

REPORT (2020) OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Annual Report is issued pursuant to Article IV:8 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Article XXI:3 of the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) as amended by the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, done at Geneva on 30 March 2012 (the "revised Agreement" or "revised GPA") and Article XXIV:7(a) of the 1994 Agreement on Government Procurement ("the 1994 Agreement" or "the GPA 1994").¹

1.2. This Report covers the period since the Committee's previous Annual Report (2019)², i.e. from the beginning of December 2019 to the end of November 2020. Despite the particular circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee had a productive year. Since the date of circulation of its previous Annual Report, the Committee held four formal meetings: on 26 February 2020; on 21 July 2020; on 7 October 2020 and on 26 November 2020.³ The meetings were chaired by Mr Carlos Vanderloo (Canada).⁴ Immediately following each formal meeting (with the exception of the year-end meeting), the Committee also held a series of informal meetings, equally chaired by Mr Vanderloo, focusing on the entry into force and implementation of the revised Agreement, accessions to the Agreement, the Committee's agreed Work Programmes, and other matters. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, the meetings in the second half of the year were held in virtual format, either exclusively or together with the possibility for Geneva-based delegates to attend the meeting.

1.3. Among other highlights, the Committee notes that Switzerland, the only Party yet to ratify the revised GPA, completed its internal work in this respect, clearing the way for the deposit of its instrument of acceptance in late 2020. It also notes the application of Brazil for accession to the GPA lodged in the course of the year and the progress achieved with respect to ongoing work on accessions to the Agreement by several WTO Members, in particular the adoption of a further Committee Decision adapting the timeline for the United Kingdom's accession in its own right to the Agreement after the end of the transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom.⁵ In addition, Côte d'Ivoire joined the Committee as an observer, making it the third African economy to do so. The Committee also decided to organize its first-ever information-sharing workshop and agreed on the topics. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the date for the workshop had to be postponed to 2021. Additional work was also done with respect to the Committee's agreed Work Programmes on (i) Sustainable Procurement, (ii) the Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data, and (iii) Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).⁶

1.4. The following 48 WTO Members are currently covered by the Agreement: Armenia; Australia; Canada; the European Union, with its 27 member States and the United Kingdom (all of which are covered by the Agreement, as one party)⁷; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; the Republic

¹ The 1994 Agreement and the revised Agreement are hereafter referred to together as the "Agreement on Government Procurement" or "GPA" or "Agreement". The reference to both the 1994 Agreement and the revised GPA reflects the entry into force of the revised Agreement on 6 April 2014 and the fact that one Party continued to be bound only by the 1994 Agreement. See, for relevant details, Section 2.1 below.

² [GPA/AR/2](#)

³ [GPA/M/78](#), [GPA/M/79](#), and [GPA/M/80](#)

⁴ At its formal meeting of 26 February 2020, the Committee re-elected Mr Vanderloo as Chair for 2020 [GPA/M/78](#), para. 1.2.

⁵ See, for relevant details, Section 3.1.1 below. The United Kingdom also joined the Committee as an observer. See [GPA/151](#).

⁶ See, for relevant details, Section 4 below.

⁷ See, for relevant details, Section 3.1.1 below.

of Korea ("Korea"); Liechtenstein; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; the Kingdom of the Netherlands with respect to Aruba; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland (currently covered by the GPA 1994 only)⁸; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu ("Chinese Taipei"); Ukraine; and the United States.

1.5. Thirty-six WTO Members/Observers have Observer status in the Committee on Government Procurement: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire⁹, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom¹⁰, and Viet Nam. Four intergovernmental organizations, namely the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), also have observer status in the Committee.

1.6. The Committee considers that the GPA – particularly the revised Agreement which came into force in 2014 – has proved its important value as a tool for trade and development in the twenty-first century, also in the current circumstances pertaining to the COVID-19 crisis. It not only provides market access for Parties' goods, services and suppliers, based on principles of reciprocity and to the extent determined by Parties, but also promotes greater transparency of Parties' procurement systems and good governance. The Committee is pleased with the progress achieved and the deliberations held in the Committee this year. It encourages WTO Members not currently Parties or Observers to the Agreement to take an interest in it, and invites them to consider the potential advantages of association, whether as Parties or as Observers.

1.7. The remaining sections of this Report deal with the work undertaken by the Committee during the reporting period, particularly on (i) the implementation of the Agreement, including its entry into force, (ii) accessions to the Agreement, (iii) the Committee's agreed Work Programmes, and (iv) notifications made pursuant to the Agreement.

2 ENTRY INTO FORCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT¹¹

2.1 Entry into force of the revised Agreement

2.1. The revised Agreement is in force for all Parties except Switzerland. The latter continued to provide regular updates to the Committee on related developments.¹² In the course of the Committee's October 2020 meetings, Switzerland reported that its internal process had been completed and that it intended to deposit the instrument of acceptance at the beginning of December 2020. This would mean that the revised GPA could enter into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2021.

2.2. The Committee hopes that the revised Agreement will enter into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2021 as envisaged, and notes that with the entry into force of the revised GPA for Switzerland, the period of co-existence between the 1994 Agreement and the revised Agreement will come to an end.

2.2 Procedures for the circulation, derestriction and translation of GPA-related documents

2.3. In October 2018, the WTO Secretariat (Secretariat) circulated a note setting out information on procedures currently in use for the circulation, derestriction and translation of GPA-related documents.¹³ The purpose of the Note was to clarify the operation of the relevant procedures and

⁸ See, for relevant details, Section 2.1 below.

⁹ [GPA/153](#)

¹⁰ [GPA/151](#). See also, for relevant details, Section 3.1.1 below.

¹¹ Information concerning notifications pursuant to the Agreement is set out in Section 5 of this Report.

¹² As the delegation of Switzerland explained in past years, the delay in the submission of its instrument of acceptance is not due to any substantive reservations regarding the content of the revised Agreement; rather, it reflects a need for completion of internal legislative procedures to harmonize Swiss procurement legislation at the federal and cantonal levels.

