

**Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries
Negotiating Group on Market Access**

**MARKET ACCESS ISSUES RELATED TO PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST
ORIGINATING FROM LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

Note by the Secretariat¹

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¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and without prejudice to the positions of Members and to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Note by the Secretariat has been prepared in response to paragraph 7 of the LDC work programme, which mandates an annual review of market access for products originating from LDCs (WT/COMTD/LDC/11). It builds on the 2002 (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/28 and TN/MA/S/7) study on market access by adopting the same basic structure. The major addition in this study is the inclusion of information on the utilisation of preferences and preference margins.

2. The next section examines the LDC export profile for the purpose of identifying the major markets and products of export interest to LDCs. This is followed by an examination of tariff measures that affect LDC exports. Sections IV and V examine the issue of rules of origin in the context of the utilisation of preferences and preference margins. Finally, section VI reports on measures taken by Members to improve market access for LDCs.

II. EXPORT PROFILE

3. The participation of LDCs in the world trading system in a broader context is examined in WT/COMTD/LDC/W/30. That study also discusses, in detail, the role of LDCs in recent developments in world trade. It concludes that the merchandise exports and imports of LDCs have grown somewhat faster than world trade between the period 2000-2002, without any substantial change in their share of total world trade.

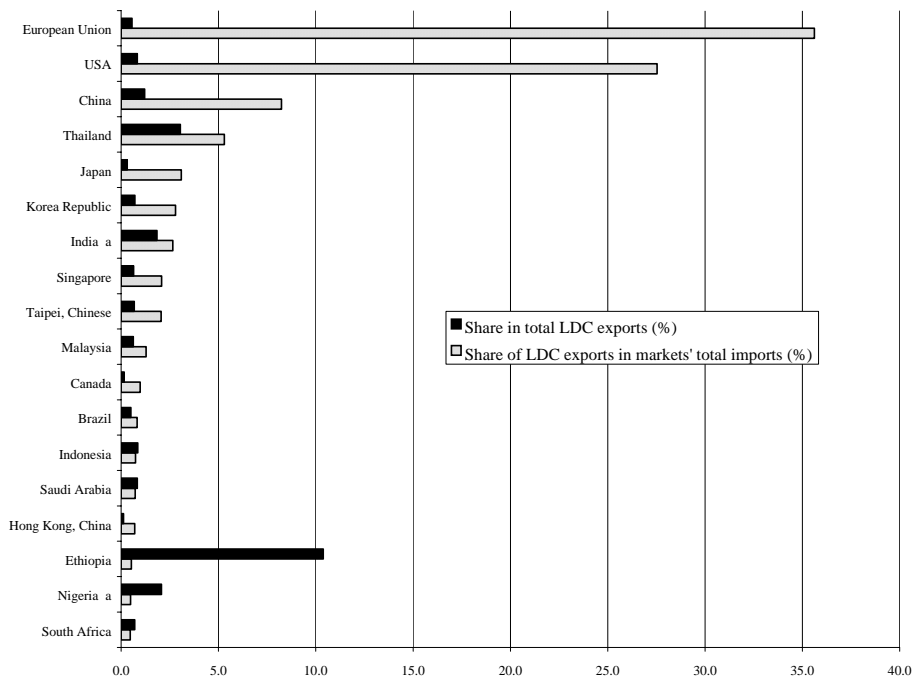
A. MAJOR MARKETS

4. There has not been any change in the major markets for LDC products. The European Union and United States remain the most important markets for LDC products, absorbing approximately 63 per cent of total LDC exports (Figure 1). The only other developed country in the list of top ten markets is Japan, which is ranked fifth. Canada is ranked eleventh. Another important observation about the data presented in Figure 1 is that six of the seven remaining markets in the top ten are in East Asia. In declining importance they are: China; Thailand; Republic of Korea; Singapore, Chinese Taipei and Malaysia.

5. A distinguishing feature of LDC exports is their reliance on a small number of markets (Table 1). Despite a WTO membership of 146 countries, 12 LDCs export 90 per cent of their products to less than or equal to five markets. Almost half the LDCs export their products to ten or less markets.

6. Another indicator that can be used to identify the importance of a market is import penetration; the share of total imports accounted for by LDC exports. According to this metric LDCs are the most successful in the Ethiopian market, followed by Thailand and Nigeria. They also appear to be penetrating the Chinese and the Indian market.

Figure 1: Destination of LDC Exports by Market, 2001



a. 2001 values repeated from 2000.
 Source: WTO.

B. MAJOR PRODUCTS

7. The profile of LDC exports underlines the fact that the 49 LDCs do not have homogenous market access interests (Table 1). Agricultural products account for more than 85 per cent of total exports for Burundi, Malawi, Chad and Somalia. If the threshold is decreased to 50 per cent (rounded) the number increases to 15 countries. Whereas, at the opposite end of the spectrum agriculture accounts for less than 1 per cent in eight LDCs, especially in those LDCs that rely heavily on fuel exports. Bangladesh stands out as an exporter that depends very heavily on non-fuel and non-agricultural products; agricultural exports account for less than 0.4 per cent of total exports. Its principal exports are apparel, crustaceans and leather products.

8. An interesting difference between Western Europe and North America as markets is their importance as importers of food products. Western Europe absorbs 40 per cent of total LDC food exports, whereas North America only takes in 9 per cent. Yet, combined both markets take in 97 per cent of total LDC exports of clothing. This would suggest that the developed country markets should not necessarily be considered as homogenous.

