How to Prepare for WTO Membership: Experience of Tajikistan

By Saidrahmon Nazrizoda
First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Republic of Tajikistan
Main factors of the successful completion of the negotiation process of the Republic of Tajikistan

• Political will of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

• Development of plan of actions by the Government of Tajikistan and approval of relevant road map to accelerate the process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

• Two level Inter-ministerial Commission has been established

• Success in negotiations mostly depended on personnel qualities and competency of the national negotiating team

• Constructive cooperation with the WTO Secretariat and other WTO members

• Completion of the negotiations depended on the mobility of negotiations

• Direct support of the donor countries, in particular the Government of Switzerland, USA and European Union
Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- **May 2001** – The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has submitted its application on membership to the WTO

- **July 2001** – The General Council has adopted a decision on establishment of a Working Group on accession of Tajikistan to the WTO

- **September 2001** – Interministerial Commission was established on issued related to accession of Tajikistan to the WTO

- **10 December 2012** – The Protocol on accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO was adopted by General Council

- **2 March 2013** - The Republic of Tajikistan has become 159th member of the WTO.
Bilateral Negotiations

1. USA
2. EU
3. Japan
4. Canada
5. Korea
6. India
7. Taiwan
8. Thailand
9. China
10. Turkey
11. Dominican Republic
12. El Salvador
13. Honduras
Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- 18 March 2004
  26 April 2005
  6 October 2006
  24 October 2009
  24 November 2010
  5 July 2011
  8 March 2012
  17 July 2012
  9/26 October 2012
  Working party meetings.

- Answers to 1300 specific questions asked by WTO members
- More than 100 laws and other legal acts have been amended or newly drafted to comply with WTO rules
The Republic of Tajikistan has concluded bilateral negotiations on market access on goods with 13 WTO Members; bilateral negotiations on market access on services have been concluded with 6 WTO Members.

More than 100 laws and regulations have been either amended or replaced. New laws have been adopted, such as: «On foreign trade activity»; «On safety of food products»; «On cryptography»; «On plant protection»; «On conformity assessment»; Tax Code of the Republic of Tajikistan in new edition

Tajikistan ratified Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention); Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention)
Results of negotiations - goods

- Republic of Tajikistan managed to keep the agricultural support at the level of 8% of the GDP

- Final average bound rate is 8.0%, which is relatively high, and actually higher than the average currently applied rate (7.3%).

- The final average bound rate for agricultural products is 10.4%.

- Un-denatured ethyl alcohol (80, but not less than 2 € per L), alcoholic drinks (18-23%), dry fruits (15%), natural honey (20%), certain fresh and prepared vegetable (20-23%) and raw silk and cotton (20%).

- For non-agricultural products the average final bound rate is 7.6%.

- Textiles (20%), clothing (17%), footwear (20-30%), carpets (30%), aluminum products (10%), construction materials (15%), certain chemicals (20%) and mattresses 20%).
Results of negotiations - goods

Figure 1: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: average final bound rates - all products
## Results of negotiations - goods

### Figure 2: Comparison of tariff concessions of selected Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Date of Membership</th>
<th>All Products</th>
<th>Ag Products</th>
<th>Non-ag Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>29/04/2012</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>16/05/2008</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>30/11/2000</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>08/09/2000</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>26/07/2001</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYR Macedonia</td>
<td>04/04/2003</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>14/06/2000</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>20/12/1998</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Russian Federation</td>
<td>22/08/2012</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>02/03/2013</td>
<td><strong>8.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>05/02/2003</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>11/12/2001</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>11/01/2007</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commitments in sectoral initiatives

Republic of Tajikistan has fully committed to three sectoral initiatives:

- Civil Aviation,
- Information Technology
- Toys

Partial commitments in two sectoral initiatives

- Construction equipment
- Pharmaceuticals

Obligation comes into force 5 years after joining the WTO
## Commitments in sectoral initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member states</th>
<th>Information technology</th>
<th>Civil Aviation</th>
<th>Chemicals</th>
<th>Pharmaceuticals</th>
<th>Agricultural equipment</th>
<th>Construction equipment</th>
<th>Medical equipment</th>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Steel</th>
<th>Toys</th>
<th>Furniture</th>
<th>Beer</th>
<th>Dis. Spirit</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3+2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: Number of Services Subsectors with GATS commitments
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION