



**Ministerial Conference
Thirteenth Session
Abu Dhabi, 26 February-2 March 2024**

ACCESSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

MINISTERIAL DECISION

Adopted on 26 February 2024

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 2 of Article XII and paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement"), and the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed by the General Council ([WT/L/93](#)),

Taking note of the application of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for accession to the WTO Agreement dated 7 April 2015,

Noting the results of the negotiations directed toward the establishment of the terms of accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the WTO Agreement and having prepared a Protocol on the Accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste,

Decides as follows:

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste may accede to the WTO Agreement on the terms and conditions set out in the Protocol annexed to this Decision.

PROTOCOL ON THE ACCESSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTEPreamble

The World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "WTO"), pursuant to the approval of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO accorded under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "WTO Agreement"), and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (hereinafter referred to as "Timor-Leste"),

Taking note of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Timor-Leste to the WTO Agreement reproduced in document WT/ACC/TLS/34, dated 18 January 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Party Report"),

Having regard to the results of the negotiations on the accession of Timor-Leste to the WTO Agreement,

Agree as follows:

PART I - GENERAL

1. Upon entry into force of this Protocol pursuant to paragraph 8, Timor-Leste accedes to the WTO Agreement pursuant to Article XII of that Agreement and thereby becomes a Member of the WTO.
2. The WTO Agreement to which Timor-Leste accedes shall be the WTO Agreement, including the Explanatory Notes to that Agreement, as rectified, amended or otherwise modified by such legal instruments as may have entered into force before the date of entry into force of this Protocol. This Protocol, which shall include the commitments referred to in paragraph 337 of the Working Party Report, shall be an integral part of the WTO Agreement.
3. Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph 337 of the Working Party Report, those obligations in the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed to the WTO Agreement that are to be implemented over a period of time starting with the entry into force of that Agreement shall be implemented by Timor-Leste as if it had accepted that Agreement on the date of its entry into force.
4. Timor-Leste may maintain a measure inconsistent with paragraph 1 of Article II of the GATS provided that such a measure was recorded in the list of Article II Exemptions annexed to this Protocol and meets the conditions of the Annex to the GATS on Article II Exemptions.

PART II - SCHEDULES

5. The Schedules reproduced in the Annex to this Protocol shall become the Schedule of Concessions and Commitments annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the "GATT 1994") and the Schedule of Specific Commitments annexed to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as "GATS") relating to Timor-Leste. The staging of the concessions and commitments listed in the Schedules shall be implemented as specified in the relevant parts of the respective Schedules.
6. For the purpose of the reference in paragraph 6(a) of Article II of the GATT 1994 to the date of that Agreement, the applicable date in respect of the Schedule of Concessions and Commitments annexed to this Protocol shall be the date of entry into force of this Protocol.

PART III - FINAL PROVISIONS

7. This Protocol shall be open for acceptance, by signature or otherwise, by Timor-Leste until 30 August 2024 or such later date as may be decided by the General Council.
8. This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the day upon which it shall have been accepted by Timor-Leste.

9. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Director-General of the WTO. The Director-General of the WTO shall promptly furnish a certified copy of this Protocol and a notification of acceptance by Timor-Leste thereto pursuant to paragraph 7 to each Member of the WTO and to Timor-Leste.

10. This Protocol shall be registered in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Done at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, this twenty-sixth day of February two thousand and twenty-four in a single copy in the English, French and Spanish languages, each text being authentic, except that a Schedule annexed hereto may specify that it is authentic in only one of these languages, and the Working Party Report is authentic in English only.

ANNEX

SCHEDULE CLXXVIII – THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Authentic only in the English language.

(Circulated in document [WT/ACC/TLS/34/Add.1](#))

SCHEDULE OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON SERVICES

LIST OF ARTICLE II (MFN) EXEMPTIONS

Authentic only in the English language.

(Circulated in document [WT/ACC/TLS/34/Add.2](#))
