

IDENTIFICATION OF AFGHANISTAN POST-ACCESSION NEEDS



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Needs Assessment

Objective: To fulfill all our WTO commitments in a timely fashion.

Prepare action plan includes:

- 1. Notifications and Transparency obligations**
- 2. Revision of laws and regulations**
- 3. Ratify and implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**



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- 4. Subject wise capacity building of Afghan officials for better understanding of WTO Agreements and successful implementation.**
- 5. Set up enquiry points**
- 6. Set up WTO Reference Centre in Afghanistan.**
- 7. Setting up infrastructure and institutions (MAIL, ANSA, MoCI, MoPH etc)**

Future:

Assist Afghanistan in evaluating benefits for accession to Government Procurement Agreement.



Participate Actively in the Work of the WTO

- **Establish Representation in Geneva**
- **Engage in WTO Activities: committees and councils (trade and development, SPS, TBT, services, goods, etc.)**
- **Engage in multilateral trade negotiations to safeguard Afghanistan's economic interests**
- **Engage in the work of Least-Developed Countries subcommittee and Land-Locked Developing Countries group**



Attract Investment

Seek assistance from WTO, ESCAP and others on:

- 1. How to attract foreign direct investment in added-value agricultural and industrial sectors?**
- 2. Develop and implement investment promotion plan**
- 3. Strengthen judicial, arbitral, and administrative appeals**
- 4. Modernization of state institutions (e.g. Customs, Banks etc) to be service-oriented**



Customs reform

- **Implementation of single window**
- **Harmonize custom procedures**
- **Pre and Post arrival clearance**
- **An independent appeal mechanism**
- **E-customs and Automation**



Exports Promotion

- **Create private sector awareness about opportunities resulting from WTO membership**
- **Facilitate adherence to international standards and safety requirements**
- **Develop and implement export promotion plan**



Capacity Building for Exports Promotion activities

- **To prepare National Export strategy**
- **Establishment of standards and complying with SPS and TBT of other countries.**
- **Conduct studies for potential markets and understand their trade policies**
- **Online training portal for Afghan exporters**
- **To understand custom regulation and import procedure of Afghanistan's trading partners.**
- **Skills for International Business Communication and network**



Build Human Capacity

- **Build capacity of public sector officials on administering, enforcing, and adhering to WTO commitments (short & long term)**
- **Build private sector understanding of WTO related laws**
- **Build capacity of judicial system and private lawyers (particularly in dispute settlement)**
- **Introduce at universities courses and programs related to WTO areas**
- **Promote development of associations (e.g. intellectual property rights protection)**



Institutional Assistance

Establishment of :

- **SPS and TBT enquiry points**
- **Trade Remedies Directorate**
- **WTO Reference Center in Kabul.**
- **Think tank institute**
- **Fruits and vegetables storage facilities.**
- **Laboratories: To monitor food control standards and streamline food safety management, inspection and certification.**
- **Export Zones**



Secure Technical Support

- **World Trade Organization and International Trade Centre (WTO/ITC/UNCTAD/ESCAP)**
- **Enhanced Integrated Framework and Aid-for-Trade**
- **Multilateral donors: World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank**
- **Bilateral Donors: USAID, European Union, DFID, GIZ, India, China, Japan, etc.**
- **Advisory Centre on WTO Law**



Conclusion

Draw a short term & long term plan for Afghanistan Post Accession including:

- 1. Post Accession Notifications**
- 2. Capacity Building for officials & private sector for post accession strategy**
- 3. Supporting setting up of think tank institutions on trade policy in Afghanistan**
- 4. Provide financial & technical support for setting up infrastructure & institutions (MAIL, ANSA, MoPH, MoCI etc).**



Thank you

