



Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

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Auditorium Halls 3 and 4



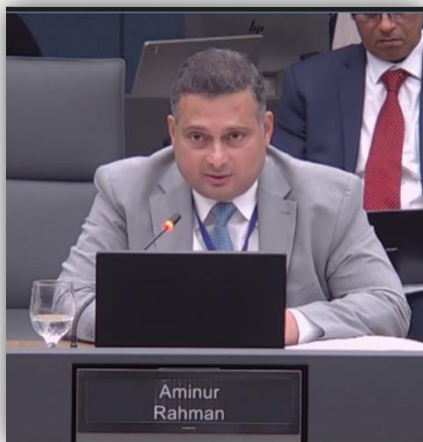
Session V: Good Regulatory Practices in Asia and the Pacific

Good Regulatory
Practices to Facilitate
Trade in Services

WTO – World Bank Handbook

PANELISTS

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ADB Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

Session V: Good Regulatory Practices in Asia and the Pacific

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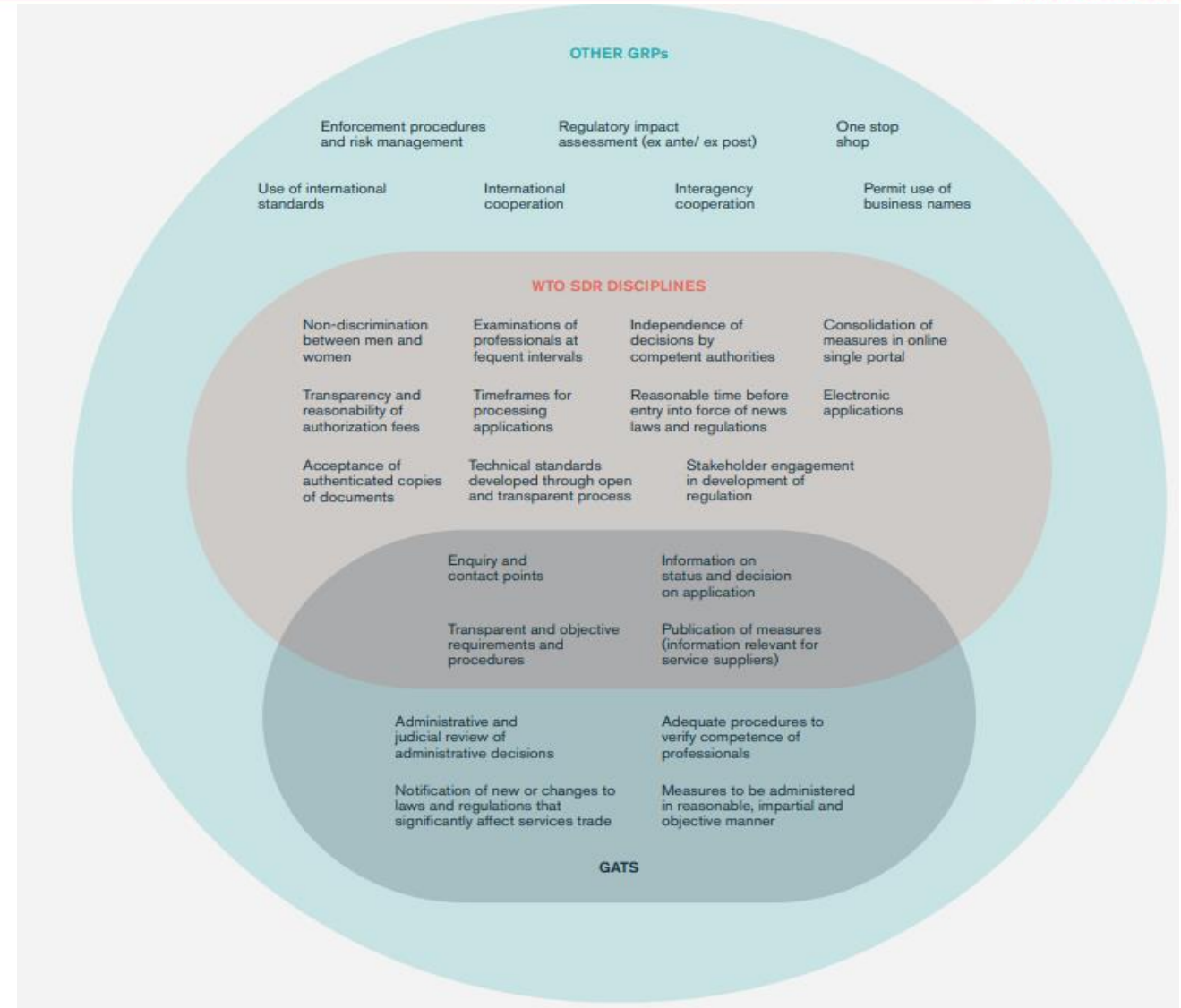
Good Regulatory Practices to Facilitate Trade in Services

World Bank Handbook



Good Regulatory Practices as part of Economic Rulemaking

- The GATS contains core GRP principles
- The SDR Disciplines elaborate on these principles and add new GRP aspects
- Other GRPs exist in other instruments such as in preferential trade agreements (PTAs)



Implementing GRPs Matter – Projected Effects of Implementation of WTO Services Domestic Regulation Disciplines

- **Trade effects:**

- 10% reduction of trade costs for lower middle-income economies
- 14% f reduction of trade costs or upper middle-income economies
- Global savings in the range of US\$ 127 to 150 billion
- Global exports are projected to rise by 0.75% (US\$ 206 billion)

