

WTO members ratifying agreements or amendments

Ratification is officially called “accepting” an agreement or amendment. The rules for amendments are on *page 6*. The WTO “agreements” are really one single treaty — the WTO Agreement — with annexes that include subsidiary agreements (see *page 8*). Adding a new “stand-alone” agreement like Trade Facilitation or Fisheries Subsidies amends Annex 1A (goods) of the WTO Agreement. The 2005 TRIPS decision amends the existing TRIPS Agreement (Annex 1C).

May 13, 2024

All WTO members Dates = membership (after ratification)	2005 TRIPS amendment <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2014 Trade Facilitation <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2022 Fisheries subsidies <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>
Afghanistan 29 July 2016	<i>Afghanistan</i>	Afghanistan 29 July 2016	<i>Afghanistan</i>
Albania 8 September 2000	Albania 28 January 2009	Albania 10 May 2016	Albania 23 October 2023
Angola 23 November 1996	<i>Angola</i>	Angola 9 April 2019	<i>Angola</i>
Antigua and Barbuda 1 January 1995	Antigua and Barbuda 12 May 2021	Antigua and Barbuda 27 November 2017	<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>
Argentina 1 January 1995	Argentina 20 October 2011	Argentina 22 January 2018	<i>Argentina</i>
Armenia 5 February 2003	<i>Armenia</i>	Armenia 20 March 2017	<i>Armenia</i>
Australia 1 January 1995	Australia 12 September 2007	Australia 8 June 2015	Australia 23 October 2023
Austria 1 January 1995	Austria 30 November 2007	Austria 5 October 2015	Austria 7 June 2023
Bahrain 1 January 1995	Bahrain, Kingdom of 4 August 2009	Bahrain, Kingdom of 23 September 2016	<i>Bahrain</i>
Bangladesh 1 January 1995	Bangladesh 15 March 2011	Bangladesh 27 September 2016	<i>Bangladesh</i>
Barbados 1 January 1995	Barbados 1 April 2020	Barbados 31 January 2018	Barbados 14 February 2024
Belgium 1 January 1995	Belgium 30 November 2007	Belgium 5 October 2015	Belgium 7 June 2023
Belize 1 January 1995	Belize 15 September 2016	Belize 2 September 2015	Belize 16 June 2023
Benin 22 February 1996	Benin 23 November 2016	Benin 28 March 2018	<i>Benin</i>
Bolivia 12 September 1995	Bolivia 30 January 2018	Bolivia 30 January 2018	<i>Bolivia</i>
Botswana 31 May 1995	Botswana 18 June 2014	Botswana 18 June 2015	Botswana 23 October 2023
Brazil 1 January 1995	Brazil 13 November 2008	Brazil 29 March 2016	<i>Brazil</i>
Brunei Darussalam 1 January 1995	Brunei Darussalam 10 April 2015	Brunei Darussalam 15 December 2015	Brunei Darussalam 26 February 2023
Bulgaria 1 December 1996	Bulgaria 30 November 2007	Bulgaria 5 October 2015	Bulgaria 7 June 2023
Burkina Faso 3 June 1995	Burkina Faso 17 January 2017	Burkina Faso 21 September 2018	<i>Burkina Faso</i>
Burundi 23 July 1995	Burundi 12 December 2019	Burundi 12 December 2019	<i>Burundi</i>
Cabo Verde 23 July 2008	<i>Cabo Verde</i>	Cabo Verde 6 February 2020	Cabo Verde 26 January 2024
Cambodia 13 October 2004	Cambodia 1 November 2011	Cambodia 12 February 2016	Cambodia 6 May 2024
Cameroon 13 December 1995	<i>Cameroon</i>	Cameroon 30 November 2018	<i>Cameroon</i>
Canada 1 January 1995	Canada 16 June 2009	Canada 16 December 2016	Canada 2 May 2023
Central African Republic 31 May 1995	Central African Republic 13 January 2014	Central African Republic 11 January 2018	<i>Central African Republic</i>
Chad 19 October 1996	<i>Chad</i>	Chad 22 February 2017	Chad 26 February 2023
Chile 1 January 1995	Chile 26 July 2013	Chile 21 November 2016	Chile 12 December 2023
China 11 December 2001	China 28 November 2007	China 4 September 2015	China 27 June 2023
Colombia 30 April 1995	Colombia 7 August 2009	Colombia 6 August 2020	<i>Colombia</i>
Congo 27 March 1997	Congo 31 October 2017	Congo 5 October 2017	<i>Congo</i>

