

# General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

# Services in international trade

# What are services?



## Residual

- Everything that is not a good.

## Functional

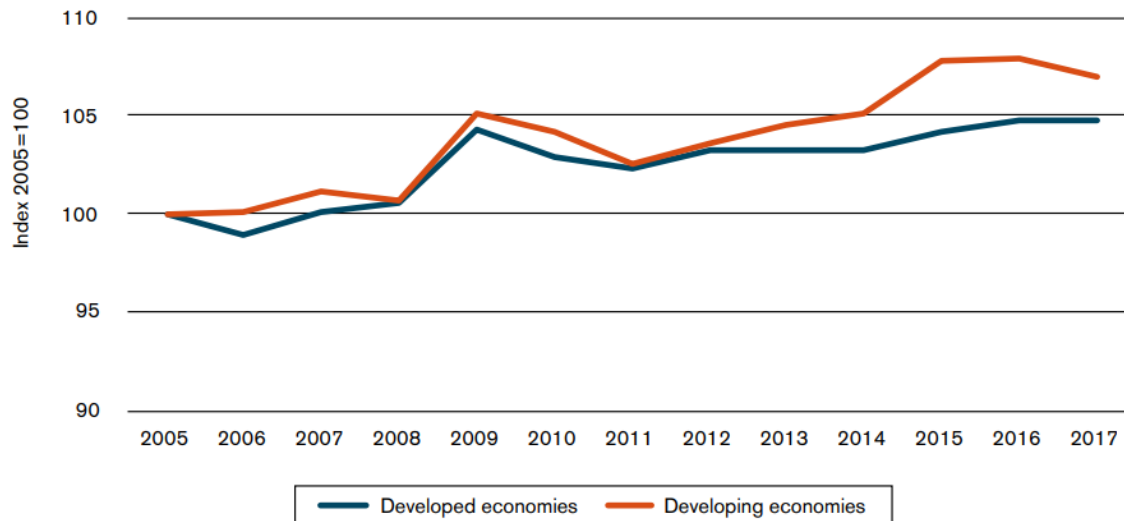
- Activities in which there is a change in the conditions of a person or a good, under previous consent of the consumer and producer.

## Positive

- Non-tradable
- Non-storable
- Intangible
- Simultaneous production and consumption

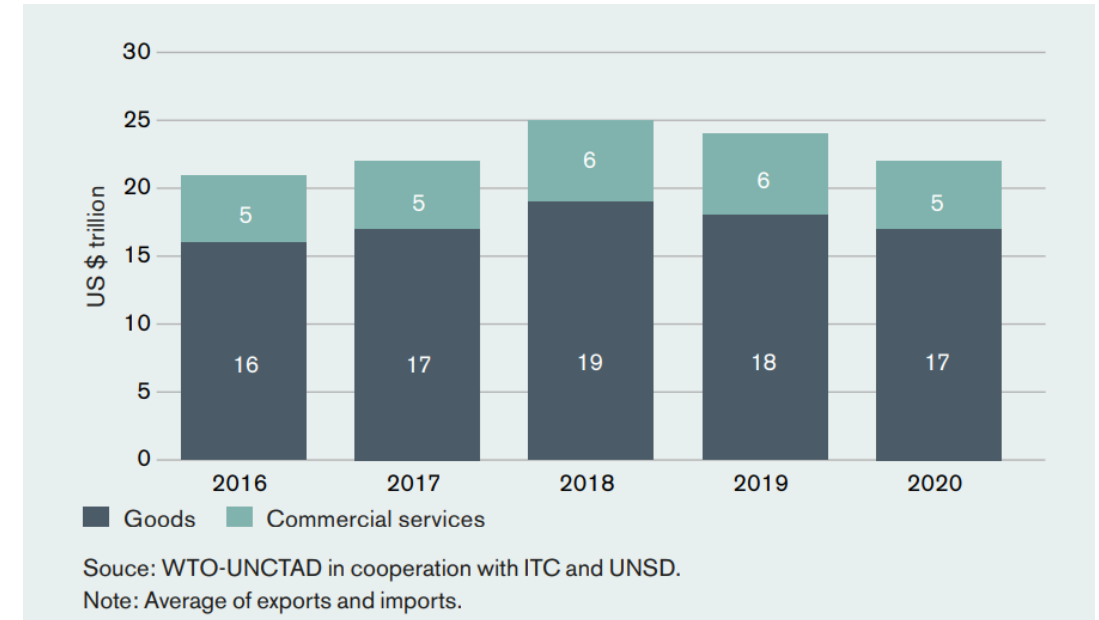
# The relevance of services

Growth of value-added in services (% GDP)



Source: WTO calculations based on World Bank Development Indicators.

Trade in goods and services

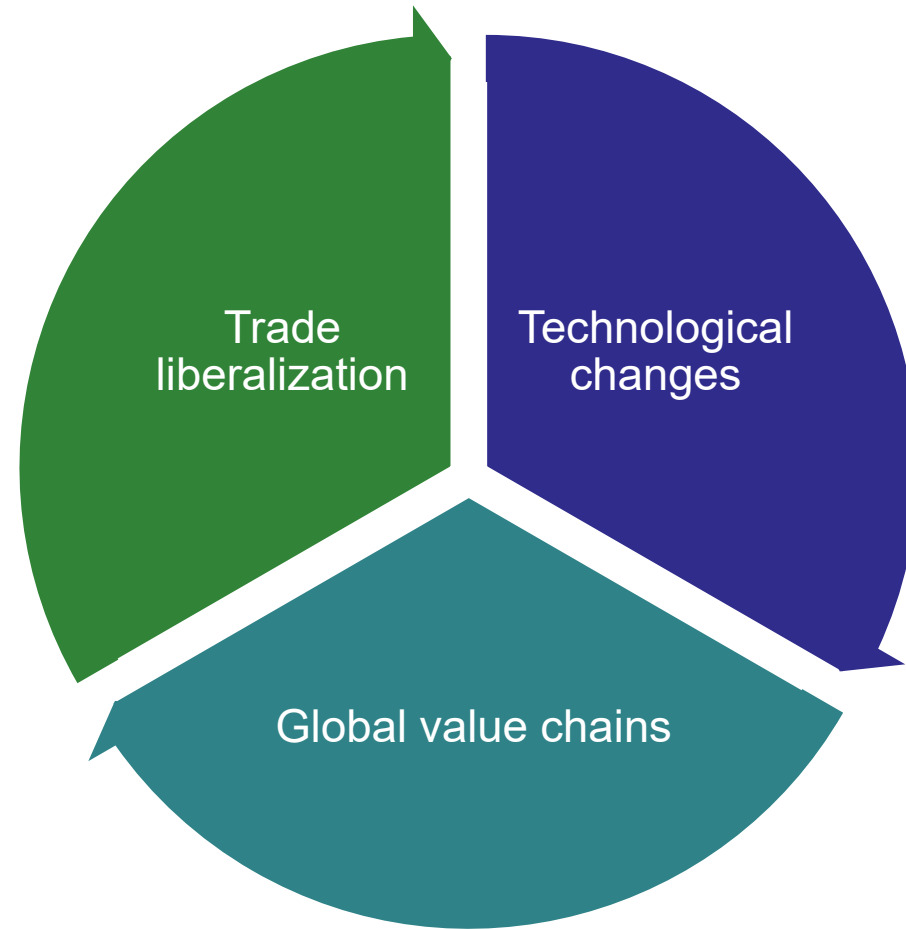


Backbone of the economy

Increasing share of GDP

Growing share of services in international trade

# New developments in trade in services



# General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

# GATS objectives



# GATS preamble



Recognizing the **growing importance of trade in services for the growth and development of the world economy**;

Wishing to establish a **multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services** with a view to the expansion of such trade under conditions of **transparency and progressive liberalization** and as a means of **promoting the economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing countries**;

