



Third China Round Table on WTO Accessions Dushanbe, 2-5 June

WTO Accessions in Central Asia

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Importance of Central Asia





Overview

- WTO Accessions
 - Rationale, Policy Framework & Process
 - Results
- State of Play in WTO Accessions in Central Asia and Neighbouring Regions
- Completed Accessions from Central Asia
- Other Accessions, including other 2015 Priorities



WTO Accessions: Rationale, Policy Framework & Process



Rationale for WTO Membership

- Rule of Law – The WTO as a legal framework
 - ✓ “Outlaw”
- Market Economy – Assisting market transition
- Domestic Reforms – An instrument for domestic reform and modernisation
- FDI Attraction
- International Cooperation: A seat at the rule-making table
- Risk of Non-Membership: Protectionist targeting
- Territorial Integrity
- Right of DSU Invocation



Accessions Framework

- Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO

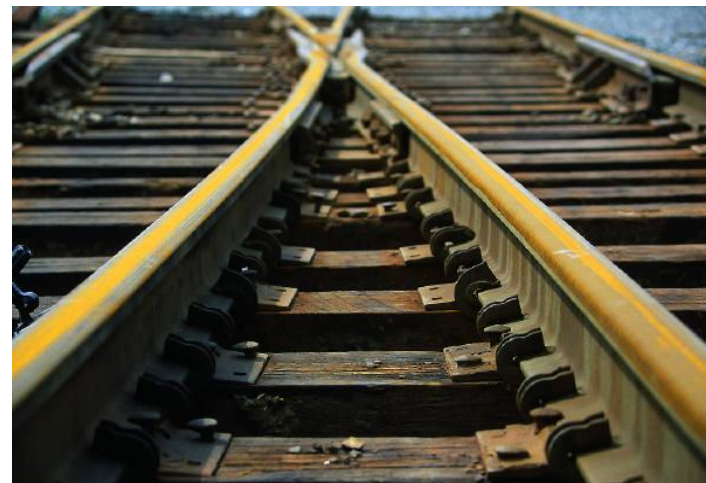
Article XII Accession

1. Any State or separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements may accede to this Agreement, **on terms to be agreed between it and the WTO**. Such accession shall apply to this Agreement and the Multilateral Trade Agreements annexed thereto.



Accession Process: Multiple Negotiating Tracks

- **Multilateral Track**
 - WTO Rules and Disciplines
- **Plurilateral Track**
 - Agriculture, SPS, TVMs, Small Group Consultations, etc.
- **Bilateral Track**
 - Market Access Negotiations on Goods and Services
- **Domestic Track**
 - Inter-Departmental Negotiations
 - Internal Stakeholders





WTO Accessions: Results



Overview of WTO Accessions

33 Governments acceded since 1995 via Article XII Negotiations, of which 9 from former USSR

- Albania
- **Armenia**
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia*
- Cape Verde
- China
- Chinese Taipei
- Croatia
- Ecuador
- **Estonia**
- **Georgia**
- Jordan
- **Kyrgyz Republic**
- Lao PDR*
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**
- Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Moldova
- Nepal*
- Oman
- Panama
- **Russian Federation**
- Samoa*
- Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
- **Tajikistan**
- Tonga*
- **Ukraine**
- Vanuatu*
- Viet Nam
- Yemen*
- Seychelles

Article XII Members count for 20% of WTO Membership today



What Remains in WTO Accessions?

