

2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim 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*

Contents

Preface.....	3
Introduction and Summary.....	6
Commitment Breakdown.....	6
Selection of Commitments.....	6
Interim Compliance Scores.....	7
Interim Compliance by Member.....	7
Interim Compliance by Commitment.....	7
Table 1: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring.....	8
Table 2: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim Compliance Scores.....	10
Table 3: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim Compliance by Member.....	11
Table 4: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment.....	11
Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2018.....	12
Conclusions.....	14
Future Research and Reports.....	14
Considerations and Limitations.....	14
Appendix: General Considerations.....	15
1. Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth.....	16
2. Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates.....	83
3. Trade: Open Markets.....	92
4. Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization.....	109
5. Infrastructure: Quality Infrastructure Investment.....	141
6. Digital Economy: Frameworks.....	183
7. International Taxation: Digitalization.....	201
8. Crime and Corruption: Cyber Resilience.....	215
9. Terrorism: Internet Security.....	237
10. Labour and Employment: Opportunities for Youth.....	268
11. Gender: Education and Training.....	289
12. Gender: Labour Market.....	315
13. Development: Energy.....	350
14. Development: Investment in Human Capital.....	370
15. Health: Ageing Populations.....	416
16. Health: Public Health Preparedness.....	458
17. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics.....	490
18. Climate Change: Financing for Sustainable Development.....	508
19. Climate Change: Innovation.....	528

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		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada		0	
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.70 (85%)	

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.”⁶⁶³ 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.⁶⁶⁴

⁶⁶³ 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>

⁶⁶⁴ 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.”⁶⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶⁶

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the “Hangzhou consensus” feature of openness included a commitment to reject protectionism and promote global trade and investment.⁶⁶⁷ The communiqué also supported the work of the recently established G20 Trade and Investment Working Group.⁶⁶⁸

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.⁶⁶⁹

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.⁶⁷⁰ 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.”⁶⁷¹ 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.”⁶⁷² The proposed WTO reforms mainly concern the work program of the ongoing Doha Development Round.

⁶⁶⁵ 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>

⁶⁶⁶ 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>

⁶⁶⁷ 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>

⁶⁶⁸ 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>

⁶⁶⁹ 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>

⁶⁷⁰ 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>

⁶⁷¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

⁶⁷² 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.

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.

*Compliance Director: Christopher Sims
Lead Analyst: Daniel Scarpitti*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially 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 the Republic of Peru held the second round of negotiations for a trade agreement.⁶⁷³ The negotiations were meant to consolidate bilateral trade relations and

⁶⁷³ 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>

modernize existing framework which establish free trade of goods.⁶⁷⁴ Argentina stressed its negotiating efforts in relation to certain sectors, such as government procurement and services, agriculture and industry.⁶⁷⁵

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.⁶⁷⁶ A large delegation of companies of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) were invited.⁶⁷⁷ Meetings were held between Argentine and Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.⁶⁷⁸ The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.⁶⁷⁹

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.⁶⁸⁰ 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.⁶⁸¹ 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.⁶⁸²

⁶⁷⁴ 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>

⁶⁷⁵ 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>

⁶⁷⁶ 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>

⁶⁷⁷ 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>

⁶⁷⁸ 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>

⁶⁷⁹ 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>

⁶⁸⁰ 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>

⁶⁸¹ 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>

⁶⁸² 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.⁶⁸³ 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.⁶⁸⁴

On 2 March 2020, Argentina held trade discussions with the UK regarding strengthening existing trade relations.⁶⁸⁵ The meeting, which saw foreign office officials from Boris Johnson's cabinet meet with members of President Alberto Fernandez's government for the first time, involved discussions on boosting trade and investment.⁶⁸⁶ 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.⁶⁸⁷ However, Argentine ministers have made clear that further discussions will only occur if the UK is willing to discuss the Falklands claim issue.⁶⁸⁸

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. However, Argentina has not taken action to improve the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

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,

⁶⁸³ 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

⁶⁸⁴ 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

⁶⁸⁵ 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>

⁶⁸⁶ 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>

⁶⁸⁷ 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>

⁶⁸⁸ 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>

reducing global poverty and advancing gender equality.⁶⁸⁹ 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.⁶⁹⁰ Ministers also expressed a shared interest in contributing to WTO reform to ensure the on-going value of the institution in the future.⁶⁹¹

