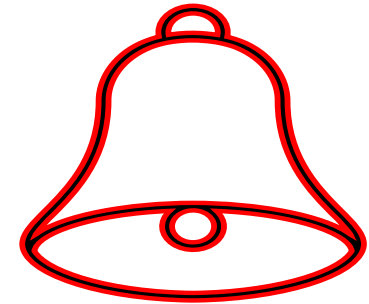




WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

Transparency Mechanisms in the WTO: Overview



TRANSPARENCY

Article X of the GATT: *Members shall publish all laws, regulations, judicial decisions[...] which concern the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes, rates of customs duties, taxes and other charges, or import or export requirements, restrictions or prohibitions.*

Article III of the GATS

Art. 63 of the TRIPS Agreement

Others: Trade Policy Review Mechanism
Decision on notification procedures
Accessions

Trade Policy Reviews : Legal Basis



Established 1989 in GATT by Ministerial decision
 “Functioning of the GATT System”, para 4 (MTN:TNC/11)



Part of the Uruguay Round Agreements,
 Marrakesh Agreement, Annex 3

The Legal Architecture of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

WTO Agreement (Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO)

The primary treaty establishing the WTO, signed in April 1994, which serves as the umbrella framework for all subsequent annexes and legal instruments.

Annex 1: Multilateral Trade Agreements

The core substantive agreements covering the three main pillars of trade: goods, services, and intellectual property.

Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods

Contains the GATT 1994 and various sector-specific agreements regulating the movement of physical products.

Key Constituent Agreements for Goods (Annex 1A)

-  Core Goods Agreements
GATT 1994, Agriculture, and the Trade Facilitation Agreement
-  Technical & Health Standards
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
-  Trade Remedies & Fairness
Anti-dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and Safeguards
-  Procedural & Emerging Agreements
Customs Valuation, Rules of Origin, TRIMS (Investment Measures), and the recent Fisheries Subsidies agreement



Annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

The first multilateral agreement to cover international trade in services, such as banking, telecommunications, and tourism.



Annex 1C: TRIPS

The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, setting minimum standards for protecting patents, copyrights, and trademarks.

Annex 2: Dispute Settlement (DSU)

Formally known as the “Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes,” this annex provides the legal mechanism for resolving trade conflicts.

Annex 3: Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)

A process for the periodic collective evaluation of individual members’ trade policies and practices to ensure transparency.

Annex 4: Plurilateral Trade Agreements

Specific agreements, such as Trade in Civil Aircraft and Government Procurement, which are only binding on those WTO members that have specifically accepted them.

Supplemental Legal Framework

Ministerial Declarations and Decisions: Additional legal instruments and mandates issued during WTO Ministerial Conference that clarify or add to the existing legal framework.

Trade Policy Reviews: Objectives

Annex 3, paragraph A

- Improve adherence to rules, disciplines and commitments under the WTO by
 - Greater **transparency** in, understanding of trade policies and practices ...Appreciation of ... **full range** of trade policies and practices ...
 - **Background** of economic and development needs ... and the external economic environment...

Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)

WTO has many objectives, among which:

- **NON-DISCRIMINATION**
- **PREDICTABILITY**
- **TRANSPARENCY**

TPRM **is not**



- **a basis for enforcement**
- **for dispute settlement**
- **to impose new policy commitments**

TPRM: Benefits

WTO

- Only time all trade-related policies examined
- Examples for other Members
- Equality of treatment
- Domestic constraints on trade policy explained

TPRM: Benefits

Reviewed Member

- Domestic policy development
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Technical assistance needs
- Coherence among policies
- Coherence between:
 - Policy and law
 - Law and practice

Frequency of reviews

Frequency based on share of world trade (imports and exports of goods and services)

Top 4 – every 3 years: EU, United States, China, UK

Next 16 – every 5 years

The rest – every 7 years

Kazakhstan: September 2024

Kyrgyz Republic: May 2021

Tajikistan: December 2021

Basis for review

Annex 3, paragraph C(v)

1. Government report

- Policy statement by Government
 - Up to the authorities
 - Shorter

2. WTO Secretariat report

- Secretariat responsibility
 - Up to the Secretariat
 - Longer



Two reports are complementary

Government Report

- POLICY STATEMENT
- FORWARD LOOKING
- AVOID REPEATING THE CONTENT OF THE SECRETARIAT REPORT
- INDICATE **FUTURE** DIRECTION OF KEY TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICIES.

10-15 pages

Secretariat Report

- SECRETARIAT REPORT SEEKS TO:
- **REVIEW** MAIN TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE PREVIOUS REVIEW (OR SINCE ACCESSION TO THE WTO);
- **EVALUATE** TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICIES AND MEASURES;
- TPR PROCESS HELPS PREPARE MEMBER UNDER REVIEW FOR TPRB MEETING.