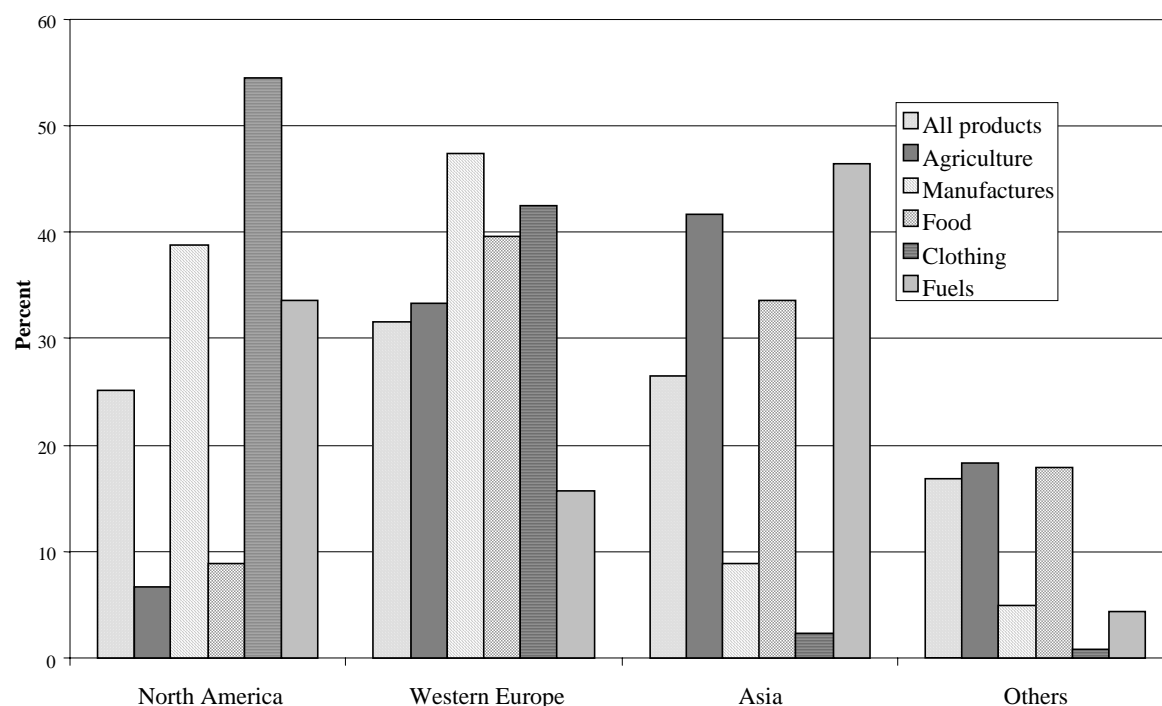
Table 1: Characteristics of LDC exports, 2000

Country	Concentration Index at HS-4 level ^a	Concentration Index at HS-6 level ^b	Share of Agriculture in Total Exports ^c	Market Diversification ^d	Principal exports
Afghanistan	58.8	58.6	82.0	20	Animal-hair, fur skins, grapes
Angola	98.6	97.7	0.0	5	Petroleum oils, diamonds, crustaceans
Bangladesh	32.3	23.9	0.4	14	Apparel, crustaceans, leather
Benin	68.9	67.0	76.4	12	Cotton, leather, misc. chemicals
Bhutan	63.6	57.6	6.7	4	Gas turbines, wheat, coal, coffee
Burkina Faso	69.5	67.6	77.5	15	Cotton, oilseeds, sugar
Burundi	90.6	90.5	88.6	14	Coffee, ores
Cambodia	52.7	35.2	0.3	8	Apparel, wood, footwear
Cape Verde	49.8	47.9	1.5	7	Footwear, apparel, mineral fuels
Central African Rep	87.2	86.0	10.3	5	Diamonds, wood, cotton, coffee
Chad	94.7	94.6	91.7	11	Cotton, Arabic gum, electrical machinery
Comoros	80.8	80.7	83.3	7	Coffee, essential oils, ores
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	84.2	76.9	3.5	4	Diamonds, mineral fuels, ores, coffee
Djibouti	28.1	28.0	30.6	13	Peals, oilseeds, live animals
Equatorial Guinea	93.3	92.8	0.4	3	Mineral fuels, wood, fish
Eritrea	33.4	31.1	18.5	12	Precious metal, fish leather
Ethiopia	75.2	71.5	83.6	16	Coffee, oilseeds, leather
Gambia	61.0	60.9	16.7	12	Diamonds, electronic equipment, fish
Guinea	83.0	81.1	3.8	9	Ores, diamonds, petroleum oils
Guinea-Bissau	93.5	93.1	49.7	2	Petroleum oils, fish, wood
Haiti	49.6	48.0	10.2	1	Apparel, coffee, edible fruits
Kiribati	91.9	86.3	0.0	3	Fish, electronic equipment
Lao PDR	39.8	26.3	12.6	12	Wood, apparel, coffee
Lesotho	67.4	64.3	0.6	2	Apparel, precious stones
Liberia	82.8	66.5	0.5	10	Ships, wood, diamonds
Madagascar	40.7	35.2	32.5	11	Apparel, fish, coffee
Malawi	82.4	76.3	88.8	23	Tobacco, tea, coffee, sugar
Maldives	56.7	51.0	0.1	6	Apparel, seafood, fish
Mali	79.9	77.8	77.1	17	Cotton, electronic equipment
Mauritania	89.1	68.2	0.3	11	Ores, fish
Mozambique	45.7	45.3	28.9	15	Crustaceans, aluminum, cotton
Myanmar	39.1	23.9	9.8	12	Apparel, wood, crustaceans
Nepal	36.2	33.6	12.7	7	carpets, apparel
Niger	93.5	92.8	1.7	2	Petroleum oils, inorganic chemicals
Rwanda	77.7	77.7	57.3	16	Coffee, ores
Samoa	82.6	78.4	10.1	4	Electrical equipment, fish
Sao Tome and Principe	69.6	43.9	21.2	12	Fish, cocoa, machine tools
Senegal	35.3	34.4	29.4	14	Vegetable oil, fish, residues
Sierra Leone	69.6	60.3	7.1	6	Motor vehicles, furniture
Solomon Islands	77.7	70.8	8.2	10	Wood, seafood, fish
Somalia	78.5	72.6	88.7	4	Live animals, wood
Sudan	84.9	84.8	21.4	8	Petroleum oils, oilseeds, live animals
Tanzania	42.3	34.8	47.4	20	Fish, coffee, tobacco
Togo	66.0	57.7	49.7	20	Natural phosphates, cotton, coffee
Tuvalu	37.8	37.8	27.1	8	Prepared vegetables, rubber, machinery
Uganda	75.6	68.9	78.5	18	Coffee, fish, tobacco
Vanuatu	77.4	64.5	16.1	7	Ships, fish, copra
Yemen	94.9	92.6	1.7	7	Petroleum oil, fish
Zambia	59.5	59.3	13.4	14	Copper, base metals, cotton

Source: UN Comtrade.

- Share of top three exports in terms of value in total exports based on HS 4 digit classification.
- Share of top three exports in terms of value in total exports based on HS 6 digit classification.
- Using the WTO Agreement on Agriculture definition of agriculture.
- Defined as the number of different countries to which an LDC exports 90 per cent of its products.

