

RESOURCE DOCUMENT

Acronyms used in International Trade



COMPILED FOR

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Building Activities Project

COMPILED BY

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Foreword

This list of acronyms was assembled by Nathan Associates Inc. as part of the USAID Support for Trade Capacity Building Activities (STCBA) project. This list of acronyms is not exhaustive but a work-in-progress. Nathan Associates Inc. welcomes your comments on the acronyms included in the following list as well as new acronyms for inclusion in the list. Please send your comments to tcb@nathaninc.com.

Acronyms used in International Trade

A

ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries
ACTPN	Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (advises U.S. Trade Representative)
AD	Antidumping
ADB	Asian Development Bank
A/DS	Agent Distributor Service, U.S. Department of Commerce
AD VAL	Ad Valorem Tariff Rate
AECA	Arms Export Control Act
AFDB	African Development Bank
AFDF	African Development Fund
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Agreement
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AIT	American Institute in Taiwan
AMS	Aggregate Measurement of Support (in Agreement on Agriculture)
AOA	Agreement on Agriculture (WTO)
APCAC	Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APTA	Automotive Products Trade Act
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data (UNCTAD)
ATA	Admission Temporaire (temporary admission)
ATAC(s)	Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee(s)
ATC	Agreement on Textiles and Clothing
ATCA	Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft
ATPA	Andean Trade Preference Act
AUI	ASEAN-United States Initiative
AVE	Ad Valorem Equivalent

B

BAR	Buy American Restrictions
BDV	Brussels Definition of Value
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce
BFC	Business Facilitation Center, U.S. Department of Commerce
BIA	Best Information Available
BIRPI	United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property

BIS	Bank for International Settlements
BISD	Basic Instruments and Selected Documents
BISNET	Business Information Service for the Newly Independent States, U.S. Department of Commerce
BIT	Bilateral Investment Treaty
BNC	Binational Commission
BOP	Balance of Payments
BOT	Balance of Trade
BTN	Brussels Tariff Nomenclature
BXA	Bureau of Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

C

C&F	Cost and Freight
CACM	Central American Common Market
CADIC	Comparative Analysis of Domestic Industry's Condition
CAFC	Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
CAIP	Community Adjustment Investment Program
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (EU)
CAP	Country Action Plan
CARIBCAN	Canadian-Caribbean Basin Initiative
CARICOM	Caribbean Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity (United Nations)
CBERA	Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act
CBI	Caribbean Basin Initiative
CBTA	Cross Border Trade Association
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CCC	Customs Cooperation Council
CCCN	Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature
CCL	Commerce Control List (formerly Commodity Control List)
CCNAA	Coordination Council for North American Affairs (Taiwan)
CCPIT	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade
CEA	Chinese Economic Area
CEA	Council of Economic Advisers
CEP	Constructed Export Price
CER	Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations
CET	Common External Tariff
CFIUS	Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
CFR	Cost and Freight
CFTA	United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement
CG-18	Consultative Group of Eighteen (GATT)
CGE	Computable general equilibrium model
CIF	Cost, Insurance, and Freight

CIME	Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises (OECD)
CIMS	Commercial Information Management System, U.S. Department of Commerce
CIP	Carriage and Insurance Paid
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIT	United States Court of International Trade
CITA	Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CITIC	China International Trust and Investment Corporation
CITT	Canadian International Trade Tribunal
CIV	Customs Import Value
CMP	Country Marketing Plan
CMS	Credit Management Services Microfinance Program
CNUSA	Commercial News USA, U.S. Department of Commerce
COCOM	Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius Commission
COE	Council of Europe
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Cost of Production
CP	Contracting Party
CPE	Centrally Planned Economy
CPT	Carriage Paid to
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
CT	Countertrade
CTA	Committee on Trade in Agriculture (GATT)
CTF	Certified Trade Fair, U.S. Department of Commerce
CV	Constructed Value
CVA	Customs Valuation Agreement
CVD	Countervailing Duty
CXT	Common External Tariff

