

# Accession of LDCs

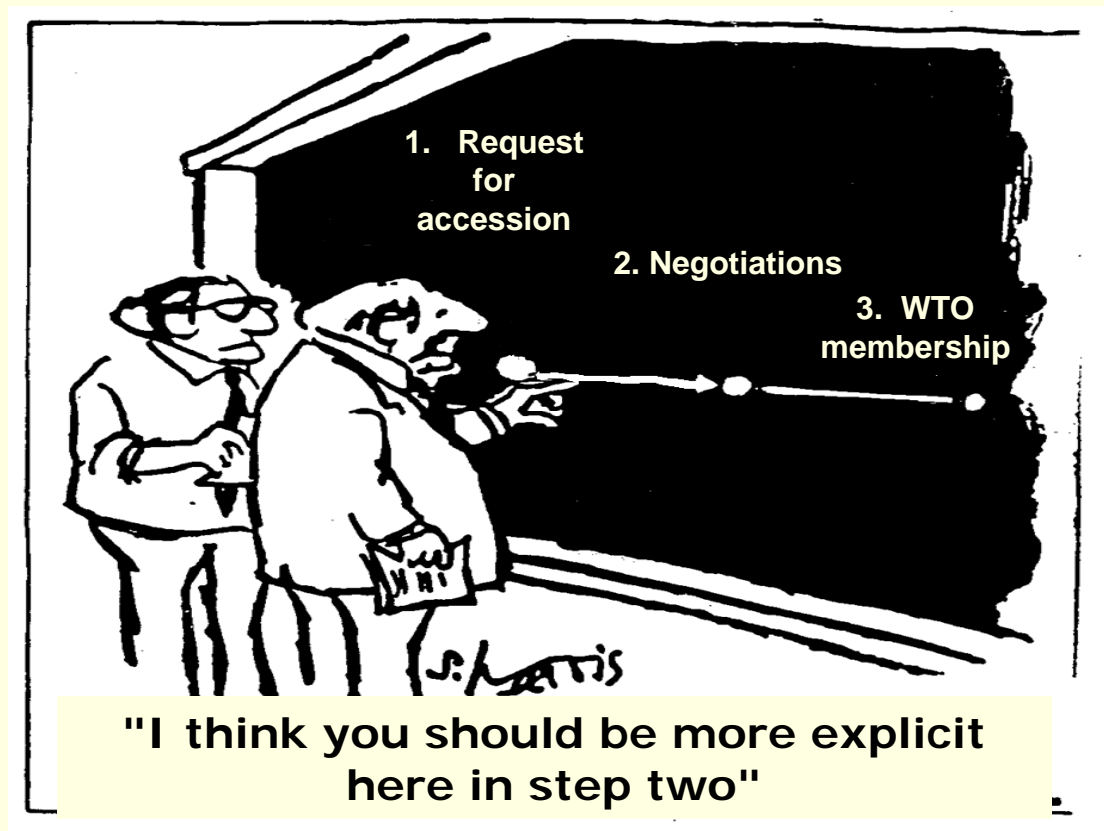
Accession Process, State of Play, LDC  
Accession Guidelines and Follow-up

