stores. Online sales of discretionary products (e.g., alcohol) remained at similar levels, while sales of non-essential products declined.

4.78. In the United States, online retail sales during the first quarter of 2020 were up 14.5% from the previous year. Online sales increased significantly from mid-March, with some studies suggesting

¹² Viewed at:

<https://wtcc.org/Portals/0/Documents/WTTC%20Coronavirus%20Brief%20External%2026.05.pdf?ver=2020-05-26-124919-680>.

¹³ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/impact-assessment-of-the-covid-19-outbreak-on-international-tourism> and https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-05/Barometer_May2020_full.pdf.

¹⁴ Viewed at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>.

¹⁵ Viewed at:

<https://knoema.com/search?query=tourism+as+%25+of+GDP&pageIndex=&scope=&term=&correct=&source=Header>.

¹⁶ This is consistent with analysis from the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

<https://blogs.imf.org/2020/03/20/blunting-the-impact-and-hard-choices-early-lessons-from-china/>

¹⁷ Online sales as a proportion of total retail sales jumped to a record 30.7%. See

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52766856>.

¹⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/pamdanziger/2020/04/03/retail-companies-on-death-watch-is-growing-fast-as-covid-19-puts-non-essential-retailers-on-life-support/#3d1ff74725ea>.

¹⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/chinas-consumer-industry-prepares-for-the-coronavirus-legacy/>.

an increase of approximately 50% in April compared to early March.²⁰ In Saudi Arabia, local online retailer BinDawood communicated in late March that its average sales on a 10-day basis had increased by 200%, while in Indonesia in April, online mall Blibli reported increases in sales of a number of household products, including groceries.²¹

Telecommunication, ICT and audiovisual services

4.79. With more people currently participating in both remote work and schooling, and more heavily dependent on the internet for entertainment and social contact, the demand for information and communication technology (ICT) services and related infrastructure has been unprecedented and unanticipated. In March 2020, Facebook reported that in countries hard hit by the pandemic, use of its online messaging service was up more than 50% , and voice and video traffic doubled.²² In Italy, Facebook saw a 70% surge in overall usage and a 1,000% increase in time spent on group calls, yet reported reduced global advertising revenue.²³ Thailand reported growth of 828% and 215% in the number of users of Zoom and Skype, respectively.²⁴ And Vodacom Group recorded a 40% rise in data traffic in South Africa during the lockdown.²⁵

4.80. Social distancing measures adopted by governments have boosted demand for audiovisual content, for both entertainment and information purposes. For example, according to some estimates, online media streaming in the United States increased by 85% in the first three weeks of March, compared to the same period in 2019.²⁶ Since, in many countries, a large proportion of the audiovisual content consumed is foreign, the increase in demand is associated with greater trade in the sector. However, the measures taken to respond to the crisis are also resulting in interruptions in the production of new films, series and other content.

4.81. In the longer term, increased online buying and other activities may translate into higher earnings. With the easing of lockdown measures, telecommunications and ICT companies are now beginning to reopen their walk-in customer outlets. However, suppliers cannot yet gauge whether these increases will become permanent. Meanwhile, the crisis poses difficulties for suppliers relying on advertising revenue; the global advertising market is expected to decline significantly in 2020 as companies reduce spending as a result of the pandemic and subsequent economic slowdown.²⁷

Transport services

4.82. The pandemic has had a dramatic effect on the air transport service sector. In May, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) estimated that, for the entire year 2020, world air passenger traffic could drop by as much as two-thirds from what had been initially forecast, leading airline revenues to fall potentially by as much as USD 244 to USD 420 billion. Europe and the Asia-Pacific region would be hardest-hit in terms of international capacity and revenue impacts, followed by North America. Similarly, ICAO expects the most substantial reduction in passenger numbers to

²⁰ Viewed at: <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/05/20/ecommerce-during-coronavirus-pandemic-in-charts/>.

²¹ Viewed at: <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/saudi-arabia-turns-e-commerce-during-covid-19-outbreak> and https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/e-commerce-provides-economic-boost-indonesia-shoppers-migrate-online-during-covid-19-pandemic?utm_source=feed&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=eus_all_all.

²² Viewed at: <https://about.fb.com/news/2020/03/keeping-our-apps-stable-during-covid-19/>.

²³ Viewed at: https://www.mobileworldlive.com/apps/news-apps/facebook-ad-revenue-falls-victim-to-covid-19/?ID=a6q1r000001RURgAAO&JobID=411117&utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MWL_20200325&utm_content=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mobileworldlive.com%2Fapps%2Fnews-apps%2Ffacebook-ad-revenue-falls-victim-to-covid-19%2F.

²⁴ Viewed at: <https://techsauce.co/en/pr-news/dtac-work-from-home-covid-19>.

²⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/top-three/vodacom-data-traffic-surges-during-lockdown/>.

²⁶ Viewed at: <https://thehill.com/homenews/media/490423-nielsen-records-85-percent-increase-in-americans-streaming-video>.

²⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.omnia.com/resources/product-content/global-advertising-market-set-for-tough-2020-as-covid-19-impact-hits-global-economy> and <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/04/30/facebook-signals-online-advertising-to-take-a-big-hit/>.

be in Europe, especially during its peak summer travel season, while the sharpest drop in domestic passenger traffic is forecast for the Asia-Pacific region, followed by North America.²⁸

4.83. Airports Council International (ACI), the airport industry body, forecast in May that flight cancellations and airport closures would result in a decline of more than 4.6 billion passengers globally for 2020, and airport revenue losses for the year would exceed USD 45 billion.²⁹ In addition, as around 35% of global trade (by value) travels by air, the collapse in passenger flights has had a significant impact on air cargo capacity. The latest available figures (from April 2020) from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reveal that belly capacity for international air cargo shrank by 43.7% in March 2020 compared to the previous year.³⁰ Although this was partially offset by a 6.2% increase in capacity through expanded use of freighter aircraft, including the use of idle passenger aircraft for all-cargo operations, there is at present insufficient capacity to meet the remaining demand for air freight transport, even though the latter has also declined.³¹ As a result, air freight rates have increased significantly – by an estimated 20 to 30% across the Asia-Pacific region, and by as much as 50% for some routes. Transit times have also nearly doubled, as shipments need to wait their turn.³²

4.84. With lockdown and quarantine measures implemented in most countries since the outbreak of COVID-19, the maritime transport sector too is under increased pressure. Both container ship calls and their cumulative capacity plunged from January to March 2020. At the same time, the ratio of missed port calls (i.e. scheduled vessel calls that do not occur) has risen sharply. For instance, port operators in China reported that volume for container shipping decreased by between 20 and 40% between 20 January and 10 February 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.³³ Global container trade volumes declined by 8.6% in February 2020 compared to the same month of 2019.³⁴ In February 2020, 46% of scheduled departures on the major route from Asia to Northern Europe had been cancelled,³⁵ and the port of Los Angeles, the largest US container port, announced that cargo volumes had fallen by approximately 25% compared to the prior year.³⁶ The slowdown in port calls is occurring worldwide. Shipping companies have been reducing scheduled capacity, and the proportion of idle container ship tonnage is greater now than during the global financial crisis of 2008. This translates into higher costs for shipping and problems for supply chains. There is also a shortage of workers at the ports to move containers, and a shortage of truck drivers to move goods, due to lockdown and quarantine.

4.85. The COVID-19 pandemic has also seriously disrupted land transport worldwide. Most countries have suspended or largely reduced cross-border passenger transport services. While borders remained open for freight transportation, drivers have been subject to border controls for quarantine purposes, which has led to a slowdown of logistics flows. For example, in order to combat the pandemic, European countries in the Schengen area have temporarily reintroduced border controls since mid-March 2020. Most road and rail cross-border passenger transport has been suspended since then. While the reintroduction of border controls does not apply to cross-border freight transport, it has nevertheless resulted in considerable disruption.³⁷ Since 1 June a gradual easing of border controls has taken place.

²⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/COVID-19/ICAO%20COVID%202020%2005%2025%20Economic%20Impact.pdf>.

²⁹ Viewed at: <https://aci.aero/news/2020/05/05/predicted-global-impact-of-covid-19-on-airport-industry-escalates/>.

³⁰ Viewed at: <https://go.updates.iata.org/webmail/123902/1142448399/72a3a9b684836680e5223fada07076a577d47f56b9de5c849b06dd66c7de445a>.

³¹ See, for example, <https://www.wired.com/story/airlines-use-empty-passenger-jets-ease-cargo-crunch/>.

³² Financial Times, "Passenger planes are the new ships", 14 April 2020.

³³ Viewed at: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/what-does-coronavirus-mean-for-container-shipping/>.

³⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/global-container-shipping-covid-19.pdf>.

³⁵ "Coronavirus impact raises red flags at European ports", Journal of Commerce, 19 February 2020.

³⁶ "Port of Los Angeles Sees Coronavirus Impact Sharply Reducing Imports", Wall Street Journal, 25 February 2020.

³⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.iru.org/resources/newsroom/covid-19-urgent-eu-action-needed-road-borders-drivers-and-financial-support>.

Health Services

4.86. The COVID-19 crisis stimulated a surge in the use of telemedicine services. In China, for example, it substantially accelerated the growth of online medical platforms, with some experiencing three-digit growth rates between December 2019 and January 2020. The number of users of online medical platforms in Asian economies (e.g. Australia, Indonesia, Singapore) has grown rapidly in the past few months.³⁸ Some providers are also expanding their activities to enable patients to benefit from services, e.g. second opinions, sourced abroad. The use of telemedicine has also increased in Europe and North America, where the COVID-19 outbreak prompted calls for making more extensive use of telemedicine. Some jurisdictions have reviewed laws and regulations to facilitate such services, mainly on a provisional basis.³⁹

Education Services

4.87. The closure of schools and higher education institutions in response to the pandemic has had significant social and economic consequences; UNESCO estimated that during the peak of the crisis, school and university closures in 190 countries had impacted over 90% of the world's student population.⁴⁰ These closures have also affected the provision of education services worldwide, causing the demand for online learning to skyrocket. The pandemic will also have a significant economic impact on the higher education sector, including as a result of a potential decline in the number of students. It has been estimated that, in some countries, enrollments for the next academic year could drop by 15%, including a 25% decline in the number of international students.

4.88. As systems massively move to e-learning, the digital divide in relation to connectivity, access to devices and skill levels is taking on even more significance. Looking forward, the current crisis is likely to have a significant and lasting impact on the provision of education and, thereby, on international trade in educational services, notably by increasing the demand and supply of online education.

³⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/covid-19-accelerates-the-adoption-of-telemedicine-in-asia-pacific-countries/>.

³⁹ Viewed, for example, at: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A13924> and https://ahpcs.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GUIDELINES_TELEHEALTH-TELEMEDICINE_1_24Mar2020.pdf.

⁴⁰ Viewed at: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>.

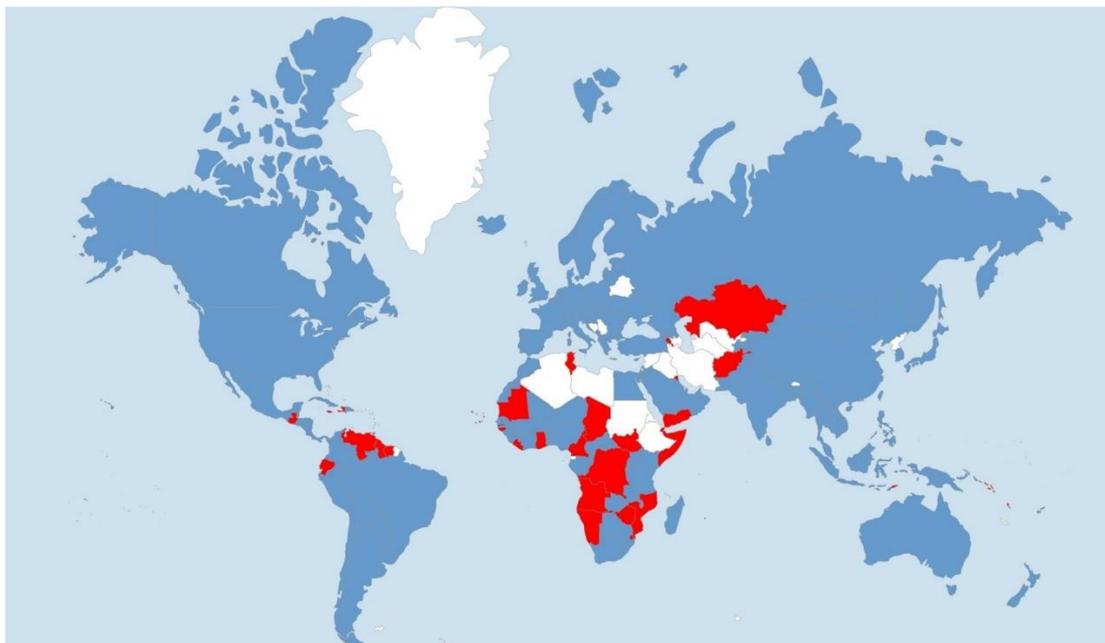
5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. During the review period, WTO Members continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks, as shown in the submissions for the trade monitoring exercise and the notifications to the TRIPS Council. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, several Members implemented specific IP measures aimed at facilitating the development and dissemination of COVID-19-related health technologies, as well as at relaxing procedural requirements and extending deadlines for administrative IP matters (see below). These government measures were complemented by voluntary action by IP right holders, in particular the sharing of Intellectual property rights (IPRs), in order to support research and development (R&D) and equal access to relevant health technologies.¹

Acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement

5.2. Burundi, Niger and Barbados deposited their instruments of acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement², in December 2019, and March and April 2020, respectively.³ They have the vast majority of WTO Members that are bound by the amended TRIPS Agreement. The additional flexibility incorporated in the Agreement addresses public health needs of countries with limited or no domestic capacity to produce pharmaceuticals and that rely on imports in order to satisfy their needs. The mechanism provides for a secure legal pathway that allows potential exporting Members to grant special compulsory licences exclusively for the production and export of generic medicines to the importing country or countries.

Chart 5.1 Acceptance of the Amendment to the TRIPS Agreement



Note: Shown in blue are WTO Members which have accepted the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement; in red, WTO Members yet to accept the Protocol; and in white, non-WTO Members.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

¹ Viewed, for example at: <https://opencovidpledge.org/>; https://www.medtronic.com/us-en/e/open-files.html?cmpid=vanity_url_medtronic_com_openventilator_Corp_US_Covid19_FY20; <https://wellcome.ac.uk/press-release/publishers-make-coronavirus-covid-19-content-freely-available-and-reusable>; and <https://www.sanofi.com/en/media-room/press-releases/2020/2020-04-14-13-00-00>.

² WTO document WT/L/641, 8 December 2005.

³ The Amended TRIPS Agreement entered into force in January 2017 and applies to all Members which have accepted the Protocol. An up-to-date list of the Members that have accepted the Protocol is available at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm. A waiver, agreed in 2003 (WTO document WT/L/540, 2 September 2003 and its WT/L/540/Corr.1, 29 July 2005), continues to apply to those Members that are yet to accept the Protocol.

5.3. Members also joined specific IP-related international instruments: Canada acceded to the Patent Law Treaty;⁴ the European Union acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications;⁵ the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks and to the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs⁶; and India acceded to the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, the Vienna Agreement establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks, and the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs.⁷

Bilateral and regional agreements

5.4. On the bilateral and regional fronts, WTO Members continued to implement and negotiate a network of trade agreements that contain substantive IP provisions. Currently, over 70% of the RTAs in force and notified to the WTO contain specific IP provisions. Increasingly, RTAs have further developed the interconnection between IP and trade in goods and services, and the links of the IP system to other normative areas, such as investment, e-commerce, and competition policy.

5.5. During the review period, the parties to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) completed their respective domestic ratification procedures, thus paving the way for its entry into force on 1 July 2020;⁸ the United States and China reached Phase 1 of an Economic and Trade Agreement;⁹ and the European Union and Mexico announced the conclusion of the negotiations of their updated trade agreement.¹⁰ These agreements contain detailed IP provisions. Reportedly, substantive IP issues were under consideration during the negotiations in the framework of the Pacific Alliance¹¹ and between MERCOSUR and the European Union.¹² The negotiations of Phase 2 of the African Continental Free Trade Area, scheduled to start in 2020, are slated also to cover substantive IP provisions.¹³

5.6. The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property signed a patent prosecution highway agreement with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Patent Office, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to establish a national centre for training.¹⁴ The Indian Patent Office initiated a three-year patent prosecution highway pilot programme with the Japan Patent Office.¹⁵

Domestic legislation and administrative developments

5.7. Domestically, WTO Members and Observers are working to streamline IP into their economies. The relationship between IP and trade continued to develop and diversify, as Members continued to modernize and fine-tune their IP legislation and administration (Box 5.1).

⁴ Submission by Canada for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

⁵ WTO document IP/N/1/EU/35.

⁶ Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Monitoring Report.

⁷ Submission by India to the WTO Monitoring Report.

⁸ Viewed at: <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/april/usmca-enter-force-july-1-after-united-states-takes-final-procedural-steps-implementation>

⁹ Viewed at: <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/china-mongolia-taiwan/peoples-republic-china/phase-one-trade-agreement>.

¹⁰ Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756

¹¹ Viewed at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/inicio-en-chile-la-tercera-ronda-de-negociaciones-con-los-candidatos-a-estado-asociado>.

¹² Viewed at: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2048>

¹³ Viewed at: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dqo/news/2020/news_0008.html and <https://www.tralac.org/blog/article/14066-the-proposed-afcfta-protocol-on-intellectual-property-rights.html>

¹⁴ Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

¹⁵ Submission by India to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Box 5.1 Domestic legislation and administrative developments

Australia^a

Between October and December 2019, public consultations were held on the amendments to the industrial design system. In February 2020, the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act 2020 entered into force, phasing out the innovation patent system and introducing an objects clause into the Patent Act 1990.

Azerbaijan^b

In November 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers issued Resolution No. 437 on the Requirements for Patent Applications and Resolution No. 453 on the Rules for the Inclusion of Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs in the State Register.

Canada^c

In March 2020, amendments to the Copyright Act and the Trademarks Act came into force.

Chile^d

In October 2019, amendments to the procedures on how to appear before the National Institute of Intellectual Property entered into force.

India^e

In April 2020, the Startups Intellectual Property Protection Scheme was extended further for a period of 3 years, to facilitate patent, design and trademark applications. Applications can also be made through the Innovation Support Centre network established in association with WIPO.

Indonesia^f

In December 2019, the Minister of Law and Human Rights issued Regulation No. 30, which contains detailed procedures for the granting of compulsory licences.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia^g

Between October 2019 and April 2020, the national IP administration was revamped, as the authority on copyrights, trademarks patents, layout designs of integrated circuits, plant varieties and industrial designs was transferred to the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property and hearings on IP-related civil and criminal cases were transferred to commercial courts. In January 2020, the IP Respect Council was created with representatives from the public and private sectors.

Singapore^h

In November 2019, the Intellectual Property Enforcement Act came into force, implementing the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. It provides for the seizure of suspected infringing goods that are to be exported under the Copyright Act and the Trademark Act, at the request by IPR holders.

Chinese Taipeiⁱ

In November 2019, the amendments to the Enforcement Rules of the Patent Act came into force. The amendments to the Trade Secrets Act, which came into force in January 2020, are aimed at strengthening confidentiality during investigation procedures.

Ukraine^j

The amendments to the Customs Code entered into force in November 2019, expanding the use of border measures and introducing the possibility of early release of goods suspected of infringing IPRs. In January 2020, the amendments to improve the protection of geographical indications came into force.

- a Submission by Australia for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- b Submission by Azerbaijan for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- c Submission by Canada for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- d Submission by Chile for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- e Submission by India for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- f Submission by Indonesia for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- g Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- h Submission by Singapore for the WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise and notifications to the TRIPS Council.
- i Submission by Chinese Taipei for the WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise and notifications to the TRIPS Council.
- j Submission by Ukraine for the WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise and notifications to the TRIPS Council.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

COVID-19 related measures

5.8. IP measures undertaken by Members range from those aimed at facilitating innovation or access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies to measures, which ease certain procedural requirements or deadlines for administrative matters. In March 2020, the legislatures of Chile and Ecuador issued resolutions expressing their respective views on the need to take initiatives to facilitate access to COVID-19-related technologies, including the issuance of compulsory licenses.

The pertinent government authorities were examining the resolutions, which did not have legal bearing, when this Report was prepared.

5.9. Some Members have endeavoured to make patent information or product standards related to combatting COVID-19 more easily available and/or introduced measures, which may facilitate the grant of government use or compulsory licences for patented technology relevant to addressing the pandemic. These substantive measures are shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 IP COVID-19-related substantive measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Argentina	Argentina published a bulletin, developed in collaboration with PROSUR member countries, of certain health technologies related to COVID-19.	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/boletín-prosur-covid-19	26/04/2020
Australia	The Trade Mark COVID-19 Helpline supports and assists small to medium Australian businesses that are having to quickly adapt to changing circumstances due to COVID-19, in exploring use of their trade mark/s on different goods and services to those currently covered under the respective trade mark application or registration.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/trade-marks/managing-your-trade-mark/introducing-trade-mark-covid-19-helpline	20/05/2020
Brazil	The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI, in Portuguese) published patent landscapes on patents or patent applications filed at INPI on diagnostic methods for the new coronavirus and other respiratory viruses, ventilators and Remdesivir. This project was a part of PROSUR (<i>Sistema de Cooperación sobre aspectos de información operacional y de Propiedad Industrial</i> , in Spanish), which published a bulletin of certain health technologies related to COVID-19.	http://www.inpi.gov.br/menu-servicos/patente/tecnologias-para-covid-19/ESTUDOS	06/04/2020
Brazil	Under Ordinance (<i>Portaria</i> , in Portuguese) No. 149/2020, the Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property will prioritize the examination of patent applications related to innovations that can be used to fight COVID-19 from 7 April 2020 to 30 June 2021.	http://www.inpi.gov.br/noticias/inpi-vai-acelerar-exame-de-patentes-relativas-ao-combate-do-covid-19/view	07/04/2020
Canada	Bill C-13 (an Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19) received Royal Assent. Bill C-13 amends Canada's Patent Act to empower the Commissioner of Patents, on the application of the Minister of Health, to authorize the Government of Canada or another specified person to supply a patented invention to the extent necessary to respond to a public health emergency that is a matter of national concern. These amendments include safeguards to protect the interests of patent holders; for example, ensuring that a patent holder receives adequate remuneration for the use of the patent, placing limitations on the duration of the authorization, providing the patent owner with notice of the authorization, and ensuring that the patent owner has recourse to the courts if any person authorized acts outside the scope of the authorization.	https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/royal-assent Notified to the TRIPS Council in WTO document IP/N/1/CAN/30.	Entry into force 25/03/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
China	The China Patent information Center launched a freely accessible database for various coronavirus-related patents.	https://ncp.patentstar.cn/en	February 2020
European Union	The European Committee for Standardization and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, in collaboration with their members, agreed to make freely available certain copyrighted European standards for certain medical devices and personal protective equipment.	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502	20/03/2020
Germany	An amendment to the German Act on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in Humans grants the Parliament the competence to determine the existence of an "epidemic situation of national significance". On grounds of public interest or national security, the Federal Ministry for Health is authorized to order the competent authority to allow the use of patent-protected inventions to ensure the supply of various health technologies, including medicines, diagnostics and personal protection equipment.	https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav#bgbl_%2F%2F*%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bgbl120s0587.pdf%27%5D_1588850035945	Entry into force 27/03/2020
Israel	On 18 March 2020, The Minister of Health issued a permit allowing the Government to import generic versions of lapinovir/ritonavir from India for the purpose of treating COVID-19 patients.	In Hebrew: http://freepdfhosting.com/645a6a5b51.pdf	18/03/2020
Korea, Republic of	The Korean Intellectual Property Office made available patent information on technology relating to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, including patent analysis and trend reports.	https://www.kipo.go.kr/ncov/index_e.html	24/04/2020
Singapore	Enterprise Singapore, the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission provide free viewing access to a number of international and Singapore standards supporting efforts to combat COVID-19.	https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/quality-standards/standards/for-companies/access-free-standards-to-combat-covid-19	16/04/2020
United States	The USPTO launched a website called Patents 4 Partnerships, which lists patents and published applications relating to COVID-19 that the owners have indicated are available for licensing, along with contact information.	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USPTO/bulletins/28971ab	04/05/2020
United States	The United States Patent and Trademark Office launched the COVID-19 Prioritized Patent Examination Pilot Program under which will grants requests for prioritized patent examination for applicants which qualify for small and micro-entity status with respect to applications that cover a product or process that is subject to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for use in the prevention and/or treatment of COVID-19.	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-announces-covid-19-prioritized-examination-pilot-program-small-and?utm_campaign=subscriptioncenter&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=	08/05/2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. Submissions to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

5.10. A number of Members took measures to ease procedural requirements, deadlines or fees with respect to administrative IP matters, as shown in Table 5.2. Generally, such measures appear to have been taken to account for any difficulties caused by COVID-19, which applicants, rightsholders

or other stakeholders may encounter.¹⁶ WIPO launched an online platform, "COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker", which provides information on the measures adopted in IP Offices, amongst others, in response to the pandemic.¹⁷

Table 5.2 Intellectual Property COVID-19-Related Administrative Measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Argentina	In accordance with INPI Resolution No. 34/20, the National Institute of Industrial Property has suspended all substantive procedures before it, including suspending certain deadlines.	https://back.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/p-034-20.pdf https://www.argentina.gob.ar/inpi/institucional/legislacion https://www.argentina.gob.ar/inpi	12/04/2020
Australia	Streamlined extensions of time for COVID-19 related disruptions will be continued until 30 June 2020. Its continuation is being regularly reviewed considering the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions. At least one week's notice will be provided before it is ended.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/free-streamlined-extensions-time-covid-19-disruptions	22/04/2020 to 30/06/2020 (to be reviewed)
China	The China National Intellectual Property Administration has issued Notice No. 350 clarifying relief measures for parties exceeding the time limits for handling affairs in relation to patents, trademarks and layout-designs of integrated circuits as a result of the COVID-19.	http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/officialinformation/1147236.htm http://english.sipo.gov.cn/index.htm	28 January 2020
European Union	The European Union Intellectual Property Office has extended certain deadlines for trademark and design matters.	https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/quest/news/-/action/view/5644669 https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/home	16/03/2020
India	The India Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks has extended certain deadlines for patent, design and trademark matters.	http://www.ipindia.nic.in/newsdetail.htm?681/ http://www.ipindia.nic.in/index.htm	19/03/2020
Italy	The Italian Patent and Trademark Office has extended the deadlines for administrative proceedings for trademarks, patents, designs and models.	https://uibm.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2036408-covid-19-extension-of-the-deadline-for-administrative-proceedings-to-15-may https://uibm.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/	08/04/2020
Philippines	The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines has taken certain procedural measures, including the extension of deadlines, suspension of hearings, extension of fee payments, acceptance of online filings	https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/advisories/ https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/	16/03/2020
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property has extended certain statutory deadlines for all IPRs.	https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/الملكية-الفكرية-تعطيل-عن-تمديد-المهل-ال https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/	27/03/2020
Thailand	The Thailand Department of Intellectual Property has extended certain deadlines for IPR administrative proceedings.	https://www.ipthailand.go.th/images/3534/2563/00018058.pdf https://www.ipthailand.go.th/en/home-eng.html	24/03/2020
Thailand	The Thailand Department of Intellectual Property has introduced methods for e-certification and e-signature.	https://www.ipthailand.go.th/images/3534/2563/Covid19/DIPCACOV19.pdf https://www.ipthailand.go.th/en/home-eng.html	30/03/2020
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office has extended certain deadlines for patent, SPC, trademark and designs matters.	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-important-update-on-ipo-services https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office	24/03/2020

¹⁶ As seen for instance in: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/eng/wr00050.html>.

¹⁷ As seen in <https://www.wipo.int/covid19-policy-tracker/#/covid19-policy-tracker/ipo-operations>.

Member	Measure	Source	Date
United States	The USPTO considers the effects of coronavirus to be an "extraordinary situation" within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.183 and 37 CFR 2.146 for affected patent and trademark applicants, patentees, re-examination parties, and trademark owners. Therefore, the USPTO is waiving petition fees in certain situations for customers impacted by the coronavirus. Details about eligible applications and re-examination proceedings are provided in the link.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/coronavirus_relief_oqnotice_03162020.pdf	16/03/2020
United States	The United States Patent and Trademark Office extended certain deadlines for patent and trademark matters.	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-extends-certain-patent-and-trademark-deadlines-june-1 https://www.uspto.gov/	27/03/2020
United States	The USPTO is waiving the requirement of 37 CFR 1.4(e)(1) and (2) for original handwritten signature for certain correspondence with the Office of Enrollment and Discipline and certain payments by credit card.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/85%20FR%2017502.pdf	30/03/2020
United States	Until further notice, the USPTO accepts plant patent applications and follow-on documents through the USPTO patent electronic filing systems (EFS-Web or Patent Center).	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-allow-filing-plant-patent-applications-and-correspondence-patent-electronic-filing	06/05/2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. Submissions to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

TRIPS Council

5.11. During the review period, the TRIPS Council met on two occasions, (17-18 October 2019 and 6 February 2020). At the October 2019 meeting, the Council discussed a proposal on transparency and notification requirements.¹⁸ It undertook the annual review of technical cooperation under Article 67, based on reports submitted by developed country Members¹⁹, intergovernmental organizations²⁰ and the WTO Secretariat;²¹ the annual review of the Special Compulsory Licensing System; and started the annual review of incentives for technology transfer to LDCs, as per Article 66.2, on the basis of reports by developed country Members.²² Delegations agreed to extend the period for acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement until end-2021; and, a draft decision was submitted to the General Council for adoption at its meeting in December 2019.²³

5.12. The February 2020 meeting was preceded by the Workshop on the Implementation of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement: Incentives for Technology Transfer, during which capital-based LDC experts reviewed the reports by implementing Members. These experts enriched the discussions during the Council's conclusion of the review under Article 66.2 and presented a proposal to streamline reporting procedures.²⁴ The Council had before it a submission regarding a draft Codex Alimentarius Standard which prohibited "cross-promotion" in product labelling across product categories (e.g., infant formula, follow-up formula, and formula for medical purposes) and could impact IPRs, specifically trademark rights under the TRIPS Agreement.²⁵

5.13. On both occasions, Members actively shared their national experiences and engaged in policy discussions on two themes, namely IP and Innovation and IP and the Public Interest. Specific agenda items concerned "Public-Private Collaborations in Innovation - IP Commercialization";²⁶ "R&D Costs

¹⁸ WTO document JOB/IP/33/Rev.2

¹⁹ WTO document IP/C/W/655 and addenda.

²⁰ WTO document IP/C/W/645 and addenda.

²¹ WTO document IP/C/W/658.

²² WTO document IP/C/W/656 and addenda.

²³ WTO document WT/L/1081.

²⁴ WTO document RD/IP/37.

²⁵ WTO document IP/C/W/660 and IP/C/M/94/Add.1.

²⁶ WTO document IP/C/W/657.

and Pricing of Medicines and Health Technologies";²⁷ "Making MSMEs more Competitive through Trademarks";²⁸ and "The WTO TRIPS Agreement and the Copyright Three Step Test".²⁹

5.14. During the review period, 14 Members³⁰ notified legislative measures under Article 63.2. Most of them introduced their new or amended laws during the Council's meetings, providing insights into developments in different areas, for instance: copyrights; trademarks; patents; trade secrets; protection of traditional knowledge; enforcement of IPRs; and, competition. Seven Members submitted information on their contact points for the exchange of information and cooperation on trade in infringing goods, under Article 69.³¹ One Member submitted its contact points for technical cooperation, as per Article 67.³²

e-TRIPS

5.15. The e-TRIPS System, composed of two user-friendly online platforms, was launched in March 2019 to facilitate submitting and accessing TRIPS-related documentation. The Submission System enables Members to easily submit TRIPS notifications, review materials, and reports. So far, 27 Members and 3 Observers have made 139 submissions through e-TRIPS.³³ The companion Gateway is an online information portal that allows users to search and extract the full range of TRIPS information managed by the Secretariat.³⁴ Both sites are available in the three WTO official languages. The Secretariat provides regular training sessions and updates to Members.

TRIPS-related discussions in trade policy reviews

5.16. The Trade Policy Reviews of Peru, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the European Union and Australia included discussions and information exchanges on a wide range of IP issues with a bearing on trade policy.

²⁷ WTO document IP/C/W/659.

²⁸ WTO document IP/C/W/661 and addenda.

²⁹ WTO document IP/C/W/663.

³⁰ Canada; Brazil; China; Czech Republic; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Chinese Taipei; and Ukraine.

³¹ Belize; India; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; and Vanuatu.

³² Chile.

³³ Data covers 1 March 2019 to 30 April 2020. Viewed at: e-trips.wto.org

³⁴ Viewed at: e-trips.wto.org.

ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-MAY 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Elimination of the requirement of certificate of origin for statistical purposes	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 1288/2019, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (22 November 2019)	Effective 26 November 2019
Temporary elimination of export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) for raw hides and skins, leather (NCM 4101; 4102; 4103; 4104), under an export quota	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 847/2019 (DCTO-2019-847-APN-PTE-Desgravación) (6 December 2019)	Effective 10 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous mineral eliminated from the list requiring non-automatic import licensing (4 tariff lines at 8-digit level NCM 2709.00.10; 2709.00.90; 2710.12.59; 2710.19.21)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Disposición No. 3/2020 Subsecretaría de Política y Gestión Comercial - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (11 March 2020)	Effective 11 March 2020
Azerbaijan		
Extension of the temporary decrease (from 15% to 5%) of import tariffs on butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads (HS 0405)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective 31 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Temporary elimination (from 15%) of import tariffs on pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide; anionic; polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94; film of polymers of vinyl chloride; certain unbleached Kraft paper and paperboard; single yarn of jute; synthetic filament yarn (effective 18 January 2020 to 18 January 2022) (HS 3206.11.00; 3402.11.90; 3901.10.10; 3920.43.10; 4804.51.00; 5307.10.00; 5402.53.00; 5402.62.00). Decrease of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. certain petroleum oils and undenatured ethyl alcohol (HS 2710.19.21; 2710.19.25; 2208.20; 2208.90.69; 2208.90.78)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (5 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on spare parts for bicycles for industrial assembly (effective 9 January 2020 to 9 January 2021), and on spare parts for passenger vehicles (full production type) for industrial assembly (effective 6 March 2020 to 6 March 2027) (HS Chapters 39; 40; 42; 70; 73; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 95; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil		
<p>Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain vaccines for humans (<i>hepatite B</i>), under an import quota of 30 million doses (effective 16 October 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>difteria, tétano e pertussis</i>), under an import quota of 10 million doses (effective 1 December 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>virus do papiloma humano recombinante</i>), under an import quota of 18 million doses (effective 1 December 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>hepatite A</i>), under an import quota of 10 million doses (effective 24 October 2019); and on certain vaccines for humans (<i>raiva</i>), under an import quota of 4 million doses (effective 16 October 2019)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Secint Portaria No. 468/2019 (27 June 2019)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>
<p>Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes; organic chemicals; plastics and articles thereof; paper and paperboard; machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical machinery and equipment; tubular metal needles; skis; and travelling circuses and travelling menageries (96 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 28; 29; 39; 48; 84; 85; 90; 95). Elimination of import tariff (from 10%) on light-emitting diodes (NCM 8541.40.16)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 4/2019 (24 October 2019) and 25/2019 (30 December 2019)</p>	<p>Effective 1 January 2020</p>
<p>Reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on parts and accessories of motor vehicles (not produced in Mercosur) (NCM Chapters 39; 40; 68; 69; 70; 73; 74; 76; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunication equipment not locally produced)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 23/2019 (30 December 2019), 8/2020 (30 January 2020), 27/2020 (1 April 2020), and 42/2020 (4 May 2020)</p>	<p>Effective 2 January 2020</p>
<p>Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on p-phenylenediamine, diaminotoluenes, and their derivatives; salts thereof (NCM 2921.51.33), under an import quota of 10,440 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 28 October 2020); on self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastic, whether or not in rolls (NCM 3919.90.90), under an import quota of 200 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 28 October 2020); on 6-hexanelactam (epsilon-caprolactam) (NCM 2933.71.00), under an import quota of 667 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 13 January 2020); on ethylene dichloride (ISO) (1,2-dichloroethane) (NCM 2903.15.00), under an import quota of 400,000 tonnes (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020); on high tenacity yarn of polyester, whether or not textured (NCM 5402.20.00), under an import quota of 688 tonnes (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020); on certain acrylic polymers in primary forms (NCM 3906.90.49), under an import quota of 800 tonnes (effective 7 December 2019 to 6 December 2020); on jute (NCM 5303.10.10), under an import quota of 7,000 tonnes (effective 28 December 2019 to 27 December 2020). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin (NCM 1001.19.00; 1001.99.00), under an import quota of 750,000 tonnes (effective 18 November 2019 to 17 November 2020); and on certain vaccines for humans (NCM 3002.20.21), under an import quota of 20 million doses (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 5/2019 and 6/2019 (23 October 2019), 10/2019 (12 November 2019), 11/2019 (19 November 2019), and 17/2019 (28 November 2019) and Secex Portaria Nos. 42/2019 (25 October 2019), 44/2019 (18 November 2019), 46/2019, 47/2019 (25 November 2019) and 50/2019 (4 December 2019)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil (Cont'd)		
Reduction of import tariffs on certain vessels for the transport of goods (NCM 8901.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 10/2019 (12 November 2019)	Effective 18 November 2019
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on 1,500 capital goods tariff lines, and 141 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 82; 84; 85; 86; 87; 90), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunications equipment not locally produced)	Camex Resolution Nos. 2/2019 and 3/2019 (22 October 2019), 14/2019 and 15/2019 (19 November 2019), 29/2019 and 30/2019 (30 December 2019), 10/2020 and 11/2020 (30 January 2020), 14/2020 and 15/2020 (19 February 2020); 29/2020 30/2020 (1 April 2020), 39/2020 and 40/2020 (4 May 2020)	Effective until 31 December 2021
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on soda lye or liquid soda (NCM 2815.12.00), under an import quota of 88,000 tonnes (effective 28 December 2019 to 27 December 2020); on disodium sulphate (NCM 2833.11.10), under an import quota of 910,000 tonnes (effective 31 January 2020 to 30 January 2021); on "generator circuit breaker systems" and "plug and switch systems" (NCM 8537.20.90), under an import quota of 340 units (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); on poly(ethylene terephthalate) with a viscosity number of 78 ml/g or higher (NCM 3907.61.00), under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes (effective 30 December 2019 to 29 December 2020); and on certain yarn of polyester (NCM 5402.47.10), under an import quota of 2,200 tonnes (effective 2 January 2020 to 1 January 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 27/2019 and 28/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 1/2020, 4/2020 and 5/2020 (16 January 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on certain sulphates (NCM 2833.29.60), under an import quota of 25,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on certain pigments (containing 82% or more by weight of titanium dioxide) (NCM 3206.11.10), under an import quota of 4,836 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on polyamide-6 and 6-6 (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 7,100 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); and on certain uncoated paper and paperboard (NCM 4805.92.90), under an import quota of 15,993 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020). Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 6%) on pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide (NCM 3206.11.10), under an import quota of 50,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020). Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on unwrought aluminium, not alloyed (NCM 7601.10.00), under an import quota of 150,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on p-Xylene (NCM 2902.43.00), under an import quota of 145,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); and on sardines (NCM 0303.53.00), under an import quota of 110,000 tonnes (effective 9 February 2020 to 31 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 32/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 2/2020 and 3/2020 (16 January 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil (Cont'd)		
<p>Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 35% to 2%) on certain tanker semi-trailers (NCM 8716.39.00), under an import quota of 35 units (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); (from 26% to 2%) on certain pile fabrics of man-made fibres (NCM 6001.92.00), under an import quota of 55,000 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); (from 14% to 2%) on printing ink (NCM 3215.19.00), under an import quota of 860 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); on polycarbonates (NCM 3907.40.90), under an import quota of 35,040 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); and on black printing ink (NCM 3215.11.00), under an import quota of 545 tonnes (effective 23 January 2020 to 22 January 2021); and (from 12% to 2%) on not backed aluminium foil rolled but not further worked (NCM 7607.11.90), under an import quota of 2,137 tonnes (effective 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021). Temporary elimination (from 8%) on certain pharmaceutical products (NCM 3004.90.69) (effective 16 January 2020)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 26/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 6/2020, 7/2020 and 8/2020 (16 January 2020)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>
China		
<p>On 15 December 2019, extension of the suspension of the imposition of additional tariffs on imports of certain vehicles, and parts and accessories thereof (211 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapter 87), from the United States (originally effective from 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019, and extended on 1 April 2019)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and State Council Tariff Commission Announcement on suspending the imposition of tariffs on automobiles and parts and components thereof originated from the United States (Tariff Commission Announcement 2019/7) Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-12/15/content_5461332.htm</p>	<p>Effective 15 December 2019</p>
<p>Imposition of interim tariffs resulting in temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 8; 12; 13; 14; 15; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 45; 48; 49; 52; 53; 56; 61; 62; 63; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 74; 75; 76; 79; 81; 82; 84; 85; 87; 90; 91; 92; 96)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, Circular on adjustments to tariffs including import interim tariff rates in 2020 (SCTC [2019] No. 50). Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/201912/P020191227623109204309.pdf</p>	<p>Effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020</p>
<p>VAT rebate rates increased (to 13%) on exports of 1,084 products (HS Chapters 15; 28; 29; 32; 33; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 43; 44; 48; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 78; 80; 81; 82; 83; 96); and (to 9%) on 380 products (HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 12; 13; 15; 16; 18; 19; 20; 21; 23; 38; 51; 53; 71)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance General Administration of Taxation - Announcement No. 15/2020. Viewed at: http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n810341/n810755/c5146338/content.html</p>	<p>Effective 20 March 2020</p>
Colombia		
<p>Reduction (to 5%) of import tariffs on certain motor vehicles with gas engine (effective 28 November 2019). Elimination of import tariffs on certain motor vehicles with electrical engine (effective 28 November 2019); and on certain home appliances equipment (effective 5 December 2019) (HS 8701.20.00; 8702.90.20; 8703.22.10; 8703.22.90; 8703.23.10; 8703.23.90; 8703.24.10; 8703.24.90; 8704.31.10; 8702.40.10; 8702.40.90; 8703.80.10; 8703.80.90; 8704.90.51; 8704.90.59; 8509.90.00; 8516.90.00; 8536.90.10)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo Decreto Nos 2051 (13 November 2019) and 2074 (18 November 2019)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Colombia (Cont'd)		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (213 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 49; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 2367, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (27 December 2019)	Effective 11 January 2020
Costa Rica		
On 13 February 2020, the duty free import quota for rice in the husk (paddy or rough) (HS 1006.10.90) increased from 19,520 metric tonnes to 39,662 metric tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (25 May 2020)	Effective August 2019 to June 2020
El Salvador		
Extension of time frames for payment of customs duties	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (25 May 2020)	Effective 27 January 2020
Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russian Federation)		
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain cocoa and cocoa preparations (HS 1803.10.00; 1804.00.00)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on vanadium (effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021); (from 5%) on surimi (effective 26 March 2020 to 30 April 2023); on stamping foils (effective 6 March 2020 to 31 August 2022); and on vanadium oxides and hydroxides (effective 22 February 2020 to 31 December 2020); (from 14%) on rods of optical glass (effective 23 January 2020 to 31 December 2020); on terephthalic acids (14 April 2020 to 31 December 2021); on accessories for the production of handheld power tools (effective 8 May 2020 to 30 June 2022); on electric cars (effective 4 May 2020 to 31 December 2021); on polyurethane and epoxy coatings for the production of optical fibre (effective 14 April 2020 to 31 December 2020); and on certain kinds of shellfish and krill meat (effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2023) (HS 0304.99.11; 3212.10.00; 2825.30.00; 7002.20.10; 2917.36.00; 8536.50.80; 8545.20.00; 8483.40.23; 8703.80.00; 3907.30.00; 3909.50.90; 8112.92.92; 0307.43.38; 0307.43.90; 0307.52.90; 1605.40.00; 1605.53.90)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure (HS 8483.40.23.09; 8536.50.80.00; 8545.20.00.00 excluded)
Creation of a new tariff line, "certain LED lamps" (HS 8539.50.00.01; 8539.50.00.02; 8539.50.00.09) resulting in the temporary elimination of import tariffs	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020 to 1 January 2021
India		
Elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. pure bred breeding horses; (from 10%) very low sulphur fuel oil, and specified parts of microphones; and (from 7.5%) on polyester liquid crystal polymers (LCPs) for use in the manufacture of connectors; and micro fuse bases. Reduction of import tariffs (from 10% to 7.5%) on calcined pet coke; (from 10% to 5%) on calendared plastic sheet for use in manufacturing of smart cards, newsprint, uncoated paper used in the manufacture of newspapers, and light-weight coated paper; (from 12.5% to 7.5%) on platinum and palladium for the manufacture of precious metal chemicals and precious metal catalyst; and (from 12.5% to 11.85%) on spent catalyst or ash containing precious metals for recovery of precious metal (HS 0101.21.00; 27; 3907.99.00; 8518.90.00; 8538; 2712.12.10; 2713.12.90; 3920.10.99; 4801; 48; 4810; 7110)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India (Cont'd)		
Amendments introduced to Notification No. 11/2018-Customs, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), resulting in the elimination (from 10%) of the Special Welfare Surcharge on almonds shelled; walnuts in shell; walnuts shelled; frozen orange juice; not frozen orange juices; marble, travertine, ecaussine and other calcareous building stone slabs (HS 0802.12.00; 0802.31.00; 0802.32.00; 2009.11.00; 2009.12.00; 2009.19.00; 2515.12.20; 6802.10.00; 6802.21.10; 6802.21.20; 6802.21.90; 6802.91.00; 6802.92.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
New goods included in the list of products exempted from the Special Welfare Surcharge (HS Chapters 84; 85; 90)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
Imports of certain medical and surgical instruments and apparatus (HS 9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022) exempted from the "health cess"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification No. 8/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
Japan		
Elimination of import tariffs on 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol (HS 2906.19); on 1,1,3,5-tetramethylpiperidine-1-iumhydroxide (HS 2933.39); on igniters, used in manufacturing parts of motor vehicles (HS 3603.00); on mixed alkylbenzenes (HS 3817.00); and on leaver lace (HS 5804.21)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (22 May 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
Nepal		
Temporary reduction (by 50%) of import tariffs on fertilized eggs for incubation (HS 0407.11.00; 0407.19.00)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (31 March 2020)	Effective 4 November 2019
Philippines		
Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. plastic articles for the conveyance or packing of goods; and electrical machinery and equipment (HS 3923; 8518; 8519; 8527; 8528; 8536; 9025; 9030)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020
Turkey		
Elimination of import tariffs (from 2%) on certain products of pig iron; and (from 2.7%) on certain products of ferro-alloys (HS 7201.10.11; 7201.10.30; 7202.11)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020
Elimination of import tariffs (from 29%) on inulin used for the production of medical and nutritional products (effective 1 January 2020); (from 135%) on oligofructose used for the production of medical and nutritional products (effective 1 January 2020); (from 46.8%) on certain fats used in the production of infant formula (effective 1 January 2020); and (from 31.5%) on molasses used for the production of yeast (effective 3 April 2020) (HS 1108.20; 1702.90.95; 1517.90.99; 1703.10; 1703.90), within the scope of end use regulation	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 to MID-MAY 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Termination on 30 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of tanks, casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers, for any material (other than compressed or liquefied gas), of iron or steel, whether or not lined or heat-insulated, but not fitted with mechanical or thermal equipment, of a capacity of 200 to 230 litres (NCM 7310.10.90) from Chile (investigation initiated on 1 June 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 29 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/ARG, 1 May 2020	
Termination on 19 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of conveyor or transmission belts or belting, of vulcanized rubber reinforced only with textile materials (NCM 4010.12.00) from China (investigation initiated on 1 June 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 29 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/ARG, 1 May 2020	
Initiation on 3 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of lawn mowers with electric motor (HS 8467.29.99; 8433.11.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 7/2020 – (RESOL-2020-7-APN-SIECYGCE#MDP), Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (30 January 2020)	
Initiation on 3 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of measuring tapes (<i>metros de cinta</i>) (HS 9017.80.10) from India	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 23/2020 – (RESOL-2020-23-APN-SIECYGCE#MDP), Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo - Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (28 February 2020)	
Termination on 6 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of paper and paperboard, coated on one or both sides with kaolin (China clay) or other inorganic substances, with or without a blinder, and with no other coating, whether or not surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed, in rolls or rectangular (including square) sheets, of any size (NCM 4810.13.89; 4810.13.90; 4810.19.89; 4810.19.90) from Austria, China, Finland and the United States (investigation initiated on 15 December 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 20 March 2012 and 14 June 2012, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 79/2020, Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (4 March 2020)	
Termination on 6 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of coated paper and paperboard (NCM 4810.29.90) from China (investigation initiated on 7 December 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 20 July 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 79/2020, Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (4 March 2020)	

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Australia		
On 9 December 2019, anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel reinforcing bar (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.10; 7227.90.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10) from Turkey resumed (investigation originally initiated on 16 November 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 15 January 2019. Investigation terminated on 20 June 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/AUS, 20 February 2020	
On 9 December 2019, countervailing investigation on imports of steel reinforcing bar (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.10; 7227.90.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10) from Turkey resumed (investigation originally initiated on 16 November 2018 and terminated on 20 June 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/AUS, 21 February 2020	
Termination on 10 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of power transformers (HS 8504.22.00; 8504.23.00) from Thailand (investigation initiated on 29 July 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 10 December 2014)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/AUS, 20 February 2020	
Termination on 31 January 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of power transformers (HS 8504.22.00; 8504.23.00) from China (investigation initiated on 18 March 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/10 (31 January 2020)	
Initiation on 17 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium micro-extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/13 (17 February 2020)	
Initiation on 24 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mill finish aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/18 (24 February 2020)	
Initiation on 24 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of surface finish aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/19 (24 February 2020)	
Termination on 28 February 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of high-density polyethylene "HDPE" (HS 3901.20.00; 3901.90.00) from Korea, Rep. of; Singapore; Thailand and the United States (initiated on 24 June 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/22 (28 February 2020)	
Initiation on 30 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of kraft paperboard (HS 4810.39.00; 4810.1; 4810.2) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/32 (30 March 2020)	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of precision pipe and tube steel (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/30 (25 March 2020)	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of precision pipe and tube steel (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00) from China and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/30 (25 March 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil		
Termination on 30 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of seamless steel chrome alloyed tubes (NCM 7304.51.19; 7304.59.11; 7304.59.19) from China (investigation initiated on 18 November 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 April and 30 October 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 1 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of ethanalamines, grades MEA (monoethanolamine) and TEA (triethanolamine) (NCM 2922.11.00; 2922.13.10; 3824.90.89) from Germany (investigation initiated on 10 May 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 4 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 8 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of iron pipes (NCM 7303.00.00) from China, India and the United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 8 May 2018 and definitive duty imposed on 7 November 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 13 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of padlocks (NCM 8301.10.00) from China (imposed on 29 December 1995)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
Termination on 14 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of tyres, of a kind used on motor cars (NCM 4011.10.00) from Korea, Rep. of (investigation initiated on 20 July 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 16 January 2014)	Gecex Resolution No. 3/2019 (14 January 2020)	
Termination on 15 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of hot-rolled steel (NCM 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.10; 7208.26.90; 7208.27.10; 7208.27.90; 7208.36.10; 7208.36.90; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.10; 7208.38.90; 7208.39.10; 7208.39.90; 7208.40.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.00; 7208.90.00; 7225.30.00; 7225.40.90) from China and the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 20 July 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 19 January 2018. Duty suspended on 19 January 2018)	Camex Resolution No. 5/2020 (15 January 2020)	
Termination on 16 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of tyres, of a kind used on motor cars (NCM 4011.10.00) from Ukraine (investigation initiated on 20 July 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 16 January 2014)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Secex Circular No. 2/2020 (15 January 2020)	
Initiation on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of containers for compressed or liquefied gas, of iron or steel (CNG cylinders) (HS 7311.00.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Secex Circular No. 8/2020 (29 January 2020)	
Initiation on 20 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (HS 2917.35.00) from Israel and the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Secex Circular Nos. 11/2020 (19 February 2020) and 28/2020 (24 April 2020)	Terminated on 27 April 2020 (without measure)
Termination on 5 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of presensitized offset aluminium printing plates (NCM 3701.30.21; 3701.30.31) from Hong Kong, China (investigation initiated on 25 February 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 5 March 2015)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2020), Secex Circular No. 13/2020 (4 March 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil (Cont'd)		
Termination on 12 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of ferrite segment (arc) magnet (NCM 8505.19.10) from China and Korea, Rep. of (investigation initiated on 16 June 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 30 October 2014 and 4 May 2015, respectively)	Camex Resolution No. 35/2020 (4 May 2020)	
Canada		
Initiation on 8 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 (HS 7210.30.00; 7210.49.00; 7210.61.00; 7210.69.00; 7212.20.00; 7212.30.00; 7212.50.00; 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7226.99.00) from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/CAN, 26 March 2020; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Preliminary Determination COR2 2019 IN (20 March 2020)	Provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020
Initiation on 8 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 (HS 7210.30.00; 7210.49.00; 7210.61.00; 7210.69.00; 7212.20.00; 7212.30.00; 7212.50.00; 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7226.99.00) from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/CAN, 30 March 2020; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Preliminary Determination COR2 2019 IN (20 March 2020)	Provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020
Chile		
Initiation on 27 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel grinding balls forged for mills of less than 4 inches in diameter (HS 7326.11.10) from China	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (27 May 2020) and Comisión de Distorsiones - Comisión Nacional encargada de investigar la existencia de distorsiones en el precio de las mercaderías importadas - Normas Generales CVE 1754510 (27 April 2020)	
China		
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pyridine (HS 2933.31.00) from India and Japan (investigation initiated on 21 September 2012. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 27 May and 21 November 2013, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/CHN, 21 April 2020	
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of methyl ethyl ketone (HS 2914.12.00) from Japan and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 22 November 2007)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/CHN, 21 April 2020	
Colombia		
Termination on 20 December 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of sheets of paperboard and polyethylene, with an intermediate layer of aluminium foil as an oxygen barrier, used for the aseptic packaging of UHT treated foodstuffs (HS 4811.59.20) (initiated on 11 April 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/COL/6, 9 March 2020	
Ecuador		
Initiation on 26 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of smooth ceramics (HS 6907.21.00; 6907.22.00; 6907.23.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/ECU/10, 6 December 2019	
Egypt		
Initiation on 16 April 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of raw aluminium (ingots, billets and wire rod) (HS 7601.10; 7601.20; 7605.11)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/EGY/15, 23 April 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russian Federation)		
Initiation on 24 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of welded tubes of stainless steel (HS 7306.40.20; 7306.40.80; 7306.61.10; 7306.69.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/RUS, 6 May 2020	
Termination on 27 December 2019 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of welded tubes of stainless steel (HS 7306.40.20; 7306.40.80; 7306.61.10; 7306.69.10) (initiated on 4 March 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/RUS/2, 17 January 2020	
Initiation on 9 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of graphite electrodes (HS 8545.11.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	
European Union		
Initiation on 18 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pins and staples (HS 7317.00.20; 7317.00.60; 7317.00.80; 7326.20.00; 7616.10.00; 8305.20.00; 8308.10.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/EU, 17 April 2020	
Initiation on 14 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.10; 7604.10.90; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.10; 7604.29.90; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.81; 7608.20.89; 7610.90.90) from China	Commission Notice 2020/C 51/12 (14 February 2020)	
Initiation on 14 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel (HS 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.00; 7208.27.00; 7208.36.00; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.00; 7208.39.00; 7208.40.00; 7208.52.10; 7208.52.99; 7208.53.10; 7208.53.90; 7208.54.00; 7211.13.00; 7211.14.00; 7211.19.00; 7225.19.10; 7225.30.90; 7225.40.60; 7225.40.90; 7226.19.10; 7226.91.91; 7226.91.99) from Turkey	Commission Notice 2020/C 166/05 (14 May 2020)	
Guatemala		
Termination on 9 January 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more (HS 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7225.99.00) (investigation initiated on 27 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/GTM/1, 28 January 2020	
Gulf Cooperation Council (Barhain; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of. ; United Arab Emirates)		
Initiation on 23 October 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of certain steel products (HS 7208; 7209; 7210; 7211; 7212; 7213; 7214; 7215; 7216; 7222; 7225; 7227; 7228; 7301; 7304; 7305; 7306; 7308)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/SAU/3, 24 October 2019	
Termination on 28 November 2019 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of super-absorbent polymers (HS 3906.90) from Japan and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 14 February 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/SAU, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 29 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plates, sheets, and strip of aluminium alloys (HS 7606.12.00; 7606.92.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (5 May 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India		
Initiation on 18 October 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of flat products of stainless steel (HS 7219; 7220) from Indonesia	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Initiation on 29 October 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of styrene butadiene rubber (HS 4002.19) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Initiation on 4 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of isopropyl alcohol (HS 2905.12.20)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IND/47, 15 November 2019	
Initiation on 5 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of fibreboards (HS 4411.12; 4411.13; 4411.93; 4411.14; 4411.92) from Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of digital versatile disc-recordable (DVD-R's) (HS 8523) from China; Hong Kong, China; and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 23 July 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 3 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of new pneumatic tyres of rubber for buses and lorries, with or without tubes and/or flaps (HS 4011.20.10) from Thailand	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/30/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 22/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (2 December 2019)	
Termination on 8 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of cable ties (HS 3926.90) from China and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 31 October 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 9 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mono ethylene glycol (MEG or ethylene glycol) (HS 2905.31.00) from Kuwait; Oman; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Singapore and the United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/29/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 21/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (9 December 2019)	
Initiation on 23 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 1-phenyl-3-methyl-5-pyrazolone (HS 2933.19.20) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/32/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 24/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (23 December 2019)	
Termination on 30 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pentaerythritol-I (HS 2905.42) from Chinese Taipei (imposed on 27 March 2002)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 10 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride "PUC" (HS 2941.90.30) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/36/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 32/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (10 January 2020)	
Initiation on 14 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dimethyl formamide "DMF" (HS 2921.11.10) from China and Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/37/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 29/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (14 January 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India (Cont'd)		
Initiation on 14 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of viscose spun yarn "VSY" (HS 5510.11.10; 5510.12.10; 5510.11.90; 5510.12.90; 5510.90.10; 5510.90.90) from China, Indonesia and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/41/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 32/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (14 January 2020)	
Initiation on 20 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of newsprint in rolls or sheets, excluding glazed newsprint (HS 4801.00.90; 4801.00.10) from Australia; Canada; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; the Russian Federation; Singapore and the United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/40/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 31/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (20 January 2020)	
Initiation on 22 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of soda ash (HS 2836.20) from Turkey and the United States	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/39/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 30/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (22 January 2020)	
Initiation on 24 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aniline (HS 2921.41.10) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/42/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 33/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (24 January 2020)	
Initiation on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of toluene di-isocyanate "TDI" (HS 2929.10.20) from the European Union; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Chinese Taipei and the United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/43/2019-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 34/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (31 January 2020)	
Termination on 2 February 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of purified terephthalic acid "PTA" (HS 2917.36.00) from Korea, Rep. of and Thailand (investigation initiated on 8 October 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 25 July 2014 and on 27 May 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 3/2020-Customs (ADD), Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (2 February 2020)	
Termination on 2 February 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of purified terephthalic acid "PTA" (HS 2917.36.00) from China; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Rep. of; Malaysia and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 18 June 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 10 December 2015 and 5 July 2016, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 3/2020-Customs (ADD), Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (2 February 2020)	
Initiation on 7 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of self-adhesive polyvinyl chloride film "SAV" (HS 3919.90.90; 3919.10.00; 3919.90.10; 3919.90.20; 3920.99.19; 3920.99.59; 3920.99.99; 3921.90.99; 3926.90.99) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/1/2020-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 1/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (7 February 2020)	
Initiation on 10 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of black toner in powder form (HS 3707.90.10; 3707.90.90) from China, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/6/2020-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 5/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (10 February 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India (Cont'd)		
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phenol (HS 2907.11) from Thailand and the United States	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/3/2020-DGTR (Case No. (OI) 2/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (25 February 2020)	
Initiation on 2 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of soda ash (HS 2836.20) from Turkey	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/38/2019-DGTR (Case No. OI (CVD) 10/2019), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (2 March 2020)	
Termination on 13 April 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of phenol (HS 2907.11.10) (investigation initiated on 23 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/IND/17, 21 April 2020	
Initiation on 20 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of copper and copper alloy flat rolled products (HS 7409.11.00; 7409.19.00; 7409.21.00; 7409.29.00; 7409.31.00; 7409.39.00; 7409.40.00; 7409.90.00; 7410.11.00; 7410.12.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia; Nepal; Sri Lanka and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/7/2020-DGTR (Case No. ADD-OI 6/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (20 April 2020)	
Initiation on 22 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plain medium density fibre board having thickness less than 6 mm (HS 4411.12.00; 4411.13.00; 4411.92.19; 4411.92.29; 4411.93.19; 4411.94.19) from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 6/13/2020-DGTR (Case No. ADD-OI 11/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (22 April 2020)	
Initiation on 9 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of natural mica based pearl industrial pigments excluding cosmetic grade (HS 3206.11) from China	Notification F. No. 6/8/2020-DGTR (Case No. ADD-OI 7/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (9 May 2020)	
Indonesia		
Initiation on 23 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cold-rolled stainless steel "CRS" (HS 7219.32.00; 7219.33.00; 7219.34.00; 7219.35.00; 7219.90.00; 7220.20.10; 7220.20.90; 7220.90.10; 7220.90.90) from China and Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IDN, 20 May 2020	
Initiation on 13 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of fructose syrup (HS 1702.60.20)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/34, 15 November 2019	
Initiation on 9 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot-rolled coil of other alloy steel (HS 7225.30.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 June 2020)	
Initiation on 23 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of lysine (HS 2922.41.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (7 May 2020)	
Japan		
Termination on 24 April 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of toluenediisocyanate (HS 2929.10) from China (investigation initiated on 14 February 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 25 December 2014 and 25 April 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (22 May 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Jordan		
Termination on 14 May 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of potato chips and potatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen (HS 2005.20.90; 2106.90.99) (investigation initiated on 1 September 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/JOR/10, 18 May 2020	
Korea, Rep. of		
Initiation on 3 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plywood (HS 4412.31; 4412.33; 4412.34; 4412.39; 4412.99) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/KOR, 28 May 2020	
Malaysia		
Initiation on 17 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of non-alloy steel plated or coated with aluminium and zinc (HS 7210.61.11; 7210.61.12; 7210.61.19; 7210.61.91; 7210.61.92; 7120.61.99; 7212.50.23; 7212.50.24; 7212.50.29) from China; Korea, Rep. of and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (2 June 2020)	
Mexico		
Initiation on 1 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hydraulic bottle jacks (HS 8425.42.02) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/MEX, 16 March 2020	
Initiation on 19 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dioctyl phthalates (HS 2917.32.01) from Korea, Rep of and the United States	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 19 March 2020	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyester-textured textile filament (HS 5402.33.01) from China and India	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 31 March 2020	
Pakistan		
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (HS 2917.35.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Russian Federation and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/PAK, 16 March 2020	
Initiation on 23 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain electrical capacitors (HS 8532.10.00; 8532.22.00; 8532.25.00; 8532.29.00; 8532.30.90) from China	ADC No. 57/2020/NTC/CAP - National Tariff Commission (23 January 2020)	
Initiation on 29 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of inorganic yellow chrome pigment (HS 3206.20.10) from India and Korea, Rep. of	ADC No. 58/2020/NTC/IYCP - National Tariff Commission (29 February 2020)	
Peru		
Initiation on 6 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres, containing 85% or more by weight of synthetic staple fibres (HS 5512.11.00; 5512.19.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolución No. 10-2020/CDB-INDECOPI	
Termination on 22 January 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of poplin blend fabrics (HS 5407.81.00; 5407.82.00; 5512.11.00; 5512.19.00; 5513.11.00; 5513.21.00; 5514.11.00; 5514.21.00) from China (initiated on 15 February 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 May 2020)	
Termination on 22 January 2020 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of maize (HS 1005.90.11) from the United States (initiated on 24 July 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolución No. 4-2020/CDB-INDECOPI	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Philippines		
Termination on 8 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of wheat flour (HS 1101.00.10) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 7 June 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 2 June 2014 and 9 January 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines (27 May 2020)	
Termination on 28 January 2020 of safeguard duties on imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles (HS 6907.21.23; 6907.21.24; 6907.21.93; 6907.21.94; 6907.22.13; 6907.22.14; 6907.22.93; 6907.22.94; 6907.23.13; 6907.23.14; 6907.23.93; 6907.23.94; 6907.40.92) (investigation initiated on 20 December 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 8 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/PHL/4, 28 January 2020	
Initiation on 6 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of motor vehicles (HS 8703; 8704)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/15, 18 February 2020	
SACU - Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa)		
Initiation on 15 May 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of bolts with hexagon heads of iron or steel (HS 7318.15.43)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/ZAF/8, 25 May 2020	
Thailand		
Initiation on 17 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of painted hot dip plated or coated with aluminium-zinc alloys of cold-rolled steel (HS 7210.70.11; 7210.70.91; 7212.40.11; 7212.40.12; 7212.40.19; 7212.40.91; 7212.40.92; 7212.40.99; 7225.99.90; 7226.99.19; 7226.99.99) from China and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/THA, 11 February 2020	
Initiation on 21 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat hot dip galvanized of cold rolled steel in coil and not in coil (HS 7210.49.12; 7210.49.13; 7210.49.19; 7210.49.91; 7210.49.99; 7212.30.11; 7212.30.12; 7212.30.13; 7212.30.19; 7225.9290) from China	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (24 April 2020)	
Initiation on 7 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tinplate HS (7210.12.90) from China; the European Union; Korea, Rep. of; and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (27 May 2020)	
Turkey		
Termination on 13 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of oriented strand board "OSB" (HS 4410.12) from Canada and the United States (imposed on 18 December 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/TUR, 20 February 2020	
Termination on 13 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of hook and loop (HS 5806.32.90) from China and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 13 December 2002)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/TUR, 20 February 2020	
Initiation on 14 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of baby food with cereals (HS 1901.10.00) from Croatia	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	
Termination on 10 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of stud-link and welded link chain of iron or steel (HS 7315.81; 7315.82) from China (imposed on 20 December 2003)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Ukraine		
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel fastenings (HS 7318.15.69; 7318.15.81; 7318.15.89; 7318.15.90; 7318.16.91; 7318.16.99) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/UKR, 4 March 2020	
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of syringes (HS 9018.31.10)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/15, 10 December 2019	
Initiation on 11 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of caustic soda (HS 2815.12.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/16, 19 February 2020	
Initiation on 21 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pivot-reclining devices (mechanisms) for window and balcony door blocks (HS 8302.41.50) from Turkey	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (20 May 2020) and Decision of Interagency Commission on International Trade AD-439/2020/4411-03	
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of polymeric materials (HS 3901.20.90; 3904.10.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/17, 28 February 2020	
United States of America		
Initiation on 12 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7307.93.30; 7307.93.60; 7307.93.90; 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50) from India and Korea, Rep. of	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-533-891 and A-580-904, Federal Register/Vol. 84, No. 225 FR No. 64265 (21 November 2019)	
Initiation on 12 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7307.93.30; 7307.93.60; 7307.93.90; 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50) from India	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-533-892, Federal Register/Vol. 84, No. 225 FR No. 64270 (21 November 2020)	
Initiation on 7 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 4 th tier cigarettes (HS 2402.20.80) from Korea, Rep. of	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-580-905, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 10 FR No. 2390 (15 January 2020)	
Initiation on 8 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of forged steel fluid end blocks (HS 7218.91.00; 7218.99.00; 7224.90.00; 7326.19.00; 7326.90.86; 8413.91.90) from Germany, India and Italy	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-428-847, A-533-893 and A-475-840, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 10 FR No. 2394 (15 January 2020)	
Initiation on 8 January 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of forged steel fluid end blocks (HS 7218.91.00; 7218.99.00; 7224.90.00; 7326.19.00; 7326.90.86; 8413.91.90) from China, Germany, India and Italy	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-428-848, C-533-894, C-475-841 and C-570-116, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 10 FR No. 2385 (15 January 2020)	
Initiation on 28 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of wood mouldings and millwork products (HS 4409.10.40; 4409.10.45; 4409.10.50; 4409.10.60; 4409.10.65; 4409.22.40; 4409.22.50; 4409.22.60; 4409.22.65; 4409.29.41; 4409.29.51; 4409.29.61; 4409.29.66; 4418.99.95; 4421.99.97) from Brazil and China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-351-853 and A-570-117, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 24 FR No. 6502 (5 February 2020)	
Initiation on 28 January 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of wood mouldings and millwork products (HS 4409.10.40; 4409.10.45; 4409.10.50; 4409.10.60; 4409.10.65; 4409.22.40; 4409.22.50; 4409.22.60; 4409.22.65; 4409.29.41; 4409.29.51; 4409.29.61; 4409.29.66; 4418.99.95; 4421.99.97) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-118, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 24 FR No. 6513 (5 February 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States of America (Cont'd)		
Initiation on 4 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain vertical shaft engines between 225 cc and 999 cc, and parts thereof (HS 8407.90.10; 8407.90.90; 8409.91.99) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-119, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 24 FR No. 8809 (18 February 2020)	
Initiation on 4 February 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain vertical shaft engines between 225 cc and 999 cc, and parts thereof (HS 8407.90.10; 8407.90.90; 8409.91.99) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-120, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 24 FR No. 8835 (18 February 2020)	
Initiation on 12 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of difluoromethane "R-32" (HS 2903.39.20; 3824.78.00) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-121, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 36 FR No. 10406 (24 February 2020)	
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain corrosion inhibitors (HS 2933.99.82) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-122, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 42 FR No. 12506 (3 March 2020)	
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain corrosion inhibitors (HS 2933.99.82) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-123, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 42 FR No. 12502 (3 March 2020)	
Initiation on 24 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene (HS 3901.10.10; 3901.20.10) from Korea, Rep. of	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-580-907, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 62 FR No. 17861 (31 March 2020)	
Initiation on 30 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from Bahrain, Kingdom of; Brazil; Croatia; Egypt; Germany; Greece; India; Indonesia; Italy; Korea, Rep. of; Oman; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Chinese Taipei and Turkey	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-525-001, A-351-854, A-891-001, A-729-803, A-428-849, A-484-804, A-533-895, A-560-835, A-475-842, A-580-906, A-523-814, A-485-809, A-801-001, A-856-001, A-791-825, A-469-820, A-583-867 and A-489-839, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 67 FR No. 19444 (7 April 2020)	
Initiation on 30 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from Bahrain, Kingdom of; Brazil; India and Turkey	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-351-855, C-489-840, C-525-002, C-533-896, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 67 FR No. 19449 (7 April 2020)	
Initiation on 16 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain non-refillable steel cylinders (HS 7310.29.00; 7311.00.00) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-126, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 78 FR No. 22402 (22 April 2020)	
Initiation on 16 April 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain non-refillable steel cylinders (HS 7310.29.00; 7311.00.00) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-127, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 78 FR No. 22407 (22 April 2020)	
Initiation on 20 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mattresses (HS 9404.21.00; 9404.29.10; 9404.29.90; 9401.40.00; 9401.90.50) from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-555-001, A-560-836, A-557-818, A-801-002, A-549-841, A-489-841 and A-552-827, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 80 FR No. 23002 (24 April 2020)	
Initiation on 20 April 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of mattresses (HS 9404.21.00; 9404.29.10; 9404.29.90; 9401.40.00; 9401.90.50) from China	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-128, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 80 FR No. 22998 (24 April 2020)	
Viet Nam		
Initiation on 31 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of monosodium glutamate (HS 2922.42) from China and Indonesia	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/VNM, 31 March 2020	

