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REPORT (2022) OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1. This Annual Report is issued pursuant to Article IV:8 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and 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 "Agreement" or "GPA 2012"). 1,2
- 2. This Report covers the period since the Committee's previous Annual Report (2021)³, i.e. from the beginning of November 2021 to the beginning of December 2022. The Committee had tentatively planned meetings for 9 March, 15 June, and 19 October 2022, but did not proceed with any of them. The meetings did not take place because of ongoing discussions about the selection of the Committee's next Chair. As of 8 December 2022, the Committee had not reached a consensus on the Committee's next Chair.
- 3. Despite the particular circumstances related to the selection of the Committee's next Chair, during the reporting period revised market access offers were circulated with respect to accessions to the Agreement, notably those of Brazil and North Macedonia. In addition, the Dominican Republic joined the Committee as an observer, making it the first Caribbean Member to do so, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) became an international intergovernmental organization observer to the Committee. Further, during the reporting period, a number of Parties made important and timely notifications under the GPA 2012.
- 4. The remaining sections of this Report deal with the work undertaken by the Committee during the reporting period, particularly on (i) matters related to the administration, implementation, and operation of the Agreement (ii) accessions to the Agreement, (iii) the Committee's agreed Work Programmes, and (iv) notifications made pursuant to the Agreement.

2 MATTERS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT 4

2.1 Selection of the Committee's Next Chair

5. In January 2021, the Committee initiated the process for selecting its next Chair, and the Committee's then Chair (Mr Carlos Vanderloo) invited Parties to submit any nominations for the Committee's next Chair. In February 2021, he informed the Parties that two nominations had been submitted by Parties, one by the European Union and the other by Chinese Taipei. He encouraged Parties to identify the next Chair through bilateral consultations, and to facilitate the process, he organized informal consultative meetings with Parties. In May 2021, the previous Chair circulated a communication to all Parties to report back on the results of his informal consultative meetings. In May 2021, the European Union, on its own initiative, withdrew its candidate from the Chair selection process. Shortly thereafter, the Committee's then Chair organized an informal consultative meeting with Parties to discuss whether the Committee would be in a position to confirm the only remaining candidate as the Committee's next Chair. It became clear during the consultative meeting that one Party was not able to join the consensus on the remaining candidate.

¹ The following 48 WTO Members are covered by the Agreement: Armenia; Australia; Canada; the European Union, with its 27 member States (all of which are covered by the Agreement, as one party); Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; the Republic of Korea ("Korea"); Liechtenstein; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands with respect to Aruba; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu ("Chinese Taipei"); Ukraine; the United Kingdom; and the United States.

² Thirty-six WTO Members/WTO Observers have Observer status in the Committee on Government Procurement. They are Afghanistan; Albania; Argentina; the Kingdom of Bahrain; Belarus; Brazil; Cameroon; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; the Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Jordan; Kazakhstan; the Kyrgyz Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; North Macedonia; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Türkiye; and Viet Nam. Five international intergovernmental organizations, namely the EBRD, 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.

³ <u>GPA/AR/4</u>

⁴ Information concerning notifications pursuant to the Agreement is set out in Section 5 of this Report.

- 6. Further discussions on the issue of the selection of the next Chair took place at the Committee's meetings held in June⁵, and July⁶, before the then Chair stepped down on 20 July 2021, and in October 2021.7 Related discussions also took place at the General Council's meetings held in July8 and October 2021.9 In the course of these meetings, Parties continued to be unable to reach a consensus on the Committee's next Chair. The objecting Party reiterated that it was unable to join a consensus. The other Parties expressed their confidence in the process conducted by the Committee's then Chair to identify candidates and select the next Chair, and in the results of that process. They also urged the only objecting Party to reconsider its position and to join a consensus in favour of the appointment of the only remaining candidate.
- 7. During the period under review, the Parties undertook further informal consultations among each other but continued to be unable to reach a consensus on the Committee's next Chair. As there was no resolution, the Committee did not meet during the reporting period.

