

Chairman , Distinguish Participants

On behalf of Sudan Government I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of China for sponsoring this Round table and to Government of Tajikistan the hosting country and to the WTO secretariat for organization.

State of Play of Sudan accession process:

As all may aware that Sudan has applied to the membership since October 1994, and the WP established on 25 October 1994. Sudan submitted the MFTR in 1999, and we received around 561 questions during (2002-2004)

Two WP meetings held in 2003 and the second in March 2004, the 3rd WP meeting supposed to be in October of 2004 , but we received a letter from WTO secretariat informed “ *member states need time to study the comprehensive documents submitted by Sudan*” .

Sudan submitted all the required documents (the Legislative Action Plan 2004, the Initial Offers in Goods and Services in 2004 and the Revised one in 2006 , information on Agriculture, information on Services , SPS & TBT check list , TRIPS checklist). After the postponement of the 3rd WP meeting Sudan submitted Track Record report reflecting the political and economic development during the period 2005 - 2006 .

Sudan conducted bilateral negotiations with (China, Brazil, Turkey, Jordan, India, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh during the period 2006- 2008), bilateral agreements were signed with Brazil, China and Jordan.

Technical Assistance & Capacity Building :

Sudan as LDC has benefited from valuable number of TA and CB from annual WTO Biennial Technical and Training Plan including the Internship programme. From 2011-2015 Sudan benefited from TA programme provided by the ITC upon Sudan request on accession related issues for government officials, private sector and media. We also benefited from the TA & CB programme for acceding countries last year organized by ITC.

A National workshop launched last year under sponsorship of Islamic Development Bank to revise Sudan MFTR .

Under the EIF two DTIS have been prepared by the World Bank and the validation workshops launched in 2008 before the separation of South Sudan and the Late one was late September 2014, Now Sudan is finalizing a proposal for Tier 1 .

A National workshop organized by the EU representative office last year for the National Assembly about the importance of accession to the WTO.

Under Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States in the accession process , a workshop has been organized by UNCTAD as implementing agency to support Sudan accession process to WTO last

January 2015. On this regard Sudan submitted a request to the AFT Board about our needs and priorities on this stage of accession which represent on revising all documents submitted by Sudan beside allocation of financial resources to assist us resume the accession process .

Challenges:

- The Accession process is complex and costly and it is not determined by trade concern
- Article XII did not specify any time frame for completion the accession process (on terms to be agreed could last for more than decade).
- Instability of the government led to instability of NSWTOA the body responsible about Sudan Accession.
- After the separation of South Sudan 75% Sudan revenues have been lost , so the budget pf the National Secretariat decreased , that impede the functioning of the working committees on accession issues.

Road map for completion Sudan Accession process:

In spite of all these challenges , Accession to the WTO remains an important issue for making economic reform, transparency, good governance and poverty reduction. A road map for resuming and completion our accession process as follows:

- Firstly , attention from the government to provide political support to accelerate Sudan accession process
- Revising Sudan documents submitted to WTO specially the MFTR, Legislative Action Plan and Sudan Offers in Goods and Services.
- Designation of new Chairman for Sudan WP
- Follow up to resume the 3rd WP meeting
- Finalizing the bilateral negotiation with India and Japan
- Benefiting from the experience of recently acceded members
- Establishment of Geneva office to follow up the WTO work
- Request for TA and CB from WTO and ITC, UN agencies and other donors
- Continuation for Institution and Public awareness about the benefits and the impact of the accession on Sudan economy specially for the private sector , parliament and media .

Thank you