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.⁶⁹² 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."⁶⁹³

On 16 January, Australia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁶⁹⁴ 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.⁶⁹⁵

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.⁶⁹⁶ The nations agreed to preserve the WTO's two-step dispute system until the Appellate Body becomes functional again.⁶⁹⁷

On 24 January 2019, Australia, Japan, and Singapore hosted an informal meeting to discuss electronic commerce negotiations.⁶⁹⁸ The countries discussed building up momentum in the negotiations into

⁶⁸⁹ 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>

⁶⁹⁰ 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>

⁶⁹¹ 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>

⁶⁹² 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

⁶⁹³ 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

⁶⁹⁴ 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

⁶⁹⁵ 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

⁶⁹⁶ 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>

⁶⁹⁷ 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>

⁶⁹⁸ 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.

and beyond the Twelfth Ministerial Conference in June 2020.⁶⁹⁹ 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.”⁷⁰⁰

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.

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.⁷⁰¹ The goal is to demonstrate Brazil’s commitment to keeping the WTO relevant to the nature of 21st-century trade.⁷⁰²

On 16 January 2020, Brazil was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁷⁰³ 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.⁷⁰⁴

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

<https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

⁶⁹⁹ 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>

⁷⁰⁰ 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>

⁷⁰¹ 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>

⁷⁰² 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>

⁷⁰³ 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

⁷⁰⁴ 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

and Japan, both of which concerned taxation of trade.⁷⁰⁵ The implementation was completed by 31 December 2019.⁷⁰⁶

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.⁷⁰⁷ 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.⁷⁰⁸

Brazil 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, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

Canada: 0

Canada has partly 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.⁷⁰⁹ Canada and the EU are working around the 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.⁷¹⁰

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.”⁷¹¹ It aims to protect personal information from being used for purposes of discrimination or persecution in digital trade.⁷¹² This initiative was intended to facilitate improved economic

⁷⁰⁵ 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

⁷⁰⁶ 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

⁷⁰⁷ 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

⁷⁰⁸ 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

⁷⁰⁹ 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>

⁷¹⁰ 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>

⁷¹¹ 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>

⁷¹² 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>

opportunities in the digital trading environment and seek the confidence of consumers in the digital economy.⁷¹³

On 12 September 2019, Canada filed a WTO dispute complaint against China's restriction on canola seed imports.⁷¹⁴ The Canadian government claims that the enhanced inspections of imports and the suspension of imports by two Canadian companies violate China's trade obligations.⁷¹⁵

On 10 December 2019, Canada signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.⁷¹⁶ 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.⁷¹⁷

On 16 January 2020, Canada was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁷¹⁸ 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.⁷¹⁹

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.⁷²⁰ 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.⁷²¹

Canada has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, and improving the WTO's negotiating work regarding digital trade, but not on strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies in the evidence above.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Tony Xun

⁷¹³ 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>

⁷¹⁴ 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

⁷¹⁵ 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

⁷¹⁶ 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>

⁷¹⁷ 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>

⁷¹⁸ 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

⁷¹⁹ 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

⁷²⁰ 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

⁷²¹ 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

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.⁷²² By doing so, China aims to advance negotiations on a trilateral trade agreement between the three countries.⁷²³

On 6 November 2019, China held an informal WTO Ministerial Meeting in Shanghai, presided over by Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan.⁷²⁴ 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.”⁷²⁵

On 13 December 2019, China and the United States agreed to the contents of a phase-one trade agreement.⁷²⁶ This agreement addresses rising tariffs and contains provisions on “intellectual property rights, technology transfer, food and agricultural products, financial services, exchange rate 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.⁷²⁷

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.⁷²⁸ 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.⁷²⁹

On 16 January 2020, China was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁷³⁰ 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.⁷³¹

⁷²² 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>

⁷²³ 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>

⁷²⁴ 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>

⁷²⁵ 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>

⁷²⁶ 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

⁷²⁷ 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

⁷²⁸ 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_WS5e1fc831c6d0891fec0252e.html

⁷²⁹ 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_WS5e1fc831c6d0891fec0252e.html

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.⁷³² 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.⁷³³

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.⁷³⁴ 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.⁷³⁵

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.⁷³⁶ During the meeting, they reaffirmed the need for a coordinated stance on the reform of the WTO in order to promote free

⁷³⁰ 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

⁷³¹ 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

⁷³² 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

⁷³³ 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

⁷³⁴ 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>

⁷³⁵ 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>

⁷³⁶ 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

trade.⁷³⁷ Both countries stressed the necessity to tackle climate change, as well as strengthening relations in the agricultural and energy sector.⁷³⁸

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.⁷³⁹ Both countries stressed the importance of avoiding tariff escalation for the betterment of both nations.⁷⁴⁰ 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.⁷⁴¹

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.⁷⁴² 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.⁷⁴³

France has participated in both strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work through discussions with China and cooperation with the United States in the global trade system. However, France has yet to address the dispute settlement system.