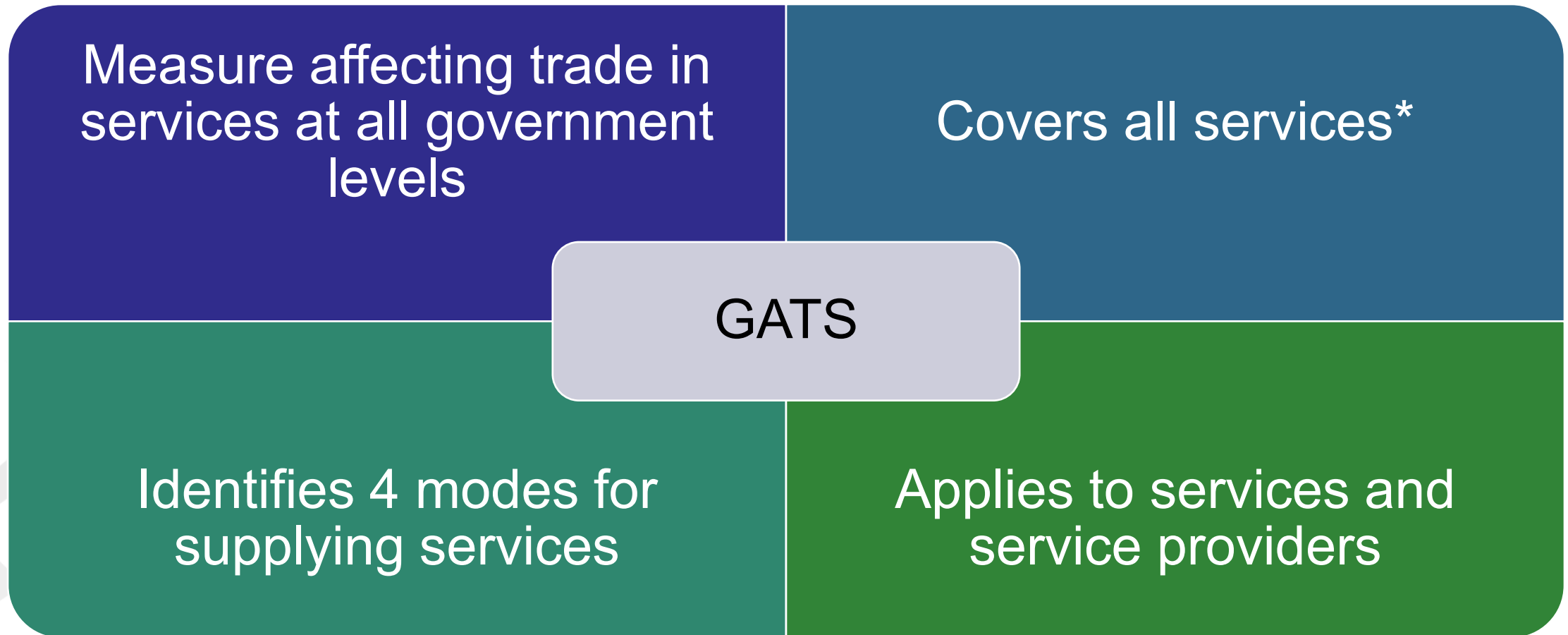
Desiring the early achievement of **progressively higher levels of liberalization of trade in services through successive rounds of multilateral negotiations** aimed at promoting the interests of all participants on a mutually advantageous basis and at securing an overall balance of rights and obligations, while giving due respect to national policy objectives;

Recognizing the **right of Members to regulate**, and to introduce new regulations, on the supply of services within their territories in order to meet national policy objectives and, given asymmetries existing with respect to the degree of development of services regulations in different countries, **the particular need of developing countries to exercise this right**;

Desiring to **facilitate the increasing participation of developing countries in trade in services** and the expansion of their service exports including, inter alia, through the strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness;

Taking particular account of the **serious difficulty of the least-developed countries in view of their special economic situation and their development**, trade and financial needs;

# GATS: system of rules covering international trade in services



# GATS: Wide scope of application

GATS disciplines apply to:

**measures**

*affecting* **TRADE** in **SERVICES**

**taken at all government levels**

# GATS - Scope



GATS – Art. I:3

(a) “measures by Members” means measures taken by:

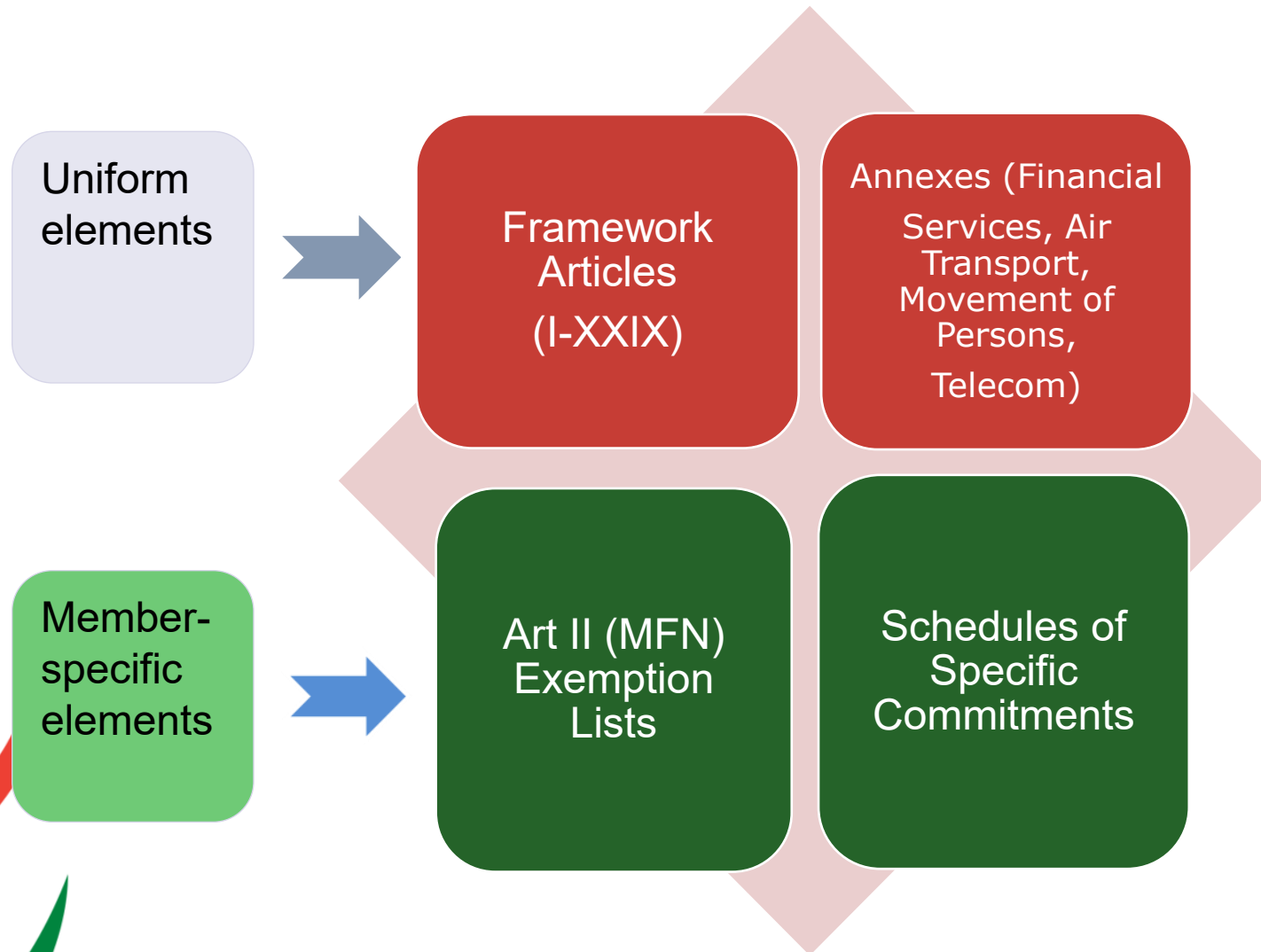
- (i) **central, regional or local governments and authorities**; and
- (ii) non-governmental bodies **in the exercise of powers delegated by central, regional or local governments or authorities**;

In fulfilling its obligations and commitments under the Agreement, each Member shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to it to ensure their observance by regional and local governments and authorities and non-governmental bodies within its territory;

(b) “services” **includes any service in any sector except services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority**;

(c) “a service supplied in the exercise of governmental authority” means **any service which is supplied neither on a commercial basis, nor in competition with one or more service suppliers**.

