



2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final Compliance Report

Prepared by

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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4. Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization

“We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

Background

International trade and issues relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been key topics of discussion at every G20 summit since the 2008 Washington Summit, where members agreed to “strive to reach agreement this year on modalities that leads to a successful conclusion to the WTO’s Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome.”¹⁰³³ This summit introduced the established commitment to reject protectionism that featured in every communiqué until the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, and was the first of many commitments to conclude the Doha Development Round as soon as possible. The Doha Development Round of trade negotiations primarily concerns the introduction of lower tariff barriers as well as reforms to include agriculture, services, and intellectual property in the purview of WTO regulations.¹⁰³⁴

¹⁰³³ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

¹⁰³⁴ The Doha Round, World Trade Organization (Geneva) No Date. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dda_e.htm

The 2012 Los Cabos Summit declaration included a commitment to “urge progress in streamlining WTO accession procedures for the world’s poorest countries, in addition to the standard commitments on anti-protectionism and completing the Doha Development Round.”¹⁰³⁵

The 2013 St. Petersburg Summit declaration emphasized the importance of regional trade agreements within the context of the WTO and included a document titled “Advancing Transparency in Regional Trade Agreements” as an annex to the declaration.¹⁰³⁶

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the “Hangzhou consensus” feature of openness included a commitment to reject protectionism and promote global trade and investment.¹⁰³⁷ The communiqué also supported the work of the recently established G20 Trade and Investment Working Group.¹⁰³⁸

The 2017 Hamburg Summit declaration discussed how the “benefits of international trade and investment have not been shared widely enough” and proceeded to outline a commitment to mitigate the harmful effects of trade while nevertheless re-affirming the “crucial role” of the rules-based global trading system.¹⁰³⁹

The 2018 Buenos Aires Summit leaders’ declaration “[noted] current trade issues” and stated that the multilateral trading system “is currently falling short of its objectives,” marking the greatest emphasis placed on WTO reform of any G20 summit until that date.¹⁰⁴⁰ It lacked any mention of fighting protectionism.

Commitment Features

This commitment requires members to support the necessary reform of the WTO. For the purposes of this assessment, “support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”¹⁰⁴¹ Such support can encompass implementing new policies or supporting existing policies that contribute to WTO reform.

WTO reform concerns three key features, which are based on key priorities outlined by WTO director-general Roberto Azevêdo on 19 July 2019: addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system including the current shortage of appointments to the Appellate Body, “strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies; and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.”¹⁰⁴² The proposed WTO reforms mainly concern the work program of the ongoing Doha Development Round.

¹⁰³⁵ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.pdf>

¹⁰³⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html#trade>

¹⁰³⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

¹⁰³⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

¹⁰³⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰⁴⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁰⁴¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

¹⁰⁴² Azevêdo: WTO reform is already happening, World Trade Organization (Washington) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tnc_19jul19_e.htm

Actions that count for addressing the dispute settlement system include active discussion both within and outside the WTO framework to resolve the current impasse over appointments to the WTO's Appellate Body and participation in discussions to ensure that the Appellate Body will be sufficiently responsive to national sovereignty concerns in the future.

Actions that count for strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies include improving monitoring of WTO regulations, increasing transparency in applying WTO regulations, respecting decisions made by the Appellate Body in contentious cases, and generally working to uphold the rules-based global trade regime. Actions can be either domestic or international in nature and include the sharing of best practices with regards to upholding WTO regulations.

Actions that count for improving the WTO's negotiating work include making substantive proposals, cooperating in negotiations on sensitive matters such as fisheries and agricultural subsidies, updating the global trade system to reflect recent technological developments, and balancing the concerns of both corporations and citizens regarding global trade.

To fully comply with the commitment, members must take action in all three commitment areas of resolving the current impasse over appointments to the WTO's Appellate Body, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work. To partially comply, members must take action in two of the three commitment areas. In addition, actions will be differentiated based on whether they are a strong or weak action in the commitment area. Strong actions for this commitment are defined as newly implemented policies, proposals that directly originate from the member as opposed to proposals that the member is a signatory to and policies that indicate a significant degree of support for the WTO and the current reform process. Members must take at least two strong actions to fully comply with the commitment and at least one strong action to partially comply. No compliance indicates a member has taken action in none or one of the commitment areas.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member takes action in zero or one of the three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse OR strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies OR improving the WTO's negotiating work.
0	G20 member takes action in two of the three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse OR strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies OR improving the WTO's negotiating work. Member takes at least one strong action.
+1	G20 member takes action in all three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse AND strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies AND improving the WTO's negotiating work. Member takes at least two strong actions.

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Lead Analysts: Sonja Dobson and Daniel Scarpitti*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its "support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions."

From 16 to 18 July 2019, Argentina and Peru held the second round of negotiations for a trade agreement.¹⁰⁴³ The negotiations were meant to consolidate bilateral trade relations and modernize existing framework which establish free trade of goods.¹⁰⁴⁴ Argentina stressed its negotiating efforts in relation to certain sectors, such as government procurement and services, agriculture and industry.¹⁰⁴⁵

On 1 October 2019, the Argentine-India Business Forum was held, where the Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry, Secretary of Foreign Trade, the President of the Argentine Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, the Indian Ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine Ambassador to India were present.¹⁰⁴⁶ A large delegation of companies of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) were invited.¹⁰⁴⁷ Meetings were held between Argentine and Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.¹⁰⁴⁸ The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.¹⁰⁴⁹

On 4 October 2019, a Business Forum was held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the French-Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.¹⁰⁵⁰ The event was attended by the French Ambassador, president of CII France Argentine, European Union Ambassador and the Undersecretary for Commercial Strategy and Economic Promotion of Foreign Ministry.¹⁰⁵¹ It discussed the opportunities and challenges of the bilateral economic ties and stressed specifically on three sectors with an eye to the future; energy, human resources and transport.¹⁰⁵²

¹⁰⁴³ 2nd Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

¹⁰⁴⁴ 2nd Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

¹⁰⁴⁵ 2nd Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

¹⁰⁴⁶ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹⁰⁴⁷ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹⁰⁴⁸ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹⁰⁴⁹ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹⁰⁵⁰ Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

¹⁰⁵¹ Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

¹⁰⁵² Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

On 16 January, Argentina was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹⁰⁵³ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 2 March 2020, Argentina held trade discussions with the United Kingdom regarding strengthening existing trade relations.¹⁰⁵⁵ The meeting, which saw foreign office officials from both countries for the first time, involved discussions on boosting trade and investment.¹⁰⁵⁶ The meeting is said to have revolved around additional matters of climate change, human rights, and boosting trade in transport, public services, oil, gas and financial services.¹⁰⁵⁷ However, Argentine ministers have made clear that further discussions will only occur if the UK is willing to discuss the Falklands claim issue.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 3 September 2020, Argentinian Foreign Affairs Minister Felipe Sola called on countries to “strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation.”¹⁰⁵⁹ Speaking to the G20 members, he said the COVID-19 crisis “has reaffirmed our conviction that we must work to strengthen multilateralism and solidarity.”¹⁰⁶⁰ Sola specially mentioned the cooperation between Argentina and Mexico to manufacture and distribute a British made vaccine as an example of the kind of global cooperation Argentina seeks to promote.¹⁰⁶¹

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Argentina took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.¹⁰⁶² The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise

¹⁰⁵³ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁵⁴ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁵⁵ UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

¹⁰⁵⁶ UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

¹⁰⁵⁷ UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

¹⁰⁵⁸ UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

¹⁰⁵⁹ Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm

¹⁰⁶⁰ Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm

¹⁰⁶¹ Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm

¹⁰⁶² WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”¹⁰⁶³ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹⁰⁶⁴

Argentina has participated in addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system in signing onto the proposal to fill vacant seats on the Appellate Body. Additionally, Argentina has strengthened the work of the WTO's regular bodies in working to uphold the rules-based global trade regime and taken action as a member of the Cairns Group to improve the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Srijan Sabu

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 5 July 2019, Australia announced further support for its partnership with two key programs of the World Trade Organization — the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the Standards and Trade Development Facility, in recognition of the importance of the WTO in driving economic growth, reducing global poverty and advancing gender equality.¹⁰⁶⁵ Australia's new commitments total over \$8 million.

On 20 August 2019, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham acknowledged the WTO's role in upholding the rules-based trading system and discussed the importance of regional trade agreements in a meeting with Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister YB Datuk Darell Leiking.¹⁰⁶⁶ Ministers also expressed a shared interest in contributing to WTO reform to ensure the on-going value of the institution in the future.¹⁰⁶⁷

¹⁰⁶³ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹⁰⁶⁴ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹⁰⁶⁵ Australia advances its commitment to aid for trade, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 5 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

¹⁰⁶⁶ Australia-Malaysia Trade Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 20 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Australia-Malaysia Trade Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 20 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

On 14 November 2019, Australia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Mexico, at the WTO.¹⁰⁶⁸ The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”¹⁰⁶⁹

On 16 January, Australia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹⁰⁷⁰ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹⁰⁷¹

On 24 January 2019, Australia, the European Union, China, and 14 other WTO members agreed to create a temporary mechanism to settle trade disputes after American action rendered the Appellate Body incapable of effective policing world trade.¹⁰⁷² The nations agreed to preserve the WTO’s two-step dispute system until the Appellate Body becomes functional again.¹⁰⁷³

On 24 January 2019, Australia, Japan, and Singapore hosted an informal meeting to discuss electronic commerce negotiations.¹⁰⁷⁴ The countries discussed building up momentum in the negotiations into and beyond the Twelfth Ministerial Conference in June 2020.¹⁰⁷⁵ Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said that the negotiations “promotes digital trade and supports the modern trade needs of businesses, while boosting privacy and other consumer protections.”¹⁰⁷⁶

On 30 September 2019, Australia attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session. Alongside Mexico, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, Australia proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal, cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services. The proposal

¹⁰⁶⁸ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹⁰⁶⁹ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹⁰⁷⁰ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁷¹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁷² Canada, EU, China, others agree on temporary fix to WTO crisis, AGCanada (Brussels) 25 Jan 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.agcanada.com/daily/canada-eu-china-others-agree-on-temporary-fix-to-wto-crisis>

¹⁰⁷³ Canada, EU, China, others agree on temporary fix to WTO crisis, AGCanada (Brussels) 25 Jan 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.agcanada.com/daily/canada-eu-china-others-agree-on-temporary-fix-to-wto-crisis>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

¹⁰⁷⁵ Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

states that these actions would “reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives.”¹⁰⁷⁷

On 14 November 2019, Australia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Mexico, at the WTO. The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”¹⁰⁷⁸

On 25 March 2020, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment Simon Birmingham signed a Joint Ministerial statement with Canada and three other nations joining New Zealand and Singapore in affirming supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁷⁹ The signatories committed to ensuring the openness of trade lines and addressing trade disruptions, especially of critical medical supplies.¹⁰⁸⁰

On 27 March 2020, Australia and 15 other members of the WTO have decided to put into place a Multi-party Interim Agreement (MPIA) for allowing appeals of panel reports in trade disputes.¹⁰⁸¹ The MPIA is intended to restore access to a binding dispute settlement system between participating countries until the WTO Appellate Body is fully functional.¹⁰⁸²

On 9 June 2020, the Appellate Body issued a report in the cases brought by Honduras and the Dominican Republic against Australia on measures concerning trademarks and packaging requirements.¹⁰⁸³ The Appellate Body found that Australia did not violate its obligations under Article 20 of the TRIPS agreement.¹⁰⁸⁴

On 17 June 2020, Australia launched preliminary negotiations with the United Kingdom for an Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement.¹⁰⁸⁵ Among Australia’s stated objectives include

¹⁰⁷⁷ WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm

¹⁰⁷⁸ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹⁰⁷⁹ Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁰ Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm

¹⁰⁸¹ Council approves a multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement to solve trade disputes, Council of the EU (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/council-approves-a-multi-party-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement-to-solve-trade-disputes/>

¹⁰⁸² Council approves a multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement to solve trade disputes, Council of the EU (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/council-approves-a-multi-party-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement-to-solve-trade-disputes/>

¹⁰⁸³ Appellate Body issues reports regarding tobacco plain packaging requirements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/435_441abr_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁴ Appellate Body issues reports regarding tobacco plain packaging requirements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/435_441abr_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁵ Australia-UK FTA negotiating aims and approach, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aukfta/negotiating-aims-and-approach>

the establishment of a best-practice state-to-state dispute settlement mechanism with the United Kingdom.¹⁰⁸⁶

On 27 August 2020, Australia participated in a joint media statement during Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations along with ministers from the China, South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and the members of ASEAN, reaffirming the region's support for an open, rules-based multilateral trading system, and reporting on progress on finalizing RCEP negotiations.¹⁰⁸⁷

On 25 September 2020, Australia presented a submission on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session, on behalf of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting members, which include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, and South Africa.¹⁰⁸⁸ The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures...[and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”¹⁰⁸⁹ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹⁰⁹⁰

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address “issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route.”¹⁰⁹¹

Australia has participated in addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work by accounting for recent technological developments.

