Very brief overview

(key slides only)

164 members since 29 July 2016

... only in Geneva!

FACT FILE

FACT FILE

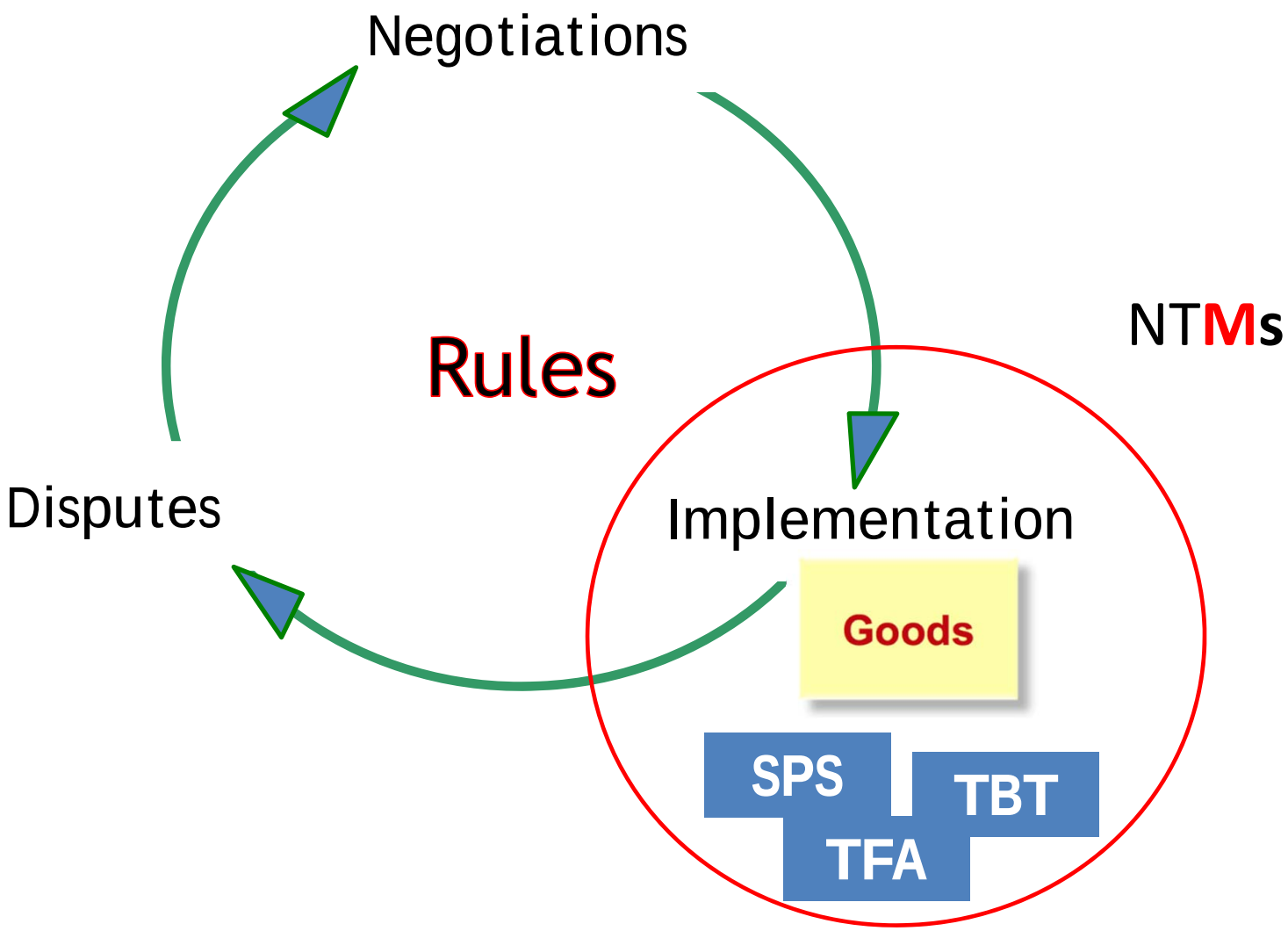
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Established: 1 January 1995
Created by: Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94)
Membership: 164 countries on 29 July 2016
Budget: 197 million Swiss francs for 2013
Secretariat staff: 640
Head: Roberto Azevêdo (Director-General)

164 Members

+ China (2001)
+ Russia (2012)

