



संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघका लागि नेपालको स्थायी नियोग  
PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA

**Press Release**

**Nepal Deposits the Instrument of Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**

His Excellency Ambassador Ram Prasad Subedi, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, WTO, and other International Organizations in Geneva, formally deposited the Instrument of Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies with Director-General Her Excellency Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, during a ceremony held at the WTO Headquarters today.

With this, Nepal has become the 108<sup>th</sup> WTO Member to join the WTO Members committed to implementing the landmark agreement. Adopted by consensus at the 12<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2022, the Agreement prohibits harmful fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing at sea. Nepal's acceptance of the Agreement underscores its ongoing commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system, as well as to global efforts to protect marine biodiversity, promote environmental sustainability, and combat climate change.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Subedi said, "Nepal is pleased to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies today, reaffirming our commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system. As a landlocked country, we nonetheless share with other WTO Members a responsibility to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources. We believe, healthy marine ecosystems are vital for food security, environmental sustainability, and the livelihoods of millions of people around the world".

WTO Director-General Dr. Ngozi said, "I would like to congratulate Nepal, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Government, Parliament, and the people of Nepal, for becoming the 108<sup>th</sup> WTO Member and 13<sup>th</sup> Landlocked Member to deposit the Instrument of Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Nepal's ratification brings us closer to the entry into force of this historic agreement, with just three ratifications remaining".

The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies will enter into force upon acceptance by two-thirds (111) of WTO Members. Once in force, it will represent the first WTO Agreement to focus on environmental sustainability.

The Government of Nepal signed the Instrument of Acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies on 7 August 2025, following the ratification of the Agreement by the Federal Parliament on 4 August 2025.

**18 August 2025**

**Geneva**