Sections of the Secretariat report

**1. Economic
Environment**

**2. Trade and
investment policy
framework**

**3. Trade policies
practices by
measure**

**4. Trade policies in
selected sectors**

PROCEDURES:



SECRETARIAT REPORT

Initial letter and Request for information



Drafting of Secretariat Report and submission to capital for written comments



Secretariat visit to capital to discuss and finalise report



Translation into 3 official WTO languages and circulation to WTO Members

GOVERNMENT REPORT

Translation into 3 official WTO languages and circulation to WTO Members

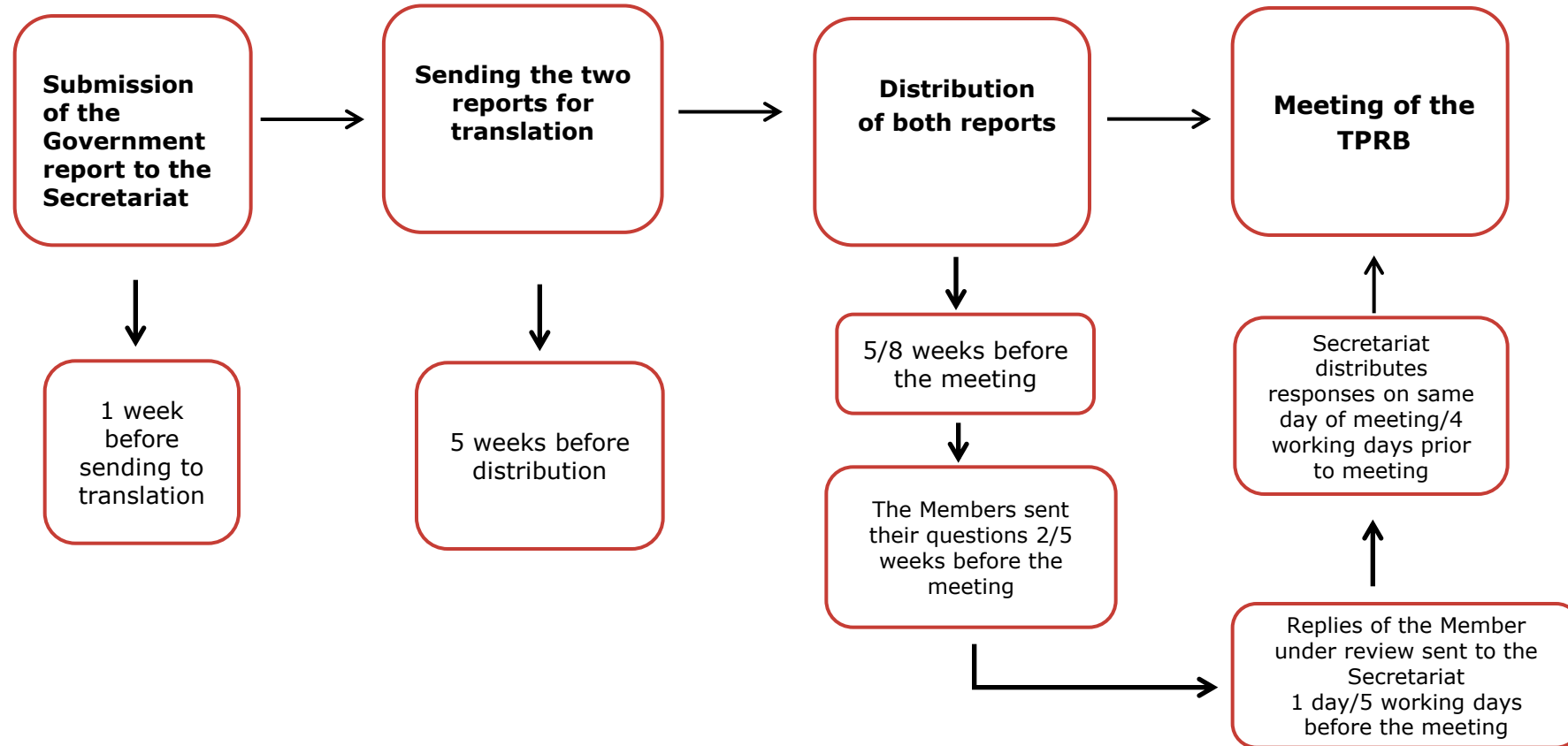


Written questions and answers



TPRB MEETING

TPR Process





TPRB MEETING:

DAY ONE:

Opening remarks by
Chairman of the TPRB

Statement by the Head of
Delegation of the WTO
Member under review

Statement by the Discussant

Floor open to statements by
WTO Members

*(Secretariat and Government
reports made publicly
available on WTO website at
14h00 on Day One)*

DAY TWO:

Statement by the Head of
Delegation to summarize
responses

Statement by the
Discussant

Floor open to statements by
WTO Members

Concluding remarks by the
Chairman of the TPRB

(End of Day Two)



POST-TPRB MEETING:

Response of Member under Review to any outstanding questions: **One month** after the meeting.