+ 55% women
+ 45% men

Since 1 Sep 13

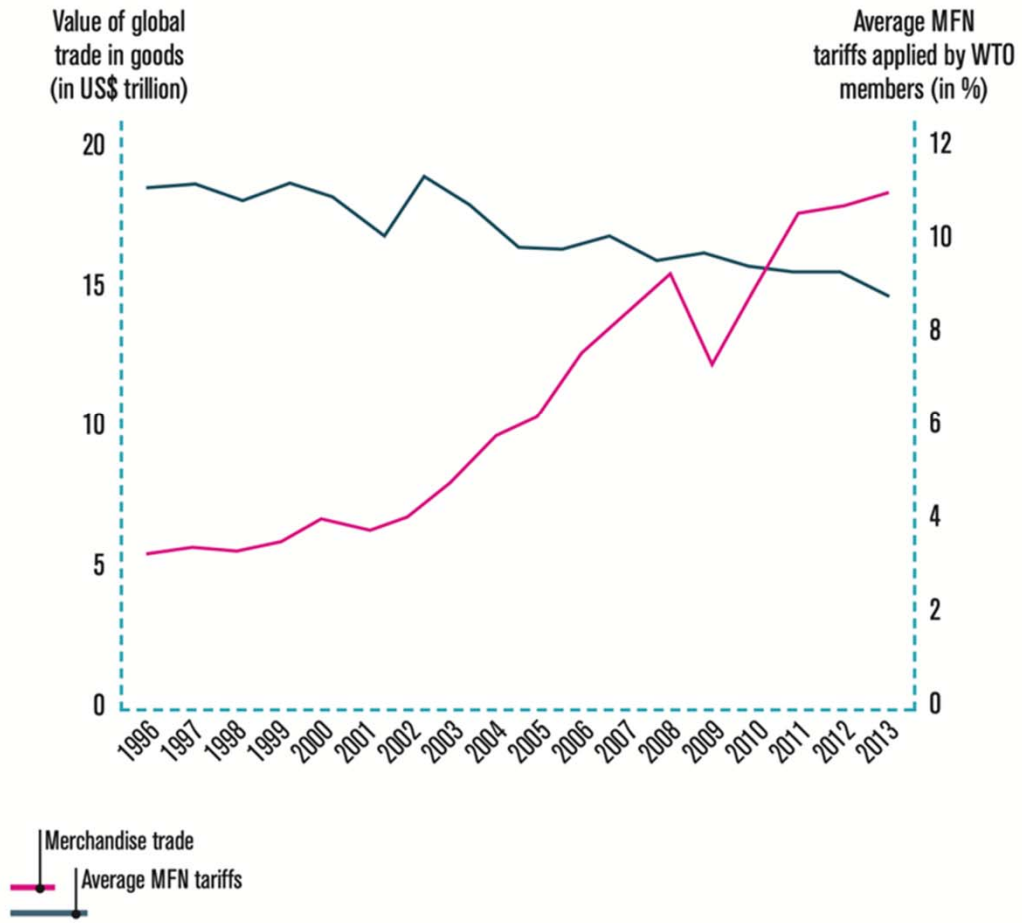

Negotiations
Rules
NTMs
Disputes
Implementation
Goods
SPS
TBT
TFA

Trade Rounds

Year	*Place / name*	*Subjects covered*	*#*
1947	Geneva	Tariffs	23
1949	Annecy	Tariffs	13
1951	Torquay	Tariffs	38
1956	Geneva	Tariffs	26
1960-1961	Geneva (Dillon Round)	Tariffs	26
1964-1967	Geneva (Kennedy Round)	Tariffs and anti-dumping measures	62
1973-1979	Geneva (Tokyo Round)	Tariffs, NTBs, "framework agreements"	102
1986-1994	Geneva (Uruguay Round)	Tariffs, NTBs, rules, services, IP, DSU, textiles, agriculture, creation of WTO, etc.	123
2001 -	Geneva (DDA)	(the above) + environment, + ?	**164**

