

Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA)

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Japan has joined the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement.



[Ref: Reuters]

What is the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA)?

- It is an **alternative system for resolving WTO disputes** that are appealed by a member in the absence of a functioning and staffed WTO Appellate Body.
- A group of **47 WTO members** notified the organization with the intention to resort to using of this mechanism to arbitrate any WTO disputes among themselves which would otherwise be appealed to the non-functional WTO Appellate Body.
- The MPIA is likely to remain in place for as long as the **WTO Appellate Body** is not functioning.
- Any member can join the MPIA by notifying the WTO Dispute Settlement Body.

Who can use the MPIA?

- **WTO members** can resort to the use of the MPIA under **Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding**.
- The MPIA embodies the **WTO appellate review rules** and in a dispute between members, it will **supersede the previous appeal processes** and also apply to future disputes between members.