Questions and answers and minutes of meeting made publicly available **on** WTO website around **6 weeks** after review meeting.

TPR follow-up exercise in capital: **If requested to: (a) discuss and disseminate the results of the review and (b) identify the trade-related technical assistance and capacity building needs.**

Programme of reviews for 2026

Members to be reviewed

The Gambia¹

Papua New Guinea

Belize

Japan²

Uruguay²

Philippines²

India²

Russian Federation

Democratic Republic of the Congo¹

Viet Nam²

Peru²

European Union²

United States

Meeting dates

4 and 6 February 2026

11 and 13 February 2026

4 and 6 May 2026

27 and 29 May 2026

10 and 12 June 2026

17 and 19 June 2026

21 and 23 July 2026

14 and 16 October 2026

28 and 30 October 2026

4 and 6 November 2026

18 and 20 November 2026

8 and 10 December 2026

16 and 18 December 2026

The WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise



- Origin - 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis - WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise launched in early 2009 to provide WTO Members and Observers with **regular updates on all trade and trade-related measures** implemented in the context of the crisis.
- Also in early 2009, G20 Leaders mandated the WTO, together with other international bodies, to monitor and report publicly on G20 adherence to **resisting protectionism** and **promoting global trade and investment**.
- [2 Trade Monitoring reports](#) are circulated per year (previously 4) –
 - WTO-wide report (Series: WT/TPR/OV) (latest: WT/TPR/OV/28)
 - G20 report – in cooperation with OECD and UNCTAD.
- Considerable media coverage given the unique nature of the reports/products.

Further information is available at the WTO Trade Monitoring webpage: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/trade_monitoring_e.htm

The WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise



- The only regular and cross-cutting transparency exercise within the multilateral trading system. It has systemic and political importance.
- Providing regular snapshots of the latest trends in the implementation of new trade and trade-related measures and on developments in the trade policy-making.
- **Inclusive** platform for a multilateral peer review of trade issues in general, and trade policies in particular. A transparency exercise, NOT a legal exercise.
- Information in the reports – factual, derived from multiple sources, including notifications – is **verified by Members**. Important stakeholder relationship.

Further information is available at the WTO Trade Monitoring webpage: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/trade_monitoring_e.htm

The information contained in the Reports

The information contained in the Trade Monitoring Reports comes from different sources:

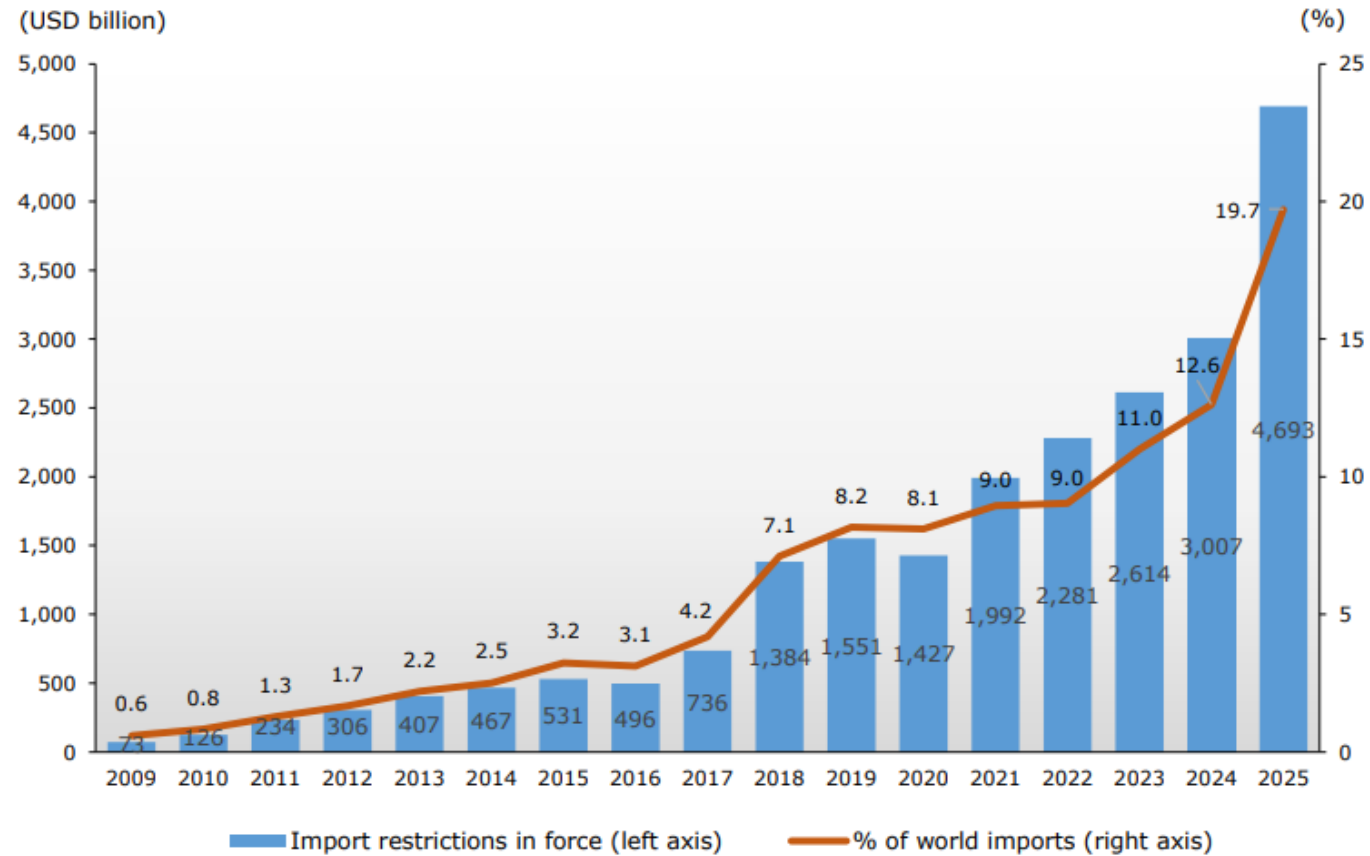
- Contributions from other WTO bodies (SPS, TBT, etc.)
- Trade and trade-related measures:
 - ✓ found by WTO Secretariat and sent to Delegations for **VERIFICATION**
 - ✓ communicated to the Secretariat directly by Delegations