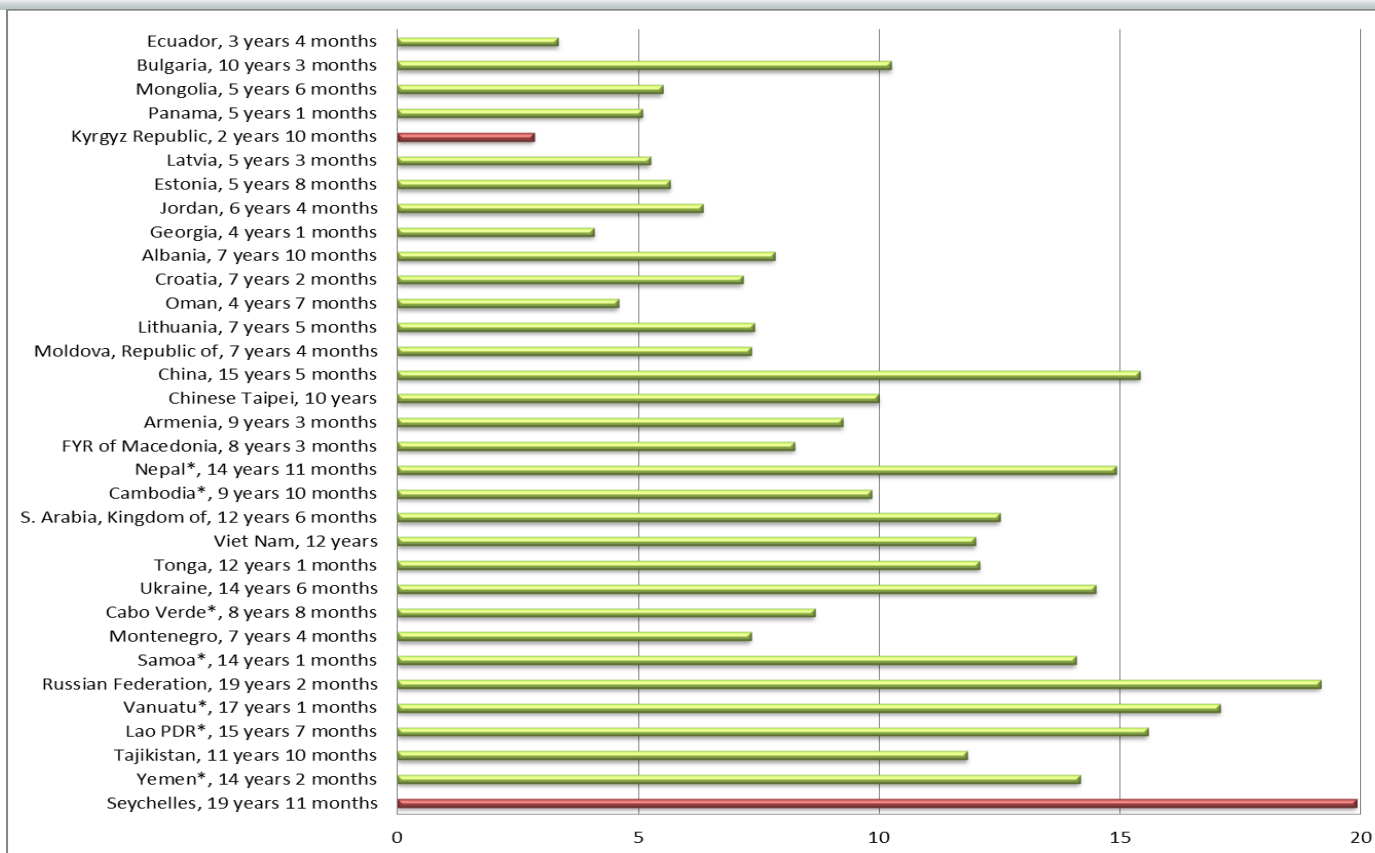
22 Accession Working Parties in process

- **Afghanistan***
- Algeria
- Andorra
- **Azerbaijan**
- The Bahamas
- **Belarus**
- Bhutan*
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Comoros*
- Equatorial Guinea*
- Ethiopia*
- Iran
- Iraq
- **Kazakhstan**
- Lebanese Republic
- Liberia*
- Libya
- Sao Tomé & Príncipe*
- Serbia
- Sudan*
- Syrian Arab Republic
- **Uzbekistan**

