

APPENDIX

DESCRIPTIONS OF MAJOR REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization is a permanent, multilateral organization created to oversee the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements, including the GATT 1994, to provide a forum for multilateral trade negotiations, and to administer dispute settlements. The WTO operates in a similar manner to the GATT, which it replaced, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Additional information on the WTO can be found at www.wto.org.

WTO Membership as of March 2005

Albania	Brazil	Côte d'Ivoire
Angola	Brunei Darussalam	Croatia
Antigua and Barbuda	Bulgaria	Cuba
Argentina	Burkina Faso	Cyprus
Armenia	Burundi	Czech Republic
Australia	Cambodia	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Austria	Cameroon	Denmark
Bahrain, Kingdom of	Canada	Djibouti
Bangladesh	Central African Republic	Dominica
Barbados	Chad	Dominican Republic
Belgium	Chile	Ecuador
Belize	China, People's Republic of	Egypt
Benin	Colombia	El Salvador
Bolivia	Congo	Estonia
Botswana	Costa Rica	European Communities

Fiji	Jordan	Netherlands
Finland	Kenya	New Zealand
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	Korea, Republic of	Nicaragua
France	Kuwait	Niger
Gabon	Kyrgyz Republic	Nigeria
Gambia, The	Latvia	Norway
Georgia	Lesotho	Oman
Germany	Liechtenstein	Pakistan
Ghana	Lithuania	Panama
Greece	Luxembourg	Papua New Guinea
Grenada	Macao, China	Paraguay
Guatemala	Madagascar	Peru
Guinea	Malawi	Philippines
Guinea Bissau	Malaysia	Poland
Guyana	Maldives	Portugal
Haiti	Mali	Qatar
Honduras	Malta	Romania
Hong Kong, China	Mauritania	Rwanda
Hungary	Mauritius	St. Kitts and Nevis
Iceland	Mexico	St. Lucia
India	Moldova	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Indonesia	Mongolia	Senegal
Ireland	Morocco	Sierra Leone
Israel	Mozambique	Singapore
Italy	Myanmar	Slovak Republic
Jamaica	Namibia	Slovenia
Japan	Nepal	Solomon Islands

South Africa	Tanzania	United Kingdom
Spain	Thailand	United States of America
Sri Lanka	Togo	Uruguay
Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago	Venezuela
Swaziland	Tunisia	Zambia
Sweden	Turkey	Zimbabwe
Switzerland	Uganda	
Chinese Taipei	United Arab Emirates	

Observer Governments as of March 2005

Afghanistan	Iraq	Sudan
Algeria	Kazakhstan	Tajikistan
Andorra	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Lebanese Republic	Ukraine
Bahamas	Libya	Uzbekistan
Belarus	Montenegro	Vanuatu
Bhutan	Russian Federation	Vietnam
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Samoa	Yemen
Cape Verde	Sao Tome and Principe	
Equatorial Guinea	Saudi Arabia	
Ethiopia	Serbia	
Holy See (Vatican)	Seychelles	

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Founded in 1961 and based in Paris, the OECD is the primary organization for industrialized nations to discuss trade and economic matters. The objectives are to

achieve economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living in member countries while maintaining financial stability. The 30 member countries use the OECD and its various committees and working groups to conduct both studies and negotiations on particular economic problems and to coordinate their policies for purposes of international negotiations. Additional information on the OECD can be found at www.oecd.org.

OECD Membership as of April 2003

Australia	Hungary	Norway
Austria	Iceland	Poland
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Canada	Italy	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Japan	Spain
Denmark	Korea	Sweden
Finland	Luxembourg	Switzerland
France	Mexico	Turkey
Germany	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Greece	New Zealand	United States

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Based in Geneva, Switzerland and associated with the United Nations system, UNCTAD focuses attention on international economic relations and measures that might be taken by developed countries to accelerate the pace of economic and industrial development in developing countries. The conference has met quadrennially since 1964 in various locations throughout the world. UNCTAD committees meet several times each year between the major conferences and are supported by the permanent UNCTAD Secretariat. Additional information on UNCTAD can be found at www.unctad.org.

