



Welcome to the nineteenth edition of our Newsletter!

We are pleased to share the nineteenth Newsletter on '[Facilitating the process of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO](#)' – a project of the [European Union](#) (EU) of which the [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC) is the implementing partner. The project supports Uzbekistan's accession to the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO), to help unlock economic growth through participation in global trade.

This issue homes in on support activities in the four months between mid-March and mid-July 2025. Uzbekistan's WTO accession process is now nearing its final phase. A highlight of the period was the 10th Working Party Meeting, held in Geneva on 13 June 2025, which puts Uzbekistan on track for accession in 2026. Another milestone was the wrap up and delivery of a study evaluating the impact of WTO accession on Uzbekistan. The report helps to assess the economic impact of trade liberalization and identify sectors to tap export potential. In the area of capacity building, the project delivered a major trade remedies workshop to prepare Uzbekistan to use these instruments in case of unfair trade practices by foreign suppliers. And in the area of SPS and TBT, the project is developing guidance documents for practical use to implement and consistently interpret highly complex technical rules (called SanPiNs) in key food product safety disciplines. Lastly, the report assessed Uzbekistan's food safety laboratory system to help optimize it.

This newsletter is also available in RUSSIAN and in UZBEK.

More information on our project is available on our websites in [English](#), [Russian](#) and [Uzbek](#) languages.

For any enquiries, contact us: WTOAccessionUZB@intracen.org

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Happy reading!



NOTA BENE from our team:

Kindly note that you have been included in the mailing list of our newsletter following your participation to one of our events. If you wish to unsubscribe, you can do so [here](#).

Обращаем внимание, что вы были включены в список нашей новостной рассылки по итогам участия в одном из наших мероприятий. Если вы хотите отказаться от рассылки, пожалуйста, пройдите по этой [ссылке](#).

Сиз ахборотнома почта рўйхатимизга бизнинг тадбирлар бирида иштирок этганлигиз натижасида киритилганлигизни эслатиб ўтамиз. Ушбу обунани бекор қилмоқчи бўлсангиз, келтирилган [хавола](#) орқали уни рад қилишингиз мумкин.

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IMPLEMENTATION: PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The project operates against a set of targeted objectives:

	The Uzbek government will be better equipped to draft the documents and develop its negotiating positions as required by the WTO accession process
	The executive and legislative branches will be better informed to develop specific sectoral laws and regulations as needed to comply with Uzbekistan's new international commitments
	The policymakers' understanding of the WTO accession process and its legal framework will be reinforced
	Uzbekistan will have an increased capacity to comply with WTO Rules, in particular with regards to the SPS/TBT & Trade Facilitation Agreements of the WTO
	ITC's work will increase the business sector's - including women's associations- awareness of the WTO accession process and benefits

For a clear view the activities and achievements in the past quarter are discussed along the project's five objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1

Informed drafting of documentation & negotiating positions required for WTO accession process

When a country applies to join the [WTO](#) the point of departure for the accession is the country's existing trade-related laws and policies. These serve as the basis on which the membership is negotiated. Through drafting accession documents and helping to prepare negotiating positions, the project supports this fundamental pillar of Uzbekistan's accession process.

On 13 June, the 10th Working Party Meeting (WPM) took place in Geneva. Its purpose was to discuss the Working Party Report and further clarify the changes in the trade policy regime of Uzbekistan. The 10th WPM represents a landmark achievement in the negotiating process, bringing Uzbekistan to the final phase on the way to accession. Also bilateral negotiations advanced, with 25 bilaterals of an earmarked 33 concluded by July.



Uzbekistan's Chief Negotiator at the WTO, Azizbek Urunov, at the 10th WPM. With him is the ITC's team leading the implementation of the project: Jean-Sébastien Roure, senior officer, and Daria Karman, associate programme officer. They are both with the Strategy and Policy for Trade and Investment Unit in the Division for Market Development. Photo: ITC

OBJECTIVE 2

Enhanced capacity for the development of specific sectoral laws and regulations to align Uzbekistan's national trade policy with the requirements for WTO membership

A key pillar of WTO accession is to bring the acceding country's national laws in line with the WTO agreements. The project has been assisting Uzbekistan from the outset with the review of its laws to support this element of the accession.

Over the past year, the project has focused on supporting Uzbekistan to modernize its trade remedies regime in line with WTO standards and best practices. Specifically, the project has helped develop a relevant body of legislation, comprising laws on anti-dumping, countervailing duties, and safeguard measures. With the regulatory groundwork laid, efforts are now to build the necessary capacity to implement and enforce the legislation. For this, a five-day Technical Workshop on Trade Remedies was held in April. For more details, see Objective 3.