* 8 LDCs



Length of Accessions



Source: WTO Secretariat

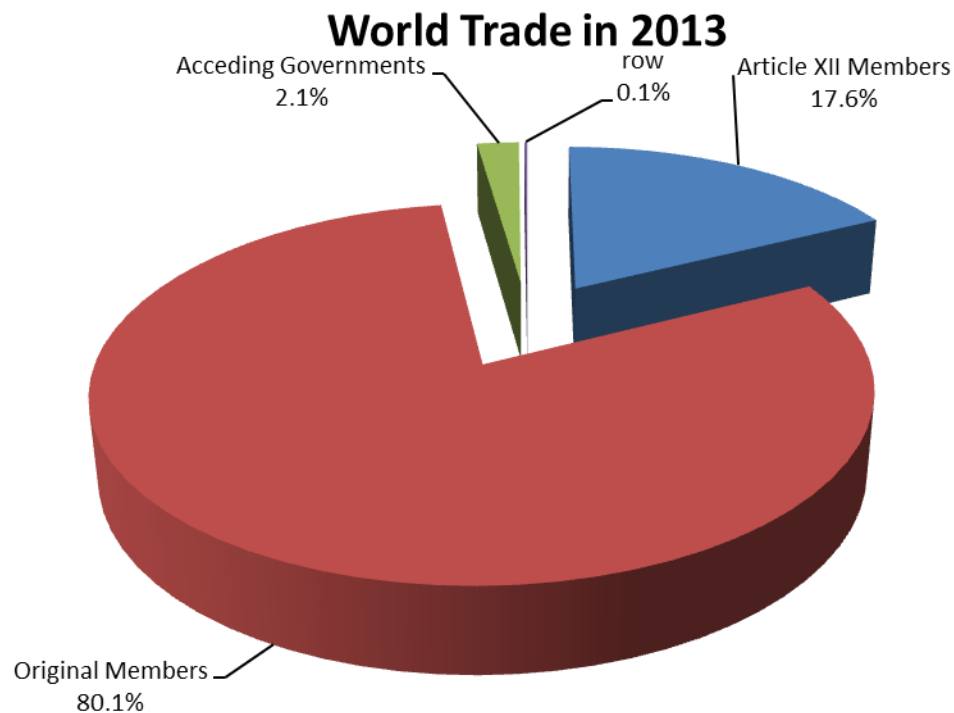
Average: 9 years and 11 months

* Least-developed country (LDC). Cabo Verde and Samoa acceded as LDCs, but graduated from LDC status in December 2007 and January 2014 respectively.



