



# Welcome to the sixteenth edition of our Newsletter!

We are pleased to share the sixteenth 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), with the overarching aim to unlock the country's economic progress through its participation in global trade.

This issue focuses on the support extended to Uzbekistan during the quarter of July to September 2024. During the quarter, a donor coordination meeting was co-organized by the Chief Negotiator, the EU and the ITC, where Uzbekistan identified four key priorities for technical assistance. The first is to create a trade policy think tank that can also support technical assistance going forward. The project helped to develop a roadmap for this purpose during the quarter.

The other priorities include the strengthening of institutional capacity to meet WTO requirements, in the areas of trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary issues (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT). The project has already provided significant assistance in these areas and is ready to continue this work. During the quarter, the project also enabled the participation of four senior government officials in the WTI Summer Academy in Bern in courses relevant to their work.

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

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 joins the [WTO](#), its existing trade and economic laws and policies form the basis for negotiating the terms and conditions of its membership. A milestone achievement was marked in the quarter with the release of the draft Working Party report. The report forms part of the final accession package along with the market access offers on goods and services that will bind Uzbekistan's market access commitments during the WTO negotiations.

The project's sustained technical support added to the advancement of the accession negotiations allowing the WTO Secretariat to develop the draft Working Party Report. The report will be discussed at the next Working Party Meeting, which is likely to take place before the end of 2024.



The project also provided advice on an ambitious plan to support the negotiations going forward. The project shared expertise on how to set up and capacitate a prospective Research Centre on WTO Accession and Trade Policy. The trade hub might also support the implementation and maintenance of Uzbekistan's WTO commitments once it is a member of the global trade body.

## 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**

For its WTO membership, the acceding country also has to bring its existing national laws in line with the WTO Agreements, which entails the review of its laws. The project supports Uzbekistan with this element of the accession process.

In the past quarter, Uzbekistan asked for advice on establishing a Trade Remedies Unit. The project already helped lay the foundation of a trade remedies regime for Uzbekistan by drafting the key pieces of legislation, namely, for the application of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, as well as safeguard measures.

A trade remedies unit will be the institutional pillar of the regime to ensure local industries are effectively protected against unfair trade practices, such as dumping or competition from subsidized goods.

The project also received a request to assess the possible impact of WTO accession on Uzbekistan's economy. The study aims to assess the impact of import tariff changes on trade flows as well as on a product line basis. The study will also assess the export potential for Uzbekistan from WTO membership, both in terms of products and markets.

The impact assessment will help give a more accurate snapshot of Uzbekistan's trade situation to guide the negotiating team with the scheduling of market access commitments. The study commenced in July and is expected to be wrapped up by November-December 2024.

# OBJECTIVE 3

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

To equip government officials with the expertise needed to administer the technical aspects of implementing the WTO agreements, the project helps to build the skills of government agencies on WTO requirements through technical assistance.

In the past quarter, a number of training sessions were delivered through the Trade Policy Training Programme, a collaboration with UWED in Tashkent, and with the participation of the WTO Chairs Programme, where possible. On 17-18 July, knowledge about [intellectual property](#) was boosted in a course that covered the intricacies of the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). On 21 August, a course was offered on [customs matters](#) covering customs valuation, rules of origin, and the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.



“Understanding the WTO Agreements through these courses has enhanced my ability to contribute to policy making and trade negotiations. – Khushnuda Raupova, Chief Specialist, State Assets Management Company of Uzbekistan.

“We need more of this kind of training to be organized by our partners.” – Sanjar Norquvatov, Head of Division, Research Institute for Legal Policy, Ministry of Justice.

All but two courses remain to be delivered under the ambitious 11-course programme, which was launched in January 2024 to rapidly advance institutional expertise across key trade disciplines. The accelerator was tailored for Uzbekistan's WTO accession team, but policy makers and UWED students are also benefiting from the courses.

The third quarter also saw the participation of four senior government officials (two from the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, and two from the Ministry of Justice) in selected courses at the World Trade Institute's Summer Academy in Switzerland, in July 2024. The project arranged the officials' enrolment in the courses on 'Investment Law and Sustainable Development', and 'International Contracts Regarding Cross-Border Trade and Investment'. The [participants' feedback](#) was singularly positive.



“The programme provided me with comprehensive insight into the WTO workings and created communication [opportunities] with experts from Switzerland,” – Ziyodullo Keldibekov, Leading Specialist of the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee of Uzbekistan

“The course was incredibly useful for providing a valuable strategy [and] significantly assisted in understanding the [WTO] negotiating process in general.” – Khushnuda Raupova, Chief Specialist of the State Assets Management Company

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# 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**

Efforts continued to help build Uzbekistan's TBT and SPS-related institutions for handling the technical aspects of administering international rules in these complex fields.

The project continued to support the State Veterinary Committee with the review of the country's Law on Animal Health to align it with the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

On the capacity-building side, two expert training workshops – taught in-person and online – were delivered during the quarter. From 1-3 July 2024, veterinary experts, operators and officials learned how to apply good hygiene and manufacturing practices (GHP and GMP), and how to operate Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) in slaughterhouses. This workshop, importantly, facilitated the participation of private sector operators.

From 4-5 July, a workshop was dedicated to the fundamentals of animal identification, registration, and veterinary traceability for animal health, food safety, and international trade were held.

The project also facilitated the participation of four officials of relevant SPS authorities and the Customs Committee to participate in a training attachment in Riga, Latvia from 23-27 September. The training was hosted by Latvia's Food and Veterinary Service on the application of SPS measures and food safety controls in Latvia and the EU at large.

During the above-mentioned donor coordination meeting Uzbekistan pointed out SPS and TBT capacity building as one of four priority areas where the country wants future support to be concentrated. Going forward, the project will therefore focus on technical capacity building in these areas.

# OBJECTIVE 5

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

One of the central objectives of the project is to create greater awareness among the private sector about the effects of WTO accession and what opportunities could arise for businesspeople from Uzbekistan's participation in global trade.

The project facilitated a series of awareness-raising workshops over the past year and stands ready to continue such training at the request of the beneficiary.

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