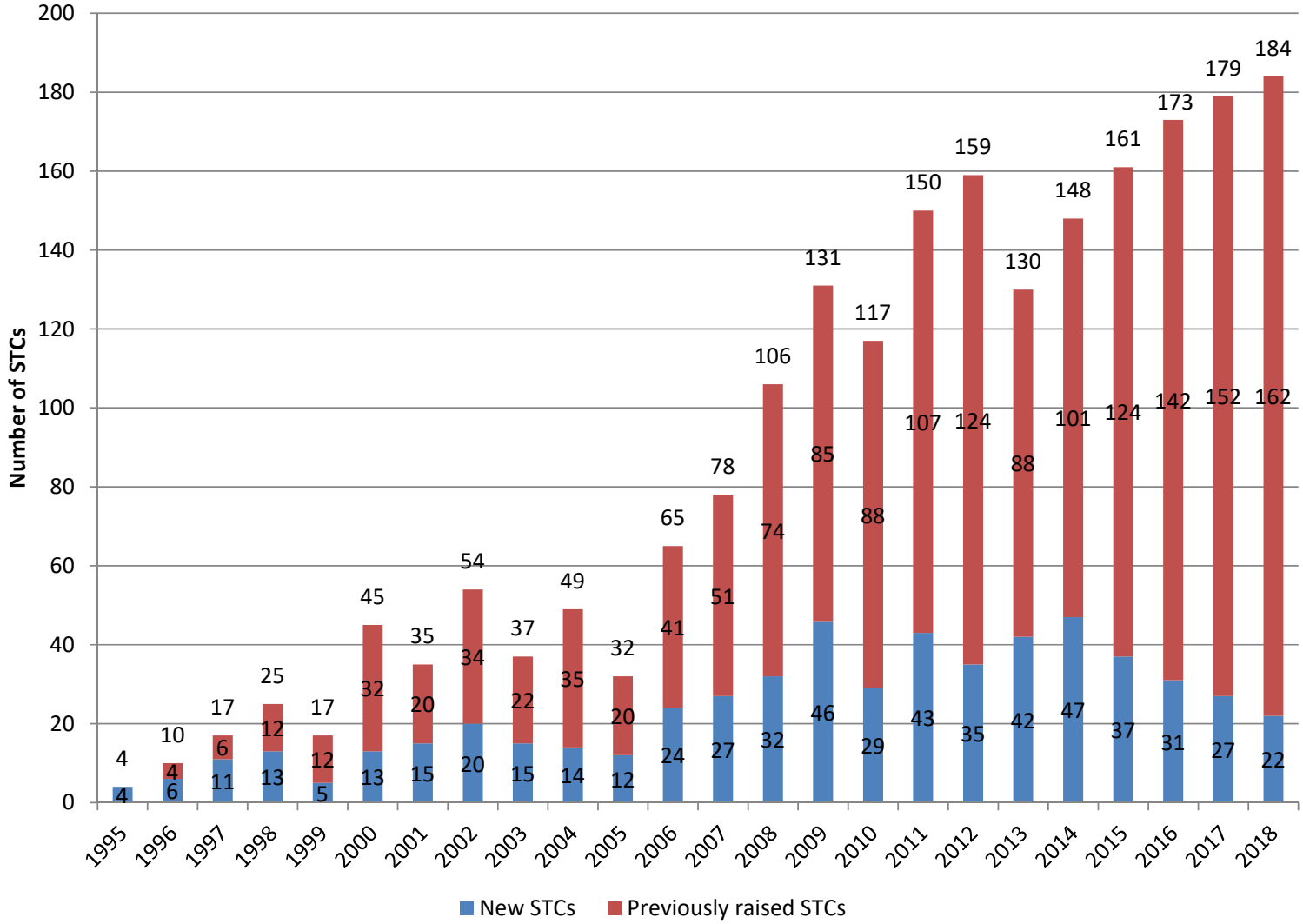
Source: WTO

Chart 1: Tariffs applied by WTO members and global trade in goods: 1996-2013

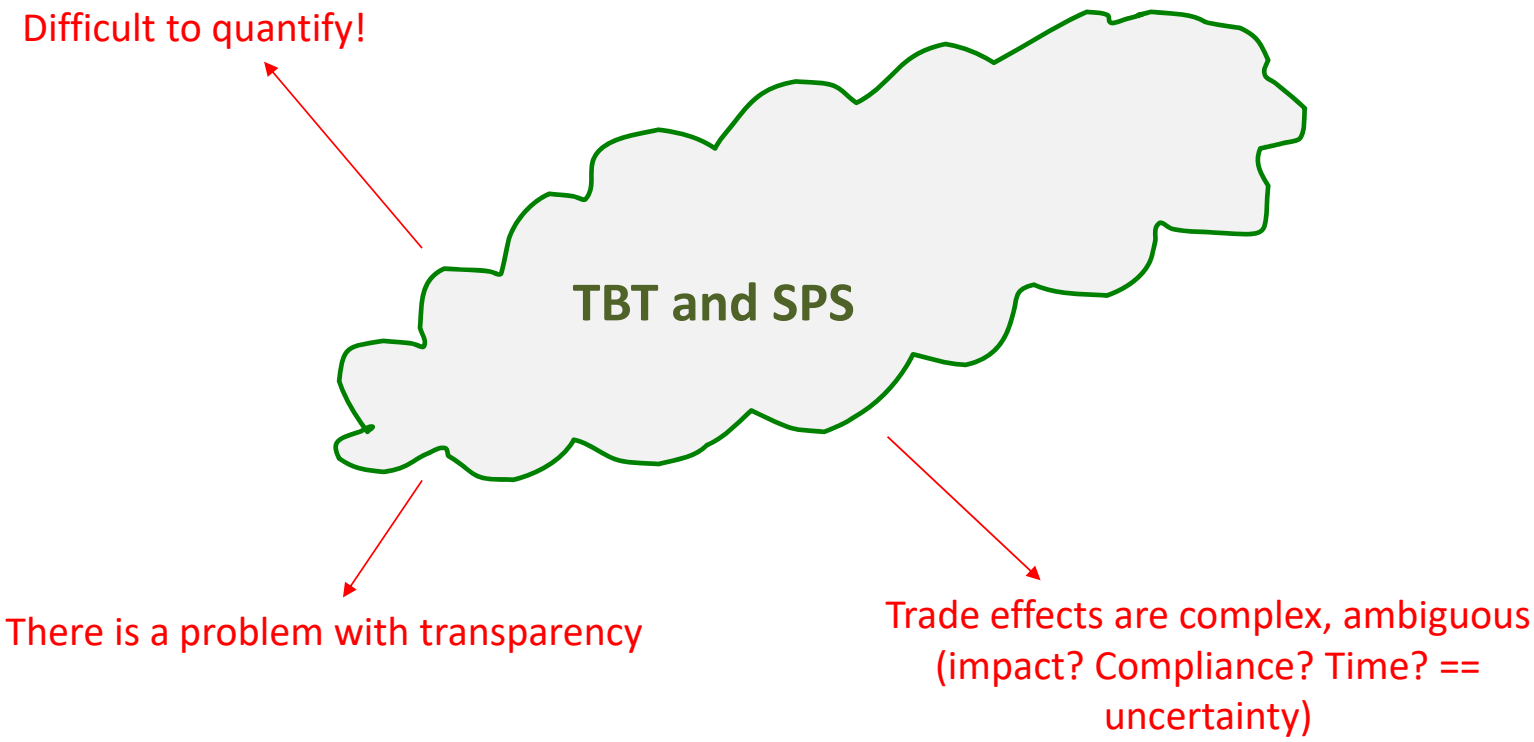


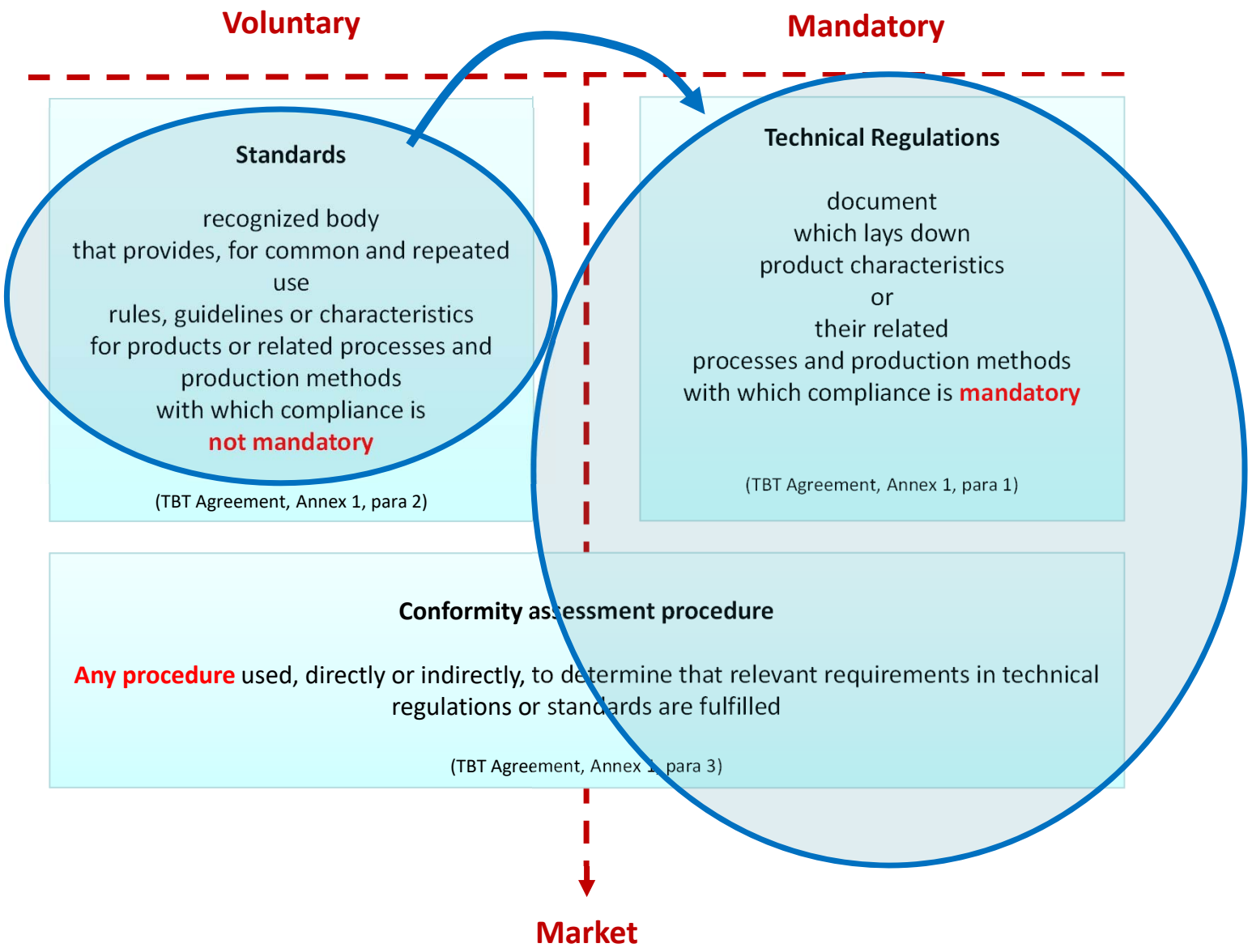
Sources: International Trade Statistics, World Tariff Profiles

STCs raised: 1995-2018



“Non-tariff measures” (NT**M**s)

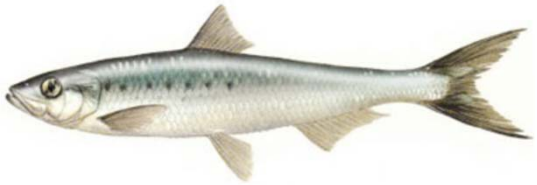



Voluntary
Mandatory
Standards
recognized body
that provides, for common and repeated use
rules, guidelines or characteristics
for products or related processes and production methods
with which compliance is
not mandatory
(TBT Agreement, Annex 1, para 2)
Technical Regulations
document
which lays down
product characteristics
or
their related
processes and production methods
with which compliance is mandatory
(TBT Agreement, Annex 1, para 1)
Conformity assessment procedure
Any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled
(TBT Agreement, Annex 1, para 3)
Market

So, a good basis for government policy

or a “formidable barrier”?

