Sudan Road Map to MC11

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Why do we need to join WTO

- 1. It will provide a favorable environment for our exports. (Increased and diversified exports opportunities).
 - Tariffs will not reduced but access will be more secured.
 - As a member; the tariff polices & regulations will be governed by WTO Rules.
 - By contrast for non-member country; you can reduce or raise tariffs as you wish (e.g. Korea for sesame, China for Cotton, USA Sanctions, India 30% on Gum, 20% Iron Alloy and 10% on Cotton
- 2. Free Trade stimulates economic growth and can be a vehicle for employment creation (since 1995 the economic grew to 5.8% and the world trade grew by 8%).
- 3. Accession will allow a better allocation of resources, improves efficiency and productivity and increases competitiveness.
- 4. It creates a more favorable environment for FDI.
- 5. Access to WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism & multilateral trade negotiations.
- 6. Strengthen domestic legal framework.

 Eligibility for WTO technical assistance, capacity building & new Aid for trade projects.

Why do we need to join WTO (cont.)

- Making Trade as lever for Economic growth & Poverty Reduction;
 - 1. Raise productivity.
 - 2. Reduce Trade cost.
 - **3**. Rationalized the incentive Regime.
 - 4. improve Trade Institutions.

Where do we stand on our Accession Process

- The Sudan submitted its request to Join WTO in October 11th 1994.
- Two weeks following the submission of the request a working team was initiated;
- The Sudan submitted its Memorandum of foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) in 1999 (5 years after its request of application;
- The Sudan submitted its offer for accession and its commitments and schedule in 2004 and amended its offer in 2006;
- The Sudan received Technical assistance from WTO within the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF); which included training and capacity building;
- Two diagnostic studies were launched, with (EIF) by experts from IBRID.
 The 1st was published in 2008 and up. The studies aimed at:
 - How to increase productivity in Export sector?
 - How to reduce Trade costs?
 - How to Rationalized incentives?
 - How to strengthen trade?

• a matrix has been prepared for launching and implement those measures.

Accession Processes Started

- A matrix has been prepared for launching and implement measures.
- Very little achievement has been made and more need to be done.
- First formal of the Working Party held in 2003.
- Second Meeting of the Working Party took on October 2004.
- Factual summary report prepared by WTO secretariat in 2004.
- Third Meeting of Working Party scheduled 11-12 October 2004 and postponed.
- The process aborted.

STAND STILL

NO political will From 2004 to 2015

Sudan Resume Accession Processes Again

- A New Minister appointed for International Cooperation.
- WTO National Secretariat energized .
- A New Plan to joint WTO.
- The Cabinet approved the Plan to joint WTO.
- The National Assembly approved the Plan.

- Sudan conducted informal bilateral consultations with USA, EU, Canada, Australia France, UK, Japan, China, Jordan, Brazil, and signed bilateral agreements with China, Brazil and Jordan to resume the process.
- Former Minister of International Cooperation visited Geneva in 2016.
- A new commitment & a new political will to resume accession processes again.
- A high level committee chaired by vice was formed in 2016.
- A high level technical committee initiated .
- A new Chief Negotiator appointed.

Accession Of Sudan The Road Map

Timing	Activity	Action State-of- Play YES/NO
January 2017 MULTILATERAL	Technical Working Sessions in <u>Geneva</u> between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to start drafting Draft Working Party Report (DWPR).	
BILATERAL	 <u>If necessary</u>: Technical Working Sessions in Geneva between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to prepare the final clean version of the negotiating inputs <u>before</u> the WP Meeting, and to update the revised version of the negotiating inputs <u>after</u> the WP Meeting. Importance of funding Sudan to re-initiate Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Goods 	
February 2017	and Services •A Secretariat's mission to Khartoum for a series of Technical	
MULTILATERAL	Working Sessions with the capital-based experts for advancing in the preparation of negotiating inputs (DWPR / LAP / other "ACC/22" submissions).	
	 Importance of continuous and regular updates on LAP 	
BILATERAL	Sudan to engage in Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Goods and Services.	