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.⁷⁴⁴ The heads of

⁷³⁷ 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

⁷³⁸ 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

⁷³⁹ 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>

⁷⁴⁰ 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>

⁷⁴¹ 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>

⁷⁴² 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>

⁷⁴³ 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>

⁷⁴⁴ 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

the International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank also attended the gathering.⁷⁴⁵

On 11 December 2019, Germany announced that it is aiming to find a permanent solution for the composition of the WTO's Appellate Body.⁷⁴⁶ The Appellate Body needs a minimum of three 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.⁷⁴⁷ 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.⁷⁴⁸

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.⁷⁴⁹ The money will be used to help developing and least-developed countries implement WTO agreements and to increase their trade negotiating skills.⁷⁵⁰

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.⁷⁵¹ 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.⁷⁵²

Germany 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, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniel Scarpitti

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.”

⁷⁴⁵ 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

⁷⁴⁶ 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>

⁷⁴⁷ 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>

⁷⁴⁸ 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>

⁷⁴⁹ 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

⁷⁵⁰ 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

⁷⁵¹ 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

⁷⁵² 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

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.⁷⁵³ The proposal, based on a concept paper by India, called for the resolution of the impasse over appointments to the Appellate Body.⁷⁵⁴ Further, it called for prohibiting unilateral trade measures and supported “development-centric” changes to strengthen the organization.⁷⁵⁵ 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.”⁷⁵⁶

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.⁷⁵⁷ Meetings were held between Argentinian and Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.⁷⁵⁸ The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.⁷⁵⁹

On 16 January 2020, India was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁷⁶⁰ 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.⁷⁶¹

On 28 January 2020, India called for the elimination of trade distorting subsidies on agriculture during a ministerial meeting in Davos.⁷⁶² Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal spoke on several topics including the fact that the least-developed countries have not achieved a proportionate share of

⁷⁵³ 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>

⁷⁵⁴ 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>

⁷⁵⁵ 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>

⁷⁵⁶ 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>

⁷⁵⁷ 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>

⁷⁵⁸ 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>

⁷⁵⁹ 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>

⁷⁶⁰ 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

⁷⁶¹ 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

⁷⁶² 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>

global trade and the need for developing countries to have policy flexibility in order to better integrate into global markets.⁷⁶³

On 25 February 2020, India and the United States issued joint statements declaring their intent to pursue a major bilateral trade deal.⁷⁶⁴ 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.”⁷⁶⁵

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.⁷⁶⁶ The EU suggests that the import duties of up to 20 per cent are contrary to WTO free trade commitments.⁷⁶⁷ The EU is expected to request a second time for a dispute panel which India will be unlikely to be able to block.⁷⁶⁸

Given its involvement in the joint proposal in particular, India 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, 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, South Korea, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.⁷⁶⁹ The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance

⁷⁶³ 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-look-for-elimination-of-trade-distorting-subsidies-on-agriculture-in-wto-2095806.html>

⁷⁶⁴ 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>

⁷⁶⁵ 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>

⁷⁶⁶ 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>

⁷⁶⁷ 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>

⁷⁶⁸ 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>

⁷⁶⁹ 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

productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries' connectivity to the global economy."⁷⁷⁰

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.⁷⁷¹

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.⁷⁷²

On 16 January 2020, Indonesia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁷⁷³ 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.⁷⁷⁴

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 requesting that the WTO work together to reach an agreement to address inequalities from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.⁷⁷⁵ The goal of the mechanism is to create an equitable playing field for agricultural producers in developing countries.⁷⁷⁶

Indonesia has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies in following due process and using the Dispute Settlement Body to reach an agreement and has also participated in improving the WTO's negotiating work in its submission to the Special Safeguard Mechanism regarding the Agreement on Agriculture.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

⁷⁷⁰ 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

⁷⁷¹ 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

⁷⁷² 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

⁷⁷³ 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

⁷⁷⁴ 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

⁷⁷⁵ 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

⁷⁷⁶ 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

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.⁷⁷⁷ Both countries discussed reworking Italy’s European Union barriers to avoid increasing tariffs and promote unrestricted and multilateral trade.⁷⁷⁸

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.⁷⁷⁹ 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.⁷⁸⁰

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 reform and European Union trade interests.⁷⁸¹ The aim is to solidify relations and increase cooperation with an eye towards the WTO Ministerial Conference in June.⁷⁸²

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

⁷⁷⁷ 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>

⁷⁷⁸ 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>

⁷⁷⁹ 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>

⁷⁸⁰ 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>

⁷⁸¹ 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>

⁷⁸² 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>

reform.⁷⁸³ 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.⁷⁸⁴ 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.⁷⁸⁵

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.⁷⁸⁶ Japan and the United States plan to enter into another round of negotiations to further increase free trade between the two countries.⁷⁸⁷

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."⁷⁸⁸ They also stated opposition to the WTO's classification of certain countries as developing countries.⁷⁸⁹

On 1 February 2020, Japan and the European Union entered into an Economic Partnership Agreement.⁷⁹⁰ 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."⁷⁹¹

On 7 and 10 February 2020, Japan launched two complaints at the WTO regarding the alleged illegal funding of commercial shipbuilders by Korea.^{792,793}

⁷⁸³ 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

⁷⁸⁴ 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

⁷⁸⁵ 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

⁷⁸⁶ 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>

⁷⁸⁷ 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>

⁷⁸⁸ 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>

⁷⁸⁹ 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>

⁷⁹⁰ 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/>

⁷⁹¹ 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/>

⁷⁹² 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>

On 11 March 2020, trade talks between Japan and Korea concerned with their trade dispute concluded without reaching a deal.⁷⁹⁴ 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.⁷⁹⁵ Both Japan and Korea suspended visa-waivers between the two countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹⁶

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.⁷⁹⁷ India had previously agreed to zero tariffs but has increased tariffs on ICT products six times between 2014 and 2019.⁷⁹⁸

Japan 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, 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.⁷⁹⁹ President Moon delivered a speech that emphasized the value of free trade between nations and further economic cooperation.⁸⁰⁰

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.⁸⁰¹ The workshop

⁷⁹³ 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>

⁷⁹⁴ 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

⁷⁹⁵ 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

⁷⁹⁶ 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

⁷⁹⁷ 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

⁷⁹⁸ 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

⁷⁹⁹ 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>

⁸⁰⁰ 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>

⁸⁰¹ 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

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.”⁸⁰²

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.⁸⁰³ 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.⁸⁰⁴

On 16 January 2020, Korea was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁸⁰⁵ 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.⁸⁰⁶

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.⁸⁰⁷ 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.⁸⁰⁸

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.⁸⁰⁹ Both countries agreed to further discussions on resolving bilateral tensions due to trade export controls placed on each other.⁸¹⁰

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.

⁸⁰² 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

⁸⁰³ 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>

⁸⁰⁴ 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>

⁸⁰⁵ 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

⁸⁰⁶ 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

⁸⁰⁷ 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

⁸⁰⁸ 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

⁸⁰⁹ 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/>

⁸¹⁰ 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/>

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.⁸¹¹ Alongside Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, Mexico proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal, cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services.⁸¹² The proposal states that these actions would “reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives.”⁸¹³

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.⁸¹⁴ 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.”⁸¹⁵

On 10 December 2019, Mexico signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).⁸¹⁶ 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.⁸¹⁷

On 16 January 2020, Mexico was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁸¹⁸ 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.⁸¹⁹

⁸¹¹ 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

⁸¹² 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

⁸¹³ 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

⁸¹⁴ 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

⁸¹⁵ 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

⁸¹⁶ 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>

⁸¹⁷ 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>

⁸¹⁸ 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-](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)

[DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](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 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.⁸²⁰ 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.⁸²¹

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

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.⁸²²

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.⁸²³ Since the 2017 Ministerial Conference, this was the first submission to be introduced that was formula-based.⁸²⁴

On 16 January 2020, Russia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁸²⁵ 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.⁸²⁶

⁸¹⁹ 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

⁸²⁰ 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

⁸²¹ 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

⁸²² 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

⁸²³ 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

⁸²⁴ 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

⁸²⁵ 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

⁸²⁶ 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 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.⁸²⁷

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: 0

Saudi Arabia 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 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.⁸²⁸ 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.⁸²⁹ 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.”⁸³⁰

Saudi Arabia has partly reinforced the existing work of the WTO. Saudi Arabia has also initiated additionally political support for discussions on WTO reforms under its G20 2020 presidency. However, it is yet to be determined if this Initiative will include addressing the WTO's dispute settlement system and improving the WTO's existing work and its negotiating work.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Christopher Sims

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.”

