



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



CHINA ROUND TABLE

EURASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: Accessions and the Evolution of WTO Rules

Programme
Hilton Hotel, Astana, Kazakhstan
26-27 September 2018





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This programme for the Seventh China Round Table and documents circulated under the China's LDCs and Accessions Programme are designed wholly and exclusively for technical assistance and capacity building purposes and under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility. They are without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

The Seventh China Round Table is funded by the Government of China, hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, and organized by the WTO Secretariat, as part of the agreed activities under the China-WTO MOU¹. Please note that on 28 September the participants of the China Round Table will be invited to attend the High-Level Forum on Trade and Investment Facilitation for Development: A Eurasian Perspective, hosted by Kazakhstan in partnership with the WTO Friends of Investment Facilitation for Development (FIFD).

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¹ In July 2011, the Government of the People's Republic of China signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WTO on the China LDCs' and Accessions Programme ("The China Programme"), which has thereafter been extended on a yearly basis. The China Programme finances the WTO Accessions Internship Programme and the annual Accession Round Table process, designed to build capacity and technical skills in trade policy, including on accession negotiations, for least-developed and developing countries.

PREVIOUS ROUND TABLES



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 Trading System: Domestic Reforms for Competitiveness and Deeper Trade Integration in the Global Economy”

Nairobi, Kenya, 13-14 December 2015



Fifth China Round Table: “Best Practices on the Accessions of Least Developed Countries LDCs”

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 20-23 March 2017



Sixth China Round Table: “Strengthening the Rules-based Multilateral Trading System And Building a Network to Promote Accessions”

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 10 December 2017

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

Since 2012, the successive China Round Tables (CRTs) have served as platform to discuss wide ranging accession-related issues. To date, six Round Tables have been held in three continents: CRT-01 in Beijing, China in May 2012; CRT-02 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR in October 2013; CRT-03 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June 2015; CRT-04 in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015; CRT-05 in Siem Reap, Cambodia in March 2017; and CRT-06 in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017. The central purpose of the CRTs is to sustain discussions on the integration of new members in the rules-based multilateral trading system. They have provided a forum for dialogue and experience-sharing on best practices on WTO accessions and post-accession, and for exploring in what ways the WTO accession could strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system.

The Seventh China Round Table (CRT-07) will be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan and will focus on "Eurasian Perspectives on the Future of the Multilateral Trading System: Accessions and the Evolution of WTO Rules". Moreover, as co-sponsor of the Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (FIFD), on 28 September, Kazakhstan will host the High-Level Forum on Trade and Investment Facilitation for Development: A Eurasian Perspective. The Forum is open for the participants of the China Round Table. As many acceding governments use the WTO accession process to improve the business environment, it is hoped that the participation at the Forum will provide an opportunity to learn about the emerging best practices on investment facilitation.

OBJECTIVES

Historically, trade has played a critical role in shaping Eurasia by connecting various political, economic and social forces of people and communities, such as those located along the Silk Road. In modern times, trade has once again served as a catalyst for promoting dialogue and unlocking the economic potential of the newly-independent States which emerged following the redrawing of the Eurasian map in the early 1990s.

At the time of the establishment of the WTO in 1995, Eurasia was underrepresented in the Organization. During the last 23 years, 36 new Members acceded to the WTO, including many from Eurasia. Thus, the WTO has expanded to 164 Members and the reach of its rules and disciplines

has been extended to over 98 per cent of global trade. With several large economies actively pursuing WTO Membership, Eurasia continues to be a source of strength and dynamism for the rules-based multilateral trading system.

Hosted in Astana, at the heart of Eurasia, the China Round Table will provide a timely context for an exchange of views on the future of the multilateral trading system through WTO accessions and their systemic contributions. The specific objectives of the Round Table are as follows:

- (i) To exchange views on the role and contributions of the Eurasian economies to the rules-based multilateral trading system and *vice versa*;
- (ii) To share direct experience and lessons learned on WTO accessions from Eurasia;
- (iii) To review the role of accessions in rule-making in the WTO; and
- (iv) To provide a platform for discussions on joint initiatives in trade.

PROGRAMME

The programme of the Seventh China Round Table is structured into the following sessions:

- Session 1:** Eurasia in the Global Economy and the Multilateral Trading System;
- Session 2:** Evolution of WTO Accessions in Eurasia: Results, Impacts and New Trends;
- Session 3:** Contributions of WTO Accessions to Rule-Making;
- Session 4:** Joint Initiatives in Trade.

