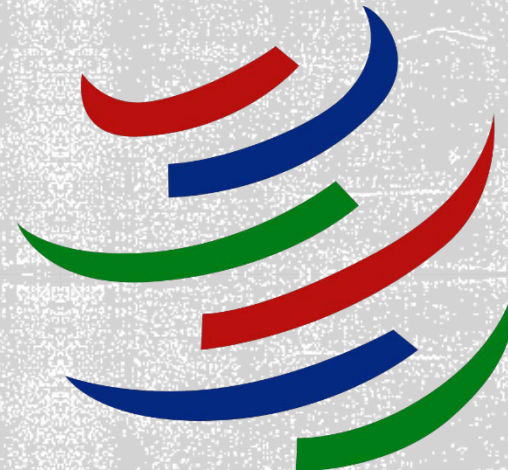


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CURRENT STATUS OF ACCESSION OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE WTO



Mr. Askar Mirsaidov

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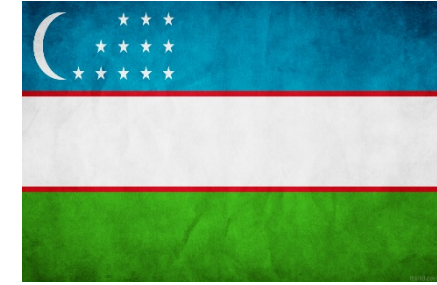
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- THE GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS AND IRREVERSIBLE REFORMS.
- WTO MEMBERSHIP IS “AN ABSOLUTE PRIORITY” FOR UZBEKISTAN
- AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THESE REFORMS, WE REACTIVATED THE PROCESS OF WTO ACCESSION IN **2020**, AND HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ON BOTH THE MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL FRONTS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS
- THE WORKING PARTY MET FOR THE **SIXTH** TIME, THE LAST ONE IN **MARCH 2023**
- IN THE WTO DOCUMENTS UZBEKISTAN HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF CONCRETE COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURES SPECIFIED IN THE TFA, **CUSTOMS VALUATION AGREEMENT, AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE, TO ACCEDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND OTHERS**



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- THE NEXT 7TH WP MEETING IS PLANNED ON **16 NOVEMBER 2023** AND WE ARE HOPING TO PREPARE THE ELEMENTS OF THE WP REPORT AFTER THIS EVENT
- TAKING THE NEED ON INTENSIFYING AND SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS, UZBEKISTAN INTENDS TO ORGANIZE **2-3 WP MEETINGS PER YEAR**
- UZBEKISTAN SUBMITTED AN UPDATED SET OF DOCUMENTS TO THE WORKING PARTY BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER 2023 AND STEPPED UP ITS BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS ON THE MARKET ACCESS FRONT
- BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONTINUED ON THE MARGINS OF THE 16 NOVEMBER WORKING PARTY MEETING, INCLUDING WITH EU DELEGATION



HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION



- THE PRESIDENT'S DECREE "ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO ACCELERATE THE ACCESSION PROCESS TO THE WTO" OF 2 JUNE 2023
- REFLECTING ITS VERY STRONG COMMITMENT TO ACCESSION, AND FOLLOWING UP ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF UZBEKISTAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN HAS REVIEWED ITS WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESSION AND DEVELOPED A FRESH APPROACH TOWARDS THE REMAINING NEGOTIATIONS





HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION



- The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan is assigned with the functions of harmonizing national legislation with WTO rules and norms, including by establishing a dedicated department at the Ministry
- As from 1 July 2023, the **development of laws and regulations that do not comply with WTO rules and norms is prohibited**
- The Interagency Commission on WTO Engagement chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the WTO Negotiations Group are granted additional authorities to intensify and accelerate the process of accession
- A new Office of the Special Representative of the President on WTO issues has been created within the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Special Representative will concurrently hold the position of Chief Negotiator
- The Interagency Commission on WTO Engagement will henceforth include Members of Uzbekistan's Parliament, with a view to facilitating the process of adopting new laws to ensure compliance with WTO rules and norms



HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION



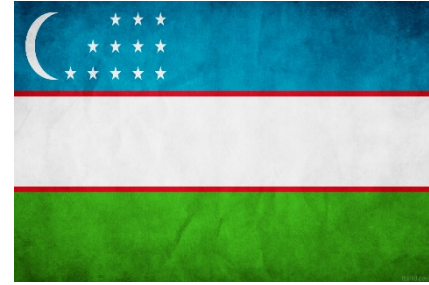
Over the last year the following laws have been adopted which are in consistent with the WTO agreements:

- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "**On technical regulation**" of 27 February 2023
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "**On accreditation of conformity assessment bodies**" of 27 February 2023
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "**On standardization**" of 3 November 2022

Also, resolution of the Government On Organisation of the National Committee for Simplification of Trade Procedures of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 3 October 2023

Today with the support of international experts more than **200** legal acts are being assessed, **5** laws are being prepared to submit to the Parliament of the country as well as **12** Government regulations are to be adopted coming months.





- On 19 September 2023 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the margins of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly
- During the meeting, the sides discussed ongoing efforts on Uzbekistan's soonest accession to the WTO
- The Head of Uzbekistan emphasized the importance of joining the Organization, including in view of medium- and long-term development goals

WTO Accession Support to Uzbekistan



- Name of the Project:** Facilitating the Process of Uzbekistan's Accession to the WTO
- Implementation Period:** February 2020 – October 2024
- Funded by:** European Commission, Directorate General INTPA
- Immediate counterparts:** Special Representative of the President of Uzbekistan, Chief Negotiator on Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO
Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan

Accession documentation & negotiations

Technical Support Provided

- Support with drafting/revising accession documentation: MFTR, FS, DS Tables in agriculture, LAP, notification on subsidies, STEs, checklists on IPRs, TBT&SPS checklists, etc.
- Training on participation in the 4th & 5th & 6th WPMs
- Providing facts-based analysis on trade policy issues raised in the accession negotiations (developing country status, special and differential treatment, privatization, pricing policies and STEs, etc.)

Legislation

- Gap-analysis of 6 legislative areas on compliance with WTO requirements (IPRs, TBT, SPS, subsidies & export promotion, measure applied in SEZ, trade remedies)
- Regulatory assessments of financial and distribution services sectors to facilitate building up negotiating stances

Capacity-Building

- 1572 public and private sector stakeholders, including 368 women, capacitated to enhance an understanding the WTO rules and accession negotiations
- Academic module on WTO law is developed and embedded into the curricula of a Tashkent based university

Main Outcomes

- 4th WPM - July 2020, 5th WPM - June 2022, 6th WPM – March 2023, 7th WPM – scheduled 16 November 2023
- Bilateral negotiations on goods and services are ongoing (three goods offers are finalized)
- Plurilateral negotiations on agriculture initiated
- MFTR was advanced to FS