Issues covered in the Reports

- ✓ Recent economic and trade developments
- ✓ Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
- ✓ Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures
- ✓ Trade concerns
- ✓ Policy developments in Agriculture, Services, IP
- ✓ Selected trade policy issues
- ✓ Transparency of trade policies
- ✓ Topical/analytical boxes

Example of information in Reports

Chart 3.6 Cumulative trade coverage of other trade and trade related import measures in force since 2009



Highlights from latest reports



Facilitating vs other trade measures

The trade coverage of trade-facilitating measures implemented during the review period remains considerably below that of other trade and trade-related measures

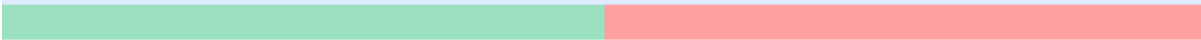


16/10/2023 - 15/10/2024



16/10/2024 - 15/10/2025

■ Facilitating ■ Other trade measures



Trade facilitating measures

Trade coverage of trade-facilitating measures implemented by Members over the last two review periods



16/10/2023 - 15/10/2024
USD 1,440 billion

16/10/2024 - 15/10/2025
USD 2,090 billion

Other trade measures

Trade coverage of other trade and trade-related measures implemented over the last two review periods



16/10/2023 - 15/10/2024
USD 888 billion

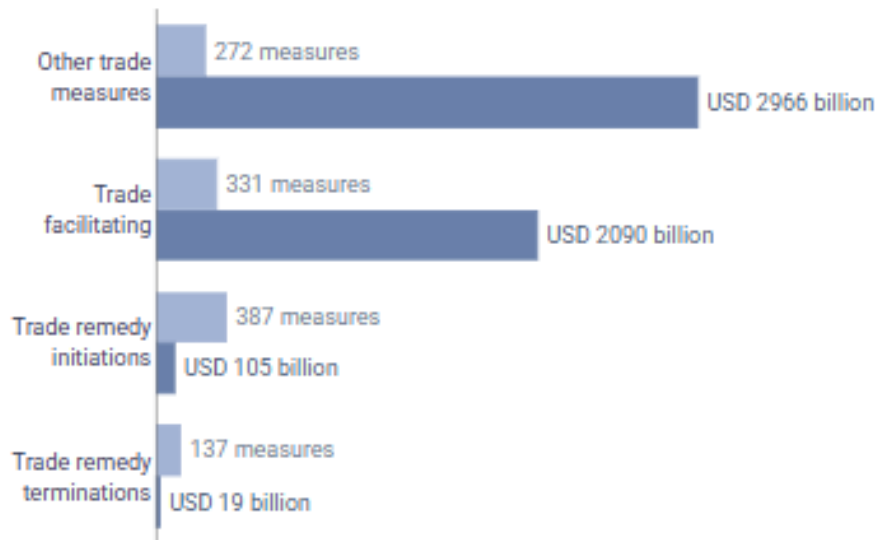
16/10/2024 - 15/10/2025
USD 2,966 billion

