Third China Round Table on WTO Accessions
Dushanbe, 2-5 June

WTO Accessions in Central Asia

Chiedu Osakwe
Director, Accessions Division
World Trade Organisation
Importance of Central Asia
Overview

- WTO Accessions
  - Rationale, Policy Framework & Process
  - Results
- State of Play in WTO Accessions in Central Asia and Neighbouring Regions
- Completed Accessions from Central Asia
- Other Accessions, including other 2015 Priorities
WTO Accessions: Rationale, Policy Framework & Process
Rationale for WTO Membership

- Rule of Law – The WTO as a legal framework
  - “Outlaw”
- Market Economy – Assisting market transition
- Domestic Reforms – An instrument for domestic reform and modernisation
- FDI Attraction
- International Cooperation: A seat at the rule-making table
- Risk of Non-Membership: Protectionist targeting
- Territorial Integrity
- Right of DSU Invocation
Accessions Framework

- Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO

Article XII
Accession

1. Any State or separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements may accede to this Agreement, on terms to be agreed between it and the WTO. Such accession shall apply to this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed thereto.
Accession Process: Multiple Negotiating Tracks

- **Multilateral Track**
  - WTO Rules and Disciplines

- **Plurilateral Track**
  - Agriculture, SPS, TVMs, Small Group Consultations, etc.

- **Bilateral Track**
  - Market Access Negotiations on Goods and Services

- **Domestic Track**
  - Inter-Departmental Negotiations
  - Internal Stakeholders
WTO Accessions: Results
Overview of WTO Accessions

33 Governments acceded since 1995 via Article XII Negotiations, of which 9 from former USSR

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia*
- Cape Verde
- China
- Chinese Taipei
- Croatia
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Georgia
- Jordan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao PDR*
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Moldova
- Nepal*
- Oman
- Panama
- Russian Federation
- Samoa*
- Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
- Tajikistan
- Tonga*
- Ukraine
- Vanuatu*
- Viet Nam
- Yemen*
- Seychelles

* indicates new WTO Members in 2018.
What Remains in WTO Accessions?

22 Accession Working Parties in process

- Afghanistan*
- Algeria
- Andorra
- Azerbaijan
- The Bahamas
- Belarus
- Bhutan*
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Comoros*
- Equatorial Guinea*
- Ethiopia*
- Iran
- Iraq
- Kazakhstan
- Lebanese Republic
- Liberia*
- Libya
- Sao Tomé & Principe*
- Serbia
- Sudan*
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Uzbekistan

* 8 LDCs
Length of Accessions

- Ecuador, 3 years 4 months
- Bulgaria, 10 years 3 months
- Mongolia, 5 years 6 months
- Panama, 5 years 1 months
- Kyrgyz Republic, 2 years 10 months
- Latvia, 5 years 3 months
- Estonia, 5 years 8 months
- Jordan, 6 years 4 months
- Georgia, 4 years 1 months
- Albania, 7 years 10 months
- Croatia, 7 years 2 months
- Oman, 4 years 7 months
- Lithuania, 7 years 5 months
- Moldova, Republic of, 7 years 4 months
- China, 15 years 5 months
- Chinese Taipei, 10 years
- Armenia, 9 years 3 months
- FYR of Macedonia, 8 years 3 months
- Nepal*, 14 years 11 months
- Cambodia*, 9 years 10 months
- S. Arabia, Kingdom of, 12 years 6 months
- Viet Nam, 12 years
- Tonga, 12 years 1 months
- Ukraine, 14 years 6 months
- Cabo Verde*, 8 years 8 months
- Montenegro, 7 years 4 months
- Samoa*, 14 years 1 months
- Russian Federation, 19 years 2 months
- Vanuatu*, 17 years 1 months
- Lao PDR*, 15 years 7 months
- Tajikistan, 11 years 10 months
- Yemen*, 14 years 2 months
- Seychelles, 19 years 11 months

Average: 9 years and 11 months

Source: WTO Secretariat

* Least-developed country (LDC). Cabo Verde and Samoa acceded as LDCs, but graduated from LDC status in December 2007 and January 2014 respectively.
Accession Results
Coverage: 97.7% of World Trade