2.2 Procedures for the Circulation, Derestriction and Translation of GPA-related **Documents**

- 8. 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. The purpose of the Note was to clarify the operation of the relevant procedures and to facilitate their review, if desired, by the Committee, with the overall objectives of facilitating the administration of the GPA 2012 and ensuring an appropriate level of transparency for WTO Members and the general public. Discussions on the topic took place at the Committee's meetings held in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and a number of additional documents have been circulated. In particular, at the request of the Committee, the Secretariat circulated a further note, which comprises (i) a draft Committee decision concerning GPA documents to be circulated in the future; and (ii) a draft Committee decision concerning the derestriction of an initial list of historical GPA documents already circulated.10
- 9. Owing to the particular circumstances related to the selection of the Committee's next Chair, the Committee did not move forward with the adoption of the draft decisions during the reporting period.

2.3 Enhancing Information-sharing in the Committee

- 10. Reflecting the Committee's interest in exchanging views and experiences on government procurement-related issues in an appropriate format, the Committee agreed to organize workshops on two topics: (i) "How can government procurement processes be conducted in a manner that protects and advances labour standards while still respecting international trade commitments?"; and (ii) "How can digital advances support trade and competition in government procurement?".11
- 11. The Committee did not conduct the information-sharing workshops during the reporting period.

2.4 Decision Items considered by the Committee and Future Work Mandated by the **GPA 2012**

12. As noted in the previous Annual Report¹², several items for decision or action are built into the GPA 2012 and/or the various related decisions that were adopted at the time that the GPA 1994 renegotiation was concluded in 2012, including:

⁶ GPA/M/84.

⁷ RD/GPA/123 The Committee meeting was chaired by the immediate past Chair as *ad hoc* chair. Prior to the meeting, several GPA Parties had proposed him as ad hoc Chair, and it was agreed through a written procedure that he could act in that capacity and chair the meeting remotely from his new duty station.

⁸ WT/GC/M/192, paras 21.1-21.23.

⁹ WT/GC/M/193, paras 12.1-12.40.

¹⁰ RD/GPA/68/Add.3 and RD/GPA/68/Add.3/Rev.1.

¹¹ Dedicated discussions have taken place in the Committee on several occasions since 2019, see GPA/AR/2, section 2.3, and GPA/AR/3, section 2.3, and GPA/AR/4, section 2.3.

12 GPA/AR/4, section 2.7, GPA/AR/3, section 2.7, see also GPA/AR/1, section 2.3.

- the requirement, in Article V:10 of the GPA 2012, that the Committee "shall review the operation and effectiveness of [Article V on developing countries] every five years";
- the requirement in Article XIX:8 of the GPA 2012 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 of the GPA 2012 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 GPA 2012 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 Requirements¹³ 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 Programmes¹⁴ 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.
- 13. During the reporting period, no work was conducted by the Committee in relation to these items for decision or action.

2.5 Consultations and Dispute Settlement

14. No matters were raised during the reporting period under Article XX of the GPA 2012 on consultations and dispute settlement.

3 ACCESSIONS TO THE AGREEMENT, OBSERVERSHIP IN THE COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

3.1 Accessions to the Agreement

15. This Section provides details regarding accessions to the Agreement and other related developments, including observership in the Committee. The Note by the Secretariat entitled "Systematic Compilation of Documents Concerning Individual GPA Accession Processes" (GPA/S/1/Rev.5) gives a comprehensive overview of the documents relating to accessions.

3.1.1 Circulation by Brazil of Revised Market Access Offers

- 16. In May 2020, Brazil submitted its application for accession to the GPA 2012. In October 2020, Brazil circulated its Replies to the Checklist of Issues and a copy of its government procurement laws and regulations. In February 2021, Brazil circulated its initial market access offer. In October 2021, Brazil circulated a copy of its new government procurement law (Law No 14,133), which entered into force on 1 April 2021. Active discussions and engagement between Brazil and the Parties took place on various occasions.¹⁵
- 17. During the reporting period, Brazil and the Parties continued to engage actively to move this accession forward despite the particular circumstances related to the selection of the Committee's

¹³ <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex A, Appendix 2, pp. 436-437.