¹⁰⁸⁶ Australia-UK FTA negotiating aims and approach, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aukfta/negotiating-aims-and-approach>

¹⁰⁸⁷ Joint Media Statement of the 8th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN (Jakarta) 27 Aug 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://asean.org/joint-media-statement-8th-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership-rcep-ministerial-meeting/>

¹⁰⁸⁸ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹⁰⁹⁰ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹⁰⁹¹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tony Xun

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 7 October 2019, Brazil presented a proposal to the WTO with recommendations for guidelines and best practices of the use of digital technologies and information and communication technologies.¹⁰⁹² The goal is to demonstrate Brazil’s commitment to keeping the WTO relevant to the nature of 21st-century trade.¹⁰⁹³

On 16 January 2020, Brazil was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹⁰⁹⁴ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹⁰⁹⁵

On 17 January 2020, the WTO released a report stating that Brazil was in full compliance with the recommendations and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body in cases filed by the European Union and Japan, both of which concerned taxation of trade.¹⁰⁹⁶ The implementation was completed by 31 December 2019.¹⁰⁹⁷

On 24 January 2020, Brazil was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹⁰⁹⁸ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a

¹⁰⁹² Electronic Commerce in the World Trade Organization- Joint Note of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Brasilia) 11 October 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-BR/notas-a-imprensa/20978-comercio-eletronico-na-organizacao-mundial-do-comercio-nota-conjunta-dos-ministerios-das-relacoes-exterores-e-da-economia>

¹⁰⁹³ Electronic Commerce in the World Trade Organization- Joint Note of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Brasilia) 11 October 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-BR/notas-a-imprensa/20978-comercio-eletronico-na-organizacao-mundial-do-comercio-nota-conjunta-dos-ministerios-das-relacoes-exterores-e-da-economia>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁹⁵ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁰⁹⁶ Brazil — Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Brazil — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds472_e.htm

¹⁰⁹⁷ Brazil — Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Brazil — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds472_e.htm

¹⁰⁹⁸ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹⁰⁹⁹

On 18 May 2020, the WTO Committee on Government Procurement received Brazil's request to begin negotiations to join the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).¹¹⁰⁰ The GPA is a plurilateral WTO agreement which is binding only for members who have joined.¹¹⁰¹ The GPA promotes and regulates the procurement of trade.¹¹⁰²

On 15 June 2020, Brazil, as a part of the Ottawa Group,¹¹⁰³ released a statement with six action items as suggestions to the WTO, including "Transparency and Withdrawal of Trade-Restrictive Measures" and "Keeping Open and Predictable Trade in Agricultural and Agri-Food Products."¹¹⁰⁴ The statement is a substantive proposal that is designed to reflect the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.¹¹⁰⁵

On 4 September 2020, China along with its BRICS counterparts, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.¹¹⁰⁶ The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."¹¹⁰⁷ The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."¹¹⁰⁸

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address "issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied

¹⁰⁹⁹ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹¹⁰⁰ Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm

¹¹⁰¹ Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm

¹¹⁰² Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm

¹¹⁰³ Ottawa Group and WTO Reform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/05/ottawa-group-and-wto-reform.html>

¹¹⁰⁴ June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng

¹¹⁰⁵ June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng

¹¹⁰⁶ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹¹⁰⁷ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹¹⁰⁸ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route.”¹¹⁰⁹

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Brazil took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.¹¹¹⁰ The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures...[and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”¹¹¹¹ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹¹¹²

Brazil has fully complied with this commitment through being a signatory to a proposal to the current Appellate Board impasse; following the recommendations of and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to reinforce the existing work of the WTO; and presented a proposal to the WTO with recommendations for guidelines and best practices of the use of digital technologies and ICT, actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 25 August 2019, Canada formalized an agreement with the European Union to set up a substitute appeals body for trade disputes between each other.¹¹¹³ Canada and the EU are working around the

¹¹⁰⁹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹¹⁰ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹¹¹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹¹² WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹¹³ Canada and Europe make deal to work around blocked World Trade Organization, CBC (Montreal) 25 July 2019.

Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-europe-world-trade-organization-1.5225331>

United States' refusal to allow new appointments in WTO's Appellate Body by agreeing to take appeals to three-member panels made up of people who used to sit on the WTO's Appellate Body.¹¹¹⁴

On 4 September 2019, Canada introduced a concept paper at the WTO titled "Preventing the Use of Personal Information from being used for the Discrimination or Persecution of Natural Persons."¹¹¹⁵ It aims to protect personal information from being used for purposes of discrimination or persecution in digital trade.¹¹¹⁶ This initiative was intended to facilitate improved economic opportunities in the digital trading environment and seek the confidence of consumers in the digital economy.¹¹¹⁷

On 12 September 2019, Canada filed a WTO dispute complaint against China's restriction on canola seed imports.¹¹¹⁸ The Canadian government claims that the enhanced inspections of imports and the suspension of imports by two Canadian companies violate China's trade obligations.¹¹¹⁹

On 30 September 2019, Canada attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session. Alongside Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and Switzerland, Canada proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal, cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services. The proposal states that these actions would "reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives."¹¹²⁰

On 10 December 2019, Canada signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.¹¹²¹ The trade agreement is meant to improve the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.¹¹²²

¹¹¹⁴ Canada and Europe make deal to work around blocked World Trade Organization, CBC (Montreal) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-europe-world-trade-organization-1.5225331>

¹¹¹⁵ WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

¹¹¹⁶ WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access date: February 23, 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

¹¹¹⁷ WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access Date: February 23, 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

¹¹¹⁸ Canada files WTO dispute complaint against Chinese import restrictions on canola seed, WTO (Geneva) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds589rfc_12sep19_e.htm

¹¹¹⁹ Canada files WTO dispute complaint against Chinese import restrictions on canola seed, WTO (Geneva) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds589rfc_12sep19_e.htm

¹¹²⁰ WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm

¹¹²¹ US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

¹¹²² US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

On 16 January 2020, Canada was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹¹²³ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹¹²⁴

On 24 January 2020, Canada and 16 other countries agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹¹²⁵ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹¹²⁶

On 25 March 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng signed a Joint Ministerial statement with Australia and three other nations joining New Zealand and Singapore in affirming supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹²⁷ The signatories committed to ensuring the openness of trade lines and addressing trade disruptions, especially of crucial medical supplies.¹¹²⁸

On 27 March 2020, Canada and 15 other members of the WTO have decided to put into place a Multi-party Interim Agreement (MPIA) for allowing appeals of panel reports in trade disputes.¹¹²⁹ The MPIA is intended to restore access to a binding dispute settlement system between participating countries until the WTO Appellate Body is fully functional.¹¹³⁰

On 15 June 2020, Canada, along with the 12 other Ottawa Group members, released a statement titled “Focusing Action on Covid-19.”¹¹³¹ Among other action items, the Ottawa group committed to transparency and withdrawal of trade-restrictive measures and keeping open and predictable trade in agricultural products.¹¹³² Additionally, Canada reaffirmed its commitment to WTO reform,

¹¹²³ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹²⁴ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹²⁵ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹¹²⁶ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹¹²⁷ Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm

¹¹²⁸ Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm

¹¹²⁹ Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through WTO, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>

¹¹³⁰ Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through WTO, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>

¹¹³¹ June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng

¹¹³² June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng

including efforts towards a long-lasting solution towards dispute settlement and conclusion of negotiations on harmful fishing subsidies.¹¹³³

On 3 August 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on the conclusion of the process to select arbitrators for the MPIA, noting that upon the appointment of arbitrators, the MPIA became fully operational and reaffirming Canada's commitment to a permanent solution to the Appellate Body's impasse.¹¹³⁴

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address "issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route."¹¹³⁵

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint proposal from Canada, Norway and Switzerland at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. The proposal called for "all members that have not yet done so to ensure that the commitment to eliminate export subsidies is reflected in their WTO schedules of commitments no later than June or December 2021...and reaffirms Member's commitment to continue to the negotiations" on the topic of export competition.¹¹³⁶

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Canada took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.¹¹³⁷ The submission "calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading

¹¹³³ Minister Ng concludes successful Canada-led Ottawa Group meeting on World Trade Organization reform and COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/05/ottawa-group-and-wto-reform.html>

¹¹³⁴ Statement from Minister Ng on final arbitrator candidates of WTO Multi-party Interim Arrangement, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-from-minister-ng-on-final-arbitrator-candidates-of-wto-multi-party-interim-arrangement.html>

¹¹³⁵ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹³⁶ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹³⁷ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

system.”¹¹³⁸ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹¹³⁹

Canada has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, and improving the WTO’s negotiating work regarding digital trade, as well as strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies in the evidence above.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tony Xun

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 21 August 2019, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with representatives from Korea and Japan and offered to mediate the trade conflict between the two countries.¹¹⁴⁰ By doing so, China aims to advance negotiations on a trilateral trade agreement between the three countries.¹¹⁴¹

On 6 November 2019, China held an informal WTO Ministerial Meeting in Shanghai, presided over by Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan.¹¹⁴² The aim of the meeting was for all parties to share views on “firmly [supporting] the multilateral trading system, resolutely oppose unilateralism and protectionism, actively participate in the necessary reform of the WTO, safeguard the core values of the WTO, promote the success of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, and enhance the WTO’s confidence.”¹¹⁴³

On 13 December 2019, China and the United States agreed to the contents of a phase-one trade agreement.¹¹⁴⁴ This agreement addresses rising tariffs and contains provisions on “intellectual property rights, technology transfer, food and agricultural products, financial services, exchange rate

¹¹³⁸ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹³⁹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹¹⁴⁰ Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi offers to help Japan and South Korea to settle trade dispute, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3023738/chinese-foreign-minister-wang-yi-urges-japan-and-south-korea>

¹¹⁴¹ Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi offers to help Japan and South Korea to settle trade dispute, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3023738/chinese-foreign-minister-wang-yi-urges-japan-and-south-korea>

¹¹⁴² Informal WTO ministerial meeting held in Shanghai successfully, Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201911/20191102913782.shtml>

¹¹⁴³ Informal WTO ministerial meeting held in Shanghai successfully, Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201911/20191102913782.shtml>

¹¹⁴⁴ China, US agree on text of phase one trade deal, The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html

and transparency, trade expansion, bilateral assessment and dispute settlement, and the final terms” to promote and improve the two nations’ economic and trade relations and global stability.¹¹⁴⁵

On 15 January 2020, Vice-Premier of China Liu He signed the phase-one trade deal alongside United States President Donald Trump, ending a months-long “trade war” between the two nations.¹¹⁴⁶ The trade deal aims to advance bilateral trade and economic development between the two countries and promotes mutual cooperation to serve the interests of consumers and producers globally.¹¹⁴⁷

On 16 January 2020, China was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹¹⁴⁸ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹¹⁴⁹

On 24 January 2020, China was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹¹⁵⁰ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹¹⁵¹

On 18 February 2020, China’s Ministry of Commerce issued the “Circular on Stabilizing Foreign Trade and Investment and Stimulating Consumption in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia,” to aid in stimulating foreign trade during the coronavirus outbreak.¹¹⁵² It encourages governments to “communicate closely with foreign investors, accelerate their approvals for import and export licensing, and help them resume operations,” and emphasizes the need for e-commerce service development for foreign trade.¹¹⁵³