March 2017 MULTILATERAL BILATERAL	 Technical Working Sessions in <u>Geneva</u> between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to finalize the preparation of the negotiating inputs for circulation to Members (DWPR / LAP / other "ACC/22" submissions). The first emergence of DWPR Circulation of the negotiating inputs (DWPR) to WP Members. Circulation of the Updated LAP to WP Members with implementation period and Parliamentary Calendar for transitional laws and regulations. Circulation of the other "ACC/22" submissions. 	
	Sudan to engage in Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Goods and Services.	
April 2017 MULTILATERAL BILATERAL	 WP Meeting (4th) to review the updated negotiating inputs – particularly, under the circumstance of the first emergence of DWPR – and the state-of-play. o If necessary: Technical Working Sessions in Geneva between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to prepare the final clean version of the negotiating inputs before the WP Meeting, and to update the revised version of the negotiating inputs after the WP Meeting. Sudan to intensify Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on Goods and Services. 	

May 2017 MULTILATERAL BILATERAL	 While focusing on conclusion and deposit of bilateral market access agreements in Geneva, if necessary, Technical Working Sessions between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to be held to prepare the next version of the negotiating inputs before the envisaged WP Meeting in July (5th). Sudan and interested Members to <u>conclude</u> and <u>deposit</u> signed bilateral market access agreements on Goods and Services with the Director– General. 	
June 2017 MULTILATERAL BILATERAL	<u>If necessary</u> . Technical Working Sessions in Geneva between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to continue the preparation of the negotiating inputs for circulation to Members (DWPR / LAP).	
	Sudan and interested Members to <u>conclude</u> and <u>deposit</u> signed bilateral market access agreements on Goods and Services with the Director- General Secretariat to <u>consolidate</u> the results of bilateral market access negotiations between Sudan and [X] Signatory Members and <u>circulate</u> the Draft Consolidated Goods and Services Schedules to Signatory Members.	

July 2017 MULTILATERAL BILATERAL	 WP Meeting (5th) to review the updated negotiating inputs and the state-of-play. o <u>If necessary</u>: Technical Working Sessions in Geneva between Sudanese Negotiating Team and the Secretariat to prepare the final clean version of the negotiating inputs <u>before</u> the WP Meeting, and to update the revised version of the negotiating inputs <u>after</u> the WP Meeting. Technical Verification Meeting on Goods and Services. 	
August 2017 MULTILATERAL	Country visit by the WP Chairman and the Secretariat Importance of engaging with the President, Parliamentarians, and other key stakeholders Legal Scrubbing on DWPR to be accomplished and the final version of DWPR to be circulated.	

September 2017	The Draft Accession Package to be reviewed by Members of the WP.	
MULTILATERAL		
October 2017	A final (6th) WP meeting to consider the draft Accession Package for adoption, <i>ad referendum</i> .	
MULTILATERAL		
December 2017	The Accession Package to be formally approved at the 11th Ministerial Conference.	
MULTILATERAL		

- MFTR & Lap updated and submitted on Nov 2016.
- Initial Tariff Offer on Goods -updated & submitted 24/ Nov /2016.
- Initial Offer in Services –updated & submitted 24/ Nov /2016.
- Aggregate measure of support updated & submitted 2016.
- Sanitary and Phyto -sanitary & Technical Barrier to Trade updated & submitted on Nov 2016.
- Intellectual Property Rights submitted on Nov 2016.
- Sudan Received 26 Question from European Union and members countries and had been answered and submitted to the World Trade Organization.

Sudan Updating Documents

- Sudan has submitted the following updated documents to WTO secretarial by the end of 2016.
 - MFTR
 - LAP a Revised & update Market access
 - Offer in Goods
 - Offer in Services schedules of commitments plan of services.
 - Trips
 - Check list of illustrative TBT.
 - Plan of Action for implementation of SPS.
 - Plan of Action for implementation of TBT.

The 3rd Working Party

- The 3rd Working Party in the Accession of Sudan to WTO convened in Geneva 31/Jan/2017.
- The Purpose of the Meeting :
 - (a) Review the slate of plan in the bilateral of Market Access Negotiation.
 - (b) Resume the examination of MFTR of Sudan on the basic of the documents submitted by Sudan .
 - (c) Review the Lap .
 - (d) consider Next steps in the Working Party.

