Accession to the GPA:
Substantive requirements, benefits and costs, process and procedures

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Substantive requirements for GPA accession

- Acceding Party’s coverage offer (to be negotiated)
  - Includes any special transitional measures to be offered
- Consistency of national legislation with GPA requirements (may require changes to legislative framework)
- Fulfilment of institutional requirements (domestic review)
Potential benefits of GPA accession for developing/emerging countries: presenter’s perspective*

- Potential trade gains from assured access to other Parties’ procurement markets.
- Possibilities for achieving enhanced value for money in acceding countries’ own procurement systems.
- Potentially increased incentives for inbound foreign direct investment.
- Opportunity to influence the terms of other Parties’ accessions.
- Opportunity to influence the future evolution of the Agreement.

*NB: each acceding WTO Member must ultimately assess the relevance of these benefits for itself.
Potential costs of accession*

Direct costs of participating in relevant negotiations.

Costs of necessary institutional adaptations
(but note: may already have been incurred or may be independently desirable for domestic policy reasons).

Adjustment costs for local firms/industry
(but note: they may well benefit overall).

*It is recognized that each acceding WTO Member must ultimately assess these for itself.
State of play and latest developments

- 10 observers are in the process of acceding
  - Australia
  - China;
  - Albania;
  - Georgia;
  - Jordan;
  - Kyrgyz Republic;
  - Oman;
  - Russian Federation;
  - Tajikistan
  - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- **Ukraine and Moldova** most recently acceded Parties, entry into force of the Agreement for both in Summer 2016.

- 5 WTO Members have commitments to accede to the GPA
  - Afghanistan; Mongolia; Saudi Arabia; Seychelles and Kazakhstan.
Accession: Key procedural elements

initiation
• Communication of interest in accession to Director-General and Committee on Government Procurement.
• Submission of relevant information, including on: (i) proposed coverage (draft Appendices); and (ii) national legislation

negotiation
• Consultations to be held by the Committee, as necessary (supplemented by bilateral discussions with individual Parties)

conclusion
• Agreement on terms of accession, submission of Report on legislation and decision by the GPA Committee
• Deposit of accession instrument/terms and entry into force 30 days later
Conclusion

- Steps are similar for all accession candidates.
- Speed and ambition differ!
- Think carefully about strategic goals, interests for negotiation.
- Study to other Parties’ schedules