

# CHINA ROUND TABLE

## FIFTH CHINA ROUND TABLE ON WTO ACCESSIONS

### Best Practices on the Accessions of Least Developed Countries

#### Programme

Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Center, Cambodia, 20-23 March 2017



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia



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*"Negotiating an accession is a bit like learning to ride a bike. If you are cautious and go very slow, the process actually is more difficult than if you go a bit faster. In a slow accession it is difficult to keep ministries and others mobilized, and the priority attached to accession will be questioned.*

*On the other hand if you go too fast before you have mastered the mechanics of the process, you may crash. Each acceding country must find the right pace."*

*- Cambodia's Accession to WTO: Lessons Learned*

The Fifth China Round Table is hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia. China Round Tables are sponsored by the Government of China and organized by the WTO Secretariat, as part of the agreed activities in the China-WTO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

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Venue:

Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Center  
Angkor Cultural & Tourism Complex Junction, Street 60, Krong Siem Reap, Cambodia  
Phone: +855 63 961 999  
<http://www.sokhahotels.com/siemreap/>

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# 9 LDC ACCESSIONS COMPLETED IN 2004-2016



**Nepal**  
membership date: 23 April 2004



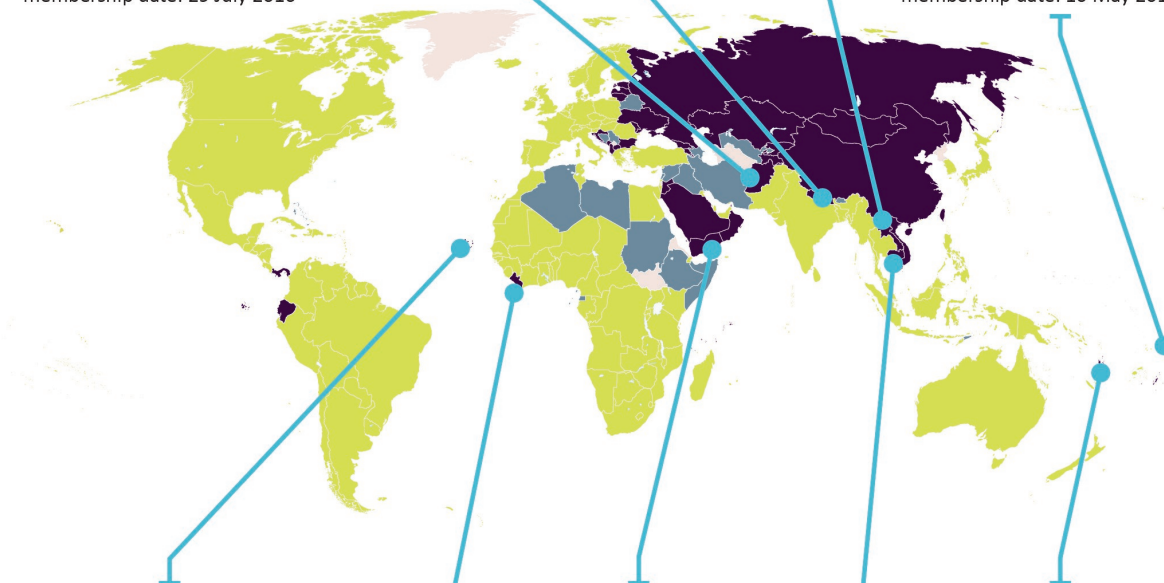
**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
membership date: 2 February 2013



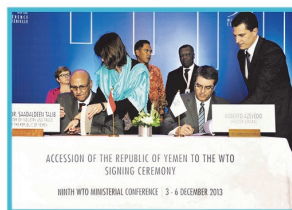
**Afghanistan**  
membership date: 29 July 2016



**Samoa**  
membership date: 10 May 2012



**Cabo Verde**  
membership date: 23 July 2008



**Yemen**  
membership date: 26 June 2014



**Vanuatu**  
membership date: 24 August 2012



**Liberia**  
membership date: 14 July 2016



**Cambodia**  
membership date: 13 October 2004

- WTO Original Members
- Article XII Members
- Observer economies negotiating accession

# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## I. Overview of LDC Accessions

Pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, there are 9 Members which acceded to the WTO as LDCs since the establishment of the Organization in 1995, namely: Cambodia and Nepal in 2004; Cabo Verde in 2008; Samoa and Vanuatu in 2012; Lao PDR in 2013; Yemen in 2014; and, Afghanistan and Liberia in 2016. In total, these nine LDCs constitute 25% of the 36 completed accessions to date.