¹⁴ <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex B, Appendix 2, pp. 438.

¹⁵ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.2., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.2.

next Chair. Brazil at its own initiative organized two informal meetings with Parties in Geneva, and submitted a revised market access offer in November 2021 and a second revised market access offer in June 2022 (referred to by Brazil as "Final Market Access Offer"). Several Parties submitted written questions and comments regarding both market access offers and the Replies to the Checklist of Issues. Subsequently, Brazil circulated written replies to most of the questions and comments made.

3.1.2 Circulation by North Macedonia of a Revised Market Access Offer

- 18. Pursuant to a commitment that it had undertaken in the course of its WTO accession in 2002, North Macedonia applied for accession to the GPA 2012 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. Although, during those discussions, Parties expressed their overall strong support for this accession, 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 force as of 1 April 2019. It also re-confirmed its continued interest in acceding to the GPA 2012 as soon as practically possible and called on Parties to engage more actively with a view to reaching common ground.
- 19. During the reporting period, further engagement and discussions between North Macedonia and the Parties took place despite the particular circumstances related to the selection of the Committee's next Chair. In September 2022, North Macedonia circulated a revised market access offer (referred to by North Macedonia as "Final Offer"). To conclude this accession as soon as possible, in October 2022, several Parties submitted a proposal to make further progress on this accession through a written procedure.¹⁷ The Committee adopted the proposal on 31 October 2022.

3.1.3 Other Accessions

20. No work was conducted by the Committee during the reporting period in relation to the other accessions listed in this Section.

3.1.3.1 China

21. China applied for accession to the GPA 2012 in December 2007, honouring its commitment to initiate accession negotiations, which it had 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. 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. In June 2021, China circulated written replies to the Parties' comments and questions on its sixth revised offer and updated Replies to the Checklist of Issues. Discussions dedicated to China's accession have taken place on multiple occasions in the Committee.¹⁸

3.1.3.2 Kazakhstan

22. As part of its terms of accession to the WTO in 2015, Kazakhstan expressed its intention to join the GPA 2012 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 2012. In 2020, Kazakhstan indicated that its initial market access offer and Replies to the Checklist of Issues were under preparation. During Committee's meetings in June 2021, Kazakhstan informed the Committee that it would submit the Replies to the Checklist of Issues in the near future.

 $^{^{16}}$ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.3.3, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.3.1, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.4.3, and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.4.4.

¹⁷ ICN/GPA/5.

¹⁸ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.3.1, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.4, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.3, and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.3.

¹⁹ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.6, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.4.1., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.4.1.

3.1.3.3 The Kyrgyz Republic

23. The Kyrgyz Republic applied for accession to the Agreement in May 1999, honouring its commitment to initiate accession negotiations, which it had made in the course of its accession to the WTO in 1998.²⁰ 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 its third revised market access offer. In June 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic circulated its fourth revised market access offer was discussed at the Committee's 2018, 2019 and 2020 meetings. At the Committee's June 2021 meeting, the Kyrgyz Republic said that it intended to table a high-quality revised market access offer in the near future, which would take into account the comments made by Members during the Kyrgyz Republic's May 2021 Trade Policy Review.