¹¹⁴⁵ China, US agree on text of phase one trade deal, The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html

¹¹⁴⁶ China-US phase one trade deal has bearing on world peace, prosperity, says vice-premier, The Republic of China (Beijing) 16 Jan 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html

¹¹⁴⁷ China-US phase one trade deal has bearing on world peace, prosperity, says vice-premier, The Republic of China (Beijing) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html

¹¹⁴⁸ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹⁴⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹⁵⁰ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹¹⁵¹ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹¹⁵² Support for Foreign-Invested Enterprises in China to Cope With Coronavirus, Reach Further 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eastwestbank.com/ReachFurther/en/News/Article/Support-for-Foreign-Invested-Enterprises-in-China-to-Cope-with-Coronavirus>

¹¹⁵³ Support for Foreign-Invested Enterprises in China to Cope With Coronavirus, Reach Further 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eastwestbank.com/ReachFurther/en/News/Article/Support-for-Foreign-Invested-Enterprises-in-China-to-Cope-with-Coronavirus>

On 14 April 2020, China held the China Latin America (Mexico) international trade exhibition, sponsored by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.¹¹⁵⁴ The 15-day online trade fair aims to promote trade cooperation between China and Latin America through digital negotiation on a variety of capital and consumer goods.¹¹⁵⁵ Five to eight more exhibitions are to be held to provide further advancement for foreign trade cooperation.¹¹⁵⁶

On 22 July 2020, General Administrations of Customs official Dang Yingjie announced that China will introduce guidelines to improve the business environment for foreign trade.¹¹⁵⁷ The guidelines aim to lower fees and import and export costs and streamline the customs clearance process to reduce time.¹¹⁵⁸

On 12 August, 2020, the General Office of the State Council released a document containing 15 new measures to further stabilize foreign trade and support foreign trade companies, with emphasis on aid for small businesses and labour-intensive businesses.¹¹⁵⁹ The measures further aim to ease logistical and financial difficulties foreign trade firms are facing amid border closures.¹¹⁶⁰

On 4 September 2020, China along with its BRICS counterparts, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.¹¹⁶¹ The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."¹¹⁶² The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."¹¹⁶³

¹¹⁵⁴ China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html

¹¹⁵⁵ China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html

¹¹⁵⁶ China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html

¹¹⁵⁷ Chinese customs to boost business environment for foreign trade, investment, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html

¹¹⁵⁸ Chinese customs to boost business environment for foreign trade, investment, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html

¹¹⁵⁹ Cabinet pledge support for foreign trade, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html

¹¹⁶⁰ Cabinet pledge support for foreign trade, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html

¹¹⁶¹ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹¹⁶² India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹¹⁶³ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

China has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Vanessa Li

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 6 November 2019, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Emmanuel Macron met to discuss continued bilateral cooperation that will have positive global effects.¹¹⁶⁴ During the meeting, they reaffirmed the need for a coordinated stance on the reform of the WTO in order to promote free trade.¹¹⁶⁵ Both countries stressed the necessity to tackle climate change, as well as strengthening relations in the agricultural and energy sector.¹¹⁶⁶

On 20 January 2020, United States President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron announced a truce to a digital tax dispute in which the US administration threatened tariff retaliation on French goods.¹¹⁶⁷ Both countries stressed the importance of avoiding tariff escalation for the betterment of both nations.¹¹⁶⁸ This truce follows an 8 December 2019 statement by Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire that France was willing to launch a WTO dispute over proposed US retaliatory tariffs.¹¹⁶⁹

On 28 February 2020, the United States and France agreed to a continued truce on the digital services tax until the end of the calendar year.¹¹⁷⁰ This is to allow “broader tax reforms” to take place through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, that should result in equitable taxation and no further filings of WTO disputes on potential US tariffs.¹¹⁷¹

¹¹⁶⁴ Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml

¹¹⁶⁵ Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml

¹¹⁶⁶ Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml

¹¹⁶⁷ France and U.S. Move Toward Temporary Truce in Trade War, New York Times (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/business/france-US-digital-tax.html>

¹¹⁶⁸ France and U.S. Move Toward Temporary Truce in Trade War, New York Times (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/business/france-US-digital-tax.html>

¹¹⁶⁹ France willing to take Trump to WTO over proposed tariffs, EuroNews (Paris) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2019/12/08/france-willing-to-take-trump-to-wto-over-proposed-tariffs>

¹¹⁷⁰ USTR vows to push for trade deals with Britain, EU; seeks reforms at WTO, Reuters (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade/ustr-vows-to-push-for-trade-deals-with-britain-eu-seeks-reforms-at-wto-idUSKCN20M3BN>

¹¹⁷¹ USTR vows to push for trade deals with Britain, EU; seeks reforms at WTO, Reuters (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade/ustr-vows-to-push-for-trade-deals-with-britain-eu-seeks-reforms-at-wto-idUSKCN20M3BN>

On 24 July 2020, European plane maker Airbus agreed with France to change some “financial support agreements” in order to end the ongoing trade dispute with the US on French goods.¹¹⁷² This will bring both Airbus and France into “full compliance” with WTO guidelines as well as remove the US justification for the imposition of further tariffs.¹¹⁷³

On 29 August 2020, Wang Yi, the State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, met with the French President’s Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne in Paris.¹¹⁷⁴ The two committed to pushing “strategic cooperation” in the post pandemic era to greater improve EU-China relations in areas such as free trade, the digital economy, and climate change, with a specific focus on upholding and strengthening international systems, namely the World Trade Organization.¹¹⁷⁵

France has partially complied with this commitment through strong actions relating to the component of upholding WTO regulations, and partial actions relating to the component of WTO reform and ensuring future global trade has both corporate and societal interests. However, France has not taken strong enough action on the component of appointments to the WTO’s Appellate Body.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Khalil Khalifa

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 1 October 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted a meeting in Berlin attended by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo to discuss ways to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation to improve prospects for inclusive and sustainable growth.¹¹⁷⁶ The heads of the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank also attended the gathering.¹¹⁷⁷

On 11 December 2019, Germany announced that it is aiming to find a permanent solution for the composition of the WTO’s Appellate Body.¹¹⁷⁸ The Appellate Body needs a minimum of three

¹¹⁷² Airbus Looks to End Trade Dispute With U.S. by Forgoing Some Government Support, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/airbus-agrees-to-changes-in-government-support-in-effort-to-avoid-u-s-tariffs-11595580915>

¹¹⁷³ Airbus Looks to End Trade Dispute With U.S. by Forgoing Some Government Support, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/airbus-agrees-to-changes-in-government-support-in-effort-to-avoid-u-s-tariffs-11595580915>

¹¹⁷⁴ Wang Yi Meets with French President's Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1810950.shtml

¹¹⁷⁵ Wang Yi Meets with French President's Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1810950.shtml

¹¹⁷⁶ Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss challenges of multilateralism, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 1 October 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_01oct19_e.htm

¹¹⁷⁷ Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss challenges of multilateralism, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 1 October 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_01oct19_e.htm

¹¹⁷⁸ Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

judges to function but the terms of two of the three remaining members of the appeals panel expired on Tuesday without replacements due to a blocking strategy by the United States.¹¹⁷⁹ A foreign ministry spokeswoman had earlier said Germany would work with the European Union to devise a temporary solution and she hoped a permanent solution could be found before a WTO ministerial conference in June.¹¹⁸⁰

On 13 December 2019, Germany gave EUR1 million to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund in order to help developing countries enhance their negotiating skillset.¹¹⁸¹ The money will be used to help developing and least-developed countries implement WTO agreements and to increase their trade negotiating skills.¹¹⁸²

On 17 December 2019, Germany gave EUR1.3 million to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for 2020 to help spur trade growth across the world's poorest countries.¹¹⁸³ An agreement was signed on 17 December 2019 at the WTO by Germany's Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO, Hans-Peter Jugel, and William Axelsson, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services, which manages the EIF's Trust Fund.¹¹⁸⁴

On 20 May 2020, Chancellor Merkel hosted a virtual meeting with the participation of the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, to look at the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic along with the international policy response. The heads of the ILO, IMF, OECD and World Bank also attended the gathering.¹¹⁸⁵

On 24 June 2020, German Minister for the Economy Peter Altmaier made a verbal declaration stating that Germany welcome a US-China WTO-based trade deal. During this press conference, he emphasized this agreement as an "important signal that would give enormous support to the global economy."¹¹⁸⁶

On 31 July 2020, Germany donated EUR150,000 (approximately CHF160,000) in 2020 to help developing countries and least-developed countries comply with international food safety, animal and plant health standards, with the aim of increasing their access to agricultural markets. The donation is to the Standards and Trade Development Facility, a global partnership that helps developing

¹¹⁷⁹ Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

¹¹⁸⁰ Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

¹¹⁸¹ Germany gives EUR 1 million to help developing countries enhance negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres19_e/pr846_e.htm

¹¹⁸² Germany gives EUR 1 million to help developing countries enhance negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres19_e/pr846_e.htm

¹¹⁸³ Germany commits EUR 1.3 million to support trade initiatives in world's poorest countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/if_17dec19_e.htm

¹¹⁸⁴ Germany commits EUR 1.3 million to support trade initiatives in world's poorest countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/if_17dec19_e.htm

¹¹⁸⁵ Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss COVID-19 pandemic, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020 https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgra_20may20_e.htm

¹¹⁸⁶ Germany would welcome US-China WTO-based trade deal: minister, Reuters (London) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-politics-economy-altmaier-tra/germany-would-welcome-us-china-wto-based-trade-deal-minister-idUSKBN23V23C>

countries improve food safety, animal and plant health capacity and meet sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for trade, based on international standards.¹¹⁸⁷

Germany has taken actions to resolve the current Appellate Board impasse with outlined proposals, in partnership with the European Union, to resolve this institutional gridlock. Germany also worked to reinforce the existing work of the WTO with its significant contribution to the EIF and to actively participate in the negotiations surrounding WTO reform through its participation at several panels.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Daniel Scarpitti and Alexandre Nouailles

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 26 July 2019, a majority of WTO members endorsed the joint proposal by India, South Africa and seven other countries for reforming the WTO.¹¹⁸⁸ The proposal, based on a concept paper by India, called for the resolution of the impasse over appointments to the Appellate Body.¹¹⁸⁹ Further, it called for prohibiting unilateral trade measures and supported “development-centric” changes to strengthen the organization.¹¹⁹⁰ The proponents of the plan claimed that it would “bring balance to the on-going discussions on WTO reform by reaffirming the importance of development to the work of this organization.”¹¹⁹¹

On 1 October 2019, the Argentine-India Business Forum was held, where the Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry, Secretary of Foreign Trade, the President of the Argentine Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, the Indian Ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine Ambassador to India were present.¹¹⁹² Meetings were held between Argentinian and

¹¹⁸⁷ Germany gives EUR 150,000 to enhance developing countries’ participation in farm trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 2 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr861_e.htm

¹¹⁸⁸ India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

¹¹⁸⁹ India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

¹¹⁹⁰ India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

¹¹⁹¹ India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

¹¹⁹² Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.¹¹⁹³ The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.¹¹⁹⁴

On 16 January 2020, India was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹¹⁹⁵ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹¹⁹⁶

On 28 January 2020, India called for the elimination of trade distorting subsidies on agriculture during a ministerial meeting in Davos.¹¹⁹⁷ Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal spoke on several topics including the fact that the least-developed countries have not achieved a proportionate share of global trade and the need for developing countries to have policy flexibility in order to better integrate into global markets.¹¹⁹⁸

On 25 February 2020, India and the United States issued joint statements declaring their intent to pursue a major bilateral trade deal.¹¹⁹⁹ Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that “our commerce ministers have had positive talks on trade. Both of us have decided that our teams should give legal shape to these trade talks.”¹²⁰⁰

On 5 March 2020, India blocked the European Union’s request for the creation of a WTO dispute panel to rule on Indian tariffs on information technology and communications goods.¹²⁰¹ The EU suggests that the import duties of up to 20 per cent are contrary to WTO free trade commitments.¹²⁰²

¹¹⁹³ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹¹⁹⁴ Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