The conclusion of these LDC accessions has been facilitated by the implementation of the Guidelines on LDCs' Accession, adopted by the General Council in 2002 (WT/L/508), pursuant to the call by WTO Ministers at the Doha Conference in 2001 to facilitate and accelerate negotiations with acceding LDCs (paragraph 42 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration). At the time of the adoption, there were no LDCs which had joined the WTO since its establishment, and there were seven (7) LDCs queuing for accession. In 2012, the General Council adopted the Addendum to the 2002 Guidelines for LDCs' Accessions to strengthen, streamline and operationalize the 2002 Guidelines on LDCs' Accessions<sup>1</sup>.

The WTO Director-General has underscored the vital importance of Members to be cognizant of these Guidelines in facilitating negotiations with LDCs. Members have been mindful of these Guidelines in negotiating with acceding LDCs.

The implementation of these guidelines is reviewed regularly in the agenda of the Sub-Committee on LDCs in the WTO, which provides a platform to review the state of play on the accessions of LDCs on an annual basis, as well as the work on post-accession.

## II. LDC Accessions – Process and Results

Article XII LDC Members have used WTO accession as a platform to launch a structural transformation of the economy by undertaking a series of economy-wide reforms and locking them in the multilateral framework.

Out of the nine LDC accessions concluded to date, 8 have cited economic reforms as one of the main reasons to seek WTO membership, as reflected in their introductory statements in the Working Party Reports. Evidence has shown that WTO accessions have had far-reaching impact on policy-making, legal and economic and structural reforms<sup>2</sup>.

The average duration of an LDC accession is 12 years and 9 months, slightly longer than the overall average duration for all Article XII Members at 10 years and 4 months. However, experience from past LDC accession processes has revealed some key elements that can facilitate the expedited conclusion of LDC accessions.

These include: high level political commitment which is *sine qua non* for all stages of the accession process; securing technical assistance from the international community to facilitate the institutionalization of the required accession-specific reforms; efficient internal stakeholder coordination mechanisms led by a proactive Chief Negotiator; formulating a strategic negotiation strategy guided by the fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system on topical negotiating issues such as trade and investment, tariff concessions, agriculture and TRIPS; active engagement with Members of the Working Party; technical advice and facilitation by the Working Party Chairperson and the WTO Secretariat; and, adhering to a time-bound target for conclusion of the accession process<sup>3</sup>.

Evidence has also shown that Article XII LDC Members, which have gone through rigorous accession processes and made deeper commitments, have performed better than original LDC WTO Members, in terms of economic performance, investment attraction and membership engagement. Illustratively, since 2007, Article XII LDC Members have exhibited a higher annual GDP growth rate at 4.3% than the Article XII Members as a whole at 3.5%, except during the global financial crises. Two Members that concluded their accession negotiations as LDCs i.e. Cabo Verde and Samoa graduated from LDC status in 2007 and 2014, respectively. Vanuatu has also been recommended to graduate in 2018.

<sup>1</sup> WT/L/508/Add.1, 30 July 2012.

<sup>2</sup> See Section V "WTO Accession Template for Structural Reforms and Economic Diversification" in the 2016 DG Annual Report on WTO Accessions (WT/ACC/28).

<sup>3</sup> WTO Document "Cambodia's Accession to the WTO: Lessons Learned".