All WTO members Dates = membership (after ratification)	2005 TRIPS amendment <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2014 Trade Facilitation <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2022 Fisheries subsidies <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>
Costa Rica 1 January 1995	Costa Rica 8 December 2011	Costa Rica 1 May 2017	<i>Costa Rica</i>
Côte d'Ivoire 1 January 1995	Côte d'Ivoire 7 May 2018	Côte d'Ivoire 8 December 2015	Côte d'Ivoire 23 October 2023
Croatia 30 November 2000	Croatia 6 December 2010	Croatia 5 October 2015	Croatia 7 June 2023
Cuba 20 April 1995	Cuba 6 June 2019	Cuba 12 March 2018	Cuba 23 October 2023
Cyprus, Rep. 30 July 1995	Cyprus, Rep. 30 November 2007	Cyprus, Rep. 5 October 2015	Cyprus, Rep. 7 June 2023
Czechia 1 January 1995	Czechia 30 November 2007	Czechia 5 October 2015	Czechia 7 June 2023
Democratic Republic Congo 1 January 1997	<i>Democratic Republic Congo</i>	<i>Democratic Republic Congo</i>	<i>Democratic Republic Congo</i>
Denmark 1 January 1995	Denmark 30 November 2007	Denmark 5 October 2015	Denmark 7 June 2023
Djibouti 31 May 1995	<i>Djibouti</i>	Djibouti 5 March 2018	<i>Djibouti</i>
Dominica 1 January 1995	Dominica 28 November 2016	Dominica 28 November 2016	Dominica 14 February 2024
Dominican Republic 9 March 1995	Dominican Republic 23 May 2013	Dominican Republic 28 February 2017	<i>Dominican Republic</i>
Ecuador 21 January 1996	Ecuador 8 March 2022	Ecuador 15 January 2019	<i>Ecuador</i>
Egypt 30 June 1995	Egypt 18 April 2008	Egypt 24 June 2019	<i>Egypt</i>
El Salvador 7 May 1995	El Salvador 19 September 2006	El Salvador 4 July 2016	<i>El Salvador</i>
Estonia 13 November 1999	Estonia 30 November 2007	Estonia 5 October 2015	Estonia 7 June 2023
Eswatini 1 January 1995	Eswatini 23 May 2022	Eswatini 21 November 2016	<i>Eswatini</i>
European Union 1 January 1995	<i>EU (ratified but not counted)</i>	<i>EU (ratified but not counted)</i>	<i>EU (ratified but not counted)</i>
Fiji 14 January 1996	Fiji 1 May 2017	Fiji 1 May 2017	Fiji 24 October 2023
Finland 1 January 1995	Finland 30 November 2007	Finland 5 October 2015	Finland 7 June 2023
France 1 January 1995	France 30 November 2007	France 5 October 2015	France 7 June 2023
Gabon 1 January 1995	Gabon 23 November 2017	Gabon 5 December 2016	Gabon 12 July 2023
Gambia 23 October 1996	Gambia 20 October 2020	Gambia 11 July 2017	Gambia 13 December 2023
Georgia 14 June 2000	Georgia 21 November 2018	Georgia 4 January 2016	<i>Georgia</i>
Germany 1 January 1995	Germany 30 November 2007	Germany 5 October 2015	Germany 7 June 2023
Ghana 1 January 1995	<i>Ghana</i>	Ghana 4 January 2017	<i>Ghana</i>
Greece 1 January 1995	Greece 30 November 2007	Greece 5 October 2015	Greece 7 June 2023
Grenada 22 February 1996	Grenada 8 December 2015	Grenada 8 December 2015	<i>Grenada</i>
Guatemala 21 July 1995	<i>Guatemala</i>	Guatemala 8 March 2017	<i>Guatemala</i>
Guinea 25 October 1995	Guinea 15 February 2018	Guinea 24 October 2019	<i>Guinea</i>
Guinea-Bissau 31 May 1995	<i>Guinea-Bissau</i>	Guinea-Bissau 20 September 2022	<i>Guinea-Bissau</i>
Guyana 1 January 1995	<i>Guyana</i>	Guyana 30 November 2015	<i>Guyana</i>
Haiti 30 January 1996	<i>Haiti</i>	<i>Haiti</i>	Haiti 21 February 2024
Honduras 1 January 1995	Honduras 16 December 2011	Honduras 14 July 2016	<i>Honduras</i>
Hong Kong, China 1 January 1995	Hong Kong, China 27 November 2007	Hong Kong, China 8 December 2014	Hong Kong, China 21 August 2023
Hungary 1 January 1995	Hungary 30 November 2007	Hungary 5 October 2015	Hungary 7 June 2023
Iceland 1 January 1995	Iceland 12 October 2015	Iceland 31 October 2016	Iceland 10 May 2023
India 1 January 1995	India 26 March 2007	India 22 April 2016	<i>India</i>
Indonesia 1 January 1995	Indonesia 20 October 2011	Indonesia 5 December 2017	<i>Indonesia</i>
Ireland 1 January 1995	Ireland 30 November 2007	Ireland 5 October 2015	Ireland 7 June 2023