¹¹⁹⁵ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹⁹⁶ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹¹⁹⁷ India to seek elimination of trade-distorting subsidies on agriculture in WTO, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 28 January 2020. Access date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jan/28/india-to-seek-elimination-of-trade-distorting-subsidies-on-agriculture-in-wto-2095806.html>

¹¹⁹⁸ India to seek elimination of trade-distorting subsidies on agriculture in WTO, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 28 January 2020. Access date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jan/28/india-to-seek-elimination-of-trade-distorting-subsidies-on-agriculture-in-wto-2095806.html>

¹¹⁹⁹ Modi-Trump talks: India, US negotiation on big trade deal, Live Mint (New Delhi) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/modi-trump-talks-india-us-negotiations-on-big-trade-deal-soon-11582618666817.html>

¹²⁰⁰ Modi-Trump talks: India, US negotiation on big trade deal, Live Mint (New Delhi) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/modi-trump-talks-india-us-negotiations-on-big-trade-deal-soon-11582618666817.html>

¹²⁰¹ India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

¹²⁰² India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

The EU is expected to request a second time for a dispute panel which India will be unlikely to be able to block.¹²⁰³

On 21 July 2020, India supported WTO negotiations to curb fisheries subsidies.¹²⁰⁴ India's representative Brajendra Navnit sought greater contribution from members that provide large subsidies but insisted that exemptions be provided for small fishers who operate in exclusive economic zones.¹²⁰⁵ Furthermore, in reference to the appellate body, Brajendra Navnit stressed India was a major user of the dispute settlement system and its resolution deserved the utmost priority.¹²⁰⁶

On 29 July, the dispute settlement body of the WTO accepted the request of Chinese Taipei and Japan for setting up panels in an tariff case on information and communications technologies (ICT) against India.¹²⁰⁷ The panel will determine whether India's custom duties on imports of certain ICT products such as mobile phones, telephone parts, and machines for reception infringe WTO norms.¹²⁰⁸ The allegations state that India infringed on the committed zero percent bound tariffs by imposing import duties on these products.¹²⁰⁹ India argues that these ICT products are part of WTO's Information Technology Products (ITA-2) agreement which India was never a part of.¹²¹⁰

On 4 September 2020, India along with its BRICS counterparts, China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.¹²¹¹ The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."¹²¹² The Indian Union External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar participated in a BRICS virtual meeting and together the representatives declared that the current circumstances dictate a "powerful reminder of the

¹²⁰³ India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

¹²⁰⁴ India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

¹²⁰⁵ India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

¹²⁰⁶ India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

¹²⁰⁷ ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

¹²⁰⁸ ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

¹²⁰⁹ ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

¹²¹⁰ ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

¹²¹¹ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹²¹² India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

imperative to strengthen cooperation between states” and “must be addressed through reinvigorated diplomacy, strengthened and reformed multilateral systems.”¹²¹³ Furthermore, the nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They “stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System.”¹²¹⁴

India has acted in participating in addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, reinforcing the existing work of the WTO, and actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Srijan Sabu

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 14 November 2019, Indonesia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Mexico, Korea, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.¹²¹⁵ The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”¹²¹⁶

On 16 December 2019, Indonesia filed a complaint against the European Union, regarding an inconsistency with the WTO’s Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.¹²¹⁷

On 16 January 2020, Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to the rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body and implementations of appropriate changes following a successful US complaint regarding restrictions on the importation of horticultural and animal products.¹²¹⁸

On 16 January 2020, Indonesia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹²¹⁹ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹²²⁰

¹²¹³ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹²¹⁴ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹²¹⁵ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²¹⁶ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²¹⁷ European Union — Certain Measures concerning Palm Oil and Oil Palm Crop-Based Biofuels — Request for consultations by Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds593_e.htm

¹²¹⁸ Indonesia — Importation of Horticultural Products, Animals and Animal Products — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Indonesia — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds478_e.htm

On 30 January 2020, Indonesia represented itself and the other countries of the Group of 33 on a new submission to the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) requesting that the WTO work together to reach an agreement to address inequalities from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.¹²²¹ The goal of the mechanism is to create an equitable playing field for agricultural producers in developing countries.¹²²²

On 12 June 2020, the WTO's Committee on Safeguards was notified by Indonesia of a safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings that it had begun two days prior.¹²²³ The country has followed the guidelines by the WTO for safeguard investigations in this matter.¹²²⁴

On 20-21 July 2020, Indonesia participated in the second round of discussions surrounding the UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review.¹²²⁵ The review focuses on how to improve trade between the two countries.¹²²⁶

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Indonesia took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.¹²²⁷ The submission "calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading

¹²¹⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²²⁰ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²²¹ Committee on Agriculture — Special Session — Reaffirming multilateralism and development for MC12: Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006-1.aspx?Id=260757&IsNotification=False

¹²²² Chair confident of making progress on agriculture talks ahead of Ministerial Conference, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agri_31jan20_e.htm

¹²²³ Indonesia launches safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/safe_idn_12jun20_e.htm

¹²²⁴ Indonesia launches safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/safe_idn_12jun20_e.htm

¹²²⁵ UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

¹²²⁶ UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

¹²²⁷ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

system.”¹²²⁸ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹²²⁹

Indonesia has fully complied with this commitment through being a signatory to a proposal to the current Appellate Board impasse; following due process and using the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) for complaints to reinforce the existing work of the WTO; and represented itself and the other countries of the Group of 33 on a new submission to the SSM to improve address inequalities from the Uruguay Round Articles of Agreement, actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 16 October 2019, United States President Donald Trump and Italian President Sergio Mattarella announced their intention to cooperate on trade issues and avoid Italian retaliatory tariffs for US tariffs that was cleared by the WTO on Italian goods.¹²³⁰ Both countries discussed reworking Italy’s European Union barriers to avoid increasing tariffs and promote unrestricted and multilateral trade.¹²³¹

On 23 November 2019, foreign ministers from the G20, including Italy’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio, agreed on the “urgent” need to reform the WTO.¹²³² In order to address the key issues of the WTO, Sergio Mattarella and other G20 leaders proposed and agreed to promoting free trade to combat the downside risks facing the global economy.¹²³³

On 20 February 2020, Undersecretary of State Ivan Scalfarotto met with French Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne to discuss WTO

¹²²⁸ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹²²⁹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹²³⁰ Trump upbeat on trade talks with EU, hints at reprieve for some duties on Italian products, Reuters (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-italy/trump-upbeat-on-trade-talks-with-eu-hints-at-reprieve-for-some-duties-on-italian-products-idUSKBN1WV217>

¹²³¹ Trump upbeat on trade talks with EU, hints at reprieve for some duties on Italian products, Reuters (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-italy/trump-upbeat-on-trade-talks-with-eu-hints-at-reprieve-for-some-duties-on-italian-products-idUSKBN1WV217>

¹²³² G-20 foreign ministers agree WTO reforms "urgent" amid trade war, Kyodo (Nagoya) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/G-20-foreign-ministers-agree-WTO-reforms-urgent-amid-trade-war>

¹²³³ G-20 foreign ministers agree WTO reforms "urgent" amid trade war, Kyodo (Nagoya) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/G-20-foreign-ministers-agree-WTO-reforms-urgent-amid-trade-war>

reform and European Union trade interests.¹²³⁴ The aim is to solidify relations and increase cooperation with an eye towards the WTO Ministerial Conference in June.¹²³⁵

Italy has strengthened the work of the WTO and improved the organization's negotiating work through bilateral agreements with the United States and in participating in reform discussion within the G20. However, it has not taken action to address the dispute settlement system.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Khalil Khalifa

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 11 December 2019, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi issued statements on the WTO Appellate Body and WTO reform.¹²³⁶ They emphasize Japan's contributions to initiatives of WTO reform, including co-chairing negotiations around updating WTO's regulations on the digital economy, and their promotion of the “Osaka Track” launched at the G20 Osaka Summit.¹²³⁷ Furthermore, they stress the importance of resolving the current impasse over appointments to the WTO's Appellate Body, referencing their April 2019 proposal on the subject.¹²³⁸

On 1 January 2020, a trade deal between the United States and Japan went into effect to reduce or eliminate tariffs on USD7.2 billion of American exports and lowering tariffs on Japanese industrial products.¹²³⁹ Japan and the United States plan to enter into another round of negotiations to further increase free trade between the two countries.¹²⁴⁰

On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are “insufficient to tackle market and trade

¹²³⁴ Italy — Meeting between Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and his Italian counterpart, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/italy/events/article/italy-meeting-between-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-and-his-italian-counterpart-paris>

¹²³⁵ Italy — Meeting between Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and his Italian counterpart, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/italy/events/article/italy-meeting-between-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-and-his-italian-counterpart-paris>

¹²³⁶ Statement by Minister Kajiyama on the WTO Appellate Body, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/speeches/ministers_statements/2019/20191211_01.html

¹²³⁷ Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html

¹²³⁸ Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html

¹²³⁹ U.S. to get greater access to Japan agriculture market as trade deal takes effect, The Japan Times (New York) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/31/business/us-japan-trade-deal/#.Xj4V3BNKj6Y>

¹²⁴⁰ U.S. to get greater access to Japan agriculture market as trade deal takes effect, The Japan Times (New York) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/31/business/us-japan-trade-deal/#.Xj4V3BNKj6Y>

distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions.”¹²⁴¹ They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.¹²⁴²

On 1 February 2020, Japan and the European Union entered into an Economic Partnership Agreement.¹²⁴³ The trade agreement “removes tariffs and other trade barriers and creates a platform to cooperate in order to prevent obstacles to trade, and helps [them] shape global trade rules in line with [their] high standards and shared values, and sends a powerful signal that two of the world’s biggest economies reject protectionism.”¹²⁴⁴

On 7 and 10 February 2020, Japan launched two complaints at the WTO regarding the alleged illegal funding of commercial shipbuilders by Korea.^{1245,1246}

On 11 March 2020, trade talks between Japan and Korea concerned with their trade dispute concluded without reaching a deal.¹²⁴⁷ Korea called for Japan to “return its trade regulations to the levels before July” 2019, in response to its augmentation of export controls through hiring 25 per cent more staff for the Korean Security Agency of Trade and Industry.¹²⁴⁸ Both Japan and Korea suspended visa-waivers between the two countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁴⁹

On 19 March 2020, Japan requested that the WTO establish a panel on India’s increase in tariffs on products related to information and communications technologies (ICT) after bilateral consultations with India did not result in the removal of the tariffs.¹²⁵⁰ India had previously agreed to zero tariffs but has increased tariffs on ICT products six times between 2014 and 2019.¹²⁵¹

¹²⁴¹ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

¹²⁴² Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

¹²⁴³ EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

¹²⁴⁴ EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

¹²⁴⁵ Japan’s WTO petition over South Korea shipbuilding signals renewed tensions, The Japan Times (Geneva) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/03/business/japan-wto-south-korean-shipbuilding/#.Xj4bBhNKj6Y>

¹²⁴⁶ Japan takes second complaint to WTO over South Korean shipbuilding, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/11/national/japan-second-complaint-wto-south-korea-shipbuilding/#.Xng00JNKj6Y>

¹²⁴⁷ Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html

¹²⁴⁸ Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html

¹²⁴⁹ Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html

¹²⁵⁰ Japan Requests the Establishment of a Panel under the WTO Agreement Regarding India’s Measures Concerning Tariff Increase on ICT Products, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319_001.html

¹²⁵¹ Japan Requests the Establishment of a Panel under the WTO Agreement Regarding India’s Measures Concerning Tariff Increase on ICT Products, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319_001.html

From 22-24 April, 15-20 May, and 9 July 2020, Japan participated in negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with the members of ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand.^{1252,1253,1254}

On 9 June 2020, Japan began virtual negotiations with the United Kingdom for a comprehensive UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement, with the intention of expanding the existing EU-Japan agreement in digital trade and other industries.¹²⁵⁵

On 30 June 2020, Japan temporarily blocked a request by Korea for the WTO to investigate Japan's export-license restrictions on electronics components, as a part of an ongoing trade dispute between Japan and South Korea.¹²⁵⁶ Japan has stated that its restrictions were part of an effort to prevent "Japanese goods from being diverted to weapons or military use," and that these restrictions were entirely within WTO guidelines.¹²⁵⁷