ANNEX 3 - OTHER TRADE-RELATED MEASURES³

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-MAY 2020)

Confirmed information⁴

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Amendments introduced in the export duties legislation (<i>derechos de exportación</i>). For certain exported products (in NCM Chapters 01; 02; 03; 04; 05; 07; 10; 11; 15; 20; 44; 47; 51; 52) with duty set at 9%	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 37/2019 (DCTO-2019-37-APN-Decreto No. 793/2018. Modificación) (14 December 2019)	Effective 14 December 2019
Temporary increase (up to 33%) of export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) on certain products, e.g. live animals; meat and edible meat offal; fish and crustaceans; products of animal origin; dried leguminous vegetables; cereals; wheat or meslin flour; cereal flours; cereal groats, meat and pellets; oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains; animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes; preserved ground-nuts; residues and waste from food industries; prepared animal fodder; biodiesel and mixtures thereof; wood and wood charcoal; wool, not carded or combed; and cotton, not carded or combed (539 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in Chapters NCM 01; 02; 03; 05; 07; 10; 11; 12; 15; 20; 23; 38; 44; 51)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 230/2020 (DCTO-2020-230-APN-PTE- Fijase alícuota del derecho de exportación) - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (4 March 2020)	Effective 6 March 2020
Further increase in the statistical fee (<i>tasa de estadística</i>) (from 2.5% to 3%) (originally implemented from May 2019 to 31 December 2019) for all imports. Certain exemptions in force	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ley 27541- de Solidaridad Social y Reactivación Productiva en el Marco de la Emergencia Pública (21 December 2019)	Effective 21 December 2019 to 31 December 2020
Azerbaijan		
Extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. meat and edible meat offal of the poultry; eggs; edible fruits and nuts; fruit and vegetable juices; waters; certain klays; mineral products; articles of cement; articles of plaster; and ceramic products (HS Chapters 2; 4; 7; 8; 20; 22; 25; 68; 69)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective 15 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Increase of import excise rates on certain products, e.g. undenatured ethyl alcohol; cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes (HS 2207.10.00; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 2208.30; 2208.40; 2208.50; 2208.60; 2208.70; 2208.90.11; 2208.90.78; 2402.10.00; 2402.90.00; 2402.20)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (5 June 2020)	
Brazil		
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 20%) on certain fairground amusements (<i>carrosséis</i>) (NCM 9508.90.19; 9508.90.22); and (from 6% to 12%) on smart cards (NCM 8523.52.10)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 4/2019 (24 October 2019) and 13/2019 (19 November 2019)	Effective 1 January 2020
China		
On 15 December 2019, imposition of additional 10% and 5% <i>ad valorem</i> rates of duty on certain products from the United States (third batch) suspended	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and State Council Tariff Commission Announcement on Applying Additional Tariffs to Certain Imported Goods Originated from the United States (Batch No. 3), and the Customs	Effective 15 December 2019 (12:01 pm)

³ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

⁴ This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	Tariff Commission of the State Council, Announcement on suspending additional tariffs on certain imports from the United States [2019] No. 7). Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-12/15/content_5461332.htm	
Imposition of additional tariffs on certain products (HS 2710.19.99; 2712.90.10; 3901.20.00; 3901.40.10; 3910.40.20; 3902.10.00) imported from the United States suspended from 26 December 2019 to 25 December 2020	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council (SCTC), Announcement on the Second Exclusion List of the First Batch of Imports from the U.S. Subject to Additional Tariffs (SCTC Announcement [2019] No. 8). Viewed at: http://www.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201912/P020191219362467972158.pdf	Effective 26 December 2019 to 25 December 2020
Release of the 2020 catalogue of goods subject to import licensing (HS Chapters 29; 38; 84; 89; 90)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and MOFCOM, GACC Announcement No. 65 [2019]. Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/c/201912/20191202927133.shtml	Effective 1 January 2020
Release of the 2020 catalogue of goods subject to export licensing (HS Chapters 1; 2; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 32; 38; 44; 46; 52; 71; 72; 75; 80; 81; 84; 87; 94)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and MOFCOM, GACC Announcement No. 66 [2019]. Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/201912/20191202927141.shtml	Effective 1 January 2020
Temporary decrease of import tariffs (from 10% to 5% and from 5% to 2.5%) on certain products (1,717 goods in HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 57; 58; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85), imported from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on Adjusting the Additional Tariffs on Certain Imports Originating in the United States (Announcement No. 1 [2020] of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council. Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/201908/P020190823604938915640.pdf	Effective 14 February 2020
Imposition of additional tariffs on 65 products (HS Chapters 44; 47; 49; 84; 85; 90) from the United States suspended from 28 February 2020 to 27 February 2021. For certain products, the additional tariff levied to be refunded	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Announcement of the State Council Tariff Commission on the second exemption list of tariffs on the United States tax commission announcement [2020] No. 3. Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/202002/t20200221_3472600.htm (21 February 2020)	Effective 28 February 2020 to 27 February 2021
Colombia		
Imposition of import tariffs on footwear (HS 64). <i>Ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) on: (i) waterproof footwear (HS 6401), other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (HS 6402), and footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile material (HS 6404) for FOB value declared of USD 6/kg or less; (ii) other footwear (HS 6405) for FOB value declared of USD 7/kg or less; (iii) footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather (HS 6403) for FOB value declared of USD 10/kg or less; and (iv) uppers and parts thereof, other than stiffeners (HS 6406.10.00) for FOB value declared of USD 5/kg or less (free-trade agreement partners exempted)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 2279, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (16 December 2019)	Effective 17 December 2019 to 17 December 2020
Temporary increase (from zero to 10%) of import tariffs on certain ceramic products (HS 6910.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 199 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (10 February 2020)	Effective 26 February 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Egypt		
Further extension and increase of the temporary export taxes (From EGY 6,000/tonne to EGY 7,000/tonne) on certain lead and articles thereof (HS 7801.10; 7801.91; 7801.99; 7804.19; 7806.00)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ministerial Decree No. 1156 (20 December 2019)	Effective until 31 December 2020
Imposition of temporary export taxes (EGY 3,000/tonne) on used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables and worn out articles of twine, cordage, rope or cables, of textile materials (HS 6310)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ministerial Decree No. 195/2020	Effective 30 March 2020, for 1 year
Further extension of the temporary export taxes (EGY 600/tonne) on cereal straw and husks, unprepared, whether or not chopped, ground, pressed or in the form of pellets excluding rice straw and husks; (EGY 700/tonne) on hay, clover and other forage products; (EGY 900/tonne) on bran, sharps and other residues, whether or not in the form of pellets, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of cereals or of leguminous plants excluding rice residues; vegetable materials and vegetable waste, vegetable residues and by-products; whether or not in the form of pellets, of a kind used in animal feeding excluding corn cobs; (EGY 300/tonne) on corn silage (effective 16 December 2019 to 31 December 2020); (EGY 2,000/tonne) on copper matte, precipitated copper, unrefined copper; copper anodes for electrolytic refining, refined copper and copper alloys in raw forms, copper waste and scrap, bars, rods, angles and special forms of copper, articles of copper, cast, moulded, stamped or forged, but not further worked; (EGY 7,000/tonne) on lead in raw forms, lead waste and scrap, lead plates, sheets, strip and foil over 0.2 mm thick, other articles of lead, aluminium waste and scrap; (EGY 1,300/tonne) on cast iron waste and scrap, stainless steel waste and scrap, alloy steel waste and scrap, other than stainless, tinned iron or steel waste and scrap, ferrous waste and scrap, turnings, shavings, chips, milling waste, sawdust, filings, trimmings and stampings, whether or not in bundles, ferrous waste and scrap, remelted scrap ingots of iron or steel; (EGY 2,600/tonne) on slag, ash and residues; (not from the manufacture of iron or steel), containing mainly zinc, hard zinc spelter and other than hard zinc spelter, zinc in raw forms, zinc waste and scrap, zinc dust, powders and flakes; (EGY 3,600/tonne) on waste and scrap of paper and paperboard (effective 23 December 2019 to 31 December 2020); (EGY 1,200/tonne) on talc blocks and crushed; (EGY 500/tonne) on talc powder; (EGY 300/tonne) on talc ultra-soft powder; (EGY 150/tonne) on raw quartz; (EGY 200/tonne) on feldspar blocks; (EGY 100/tonne) on raw feldspar crushed or powder; (EGY 400/tonne) on marble, crude or roughly trimmed; granite, crude or roughly trimmed; and (EGY 100/tonne) on sand (effective 9 February 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India		
Amendments introduced to import condition No. 2 of Chapter 39 of the ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule- I (Import Policy), resulting in an import prohibition on PET flakes made from used PET bottles	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 24 October 2019
Initiation on 7 November 2019 of bilateral safeguard investigation on imports of polybutadiene rubber "PBR" (HS 4002.20.00) from Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 22/7/2019-DGTR - (Case No. (SG) 7/2019) - Bilateral Safeguard Investigation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (7 November 2019)	
Import policy of gold (in any form, other than monetary gold and silver in any form) amended from "Free" to "Restricted". Import allowed only through nominated agencies as notified by the Reserve Bank of India (in case of banks) and Directorate General of Foreign Trade (for other agencies). Import under Advance Authorization and supply of gold directly by the foreign buyers to exporters under Para 4.45 of FTP against export orders are exempted	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 18 December 2019
Amendments introduced to the import policy of peas (HS 0713.10.00). Import of peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i> , including yellow peas, green peas, dun peas and kaspas peas) restricted. Imports subjected to MIP c.i.f. (INR 200/kg) and allowed only through Kolkata sea port	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 18 December 2019
Amendments introduced to the import policy of refined palm oil and its fractions (HS 1511.90), resulting in an import restriction	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 39/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce (8 January 2020)	Effective 8 January 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy of coconuts (HS 0801.11.00). Imports of desiccated coconut with c.i.f. value of INR 150/kg - and above is "Free". Imports below c.i.f. value of INR 150/kg "Prohibited"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 8 January 2020
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 30%) on tuna bait, and fin fish feed; (from 30% to 40%) on whey and cheese; (from 5% to 30%) on pancreas; (from 5% to 10%) on bulbs and tubers; colour positive/negative unexposed cinematographic film in rolls; instant print film; and lead bars, rods, profiles and wires; (from zero to 100%) on meslin, durum wheat seeds and seeds of wheat (other than durum seeds); (from 5% to 10%) on MP3 or MP4 or MPEG 4 players with or without radio or video reception; tin plates, sheets and strip of thickness exceeding 0.2 mm; tin foil (whether or not printed or backed with paper, paper-board, plastics or similar backing material) of a thickness not exceeding 0.2 mm; and tin powders and flakes; (from 5% to 30%) on sugar beets; (from 5% to 150%) on angostura bitter; (from 80% to 100%) on margarine, animal and vegetable fats and oils under HS 1517 and 1518; (from 20% to 30%) on crude glycerol, glycerol waters and glycerol lyes (other than crude glycerine), and extrose monohydrate; (from 10% to 30%) on molasses resulting from refining of sugar; (from 30% to 45%) on chewing gum; (from 17.5% to 30%) on certain food preparations for infant use and put up for retail sale; (from 30% to 50%) on certain food preparations for infant use and put up for retail sale; (from 30% to 35%) on preserved potatoes; (from 7.5% to 30%) on peanut butter; (from 7.5% to 10%) on	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 22/7/2019-DGTR - (Case No. (SG) 7/2019) - Bilateral Safeguard Investigation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (7 November 2019)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
colloidal precious metals; compounds of precious metal; amalgams of precious metals, certain motors; and zinc tubes, pipes and tube or pipe fittings; (from 5% to 7.5%) on butyl acrylate, kainine salts, polished cubic zirconia, platinum and palladium used in the manufacture of catalytic converters, raw substrate (ceramic); wash coated substrate (ceramic); raw substrate (metal); wash coated substrate (metal); stainless steel wire cloth stripe (falling under HS 7314.14.10); wash coat used in manufacture of catalytic converters and their parts; sprinklers and drip irrigation; and poultry incubators and brooders; (from 10% to 20%) on isolated soya protein; (from zero to 10%) on cinematographic films, exposed but not developed; tanned furskin; specified vibrator motors/ringers; and display assemblies; (from zero to 7.5%) on compostable polymer or bio-plastic; (from 7.5% to 25%) on water blocking tape; (from zero to 10%/15%) on raw furskin; (from zero to 0.5%) on certain synthetic or reconstructed precious or semi-precious stones; (from zero to 12.5%) on gold wire with phosphorus or antimony doping, gold in the form of wire, ribbon, pre-form of purity of 99.9%; (from 10% to 15%) on headphones and earphones; on copper and articles thereof, when used in the manufacture of specified electronic goods; and (from 2.5% to 7.5%) on rotary tillers/weeders		
Increase of import tariffs (from 30% to 40%) on completely built units (CBUs) of commercial vehicles (other than electric vehicles); (from 25% to 40%) on CBUs of commercial electrical vehicles; (from 15% to 30%) on semi knocked down (SKD) electric passenger vehicles; (from 15% to 25%) on SKD electric vehicles -buses, trucks and two wheelers; and (from 10% to 15%) on completely knocked down (CKD) forms of electric vehicles - passenger vehicles, three wheelers, two wheelers, buses and trucks (HS 8702; 8703; 8704; 8711)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
Increase of the road and infrastructure cess (to INR 10/L) on imports of petrol and high-speed diesel oil (HS 2710). On 6 May 2020, a further increased to INR 18/L	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue Notification Nos. 15/2020-Customs (13 March 2020) and 21/2020-Customs (5 May 2020)	Effective 14 March 2020
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions (HS 0703.10.10; 0712.20.00), resulting in an export liberalization	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (2 March 2020)	Effective 15 March 2020
Withdrawal of the basic customs duty exemption on certain products, e.g. on gold used in the manufacture of semi-conductor devices or light emitting diodes; on copper and articles thereof used for the manufacturing of ITA goods (HS 7108.12.00; 7108.13.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification Nos. 5/2020-Customs, 6/2020-Customs, 7/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
Increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. (from 30% to 100%) on shelled walnuts (HS 0802.32.00); (from 10% to 17.5%) on certain miscellaneous chemical products (HS 3824.99.00); (from 25% to 35%) on footwear (HS 64); (from 10% to 20%) on artificial flowers, foliage and fruit and parts thereof, articles made of artificial flowers, foliage or fruits (HS 6702); tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and the Finance Bill, 2020 (Bill No. 26 of 2020) (1 February 2020). Viewed at: https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Finance_Bill.pdf	Effective 1 April 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>toilet articles, of porcelain or china (HS 6911); ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, other than of porcelain or china (HS 6912); glassware (HS 7013); glass beads, imitation pearls, imitation precious or semi-precious stones and similar glassware (HS 7018.10.20); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of copper; pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of copper (HS 7418.10); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of aluminium; pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of aluminium (HS 7615.10); and certain miscellaneous articles of base metal (HS 8301; 8304; 8305; 8306; 8310); certain fans (HS 8414.51); certain electrical machinery and equipment (HS 8504; 8509; 8510); electric instantaneous or storage water heaters (HS 8516); certain miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS 9603; 9604; 9615; 9617); (from 10% to 12.5%) on coin (HS 7118); compressors of a kind used in refrigerating equipment (HS 8414.30.00); and certain hoods (HS 8414.80.11); (from 15% to 20%) certain parts of footwear (HS 6406); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of iron or steel; iron or steel wool; and pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of iron or steel (HS 7323); (from 7.5% to 10%) on certain fans (HS 8414.51.40; 8414.59); refrigerators, freezers and other refrigerating or freezing equipment (HS 8418); certain machinery (HS 8419.89.10); and brazing or soldering machines and apparatus (HS 8515); (from 7.5% to 20%) on certain fans (HS 8414.51.90; 8414.59.20); (from 10% to 15%) on certain filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus for gases (HS 8421.39); and (from 20% to 25%) on miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS 9401; 9403; 9404; 9405); (from 20% to 60%) on tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys, dolls, puzzles, and recreational models (HS 9503)</p>		
<p>Amendments introduced in the Import Policy Conditions of Silver under Chapter 71 of the ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule - I (Import Policy). Imports restricted. Imports allowed only through nominated agencies as notified by the Reserve Bank of India (in the case of banks) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (for other agencies). However, imports of silver (powder; unwrought; sheets, plates, strips, tubes and pipes) under advance authorization and the supply of silver directly by foreign buyers to exporters under Para 4.45 of the FTP against export orders are exempted (HS 7106)</p>	<p>Notification No. 05/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (13 May 2020)</p>	<p>Effective 13 May 2020</p>
Indonesia		
<p>Revised import licensing regulations on iron and steel, steel alloys and their derivative products (HS Chapter 72; 73)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 June 2020) and Regulation of Minister of Trade No. 3/2020</p>	<p>Effective 31 January 2020</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Mexico		
Extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs (from 20% to 25% - 30%) on certain footwear (32 tariff lines at 8-digit level in Chapter 64); and (from 20% to 25%) on certain articles of apparel and clothing accessories (285 tariff lines at 8-digit level in Chapters 61; 62; 63) (originally effective 6 May 2019, for 180 days)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 28 October 2019	Effective 29 October 2019
Import prohibition on e-cigarettes (HS 3824.90.83; 8543.70.18; 8543.90.03)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 19 February 2020	Effective 20 February 2020
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>precios estimados</i>) for imports of yarn of synthetic staple fibres, felt, non-wovens, pile fabrics, articles of apparel and clothing accessories, rags and footwear (HS 5509; 5602; 5603; 6001; 6107; 6108; 6110; 6210; 6310; 6402; 6403; 6404)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 3 March 2020	Effective March 2020
Nepal		
Increase of import tariffs (to Rs 6,500/10 g) on gold and (Rs 75/10 g) on silver (HS 7106; 7108)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (31 March 2020)	Effective 4 November 2019
New Zealand		
Increase of the Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levy rate for the year 2020, due to increases in emission unit prices (HS Chapters 39; 84; 86; 87; 88; 89)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (21 May 2020), Ministry for the Environment. Viewed at: https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/new-zealand-emissions-trading-scheme/participating-nz-ets/synthetic-greenhouse-gases	Effective 1 January 2020
Pakistan		
Temporary export ban on onions	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (30 April 2020)	
Eurasian Economic Union (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russian Federation)		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 5%) on light-emitting diode (LED) lamps (HS 8539.50.00)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020 to 31 December 2020
SACU – Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa)		
Increase of import tariffs (from 12%/37% to 42%/62%) on frozen meat and edible offal of fowls of the species <i>gallus domesticus</i> (HS 0207) (effective 13 March 2020); (from zero to 30%) on fully-automatic top-loading washing machines (HS 8450.11.10) (effective 30 March 2020); and (to 15%) on polyethylene terephthalate "PET" (HS 3907) (effective 30 March 2020). Imports from the European Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 May 2020) and International Trade Administration Commission Notice Nos. R. 309 - Government Gazette No. 43091 (13 March 2020), R. 425 and 426 - Government Gazette No. 43179 (30 March 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Thailand		
Temporary export ban on bird Eggs of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> (HS 0407.21.00; 0407.29.90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.2, 30 March 2020	Effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2020
Import prohibition on used motor vehicles	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 10 December 2019

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Turkey		
Increase of import tariffs (by 10%/15%) on certain textile products (effective 18 October 2019); (by 17%) on certain products of stainless steel (effective 1 January 2020); and (by 6.5%/15%) on fork-lift trucks (effective 25 January 2020) (HS 5803; 5804; 5806; 5807; 5808; 5809; 5810; 5811; 8427.10; 8427.20; 8427.90; 7219.31; 7219.32; 7219.33; 7219.34; 7219.35; 7220.20.21; 7220.20.29; 7220.20.41; 7220.20.49; 7220.20.81; 7220.20.89)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Implementation of temporary prior export authorization on onions and potatoes (HS 0701.90; 0703.10.19) (effective 7 January 2020), and on fresh lemons (HS 0805.50.10) (effective 7 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Regulation of import tariffs on sunflower seed oil (18% until 31 May 2020 and 30% until 30 June 2020); and on sunflower seeds (9% until 31 May 2020 and 13% until 30 June 2020) (HS 1512.11.91; 1206.00.91; 1206.00.99)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020
Ukraine		
Temporary export restriction on buckwheat and buckwheat grain (uncoated) (HS 1008.10.00; 1104.29.17)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.3, 15 April 2020	Effective 9 April 2020 to 1 July 2020
United States of America		
Imposition of an additional duty of 15% on certain products from China (555 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 03; 05; 06; 08; 12; 14; 15; 16; 22; 28; 29; 32; 33; 36; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 49; 52; 54; 55; 58; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 66; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 76; 79; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96)	USTR Press Releases (13 and 23 August 2019). Viewed at: https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/august/ustr-announces-next-steps-proposed ; and https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/august/ustr-statement-section-301-tariff	Effective 15 December 2019
An additional 25% <i>ad valorem</i> rate imposed on top of the additional 25% <i>ad valorem</i> rate of duty on derivative steel articles (HS Chapters 72 and 73) for national security reasons (originally imposed on 23 March 2018). Imports from Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Mexico and Korea, Rep. of exempted	Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of derivative aluminium articles and derivative steel articles into the United States (24 January 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-derivative-aluminum-articles-derivative-steel-articles-united-states/	Effective 8 February 2020
An additional 10% <i>ad valorem</i> rate imposed on top of the additional 10% <i>ad valorem</i> rate of duty on derivative aluminium articles (HS Chapter 76) for national security reasons (originally imposed on 23 March 2018). Imports from Argentina, Australia, Canada and Mexico exempted	Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of derivative aluminium articles and derivative steel articles into the United States (24 January 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-derivative-aluminum-articles-derivative-steel-articles-united-states/	Effective 8 February 2020

Recorded, but not confirmed information¹

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Indonesia		
Temporary import ban on dairy products and alcoholic beverages from the European Union	Agence France Presse ECOFI (13 March 2020)	Effective January 2020
Kazakhstan		
Transit goods for the Kyrgyz Republic delayed in customs	Akipress.com (13 February 2020)	
Kenya		
Temporary import ban on used garments (HS 6309.00)	The Star (27 March 2020)	
Senegal		
Trucks registered in the Gambia prohibited to circulate in Senegal	The Point (Gambia) (4 March 2020)	
Tanzania		
Imposition of an excise duty (80%) on cigarettes imported from Kenya	Tobacco Journal International (27 February 2020)	

¹ This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

ANNEX 4 – MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-MAY 2020)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS					
Algeria (Observer)					
<p>The 2020 Finance Law, enacted on 1 January, abolished the rule that limited foreign capital ownership in companies to a maximum of 49% in non-strategic sectors. Sectors concerned will be defined in separate legislation.</p> <p>The new law also permits the use of external financing for "strategic, flagships, and targeted" projects. Previously, only local financing was allowed.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>2020 Finance Law</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=5a5ea290-25ad-47c8-907c-fec4bd940849</p>	28 November 2019	
Argentina					
<p>The government adopted new measures to tax certain transactions involving the acquisition of foreign currency. Set to apply for five years from 23 December 2019, the tax applies to a number of transactions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purchases of foreign currency without a specific purpose by Argentine residents, under the limitations imposed by the Central Bank; - purchases of goods or services from abroad or purchases by Argentine residents abroad through credit, debit or purchase, including cash withdrawals made outside Argentina; - purchases made online through portals or virtual websites in foreign currency; - purchases of services rendered abroad through Argentine travel agencies; - purchases of ground, air and maritime passenger services with destinations outside Argentina (except ground passenger services to neighbouring countries). 	Modes 1-2	Various sectors	<p>General Resolution 4659/2020</p> <p>Decree 99/2019 - Ley de Solidaridad Social y Reactivación Productiva en el Marco de la Emergencia Pública;</p> <p>Viewed at: https://taxinsights.ey.com/archive/archive-news/argentina-implements-new-tax-on-purchase-of-foreign-currency.aspx</p> <p>https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primer</p>	<p>Published in Official Gazette on 7 January 2020</p> <p>Effective 23 December 2019</p>	

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The tax rate is 30%, except for the purchase of digital services, which are subject to a 8% rate. Both Argentine individuals and entities are subject to the tax. Argentine financial institutions, credit card issuers, travel agencies and transport companies must collect the tax.					
Austria					
<p>The government adopted a new law introducing a 5% tax on online advertising revenue for companies with global annual revenues of over EUR 750 million (from all sources) and advertising revenues of over EUR 25 million in Austria.</p> <p>The Act applies to domestic online advertising services, which are defined as services received by a user with a domestic IP address and whose content and design are targeted at domestic users. The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) is not subject to the advertisement tax.</p>	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Digital Tax Act 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/digital-services-taxation/countries-cit-map/austria-digital-services-tax</p>	<p>Published in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette on 22 October 2019.</p> <p>Effective from 1 January 2020.</p>	YES
Benin					
Benin's Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports launched a new online platform (monentreprise.bj) allowing all regulatory processes required to open a business to be conducted digitally, at lower costs and more promptly.	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Viewed at: https://cio-maq.com/le-benin-lance-sa-plateforme-de-creation-dentreprise-en-ligne/</p>	17 February 2020	
Chile					
<p>The Tax Reform (Law No. 21210, published on 24 February 2020), introduced amendments to the VAT Law in order to create a new simplified registration and compliance VAT regime for non-resident suppliers to facilitate compliance on business-to-consumer (B2C) transactions, according to OECD International VAT/GST Guidelines. For these purposes, the Tax Reform grouped together into a new special provision (Article 8, letter n, of the VAT Law) the following VAT taxable events, all of which consist of remunerated services supplied by non-resident:</p> <p>- (i) The intermediation of (a) any services rendered in Chile, or (b) sales made in Chile or abroad provided that the latter give rise to an import to Chile;</p>	Mode 1	Selected sectors	<p>Law No. 21210</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.leychile.cl/Navegar?idNorma=1142667</p>	Effective 1 June 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (ii) The supply or delivery of digital entertainment content, such as videos, music, games or other analogues, through downloading, streaming or other technology, including for these purposes, texts, magazines, newspapers and books; - (iii) The supply of software, storage, platforms or IT infrastructure; and - (iv) Advertising, regardless of the support or means through which it is delivered, completed or executed. <p>All these services are subject to the general VAT rate of 19%.</p>					
China					
On 26 December 2019, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Foreign Investment Law of the People's Republic of China were issued by the State Council. The regulation came into force on 1 January 2020. ²	Mode 3	All Sectors	P.R.C. State Council Decree No. 723	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
New measures were adopted in relation to the reporting of information on foreign investment.	Mode 3	All Sectors	MOFCOM and State Administration for Market Regulation Decree [2019] No. 2	Issued on 30 December 2019; effective from 1 January 2020	YES
Colombia					
A new measure establishes the procedure for a voluntary alternate tax payment through withholding system for the VAT on digital services provided from abroad by foreign service providers to Colombian residents.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Resolution 000017 of 28 February 2020 Viewed at: https://www.dian.gov.co/normatividad/Normatividad/Resolución%20000017%20de%2028-02-2020.pdf	11 March 2020	YES
Egypt					
The government amended the regulations governing the investment regime to require all companies with foreign investment that are incorporated or to be incorporated in Egypt to provide authorities with certain information and data in order to calculate the direct and indirect foreign investment capital. In case of breach of or non-compliance, fines of up to L.E.50.000 can be imposed.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree 2731 of 2019 amending the Executive Regulations of the Investment Law no. 72 of 2017 Viewed at: https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2019/11/13/egypts-pm-approves-new-amendments-to-investment-laws-executive-regulations/	Effective 7 November 2019	YES