All WTO members Dates = membership (after ratification)	2005 TRIPS amendment <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2014 Trade Facilitation <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2022 Fisheries subsidies <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>
Israel 21 April 1995	Israel 10 August 2007	Israel 8 December 2017	<i>Israel</i>
Italy 1 January 1995	Italy 30 November 2007	Italy 5 October 2015	Italy 7 June 2023
Jamaica 9 March 1995	<i>Jamaica</i>	Jamaica 19 January 2016	<i>Jamaica</i>
Japan 1 January 1995	Japan 31 August 2007	Japan 1 June 2015	Japan 3 July 2023
Jordan 11 April 2000	Jordan 6 August 2008	Jordan 22 February 2017	<i>Jordan</i>
Kazakhstan 30 November 2015	<i>Kazakhstan</i>	Kazakhstan 26 May 2016	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Kenya 1 January 1995	Kenya 21 July 2015	Kenya 10 December 2015	<i>Kenya</i>
Korea, Rep. 1 January 1995	Korea, Rep. 24 January 2007	Korea, Republic of 30 July 2015	Korea, Republic of 23 October 2023
Kuwait 1 January 1995	<i>Kuwait</i>	Kuwait, the State of 25 April 2018	<i>Kuwait, the State of</i>
Kyrgyz Republic 20 December 1998	Kyrgyz Republic 6 February 2018	Kyrgyz Republic 6 December 2016	<i>Kyrgyz Republic</i>
Laos 2 February 2013	Laos 29 September 2015	Laos 29 September 2015	Laos 13 May 2024
Latvia 10 February 1999	Latvia 30 November 2007	Latvia 5 October 2015	Latvia 7 June 2023
Lesotho 31 May 1995	Lesotho 4 January 2016	Lesotho 4 January 2016	<i>Lesotho</i>
Liberia 14 July 2016	<i>Liberia</i>	Liberia 29 April 2021	<i>Liberia</i>
Liechtenstein 1 September 1995	Liechtenstein 23 January 2017	Liechtenstein 18 September 2015	<i>Liechtenstein</i>
Lithuania 31 May 2001	Lithuania 30 November 2007	Lithuania 5 October 2015	Lithuania 7 June 2023
Luxembourg 1 January 1995	Luxembourg 30 November 2007	Luxembourg 5 October 2015	Luxembourg 7 June 2023
Macao, China 1 January 1995	Macao, China 16 June 2009	Macao, China 11 April 2016	Macao, China 19 October 2023
Madagascar 17 November 1995	Madagascar 9 November 2017	Madagascar 20 June 2016	<i>Madagascar</i>
Malawi 31 May 1995	Malawi 24 July 2017	Malawi 12 July 2017	<i>Malawi</i>
Malaysia 1 January 1995	Malaysia 10 December 2015	Malaysia 26 May 2015	Malaysia 26 February 2023
Maldives 31 May 1995	Maldives 20 April 2022	Maldives 1 October 2019	<i>Maldives</i>
Mali 31 May 1995	Mali 20 January 2016	Mali 20 January 2016	<i>Mali</i>
Malta 1 January 1995	Malta 30 November 2007	Malta 5 October 2015	Malta 7 June 2023
Mauritania 31 May 1995	<i>Mauritania</i>	Mauritius 5 March 2015	<i>Mauritania</i>
Mauritius 1 January 1995	Mauritius 16 April 2008	<i>Mauritania</i>	Mauritius 13 May 2024
Mexico 1 January 1995	Mexico 23 May 2008	Mexico 26 July 2016	<i>Mexico</i>
Moldova 26 July 2001	Moldova 7 July 2015	Moldova, Republic of 24 June 2016	<i>Moldova</i>
Mongolia 29 January 1997	Mongolia 17 September 2010	Mongolia 28 November 2016	<i>Mongolia</i>
Montenegro 29 April 2012	Montenegro 9 September 2013	Montenegro 10 May 2016	<i>Montenegro</i>
Morocco 1 January 1995	Morocco 2 December 2008	Morocco 14 May 2019	<i>Morocco</i>
Mozambique 26 August 1995	<i>Mozambique</i>	Mozambique 6 January 2017	<i>Mozambique</i>
Myanmar 1 January 1995	Myanmar 16 December 2015	Myanmar 16 December 2015	<i>Myanmar</i>
Namibia 1 January 1995	Namibia 4 April 2023	Namibia 9 February 2018	<i>Namibia</i>
Nepal 23 April 2004	Nepal 11 March 2016	Nepal 24 January 2017	<i>Nepal</i>
Netherlands 1 January 1995	Netherlands 30 November 2007	Netherlands 5 October 2015	Netherlands 7 June 2023
New Zealand 1 January 1995	New Zealand 21 October 2010	New Zealand 29 September 2015	New Zealand 6 September 2023
Nicaragua 3 September 1995	Nicaragua 25 January 2010	Nicaragua 4 August 2015	<i>Nicaragua</i>
Niger 13 December 1996	Niger 12 March 2020	Niger 6 August 2015	<i>Niger</i>

All WTO members Dates = membership (after ratification)	2005 TRIPS amendment <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2014 Trade Facilitation <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2022 Fisheries subsidies <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>
Nigeria 1 January 1995 North Macedonia 4 April 2003 Norway 1 January 1995 Oman 9 November 2000 Pakistan 1 January 1995 Panama 6 September 1997 Papua New Guinea 9 June 1996 Paraguay 1 January 1995 Peru 1 January 1995 Philippines 1 January 1995 Poland 1 July 1995 Portugal 1 January 1995 Qatar 13 January 1996 Romania 1 January 1995 Russia 22 August 2012 Rwanda 22 May 1996 Saint Kitts and Nevis 21 February 1996 Saint Lucia 1 January 1995 St Vincent & the Grenadines 1 January 1995 Samoa 10 May 2012 Saudi Arabia 11 December 2005 Senegal 1 January 1995 Seychelles 26 April 2015 Sierra Leone 23 July 1995 Singapore 1 January 1995 Slovakia 1 January 1995 Slovenia 30 July 1995 Solomon Islands 26 July 1996 South Africa 1 January 1995 Spain 1 January 1995 Sri Lanka 1 January 1995 Suriname 1 January 1995 Sweden 1 January 1995 Switzerland 1 July 1995 Taiwan 1 January 2002 Tajikistan 2 March 2013 Tanzania 1 January 1995 Thailand 1 January 1995 Togo 31 May 1995	Nigeria 16 January 2017 North Macedonia 16 March 2010 Norway 5 February 2007 Oman 1 March 2017 Pakistan 8 February 2010 Panama 24 November 2011 Papua New Guinea 22 June 2016 Paraguay 4 July 2018 Peru 13 September 2016 Philippines 30 March 2007 Poland 30 November 2007 Portugal 30 November 2007 Qatar 16 April 2016 Romania 30 November 2007 Russia 22 September 2017 Rwanda 12 December 2011 Saint Kitts and Nevis 27 July 2015 Saint Lucia 2 May 2016 St Vincent & the Grenadines 9 May 2017 Samoa 21 April 2016 Saudi Arabia 29 May 2012 Senegal 18 January 2011 Seychelles 8 June 2016 Sierra Leone 21 March 2017 Singapore 28 September 2007 Slovakia 30 November 2007 Slovenia 30 November 2007 <i>Solomon Islands</i> South Africa 23 February 2016 Spain 30 November 2007 Sri Lanka 9 September 2015 <i>Suriname</i> Sweden 30 November 2007 Switzerland 13 September 2006 Taiwan 31 July 2012 Tajikistan 23 May 2016 Tanzania 14 March 2016 Thailand 28 January 2016 Togo 13 March 2012	Nigeria 16 January 2017 North Macedonia 5 October 2015 Norway 16 December 2015 Oman 22 February 2017 Pakistan 27 October 2015 Panama 17 November 2015 Papua New Guinea 7 March 2018 Paraguay 1 March 2016 Peru 27 July 2016 Philippines 27 October 2016 Poland 5 October 2015 Portugal 5 October 2015 Qatar 12 June 2017 Romania 5 October 2015 Russia 22 April 2016 Rwanda 22 February 2017 Saint Kitts and Nevis 17 June 2016 Saint Lucia 8 December 2015 St Vincent & the Grenadines 9 January 2017 Samoa 21 April 2016 Saudi Arabia 28 July 2016 Senegal 24 August 2016 Seychelles 11 January 2016 Sierra Leone 5 May 2017 Singapore 8 January 2015 Slovakia 5 October 2015 Slovenia 5 October 2015 Solomon Islands 14 April 2022 South Africa 30 November 2017 Spain 5 October 2015 Sri Lanka 31 May 2016 <i>Suriname</i> Sweden 5 October 2015 Switzerland 2 September 2015 Taiwan 17 August 2015 Tajikistan 2 July 2019 Tanzania 8 April 2020 Thailand 5 October 2015 Togo 1 October 2015	Nigeria 12 January 2023 <i>North Macedonia</i> Norway 26 February 2023 <i>Oman</i> <i>Pakistan</i> <i>Panama</i> <i>Papua New Guinea</i> <i>Paraguay</i> Peru 19 July 2023 Philippines 27 February 2024 Poland 7 June 2023 Portugal 7 June 2023 <i>Qatar</i> Romania 7 June 2023 Russia 18 March 2024 Rwanda 26 February 2023 <i>Saint Kitts and Nevis</i> Saint Lucia 23 October 2023 <i>St Vincent & the Grenadines</i> <i>Samoa</i> Saudi Arabia 26 February 2023 Senegal 14 February 2024 Seychelles 10 March 2023 <i>Sierra Leone</i> Singapore 10 February 2023 Slovakia 7 June 2023 Slovenia 7 June 2023 <i>Solomon Islands</i> South Africa 1 March 2024 Spain 7 June 2023 <i>Sri Lanka</i> <i>Suriname</i> Sweden 7 June 2023 Switzerland 20 January 2023 <i>Taiwan</i> <i>Tajikistan</i> <i>Tanzania</i> <i>Thailand</i> Togo 26 February 2023