¹³ [RD/GPA/68](#)

to facilitate their review, if desired, by the Committee, with the overall objectives of facilitating the administration of the revised Agreement and ensuring an appropriate level of transparency for WTO Members and the general public. Initial discussions on the topic took place at the Committee's informal meetings held in 2019, and a number of additional documents have also been circulated in 2019.¹⁴

2.4. During the period under review, in January 2020, at the request of the Committee, the Secretariat circulated a further note on this topic¹⁵, which comprises (i) a draft decision concerning GPA documents to be circulated in the future; and (ii) a draft decision concerning the derestriction of the initial list of historical GPA documents already circulated. Further discussions on the topic took place at the Committee's informal meetings held in February and October 2020. The Chair suggested at the October informal meeting that all delegations continue their internal work to seek the necessary approvals to facilitate a possible adoption of both draft decisions at the Committee's March 2021 meeting.

2.5. The Committee notes the importance of enhancing transparency, including through the derestriction of relevant Committee documents in an appropriate manner and encourages delegations to complete their domestic procedures to enable the Committee to adopt relevant Decisions in due course.

2.3 Chair initiative on enhancing information-sharing in the Committee

2.6. Following an initiative by the Chair in this regard¹⁶, at the Committee's 2019 meetings Parties explored ways on how information-sharing in the Committee might be pursued. Written inputs were submitted by four delegations.¹⁷ Based on those discussions and inputs, the Chair circulated a non-paper to the Committee in November 2019¹⁸ that summarized principles and guidelines for the organization of a workshop in the Committee for this purpose and proposed two topics for such a workshop in the Committee, specifically:

- How can government procurement processes be conducted in a manner that protects and advances labour standards while still respecting international trade commitments?
- How can digital advances support trade and competition in government procurement?

The Committee subsequently agreed to these topics for the proposed workshop.¹⁹

2.7. During the reporting period, further discussions were conducted on this initiative based on concept papers jointly circulated by Canada, the European Union, New Zealand and Ukraine in February 2020 and in July 2020.²⁰ The second concept paper, entitled "Enhancing Information Sharing in the GPA Committee: Possible Approaches", contains scenarios for delivering the workshop in both face-to-face and virtual mode considering the travel restrictions still in place due to COVID-19. Discussions on the mode of delivery and the dates of the workshop were held during the Committee's July and October meetings. The discussions led to an understanding that while most delegations prefer a face-to-face workshop, the workshop should be organized as soon as possible to ensure that the chosen topics and the preparatory work already undertaken remain relevant. The Chair therefore suggested at the October meeting that the mode of delivery should be decided at the Committee's March 2021 meeting, taking into account the travel restrictions remaining in place at that time.

2.8. The Committee looks forward to agreeing on the mode of delivery of its first information-sharing workshop and possibly the dates of the workshop at its March 2021 meeting.

¹⁴ For details, see [GPA/AR/2](#), para. 2.3.

¹⁵ [RD/GPA/68/Add.3](#)

¹⁶ [RD/GPA/80](#)

¹⁷ Canada - [RD/GPA/80/Add.1](#), Ukraine - [RD/GPA/80/Add.2](#), New Zealand - [RD/GPA/80/Add.3](#), and the European Union - [RD/GPA/80/Add.4](#)

¹⁸ [RD/GPA/80/Add.5](#)

¹⁹ [RD/GPA/80/Add.6](#)

²⁰ [RD/GPA/80/Add.9](#) and [RD/GPA/80/Add.10](#)

2.4 Experience-sharing and peer learning on COVID-19-related government procurement measures

2.9. COVID-19 affected diverse aspects of international trade significantly, including government procurement. Following Director-General Azevêdo's call to Members dated 24 March 2020 for submission of information to the Secretariat about trade and trade-related measures with specific attention to the policies that Members had introduced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and upon encouragement by the Chair in his communication dated 2 April 2020, some Parties and Observers provided the Committee with information on their COVID-19-related government procurement measures. A compilation of such information was prepared and circulated by the Secretariat in July 2020.²¹ In order to assist the Parties in structuring further informal discussions on COVID-19-related government procurement measures, upon request of the Chair, the Secretariat circulated an informal note to the Committee in September 2020. The note had the sole objective of fostering experience-sharing and peer learning in this Party-driven process. During the initial discussion of the agenda item in the Committee's October 2020 meeting, several Parties acknowledged the importance and relevance of the topic and suggested to move forward with informal exchanges in a small-group format. The small-group discussions will be reported back to the Committee at future meetings, as appropriate, beginning with the March 2021 meeting.

2.10. The Committee emphasizes the Party-driven nature of the process and looks forward to future experience-sharing and peer learning on COVID-19-related government procurement measures and related developments in this regard in the course of 2021.

2.5 Regulatory and legislative developments in some Parties

2.5.1 The Republic of Moldova's update on its government procurement legislation

2.11. At the Committee's July 2020 formal meeting, the Republic of Moldova updated the Committee on recent developments in its government procurement system, including (i) the introduction of a new law on public procurement by public utility sectors, (ii) further expansion of the application of its e-procurement system, and (iii) the launch of its updated open contracting portal for public procurement.²²

2.5.2 The United States' Executive Order on Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures and Critical Inputs

2.12. At the Committee's October 2020 informal meeting, a number of delegations expressed their concerns about current developments on buy-national initiatives in the United States, specifically, the United States Executive Order on Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures and Critical Inputs, issued on 6 August 2020. The United States indicated that in implementing the Executive Order, it would follow the provisions of the GPA and that it would provide further details as and when they become available.²³ On 27 November 2020, the United States submitted proposed modifications to its Appendix I under both the 1994 Agreement and the revised GPA.²⁴

2.13. The Committee takes note of the Republic of Moldova's update and the discussion on the United States' Executive Order.

2.6 Continuing development of the e-GPA system

2.14. As noted in previous Annual Reports, the aim of the e-GPA system is to provide an entry point for market access and related information under the revised Agreement and serve as an information resource for governments, suppliers and other interested parties.²⁵ It was developed in close consultation with delegations so as to ensure that it corresponded with the practical needs of Parties. In prior periods, an initial version of the system (e-GPA 2.0) was completed and made publicly accessible via the WTO's website (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>) ("Phase II"). During the reporting period,

²¹ [GPA/S/2](#)

²² See, [GPA/M/79](#), paras. 3.1-3.3.

²³ [RD/GPA/113](#) (to be circulated)

²⁴ [GPA/MOD/USA/17](#) and [GPA/MOD/USA/18](#). See also Section 5.5 below.

²⁵ See, [GPA/AR/2](#), Section 2.4; [GPA/AR/1](#), section 2.2; [GPA/145](#), section 2.3; [GPA/141](#), section 2.3; [GPA/134](#), section 2.2 and [GPA/126](#), section 4.6.

further progress was made in the development of the next phase ("Phase III"). Completion of Phase III is expected to further improve the visibility and transparency of, and accessibility to, information on market access and related information as well as to facilitate the circulation of GPA notifications and the efficient administration of the Agreement by Parties and the Secretariat.