The sessions are spread across 2 days. To enable a lively exchange during the China Round Table, all participants are invited to actively participate in the discussions and be ready to fill one or more designated roles, such as that of a panellist, a commentator, or a moderator.

OPENING SESSION	
09:00— 09:30	Registration
09:30 — 10:00	Opening Ceremony - Opening remarks by Ambassador Alan Wm. WOLFF, Deputy Director-General, WTO - Welcome remarks by Mr Timur SULEIMENOV, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan - Introductory remarks by Ambassador ZHANG Xiangchen, Permanent Representative to the WTO, China
SESSION 1	
EURASIA IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM	
Moderator: Ambassador Alan Wm. WOLFF, Deputy Director-General, WTO	
<i>Eurasia extends its vast geographical landmass stretching from China to Europe, historically connecting different people, communities and cultures through trade. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, trade has played a powerful role in transforming newly independent countries and in deepening their relationships with the rest of the world, including through WTO accessions. Today, with its vast deposits of natural resources, proximity to large and fast growing markets and increased connectivity across the region, Eurasia is once again at the heart of globalisation attention. This session will: (i) discuss the evolution of Eurasia in the global economy, including different forces and players shaping the region; and (ii) provide an overview of the evolution of regional integration in Eurasia, including the impact of economic reforms on the trade and economic performance of the countries in the region.</i>	
10:00 — 11:00	Eurasia in the global economy: What are the forces shaping the future of the region? - Mr Patrick LOW, former WTO Chief Economist Belt and Road Initiative and the multilateral trading system - Mr HU Yingzhi, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Commerce, China Eurasian Economic Union — Regional Integration - Ms Veronika NIKISHINA, Minister for Trade, Eurasian Economic Commission Commentator: - Mr Giovanni CAPANNELLI, Country Director to Kazakhstan, Asian Development Bank <i>Followed by open discussion</i>
(the panellists are invited to make 10-min statements)	
11:00— 11:15	Coffee Break

SESSION 2

EVOLUTION OF WTO ACCESSIONS IN EURASIA: RESULTS, IMPACTS AND NEW TRENDS

This session will focus on the exchange of experiences in WTO accession negotiations in Eurasia, concluded and ongoing, and the specific negotiating results in completed accessions. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in 1991, most of the newly-independent states made applications to join the GATT in 1993 and 1994. Each of these accession processes had its own dynamics and specific outcomes. Some of the accession processes were longer and carried greater complexities, including those associated with creation of a regional trade bloc before joining the WTO. Following an overview presentation on the achievements to date and the state of play in WTO accessions in Eurasia, this session will focus on: (A) concluded and ongoing WTO accessions in the context of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU); (B) the experiences of Article XII Members from the region; and (C) ongoing accession negotiations.

Moderator: Ms Maika OSHIKAWA, Director, Accessions Division, WTO

11:15 — 11:30	Overview of WTO accessions in Eurasia – Achievements to date and state of play Ms Maika OSHIKAWA, Director, Accessions Division, WTO
11:30— 13:00 <i>(The panellists are invited to make 10-min statements, followed by 5-min interventions by each commentator)</i>	WTO accessions in the context of the EAEU - Ambassador Zhanar AITZHANOVA, Permanent Representative to the WTO, former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Kazakhstan - Mr Maxim MEDVEDKOV, Director, Trade Negotiations Department, Ministry of Economic Development, former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Russian Federation - Ambassador Vladimir SERPIKOV, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Directorate General for Foreign Economic Activities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus <u>Commentators:</u> - Mr Carlos GIMENO, Senior Policy Advisor, DG Trade, European Commission - Mr Neil BECK, Director for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative - Mr Vesa HIMANEN, former Permanent Representative of Finland to WTO and Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan <i>Followed by open discussion</i>
13:00— 14:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>

WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2018 (Cont'd)