All WTO members Dates = membership (after ratification)	2005 TRIPS amendment <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2014 Trade Facilitation <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>	2022 Fisheries subsidies <i>Not ratified in italics on the right</i>
Tonga 27 July 2007 Trinidad and Tobago 1 March 1995 Tunisia 29 March 1995 Türkiye 26 March 1995 Uganda 1 January 1995 Ukraine 16 May 2008 United Arab Emirates 10 April 1996 United Kingdom 1 January 1995 United States 1 January 1995 Uruguay 1 January 1995 Vanuatu 24 August 2012 Venezuela 1 January 1995 Vietnam 11 January 2007 Yemen 26 June 2014 Zambia 1 January 1995 Zimbabwe 5 March 1995 = 164	<i>Tonga</i> Trinidad and Tobago 19 September 2013 <i>Tunisia</i> Türkiye 14 May 2014 Uganda 12 July 2010 Ukraine 16 March 2016 United Arab Emirates 23 January 2017 United Kingdom 30 November 2007 United States 17 December 2005 Uruguay 31 July 2014 <i>Vanuatu</i> <i>Venezuela</i> Vietnam 23 January 2017 <i>Yemen</i> Zambia 10 August 2009 <i>Zimbabwe</i> = 136	<i>Tonga</i> Trinidad and Tobago 29 July 2015 Tunisia 17 July 2020 Türkiye 16 March 2016 Uganda 27 June 2018 Ukraine 16 December 2015 United Arab Emirates 18 April 2016 United Kingdom 1 January 2021 United States 23 January 2015 Uruguay 30 August 2016 Vanuatu 6 May 2020 <i>Venezuela</i> Vietnam 15 December 2015 <i>Yemen</i> Zambia 16 December 2015 Zimbabwe 17 October 2018 = 156	<i>Tonga</i> <i>Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Tunisia</i> Türkiye 26 February 2023 <i>Uganda</i> Ukraine August 17, 2023 United Arab Emirates 16 May 2023 United Kingdom 13 December 2023 United States 11 April 2023 Uruguay 14 February 2024 <i>Vanuatu</i> <i>Venezuela</i> <i>Viet Nam</i> <i>Yemen</i> <i>Zambia</i> <i>Zimbabwe</i> = 75
NOTE The EU is 28 of the 164 WTO members, ie, the 27 member states plus the EU itself. But for ratifications the EU wants to be counted only as the number of its member states, ie, to be counted as 27. This way of counting the EU is borrowed from WTO rules on voting, but no rule requires this for ratifications. EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus Rep, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden	Countries that have not ratified the TRIPS amendment Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Djibouti, Democratic Republic Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Tonga, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe = 27	Countries that have not ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement Democratic Republic Congo, Haiti, Mauritania, Suriname, Tonga, Venezuela, Yemen = 7	Countries that have not ratified the 2022 Fisheries Subsidies Agreement = 88