Also, Uzbekekspertiza asked the project's help to review the country's legislation on Rules of Origin (RoO) to see if it complies with WTO rules. The project will also organize training to familiarize technicians with international RoO practices. Another milestone was the completion in April of a report on the impact WTO accession will have on Uzbekistan. The report gives a comprehensive overview of the economic and trade impact of WTO membership and will be a useful roadmap for the rest of the negotiations and help Uzbekistan with its accession planning.



The project is helping to build the technical skills of officials who will administer the country's new trade remedies legislation. Here they are during an intensive week-long technical workshop in April 2025, in Tashkent. (More on this activity under Objective 3.)

Photo: ITC

OBJECTIVE 3

Increased understanding by policymakers of the WTO accession process and legal framework

Capacity-building and technical assistance, enhancing the skills and knowledge of officials about WTO requirements are key components of the project to ensure a sustainable accession process for Uzbekistan.

As part of ongoing work to establish a trade remedies regime for Uzbekistan, the project organized an intensive week-long technical training course on trade remedies from 7–11 April 2025. To be able to administer trade defence measures will be important to protect local industries, for instance, with import surges, when there is dumping, or when local businesses face unfair competition from subsidized imports.



The trainers were Folkert Graafsma (left) an international trade lawyer specializing in trade remedies, and Maxim Shmelev, a trade remedies specialist in the WTO secretariat's Rules Division.

Photo: ITC

Forty-two officials from relevant ministries and agencies were at the workshop in Tashkent, which zoomed in on the three trade remedies – anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures – and how to conduct investigations into these. The theoretical work was complemented with ample exercises and a real-life simulation, giving official a chance to practice their new skills. More than half of the participants opted to sit an exam and obtained certificates.

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Professors, researchers and students of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy joined officials at the trade remedies training, helping to build vital skills in an important new WTO discipline for Uzbekistan. Photo: ITC

During the summer, the project also enrolled four government officials in the World Trade Institute (WTI) Summer Academy 2025 in Bern, Switzerland. The participants are all involved in Uzbekistan's WTO accession process and successfully completed courses on Econometric Analysis of Trade Policy (30 June–3 July 2025) and Sustainable Development and Industrial Policy: Non-tariff Measures in the WTO and RTAs [Regional Trade Agreements] (14–17 July 2025).

They are representatives of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade (MIIT), the Customs Committee, and the Committee on Competition Development and Consumer Protection.

A government official from the MIIT also completed a Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) at the WTI in Bern with the support of the project. The prestigious master's degree offered a year-long immersion that has given the official valuable substantial grounding in the law and economics of the WTO. He has returned to Uzbekistan and resumed his position at the ministry.

OBJECTIVE 4

National institutional capacity strengthened on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Trade Facilitation (TF) compliance in line with WTO obligations

The areas of TBT and SPS count among the bread and butter requirements of the WTO that are also highly technical. TBT focus on technical regulations and standards that can act as barriers to trade, while SPS deal with requirements that affect human, animal or plant life or health. The project helps Uzbekistan bridge the technical preparations for its WTO membership in these complex areas.

With SPS, the project helped develop sanitary norms and rules (so-called SanPiNs) and reviewed six other SanPiNs. It is also now writing guidance documents to clarify the complicated regulation. This will help officials to effectively implement the norms. It will also help ensure the consistent interpretation of the new rules by regulators and private-sector food operators alike.

An assessment of the food safety testing system, recommending how it can be optimized, was also wrapped . Two key food safety testing laboratories were coached to comply with ISO/IEC 17025 standards.

This will help them gain international recognition and therefore also see their test results accepted. (The beneficiary laboratories are the National Reference Laboratory under the San-Epid Committee, and the State Centre for Animal Diseases Diagnostics and Food Safety Laboratory under the Committee for Veterinary and Livestock Development.)

The activities – with the San-Epid Committee requested – are aligned with Uzbekistan’s food safety system reform and support broader measures to promote manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and export development. They also tangibly advance Uzbekistan to meet its WTO accession commitments under the SPS Agreement.

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A laboratory technician carries out tests at one of the laboratories during a visit by an ITC expert earlier in 2025.

Photo: ITC

OBJECTIVE 5

Enhanced awareness of stakeholders, including women's associations, about WTO accession

One of the objectives of the project is to make the private sector aware about Uzbekistan's impending WTO membership, and the opportunities and risks that could stem from this.

A series of awareness-raising workshops was delivered to various sectors of the economy over the past two years. The project is ready to resume such training at the government's request.

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