# The GATS architecture



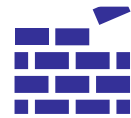
# GATS sectors - MTN.GNS/W/120



Business services and professional services



Communication services



Construction and related services



Distribution services



Education services



Energy services



Environmental services



Financial services



Health and social services



Tourism services



Transport services



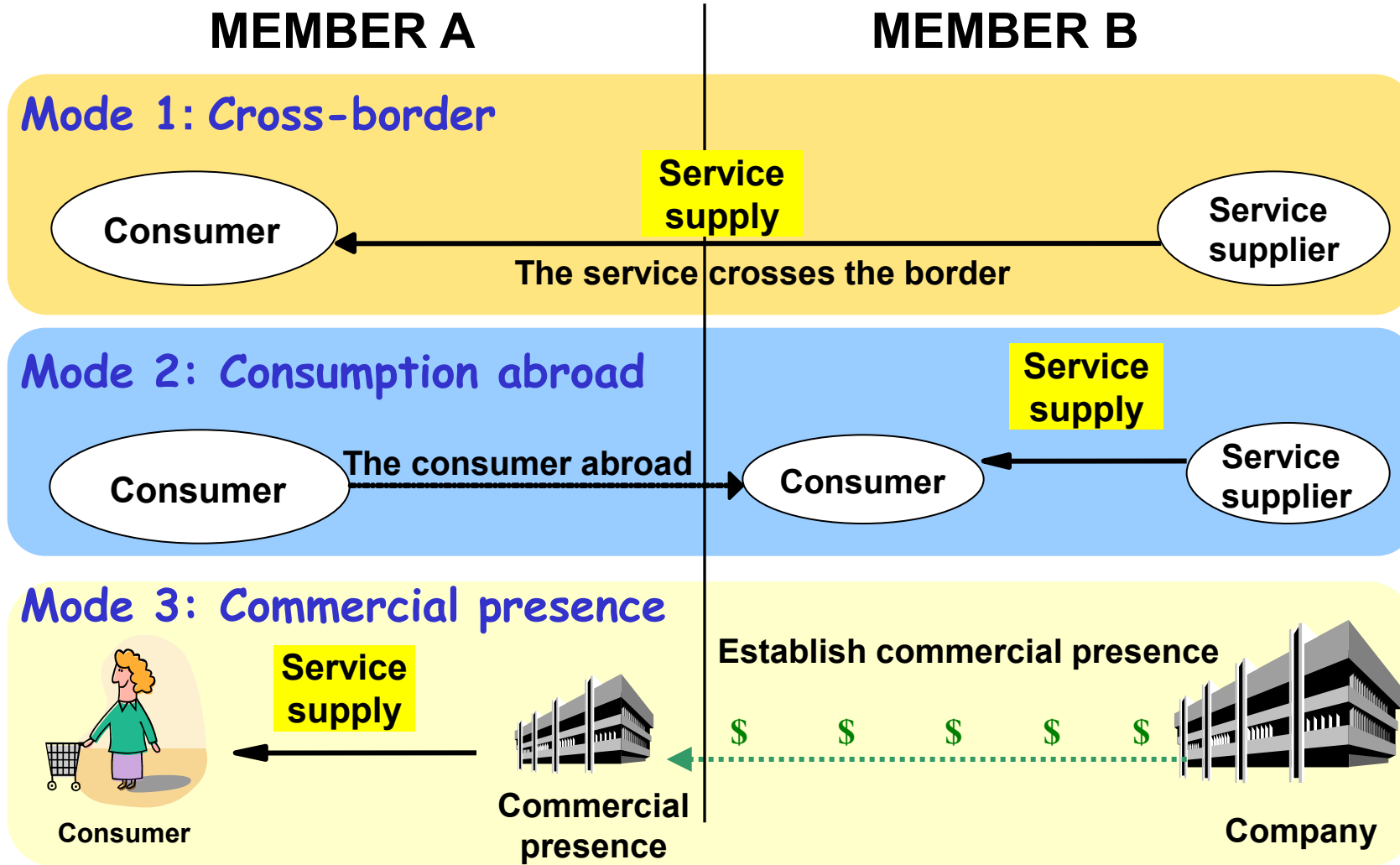
Movement of natural persons

Further subdivided into  $\approx$  160 sub-sectors

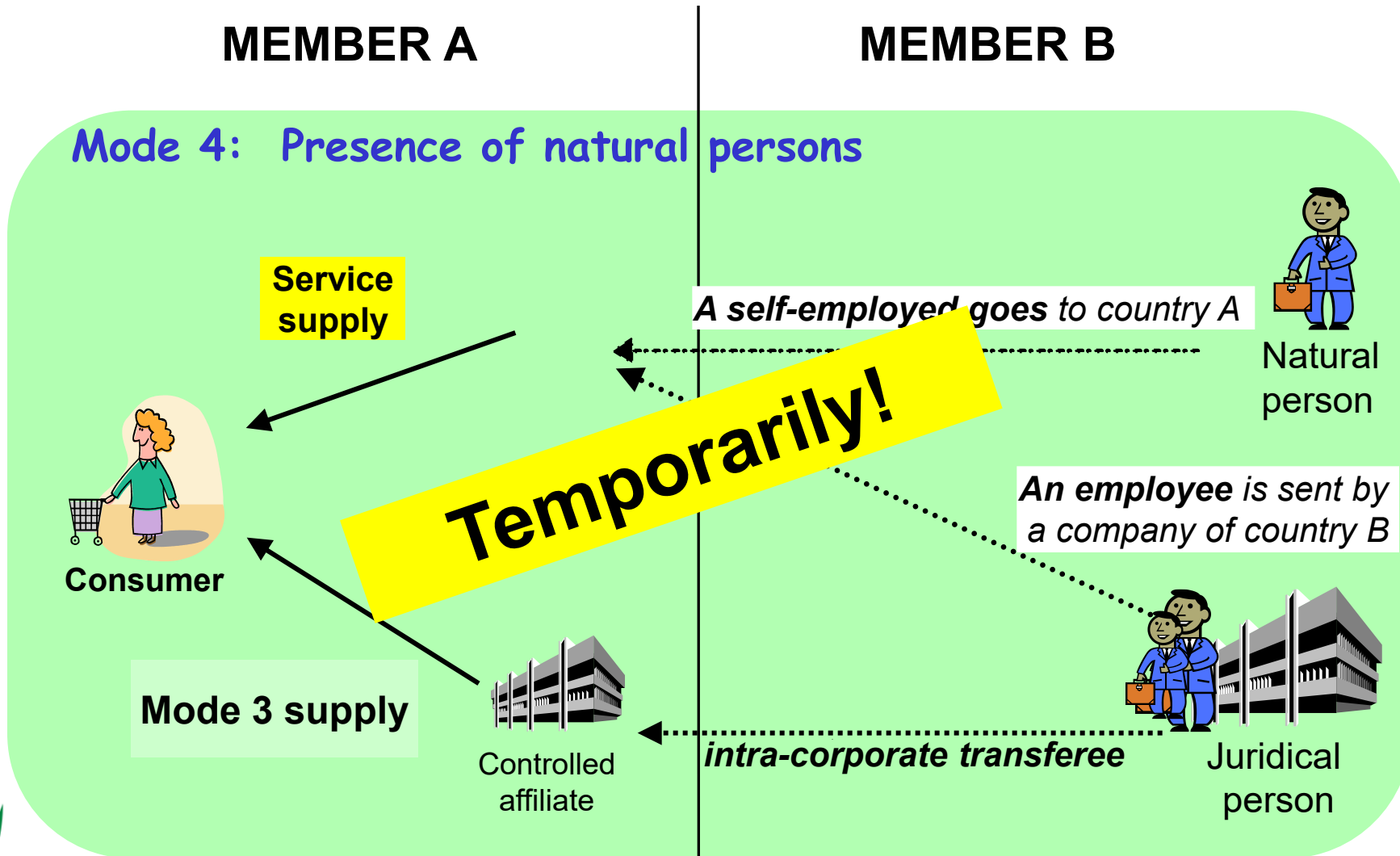
Also: UN Central Product Classification

# Modes of supply

# The GATS Modes of Supply (1/2)

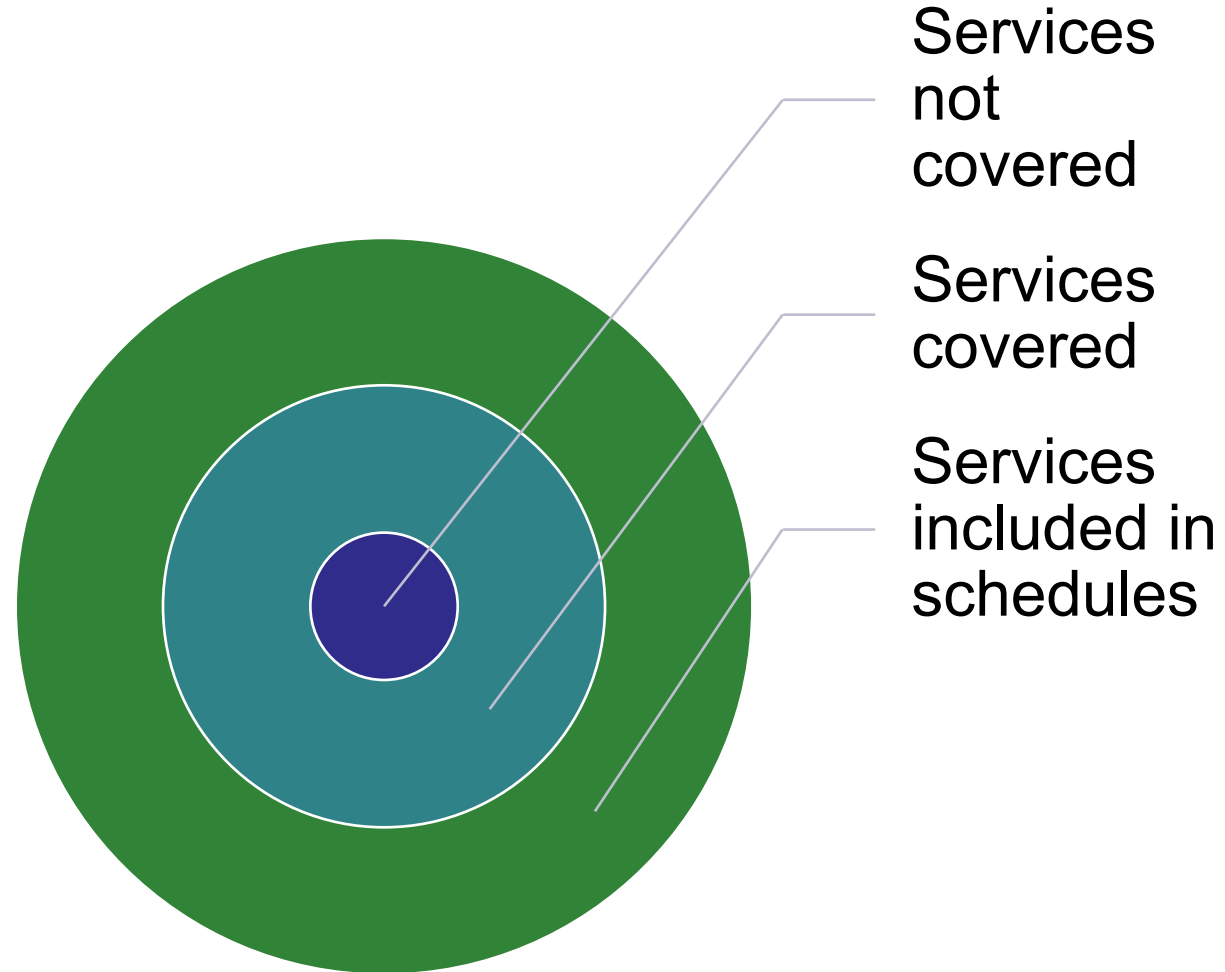