World Trade in 2013

- Original Members: 80.1%
- Article XII Members: 17.6%
- Acceding Governments: 2.1%

Source: WTO Statistics
Accession Results: Services Commitments

Average number of services subsectors covered by commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original Members</th>
<th>Article XII Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>102.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Accession Results: Safeguarding and Strengthening the MTS

- 36 sections of accession-specific obligations. Examples of rules tightening:
  - Agriculture
  - SPS
  - Government Procurement
  - Energy
  - Rule-making
  - Right to appeal
  - Export Duties
  - State Trading Enterprises and Privatisation
  - Investment
  - Land
  - Transparency
  - Framework for making and enforcing policies
  - Trading Rights
  - Intellectual Property
State of Play in WTO
Accessions in Central Asia & Neighbouring Region
Kazakhstan (2015 Deliverable)

- Poised for conclusion in June 2015
- Final Cycle of Working Party Meetings scheduled for 9-10 June
- Draft Accession Package circulated for adoption at the Working Party
  - Draft Goods Schedule
  - Draft Services Schedule
  - Draft Working Party Report
Eurasian Economic Union (as of 26 May 2015)

Source: Eurasian Economic Commission
Note: European Union - 28 Member States with 507 million population and GDP of US$ 17.4 trillion (2013)
## Accession Overview: RF, Kazakhstan & Belarus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Russian Federation</th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th>Belarus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td>June 1993</td>
<td>January 1996</td>
<td>September 1993</td>
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<td><strong>Working Party</strong></td>
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<td>February 1996</td>
<td>October 1993</td>
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<td><strong>Establishment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Number of WP</strong></td>
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<td><strong>meetings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Membership</strong></td>
<td>22 August 2012</td>
<td>Expected in Fall 2015</td>
<td>2015 strategic priority</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multilateral</strong></td>
<td>Working Party Report with 163 specific commitments</td>
<td>Working Party Report with 120 specific commitments</td>
<td>First Working Party Report to be issued after Kazakhstan’s Accession</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bilateral: goods</strong></td>
<td>57 Agreements</td>
<td>29 Agreements</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bilateral: services</strong></td>
<td>30 Agreements</td>
<td>15 Agreements</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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Challenges in WTO Accession of CU/EAEU Members

- Tariff adjustment
- Establishment of Single Customs Territory
- Harmonization of customs regulations
- Harmonization of standards & regulations, trade remedies
- CU/EAEU and national competences: Transitional provisions
- Geopolitics
Application & WP establishment: 2004
WP Chair: H.E. Mr. Rodrick Van Schreven (Netherlands)
4 WP meetings held, the last one in July 2013
State of Play:
- Draft Accession Package stable since March 2014
- H.E. Mr Homayoun Rasa appointed as Minister of Commerce and Industries in April 2015
- Technical updates required before the next WP Meeting
- Next WP Meeting to be convened upon confirmation from Kabul and after timely circulation of updated Draft Accession Package
Uzbekistan (Inactive)

- Application and WP establishment: 1994
- MFTR circulated in 1998
- WP Chair: H.E. Mr. Suk-young Choi (Korea)
- 3 WP meetings held so far, the last in 2005.

State of Play:
- Since 2005, virtually no substantive inputs from Tashkent
- Before convening the next Working Party meeting, Uzbekistan is required to provide updated inputs on its Foreign Trade Regime; Agricultural Supporting Tables; Legislative Developments, as well as improved market access offers
Azerbaijan (Mid-stage)

- Application & WP establishment: 1997
- MFTR circulated in 1999
- WP Chairperson: H.E. Mr. W. Lewalter (Germany)
- 12 WP Meetings held so far, the last one in February 2015
- State of Play:
  - Chair: “We have to move beyond routine to conclude Azerbaijan’s accession negotiations”, while commending Azerbaijan for the steps taken to bring its trade regime in compliance with WTO rules.
Completed Accession Negotiations in other Central Asian and Neighbouring Countries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date of Application</th>
<th>Establishment of WP</th>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>Tajikistan</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>40</td>
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Thank you

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