

PROCEDURES FOR AN ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF WTO
ACTIVITIES AND FOR REPORTING UNDER THE WTO

Adopted by the General Council on 15 November 1995

1. Reporting procedures for sectoral Councils and their subsidiary bodies¹

All bodies constituted under Annex 1A Agreements shall be required to submit a factual report to the Council for Trade in Goods. The same shall apply to the subsidiary bodies established by the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights. The reports of the sectoral councils would be factual in nature, containing an indication of actions and decisions taken, with cross references to reports of subordinate bodies and could follow the model of the GATT 1947 Council reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The respective sectoral councils should report in November each year to the General Council on the activities in the Council as well as in the subsidiary bodies.

2. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Trade and Development, on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

The Committee on Trade and Development shall submit a report to the General Council at the end of each year. The Committees on Budget, Finance and Administration and on Balance-of-Payments will also submit, in addition to reports submitted during the course of the year on specific issues, a short factual report at the end of the year.

3. Reporting procedures for the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements

The Committees on the Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement shall be invited to report annually to the General Council.

4. Action by the General Council and the sectoral councils

The sectoral councils will take note of reports of their subsidiary bodies.

The General Council will take note of the reports by the sectoral councils, which would serve as a basis for an overview of the activities of the WTO in the course of the year. The report of the Committee on Trade and Development will be adopted by the General Council. The reports of the other subsidiary bodies mentioned in item 2 above would be duly noted.

¹It should be noted that the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment, which decided on the establishment of a Committee on Trade and Environment, directed that Committee to report to the first biennial meeting of the Ministerial Conference "when the work and terms of reference of the Committee will be reviewed, in the light of recommendations of the Committee." This Committee is therefore not referred to in the reporting procedures set out below.

The General Council would also take note of the reports by the Committees on Plurilateral Trade Agreements referred to in Article IV:8 of the WTO Agreement.

5. Overview by the Ministerial Conference

The General Council will prepare a report on its activities every year which would contain a first section of a factual nature, summarizing actions and decisions taken by the General Council during the year; a section on dispute settlement; a section on trade policy reviews; and a cross reference to the reports of sectoral councils and the Committees mentioned in item 2 above.

The Ministerial Conference would carry out an overview of the activities of the WTO over the previous two years on the basis of the annual reports of the General Council. In years when the Ministerial Conference does not meet, the General Council would carry out an annual overview of the WTO activities as mentioned in item 4 above.

The overview of activities of the WTO based on these reports could be part of an Agenda item for general statements at the Ministerial Conference, which could read as follows: "Overview of WTO Activities."