In total, the 9 LDCs made 269 accession-specific commitments on various aspects of their trade policy. It should be noted that all LDCs made commitments in 17 out of the 38 specific areas. From the first two LDC accessions of Nepal and Cambodia in 2004, the depth of these commitments has been increasing to date<sup>4</sup>. This can be attributed to the negotiating requirements made by the expanding membership. The conjecture is that each subsequent LDC accession is expected to build on the existing *LDC Accession Acquis*.

### III. Support to LDC accessions

Recognizing the human capital and resource constraints of LDCs, a combination of generalized start-up technical assistance activities with tailored accession-specific activities has been provided by the Members and the Secretariat, occasionally in partnership with other institutions, to acceding LDCs at all stages of their WTO accession process.

The WTO has a Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan for each year which establishes support for acceding governments as one of its overarching objectives. The Plan grants priority attention to acceding LDCs. Technical assistance and capacity-building activities include: (i) national seminars; (ii) sessions on accessions in advanced trade policy courses, regional courses and introductory courses for LDCs; (iii) workshops; (iv) technical missions; (v) establishment/upgrade of WTO Reference Centres; (vi) e-Learning; (vii) outreach dialogue with WTO groupings; and, (viii) participation in conferences.

To facilitate LDCs accessions, the Government of China, in collaboration with the WTO, established the China "Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Accessions Programme" (hereafter: the China Programme) on 14 July 2011. The China Programme is aimed at strengthening LDCs' participation in the WTO and assisting LDCs acceding to the WTO. It is an accession-specific focused programme that takes account of the concerns and priorities of LDCs. The China Programme comprises five pillars: (i) WTO Accessions Internship Programme; (ii) Annual WTO Accessions Round Table;

(iii) LDCs' participation in WTO meetings; (iv) South-South dialogue on LDCs and development; and, (v) LDCs' Trade Policy Review follow-up workshops.

In addition to the provision of support during accession, increasingly, the focus has been given to the post-accession phase period. In 2016, the WTO Secretariat developed an integrated approach to post-accession support, structured around four pillars: i) Specific Post-Accession Implementation Strategy; ii) Specialized training on WTO post-accession; iii) "Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession" (WT/ACC/27); and, iv) Internal Post-Accession Implementation and Monitoring. As a result, the most recent Article XII LDC Members, such as Afghanistan, have ratified their Accession Protocols, deposited their instruments of acceptance and submitted all their initial notifications within defined timeframes.

### FIFTH CHINA ROUND TABLE IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

The year 2017 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the adoption of the General Council Guidelines on the Accession of LDCs. The implementation of the GC Guidelines has facilitated the conclusion of nine LDC accessions to date; and Cambodia was one of the first LDCs to join the WTO since the adoption of the Guidelines. Today, there are eight LDC acceding governments undergoing the accession process, namely: Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste. South Sudan has also expressed its interest to join the WTO. A WTO accession presents an opportunity for these LDCs to institute domestic reforms that would foster modernization and development of their economies.

The Fifth China Round Table (CRT-05) provides a timely platform for Article XII LDC Members and acceding LDCs to exchange experiences and lessons from their accessions. Cambodia, which is expected to assume the Coordinator of the WTO LDC Group for 2017, is one of the leading LDCs in terms of trade and economic performance and is ready to share its accession negotiations and membership experiences with its fellow LDC Members and observers. Moreover, 2017 is the year of the WTO Ministerial Conference, and two LDC

<sup>4</sup> See forthcoming Secretariat Note on "LDC Accession Acquis".

governments, Comoros and Sudan, have expressed their commitment to acceding to the WTO by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11) in December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The CRT-05 will provide a timely opportunity to discuss how to accelerate these accessions towards the MC11.

In reviewing the experiences of LDC accession processes, the CRT-05 will reflect on the following questions:

- What lessons can be drawn from the nine LDC accessions concluded to date? In particular, what specific lessons could be drawn from the 2015/16 accession of Liberia?
- What has been the trend of the contributions of LDC accessions to the multilateral trading system, in terms of rules and market access?
- What is the state of play on the remaining LDC accessions? How can Members and the international trade community support early conclusion of the accessions of Comoros and Sudan?
- How can Members enhance their support to LDC accessions and post-accession in order to facilitate the integration of LDCs into the global economy?