World Customs Organization (WCO)

Established in 1952 as the Customs Cooperation Council, the renamed World Customs Organization is a 165-member international organization with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. It deals exclusively with customs matters. Its

objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. The United States became a member on November 5, 1970.

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the lead U.S. government agency which deals with the various activities of the Council, including the work of the Harmonized System Committee. The CBP heads the U.S. delegations to the sessions of the Committee. Generally, the Council studies questions relating to cooperation in customs matters, examines technical aspects of customs systems, and furnishes information and advice to member states. Additional information on the WCO can be found at www.wcoomd.org.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is a treaty-based, governmental framework that defines and manages economic and political cooperation among its 25 member countries. These Member states delegate to the European Union “competence” in a number of areas including foreign trade, agriculture, competition, transport, research, technology, energy, environment, development (foreign aid), and education. In January 1993, Member states signed the Maastricht Treaty creating a single market in which goods and services, people, and capital would move as freely within the Union. The Maastricht Treaty also included provisions for economic and monetary union with a single European currency, called the Euro, and the establishment of a European Central Bank fully launched on January 1, 2002.

EU Membership as of March 2005

Austria	Greece	The Netherlands
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Cyprus	Ireland	Portugal
Czech Republic	Italy	Slovakia
Denmark	Latvia	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxembourg	Sweden
France	Malta	United Kingdom
Germany		

Four additional countries have applied to become new members: Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania hope to join by 2007; accession negotiations for Turkey are

scheduled for October 2005. Additional information on the EU can be found at www.europa.eu.int.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC was formed in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies. Initiated as an informal dialogue group with limited participation, APEC has since become the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic cooperation. In 1994, APEC members agreed to attain free and open trade and investment among APEC industrialized nations by the year 2010 and among the developing members by 2020. APEC's 21-member economies possess a combined gross domestic product of over \$19 trillion, nearly half the world's total annual output. Additional information on APEC can be found at www.apecsec.org.sg.

APEC Membership as of March 2005

Australia	Japan	Philippines
Brunei Darussalam	Republic of Korea	Russia
Canada	Malaysia	Singapore
Chile	Mexico	Chinese Taipei
China, People's Republic of	New Zealand	Thailand
Hong Kong, China	Papua New Guinea	United States
Indonesia	Peru	Vietnam

Mercosur

Mercosur, also known as the Southern Cone Common Market, is composed of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Mercosur began operating a customs union on January 1, 1995, which binds tariff preferences among the four Mercosur countries and establishes a common external trade policy with non-member countries and economic groups.

The purpose of Mercosur is to create a common market in which goods and services can be freely traded among member countries and to permit the unrestricted movement of labor and capital, the coordination of macroeconomic and sector policies, and the harmonization of national legislation to enhance competitiveness.

Chile and Bolivia are associate members of Mercosur. Under the terms of their membership, they apply and receive preferential tariffs with respect to countries within Mercosur but do not apply the common external tariff. Additional

information on Mercosur can be found at www.mercosur.org.uy (Spanish and Portuguese only).

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN was established in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration by the five original member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined the ASEAN in January 1984, Vietnam in July 1995, Laos and Myanmar in July 1997, and Cambodia in April 1999.

In January 1992, heads of state from the then six ASEAN nations (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) signed the Agreement on Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme (CEPT), a mechanism to lower tariffs ranging from 0% to 5%, and founded the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Their goal is to lead the integration the ASEAN economies into a regional market of 500 million people. Vietnam is expected to realize AFTA in 2006, Laos and Myanmar in 2008, and Cambodia in 2010. Additional information on ASEAN and AFTA can be found at www.aseansec.org.

Cairns Group

The Cairns Group is a 17-country coalition, chaired by Australia, which was established in 1986 just before the Uruguay Round negotiations began. The purpose of the Cairns Group is to encourage reductions in trade-distorting farm subsidies and greater market access for agricultural products. Aside from Australia, the other members are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Uruguay. These nations collectively account for one-third of the world's agricultural exports. Additional information on the Cairns Group can be found at www.cairnsgroup.org.