Highlights from latest reports



Landscape of measures

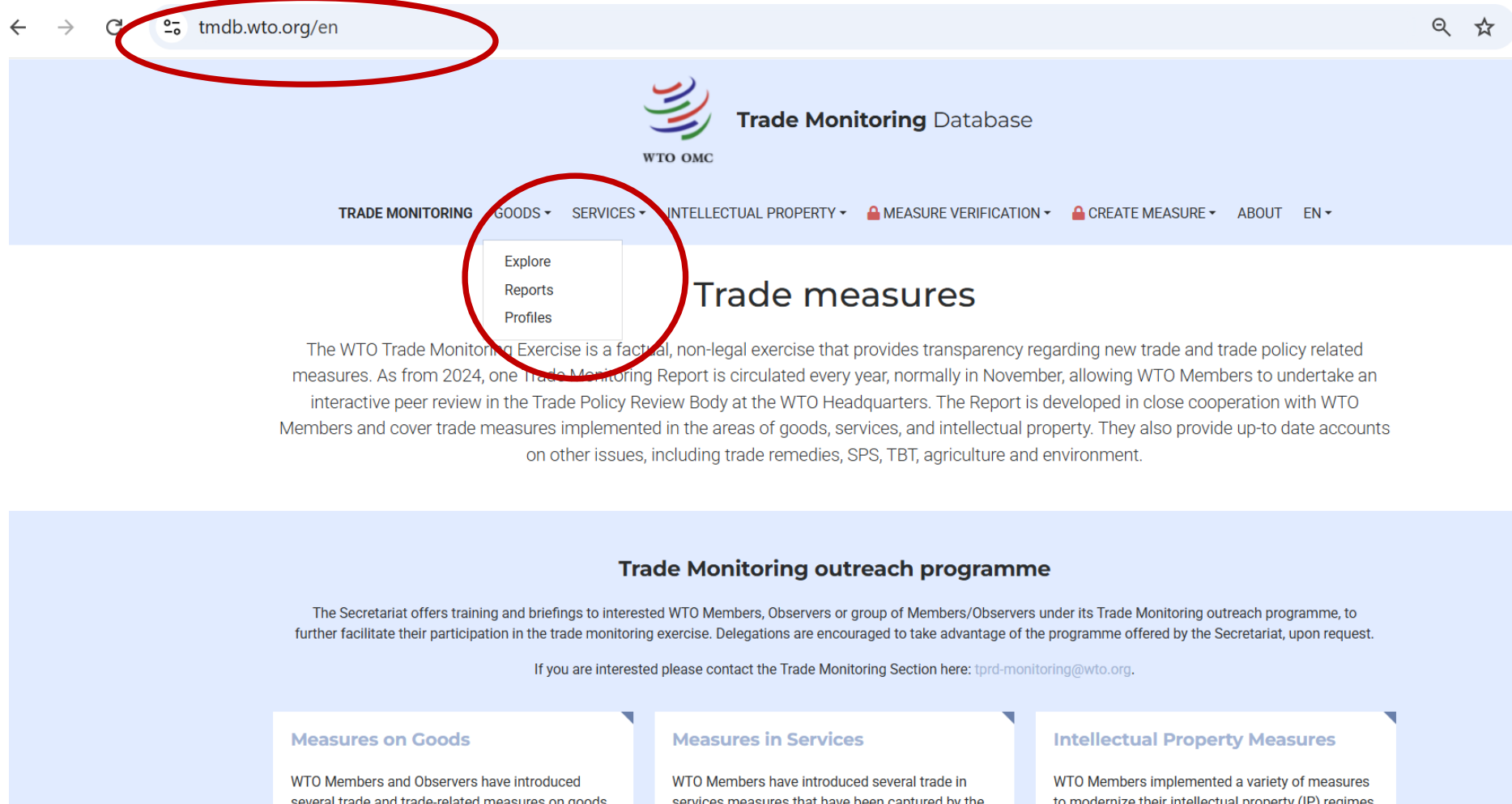
WTO Members continued to implement trade-related measures between 16 October 2024 and 15 October 2025




Trade measures are publicly available

Trade Monitoring Database
(Goods, Services, IP measures)

<http://tmdb.wto.org>



← → 🔍 tmdb.wto.org/en

 **Trade Monitoring Database**
WTO OMC

TRADE MONITORING GOODS SERVICES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MEASURE VERIFICATION CREATE MEASURE ABOUT EN

Explore
Reports
Profiles

Trade measures

The WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise is a factual, non-legal exercise that provides transparency regarding new trade and trade policy related measures. As from 2024, one Trade Monitoring Report is circulated every year, normally in November, allowing WTO Members to undertake an interactive peer review in the Trade Policy Review Body at the WTO Headquarters. The Report is developed in close cooperation with WTO Members and cover trade measures implemented in the areas of goods, services, and intellectual property. They also provide up-to date accounts on other issues, including trade remedies, SPS, TBT, agriculture and environment.

