

Technical Capacity Building for WTO Accession of Afghanistan – Lessons from Recent Accession & their Development and Business Implications

22-24 August 2012, New Delhi

**Venue: Conference Hall, ESCAP SRO-SSWA
C-2 Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi**

Programme

Wednesday, 22 August 2012 (DAY 1)

09.30 – 10.00 **Registration and coffee**

10.00 – 10.30 **Opening Session**

Welcome Address by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, ESCAP South and South West Asia Office and Chief Economist of UN-ESCAP

Opening Remarks by Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Business and Trade Policy, ITC, Geneva

Statement by H.E. Mr. Shaida Mohhammad Abdali, Ambassador of Afghanistan, New Delhi

10.30 – 11.30 **Session 1: Multilateralism, Regionalism and Development Challenges**

Speaker: Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, ESCAP SSWA

In this session the participants will gain insights into the relationship between trade and development, the advantages of the multilateral framework for trade liberalization from a development perspective and challenges it faces. It will also cover the recent trends in regionalism and its place in a country's trade policy in the context of recent trends in global economic order and multilateral trade negotiations.

Open Discussion

11.30 – 11.45 *Coffee/Tea Break*

11.45 – 13.00 **Session 2: Introduction to the WTO Accession: Functioning, Main principles and procedural aspects of accession. Benefits and challenges of WTO Membership**

Speaker: Mr. Arif Hussain, Senior Adviser on WTO Accession, ITC (and former Director of the WTO Accessions Division)

Highlighting the principal functions of the WTO, this session will introduce participants to the benefits and challenges of becoming a member of WTO. Participants will be introduced to the functions of the multilateral trading system, core principles that are the foundation of the multilateral trading system 'Most Favoured Nation', and National

Treatment.

Overview of the accession process to the WTO, focusing on the organization and the flow of the work involved during the accession process.

Open discussion

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.00

Session 3: WTO Accession of Afghanistan: Status of the negotiation process; Benefits and Challenges

Speaker: Mr. Hafizullah Baha, Professional Member of WTO Directorate, International Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of Afghanistan

Presentation and discussion focusing on the objectives pursued with WTO Membership of Afghanistan, as well as the accession strategy guiding those objectives. Perspectives on the unique situation of Afghanistan economy and regulatory environment, as a background to the Government-led negotiations and reform-process.

Open Discussion

15.00-15.15

Coffee/Tea break

15.15 – 17.00

Session 4: Case Study: Lessons Learnt from Nepal's Experience

Speaker: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)

Nepal completed the negotiation process for WTO Accession, and obtained WTO Membership in 2003. SAWTEE was one of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which played an active and positive role in Nepal's accession to WTO, emphasizing critical areas for attention, and pointing towards opportunities for the country's development. This session sheds light on the issue of 'stakeholder confidence' and the interplay between Government, society and private sector contributing to Nepal's accession to the WTO.

Open Discussion

Thursday, 23 August 2012 (DAY 2)

09.30 – 11.00

Session 5: National Trade Policy for Export Competitiveness: Informed Business Advocacy for Reform

Speaker: Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Business and Trade Policy, ITC, Geneva

This session provides participants with an understanding of the linkages between trade policy and export competitiveness. On the basis of ITC's Trade Policy Framework, participants will understand the success-factors for business competitiveness, as well as objectives enabling export-led growth.

11.00 – 11:15

Coffee/Tea Break

11:30 – 12.00 **Continued Session 5 + Open discussion**

12.00 – 13.00 **Session 6 : Negotiating WTO Accession : Standards and SPS Agreement**

Speaker: Mr. Dayaratna Silva, Deputy Head, ESCAP SSWA

As the Agriculture sector remains a cornerstone for many economies, it also is a sensitive part of the WTO Accession negotiations. Apart from market access for agricultural products, WTO Membership also requires countries to comply with international standards in protecting health. The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) allows governments to restrict trade in order to protect human, animal or plant life or health, provided this is scientifically justified and follows certain requirements. In this introductory session, participants will gain insights into the agreement that sets out the basic rules for food safety and animal and plant health requirements.

Open Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.00 **Session 7: Trade in Services**

Speaker: Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India

This session will introduce participants to services trade, the growing economic importance and its relevance for the entire private sector. Using the Indian example of liberalizing trade in services, this session will highlight the potentials for economic growth through services development, regulation and liberalization.

Open discussion

15.00-15.15 *Coffee/Tea Break*

15.15 – 17.00 **Session 8: WTO Accession: Regulating Openness in Services Sectors. Economic importance of services, trade and regulations; negotiating market access in services (lessons-learnt)**

Speaker: Mr. Sumanta Chaudhuri, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India

Introduction to multilateral framework that regulates services trade multilaterally; the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Explanation of key features, including categorization of services in different modes of services trade, and how domestic regulations are impacted by the GATS.

In light of Afghanistan's negotiations on services, as a WTO Acceding country, introduction to the 'Scheduling of commitments' and commitments undertaken by recently acceded countries.

Open Discussion

Friday, 24 August 2012 (DAY 3)

09:30 – 11:00

**Session 9: Market Access Negotiations (request and offer) in goods and services.
LDC Accession Experience and Commitments**

Speaker: Mr. Sajal Mathur, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, New Delhi

In this session, participants will gain insights about the conditions of becoming a member of WTO, on 'terms to be agreed'. The presentation will focus on the substance of the negotiation process, specifically market access commitments on tariffs. The presentation will take into account lessons learnt from recently completed WTO Accession processes.

Open Discussion

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 – 13:00

**Session 10: Negotiating WTO Accession: rules and other specific commitments,
including their business implications**

Speaker: Mr. Sajal Mathur, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, New Delhi

This session will introduce participants to experiences from recently acceded countries, in specific with regard to complying with multilateral rules, such as customs-related regulations, import and export restrictions, domestic support, rules on state-trading enterprises. Attention to Members transparency and notification obligations.

Open discussion

13:00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.00

**Session 11: Market Openness in Selected Service Sectors: Telecommunications;
Financial Services; Energy; Transport**

Speaker: Mr. Hafizullah Baha, Professional Member of WTO Directorate,
International Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6181