# Accession of LDCs

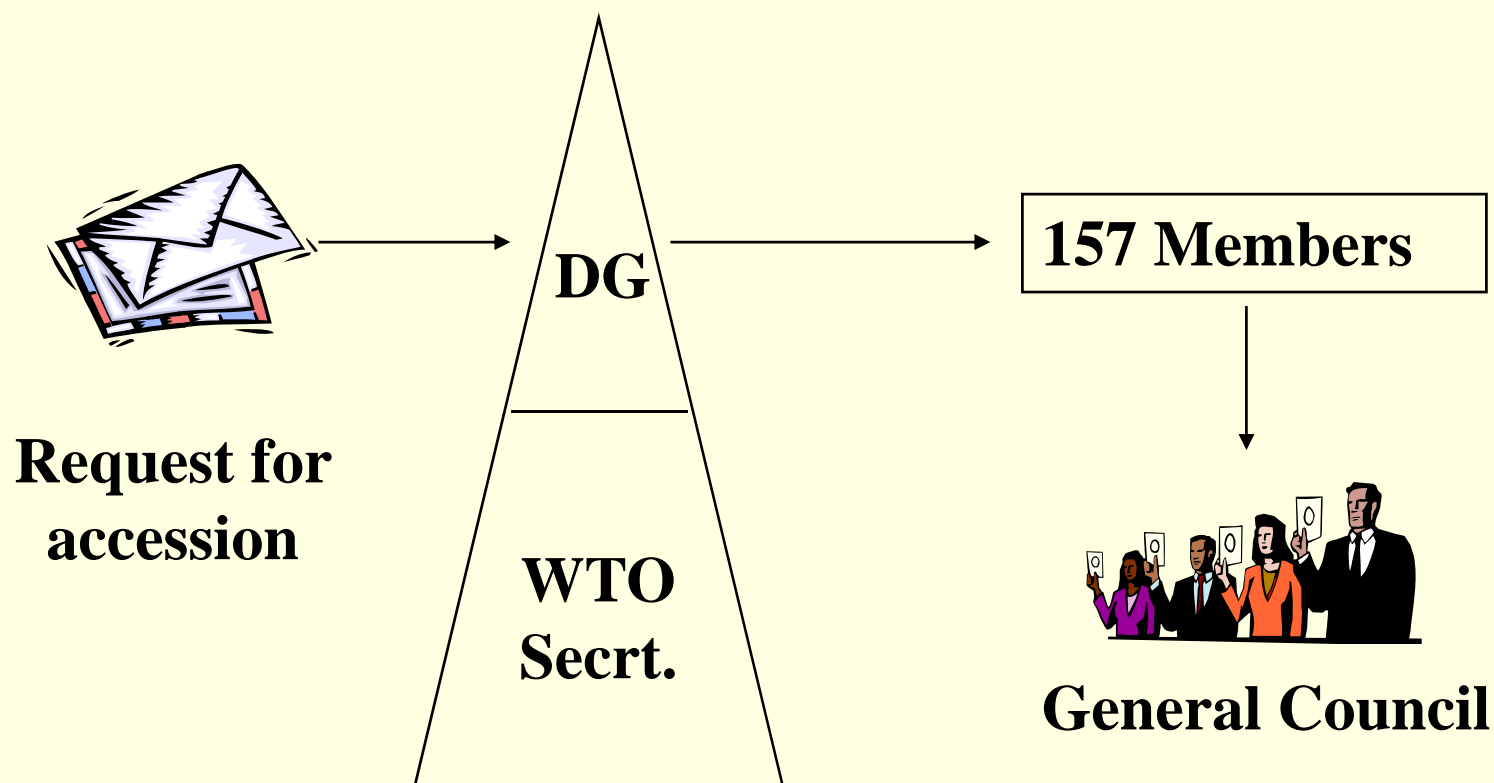
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- Accession Process
- State-of-Play of LDC Accessions
- LDC Accession Commitments
  - WTO Rules
  - Goods and Services
- LDC Guidelines and Follow-up

# The accession process

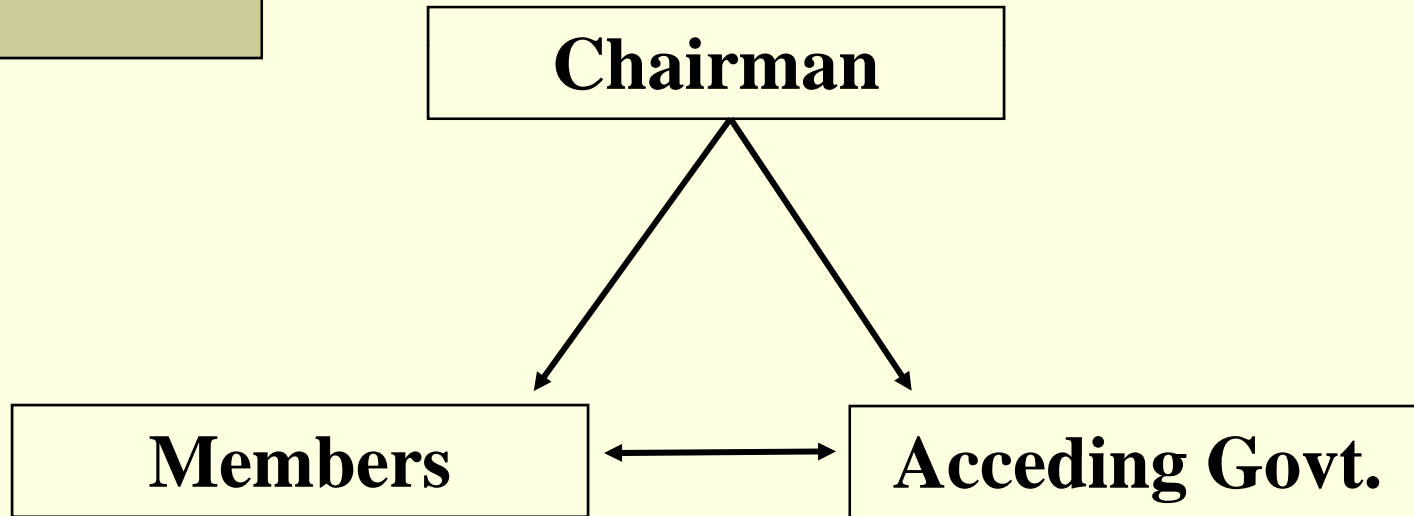


# ACCESSION PROCESS



# Working Party

WTO  
Secretariat



# Accession Negotiations

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- Multilateral Track
  - WTO Rules and Disciplines
    - Working Party Report
    - Accession Protocol
  