Round Table of Article XII Members Moderator: <i>Ambassador ZHANG Xiangchen, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO</i>	
14:15 — 16:00	What are the most important factors to deliver accession? What are the post-accession experiences and gains? • Mr Avag AVANESYAN, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Armenia • Ms Iulia COSTIN, State Secretary-General, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, Moldova • Mr Radosav BABIĆ, Deputy Minister of Economy, Montenegro • Mr Zavqi ZAVQIZODA, First Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan • Ambassador Mohammad Qurban HAQJO, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Afghanistan
16:00— 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
Round Table of Acceding Governments Moderator: <i>Mr Jovan JEKIĆ, Senior WTO/Trade Adviser, USAID Competitiveness, Trade and Jobs Activities in Central Asia (CTJ)</i>	
16:15— 18:00	What does WTO accession offer today? • Mr Hamdo TINJAK, Secretary, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Ms Olivera JOCIĆ, Acting Assistant Minister, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication, Serbia • Mr Madhi ALIZADEH, Advisor to Minister on International Trade Researches and Accession to the WTO, Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, Iran • Mr Mushfig OSMANOV, Head of Division on Trade Representatives, Trade Policy and WTO Issues Department, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan • Mr Askar MIRSAIDOV, Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan • Ambassador Atanas PAPARIZOV, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the WTO, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Ambassador Marie-Claire SWÄRD CAPRA, Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden in Algeria, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Serbia
18:00	End of Day One

THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

SESSION 3

CONTRIBUTIONS OF WTO ACCESSIONS TO RULE-MAKING

Moderator: Ambassador Chiedu OSAKWE, Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General, Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations, and former Director of the WTO Accessions Division

WTO Accessions have proved to be a vehicle for WTO rule-making, often a step ahead of multilateral trade negotiations. For instance, since 1997 Article XII Members individually undertook the commitment to eliminate export subsidies in agriculture as part of their accession packages to join the WTO, much before the historical decision taken by all WTO Members at the 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2015. Some accession packages include disciplines in the area of export regulation, including the tariff concessions on exports. Article XII Members are active participants in WTO agreements of plurilateral nature, such as in the areas of Information Technology and Government Procurement. This session will focus on the role and importance of WTO accessions for the future of rule-making.

09:00 — 10:45

(A 15-min presentation will be made, followed by 5-min interventions by each commentator)

Contributions of WTO Accessions to Rule-Making

- Mr Dimitar BRATANOV, Economic Affairs Officer, Accessions Division, WTO

Commentators:

- Ambassador Alfredo SUESCUM, Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO, Coordinator of the Article XII Members Group
- Mr Maxim MEDVEDKOV, Director, Trade Negotiations Department, Ministry of Economic Development and former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Russian Federation
- Ambassador Atanas PAPARIZOV, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the WTO and former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession of Bulgaria

Followed by open discussion

10:45— 11:15

Coffee Break

SESSION 4

JOINT INITIATIVES IN TRADE

Moderator: Mr Pierre SAUVÉ, Senior Trade Specialist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, World Bank Group

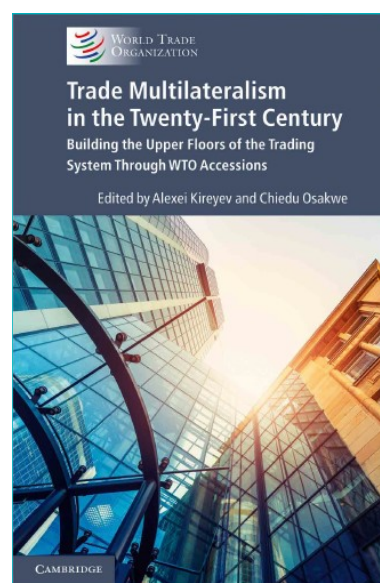
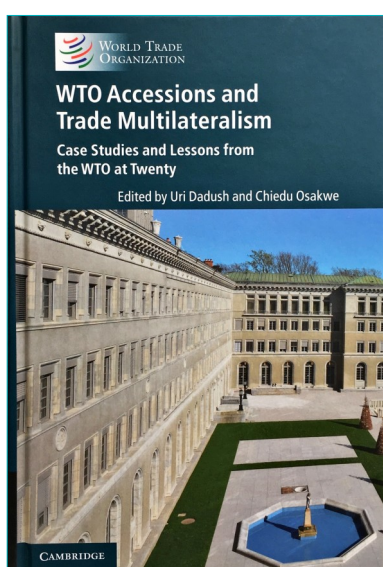
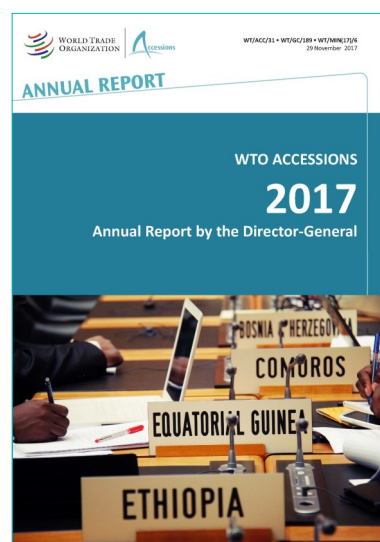
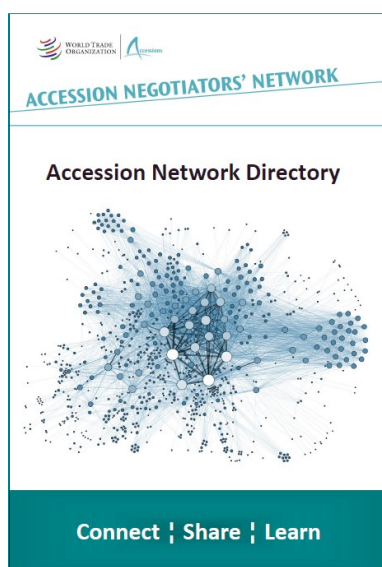
At the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires a number of Members announced new initiatives to advance talks at the WTO on the issues of electronic commerce, investment facilitation and micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs). This session will facilitate continued discussions on these subjects.

THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 (Cont'd)

11:15 – 13:00 <i>(The panellists are invited to make a 10-min statement/ presentation, followed by 5-min interventions by each commentator)</i>	State of play in the Joint Initiatives in Trade: - Ambassador Juan Carlos GONZÁLEZ, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development - Ambassador José Luís CANCELA GÓMEZ, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria, Coordinator of the Informal Group on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) - Ambassador Alvaro CEDEÑO MOLINARI, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the WTO Commentators: - Ambassador Alfredo SUESCUM, Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO, Coordinator of the Article XII Members Group - Mr Rajesh AGGARWAL, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, International Trade Centre (ITC) <i>Followed by open discussion</i>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Consideration of the "Report on the Outcome of the Seventh China Round Table" <i>All participants</i>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
HIGH-LEVEL CLOSING SESSION Moderator: Ms Maika OSHIKAWA, Director, Accessions Division, WTO	
16:00 – 17:00	- Remarks by Mr Roberto AZEVÊDO, Director-General, WTO - Remarks by Mr Yerbolat DOSSAYEV, Deputy Prime Minister, Kazakhstan - Remarks by Mr LI Chenggang, Assistant Minister of Commerce, China - Report on the Outcome of the Seventh China Round Table – Ambassador Zhanar AITZHANOVA, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the WTO
17:00 – 17:15	Group Photograph
17:15	End of Day Two
18:50	Transfer to the Ritz Carlton Hotel (from the lobby of Hilton Hotel)
19:00	Dinner to be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan (Ritz-Carlton Hotel)