⁸²⁶ 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

⁸²⁷ 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>

⁸²⁸ 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

⁸²⁹ 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>

⁸³⁰ 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

On 10 July 2019, South Africa introduced a submission to the World Trade Organization to create an “inclusive approach” to transparency.⁸³¹ The document discussed simplifying the notification process and lessening punitive measures.⁸³²

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.⁸³³ The proposal also sought to make development a central focus of the WTO and addressed areas of needed reform in the WTO.⁸³⁴

On 6 December 2019, South Africa and India threatened to end a 20-year WTO ban on imposing tariffs on digital trade.⁸³⁵ The two countries argued in a document the digitalization of multiple products, such as 3D printing, warrants re-considering the ban.⁸³⁶ The ban, of which renewal required unanimous support, ended up being extended to June 2020.⁸³⁷

On 16 January, South Africa was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁸³⁸ 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.⁸³⁹

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

⁸³¹ 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

⁸³² 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

⁸³³ 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>

⁸³⁴ 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>

⁸³⁵ 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>

⁸³⁶ 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>

⁸³⁷ 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>

⁸³⁸ 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

⁸³⁹ 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

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.⁸⁴⁰ At the meeting, there was discussion over cosmetic regulations introduced between 2016 and 2018 in Turkey, with which the United States disagreed.⁸⁴¹

On 16 January 2020, Turkey was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.⁸⁴² 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.⁸⁴³

On 19 March 2020, Turkey filed a complaint against the European Unions’ steel safeguard through the WTO.⁸⁴⁴ This shows an understanding and appreciation of the WTO’s regulations and dispute measures.

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.

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.⁸⁴⁵ The UK-Central America Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Central

⁸⁴⁰ 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

⁸⁴¹ 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

⁸⁴² 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](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)

⁸⁴³ 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](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)

⁸⁴⁴ 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

⁸⁴⁵ 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>

America trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.⁸⁴⁶

On 22 August 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity free trade agreement with Korea.⁸⁴⁷ 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.⁸⁴⁸

On 11 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique.⁸⁴⁹ The Southern African Customs Union consists of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini.⁸⁵⁰ 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.⁸⁵¹

On 19 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity trade deal with Lebanon.⁸⁵² The UK-Lebanon Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Lebanon trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.⁸⁵³

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.”⁸⁵⁴ 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.⁸⁵⁵

⁸⁴⁶ 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>

⁸⁴⁷ 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>

⁸⁴⁸ 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>

⁸⁴⁹ 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>

⁸⁵⁰ 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>

⁸⁵¹ 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>

⁸⁵² 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>

⁸⁵³ 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>

⁸⁵⁴ 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>

⁸⁵⁵ 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>

On 21 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement with Georgia.⁸⁵⁶ 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.⁸⁵⁷

On 26 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade and political continuity agreement with Morocco.⁸⁵⁸ 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.⁸⁵⁹

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.⁸⁶⁰ 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.⁸⁶¹

On 3 February 2020, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement regarding the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union.⁸⁶² In the statement, the Prime Minister states the need to address regulatory barriers to trade in an effort to expand on the existing WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.⁸⁶³

On 2 March 2020, the United Kingdom published its overall negotiating objectives regarding a free trade agreement with the United States.⁸⁶⁴ 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

⁸⁵⁶ 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>

⁸⁵⁷ 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>

⁸⁵⁸ 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>

⁸⁵⁹ 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>

⁸⁶⁰ 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

⁸⁶¹ 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

⁸⁶² 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>

⁸⁶³ 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>

⁸⁶⁴ 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>

standards.⁸⁶⁵ Additionally, the United Kingdom hopes to “futureproof” the free trade agreement for future changes in technology.⁸⁶⁶