- Bilateral Track
  - Market Access Negotiations
    - Goods Schedule
    - Services Schedule



## Multilateral track



## Bilateral track

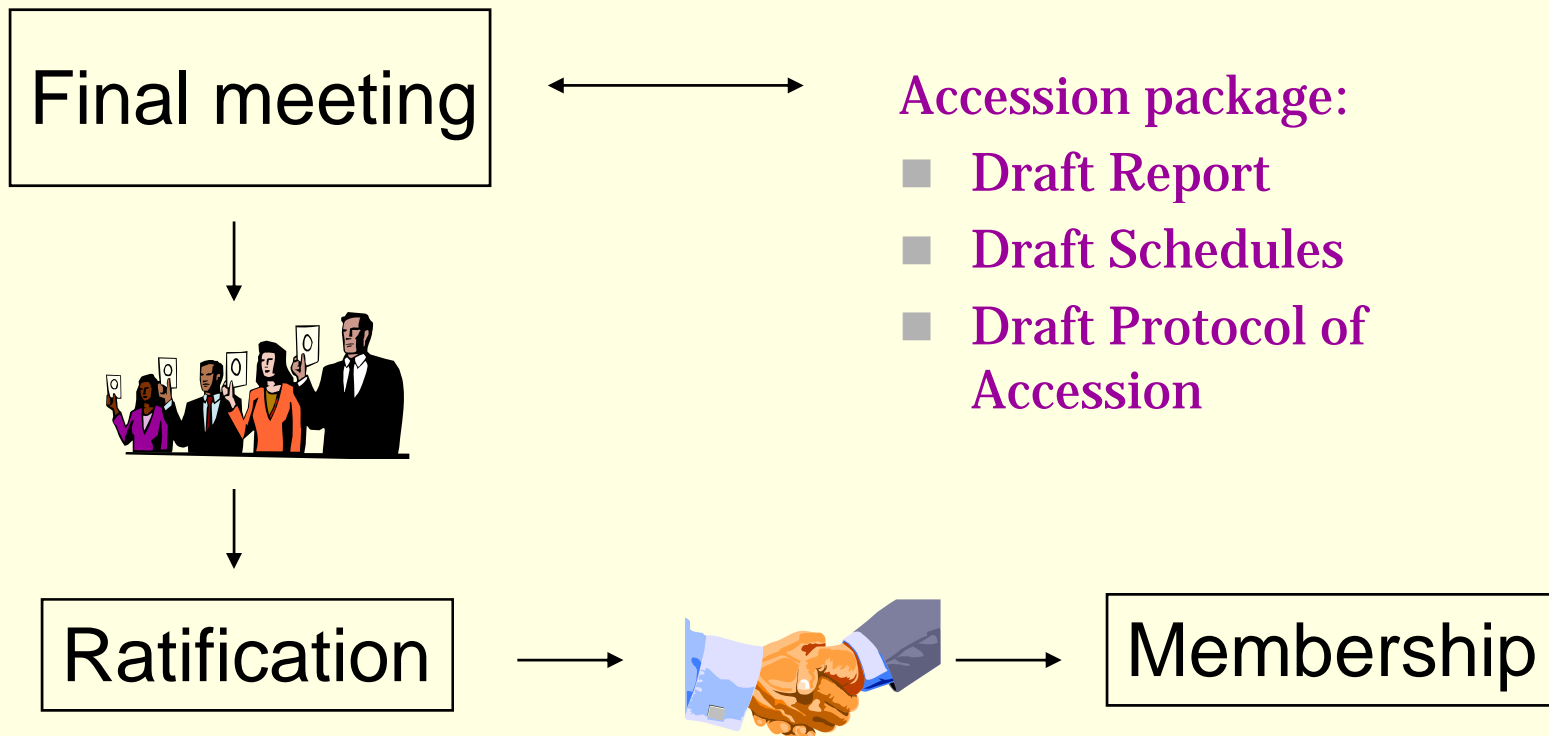
### Fact-finding & negotiation of entry terms

