



**Council for Trade in Goods
Working Party on State Trading Enterprises**

**REPORT (2021) OF THE WORKING PARTY ON
STATE TRADING ENTERPRISES**

(ADOPTED 5 OCTOBER 2021)

1 ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE WORKING PARTY

1. The Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (the Working Party) was established by the Council for Trade in Goods at its meeting of 20 February 1995, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (the Understanding). Membership of the Working Party is open to all Members indicating their wish to serve on it. Observer governments in the General Council of the WTO have observer status in the Working Party.

2. The mandate of the Working Party is set out in paragraph 5 of the Understanding. The Working Party completed its mandate to develop an illustrative list of state trading relationships and activities with the adoption of the Illustrative List by the Council for Trade in Goods on 15 October 1999 (G/STR/4). Having also completed the mandated revision of the questionnaire on state trading, the Working Party now reviews notifications, in light of the revised questionnaire adopted on 14 November 2003 (G/STR/3/Rev.1), as well as counter-notifications.

3. This Report is submitted under paragraph 5 of the Understanding, which provides that the Working Group shall report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods. It sets out the activities of the Working Party during the review period, which runs from 3 November 2020 through 5 October 2021. During this period, the Working Party held two formal meetings, one under the Chairmanship of Ms Johana Méndez (Panama) on 3 May 2021, and a second one under the Chairmanship of Mr Sultan Alsharif (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), on 5 October 2021. The minutes of the former have been circulated as document G/STR/M/38, while minutes of the latter will be circulated as G/STR/M/39.

4. During the first part of the review period, Ms Johana Méndez (Panama) was Chair of the Working Party, and in November 2020 the Working Party elected Ms Laura Gauer (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair. On 28 July 2021 the General Council elected Mr Sultan Alsharif (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) as Chair of the Working Party, and in October 2021 the Working Party elected Ms Bing Lou (New Zealand) as Vice-Chair.

2 NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW OF MEMBERS' STATE TRADING ACTIVITIES

5. Article XVII:4 of the GATT 1994 and paragraph 1 of the Understanding require Members to notify their state trading enterprises to the Council for Trade in Goods. New and full notifications were first required in 1995 and, subsequently, every third year thereafter, with updating notifications to be made in the intervening years. Beginning in 2003, updating notifications were eliminated and the frequency of new and full notifications was increased to once every two years. This new approach was initially implemented on a trial basis. On 8 June 2012, the Working Party adopted the recommendation contained in document G/STR/8 to extend the current frequency of notifications on an indefinite basis.

6. During the period under review, the Working Party reviewed new and full notifications from: Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Pakistan,

Philippines, Switzerland and Thailand. It also returned to the previously reviewed notifications of China, India and Viet Nam.

7. The Working Party also took up the following agenda item: continued non-notification of state trading enterprises by the Russian Federation (item requested by the United States).

3 COMPLIANCE WITH THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATION

8. As of 5 October 2021, 41 new and full notifications have been received for the 2018-2019 notification period. Between 2 November 2020 and 5 October 2021, the Working Party has also received 7 new and full notifications for earlier notification periods.¹

9. The following Members have not submitted any notification for the 2018-2019 notification period: Afghanistan; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Armenia; Kingdom of Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Benin; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Botswana; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Colombia; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; Eswatini; Fiji; Gabon; The Gambia; Ghana; Grenada; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; India; Jamaica; Jordan; Kenya; the State of Kuwait; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liberia; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Suriname; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Vanuatu; Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

10. Document G/STR/27 sets out the status of state trading notifications since 1995.

4 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

11. The Working Party adopted its Annual Report to the Council for Trade in Goods for the year 2021.

¹ Document G/STR/27.