Sardina Pilchardus



Sardinops Sagax

Type 1 "Drinking alcohol causes the hypertension liver cirrhosis"

Type 2 "Drunk driving causes disability or death"

Type 4 "Drinking alcohol leads to sexual impotency"

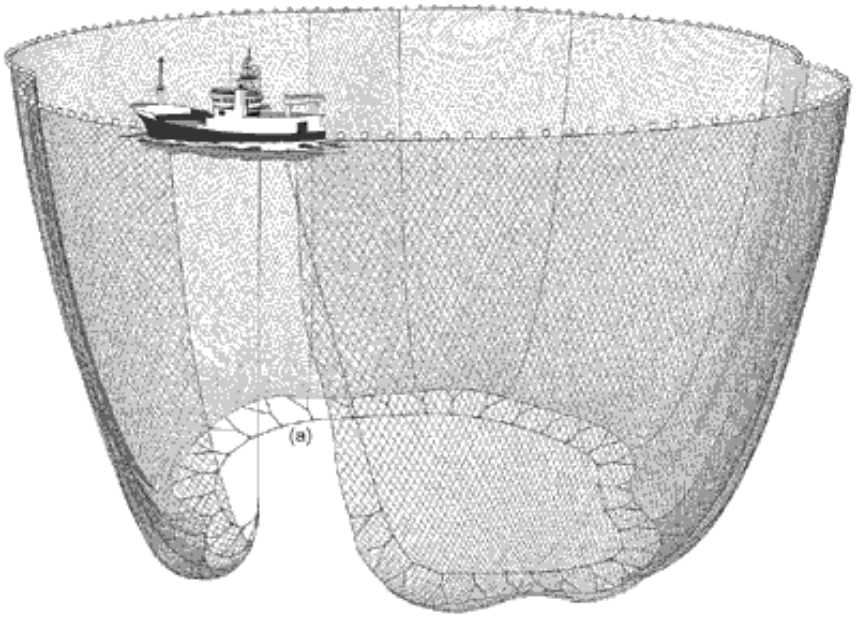
Type 5 "Drinking alcohol leads to adverse health effect and family problems

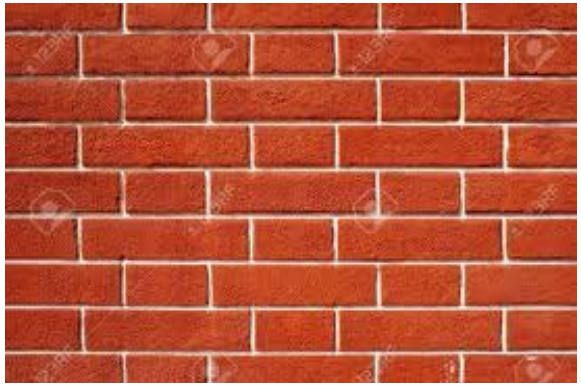
Type 3 "Drinking alcohol leads to unconsciousness and even death"

Type 6 "Drinking alcohol is a bad role model for children and young people"

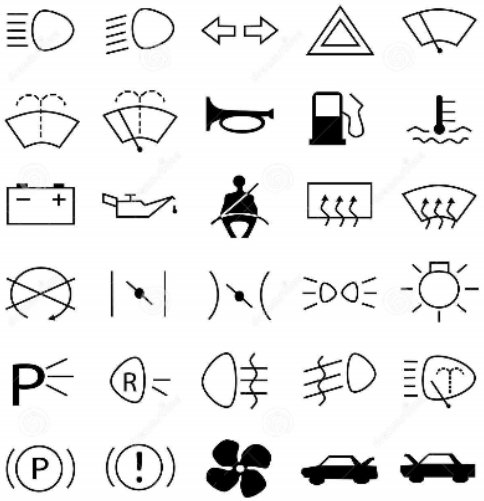
U.S. Department of Commerce

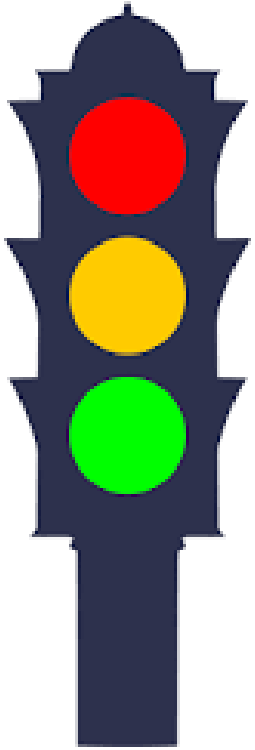
Dolphin Safe

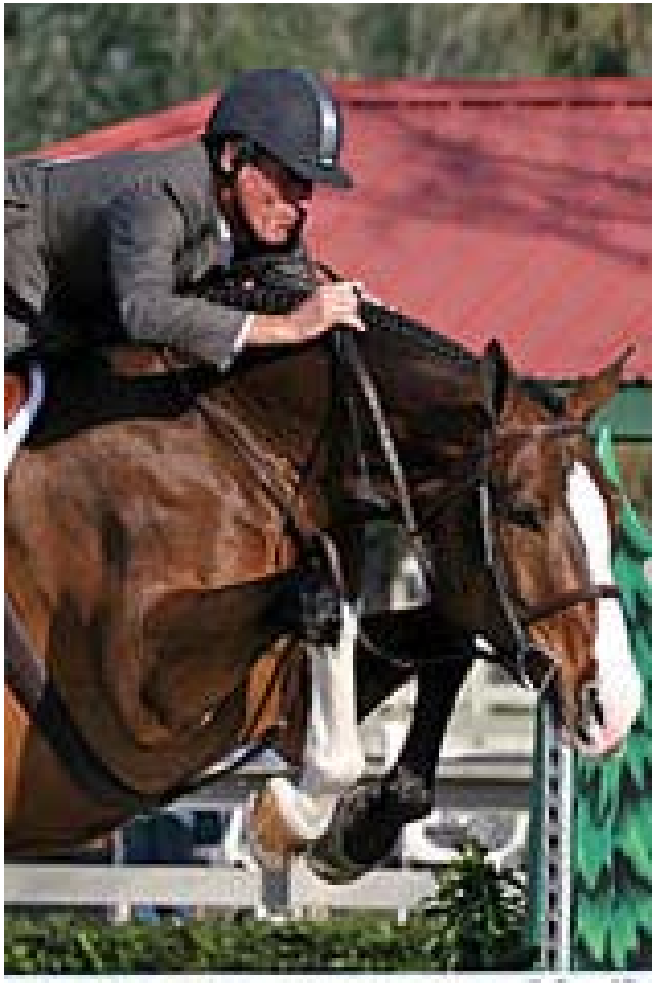




But sometimes they can be very useful!







DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL

28 SEPTEMBER 2018

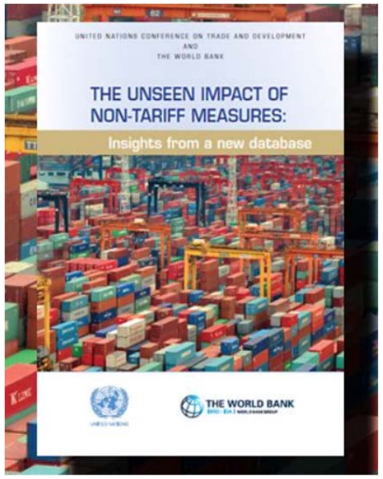
DDG Wolff urges standards bodies to boost support for multilateral trading system

Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff urged international standards bodies to strengthen their support for the WTO and the multilateral trading system. "We need to spread the message that an integrated global economy, with a strong and dynamic multilateral trading system — which includes international standards — is a better world for everyone," he said in a keynote address 28 September to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) General Assembly in Geneva. "Technology and innovation do not tend to thrive behind walls of any kind."

1. Introduction

Non-tariff measures (NTMs) inhabit the grey zone where trade policy meets national regulation. Th
generally defined as policy measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that can potentially have an ecc

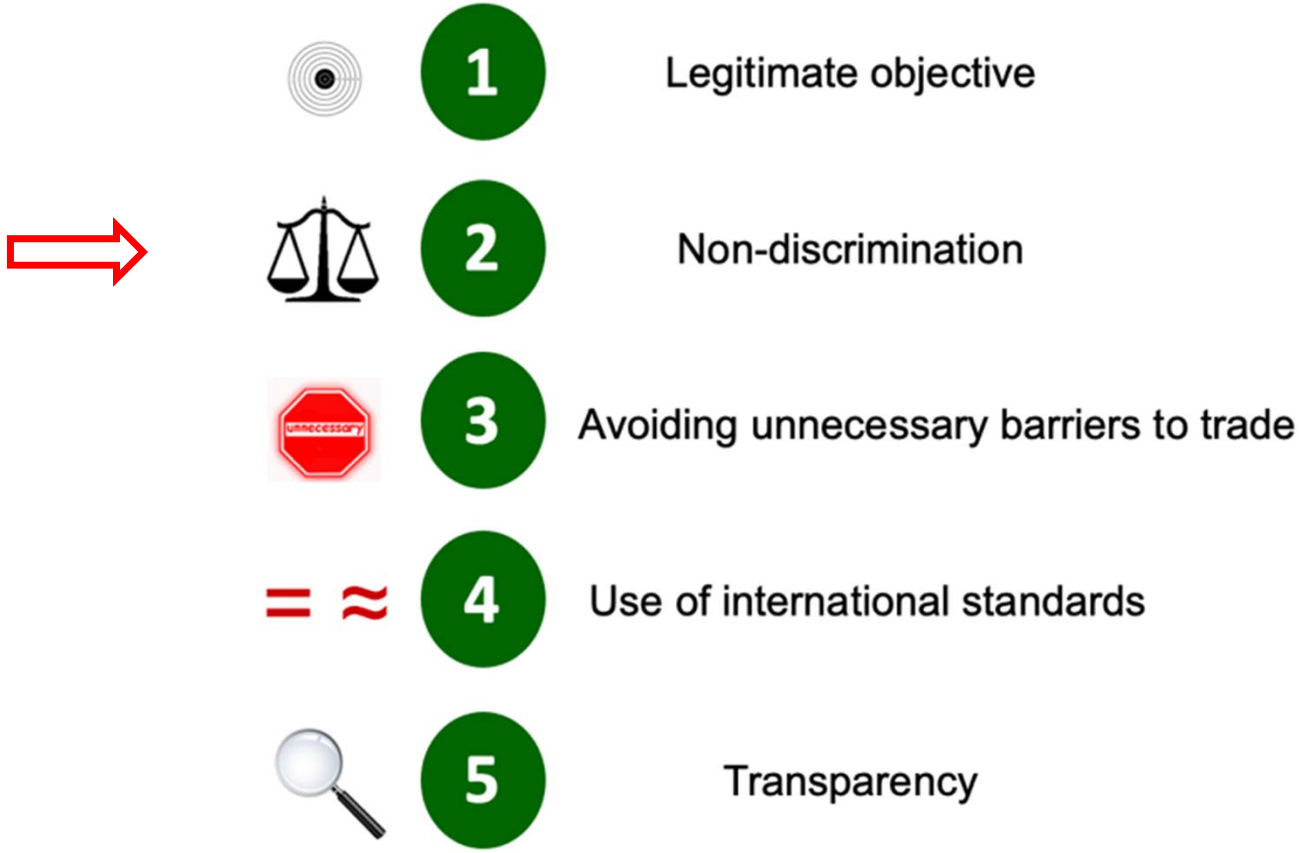
"grey zone"