- Memorandum & Legislation
- Questions and replies
  - First WP meeting
- Other documents (Ag, SPS/TBT, TRIPs, Services, LAPs)
  - Additional meetings
- Factual Summary
- Draft Report

### Market access negotiations

- ↕
- Goods & Services
- ↓
- “offers” and “requests”
- ↓
- Bilateral agreements
- ↓
- Draft goods and services schedules

# Final Steps





## Accession of Ethiopia

Received	13 January 2003	WT/ACC/ETH/1
Agreement Established	10 February 2003	WT/GC/M/78
WTO Director-General Eugen Smidt (Oct 2010 - )		
WTO Director-General Doree Gillan (2003 - May 2009)		
WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo	25 January 2007	WT/ACC/ETH/3
WTO Director-General Achim Steiner	8 February 2008	WT/ACC/ETH/4 & Add.1
WTO Director-General Ugo M. Maitav	16 May 2008 6 May 2011 27 March 2012	3 formal meetings
WTO Director-General Julian Larmer		
WTO Director-General Aldo Marchesi	8 February 2008 3 April 2009 20 February 2012	WT/ACC/ETH/4 WT/ACC/ETH/5 WT/ACC/ETH/10
WTO Director-General Giovanni Degrassi	19 June 2009 17 February 2012	WT/ACC/SPEC/ETH/1 Rev.1
WTO Director-General Julian Larmer		
WTO Director-General Achim Steiner	27 April 2011	WT/ACC/ETH/7
WTO Director-General Ugo M. Maitav	17 February 2012	WT/ACC/ETH/9
WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo	19 June 2009 17 February 2012	WT/ACC/ETH/6 Rev.1
WTO Director-General Achim Steiner		
WTO Director-General Ugo M. Maitav	17 February 2012	WT/ACC/SPEC/ETH/2
WTO Director-General Julian Larmer		

# Accession of LDCs

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LDCs' account for > 1/3 of all ongoing accessions

Ten LDCs are acceding to the WTO:

- Advanced Stage: Lao PDR, Yemen
- Intermediate Stage: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sudan
- Initial stage: Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, STP

Recently Acceded LDC Members:

- Cambodia, Nepal, Cape Verde
- Samoa (155<sup>th</sup> Member), Vanuatu (157<sup>th</sup> Member)

# Progress in the Accession of LDCs

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## New LDC Members

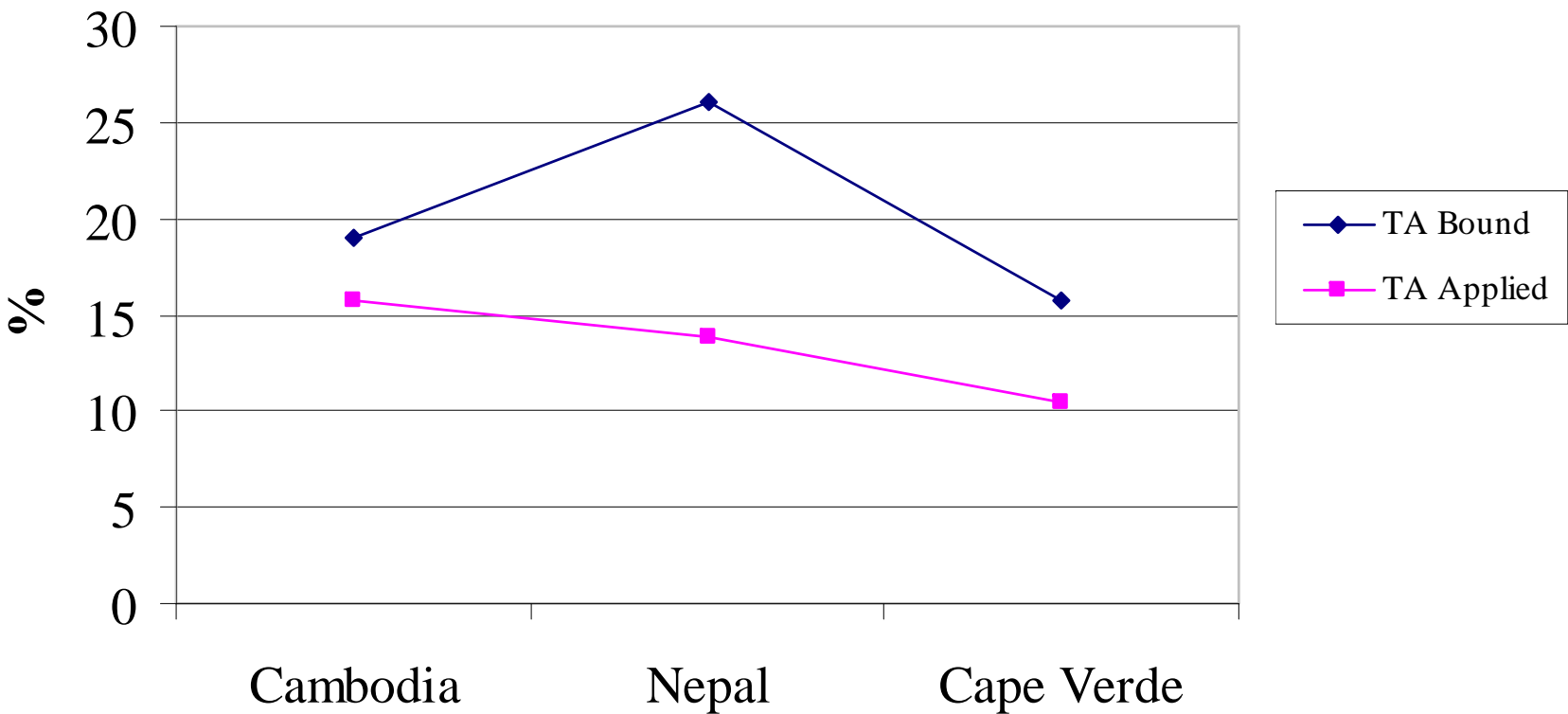
- Country-specific flexibility in MA negotiations
- Transition periods on the basis of action plans
- Streamlined procedures
- TA and capacity building (incl. “post-accession”)