The challenges that face Sudan in Accession

Foreign Market Access Barriers

- MFN Barriers are low.
- Preferential Arrangements & preference Utilization
- USA embargo: an indirect barrier to Trade.
- Economic Partnership Arrangements..
- **Sudan Tariffs:** do they facilitate integration?
 - Sudan tariffs are high & variable.
 - Multiple Tariff regimes.
 - Other taxes raise the cost of trading.
 - Export incentives schemes
 - Do they overcome the anti-export bias?

Sectoral Constraints to competition

1. <u>Agriculture:</u>

- Analysis of factors that undermine competitiveness;
- Effects of removing constrains on Agriculture?
- Key constrains on Agro-exports;
- Special Attention to Sugar.

2. <u>Manufacturing sector:</u>

- Trade performance;
- Vegetable oils;
- Textile clothing;
- Pharmaceuticals;
- Leather Industry & related Products;
- General constraints to the sector.

Cross-cutting constraints to competitiveness

1. Transportation & Trade Facilities:

- Main issues & Trends in T. Facilities;
- Logistics services;
- Transportation.
- 2. Custom Admin.
- 3. Animal, plant & food safety standards.
 - Principles SPA related constraints;
 - Institutional capacities;
 - Strategy for meeting standards.
- 4. Financial services:
 - Weaknesses in the banking sector;
 - Lending flows;
 - Foreign Participation;
 - Structural Barriers.
- 5. Other:
 - Electricity;
 - Telecommunication.

Key Factors Constraints on Agro-Exports

a) Low productivity across the border

- Sudan lost market share in key commodities "cotton & Gum Arabic"
 - Solution: investment in R&D seeds & Technology

b) Marketing cost are high

- Middle men;
- Taxes & fees;
- Rural Transportation costs;
- Efficiency & Transparency;
- Whole sale markets.
- c) Exports are concentrated in few markets
- d) Some policies are inconsistent with export promotion

Sudan Needs to improve standards capacity for export products

- Use accession Negotiation to improve standards capacity for export products;
- Sudan access to world markets is dependent on producers being able to comply with intern. Standards in both industrial and developing countries, e.g. Sudan's capacity export livestock depends critically on the ability to satisfy foreign Vet. Regulations;
- Sudan must bring the its regulations and standards. It imposes on imports into compliance with WTO agreement on technical barriers (TBT) and sanitary & Phyto-sanitary measures (SPS);
- The country needs to strengthen transparency up-date laws.

Other Challenges facing Sudan

- 1. Cultural barriers to trade.
- 2. Exports composition Remains stagnant.
- 3. Neither horizontal nor Vertical Integration.
- 4. Shrinking aggregate Supply.
- 5. Growing National Aggregate Demands.
- 6. Increasing World Agricultural subsidies

Other Challenges facing Sudan (cont.)

- Are products sensitiveness to Trade?
 - Safeguard the Income of the Vulnerable.
 - Safeguard consumers revealed preferences.
 - Safeguard food sovereignty.
 - Safeguard govt. Rev. form tariffs.
 - Safeguard national unskilled Jobs.
 - Protect existing Development Projects.
 - Protect infant Industries.

Concerns

- 1. Source of livelihood.
- 2. Source of Rev. form tariffs.
- 3. Product that jeopardized food security.
- 4. Socially & Religiously Unwanted Products.
- 5. Products that compete with National Industry.
- 6. Products that hinder economic development.
- 7. Products that Adversely affect health.

Concerns (cont.)

Trade Liberalization loss Recovery Through:

- a) Aid for trade & Tech. Assistance;
- b) Remove Trade supply side constraints via:
 - Good FDI.
 - FDI that transfers production technology.
 - FDI that brings technical know-how.
 - FDI that stimulates national investors.
 - FDI that creates jobs.
 - FDI that reduces Regional Disputes.
 - FDI that improve income distribute.
 - FDI that reduces poverty.
 - FDI that doesn't repatriates project.
 - FDI that results in fair Globalization.