2.15. The Committee looks forward to further Phase III improvements to the e-GPA system, including the development by the Secretariat of tools to facilitate the circulation of notifications under the Agreement, to be undertaken in continuing consultation with delegations.

2.7 Decision items considered by the Committee and future work mandated by the revised GPA

2.16. During the Committee's October 2020 informal meeting, the Committee's attention was drawn to several items for decision or action that are built into the revised Agreement and/or the various related decisions that were adopted at the time that the negotiations were concluded²⁶, including:

- the requirement, in Article V:10 of the revised Agreement, that the Committee "shall review the operation and effectiveness of [Article V on developing countries] every five years";
- the requirement in Article XIX:8 that "[t]he Committee shall adopt [...] (b) indicative criteria that demonstrate the effective elimination of government control or influence over an entity's covered procurement; and criteria for determining the level of compensatory adjustment to be offered for modifications made pursuant to paragraph 1(b) and of substantially equivalent coverage under paragraph 6";
- the requirement in Article XXII:7 that "[n]ot later than the end of three years from the date of entry into force of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, adopted on 30 March 2012, [...] the Parties shall undertake further negotiations, with a view to improving this Agreement, progressively reducing and eliminating discriminatory measures, and achieving the greatest possible extension of its coverage among all Parties on the basis of mutual reciprocity, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries";
- the requirement in Article XXII:10 of the revised GPA that "[n]ot later than the end of the fifth year from the date of entry into force of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement, the Committee shall examine the applicability of Article XX:2(b) [concerning non-violation complaints]";
- the Committee's mandate pursuant to paragraph 6 of its Decision on Notification Requirements²⁷ to review, within four years of the Decision's adoption, the operation and effectiveness of the Decision, and to make any necessary adjustments; and
- the requirements related to Work Programmes of the Committee, including paragraphs 2 and 3 of its Decision on Adoption of Work Programmes²⁸ to develop the scope and timetable for each such work programme (mentioned in that Decision) and to periodically review the list of programmes and make appropriate adjustments.

2.17. The Committee agrees to return to these items as and when appropriate.

²⁶ [RD/GPA/113](#) (to be circulated)

²⁷ [GPA/113](#), Annex A, Appendix 2, pp 436-437.

²⁸ [GPA/113](#), Annex B, Appendix 2, pp 438.

3 ACCESSIONS TO THE AGREEMENT AND OBSERVERSHIPS IN THE COMMITTEE

3.1 Accessions to the Agreement²⁹

3.1. The Committee continues to attach great weight to its work on pending and future accessions to the Agreement, as this would further expand the geographical scope of covered market access commitments and underscore the importance of the systemic aspects of the Agreement, including with regard to transparency and good governance. Significant progress was made during the review period. Relevant developments included: (i) the adoption of a further Committee Decision adapting the timeline for the United Kingdom's accession in its own right to the Agreement after the end of the transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom; (ii) the application by Brazil for accession and the circulation of its Replies to the Checklist of Issues for Provision of Information Relating to Accession to the Revised GPA (Checklist of Issues); (iii) further deliberation on China's accession based on its sixth revised market access offer and its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues; and (iv) further discussions on the accessions of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. This Section provides additional details regarding these accessions and other developments.

3.1.1 The adoption of a further Committee decision adapting the timeline for the United Kingdom's accession in its own right to the Agreement after the end of the transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom

3.2. The United Kingdom, in June 2018, applied for accession to the GPA in its own right through a communication from the European Union. Following related discussions and written exchanges between delegations, at its formal meeting in October 2018, the Committee adopted a decision, inviting the United Kingdom to accede to the GPA in its own right on the terms agreed and within six months from the adoption of that decision, i.e. no later than 27 August 2019.³⁰ At its formal meeting in June 2019, the Committee adopted an addendum to its previous decision on this accession, which extended the period for submission of the United Kingdom's instrument of accession by six months, until 27 February 2020, and also reflected the consequential changes arising from the entry into force of the GPA for Australia.³¹

3.3. In February 2020, the European Union circulated a communication, informing the Committee that, as of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom was no longer a member State of the European Union and that the European Union and the United Kingdom had concluded a Withdrawal Agreement, which provides for a transition period during which European Union Law will apply to and in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is consequently bound by the GPA until the date of expiry of the transition period, as acknowledged in the Committee's Decision adopted in October 2018.

3.4. In February 2020, the United Kingdom circulated a written notice requesting observer status in the Committee. It joined the Committee's meetings in that capacity since the February 2020 formal meeting. In the light of the expiry of the period for submission of the United Kingdom's instrument of accession by six months on 27 February 2020, and as foreseen the Committee's Decision adopted in October 2018, in March 2020, the United Kingdom circulated its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues. In March 2020, the United Kingdom circulated a communication inviting the Committee to review its updated Replies to the Checklist and consider a further appropriate decision in due course according to the Committee's previous decisions on this accession to allow it to accede to the Agreement at the end of the transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom. Written exchanges on the updated Replies to the Checklist were conducted between the United Kingdom and Parties.

3.5. In April 2020, the Chair sent a communication to delegations, initiating consultations, through a written procedure, regarding an appropriate Committee decision to ensure that the United Kingdom can be a Party to the GPA in its own right at the expiry of the transition period, which is set to end

²⁹ An overview of Committee documents related to each accession is contained in the Secretariat's note entitled "Systematic Compilation of Documents Concerning Individual GPA Accession Processes" ([GPA/S/1/Rev.1](#)). Detailed information on the Committee's discussions of these accessions during the reporting period can be found in relevant Minutes and Summaries of Discussions that were circulated ([GPA/M/78](#), [GPA/M/79](#), [GPA/M/80](#), [RD/GPA/100](#), [RD/GPA/107](#), and [RD/GPA/112](#)).

³⁰ [GPA/CD/2](#)

³¹ [GPA/CD/2/Add.1](#)

on 31 December 2020. Subsequently, inputs were circulated to the Committee by two Parties. Based on those written inputs and informal consultations and upon the instruction of the Chair, in June 2020, the Secretariat circulated an informal draft Committee decision for Parties' comments. In July 2020, a revised version of the draft decision was circulated by the Secretariat to reflect delegations' comments and inputs that had been received.