² The new Foreign Investment Law is addressed in WT/TPR/OV/22, Annex 4.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union					
<p>On 1 January 2020, the European Union Directive on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions entered into force.</p> <p>The Directive seeks to create a European Union-wide legal framework to enhance the fundamental principle of freedom of establishment. The new rules introduce procedures for cross-border conversions and divisions and provide for additional rules on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies established in an EU member state.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Directive (EU) 2019/2121 of 27 November 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L2121</p>	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
France					
<p>The government adopted new measures that expand and clarify authorizations for foreign investment in France.</p> <p>The measures lower the thresholds for foreign investments by non-EU investors subject to prior authorisation, from 33.33% to 25% of voting rights in an entity governed by French law. They also provide for additional sectors of activities that fall under the foreign investment regulations, including print and digital media, and critical technologies (e.g. cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, robotics, additive manufacturing, semiconductors, quantum technologies, and energy storage). Further, the screening will focus on ascertaining whether a foreign investor has links to a foreign government or a foreign public body. Thus, investors are obligated to provide information in their applications on any potential significant capital ties or financial support received from a State or public body outside the European Union over the last five years. Moreover, the new measures aim to provide greater legal certainty to investors (first reply within 30 days, possibility to request an opinion on the sensitivity of activities).</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Decree No. 2019-1590 of 31 December 2019 and Ministerial Order of 31 December 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000039727443&categorieLien=id https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3468/france-expands-and-clarifies-its-fdi-screening-regime https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=7ffc3378-9939-4291-bfe2-092a45934b1f</p>	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Germany					
<p>The government adopted modifications to its foreign investment regime that aim to prevent the outflow of information or technologies that could have serious consequences for public order, safety and security in Germany.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Act</p> <p>Viewed at:</p>	8 April 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>Among other things, the amendments tighten the screening of foreign investment. All proposed foreign investments will be examined for any "likely adverse impact" on public order, safety or security – in line with the EU FDI Screening Regulation. The Foreign Trade and Payments Act had hitherto used as its criterion only the "actual and serious threat" posed.</p> <p>National investment screening can in future also take into account any possible impact on the public order, safety or security of another member state of the European Union, or on any projects or programmes that affect the interests of the Union.</p>			https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/aussenwirtschaftsgesetz-1742278		
India					
<p>On 23 March, the Indian Parliament passed an amended national budget, which expands the scope of India's equalization levy to include a new 2% tax on the sale of all goods and services by non-Indian companies over the Internet into India. The tax is levied on e-commerce operators, which are defined as non-residents who own, operate or manage a digital or electronic facility or platform for online sale of goods, online provision of services, or both.</p>	Mode 1	All sectors	<p>Amendments to the Finance Act 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://mnetax.com/indias-new-2-percent-equalisation-levy-on-the-digital-economy-enters-into-force-38297 </p>	Effective 1 April 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Indonesia					
<p>The government issued Regulation No. 80 of 2019 on Trading Through Electronic Systems (GR 80), which aims to regulate e-commerce activities in Indonesia. Among other things, the regulation requires all e-commerce businesses to obtain a business licence to carry out these activities.</p> <p>The regulation also applies to entities incorporated and located outside of Indonesia that conduct e-commerce business activities in Indonesia. A foreign supplier that meets certain thresholds relating to their business activities in Indonesia will have to appoint an Indonesian representative to act on its behalf. Threshold are to be further specified in separate regulations.</p> <p>GR 80 stipulates that personal data collected by e-commerce companies cannot be transferred offshore, unless the receiving jurisdiction is deemed by the Ministry of Trade as having the same level of protection of personal data as Indonesia.</p> <p>Further, e-commerce operators must prioritize the use of an Indonesian domain name, and assist compliance with government policies, such as policies on local content. Operators are also required to protect consumer rights in accordance with Indonesian law, and to provide a mechanism for responding to and resolving consumer complaints.</p> <p>The regulation, while effective since 25 November 2019, has a 2-year transitional period.</p>	Multiple modes	Various sectors	<p>Government Regulation No. 80/2019 on Trading Through Electronic Systems (GR 80)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/12/indonesia-specific-e-commerce-regulation https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-law-on-e-commerce-clear-guidelines-and-compliance-by-november-2021/</p>	Effective 25 November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The government issued a new regulation on electronic systems and transactions, revoking its earlier regulation of 2012 on the same subject. The new regulation allows private sector electronic system operators to transfer, process, and store data outside of Indonesia. Public electronic system operators must still keep their electronic systems and data in Indonesia, unless otherwise provided.</p> <p>Private electronic system operators must allow supervision by government agencies, including granting access to the electronic systems and data for monitoring and law enforcement purposes.</p> <p>The regulation provides that institutions that have 'strategic' electronic data must connect their electronic documents and electronic backup records to certain data centres in the event of an incident that must be reported to the cybersecurity authority. Strategic electronic data that must be protected include those in sectors such as transport, finance, health care, information technology and communication, and energy.</p>	Modes 1-2	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Government Regulation No. 71 of 2019 on the Implementation of Electronic Systems and Transactions (GR 71), which revokes Government Regulation No. 82 of 2012 on the same subject (GR 82).</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/10/new-regulation-electronic-system-and-transactions</p>	21 October 2019	
Israel					
The Security Cabinet of Israel established an advisory committee that will assess national security implications of foreign investment in finance, communications, infrastructures, transportation and the energy sector. Where a transaction raises potential national security concerns, regulators may consult with the committee on a voluntary basis.	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Viewed at: https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/spoke_national_security301019</p> <p>https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3426/israel-government-establishes-a-committee-to-evaluate-national-security-implications-of-foreign-investment</p>	30 October 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Italy					
<p>A new law in Italy establishes a 'National Cyber Security Perimeter', aiming to ensure a high level of security of networks, information systems and IT services. The government is to issue a list of entities and companies subject to security-related obligations.</p> <p>The new law also modifies the FDI regime in relation to 'special powers', which allow the government to impose conditions on, or veto, certain transactions in strategic sectors. Among other things, the new law extends the term for the government to exercise special powers from 15 to 45 days, broadens the content of the information to be provided to the government, and specifies the criteria used to assess if a foreign investment is likely to affect national security or public order. The law provides that the assessment should now also consider whether foreign contracts and acquisitions could compromise integrity and security of networks and data passing through these networks.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Law No. 133/2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://bakerxchange.com/rv/ff00572f12700e271e452d323a4d8e8d81e03882 https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3493/italy-cybernetic-national-security-perimeter-law-tightens-the-fdi-screening-regime</p>	Effective 21 November 2019	
<p>Italian Budget Law for 2020 introduced a 3% digital service tax (DST) on revenues derived from certain digital services provided to users located in Italy.</p> <p>The tax applies to entities that meet certain revenue thresholds: - total amount of worldwide revenues (wherever arising) equal to or exceeding EUR 750 million and an amount of revenues from qualified digital services in Italy equal to or exceeding EUR 5.5 million.</p> <p>The tax is to be paid by Italian taxpayers as well as by non-Italian-resident companies, and covers both B2C and B2B transactions. The DST provisions contain a sunset clause providing that it will be automatically repealed once an agreement on the scope of a DST is reached at OECD level. Digital services subject to the DST fall in three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - digital targeted advertising, which concerns advertising on a digital platform targeted at users of that interface; - intermediation services, which concerns online platforms and multi-sided digital interfaces that allow 	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Law No. 160 of 27 December 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=a45c9cc5-3b43-407d-9b4d-74e7ab3859cc https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italys-digital-services-tax-enters-into-force-as-of-1%C2%A0january-2020</p>	Effective 1 January 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
users interaction and facilitate the supply of goods or services; and - data transmission services, which involve the transmission of data collected and generated by users from their activities on digital interfaces.					
Japan					
Japan's Diet adopted amendments to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. Among other things, the amendments require overseas investors to seek prior notification from the government before obtaining a 1% or higher stake in a listed Japanese firm engaged in business related to weapons, nuclear energy, semiconductors, railroads and other areas. Prior to the amendments, the threshold was set at 10%. This is accompanied by a system where foreign investors can be exempted from prior-notification requirement if they meet certain conditions. Certain foreign investors' actions after stock purchases will also be subject to prior-notification, namely: (i) when foreign investors or closely related persons become board members of the investee company; and (ii) when foreign investors propose transfer or disposition of critical business domain of the investee company at shareholders' meetings.	Mode 3	All sectors	Amended Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act Viewed at: https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/asures/3457/japan-revises-rules-on-foreign-investment https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Japan-tightens-entry-of-foreign-investors-in-12-strategic-sectors	Effective May 2020	YES
Kenya					
The government adopted the Data Protection Act, which sets out requirements on how personally identifiable data obtained by firms and government entities can be handled, stored and shared. An independent office will investigate data infringements. The Act requires proof that personal data will be secure as a condition for transferring the data outside Kenya. The Act also requires consent of the data subject as a condition for the cross-border transfer of sensitive personal data.	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Data Protection Act, 2019 Viewed at: http://kenyalaw.org/ki/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/2019/TheDataProtectionAct_No24of2019.pdf https://qz.com/africa/1746202/kenya-has-passed-new-data-protection-laws-in-compliance-with-gdpr/	8 November 2019	
The Finance Act 2019 broadens the coverage of the Income Tax Act to include income accruing from a digital marketplace. In addition, a similar change has been made to the VAT Act to make digital market	All modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Finance Act, 2019 Viewed at:	Effective 7 November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
services subject to value-added tax. The law defines a digital marketplace as a platform that enables direct interactions between buyers and sellers of goods and services through electronic means.			https://theconversation.com/kenyas-tax-on-digital-trade-and-services-whats-known-and-not-known-127366 https://www.bowmanslaw.com/insights/tax/wh-at-new-digital-taxes-contemplated-in-the-finance-act-mean-for-digital-trade-and-services-in-kenya/		
A new measure signed into law by the President on 19 March 2020 expands the use of electronic signatures and electronic authentication. The new Bill, which amends the Information and Communication Act, also allows, among other things, for the transfer of properties and securities to be conducted digitally.	All modes	All sectors	Business Law (Amendment) Bill, 2019 Viewed at: https://techweez.com/2020/03/19/business-law-bill-electronic-signatures	Signed into law on 19 March 2020	
Malaysia					
<p>From 1 January 2020, foreign service providers outside Malaysia that provide any digital services to consumers in Malaysia are required to charge 6% service tax to consumers, which includes individuals and businesses.</p> <p>Under the law, digital services are any service that is delivered or subscribed over the Internet or other electronic network and which cannot be obtained without the use of information technology and where the delivery of the service is essentially automated. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supply of digital content/products, e.g. e-books, games, apps, movies, TV shows and music; - online licencing of software, including computer games; - databases, including updates and add-ons; - advertising services on the Internet (online advertising platforms); - subscription to membership or news website; - webinars or distance learning courses; - supply and hosting of websites, remote maintenance of software and hardware; - storage and processing of information in the Internet, e.g. cloud services; - provision of access to the Internet search systems; - provision of domain name services; 	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Service Tax (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Service Tax Regulations (Amendment) 2020</p> <p>Service Tax (Digital Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.federalgazette.agc.gov.my/output/ktap/20190709_A1597_BI_Act%20A1597%20BI.pdf https://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/SST%20Regulations/regula/Service%20Tax%20Regulations%20(Amendment)%202020.pdf https://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/SST%20Regulations/regula/Service%20Tax%20(Digital%20Services)%20Amendment%20Regulations%202019.pdf</p>	<p>Effective 1 January 2020</p> <p>Effective 14 May 2020</p> <p>Effective 1 January 2020</p>	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>- electronic Distribution Platform (EDP).</p> <p>The law applies only to foreign service providers with an annual turnover of at least MYR 500,000 in relation to the provision of digital services to consumers in Malaysia. Those suppliers must register with authorities in Malaysia.</p>					
North Macedonia					
<p>The government a new law to encourage 'strategic investments'. The law grants preferential treatment to such investments, which have to be above a certain threshold value and to be in a defined list of sectors, including energy, transport, telecommunication, tourism, health, wastewater and waste management.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Law on Strategic Investments</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.karanovicpartners.com/news/law-on-strategic-investments-adopted-in-north-macedonia/</p>	Published in the Official Gazette on 20 January 2020	
Pakistan					
<p>The government adopted a new law regulating social media platforms. The new measure requires platforms to block or remove posts that are considered objectionable.</p> <p>The regulator can also obtain, on demand, user data and information from the companies. The regulations aim to monitor and mitigate online content relating to terrorism, extremism, hate speech, fake news, incitement to violence and national security. Unlawful content must be removed within 24 hours. In case of non-compliance, a company's services can be blocked and fine of up to 500 million rupees can be imposed.</p> <p>The law also requires social media companies to set up a physical presence in the country and to appoint a contact person who will report to a national coordinator at Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Telecommunications.</p>	Multiple modes	Social media platforms	<p>Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules, 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.dw.com/en/pakistans-new-internet-laws-tighten-control-over-social-media/a-52375508 https://qulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/pakistan-rethinks-social-media-laws-1.70073974</p>	28 January 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Singapore					
The Personal Data Protection Commission revised its advisory guidelines on the Personal Data Protection Act, including by adding a new chapter on cloud services. The new Chapter 8 offers more clarity on the responsibilities of cloud service providers and organisations using cloud services to process personal data.	Modes 1-3	Internet and other network-enabled services	Update to the Advisory Guidelines on Key Concepts in the Personal Data Protection Act Viewed at: https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/guidelines-and-consultation/2020/03/advisory-guidelines-on-key-concepts-in-the-personal-data-protection-act	9 October 2019	YES
Further, Chapter 6 has been revised to provide greater clarity on the obligations of organisations and data intermediaries where personal data is transferred overseas. Chapter 15 has been revised to provide clarity on situations where organisations need not accede to an access request, the charging of fees, access requests relating to legal proceedings, and good practice of preserving personal data after rejecting an access request.					
Since 1 January 2020, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been extended to business-to-consumer (B2C) imported digital services in Singapore by way of an Overseas Vendor Registration (OVR) regime. This is a consumption tax on the cross-border consumption of digital services by consumers who do not reside in the same jurisdiction as the service provider. Foreign suppliers of digital services and electronic marketplace operators must register under the OVR regime and account for GST on their B2C digital services if their annual global turnover and B2C digital services provided to customers in Singapore exceeds certain thresholds. Previously, only services procured from local GST-registered businesses were subject to GST. For authorities, the imposition of GST on imported digital services is in line with internationally agreed standards formulated by the OECD Global Forum on VAT to harmonise the application of VAT/GST in the context of international trade.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Viewed at: https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/GST/GST-registered-businesses/GST-and-Digital-Economy/GST-on-Imported-Services/	Effective 1 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Turkey					
<p>The government adopted a digital services tax (DST). The new measure introduces a 7.5% tax on the revenue gained from the supply of such services as digital advertising, sale of any audio, visual or digital content through digital platforms and services provided in digital media for listening, recording, playing, viewing or using any of these contents.</p> <p>Any services that provide for or operate in a way in which users can interact with each other, such as social media platforms and digital intermediary services relating to the above services will also be subject to DST. The tax applies to services deemed to have been provided in Turkey. Companies are subject to the tax if their revenues from the relevant services are at least EUR 750 million globally and TL 20 million in Turkey.</p>	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Law no.7194 on Digital Services Tax</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Tax/873488/A-Summary-Of-The-New-Legislation-Regarding-Digital-Services-Tax https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Turkeys_7.5_Digital_Services_Tax_to_be_effective_1_March_2020/\$FILE/2020G_000230-20Gbl_Indirect_Turkey%20-%20Digital%20Services%20Tax%20to%20be%20effective%201%20March%202020.pdf</p>	<p>Published in the Official Gazette on 7 December 2019.</p> <p>Effective 1 March 2020</p>	YES
Ukraine					
<p>The government adopted new measures simplifying registration procedures for representative offices of foreign companies in Ukraine. Registration fees have been reduced, and the timelines have been shorted from 60 to 20 business days.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 23 October 2019 No. 893 "On Some Issues for Registration of Representative Offices of Foreign Business Entities in Ukraine"</p> <p>Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/893-2019-%D0%BF</p>	Effective 2 November 2019	YES
United Kingdom					
<p>The government introduced the digital services tax (DST), a new 2% tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces which derive value from UK users. These businesses will be liable to the DST when the group's worldwide revenues from these digital activities are more than £500 million and more than GBP 25 million of these revenues are derived from UK users. If the group's revenues exceed these thresholds, its revenues derived from UK users will be taxed at a rate of 2%. There is an allowance of £25 million, meaning that a group's first £25 million of revenues derived from UK users will not be subject to the DST.</p>	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/digital-services-tax</p>	Effective 1 April 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The government indicated it is committed to dis-applying the DST once an appropriate international solution is in place.					
United States					
<p>New regulations have broadened the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) by expanding its review powers over foreign investments in United States businesses.</p> <p>The new regulations implement the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 ("FIRRMA"), which aimed to allow CFIUS to better address national security concerns. The new rules clarify and revise proposed regulations issued by the Treasury Department in September 2019.</p> <p>Under the new regime, the CFIUS has express jurisdiction to review non-controlling investments in critical technology, critical infrastructure and sensitive personal data businesses. This is limited to situations where a foreign investor gains: access to material non-public technical information related to critical technology or covered investment critical infrastructure; membership or observer rights on, or the right to nominate an individual to the board of directors; or an involvement in decision-making of the U.S. business. Transactions involving government-controlled entities from certain foreign countries are exempted from these requirements.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Provisions Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States (31 C.F.R. part 802)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm872</p>	Effective 13 February 2020	
Uzbekistan (Observer)					
<p>The government adopted, on 25 December 2019, a new Investment Law. The law establishes a framework for the protection and promotion of both domestic and foreign investment.</p> <p>Among other things, the law guarantees foreign investors the freedom to transfer funds and protection against expropriation. It also provides that foreign invested companies shall be treated equally to domestic companies.</p> <p>The law also provides for the creation of a one-stop-shop service by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Law No. 598 on Investment and Investment Activities</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=372e53d5-7a4f-45bf-9eb7-8b56dcc8f365</p>	Effective 27 January 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ENGINEERING SERVICES					
China					
Annulment of the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFTEC Decree No. 113) and the Supplementary Provisions to the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFCOM Decree No. 121). Foreign-invested companies are treated the same as domestic companies and are allowed to carry out a variety of construction activities according to the law.	Mode 3	Construction and Related Engineering Services	Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Ministry of Commerce Provisions on Annuling Certain Rules Including the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFCOM Decree No.49) Viewed at: http://www.mohurd.gov.cn	Effective 17 January 2020	YES
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES					
Indonesia					
The Minister of Trade issued a new regulation on franchising. Among other things, the measure removes the requirement to use 80% locally-sourced raw materials, equipment or products and instead obliges the franchisor to prioritise the use of local goods and services so long as the goods and services meet the quality set by the franchisor. The new regulation also removes the restriction on the maximum number of outlets. Under the previous framework, a franchisor's maximum number of outlets was 150 for 'modern shop businesses' and 250 for food and beverage businesses.	Mode 3	Franchising services	Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 71 of 2019 on Franchises Viewed at: https://www.fieldfisher.com/en/insights/indonesia-key-changes-to-franchising-law-as-minist	September 2019	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The government adopted the New Franchise Law, which establishes a regulatory framework for relationships between franchisors and franchisees. The law will apply to all franchising arrangements implemented in Saudi Arabia. Previously, franchising arrangements were treated as a commercial agency and were governed by the Commercial Agencies Law.	Modes 1 and 3	Distribution services	Commercial Franchise Law 122/1441 Viewed at: https://www.twobirds.com/en/news/articles/2020/uae/saudi-franchise-law-and-the-implications-on-existing-franchise-agreements	Published in the Official Gazette on 22 October 2019. Effective 22 April 2020.	YES
EDUCATION SERVICES					
China					
Foreign education institutions, other organizations or individuals are allowed to separately set up non-compulsory vocational training institutions in pilot free trade zones, to further deepen the reform and opening up process in the field of education.	Mode 3	Education services	Special Administrative Measures on Access of Foreign Investment to the Pilot Free Trade Zones (Negative List) (2019 edition) Viewed at:	Effective as of 30 June 2019 until the issuance of the Special Administrative Measures on Access of Foreign Investment to the Pilot Free	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-06/30/content_5404702.htm?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0	Trade Zones (Negative List) (2020 edition)	
Costa Rica					
The government adopted a new law on education and dual training, which allows students to participate in vocational training in addition to their classroom studies.	Mode 3	Education services	Law No. 9728 (Law of on Dual Education and Training) Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=89820&nValor3=118020&strTipM=TC	Effective 15 October 2019	YES
Ukraine					
A new measure was adopted in order to clarify the terminology and simplify the procedure for obtaining a license to supply higher education services.	Mode 3	Education services	Law No. 392 of 18 December 2019 'On Amending Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improvements of Education Activity in Higher Education Sector' Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/392-20	Effective 16 January 2020	YES
HEALTH SERVICES					
Germany					
Digital health applications that meet certain requirements will be covered by the German state health insurance schemes from 2020. Patients will need to obtain a prescription by a physician or psychotherapist or their health scheme's prior approval. To qualify for coverage, an app must be a digital low-risk medical device. In addition, the manufacturer must apply for registration with a new registry which will be kept by the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices. The detailed requirements for registration are being provided for in a regulation that entered into force on 21 April 2020. The regulation contains provisions pertaining to aspects such as security, data protection, data security and quality. In addition, digital health applications need to provide evidence concerning a positive impact on care (i.e. medical benefit or procedural or structural improvements to care).	Multiple modes	Health services	Viewed at: https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/plenum/bundesrat/kompakt/19/983/12.html;jsessionid=C5D4768B55129D47A44E9774F4D75CB9.1_cid382?nn=4352768#top-12	19 December 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
India					
Telemedicine in India is now regulated by the 'Telemedicine Practice Guidelines' released by the Board of Governors (in supersession of the the Medical Council of India). These guidelines enable practice of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) through telemedicine. The Guidelines are added as Appendix 5 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics Regulation 2002). Freedom is given to medical practitioners to use any suitable technology for consultations with patients. The guidelines cover the following types of interactions: patient to RMP, caregiver to RMP, health worker to RMP, RMP to RMP and emergency situations. The guidelines do not cover consultations involving doctors or patients outside India. Finally, the guidelines cover technology platforms enabling telemedicine.	Mode 3	Health services	Viewed at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Telemedicine.pdf	25 March 2020	YES
Indonesia					
The Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a new regulation on telemedicine services that provides official directions on the scope of telemedicine, requirements, rights and obligations, cost, funding and supervision.	Mode 3	Health services	Ministry of Health Regulation No. 20 of 2019 on the Implementation of Telemedicine Services between Health Services Facilities ("MOH Regulation 20"), implementing MOH Regulation No. 90 of 2015 on Provision of Healthcare Services in Remote and Very Remote Areas Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/09/updates-on-telemedicine-services-in-indonesia	November 2019	
The Minister of Health issued a new regulation on the classification and licensing of hospitals, which repeals a regulation adopted in 2019, thereby removing certain limits on foreign investment in certain types of hospitals classified as Class C and D. Foreign investment (up to a maximum of 67% for non-ASEAN investors) is no longer linked to the classification of the hospitals, but according to the number of beds provided (i.e. 200 beds or another required number of beds in accordance with the relevant international agreements or cooperation).	Mode 3	Hospital services	MOH Regulation No. 3 of 2020 on the Classification and Licensing of Hospitals ("MOH Regulation 3") Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/-/media/files/insight/publications/2020/02/client-alert-on-the-minister-of-health-finally-revokes-the-controversial-regulation-no30-of-2019-on-the-classification-and-licensing-of-hospitals.pdf	February 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Singapore					
The Parliament of Singapore approved the Healthcare Services Bill, which replaces the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act. The new regulatory regime introduces a services-based licensing regime where healthcare service providers need to obtain a licence based on the type of service they provide, rather than the previous premises-based licensing regime. This aims to provide greater clarity and flexibility in the licensing of healthcare services. Certain non-premise-based services such as telemedicine, mobile medical and ambulance services will be subject to the new licensing scheme. The Bill is expected to be implemented in three phases, targeting the first half of 2021 and ending by end 2022.	Mode 3	Health services	Healthcare Services Act Viewed at: https://www.moh.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider/r8/default-document-library/healthcare_services_(draft)_bill_2017122241b0a3bc9c8c4d65b2ac0bbfa0aa81bf.pdf	6 January 2020	YES
United Arab Emirates					
The Dubai Health Authority issued standards for telehealth services. These standards set out the minimum requirements for the provision of telehealth services, focused on ensuring high quality care delivery and ensuring protection of patient data and confidentiality. Telehealth services include, but are not limited to, scheduling appointments, assessment, providing medical advice, treatment, therapy, laboratory testing, diagnostics, surgery, monitoring chronic conditions, counselling, and prescribing and dispensing of medication.	Multiple modes	Health services	Standards for Telehealth Services Viewed at: https://services.dha.gov.ae/sheryan/wps/porta/home/circular-details?circularRefNo=CIR-2019-00000368&isPublicCircular=1&fromHome=true https://www.dha.gov.ae/Documents/HRD/RegulationsandStandards/standards/Standards%20for%20Telehealth%20Services%20Final.pdf	October 2019	
POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICES					
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu					
The government amended the Post Act, which aims to ensure that postal services develop comprehensively and are carried out in an accessible, fair and reasonable fashion.	All modes	Postal Services	Amendment to Postal Act of 5 December 2018 Viewed at: https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=K0050001 https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/News/NewsDetail.aspx?msgid=11793	1 November 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES					
Chad					
The government has exempted fixed communications and internet services from a 18% tax on monthly turnover imposed on mobile operators.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Finance Act 2020 Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/01/13/chad-exempts-internet-services-from-cellco-tax/?utm_source=CommsUpdate&utm_campaign=22ce2102c8-CommsUpdate+13+January+2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0688983330-22ce2102c8-11663509	December 2019	
Colombia					
The government has adopted a number of new measures in relation to audiovisual services and creative industries, including as regards productions qualifying for the Colombia Film Fund and tax benefits for enterprises in creative industries.	Multiple modes	Audiovisual services	Decree 474 of 25 March 2020 Law 2010 (article 91) of 27 December 2019 and Regulatory Decree 286 of 26 February 2020 Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20474%20DEL%2025%20DE%20MARZO%20DE%202020.pdf https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/LEY%202010%20DEL%2027%20DE%20DICIEMBRE%20DE%202019.pdf	Published 25 March 2020 Published on 27 December 2019	YES
Ecuador					
A new tax legislation introduces a special consumption tax of: 15% for paid television services; 15% for fixed telephony services and voice, data and SMS plans of mobile services provided to companies; and 10% for mobile phone services and plans that market only voice, data and SMS of mobile services provided to natural persons, excluding prepaid services.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication and audiovisual services	Article 35, Organic Law of Tax Simplification and Progressivity, published in Official Registry No. 111 of 31 December 2020 Viewed at: https://www.sri.gob.ec/web/guest/ley-organica-de-simplificacion-y-progresividad-tributaria	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
France					
In December, the government issued a Decree to assist the implementation of a law (No. 2019-810) that aims to preserve	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Decree No. 2019-1300 of 6 December 2019 Viewed at:	6 December 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>the interests of French defence and national security within the context of the launch of the 5G network.</p> <p>Operators will be required to obtain prior approval from the French Prime Minister in order to operate 5G technology in French territory. The prior approval requirement applies to all operators which plan to operate, in French territory, certain devices which, by virtue of their functions, present a risk to the continuity, integrity, security or availability of the network, or to the confidentiality of communications. The provisions apply to operators of all nationalities.</p>			https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000039455649&categorieIen=id		
Nepal					
<p>The Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) reduced interconnection fees. From mid-March 2020, fees will be capped at NPR 0.20 per minute for calls between two landlines, NPR 0.10 for calls from a landline to a mobile, NPR 0.20 for calls from a mobile to a landline and NPR 0.10 for calls between two mobile networks.</p>	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	<p>Viewed at:</p> https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/01/27/regulator-slashes-interconnection-fees/?utm_source=CommsUpdate&utm_campaign=596bcbc413-CommsUpdate+27+January+2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0688983330-596bcbc413-11663509	March 2020	YES
Peru					
<p>A new measure modifies various provisions of the Telecommunications Law, including as regards marketing or reselling, the registry of marketers, and the registry for value added services.</p>	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	<p>Supreme Decree No. 033-2019-MTC</p> <p>Viewed at:</p> https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/419370/DS_033-2019-MTC.pdf	9 November 2019	YES
Russian Federation					
<p>The State Commission for Radio Frequencies (SCRF) has allocated a block of 5G spectrum to an indefinite number of users, including industrial enterprises and telecom operators. The decision to do so was taken by the State Committee for Emergencies on 17 March 2020.</p>	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	<p>Viewed at:</p> https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/20/24ghz-mmwave-5g-spectrum-available-without-auction-megafoonrostelecom-receive-test-mmwave-band/	20 March 2020	YES
<p>The President signed, on 7 April, a new law aimed at improving the system of universal communication services in the Russian Federation. Under this law, at least one internet access point should be created in areas with a population of one hundred to five hundred people that do not have data transmission services and Internet access.</p>	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	<p>Federal Law on Amendments to the Federal Law on Communications</p> <p>Viewed at:</p> http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/63161	7 April 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
In addition, if mobile radiotelephone communication services are not provided in the indicated areas, then at least one access point must be equipped with communication means for their provision.					
Thailand					
The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission issued a notification to stipulate the criteria, procedures, conditions, and fees in relation to the granting of licences for foreign satellites providing services in Thailand. The new measure allows Thai entrepreneurs to use foreign satellite channels to provide services and to comply with the government's policy on allowing foreign satellites to provide services in Thailand.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication Services	NBTC Notification - Criteria and procedures to grant a licence to foreign satellite to provide services in Thailand (The Royal Gazette Vol.137 Special Section 37, dated 18 February 2020)	Effective 19 February 2020	YES
Uganda					
The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) modified its licensing framework for the telecom sector, introducing various licence categories and requiring all national telecom operators to float at least 20% of their shares on the Uganda Securities Exchange within two years of acquiring the new license.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: http://www.connectingafrika.com/author.asp?doc_id=757077&itc=newsletter_connectingafricainsights&utm_source=newsletter_connectingafrika_connectingafricainsights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=01312020	October 2019 Effective 30 June 2020	
Ukraine					
The government adopted new measures to encourage foreign investment in film productions. The scope of the cash rebate system for foreign filmmakers' production costs on Ukrainian territory was raised from 16.6% to 25%.	Mode 3	Audiovisual services	Law of Ukraine of 20 September 2019 No. 130 'On amending Law of Ukraine On state support for Cinematography in Ukraine' Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/130-20	Effective 19 October 2019	YES
United States					
An Executive Order issued on 4 April 2020 formalizes, through the establishment of a Committee, the <i>ad hoc</i> working group known as 'Team Telecom' which will assist the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the review of foreign participation in U.S. telecommunication services, with the objective of enhancing national security.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Executive Order on Establishing the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363550A1.pdf	4 April 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Team Telecom will now have 120 days to conduct national security reviews of license applications.					
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Australia					
<p>The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) has introduced a new regulatory relief framework for foreign financial services providers (FFSPs) that wish to provide financial services to wholesale clients or professional investors in Australia. This replaces an old FFSP relief framework.</p> <p>The new framework has two key elements: a new foreign Australian Financial Service (AFS) licensing regime for FFSPs; and Licensing relief for FFSPs of funds management financial services seeking to induce some types of professional investors.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	<p>New FFSP regulatory framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreign AFS licensing regime: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Providers—Foreign AFS licensees) Instrument 2020/198 - Funds management licensing relief: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Providers—Funds Management Financial Services) Instrument 2020/199 <p>Old FFSP relief framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient equivalence relief: ASIC Corporations (Repeal and Transitional) Instrument 2016/196 - Sufficient equivalence relief for Luxembourg entities: ASIC Corporations (CSSF—Regulated Financial Services Providers) Instrument 2016/1109 - Limited connection relief: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Provides—Limited Connection) Instrument 2017/182 	<p>Foreign AFS licensing regime: start date of 1 April 2020 for new FFSPs, and 1 April 2022 for existing FFSPs relying on old sufficient equivalence relief.</p> <p>Old sufficient equivalence relief (previously contained in 7 separate instruments): end date of 31 March 2020 for new FFSPs, 31 March 2022 for existing FFSPs relying on transition period for old sufficient equivalence relief.</p> <p>Funds management licensing relief: start date of 1 April 2022.</p> <p>Limited connection relief (originally CO 03/824): gazetted on 1 October 2003, end date of 31 March 2022.</p>	YES
China					
<p>The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) recently revised and released the Implementation Rules of Administrative Licensing of Foreign-funded Banks.</p> <p>The Implementation Rules are in line with the Regulations on the Administration of Foreign-funded Banks, allowing foreign banks to set up branches and subsidiaries with legal person status in China. It removes the total asset requirement for foreign banks to set up business entities in China, and expands the scope of major Chinese shareholders in Sino-foreign joint venture banks.</p>	Mode 3	Banking services	<p>Implementation Rules of Administrative Licensing of Foreign-funded Banks</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cbirc.gov.cn/en/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=882439&itemId=980</p>	3 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The restriction on foreign ownership in joint-venture life insurance companies has been removed on 1 January 2020. Foreign ownership in joint-venture life insurance companies can reach 100%. Relevant parties may submit applications to the CBIRC in accordance with the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, the Implementation Rules of the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, and this Notice. The CBIRC will start the revision of the provision of "foreign ownership shall not exceed 51% of the company's total equity capital" in the existing Implementation Rules of the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, which will be reissued after revision.	Mode 3	Life insurance services	Notice of the CBIRC General Office on Clarifying Timing of Removing Foreign Ownership Restrictions on Joint Venture Life Insurance Companies (CBIRC General Office [2019] No.230) Viewed at: https://www.cbirc.gov.cn/en/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=858743&itemId=980	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in fund management companies.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/201910/t20191015_364441.html	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in securities companies. The removal of the foreign equity cap was originally due as of 1 December 2020, but the timetable was brought forward on 16 March.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/202003/t20200318_372197.html	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in foreign-invested futures companies.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/201910/t20191015_364440.html	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Since 1 January 2020, the accumulated equity ratios (including direct holding and indirect control) of foreign shareholders in foreign-invested futures companies are up to 100%.	Mode 3	Financial Services	Article 7 of the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Futures Companies (China Securities Regulatory Commission No.149) Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/zjhpublic/zjh/201808/t20180824_343039.htm	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Costa Rica					
The government adopted a new law regulating new financial instruments, including derivatives.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Law No. 9746 Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=89892&nValor3=118131&strTipM=TC	Effective 22 October 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
A new measure regulates the maximum fees that services providers charge to process the transactions that use payment devices. It also regulates the credit card system to promote its safety and efficiency. The maximum fees will be determined by the Central Bank based on technical studies and will be subject to a public consultation.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Law No. 9831 – Maximum Fees of the Credit Card System Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90791&nValor3=0&strTipM=TC	Effective 26 March 2020	YES
Ghana					
The Bank of Ghana has decided to extend by six months, until 31 December 2020, the deadline for meeting new minimum capital requirements applicable to all existing payment service providers, electronic money issuers, banks, and specialized deposit-taking institutions. The Bank of Ghana increased the minimum capital requirements for payment service providers from GHC5 million to GHC20 million. The new minimum capital requirements serve to operationalize the Payment Systems and Services Act, adopted in 2019. Among other things, the Act requires payment service companies to have at least 30% domestic equity participation, to maintain minimum capital in Ghana, and to process all retail electronic payment transactions within Ghana.	Multiple modes	Payment services	Notice No. BG/GOV/SEC/2020/02 Payment Systems and Services Act Viewed at: https://www.boq.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NOTICE-EXTENSION-OF-DEADLINE-FOR-MEETING-THE-MINIMUM-CAPITAL-REQUIREMENTS.pdf https://www.boq.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Payment-Systems-and-Services-Act-2019-Act-987-.pdf https://thebftonline.com/2019/editors-pick/boq-to-announce-new-capital-for-momom-players/	Issued on 30 March 2020	
India					
As of this year, the 49% foreign equity limitation for insurance intermediaries (e.g. brokers, agents) has been eliminated. The clarification of the FDI policy follows the announcement made by the Finance minister in the Union Budget in 2019.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601507 https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn1_2020.pdf	Effective 27 April 2020	YES
Indonesia					
Indonesia's Financial Services Authority issued a new regulation on the merger, consolidation, acquisition, integration and conversion of commercial banks. Among other things, the measure introduces mechanisms to facilitate the transformation of foreign bank branches into subsidiaries.	Mode 3	Banking services	Regulation No. 41/POJK.03/2019 of the Indonesian Financial Services Authority Viewed at: https://www.allenoverly.com/en-gb/global/news-and-insights/publications/indonesia-introduces-new-bank-m-and-a-rules	Effective 26 December 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The government adopted a new regulation relaxing foreign equity limits in insurance services. Foreign equity ownership in insurance companies has been capped to 80% since April 2018. Further capital increases had to respect the 80:20 ratio between foreign and domestic shareholders. The new regulation relaxed this rule and added clarity regarding the ability of insurers to conduct capital increases and manage their Sharia operations.</p> <p>The new regulation provides the following two key changes: 1) no obligation for capital increases to be made in a ratio of 80:20 - the obligation for an Indonesian shareholder to make a corresponding 20% capital injection in the event of a capital increase is now deleted; and 2) sharia spin-offs may be subject to the existing foreign ownership cap that is applicable to the parent insurance company, rather than the ratio of 80:20.</p>	Mode 3	Banking services	<p>Government Regulation No. 3/2020 of 20 January 2020 (GR 3/2020), which amends Government Regulation No. 14 of 2018 on Foreign Ownership of Insurance Companies (GR 14/2018).</p> <p>Viewed at: https://theinsiderstories.com/indonesia-raises-foreign-ownership-in-insurance-companies-above-80/</p>	Effective 20 January 2020	
Malaysia					
The Central Bank of Malaysia issued new rules requiring electronic trading platforms and networks to obtain prior approval from the central bank before offering services in Malaysia.	Multiple modes	Financial services	<p>Policy Document on the Framework for Electronic Trading Platforms</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bnm.gov.my/index.php?ch=57&pg=150&ac=859&bb=file</p>	Effective 11 November 2019	YES
Nigeria					
<p>The Central Bank of Nigeria issued new regulations on the operations of indirect participants in the payment system, thereby allowing mobile network operators, among others, to provide mobile money services for the first time.</p> <p>Mobile network operators, retailers, mobile money operators and banking agents with sufficient capital (minimum of USD 14 million) can apply to become a payment service bank, which can provide payment services and collect deposits that can be invested in government securities or placed on deposit with a bank. They are excluded from providing credit or insurance products.</p>	Multiple modes	Financial services	<p>Circular on the Regulation for the Operations of Indirect Participants in the Payment System</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2019/PSMD/Circular%20and%20Regulation%20for%20the%20Operation%20of%20Indirect%20Participants%20in%20the%20Payment%20System%20(002).pdf https://www.mondaq.com/Nigeria/Finance-and-Banking/854160/New-Payment-Regulations-Open-The-Door-To-MNOs-In-Nigeria</p>	Effective 11 November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Philippines					
<p>A new measure allows foreign banks to open Islamic bank branches. On 1 March 2020, the Monetary Board approved the preliminary policy initiatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to implement the Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11439 (Act Providing for the Regulation and Organization of Islamic Banks and the relevant provisions on Islamic banking), which became effective on 15 September 2019.</p> <p>Subject to the approval of the Monetary Board, conventional banks, whether domestic or foreign, will be allowed to open Islamic banking unit or to establish a subsidiary Islamic bank. Foreign banks can operate in the Philippines under any of the modes of entry provided under R.A. No. 7721, as amended, or An Act Liberalizing the Entry and Scope of Operations of Foreign Banks in the Philippines and for Other Purposes.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/publications/media.asp?id=5255	Effective 1 March 2020	YES
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to amendments to the Framework for Dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks, modifications of reserve requirements, and the adoption of a national quick response code standard to ensure the safety, efficiency, and reliability of payment systems.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circulars Nos. 1050-1082 Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/	October 2019 – May 2020	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Board of the Capital Market Authority has issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Instructions for Book Building Process and Allocation Method in IPOs (The Instructions).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 17 September 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Instructions_BookBuilding_Allocation.pdf	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Rules on the Offer of Securities and Continuing Obligations (The Rules).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/OSRCI_en.pdf	Effective on 6 October 2019, except for paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 90 of the Rules, which entered into force on 1 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Instructions for Companies Announcement (The Instructions).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Instructions-FSI-Ownership-Listed-Companies-en.pdf	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Glossary of Defined Terms Used in the Regulations and Rules of the Capital Market Authority (The Glossary).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/CMA_Glossary_en.pdf	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to adopt the Securities Central Counterparties Regulations (The Regulations).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 18 November 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Securities-Central-Counterparties-Regulations-en.pdf	Effective on 8 January 2020	YES
Switzerland					
The Law and its implementing Ordinance contain the code of conduct that financial service providers must observe with regard to their clients. They distinguish between two main categories of clients: retail clients and professional clients. They establish requirements for prospectuses for securities offers and provide that retail clients must be provided with a user-friendly document containing basic information on financial instruments. The Law and its implementing Ordinance provide for a register of advisers, with mandatory registration for certain advisers. Lastly, the Law and its implementing Ordinance also require all financial service providers to be affiliated with an ombudsman's office.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Federal Law of 15 June 2018 on financial services (SR 950.1); Ordinance of 6 November 2019 on financial services (SR 950.11) Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20152661/index.html https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20192374/index.html S/C/N/987	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
The Law and its implementing Ordinance standardize the regulation of authorizations for financial service providers. They define the differing supervisory standards for portfolio managers, managers of	Multiple modes	Financial services	Federal Law of 15 June 2018 on financial establishments (SR 954.1); Ordinance of 6 November 2019 on financial establishments (SR 954.11)	Effective 1 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>collective assets, fund management companies and securities firms.</p> <p>The trustees and portfolio managers who administer assets on behalf of individual clients or occupational pension schemes are also subject to prudential supervision.</p>			<p>Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20152662/index.html https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19960659/index.html S/C/N/988</p>		
Thailand					
A new measure modifies the licensing regime for loss adjusters. A new applicant for a loss adjuster licence must register as a juridical person and have a head office or branch in Thailand.	Mode 3	Loss Adjustment Services	<p>Article 35/3 (b) of Non-Life Insurance Act (No.4)</p> <p>Clause 6 of Notification of the Insurance Commission Re: Specification of Rules, Procedures, Conditions, Application for Permission, and Renewal of Loss Adjusters, Inspection and adjustment of loss. B.E. 2562 (2019)</p>	21 November 2019	YES
Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted a series of measures affecting financial services. These relate, for example, to the repealing of certain regulations on accounting reports for securities companies, and to amendments to capital requirements for digital assets businesses.	Mode 3	Financial services	SEC adoption of the Circular of the Association of Thai Securities Companies' guidelines on portfolio advisory and program trading; SEC notification No. GorThor 6/2562, 63/2562, 8/2562, 34/2562; Notification of Capital Market Advisory Board TorJor 14/2563	Effective November 2019 – March 2020	YES
Turkey					
The Capital Markets Board of Turkey (CMB) published a regulatory amendment in order to facilitate the use of Turkish capital market instruments as collateral in international transactions as well as foreign investments in Turkish capital market instruments.	Mode 1	Financial services	Communiqué II-13.1 of the CMB with respect to Procedures and Principals for the Book-Keepering of Dematerialized Capital Market Instruments - Official Gazette (dated 22 June 2019 – no. 30809)	22 June 2019	YES
Uganda					
<p>A new measure requires the purchase of marine insurance from local suppliers.</p> <p>The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) is implementing a local marine cargo insurance policy. Effective 1 March 2020, there shall be voluntary marine insurance provided locally by insurance companies licensed by IRA and compulsory local</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Non-life insurance services	<p>Viewed at: https://ira.go.ug/news_details.php?det=96</p>	Effective 1 June 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>purchase shall take effect on 1 June 2020. The importers using the system will benefit from a more favorable tax compensation.</p> <p>Under the compulsory marine insurance scheme, all imports must have a valid marine insurance cover underwritten by a Ugandan registered insurance company before clearance by Uganda Revenue Authority.</p>					
Ukraine					
The government adopted a new law that aims to enhance the ability of legal instruments to detect and prevent financial crimes and to provide greater transparency in the Ukrainian financial sector in the context of the ongoing process of financial cooperation with Europe.	Mode 3	Financial Services	Law of Ukraine No. 361 "On Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime, Terrorism Financing and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"	Effective 28 April 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
<p>The government adopted new measures to regulate the cross-border supply of auxiliary insurance services.</p> <p>Offshore service providers are required to be from countries with which Viet Nam has contracted market access commitments on the cross-border supply of such services. An offshore service supplier may be subject to additional conditions. In the case of cross-border supply to insurance companies or insurance brokerage companies, the supplier must, for example: have been lawfully operating for at least 10 years up until the point of service provision; have been operating with profit for 3 consecutive financial years up until the point of service provision. For cross-border supply to individuals and to organizations other than entities mentioned above, the foreign supplier must cooperate with a supplier of auxiliary insurance services that is legally established in Viet Nam.</p>	Mode 1	Auxiliary insurance services	<p>Decree No. 80 on the implementation of Law No. 42 on amendments to the Insurance Business Law</p> <p>Ministry of Finance Circular No. 65</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/12/new-regulations-insurance-vietnam</p>	Effective 1 November 2019	
TOURISM AND TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES					
Costa Rica					
The government adopted a new law that aims to regulate the supply of tourism services in the form of home rentals, apartments, villas, chalets, cottages,	Multiple modes	Tourism services	Law No. 9742 - Framework Law for the Regularization of non-traditional hosting and intermediation through digital platforms	Published in November 2019; effective 1 June 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>and rooms. It seeks to protect the rights of users of such services, and to regulate the services platforms or intermediary companies, which mediate between the users and suppliers of non-traditional lodging.</p> <p>In addition, the law requires hosts to register with the Tourism Institute and to pay the 13% value-added tax.</p>			<p>Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90073&nValor3=118473&strTipM=TC</p>		
TRANSPORT SERVICES					
Costa Rica					
<p>A new measure removes limits on maximum foreign equity in companies that provide international land transport services of passengers. Previously, companies providing these services were required to have at least 60% of their equity owned by investors that were citizens of Central America.</p>	Mode 3	Road transport services	<p>Executive Decree No. 42072</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90232&nValor3=118737&strTipM=TC</p>	Effective 13 December 2019	YES
European Union					
<p>The European Commission has prolonged for another four years the regulation outlining the conditions under which liner shipping consortia can provide joint services without infringing EU antitrust rules that prohibit anticompetitive agreements between companies.</p> <p>The Consortia Block Exemption Regulation allows, under certain conditions, liner shipping operators with a combined market share of below 30% to enter into cooperation agreements to provide joint liner shipping services (known as "consortia"). These agreements, however, cannot include price-fixing or market-sharing. The current Consortia Block Exemption Regulation was due to expire on 25 April 2020.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Maritime transport services	<p>Consortia Block Exemption Regulation</p> <p>Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_518</p>	24 March 2020	YES
Philippines					
<p>The Maritime Industry Authority adopted new measures relating to, for example, the licensing of ship repair entities, and mandatory insurance to cover liability for damage to ships used in domestic shipping services.</p>	Multiple modes	Maritime transport services	<p>Memorandum Circulars No. SR-2019-01, SR-2019-02, and SR-2019-03</p> <p>Viewed at: https://marina.gov.ph</p>	October-December 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Maritime Industry Authority adopted an amendment to MC No. 2013-04 providing for the "Omnibus Rules on the Issuance of Special Permit for the Temporary Utilization of Philippine-Registered Domestic Ships to Operate in International Voyages".	Multiple modes	Maritime transport services	Memorandum Circular No. OS-2020-01 Viewed at: https://marina.gov.ph	Published on 23 April 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
On 18 November 2019, the government issued a decree that increases from 30% to 34% the maximum foreign equity in airlines.	Mode 3	Air transport services	Decree 89/2019/ND-CP Viewed at: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/548582/foreign-investors-allowed-34-per-cent-holding-at-vietnamese-airlines.html	Effective 1 January 2020	
SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS					
China					
Foreign high-level management and technical personnel engaged in technical cooperation and economic and trade activities in China may now apply for a visa or residence permit valid for 2 to 5 years.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.nia.gov.cn/n741440/n741577/c1076430/content.html	Effective 1 August 2019	YES
France					
The French Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented changes to its Talent Passport programme, including expedited and streamlined application processing.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/france/Immigration/882460/Talent-Passport-Improvements-Implemented	Effective January 2020	
Germany					
A new immigration law expands the framework under which qualified professionals from non-EU Members can work in Germany. It allows vocationally trained foreign nationals to be employed in Germany also in occupations that are not experiencing a skills shortage. The measure abolishes the requirement to check the unavailability of German or EU nationals before non-EU citizens are allowed to take up a skilled occupation. Moreover, employers can launch an expedited procedure for qualified professionals at the relevant foreigners' registration office in Germany, thereby significantly shortening the duration of the administrative procedure for the issuing of the visa.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa/skilled-immigration-act/	Effective 1 March 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Japan					
The Immigration Service Agency of Japan (ISA) has expanded the online residence application system for companies to apply for various certificates for, inter alia, Status of Residence of "Business Managers", "Intra-Company Transferees" and "Highly Skilled Professional".	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/tetuduki/zairyukanri/onlineshinsei.html	Effective 24 March 2020	YES
Nigeria					
A new visa policy has been implemented which provides, inter alia, a new visa avenue for highly skilled foreign nationals and a 90-day visa-on-arrival for all African Union nationals, frequently travelling executives and emergency relief workers.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/ng/pdf/tax/fq-launches-nigeria-visa-policy-2020.pdf	Effective January 2020	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
Foreign nationals travelling for business must now obtain a visa pre-approval before submitting a Business Visit Visa application.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.tradearabia.com/news/MISC_364167.html	Effective February 2020	
Thailand					
The Department of Employment has introduced changes that streamline the work permit process by allowing filing at the One-Stop Service Centre and faster in-country processing.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://blog.newlandchase.com/thailand-faster-processing-of-certain-pre-work-permit-approval-applications	Effective October 2019	YES
The government issued on 1 April 2020 a Ministerial Notification on prohibited works by foreigners. This Ministerial Notification sets forth four categories of prohibited works: 1- works entirely reserved for Thai workers: 27 works; 2 - works that foreign workers are permitted to perform under agreements between Thailand and other Parties; 3- works that semi-skilled or skilled foreign workers shall perform under the condition that they must have employers; 4- works that foreign workers are permitted to perform under the condition of having employers and being permitted to enter Thailand by Immigration Law under MOUs or Agreements between Thai Government and Foreign Governments.	Mode 4	All sectors	Ministry of Labour Ministerial Notification on prohibited works which foreign workers are not permitted to work, dated 1 April 2020, enacted under the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree (No.2) B.E. 2561(2018).	Gazetted on 21 April 2020; effective after 60 days after publication in the Royal Gazette.	YES