# The GATS Modes of Supply (2/2)



# GATS obligations

# GATS applicable obligations



# Obligations on all services covered

- **Most-Favored Nation treatment (Art. II)**

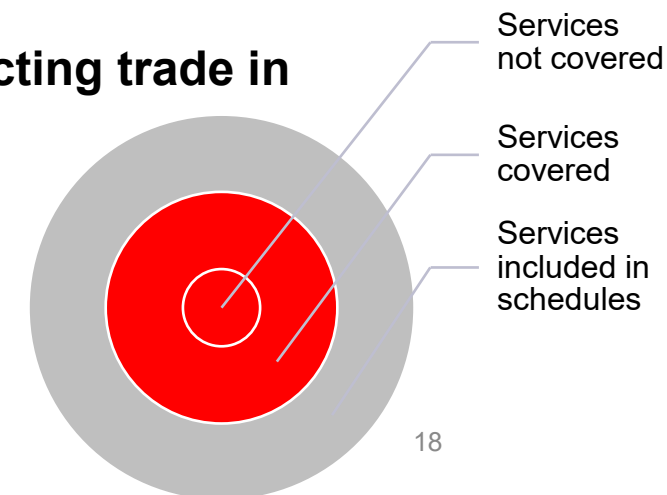
- Extend **immediately and unconditionally to services or services suppliers** of all other members “treatment no less favourable than that accorded to like services and services suppliers of any other country”.
- Derogations are possible in the form of so-called **Article II-exemptions**. Members **were allowed to seek such exemptions before the Agreement entered into force**. New exemptions can only be granted to new members at the time of accession or, in the case of current members, by way of a waiver under Article IX:3 of the WTO Agreement.