3.6. At its October 2020 formal meeting, the Committee adopted its further decision adapting the timeline for the United Kingdom's accession in its own right to the Agreement after the end of the transition period agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

3.7. The Committee, once again, congratulates the United Kingdom on the successful adoption of the further decision and thanks the United Kingdom and all Parties for their constructive engagement throughout the process. The Committee invites the United Kingdom to deposit its instrument of accession within the timeframe set by the Decision.

3.1.2 Application by Brazil for accession and circulation of its Replies to the Checklist of Issues

3.8. In May 2020, Brazil submitted its application for accession to the GPA. At the Committee's July 2020 formal meeting, Brazil made a statement about its application for accession, saying that the application was in line with Brazil's national objectives of deeper and wider integration into the international economy and improved public governance, and that its procurement system was already open and transparent in general. In October 2020, Brazil circulated its Replies to the Checklist of Issues and an informal English translation of its government procurement laws and regulations. In the course of the Committee's October 2020 informal meeting, Brazil stated that its legislation was solid and overall compliant with the GPA principles and rules and indicated that it was working on an initial market access offer and would submit it by the end of 2020. Parties warmly welcomed Brazil's application and expressed their appreciation of Brazil's circulation of relevant documents. They also indicated their readiness to engage with Brazil to move this accession process forward.

3.9. The Committee welcomes and appreciates Brazil's submission of its application for accession to the Agreement and circulation of its Replies to the Checklist of Issues and its government procurement laws and regulations. It notes that the application is historic and systemically significant. Brazil's accession, when achieved, will be the first from Latin America and will raise interest in the GPA among countries in the region and beyond. The Committee looks forward to receiving Brazil's initial market access offer by the end of 2020.

3.1.3 Further discussions on China's accession based on its sixth revised market access offer and its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues

3.10. China applied for accession to the GPA in December 2007, honouring its commitment to initiate GPA accession negotiations made in the context of its accession to the WTO in 2001. Its initial market access offer was circulated to the Committee in January 2008. Since then, several further offers have been circulated by China. Discussions dedicated to China's accession have taken place on multiple occasions in the Committee. China's latest market access offer, i.e. the sixth revised offer, was circulated in October 2019, and its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues were circulated in June 2020.

3.11. During the reporting period, continuing dialogue took place on this accession at the Committee's February, July and October 2020 informal meetings. At the Committee's July 2020 meeting, China made a presentation on its government procurement regime and its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues as well as gave a brief update on the progress on the revision of its Bid Invitation and Bidding Law. China stated that its government procurement regime ensures openness, transparency, fair competition, impartiality and integrity. At the Committee's October 2020 meeting, China provided clarifications to questions of common interest and concern to Parties and reiterated that it considered its sixth revised offer to be a comprehensive and ambitious one that was already on the whole commensurate with those of GPA Parties. In the course of those discussions, Parties expressed their appreciation for China's submission of the sixth revised market access offer and its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues. Parties indicated that they would need more time to

carefully review those documents and submit written questions and comments. They also referred to remaining concerns previously expressed.

3.12. The Committee takes note with appreciation of China's submission of its updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues and its informative presentations on relevant developments. The Committee encourages Parties to provide written questions and comments on China's submissions at their earliest convenience. It hopes that productive discussions based on those submissions can be carried out in 2021 to keep the positive momentum and to move China's accession forward. The Committee remains of the view that China's GPA accession, on mutually agreeable and appropriate terms, would be significant for the Agreement, for the WTO, and for the world economy, and that it would send a strong signal for other emerging economies.

3.1.4 Further discussions on the accessions of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan

3.1.4.1 Kazakhstan

3.13. As part of its terms of accession to the WTO in 2015, Kazakhstan expressed its intention to join the GPA and committed that it "would initiate negotiations by tabling an Appendix 1 offer within four years after [WTO] accession". In October 2016, Kazakhstan was granted observer status in the Committee. In November 2019, Kazakhstan submitted its application for accession to the GPA.

3.14. At the Committee's February and October 2020 meetings, Kazakhstan highlighted the ongoing internal work to reform and align its government procurement system with GPA requirements and international best practices. It indicated that an initial market access offer and the Replies to the Checklist of Issues were under preparation. Kazakhstan indicated that following interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, relevant work had recently been reinvigorated with the hope that the documents could be circulated for Parties' consideration in the near future.

3.15. The Committee welcomes and appreciates Kazakhstan's submission of its application for accession to the Agreement in keeping with its commitment undertaken in the course of its WTO accession, and encourages Kazakhstan to circulate its initial market access offer and its Replies to the Checklist of Issues as soon as possible so that meaningful progress on this accession can be made in 2021.

3.1.4.2 The Kyrgyz Republic

3.16. The Kyrgyz Republic applied for accession to the GPA in May 1999, honouring its commitment to initiate GPA accession negotiations, made in the course of its accession to the WTO in 1998. Following a period of minimal activity, work on this accession was resumed in January 2016 with the circulation of the Kyrgyz Republic's Law on Public Procurement and a revised and updated market access offer. In June 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic circulated its fourth revised market access offer. This offer was discussed at the Committee's 2018 and 2019 meetings.

3.17. During the reporting period, further discussions based on the fourth revised offer were held at the Committee's February, July and October 2020 meetings. In the course of those discussions, the Kyrgyz Republic indicated that its fourth revised offer had taken into account the remarks and inputs of Parties in a serious manner and had ensured full coverage of goods, services and construction services by procuring entities at the central and sub-central levels. It also said that amendments had been introduced to the Law on Public Procurement in the past three years and that continuing efforts were under way in this regard. A high-level inter-agency working group had been established at the beginning of 2020 to work on a further revised offer. The COVID-19 pandemic had posed significant difficulties in moving forward with the process. Nonetheless, GPA accession remained an important priority for the Kyrgyz Republic. The Parties welcomed the engagement and continued interest of the Kyrgyz Republic in joining the GPA and reiterated their remaining concerns about both the market access offer and the legislation, in particular, the price preference programme and the transition period.

3.18. The Committee encourages the Kyrgyz Republic to circulate a further revised offer as soon as possible. It looks forward to further discussions, hopefully with a capital-based delegation of the

Kyrgyz Republic, at the upcoming meetings, with the aim of concluding this accession as soon as practically possible, subject to mutually satisfactory outcomes.

