IDENTIFICATION OF AFGHANISTAN POST-ACCESSION NEEDS

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Needs Assessment

Objective: To fulfill all our WTO commitments in a timely fashion.

Prepare action plan includes:
1. Notifications and Transparency obligations
2. Revision of laws and regulations
3. Ratify and implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
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4. Subject wise capacity building of Afghan officials for better understanding of WTO Agreements and successful implementation.

5. Set up enquiry points

6. Set up WTO Reference Centre in Afghanistan.

7. Setting up infrastructure and institutions (MAIL, ANSA, MoCI, MoPH etc)

Future:

Assist Afghanistan in evaluating benefits for accession to Government Procurement Agreement.
Participate Actively in the Work of the WTO

- Establish Representation in Geneva
- Engage in WTO Activities: committees and councils (trade and development, SPS, TBT, services, goods, etc.)
- Engage in multilateral trade negotiations to safeguard Afghanistan’s economic interests
- Engage in the work of Least-Developed Countries subcommittee and Land-Locked Developing Countries group
Attract Investment

Seek assistance from WTO, ESCAP and others on:
1. How to attract foreign direct investment in added-value agricultural and industrial sectors?
2. Develop and implement investment promotion plan
3. Strengthen judicial, arbitral, and administrative appeals
4. Modernization of state institutions (e.g. Customs, Banks etc) to be service-oriented
Customs reform

- Implementation of single window
- Harmonize custom procedures
- Pre and Post arrival clearance
- An independent appeal mechanism
- E-customs and Automation
Exports Promotion

- Create private sector awareness about opportunities resulting from WTO membership
- Facilitate adherence to international standards and safety requirements
- Develop and implement export promotion plan
Capacity Building for Exports Promotion activities

- To prepare National Export strategy
- Establishment of standards and complying with SPS and TBT of other countries.
- Conduct studies for potential markets and understand their trade policies
- Online training portal for Afghan exporters
- To understand custom regulation and import procedure of Afghanistan’s trading partners.
- Skills for International Business Communication and network
Build Human Capacity

- Build capacity of public sector officials on administering, enforcing, and adhering to WTO commitments (short & long term)
- Build private sector understanding of WTO related laws
- Build capacity of judicial system and private lawyers (particularly in dispute settlement)
- Introduce at universities courses and programs related to WTO areas
- Promote development of associations (e.g. intellectual property rights protection)
Institutional Assistance

Establishment of:
- SPS and TBT enquiry points
- Trade Remedies Directorate
- WTO Reference Center in Kabul.
- Think tank institute
- Fruits and vegetables storage facilities.
- Laboratories: To monitor food control standards and streamline food safety management, inspection and certification.
- Export Zones
Secure Technical Support

- World Trade Organization and International Trade Centre (WTO/ITC/UNCTAD/ESCAP)
- Enhanced Integrated Framework and Aid-for-Trade
- Bilateral Donors: USAID, European Union, DFID, GIZ, India, China, Japan, etc.
- Advisory Centre on WTO Law
Conclusion

Draw a short term & long term plan for Afghanistan Post Accession including:

1. Post Accession Notifications
2. Capacity Building for officials & private sector for post accession strategy
3. Supporting setting up of think tank institutions on trade policy in Afghanistan
4. Provide financial & technical support for setting up infrastructure & institutions (MAIL, ANSA, MoPH, MoCI etc).
Thank you