ANNEX 5 - COVID-19 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES (GOODS)¹

Confirmed information²

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina	Certain products (e.g. medical equipment and personal protective equipment) eliminated from the list requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements (15 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 22; 38; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Disposición No. 5/2020 Subsecretaría de Política y Gestión Comercial - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (18 March 2020). Viewed at: http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegIntern/et/anexos/335000-339999/335690/norma.htm	Effective 19 March 2020
Argentina	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirement on medical ventilators (artificial respiration apparatus) (NCM 9019.20.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto 301/2020 (19 March 2020) and Resolución No. 140/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (6 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227045/20200320?busqueda=1	Effective 20 March 2020
Argentina	On 21 March 2020, temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on imports of hypodermic syringes of plastic, disposable, sterile, with or without needles (NCM 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19) from China (investigation initiated on 15 September 2009 and definitive duty imposed on 15 March 2011)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Resolución No. 114/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (20 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227095/20200321?busqueda=1	Effective 21 March 2020
Argentina	On 24 March 2020, temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on imports of parenteral solutions (NCM 3004.90.99) from Brazil and Mexico (investigation initiated on 29 June 2018 and definitive duty imposed on 2 December 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Resolución No. 118/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (23 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227118/20200324?busqueda=1	Effective 24 March 2020

¹ This table has been compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in goods taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or questions the right of WTO members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine and indicate whether the measures listed in the table have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information in this table is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures. The measures listed in this table provide a situation report up to 15 May 2020. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the current pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_goods_measure_e.htm.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirement on certain products (NCM Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 38; 39; 40; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto No. 317/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (28 March 2020) and Resolución No. 140/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (6 April 2020 and Decreto No. 405/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur. Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/228212/20200424	Effective 28 March 2020
Argentina	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 63; 65; 84; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from the statistical fee (<i>tasa de estadística</i>)	Decreto Nos. 333/2020 - Derechos de Importación Extrazona (1 April 2020) and 455/2020 (10 May 2020), and Resolución General No. 4696/2020 - Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (14 April 2020)	Effective 3 April 2020
Argentina	Import of certain products temporary exempted from VAT (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 63; 65; 84; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto Nos. 333/2020 - Derechos de Importación Extrazona (1 April 2020) and 455/2020 (10 May 2020), and Resolución General No. 4696/2020 - Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (14 April 2020)	Effective 15 April 2020, for 60 days
Argentina	Temporary authorization to accept exceptionally document of origin in electronic form for accreditation and determining the origin of imported goods, and access to tariff preferences that are part of preferential agreements signed by Argentina (LAIA, Israel, Egypt and SACU). Presentation of original format to Customs not required, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO and Circular No. 2/2020 Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (6 April 2020)	
Argentina	Temporary elimination of the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition requirement (<i>Declaración Jurada de Composición de Productos "DJCP"</i>) on certain personal protective equipment (NCM 6210.10.00; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.90; 6505.00.22), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Resolución No. 107/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Comercio Interior (2 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227415/20200403	Effective 3 April 2020 to 2 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Australia	Temporary restrictions on the non-commercial export of personal protective equipment and sanitizer products, essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, price-gouging and profiteering on non-commercial exports from Australia. Legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports are exempt, as are care packages to family overseas, although products cannot be sent through the mail. The measures apply only to a specific list of products: personal protective equipment that can be worn by individuals to limit transmission of organisms: disposable face masks, disposable gloves, disposable gowns, protective eye wear in the form of goggles, glasses or visors; and alcohol wipes and hand sanitizer (HS 3401.11; 3401.19; 3401.20; 3808.94; 3926.20; 4015.11; 4015.19; 6116.10; 6210.10; 6210.20; 6210.30; 6210.40; 6210.50; 6216.00; 6307.90; 6505.00; 9004.90; 9020.00)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/AUS/3/Add.1/Corr.1, 29 April 2020	Effective from 30 March 2020 and during the human biosecurity emergency period; that is, while the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020 is in force (three months from 18 March 2020)
Australia	Temporary tariff concession measure to facilitate the importation of certain goods (face masks, gloves, gowns/clothes, disinfectant preparations (excluding hand sanitizers), soaps, COVID-19 test kits and reagents, and viral transport media) required to manage the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure was published on 1 May 2020 in Australian Customs Notice Number 2020/20. The measure will be in place until 31 July 2020, with refunds available for customs duty paid on prescribed goods imported from 1 February 2020. The measure may be extended following a review (HS 3002.15.10; 3401.11.00; 3401.19.00; 3401.20.00; 3808.94.00; 3821.00.10; 3822.00.19; 3822.00.20; 3822.00.39; 3822.00.40; 3926.20.21; 3926.20.29; 3926.90.90; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 4015.90.21; 4015.90.29; 4018.50.00; 4818.50.00; 6210.10.10; 6210.10.90; 6210.50.10; 6210.50.90; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.29; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.99; 9004.90.00)	WTO document G/MA/W/152, 4 May 2020	Effective 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020
Azerbaijan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. medical gloves, sterile shoe covers, mittens, sterile masks, respirators (effective 5 March 2020 to 1 June 2020); on raw materials for the production of medical masks (effective 5 March 2020 to 31 December 2022) (HS 3926.20.00; 4015.19.00; 6307.90.98; 5603.12.10; 5603.13.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (10 April 2020), Resolution Nos. 84 and 114 - Cabinet of Ministers	
Azerbaijan	Temporary export ban on certain medical supplies and preparations (e.g. sterile gloves, splints, medical masks and goggles, disinfectants, special clothing and other necessary medical supplies and preparations, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020), Resolution Nos. 42 and 152 - Cabinet of Ministers	Effective 14 February 2020 to 1 May 2020. Extended until 1 July 2020
Bangladesh	Temporary export prohibition on surgical masks, face masks, and disinfectants (hand sanitizers) (effective 12 March 2020) (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90; 3808.94.91), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BGD/1, 16 April 2020	Effective 2 March 2020 to 2 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Bangladesh	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on protective garment, disinfectant, and COVID-19 test kits (HS 2905.12.90; 3002.15.00; 3822.00.00; 9027.80.00; 3808.94.91; 9018.90.90; 9020.00.00; 3926.20.20; 3926.20.90; 6210.10.00; 6210.40.00; 6210.50.00; 6211.33.00; 6211.39.00; 6211.43.00; 6211.49.00; 9004.90.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other taxes	WTO document G/MA/W/156, 29 May 2020	Effective 22 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Belarus	Temporary export restrictions on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. respirators, face masks, medical gloves, chemical protection suits, surgical boots and boot covers, breathing equipment) (HS Chapters 30; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Belarus (15 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 149 (17 March 2020)	Effective 16 March 2020 to 1 June 2020
Belarus	Temporary export restriction on certain basic food items (e.g. buckwheat, onions, garlic) (HS codes 1008.10.00; 1103.19.90; 1104.29.30; 1904.90.80; 0703.10.11; 0703.10.19; 0703.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Belarus (15 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 185 (31 March 2020)	Effective 3 April 2020 to 3 July 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (NCM Chapters 17; 22; 25; 28; 29; 30; 33; 34; 37; 38; 39; 40; 48; 55; 56; 59; 61; 62; 63; 65; 70; 72; 73; 76; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolução Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior Nos. 17/2020 (17 March 2020), 22/2020 (25 March 2020), 28/2020 (1 April 2020), 31/2020 (7 April 2020), 32/2020 (16 April 2020), 33/2020, 34/2020 (29 April 2020) and 44/2020 (14 May 2020)	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 September 2020
Brazil	Implementation of special export licensing scheme for goods to fight the COVID-19 pandemic (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 56; 62; 63; 73; 90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020	Effective 18 March 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import licensing requirements on certain products (e.g. vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection and syringes) (NCM 3822.00.90; 3926.90.40; 9018.39.99; 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Secex Portaria No. 18/2020 (20 March 2020)	Effective 23 March 2020
Brazil	On 25 March 2020 temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection and syringes (NCM 3822.00.90; 3926.90.40; 9018.39.99; 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19) imported from China, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolução No. 23/2020, Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior (25 March 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020 to 30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary implementation of prior export authorization on chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, fentanyl, midazolam, ethosuximide, propofol, alcuronium, vecuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine, ivermectin, and nitazoxanide (NCM 2941; 3003; 3004; 3005; 3006; 2907; 2923; 2932; 2933; 2934; 3001), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020; Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolution Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária Nos. 352, 370 and 371	Effective March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import licensing requirements on certain products (<i>dispensa de licenciamento de anuência da Subsecretaria de Operações de Comércio Exterior "SUEXT"</i>) (NCM) used in the treatment of COVID-19 (NCM 3921.13.90; 5503.20.10; 6210.10.00; 9018.90.10)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020); Notícia Siscomex Nos. 23/2020 and 12/2020; and Gecex/Camex Resolution Nos. 17/2020 and 31/2020	Effective 20 March 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of the IPI (<i>Imposto sobre Produtos Industrializados</i>) internal industrial tax on certain products (NCM 2207.20.19; 3808.94.11; 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 3926.20.00; 3936.90.40; 3926.90.90; 3926.90.90; 4015.19.00; 7326.20.00; 9004.90.20; 9004.90.90; 9018.19.80; 9018.39.23; 9018.39.99; 9019.20; 9020.00.90; 9025.11.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Decree Nos. 10.285 (20 March 2020) and 10.302 (1 April 2020)	Effective March 2020 to 30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary export prohibition of individual protection equipment, mechanical ventilators and monitors (NCM 3926; 6116; 6216; 6307; 9018; 9004; 8473), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (the prohibition is subject to exceptions provided that the needs of the Brazilian population are met)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020	Effective 24 April 2020
Brazil	Temporary relaxed administrative procedures on imports of certain used medical machinery and equipment and its parts thereof, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Secex Portaria No. 25/2020 (8 May 2020)	Effective 11 May 2020
Canada	As of 16 March 2020, and until further notice, Canada is waiving tariffs and sales taxes on all goods imported by or on behalf of public health agencies, hospitals and testing sites, and first response organizations (e.g. police, fire and local civil defence groups, including medical response teams). As of 6 April 2020, Canada is also waiving tariffs and sales taxes on goods imported by or on behalf of public or private care residences, such as seniors' residences, retirement homes, nursing homes and shelters	WTO document G/MA/W/145, 1 April 2020; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (25 May 2020). CBSA Customs Notice 20-08: Imported Goods for Emergency Use in Response to COVID-19. Viewed at: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-08-eng.html	
Canada	Goods imported into Canada are generally subject to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), at a rate of 5%, as well as applicable customs duties, which vary by product and country of origin. Typically, payments owing for customs duties and the GST on imports are due on a monthly basis. In order to provide cash flow and liquidity support for importers, Canada announced on 27 March 2020 that it will defer payment deadlines for March, April, and May to 30 June 2020	WTO document G/MA/W/145, 1 April 2020; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Canada Border Service Agency, Customs Notice 20-11 (27 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-11-eng.html	Announced 27 March 2020 until further notice

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Canada	Temporary waiving otherwise applicable customs duties on imports of specified medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), in order to support efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. Relief is available to all importers of specified goods including businesses, distributors, and individual Canadians. Key categories of products covered by the measure include diagnostic test kits, face and eye protection, gloves, protective garments, disinfectants/sterilization products, medical devices, thermometers, wipes, and medical consumables, and other goods (e.g. soap). The scope of relief is based on the indicative list of medical supplies and PPE identified jointly by the WHO and the WCO as critical for combatting COVID-19, as well as related classification guidance by the Canada Border Services Agency	WTO document G/MA/W/153, 14 May 2020	Effective 5 May 2020 to 30 June 2020
Chad	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 10; 11; 15; 19; 22; 25; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 73; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Arrêté No. 76/PR/MFB/DGSDDI/2020 - Ministère des Finances et du Budget (24 April 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_TCD_1.pdf	Effective 24 April 2020 to 31 December 2020
China	MOFCOM notice actively guiding and encouraging enterprises to apply for import and export licenses in a paperless way; further simplifying the materials required for the paperless application for import and export licenses; optimizing the application and updating processes of electronic keys, and encouraging enterprises to apply for and update electronic keys online	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (27 April 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202002/20200202934222.shtml	Effective 6 February 2020
China	Circular of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs implementing nine facilitation measures regarding three categories of agricultural administrative approval (license renewal, simplification of approval procedure, and optimization of approval process)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (27 April 2020). Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-02/13/content_5478044.htm	Effective 12 February 2020
China	Trade facilitation measures through the holding of the 127 th Canton International Fair online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (27 April 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202004/20200402956113.shtml	Effective 15 June 2020 to 24 June 2020
Colombia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, raw materials and capital goods not locally produced, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 21; 25; 28; 30; 32; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 42; 48; 56; 58; 62; 63; 70; 73; 74; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94; 96)	WTO document G/MA/W/146/Corr.1, 8 April 2020; and Decreto - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo Nos. 410/2020 (16 March 2020) and 463/2020 (22 March 2020)	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Colombia	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 22; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 63; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/COL/1, 2 April 2020; and Decreto No. 462/2020 - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (22 March 2020)	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Colombia	Temporary elimination of imports tariffs on maize; grain sorghum; soya beans; and oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil (<i>sorgo y torta de soya</i>) (HS 1005.90.11; 1007.90.00; 1201.90.00; 2304.00.00), under certain import quotas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto No. 523/2020 - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (7 April 2020). Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20523%20DEL%207%20DE%20ABRIL%20DE%202020.pdf	Effective 7 April 2020 to 30 June 2020
Costa Rica	Temporary export control requirements for statistical purposes on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectant) and medical equipment (HS 6505.00; 9004.90; 6402.99; 9020.00; 6307.90; 6211.49; 4015.11; 4015.19; 9018.90; 3822.00; 3005.10; 3005.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/155, 28 May 2020	Effective 18 March 2020
Costa Rica	Moratorium on import tariffs during April - June 2020, for all products included in HS Chapters 25 to 97, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fees subject to this moratorium must be cancelled before 31 December 2020	WTO document G/MA/W/155, 28 May 2020	Effective 19 March 2020
Costa Rica	Temporary export licensing requirements on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, gloves) (HS 9004.90.10; 6307.90.20; 4015.19.00; 6210.10.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/CRI/3/Add.1, 17 April 2020; Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (14 April 2020); and Decreto Ejecutivo No. 42291-MEIC-S-COMEX (8 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/20/04/10/ALCA82_10_04_2020.pdf	Effective 10 April 2020
Costa Rica	Implementation of stringent maximum periods of stay in Costa Rica for road carriers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua; 10 days; El Salvador and the Dominican Republic: 72 hours (reciprocity); Panama: 4 days (reciprocity); other Nationalities: 10 days). Truck drivers required to have successfully passed COVID-19 test in order to operate in Costa Rica territory	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (26 May 2020). Viewed at: https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2020/05/09/ALCA109_09_05_2020.pdf	Effective 7 May 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary exemption of VAT on imports of ethyl alcohol (HS 2207.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/149, 15 April 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (14 April 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, face masks) (HS 6210.10.00; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.11; 6307.90.30; 9019.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/149, 15 April 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Aviso Aduanas (2 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.aduanas.gob.do/media/14050/aviso-eliminacion-temporal-impuestos-articulos-me-dicos.pdf	Effective 2 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Dominican Republic	Temporary elimination of imports tariffs on certain medical equipment, thermometers and hydrogen peroxide (HS 8419.20.00; 2847.00.00; 9022.12.00; 9018.90.19; 9025.11.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT (ITBIS) and other duties and charges	WTO document G/MA/W/149/Add.1, 12 May 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 16 April 2020
Ecuador	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical ingredients (HS Chapters 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 56; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (9 April 2020) and Acuerdo del Ministerio de Salud Pública No. 00126 (11 March 2020)	Effective 5 March 2020, for 1 year
Ecuador	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical ingredients (HS Chapters 28; 30; 39; 40; 62; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (9 April 2020) and Resolución 004-2020 - Comité de Comercio Exterior (22 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.produccion.gob.ec/dispositivos-medicos-con-arancel-cero-para-enfrentar-emergencia-sanitaria/	Effective 22 March 2020
El Salvador	Temporary elimination of the Central American Common Tariff on imports of certain food products, pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 04; 07; 10; 11; 19; 20; 21; 28; 30; 34; 38; 40; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain products also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (5 June 2020) and Decretos 604 (20 March 2020), 616 (2 April 2020); and Dirección General de Aduanas - Boletín Informativo No. DGA-009-2020. Viewed at: https://www.diariooficial.gob.sv/diarios/do-2020/03-marzo/20-03-2020.pdf	Effective 20 March 2020
El Salvador	Temporary export ban on certain dried leguminous vegetables (<i>frijol rojo en grano</i>) (HS 0713.33.40), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (5 June 2020) and Acuerdo Ejecutivo 512, Ministerio de Economía, Agricultura y Ganadería, and Dirección General de Aduanas - Boletín Informativo No. DGA-009-2020	Effective 26 March 2020 to 31 December 2020
Egypt	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment and medical supplies (e.g. all types of alcohol and its derivatives except for methyl alcohol; protective spectacles and goggles; plastic face shields (covering more than the eye area); gloves, facemasks, protective garments and suits, hair nets, footwear; disinfectants; sterilization products; chlorine (for disinfection) except for liquid chlorine with a concentration of 99% (gas stored in tubes under a pressure of 10 Pa); soap except for soap bars; thermometers; wooden tongue depressors; medical waste plastic bags (red); and corpse bags) (HS Chapters 22; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1, 28 April 2020	Effective 17 March 2020, for 3 months