3.1.4.3 North Macedonia

3.19. Pursuant to a commitment that it undertook in the course of its WTO accession in 2002, North Macedonia applied for GPA accession in March 2017. Its draft procurement law and replies to the Checklist of Issues were circulated in March 2017. Its initial market access offer was circulated in February 2018 and was discussed at the Committee's subsequent meetings held in 2018 and 2019. In the course of those discussions, Parties expressed their overall strong support for this accession, while some also reiterated outstanding concerns regarding the approach to be followed. At the Committee's June 2019 meeting, North Macedonia informed the Committee that its new public procurement law had entered into effect as of 1 April 2019. The law made a clear reference to the GPA and incorporated the principle of equal treatment of all economic operators, both domestic and foreign.

3.20. During the reporting period, North Macedonia and relevant Parties continued their efforts to bring this accession to conclusion. However, no significant progress has been made towards bridging the gaps. At the Committee's July 2020 informal meeting, North Macedonia reiterated its continued interest in acceding to the GPA as a matter of priority. In addition, it reported to the Committee that negotiation of North Macedonia's accession to the European Union had been officially initiated. Parties appreciated North Macedonia's continued efforts to join the GPA and expressed their willingness to continue the engagement with North Macedonia. A couple of Parties reiterated outstanding concerns regarding the approach to be followed for this accession.

3.21. The Committee welcomes the engagement shown by North Macedonia in pursuing its GPA accession, encourages North Macedonia and those Parties with particular concerns regarding its proposed terms of accession to work together in the spirit of pragmatism to resolve these concerns, and hopes that this accession can be concluded as promptly as possible.

3.1.4.4 The Russian Federation

3.22. The Russian Federation applied for accession to the GPA in August 2016, honouring its commitment to initiate GPA accession negotiations made in the context of its accession to the WTO in 2012. Its initial market access offer was circulated in June 2017 and its Replies to the Checklist of Issues together with its government procurement law were circulated in January 2018. In September 2018, the Russian Federation circulated an edited initial market access offer and edited Replies to the Checklist of Issues. Dedicated discussions on the Russian Federation's accession were held based on the above documents during the Committee's 2017, 2018 and 2019 meetings. Written exchanges were also made between the Russian Federation and relevant Parties.

3.23. During the reporting period, continued dialogue took place regarding this accession at the Committee's February, July and October 2020 informal meetings. In the course of those discussions, the Russian Federation reported on work taking place internally to revise its legislation on government procurement. It also indicated that it was continuing to work on possible improvements to its initial market access, including engaging local authorities in securing possible coverage of subcentral government entities. Parties welcomed the Russian Federation's updates and engagement. They stressed the need for significant further improvements in the Russian Federation's proposed coverage as a basis for further constructive discussion. One Party expressed its concern about recent restrictions in the Russian Federation's legislation on the purchase of foreign products. Some delegations reiterated their positions on the geographical coverage of relevant documents circulated by the Russian Federation.

3.24. The Committee considers that the Russian Federation's accession would be significant for the Agreement and would benefit the Russian Federation, the WTO and the world economy. It hopes that a revised market access offer responding to the Parties' requests will be circulated as soon as possible and looks forward to continued dialogue on the Russian Federation's accession to the GPA in 2021.

3.1.4.5 Tajikistan

3.25. Tajikistan applied for accession to the GPA in February 2015, to honour its commitment to initiate GPA accession negotiations made in the context of its accession to the WTO in March 2013. Dedicated discussions on Tajikistan's accession were held at the Committee's meetings in 2015 and 2016. Tajikistan's fourth revised offer was circulated in February 2017 and was discussed at the Committee's 2017, 2018 and 2019 informal meetings. Regarding its legislation and the government procurement system, Tajikistan's draft law on public procurement was circulated in September 2015 and replies to the Checklist of Issues followed in November 2015. Subsequently, written exchanges on the draft law and the replies to the Checklist of Issues were conducted between Parties and Tajikistan. At the Committee's meetings in 2018, Tajikistan indicated that the new law was at the final stages of adoption.

3.26. During the reporting period, Tajikistan circulated its fifth revised market access offer in January 2020. At the Committee's February and July 2020 informal meetings, Parties expressed their remaining concerns mainly about the price preference programme contained in Tajikistan's latest offer and invited Tajikistan to submit a further revised offer to address those concerns. One Party circulated its written comments on the offer. Tajikistan reiterated its full commitment to accede to the GPA and indicated that Parties' concerns were under review by relevant authorities. Regarding the legislation, the new Law on Government Procurement was under consideration by the government. Tajikistan would seek the possibility to conclude its GPA accession process subject to progress that can be made.

3.27. The Committee encourages Tajikistan to continue engaging with Parties and to submit a further revised offer as soon as possible to address Parties' remaining concerns. It looks forward to concluding the accession process on a mutually satisfactory basis in the course of 2021.

3.1.5 Other pending accessions

3.28. During the reporting period, the Committee also kept under review the status of other pending GPA accessions and accession commitments. Apart from the above-mentioned accessions, four other WTO Members have formally initiated work on their respective accessions to the Agreement: Albania, Georgia, Jordan, and Oman. A further four WTO Members have provisions regarding accession to the Agreement in their respective Protocols of Accession to the WTO: Afghanistan, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Seychelles.

3.29. At the Committee's February 2020 informal meeting, Afghanistan, Albania, Georgia and Seychelles updated the Committee on their respective domestic developments.

3.30. Afghanistan reported ongoing domestic efforts to revise its legislation and to reform its government procurement system. It indicated that the Authority was preparing itself for, and acquiring the necessary knowledge on, initiating the GPA accession process, including crafting the initial market access offer.

3.31. Albania introduced the main features of its government procurement system and indicated that a strategic framework for public procurement and a new Law on Public Procurement were expected to be adopted in 2020. Albania also noted that it is also a candidate for European Union membership and that it is, therefore, following with special interest the ongoing GPA accession negotiations of North Macedonia. Albania stood ready to work constructively with all Parties and the Secretariat on its GPA accession process.

3.32. Georgia updated the Committee on major legislative developments in Georgia's public procurement system. First, the government procurement provisions of the Georgia-EFTA FTA, which are primarily based on the GPA, are fully enforceable in Georgia. Second, draft amendments to the Public Procurement Law to establish an independent and impartial administrative review body were submitted to the Parliament of Georgia for adoption. Third, the draft Law on Public Procurement that would ensure full approximation of Georgia's public procurement regime with relevant European Union directives had been prepared and would be submitted to the Parliament soon. Domestic work was underway to re-activate Georgia's stalled GPA accession negotiations.