Accession Results

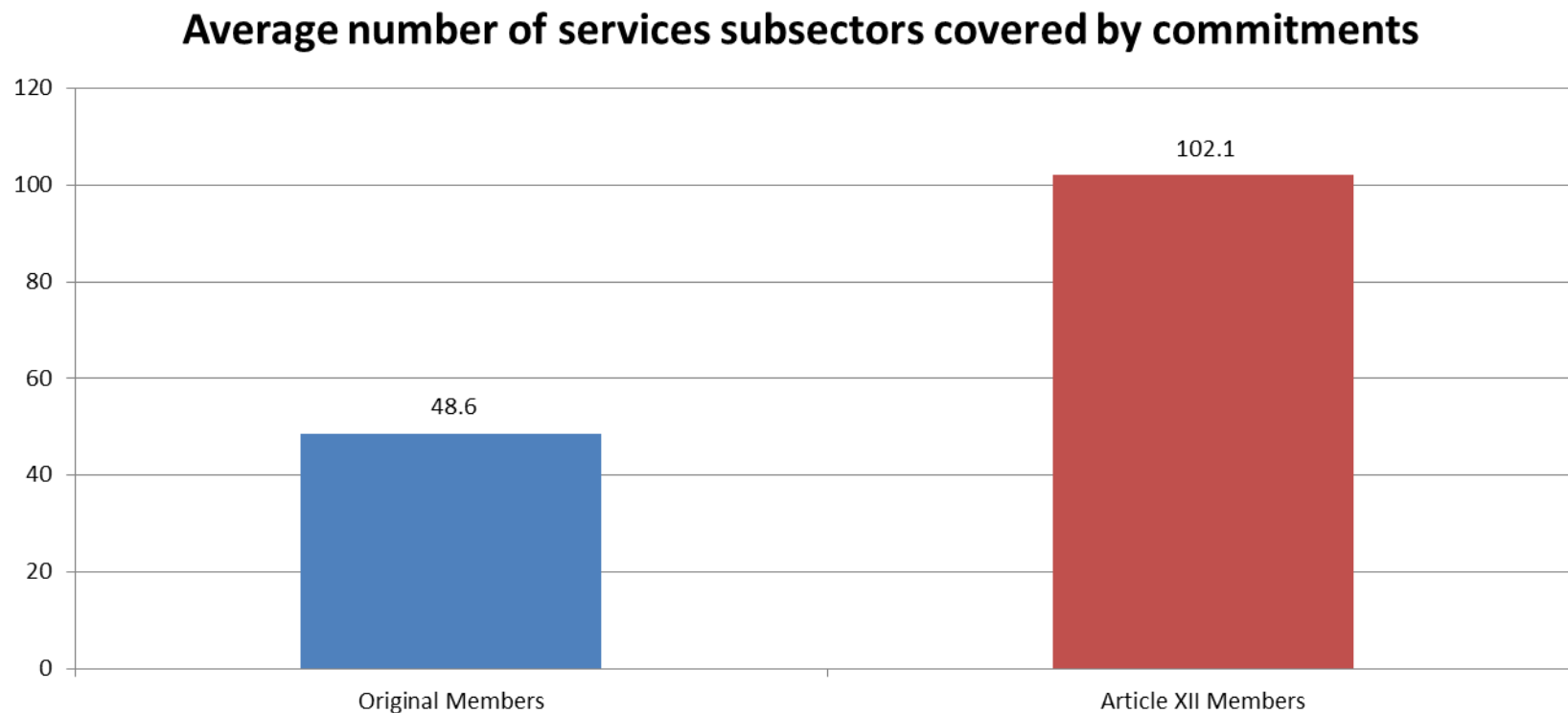
Coverage: 97.7% of World Trade



Source: WTO Statistics



Accession Results: Services Commitments





Accession Results: Safeguarding and Strengthening the MTS

- ❑ 36 sections of accession-specific obligations. Examples of rules tightening:
 - Agriculture
 - SPS
 - Government Procurement
 - Energy
 - Rule-making
 - Right to appeal
 - Export Duties
 - State Trading Enterprises and Privatisation
 - Investment
 - Land
 - Transparency
 - Framework for making and enforcing policies
 - Trading Rights
 - Intellectual Property



State of Play in WTO Accessions in Central Asia & Neighbouring Region



Kazakhstan (2015 Deliverable)

- Poised for conclusion in June 2015
- Final Cycle of Working Party Meetings scheduled for 9-10 June
- Draft Accession Package circulated for adoption at the Working Party
 - Draft Goods Schedule
 - Draft Services Schedule
 - Draft Working Party Report



Eurasian Economic Union (as of 26 May 2015)



Source: Eurasian Economic Commission

Note: European Union - 28 Member States with 507 million population and GDP of US\$ 17.4 trillion (2013)



Accession Overview: RF, Kazakhstan & Belarus

	Russian Federation	Kazakhstan	Belarus
Application	June 1993	January 1996	September 1993
Working Party Establishment	June 1993	February 1996	October 1993
Number of WP meetings	31	20	7
Membership	22 August 2012	Expected in Fall 2015	2015 strategic priority
Multilateral	Working Party Report with 163 specific commitments	Working Party Report with 120 specific commitments	First Working Party Report to be issued after Kazakhstan's Accession
Bilateral: goods	57 Agreements	29 Agreements	On-going
Bilateral: services	30 Agreements	15 Agreements	On-going



Challenges in WTO Accession of CU/EAEU Members

- Tariff adjustment
- Establishment of Single Customs Territory
- Harmonization of customs regulations
- Harmonization of standards & regulations, trade remedies
- CU/EAEU and national competences: Transitional provisions
- Geopolitics



Afghanistan (2015 Deliverable)

- Application & WP establishment: 2004
- WP Chair: H.E. Mr. Rodrick Van Schreven (Netherlands)
- 4 WP meetings held, the last one in July 2013
- State of Play:
 - Draft Accession Package stable since March 2014
 - H.E. Mr Homayoun Rasa appointed as Minister of Commerce and Industries in April 2015
 - Technical updates required before the next WP Meeting
 - Next WP Meeting to be convened upon confirmation from Kabul and after timely circulation of updated Draft Accession Package



Uzbekistan (Inactive)

- Application and WP establishment: 1994
- MFTR circulated in 1998
- WP Chair: H.E. Mr. Suk-young Choi (Korea)
- 3 WP meetings held so far, the last in 2005.
- State of Play:
 - Since 2005, virtually no substantive inputs from Tashkent
 - Before convening the next Working Party meeting, Uzbekistan is required to provide **updated** inputs on its Foreign Trade Regime; Agricultural Supporting Tables; Legislative Developments, as well as improved market access offers



Azerbaijan (Mid-stage)

- Application & WP establishment: 1997
- MFTR circulated in 1999
- WP Chairperson: H.E. Mr. W. Lewalter (Germany)
- 12 WP Meetings held so far, the last one in February 2015
- State of Play:
 - Chair: “We have to move beyond routine to conclude Azerbaijan’s accession negotiations”, while commending Azerbaijan for the steps taken to bring its trade regime in compliance with WTO rules.



Completed Accession Negotiations in other Central Asian and Neighbouring Countries



Completed Accessions

	Date of Application	Establishment of WP	Number of WP Meetings	Date of Membership	Number of Commitments
Mongolia	1991	1991	5	1997	18
Kyrgyz Rep.	1996	1996	6	1998	29
Georgia	1996	1996	3	2000	29
China	1986	1987	41	2001	168
Armenia	1993	1993	5	2003	39
Ukraine	1993	1993	17	2008	63
Tajikistan	2001	2001	9	2013	40



Thank you

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