Increase Productivity in Export Sector

A. Increase resources for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries and macroagro-industrial research

- Staff, equip, and fund research into raising yields of existing ad potential exports.
- 2% of agricultural GDP spent on research over 5 years.
- Select priority sectors for targeted research efforts, with specific sequencing of activities over 5 year timeframe.
- •Carry out land tenure policies and studies.
- •Adopt input subsidies policy to small agricultural producers.
- •Coordination of research institutions at the National level.
- •Strengthen & support production and marketing cooperative and establish export center.
- •Provide credit support to small agricultural producers and to potential agricultural export products.
- •Creating awareness for market access and competitiveness

I. Increase Productivity in Export Sector

B. Strengthen agricultural, Agro-industrial, animal husbandry and fisheries extension services

•Strengthen extension programs to disseminate technology and practices for increasing yields.

•Select priority sectors for targeted extension efforts, with specific sequencing of activities over 5 year timeframe.

•Enhancing the capacity of technology transfer and extension services using the village as a center for providing services and agricultural knowledge in line with the ARP.

C. Establishing vocational education in agricultural and manufacturing

•Establishing training programs in marketing services of major agricultural export at trade schools and universities.

•Establish training centers equipped with latest textile training machinery.
•Develop integrated human resources development program to improve quality of hiders, skins, and leather, poultry and diary products.
•Establishing animal breeding training center

II. Reducing Trade Cost

A. Improve trade logistics services

Permit private investment in and management of inland container depots.
Permit corporate entities to provide customs clearance services.
Provide technical assistance for freight forwarders from the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association (FIATA).
Conduct comprehensive review of regulatory framework governing entry and operation of trade logistical services providers.

B. Reduce bottlenecks at Port Sudan

- Conduct WCO time release study to clarify contributors to bottlenecks .Introduce electronic single window for all border clearance operations.
- •Accelerate concession of port management
- •Raise storage fees to discourage use of port facilities as a warehouse.
- •Introduce one-step for all border clearance operations

II. Reducing Trade Cost

C. Build/improve SPS capacity

•Develop nation-wild standards action plan with the objective of reducing regulatory overlap and increasing investment in key trade-related functionalities and enhancement of rules supporting implementation.

•Launch campaign to raise awareness of assurance, food safety and regulatory compliance among producers.

•Strengthening institution responsible for SPS activities.

E. streamline national custom and harmonize them with WTO rules

•Revise customs laws to comply with WTO rules on valuation, appeals, etc.

•Undertake institutional changes to introduce risk-based selection: develop risk profiles, introduce post-clearance activities, etc.

III Rationalized Incentive Regime

A. Simplify and harmonize taxes, fees charges

•Introduce single window for all clearance operations. The organizing body to be identified with mandate to issue directives.

•Eliminate taxes on imports other than ordinary customs duties (i.e. "other duties and chargers").

•Undertake state- level review with the objective of rationalizing sub-national taxes and fees levied in interstate trade, in light of the and lower legal framework.

•Harmonize taxes on crops and livestock

B. Eliminate measures that restrict exports

•Harmonize export tax on raw hides and skins to allow for policy space to encourage e the local manufacturing of leather and leather products.

•Reduce scope for discretion in sorghum export licensing and allow for flexibility to deal with food shortages

C. Introduce more uniformity and predictability into trade policies

•Adopt single, nation-wide tariff schedule for all imports.

•Conduct a study on viability of free zones and export Processing Zones

IV. Strengthen Trade Promotion and Policy Making Institutions

A. Improve trade promotion services

- •Identify technical requirement for access to alternative livestock, fisheries and meet export markets.
- •Identification of Poor's tradable goods, mainly in the rural areas.
- •Establishment of share-holding company owned by poor themselves at the local & state levels for exports to eliminate intermediaries profit and minimize other related cots. Alternatively; for other cases, establishment of effective social safety nets.
- •Formulation of good governance practices and anti-corruption laws, acts and other legislative requirements to protect the poor's incomes.
- •Data dissemination about market prices.
- •Information on related preferential markets.
- •Strengthen capacity of public and private trade development institutions.
- •Strengthen National Export Promotion Council.
- •Develop national and sectoral export strategy to identify export potential products