On 3 March 2020, UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss spoke at the WTO General Council.⁸⁶⁷ In the UK’s speech, she called for the WTO to amend its regulations to better challenge “unfair practices” and counter protectionism.⁸⁶⁸ Liz Truss affirmed her commitment to a “free, fair, rules-based international trade,” and denounced “industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises and forced technology transfer.”⁸⁶⁹

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.⁸⁷⁰ 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.”⁸⁷¹

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.⁸⁷² The proposal gave WTO members more time to seek assistance and comply with standards before penalties would kick in.⁸⁷³

⁸⁶⁵ 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>

⁸⁶⁶ 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>

⁸⁶⁷ 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>

⁸⁶⁸ 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>

⁸⁶⁹ 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>

⁸⁷⁰ 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>

⁸⁷¹ 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>

⁸⁷² 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

⁸⁷³ 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 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’.”⁸⁷⁴ The statement also raised the issue of transparency in the WTO dispute settlement and US proposals to mandate a more transparent process.⁸⁷⁵ The statement also noted the US considers mandates established in the Doha Round to no longer guide the WTO.⁸⁷⁶

On 13 August 2019, President Donald Trump threatened to withdraw the US from the WTO at an event in Pennsylvania.⁸⁷⁷ President Trump said conditions would have to improve for the US to stay within the trade body.⁸⁷⁸

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.⁸⁷⁹ Ambassador Shea also noted the importance of establishing rules on digital trade.⁸⁸⁰

On 22 November 2019, the United States declined to support an effort by the Mexican delegation to fill six vacancies in the Appellate Body.⁸⁸¹ The United States claimed the Body was not respecting the Dispute Settlement Understanding.⁸⁸² The United States also declined to support a similar effort on 10 December 2019.⁸⁸³

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

⁸⁷⁴ 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/>

⁸⁷⁵ 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/>

⁸⁷⁶ 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/>

⁸⁷⁷ 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>

⁸⁷⁸ 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>

⁸⁷⁹ 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/>

⁸⁸⁰ 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/>

⁸⁸¹ 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

⁸⁸² 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

⁸⁸³ 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>

on Rules.⁸⁸⁴ The group of WTO members reaffirmed their commitment to reach an agreement on fishery subsidies.⁸⁸⁵

On 10 December 2019, the United States signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.⁸⁸⁶ 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.⁸⁸⁷

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.”⁸⁸⁸ They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.⁸⁸⁹

On 27 January 2020, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea delivered remarks at an informal meeting of WTO ministers in Davos.⁸⁹⁰ In the statement, Ambassador Shea reiterated concerns over WTO members having failed to submit their fishery subsidy notifications.⁸⁹¹ 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.⁸⁹²

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.⁸⁹³ He mentioned 5 specific proposals for fishery subsidy reform, US engagement to expand access to digital technologies and

⁸⁸⁴ 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/>

⁸⁸⁵ 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/>

⁸⁸⁶ 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>

⁸⁸⁷ 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>

⁸⁸⁸ 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>.

⁸⁸⁹ 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>.

⁸⁹⁰ 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/>

⁸⁹¹ 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/>

⁸⁹² 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/>

⁸⁹³ 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/>

trade, and US advocacy for a review of WTO agricultural policies.⁸⁹⁴ He also highlighted US efforts to increase transparency in the form of WTO members reporting their industrial subsidies.⁸⁹⁵

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.⁸⁹⁶ There was a specific concern regarding the EU's external power supply ecological design requirements, which were believed to be unjustified by China.⁸⁹⁷

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.”⁸⁹⁸ He supported reform of the WTO, while stressing that its functions are important in the realm of creating equitable and just trade.⁸⁹⁹ Previously, in the week of 1 December 2019, Horgan also commented on the need for reform beyond the Appellate Body dispute settlement system.⁹⁰⁰

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

⁸⁹⁴ 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/>

⁸⁹⁵ 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/>

⁸⁹⁶ 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

⁸⁹⁷ 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

⁸⁹⁸ 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>

⁸⁹⁹ 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>

⁹⁰⁰ 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/>

distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions.”⁹⁰¹ They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.⁹⁰²

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.⁹⁰³ 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.⁹⁰⁴

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.⁹⁰⁵ 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.⁹⁰⁶

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

⁹⁰¹ 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>

⁹⁰² 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>

⁹⁰³ 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

⁹⁰⁴ 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

⁹⁰⁵ 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

⁹⁰⁶ 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