



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020 OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET,
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

1.1. In accordance with the procedures for an annual overview of World Trade Organization (WTO) activities, adopted by the General Council on 15 November 1995 (WT/GC/M/8, item 11), a report on the activities of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (CBFA) in 2020 is hereby submitted.

1.2. In 2020, the CBFA held 7 formal and 2 informal meetings and submitted seven reports¹ to the General Council. The CBFA reviewed and took note of regular items such as the quarterly reports on the financial and extra-budgetary situation of the Organization; the 2020 WTO Salary Survey and Dependency Allowances; updates from the Chairperson of the WTO Pension Plan Management Board; the Report on the Status of the Implementation of the External Audit Recommendations; an update on the WTO Medical Insurance Plan and ASHI; the 2018 and 2019 Annual Report on Grading Structure in the WTO Secretariat, the Annual Strategic Facilities Plan; the Report of the Office of Internal Oversight for 2019-2020; the Annual Report on Diversity in the WTO Secretariat for 2019 as well as an Update on WTO Secretariat's Training in Standards of Conduct.

1.3. The CBFA took note of outstanding contributions from Members and Observers and invited the General Council to urge Members and Observers under Administrative Measures to liquidate their arrears. Furthermore, the Chairman of the CBFA read out the list of Members and Observers under Administrative Measures at every General Council meeting. In related matter, the CBFA considered a proposed Payment Plan for Niger to address its arrears and to suspend applicable Administrative Measures and submitted a recommendation to the General Council for approval.

1.4. The CBFA discussed a proposal for a Financial Regulation that would enable continuation of operations pending the approval of the budget. This was not concluded upon.

1.5. The CBFA took note of the Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight on the status of the implementation of the Internal Audit Recommendations and on the review of Appellate Body Members' and Panellists' fees.

1.6. The CBFA reviewed the 2019 WTO Audited Financial Statements and the External Auditor's Report and recommended that the General Council approve the 2019 WTO Audited Financial Statements. In addition, the CBFA proposed that the General Council approve transfers between budgetary sections as outlined in the 2019 WTO Financial Performance Report.

1.7. The CBFA submitted a recommendation to the General Council to approve the transfer of the 2019 budgetary surplus to the Working Capital Fund.

1.8. The CBFA examined the budget proposals of the International Trade Center (ITC) and the WTO for 2021 and recommended them for approval by the General Council.

1.9. Other topics discussed and noted by the CBFA were Coherence in the Establishment and Management of WTO Trust Funds; Enhancing Strategic Planning and Horizontal Coordination in the

¹ WT/BFA/185/Rev.1 covering the meeting held on 9 March 2020; WT/BFA/186 covering the meeting of 3 June 2020, WT/BFA/187 covering the meetings of 23 June and 7 July 2020, WT/BFA/188 covering the meeting of 17 September 2020; WT/BFA/189 covering the meeting of 5 October 2020, WT/BFA/190 covering the meeting of 22 October and WT/BFA/191 covering the meeting of 19 November 2020.

WTO; Enhancing Output Reporting; the amendment to Staff Rule 103.1; and the planned update of the online document platform.

1.10. Regular updates of the outcomes of the WTO Secretariat Health Task Force regarding the COVID-19 situation were given.
