# OVERVIEW OF THE ACCESSION PACKAGE AND POST ACCESSION ROADMAP/STRATEGY

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11 July, 2016



#### **Outline**

- Snapshot of Afghanistan's Accession Path
- Afghanistan WTO Accession process and progress
- Post-Accession Strategy



#### **Snapshot of Afghanistan's Accession Path**

- 1. Request for Accession in 2004; negotiations effectively started in 2010
- 2. Five Working Party meetings: first in January 2011 and last in November 2015
- 3. Goods and services market access negotiations completed in less than 18 months and concluded in February 2014
- 4. Plurilateral Agricultural negotiations completed in one round
- 5. Around 30 pieces of legislation adopted

2016

- 6. Accession Protocol adopted during Nairobi Ministerial Conference
- 7. Accession Protocol Accepted by Afghanistan in June

#### **Afghanistan's Accession Process**

- Application → 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2004
- Observer → 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2004

• WP  $\rightarrow$  13<sup>th</sup> December, 2004

Chair → The Netherland



#### What have been achieved so far ...?

- $\blacksquare MFTR \rightarrow April, 2009.$
- 168 questions (US, Canada, EU, Australia and Chinese Taipei) → 26 July, 2010.
- "Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime, is a document which includes and describes all aspects of Afghanistan's trade and economic polices and legal regime including tax policy, tariff policy, export-import policies/strategies "



#### What have been achieved so far... II?



1st WP, 31st January, 2011



3<sup>rd</sup> P, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> WP, June, 2012

4th WP, 25 July, 2013

#### What have been achieved so far... III?

- 1st WP → 153 questions (US, Canada, Australia, EU and Chinese Taipie) and replies circulated in WTO on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> WP → 139 questions and replied in 2012.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> WP → 34 Questions replied on 10 April, 2013, 97 questions replied on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 and 24 US questions replied on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2013
- 4<sup>th</sup> WP→ 10 US questions replied.



#### What have been achieved so far...!!!?

- Services offer was submitted in June 2012.
- Goods offer was submitted in November 2012.
- 30 laws and regulations drafted and amended.
- 13 newly drafted



#### **Current Tariff rates of Afghanistan**

**Agricultural Goods** 

**Maximum Tariff Rate** 25%

**Average Tariff Rate** 8%

**Industrial Goods** 

**Maximum Tariff Rate** 50%

**Average Tariff Rate** 4.7%

#### **Bound Tariff rates of Afghanistan for WTO**

Agricultural Goods	
<b>Highest Tariff Rate</b>	70%
Average Tariff Rate	27.4%(After Negotiation)
Industrial Goods	
Highest Tariff Rate	50%
<b>Average Tariff Rate</b>	10.5%(Final Offer)

- Afghanistan bound rates under WTO commitments for agricultural goods is between 5-70%.
- Afghanistan has no commitment for 184 Tariff items
- Thanistan has prohibited import of 41 agricultural items

#### **Documents submitted to WTO**

- MFTR March 2009
- Replies to the Questions raised after each WP
- Information on Agriculture (WT/ACC/4)
- Information on services (WT/ACC/5)
- SPS/TBT checklist (WT/ACC/8)
- TRIPS checklist (WT/ACC/9)
- Initial Market access offer on services
- Initial Market access offer on Goods
- Updated Legislative Action Plan
- The Draft working party report, prepared by the secretariat was circulated on 24 June 2013



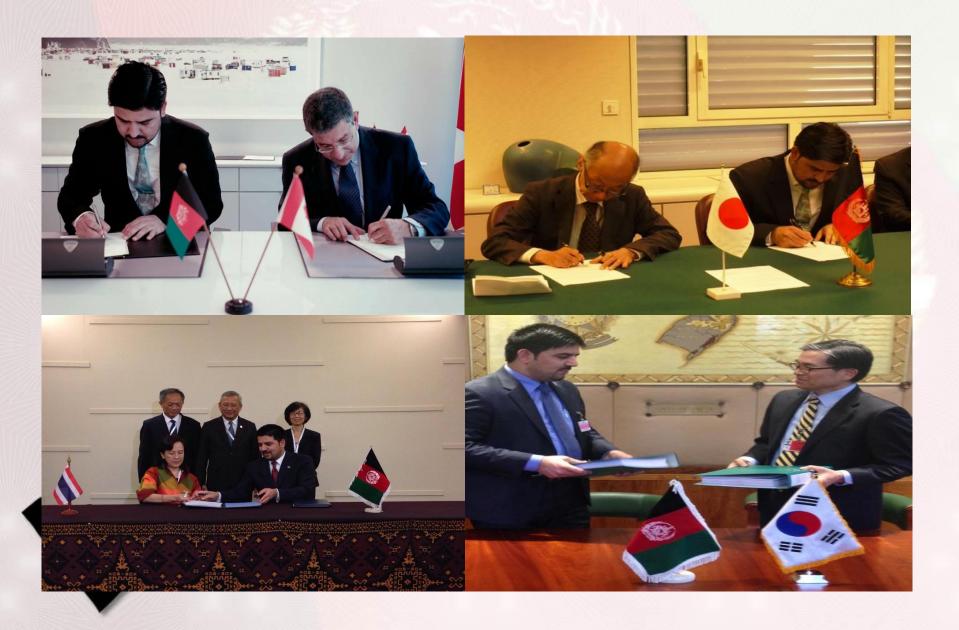
## **Bilateral Negotiations**



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#### **Protocol of Accession**





### **Instruments of Accession**







#### **Post Accession Strategy**

- Complete Modernization of Legal Framework
- Participate Actively in the Work of the WTO
- Attract Investment
- Promote Export
- Build Human Capacity
- Use effectively WTO tools
- Secure Technical Support



## **Thanks**