D

DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DAF	Delivered at Frontier
DAV	Domestic Added Value
DDP	Delivered Duty Paid
DDU	Delivered Duty Unpaid
DEQ	Delivered Ex Quay
DES	Delivered Ex Ship
DF	Duty Free
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DISC	Domestic International Sales Corporation

DOC	United States Department of Commerce
DS	Dispute Settlement
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body (WTO)
DSU	Dispute Settlement Understanding (i.e., WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes)

E

EAA	Export Administration Act (United States)
EAC	Eastern African Community
EAEC	East Asia Economic Caucus
EAI	Enterprise for the Americas Initiative
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EAR	Export Administration Regulations (United States)
EBA	Everything But Arms
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Community
ECA	Economic Cooperation Administration
ECB	European Central Bank
ECCN	Export Control Classification Number
ECDC	Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECGF	Export Credit Guarantee Facility
ECS	Échantillons Commerciaux (commercial samples)
ECS	European Cooperation System
ECSB	European System of Central Banks
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
ECU	European Currency Unit
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EEP	Export Enhancement Program (United States)
EFDITS	Expansion in Foreign Direct Investment and Trade in Services Program (UNCTAD)
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EITCA	United States-Soviet Union Agreement to Facilitate Economic, Industrial, and Technical Cooperation
EMS	European Monetary System
EMU	European Monetary Unit
ENT	Economic Needs Test (Agriculture Agreement)
EP	Export Price
EPC	Economic Policy Council (United States)
EPC	European Patent Convention

EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ER	Export Restraint
ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism
ERP	Effective Rate of Protection
ERP	European Recovery Program
ESA	European Space Agency
ESAF	Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility
ESCB	European System of Central Banks
ESP	Exporter's Sales Price
ESM	Emergency Safeguard Measures
ETC	Export Trading Company
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
EU	European Union
EURO	The European Monetary Unit
EXW	Ex-works
EX-IM BANK	Export-Import Bank of the United States

F

FA	Facts Available
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations
FARA	Foreign Agents Registration Act
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
FAS	Free Alongside Ship
FCA	Free Carrier
FCIA	Foreign Credit Insurance Association (United States)
FCN	Freedom, Commerce, and Navigation Treaty
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (United Kingdom)
FCPA	Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (United States)
FCS	Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FDIUS	Foreign Direct Investment in the United States
FICA	Federal Insurance Corporation of America
FISC	Foreign International Sales Corporation
FMC	Federal Maritime Commission (United States)
FMS	Foreign Military Sales
FMSCR	Foreign Military Sales Credit
FMV	Foreign Market Value
FOB	Free on Board
FOGS	Functioning of the GATT System
FOR	Free on Rail
FOREX	Foreign Exchange
FOT	Free on Truck

FR	Federal Register (United States)
FSC	Foreign Sales Corporation
FTA	Free Trade Area / Agreement
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
FTC	Federal Trade Commission (United States)
FTZ	Foreign Trade Zone
FTZ-BOARD	Federal Trade Zone Board
FTZ-SZ	FTZ-Subzone
FV	Fair Value
FX	Foreign Exchange Service

G

G-5	Group of Five (the United States, Japan, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom)
G-7	Group of Seven (the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada)
G-8	Group of Eight (the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Russia)
G-20	The G-20, established in September 1999, include the Group of Seven major industrialized countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States -- plus Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the European Union.
G-77	Group of Seventy-seven [all countries within UNCTAD Groups "A" (African and Asian countries, with the exception of Israel and South Africa) and "C" (Latin America) — now comprising more than 120 developing countries]
GAB	General Agreement to Borrow
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEC	Global Electronic Commerce
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GII	Global Information Infrastructure
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GNG	Group of Negotiations on Goods
GNP	Gross National Product
GNP	Government Procurement
GNS	Group of Negotiations on Services
GPA	WTO Agreement on Government Procurement
GP-ZONE	General Purpose Free Trade Zone

GSP Generalized System of Preferences (US)
GSTP Global System of Trade Preferences
GTAP The Global Trade Analysis Project (Purdue University)

H

HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HM Home Market
HRDP Human Resources Development Program
HS Harmonized Commodity Description and Decoding System
HTS Harmonized Tariff Schedule
HTSUS Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States