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Egypt	Temporary export ban on leguminous vegetables and products thereof, with the exception of: peanuts; fresh or chilled peas; fresh or chilled beans; frozen leguminous vegetables; white beans; and canned chickpeas (HS 0708; 0713; 1106; 2004; 2005), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1, 28 April 2020	Effective 28 March, for 3 months
European Union	Exports of personal protective equipment (HS 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90) subject to the temporary production of an export authorization, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As from 19 March 2020, exports to EFTA members, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty exempted	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.1, 8 April 2020; and Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/402 (14 March 2020), as amended by Regulations 2020/426 (19 March 2020)	Effective 15 March 2020, for a period of 6 weeks. No longer in force, repealed by Regulation 2020/568 (23 April 2020)
European Union	Exports of personal protective equipment subject to an export authorization. EFTA members, Western Balkans, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty are exempted from the scope of the measures. The new regulation is more targeted, coverings three product categories, instead of the five in the original export authorization scheme mentioned above (only protective masks, spectacles and garment exports will require an export authorization) (HS 9004.90.10; 9004.90.90; 6307.90.98; 9020.00.00; 3926.20.00; 4015.90.00; 6113.00; 6114; 6210.10.10; 6210.10.92; 6210.10.98; 6210.20.00; 6210.30.00; 6210.40.00; 6210.50.00; 6211.32.10; 6211.32.90; 6211.33.10; 6211.33.90; 6211.39.00; 6211.42.10; 6211.42.90; 6211.43.10; 6211.43.90; 6211.49.00). The new scheme now explicitly requires member States to authorize exports of emergency supplies in the context of humanitarian aid and to process the relevant applications in an expedite manner. It asks the member States to positively assess exports to state agencies in charge of distributing personal protective equipment or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.2, 7 May 2020; and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 (23 April 2020). Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0568&from=EN and https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2147	Effective 26 April 2020, for 30 days. Terminated on 26 May 2020
European Union	Relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020. The goods are intended for one of the following uses: (i) distribution free of charge by bodies and organizations to persons affected by or at risk from COVID-19 or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak; (ii) being made available free of charge to the persons affected by or at risk from COVID-19 or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak while remaining the property of the bodies and organizations; and (iii) the goods are imported for release for free circulation by or on behalf of state organizations, including state bodies, public bodies and other bodies governed by public law or by or on behalf of organizations approved by the competent authorities in the member States	European Commission Decision 2020/491 (3 April 2020)	Effective 30 January 2020 to 31 July 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
European Union	Implementation of Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. In order to preserve the EU-wide operation of supply chains and ensure the functioning of the Single Market for goods, wherever internal border controls exist or have been introduced, member States are requested to designate immediately all the relevant internal border-crossing points of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and additional ones, as "green lane" border crossings, for land (road and rail), sea and air transport	European Commission Notice 2020/C 96 I/01 (24 March 2020)	
European Union	Guidance from the EU Commission on using the public procurement framework in the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 crisis. The document recalls the options and flexibilities provided by the existing EU public procurement framework in emergency situations such as that caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. It provides an overview of the choice of tendering procedures available to public buyers and applicable deadlines	European Commission Communication 2020/C 108 I/01 (1 April 2020)	
European Union	Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. These guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the EU Single Market	C(2020) 1753 final (16 March)	
European Union	Communication from the Commission - European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak. The Guidelines aim to ensure essential transport flows. Member States are requested to facilitate air cargo operations during the COVID-19 outbreak	European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak (C(2020) 2010 final (26 March 2020)). Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf	
European Union	Guidance on customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency. As a result of the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, questions have emerged concerning the application of customs provisions relating to the customs decision-making process, customs procedures and customs formalities. The objective of this page is to offer guidance to the concerned stakeholders on practical solutions given by the current EU legal framework	European Commission. Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/covid-19-taxud-response/guidance-customs-issues-related-covid-19-emergency_en	

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
European Union	Guidelines on the optimal and rational supply of medicines to avoid shortages during the COVID-19 outbreak. These guidelines aim to protect public health and preserve the integrity of the Single Market, while ensuring that Europe has the supply of affordable medicines it needs during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidelines outlined that: (i) "lifting export bans and restrictions": member States are expected to protect public health in a spirit of European solidarity. In order to achieve this objective, it is critically important that member States lift export bans on medicines within the internal market. While it is understandable that countries wish to ensure the availability of essential medicines nationally, export bans are detrimental to the availability of medicines for European patients even when they are legally justifiable. Measures leading to the requisitioning of medicines, intermediates or APIs, or their production, should not be considered as an option. These measures, especially as far as they are applied to active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) or intermediates, endanger supply since they lead to a slowdown in industry output; and (ii) "avoiding national stockpiling": the COVID-19 pandemic affects all member States. They must ensure that essential medicines are available in the hospitals and pharmacies that need them most, regardless of their location. Preventive stockpiling by member States puts supply at risk for all countries. <i>A fortiori</i> , more localized stockpiling can be even more harmful - member States should therefore ensure that stockpiling by wholesalers and pharmacies (including by hospital pharmacies) is prevented	European Commission Communication 2020/C 116 I/01 (8 April 2020)	
Belgium	Restriction on the sale of medical products and personal protective equipment	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Ministerial Decree "Arrêté ministériel portant des mesures particulières dans le cadre la pandémie de SRAS-CoV-2 basées sur le livre XVIII du Code de droit économique". Viewed at: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2020050201&table_name=loi	Effective 23 March 2020. Modified on 27 March, 7 April and 2 May
Bulgaria	Temporary export ban on certain quinine-based drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (effective 20 March 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Viewed at: http://www.mh.government.bg/bg/novini/aktualno/zabranyava-se-iznost-na-lekarstvena-hininova-osno/	On 14 May 2020 measure terminated
Czech Republic	Prohibition of export of hand sanitizers of Main group 1, Product type 1 listed in Annex V of EU Regulation No. 528/2012 (with exemption of small amounts for personal use) by all entities except manufacturers of these products from the territory of the Czech Republic (effective 5 March 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Ministry of Health Extraordinary Measure Nos. MZDR 5503/2020-9/PRO and MZDR 16771/2020-2/MIN/KAN	Measure repealed on 20 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Czech Republic	Prohibition of export of selected COVID-19 related medicines (976 items) from the territory of the Czech Republic. Applies only to re-exports of medicines destined for the Czech market. Medicines manufactured directly to foreign order may be exported (effective 2 April 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Government Regulation No. 146/2020 amending Government Regulation No. 104/2020. Viewed at: http://www.sbirka.cz/POSL4TYD/NOVE/20-104.htm	Measure expired on 18 May 2020
Denmark	Order on: (i) measures concerning the supply of personal protective equipment; (ii) medicinal product emergency response; and (iii) measures on supply of disinfectants, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Order BEK Nos. 252, 253 (22 March 2020) and 277 (25 March 2020)	Effective until 31 August 2020
Estonia	List of medicinal products under export restriction, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Viewed at: https://www.ravimiamet.ee/en/import-and-export-goods-require-special-authorisation-including-medicinal-products	Last amendment as of 26 March 2020
France	Temporary export ban on certain medicines (hydroxychloroquine) and requisition measure on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (effective 23 March 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation, Décret No. 2020-293 (Articles 12 and 12-2) (23 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041746694&categorieLien=cid	On 11 May 2020 measure repealed
Germany	Declaration of supply shortage for pneumococcal vaccines, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration facilitates reallocation and import of vaccines	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 17 March 2020
Hungary	Temporary export ban on certain drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Decision OGYÉI No. 22268-2/2020	On 14 May 2020 measure terminated
Italy	Strengthening measures of the National Health Service and economic support for families, workers and businesses	Public information transmitted by the EU. Decreto-Legge No. 18 (17 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/17/20G00034/sge	Measure repealed
Italy	Further urgent civil protection interventions related to the emergency health risk related to the occurrence of COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU. Decree Nos. 639 (25 February 2020) and 641 (28 February 2020). Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie_generale/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2020-02-28&atto.codiceRedazionale=20A01349&elenco30giorni=false	
Latvia	Temporary export ban on medical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective until 9 June 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU. Order No. 68 Ministry of Health (2 April 2020)	Measure repealed in May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Netherlands	Temporary export ban of personal protective equipment to third countries, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 23 March 2020
Poland	Announcement of the Minister of Health, regarding the list of medicinal products, foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses and medical devices threatened by lack of availability on the territory of Poland	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Viewed at: http://dziennikmz.mz.gov.pl/compatible/KeywordsSearch/55	Effective 17 April 2020
Romania	Temporary export ban on certain food products, e.g. grain and meslin; barley; oat; corn; rice; wheat flour and meslin; soy beans; sunflower seeds; cane or bean sugar; bakery, pastry and biscuit products, unposted bread, empty capsules from starch leaf used for medicines, waffles with lid, dried pasta from flour, from starch, starch extracted from potatoes and similar products; and cakes and other solid residues, whether or not ground or agglomerated in pellet form, resulting from the extraction of soybean oil (HS 1001; 1003; 1004; 1005; 1006; 1101; 1201; 1206; 1512; 1701; 1905; 2304; 2306), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective from 1 April 2020 to 16 April 2020)	Military Ordinance No. 8 on measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 (9 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.mai.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Military-Ordinance-no-8.pdf	On 16 April 2020 measure terminated
Romania	Export ban on certain medical supplies and equipment partially lifted (exports allowed only to other EU Members and with previous authorization from the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices). Export ban remains in force for drugs used in the treatment of COVID-19	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Ministry of Health Order No. 672/2020 amending Order No. 428/2020	Effective 23 April 2020, for 6 months
Spain	Extension of timeframes for payment of certain customs debts and related taxes (during the period 2 March 2020 to 30 May 2020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Royal Decree-Law No. 11/2020	Effective 2 March 2020 to 30 May 2020
Spain	Royal decree No. 463/2020 allowing requisition of all goods necessary for protecting human health, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Royal decree No. 463/2020	Effective 14 March 2020
Fiji	Temporary elimination of import excise duty (from 15%) on ethanol for the production of hand sanitizers. Temporary elimination of import fiscal duties on certain products, e.g. hand sanitizers and antibacterial hand wash; gloves, masks; disposable hair nets; disinfectant wipes; tissue papers; face shields (medical use); medical goggles and spectacles; protective garments; long-sleeved medical gowns; ethanol for companies involved in hand sanitizer production; disinfectants/sterilization products; hospital beds; hydrogen peroxide; paper bed sheets; thermometers; air purifiers; and boots (specifically used in the medical environment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Fiji	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of certain products, e.g. vaccines and pharmaceutical products (HS Chapter 30); medical equipment (HS Chapter 90); scanners and cameras used in medical examinations; hand sanitizers and antibacterial hand wash; gloves, masks; disposable hair nets; disinfectant wipes; tissue papers; face shields (medical use); medical goggles and spectacles; protective garments of rubberized materials; long-sleeved medical gowns; ethanol for companies involved in hand sanitizer production; disinfectants/sterilization products; hospital beds; hydrogen peroxide; paper bed-sheets; thermometers; air purifiers; and boots (specifically used in the medical environment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020
Fiji	Temporary increase of the import fiscal duties (by FJD 0.2/L on fuel (diesel and petrol), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020
Georgia	Temporary export ban on diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading HS 3002 or 3006; certified reference materials; other articles of plastics and articles of other materials of headings HS 3901 to 3914; articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts); for all purposes, of vulcanized rubber other than hard rubber; gloves, mittens and mitts; garments, made up of fabrics of headings HS 5602, 5603, 5903, 5906 or 5907; facemasks, masks; medical hats; thermometers; mechano-therapy appliances; and disinfectants (HS 3808.94; 3926.20.00; 3822.00.00; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 6210.10.90; 6307.90.99; 6506.99.90; 9025.19.20; 9019.20.00; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/GEO/2/Add.1, 15 April 2020	Effective 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020
Honduras	Temporary export ban on certain dried leguminous vegetables (<i>frijol rojo en grano</i>) (HS 0713.33.40), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Presidencia de la República, Sala de Prensa. Viewed at: https://presidencia.gob.hn/index.php/sala-de-prensa/7140-gobierno-prohibe-exportaciones-de-frijol-rojo-para-garantizar-abastecimiento-en-emergencia-por-coronavirus	Effective 30 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Personal Protective Equipment/Masks-reg (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade Notification Nos. 44/2015-2020 (31 January 2020) and 48/2015-2020 (25 February 2020)	Effective 31 January 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Certain products (e.g. surgical masks/disposable masks (2/3 ply); all gloves except NBR gloves; all ophthalmic instruments and appliances under HS 9018.50 except medical goggles; surgical blades; non-woven shoes (disposable); breathing appliances used by airmen, divers, mountaineers and firemen; gas masks with chemical absorbent for filtration against poisonous vapour, smoke, gases; HPDE tarpaulin/plastic tarpaulin; PVD conveyor belts; and biopsy punches) exempted from the export ban implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Notification Nos. 47/2015-2020 (8 February 2020)	Effective February 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations made from these APIs (HS 2922.29.33; 2933.29.10; 2933.29.20; 2933.59.90; 2936.22.10; 2936.25.00; 2936.26.10; 2937.23.00; 2941.40.00; 2941.50.00; 2941.90.50; 2941.90.90; 2942.00.90; 3004.20.50; 3004.20.61; 3004.20.95; 3004.39.19; 3004.50.32; 3004.50.34; 3004.50.39; 3004.90.15; 3004.90.21; 3004.90.22; 3004.90.23; 3004.90.99), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 50/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (3 March 2020)	Effective 3 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Masks, Ventilators, and Textile Raw Materials for Masks and Coveralls (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018; 9020; 5603.11; 5603.12; 5603.13; 5603.14; 5603.91; 5603.92; 5603.93; 5603.94), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 52/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (19 March 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Ventilators, including any Artificial Respiratory Apparatus or Oxygen Therapy or any other Breathing Appliances/Devices and Sanitizers (HS 3004.90.87; 3401; 3402; 3808.94; 9018; 9019; 9020), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 53/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (24 March 2020)	Effective 24 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Hydroxychloroquine (HS 3004.90.87; 3401; 3402; 3808.94; 9018; 9019; 9020), resulting in an export restriction (subject to some exceptions), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 4 April 2020, exceptions eliminated resulting in an export prohibition of hydroxychloroquine	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Notification Nos. 54/2015-2020 (25 March 2020) and 01/2015-2020 (4 April 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the import policy of Iron and Steel and incorporation of policy condition in HS Chapters 72; 73; 86, Schedule-I (import policy), resulting in an extension of validity to 135 days to automatic registration number generated under the Steel Import Monitoring System "SIMS" until 31 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 58/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (31 March 2020)	Effective 31 March 2020
India	Imports of certain medical and surgical instruments and apparatus (HS 9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022) exempted from the "health cess"	Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification No. 8/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of diagnostic kits (diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, preparation diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading HS 3006 or 3008; certified reference materials) (HS 3822), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 59/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (4 April 2020)	Effective 4 April 2020
India	Further amendments introduced to the export policy of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations made from these APIs (HS 2933.29.10; 2933.29.20; 2933.59.90; 2936.22.10; 2936.25.00; 2936.26.10; 2937.23.00; 2941.40.00; 2941.50.00; 2941.90.90; 2942.00.90; 3004.20.50; 3004.20.61; 3004.20.95; 3004.39.19; 3004.50.32; 3004.50.34; 3004.50.39; 3004.90.15; 3004.90.21; 3004.90.22; 3004.90.23; 3004.90.99), changing from restricted to free, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 02/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (6 April 2020)	Effective 6 April 2020
India	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on: (i) artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (ventilators) (HS 9018; 9019); (ii) face masks and surgical masks (HS Chapter 63); (iii) personal protection equipment (HS Chapter 62); (iv) COVID-19 testing kits (HS Chapters 30 and 38); and (v) inputs for the manufacture of items (i) to (iv) subject to the condition that the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2012, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from the Health Cess	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 20/2020-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (9 April 2020)	Effective 9 April 2020 to 30 September 2020
India	Further amendments introduced to the export policy of formulation made from paracetamol (including FDCs) (HS 3004.90.99), changing from restricted to free, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Paracetamol APIs will remain restricted for export	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 03/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (17 April 2020)	Effective 17 April 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Sanitizers. Only "alcohol based hand sanitizers" are prohibited for export (HS 3004; 3401; 3402; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All other items falling under the HS Codes mentioned are freely exportable	Notification No. 04/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (6 May 2020)	Effective 6 May 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Masks, allowing the export of non-medical/non-surgical masks of all types (cotton, silk, wool, knitted) (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.90; 90209. All other types of masks falling under any HS Codes continued to remain prohibited for exports	Notification No. 06/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (16 May 2020)	Effective 16 May 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Paracetamol API (HS 2922.29.33), making its exports "free" with immediate effect, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 07/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 May 2020)	Effective 28 May 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import certification requirements on imports of onions and garlic (HS 0703), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 27	Effective 18 March 2020 to 31 May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Indonesia	Temporary export ban on antiseptic, raw materials to fabricate masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), ethyl alcohol and masks (HS Chapters 22; 30; 38; 56; 62; 63), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation Nos. 23 and 31. Viewed at: http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1983/2 .	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import certification requirements on imports of certain products, e.g. masks and personal protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 28	Effective 23 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Indonesia	Postponing the payment of excise duties on imports of certain goods, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (13 May 2020) and Regulation No. 30/PMK 04/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 9 April 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical and pharmaceutical products used in the treatment of COVID-19 (73 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 29; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 62; 63; 64; 65; 90). Imports also exempted from VAT and income taxes	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (13 May 2020) and Regulation No. 34/PMK 04/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 17 April 2020
Israel	Temporary export licensing requirements on medical equipment (e.g. alcohol, face masks, medical oxygen, swabs, personal cleaning products containing ethyl/isopropyl alcohol, disinfection products, artificial respiration devices) (HS 2207; 2208; 2804.40; 3005; 3402.20; 3808.90; 6210; 6307.90; 8413; 8414; 8481.80; 9018; 9019.20; 9020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/ISR/1, 6 May 2020	Effective until 31 May 2020
Jamaica	Temporary reduction of export fees and charges, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries - Communication (18 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.micaf.gov.jm/content/cut-export-fees-boost-manufacturers---floyd-green	Effective 1 April 2020
Japan	Prioritization of customs clearance for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 and other goods that require an urgent clearance to maintain the lifeline	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (19 May 2020). Viewed at: www.customs.go.jp/english/news/covid-19/index.htm)	Effective 3 March 2020
Japan	Simplified import and export declaration forms for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (19 May 2020). Viewed at: www.customs.go.jp/english/news/covid-19/index.htm)	Effective 3 March 2020
Japan	Exemption of customs duty and (domestic) consumption tax for imported goods which are proved to be provided free of charge	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (19 May 2020). Viewed at: https://www.customs.go.jp/english/news/covid-19/index.htm	

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Japan	Extension of time limits for customs procedures, including those for payment of customs duties in certain cases, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (22 May 2020), Ministry of Finance Notice No. 122/2020. Viewed at: https://www.customs.go.jp/news/news/20200511_index.htm	Effective 11 May 2020
Japan	Refund of, reduction of, or exemption from certain customs fees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (22 May 2020), Ministry of Finance Notice No. 122/2020. Viewed at: https://www.customs.go.jp/news/news/20200511_index.htm	Effective 11 May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Healthcare Order No. 56-ҢҚ "prohibition of issuing permits for the export of personal protective equipment" (20 February 2020). Viewed at: https://www.zakon.kz/5008316-vveden-zapret-na-vyvoz-sredstv.html	Effective 20 February 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. buckwheat; white sugar; potatoes (except for seeds of heading HS 0701.10.00); sunflower seeds, whether or not broken; refined sunflower-seed oil (10 litre packages or less); refined sunflower-seed oil (more than 10 liter packages); and cereal groats) (HS 1008.10.00; 1701.99; 0701; 1206; 1512.11.91; 1103.19.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 2 April 2020 to 1 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (4 June 2020), Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 111 (2 April 2020), amended by Order No. 123	Terminated in May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary QRs (export quota) on certain products, e.g. wheat or meslin flour; soft wheat and meslin; seed potatoes; unrefined sunflower-seed oil (10 liter packages or less); and unrefined sunflower-seed oil (more than 10 liter packages) (HS 1101.00; 1001.99.00; 0701.100.00; 1512.11.91; 1512.11.91), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 2 April 2020 to 1 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (4 June 2020), Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 111 (2 April 2020), amended by Order No. 123	Terminated in May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary import ban on cement clinkers; Portland cement; other Portland cement; aluminous cement; and other hydraulic cements (HS 2523), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development Order No. 191 (9 April 2020)	Effective 27 April 2020 to 27 October 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary import ban on certain petroleum products (gasoline; other distillates- gas oils of petroleum or bituminous minerals) (HS 2710) from the Russian Federation delivered by railway, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Energy Order Nos. 112 and 163	Effective 1 May 2020 to 1 August 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain types of timber (HS 4401; 4403; 4404; 4406; 4407), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development Order No. 238 (27 April 2020)	Effective 15 May 2020 to 15 November 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary export ban on surgical and sanitary masks and melt blown filters (HS 6307.90.90; 5603.12.90; 5603.92.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.1, 14 April 2020	Effective 6 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on surgical and sanitary masks and melt blown filters (HS 6307.90.90; 5603.12.10; 5603.12.90; 5603.92.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/147, 14 April 2020	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export ban on wipes and other antibacterial products; and disinfectants, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 3401; 3408)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.1, 24 March 2020	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. wheat and meslin, wheat flour, cooking oil, rice, pasta, chicken eggs, sugar, iodized table salt, feed (hay, straw, mixed feed, bran and grain feed)), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 0407.11.00; 0407.21.00; 1001; 1006; 1101.00; 1214.90.90; 1512; 1902; 2302; 2309; 2501.00.91)	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.1, 24 March 2020 and G/AG//N/KGZ/8, 31 March 2020	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Malaysia	Temporary export ban on face masks (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (17 April 2020) and Customs (Prohibition of Exports) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2020, Government Gazette Jil 64 - No. 6 (19 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.customs.gov.my/ms/cp/Documents/P.U.%20%28A%29%2092%20-%20Perintah%20Kastam%20%28Larangan%20Mengenai%20Eksport%29%20%28Pindaan%29%20%28No.%20%29%20-%202020.pdf	Effective 20 March 2020
Malaysia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on face masks (effective 23 March 2020); and on raw materials, undenatured ethyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol used for the production of hand sanitizers (effective 30 March 2020) (HS 3808.94.90; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from sales taxes and excise duties	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (17 April 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/Annoucement/PENGECUALIAN%20DI_DE_CJ%20KEPADA%20PENGILANG%20HAND%20SANITIZER.pdf and http://mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/Annoucement/PENGECUALIAN%20DUTI%20IMPORT%20DAN%20CUKAI%20JUALAN%20MULAI%2023%20MAC%202020.pdf	
Maldives	Temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. hand sanitizers, disinfectants, protective masks, hand wash, gloves used for medical purposes, and face shields), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from processing fee's	Permanent Delegation of the Maldives to the WTO (27 April 2020)	Effective 17 March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Mauritius	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of protective masks, breathing appliances and hand sanitizers (HS 6307.90.30; 9020.00.00; 3808.94.10); and goods (except furniture) to be used for the construction of purpose building for a residential care home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (16 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.mra.mu/download/Notice240320.pdf	Effective 24 March 2020
Moldova, Republic of	Temporary export restriction on certain medical equipment (e.g. medical masks, medical gloves, biocide products (medical disinfectants)) (HS 6307.90; 4818.90; 4015.11; 4015.19; 3808), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/MDA/1/Add.1, 29 May 2020	Effective 11 March 2020 to 15 May 2020
Moldova, Republic of	Temporary elimination of excise duties on imports of undistorted ethyl alcohol for use in antiseptic products (disinfectants, biocides and antibacterial cosmetics) (HS 2207.10.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the WTO (27 April 2020). Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf	Effective 26 March 2020
Morocco	Temporary export ban on face masks, protective masks, and antiseptic preparations (HS 6307.90.50; 3808.94, 3401.11; 3402.20.00; 3926.90.92; 4818.90; 4823.90; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90; 9020.00.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Morocco to the WTO (8 April 2020), and Arrêté du Ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Economie Verte et Numérique Nos. 859-20 (2 March 2020) and 926-20 (10 March 2020)	Effective March 2020
Myanmar	Temporary adjournment of new export licensing on rice from late March to end of April, to balance local production and consumption needs, to ensure food security, and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The issuance of new export licensing has been resumed starting as from 1 May 2020	Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to the WTO (18 May 2020)	
New Zealand	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain soap, testing kits, diagnostic reagents (HS 3401; 3822), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (16 April 2020) and Tariff Concession Approvals, Withdrawals and Declines Notice (No. 11) 2020 (25 March 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020 to June 2020
New Zealand	Temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain medical and hygiene products (HS Chapters 19; 21; 30; 34; 38; 39; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 85; 90; 96, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Immediate suspension of these tariffs has occurred through the application of tariff concessions, under Part 2 of the Working Tariff Document of New Zealand. Once New Zealand has entered into the post COVID-19 recovery phase, the tariff suspensions will be incorporated into Part 1 of the Working Tariff Document of New Zealand and this will complete the MFN applied tariff elimination process. These actions do not affect New Zealand's bound tariff commitments	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (16 April 2020); WTO documents G/C/W/777, G/C/W/778 and G/MA/W/150, 16 April 2020; and Tariff Concession Approvals, Withdrawals and Declines Notice (No. 14) 2020 (15 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.customs.govt.nz/business/tariffs/working-tariff-document/working-tariff-document/	Effective 16 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Nigeria	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on essential medical supplies (HS Chapters 30; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 65; 84; 90) used in the treatment of COVID-19. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to the WTO (29 April 2020)	Effective 1 May 2020, for 6 months
North Macedonia	Temporary export ban on wheat and meslin (HS 1001.19.00; 1001.91.00; 1001.99.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/MKD/1, 1 April 2020	Effective until 30 April 2020
Norway	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirements on personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (list updated on 28 April 2020) (originally effective 6 March 2020 to 1 January 2021)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/NOR/1/Add.1, 5 June 2020	Ceased to apply from 27 May 2020
Oman	Temporary export ban on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Oman to the WTO (5 June 2020)	
Pakistan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, gloves, sanitizers, goggles, "tyvek suits"), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Ministry of Commerce - Order SRO 239(I)/2020 (24 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/S.R.O-239I2020.pdf	Effective 24 March 2020
Pakistan	Temporary export ban on anti-malarial drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Ministry of Commerce - Order SRO 297(I)/2020 (9 April 2020). Viewed at: http://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SRO-297-Anti-Malarial-fldrugs.pdf	Effective 9 April 2020
Panama	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 28; 34; 38; 40; 48; 62; 63; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Consejo de Gabinete, Decreto de Gabinete No. 7 (18 March 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020, for 6 months
Paraguay	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministerio de Hacienda, Noticia Completa (16 March 2020)	
Paraguay	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirements (<i>licencia previa de exportación</i>) on face masks and ethyl alcohol (NCM 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 6307.90.10; 9020.00.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/PRY/1/Add.1, 29 May 2020	Effective 17 March 2020, for 1 year
Paraguay	Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products included in Paraguay's exception list to the Mercosur Common Tariff (<i>lista de excepciones</i>) (NCM Chapters 18; 20; 22; 29; 34; 37; 39; 40; 42; 66; 67; 69; 70; 71; 73; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 90; 91; 92; 94; 95; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto 3474 - Ministerio de Hacienda (19 March 2020)	Effective 12 March 2020 to 30 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Paraguay	Temporary reduction of VAT on imports of certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products (NCM 2828.90.11; 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 4015.11.00; 6210.10.00; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.90; 9020.00.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto 3477 - Ministerio de Hacienda (20 March 2020)	Effective 20 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Peru	Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 11% and 6%) on pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment (77 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 40; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto Supremo Nos. 051-2020-EF (13 March 2020) and 59-2020-EF (28 March 2020)	Effective March 2020
Peru	Temporary implementation of export authorization requirements on face masks, gloves and personal protective equipment (HS 6307.90.30; 4015.10.90; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 5603.11.00; 5603.12.90; 6210.10.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Decreto Supremo Nos. 13-2020-SA (8 April 2020) and 15-2020-SA (16 April 2020). Viewed at: https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/604958/DS_015-2020-SA.pdf	Effective April 2020
Philippines	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on qualified manufacturers and suppliers of medicines, medical equipment and devices, personal protective equipment (PPEs), surgical equipment and supplies, laboratory equipment and re-agents and their packaging, medical supplies, tools and consumables (alcohol, sanitizers, thermometers), raw materials, COVID-19 testing kits, or any other articles needed in the supply chain such as capital equipment, spare parts, and accessories (HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 33; 34; 35; 37; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 52; 54; 55; 59; 62; 63; 65 70; 84; 90; 94; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from other taxes and fees	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (5 May 2020) and Finance – Department of Trade and Industry Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-02. Viewed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eYAL2qIOV k8pg6k-yyrWRI3vu55DI1f/view	Effective 24 March 2020 to 23 May 2020
Philippines	Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 10%) on crude petroleum oil and refined petroleum products (HS 2709; 2710; 2711), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (5 May 2020), President Executive Order No. 113 (2 May 2020). Viewed at: https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/05may/20200502-EO-113-RRD.pdf	Effective 2 May 2020
Qatar	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical supplies and food products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the WTO (23 April 2020)	Effective 6 months
Russian Federation	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks) (HS Chapters 30; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020), and Decree No. 223 (2 March 2020)	Effective 2 March 2020 to 1 June 2020
Russian Federation	Temporary (1 month) exemption from weight control of vehicles transporting food and non-food necessities in trailers and semi-trailers of the platform type with a tented top, as well as in vans, trailers, semi-trailers of the refrigerated and isothermal type, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (23 April 2020), and Orders of the Federal Service for supervision of transport Nos. ББ-101-р(фс) (19 March 2020) and ББ-107-р(фс) (24 March 2020)	Effective 21 March 2020 to 25 April 2020
Russian Federation	Temporary export quota (7 million tonnes) on wheat and meslin, rye, barley and maize (HS 1001; 1002; 1003; 1005)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decree No. 385 (31 March 2020)	Effective 1 April to 30 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Russian Federation	Extension of the list of imported medical products exempted from VAT (HS 29; 30; 38; 39; 40; 62; 63; 65; 84; 85; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decree No. 419 (2 April 2020)	Effective 6 April 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. organic chemicals; amine-function compounds; ationic organic surface-active agents; non-ionic organic surface-active agents; antisera; wadding, gauze, bandages and similar articles; surgical gloves; personal protective equipment; and instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical sciences (HS Chapters 17; 21; 25; 28; 29; 30; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 42; 55; 56; 59; 62; 70; 76; 84; 94; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 21 (16 March 2020)	Effective 3 April 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks) (HS Chapters 29; 30; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 41 (24 March 2020)	Effective 5 April 2020 to 30 September 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. bulb onions; garlic; turnips; rye; rice; buckwheat; millet; cereal groats; meal and pellets; buckwheat grains pearled; soya beans, whether or not broken; sunflower seeds, whether or not broken; prepared foods from buckwheat) (HS Chapters 07; 10; 11; 12; 19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 43 (31 March 2020)	Effective 12 April 2020 to 30 June 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain food products (e.g. potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbage, carrots, peppers, rye, rice, buckwheat, buckwheat groats, baby food and raw materials for its production, juices), and medicines, pipettes, disinfection systems, endoscopes and contactless thermometers, medical substances, refrigerators and containers for medical purposes (HS Chapters 7; 10; 11; 17; 19; 20; 21; 28; 29; 30; 35; 38; 39; 42; 48; 76; 84; 87; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission Nos. 33 and 34 (3 April 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020 to 30 June 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary simplification of the country of origin confirmation procedure applied to goods imported from developing and LDCs countries, including through a possibility to provide electronic or paper copy of the certificate of origin	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (23 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 36 (3 April 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020 to 30 September 2020
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, cold preparations, vitamins, hand sanitizers, hands sanitizer dispensing machines, rubbing alcohol, gloves, masks, and cleansing or sanitizing wipes (HS Chapters 07; 08; 20; 21; 29; 30; 34; 39; 40; 48; 63; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Saint Kitts and Nevis - Customs & Excise Department - Memorandum (26 March 2020)	Effective 26 March 2020, for 6 months
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Postponing the collection of customs duties on imports for a period of 30 days against the submission of a bank guarantee, for the next three months and setting the necessary criteria for extending the postponement period for the most affected activities as needed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (3 May 2020)	