On 17 August 2020, the Tax Convention between Japan and Jamaica entered into force, promoting rules-based international trade through the prevention of double taxation, international tax evasion, and tax avoidance.¹²⁵⁸

On 25 August 2020, the United Kingdom and Japan announced the resumption of the "UK in JAPAN" campaign to "strengthen the bilateral relationship and deepen the partnership" between the two governments, which had been paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁵⁹ The campaign will focus on how the UK-Japan partnership can be utilized to facilitate post-pandemic economic recovery.¹²⁶⁰

On 17 September 2020, the Tax Convention between Japan and Uzbekistan entered into force, promoting rules-based international trade through the prevention of double taxation, international tax evasion, and tax avoidance.¹²⁶¹

On 11 September, the United Kingdom secured a free trade agreement with Japan.¹²⁶² The free trade agreement will ensure that 99 per cent of British exports to Japan are tariff-free.¹²⁶³

¹²⁵² Joint Statement of the 29th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP TNC) Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000150.html

¹²⁵³ 30th Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002808.html

¹²⁵⁴ 31st Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002857.html

¹²⁵⁵ UK and Japan start trade negotiations, Department for International Trade (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-start-trade-negotiations>

¹²⁵⁶ Japan temporarily blocks South Korean WTO dispute request, Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/30/business/japan-blocks-south-korean-wto-request/#.Xxt19PhKj6Y>

¹²⁵⁷ Japan temporarily blocks South Korean WTO dispute request, Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/30/business/japan-blocks-south-korean-wto-request/#.Xxt19PhKj6Y>

¹²⁵⁸ Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Jamaica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002879.html

¹²⁵⁹ Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹²⁶⁰ Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹²⁶¹ Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Uzbekistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002909.html

Japan has fully complied with this commitment through strong contributions to addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, strongly reinforcing the existing work of the WTO through entering into an economic partnership with the European Union, and strong action in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions (including through including co-chairing negotiations around updating WTO's regulations on the digital economy).

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 4 November 2019, President Moon Jae-in met with nations participating in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement, during negotiations in Bangkok, Thailand.¹²⁶⁴ President Moon delivered a speech that emphasized the value of free trade between nations and further economic cooperation.¹²⁶⁵

On 14 November 2019, Korea co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.¹²⁶⁶ The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”¹²⁶⁷

On 22 December 2019, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Sung Yun-mo met with Chinese and Japanese trade ministers in Beijing to reaffirm their support for a trilateral free-trade deal.¹²⁶⁸ Additionally, they agreed to continue their joint efforts to deliver the RCEP trade deal, support reform of the WTO, and successfully develop a multilateral global trade system.¹²⁶⁹

¹²⁶² UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

¹²⁶³ UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

¹²⁶⁴ World's biggest free trade deal concluded at RCEP summit, Government of Korea (Seoul) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <http://www.korea.net/Government/Current-Affairs/Foreign-Affairs/view?affairId=1981&subId=1766&articleId=178832&viewId=51510>

¹²⁶⁵ World's biggest free trade deal concluded at RCEP summit, Government of Korea (Seoul) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <http://www.korea.net/Government/Current-Affairs/Foreign-Affairs/view?affairId=1981&subId=1766&articleId=178832&viewId=51510>

¹²⁶⁶ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²⁶⁷ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²⁶⁸ China, Japan, South Korea to push for RCEP signing in 2020, The Straits Times (Singapore) 24 December 2019.

Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-japan-south-korea-to-push-for-rcep-signing-in-2020>

¹²⁶⁹ China, Japan, South Korea to push for RCEP signing in 2020, The Straits Times (Singapore) 24 December 2019.

Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-japan-south-korea-to-push-for-rcep-signing-in-2020>

On 16 January 2020, Korea was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹²⁷⁰ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹²⁷¹

On 24 January 2020, Korea was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹²⁷² It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹²⁷³

On 10 March 2020, Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy Director General Lee Ho-hyun held a teleconference with Yoichi Iida, Japan's head of the trade control department at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.¹²⁷⁴ Both countries agreed to further discussions on resolving bilateral tensions due to trade export controls placed on each other.¹²⁷⁵

Korea has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Vanessa Li

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 30 September 2019, Mexico attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session.¹²⁷⁶ Alongside Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, Mexico proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal,

¹²⁷⁰ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²⁷¹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²⁷² Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹²⁷³ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹²⁷⁴ Japan and South Korea trade officials hold talks on contentious export controls, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/10/business/japan-south-korea-trade-talks/>

¹²⁷⁵ Japan and South Korea trade officials hold talks on contentious export controls, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/10/business/japan-south-korea-trade-talks/>

¹²⁷⁶ WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm

cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services.¹²⁷⁷ The proposal states that these actions would “reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives.”¹²⁷⁸

On 14 November 2019, Mexico co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.¹²⁷⁹ The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”¹²⁸⁰

On 10 December 2019, Mexico signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).¹²⁸¹ The trade agreement is meant to improve on the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.¹²⁸²

On 16 January 2020, Mexico was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹²⁸³ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹²⁸⁴

On 24 January 2020, Mexico was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹²⁸⁵ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹²⁸⁶

¹²⁷⁷ WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm

¹²⁷⁸ WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm

¹²⁷⁹ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²⁸⁰ Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm

¹²⁸¹ US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23

February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

¹²⁸² US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23

February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

¹²⁸³ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²⁸⁴ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²⁸⁵ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹²⁸⁶ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

On 8 June 2020, Mexico nominated Jesús Seade Kuri for the post of WTO Director-General to succeed Roberto Azevêdo, the current Director-General.¹²⁸⁷ Roberto Azevêdo has announced that he will step down on 31 August 2020.¹²⁸⁸

On 14 July 2020, Ambassador of Mexico to India made a statement on furthering India-Mexico partnership in shaping multilateral order.¹²⁸⁹ Following the nomination of Dr. Seade Kuri's nomination, Ambassador Federico Salas remarked that the commitment to multilateral solutions is shared by both members and they will have a chance to reinforce it during their tenure as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.¹²⁹⁰ He added, "both India and Mexico are like-minded partners due to their adherence to international order, global governance and democracy. As regional leaders, they work towards a stronger and reformed multilateralism."¹²⁹¹

On 15 July 2020, Mexico's candidate for WTO chief called on members to urgently vet candidates for the WTO chief position and address a "deep crises" within the organization.¹²⁹² Dr Jesús Seade Kuri dismissed suggestions that a final decision on the next chief should be delayed until after the U.S. presidential election.¹²⁹³ He said, "Criticism of the body is shared across the political spectrum in Washington. Precisely for that reason I think the election should not create an obsession to make a decision before and after — we should make that decision as soon as possible."¹²⁹⁴

Mexico has participated in addressing the dispute settlement system, specifically resolving the Appellate Body impasses, has strengthened the work of the WTO's regular bodies through the USMCA, and has taken action to improve the WTO's negotiating work by making substantive proposals for trade in environmental services.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Srijan Sabu

¹²⁸⁷ Mexico nominates Dr Jesus Seade Kuri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgssel_mex_08jun20_e.htm

¹²⁸⁸ Mexico nominates Dr Jesus Seade Kuri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgssel_mex_08jun20_e.htm

¹²⁸⁹ Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

¹²⁹⁰ Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

¹²⁹¹ Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

¹²⁹² Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

¹²⁹³ Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

¹²⁹⁴ Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 9 July 2019, Russia initiated a dispute against the anti-dumping duties imposed by the United States on steel imports which is currently in the consultation stage of the WTO dispute mechanism procedure.¹²⁹⁵

On 26 November 2019, Russia participated in a meeting of the WTO Agriculture Committee during which Russia proposed a Trade Distorting Support-reducing formula, which was welcomed by WTO members.¹²⁹⁶ Since the 2017 Ministerial Conference, this was the first submission to be introduced that was formula-based.¹²⁹⁷

On 16 January 2020, Russia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹²⁹⁸ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹²⁹⁹

On 4 February 2020, the WTO decision regarding the Russia-Ukraine rail equipment export dispute was delivered to the public, which Russia has appeared to comply with.¹³⁰⁰

On 8 April 2020, Russia was involved with the WTO Arbitrator’s decision on its dumping dispute with the Ukraine.¹³⁰¹ This shows a willingness to engage with WTO bodies and the Appellate Board.

On 10 June 2020, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov affirmed that Russia’s place within the WTO was of benefit to the country, and that they would not be withdrawing from the WTO.¹³⁰² Remaining within the WTO obviously shows care for the WTO and an appreciation of its worth, although does not give notice to any action taken to improve the organization.

¹²⁹⁵ Russia initiates WTO dispute against US dumping duties on steel, World Trade Organization 9 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds586rfc_09jul19_e.htm

¹²⁹⁶ Agriculture meeting marks “turning point” as negotiations enter decisive stage, chair says, World Trade Organization 26 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/agri_03dec19_e.htm

¹²⁹⁷ Agriculture meeting marks “turning point” as negotiations enter decisive stage, chair says, World Trade Organization 26 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/agri_03dec19_e.htm

¹²⁹⁸ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹²⁹⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹³⁰⁰ WTO Delivers Mixed Ruling in Russia, Ukraine Rail Feud, RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty (Ukraine) 5 Feb 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/wto-delivers-mixed-ruling-in-russia-ukraine-rail-feud/30418121.html>

¹³⁰¹ WTO Arbitrator determines “reasonable period of time” in Ukraine-Russia dumping dispute, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/493arb2_e.htm

¹³⁰² Manturov: Russia’s Withdrawal from WTO Is Unreasonable, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://russiabusinessstoday.com/economy/manturov-russias-withdrawal-from-wto-is-unreasonable/>

On 24 July 2020, it was reported that the WTO had found that the EU's anti-dumping cost-adjustment measures were in dispute with the WTO's rules surrounding anti-dumping, thereby upholding Russia's complaint on all fronts — excepting the fact that they did not find the EU's "framework anti-dumping regulation" to fully break the rules of the WTO.¹³⁰³ This was received favorably by Russian economy minister, Maxim Reshetnikov.¹³⁰⁴

On 28 July 2020, it was reported that discussions had occurred the week prior in which the Russian economic development minister noted conflicts between the EU's proposed border carbon tax and the WTO rules.¹³⁰⁵ This shows an upholding on the WTO's work and rulings.

On 24 August 2020, it was reported that a request from Russia had been received by the WTO.¹³⁰⁶ The request was for a dispute consideration on the energy adjustments dispute between the EU and Russia,¹³⁰⁷ thereby showing a willingness to work within the confines of WTO procedure and respect the work being done.

On 4 September 2020, Russia along with its BRICS counterparts, India, China, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.¹³⁰⁸ The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."¹³⁰⁹ The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."¹³¹⁰

On 25 September 2020, Russia presented a submission based on the Round Table-Type Discussion on Enhancing Transparency in Applied Tariffs from January 2020 at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. Russia "said it will continue to seek ways of improving

¹³⁰³ WTO largely upholds Russia's case against EU anti-dumping measures, Reuters (Geneva) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-eu-russia/wto-largely-upholds-russias-case-against-eu-anti-dumping-measures-idUSKCN24P1VO>

¹³⁰⁴ Russia welcomes WTO ruling on EU anti-dumping measures, Reuters (Moscow) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-russia/russia-welcomes-wto-ruling-on-eu-anti-dumping-measures-idUSKCN24P1WT>

¹³⁰⁵ Russia warns EU against carbon border tax plan, citing WTO rules, Climate Home News Ltd. (Broadstairs) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/07/28/russia-warns-eu-carbon-border-tax-plan-citing-wto-rules/>

¹³⁰⁶ Russia requests WTO consideration of decision on dispute with EU on energy adjustments, approval expected at end of Aug - Reshetnikov, Interfax (Moscow) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/69662/>

¹³⁰⁷ Russia requests WTO consideration of decision on dispute with EU on energy adjustments, approval expected at end of Aug - Reshetnikov, Interfax (Moscow) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/69662/>

¹³⁰⁸ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹³⁰⁹ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

¹³¹⁰ India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

transparency in applied tariffs in order to prepare concrete proposals” for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.¹³¹¹

Russia has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Fiona Reuter

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 24 October 2019, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), of which Saudi Arabia is a member, notified the WTO Committee on Safeguards that the GCC had begun a safeguard investigation into a variety of steel products.¹³¹² This partially meets the criteria of upholding the rules-based global trade regime under Action 2 of strengthening the existing work of the WTO as it is a signatory to this initiative.