## Progress in ongoing LDC accessions

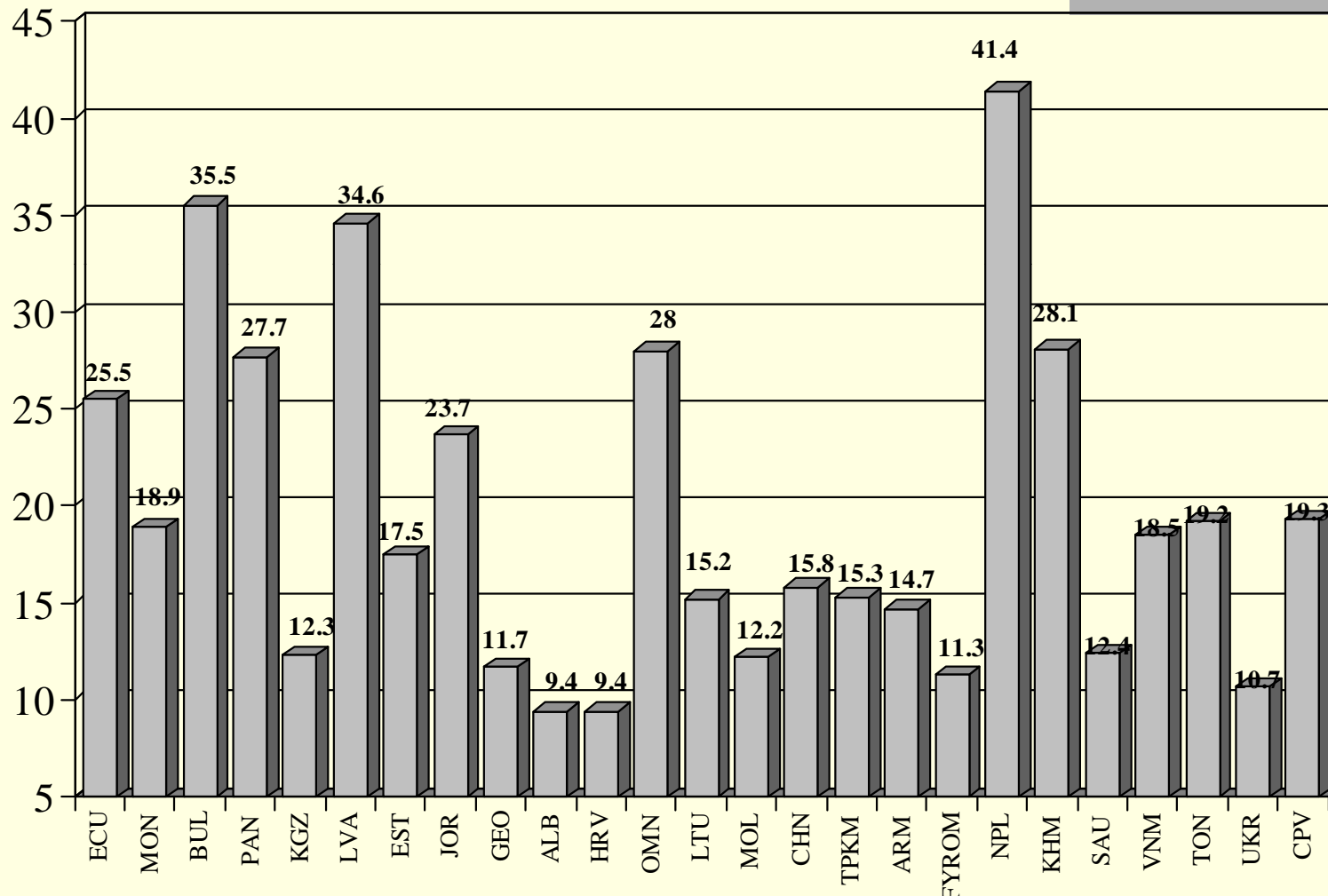
- Activating LDCs' Accessions

