Forum on WTO Accessions

State of Play in WTO Accessions

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36 Completed Accessions since 1995

- Kyrgyz Republic
- Mongolia
- Panama
- Latvia
- Estonia
- Moldova
- China
- Lithuania
- Taiwan
- Armenia
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Nepal
- Cambodia
- Viet Nam
- Tonga
- Ukraine
- Cabo Verde
- Montenegro
- Samoa
- Russian Federation
- Vanuatu
- Laos
- People’s Democratic Republic
- Tajikistan
- Seychelles
- Kazakhstan
- Libya
- Afghanistan
Length of WTO accession negotiations: From application to membership, in years

* Acceded as LDC. On average, 9 LDC accessions took 12 years and 9 months.
21 On-going Accessions
(By Application Date)

- Algeria
- Iran
- Sudan
- Azerbaijan
- Lebanon
- Bosnian and Herzegovina
- Andorra
- Syria
- Bahamas
- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Serbia
- Comoros
- Somaliland
- Timor-Leste
- Sao Tome and Principe

Application Dates:
- 1987
- 1993
- 1994
- 1996
- 1997
- 1999
- 2001
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2007
- 2010
What remains?
CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

• 21 accession Working Parties in process
  ✓ On average, 16.5 years since application
  ✓ 8 LDCs
  ✓ In addition, expression of interest: South Sudan, Turkmenistan?

2017 Focus
● Bosnia & Herzegovina
● Comoros*
● Sudan*

Maintenance
● Algeria
● Azerbaijan
● Belarus
● Serbia

Activation/Re-activation
● The Bahamas
● Equatorial Guinea*
● Ethiopia*
● Iraq
● Lebanese Republic
● Somalia*
● Timor-Leste*

Dormant/WP-inactive
● Andorra
● Bhutan*
● Islamic Republic of Iran
● Libya
● Sao Tomé & Principe*
● Syrian Arab Republic
● Uzbekistan
Membership

Multilateral Process

- Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR)
- Factual Summary
- Elements of a DWPR
- Draft Working Party Report (DWPR)

Plurilateral Process

- Agriculture
- + Any other area of WTO rules, as necessary (e.g. SPS)
- Technical Verification of Draft Goods and Services Schedules / Small Group Consultation
- Agreed elements are reflected in draft Report (DWPR) & draft Schedules, as applicable

Bilateral Process

- Initial Goods Offer
- Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Goods
- Draft Goods Schedule
- Initial Services Offer
- Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Services
- Draft Services Schedule

Formal action by General Council/Ministerial Conference
Acceptance by Acceding Government
Notification of acceptance
2017 Strategic Focus - Comoros

- WP Establishment: 2007
- WP Chair: Amb. Luis Enrique CHÁVEZ BASAGOITIA (Peru)
- MFTR submitted in 2013, followed by technical work
- 25 documents circulated in 2016/2017
- 1\textsuperscript{st} WP meeting in December 2016
- Chair’s visit in March 2017
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} WP meeting in June 2017
- Next steps:
  - Experts in town for end July
  - Conclusion of bilateral MA negotiations
  - Circulation of Elements of DWPR
  - 3\textsuperscript{rd} WP meeting: September 2017
2017 Strategic Focus – Sudan

- WP Establishment: 1994
- No-activity between 2004 (2nd WP meeting) and in 2016
- Reactivation announced at the General Council in July 2016
  - Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan) appointed as WP Chair
- Over 30 documents circulated in 2016/2017
  - 102 legislation submitted to the WP
  - 179 questions answered
- 3rd WP meeting: January 2017
- Chair’s visit: April 2017
- 4th WP meeting: tomorrow, 14 July
  - Next steps?
2017 Strategic Focus – Bosnia & Herzegovina

- WP Establishment: 1999
- WP Chair: Rajmund Kiss (Hungary)
- WP meetings: 12 meetings held (last WP meeting in June 2013)
- Status: Advanced
- Outstanding issues – to be resolved in July:
  - Law on Internal Trade
  - Bilateral MA negotiations
- Next steps:
  - Circulation of draft Accession Package after summer
  - Final WP meeting in October
New Acceding Governments

**Somalia**
- A WTO team identified
- First training on WTO Accession for Somali officials scheduled for August in Nairobi
- Next step: Preparation of MFTR by end 2017

**Accession Working Parties Established at the General Council in December 2016**

**Timor-Leste**
- MFTR circulated in June 2017
- Consultations ongoing on the WP Chair
- Secretariat mission in the fall to prepare initial offers and other accession documentation
- 1\textsuperscript{st} Working Party planned for early 2018
Upcoming accession activities

- **Upcoming WP meetings**
  - Sudan: 13 and 14 July
  - Azerbaijan: 27-28 July
  - Belarus: September
  - Comoros: September
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina: October
  - Lebanon and Timor-Leste: to be scheduled

- **Technical Assistance Activities**
  - Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for Greater Horn of Africa & Training for Somalia
    - 28 August – 1 September, Nairobi, Kenya
  - Trade Policy Forum on Central Asia and MTS: Trade in Energy in WTO Accessions and Energy Cooperation
    - 4-6 September, Astana, Kazakhstan
  - Sixth China Round Table
    - 9 December, Buenos Aires, Argentina
QUESTIONS?