Representatives of Acceding Governments, Article XII and Original Members will reflect on the above-mentioned questions as speakers and/or commentators in the following sessions:

**Session 1:** Integration of Least Developed Countries into the Multilateral Trading System – Overview of LDC accessions;

**Session 2:** Structural reforms and accession negotiation strategies;

**Session 3:** WTO Post-accession;

**Session 4:** Mobilizing Support for WTO accession;

**Session 5:** Preparation for the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference – LDC Priorities.

All participants in these sessions are advised to respect the following time limits:

- Session speakers: 10 – 15 minutes
- Commentators: 5 minutes

Participants are expected to actively contribute in "Davos-Style" discussions taking place at the end of Day 1 and Day 2. In these discussions, designated participants intervene for a maximum duration of 5 minutes on a relevant question posed by the moderator.

## GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

### For Moderators:

**Please lead a lively discussion.** Moderators actively guide the session and help facilitate a lively conversation. Moderators also engage all participants in the open discussions and encourage meaningful and productive conversations among the experts in the meeting room.

**Please coordinate with session speakers and commentators.** In order to ensure a smooth dialogue, moderators should serve as the organisational point with the speakers for the development of a plan scenario for the session. They should work jointly to enhance the understanding of the session's subject and help create a pool of questions. This will guarantee a smooth and dynamic discussion.

**Please summarize the discussions.** At the end of each session, moderators are expected to provide a brief summary of the discussions that took place.

### For Speakers:

**Please speak from experience.** Speakers are encouraged to share their stories and experiences during their intervention. Personal stories will allow a better understanding of the topic being discussed.

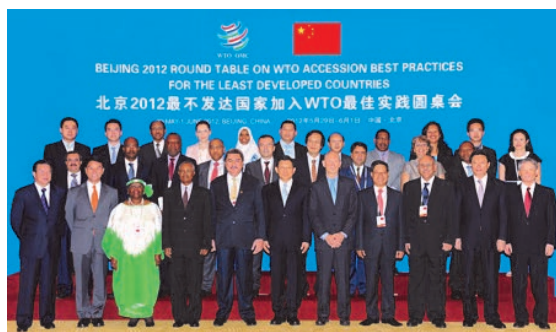
**Please use simple language.** Speakers are expected to always explain acronyms and avoid using technical jargons.

**Please coordinate beforehand with the other speakers and moderators.** All speakers are encouraged to communicate with the moderator and coordinate their interventions before the session. This will help guarantee a smooth session and a dynamic discussion.

### For Participants:

**Please be prepared to participate in all sessions.** The success of this dialogue hinges on vibrant participation in each session. All participants should be ready to get involved in the discussion of each session and subject with questions and comments.

## PREVIOUS CHINA ROUND TABLES — 2012-2015



**First China Round Table: “Best Practices in the WTO Accession Process”**

Beijing, China  
29 May-1 June 2012



**Second China Round Table: “The Future of the Multilateral Trading System: Perspectives of LDCs and Article XII Members”**

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR  
15-18 October 2013



**Third China Round Table: “Post-Accession: Maximizing the Benefits of WTO Membership and Global Economic Integration”**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
2-5 June 2015