Figure 2: Destination of LDC Exports by Type of Product, 2001²



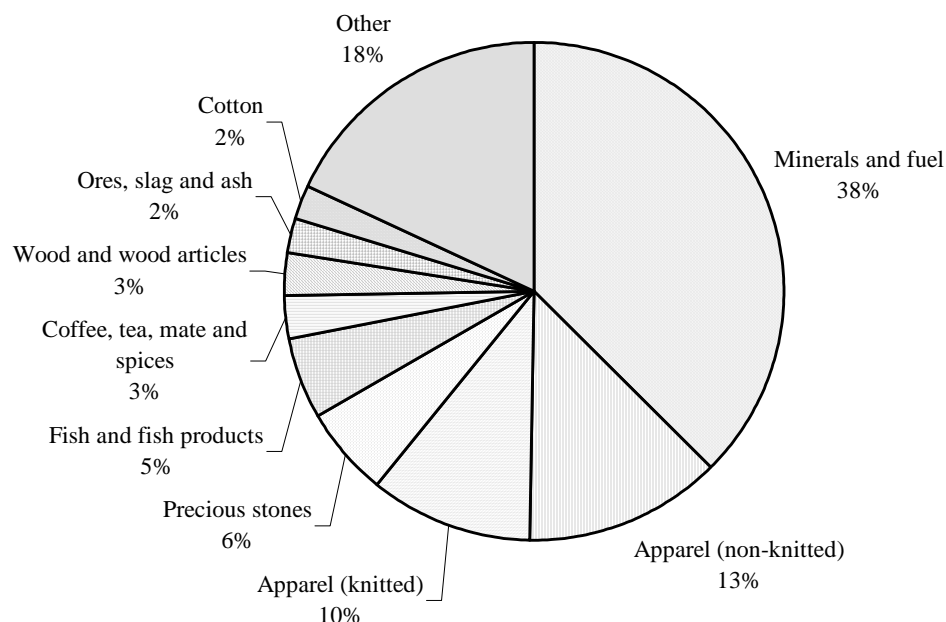
Source: WTO.

9. Lack of product diversification is one of the key characteristics of LDC exports. Table 1 presents figures on the share of the top three exports in terms of total exports based on a Harmonised System four digit and Harmonised System six digit classification. Despite more than 5,000 lines in the latter classification the top three exports of 34 LDCs account for more than 50 per cent of total exports. This lack of diversification is also presented in Figure 3 which shows that almost three-quarters of the total LDC exports is accounted for by fuels, apparel, precious stones and fish and fish products.

10. It is important to note that LDCs as a group are also major players in a few products. Table 2 lists eight products at the Harmonised System 6 digit level for which LDCs account for more than 50 per cent of world exports.

² For regional and product definitions see the Technical Notes of the International Trade Statistics 2002 (WTO, 2002).

Figure 3: Distribution of LDC Exports at the HS 2 Digit Level, 2001



Source: WTO.

Table 2: LDCs Export Shares in world greater than 50 per cent, 2000 (millions of US dollars)

Product description	LDC value	World total	Share (per cent)
Jute and other textile based fibres, raw or retted	44.3	48.9	90.5
Cobalt ores and concentrates	97.7	122	80.1
Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)	113.3	157.6	71.9
Oilcake from the extraction of groundnut oil	20.3	28.9	70.1
Aluminium ores and concentrates	382	639.1	59.8
Crude oil	77.4	130.9	59.2
Vanilla	74.1	128.7	57.6
Quinine and its salts	19.1	33.6	56.9

Source: WTO.

III. TARIFF MEASURES

11. Table 3 provides an overall landscape of the market access picture for products originating from LDCs into developed country markets. It shows an overall upward trend for non-arms exports from LDCs between 1996 and 2001, with a fairly consistent trend between 1998 and 2001, indicating that approximately 75 per cent of all LDC products enter developed country markets duty-free. This does not reflect further market access improvements that have been notified since 2001.

12. This picture changes somewhat if the figures are adjusted for oil, which as indicated earlier is a principal export of some LDCs and the major export for LDCs as a group. Now, the trend between 1996

and 2001 is clearly downwards. By 2001 the share of duty-free imports is estimated to be approximately 70 per cent.

Table 3: Duty-free imports into developed countries from developing countries and LDCs, 1996-2001 (in per cent)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Excluding arms						
Developing countries	54.8	50.5	49.9	57.2	62.8	65.7
LDCs	71.5	67.2	77.7	77.1	75.3	75.3
Excluding arms and oil						
Developing countries	56.8	51.5	49.9	58.1	65.1	66.0
LDCs	81.1	75.5	75.0	73.6	70.5	69.1

Source: Box IIB.1, *World Trade Report 2003*, (WTO, 2003).

13. Table 4 provides similar data, including a regional breakdown, for the United States. To our knowledge, the United States is the only Member for which such data is publicly available. It shows that the share of duty-free imports from LDCs has risen during the three-year period from 1999 to 2002.

Table 4: U.S. Merchandise Imports from LDCs by region (Millions of dollars and percentages) 1999, 2001 and 2002³

	1999				2001				2002			
	Africa	Asia and Middle East	Caribbean	Total	Africa	Asia and Middle East	Caribbean	Total	Africa	Asia and Middle East	Caribbean	Total
Total Imports	3242.2	3024.9	301.0	6568.2	4276.1	4362.5	263.1	8901.7	4840.5	4081.3	254.6	9176.4
Duty-free Imports	2874.4	229.2	228.3	3331.9	3964.7	321.2	220.5	4506.4	4561.7	431.0	210.6	5203.3
Dutiable Imports	367.8	2795.7	72.8	3236.3	311.4	4041.4	42.6	4395.4	278.9	3650.2	44.0	3973.1
Duty Collected	31.5	444.1	11.9	487.5	35.9	4041.4	6.4	4083.7	6.0	556.7	7.0	569.7
Duty Collected /Dutiable Imports	8.6	15.9	16.3	15.1	11.5	598.9	15.0	92.9	2.2	15.3	15.8	14.3
Duty Collected/ Total Imports	1.0	14.7	3.9	7.4	0.8	14.8	2.4	45.9	0.1	13.6	2.7	6.2
Duty-free Imports / Total Imports	88.7	7.6	75.8	50.7	92.7	13.7	83.8	50.6	94.2	10.6	82.7	56.7

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *FT 920, US Merchandise Trade: Selected Highlights, various issues*.

³ For regional definitions of LDCs, Asia and Middle East includes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Yemen. Caribbean comprises Haiti. The remaining 34 LDCs are in Africa.

A. STRUCTURE OF PREFERENCES

14. The data presented in Table 3 is estimated using the tariff profile of developed country markets for the year 2001. It does not take into account market access improvements that have been notified and implemented since that year. In order to obtain a better picture of the current state of market access with respect to tariff barriers, Table 5, presents data on the MFN and LDC preferential rate for developed countries for which data is available.⁴ It shows that for a number of markets such as Australia, Canada, European Union and New Zealand there is a significant movement towards duty-free market access for LDC products.

B. TARIFF ESCALATION

15. Tariff escalation, defined as higher tariffs facing more processed products was examined in detail in WT/COMTD/LDC/W/28. That study showed that tariff escalation still exists in the residual protection of developed country markets that offer preferential access for products originating from LDCs. In general, however, the remaining tariff barriers faced by LDC exporters tend to be in the more processed products in both developed and developing country markets. Developing country markets are often characterised by both higher tariff barriers and tariff escalation.⁵ These barriers, as noted in the earlier study, are not mitigated in developing country markets by the granting of preferences. On the other hand, the residual protection in developed country markets, after accounting for preferences, is typically in the more processed products.

C. TARIFF PEAKS

16. There is no generally accepted definition of a tariff peak. Two measures are usually used for illustrative purposes; three times the national tariff average or a tariff value above 15 per cent. The former is referred to as a national peak and the latter an international peak. Table 5 illustrates that for those countries for which data is available the granting of preferential access results in a general reduction in both national and international peaks. In some cases, however, the number of national peaks may actually rise when preferences are taken into account, since a lower overall average would be used as the reference point.

17. Table 6 presents in general terms the landscape for tariff peaks taking into account the current state of market access initiatives. It shows that for Canada, the EU and Switzerland the remaining peaks are predominantly in the agricultural sector. In contrast, the peaks in the United States are predominantly in the non-agricultural sector.

⁴ The comparable tables in WT/COMTD/LDC/W/28 are Tables 3 and 4. Those tables included data on selected developing country markets as a means of comparison. They showed that developing country markets do not predominantly offer concessions to LDC exports, hence the applicable tariff rates are the Most Favoured Nation applied rates. The relevant data can be sourced from Annex Tables IIB.6 and IIB.7 of the *World Trade Report 2003* published by the WTO.

⁵ See *World Trade Report 2003* (WTO, 2003).

Table 5: Tariff profile of selected markets by forms of tariff treatment (percentages), 2001

COUNTRY	MFN																	
	All Products						Agricultural products						Non-agricultural products					
	Tariff averages				Number of Peaks		Tariff averages				Number of Peaks		Tariff averages				Number of Peaks	
	Simple Average		Weighted Average				Simple Average		Weighted Average				Simple Average		Weighted Average			
Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	
Australia	4.1	7.8	4.2	8.3	213	515	1.1	4.8	2.3	4.7	0	0	4.6	8.0	4.3	8.5	213	515
Canada	4.2	6.9	3.4	7.0	419	479	3.0	7.1	3.1	8.7	8	15	4.4	6.9	3.4	7.0	411	464
EU	4.4	5.5	3.1	6.0	101	135	6.0	9.6	4.0	9.2	57	74	4.2	5.1	3.1	5.9	44	61
Iceland	2.9	11.1	2.9	12.1	106	802	7.0	25.2	12.6	40.1	105	123	2.4	9.2	2.2	9.5	1	679
Japan	3.3	6.1	2.5	7.9	139	452	7.1	10.7	8.1	14.1	108	184	2.7	5.2	1.8	6.4	31	268
New Zealand	3.3	7.2	2.9	7.7	239	318	1.7	5.0	3.2	6.5	0	0	3.5	7.4	2.9	7.8	239	318
Norway	2.6	10.1	1.5	8.7	131	540	8.4	51.2	4.9	35.3	18	34	2.1	8.0	1.4	8.1	113	506
United States	3.9	5.7	3.1	5.4	232	406	4.8	6.7	3.1	4.9	49	76	3.8	5.5	3.1	5.5	183	330
COUNTRY	LDC																	
	All Products						Agricultural products						Non-agricultural products					
	Tariff averages				Number of Peaks		Tariff averages				Number of Peaks		Tariff averages				Number of Peaks	
	Simple Average		Weighted Average				Simple Average		Weighted Average				Simple Average		Weighted Average			
Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	Total	Dutiable	Total	Dutiable	Inter national	National	
Australia ^a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canada ^a	1.7	13.7	0.6	18.3	345	525	0.5	16.2	0.4	25.4	5	12	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EU ^a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Iceland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japan	0.9	10.3	1.0	10.3	101	405	5.9	11.7	7.0	15.5	98	298	0.2	6.5	0.3	4.9	3	107
New Zealand ^a	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Norway	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
United States	1.9	10.7	1.3	14.7	194	706	1.9	14.6	0.9	25.6	26	59	1.9	10.3	1.4	14.5	168	647

Source: UNCTAD TRAINS and WTO IDB.

^a Figures adjusted to account for post 2001 initiatives. Only the non-agricultural product figure was adjusted for Canada.

... data not available.

International tariff peaks refers to tariff rates that are above 15 per cent. National tariff peaks refers to tariff rates that are three times the national average, calculated for each tariff regime.

Only *ad valorem* duties are taken into account in the calculation.

Table 6: Exceptions to Duty-Free and Quota-Free Market Access, 2003

Country	Exceptions
Australia	None.
Canada	Dairy, eggs and poultry.
EU	Bananas, sugar and rice (phased out by 2009). Arms and munitions.
Iceland	Positive duties remain in the following agricultural HS chapters: 04, 15, 18, 19, 21 and 22. Positive duties remain in the following non-agricultural HS sub-headings: 3502 and 3823, and all of HS 16 with the exception of sub-headings 1603 to 1605.
Japan	Positive duties remain in all agricultural chapters except HS chapters 05 and 06. All non-agricultural chapters are duty-free with the exception of the following HS chapters: 03, 16, 25, 27, 29, 35, 42, 43, 44, 50, 64, 72, 75, 76, 90 and 91.
New Zealand	None.
Norway	Arms and munitions. Flour, grains and feeding stuffs.
Switzerland	Positive duties remain in all agricultural HS chapters with the exception of: 09, 17 to 22, and 24. Non-agricultural HS chapters are duty-free with the exception of HS chapters 35 and 38.
United States	Textiles and apparel (except those allowed under AGOA).

IV. NON-TARIFF MEASURES – RULES OF ORIGIN

18. The data presented in the previous section focussed on tariffs and highlighted the role played by non-reciprocal preferences in determining market access. In reality, however, the granting of preferences does not necessarily imply that a product that is eligible for preferential treatment will actually receive such treatment. Therefore, the tables presented earlier should be considered as the maximum estimates of duty-free market access since they define the eligibility of products as opposed to the actual treatment.

19. The actual treatment of products, or utilisation of preferences, can only be determined through the use of customs data, where available. Table 7 presents data on the utilisation of preferences under the Generalised System of Preferences scheme for four markets: Canada, European Union, Japan and the United States.⁶ It shows the percentage of imports that are eligible for preferences under the coverage rate, the percentage of eligible imports that enter the market under the preferential rate and the total percentage of imports into the market from a particular LDC that receive preferences. The last figure, therefore, is one possible indicator of market access.