avoiding unnecessary obstacles to international trade

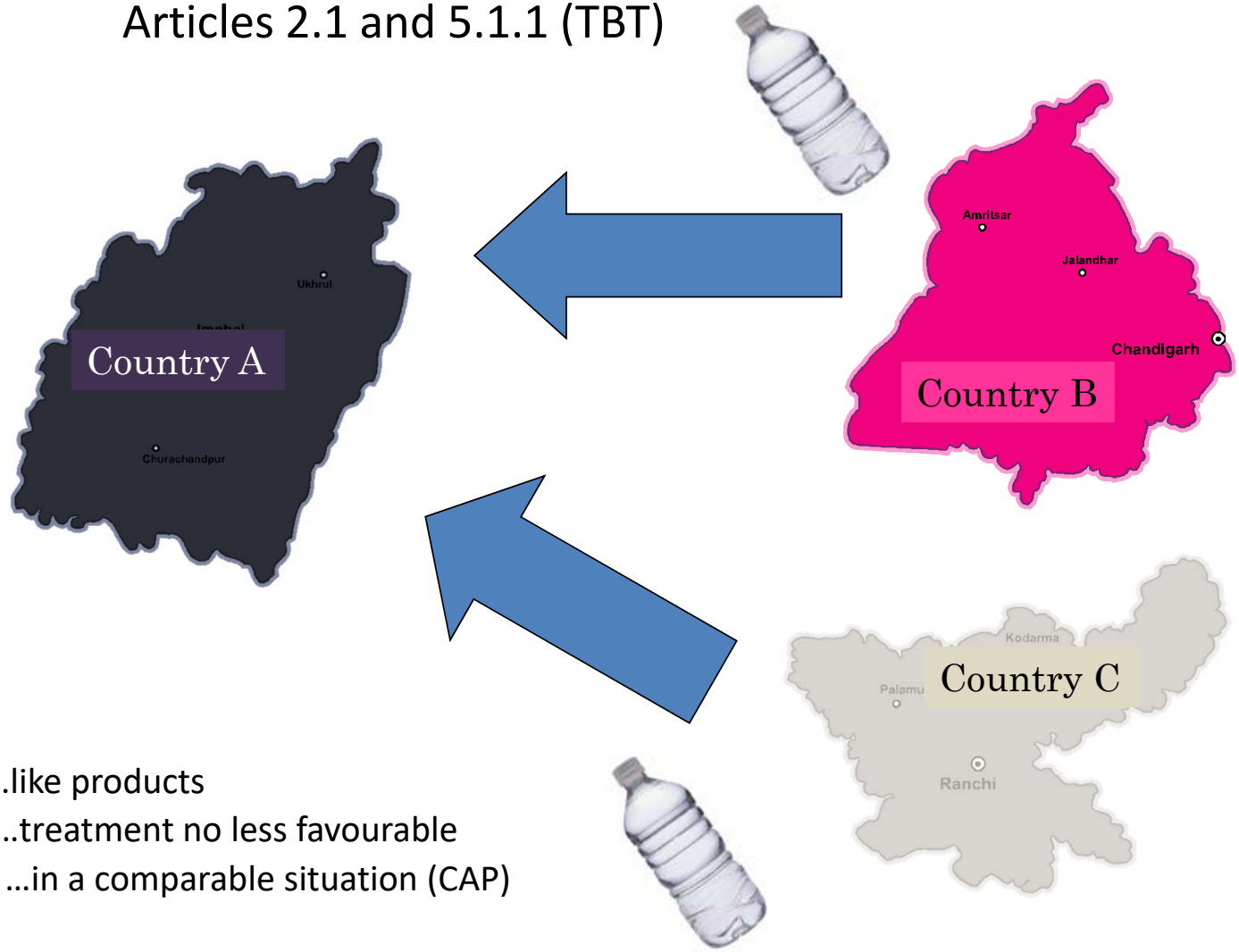
allowing for regulatory autonomy to protect legitimate interests

use of international standards


1
Legitimate objective
2
Non-discrimination
3
Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade
4
Use of international standards
5
Transparency

Non-discrimination: TBT

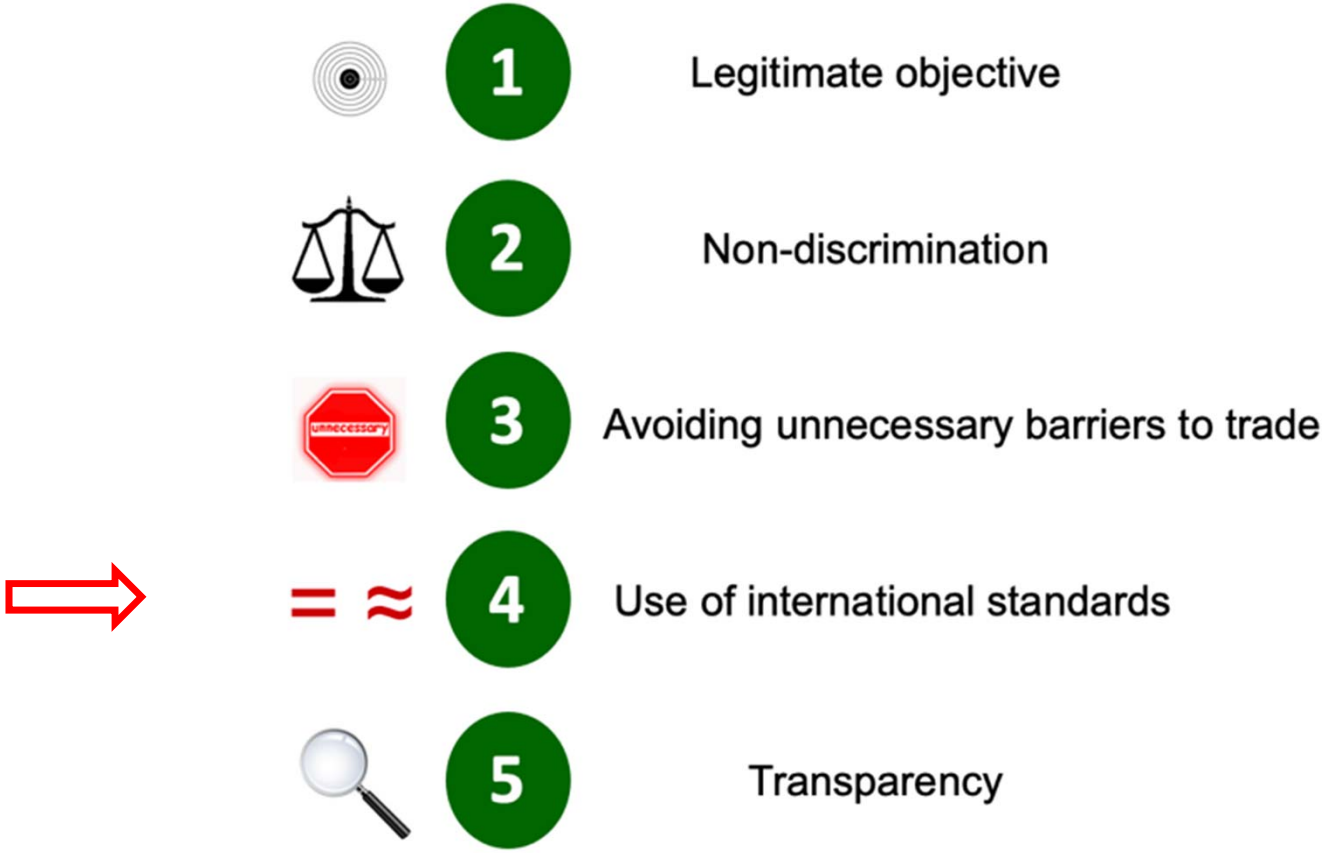
Articles 2.1 and 5.1.1 (TBT)



…like products

…treatment no less favourable

…in a comparable situation (CAP)


1
Legitimate objective
2
Non-discrimination
3
Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade
4
Use of international standards
5
Transparency

Using international standards (harmonization)

Members **shall** use…

relevant international standards

… as a *basis* for

technical regulations (Art. 2.4)

conformity assessment procedures (Art. 5.4)

Also: national standards

except!

when *ineffective* or *inappropriate* for policy objectives

(e.g. fundamental climatic or geographical factors, or technological problems)

Which standards?