- **Improvements in economic performance:**

- Real income is expected to increase by around 0.3% (US\$ 301 billion)
- More active engagement in international services trade
- Broad reductions in input prices
- Higher level of financial inclusion
- Stronger participation in GVCs



The WTO WB Handbook on Good Regulatory Practices to Facilitate Trade in Services

What it is NOT

It is not an implementation guide for the SDR Disciplines or the GATS regulatory obligations

It does not look only at the SDR Disciplines

It does not prescribe specific regulatory reforms

It does not address substantive regulatory issues in specific services sectors



What it is

It is a tool to assist regulators and policy makers in advancing domestic regulatory reforms that facilitate services trade

It looks at cross-cutting GRPs to facilitate services trade

It describes how GRPs are embedded in WTO rulebook and in PTAs, as well as how they are implemented across regions and sectors

It focuses on the design of authorization procedures and related systems across all sectors

14 Good Regulatory Practices – *What are they?*

1. Processing of
authorization
applications

2. Electronic
submission of
application

3. Online publication
of information

4. Single window

5. Authorization fees

6. Independence and
impartiality of
decision-making

7. Stakeholder
engagement

8. Enquiry points

9. Standards in
services

10. Review of
administrative
decisions

11. Assessment of
qualifications

12. Regulatory
impact assessment

13. Domestic inter-
agency coordination

14. International
regulatory
cooperation

The Case studies: From Theory to Practice

Case studies are the **bridge between principles and practice**

Key objectives:

- Move from the “what” to the “how”
- Show adoption of regulatory reforms across various systems and contexts
- Provide cross cutting lessons to regulators
- Support regulators in designing or updating their domestic regulatory frameworks

Country	Reforms
Costa Rica	Single Window for Investment (VUI) (2016-present)
Indonesia	Online Single Submission – Risk-based approach (OSS-RBA) (2021-present)
Thailand	Ease of Doing Business reforms (2015-present)
The Philippines	Ease of Doing Business reforms (2007-present)

Case Studies - 4 Key Patterns

1.



**Legal Anchors & Institutions
are the foundation**

- 1 Clear legal anchors
- 2 Stable political backing
- 3 Strong institutions
- 9 Monitoring & accountability

Announcements don't
deliver – **institutions do**

2.



**Simplification & digitalization
go hand in hand**

- 4 Coordination across
government
- 5 Digitalized & simplified
processes
- 6 Reliable Infrastructure

Digital + simple + connected
make meaningful improvements

3.



For the people, by the people.
People make reforms work

- 7 Continuous upskilling
- 8 User-centred design

Technology helps;
**capacity and user-focus
deliver**

4.



Reform is continuous

- 10 Flexibility & iteration

Flexibility and iteration
keep reforms relevant

The Diagnostic and Reform Planning Tool

- A questionnaire that supports mapping of domestic regulatory frameworks with a view to
 - examining areas of strengths and weaknesses, as well as
 - identifying priority areas for reform to improve the quality of the business environment.
- Builds on the extensive information contained in the WTO-World Bank STPD (40 SDR specific datapoints in 34 services sectors .)
- It also expands the scope and depth of datapoints with more than 160 additional questions on implementation of core GRPs
- The tool also captures *de facto* implementation of GRPs, by examining administrative and procedural practices, looking beyond *de jure* requirements.

The Diagnostic and Reform Planning Tool

Practical uses

- ✓ **For countries primarily interested in their own “SDR readiness”:** provides detailed assessment of implementation of SDR disciplines across sectors with specific commitments
- ✓ **For countries interested in a diagnostic of their regulatory procedures:** provides a detailed benchmarking against 14 GRPs in any of 34 services subsectors
- ✓ A visualisation board – a score card or traffic light captures the results of the analysis in a simple way to highlight areas where GRP principles are already incorporated in domestic legal frameworks.

Visualization of results

6(a)	Electronic submission (4.2.1.3)	LI	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	FI	FI	FI	FI	ND	ND	FI	FI	ND	FI
6(b)	Authenticated copies (4.2.1.4)	LI	FI	ND	FI	ND	FI	ND	ND	ND	ND	FI	ND	FI	FI	FI	FI
7(a)	Indicative processing timeframes (4.2.2.1)	LI	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	ND	FI
7(b)	Information on status of application (4.2.2.2)	ND	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	ND	ND	ND	ND	LI	ND
7(c)	Completeness of applications (4.2.2.3)	LI	ND	LI	ND	LI	ND	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	LI	LI
7(d)	Processing complete applications / communication of decisions (4.2.2.4)	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	LI	FI
7(e)	Incomplete applications (4.2.2.5)	PI	ND	LI	ND	LI	ND	LI	LI	LI	LI	FI	ND	FI	ND	FI	FI
7(f)	Reasons for rejection and resubmission (4.2.3)	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	FI	FI	FI	FI	PI	PI	ND	ND	PI	FI
8	Entry into effect of authorizations (4.2.4)	LI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	LI	FI
9	Authorization fees (4.3)	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	PI	LI	LI	LI	LI
10	Examinations (4.4)	LI	NA	ND	NA	ND	NA	NA	LI	NA	LI	NA	NA	NA	NA	PI	NA
22(a)	Objective and transparent criteria (4.5.1)	LI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI	FI
22(b)	Impartiality and adequacy of procedures (4.5.2)	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI	LI
	Procedures do not unjustifiably prevent																

Thank you