

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN - REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS

The following communication from the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan was received by the Director-General on 4 January 1994.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan I have been authorized to apply to the GATT Council for the status of observer in the Council.

Historic changes have taken place in Uzbekistan over the past two years. The Republic has chosen the avenue of democracy based on market economy. The Republic of Uzbekistan after achieving independence is consistently carrying out structural economic reforms in the national economy.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and has taken major steps to strengthen trade relations with different countries including contracting parties to GATT. We have signed numerous bilateral economic agreements containing the most-favoured-nation treatment and have provided for the transparency of our economic regulations.

We consider our entering GATT as a significant stage in reaching these targets. However, due to the fact that all the above requires some time and great efforts, we would like as a preliminary step to get the status of observer in view of the possibility of more effective joining the GATT system.

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is ready to cooperate with all contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Having regard to the Decision of 21 July 1993 (L/7286), the request for observer status submitted by Uzbekistan will be considered by the Council following the circulation of the note describing the economic and trade policies of Uzbekistan.