B. Help exporters maximize benefits from trade agreements

- •To support EPA negotiations, conduct a study to identify means of meeting European regulatory requirements.
- •Creating awareness about challenges benefits of membership in the WTO and the process of accession
- •Establish program to train private sector organizations in meeting COMESA and other preferential agreements' rules of origin requirements.
- •Establish a PPP on MTS (multilateral trading system)
- •Commission marketing studies identifying export opportunities in preferential markets.
- •Strengthen the export strategy capacity in Sudan.
- •Elaborate an in-depth national export strategy.
- •Identify products and services with high potentials, contributing to diversification of exports.
- •Undertake sector export strategy.

IV. Strengthen Trade Promotion and Policy Making Institutions

D. Increase coordination in trade policy making

- •Formulate trade policy for Sudan and strengthen trade policy in overall policy setting.
- •Institutionalize coordination between trade policy making and other relevant bodies through "Consultative Trade policy Council"
- •Study to clarify responsibilities between relevant bodies.
- •Strengthen and institutionalize public-private cooperation.
- •Strengthen Export Credit and Guarantees Agency through capital and awareness raising

G. Strengthen trade policy making capacity

- •Modernize units for multilateral, regional (WTO, GAFTA, COMESA, COMSEC, GSP, GSTP) and bilateral negotiations.
- •Training of staff (English Computer, trade economics \, and trade laws)
- •Establish monitoring and evaluation capacity.
- •Strengthen trade mission in key embassies.
- •Strengthen trade policy department to implement and monitor new laws, including anti-dumping, competition, and trade regulation laws.
- •Strengthen and modernize MoFT state offices.

H. Strengthen Information, research and training in support of trade policy making

- •Awareness raising and training in trade (Foreign Trade Institute to be created).
- •Strengthen trade information system on federal and state level.
- •Establish modeling capacity to evaluate costs and benefits of new trade agreements.
- •Review and improve capacity to review trade policy and regularly.
- •Increase awareness raising, information and research capacity & environment and trade and poverty.

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility		
	I. Trade Policy			
Not a member of WTO	continue with & expedite the WTO accession process	МоТ		
International sanctions restricting market access and financial markets	undertake study to assess the economic impact of financial sanctions and restrictions on sourcing and market access	CB, MoF		
Tariff and tax policy on imports discriminates against exporters and potential exports	Undertake study to evaluate the economic impact of reducing tariff peaks, removing development tax, and eliminating import specific Excise duties	MoF		
Complex and non-transparent trade policies	 Adopt and publicize a clearly defined policy on tariff exemptions, duty preferences, and restricted products. Abolish export license requirements except for cultural/archaeo 	MoT,MoF, Customs Authority		
Existence of non-tariff Barriers (NTB)	 Develop and adopt procedures for introducing new regulations based on OECD Regulatory Best Practice Principle by end of 2015 Audit existing regulations to identify redundant and outdated procedures and requirement by end of 2015 Use the Regulatory Audit to reform existing regulation (2016 onwards) 	MoT, Mo Agriculture and Irrigation, Mo Livestock and Fisheries, Mo health, SSMO		

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility		
	I. Trade Policy			
National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) imposes unnecessary trade costs	 Prepare and adopt a National Quality Plan before end of 2015 Reduce the number of mandatory inspection/test through implementing the WTO TBT Code of Good Practice by end of 2015. Agree on principle of adopting international standards as Sudanese National Standards wherever possible Eliminate testing for those with certificates from internationally accredited conformity assessment bodies by introducing risk analysis on such shipments by end of 2015 Improve capacity to undertake post market surveillance of legal post weights & measures for consumer protection by end of 2015 Remove the requirement to hold an Export Quality Permit by June 2015 	SSMO & Ministry of Trade		