# Market Access

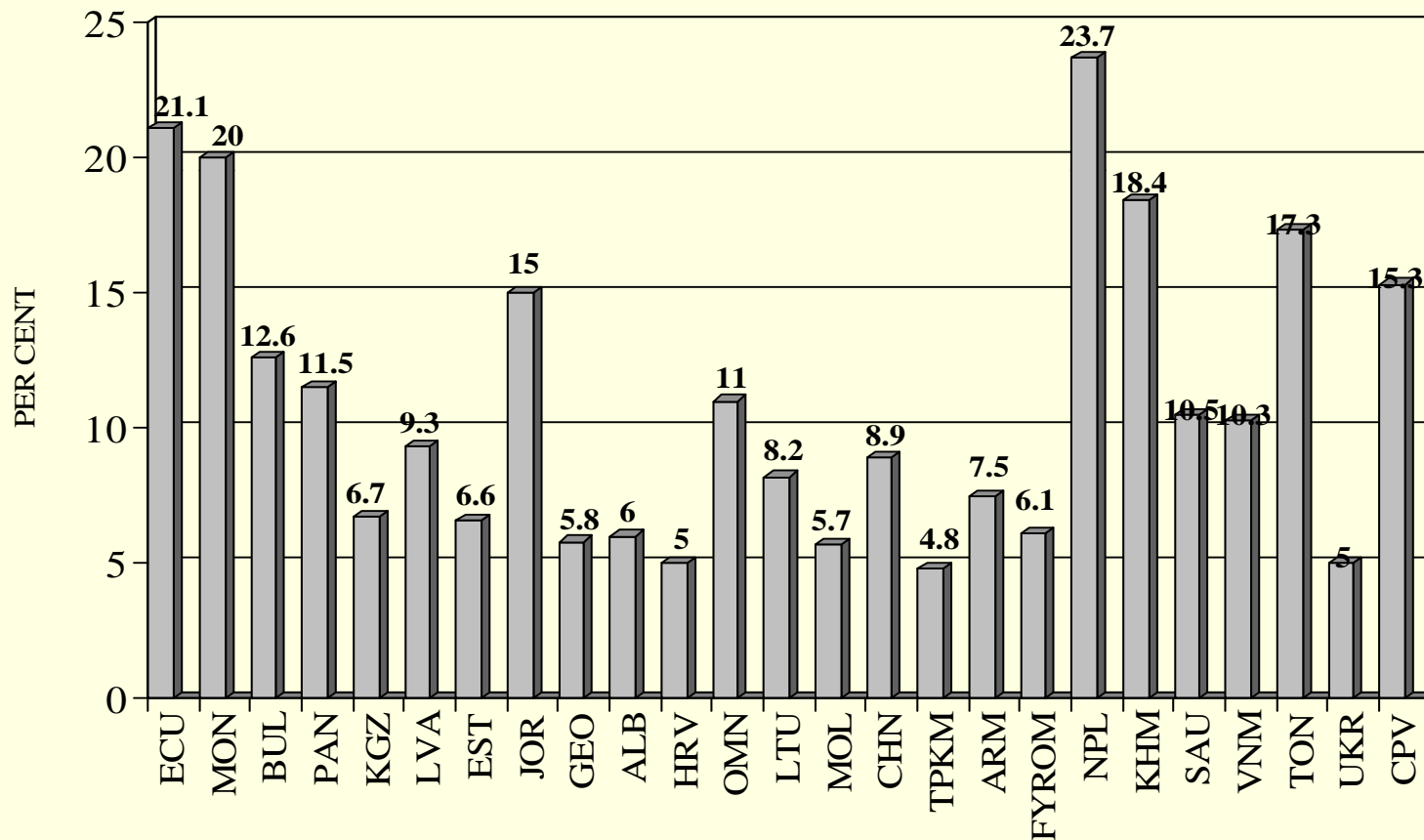
## Average Tariffs (Bound and Applied)