**Fourth China Round Table: “African Perspectives on the Future of the Trading System”**

Nairobi, Kenya  
13-14 December 2015

## DAY 1 — MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2017

| <b>OPENING SESSION</b><br><b>ROOM: Ballroom</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Mr. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00—08:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 08:30 – 09:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Remarks by Mr. David Shark, Deputy Director-General, WTO</li> <li>Remarks by H.E. Mr. Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce, China</li> <li>Special Remarks by H.E. Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister, Kingdom of Cambodia</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 09:30 – 09:40                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Signing Ceremony of the Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the China LDCs and Accessions Programme (China Programme)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 09:40 – 10:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Group Photograph</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:00 – 10:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SESSION 1 — ROOM: Romdol</b><br><b>Integration of Least Developed Countries into the Multilateral Trading System – Overview of LDC accessions</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Li Yihong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of WTO Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China<br>Since the establishment of the WTO, considerable progress has been made in integrating LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System. LDCs account for more than one fifth of the WTO membership. In total, 9 LDCs have acceded to the WTO pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement and 8 LDCs are in the process of WTO accession. While the current LDC accessions are in various stages of maturity, Comoros and Sudan have adopted an accession roadmap aimed at concluding their respective accession negotiations by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference (MC11). This session will: (i) discuss the role of LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System; (ii) provide an overview on LDC accessions; and, (iii) reflect on the 2016 accessions of Liberia and Afghanistan, specifically on the opportunities and challenges at different stages of their accession processes. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30 – 12:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>What has been the role of LDCs in the Multilateral Trading System?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia</li> </ul> <b>Overview of LDC accessions – Results and State of Play</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Maika Oshikawa, Officer-in-Charge, Accessions Division, WTO</li> </ul> <b>Commentators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Cecilia Klein, Former Senior Director for WTO Accessions, USTR</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Lazare Séhouéto, Ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat, Benin</li> </ul> Followed by Open Discussion |
| 12:30 – 14:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |



Accession of Liberia— Final Working Party Meeting  
Geneva, 6 October 2015



Accession of Afghanistan— Final Working Party Meeting  
Geneva, 11 November 2015

## DAY 1 — MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2017

(cont'd)

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| 14:00 – 15:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Accession of Afghanistan (2016) – Opportunities and Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce of Industries, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</li> </ul> <p><b>Accession of Liberia (2016) – Opportunities and Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Liberia</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Ahmed Said Hassani Djaffar, Vice-Président en charge du Ministère de l'Economie, du Plan de l'Energie, de l'Industrie, de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme, des Investissements, du secteur Privé et des Affaires Foncières, Comoros</li> </ul> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p> |
| 15:30 – 15:45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>DISCUSSION – Davos-Style</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> <i>Is there an optimal pace for LDCs' WTO accession negotiations?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Liberia</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> (up to 5 minutes per panellist).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> No PowerPoint presentations or formal speeches.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 15:45 – 17:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Acceding LDCs:</b> Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste</p> <p><b>Article XII LDC Members:</b> Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Samoa and Yemen</p> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 19:00 –                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Reception/dinner to be hosted by the Government of Cambodia</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Pan SORASAK, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia  
Geneva, 24 January 2017

## DAY 2 — TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017

### SESSION 2 — ROOM: Romdol

#### Structural reforms and accession negotiation strategies

**Moderator:** Mr. David Shark, Deputy Director-General, WTO

Applying for WTO membership signals a country's readiness to undertake deep reforms. Although long and demanding, the accession negotiation process equips governments with the necessary tools to become effective players of the Multilateral Trading System from day one of membership. Additionally, this process serves as a mechanism to accelerate and intensify domestic structural reforms. As part of their accession negotiation strategies, many acceding governments integrate trade into their structural reform package for sustained economic growth. In this session, Mr. Alexei Kireyev, Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund will review the importance of prioritizing structural reforms. Also, Article XII LDC Members will provide their perspectives on WTO accession negotiation strategies.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 - 10:00 | <b>Prioritizing structural reforms for economic growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Alexei Kireyev, Senior Economist and former representative to the WTO, IMF</li> </ul> <b>Commentators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Ahmed Said Hassani Djaffar, Vice-Président en charge du Ministère de l'Economie, du Plan de l'Energie, de l'Industrie, de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme, des Investissements, du secteur Privé et des Affaires Foncières, Comoros</li> <li>Dr. Hassan Ahmed Taha, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Sudan</li> </ul> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p>                                                                                                                               |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:15 – 12:30 | <b>WTO accession negotiation strategies</b> <p><b>The case of Samoa – 2012</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs Nella Pepe Levy, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa</li> </ul> <p><b>The case of Lao PDR - 2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Laohua Cheuching, Director General of Foreign Trade Policy Department, Lao PDR</li> </ul> <p><b>The case of Yemen - 2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Adel Alghaberi, Former Negotiator, Accession of Yemen</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <p><b>Acceding LDCs:</b> Bhutan, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste</p> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p> |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



Accession of the Union of the Comoros — 1<sup>st</sup> Working Party meeting — Geneva, 2 December 2016



Accession of Sudan — 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Party meeting — Geneva, 31 January 2017

## DAY 2 — TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017

(cont'd)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| <p><b>SESSION 3— ROOM: Romdol</b></p> <p><b>WTO Post-accession</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework</p> <p>The completion of an accession process does not mark an end but signals the beginning of sustained economic reforms to maximize the benefits of WTO membership and ensure global economic integration. This session will review the best practices on WTO post-accession based on the lessons learned and direct experiences of thirty-six accessions concluded to date since the establishment of the WTO in 1995. Also, representatives of Article XII LDC Members will share their experiences on WTO membership.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14:00 – 15:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Post-accession best practices: maximising the benefits of WTO Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division, WTO</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-accession: The case of Samoa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, Samoa</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-accession: The case of Yemen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Minister of Industry and Trade, Yemen</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce of Industries, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Liberia</li> </ul> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p> |
| 15:30 – 15:45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>DISCUSSION – Davos-Style</b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> <i>What are the best practices on the accession of LDCs?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Officer-in-Charge, Accessions Division, WTO</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> (up to 5 minutes per panellist).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> No PowerPoint presentations or formal speeches.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15:45 – 17:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Article XII LDC Members</b></p> <p><b>Acceding LDCs</b></p> <p><b>Original WTO Members</b></p> <p><b>Partner Organizations</b></p> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17:00 –                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | End of Day 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## DAY 3 — WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017

### SESSION 4 — ROOM: Romdol

#### Mobilizing Support for WTO accession

**Moderator:** Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Technical assistance and capacity-building provides the foundation of knowledge for the accession process. Knowledge of the rules-based multilateral trading system and the application of WTO principles and agreements to the national legal framework is a prerequisite for a successful conclusion of the accession process. Various technical assistance programmes are available from the WTO, ITC, IMF, UNCTAD, World Bank and other international organizations, as well as individual Members. The challenge, however, lies in the mobilization and coordination of the existing support. This session will also explore strategies for intensifying outreach efforts with both domestic stakeholders and external partners so as to ensure a smoother and faster accession process.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 10:30 | <p><b>Role of Chairpersons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Hilda Ali Al-Hinai (Oman), Former Working Party Chairperson on the Accession of Seychelles</li> <li>Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan), Working Party Chairperson on the Accession of Sudan</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article XII LDC Members</li> <li>Acceding LDCs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10:30—10:45   | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:45 – 12:30 | <p><b>Maximizing cooperation and synergies in Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Maarten Smeets, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation, WTO</li> <li>Mr. Ding Li, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the WTO</li> <li>Mr. Alexei Kireyev, International Monetary Fund</li> <li>Mr. Adel Alghaberi, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Abdirashid Mohamed Ahmed, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Somalia</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Estanislau Da Conceicao Aleixo Maria Da Silva, Minister of State, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste</li> </ul> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p> |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



Establishment of the Working Parties on the Accession of Somalia and Timor-Leste  
General Council, Geneva, 7 December 2016

## DAY 3 — WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017

(cont'd)

| <b>SESSION 5 — ROOM: Romdol</b><br><b>Preparation for the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference – LDC Priorities</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> H.E. Mr. Stephen Ndungu Karau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya in Geneva<br><p>The 11th WTO Ministerial Conference will be held on 11-14 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cambodia will lead the WTO LDC Group at the Ministerial Conference to pursue areas of interest to the Group, including accessions. This session will discuss the preparation of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference, including issues which are being explored by WTO Members for the Conference.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>14:00 – 15:30</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Preparation for the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Hector Marcelo Cima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent mission of Argentina in Geneva</li> </ul> <b>Priorities for the WTO LDC Group at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Pich Rithi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Geneva</li> </ul> <b>LDC Accession priorities – Comoros and Sudan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Ahmed Said Hassani Djaffar, Vice-Président en charge du Ministère de l'Economie, du Plan de l'Energie, de l'Industrie, de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme, des Investissements, du secteur Privé et des Affaires Foncières, Comoros</li> <li>Dr. Hassan Ahmed Taha, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Sudan</li> </ul> <p>Followed by Open Discussion</p> |
| <b>15:30 – 15:45</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>CLOSING SESSION — ROOM: Romdol</b><br><b>A "new dawn" for LDC accessions: Discussion on Best Practices and Next-steps</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Officer-in-Charge, Accessions Division, WTO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>15:45 – 16:30</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Discussion and adoption of the Outcome Document - "Best Practices on the Accessions of least developed countries (LDCs)"</b><br><p>All participants</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>16:30 – 17:00</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia</li> <li>Ms. Li Yihong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of WTO Affairs, China</li> <li>Mr. David Shark, Deputy Director-General, WTO</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>17:00 -</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | End of Day 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## DAY 4 — THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2017

| Local Activity Tour in Siem Reap |                                             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 — 10:00                     | Visit of Angkor Wat temple and Angkor Touch |
| 10:00 — 12:00                    | Visit of Bayon temple                       |
| 12:00 — 15:00                    | <i>Lunch at Sokha Hotel</i>                 |
| 15:00 — 16:30                    | Visit of Panorama museum, Angkor Kyung Yu   |
| 16:30 —                          | Return to Sokha Hotel                       |



Bayon Temple, Siem Reap, Cambodia

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(As at 15 March 2017)

| Country/Organization                                                  | Name                                                                                                                  | Position                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LDCs Acceding Government</b>                                       |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1. Bhutan                                                             | Mr. Tshewang DORJI T<br>Mr. Sonam TOBGAY                                                                              | Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Economic Affairs<br>Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2. Comoros                                                            | H.E. Mr. Ahmed Said Hassani DJAFFAR<br><br>Mr. Kamalidini SOUEF<br>Mr. Said Abdou SALIME                              | Vice-Président en charge du Ministère de l'Economie, du Plan de l'Energie, de l'Industrie, de l'Artisanat, du Tourisme, des Investissements, du secteur Privé et des Affaires Foncières<br>Director General, Department of Customs<br>EIF-NIU Coordinator / Trade Policy Adviser |
| 3. Equatorial Guinea                                                  | Sr. Hipolito Ondo ENVO BELA<br>Sr. Benjamin Santos EDJABUA DJOMBE                                                     | Secretario de Estado, Ministry of Commerce<br>Gabinete Tecnico, Ministry of Commerce                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4. Ethiopia                                                           | H.E. Mr. Ayana Zewdie WORKNEH<br>H.E. Mr. Mekonnen MANYAZEWA<br><br>Mr. Mussie Mindaye HAILESILASSIE                  | State Minister of Trade, Ministry of Trade<br>Director of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute<br>Multilateral Trade Relation and Negotiation Director, Ministry of Trade                                                                                                |
| 5. Somalia                                                            | H.E. Mr. Abdirashid Mohamed AHMED<br>H.E. Ms Faduma MOHAMUD                                                           | Minister of Commerce and Industry<br>Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 6. Sudan                                                              | Dr. Hassan Ahmed Taha AHMED<br><br>Dr. Yassin Eisa Mohamed ABDALLA<br><br>H.E. Mr. Kamal GUBARA                       | National Negotiator, Ministry of International Cooperation<br>Secretary General of NSWTOA, Ministry of International Cooperation<br>Ambassador, Deputy Head of Mission in Geneva                                                                                                 |
| 7. Timor-Leste                                                        | H.E. Mr. Estanislau Da Conceicao ALEIXO MARIA DA SILVA<br><br><br>Ms Maria Rita PIRES                                 | Minister of State, Coordinating Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries<br>Adviser in Office of Minister of Economic Affairs                                                                                                            |
| <b>Article XII LDC Members</b>                                        |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8. Afghanistan                                                        | H.E. Mr. Humayoon RASAW                                                                                               | Minister of Commerce and Industries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9. Cambodia                                                           | H.E. Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen<br>H.E. Mr. Pan SORASAK<br>H.E. Mr. Pich RITHI                    | Prime Minister<br>Minister of Commerce<br>Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10. Lao PDR                                                           | Mr. Laohoua CHEUCHING<br>Ms Souvipha INTHAVONG                                                                        | Director General, Ministry of Industry and Commerce<br>Trade Policy Analyst, Ministry of Industry and Commerce                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11. Liberia                                                           | H.E. Mr. Axel M. ADDY                                                                                                 | Minister of Commerce and Industry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12. Nepal                                                             | H.E. Mr. Deepak DHITAL                                                                                                | Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13. Samoa                                                             | H.E. Mr. Lautafi Fio Selafi PURCELL<br>Mrs Nella Pepe LEVY                                                            | Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour<br>Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade                                                                                                                                                            |
| 14. Yemen                                                             | H.E. Mr. Mohammed AL-MAITAMI                                                                                          | Minister of Industry and Trade                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>WTO Members</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15. Argentina                                                         | H.E. Mr. Hector Marcelo CIMA                                                                                          | Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16. Benin                                                             | H.E. Mr. Lazare SEHOUE TO                                                                                             | Ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Artisanat (MICA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 17. China                                                             | H.E. Mr. WANG Shouwen<br>Ms Li Yihong<br>Mr. XU Qisong<br>Mr. SONG Yang<br>Mr. WANG Chen<br>Ms Li Jing<br>Mr. DING Li | Vice Minister of Commerce<br>Deputy Director-General, MOFCOM<br>Counsellor, MOFCOM<br>Deputy Director, MOFCOM<br>Deputy Director, MOFCOM<br>Third Secretary, MOFCOM<br>Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO                                                    |
| 18. European Union                                                    | Mr. Mateusz PROROK                                                                                                    | Attaché, Delegation of the EU to Cambodia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 19. Japan                                                             | Mr. Ryosuke KUWANA                                                                                                    | Deputy Permanent Representative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 20. Kenya                                                             | H.E. Mr. Stephen Ndungu KARAU                                                                                         | Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 21. Oman                                                              | Ms Hilda AL HINAI                                                                                                     | Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman to the WTO                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 22. United States                                                     | Ms Cecilia Leahy KLEIN                                                                                                | Former Senior Director for WTO Accessions, USTR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Partner Organization</b>                                           |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 23. Executive Secretariat for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) | Mr. Ratnakar ADHIKARI<br>Ms TRAN T.T. Hang                                                                            | Executive Director<br>Coordinator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 24. International Trade Center (ITC)                                  | Mr. Rajesh AGGARWAL                                                                                                   | Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 25. International Monetary Fund (IMF)                                 | Mr. Alexei KIREYEV                                                                                                    | Senior Economist, Former representative to the WTO                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 26. UN ESCWA                                                          | Mr. Adel AL-GHABERI                                                                                                   | Economic Affairs Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>WTO Secretariat</b>                                                |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 27.                                                                   | Mr. David SHARK                                                                                                       | Deputy Director-General                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 28.                                                                   | Ms Maika OSHIKAWA                                                                                                     | Officer-in-Charge, Accessions Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 29.                                                                   | Ms Anna VARYANIK                                                                                                      | Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 30.                                                                   | Ms Mariam SOUMARE                                                                                                     | Junior Trade Policy Analyst, Accessions Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 31.                                                                   | Mr. Maarten SMEETS                                                                                                    | Chief of Section, TA Coordination, Partnerships and Internship Programmes Section , ITTC                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## NOTES

[illegible]



## **Accessions Division**

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