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility
	II Customs, and Trade Logistics	
Multiple Border Agencies result in multiple checks and a high level of physical inspections contributes to delays	 Adopt improved coordination/cooperation mechanism (establish a "lead" agency) to ensure integrated border management, reducing the need for physical inspection. Improve existing One Service and continue implementing the National single Window 	Customs Authority/ All Agencies at the Border
Difficulty in obtaining information on trade rules and regulations	Introduce a National trade Portal that would contain all legally binding information on trade procedures, easily accessible to the public (to be implanted by June 2016)	Customs Authority/ Ministry of Finance/ Ministry of Trade
Outdated comprehensive custom modernization strategy	Update & enhance the earlier custom modernization strategy	Customs Authority

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility
	II Customs, and Trade Logistics	
Insufficient clearing agents	 Revised requirements for obtaining a clearing agent license Introduce standards to ensure competence and integrity; these should be publicized Allow self-clearing by importers in conformity with international agreements (introduced by 2015) 	MoT, MoF, Customs Authority
Incomplete regulatory framework for logistics services providers	 Revise regulations for trucking and freight forwarding business on licensing, business registration at the Ministry of Transport, scope of activities, and entry of foreign operators Develop standards trading conditions to clarify operational liability 	M o Transport (LUU)/ Union of Chamber of Transportation/ Private Sector
Insufficient rail network on the Port Sudan-Khartoum Corridor	Expedite implementation of agreed business plan and improve the availability & reliability of rolling stock	Sudan Railways Corporation

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility
	II Customs, and Trade Logistics	
Access restrictions to Soba Dry Port cause delay and increase cost	Decide to build a bypass to Soba Dry Port or to develop a new dry port north of Khartoum	Ministry of Transport/ Sudan Railways Corporation/ City of Khartoum
Absence of coherent logistics increase duplication & infrastructure development costs	Develop a comprehensive logistics strategy (by June 2015) & strengthen capacity in the Ministry of Transport to implement the National Transport Master Plan	Ministry of Transport/ Transport Sector Corporation/ Customs Authority
Large variation in dwell time between different users at Port Sudan	 Improve coordination between port terminal operations, regularly controls and removal processes for cargo (by December 2015) Conduct a time-release study and publish the results 	Ministry of Transport/ Port Sudan/ Customs Authority

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility
	III. Agriculture	
Multiple taxes & fees on agricultural commodities	Conduct value chain studies on two to three selected commodities to identify all the taxes and charges levied by federal Government, states, and Regulatory Agencies & commit to repeal those not based on a services (by end of 2015)	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation/ Ministry of Livestock/ State Govt.
Lack of awareness and institutional weaknesses in meeting SPS requirements in export markets for livestock & crops	 Establish a functioning SPS Enquiry Point & strengthen SPS capacity to support increasing Agricultural exports. Leverage the recently approved STDF Project Preparation Grants Support information system to dissemination quality standards with all standards published on the Internet by December 2015 	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation/ Ministry of Livestock in partnership with a private firm or NGO/SSMO/ Sudan Trade Point/ Ministry of Trade
Complex Regulations governing access to agricultural inputs (seeds / fertilizer)	 Review the process for approving agricultural inputs in Sudan (report published by June 2015) Streamline procedures for processing of plant documentation (number of agencies and reduces from four to one end of 2015) Develop plant variety protection in conformity with the UPOVE (1991) Convention (by 2016) 	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation/ Ministry of Livestock/ National Seed Administration/ National Pesticides Council/ SSMO

Identified constraint	Action	Responsibility
	IV Professional Services	
Non- transparent procurement procedures, lengthy & burdensome licensing/ accreditation procedures, and competition issues	 Fast-track regulatory audits in all examined professional services sector completed by June 2015 Expedite reforms in the context of the COMESA, and Tripartite services dialogue 	Ministry of Trade/ Professional Associations/ Employer's Association
Infrastructure & policy environment not conducive to tourism	 Streamline in-country registration procedures through one-shop by June 2015 Strengthen statistics collection efforts & publish results by December 2015 Allow visas on arrival for select source countries (begin roll out by January 2015) Reinforce regulations for cultural preservation & environmental protection (by 2017) Begin implementing the recently approved national tourism plan 	Ministry of Tourism