20. As can be seen from Table 7 the utility rates differ considerably across markets and exporters. Most of the figures, with only a few exceptions, are rather low. A principal reason for such low numbers, especially for the European Union is that LDC exporters may be eligible to export to a market under schemes other than the GSP scheme. Nevertheless, the data presented in Table 7 is indicative of a general issue which puts into question the sole reliance on tariff data as indicators for LDC market access.

21. One aspect of preferential schemes, which points to the broader issue of the benefits of such schemes, is the role of preferential rules of origin. Products that are manufactured using imported components are subject to the application of scheme specific rules of origin. Such rules are, of course,

⁶ The Generalised System of Preferences scheme is analysed in greater detail in WT/COMTD/W/93.

a necessary component of any scheme since they define eligibility. However, it is argued that in some cases the specificity, design and application of the rules make it difficult for LDC exporters to benefit from such schemes.⁷

22. The prime example of how the eligibility schemes can condition market access is their application in textiles and apparel. As indicated in Figure 3 apparel products, both knitted and non-knitted, rank amongst the most important exports of LDCs. Manufacturing such products, however, require a number of intermediate inputs, which in some cases are cheaper to source from another country. Use of these imported products could reduce the preference eligibility of the final product. At the same time, restricting the use of such imports could have the effect of either raising the cost of the final product so that it is not competitive, or making it unfeasible to manufacture the product since the productive capacity required to manufacture the intermediate product is not available. Preferential rules of origin is a complex topic. It has been argued that granting preferences, while constructing eligibility criteria that make it difficult to use the preferences will not enhance market access.

V. PREFERENCE MARGINS

23. Tables 8 and 9 provide, respectively, a preliminary assessment of preference margins and the potential for preference erosion in agricultural and non-agricultural products. The products presented in the table were identified as those with the greatest difference between the MFN applied duty and the LDC preferential duty in selected markets for which data is available. The tables address two issues. First, whether or not the products with the greatest preference margin are of relevance to LDCs. Second, the potential for preference erosion that may arise from the implementation of commitments undertaken within the context of the current round of negotiations.

24. In the context of the first issue the products cited in Table 9 correspond quite well to the products identified in Figure 3. Apparel and processed fish, which are two products of export interest to LDCs have some of the highest preference margins in a number of markets. Therefore, the preference margins offered by some of the major developed markets are of significant importance to LDC exporters.

25. In the context of the second issue, it is important to note that a thorough analysis of preference erosion requires detailed information on the modalities for negotiating market access in agricultural and non-agricultural products. For example, without agreement on the base rates (may not necessarily be the applied rates) or the approach to reducing tariffs it is difficult to accurately specify the extent to which preference margins maybe eroded. Nevertheless, Tables 8 and 9 do indicate that in some cases the preference margin is quite substantial. For example, for fish products into the EU market the preference margin is 24 per cent. In other markets, the preference margin is sometimes only 5 per cent.

VI. INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS

26. Recent improvements in market access are summarised in Table 10. The changes in 2002/03 to include an increase in product coverage for preferential market access by Australia, Canada, Iceland and Japan and changes in the rules of origin requirements.

⁷ UNCTAD (2001), "Improving Market Access for Least-developed Countries", UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/4, Geneva, UNCTAD.

Table 7: GSP imports and utilization by Least-Developed Countries

Beneficiary Country	CANADA			EU			JAPAN			USA			TOTAL		
	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate
Afghanistan	97.9	0.6	0.6	100.0	5.4	5.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	5.3	5.3
Angola	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.8	0.0	0.0	95.1	46.4	44.1	100.0	96.9	96.9	100.0	95.1	95.1
Bangladesh	10.3	74.2	7.7	100.0	50.8	50.8	64.5	76.6	49.4	1.9	69.0	1.3	57.3	51.6	29.5
Benin	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	84.9	97.8	83.0	99.3	1.0	1.0
Bhutan	100.0	0.0	0.0	81.8	15.5	12.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	7.1	56.7	4.0	18.0	39.5	7.1
Burkina Faso	86.4	100.0	86.4	99.8	0.1	0.1	53.9	26.1	14.0	94.0	91.2	85.8	99.6	0.7	0.7
Burundi	90.8	0.0	0.0	99.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.0	0.0	0.0
Cape Verde	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.9	0.4	0.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	57.7	10.4	88.6	2.0	1.7
Central African Republic	26.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.9	0.0	0.0	83.4	0.0	0.0
Chad	89.5	0.0	0.0	99.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.9	0.1	0.1
Cambodia	0.4	59.0	0.2	100.0	36.2	36.2	88.7	95.9	85.1	0.5	75.8	0.4	33.1	42.1	13.9
Comoros	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.2	0.0	0.0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.2	4.7	4.6	98.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	97.0	97.0
Djibouti	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.5	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.5	2.2	2.2
Equatorial Guinea	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	95.0	95.0	81.4	72.8	59.3
Eritrea	100.0	35.7	35.7	99.9	2.7	2.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	98.9	0.0	0.0	99.9	2.6	2.6
Ethiopia	93.2	0.0	0.0	98.0	7.8	7.6	99.6	57.7	57.4	50.9	87.0	44.3	96.5	9.9	9.5
Gambia	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.7	0.4	0.4	61.1	81.3	49.6	44.5	1.6	0.7	89.5	14.2	12.7
Guinea	80.8	10.8	8.8	100.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	94.4	30.8	29.1	95.4	1.1	1.1
Guinea-Bissau	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Haiti	26.0	69.4	18.0	96.5	53.6	51.7	75.9	13.4	10.2	6.5	13.8	0.9	8.5	25.0	2.1
Kiribati	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	27.4	27.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	30.7	30.7	2.2	27.8	0.6
Lao People's Democratic Republic	4.9	51.4	2.5	100.0	58.3	58.2	99.2	91.2	90.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.7	59.5	58.7
Lesotho	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	32.1	32.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	27.7	0.0	3.1	32.0	1.0
Liberia	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.1	1.2	0.4	65.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.2	1.2	0.4
Madagascar	9.4	33.8	3.2	98.3	0.9	0.9	8.5	5.8	0.5	3.3	83.1	2.7	68.2	2.0	1.4
Malawi	99.2	97.2	96.4	86.0	4.8	4.1	100.0	99.4	99.4	78.7	66.6	52.5	84.1	22.0	18.5
Mali	99.3	1.7	1.7	99.3	3.9	3.9	100.0	0.0	0.0	85.6	50.0	42.8	98.2	7.3	7.1
Mauritania	23.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	88.1	97.7	86.1	97.4	0.0	0.0	95.1	37.5	35.6