WHAT THE WTO AGREEMENT SAYS ON AMENDMENTS

The [Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization](#), Article 10. Here, hyperlinks have been added, with brief descriptions of articles in square brackets and italics

Article X **Amendments**

1. Any Member of the WTO may initiate a proposal to amend the provisions of this Agreement or the Multilateral Trade Agreements in [Annex 1](#) [*GATT = goods, GATS = services, TRIPS = intellectual property*] by submitting such proposal to the Ministerial Conference. The Councils listed in [paragraph 5](#) [*councils reporting to the General Council, on goods, services and intellectual property*] of [Article IV](#) [*Structure of the WTO*] may also submit to the Ministerial Conference proposals to amend the provisions of the corresponding Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1 the functioning of which they oversee. Unless the Ministerial Conference decides on a longer period, for a period of 90 days after the proposal has been tabled formally at the Ministerial Conference any decision by the Ministerial Conference to submit the proposed amendment to the Members for acceptance shall be taken by consensus. Unless the provisions of paragraphs 2, 5 or 6 apply, that decision shall specify whether the provisions of paragraphs 3 or 4 shall apply. If consensus is reached, the Ministerial Conference shall forthwith submit the proposed amendment to the Members for acceptance. If consensus is not reached at a meeting of the Ministerial Conference within the established period, the Ministerial Conference shall decide by a two-thirds majority of the Members whether to submit the proposed amendment to the Members for acceptance. Except as provided in paragraphs 2, 5 and 6, the provisions of paragraph 3 shall apply to the proposed amendment, unless the Ministerial Conference decides by a three-fourths majority of the Members that the provisions of paragraph 4 shall apply.

2. Amendments to the provisions of this Article and to the provisions of the following Articles shall take effect only upon acceptance by all Members:

[Article IX](#) of this Agreement [*on decision-making*];

[Articles I](#) [*MFN**] and [II](#) [*schedules of concessions (commitments on goods)*] of [GATT 1994](#) [*General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade*];

[Article II:1](#) [*MFN**] of [GATS](#) [*General Agreement on Trade in Services*];

[Article 4](#) [*MFN**] of the [Agreement on TRIPS](#) [*Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*].

[* *MFN = most-favoured nation treatment = treating trading partners equally*]

3. Amendments to provisions of this Agreement, or of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annexes [1A](#) [*goods*] and [1C](#) [*intellectual property*], other than those listed in paragraphs 2 and 6, of a nature that would alter the rights and obligations of the Members, shall take effect for the Members that have accepted them upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members and thereafter for each other Member upon acceptance by it. The Ministerial Conference may decide by a three-fourths majority of the Members that any amendment made effective under this paragraph is of such a nature that any Member which has not accepted it within a period specified by the Ministerial Conference in each case shall be free to withdraw from the WTO or to remain a Member with the consent of the Ministerial Conference.

4. Amendments to provisions of this Agreement or of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annexes [1A](#) [*goods*] and [1C](#) [*intellectual property*], other than those listed in paragraphs 2 and 6, of a nature that would not alter the rights and obligations of the Members, shall take effect for all Members upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members.

