



WTO Accession of Afghanistan

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Request for observer status

- ❖ Afghanistan submitted its request for WTO secretariat on Nov.2004. Afghanistan's Working Party was established at the General Council meeting on 13 December 2004 and granted Afg observer status.
- ❖ Based on Council of Ministers' resolution; Ministry of Commerce and Industries was appointed as the in charge Ministry for WTO accession of Afghanistan.
- ❖ working party established for Afghanistan in 13th Dec. 2004. The working party is headed by Mr. H.E Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Ambassador of The Netherlands to the WTO.



Objectives

- ❖ To further improve market access
- ❖ To facilitate trade and regain Afghanistan's status as a regional Trade and transit hub.
- ❖ secure transit rights under the frame work of WTO. The WTO system will provide us broader access to other markets and strong transit rights which are enforceable.



Objectives

- ❖ WTO Accession is one of the main themes in the Afghanistan's National Development Strategy which was signed and approved by our president in 2008 and accepted by the world bank as poverty reduction strategy paper.
- ❖ In addition WTO accession by the end 2014 is one the conditions of Tokyo Mutual Accountability Frame work
- ❖ Accession will add to Afg's credibility as an open and transparent country to invest and engage in trade. Will strengthen international donors commitment and encourage business community to invest in Afghanistan.



objectives

- ❖ To reduce trading cost by exploring and securing more efficient trading routes and utilize from the transit right which is given for land locked countries.
- ❖ To build global awareness about current trade and investment opportunities in Afghanistan
- ❖ We would also benefit from other international support channeled through Aid for Trade , Enhanced Integrated From work and other programs aimed to build the capacity for increasing exports.



Memorandum on foreign Trade regime

- ❖ Was submitted to the WTO in April 2009.
- ❖ After submitting Afghanistan's MoFTR to WTO Secretariat; questions received from different WTO member countries, seeking additional information and clarifications regarding policy and regulations.
- ❖ The questions responded and submitted to WTO in July 2010



First working party of Afghanistan

- ❖ The first working party of Afghanistan was held in Geneva in 31st January 2011
- ❖ Members supported Afghanistan's integration in the multilateral trading system. They stated that WTO membership would be beneficial to Afghanistan as an important driver of economic growth and domestic reforms.
- ❖ Responses provided for the 153 questions raised after the first work party based on explanations' and information provided by the delegation.
- ❖ The responses submitted to the secretariat on 28 October 2011



Factual summary

- ❖ The Factual Summary of the WP was prepared in May 2012. The document was the out come of several working groups organized by MoCI before the second working party of Afghanistan
- ❖ This document was submitted to WTO during the 2nd working party of Afghanistan(18 June 2012)
- ❖ It will lay out factual information about the current foreign trade regime and actions and commitments by Afghanistan to bring laws, policies and institutions in line with WTO agreements and rules.

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