

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

What it does and what comes next

Action items

Now that WTO Members have adopted the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to end prohibited fisheries subsidies, each Member should quickly deposit

Context

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted on 12 June 2022, prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies, including those contributing to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of [the WTO] negotiations.

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The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies delivers on the mandates of SDG Target 14.6 and the 11th Ministerial Conference:

“...to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of [the WTO] negotiations.”

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How is the Agreement accepted by Members and entered into force?

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What is the built-in agenda for further negotiations?

The MC12 Ministerial Decision adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, Bali, 2001, provides for a second wave of negotiations. The second wave of negotiations is to be held by MC13.

Members are invited to continue negotiations on fisheries subsidies. The second wave of negotiations is to be held by MC13. The Agreement is to be accepted by a maximum period of 18 months.



How to accept the Protocol of Amendment to insert the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement

<http://www.wto.org/eng/whatis/whatis.htm>



WTO website on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies:

<http://www.wto.org/eng/whatis/whatis.htm>