5. Except as provided in paragraph 2 above, amendments to Parts I [[Scope and Definition](#)], II [[General Obligations and Disciplines](#)] and III [[Specific Commitments](#)] of [GATS](#) [*services*] and the respective annexes shall take effect for the Members that have accepted them upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members and thereafter for each Member upon acceptance by it. The Ministerial Conference may decide by a three-fourths majority of the Members that any amendment made effective under the preceding provision is of such a nature that any Member which has not accepted it within a period specified by the Ministerial Conference in each case shall be free to

withdraw from the WTO or to remain a Member with the consent of the Ministerial Conference. Amendments to Parts IV [[Progressive Liberalization](#)], V [[Institutional Provisions](#)] and VI [[Final Provisions](#)] of GATS and the respective annexes shall take effect for all Members upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members.

6. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Article, amendments to the [Agreement on TRIPS](#) meeting the requirements of [paragraph 2 of Article 71](#) thereof [*consensus decisions by the TRIPS Council to adopt higher levels of protection from other multilateral agreements, when all WTO members have accepted those agreements*] may be adopted by the Ministerial Conference without further formal acceptance process.

7. Any Member accepting an amendment to this Agreement or to a Multilateral Trade Agreement in [Annex 1](#) [*goods, services, intellectual property*] shall deposit an instrument of acceptance with the Director-General of the WTO within the period of acceptance specified by the Ministerial Conference.

8. Any Member of the WTO may initiate a proposal to amend the provisions of the Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annexes [2](#) [*dispute settlement*] and [3](#) [*trade policy*

reviews] by submitting such proposal to the Ministerial Conference. The decision to approve amendments to the Multilateral Trade Agreement in [Annex 2](#) [*dispute settlement*] shall be made by consensus and these amendments shall take effect for all Members upon approval by the Ministerial Conference. Decisions to approve amendments to the Multilateral Trade Agreement in [Annex 3](#) [*trade policy reviews*] shall take effect for all Members upon approval by the Ministerial Conference.

9. The Ministerial Conference, upon the request of the Members parties to a trade agreement, may decide exclusively by consensus to add that agreement to [Annex 4](#) [*plurilateral agreements, ie, with only part of the WTO membership participating*]. The Ministerial Conference, upon the request of the Members parties to a Plurilateral Trade Agreement, may decide to delete that Agreement from Annex 4.

10. Amendments to a Plurilateral Trade Agreement shall be governed by the provisions of that Agreement.

NOTES

WTO membership dates

The WTO Agreement was signed by GATT ministers in Marrakesh, Morocco on April 15, 1994. Most countries had ratified the agreement by January 1, 1995 and they became members when the WTO was officially set up on that date. Some others took longer to ratify. All countries with membership dates in 1995 and 1996 signed the agreement in 1994, except Ecuador and Bulgaria, whose [membership negotiations were completed](#) in 1996. (There may have been a few other stragglers from Marrakesh that became members after 1996.)

The TRIPS amendment

TRIPS = trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights.

Ratifications have been unusually slow because the 2005 amendment makes no difference in practice. Where it doesn't apply, an identical waiver from 2003 does. The amendment was meant to add the waiver's substance visibly into the WTO's rule-book. But so long as some countries have not ratified it, the result is untidy. There are two versions of the TRIPS Agreement applying to different members.

Trade facilitation and fisheries subsidies

The TRIPS amendment alters the existing TRIPS Agreement (Annex 1C of the WTO Agreement).

The Trade Facilitation and Fisheries Subsidies agreements are considered new "stand-alone" texts, but they still amend the WTO Agreement.

They are added to the list of agreements attached to Annex 1A, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), ie, trade in goods.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE WTO AGREEMENTS

Actually, it's a single agreement (the WTO Agreement) with several layers of annexes and attachments. All new agreements are inserted into the appropriate annexes. They amend the WTO Agreement, so amendment rules (Article X) apply. Individual members' schedules (or lists) of specific commitments (on tariffs and other areas of market access, agricultural subsidies, exceptions to non-discrimination in services, etc) are annexed to the relevant agreement — GATT for goods, GATS for services, or one of the plurilateral agreements if plurilateral, ie, only applying to part of the membership.