3.1.3.4 The Russian Federation

- 24. The Russian Federation applied for accession to the GPA 2012 in August 2016, honouring its commitment to initiate accession negotiations, which it had 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. Dedicated discussions on the Russian Federation's accession were held based on the above documents during the Committee's 2017-2021 meetings.²¹
- 25. During the reporting period, no work was conducted by the Committee during the reporting period in relation to this accession. However, on 20 June 2022, fifteen Parties²² circulated a document entitled "Joint Statement on Government Procurement Implications Resulting from the Aggression by the Russian Federation Against Ukraine". The co-sponsors of the communication indicated that they "will not participate in any work related to the Russian Federation's accession" to the GPA 2012 and will "consider the process suspended".²³

3.1.3.5 Tajikistan

26. Tajikistan applied for accession to the GPA 2012 in February 2015, to honour its commitment to initiate accession negotiations, which it had made in the context of its accession to the WTO in March 2013. Discussions dedicated to Tajikistan's accession have taken place on multiple occasions since 2014.²⁴ Tajikistan circulated its fifth revised market access offer in January 2020. Some Parties expressed continuing concerns notably regarding a price preference programme in Annex 7 of the fifth revised offer. No further discussions were held and no representative from Tajikistan was present at the Committee's 2021 meetings.

3.1.3.6 Pending Accession Commitments

27. During the reporting period, the Committee also kept under review the status of other pending accessions to the GPA 2012 and accession commitments.²⁵ Apart from the above-mentioned accessions, four WTO Members have formally initiated work on their respective accessions to the Agreement: Albania; Georgia; Jordan; and Oman. A further four WTO Members have commitments regarding accession to the Agreement in their respective Protocols of Accession to the WTO: Afghanistan; Mongolia; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Seychelles.

²⁰ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.3.4, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.3.2, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.4.2., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.4.2.

²¹ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.3.4, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.3.2, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.4.4., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.4.4.

²² Australia; Canada; the European Union; Iceland; Japan; Korea; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands with respect to Aruba; New Zealand; Norway; Chinese Taipei; Ukraine; the United Kingdom, and the United States.

²³ See GPA/155. Also circulated to the WTO General Council as document WT/GC/251.

²⁴ For additional details on this accession, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.3.5, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.5.2, and <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.4.5., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.4.5.

²⁵ For additional details, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, section 3.4, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, section 3.7, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, section 3.1.5., and <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, section 3.1.5.

- 28. At the request of the Committee, the Secretary to the Committee sent letters to the aforementioned delegations on 7 October 2022 inviting them to update the Committee on their recent domestic developments and any issues affecting their respective accession progress.
- 29. Substantive written updates on recent domestic developments were received from Albania, Mongolia and Seychelles.
 - a. Albania, in a letter dated 24 October 2022, reiterated its commitment to accede to the GPA 2012. It indicated that a working group responsible for the preparation of Albania's accession to the GPA 2012 had been established (Prime Minister Order No 156 (28/09/2022)). The Public Procurement Agency (PPA) would lead the working group, the accession negotiations. The PPA also expressed its interest in receiving assistance (including technical assistance) by the WTO Secretariat with regard to the various aspects of the GPA accession process.
 - b. Mongolia, in a communication dated 27 November 2022, indicated that amendments to the Law on the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services had been adopted by its Parliament on 10 June 2022. It also indicated that its GPA accession progress was affected by the impact that the pandemic and the ensuing economic recession had had on its domestic industry.
 - c. Seychelles, in its letter dated 2 November 2022, informed the Committee that it was still in the process of reviewing its Public Procurement Act 2008 in consultation with national stakeholders. Given the circumstance following the COVID-19 pandemic, the review process had to be adjusted. A review of the internal structure of the Procurement Oversight Unit was also being undertaken. The review process was expected to be concluded by the end of 2023. Seychelles hoped that it may, in good time and in the most orderly manner, accede to the GPA 2012.

Three Members (Georgia; Jordan and Oman) did not reply to the invitation to update the Committee.

3.2 Observership in the Committee

30. During the period under review, the Dominican Republic joined the Committee as an observer, making it the first observer from the Caribbean region, and the EBRD became an international intergovernmental organization observer to the Committee.²⁶

3.3 Secretariat Technical Assistance Relevant to Accessions

31. During the period under review, members of the Secretariat delivered GPA-related presentations at various seminars, workshops and conferences convened by the Secretariat or international partner organizations. Such events included, but were not limited to, activities for: (i) China, during the China International Public Procurement Forum; (ii) Paraguay, during the International Congress on Public Procurement; and (iii) Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, during an event organized by the US Commercial Law Development Programme.