Beneficiary Country	CANADA			EU			JAPAN			USA			TOTAL		
	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate	Potential Cover Rate	Utilization Rate	Utility Rate
Maldives	6.9	99.2	6.9	99.9	26.2	26.2	8.5	79.5	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	73.8	28.1	20.7
Mozambique	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.7	100.0	96.7	95.1	1.3	1.3
Myanmar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6	80.6	31.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6	80.6	31.1
Nepal	45.4	77.4	35.1	100.0	71.3	71.3	99.7	80.1	79.9	4.7	90.7	4.2	44.9	74.1	33.3
Niger	81.1	1.3	1.0	99.5	3.1	3.0	90.4	8.8	7.9	87.0	11.6	10.1	95.7	4.7	4.5
Rwanda	91.7	0.0	0.0	97.7	0.0	0.0	3.2	100.0	3.2	99.8	78.9	78.7	94.6	9.0	8.5
Samoa	85.9	0.3	0.3	100.0	36.3	36.2	93.7	0.0	0.0	30.9	72.2	22.3	57.5	41.0	23.6
Sao Tome and Principe	76.7	0.0	0.0	99.9	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	96.3	0.0	0.0	85.9	0.0	0.0
Senegal	15.2	56.3	8.5	73.6	0.4	0.3	58.1	94.9	55.1	98.6	8.5	8.4	73.8	2.0	1.5
Sierra Leone	68.8	22.2	15.3	100.0	6.6	6.6	10.7	0.0	0.0	60.4	20.1	12.1	84.5	9.8	8.3
Solomon Islands	69.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	22.4	100.0	22.4	79.4	4.2	3.3	28.8	71.1	20.5
Somalia	50.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.6	0.0	0.0	80.6	0.0	0.0
Sudan	99.7	0.0	0.0	53.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	74.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	0.4	0.0
United Republic of Tanzania	99.3	12.4	12.3	96.6	0.9	0.9	28.1	83.8	23.5	77.0	62.2	47.9	92.5	2.9	2.7
Togo	12.2	79.6	9.7	99.8	4.0	4.0	100.0	9.7	9.7	99.9	99.5	99.4	99.8	21.6	21.6
Tuvalu	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	12.2	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.8	12.0	12.1
Uganda	92.7	83.8	77.7	99.9	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	95.8	45.4	43.4	94.5	1.0	0.9
Vanuatu	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	100.0	0.6	100.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	12.6	0.7
Yemen	100.0	0.0	0.0	96.3	76.4	73.6	0.4	39.2	0.2	100.0	38.7	38.7	84.8	43.3	36.7
Zambia	79.1	94.7	75.0	88.5	1.0	0.9	100.0	25.4	25.4	82.8	71.1	58.9	93.4	12.9	12.0
Averages	59.3	60.6	35.9	58.8	45.6	26.8	39.8	30.7	12.2	36.4	66.6	24.2	46.9	46.8	22.0

Source: UNCTAD.

Notes: Product coverage is defined as the ratio between imports that are covered by preferential trade arrangements and total dutiable imports from the beneficiary countries.

Utilisation rate is defined as the ratio between the amount of imports actually receiving preference and the amount of dutiable imports eligible for preferences.

Utility rate is defined as the ratio of imports actually receiving preference and all dutiable imports (covered or not).

Table 8: Summary of Preference Margins by Country for Agricultural Products (HS Chapters)

	Agriculture Products		
	HS Chapters	Preference Margin (%)	Product Descriptions
Australia	05	5	Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
	07	5	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
	08	5	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
	11	5	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; insulin; wheat gluten
	12	5	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder
	13	5	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included
	17	5	Sugars and sugar confectionery
	19	5	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastry cooks' products
	20	5	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
	22	5	Beverages, spirits and vinegar
Canada	02	11	Meat and edible meat offal
	04	11	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
	06	12.5 - 16	Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage
	07	11 - 19.6	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
	08	12.5	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
	15	11	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
	16	12.5	Preparations of meat
	17	12.5	Sugars and sugar confectionery
	19	14.5	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastry cooks' products
	20	11.5 - 17	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
	21	12.5	Miscellaneous edible preparations
	22	16	Beverages, spirits and vinegar
European Union	24	12.5 - 13	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
	20	24 - 40	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
	22	32	Beverages, spirits and vinegar
United States	24	26 - 74.9	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco. Substitutes
	04	19 - 25.0	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
	07	20 - 24.3	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
	08	28 - 29.8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
	15	18 - 19.1	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
	17	18.3	Sugars and sugar confectionery
	20	22.4 - 29.8	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
	21	20-30.6	Miscellaneous edible preparations
	22	35	Beverages, spirits and vinegar
24	18.1- 46.9	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	

Table 9: Summary of Preference Margins by Country for Non-agricultural Products (HS Chapters)

	Non-Agricultural Products		
	HS Chapters	Preference Margin (%)	Product Description
Australia	39	5	Plastics and articles thereof
	41	5	Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather
	42	5	Articles of leather; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silk-worm gut)
	44	5	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal
	48	5	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard
	53	5	Other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn
	56	5	Wadding, felt and non-woven; special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles thereof
	57	15	Carpets and other textile floor coverings
	61	17-25	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
	62	25	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
	63	15	Other made up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags
	64	10	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles
	69	5	Ceramic products
	71	5	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin
	85	5	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles
94	5	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings, not elsewhere specified or included; illuminated signs, illuminated name-plates and the like; prefabricated buildings	
Canada	58	17	Special woven fabrics; tufted textile fabrics; lace; tapestries; trimmings; embroidery
	59	25	Impregnated, coated, covered or laminated textile fabrics; textile articles of a kind suitable for industrial use
	61	20	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted
	62	17	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
	63	17 - 19	Other made up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags
	64	17 - 20	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles
	89	20 - 25	Ships, boats and floating structures
95	18	Toys, games and sports requisites; parts and accessories thereof	
European Union	16	24-26	Preparations of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates
	30	22-23	Pharmaceutical products
	87	22	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof
United States	16	15-35	Preparations of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates
	30	15	Pharmaceutical products
	42	20	Articles of leather; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silk-worm gut)
	67	17	Prepared feathers and down and articles made of feathers or of down; artificial flowers; articles of human hair
	69	15-30	Ceramic products
	70	15 -38	Glass and glassware
	81	15	Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof
	82	20	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal
			Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling-stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings and parts thereof; mechanical (including electro-mechanical) traffic signalling equipment of all kinds
	86	15	
	87	25	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof
	90	16	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof
	91	16-18	Clocks and watches and parts thereof
96	32-110	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	