I

IA Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
IADB (or IDB) Inter-American Development Bank
IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
IC Industry Committee of the OECD
ICA International Coffee Agreement
ICA International Cocoa Agreement
ICA International Commodity Agreement
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
ICB International Competitive Bidding
ICC International Chamber of Commerce
ICITO Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization
ICO International Coffee Organization
ICSID International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes
IDA International Development Association
IDB (or IADB) Inter-American Development Bank
IEC International Electrotechnical Commission
IEEPA International Emergency Economic Powers Act
IESC International Executive Service Corps
IF Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC International Finance Corporation
IFI International Financial Institution
IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IIC Inter-American Investment Corporation
IIPA International Intellectual Property Alliance
ILO International Labor Organization
IMF International Monetary Fund
IMO International Maritime Organization

INR	Initial Negotiating Right
INRA	International Natural Rubber Agreement
INRO	International Natural Rubber Organization
INTELSAT	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
IOS	International Organization for Standardization
IOSCO	International Organization of Securities Commissions
IP	Intellectual property
IPAS	Investment Promotion Agencies
IPAC	Industry Policy Advisory Committee (United States)
IPC	Integrated Program for Commodities
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention (FAO)
IPR	Intellectual property rights
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
ISA	International Sugar Agreement
ISAC	Industry Sector Advisory Committee (United States)
ISI	Import Substitution Industrialization
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISO 9000	International Standards
ISO 14000	International Standards for the Environment
ISO/IEC	ISO/International Electrotechnical Commission
ITA	International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
ITA	International Tin Agreement
ITA	Information Technology Agreement
ITAR	International Traffic in Arms Regulations
ITC	International Trade Commission (United States)
ITC	International Trade Centre (Geneva), UNCTAD/WTO
ITO	International Trade Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

J

JCCT	United States-Mexico Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade
JCP	Japan Corporate Program
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization
JITAP	Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Program for Selected Least Developed Countries

L

LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LAFTA	Latin America Free Trade Area
LASU	Large Aircraft Sector Understanding
LC	Letter of Credit

LDC	Least Developed Country (UN Definition: 49 countries)
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
LMG	Like-minded Group
LOT	Level of Trade Adjustment
LRJ	Legal, Regulatory & Judicial
LTA	Long-Term Agreement on International Trade in Cotton Textiles
LTL	Less Than Load (Shipment)
LTFV	Less Than Fair Value

M

MAC	Market Access and Compliance Unit, U.S. Department of Commerce
MAI	Multilateral Agreement on Investment
MDB	Multilateral development bank
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market)
MFA	Multi-Fiber Arrangement / Agreement
MFN	Most-Favored Nation
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MITI	Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Japan)
MNC	Multinational Corporation
MOFTEC	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (People's Republic of China)
MOSS	Market-oriented sector-specific negotiation process (United States-Japan)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPT	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
MRA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
MSA	Multilateral Steel Agreement
MT	Metric Ton
MTN	Multilateral Trade Negotiations
MTO	Multilateral Trade Organization
MTS	Multilateral Trading System

N

NADBANK	North American Development Bank
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFIDC	Net Food Importing Developing Country
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIE	Newly Industrializing Economies
NIS	Newly Independent States
NME	Nonmarket Economy

NP	Nairobi Protocol
NSC	National Security Council (United States)
NTB	Nontariff Barrier
NTDB	National Trade Data Bank (United States)
NTE	New to Export
NTE	National Trade Estimates Report
NTM	New to Market
NTM	Nontariff Measure
NTR	Normal Trade Relations (U.S. term, formerly known as most-favored nation – MFN)
NV	Normal Value

O

OAS	Organization of American States
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD/DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
OEEC	Organization for European Economic Cooperation
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OFAC	Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Department of the Treasury
OMA	Orderly Marketing Agreement
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OPIC	Overseas Private Investment Corporation (United States)