Trade Monitoring outreach programme

The Secretariat offers training and briefings to interested WTO Members, Observers or group of Members/Observers under its Trade Monitoring outreach programme, to further facilitate their participation in the trade monitoring exercise. Delegations are encouraged to take advantage of the programme offered by the Secretariat, upon request.

If you are interested please contact the Trade Monitoring Section here: tprd-monitoring@wto.org.

Measures on Goods

WTO Members and Observers have introduced several trade and trade-related measures on goods

Measures in Services



WTO Members have introduced several trade in services measures that have been captured by the

Intellectual Property Measures

WTO Members implemented a variety of measures to modernize their intellectual property (IP) regimes



Trade Monitoring Database

TRADE MONITORING GOODS ▾ SERVICES ▾ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ▾  MEASURE VERIFICATION ▾  CREATE MEASURE ▾

WTO Members / Observers

Argentina

Afghanistan
WTO MEMBER

Albania
WTO MEMBER

Algeria
OBSERVER
GOVERNMENT

Andorra
OBSERVER
GOVERNMENT

Angola
WTO MEMBER

Argentina
WTO MEMBER

Armenia
WTO MEMBER

Australia
WTO MEMBER

Austria
WTO MEMBER

Azerbaijan
OBSERVER
GOVERNMENT

Bahrain, Kingdom of
WTO MEMBER

Bangladesh
WTO MEMBER

Barbados
WTO MEMBER

Belarus
OBSERVER
GOVERNMENT

Belgium
WTO MEMBER



Trade Monitoring Database

TRADE MONITORING GOODS ▾ SERVICES ▾ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ▾ MEASURE VERIFICATION ▾ CREATE MEASURE ▾ ABOUT EN ▾

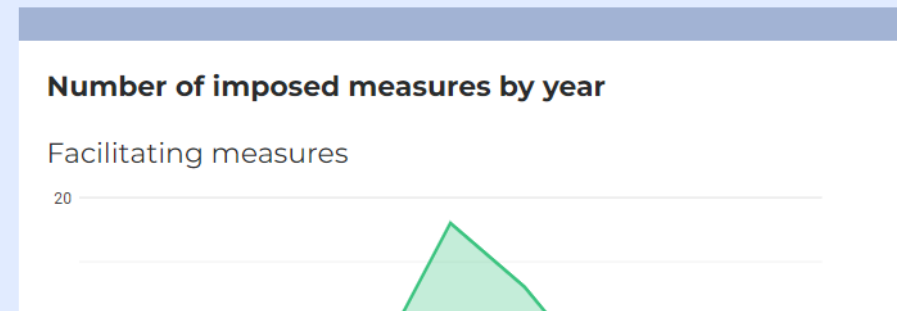
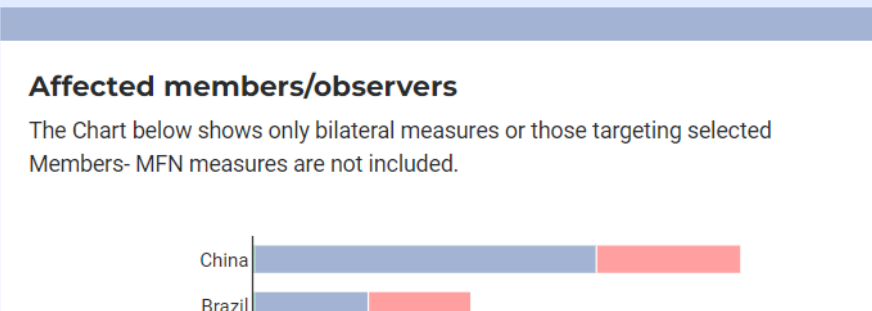
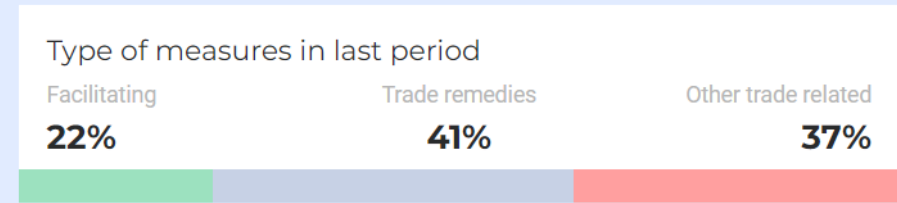
Trade measures on goods - **Argentina** i