Table 10: Summary of initiatives to improve market access for LDCs⁸

Member	Market Access for LDCs	WTO Document Reference (Notifications in bold)
Argentina (Mercosur)	In May 2000, Argentina (on behalf of Mercosur) announced that it provided tariff preferences for LDCs under the GSTP scheme, and following completion of the ratification process for the offers made in the context of the second round of GSTP negotiations, they would be in a position to enhance their preferences.	WT/GC/M/55 (2000)
Australia	In October 2002, Australia announced duty and quota-free access for all products originating in LDCs. This would be effective for all LDC exports entering the Australian market from 1 July 2003. There are no exclusions nor are there any phase-out periods for the removal of tariffs and quotas. Earlier in May 2000, Australia provided duty and quota-free access on 93.2 per cent of LDC exports to its market. In terms of tariff rates, about 84 per cent of tariff lines were duty-free for LDCs. In 1997, 98 per cent of LDC exports entered duty-free.	WT/COMTD/LDC/M/30 (2003) WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997) WT/TPR/S/104
Bulgaria	Continued to grant, duty and quota-free access to its market for a wide range of products from LDCs. In 1997, all LDC exports entered duty-free.	WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Canada	Effective 1 January 2003, Canada added 903 tariff lines, at HS 8 digit level, to the list of duty-free tariff items for 48 LDCs. With the exception of dairy, poultry and egg products, Canada provides duty and quota free access for all imports from LDCs. Canada also introduced new rules of origin requirements that apply to the covered textile and apparel products entering the Canadian market from LDCs. In September 2000, 570 tariff lines at HS 8 digit level were added to the list of duty-free items. Prior to these announcements, duty-free access to LDC exports covered 90 per cent of the tariff lines. Canada had also liberalized rules of origin requirements that applied to LDC imports in August 2000. Canada from 1 January 1998, moved beyond its commitments in the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing to integrate textile products and remove quotas on a number of specific products, as notified to the WTO Textiles Monitoring Body.	WT/COMTD/N/15/Add.1 (2003) WT/COMTD/N/15 (2000) WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/COMTD/LDC/M/11 (1998)
Chile	In May 2000, the Government was in the process of evaluating preferential treatment for products originating in LDCs within its legal requirements. It also announced its intention to consider or finalize initiatives of market access for LDCs at the HLM in 1997.	WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Czech Republic	Czech Republic informed Members of its existing GSP scheme, offering duty-free and quota-free access to all LDCs' exports. In July 2001, copies of a letter received by the Director-General, with information of its preferential market access for LDCs was circulated to the Sub-Committee.	WT/COMTD/LDC/M/25 (2001) WT/GC/M/55 (2000)

⁸ Adapted from WT/COMTD/LDC/W/28 and TN/MA/S/7. Updated information or notifications of market access measures in favour of LDCs have been received in 2002/3 from, Australia, Canada, Iceland and Japan.

Member	Market Access for LDCs	WTO Document Reference (Notifications in bold)
Egypt	Following the HLM, Egypt through the GSTP in 1998 notified tariff reductions at HS 8 digit level, ranging from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of existing applied duties, for 77 products of export interest to LDCs, and provided duty-free access, for about 50 products imported into Egypt. In addition, Egypt bound customs duties, with a 10 per cent reduction for industrial products imported from LDCs.	WT/COMTD/W/47& Add.1 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
European Union	The EC notified the Everything but Arms (EBA) initiative. Duty-free and quota-free market access for all goods (except arms), was accorded to LDCs effective from 5 March, 2001. A transition period of between 2002 and 2009 was provided for the phasing in of sugar, rice and bananas. Earlier, in 2000, about 99 per cent of LDCs exports by value entered the EU market duty-free. At the HLM in 1997, the EC announced the extension of preferences under the Fourth ACP-EC Convention to non-ACP LDCs that was notified and effective from 1 January 1998. Rules of origin requirements were also simplified allowing for derogations and promoting regional cumulation.	WT/COMTD/N/4/Add.2 (2001) WT/COMTD/LDC/M/12 WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/COMTD/W/41 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Hong Kong, China	Application of duty & quota-free access on an MFN basis to imports from all sources including LDCs.	WT/GC/M/55 (2000)
Hungary	Hungary informed Members of its existing GSP scheme, offering duty-free and quota-free access to all LDCs' exports. In July 2001, copies of a letter received by the Director-General, with information of its preferential market access for LDCs was circulated to the Sub-Committee. The Customs Law – 1996 through legal guarantees, strengthened predictability of the preferential market access to LDCs. Liberal application of rules of origin requirements.	WT/COMTD/LDC/M/25 WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Iceland	On 29 January 2002, Iceland issued Regulation No.119/2002 implementing a law passed by Parliament in May 2001 granting unilateral duty and quota-free market access for imports in essentially all products originating in LDCs.	WT/COMTD/N/17
India	Preferences granted under SAPTA to LDC contracting states. In 1997, India granted tariff concessions on 574 tariff lines exclusively to the LDC members of SAARC, and had removed quantitative restrictions on 180 lines exclusively in favour of SAARC LDCs. Further, under the existing GSTP, India provided preferential access to seven LDCs, namely, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Benin, Guinea, Haiti, Mozambique and Sudan. Under the Bangkok Agreement, Bangladesh was given preferential access, and Myanmar and Nepal had preferential access to India under bilateral agreements.	WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Indonesia	Announced intention to consider initiatives to improve market access for LDCs at the HLM in 1997.	WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)

