

This is an information note to assist acceding governments with preparations for meetings and negotiations associated with their accession. It is one of several practical steps by the WTO Secretariat to improve transparency on accessions matters.

### **NOTE ON ACCESSIONS INFORMATION FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS**

The Informal Group on Accessions convened today, 14 October, for the seventh time in 2010. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on a work plan and the evolving calendar of accessions meetings.<sup>1</sup> Twenty-one delegations attended the meeting. The Secretariat briefed the Group on the progress of the 2010 accession priorities, namely, the three LDCs of Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen; Montenegro; the Russian Federation; and, Serbia. The Group was also briefed on recent developments in 14 other active accession processes.

Members were notified that the LDC Group had requested the inclusion of an agenda item on LDCs' Accessions for the next meeting of the General Council (21 October).

The Group was also informed that the Geneva-based Workshop had been re-scheduled for January 2011. Due to the heavy accessions programme of the coming months and the pre-eminence of substantive work and technical advice, the Accessions Division had to scale back on the delivery of technical assistance and outreach.

Members agreed with the proposed calendar of accession meetings for the last quarter of 2010 (annexed).

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<sup>1</sup> Accessions-related meetings are scheduled, based on the submission of substantive and qualitative inputs on the multilateral track of accession negotiations; and, meaningful offers and progress on bilateral market access negotiations.

## Annex

**Accessions Division – Indicative Meeting Schedule 2010<sup>2</sup>****14 October 2010**

Date	Working Party	Meeting
14 October	Informal Group on Accessions	
18 October	Azerbaijan	8 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
20 October	Serbia	9 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
25 (and 26 AM only) October	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations
26 October		Plurilateral on Agriculture
21 October	General Council	
15-19 November	Geneva week	
22 November	Seychelles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Party
24 November	Tajikistan	5 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
[29 November]	Afghanistan	1 <sup>st</sup> Working Party
[30 November]	Vanuatu	Informal/Formal Meeting
[Early Nov/early Dec]	Yemen	9 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
[6 December]	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations
[7 December]		Plurilateral on Agriculture
[10 December]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
14-15 December	General Council	Final meeting
Date TBC at any moment	Montenegro	8 <sup>th</sup> Working Party
Date TBC	Samoa	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Party
Date TBC	Ethiopia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Party
[week of 24 January 2011]		Geneva-based Seminar

\*Meetings in a few working parties are yet to be programmed because, although some inputs have been received, they remain insufficient as a basis for convening meetings. Acceding governments in this category include: Iraq and Lebanon.

<sup>2</sup> This calendar of accession meetings is evolving. Dates are suggested to assist planning by Members and the Secretariat. However, meetings will only go ahead on the basis of inputs received with sufficient time for consideration and review by Members.