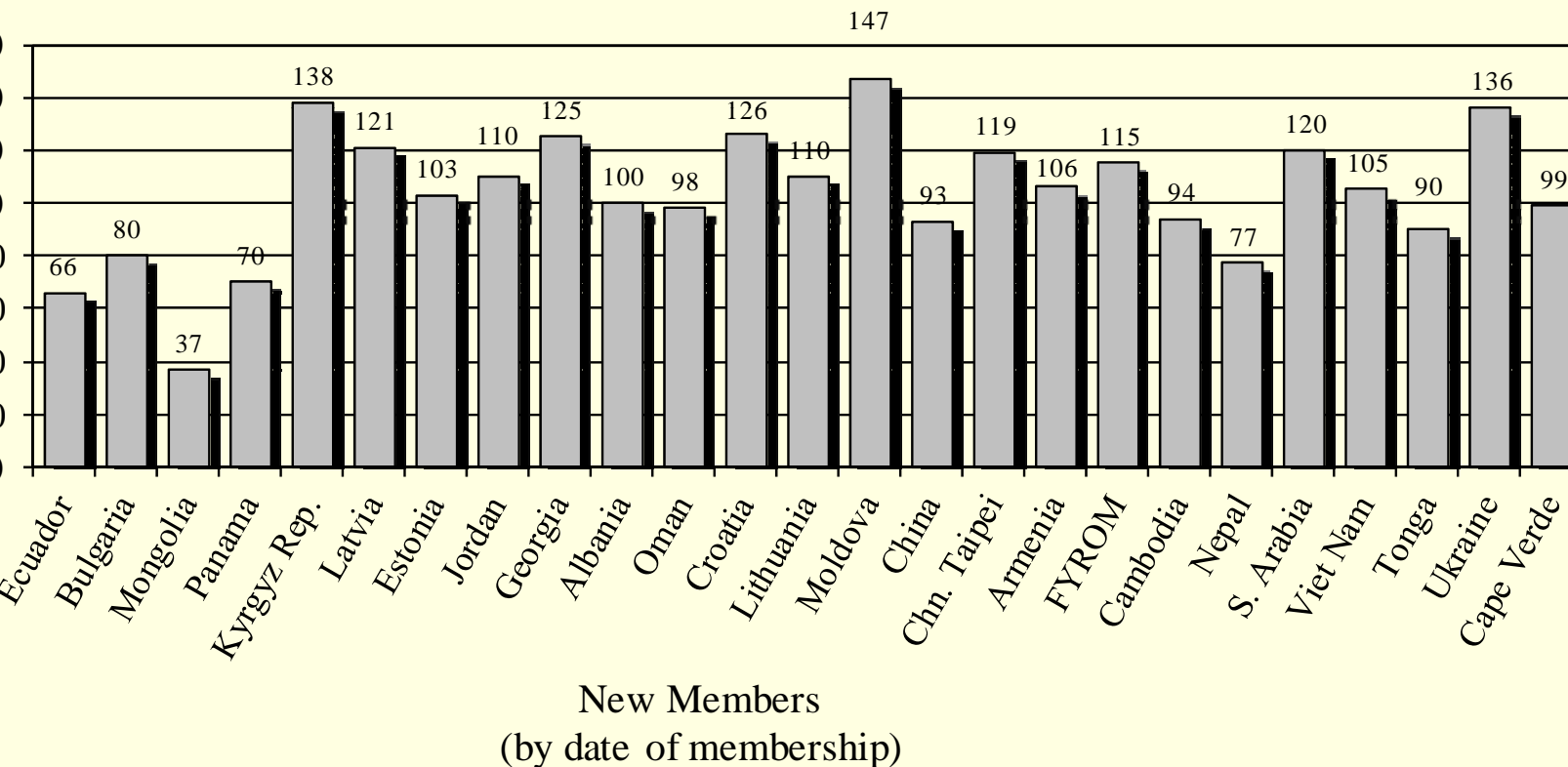
# Average tariff bindings of new WTO Members: Agriculture