4 THE COMMITTEE'S AGREED WORK PROGRAMMES

32. The Committee's Agreed Work Programmes²⁷ are intended to: (i) promote transparency with respect to Parties' implementation of the GPA 2012, (ii) facilitate, where relevant, improvements in the administration of the GPA 2012, and (iii) contribute, where appropriate, to preparations for the future negotiations that are called for in Article XXII:7 of the GPA 2012.

4.1 Active Work Programmes

33. In recent years, relevant activity focused on the Work Programmes on Sustainable Procurement; the Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data; and SMEs. Owing to the particular

²⁶ <u>GPA/156</u> and <u>GPA/157</u>.

 $^{^{27}}$ 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 ($\frac{GPA}{113}$).

circumstances related to the selection of the Committee's next Chair, no work was conducted by the Committee during the reporting period in relation to these Work Programmes.

4.1.1 Work Programme on Sustainable Procurement

- 34. Regarding the Work Programme on Sustainable Procurement, paragraph 2 of the relevant Decision 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".²⁸
- 35. Since the initiation of this Work Programme in 2014, significant work has been undertaken by the Committee.²⁹ 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.

4.1.2 Work Programme on Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data

36. Regarding the Work Programme on Collection and Reporting of Statistical Data, paragraph 1 of the relevant Decision 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.³⁰ Since the initiation of this Work Programme in 2014, significant work has been undertaken by the Committee.³¹

4.1.3 Work Programme on SMEs

- 37. Concerning the Work Programme on SMEs, paragraph 1 of the relevant Decision 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.³²
- 38. Since the initiation of this Work Programme in 2014, the Committee has conducted significant work.³³ 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.

4.1.4 Other Work Programmes

39. 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 GPA 2012. 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.³⁴

²⁸ <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex E of Appendix 2, p. 444.

²⁹ For details, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, paras. 4.2 et seq.

³⁰ See <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex D of Appendix 2, pp. 442-443.

³¹ For details, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, paras. 4.5 et seq.

³² See <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex C of Appendix 2, pp. 439-441.

 $^{^{33}}$ For details, see <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, paras. 4.7 et seq., <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, paras. 4.6 et seq., <u>GPA/AR/3</u> and <u>GPA/AR/4</u> paras. 4.7 et seq.

³⁴ For details, see <u>GPA/141</u>, para. 4.4., <u>GPA/145</u> para. 4.3., <u>GPA/AR/1</u>, paras. 4.11 et seq., <u>GPA/AR/2</u>, paras. 4.8 et seq., and <u>GPA/AR/3</u>, paras. 4.9 et seq. <u>GPA/AR/4</u>, para 4.19.

40. 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 Notices³⁵, could be taken up if 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 Programmes³⁶, to periodically review the list of work programmes and make appropriate adjustments, the Committee could avail itself of this possibility if and when it considers this to be useful and timely.

5 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE AGREEMENT

- 41. This Section of the Report summarizes information relating to the notifications under the GPA 2012 made during the reporting period, including with respect to (i) statistical reporting, (ii) thresholds applicable under the Agreement, (iii) national implementing legislation, (iv) modifications and rectifications to coverage (Appendix I to the GPA 2012) and of information on the procurement systems listed in Appendices II, III, and IV to the GPA 2012.
- 42. The Note by the Secretariat entitled "Systemic Compilation of Notifications under the Agreement" gives a more comprehensive overview of the documents related to notifications (GPA/S/3/Rev.3).

5.1 Reporting of Statistics

43. Pursuant to Article XVI:4 of the GPA 2012, each Party shall collect and report, on an annual basis, statistics on its contracts covered by the GPA 2012. Since the last Annual Report, notifications were received from eleven Parties.

