

# **Understanding the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement**

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# I. What is the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement?



# What is the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement?

## Trade and government procurement in the WTO: the evolving policy interface

- **Government procurement excluded** from the core discipline on non-discrimination in the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (**GATT**) and the 1994 General Agreement on Trade in Services (**GATS**).
- A gap that is gradually being filled, over time:
  - 1979: the **Tokyo Round** Government Procurement Code
  - **GPA 1994**: improved rules, expanded coverage
  - **Work on Transparency** in GP (1997-2004)
  - **The GPA 2012**: a multi-dimensional tool for the 21st century



# What is the GPA?:

## Basic nature of the Agreement

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- A **plurilateral agreement** within the WTO system.
  - Part of the WTO system (and enforceable under the DSU!).
  - Membership increasing over time. No longer a rich countries' club!
- An internationally recognized tool that **promotes**:
  - **Access to** other GPA Parties' procurement **markets**;
  - Improved **value for money** in each participating Member's procurements;
  - **Good governance** (transparency, fair competition and an absence of corruption in covered procurement markets).

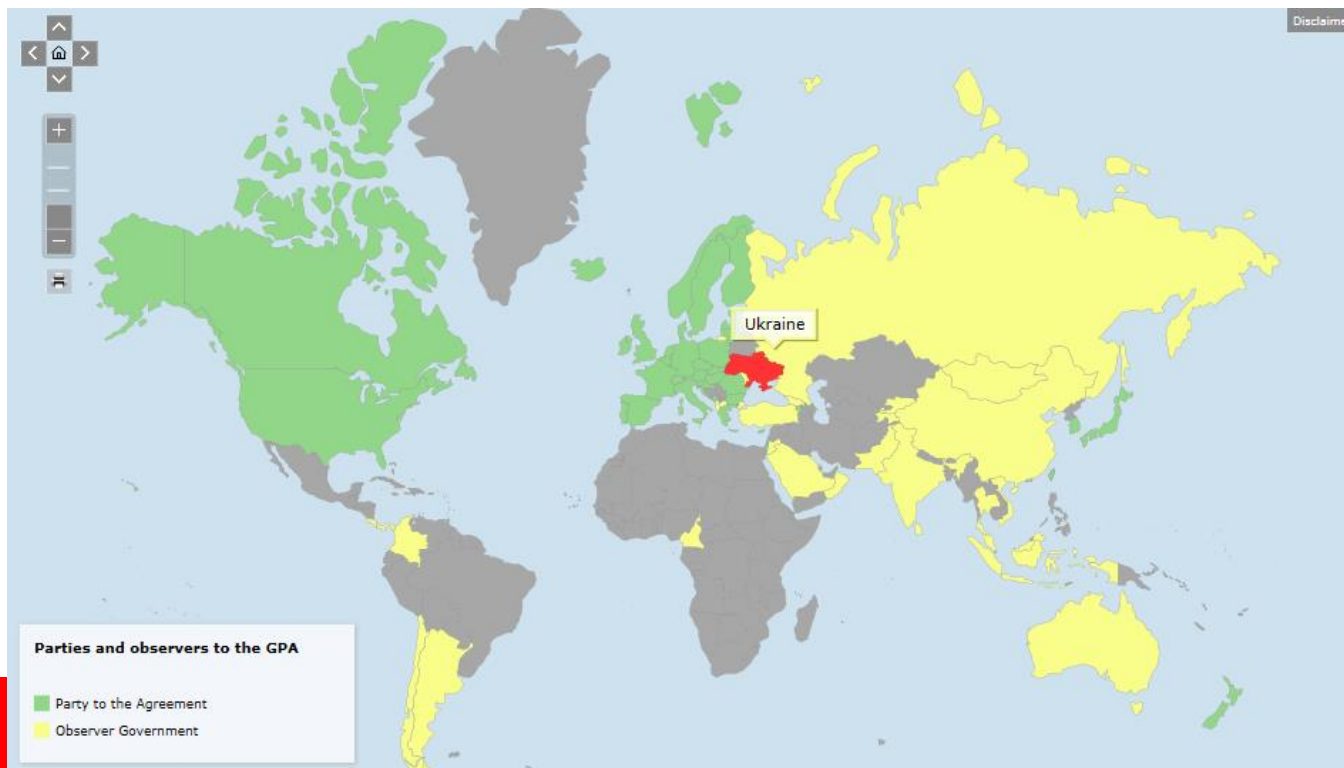


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II. The changing global context of the GPA: factors increasing its importance as an underpinning of the global economy.

# Factors currently enhancing the significance of the GPA for the multilateral trading system (1): **increasing membership of the Agreement worldwide**

- As of the date, **18 Parties (46 WTO Members)** including Armenia; Aruba; Canada; the EU and its 28 member States; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; Korea; Liechtenstein; Montenegro; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Ukraine; and the US.
- **29 WTO Members** are **observers** to the GPA Committee.



# Factors currently enhancing the significance of the GPA for the multilateral trading system (1): **increasing membership of the Agreement worldwide (cont'd)**

- Moldova approved for accession in September 2015!
- 8 observers currently seeking accession.

Albania;	Australia;
China;	Georgia;
Jordan;	Kyrgyz Republic;
Oman;	Tajikistan.



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