P

PCG	Policy Coordinating Group
PEC	President's Export Council (United States)
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PFC	Priority Foreign Country
PL	Public Law
PL 480	Public Law 480, Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act ("Food For Peace") (United States)
POI	Period of Investigation
POR	Period of Review
PPA	Protocol of Provisional Application
PPM	Production and processing method
PRC	People's Republic of China
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSCAP	World Bank-financed Public Service Capacity Building Program
PSI	Pre-shipment Inspection
PSO	Private Sector Organization
PTA	Preferential Trade Arrangement

PUDD Potential Uncollected Dumping Duty
PWL Priority Watch List

Q

QR Quantitative Restriction

R

R&D Research and Development
RBP Restrictive Business Practice
RCO Regional Contracting Officer
RCSA Regional Center for Southern Africa (USAID)
REDSO Regional Economic Development Services Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (USAID)
RKV Revised Kyoto Convention (Customs)
RO-RO Roll On-Roll Off
ROO Rules of Origin (Customs)
RTA Regional Trade Arrangement

S

S&D Special and Differential Treatment
SAA Statement of Administrative Action
SACU Southern Africa Customs Union
SADC Southern Africa Development Community
SAF Structural Adjustment Facility
SB Surveillance Body
SBA Small Business Administration (United States)
SCM Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
SDN Specially Designated National
SDR Special Drawing Rights
SECOFI Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (Mexico)
SED Shipper's Export Declaration
SIC Standard Industrial Classification
SII Structural Impediments Initiative (United States-Japan)
SIMIS Single Internal Market Information Systems
SIMS Single Internal Market Service
SITC Standard International Trade Classification
SME Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises
SNPA Substantial New Program of Action
SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SOE State-owned Enterprise

SSG	Special Safeguard Measure (WTO Agreement on Agriculture)
STC	Security Trade Control
STE	State Trading Enterprise
STR	Special Representative for Trade Negotiations (United States)

T

TA	Technical Assistance
TAA	Trade Adjustment Assistance (United States)
TABD	Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TCB	Trade Capacity Building
TCC	Trade Compliance Center, U.S. Department of Commerce
TCMD	Third Country Meat Directive
TDA	Trade Development Agency (U.S. Department of Commerce)
TDP	Trade and Development Program
TEC	Tarif Extérieur Commun (Common External Tariff)
TEP	Transatlantic Economic Partnership
TEU	Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty)
TFP	Total Factor Productivity
TNC	Trade Negotiations Committee
TNC	Transnational Corporation
TPC	Trade Policy Committee (United States)
TPM	Trigger-Price Mechanism
TPA	Trade Promotion Authority
TPRG	Trade Policy Review Group (United States)
TPRM	Trade Policy Review Mechanism (WTO)
TPSC	Trade Policy Staff Committee (United States)
TPSC	Trade Policy Subcommittee (United States)
TRPB	Trade Policy Review Body (WTO)
TRTA	Trade-Related Technical Assistance
TRAINS	Trade Analysis and Information System (UNCTAD)
TRIMS	Trade-Related Investment Measures
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TRQ	Tariff Rate Quota
TRTA	Trade-Related Technical Assistance
TSB	Textile Surveillance Body
TSUS	Tariff Schedule of the United States
TVA	Value-Added Tax (Taxe à la Valeur Ajoutée)
TWA	Trade-Weighted Average
TWEA	Trading With the Enemy Act

U

UN	United Nations
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNILC	United Nations International Law Commission
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
UR	Uruguay Round
URAA	Uruguay Round Agreements Act
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USF&CS	United States Foreign and Commercial Service
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOC	United States Department of Commerce
USEC	United States Mission to European Communities
USITC	United States International Trade Commission
USOECD	United States Mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
USP	United States Price
USTR	United States Trade Representative, or Office of the United States Trade Representative
USTTA	United States Travel and Tourism Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
USUN	United States Mission to the United Nations

V

VAR	Value-Added Reseller
VAT	Value-Added Tax
VER	Voluntary Export Restraint
VL	Variable Levy
VRA	Voluntary Restraint Agreement

W

WAIPA	World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies
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WCO	World Customs Organization
WCT	WIPO Copyright Treaty
WEPZA	World Export Processing Zones Association
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WITS	World Integrated Trade Solution
WL	Watch List
WPPT	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
WTDR	World Traders Data Report
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization