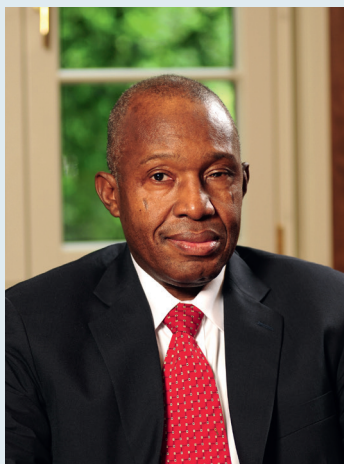


POST-ACCESSION FORUM

WTO MEMBERSHIP OF LIBERIA
AND AFGHANISTAN





Mr. Frederick Yonov Agah
WTO Deputy Director-General



Mr. Roberto Azevêdo
WTO Director-General



Mr. Joakim Reiter
UNCTAD Deputy
Secretary-General

POST-ACCESSION FORUM PROGRAMME

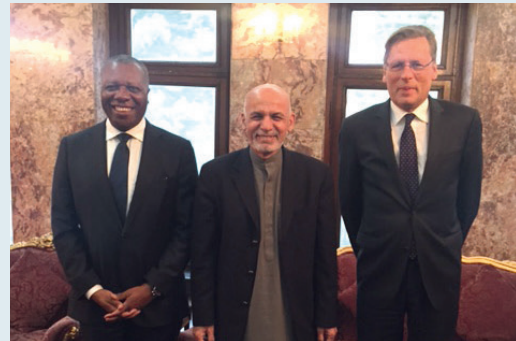
19 July 2016, KICC, Nairobi, Kenya

08:00 – 08:10	Opening Keynote Remarks: “Maximising the Benefits of WTO Membership: Best Practices on Post-Accession – Lessons Learned from 36 Completed Accessions” Frederick Yonov Agah, WTO Deputy Director-General
08:10 – 08:30	Post-Accession Implementation Strategy – Maximising the Benefits of WTO Membership H.E. Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce of Industries, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Republic of Liberia
08:30 – 08:50	Post-Accession support and partnership Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Centre Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Executive Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Interventions by other multilateral institutions and bilateral partners
08:50 – 09:00	Conclusion and Way Forward Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General and Former Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of the Republic of Liberia
From 09:00	Reception for participants Sponsored by the EIF Secretariat

KEY MOMENTS IN THE ACCESSION OF LIBERIA AND AFGHANISTAN



WTO Mission to Monrovia – August 2015



WTO Mission to Kabul – November 2015



Final Working Party Meeting of the Accession of Liberia - October 2015



Final Working Party Meeting of the Accession of Afghanistan – November 2015



Signing Ceremony of the Accession Protocol of Liberia at MC10 – December 2015



Signing Ceremony of the Accession Protocol of Afghanistan at MC10 – December 2015



Deposit of Instrument of Acceptance of the Accession Protocol of Liberia – June 2016



Deposit of Instrument of Acceptance of the Accession Protocol of Afghanistan – June 2016

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON POST-ACCESSION FOR LIBERIA

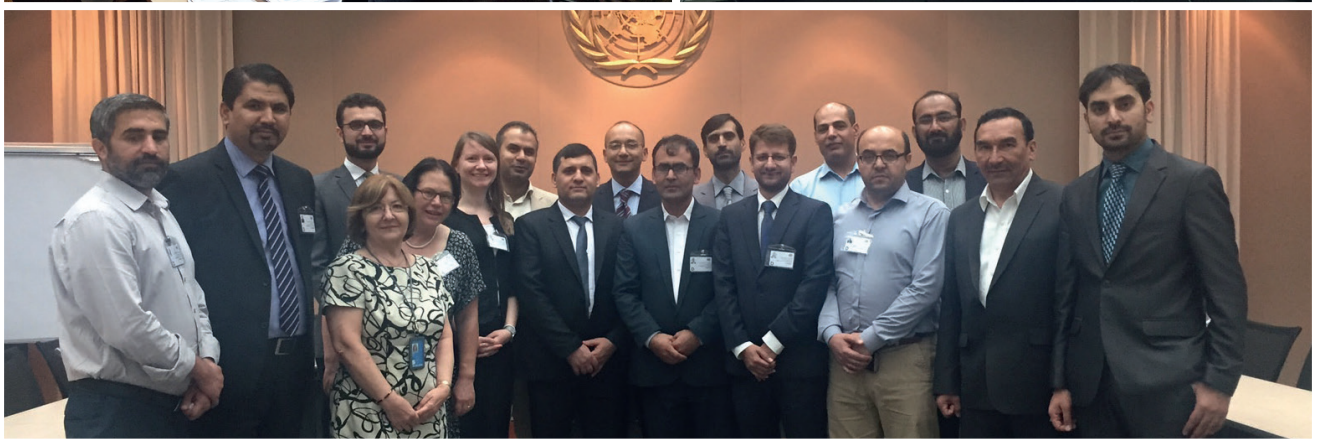
Monrovia, 27 – 29 June 2016



The WTO Secretariat organized a high-level National Workshop on Post-Accession in Monrovia, Liberia, under the sponsorship of the WTO's Least-developed Countries (LDCs) and Accessions Programme (also known as the China Programme). Discussions centered on how Liberia could take advantage of its WTO membership. This event attracted about 70 participants from different line Ministries, representatives from the Parliament, the private sector, academia and media. The WTO delegation paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Madame President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

POLICY DIALOGUE ON POST-ACCESSION FOR AFGHANISTAN

Bangkok, 11 – 15 July 2016



The WTO Secretariat and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organized a high-level Policy Dialogue on Post-Accession for Afghanistan in Bangkok, Thailand, under the sponsorship of the China Programme. The Dialogue provided a platform for Afghanistan to strategize on its Post-Accession Implementation Strategy/Roadmap. Senior government officials from different line Ministries and agencies of Afghanistan actively participated. Representatives of China and Lao PDR joined to share their post-accession experiences.

WTO POST-ACCESSION

WTO membership can be demanding and complex. In the past 20 years, Article XII Members i.e. Members that have acceded to the WTO pursuant to Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, in particular from least developed countries (LDCs), have increased their requests for post-accession support from the WTO Secretariat and the international development community. In response, under the leadership of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, the Secretariat has developed the framework for WTO post-accession implementation and support that is structured into four pillars:

1. Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession;
2. Country-Specific WTO Post-Accession Implementation Strategy for LDCs;
3. Specialised Training on WTO Post-Accession for LDCs; and,
4. Internal Secretariat Note on Post-Accession Implementation and Monitoring.

‘Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession’ have been developed on seven specific areas which could guide Article XII members in the preparation for their WTO membership. These practices have emerged from the experience and lessons learned from 36 completed accessions since the establishment of the WTO in 1995, including the postaccession dialogue held at the Third China Round Table in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2015. The seven specific areas are elaborated in the next page and more details are available in the WTO Secretariat Note “Best Practices on WTO Post-Accession” in document WT/ACC/27.

The WTO Secretariat has provided LDC-specific post-accession support for Liberia and Afghanistan, the two most recently concluded accessions to the WTO. Following the adoption of the Accession Protocols by WTO Ministers at the Tenth Ministerial Conference in December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, Liberia and Afghanistan have become the 163rd and the 164th members of the WTO on 14 July and 29 July 2016, respectively. The two LDCs developed and adopted the WTO Post-Accession Implementation Strategies in December 2015. Specialised Training on WTO Post-Accession was delivered for Liberia on 27-29 June and Afghanistan on 11-15 July (see page 3 and 4).

The provision of post-accession support, based on strong partnership and coordination between Article XII LDCs, other WTO members and the international development community, is critical in ensuring that Afghanistan and Liberia maximise the benefits of WTO membership.

BEST PRACTICES ON WTO POST-ACCESSION

Seven Key Areas

1. Policy Framework for WTO Membership

- Adopt a Post-Accession Implementation Strategy (with technical assistance and capacity building (TA/CB) needs for LDCs), which is subject to periodic reporting and reviews
- Mainstream WTO accession commitments into broader national development plans
- Synchronize WTO accession commitments to regional trade integration initiatives

2. Institutional and Coordination Structures

- Appoint/re-appoint the lead ministry dealing with WTO affairs, with mandate on the implementation of commitments and the coordination of day-to-day work of the WTO
- Establish/restructure an inter-ministry coordination body, with the participation of line ministries/agencies/focal points tasked with implementation and notifications
- Establish a consultative mechanism(s) with the business sector
- Establish regular coordination and communications between the capital and Geneva
- Enhance the Permanent Mission to the UNOG, including through the appointment of a dedicated representative to the WTO and increased staff to handle WTO affairs
- Establish a separate Permanent Mission to the WTO

3. Legislative Framework for Implementation

- Continue to use the legislative framework established during accession in the post-accession period, including through the creation of a legislative mechanism / body / process to monitor compliance of national legislation with WTO requirements

4. Transparency

- Set up a web-based portal for all trade-related information
- Set up and notify the Enquiry Points on SPS, TBT and TRIPS, as required by the WTO Agreements
- Establish a focal point and a central registry for all notifications submitted to the WTO

5. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

- Make use of training opportunities provided by the WTO and others by sending qualified officials, including from line ministries, selected on a competitive basis
- Develop and deliver in-house training programmes on WTO matters
- Hold period consultations with line ministries to identify TA/CB needs

6. Outreach

- Initiate outreach activities to non-governmental stakeholders during the end phase of the accession process, through symposiums, conferences and seminars
- Set up specialized courses on WTO subjects in higher educational institutions
- Set up an information centre on the WTO, including the WTO Reference Centre

7. Participation in the work of the WTO

- Attend and participate in meetings of WTO regular and negotiating bodies, as learning by doing is the best form of knowledge and capacity building
- Submit notifications from Day One of membership
- Participate constructively in Accession Working Parties and GPA negotiations to safeguard the multilateral trading system by updating the rules and expanding market access

- For more information, please see document WT/ACC/27



Protocols of Afghanistan and Liberia on display at the WTO Accessions Exhibition Corner