

OVERVIEW OF THE ACCESSION PACKAGE AND POST ACCESSION ROADMAP/STRATEGY

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Outline

- Snapshot of Afghanistan's Accession Path
- Afghanistan WTO Accession process and progress
- Post-Accession Strategy



Snapshot of Afghanistan's Accession Path

- 1. Request for Accession in 2004; negotiations effectively started in 2010**
- 2. Five Working Party meetings: first in January 2011 and last in November 2015**
- 3. Goods and services market access negotiations completed in less than 18 months and concluded in February 2014**
- 4. Plurilateral Agricultural negotiations completed in one round**
- 5. Around 30 pieces of legislation adopted**
- 6. Accession Protocol adopted during Nairobi Ministerial Conference**
- 7. Accession Protocol Accepted by Afghanistan in June 2016**



Afghanistan's Accession Process

- **Application → 21st November, 2004**
- **Observer → 13th December, 2004**
- **WP → 13th December, 2004**
- **Chair → The Netherland**



What have been achieved so far...?

- MFTR → April, 2009.
- 168 questions (US, Canada, EU, Australia and Chinese Taipei) → 26 July, 2010.
- “Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime, is a document which includes and describes all aspects of Afghanistan’s trade and economic policies and legal regime including tax policy, tariff policy, export-import policies/strategies “



What have been achieved so far...II?



1st WP, 31st January, 2011



2nd WP, June, 2012



3rd WP, 7th December, 2012



4th WP, 25 July, 2013

What have been achieved so far...III?

- 1st WP → 153 questions (US, Canada, Australia, EU and Chinese Taipei) and replies circulated in WTO on 28th October 2011
- 2nd WP → 139 questions and replied in 2012.
- 3rd WP → 34 Questions replied on 10 April, 2013, 97 questions replied on 7th June, 2013 and 24 US questions replied on 2nd July, 2013
- 4th WP → 10 US questions replied.



What have been achieved so far...III?

- **Services offer was submitted in June 2012.**
- **Goods offer was submitted in November 2012.**
- **30 laws and regulations drafted and amended.**
- **13 newly drafted**



Current Tariff rates of Afghanistan

Agricultural Goods

Maximum Tariff Rate	25%
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Average Tariff Rate	8%
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Industrial Goods

Maximum Tariff Rate	50%
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Average Tariff Rate	4.7%
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Bound Tariff rates of Afghanistan for WTO

Agricultural Goods	
Highest Tariff Rate	70%
Average Tariff Rate	27.4%(After Negotiation)
Industrial Goods	
Highest Tariff Rate	50%
Average Tariff Rate	10.5%(Final Offer)

- Afghanistan bound rates under WTO commitments for agricultural goods is between 5-70%.
- Afghanistan has no commitment for 184 Tariff items
- Afghanistan has prohibited import of 41 agricultural items



Documents submitted to WTO

- **MFTR – March 2009**
- **Replies to the Questions raised after each WP**
- **Information on Agriculture (WT/ACC/4)**
- **Information on services (WT/ACC/5)**
- **SPS/TBT checklist (WT/ACC/8)**
- **TRIPS checklist (WT/ACC/9)**
- **Initial Market access offer on services**
- **Initial Market access offer on Goods**
- **Updated Legislative Action Plan**
- **The Draft working party report, prepared by the secretariat was circulated on 24 June 2013**



Bilateral Negotiations



Bilateral Negotiations



Bilateral Negotiations



Protocol of Accession



Instruments of Accession





WTO OMC

WELCOME | BIENVENUE | BIENVENIDOS

Liberia 163rd
ème
o



Afghanistan 164th
ème
o



WTO MEMBER

MEMBRE DE L'OMC

MIEMBRO DE LA OMC



Post Accession Strategy

- **Complete Modernization of Legal Framework**
- **Participate Actively in the Work of the WTO**
- **Attract Investment**
- **Promote Export**
- **Build Human Capacity**
- **Use effectively WTO tools**
- **Secure Technical Support**



Thanks