MEASURES IMPOSED BY ARGENTINA
MEASURES AFFECTING ARGENTINA

All measures imposed by **Argentina**

Since Oct. 2008 In last period: 16/10/2021-15/10/2022

607 **46**





Trade measures on goods - Kazakhstan

MEASURES IMPOSED BY KAZAKHSTAN

MEASURES AFFECTING KAZAKHSTAN

All measures imposed by Kazakhstan

Since Oct. 2008

In last period: 16/10/2024-15/10/2025

62

3

Type of measures in last period

Facilitating

Trade remedies

Other trade related

67%

0%

33%

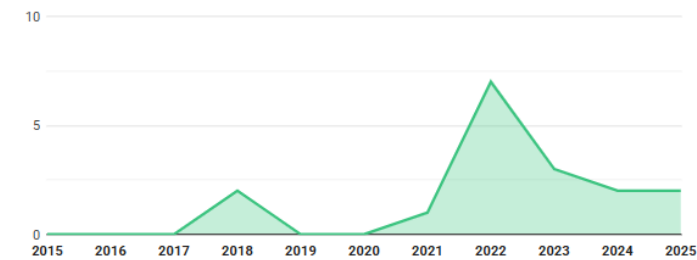
Affected members/observers

The Chart below shows only bilateral measures or those targeting selected Members- MFN measures are not included.



Number of imposed measures by year

Facilitating measures



Trade remedies





Measures affecting Kazakhstan ?

MEASURES IMPOSED BY KAZAKHSTAN MEASURES AFFECTING KAZAKHSTAN

Measures affecting Kazakhstan

Since Oct. 2008

114

In last period: 16/10/2024-15/10/2025

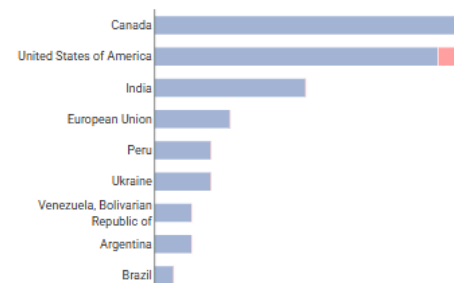
2

Type of measures in last period

Facilitating Trade remedies Other trade related
0% **50%** **50%**

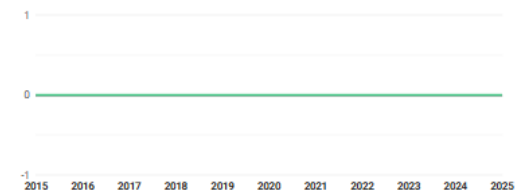
Measures imposed by members/observers

The Chart below shows only bilateral measures or those targeting selected Members- MFN measures are not included.