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Temporary export ban on COVID-19 detection and prevention products (e.g. personal protective equipment, face masks, diagnostic tests) medical equipment and pharmaceutical products (268 tariff lines at 10-digit level in HS Chapters 22; 25; 30; 33; 34; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (3 May 2020), Royal Decrees No. 35700 for year 1441H dated 09/7/1441H (4 February 2020) and No. 46009 for year 1441H dated 28/7/1441H (23 March 2020)	Effective 4 February 2020
Serbia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol (undenatured, of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol. or higher) (HS 2207.10.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020) and Decisions on requirements for exemption from custom duties for certain products - Official Gazette No. 48/20 (31 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odluka/2020/48/2/reg	Effective 1 April 2020. Terminated on 1 May 2020
Serbia	Temporary export ban on medicines (for use in humans) (effective 15 April 2020, for 30 days) (HS 2844; 3002; 3003; 3004), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decisions on export ban on medicines - Official Gazette No. 55/20 (13 April 2020) and 60/2020 (24 April 2020)	Lifted on 24 April 2020
Serbia	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. soaps, certain sanitary products, disinfectants, personal protective products, baby wipes, toilet bowl cleaners, tabs for automatic dish washing and windscreen cleaners, masks wholly made of woven textile fabrics) (HS Chapters 22; 28; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 62; 63; 90; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 1 May 2020, exports to the European Union of medical protective equipment (HS 3926.00.00; 4015.90.00; 6210.10.92; 6307.90.98; 9004.90.10) exempted	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decision on the temporary ban on exports of essential products to the general public - Official Gazette No. 54/20 (10 April 2020), amended by Decision Nos. 59/20 (22 April 2020) and 63/20 (30 April 2020)	Effective 13 April 2020, for 30 days. Certain products excluded from the ban: baby wipes (HS 3401.11.00.00); toilet bowl cleaners, tabs for automatic dish washing and windscreen cleaners (HS 3402.90.90.00); masks wholly made of woven textile fabrics (HS 6307.90.98.00). Export ban lifted on 7 May 2020
Serbia	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. sunflower oil, seed and crude oil, sugar beet molasses), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (maize export quota of 400,000 tonnes) (HS 1206.00.99; 1512.11.91; 1703.90.00; 1005.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decision on the temporary ban on exports of essential products to the general public - Official Gazette No. 54/20 (10 April 2020), amended by Decision No. 59/20 (22 April 2020) and Regulation RS No. 66/20 (7 May 2020)	Effective 13 April 2020, for 30 days. Export ban lifted on 7 May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Singapore	Temporary relaxation of import licensing requirements for hand sanitizers, masks, thermometers, and protective gear (HS 3926.20; 4015.11; 4015.19; 4818.50; 6116.10; 6210.10; 6210.20; 6210.30; 6210.40; 6210.50; 6216.00; 6307.90; 6505.00; 9004.90; 9020.00; 9025.19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Importers do not require an importer's licence from the Health Science Authority of Singapore (HSA). Instead, importers only need to notify the HSA of their intention to import, as well as provide information on the brand and quantity of the devices to be imported	Permanent Delegation of Singapore to the WTO (24 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.hsa.gov.sg/announcements/regulatory-updates/import-of-hand-sanitisers-masks-thermometers-and-protective-gear	Effective 31 January 2020
Singapore	Elimination of import tariffs and all other duties and charges on essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical products and agricultural products (HS Chapters 19; 21; 30; 34; 38; 39; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 85; 90; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore to: (i) refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions on essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical products and agricultural products; and (ii) expedite the movement of such essential goods through sea and airports	WTO documents G/C/W/777, G/C/W/779 and G/MA/W/151, 16 April 2020	Effective 15 April 2020
South Africa	"COVID-19 export control regulation" on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectant) (HS 3008.94; 6307.90; 9020.00; 2933.39; 2933.49; 2933.99; 3002.12; 3002.20; 3004), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Goods shall not be exported except by virtue of an export permit	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (6 April 2020) and Department of Trade and Industry, Notice No. R.424 - Government Gazette No. 43177 (27 March 2020)	Effective 27 March 2020
Sri Lanka	Temporary export ban on face masks - N95 type, and disposable surgical face masks (implemented on 20 March 2020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (25 April 2020) and Medical Devices (availability within Sri Lanka) Regulations 2/2020, Gazette - Extraordinary 2167/17 (20 March 2020) and 2170/9 (11 April 2020). Viewed at: https://nmra.gov.lk/images/PDF/gazzet/2167-17_EPUBLISH.pdf and https://nmra.gov.lk/images/PDF/gazzet/nmraGazzete/2170-09_E.pdf	Terminated on 11 April 2020
Switzerland	Temporary moratorium on default interest on late payments of customs duties, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ordinance 641.207.2 (20 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20200842/index.html#a2	Effective 21 March 2020 to 31 December 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Switzerland	Exports of personal protective equipment and essential medical goods (HS Chapters 30; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 90) subject to export authorization by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports to EU members, EFTA members, the United Kingdom, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the European Treaty exempted, under certain conditions (as long as reciprocity is guaranteed, i.e. similar exports from the aforementioned States and territories to Switzerland do not require a licence or indeed are not prohibited)	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (8 April 2020) and COVID-19 Ordinance 2. Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20200744/index.html	Effective 26 March 2020, revised 4 April 2020
Switzerland	Temporary increase of the 2020 import quotas Nos. 7 and 9 for birds' eggs, milk and cream, and butter (HS 0402.21.11; 0402.29.11; 0405.10.11; 0405.10.91; 0405.90.10; 0407.21.10; 0407.90.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (16 April 2020)	Effective 2 April 2020
Switzerland	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and medical goods (HS Chapters 28; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/154, 27 May 2020	Effective 10 April 2020 to 9 October 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary export ban on masks with filtering efficiency of 94% or more, of textile materials and other masks, of textile materials (HS 6307.90.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (29 April 2020)	Effective 24 January 2020 to 30 June 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 20% to 10%) on other undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 90% volume. Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 7.5%) on masks, filtering efficiency of 94% or more, of textile materials (HS 2207.10.90; 6307.90.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (15 April 2020)	Effective 27 February 2020 to 26 May 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary export restriction on undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol (HS 2208.90.10) and disinfectant products (HS 3808.94.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For exports of commodities under these items of medicines for human use, a photocopy of medicine permit issued by the Ministry of Health and Welfare is required	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (19 May 2020)	Effective 1 May 2020
Thailand	Temporary export ban on surgical masks; face-masks for protection against dust, smoke or toxic substances used for safety apparatus and others (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.3, 2 April 2020	Effective 5 February 2020, for 1 year

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Thailand	Temporary export ban on bird eggs of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> (HS 0407.21.00; 0407.29.90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.3, 2 April 2020	Originally effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2020. Extended from 2 April 2020 to 30 April 2020
Turkey	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol. Temporary elimination of additional customs duties (13% and 20%) on breathing machines and medical masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 2207.20.00; 6307.90.98; 9019.20.00)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020
Turkey	Implementation of temporary prior export authorization/registration on gas, dust and radioactive dust filter masks, protective clothing, liquid-proof aprons (protective gowns used against chemicals), protective glasses, medical and surgical masks, medical sterile/non-sterile gloves (effective 4 March 2020); ethyl alcohol, eau de cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide and non-woven fabrics (effective 18 March 2020); on ventilators, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, oxygen concentrator, ventilator apparatus, anaesthesia and ventilator circuits, cannula, intubation apparatus and intensive care monitors (effective 26 March 2020); and on fresh lemons (effective 7 April 2020) (HS 2207; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 3303.00.90; 3402.90.10; 3808.94.10; 3808.94.20; 3808.94.90; 2905.12.00; 2847; 5603; 8481; 9019.20.00; 9018.90.84; 9026; 9027.10; 9018; 9018.90.60; 9018.39; 9019; 9019.20; 9018.19.10; 0805.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Turkey	Termination of prior export authorization/registration on certain products, e.g. ethyl alcohol, eau de cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide, ventilator, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, oxygen concentrator, ventilator apparatus, anaesthesia and ventilator circuit, cannula, intubation apparatus and intensive care monitors (HS 2207; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 3303.00.90; 3402.90.10; 3808.94.10; 3808.94.20; 3808.94.90; 2905.12.00; 2847; 8481; 9019.20.00; 9018.90.84; 9026; 9027.10; 9018; 9018.90.60; 9018.39; 9019; 9019.20; 9018.19.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 May 2020)	Effective 2 May 2020
Ukraine	Temporary export restriction on insulated waterproof laboratory suits; disposable (single use) medical insulative overalls, gloves of other polymer material; nitrile medical gloves, non-sterile, non-starch; nitrile non-powdered gloves; medical and surgical face masks; safety glasses; full face visors; respirators with a protection rate of not less than FFP2; undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% volume or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, except for bioethanol, distilled beverages, denatured, of any strength, and similar (HS 3926.20.00; 6210.10.92; 6210.10.98; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.00; 6307.90.98; 9004.90.10; 9004.90.90; 9020.00.00; 2207), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.2, 31 March 2020	Effective 14 March 2020 to 1 June 2020 (for ethyl alcohol - effective 25 March 2020 to 1 June 2020)

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Ukraine	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on medicine, medical goods and medical equipment (HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 70; 84; 85; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 April 2020) and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 224 (20 March 2020). Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/224-2020-n?fbclid=IwAR2E5-us7p3rAan_KeyY7pDbCfLAZByYu7eYmEhuwzvwI80BBWOFxjAdSuE#n9%E2%80%8B	Effective 21 March 2020
Ukraine	Termination of the temporary export restriction on ethyl alcohol and other spirits, except for bioethanol, distilled beverages, denatured, of any strength, and similar (HS 2207), imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 25 March 2020 to 1 June 2020)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.4, 19 May 2020	Terminated on 15 May 2020
United Kingdom	Temporary export ban (including parallel exportation from the United Kingdom) of certain medicaments (HS Chapters 25; 28; 29; 30; 31; 39), needed to treat COVID-19 patients in ICU and other settings for the protection of UK public health. The restrictions do not apply to drugs manufactured or intended for other countries and, as such, apply only to the export of drugs put in the supply chain for UK patients. The legal basis of the restrictions is Regulations 43(2) and 78 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 requiring wholesale dealers and marketing authorization holders to ensure continued supply for UK patients. These are temporary measures, in place to relieve critical shortages of medicines necessary for the protection of human health	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (9 April 2020). Viewed at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876961/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_MASTER_4_.csv/preview	
United Kingdom	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (HS Chapters 22; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 56; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (9 April 2020); GOV.UK: business and industry, trade and investment, customs declarations, duties and tariffs (import and export). Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news ; and https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877754/COVID_19_commodity_codes_list.csv/preview	Effective 27 March 2020 to 31 July 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States of America	Temporary exclusion of certain products from the additional duty of 25% on a list of 19 products from China (imposed on 1 September 2019). Published on 20 March 2020 but effective retroactively from 1 September 2019	Office of the United States Trade Representative, Notice of product exclusions: China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 47 FR No. 13970 (10 March 2020)	Effective 1 September 2019 to 1 September 2020
United States of America	Temporary exclusion of certain products from the additional duty of 25% on a list of products from China (imposed on 1 September 2019). Published on 20 March 2020 but effective retroactively from 1 September 2019	Office of the United States Trade Representative, Notice of product exclusions: China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 50 FR No. 15247 (15 March 2020)	Effective 1 September 2019 to 1 September 2020
United States of America	Presidential Memoranda allocating to domestic use certain personal protective equipment (e.g. N-95 filtering facepiece respirators; other filtering facepiece respirators; elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges; PPE surgical masks; and PPE gloves or surgical gloves) (HS 3926.20.10; 4015.11.01; 4015.19.00; 6116.10.00; 6216.00.09; 6307.90.99; 9020.00.80), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/USA/4/Add.1, 14 May 2020	Effective 7 April 2020 to 10 August 2020
United States of America	Initiation of an investigation by the United States International Trade Commission aiming at identifying imported goods related to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, their source countries, tariff classifications, and applicable rates of duty. The Commission will seek to provide: (i) the 10-digit HS code for the article; (ii) its legal description; (iii) general duty rate; (iv) any special or additional rates of duty imposed; (v) the dates on which the rates were imposed; (vi) the authorities under which they were imposed; (vii) whether any such duties have been suspended and, if so, the date of suspension as well as how long the suspension is scheduled to last; (viii) the total rate of duty imposed on such article, including any special or additional rate of duty; and (ix) the major countries of origin for each such article, and the import value of each such article from each country for the years 2017-19	United States International Trade Commission - Investigation No. 332-576 - COVID-19, Related Goods: U.S. Imports and Tariffs (13 April 2020). Viewed at: https://usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2020/er0504ll1540.htm	Report to be delivered as soon as possible, but not later than 30 April 2020. Report released on 4 May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States of America	Temporary rule by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allocating certain scarce or threatened materials for domestic use, so that these materials may not be exported from the United States without explicit approval by the FEMA, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rule covers five types of personal protective equipment (PPE): N-95 filtering facepiece respirators; other filtering facepiece respirators; elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges; PPE surgical masks; and PPE gloves or surgical gloves	Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (44 CFR Part 328 - RIN 1660-AB01): Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 70 FR No. 20195 (10 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-10/pdf/2020-07659.pdf	Effective 7 April 2020 to 10 August 2020
United States of America	Temporary postponement of the time to deposit certain estimated duties, taxes, and fees during the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. 90 days deferment period on certain payments for importers (applicably to payments for goods imported in March and April 2020). Imports subject to AD/CVD duties, and Section 201, 232 and 301 trade remedies are not included in this relief effort	Department of Homeland Security U.S. Customs and Border Protection Department of The Treasury (19 CFR Part 24 USCBP-2020-0017 CBP Dec. 20-05 RIN 1515-AE54) (19 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2020-Apr/Temporary-Postponement-of-Payment-Period%20for-DTF-20-4-2020-1.pdf	
Uruguay	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (NCM Chapters 28; 30; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 56; 62; 63; 65; 90; 94). Imports also exempted from other duties and taxes.	Permanent Delegation of Uruguay to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Resoluciones Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas - (24 March and 14 April 2020)	Effective 24 March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Uzbekistan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. poultry meat and edible offal; fish; milk and cream; butter; eggs; vegetables; dried leguminous vegetables; wheat or meslin flour; cereal grains otherwise worked (for example, hulled, rolled, flaked, pearled, sliced or kibbled), except rice (HS 1006); germ of cereals, whole, rolled, flaked or ground; Sunflower-seed, safflower or cotton-seed oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified; white sugar; pasta; baker's yeast; wadding, gauze, bandages and similar articles (dressings, adhesive plasters, poultices), impregnated or coated with pharmaceutical substances or put up in forms or packings for retail sale for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes; preparations for oral or dental hygiene; soaps; organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations; candles; tapers; matches; gloves, mittens and mitts of vulcanized rubber; toilet or facial tissue stock, towel or napkin stock; toilet paper and similar paper; nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated; ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus; and napkins and napkin liners for babies, and similar articles, of any material (HS Chapters 2; 3; 4; 7; 11; 15; 17; 19; 21; 30; 33; 34; 36; 40; 48; 56; 90; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from excise taxes	Permanent Delegation of Uzbekistan to the WTO (4 May 2020)	Effective April 2020 to 31 December 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary elimination of import taxes on medical and certain personal protective equipment used in the fight of COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 38; 39; 56; 60; 63; 72; 73; 76)	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (6 May 2020), Decision No. 155/QD-BCT - Ministry of Finance (7 February 2020). Viewed at: https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/xuat-nhap-khau/Quyet-dinh-155-QD-BTC-2020-mat-hang-mien-thue-nhap-khau-chong-dich-viem-duong-ho-hap-cap-434146.aspx	Effective 7 February 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary export licensing requirements on face masks (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (6 May 2020)	Effective 11 March 2020. Terminated on 29 April 2020
Viet Nam	Implementation of temporary export quotas on rice (HS 1006) for national food security, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (6 May 2020)	Effective 10 April 2020 to 1 May 2020
Zimbabwe	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on undenatured ethyl alcohol; hydrogen peroxide; immunological products, put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sales; thermometers and pyrometers; and medical equipment (HS 2207.10.90; 2208.90.99; 2847.00.00; 3002.15.00; 9025.11.00; 9025.19.00; 9027.80.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Zimbabwe to the WTO (16 April 2020) and Customs and Excise (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 101)	Effective 30 March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Zimbabwe	Temporary export ban on medical supplies used in the treatment of COVID-19	Statutory Instrument 93 of 2020 - Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (Amendment) Order, 2020 (No. 3). Viewed at: https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/SI%202020-093%20Public%20Health%20%28COVID-19%20Prevention%2C%20Containment%20and%20Treatment%29%20%28National%20Lockdown%29%20%28Amendment%29%20Order%2C%202020%20%28No.%203%29.pdf	Effective 30 March 2020

Note: The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continues to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. During the transition period, the information provided by the European Union which is relevant to this document continues to cover the United Kingdom.

Recorded, but not confirmed information³

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Armenia	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment (HS Chapters 29; 30; 35; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Press reports referring to Decision No. 31 (3 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=141432	Effective 3 April 2020
Bahrain, Kingdom of	Temporary export ban on face masks, due to the COVID-19	Press reports referring to Official Gazette 3466. Viewed at: https://www.mia.gov.bh/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/official-gazette-3466.pdf	Effective 9 April 2020, for 3 months
Bangladesh	Temporary export ban on certain drugs (e.g. hydroxychloroquine) used in the treatment of COVID-19	Bangladesh Sangbad Sanstha (19 April 2020)	
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Emol.mundo (18 March 2020)	
Cambodia	Temporary export ban on rice, paddy rice and fish, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Reuters (30 March 2020) and Khmer Times (6 April 2020)	Effective 5 April 2020
Cambodia	Termination of temporary export ban on rice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Reuters (13 May 2020)	Effective 20 April 2020

³ This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Cameroon	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other import duties	Radio Okapi (28 March 2020)	
Côte d'Ivoire	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other import duties	Press reports referring to Ordonnance Ministérielle and Communiqué du Conseil des Ministres (8 April 2020)	
Côte d'Ivoire	Temporary export ban on disinfectant alcohol based gel, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	abidj@n.net referring to Mesure No. 6 du Conseil National de Sécurité (24 March 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Financial Afrik (30 March 2020)	Effective 3 months
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Temporary elimination of VAT and other imports charges on certain basic food products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Financial Afrik (30 March 2020)	Effective 3 months
Guatemala	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on maize (<i>maíz blanco y amarillo</i>), under certain import quotas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	República (22 March 2020)	
Guyana	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of pharmaceutical and medical products used in the treatment of COVID-19	Guyana Times (23 April 2020)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Tehran Times (10 March 2020)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Elimination of the import ban on ethanol, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Azer press (18 March 2020)	
Jordan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectants, sanitizers), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Jordan Times (25 March 2020)	
Kenya	Temporary export ban on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The East African (3 March 2020)	
Laos	Temporary elimination of import tariffs and other duties on medical devices and other products for prevention, control (e.g. masks, sanitizers, medical equipment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Tilleke & Gibbins (3 April 2020)	
Lebanon	Temporary export ban on medical supplies and protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Naharnet (22 February 2020)	
Libya	Temporary export ban on face masks and sterilization materials, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Libya Observer (16 March 2020)	
Mali	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. sugar, meat, wheat, rice), face masks, disinfectants, gas and cattle, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	L'Essor (21 April 2020)	
Morocco	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat	Le Temps (25 March 2020)	

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Norway	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90)	Press reports referring to Regulation Ministry of Health and Care (6 March 2020)	Effective 20 March 2020 to 1 January 2021
Pakistan	Temporary export ban on edible products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Dawn and Daily Times of Pakistan (1 May 2020)	
Pakistan	Termination of the temporary export ban on rice and certain sanitizers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Pakistan Today (6 May 2020)	
Russian Federation	Temporary export ban on wheat and meslin, rye, barley and maize (HS 1001; 1002; 1003; 1005), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	La Croix (France) and Bloomberg (28 April 2020)	Effective May to July 2020
South Africa	Elimination of the temporary export ban on wine and fresh products, imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Business Day (South Africa) (9 April 2020)	
Sudan	Temporary export ban on maize	Middle East Monitor (UK) (3 April 2020)	Effective 15 April 2020
Syrian Arab Republic	Temporary export ban on vegetables eggs, milk, cheese and sterilization items, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	OCHA Services- Reliefweb (10 April 2020). Viewed at: https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-covid-19-update-no-05-10-april-2020	
Tajikistan	Temporary export ban on food products (e.g. vegetables, cereals, meat, flour, eggs, wheat), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Asia-Plus (5 May 2020)	Effective 25 April 2020
The Gambia	Temporary export ban on essential commodities and petroleum products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Chronicle (24 March 2020) referring to the Essential Commodities Emergency Power Regulations, 2020	
United Arab Emirates	Temporary elimination of customs fees on imported goods	KPMG - jurisdictional tax measures and government reliefs in response to COVID-19	Effective 12 March 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary export ban on certain drugs used in the COVID-19 treatment	Nhan Dan (16 April 2020)	
Viet Nam	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on non-woven fabrics for the production of protection clothing used in the fight of COVID-19 pandemic (HS 5603)	Viet Nam News Summary (17 April 2020) referring to Decision No. 436/QD-BCT - Ministry of Finance (27 March 2020). Viewed at: https://luatvietnam.vn/thue/quyet-dinh-436-qd-btc-2020-bo-sung-hang-duoc-mien-thue-nhap-khau-phong-chong-covid-182246-d1.html	Effective 27 March 2020
Viet Nam	Termination of the temporary export ban on certain drugs (37) used in the COVID-19 treatment	Tuoi Tre Newspaper (7 May 2020) referring to Drug Administration of Viet Nam	
Zambia	Temporary elimination of excise duties on imports of ethanol for use in sanitizers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Zambia Reports (27 March 2020)	

ANNEX 6 – COVID-19 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES (SERVICES)¹

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Australia	All sectors	On 29 March 2020, the Australian Government announced temporary changes to the foreign investment review framework that are designed to safeguard Australia's national interest during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. During this period the monetary threshold amounts under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 will be AUD 0 for proposed foreign investments made on or after 10:30pm (AEDT) 29 March 2020.	Viewed at: https://firb.gov.au/qa-temporary-changes-foreign-investment-framework	Effective from 10:30pm (AEDT) 29 March 2020	YES
Australia	Financial services	On 19 March, the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) announced support for use of capital buffers to promote ongoing lending to the economy.	Viewed at: https://www.apra.gov.au/news-and-publications/apra-adjusts-bank-capital-expectations	19 March 2020	YES
Australia	Selected sectors	The government has introduced new measures in response to COVID-19 to allow some temporary work visa holders employed in critical sectors including agriculture, food processing, health, aged and disability care and childcare to remain in Australia and continue working until it is safe and practicable for them to return to their countries. Visas may be granted for stays of up to 12 months.	Viewed at: https://covid19.govcms.gov.au/staying-australia#15	Initiated 1 April 2020	YES
Austria	Telecommunication services	Austria's Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR) has delayed its upcoming second 5G auction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The spectrum auction had been expected to take place in April.	Viewed at: https://www.rtr.at/en/pr/pinfo31032020TK https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/27/austria-postpones-multiband-5g-spectrum-auction/	17 March 2020	YES
Belgium	Financial services	On 11 March, the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) announced that it would release the CCyB buffer by lowering the CCyB rate from 0.5% RWA to 0% RWA. This measure was enacted by Royal Decree and became applicable from 1 April 2020. By releasing the CCyB, the NBB aims at supporting the provision of credit and at avoiding potential procyclical effects that may arise from the COVID-19 crisis.	Viewed at: https://www.nbb.be/en/articles/national-bank-belgium-releases-full-countercyclical-buffer	11 March 2020	YES
Belgium	Financial services	On March 17, the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) prohibited short selling of securities and similar transactions on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels for one month. On 15 April 2020, the FSMA renewed this measure for another month.	Viewed at: https://www.fsma.be/en/news/prohibition-short-selling-update-19032020 https://www.fsma.be/fr/news/renewal-prohibition-short-selling	17 March and 15 April 2020	YES

¹ This table has been compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in services taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or questions the right of WTO members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine and indicate whether the measures listed in the table have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information in this table is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures relating to services. Further, the objective of this table is not to list all COVID-related measures taken by governments around the world to limit movement, nor all the measures taken to ease the impact of border restrictions or other limits on movement. The measures listed in this table provide a situation report up to 15 May 2020. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the current pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm#measures.

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Brazil	Financial services	On 16 March, the Central Bank of Brazil reduced the Conservation Capital Buffer from 2.5% to 1.25% for one year.	Viewed at: https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/pressdetal/2322/nota	16 March 2020	YES
Brazil	Health services	To deal with the health emergency, the use of telemedicine for medical services, including medical consultation and digital medicine prescription, is permitted on an exceptional and temporary basis through ordinance 467/20.	Ordinance 46/20 Viewed at: http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-467-de-20-de-marco-de-2020-249312996	20 March 2020	YES
Bulgaria	Financial services	The Governing Board of the Bulgarian National Bank approved the deferral and settlement of repayments to banks and other financial institutions; this will constitute private moratorium in accordance with European Banking Authority (EBA) Guidelines on legislative and non-legislative moratoria on loan repayments applied in the light of the COVID-19 crisis.	Viewed at: http://bnb.bg/PressOffice/POPressReleases/POPRDate/PR_20200410_BG	10 March 2020	YES
Canada	All sectors	On 18 April 2020, the government issued a Policy Statement indicating that, in the context of the pandemic, it would subject certain foreign investments into Canada to enhanced scrutiny under the Investment Canada Act. The government will scrutinize with particular attention foreign direct investments of any value, controlling or non-controlling, in Canadian businesses that are related to public health or involved in the supply of critical goods and services to Canadians or to the government. The government will also subject all foreign investments by state-owned investors, regardless of their value, or private investors assessed as being closely tied to or subject to direction from foreign governments, to enhanced scrutiny under the Act. This may involve the Minister requesting additional information or extensions of timelines for review as authorized by the ICA, in order to ensure that the government can fully assess these investments. This enhanced scrutiny of certain foreign investments is to apply until the economy recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Viewed at: https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81224.html	18 April 2020	YES
Canada	Financial services	On 13 March, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) lowered the stability buffer requirement from 2.25% to 1% of risk-weighted assets.	Viewed at: https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/nr_20200313.aspx	13 March 2020	YES
Canada	Financial services	On 27 March, OSFI announced a suite of adjustments to existing capital and liquidity requirements (e.g., liquidity coverage ratio and net stable funding ratio) to afford institutions further flexibility in addressing conditions precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic while promoting financial resilience and stability.	Viewed at: https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/fi-if/in-ai/Pages/DTI20200327_let.aspx	27 March 2020	YES
China	Air transport services	The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has recognized the need for flexibility in the delivery of classroom training and for the completion of recurrent training requirements. It has also granted the ability to extend the validity periods to some elements of training applicable to pilots, engineers, cabin crew and dispatchers.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
China	All sectors	<p>On 10 February 2020, the MOFCOM General Office issued the Circular on Strengthening the Services for Foreign-Invested Enterprises and Investment Attraction Work While Actively Fighting Against COVID-19 Pandemic, requiring local departments of commerce to provide necessary services for foreign-invested enterprises and attract investment on the condition of effectively preventing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Specifically, the Circular requires local departments of commerce to: 1) actively help foreign-invested enterprises to resume normal production and operation; 2) strengthen services for large foreign-invested projects; 3) innovate and improve the work of investment promotion; 4) offer targeted assistance based on local conditions; and 5) continue to improve the business environment.</p>	<p>Circular on Strengthening the Services for Foreign-Invested Enterprises and Investment Attraction Work While Actively Fighting Against COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>Viewed at: http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/</p>	10 February 2020	YES
China	Financial services	On 3 April 2020, the People's Bank of China decided to cut the Required Reserve Ratio by 1 percentage point, with a cut of 0.5 percentage points on April 15 and May 15 each time, for rural credit cooperatives, rural commercial banks, rural cooperative banks, village banks, as well as city commercial banks operating solely within provincial-level administrative regions.	<p>Viewed at: http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4002931/index.html</p>	03 April 2020	YES
Colombia	Telecommunication services	A new measure requires mobile telephony operators (voice and data) to maintain minimum service levels despite not receiving adequate remuneration from the user.	<p>Decree 464 of 23 March 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20464%20DEL%2023%20DE%20MARZO%20DE%202020.pdf</p>	23 March 2020	YES
Costa Rica	Tourism services	The Costa Rica Tourism Board adopted a number of measures in response to COVID-19, including agreeing to a moratorium on the payment of the tourism tax on airfare from April to June 2020 for companies experiencing liquidity problems.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.ict.go.cr/es/noticias-destacadas-2/1684-ict-acuerda-moratoria-a-empresas-en-pago-de-impuestos-turisticos.html</p>	31 March 2020	YES
Costa Rica	Distribution of fuel	The government has granted automatic extensions of 3 months to concessions, authorizations and operating permits for suppliers of fuel, including service stations.	<p>Viewed at: http://direcciondecombustiblesminiacr.blogspot.com/2020/03/prorroga-de-3-meses-las-concesiones.html</p>	31 March 2020	YES
Costa Rica	Financial services	The government issued a directive urging banks, at the request of debtors affected by COVID-19, to undertake measures to readjust loan conditions and reduce interest rates.	<p>Directive No. 075-H</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=90784&nValor3=119725&strTipM=TC&lResultado=4&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel</p>	18 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Costa Rica	Financial services	Authorities have taken temporary monetary and financial policy measures to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, including lowering the countercyclical buffer level to 0% to support banks in extending credit facilities to customers.	Resolution SGF-0902-2020; Agreement No. SGV-A-239 of the General Securities Superintendence Viewed at: https://www.sugef.fi.cr/normativa/acuerdos_superintendente.aspx https://www.sugeval.fi.cr/noticias/evntos/Noticias/Modificaci3n%20temporal%20en%20el%20plazo%20de%20entrega%20de%20reportes%20regulatorios%20en%20el%20contexto%20del%20COVID-19.pdf http://www.pqrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=91074&nValor3=120164&strTipM=TC&Resultado=1&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel http://www.pqrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=91082&nValor3=120171&strTipM=TC&Resultado=2&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel	March-April 2020	YES
Costa Rica	All sectors	A new measure directs relevant public entities to consider simplifying procedures and requirements and to review the validity of permits, licenses, authorizations or concessions that enable natural or legal persons to carry out any economic or commercial activity.	Directive No. 079-MP-MEIC Viewed at: http://www.pqrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=91015&nValor3=120088&strTipM=TC	8 April 2020	YES
Czech Republic	Financial services	On 16 March 2020, the Czech National Bank (CNB) Bank Board revised its earlier decision adopted in May 2019 to increase the countercyclical capital buffer rate for exposures located in the Czech Republic to 2% with effect from 1 July 2020. This decision meant that banks continued to maintain the currently applicable rate of this buffer at 1.75%. On 26 March 2020 the rate of this buffer was lowered to 1 % as of 1 April 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.cnb.cz/en/	March-April 2020	YES
European Union	All sectors	The European Commission issued new guidelines for screening foreign direct investment in companies and critical assets located in the European Union, including those operating in the fields of health, medical research, biotechnology and infrastructures deemed essential for security and public order. This aims to respond to the increased potential risk to strategic industries, as a result of the economic shock posed by	Viewed at: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2020/march/tradoc_158676.pdf	25 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
		<p>COVID-19.</p> <p>The guidelines offer guidance to be applied within the context of the recently adopted framework for EU screening and review of FDI. Among other things, the new guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call on Member States to make full use of existing FDI screening mechanisms and take fully into account the risks to critical health infrastructures, supply of critical inputs, and other critical sectors; - Call on those Member States without screening mechanisms to set up a full-fledged screening mechanism and in the meantime to use other available options to address cases where the acquisition or control of a particular business, infrastructure or technology would create a risk to security or public order in the EU, including a risk to critical health infrastructures and supply of critical inputs. 			
European Union	Air transport services	On 30 March, the European Union suspended its rule that require air carriers to operate slots for at least 80 percent of the time to keep the entitlement in the next equivalent season for the whole summer season, until 24 October 2020.	<p>Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council Amending Council Regulation (EEC) NO 95/93 on Common Rules for the Allocation of Slots at Community Airports.</p> <p>Viewed at: http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-4-2020-REV-1/en/pdf</p>	Effective 1 March 2020, and retroactively from 23 January for flights between the EU and China or Hong Kong, China.	YES
European Union	Air transport services	The European Commission has published guidelines setting out operational measures to facilitate the operation of air cargo during the COVID-19 outbreak	<p>Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf</p>	26 March 2020	YES
European Union	Air transport services	The European Aviation Safety Agency allowed the extension of the validity periods for licences, ratings, endorsements, certificates and attestations of aircrew, instructors, examiners, aircraft maintenance licence holders and air traffic controllers as well as extension of airworthiness review certificates.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.ata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/</p>	21 March 2020	YES
European Union	Financial services	On 12 March, the European Central Bank said banks directly supervised by the ECB can fully use capital buffers and that banks will benefit from relief in the composition of capital for Pillar 2 Requirements. Banks are also expected not to increase capital distributions in response to these measures. Banks will also be allowed to operate temporarily below the liquidity coverage ratio.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ssm.pr200312~43351ac3ac.en.html</p>	12 March 2020	YES
European Union	Road transport services	On 16 March 2020, the European Commission issued guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available. The guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the internal market.	<p>Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf</p>	16 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union	Road transport services and environmental services	On 30 March 2020, the European Commission issued some specific guidelines in order to ensure the continuation of national and cross-border waste shipments in the EU. The guidelines indicate that the Green Lanes apply mutatis mutandis to the shipments of waste, and invite Member States to implement this principle.	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/pdf/waste_shipment_and_COVID19.pdf?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=7ef90fbd23-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_31_02_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-7ef90fbd23-190580935	30 March 2020	YES
Finland	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) exempted temporarily banks from fulfilling certain additional capital and liquidity requirements.	Viewed at: https://www.finanssivalvonta.fi/en/publications-and-press-releases/Press-release/2020/financial-supervisory-authority-enhances-monitoring-of-financial-sector/	16 March 2020	YES
Finland	Financial services	On 17 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) lowered bank capital requirements by 1% by removing the systemic risk buffer.	Viewed at: https://www.finanssivalvonta.fi/en/publications-and-press-releases/Press-release/2020/macprudential-decision-fin-fsa-board-lowers-credit-institutions-capital-requirements/	17 March 2020	YES
France	All sectors	The Minister for the Economy and Finance announced on 29 April 2020 an update to the screening procedure for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the context of the current health and economic crisis. The new measure includes biotechnologies in the list of critical technologies that are likely to be subject to FDI screening. It also lowers, from 25% to 10%, the threshold of voting rights in the acquired company that triggers the screening procedure. This change in the threshold will apply for a limited period of time, only for listed companies, and for investors from third countries (European Union and European Economic Area investors are exempted).	Text no. 22 of the French Official Journal no. 0105 dated 30 April 2020. Viewed at: https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2020/04/30/covid-19-update-of-the-foreign-direct-investment-screening-procedure-in-france	Effective 30 April 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
France	Health services	The government has relaxed the rules on the use of telemedicine services. Until 31 May 2020, all persons affected by Covid-19 (and other patients under certain circumstances) can benefit from telemedicine services even if there is no prior relation between the healthcare provider and the patient. This can be done using video transmission tools (equipped location for the health service provider, dedicated platform or Internet website or app). If the patient is not duly equipped, the service can be provided by phone.	Decree No. 2020-227 of 9 March 2020; Decree No. 2020-277 of 19 March 2020; Order (Arrêté) of 23 March 2020 Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041704122&categorieLien=id https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041737421&dateTexte=20200410 https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041746744&categorieLien=id	9, 19 and 23 March 2020	YES
France	Financial services	On 18 March, the Haut Conseil de Stabilité Financière (the French macroprudential authority) reduced the countercyclical capital buffer from 0.25% of risk-weighted assets (RWA) to 0% RWA.	Viewed at: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/directions_services/hcsf/HCSF_20200318_Communique_de_presse_de_seance.pdf	18 March 2020	YES
France	Financial services	On 17 March, the Autorité des marchés financiers (the French financial markets authority) announced the prohibition of short selling for one month.	Viewed at: https://www.amf-france.org/en/news-publications/news-releases/amf-news-releases/amf-announces-short-selling-ban-one-month	17 March 2020	YES
Germany	Financial services	On 18 March, Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) lowered the countercyclical capital buffer from 0.25% to 0% as of 1 April.	Viewed at: https://www.bundesbank.de/en/tasks/topics/statement-on-the-countercyclical-capital-buffer-by-the-german-financial-stability-committee-828822	01 April 2020	YES
Ghana	Financial services	The Bank of Ghana modified policies in relation to mobile money transactions for a period of three months. Since 20 March 2020, smaller withdrawals and transactions (below GHS100) do not carry a charge. This is alongside an increase in maximum transaction limits and balance levels for all customers.	Viewed at: https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/money-home-banner/african-nations-back-mobile-money-in-virus-battle/	20 March 2020	