On 24 January 2020, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Commerce Majid Al-Qasabi presented the Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the WTO at the Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering.¹³¹³ The Riyadh Initiative was officially launched under the G20 2020 Riyadh presidency, on March 11, 2020, at the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s first meeting, “to provide the political support needed to make progress in the discussions on WTO reforms among all WTO members.”¹³¹⁴

On 11 March 2020, the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), chaired by the Governor of the General Authority of Foreign Trade Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, held its first meeting in the run-up to the 2020 Riyadh Summit.¹³¹⁵ During this work meeting, G20 members agreed to launch the “Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the World Trade Organization.” This initiative aims to identify common ground and shared principles among all G20 members on the WTO’s next 25 years, and beyond, and to provide the political support needed to make progress in the discussions on WTO reforms among all WTO members.¹³¹⁶ Members engaged in a productive dialogue on current

¹³¹¹ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹³¹² GCC launches safeguard investigation on certain steel products, WTO (Geneva) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/safe_kwt_25oct19_e.htm

¹³¹³ Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, Personal Concluding Remarks by the Chair, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Switzerland, 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/60028.pdf>.

¹³¹⁴ G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on The Future of the WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia 2020, 11 March 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf.

¹³¹⁵ G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020.

https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf

¹³¹⁶ G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020.

https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf

international trade developments including WTO reform, pathways to economic diversification, boosting the international competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially for the benefit of women and youth, and strengthening international investment.¹³¹⁷ They also discussed the urgent need for reform of the dispute settlement system.¹³¹⁸

On 17 June 2020, the WTO Deputy Director General Alan Wolff hosted a Think 20 virtual panel on policy recommendations for a post-COVID 19 world organized by the Saudi Arabian host of the 2020 G20 summit.¹³¹⁹

On 3 July 2020, the TIWG outlined several proposals with regards to WTO reform. Saudi official Said Al-Shaikh emphasized the role of the G20 forum to reach a large-scale reform of the rules-based WTO system. The recommendations proposed by the TIWG include “providing a mechanism to settle disputes surrounding subsidy issues and activating the organization’s oversight and operational role, increasing the consistency and transparency in trade barriers, addressing the transition to digital trade and developing solutions to dispute resolution mechanisms in the WTO.”¹³²⁰

On 8 July 2020, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nominated Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri for post of WTO Director-General to succeed the current Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo, who announced he will step down on 31 August 2020.¹³²¹

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to resolve the current Appellate Board impasse through the creation of the “Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the World Trade Organization” in the lead-up to the G20 Leaders’ summit, to reinforce the existing work of the WTO and to actively participate in the negotiations surrounding WTO reform through the proposals made by the TIWG.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Christopher Sims and Alexandre Nouailles

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 10 July 2019, South Africa introduced a submission to the World Trade Organization to create an “inclusive approach” to transparency.¹³²² The document discussed simplifying the notification process and lessening punitive measures.¹³²³

¹³¹⁷ G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf

¹³¹⁸ G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting: Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 30 October 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0922.html>

¹³¹⁹ DDG Wolff: Pandemic underlines need to improve trading system’s relevance and resilience, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ddgaw_18jun20_e.htm

¹³²⁰ Rawan Radwan, “WTO needs urgent reform, says Saudi trade group,” Arab News (Riyadh) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1699132/saudi-arabia>

¹³²¹ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nominates Mr. Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgtsel_sau_08jul20_e.htm

¹³²² WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm

On 26 July 2019, South Africa tabled a joint proposal with eight other WTO members that called for the resolution of the Appellate Body impasse and the prohibition of unilateral trade measures.¹³²⁴ The proposal also sought to make development a central focus of the WTO and addressed areas of needed reform in the WTO.¹³²⁵

On 6 December 2019, South Africa and India threatened to end a 20-year WTO ban on imposing tariffs on digital trade.¹³²⁶ The two countries argued in a document the digitalization of multiple products, such as 3D printing, warrants re-considering the ban.¹³²⁷ The ban, of which renewal required unanimous support, ended up being extended to June 2020.¹³²⁸

On 16 January, South Africa was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹³²⁹ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹³³⁰

On 29 June 2020, South Africa declined to participate in the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body proposed to fulfill the duties of the Appellate Body. South Africa stated its reason for opting out of the agreement was over its uneasiness of the body becoming permanent.¹³³¹

On 5 September 2020, South Africa, along with the four other BRICS members, reaffirmed its commitment to “a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system, as embodied in the WTO.”¹³³²

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, South Africa took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO

¹³²³ WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm

¹³²⁴ India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, Livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

¹³²⁵ India, eight others, caution WTO against reforms that worsen imbalances, The Hindu BusinessLine (New Delhi) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-eight-others-caution-wto-against-reforms-that-worsen-imbalances/article28522575.ece>

¹³²⁶ WTO ban on tariffs for digital trade extended until June 2020, Reuters (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-internet/wto-ban-on-tariffs-for-digital-trade-extended-until-june-2020-idUSKBN1YE16A>

¹³²⁷ Trade war goes digital: countries eye tariffs on Internet economy, Reuters (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/trade-wto-internet/rpt-trade-war-goes-digital-countries-eye-tariffs-on-internet-economy-idUSL8N28G3QP>

¹³²⁸ WTO ban on tariffs for digital trade extended until June 2020, Reuters (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-internet/wto-ban-on-tariffs-for-digital-trade-extended-until-june-2020-idUSKBN1YE16A>

¹³²⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹³³⁰ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹³³¹ Panels established to review Indian tech tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm

¹³³² India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald (New Delhi) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.¹³³³ The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”¹³³⁴ The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”¹³³⁵

South Africa has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Geoffrey Burrows

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

From 12 to 13 November 2019, Turkey participated in a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee on the subject of safety and quality testing for products.¹³³⁶ At the meeting, there was discussion over cosmetic regulations introduced between 2016 and 2018 in Turkey, with which the United States disagreed.¹³³⁷

On 16 January 2020, Turkey was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹³³⁸ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹³³⁹

¹³³³ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹³³⁴ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹³³⁵ WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm

¹³³⁶ WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm

¹³³⁷ WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm

¹³³⁸ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

On 19 March 2020, Turkey filed a complaint against the European Unions' steel safeguard through the WTO.¹³⁴⁰ This shows an understanding and appreciation of the WTO's regulations and dispute measures.

On 22 May 2020, Turkey submitted a communication to the WTO in which they proposed the suspension of specific European Union steel products.¹³⁴¹ This shows a willingness to utilize and participate in WTO procedures, and the submission recognizes the WTO's significance.

In June 2020, Turkey participated as a third party in the establishment of a panel by the Dispute Settlement Body on multiple disputes, including ones regarding: India and the European Union, European Union and Colombia, Indian tariffs, the European Union and Indonesia, and Japan and Korea.^{1342,1343,1344} This shows an appreciation of the WTO's dispute resolution structure, and the ongoing work and role of the WTO.

In June 2020, Turkey welcomed a decision by the Appellate Body.¹³⁴⁵ This demonstrates their acknowledgement of the Appellate Body's importance, and their reinforcement of the WTO's work.

In June 2020, Turkey affirmed the importance of keeping confidentiality within the dispute settlement system and considering its importance during the discussion of improvements to the system. This shows that Turkey understands the importance of improving the system and has considered what should be addressed in the improvements and bettering of the WTO.¹³⁴⁶

On 28 August 2020, it was reported that Turkey requested — for the second time — that the WTO create a panel to review the European Union's steel product imports, despite the arguments against the motion from Turkey.¹³⁴⁷

Turkey has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

¹³³⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹³⁴⁰ Turkey initiates WTO dispute complaint against EU steel safeguard, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds595rfc_19mar20_e.htm

¹³⁴¹ On Safeguards Turkey, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=263928,262888,262911,262912,260132,259669,254442,252850,252868,251968&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=False

¹³⁴² Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm

¹³⁴³ United States – Anti-dumping and countervailing duties on ripe olives from Spain, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds577_e.htm

¹³⁴⁴ Panels established to review Indian tech tariffs, Japanese export restrictions, EU palm oil measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jul20_e.htm

¹³⁴⁵ Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm

¹³⁴⁶ Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm

¹³⁴⁷ Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm

Analyst: Fiona Reuter

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 18 July 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade and political continuity agreement with six Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.¹³⁴⁸ The UK-Central America Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Central America trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁴⁹

On 22 August 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity free trade agreement with Korea.¹³⁵⁰ The UK-Korea Free Trade Agreement will ensure that the UK and Korea trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁵¹

On 11 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique.¹³⁵² The Southern African Customs Union consists of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini.¹³⁵³ The UK-SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement ensure that the UK will trade with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁵⁴

On 19 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity trade deal with Lebanon.¹³⁵⁵ The UK-Lebanon Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Lebanon trade on the preferential

¹³⁴⁸ UK and Central America sign continuity agreement, Foreign Commonwealth Office (Managua) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-central-america-sign-continuity-agreement>

¹³⁴⁹ UK and Central America sign continuity agreement, Foreign Commonwealth Office (Managua) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-central-america-sign-continuity-agreement>

¹³⁵⁰ UK and Korea to sign trade continuity deal to ensure businesses are ready to trade post-Brexit, Department for International Trade (London) 21 August 2019. Access date: February 7 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-korea-to-sign-trade-continuity-deal-to-ensure-businesses-are-ready-to-trade-post-brexit>

¹³⁵¹ UK and Korea to sign trade continuity deal to ensure businesses are ready to trade post-Brexit, Department for International Trade (London) 21 August 2019. Access Date: February 7 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-korea-to-sign-trade-continuity-deal-to-ensure-businesses-are-ready-to-trade-post-brexit>

¹³⁵² UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

¹³⁵³ UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

¹³⁵⁴ UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

¹³⁵⁵ UK and Lebanon sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-lebanon-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁵⁶

On 10 October 2019, UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss met with trade ministers from a number of Commonwealth countries and created an action plan to “boost trade among their countries to at least \$2 trillion by 2030, through the Commonwealth Collectivity Agenda.”¹³⁵⁷ They stated the need for the current impasse of the WTO’s Appellate Body to end, for WTO rules to be updated to address e-commerce, and for an international agreement regarding fish subsidies to reduce illegal fishing.¹³⁵⁸

On 21 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement with Georgia.¹³⁵⁹ The UK-Georgia Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will ensure that the UK and Georgia trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁶⁰

On 26 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade and political continuity agreement with Morocco.¹³⁶¹ The UK-Morocco Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Morocco trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.¹³⁶²

On 24 January 2020, the UK was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹³⁶³ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹³⁶⁴

On 3 February 2020, the Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement regarding the United Kingdom’s future relationship with the European Union.¹³⁶⁵ In the statement, the Prime Minister states the need

¹³⁵⁶ UK and Lebanon sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-lebanon-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

¹³⁵⁷ Commonwealth trade ministers: Reform WTO and resist protectionism, Department for International Trade (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-trade-ministers-reform-wto-and-resist-protectionism>

¹³⁵⁸ Commonwealth trade ministers: Reform WTO and resist protectionism, Department for International Trade (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-trade-ministers-reform-wto-and-resist-protectionism>

¹³⁵⁹ UK and Georgia sign trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-georgia-sign-trade-continuity-and-strategic-cooperation-agreement>

¹³⁶⁰ UK and Georgia sign trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-georgia-sign-trade-continuity-and-strategic-cooperation-agreement>

¹³⁶¹ UK and Morocco sign continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-morocco-sign-continuity-agreement>

¹³⁶² UK and Morocco sign continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-morocco-sign-continuity-agreement>

¹³⁶³ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹³⁶⁴ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹³⁶⁵ The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-relationship-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>

to address regulatory barriers to trade in an effort to expand on the existing WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.¹³⁶⁶