- **Certain transparency obligations (Art III:1, 2, 4)**

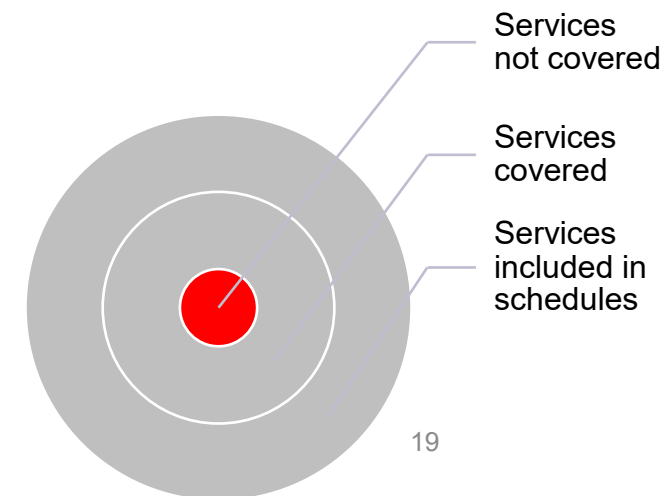
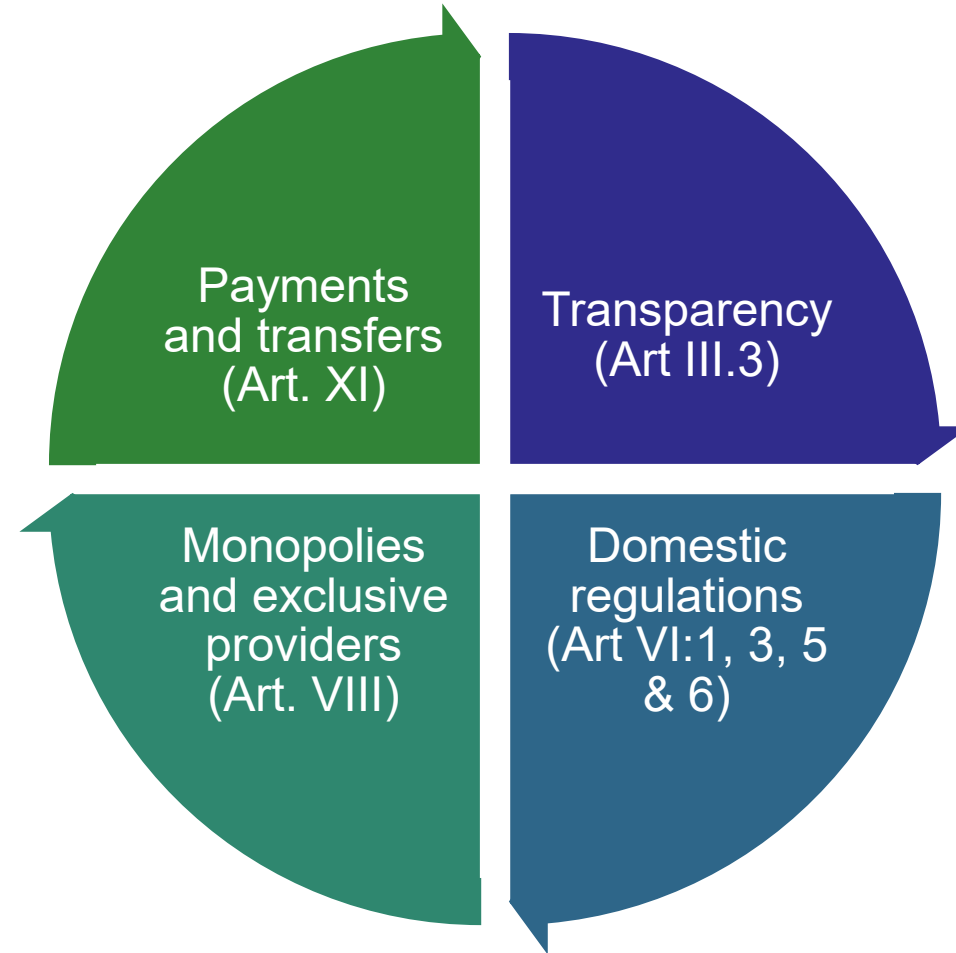
- GATS members are required, among other things, to **publish all measures of general application and establish national enquiry points** mandated to respond to other members' information requests.

- **Provide prompt review and remedies for administrative decisions affecting trade in services (Art. VI:2)**

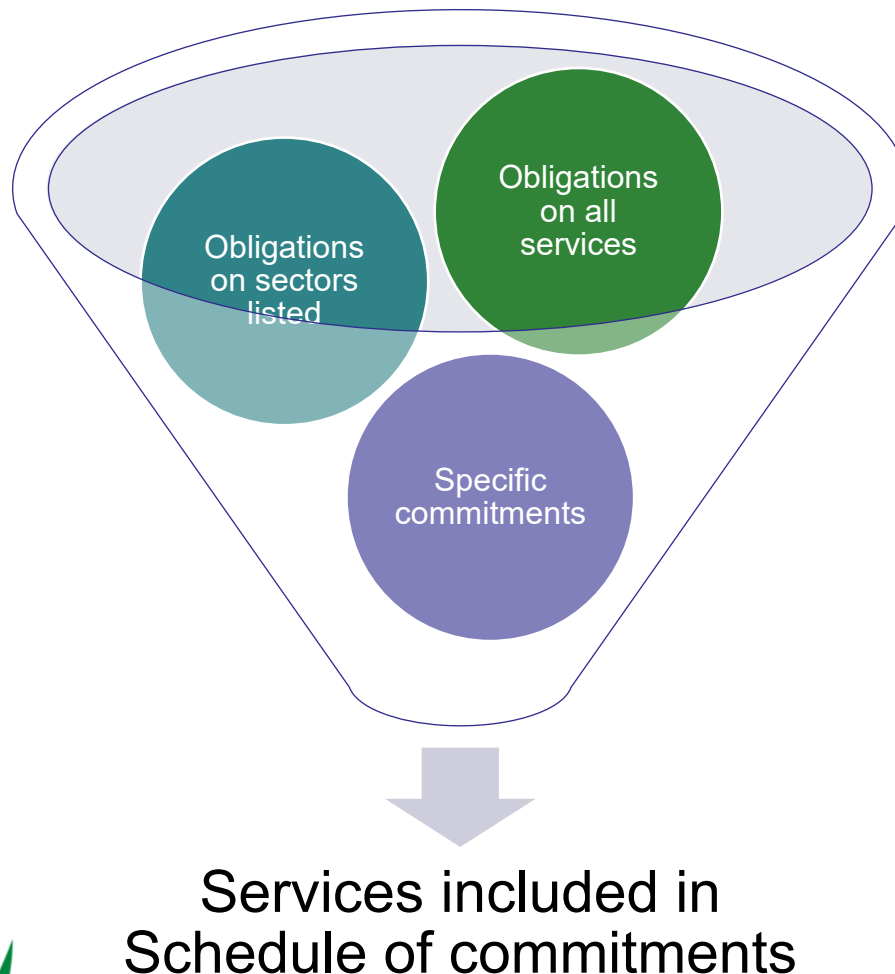
- **Monopolies also have to respect MFN (Art. VIII:1)**



# Obligations on listed sectors



# Obligations on services included in Schedule of commitments



## Market access:

- Market access is a negotiated commitment in specified sectors. It may be made subject to various types of limitations that are enumerated in Article XVI(2).

## National treatment:

- A commitment to national treatment implies that the member concerned does not operate discriminatory measures benefiting domestic services or service suppliers.

# How to read / prepare a schedule of specific commitments

# Format of Schedules under GATS

Modes of supply: (1) Cross-border supply (2) Consumption abroad (3) Commercial presence (4) Pres. of natural persons

Sector or sub-sector	Limitations on market access	Limitations on national treatment	Additional commitments
<b>I. HORIZONTAL COMMITMENTS</b>			
	(1) (2) (3) (4)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	
<b>II. SECTOR-SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS</b>			
	(1) (2) (3) (4)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	

# Limitations on Market Access (Art. XVI)



- All restrictions on market access falling under Article XVI **must be scheduled**
  - Covers both discriminatory and non-discriminatory measures
- “Exhaustive list” (closed list of measures)
- Quantitative restrictions can be expressed **numerically** or through economic needs tests (ENTs)\*
- Focus is on **measures limiting market access** rather than on implementation mechanisms (e.g. licensing requirements) or relevant laws and regulations.

(\*) **Economic Needs Test (ENTs)**: test which conditions market access on complying with certain criteria (e.g. requirement to establish health facility is based on population criterion). The criterion on which ENT is based must be stipulated.

# Six Types of MA Limitations: Examples (Document S/L/92)



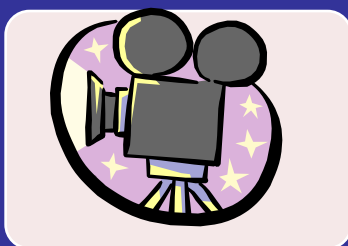
## (a) Number of service suppliers

Annually established quotas for foreign medical practitioners.



## (b) Value of service transactions or assets

Foreign bank subsidiaries limited to x per cent of total domestic assets of all banks.



## (c) Number of service operations or total quantity of service output

Restrictions on broadcasting time available for foreign films.

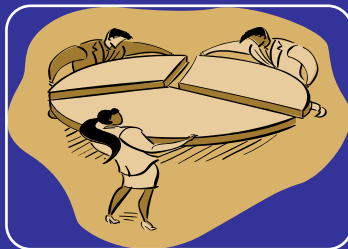
# Six Types of MA Limitations: Examples (Document S/L/92)



(d) Number of natural persons that may be employed in a particular sector  
Foreign labour should not exceed “x” per cent of total.



(e) Specific types of legal entity or joint venture  
Foreign companies required to establish subsidiaries.



(f) Limitations on the participation of foreign capital  
Foreign equity ceiling of “x” per cent for a particular form of commercial presence.

# National treatment (Article XVII)

## Non discrimination

- Treatment shall be “no less favourable than accorded to own like services and services

## *De facto or de jure*

- Either formally identical or formally different treatment

## Relevant benchmark

- No modification of “the conditions of competition” in favour of own like services or service suppliers

# Examples of National Treatment limitations (Document S/L/92)



Eligibility for subsidies reserved to nationals



Nationality or residency requirements



Non-residents are excluded from the acquisition of real state



Skilled foreign employees required to provide training to locals

# Additional Commitments (Art. XVIII)



Scheduling of measures **not** falling under Articles XVI or XVII. Such measures may relate to **qualifications, standards, licenses, competition disciplines, etc.**

*See also S/CSC/W/34*

Example: Telecom Reference Paper

# GATS: Hybrid approach to scheduling

## SCHEDULE OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

Sector or Sub-Sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
<b>Positive Element:</b> selection of sectors in which Market Access and National Treatment is granted	(1)	(1)	<b>Negotiated commitments not subject to scheduling under MA or NT</b>
	(2)	(2)	
	(3)	(3)	
	(4)	(4)	
	(1)	(1)	
	(2)	(2)	
	(3)	(3)	
	(4)	(4)	

# Terminology related to MA and NT Limitations



Modes of supply: 1) Cross-border supply 2) Consumption abroad 3) Commercial presence 4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or subsector	Limitations on market access	Limitations on national treatment	Additional commitments
<b><u>Hotels and restaurants</u></b> <b>(CPC 641- 643)</b>	1) Unbound* 2) None 3) Only through joint ventures with foreign equity ceiling of 49 per cent 4) Unbound except as indicated in the horizontal section	1) Unbound* 2) None 3) Foreign-owned hotels and restaurants are subject to training requirements 4) Unbound	

**“Unbound” = no commitment (full policy discretion)**

**“None” = no limitation (full commitment)**

**“The admission of ... “ and “Foreign-owned .... “ = partial commitments (commitments with limitations)**

**“Unbound\* (due to lack of technical feasibility = Unbound (no commitment)**



# Notification requirements under the GATS



# GATS: background to notifications



- **Preamble:** *“Wishing to establish a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services with a view to the expansion of such trade **under conditions of transparency** [...]”*
- **Article I:1** *“This Agreement applies to **measures by Members affecting trade in services**”*

# GATS: background to notifications – the term “measure”



- **Article I:3 (a):** *"measures by Members" means measures taken by: (i) central, regional or local governments and authorities; and (ii) non-governmental bodies in the exercise of powers delegated by central, regional or local governments or authorities*
- **Article XVIII (a):** *"measure" means any measure by a Member, whether in the form of a law, regulation, rule, procedure, decision, administrative action, or any other form*

# Why do we notify?



- **Conceptual meaning:** Transparency is one of the cornerstones of the WTO agreements, it ensures symmetry of information, fairness and accountability on the part of Members
- **Legal meaning:** Notifications are GATS obligations
- **Practical meaning:** Notifications are simply a means to an end – a reliable mechanism to achieve transparency and predictability and facilitate information exchange in the Council for Trade in Services (CTS)
- *The Secretariat does not police or surveil Members in respect of their notification obligations, it only counts existing notifications*
- *The Central Registry for Notifications (CRN) issues a call for notifications once a year, as well as two reminders per year in respect of GATS Articles III:3, III:4 and VII:4*

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article III:3 – Transparency:

*"Each Member shall promptly and at least annually inform the Council for Trade in Services of the introduction of any new, or any changes to existing, laws, regulations or administrative guidelines which significantly affect trade in services covered by its specific commitments under this Agreement".*

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article III:4 – Enquiry Points

*“**Each Member** shall respond promptly to all requests by any other Member for specific information on any of its measures of general application or international agreements within the meaning of paragraph 1.*

*Each Member shall also establish one or more enquiry points to provide specific information to other Members, upon request, on all such matters as well as those subject to the notification requirement in paragraph 3. Such enquiry points shall be established within two years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the WTO (referred to in this Agreement as the "WTO Agreement").*

*Appropriate flexibility with respect to the time-limit within which such enquiry points are to be established may be agreed upon for individual developing country Members. Enquiry points need not be depositories of laws and regulations”.*

[See also S/L/23](#)

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article IV:2 – Contact Points

*“Developed country Members, and to the extent possible other Members, shall establish contact points within two years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement to facilitate the access of developing country Members' service suppliers to information, related to their respective markets, concerning:*

- (a) commercial and technical aspects of the supply of services;*
- (b) (b) registration, recognition and obtaining of professional qualifications; and*
- (c) the availability of services technology”.*

*See also S/L/23*

**CONTACT AND ENQUIRY POINTS NOTIFIED TO THE  
COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

*Revision*

1.1. Attached is an updated compilation of all the enquiry and contact points notified to the Council for Trade in Services, as required under Articles III:4 and IV:2 of the GATS.

1.2. This compilation incorporates: newly notified enquiry/contact points (shaded and bold) and updates and revisions of previously notified enquiry/contact points (shaded in light grey) and replaces the individual notifications as received from the following Members during the period of 18 February 2025 to 26 February 2026:

Austria; Bangladesh; Burkina Faso; Cabo Verde; Colombia; Comoros; Czech Republic; European Union; Georgia; Germany; Ireland; Jamaica; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Macao, China; Myanmar; Montenegro; Peru; Poland; Slovak Republic; Spain; Suriname; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Ukraine; and United Kingdom.

1.3. This compilation will continue to be revised in the future to incorporate any further changes to information received from Members.<sup>2</sup>

<p>KAZAKHSTAN</p> <p><b>Enquiry and Contact point</b></p>	<p>Kazakhstan's Notification Authority and Enquiry Point        8 Mangilik Yel ave.,        "House of Ministries" Adm. Bldg., Entrance 7        Astana, 010000        Republic of Kazakhstan        Tel: +7 7172 74 37 64;        +7 7172 76 86 02;        E-mail: <a href="mailto:wto.kaz.ntf@gmail.com">wto.kaz.ntf@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>KYRGYZ REPUBLIC</p> <p><b>Enquiry point</b></p>	<p>Sector on WTO Issues of the Department of Trade Policy,        Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic        Chui Avenue 106,        postal code 720002, Bishkek city,        Kyrgyz Republic        Tel: +996 312 620535        E-mail: <a href="mailto:wtoferencecenter.kgz@gmail.com">wtoreferencecenter.kgz@gmail.com</a></p>



<p>TAJIKISTAN</p> <p><b>Enquiry and Contact point</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Development and Trade        Bokhtar street 37        Dushanbe city        Republic of Tajikistan</p> <p>Abdulloi Asadullo        Department of Trade Policy and Service        Tel: (+992372) 214167        Fax: (+992372) 214167        E-mail: <a href="mailto:mustafo_2015@inbox.ru">mustafo_2015@inbox.ru</a></p> <p>Odinaev Jamshed        WTO Affairs Department        Tel: (+992372) 278857        Fax: (+992372) 278857        E-mail: <a href="mailto:jama-221@mail.ru">jama-221@mail.ru</a></p>
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# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article III:5 – Transparency

*"Any Member may notify to the Council for Trade in Services any measures, taken by any other Member, which it considers affects the operation of this Agreement."*

- Notifications received: **One - S/C/N/653** (notification from Norway in 2012)

## NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III:5 OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

LD TRADE  
ANIZATION

The following notification from the delegation of Norway, dated 24 September 2012, is being circulated to the Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

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Norway hereby notifies the Members of the Council for Trade in Services, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article III of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, of a recently enforced regulation in the telecommunication sector of Thailand. The Regulation was published in the Royal Gazette on the 23rd of July 2012 and enforced the following day. The Agency responsible for enforcement of the measure is the National Broadcast and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand. The Regulation is known as Notification of National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission Re: Stipulation of Prohibitions on Actions in the Nature of Foreign Dominance.