3.33. Seychelles informed the Committee that it was reviewing its Public Procurement Act and was in consultation with national stakeholders to prepare itself for eventual GPA accession. The review process was not expected to be completed before 2021. Seychelles hoped to accede to the GPA in good time and in the most orderly manner.

3.34. Mongolia, in its January 2020 letter to the Chair, shared information on its domestic efforts to update its government procurement law and to coordinate further regarding GPA accession.

3.35. The Committee welcomes the updates provided and notes that some of the commitments mentioned have been outstanding for a considerable period of time. It hopes to see engagement or, where appropriate, a commencement of work, in 2021. Technical assistance to support such work is available, where appropriate, from the WTO Secretariat, individual GPA Parties, regional donors and other sources. Relevant WTO Members are invited and encouraged to seek such assistance, as appropriate.

3.2 Observership in the Committee

3.36. The United Kingdom and Côte d'Ivoire joined the Committee as observers in February 2020 and July 2020, respectively.³² As of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom has no longer been a member State of the European Union. Although the United Kingdom is still bound by the GPA during the transition period according to the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, the United Kingdom would not be able to participate in the Committee's meetings in its own capacity without GPA membership or observership. To address this issue, in February 2019, the United Kingdom circulated a written notice requesting observer status in the Committee. At the Committee's July and October 2020 meetings, Côte d'Ivoire made statements on its domestic efforts to reform its government procurement system and to enhance transparency, accountability and competition. The Committee noted that Côte d'Ivoire is the third GPA observer from Africa, following Cameroon and Seychelles, and hoped that this latest positive development would provide encouragement to other African countries to do the same.

3.37. The Committee remains of the view that observership in the Committee is useful for WTO Members that are not yet GPA Parties to get familiar with the Agreement, to follow the Committee's work and to learn international best practices in the area of government procurement, while not undertaking any obligations contained in the GPA. It also notes that observership in the Committee does not imply any commitment to accede to the Agreement in the future, unless such a commitment has been undertaken in another context. The Committee warmly encourages all WTO Members without GPA membership or observership in the Committee to consider becoming observers to the Committee and participating in it as such.

3.3 Secretariat technical assistance and other activities relevant to GPA accessions

3.38. Pursuant to a standing request by the Committee³³, the Secretariat in the course of the Committee's February 2020 meeting provided a report on its technical assistance (TA) activities relevant to GPA accessions. These consisted of a regional workshop held for the benefit of Caribbean economies in February 2020³⁴ and two national workshops organised for China in January 2020³⁵ and for Aruba in February 2020³⁶, respectively. The Secretariat also participated as a cooperating partner in the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and Caribbean/Inter-American Development Bank's Advanced Online Training Course on Government Procurement and Trade for senior officials from Mercosur countries in July 2020. Additionally, the Secretariat experts participated, upon invitation, in a number of relevant activities organised by other international organizations.³⁷

³² For details, see [GPA/M/78](#), paras. 2.1 et seq., and [GPA/M/79](#), paras. 1.1 et seq.

³³ [GPA/106](#), para. 30.

³⁴ This event benefitted from inputs from the EBRD, the UNCITRAL Secretariat, the CARICOM Secretariat, the IADB and various international and national experts.

³⁵ This event benefitted from inputs from the EBRD, the World Bank and the Open Contracting Partnership.

³⁶ This event benefitted from inputs from the EBRD and international and national experts.

³⁷ These included: (i) the EBRD UNCITRAL Public Procurement Initiative, EBRD GPA TC Facility and EBRD Open Government Lab Planning Workshop for 2020, UK, January 2020; (ii) the ITCILO Master in Public

3.39. The Secretariat expects to deliver the fourth edition of its flagship Advanced Global Workshop on the Plurilateral WTO Agreement on Government Procurement in December 2020. This e-workshop aims to familiarize participants with the objectives, content and benefits of the revised GPA and policy-related issues on international government procurement, good governance, and inclusive and sustainable development.

3.40. Two regional events for Anglophone African countries and Asia-Pacific economies that had been planned for 2020 were postponed due to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.41. Regarding other activities, on 18 November 2020, the Secretariat organized its first-ever briefing session, in a virtual format, for new delegates to the Committee to help them prepare for and make full use of meetings of the Committee.

3.42. The Committee notes the importance of the Secretariat's technical assistance activities in promoting a better understanding of the GPA among WTO Members that are not yet Parties to the Agreement, and in facilitating observerships and accessions to and post-accession implementation of the Agreement, even in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. It appreciates the role that notably the EBRD has played in supporting work on GPA accession by countries within its area of operations. It welcomes, also, the growing cooperation between the Secretariat and donor and other partner organizations.

4 THE COMMITTEE'S AGREED WORK PROGRAMMES

4.1. The Committee undertook work during the review period in relation to its agreed Work Programmes.³⁸ The Work Programmes are intended to: (i) promote transparency with respect to Parties' implementation of the Agreement, (ii) facilitate, where relevant, improvements in the administration of the Agreement, and (iii) contribute, where appropriate, to preparations for the future negotiations that are called for in Article XXII:7 of the revised GPA. During the reporting period, relevant activity focused on the Work Programmes on Sustainable Procurement; the Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data; and SMEs. In each case, progress was facilitated by discussions in informal small groups, the results of which were subsequently reported to the Committee as a whole. More detailed information on the Committee's discussions of these Work Programmes during the reporting period can be found in relevant Summaries of Discussions that were circulated.³⁹

4.1 Work Programme on Sustainable Procurement

4.2. Regarding the Work Programme on Sustainable Procurement, paragraph 2 of the relevant Decision⁴⁰ mandates that the Committee examine topics that include (i) the objectives of sustainable procurement, (ii) the ways in which the concept of sustainable procurement is integrated into national and sub-national procurement policies, and (iii) how sustainable procurement can be practised in a manner consistent with the principle of "best value for money", and with the Parties' international trade obligations. Paragraph 3 of the Decision provides that the Committee shall "identify measures and policies that it considers to be sustainable procurement practiced in a manner consistent with the principle of 'best value for money' and with Parties' international trade obligations and prepare a report that lists the best practices of the measures and policies".