On 2 March 2020, the United Kingdom published its overall negotiating objectives regarding a free trade agreement with the United States.¹³⁶⁷ The document outlines how the United Kingdom aims to strengthen economic ties with the United States, and “[facilitate] greater choice and lower prices” for Britons without hurting the National Health Service or lowering animal welfare and agricultural standards.¹³⁶⁸ Additionally, the United Kingdom hopes to “futureproof” the free trade agreement for future changes in technology.¹³⁶⁹

On 3 March 2020, UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss spoke at the WTO General Council.¹³⁷⁰ In the UK’s speech, she called for the WTO to amend its regulations to better challenge “unfair practices” and counter protectionism.¹³⁷¹ Liz Truss affirmed her commitment to a “free, fair, rules-based international trade,” and denounced “industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises and forced technology transfer.”¹³⁷²

On 5 March 2020, the United Kingdom issued a statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body underlining their concern regarding the current impasse at the WTO Appellate Body and support for Mexico’s statement regarding the impasse.¹³⁷³ The statement recognizes the concerns causing the impasse, but stresses the situation’s urgency, and calls “on all Members to act urgently to restore the system to full functioning, whilst we prioritize discussions on a long-term solution to the concerns raised.”¹³⁷⁴

On 31 March 2020, the United Kingdom announced that “vital medical equipment including ventilators, coronavirus testing kits and protective clothing” arriving in the United Kingdom from outside the European Union would not be subject to import taxes.¹³⁷⁵

¹³⁶⁶ The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-relationship-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>

¹³⁶⁷ Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

¹³⁶⁸ Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

¹³⁶⁹ Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

¹³⁷⁰ Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

¹³⁷¹ Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

¹³⁷² Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

¹³⁷³ UK Statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organizations (Geneva) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-to-the-wto-meeting-of-the-dispute-settlement-body>

¹³⁷⁴ UK Statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organizations (Geneva) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-to-the-wto-meeting-of-the-dispute-settlement-body>

¹³⁷⁵ Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>

On 6 April 2020, the United Kingdom released its plans to support 160,000 exporters and international investors during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³⁷⁶ Exporters and investors were emailed an outline of financial support available to them.¹³⁷⁷

From 5-15 May 2020, the United Kingdom participated virtually in the first round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.¹³⁷⁸ The Department for International Trade reported that “[t]he meetings were positive and constructive,” and that there was “positive alignment between respective negotiating positions [particularly those regarding] ... services, investment and digital trade.”¹³⁷⁹

On 21 May 2020, the United Kingdom announced its replacement for the EU’s Common External Tariff, the UK Global Tariff (UKGT).¹³⁸⁰ The UKGT will come into effect on 1 January 2021, at the conclusion of the Transitional Period of the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union.¹³⁸¹ The streamlined UKGT will eliminate tariffs on a number of products, reducing business costs and barriers to free trade.¹³⁸²

On 9 June 2020, the United Kingdom began virtual negotiations with Japan for a comprehensive UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement, with the intention of expanding the existing EU-Japan agreement in digital trade and other industries.¹³⁸³

From 15 to 26 June 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the second round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.¹³⁸⁴

On 1 July 2020, the United Kingdom announced the start of a modelling review to aid in building its trade negotiation capability to support economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 era.¹³⁸⁵

¹³⁷⁶ Coronavirus: DIT offers support to exporters and investors, Department for International Trade (London) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-dit-offers-support-to-exporters-and-investors>

¹³⁷⁷ Coronavirus: DIT offers support to exporters and investors, Department for International Trade (London) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-dit-offers-support-to-exporters-and-investors>

¹³⁷⁸ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update>

¹³⁷⁹ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update>

¹³⁸⁰ Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

¹³⁸¹ Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

¹³⁸² Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

¹³⁸³ UK and Japan start trade negotiations, Department for International Trade (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-start-trade-negotiations>

¹³⁸⁴ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update: Written Statement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-06-30/HCWS324/>

¹³⁸⁵ The Department for International Trade launches modelling review to support economic recovery, Department for International Trade (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-department-for-international-trade-launches-modelling-review-to-support-economic-recovery>

On 6 July 2020, the United Kingdom announced that 49 individuals and organizations complicit in human rights abuses would be sanctioned under the new “Magnitsky-style regime”, including Russian, Saudi, and Burmese nationals.¹³⁸⁶ With the new regime, the United Kingdom has a greater power to prevent those complicit in human rights abuses from “entering the country, channeling money through UK banks, or profiting from [the UK] economy.”¹³⁸⁷

On 8 July 2020, the United Kingdom nominated former International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox as the next Director General of the World Trade Organization.¹³⁸⁸

On 10 July 2020, the United Kingdom concluded the first round of negotiations to form a UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement.¹³⁸⁹

From 20 to 21 July 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the second round of discussions surrounding the UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review.¹³⁹⁰

On 13 and 24 July 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the first round of negotiations to form a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.¹³⁹¹

On 27 July 2020, the Tech for Growth Programme was launched by the Department for International Trade with the aim to improve access to financial services and support the growth of ‘financial technology’ (FinTech) trade.¹³⁹² The programme will focus on the African market for one year following its launch, and followed by the South East Asian and Latin American markets.¹³⁹³

On 27 July to 7 August 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the third round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.¹³⁹⁴ The Department for International Trade reported that following the third round, “[m]ost chapter areas are now moving into the advanced

¹³⁸⁶ UK announces first sanctions under new global human rights regime, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-first-sanctions-under-new-global-human-rights-regime>

¹³⁸⁷ UK announces first sanctions under new global human rights regime, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-first-sanctions-under-new-global-human-rights-regime>

¹³⁸⁸ UK nominates Liam Fox as next Director General of the WTO, Department for International Trade (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-nominates-liam-fox-as-next-director-general-of-the-wto>

¹³⁸⁹ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with Australia: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update>

¹³⁹⁰ UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

¹³⁹¹ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with New Zealand: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update>

¹³⁹² Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

¹³⁹³ Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

¹³⁹⁴ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--2>

stages of talks, with particularly detailed, text-based discussions taking place on Intellectual Property.”¹³⁹⁵

On 28 July 2020, the new Trade and Agriculture Commission was launched by the Department for International Trade to provide a platform for industry stakeholders to engage with the development of trade policy that will boost exports while protecting animal welfare and the environment.¹³⁹⁶ Over the six months following its launch, the Trade and Agriculture Commission will compile their findings into a report.¹³⁹⁷

On 25 August 2020, the United Kingdom and Japan announced the resumption of the “UK in JAPAN” campaign to “strengthen the bilateral relationship and deepen the partnership” between the two governments, which had been paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³⁹⁸ The campaign will focus on how the UK-Japan partnership can be utilized to facilitate post-pandemic economic recovery.¹³⁹⁹

On 8 September, Brandon Lewis, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced that the government of the United Kingdom was in the process of writing legislation that will “break international law in a very specific and limited way.”¹⁴⁰⁰ The legislation in question was the “Internal Market Bill”, which planned to breach the Brexit withdrawal agreement ratified in January with the European Union. This breach would represent a violation of international law.¹⁴⁰¹

From 8 to 18 September 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the fourth round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.¹⁴⁰² The exchange of tariff offers before the negotiations began marked a significant step forward towards an agreement.¹⁴⁰³

On 9 September, the United Kingdom launched discussions with negotiators from all 11 signatories of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, with the intention of formal accession in the future.¹⁴⁰⁴

¹³⁹⁵ Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--2>

¹³⁹⁶ Truss formally launches Trade and Agriculture Commission, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-formally-launches-trade-and-agriculture-commission>

¹³⁹⁷ Truss formally launches Trade and Agriculture Commission, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-formally-launches-trade-and-agriculture-commission>

¹³⁹⁸ Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹³⁹⁹ Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹⁴⁰⁰ UK’s Brexit plans would ‘break international law,’ minister admits, CNN (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹⁴⁰¹ UK’s Brexit plans would ‘break international law,’ minister admits, CNN (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

¹⁴⁰² Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--3>

¹⁴⁰³ Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--3>

On 11 September, the United Kingdom secured a free trade agreement with Japan.¹⁴⁰⁵ The free trade agreement with Japan marks “an important step towards joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership,” in addition to ensuring that 99 per cent of British exports to Japan will be tariff-free.¹⁴⁰⁶

The United Kingdom has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 10 July 2019, the United States introduced a proposal to enhance transparency in the WTO.¹⁴⁰⁷ The proposal gave WTO members more time to seek assistance and comply with standards before penalties would kick in.¹⁴⁰⁸

On 24 July 2019, US Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea released a statement outlining criteria to determine whether a WTO member may “avail itself of ‘special and differential treatment?’”¹⁴⁰⁹ The statement also raised the issue of transparency in the WTO dispute settlement and US proposals to mandate a more transparent process.¹⁴¹⁰ The statement also noted the US considers mandates established in the Doha Round to no longer guide the WTO.¹⁴¹¹

¹⁴⁰⁴ UK takes major step towards membership of Trans-Pacific free trade area, Department for International Trade (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-major-step-towards-membership-of-trans-pacific-free-trade-area>

¹⁴⁰⁵ UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

¹⁴⁰⁶ UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

¹⁴⁰⁷ WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm

¹⁴⁰⁸ WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm

¹⁴⁰⁹ Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

¹⁴¹⁰ Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

¹⁴¹¹ Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

On 13 August 2019, President Donald Trump threatened to withdraw the US from the WTO at an event in Pennsylvania.¹⁴¹² President Trump said conditions would have to improve for the US to stay within the trade body.¹⁴¹³

On 14 October 2019, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea noted the US has introduced proposals, with other WTO members, to create a framework to resolve fishery subsidy negotiations.¹⁴¹⁴ Ambassador Shea also noted the importance of establishing rules on digital trade.¹⁴¹⁵

On 22 November 2019, the United States declined to support an effort by the Mexican delegation to fill six vacancies in the Appellate Body.¹⁴¹⁶ The United States claimed the Body was not respecting the Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹⁴¹⁷ The United States also declined to support a similar effort on 10 December 2019.¹⁴¹⁸

On 6 December 2019, the United States delivered a joint statement with several WTO members with the aim to constructively engage on fishery subsidy talks as well as voice approval for the appointment of Ambassador Santiago Wills of Colombia as the new Chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules.¹⁴¹⁹ The group of WTO members reaffirmed their commitment to reach an agreement on fishery subsidies.¹⁴²⁰

On 10 December 2019, the United States signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.¹⁴²¹ The trade agreement is meant to improve on the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.¹⁴²²

¹⁴¹² Trump threatens to pull US from WTO 'if we have to', The Straits Times (Monaca) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/trump-threatens-to-pull-us-from-wto-if-we-have-to>

¹⁴¹³ Trump threatens to pull US from WTO 'if we have to', The Straits Times (Monaca) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/trump-threatens-to-pull-us-from-wto-if-we-have-to>

¹⁴¹⁴ Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the WTO Heads of Delegation Meeting, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/10/14/statement-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-heads-of-delegation-meeting-geneva-october-14-2019/>

¹⁴¹⁵ Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the WTO Heads of Delegation Meeting, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/10/14/statement-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-heads-of-delegation-meeting-geneva-october-14-2019/>

¹⁴¹⁶ Members reiterate joint call to launch selection process for Appellate Body members, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dsb_22nov19_e.htm

¹⁴¹⁷ Members reiterate joint call to launch selection process for Appellate Body members, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dsb_22nov19_e.htm

¹⁴¹⁸ US seals demise of WTO appeals bench, trade officials say, The Japan Times (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 45 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/10/business/u-s-seals-demise-wto-appeals-bench-trade-officials/#.XjzFAy2ZPU>

¹⁴¹⁹ Joint Statement on WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/12/06/joint-statement-on-wto-negotiations-on-fisheries-subsidies/>

¹⁴²⁰ Joint Statement on WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/12/06/joint-statement-on-wto-negotiations-on-fisheries-subsidies/>

¹⁴²¹ US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

¹⁴²² US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of the United States, Japan and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are “insufficient to tackle market and trade distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions.”¹⁴²³ They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.¹⁴²⁴

On 27 January 2020, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea delivered remarks at an informal meeting of WTO ministers in Davos.¹⁴²⁵ In the statement, Ambassador Shea reiterated concerns over WTO members having failed to submit their fishery subsidy notifications.¹⁴²⁶ Ambassador Shea also reaffirmed the US’s position that it would not support filling Appellate Body vacancies until underlying problems with the Body are resolved.¹⁴²⁷

On 6 February 2020, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea gave a speech in which he highlighted examples of US engagement with WTO reform.¹⁴²⁸ He mentioned five specific proposals for fishery subsidy reform, US engagement to expand access to digital technologies and trade, and US advocacy for a review of WTO agricultural policies.¹⁴²⁹ He also highlighted US efforts to increase transparency in the form of WTO members reporting their industrial subsidies.¹⁴³⁰

On 11 February 2020, the US Trade Representative released a report on the Appellate Body of the WTO. The report outlined and gave examples of the US government’s chief complaints towards the Appellate Body. Specifically, the report accused the Appellate Body of operating outside its mandate when interpreting cases. The report did not offer substantive proposals on reforming the Appellate Body and ending the current impasse.¹⁴³¹

¹⁴²³ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>.