ROUND TABLE DOCUMENTATION

- Accession Network Directory;
- Director-General's 2017 Annual Report on Accessions;
- WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons from the WTO at Twenty, CUP/ WTO Publication, 2015;
- Trade Multilateralism in the 21st Century: Building the Upper Floors of the Trading System through WTO Accessions, CUP/WTO Publication, 2017.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Title
Acceding Governments		
Azerbaijan	Mr. Mushfig OSMANOV	Head of Division on Trade Representatives, Trade Policy and WTO Issues Department, Ministry of Economy
Belarus	Mr. Vladimir SERPIKOV	Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Directorate General for Foreign Economic Activities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Belarus	Ms. Irina DIVAKOVA	First Secretary, WTO Unit, Directorate General for Foreign Economic Activities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Belarus	Mr. Anatoly NICHKASOV	Ambassador of Belarus to Kazakhstan
Belarus	Mr. Gennady KLYGA	Counsellor, Embassy of Belarus to Kazakhstan
Belarus	Mr. Yury DMITRICHKOV	Counsellor, Embassy of Belarus to Kazakhstan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Hamdo TINJAK	Secretary, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Samira SULEJMANOVIĆ	Head of Department at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Secretary of the Negotiating Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Iran	Mr. Mahdi ALIZADEH	Advisor to Minister on International Trade Researches and Accession to the WTO, Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
Serbia	Ms. Olivera JOCIĆ	Acting Assistant Minister, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication
Serbia	Ms. Miljana MANDIĆ	Senior Advisor, Department of Foreign Trade Regime, Multilateral and Regional Cooperation Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
Uzbekistan	Mr. Jamshid KHODJAEV	Minister of Foreign Trade
Uzbekistan	Mr. Askar MIRSAIDOV	Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade
Article XII Members		
Afghanistan	Mr. Mohammed Qurban HAQJO	Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the WTO
Armenia	Mr. Avag AVANESYAN	Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments
Armenia	Mr. Gor EDIGARYAN	Third Secretary, Embassy of Armenia in Kazakhstan
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China	Ms. LIU Huan	Third Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, MOFCOM
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China	Mr. WANG Zhaoyang	Third Secretary, Embassy of China to Kazakhstan
China	Ms. QIAN Mianzhi	Attaché, Embassy of China to Kazakhstan
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Moldova	Ms. Iulia COSTIN	State Secretary-General, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure
Mongolia	Mr. Enkhbold VORSHILOV	Director-General, Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mongolia	Mr. Luvsan BATTULGA	Ambassador of Mongolia to Kazakhstan
Mongolia	Mr. Lkhagva BAATARCHULUUN	Counsellor, Embassy of Mongolia
Montenegro	Mr. Radosav BABIĆ	Deputy Minister of Economy
Russian Federation	Mr. Maxim MEDVEDKOV	Director, Trade Negotiations Department, Ministry of Economic Development, former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession
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Ukraine	Mr. Sergey PAVLENKO	First Secretary, Economic Affairs, Embassy of Ukraine in Kazakhstan
Ukraine	Mr. Igor CHERNEGA	First Secretary, Embassy of Ukraine in Kazakhstan

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Korea, Republic of	Mr. Baurzhan SHAIKHIN	Energy and Infrastructure Researcher, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan
Korea, Republic of	[Mr KIM Jin Dong] - TBC	Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kazakhstan
Nigeria	Mr. Chiedu OSAKWE	Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General, Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations, and former Director of the WTO Accessions Division
Costa Rica	Mr. Alvaro CEDEÑO MOLINARI	Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the WTO
Panama	Mr. Alfredo SUESCUM ALFARO	Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO, Coordinator of the Article XII Members Group
United States	Mr. Neil BECK	Director for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative
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Working Party on the Accession of Algeria	Mr. José Luís CANCELA GÓMEZ	Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria, Coordinator of the Informal Group on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)
Working Party on the Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Atanas PAPARIZOV	Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the WTO, Former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession of Bulgaria, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan	Mr. Vesa HIMANEN	Former Permanent Representative of Finland to WTO and Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan
Working Party on the Accession of Serbia	Ms. Marie-Claire SWÄRD CAPRA	Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden in Algeria, Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Serbia
Others Experts		
	Mr. Patrick LOW	Former WTO Chief Economist
International Organizations		
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Mr. Giovanni CAPANNELLI	Country Director to Kazakhstan
CAREC, ADB	Mr. Guoliang WU	Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist
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Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)	Mr. Anton KUDASOV	Director of Trade Policy Department
Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)	Mr Denis FOMIN	Head of Secretariat of the Minister for Trade
International Trade Center (ITC)	Mr. Rajesh AGGARWAL	Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business
USAID Competitiveness, Trade and Jobs Activities in Central Asia (CTJ)	Mr. Jovan JEKIĆ	Senior WTO/Trade Adviser
World Bank Group	Mr. Pierre SAUVÉ	Senior Trade Specialist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice
WTO Secretariat		
WTO	Mr. Roberto AZEVÊDO	Director-General
WTO	Mr. Alan Wm. WOLFF	Deputy Director-General
WTO	Ms. Maika OSHIKAWA	Director, Accessions Division
WTO	Mr. Dimitar BRATANOV	Economic Affairs Officer, Accessions Division
WTO	Ms. Anna VARYANIK	Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division
Host		
Kazakhstan	Mr. Yerbolat DOSSAYEV	Deputy Prime Minister
Kazakhstan	Mr. Timur SULEIMENOV	Minister of National Economy
Kazakhstan	Ms. Madina ZHUNUSBEKOVA	Vice Minister for National Economy
Kazakhstan	Ms. Zhanar AITZHANOVA	Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the WTO, former Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession
Kazakhstan	Mr. Nurlan KULBATYROV	Deputy Director General, Center for Trade Policy Development

NOTES

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