Party	Period covered	Symbol
Australia	2019	<u>GPA/STAT(19)/AUS/1</u> (11/03/2022)
	2020	<u>GPA/STAT(20)/ARM/1</u> (01/02/2022)
	2019	<u>GPA/STAT(19)/ARM/1</u> (01/02/2022)
Armenia	2018	<u>GPA/STAT(18)/ARM/1</u> (01/02/2022)
	2017	<u>GPA/STAT(17)/ARM/1</u> (01/02/2022)
	2016	GPA/142/Add.15 (01/02/2022)
Hong Kong, China	2021	<u>GPA/STAT(21)/HKG/1</u> (11/10/2022)
Japan	2020	<u>GPA/STAT(20)/JPN/1</u> (28/04/2022)
Korea, Republic of	2019	<u>GPA/STAT(19)/KOR/1</u> (01/12/2021)
Liechtenstein	2016	<u>GPA/STAT(16)/LIE/1</u> (10/06/2022)
Moldova, Republic of	2021	<u>GPA/STAT(21)/MDA/1</u> (13/07/2022)
Moldova, Republic of	2020	<u>GPA/STAT(20)/MDA/1</u> (13/07/2022)
Singapore	2019	<u>GPA/STAT(19)/SGP/1</u> (25/01/2022)
Switzerland	2021	<u>GPA/STAT(21)/CHE/1</u> (06/09/2022)
Ukraine	2021	<u>GPA/STAT(21)/UKR/1</u> (25/02/2022)
United States	2016	GPA/142/Add.10/Rev.1 (19/10/2022)
United States	2020	<u>GPA/STAT(20)/USA/1</u> (19/10/2022) (partially reported)

5.2 Thresholds in Appendix I to the GPA 2012 as Expressed in National Currencies

44. In accordance with the Decision on Modalities for Notifying Threshold Figures in National Currencies³⁷, each Party is required to notify without delay the value of the threshold values contained in its coverage schedules (Appendix I) and specified in Special Drawing Rights into its own national currency. The thresholds expressed in national currencies are fixed for a period of two years. Since the last Annual Report, notifications were received from seventeen Parties.

³⁵ See <u>GPA/113</u>, Annex G and Annex B.

³⁶ <u>GPA/113</u>, Appendix 2, Annex B, pp. 438.

³⁷ <u>GPA/1</u>, Annex 3.

Party	Period of Validity		Symbol
	From	to	
Australia	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/AUS/3 (17/12/2021)
Canada	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/CAN/3 (13/12/2021)
European Union	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/EU/3 (20/12/2021)
Hong Kong, China	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/HKG/3 (06/12/2021)
Israel	01/04/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/ISR/5 (02/12/2022)
Japan	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	GPA/THR/JPN/3 (01/02/2022)
Liechtenstein	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/LIE/3 (21/12/2021)
Moldova, Republic of	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/MDA/3 (13/07/2022)
Netherlands with respect to Aruba	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/ABW/3 (11/11/2021)
New Zealand	01/01/2021	31/12/2022	GPA/THR/NZL/2 (16/12/2021)
Norway	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/NOR/3 (02/03/2022)
Singapore	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/SGP/3 (31/01/2022)
Switzerland	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/CHE/3 (21/12/2021)
Chinese Taipei	01/01/2023	31/12/2024	GPA/THR/TPKM/3 (11/11/2022)
Ukraine	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	GPA/THR/UKR/3 (21/12/2021)
United Kingdom	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	<u>GPA/THR/GBR/2</u> (14/12/2021)
United States	01/01/2022	31/12/2023	<u>GPA/THR/USA/3</u> (03/12/2021)

5.3 Domestic Legislation Relevant to the Agreement

45. Pursuant to Article XXII:5 of the GPA 2012, each Party is under an ongoing non-periodic obligation to notify any changes to its laws and regulations relevant to the GPA 2012 and in the administration of such laws and regulations. Since the last Annual Report, notifications were received from five Parties.