# Average tariff bindings of new WTO Members: Non-AG products



# Services Commitments of new WTO Members



# DC ACC: Select Transition Periods

	Cambodia	Nepal	Cape Verde
Customs Valuation	1/2009	1/2007	1/2011
SPS	1/2008	1/2007	1/2010
TBT	1/2007	1/2007	-
TRIPS	1/2007	1/2007	1/2013 (1/2016)



# DCs' Accession Timeframes

<i>Country</i>	<i>WP Establishment</i>	<i>Time taken to submit MFTR</i>	<i>Time from MFTR to accession</i>	<i>Total time taken to accede</i>
Cambodia	12/1994	4 years 6 months	5 years 4 months	9 years 10 months
Nepal	5/1989	9 years 2 months	5 years 8 months	14 years 11 months
ape Verde	11/1999	3 years 8 months	5 years	8 years 8 months
Samoa	7/1998	1 year 7 months	12 years 3 months	13 years 10 months
Vanuatu	7/1995	5 months	16 years 8 months	17 years 1 month

# DCs' Accession Timeframes

<i>Country</i>	<i>WP Establishment</i>	<i>Time taken to submit MFTR</i>
Afghanistan	12/2004	5 years 3 months
Bhutan	10/1999	3 years 4 months
Ethiopia	2/2003	3 years 11 months
Guinea-Bissau PDR	2/1998	3 years 1 month
Liberia	12/2007	3 years 4 months
Sudan	10/1994	4 years 2 months
Tuvalu	7/1995	4 months
Yemen	7/2000	2 years 4 months
Zimbabwe	10/2007	Yet to submit MFTR
Equatorial Guinea	12/2007	Yet to submit MFTR
Timor-Leste	5/2005	Yet to submit MFTR

# LDCs' Accessions

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## Facilitating/Accelerating LDCs' Accessions

- Doha Ministerial Declaration (2001)
- Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (2005)
- Geneva Ministerial (2011)

## 2002 Guidelines on LDCs' Accessions

- Implementation and Review

## 2012 Addendum to Guidelines (Benchmarks)

# LDC Accession Guidelines

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**WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION**

**WT/L/508**

20 January 2003

(03-0191)

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## **ACCESSION OF LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

*Decision of 10 December 2002*

The General Council,

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*Decides that:*

Negotiations for the accession of LDCs to the WTO, be facilitated and accelerated through simplified and streamlined accession procedures, with a view to concluding these negotiations as quickly as possible, in accordance with the guidelines set out hereunder:

# LDC Accession Guidelines

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## Market Access

- “Restraint” in requests from Members
- “Reasonable” offers from Acceding LDCs

## WTO Rules

- S&D
- Transition Periods (backed by Action Plans, TA)
- Plurilateral Agreements (and sectorals) optional i.e. not a precondition

## Process/Procedures

- Efforts to facilitate and accelerate LDC accessions

## Technical Assistance

- Targeted and Co-ordinated
- Cover all stages of accession process (even post-accession)

# Follow-up & Recent Developments

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- Accession of LDCs (item on agenda of SCLDCs)
- Report to Cancun Ministerial (+ Annual DG Report)
- WTO RAMs (KHM, NPL, CPV, SAM, VTU + more .....
- "Analogue" on LDC Accessions (since 2009...)
- WTO proposal (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/52)
- Further strengthening of Guidelines (Benchmarks)
- WTO Decision of 17 December 2011 (WT/L/846)
- Directs SCLDCs to make reccos to GC by July 2012
- Reccos (WT/COMTD/LDC/21) adopted by GC in July'12

# LDC Accession Guidelines (Add.1)

Recommendations to further strengthen, streamline & operationalise the 2002 Guidelines (WT/L/508+Add.1)

## Market Access Benchmarks for Goods

- **Agriculture**: All tariff lines bound, simple avg binding 50%
- **NAMA**: (i) 95% tariff lines bound, simple avg binding 35% OR (ii) All tariff lines bound, with flexibility to be agreed upon and longer implementation periods (10 years) for upto 10% of TLs

## Market Access Benchmarks for Services

- Principles of S&D (Art. IV and XIX of GATS)
- Flexibility to open fewer sectors, liberalizing fewer transaction and progressively extending market access (phasing in).
- LDCs not expected to offer full NT or additional commitments

# LDC Accession Guidelines (Add.1)

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Transparency in accession negotiations at the

- Accession “Working Party” level
- Sub-Committee on LDCs (WTO WP on LDCs, Reports by WP Chairs, DG Annual Reports)
- Use of “Good Offices” of SCLDCs, WP Chairs...
- Dialogue on LDC Accessions under aegis of SCLDC

S&D and Transition Periods (with action plans)

Technical assistance (TA to back action plans)



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Thanks for your attention!

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