¹⁴²⁴ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>.

¹⁴²⁵ Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

¹⁴²⁶ Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

¹⁴²⁷ Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

¹⁴²⁸ US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

¹⁴²⁹ US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

¹⁴³⁰ US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

¹⁴³¹ Report on the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (Washington, DC) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/Report_on_the_Appellate_Body_of_the_World_Trade_Organization.pdf

On 2 March 2020, the US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, gave a statement reviewing the US President's Trade Policy Agenda. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of reform on fishery subsidies, trade liberalization, and the negotiation function of the WTO to the US. The Policy Agenda laid out reforms the U.S. believes could address these areas of the WTO.¹⁴³²

On 3 March 2020, the US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, gave three statements at the WTO's General Council Meeting. The first proposed criteria to determine which countries may claim "special and differentiated treatment." The second emphasized the importance of market-oriented policies and listed key elements of market policy. The last commented on a report released by the United States Trade Representative in February 2020 on the WTO Appellate Body.¹⁴³³

On 5 March 2020, the US delegation to the WTO submitted a communication to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body to declare its objection to a WTO Appellate Body ruling. The US argued a member of the Appellate Body was not a valid member of the Body and thus the ruling was invalid. The US claimed the judge in question, Hong Zhao, works for the People's Republic of China and is therefore unable to serve on the Appellate Body under Article 17 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹⁴³⁴

On 6 May 2020, the US Trade Representative notified the WTO of their compliance with a dispute brought by the European Union over subsidies for Boeing. The US government passed Senate Bill 6690, which removed a preferential tax rate for aerospace manufacturing. The dispute raised by the EU was in response to a Washington State tax rate beneficial to Boeing.¹⁴³⁵

On 29 June 2020, the US Trade Representative to the WTO declined to support the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body formed by other member states to resolve the WTO dispute settlement system. While the statement stated support for informal procedures to resolve disputes, the US claimed the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body continued practices the U.S. disagreed with by the Appellate Body.¹⁴³⁶

On 22 July 2020, US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, outlined a United State proposal to reform the special and differential (S&D) treatment classification at the WTO. Currently it is a self-anointed title. The Ambassador highlighted two criteria (of the four total, the first two were addressed in March of 2020), a high income designation by the World Bank and having a share of global merchandise trade greater than 0.5 per cent. The US reiterated the need for S&D reform, as

¹⁴³² Statement by Ambassador Shea at Heads of Delegation Meeting (Geneva) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/02/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-heads-of-delegation-meeting/>

¹⁴³³ Statements by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the March 3, 2020 General Council Meeting (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/03/statements-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-at-the-march-3-2020-general-council-meeting/>

¹⁴³⁴ Item 8 – U.S. Statement at the February 28 DSB Meeting, Reconvened on March 5, 2020, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/05/statement-by-the-united-states-at-the-february-28-dsb-meeting-reconvened-on-march-5-2020/>

¹⁴³⁵ U.S. Notifies Full Compliance in WTO Aircraft Dispute, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington, DC) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/05/06/u-s-notifies-full-compliance-in-wto-aircraft-dispute/>

¹⁴³⁶ Statements by the United States at the Meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. https://geneva.usmission.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/290/Jun29.DSB_Stmt_as-deliv.fin_public13218.pdf

the benefits that come from an S&D designation, are being claimed by countries the U.S. believes to have economically grown past that designation.¹⁴³⁷

On 20 August 2020, US Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer, published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal outlining his plan to reform the WTO. Piecemeal reforms, he argued, would not suffice. Rather, Lighthizer laid out five WTO reforms he would champion. Prominent among these are the need to create baseline tariff rates, the recalibration of S&D designations, and the rethinking of the WTO settlement system. On this last point, Lighthizer suggests a single-stage court which is assembled for a case and who's rulings apply only to that particular instance.¹⁴³⁸

On 24 August 2020, the WTO ruled in favour of Canada against the United States in a dispute over timber prices. The United States, which imposed retaliatory tariffs over perceived Canadian timber subsidies, was told it had not proven Canadian prices were artificially low. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer responded to the ruling by criticizing the dispute settlement system for what he saw as the protection of non-market practices and opposition to the US's interests.¹⁴³⁹

On 15 September 2020, the WTO ruled against the United States 2018 imposition of tariffs against China. The tariffs, the appellate court argued were illegally applied only to China and above predetermined rates. The United States argued China's practice of stealing intellectual property justified the tariffs. After the announcement, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer called the WTO settlement system "completely inadequate to stop China's harmful technology practices." The United States is expected to appeal the decision.¹⁴⁴⁰

The United States has taken action to strengthen the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improve the WTO's negotiating work through passing proposals addressing transparency and fishery subsidy negotiations. However, the United States has not taken action to address the dispute settlement system.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Geoffrey Burrows

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its "support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions."

From 12 to 13 November 2019, the European Union participated in a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee on the subject of safety and quality testing for products.¹⁴⁴¹ There was a

¹⁴³⁷ Statement by Ambassador Shea – WTO General Council Meeting, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

¹⁴³⁸ How to Set World Trade Straight, the Wall Street Journal (New York) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-to-set-world-trade-straight-11597966341>

¹⁴³⁹ Canada largely wins WTO case in lumber dispute with U.S., Reuters (Brussels) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-canada-wto-idUSKBN25K1OR>

¹⁴⁴⁰ WTO finds Washington broke trade rules by putting tariffs on China; ruling angers U.S., Reuters (Brussels/Geneva) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-trade-china-wto/wto-finds-washington-broke-trade-rules-by-putting-tariffs-on-china-ruling-angers-us-idUSKBN2662N5>

¹⁴⁴¹ WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm

specific concern regarding the EU's external power supply ecological design requirements, which were believed to be unjustified by China.¹⁴⁴²

On 10 December 2019, EU Trade Commissioner Phil Horgan stated his concern over the WTO's problems, which he explained represent a "very serious blow to the international rules-based trade system."¹⁴⁴³ He supported reform of the WTO, while stressing that its functions are important in the realm of creating equitable and just trade.¹⁴⁴⁴ Previously, in the week of 1 December 2019, Horgan also commented on the need for reform beyond the Appellate Body dispute settlement system.¹⁴⁴⁵

On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are "insufficient to tackle market and trade distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions."¹⁴⁴⁶ They also stated opposition to the WTO's classification of certain countries as developing countries.¹⁴⁴⁷

On 16 January 2020, the European Union was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.¹⁴⁴⁸ The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.¹⁴⁴⁹

On 24 January 2020, the European Union and 16 other countries agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.¹⁴⁵⁰ It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.¹⁴⁵¹

¹⁴⁴² WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.
https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm

¹⁴⁴³ WTO chief: 'Months' needed to fix disputes body, BBC News 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50736344>

¹⁴⁴⁴ WTO chief: 'Months' needed to fix disputes body, BBC News 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50736344>

¹⁴⁴⁵ US trade offensive takes out WTO as global referee, RTE 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.
<https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2019/12/10/1098247-world-trade-organization/>

¹⁴⁴⁶ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020.
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

¹⁴⁴⁷ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020.
<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

¹⁴⁴⁸ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.
https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁴⁴⁹ Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.
https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True

¹⁴⁵⁰ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

¹⁴⁵¹ Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113

On 27 March 2020, the EU and 15 other members of WTO created an arrangement surrounding trade dispute contingency appeals.¹⁴⁵² This was described to be a measure aiming to remove the current stagnation of the WTO when dealing with trade disputes.¹⁴⁵³

On 7 July 2020, the EU made a cumulative donation of EUR2 million to help support the trading capacity of developing countries.¹⁴⁵⁴ This shows a want to improve the trading functions of other states and improvement of trade worldwide.

On 24 July 2020, the European Union's "Airbus Member States" officially agreed with and took action to render compliance with the WTO's ruling on the Airbus case.¹⁴⁵⁵ This action shows a reinforcement of the WTO's work and appreciation of the settlement process.

On 24 July 2020, a call was made by the EU to enact higher transparency with trade and the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁴⁵⁶ The call was issued in the form of a joint communication and supported by ten other WTO members.¹⁴⁵⁷

On 31 July 2020, the multi-party interim appeal arrangement was deemed 'operational', with arbitrators being selected and reported to the WTO.¹⁴⁵⁸ Although a temporary solution, the EU's participation in the arrangement shows they recognize the importance of an effective appeal structure.¹⁴⁵⁹

On 28 August 2020, the EU was reported to have appealed the panel report "European Union — Cost Adjustment Methodologies and Certain Anti-Dumping Measures on Imports from Russia —

¹⁴⁵² EU and 15 World Trade Organization members establish contingency appeal arrangement for trade disputes, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2127>

¹⁴⁵³ EU and 15 World Trade Organization members establish contingency appeal arrangement for trade disputes, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2127>

¹⁴⁵⁴ EU donates EUR 2 million to enhance developing countries' trading capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr859_e.htm

¹⁴⁵⁵ EU and Airbus Member States take action to ensure full compliance in the WTO aircraft dispute, European Commission (Brussels) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1405

¹⁴⁵⁶ WTO - European Union calls for more transparency on Coronavirus trade-related measures by WTO members, International Trade Compliance Update European Commission (Chicago) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

<https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/07/24/wto-european-union-calls-for-more-transparency-on-coronavirus-trade-related-measures-by-wto-members/>

¹⁴⁵⁷ WTO - European Union calls for more transparency on Coronavirus trade-related measures by WTO members, International Trade Compliance Update European Commission (Chicago) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

<https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/07/24/wto-european-union-calls-for-more-transparency-on-coronavirus-trade-related-measures-by-wto-members/>

¹⁴⁵⁸ The WTO multi-party interim appeal arrangement gets operational, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2176>

¹⁴⁵⁹ The WTO multi-party interim appeal arrangement gets operational, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2176>

Second complaint.”¹⁴⁶⁰ Given the lack of an Appellate Body, the appeal is unable to be considered at time of writing.¹⁴⁶¹

On 28 August 2020, a dispute panel request was approved and established by the WTO to investigate a conflict between Turkey and the European Union, following its failure to be established earlier in the year.¹⁴⁶² However, the EU disputes wrongdoing and believes their actions to be within WTO guidelines.¹⁴⁶³

On 22 September 2020, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements of the WTO considered a regional trade agreement between the EU and Armenia.¹⁴⁶⁴ This demonstrates an understanding of the WTO’s processes and a willingness to see procedure fulfilled.

The European Union has acted in participating in addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, reinforcing the existing work of the WTO, and actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Fiona Reuter

¹⁴⁶⁰ EU appeals panel report on EU methodologies, duties on Russian imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds494apl_28aug20_e.htm

¹⁴⁶¹ EU appeals panel report on EU methodologies, duties on Russian imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds494apl_28aug20_e.htm

¹⁴⁶² Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm

¹⁴⁶³ Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm

¹⁴⁶⁴ WTO members consider EU-Armenia, MERCOSUR-Israel trade agreements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/rta_23sep20_e.htm