The text is available from the Government Gazette:

<http://www.ratchakitcha.soc.go.th/DATA/PDF/2555/E/117/10.PDF>

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## • Article V:5 - Economic Integration

*"If, in the conclusion, enlargement or any significant modification of any agreement under paragraph 1, a Member intends to withdraw or modify a specific commitment inconsistently with the terms and conditions set out in its Schedule, it shall provide at least 90 days advance notice of such modification or withdrawal and the procedure set forth in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article XXI shall apply."*

Notifications received: **Three** (concerning EU enlargements)

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



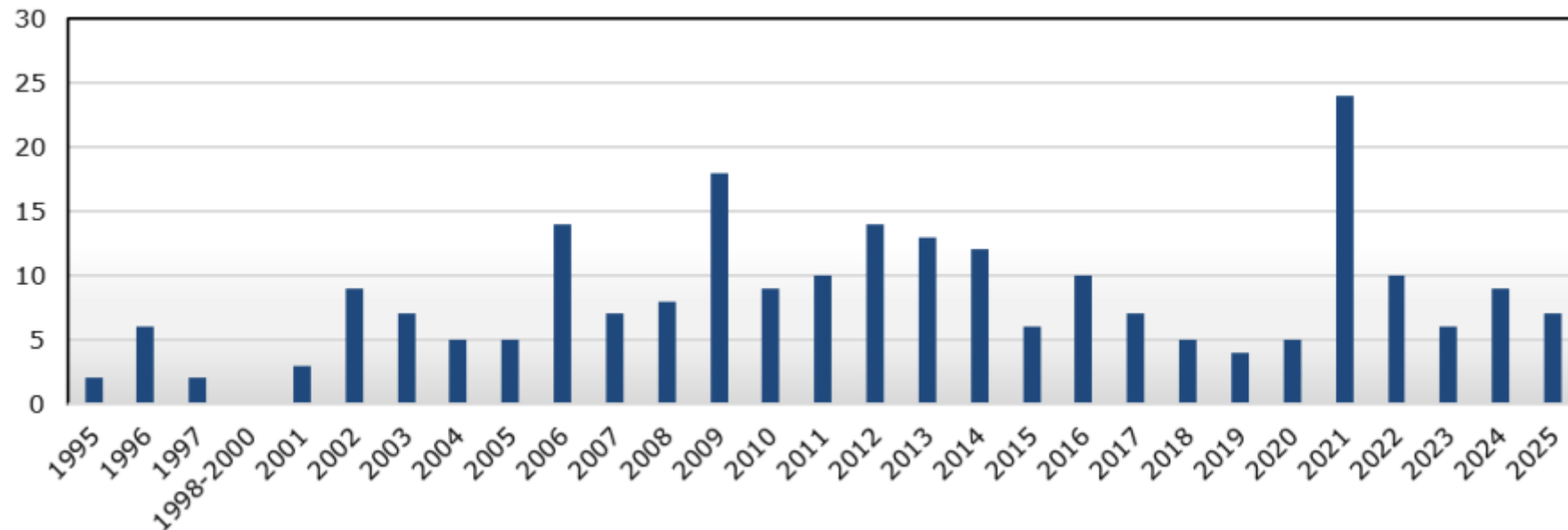
## • Article V:7(a) - Economic Integration

*"Members which are parties to any agreement referred to in paragraph 1 [agreement liberalizing trade in services] shall promptly notify any such agreement and any enlargement or any significant modification of that agreement to the Council for Trade in Services. They shall also make available to the Council such relevant information as may be requested by it. The Council may establish a working party to examine such an agreement or enlargement or modification of that agreement and to report to the Council on its consistency with this Article"*

# Overview of notifications submitted by Members to date



## Article V:7(a) - Economic Integration



Notified Agreements: **237** (including Agreements of the EC/EU with subsequent Member States and EU enlargement Agreements) (*JOB/SERV/CTS/37/Rev.1*)

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article V bis – Labour Markets Integration Agreements

*“This Agreement shall not prevent any of its Members from being a party to an agreement establishing full integration<sup>[2]</sup> of the labor markets between or among the parties to such an agreement, provided that such an agreement:*

- (a) exempts citizens of parties to the agreement from requirements concerning residency and work permits;*
- (b) is notified to the Council for Trade in Services”.*

**[2]** Typically, such integration provides citizens of the parties concerned with a right of free entry to the employment markets of the parties and includes measures concerning conditions of pay, other conditions of employment and social benefits.

# Overview of notifications submitted by Members to date



## Article V bis – Labour Markets Integration Agreements

Notifications received: **Five, for one Agreement (Nordic Labour Market).**

In 1996, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland notified their participation in a common Nordic Labour Market (S/C/N/34 - 38)

# Overview of relevant GATS Articles



## Article VII:4 – Recognition:

"Each Member shall:

(a) *within 12 months from the date on which the WTO Agreement takes effect for it, inform the Council for Trade in Services of its existing recognition measures and state whether such measures are based on agreements or arrangements of the type referred to in paragraph 1;*

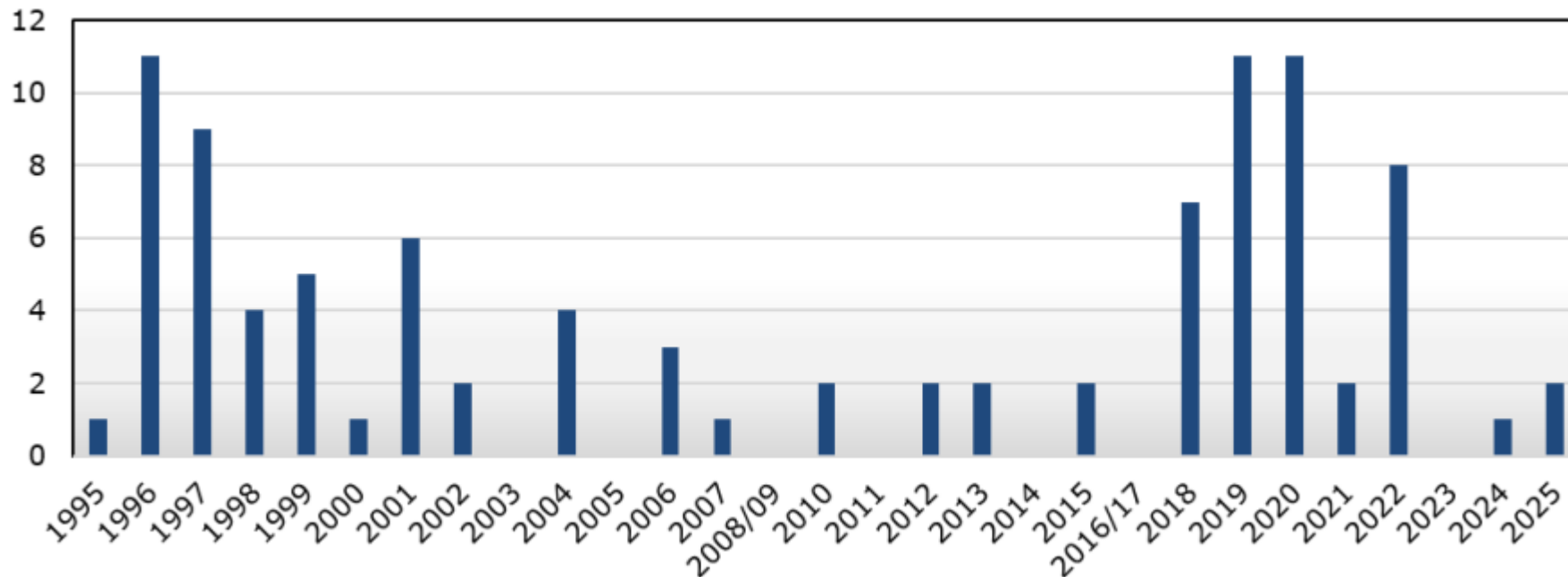
(b) Promptly inform the Council for Trade in Services as far in advance as possible of the opening of negotiations on an agreement or arrangement of the type referred to in paragraph 1 in order to provide adequate opportunity to any other Member to indicate their interest in participating in the negotiations before they enter a substantive phase;

(c) promptly inform the Council for Trade in Services when it adopts new recognition measures or significantly modifies existing ones and state whether the measures are based on an agreement or arrangement of the type referred to in paragraph 1".

