



# **Overview of the Multilateral Agreements & One-off and Regular Notification Requirements: a Summary for Afghanistan by Agreement**

## **Module III**

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# WTO - Basic Legal and Economic Principles

## Transparency

Publications, Notifications, TPR

## Predictability

Through binding – access to markets

## No Discrimination

Most Favoured Nation (MFN)

National Treatment (NT)

## Undistorted “fair competition”

Anti-dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing, Safeguards

**Encourage development:** Assisting developing countries to increase their participation in the multilateral trading system

# WTO: What is it?

- **The World Trade Organization - a rules-based organization set up by governments to administer multilateral trade agreements (MTAs) and perform a number of other important functions**
- **Established on 1 January 1995; Not an entirely new institution. Succeeded the GATT which existed from 1 January 1948 - 31 December 1994**
- **Membership: keeps on changing, but recent figure is 162 Members, 21 acceding.**
- **Secretariat: around 700 people; different backgrounds and nationalities. Headed by a Director-General, Mr. Roberto Azevêdo from Brazil.**
- **Offices in Geneva. No field offices.**

# WTO - History

- **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**
- **From 1948 to 1995**
- **Rules with a “provisional” character**
- **23 Contracting parties (in 1948)**
- **Negotiations were organized under the so-called “Rounds” (8 during the GATT)**

# WTO vs GATT: Main differences

- **Nature**
  - **GATT: applied on a provisional basis with no institutional framework**
  - **WTO: permanent framework with a permanent organization**
- **Scope**
  - **GATT: trade in goods**
  - **WTO: trade in goods and services and TRIPS**
- **Approach**
  - **GATT: à la carte (many agreements selective)**
  - **WTO: single undertaking**
- **Dispute settlement**

# WTO: Main functions

Art. III  
WTO Agr.

- **Administering and implementing the multilateral and plurilateral trade agreements**
- **Forum for multilateral trade negotiations**
- **Dispute settlement**
- **Overseeing national trade policy**
- **Co-operation with the IMF and the World Bank (coherence in global economic policy-making)**

# WTO: Uruguay Round Results

## *Final Act*

- ☐ **WTO Agreement (Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO)**
- ☐ **Annex 1A: Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods**
- ☐ **Annex 1B: General Agreement on Trade in Services and Annexes**
- ☐ **Annex 1C: Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights**
- ☐ **Annex 2: Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes**
- ☐ **Annex 3: Trade Policy Review Mechanism**
- ☐ **Annex 4: Plurilateral Trade Agreements**

## **Ministerial Declarations and Decisions**

## Annex 1A

# Multilateral agreements on trade in Goods

GATT 1994 (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)

Understandings

Marrakesh Protocol

Agreements on:

Agriculture

Antidumping

Sanitary and phytosanitary  
measures

Customs valuation

Preshipment inspection

Textiles and clothing

Rules of origin

**1A**

Multilateral trade  
agreement on  
trade in goods

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