Number of affecting measures by year

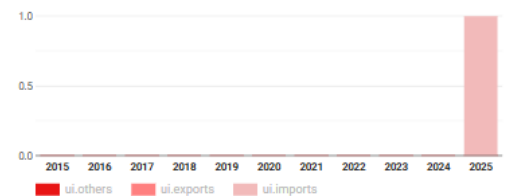
Facilitating measures



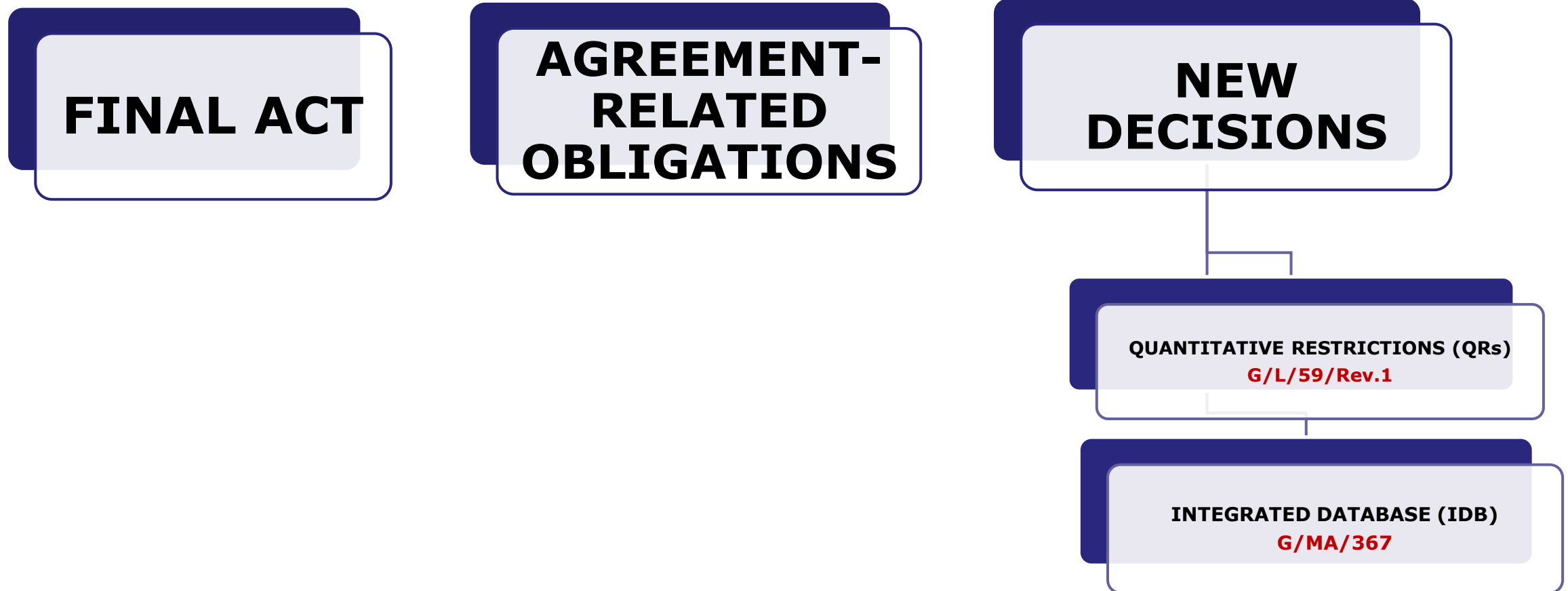
Trade remedies



Other trade related measures



NOTIFICATIONS: Legal framework



NOTIFICATIONS: MINISTERIAL DECISION

WT/MIN(96)/DEC para 11



**GENERAL OBLIGATION
TO NOTIFY**



**CENTRAL REGISTRY OF NOTIFICATIONS
(CRN)**



**WORKING GROUP ON NOTIFICATION
OBLIGATIONS AND PROCEDURES (G/NOP/W/*,
G/L/112)**

RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Inventory of Notification requirements and procedures

Typology and periodicity

Examination of possible problem areas

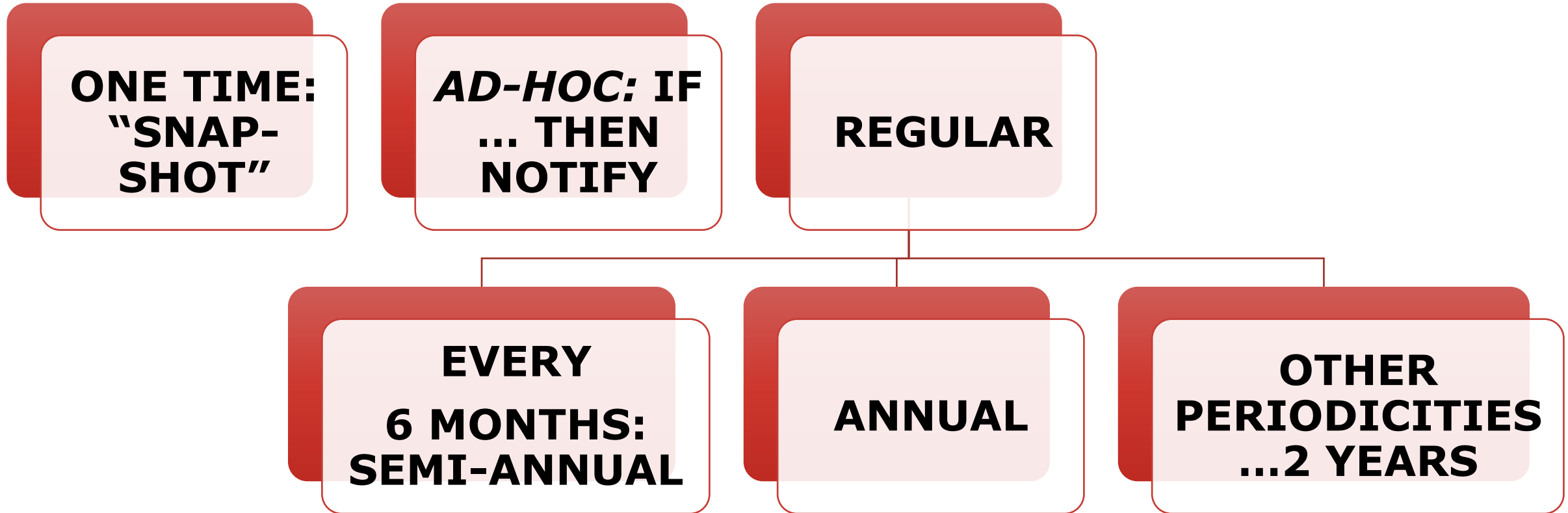
**Recommandations on:
Elimination of duplication and obsolete requirements**

Simplification of Data Requirements and standardization of format

Regular listing of status of notifications under the CTG (GL/L/223 series)

Technical Assistance

TYPES OF NOTIFICATIONS



NOTIFICATIONS: A COMPROMISE

**RELEVANT
VS
IRRELEVANT**

**STOCK/CHANGES
VS
STEP- BY- STEP**

**SIMPLIFICATION
OF PROCEDURES
SDT**

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