Party	Title of the notified legal text	Symbol
Australia	Treasurer's Instruction 18 (South Australia)	GPA/LEGIS/AUS/6 (04/04/2022)
Japan	Revision of the "Basic Policy concerning the Promotion of Contracts considering Reduction of Emissions of Greenhouse Gases and Others by the State and Other Entities (initially notified in GPA/99)	<u>GPA/LEGIS/JPN/6</u> (25/08/2022)
	Revision of the "Basic Policy on Promoting Green Procurement" (initially notified in <u>GPA/W/131</u>)	GPA/LEGIS/JPN/5 (25/08/2022)
	The standard documentation for the procurement of goods and services	GPA/LEGIS/MDA/4 (16/08/2022)
Moldova, Republic	The standard documentation for the procurement of works	GPA/LEGIS/MDA/3 (16/08/2022)
of	Regulation on the organization and functioning of central purchasing authorities	GPA/LEGIS/MDA/2 (16/08/2022)
	Regulation on the activity of the working group in the field of public procurement	GPA/LEGIS/MDA/1 (16/08/2022)
Ukraine	Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on "the approval of procedures for confirming the degree of localisation of production of goods and monitoring compliance with the requirements regarding the degree of localisation of production of procurement items included in the list of goods that are procurement items with a confirmed degree of localisation of production"	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/7 (31/08/2022)
	Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on "Some aspects of defence and public procurement of goods, works and service in conditions of martial law"	GPA/LEGIS/UKR/6 (07/04/2022)
	The Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016	GPA/LEGIS/GBR/6 (20/12/2021)
United	The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015	GPA/LEGIS/GBR/5 (20/12/2021) GPA/LEGIS/GBR/4 (20/12/2021)
Kingdom	The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015	GPA/LEGIS/GBR/4 (20/12/2021) GPA/LEGIS/GBR/3 (20/12/2021)
Milgaoili	The Concession Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016	GPA/LEGIS/GBR/2 (20/12/2021)
	The Concession Contracts Regulations 2016	<u>GPA/LEGIS/GBR/1</u> (20/12/2021)

5.4 Notifications Relating to the Appendices to the GPA 2012

5.4.1 Modifications and Rectifications to Coverage (Appendix I)

46. Pursuant to Article XIX:1 of the GPA 2012, each Party is under an ongoing non-periodic obligation to notify the Committee of any proposed modification and rectification of its coverage schedules (Annexes to Appendix I). Since the last Annual Report, notifications were received from three Parties.

Party	Proposed Modification(s) Symbol	Effectiveness and Certification Effective Symbol		
	Symbol	Date	Symbol	
Australia	GPA/MOD/AUS/5 (04/04/2022)	19/05/2022	WT/Let/1578 (24/05/2022)	
Japan	GPA/MOD/JPN/106 (25/11/2022)			
	GPA/MOD/JPN/105/Corr.1 (01/12/2022)			
	<u>GPA/MOD/JPN/105</u> (17/11/2022)			
Ukraine	<u>GPA/MOD/UKR/6</u> (02/09/2022)	17/10/2022	WT/Let/1588 (20/10/2022)	
UKI alile	GPA/MOD/UKR/5 (19/01/2022)	05/03/2022	WT/Let/1563 (21/03/2022)	

$5.4.2\,$ Modifications of Information on the Procurement System Listed in Appendix II, III or IV

47. The GPA 2012 requires that Parties provide information on the media they use for the publication of procurement-related information, such as government procurement legislation and procurement notices. The information is contained in Appendices II to IV to the Agreement. Pursuant to Article VI:3 of the GPA 2012, each Party is under an ongoing non-periodic obligation to promptly notify the Committee of any modification to the Party's information listed in Appendix II, III or IV to the GPA 2012. Since the last Annual Report, one notification was received.

Party	Proposed Modification(s)	Effectiveness and Certification	
raity	Symbol	Effective Date	Symbol
Australia	<u>GPA/MOD/AUS/4</u> (30/03/2022)	30/03/2022	WT/Let/1567 (08/04/2022)