# Overview of notifications submitted by Members to date



## Article VII:4 – Recognition:



Notifications received: 97, from 46 Members (JOB/SERV/CTS/37/Rev.1)

# Other relevant GATS articles



- Article VIII:4 and 5 – Monopolies and Exclusive Service Suppliers - **None**
- Article X:2 - Emergency Safeguard Measures - **None**
- Article XII:4\* – Restrictions to Safeguard the Balance of Payments - **None**
- Article XIV bis – Security Exceptions **One - S/C/N/115** (notification from Nicaragua)
- *Article XXI:1(b) – Modification of Schedules - **Seven***
- Article XXVIII(k)(ii) – Definitions
- Annex on Article II (MFN) Exemptions

\*notifications have to be made to the General Council instead of the CTS

*(JOB/SERV/CTS/37/Rev.1)*

## Article XXI:1(b) – Modification of Schedules

(b) “A modifying Member shall notify its intent to modify or withdraw a commitment pursuant to this Article to the Council for Trade in Services no later than three months before the intended date of implementation of the modification or withdrawal”.

### What's next?

- at the request of any affected Member -> the modifying Member “*shall enter into negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on any necessary compensatory adjustment*” on an MFN basis -> if no agreement reached -> arbitration -> if the modifying Member does not comply with arbitration findings, any affected Member may “*modify or withdraw substantially equivalent benefits [...] solely with respect to the modifying Member*”.
- *Procedures for the Implementation of Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (S/L/80)*

# Understanding the notification process



- ▶ The WTO does not prescribe how the process of notifications should be administered domestically – it only obliges Members to be transparent about what they do
- ▶ In most countries there are numerous regulatory authorities that are responsible for notifying changes in their respective sectors (e.g. Central Bank, Telecom authority, Ministry of Tourism, professional associations, etc.)
- ▶ Each notification requirement in the GATS has its own timeline (however, most frequently reference is made to “promptly”)
- ▶ There are agreed formats for notification ([S/L/5](#), [S/L/310](#), [S/L/418](#))

# Understanding the notification process



## Useful documents:

- **S / L / 5** - Guidelines for notifications under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 1 March 1995) + *notification template*
- **S / L / 310** –Notification format for Regional Trade Agreements (adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 16 November 2007)
- **S / L / 428** – Template for notifying changes to an existing Regional Trade Agreement (adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 12 October 2018)
- **JOB/SERV/CTS/37/Rev.1**- Overview of notifications made under relevant GATS provisions (Informal note by the Secretariat). *\*presented at the first CTS of every year*
- **S / ENQ / 78 / Rev.26 (2026 revision)** – Contact and Enquiry Points notified to the CTS (note by the Secretariat)
- **Summary of requirements and links to relevant documents**: Technical Cooperation Handbook on Notification Requirements : [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/handbook\\_on\\_notifications\\_complete\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/handbook_on_notifications_complete_e.pdf)
- **Notification Portal**: <https://notifications.wto.org/en/notification-requirements/trade-in-services>

NOTIFICATION



1.	Members(s) notifying. If applicable the Sub central government or authority or non governmental bodies involved should be specified.
2.	Notification under Article(s):
3.	Date of entry into force/duration:
4.	Agency responsible for enforcement of the measure:
5.	Complete description of the measure* indicating the modes of supply covered, the effect on trade in services (e.g., restrictions/liberalization measures) and the impact of the measure on commitments in the Member's schedule and Article II (MFN) exemption list, if relevant:
6.	Members specifically affected, if any:
7.	Text available from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enquiry point <input type="checkbox"/></li><li>- WTO Secretariat <input type="checkbox"/></li><li>- Other sources (address, fax and telephone of other body) <input type="checkbox"/></li></ul>

# Understanding the notification process:



## Information necessary to produce a notification includes (S/L/5):

- GATS Article, pursuant to which the notification is being made
- Brief description of the measure
- Date of entry of the measure into force
- Duration of the measure (usually “indefinite”)
- Responsible agency
- Affected Members (usually “none”)
- Link to the text/description of the measure
  - *Article VII:4 + “a synthesis of the main elements of the measure or the international agreement in question and advice on where additional information is available”*

ANNEX

**NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT**



<b>1. Member(s) notifying:</b>
<b>2. Date of notification:</b>
<b>3. Notification pursuant to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Article XXIV:7(a) of GATT 1994 <input type="checkbox"/> Article V:7(a) of GATS <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph 4(a) of the Enabling Clause
<b>4. Parties to the Agreement:</b>
<b>5. Date of signature:</b>
<b>6. Date(s) of entry into Force:</b>
<b>7. Brief description of the Agreement:</b>
<b>8. Text and related schedules, annexes and protocols are:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> submitted to the WTO Secretariat (electronic format) <input type="checkbox"/> available from the following official Internet link(s):

**ANNEX**

**NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF A REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT**

*Addendum*

The following communication, dated \_\_\_\_\_, has been received from the Delegation(s) of  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>1. Member(s) notifying:</b>
<b>2. Date of notification:</b>
<b>3. Notification pursuant to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paragraph 14 of the Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements (WT/L/671)
<b>4. Changes affect:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> goods <input type="checkbox"/> services <input type="checkbox"/> both
<b>5. Original RTA being modified:</b>
<b>6. WTO document reference of original notification of RTA:</b>
<b>7. Parties to the Agreement:</b>
<b>8. Date of adoption:</b>
<b>9. Date(s) of entry into Force/provisional application:</b>
<b>10. Brief description of changes:</b>
<b>11. Text and related schedules, annexes and protocols are:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> submitted to the WTO Secretariat (electronic format) <input type="checkbox"/> available from the following official Internet link(s):

# Understanding the notification process



WORLD TRADE  
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## Notification symbols

- **S / C / N / \***
- **S / ENQ / \*** (GATS Article III:4 and IV:2 – enquiry & contact points)
- **S / SECRET / \*** (modification of schedules under GATS Article XXI and EU enlargement notifications pursuant to GATS Article V: see e.g. S/SECRET/8, S/SECRET/9, S/SECRET/11)

*Where to look for notifications?*

- *WTO website->Documents, data and resources->WTO Documents Online OR [docs.wto.org](https://docs.wto.org)*
- *Notification Portal*

# Summary: Notification obligations

## Transparency (Art. III:3)

- Each Member shall promptly and at least annually inform the Council for Trade in Services of the introduction of any new, or any changes to existing, laws, regulations or administrative guidelines which significantly affect trade in services covered by its specific commitments under this Agreement.

## Economic integration (Article V:7(a))

- Members which are parties to any agreement referred to in paragraph 1 shall promptly notify any such agreement and any enlargement or any significant modification of that agreement to the Council for Trade in Services. They shall also make available to the Council such relevant information as may be requested by it.

## Recognition (Art. VII)

- (i) shall promptly notify any such agreement and any enlargement or any significant modification of that agreement to the Council for Trade in Services; (ii) as far in advance as possible of the opening of negotiations on an agreement or arrangement, (iii) when it adopts new recognition measures or significantly modifies existing ones and state whether the measures are based on an agreement or arrangement.

## Other

- Labour market integration, monopolies, emergency safeguards measures, etc.

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