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Ghana	Telecommunication services	The National Communications Authority of Ghana has temporarily granted additional spectrum at no cost for three months to the country's two largest mobile network operators (Vodafone and MTN Ghana) to help cope with a significant increase in internet traffic during the COVID-19 lockdown.	Viewed at: http://www.africanwirelesscomms.com/news-details?itemid=3149&post=two-ghanaiian-operators-receive-additional-temporary-spectrum-293333	15 April 2020	
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 16 March, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority lowered the counter-cyclical buffer level from 2.0% to 1.0% to support banks in extending credit.	Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/press-releases/2020/03/20200316-5/	16 March 2020	YES
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 3 April, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority wrote to the industry to encourage banks to consider utilising liquidity buffers built up under the regulatory liquidity framework to meet their liquidity demand and support business activities. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority is prepared to accept banks operating temporarily with a lower level of liquidity ratios as a result.	Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2020/20200403e1.pdf	3 April 2020	YES
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 8 April, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority lowered the regulatory reserve requirement on locally incorporated authorized institutions ("AIs") by 50%.	Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2020/20200408e1.pdf	8 April 2020	YES
India	All sectors	The government amended its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in order to curb takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The amendment provides that an entity of a country that shares a land border with India - or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country - can invest only with prior government permission.	Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615711	18 April 2020	
India	Telecommunication services	To ensure uninterrupted service for prepaid phone users amid the lockdown, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked telecom operators to extend the validity of pre-paid services. Further, India's Congress asked telecom operators to waive call charges for migrant workers for a month as hundreds of thousands attempt to leave cities and return home.	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/30/india-industry-adapts-to-pandemic-challenges/	30 March 2020	
India	Telecommunication services	The Department of Telecommunications relaxed the guidelines for Other Service Providers [OSP] (companies providing 'Applications Services' like tele-banking, tele-medicine, tele-education, tele-trading, e-commerce, call centre, network operation centre and other IT Enabled Services).	Viewed at: https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Relaxation%20inT%26C%20of%20OSP%2013.3.20.PDF?download=1	13 March 2020	YES
India	Financial services	The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to temporarily maintain lower levels of liquidity and has introduced additional flexibility in the implementation of banks' capital requirements, in particular the countercyclical capital buffer and the capital conservation buffer, among various measures to assist banks in the context of the shutdown in India following the Covid-19 outbreak.	Viewed at: https://www.rbi.org.in/home.aspx	March-April 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
India	Financial services	The Reserve Bank of India has authorized banks to deal in offshore non-deliverable rupee derivative markets (Offshore NDF Rupee Market). Banks in India that operate International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) will be able to participate in the NDF market with effect from 1 June 2020. Banks may participate through their branches in India, their foreign branches or through their IBUs. Previously, Indian banks were not permitted to participate in Indian rupee derivative market or the off-shore Non-Deliverable Forward market.	Viewed at: https://www.rbi.org.in/home.aspx	March 2020; Effective 1 June 2020	YES
Indonesia	Internet and other network-enabled services	As part of the COVID-19 emergency bill signed by the President on 31 March 2020, a new regulation requires foreign suppliers of digital services to register and charge the value added tax. The measure also provides for the imposition of a tax on e-commerce activities carried out by foreign suppliers with a significant economic presence in Indonesia. Significant economic presence will be determined further by authorities, taking into account such factors as gross revenue, sales and active users in Indonesia. Those with a significant economic presence will be declared permanent establishments and, thus, subject to domestic tax regulations. The regulation provides that an electronic transaction tax on the company's sales in Indonesia would be charged if tax treaties prevent declaring a company as a permanent establishment. The Regulation in lieu of law (Perppu) aims to relax some regulations needed to manage COVID-19 and maintain financial system stability in Indonesia. The regulation covers measures on budgeting and financing, taxation including reduction in general corporate income tax rates, extension of the period of application/settlement of tax administration, and customs facilities. Further provisions are regulated in the Ministry of Finance regulation No. 46/2020, 38/2020, 36/2020, 35/2020, and 43/2020.	Regulation in lieu of law (Perppu) No. 1 Year 2020 on State Financial and Financial System Stability Policy to Manage Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic and/or to Anticipate Threats that Will Endanger National Economy and/or Financial System Stability. Viewed at: https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/01/indonesia-taxes-tech-companies-through-new-regulation.html https://www.taxathand.com/article/13314/Indonesia/2020/Measures-introduced-in-response-to-COVID-19-include-immediate-CIT-rate-reduction	31 March 2020	YES
Indonesia	Financial services	On 23 March, the Financial Services Authority (OJK) prohibited short selling transactions until a date to be determined.	Viewed at: https://www.ojk.go.id/en/berita-dan-kegiatan/siaran-pers/Pages/Joint-Press-Release-OJK-and-SRO-Maintain-Continuous-Stock-Exchange%e2%80%99s-Orderly,-Fair.aspx	23 March 2020	
Italy	Selected sectors	On 9 April 2020, the government widened, during the emergency period, its foreign investment screening powers to new sectors, such as food security, health, banks and insurance companies, financial infrastructure, as well as to acquisitions within the European Union not only for control but also for the acquisition of shares of 10% or more. The new measure also makes it possible for the government to start exerting special powers ex officio for non-notified operations. The new measure is valid until 31 December 2020.	Law Decree No. 23 of 2020 Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/gazze/ta/serie_generale/caricaDettaglio?da taPubblicazioneGazzetta=2020-04-08&numeroGazzetta=94&elenco30gio rni=tru	09 April 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Italy	Financial services	On 20 March, Banca d'Italia allowed all banks and non-bank intermediaries to operate temporarily below the level of the Pillar 2 Guidance and the capital conservation buffer, as well as below the liquidity coverage ratio.	Viewed at: https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/comunicati/documenti/2020-01/Deadlines-extension-COVID-19.pdf?language_id=1	20 March 2020	YES
Italy	Financial services	On 17 March, Consob, the public authority responsible for regulating the Italian securities markets, prohibited the taking or increasing of net short positions (short-selling and other bearish transactions) on all stocks traded on the Italian regulated market for a duration of 3 months.	Viewed at: http://www.consob.it/documents/46180/46181/press_release_20200317.pdf/0f50bec8-8dda-439a-a2fd-f63bbd39f2e3	17 March 2020	YES
Japan	Financial services	In response to the recent spread of COVID-19, relevant authorities have taken measures, including: (i) Minister for Financial Services issued a statement on maintaining the function of the financial system and financial markets under the Declaration of a State of Emergency Responding to the Spread of COVID-19 on 16 April; (ii) The Financial Services Agency (FSA) made a leaflet become available for those facing difficulties with cash flow as impact of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic spreads on 8 April; (iii) The FSA established the Consultation Hotline Related to COVID-19 for financial services users on February 28; (iv) The FSA made requests to financial institutions to take prompt and flexible measures related to cash flow support for companies and individuals in consideration of COVID-19 spreads by publishing notices on 7 February, 6 March, 13 March, 24 March, 7 April, 10 April, 16 April, and 21 April; (v) The FSA published a reference casebook on a collection of financial institutions' favorable response-practices to deal with COVID-19 affected parties on 27 March; (vi) The FSA put forth the conditions for the extension of deadline for submitting annual securities and other reports in connection with the COVID-19 infection due to unavoidable reasons on 10 February; and (vii) The FSA established the Networking Group on the corporate disclosure, financial reporting and audit of listed companies in consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 Infection on 3 April.	Viewed at: https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/ordinary/coronavirus202001/press.html	Updated 19 May 2020	YES
Kenya	Telecommunication services	To ensure that effective health-related information can be transmitted to and from rural areas, Kenya has fast-tracked the issuance of an operating license to Alphabet's Loon services to extend availability of Wifi to remote locations.	Viewed at: https://www.president.go.ke/2020/03/23/kenya-approves-roll-out-of-google-loon-4g-to-mitigate-coronavirus-work-disruptions/ https://www.developingtelecoms.com/telecom-technology/wireless-networks/9362-internet-connectivity-comes-to-rural-kenya-by-balloon.html	24 March 2020	

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Korea, Rep. of	Financial services	On 16 March, FSC announced that the government will tighten regulations on stock short selling for six months beginning on March 16.	Viewed at: http://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/new_press/releases.jsp	16 March 2020	YES
Korea, Rep. of	Financial services	On 19 March, Korean regulator raised the cap of foreign exchange (FX) derivatives positions for local banks from 40% to 50%, and from 200% to 250% for foreign banks.	Viewed at: http://www.moef.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaview.do?menuNo=4010100&searchNttId1=MOSF_000000000032705&searchBbsId1=MOSFBBS_00000000028	19 March 2020	YES
Lithuania	Financial services	On 31 March, the National Bank of Lithuania lowered the countercyclical buffer level from 1 % to 0% as of 1 April.	Viewed at: https://www.lb.lt/en/	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Malta	Health Services	Live-in carers and healthcare professionals whose single permit is about to expire can send an email to medical.ima@gov.mt to have their permit extended by a return email for a period of three months.	Viewed at: https://lovinmalta.com/news/foreign-healthcare-workers-living-on-work-permit-in-malta-get-automatic-three-month-extension-amid-covid-19-concerns/	19 March 2020	YES
Malta	All sectors	Following the Government's decision, Identity Malta Agency is not accepting new single permit applications except for highly skilled workers (Key Employee Initiative) and medical professionals. Such applications should be submitted online on https://singlepermit.gov.mt , once the employer has registered on online.singlepermit.ima@gov.mt .	Viewed at: https://identitymalta.com/covid-19-change-in-expatriates-unit-central-visa-unit-service-provision/	16 March 2020	YES
Mexico	Air transport services	In Mexico, the <i>Agencia Federal de Aviación Civil</i> (AFAC) is extending the validity of permits, licenses and/or certificates for technical personnel for three months.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	
Moldova, Republic of	Financial services	The government undertook a number of measures in the financial services sector, such as allowing commercial banks to reschedule mortgage loans for physical persons, giving banks the possibility to defer credit rates to individuals for 3 months (until 30 June 2020), and encouraging lending by non-banking entities (microfinance organizations) at lower interest rates.	Decision No. 69 of 17 March 2020 of the National Bank of Moldova; Decision No. 81 of 27 March 2020 of the Executive Committee Board of the National Bank of Moldova; Decision the National Commission for Financial Markets (NCFM) no. 13/5 of 24 March 2020.	Adopted in March 2020	YES
Moldova, Republic of	Tourism services	The government reduced the VAT rate from 20% to 15% for the sector of hotels, restaurants, and cafes.	Law No. 60 of 23 April 2020	Effective 1 May 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Moldova, Republic of	Transport services	The government introduced various measures affecting transport services in the context of the crisis. For example, cargo drivers and transport service personnel that carry out transport of goods, as well as the aircraft/ships/train crews, have been exempted from the requirement of self-isolation and 14 day of quarantine (if they do not present any clinical signs of respiratory infection).	Provisions No. 2 of 20 March 2020 and No. 6 of 26 March 2020 of the Commission on Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_2_din_20.03.2020_a_cse_a_r_m_cu_modificari_0.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf	20 and 26 March 2020	YES
Moldova, Republic of	Various sectors	The government adopted a series of measures to respond to the crisis, including with respect to public digital signatures, the movement of natural persons, the activities of lawyers, notaries and bailiffs, and medical/healthcare workers.	Provisions No. 6 of 26 March 2020, No. 8 of 28 March 2020, No. 10 of 31 March 2020, and No. 16 of 10 April 2020 of the Commission on Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova Decision no. 9 of 15 March 2020 of the Extraordinary National Commission on public health of the Republic of Moldova Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_nr_8.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.10.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.3_anexa.pdf	March-April 2020	YES
Nepal	Road transport services	All border crossing points are closed. These restrictions also apply to international freight movements.	Viewed at: https://www.iru.org/apps/flash-getfile-action?id=889&file=global-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak.pdf	24 March 2020	
Netherlands	Financial services	On 17 March, the Central Bank lowered systemic buffers from 3% of global risk-weighted exposures to 2.5% for ING, 2% for Rabobank and 1.5% for ABN Amro.	Viewed at: https://www.dnb.nl/en/news/news-and-archive/persberichten-2020/dnb387870.jsp	17 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Oman	Telecommunication services	Oman's Telecom regulator has unblocked access to VoIP apps, including Skype, Google Meet and Zoom, to facilitate continuity for organisations, private and educational institutions, and government bodies during the pandemic.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.om/media-center/media-center/1848-notice-issued-by-tra-oman-on-the-measures-taken-by-the-sultanate-of-oman-to-quarantee-the-provision-of-telecommunication-services-limit-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-and-mitigate-its-effects	18 March 2020	
Oman	Telecommunication services	The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has allocated additional mobile spectrum to the licensed network operators on a temporary basis and at no financial cost.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.om/media-center/media-center/1848-notice-issued-by-tra-oman-on-the-measures-taken-by-the-sultanate-of-oman-to-quarantee-the-provision-of-telecommunication-services-limit-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-and-mitigate-its-effects	26 March 2020	
Peru	Telecommunication services	A new decree requires telecommunication operators to prioritise telecommunications traffic from public entities, in particularly those in the health sector, to prevent vital communications from being slowed by the increasing use of networks for tele-work, tele-education and leisure activities. The decree also requires operators to provide better access to telecommunications services for government ministries involved in combating the pandemic, including those for the interior, defence and education.	Emergency Decree No. 035-2020 Viewed at: https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/normaslegales/decreto-de-urgencia-que-establece-medidas-complementarias-pa-decreto-de-urgencia-n-035-2020-1865377-1/	Published: 3 April 2020 Entry into force: 4 April 2020 Expiration: 31 December 2020	YES
Philippines	Financial services	The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP - Central Bank of the Philippines) adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to regulatory relief for BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) affected by COVID-19 situation, and to the facilitation of access to foreign exchanges resources for financial transactions. In addition, the Monetary Board adopted a series of measures, including increases in single borrower limits, relaxing maximum penalties for reserve deficiencies, relaxation of certain notification requirements, extension of the period of compliance with BSP supervisory requirements, measures to facilitate loans to MSMEs.	Memoranda Nos. M-2020-008, 011-013, 015, 017, 039; Circulars No. 1079, 1080, 1083; Monetary Board Resolution No. 403.A Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/	March-May 2020	YES
Portugal	Telecommunication services	The telecommunications regulator (ANACOM) has suspended digital migration and postponed release of 700MHz band (originally scheduled for June) for 5G services, saying that resumption will take place as soon as conditions associated with the pandemic permit.	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/17/anacom-suspends-digital-migration-postpones-release-of-700mhz-band/	17 March 2020	
Romania	Financial services	An emergency ordinance delays the instalment payments for loans, for a period between 1 and 9 months. The initiative is aimed at both citizens and legal persons affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Emergency Ordinance No 37/2020	30 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Russian Federation	Air transport services	The Russian Federation has exempted flight crews from the 14-day quarantine.	Viewed at: https://tiaca.org/news/covid-19-tiacas-weekly-update-governments-are-urged-to-facilitate-the-flow-of-air-cargo-to-fight-covid-19-and-its-effects/	26 March 2020	YES
Rwanda	Financial services	Rwanda temporarily removed fees on transfers between bank accounts and mobile wallets and on mobile money transfers. Merchant fees on payments for all contactless transactions were also removed to reduce chances of COVID-19 transmission.	Viewed at: https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/mobile-money-transfers-made-free-boost-cashless-payments	18 March 2020	
South Africa	Telecommunication services	The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is extending the validity of existing frequency spectrum licences by three months, due to South Africa's Covid-19 lockdown. The due date for the renewal of radio frequency spectrum licences and payment of the renewal fees is normally 31 March of each year.	Viewed at: https://www.icasa.org.za/news/2020/du-date-for-the-renewal-of-radio-frequency-spectrum-licences-extended	31 March 2020	
South Africa	Health services	The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) issued a guidance note on the application of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, and which facilitates the use of video or phone calls by doctors and therapists to treat patients. Previously, such services were essentially to cases where there was an already established practitioner-patient relationship.	Viewed at: https://ahpcs.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GUIDELINE_S_TELEHEALTH-TELEMEDICINE_1_24Mar2020.pdf	25 March 2020	
Spain	All sectors	<p>The Spanish government changed its rules on foreign investment to prevent investors from non-EU and non-EFTA countries from taking control of strategic Spanish companies. A new Royal Decree has developed Law 19/2003 concerning the criteria and circumstances under which the Government could suspend the FDI regime and therefore the investment at stake would need a prior authorisation. The aim of the government is to avoid that prospective investors take advantage of market volatility and decline in equity valuations resulting from COVID-19 to acquire Spanish companies.</p> <p>The new requirement concerns situations where foreign investors come to hold a stake of 10% or more of the share capital of a Spanish company or where, as a result of the transaction, they participate effectively in the management or controls the Spanish company. Prior authorizations would be required for investments in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - critical infrastructure, including energy, transportation, water, health, communications, media, data processing or storage, aerospace, defence, electoral or financial infrastructures, and sensitive facilities, as well as land and real estate that are key to the use of such infrastructures; - critical technologies and dual-use items, including artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors, cyber security, aerospace, defence, energy storage, quantum and nuclear technologies, as well as nanotechnologies and biotechnologies; - supply of fundamental inputs, in particular energy, commodities and food safety; 	<p>Spanish Royal Decree-Law 8/2020, of 17 March, on Urgent Extraordinary Measures to Address the Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Spanish Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, adopting urgent additional measures in the social and economic sphere to confront COVID-19.</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-spain-bme/update-1-spains-move-to-stop-foreign-companies-swooping-spooks-bme-investors-idUSL8N2BA7FD</p> <p>https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=6e34f7ee-7fe9-4155-98c7-aa37aef764d0</p>	Approved by the government on 18 March 2020; approved by the Parliament on 9 April 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
		<p>- sectors with access to sensitive information, in particular personal data, or with the capacity to control such information;</p> <p>- media;</p> <p>- other sectors if the government considers the investment may affect public security, public order and public health.</p> <p>In addition, prior authorisation will also be required, irrespective of the sector, if the foreign investor: is directly or indirectly controlled by a foreign government; has made investments affecting security, public order and public health in another EU Member State; or has open administrative or judicial proceedings for criminal or illegal activities.</p> <p>The Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, clarified the following elements contained in the Royal Decree-Law 8/2020: (i) the definition of the FDI (EU investor whose ultimate owner is a non-resident is considered as an FDI. Ultimate owner would hold more than 25% equity participation, as well as the effective control over the vehicle); (ii) the transitional period for the ongoing transactions.</p> <p>The previous legal framework would apply to agreements that have already been signed between both parties and where the price has been fixed prior to the stock market crash at the beginning of March. The new measure also introduced a de minimis rule – i.e. investments in the sectors listed in RDL 8/2020 which are lower than EUR 1 million are exempted from prior authorisation and for investments higher than EUR 1 million and lower than EUR 5 million, a fast-track procedure of a maximum of 30 days is in place.</p>			
Spain	Telecommunication services	The Spanish government has delayed plans to auction spectrum for 5G services in the 694MHz-790MHz (700MHz) spectrum – referred to as the 'second digital dividend band' due to operational and financial concerns. Similar decisions have been taken by other European countries. The second digital dividend band is currently used by free-to-air television. Free-to-air broadcasts are viewed as essential during the pandemic.	Viewed at: https://www.televisiondigital.gob.es/ayuda-ciudadano/sala-prensa/Paginas/comunicado-aplazamiento-fecha-limite.aspx	20 March 2020	YES
Spain	Telecommunication services	The Spanish government temporarily suspended portability for fixed and mobile operators for the duration of the pandemic. The government also prohibited price increases on the services, given that subscribers were unable to switch operators. This temporary measure has subsequently been withdrawn on 26 May 2020.	Royal Decree-Law 8/2020 Spanish Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, adopting urgent additional measures in the social and economic sphere to confront COVID-19 Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/19/spanish-govt-suspends-portability-during-pandemic-9-5m-numbers-ported-in-2019/	Approved by Government on 18 March 2020 and by Parliament on 9 April 2020; withdrawn on 26 May 2020.	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			Royal Decree-Law 19/2020 of 26 May 2020 Viewed at: https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2020-5315		
Spain	Financial services	On 31 March, the Central Bank announced that the counter-cyclical capital buffer will be kept to 0%.	Viewed at: https://www.bde.es/f/webbde/GAP/S_ecciones/SalaPrensa/NotasInformativas/20/presbe2020_29en.pdf	31 March 2020	YES
Spain	Financial services	On 16 March, the government banned temporarily short selling. This temporary measure was subsequently withdrawn on 18 May 2020.	Viewed at: http://cnmv.es/portal/verDoc.axd?t=%7b5baf609e-ed4e-4dad-a697-80c55548e181%7d http://www.cnmv.es/Portal/verDoc.axd?t=%7bfcdd0a76-57cb-4603-b0fa-191527c9cf86%7d	Introduced on 16 March 2020; no longer in force from 23h59 on 18 May 2020	YES
Sweden	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority lowered the countercyclical capital buffer rate from 2.5% to 0% to support banks in extending credit.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/press-releases/2020/fi-lowers-the-countercyclical-capital-buffer-to-zero/	16 March 2020	YES
Sweden	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority allowed banks to temporarily operate below the liquidity coverage ratio.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/press-releases/2020/fi-on-liquidity-coverage-ratios-lcr-for-swedish-banks/	16 March 2020	YES
Sweden	Financial services	On 14 April, the Financial Supervisory Authority decided that banks will have the possibility of offering all new and existing mortgagors an exemption from the amortisation requirements due to the spread of the coronavirus and its effects on the Swedish economy. The exemption will be in force until the end of august 2021.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/news/2020/banks-may-now-grant-amortisation-exemption/	14 April 2020	YES
Switzerland	Financial services	On 26 March, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) introduced the new SNB COVID-19 refinancing facility. The measure is aimed at strengthening the supply of credit to the Swiss economy by providing the banking system with additional liquidity. After consulting with the Financial Market Supervisory Authority, the SNB also submitted a proposal to the Federal Council requesting that the countercyclical capital buffer be reduced to 0% with immediate effect. The measure is designed to further support the banks in their key role as lender. The Federal Council approved the proposal on 27 March 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.snb.ch/en/mmr/referenc/pre_20200325/source/pre_20200325.en.pdf https://www.efd.admin.ch/efd/en/home/dokumentation/nsb-news_list.msg-id-78604.html	26 and 27 March 2020	YES
Tajikistan	Road transport services	Registration and other customs operations with goods and products imported into the country are carried out at border terminals, and their further transportation to the destination must be carried out by national operators.	Viewed at: https://www.iru.org/apps/flash-getfile-action?id=889&file=global-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak.pdf	16 March 2020	

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Turkey	Financial services	On 26 March, Turkish authorities introduced flexibility in the compliance of liquidity ratios until the end of 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-turkey-banks/turkish-banking-watchdog-eases-banks-liquidity-ratio-due-to-coronavirus-idU5L8N2BJ8BU https://www.bddk.org.tr/ContentBddk/dokuman/mevzuat_0954.pdf	26 March 2020	YES
Ukraine	Distribution services	Licensees who have a license to carry out business activities in the retail trade of medicines are allowed to trade in medicines and related products remotely, to organize and carry out delivery of medicines and related products directly to consumers in accordance with the conditions of storage of medicines defined by the manufacturer during their transportation, in particular, with the involvement of postal operators on a contractual basis.	Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 220 of 23 March 2020 Viewed at: https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/provnesennya-zmin-do-licenzijnih-umov-provazhennya-gospodarskoyi-diyalnosti-z-virobnictva-likarskih-zasobiv-optovoyi-ta-rozdribnoyi-torgivli-likarskimi-i230320-220	Effective 10 April 2020	YES
United Arab Emirates	Air transport services	The United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) published a Decision allowing for flexibility to the validity periods for licenses, ratings, certificates applicable to Flight Crew and Cabin Crew.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	
United Arab Emirates	Telecommunication services	The United Arab Emirates lifted certain restrictions on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority decided to allow certain VoIP applications so as to facilitate work from home and help prevent spread of COVID-19. Permitted applications include Microsoft Teams, Skype for Business, Google Hangouts Meet, Cisco Webex, and Zoom. VoIP applications like Skype, WhatsApp and FaceTime remain banned.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.ae/en/media-hub/dgspeech/2020/3/30/additional-apps-for-distance-learning.aspx https://www.gsarena.com/uae_has_unbanned_google hangouts meet_cisco_webex_and_a_few_other_services-news-42364.php https://www.tahawultech.com/region/uae/uae-tra-authorises-voip-tools-amid-the-coronavirus-pandemic/	24 March 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United Kingdom	Telecommunication services	The Government has agreed measures with telecoms companies to support vulnerable consumers through COVID-19. The UK's major internet service and mobile providers, namely BT/EE, Openreach, Virgin Media, Sky, TalkTalk, O2, Vodafone, Three, Hyperoptic, Gigaclear, and KCOM have all agreed the following commitments, effective immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All providers have committed to working with customers who find it difficult to pay their bill as a result of Covid-19 to ensure that they are treated fairly and appropriately supported; - All providers will remove all data allowance caps on all current fixed broadband services; - All providers have agreed to offer some new, generous mobile and landline packages to ensure people are connected and the most vulnerable continue to be supported. For example, some of these packages include data boosts at low prices and free calls from their landline or mobile; - All providers will ensure that vulnerable customers or those self-isolating receive alternative methods of communication wherever possible if priority repairs to fixed broadband and landlines cannot be carried out. 	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-measures-with-telecoms-companies-to-support-vulnerable-consumers-through-covid-19	29 March 2020	
United Kingdom	Health services	Since 31 March 2020, visas for doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 are automatically extended for one year, free of charge. This also concerns the personnel's family members.	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus	31 March 2020	
United Kingdom	Air transport services	The UK Civil Aviation Authority have issued a number of regulatory exemptions to support the sector including extending the validity periods of licences, certificates and ratings.	Viewed at: https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=17	23 March 2020	YES
United Kingdom	Financial services	On 11 March, the Bank of England lowered the countercyclical capital buffer rate from 1% to 0%, and introduced flexibility in the compliance of liquidity requirements, so as to support banks in extending credit.	Viewed at: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-measures-to-respond-to-the-economic-shock-from-covid-19	11 March 2020	YES
United States	Telecommunication services	The Federal Communication Commission launched the "Keep Americans Connected Initiative" to ensure that Americans do not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity in the context of COVID-19. As of mid-March, more than 550 companies and associations have pledged to keep Americans connected.	Viewed at: https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected	13 March 2020	
United States	Telecommunication services	The FCC has temporarily altered regulations for its Rural Health Care and E-rate programmes to make it easier for broadband providers to offer participants improved connections or additional equipment for telemedicine and remote learning during the pandemic. The changes will remain in effect through 30 September.	Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363137A1.pdf	16 March 2020	

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United States	Telecommunication and health services	<p>The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to adopt a USD 200 million telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Funds were appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act. The program aims to help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services.</p> <p>The FCC also launched a Connected Care Pilot Program. This three-year Pilot Program will provide up to USD 100 million of support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services and to help assess how the USF can be used in the long-term to support telehealth.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363498A1.pdf</p>	02 April 200	
United States	Telecommunication services	<p>The Federal Communications Commission granted special temporary authority (STA) to T-Mobile U.S.A. to use additional spectrum in the 600 MHz Band to help it meet increased customer demand for broadband during the coronavirus pandemic. The company requested this authority to make it easier for Americans to participate in telehealth, distance learning, and telework, and remain connected while practicing recommended 'social distancing'. On 18 March, the FCC announced that US Cellular was granted a similar STA to use additional spectrum to help meet increased customer demand for mobile broadband during the coronavirus pandemic.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363051A1.pdf https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/18/fcc-grants-us-cellular-access-to-extra-aws-3-spectrum/</p>	15 and 18 March 2020	
United States	Telecommunication services	<p>Verizon has received a temporary (60-day) spectrum boost from the FCC to help meet increased customer demand for mobile broadband access during the pandemic. FCC had already issued temporary, 60-day spectrum to two companies, T-Mobile and US Cellular.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-verizon-temporary-spectrum-access-during-covid-19-pandemic https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-t-mobile-temporary-spectrum-access-during-coronavirus https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/20/verizon-is-the-latest-us-cellco-to-receive-temporary-spectrum-boost/</p>	20 March 2020	
United States	Air transport services	<p>On 11 March, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) waived its slot-use requirements through 31 May for US and foreign airlines that operated affected flights. The FAA expects that US carriers will be accommodated with reciprocal relief by foreign authorities at airports in their countries and may determine not to grant a waiver to a foreign carrier whose home jurisdiction does not reciprocate.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=24736</p>	Effective 11 March 2020	