IPPC

OIE

FAO/ WHO Food Standards

CODEX alimentarius

SPS

ISO International Organization for Standardization

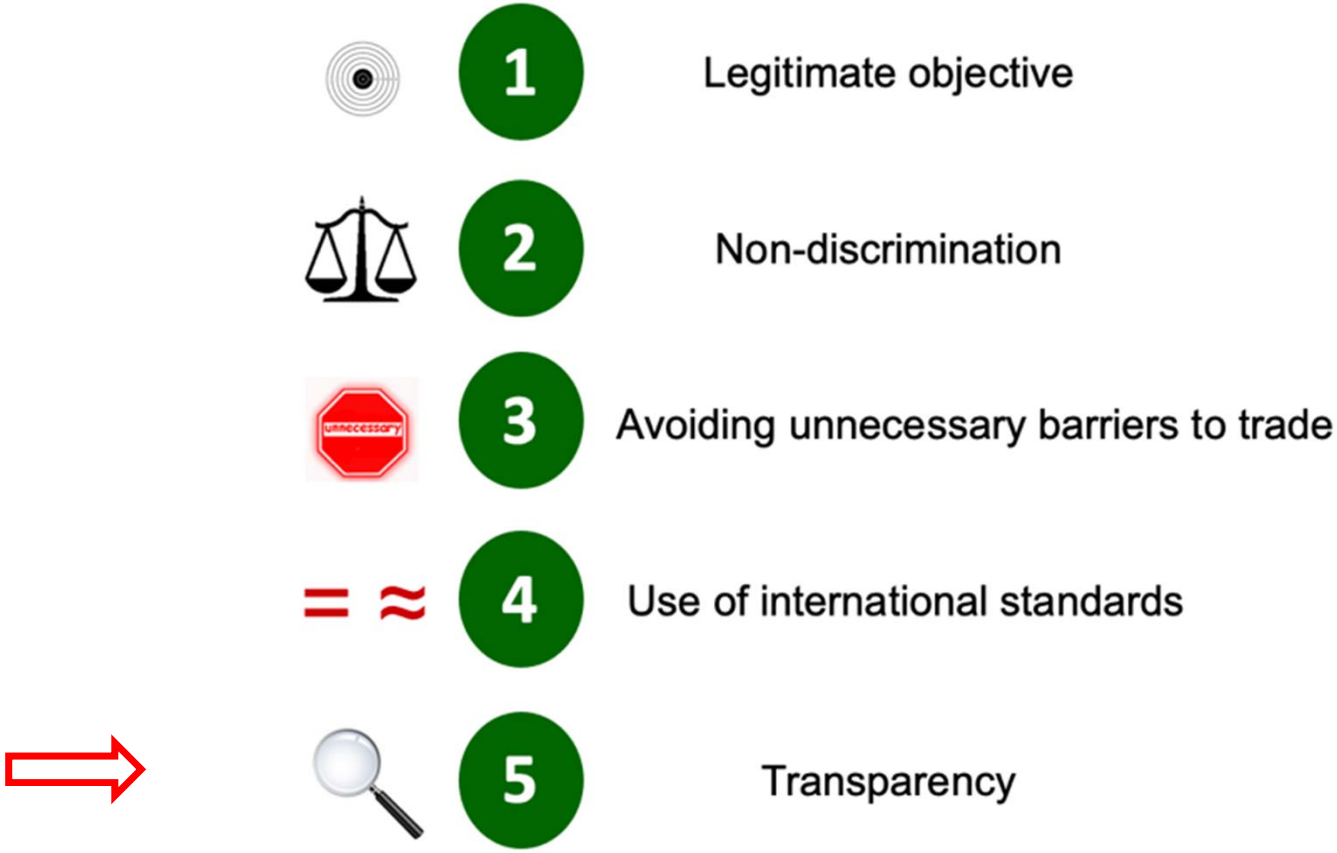
ASTM INTERNATIONAL Standards Worldwide

OIML

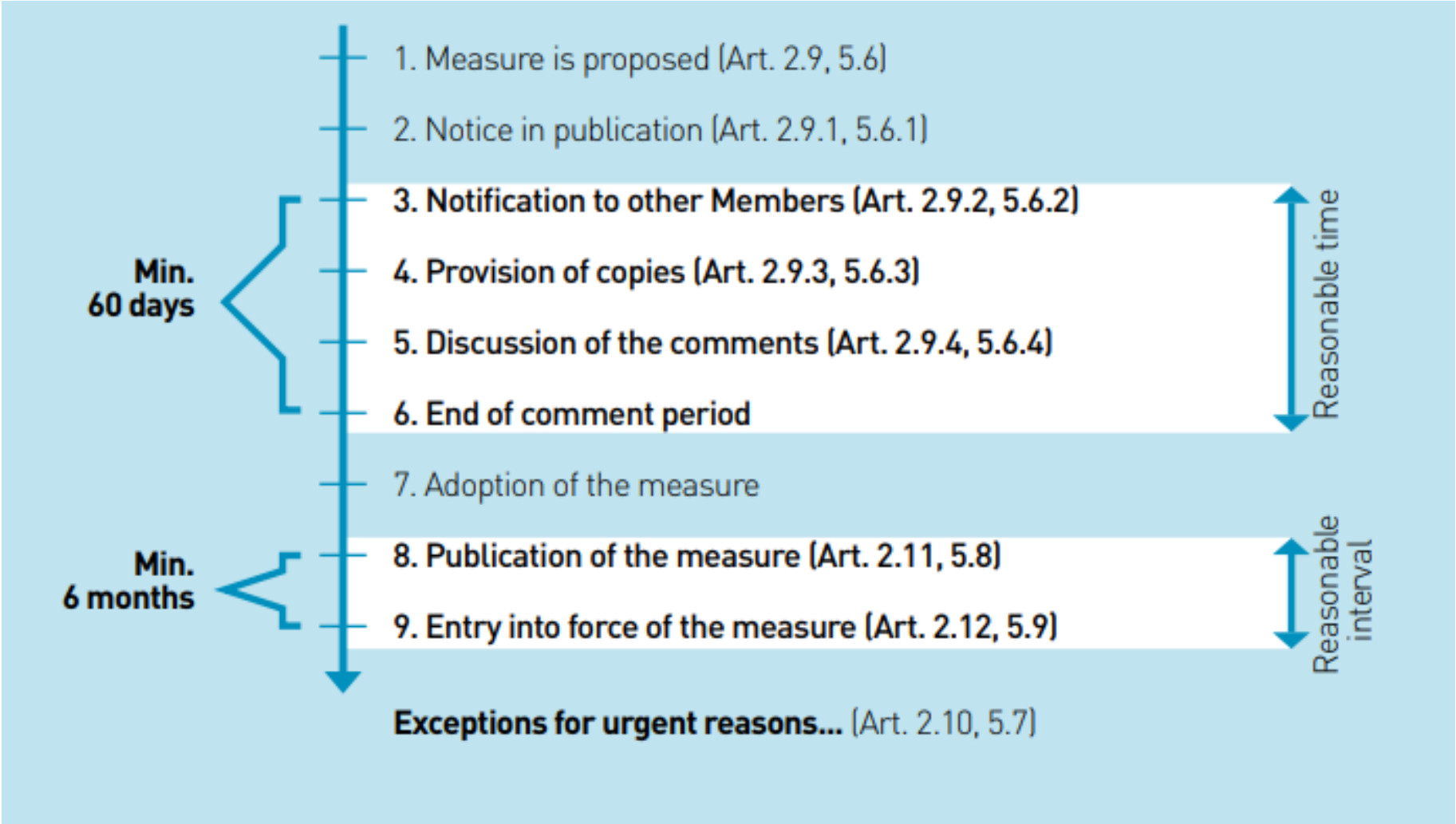
IEEE

IEC

ITU


1
Legitimate objective
2
Non-discrimination
3
Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade
4
Use of international standards
5
Transparency

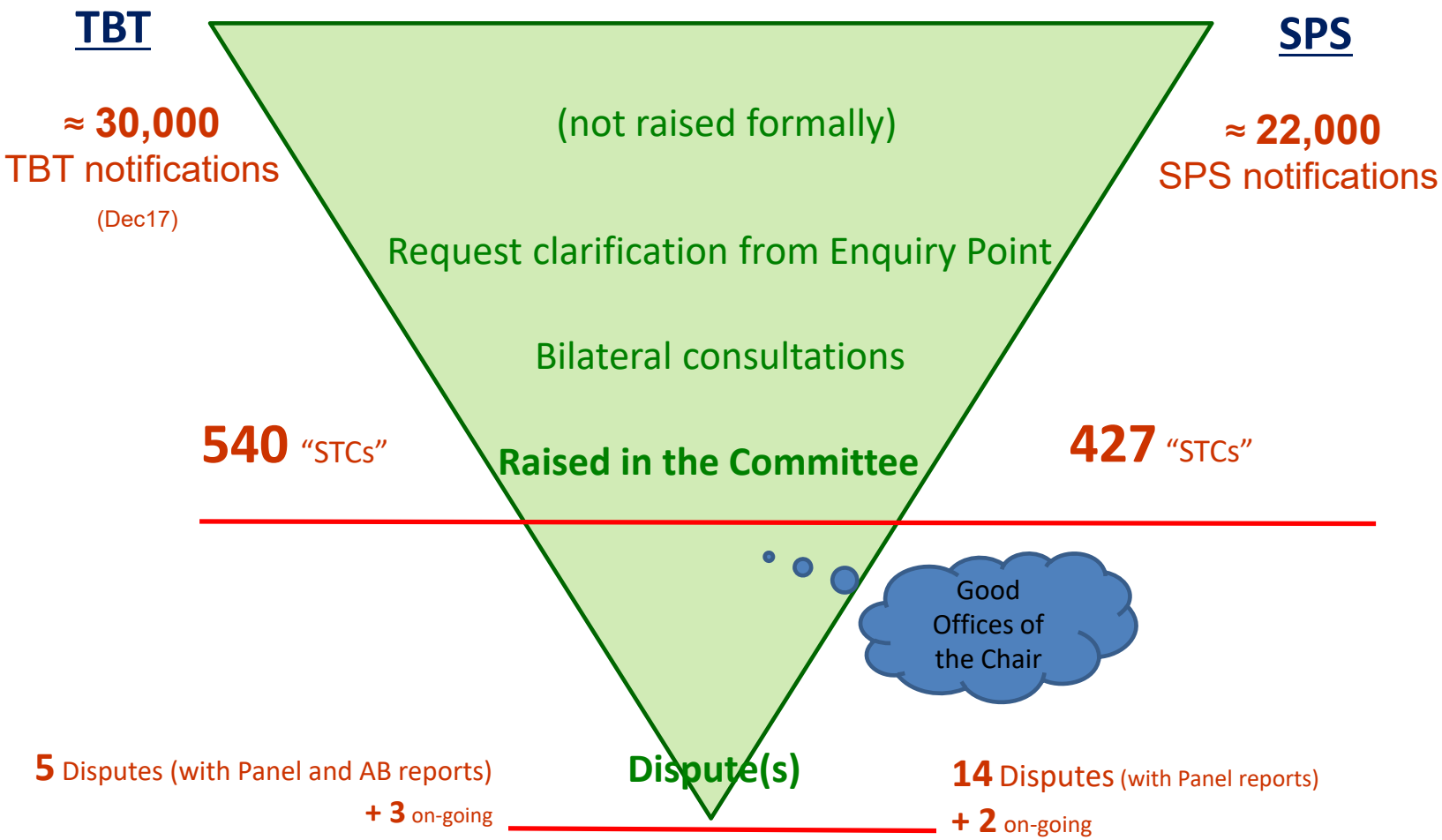
REGULATORY TIMELINE



How does it work?

Work of the TBT Committee

Implementation & monitoring role of the SPS and TBT Committees



Accessing ePing

To make sure all ePing features function properly, please use one of the following recommended browsers: Chrome (latest version), Firefox (latest version), or Internet Explorer.

Please note that the ePing website is not touch screen compatible.

About ePing

Governments establish product requirements to achieve policy objectives such as the protection of human health or the environment. The WTO SPS and TBT Agreements try to ensure that these requirements do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade. WTO Members are required to notify other Members before adopting new measures if these are likely to affect international trade and provide an opportunity for comments. ePing enables timely access to these notifications and facilitates dialogue amongst the public and private sector in addressing potential trade problems at an early stage.

Thank you! Questions?