4.3. Since the initiation of this Work Programme in 2014, significant work has been undertaken by the Committee.⁴¹ In 2019, the Committee agreed, in small-group format, to pause work, for the time being, on the drafting of a final report in order to further examine measures and policies related to social considerations in government procurement. The small-group discussions continued on the

Procurement, Geneva, February 2020; and (iii) the webinar "Far from gender balance? Women-led businesses in public procurement market", virtual, July 2020. The Secretariat was also represented at virtual meetings organized by other international organizations, including the UNFSS "Academic Advisory Councils" Report on Scaling Up VSS through Sustainable Public Procurement and Trade Policy, hybrid mode of delivery, June 2020; UNCITRAL Virtual Panel Series on UNCITRAL Texts and COVID-19 Response and Recovery, July 2020 and the OECD Working Party meeting of the Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement, October 2020.

³⁸ See Annexes C, D, E, F and G of Appendix 2 of the Committee's Decision of 30 March 2012 on the Outcomes of the Negotiations ([GPA/113](#)).

³⁹ [RD/GPA/102](#) and [RD/GPA/111](#)

⁴⁰ See [GPA/113](#), Annex E of Appendix 2, p. 444.

⁴¹ For details, see [GPA/AR/1](#), paras. 4.2 et seq., and [GPA/AR/2](#), paras. 4.2 et seq.

basis of an informal reflection paper that identified areas and potential questions for further examination.

4.4. During the reporting period, work continued, in a small-group format, on the basis of written submissions by Parties to questions related to the theme of "Defining the objectives of social procurement" (Area 1 of the informal reflection paper). Additionally, work was initiated on the theme of "Translating the concept of social procurement into national measures and policies" (Area 2 of the informal reflection paper), and Parties were invited to provide informal written submissions to questions under this second theme.

4.2 Work Programme on Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data

4.5. Regarding the Work Programme on Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data, paragraph 1 of the relevant Decision⁴² calls for the Committee to (i) review the collection and reporting of statistical data by the Parties, (ii) consider the potential of harmonizing them, and (iii) prepare a report of the results. Since the initiation of this Work Programme, significant work has been undertaken by the Committee.⁴³

4.6. During the period under review, work continued, in a small-group format, on the basis of a position paper that identified possible options for moving the Work Programme forward and had been circulated in June 2019. In the course of the small-group meeting that took place on the margins of the Committee's February 2020 meetings, the European Union delivered a presentation on its Tender Electronic Daily (TED) system and its new eForms to the small group.

4.3 Work Programme on SMEs

4.7. Concerning the Work Programme on SMEs, paragraph 1 of the relevant Decision⁴⁴ provides that the Committee shall review measures and policies for SMEs that the Parties use to assist, promote, encourage or facilitate participation by SMEs in government procurement and prepare a report of the results of the review. Since the initiation of this Work Programme in 2014, the Committee has conducted significant work.⁴⁵

4.8. Taking forward the work on this Work Programme during the period under review, the small-group discussions initially continued on the basis of a draft final report. In February 2020, the Committee agreed, in small-group format, to pause work, for the time being, on the draft final report, and to explore new avenues to continue the work under this Work Programme. A concept paper was circulated in June 2020 by the Co-chairs, which contained questions on actions that could be taken in order to continue and even enhance the mutual learning process established in the small group. A second concept note was circulated by the Co-chairs in September 2020.

4.4 Other Work Programmes

4.9. Paragraph 1 of the Decision establishing the Work Programme on Exclusions and Restrictions in Parties' Annexes provides that the Committee shall initiate a Work Programme with the overall objectives of (i) enhancing transparency with respect to the scope and effect of exclusions and restrictions specified in Parties' Annexes, and (ii) providing information relating to exclusions and restrictions to facilitate negotiations provided for in Article XXII:7 of the revised GPA. Since the initiation of the Work Programme on Exclusions and Restrictions in Parties' Annexes in 2014, the Committee undertook significant work and the Committee considers that the exchange of information already conducted pursuant to this Work Programme has been useful.⁴⁶

4.10. More generally, with respect to all of the Work Programmes discussed above, the Committee considers that its work has been useful in enhancing transparency on Parties' practices and as a contribution to preparations for the eventual further renegotiation of the Agreement that is called

⁴² See [GPA/113](#), Annex D of Appendix 2, pp. 442-443.

⁴³ For details, see [GPA/AR/1](#), paras. 4.5 et seq., and [GPA/AR/2](#), paras. 4.4 et seq.

⁴⁴ See [GPA/113](#), Annex C of Appendix 2, pp. 439-441.

⁴⁵ For details, see [GPA/AR/1](#), paras. 4.7 et seq., and [GPA/AR/2](#), paras. 4.6 et seq.

⁴⁶ For details, see [GPA/AR/1](#), paras. 8.8 et seq.; [GPA/AR/1](#), paras. 4.11 et seq., as well as [GPA/141](#), para. 4.4., and [GPA/145](#) para. 4.3.

for in Article XXII:7 of the revised Agreement. It looks forward to further engagement, as appropriate, on these Work Programmes in 2021.

4.11. Other Work Programmes foreseen at the conclusion of the GPA renegotiation in 2012, for example on (i) Safety Standards in International Procurement, (ii) Review of the Use, Transparency and the Legal Frameworks of Public-Private Partnerships, and their Relationship to Covered Procurement, (iii) the Advantages and Disadvantages of Developing Common Nomenclature for Goods and Services, and (iv) the Advantages and Disadvantages of Developing Standardized Notices⁴⁷, will be taken up as and when the Committee considers this to be useful and timely. Similarly, regarding the possibility, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Decision on Adoption of Work Programmes⁴⁸, to periodically review the list of work programmes and make appropriate adjustments, the Committee will avail itself of this possibility if and when it considers this to be useful and timely.

5 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT

5.1. This Section of the Report summarizes information relating to the notifications under the Agreement, including with respect to (i) the thresholds applicable under the Agreement, (ii) the notification of national implementing legislation, (iii) statistical reporting, (iv) consultations and dispute settlement, and (v) modifications to the Agreement's Appendices.

5.2. The Committee takes note of the notifications made in the course of the reporting period and encourages delegations that have not yet provided relevant notifications to do so as soon as possible.