Member	Market Access for LDCs	WTO Document Reference (Notifications in bold)
Japan	Effective 1 April 2003, Japan expanded the coverage of its GSP scheme, especially duty-free and quota-free treatment for LDCs' products. The number of LDCs' agricultural and fishery products with duty-free and quota-free treatment increased to around 500 items from around 300 existing items. The additional 200 items include prawns and frozen fish fillets. As for LDCs' industrial products, almost all items are already covered by duty-free and quota-free treatment. This expansion increases the duty and quota-free imports from LDCs, from around 80 per cent to over 90 per cent. Earlier in 2002, Senegal had been added to the list of LDC beneficiaries under Japan's GSP Scheme. Changes to ceiling quotas for industrial products were also notified. In 2001, Japan's GSP Scheme, was extended, together with changes, by ten years until 31 March 2011. Following on an earlier proposal, from 1 April 2001, a further 360 products (at HS 9 Digit) from LDCs would be eligible for duty-free and quota-free treatment. About 99 per cent of industrial products, including textiles and clothing, would be covered by the scheme.	WT/COMTD/N/2/Add.12 (2003) WT/COMTD/N/2/Add.1-11 (2002) WT/COMTD/29 WT/LDC/SWG/IF/12 (2001) WT/GC/M/55 (2000)
Korea, Rep. Of	In January 2000, Korea notified preferential duty-free access on 80 items (HS 6-digit) originating from and of major export interest to LDCs effective from 1 January 2000. In May 2000, it indicated that it would consider further expanding its existing preferential tariff regime for LDCs.	WT/COMTD/N/12/Rev.1 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997) WT/GC/M/55 (2000)
Malaysia	Announced intention to consider initiatives to improve market access for LDCs at the HLM in 1997.	WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Mauritius	Notified effective September 1998, duty-free access for five tariff lines originating from LDCs. The products comprise certain crustaceans; guavas, mangoes, mangosteens; axes and billhooks; handsaws and files.	WT/COMTD/W/53 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Morocco	Morocco notified duty-free access, for 33 African LDCs. Effective 1 January, 2001, duty-free access was accorded to 61 products (at HS 4 to 10 digit level) originating in and consigned from the African LDCs. Debt to Morocco, owed by African LDCs, had also been cancelled. This measure was in fulfilment of the proposal made by Morocco at the HLM in 1997.	WT/LDC/SWG/IF/18 and G/C/6 (2001) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
New Zealand	New Zealand in November 2000, notified its decision to offer duty and quota-free access to all imports from LDCs effective from 1 July 2001. Prior to this, in 1999, 96.7 per cent of its tariff lines and 99.3 per cent of its imports from LDCs entered duty-free.	WT/COMTD/27 WT/GC/36 WT/GC/M/55 (2000)

Member	Market Access for LDCs	WTO Document Reference (Notifications in bold)
Norway	<p>In May 2001, Norway announced still further improvements in their preferential scheme in favour of LDCs. With effect from 1 July 2002, Norway would offer duty-free and quota-free treatment to all LDCs' exports (except arms) with no transition arrangements for any product. Earlier in 2000, amendments and improvements to Norway's GSP scheme were notified Norway accorded duty-free and quota-free access to all industrial and agricultural imports from LDCs covered by the GSP programme, with the exception of flour, grains and feeding stuffs. Rules of origin requirements were revised and simplified. Following harmonization in the application of rules of origin with the EC and Switzerland, from 1 March 1998, bilateral cumulation was permitted and the possibility of future diagonal cumulation of origin was being considered. At the HLM, Norway announced that it had on an MFN basis accelerated its Uruguay Round tariff cuts on agricultural products by implementing them from 1 January 1995 instead of 1999. It had also phased out almost all restrictions on textiles and clothing by 1997-98 instead of 2004.</p>	<p>WT/COMTD/M/34 (2001) WT/COMTD/N/6/ Add.1 - 2 WT/GC/M/55 (2000)</p> <p>WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)</p>
Poland	<p>Since 1990, Poland has applied preferential treatment for products originating from LDCs and in May 2000, it announced that it was examining autonomous improvements to the existing preferential system with a view to providing duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all products originating in LDCs, in conformity with national legislation and international agreements.</p>	<p>WT/GC/M/55 (2000)</p>
Singapore	<p>Singapore notified at the HLM, duty-free treatment on 107 items (HS 6 digit) of export interest to LDCs in addition to the almost duty-free regime accorded on an MFN basis.</p>	<p>WT/LDC/HL/M/1 Annex 1 (1997)</p>
Slovak Republic	<p>The Slovak Republic informed Members of its existing GSP scheme, offering duty-free and quota-free access to all LDCs' exports. In July 2001, copies of a letter received by the Director-General, with information on its preferential market access scheme for LDCs was circulated to the Sub-Committee. It confirmed in May 2000, that its GSP system would be maintained in the future.</p>	<p>WT/COMTD/LDC/M/25 (2001) WT/GC/M/55 (2000)</p>
Slovenia	<p>In May 2000, Slovenia announced that it was prepared to provide tariff and quota-free access for essentially all products originating in LDCs, independent of WTO membership, consistent with its domestic requirements and international agreements under its newly established preferential scheme. The Government had taken this general decision which would be confirmed through decrees issued.</p>	<p>WT/GC/M/55 (2000)</p>

Member	Market Access for LDCs	WTO Document Reference (Notifications in bold)
Switzerland	Switzerland notified its proposal designed to grant duty-free access in the medium term for all products from LDCs. The revision of the GSP with effect from 1 January 2002, would provide LDCs the phased removal of all remaining customs duties. Duties were reduced by an average of 30 per cent on 1 January 2002. Subsequently, from 1 April 2004, an additional reduction of an average of 30 per cent will be granted to LDCs. Market access for LDCs would be reviewed in 2005 before the expiry of the current GSP scheme. In 1997, Switzerland had extended its GSP scheme for ten years. Since 1 March 1997, LDCs were able to benefit from zero tariffs for all industrial and most agricultural products. Some 98 per cent of LDC products entered Switzerland duty-free under its notified preferential scheme and improvements thereof. Rules of Origin for goods benefiting from preferential access had also been simplified. Switzerland had harmonised its regulations with the European Union and in the near future materials originating from Switzerland but also from the European Union and Norway would enjoy the right of cumulation treatment. Under the new rules of origin, regional economic groupings in developing countries also enjoyed the right of cumulation treatment.	WT/COMTD/N/7 & Add.1 (2002) WT/COMTD/W/34 WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
Thailand	At the HLM in 1997, announced tariff preferences on 74 product groups (at the 6-digit H.S. level), through which some products would be exempted from import duty and others would be given a margin of preference of 20 per cent from the applied rates. This would be subject to an annual review process.	WT/LDC/HL/M/1(1997)
Turkey	Notified additional preferential tariff rates for imports from LDCs effective from 1 January 1998. These unilateral preferential rates apply to 556 products at the HS 12 digit level. All these products except coffee, are given duty-free access.	WT/COMTD/W/39 & Corr.1 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)
United States	The United States adopted the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in May 2000 for Sub-Saharan Africa. Thirty-four Sub-Saharan countries (including 23 LDCs), were designated as beneficiaries under AGOA in October 2000, and can avail new GSP benefits for 1835 tariff lines as from December 2000. Earlier improvements under the GSP system, included duty-free access offered on nearly half the 9000 products in the US harmonized tariff schedule. Improvements to the scheme were notified with the addition of 1,783 tariff lines to GSP treatment for LDCs as from 30 May 1997, under the GSP Renewal Act of 1996. Moreover, at the end of the Uruguay Round implementation period, some 70 per cent of US tariff lines would be subject to MFN rates of 5 per cent or less and MFN duty-free treatment would cover more than 40 per cent of tariff lines.	WT/COMTD/N/1/Add.3 WT/GC/M/55 (2000) WT/COMTD/N/1/Add.2 WT/LDC/HL/M/1 (1997)