5.1 Thresholds

5.3. In accordance with the Decision on Modalities for Notifying Threshold Figures in National Currencies⁴⁹, since the last Annual Report, fourteen Parties (Australia, Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Netherlands with respect to Aruba, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, Ukraine, and the United States) provided information on their respective threshold figures expressed in national currencies (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: The Thresholds in Appendix I of the Agreement as Expressed in National Currencies

Party	Symbol	Date	Period of validity
Australia	GPA/THR/AUS/2	08/01/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Canada	GPA/THR/CAN/2	24/01/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
European Union	GPA/THR/EU/2	19/12/2019	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Israel	GPA/THR/ISR/3	27/02/2020	From 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021
Japan	GPA/THR/JPN/2 (revised GPA) GPA/THR/JPN/2/Add.1 (1994 GPA)	12/02/2020	From 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2022
Liechtenstein	GPA/THR/LIE/2	08/01/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Moldova, Republic of	GPA/THR/MDA/1 GPA/THR/MDA/2	19/11/2020	From 15/07/2018 to 31/12/2019 From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Netherlands with respect to Aruba	GPA/THR/ABW/1 and GPA/THR/ABW/1/Rev.1 GPA/THR/ABW/2 and GPA/THR/ABW/2/Rev.1	27/04/2020	From 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019 From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Norway	GPA/THR/NOR/2	17/02/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Singapore	GPA/THR/SGP/2	04/03/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Switzerland	GPA/THR/CHE/2	07/01/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
Chinese Taipei	GPA/THR/TPKM/2	23/11/2020	From 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2022
Ukraine	GPA/THR/UKR/2	14/05/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021
United States	GPA/THR/USA/2	08/01/2020	From 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2021

⁴⁷ See [GPA/113](#), Annex G, and [GPA/113](#), Annex B, respectively.

⁴⁸ [GPA/113](#), Appendix 2, Annex B, pp. 438.

⁴⁹ [GPA/1](#), Annex 3.

5.2 Notification of national implementing legislation

5.4. Pursuant to Article XXII:5 of the revised Agreement⁵⁰, two Parties (Montenegro and Ukraine) submitted notifications of domestic legislation relevant to the Agreement (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: National Implementing Legislation

Party	Symbol	Date
Montenegro	GPA/LEGIS/MNE/1	26/11/2020
Ukraine	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/1	15/04/2020
	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/2	15/04/2020
	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/3	15/04/2020
	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/4	05/05/2020
	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/5	19/05/2020

5.3 Statistical reporting

5.5. Article XVI:4 of the revised GPA⁵¹ requires Parties to collect and provide, on an annual basis, statistics on their procurements covered by the Agreement. During the period under review, ten Parties (Canada, the European Union, Hong Kong, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, and the United States) provided statistical reports (see Table 3 below).

Table 3: Statistics on Procurements Covered by the Agreement

Party	Symbol	Date	Legal Basis	Period covered
Canada	GPA/137/Add.13 GPA/142/Add.14	16/06/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2015 2016
European Union	GPA/130/Add.10 GPA/137/Add.12 GPA/142/Add.13	21/02/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2014 2015 2016
Hong Kong, China	GPA/STAT(19)/HKG/1	28/07/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2019
Japan	GPA/STAT(18)/JPN/1	15/04/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2017
Korea, Republic of	GPA/STAT(18)/KOR/1	05/11/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2018
Moldova, Republic of	GPA/STAT(17)/MDA/1 GPA/STAT(18)/MDA/1 GPA/STAT(19)/MDA/1	20/11/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2017 2018 2019
Singapore	GPA/STAT(17)/SGP/1 GPA/STAT(18)/SGP/1	04/03/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2017 2018
Switzerland	GPA/STAT(19)/CHE/1	28/10/2020	Art. XIX:5 of the Agreement (1994)	2019
Chinese Taipei	GPA/STAT(19)/TPKM/1	12/05/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2019
United States	GPA/123/Add.8/Rev.1	14/02/2020	Art. XIX:5 of the Agreement (1994)	2013
	GPA/130/Add.11	25/11/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2014
	GPA/STAT(18)/USA/1	25/11/2020	Art. XVI:4 of the revised GPA	2018

5.4 Consultations and dispute settlement

5.6. No matters were raised during the reporting period under Article XX of the revised Agreement⁵² (Consultations and Dispute Settlement).

⁵⁰ See also Article XXIV:5(b) of the 1994 Agreement.

⁵¹ See also Article XIX:5 of the 1994 Agreement.

⁵² See also Article XXII of the 1994 Agreement.

5.5 Notifications relating to the Appendices to the Agreement⁵³

5.5.1 Notifications relating to Appendix I of the Agreement

5.7. Since the last Annual Report, four Parties (the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Ukraine and the United States) notified proposed modifications to Appendix I of the revised Agreement pursuant to Article XIX:1 of the revised Agreement and Article XXIV:6 of the 1994 Agreement (see Table 4: Modifications to Appendix I Notified under Article XIX:1 of the revised Agreement and Table 5: Modifications to Appendix I Notified under Article XXIV:6 of the 1994 Agreement).

Table 4: Modifications to Appendix I Notified under Article XIX:1 of the revised Agreement

Party proposing modifications	Proposed Modifications		Certification		Status and Remarks
	Doc Symbol	Date	Effective Date	Symbol	
Korea, Republic of	GPA/MOD/KOR/21	12/11/2020			Outstanding. The end of the objection period will be on 27 December 2020
Singapore	GPA/MOD/SGP/9	09/09/2020	29/10/2020	WT/Let/1476	The proposed modification has become effective, as no objection was received within 45 days.
Ukraine	GPA/MOD/UKR/2	26/11/2020			Outstanding. The end of the objection period will be on 10 January 2021.
United States	GPA/MOD/USA/18	27/11/2020			Outstanding. The end of the objection period will be on 11 January 2021.

Table 4: Modifications to Appendix I Notified under Article XXIV:6 of the 1994 Agreement

Party proposing modifications	Proposed Modifications		Certification		Status and Remarks
	Doc Symbol	Date	Effective Date	Symbol	
Singapore	GPA/MOD/SGP/8	09/09/2020	13/10/2020	WT/Let/1474	The proposed modification has become effective, as no objection was received within 30 days.
United States	GPA/MOD/USA/17	27/11/2020			Outstanding. The end of the objection period will be on 27 December 2020.

5.5.2 Notifications relating to Appendices II to IV of the Agreement

5.8. During the reporting period, there were no notifications relating to Appendices II to IV of the Agreement.

⁵³ See also [GPA/W/326](#) - Committee on Government Procurement - Approval and issuance of updated loose-leaf schedules to the revised Agreement - Note from the Secretariat; and [GPA/W/327](#) - Committee on Government Procurement - Certification of updated loose-leaf schedules to the revised Agreement - Appendices II-IV - Note from the Secretariat.