



# Welcome to the fourteenth edition of our Newsletter!

We are pleased to share the fourteenth Newsletter on the [European Union](#) (EU)'s 'Facilitating the process of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO' project, which is implemented by the [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC). By supporting Uzbekistan's accession to the [World Trade Organization](#) (WTO), the project seeks to contribute to the country's economic development through its integration into the global economy.

The newsletter covers assistance given to Uzbekistan between January and March 2024. A highlight in the quarter was the completion of the drafting of three pieces of legislation on trade remedies – namely, anti-dumping, countervailing duties, and safeguard measures. This will establish a new trade remedy regime for Uzbekistan in line with WTO requirements. The draft legislation is now with Uzbekistan's chief negotiator and still needs to pass through the parliamentary process before enactment. Another highlight was the launch of the comprehensive ITC-UWED Trade Policy Training Programme 2024, customized for the needs of Uzbekistan's trade negotiators. The training is offered in collaboration with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, and the WTO Chairs Programme. The 11-course programme was designed as an accelerator for the development of institutional skills in trade policy formulation and coordination to ensure Uzbekistan can unlock benefits from its accession to the WTO. In the quarter, more than 100 officials and UWED students benefited from the first five modules.

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.

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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.

[FOR MORE](#)



# IMPLEMENTATION: PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The project operates against a set of targeted objectives:

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|    | 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

In the accession process to the [WTO](#), a key goal for the acceding country is to share its existing trade and economic policies with the WTO Members. On this basis, the negotiators consider how the policies and laws should be adjusted to conform with the WTO Agreements. The project assists with this process through reviewing key documents and advising on amendments that need to be made, which then feeds into the negotiation process.

During the quarter in review, the project continued to give advisory support in the area of trade in goods, trade in services, and agriculture. In the area of market access to trade in goods, at the beneficiary's request, the project helped with the analysis of trade flows between Uzbekistan and WTO Members needed for the negotiations.

Over the past quarter, Uzbekistan signed market access protocols with three more WTO Members, bringing the total number of protocols signed to 11 countries. In trade in services, the project gave technical advice on an array of policy and regulatory issues underpinning the economic rationale for liberalizing services trade in certain sectors, such as financial services and telecommunications.

## **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**

Another requirement of the accession process is to make sure national laws are commensurate with the apposite WTO agreements. To assist this aspect of the accession process, the project helps Uzbekistan review its national laws and make recommendations regarding any changes that need to be made.

Last year, the project received a request for assistance with reviewing Uzbekistan's rules and programmes related to Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) for coherence with the WTO's TRIMS requirements.

In the past quarter, nine pieces of legislation that interact with investment, special economic zones (SEZs), industry development programmes and localization and industrial cooperation issues were reviewed. A roadmap was developed in the quarter to ensure the compliance of these with the TRIMS Agreement.

A request for assistance with establishing a trade remedy regime in adherence with WTO requirements was also received last year. A key advance was made during the past quarter, as new trade remedy legislation was drafted for Uzbekistan with the project's help. The project contributed to the drafting of three respective laws covering anti-dumping, countervailing duties, and safeguard measures. This work built on an earlier assessment of the project of Uzbekistan's trade remedy regime and WTO prescriptions.

The laws have been submitted to Uzbekistan's chief negotiator for perusal. The trade remedy legislation will also have to go through the parliamentary process before being adopted into law. The project, furthermore, offered assistance to set the base for establishing a national trade remedies unit.

# OBJECTIVE 3

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

When a country joins the WTO, its relevant officials need the requisite skills and know-how about the technical requirements of WTO membership. To aid this aspect, the project helps with building capacity among government officials about the WTO agreements and the technical aspects of the accession through training and technical assistance.

The past quarter saw the launch of a landmark deliverable to help develop long-term institutional capacity and ensure Uzbekistan can unlock value from its WTO membership. The project developed a comprehensive 11-course ITC-UWED Trade Policy Training Programme tailored to the needs of Uzbekistan's negotiators and policymakers. The training covers WTO fundamentals and was designed to act as an accelerator to build institutional skills in the area of trade policy formulation and coordination.



Speakers and participants during several of the courses offered under the the ITC-UWED Trade Policy Training Programme, which was developed by the ITC. UWED

Photo: ITC



The training programme developed by the ITC, leverages capacity built by the project for the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) and is offered in collaboration with the university on its campus. UWED's law students can also attend the courses. The training was launched on 26 January with the representative of the EU Delegation in Tashkent making opening remarks. Five modules were offered during the quarter, with 60 officials and 116 students benefiting from the training. The first two modules were taught on the weekend of the launch. The first introduced the [basic WTO principles of non-discrimination](#) and the second gave an overview of fundamental rules in [trade in services as well as in trade related investment measures](#); the third module, taught on 9 February with the collaboration of the WTO Chairs Programme, helped build [negotiating skills on market access](#); the fourth module, offered on 19 February, unpacked the [WTO rules on agriculture](#) and the fifth module, taught from 26-27 March, introduced participants to the fundamentals of [trade remedies](#).

The project also supports building long-term institutional capacity to implement the trade laws and policies once Uzbekistan becomes a WTO Member. This aim was aided in the quarter by enrolling six senior government officials for in-class courses run by the prestigious World Trade Institute's (WTI) at its Winter Academy 2024 in Bern, Switzerland.



Here some of the participants in the WTI Winter Academy are pictured with their comments about what the courses meant for them.

Photo: WTI

The officials participated in courses during January and February 2024 in the following areas: WTO Law on Border Measures and Trade Facilitation; WTO Law on Anti-dumping and Safeguard Measures; WTO Law on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures; and The Law and Policy of Trade in Services. Five of the six officials successfully passed the exams.

The participants represented the following ministries and agencies: Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, the Competition Committee, the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee, the Customs Committee, and the Uzbek State Asset Management Agency.

## **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**

Capacity building in the technical area of SPS continued in the quarter. Following the review of the new draft Food Safety Law at the requested of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Committee, a mission was arranged to Tashkent where an expert met with heads and technologists of food control agencies to help them navigate the new bill and understand the significance of having it enacted.

The mission was also used to organize expert training from 25-27 March, and from 28-29 March. Academics, food industry representatives, and technologists in the field were taught the latest methods and procedures in food safety management in fifteen succinct modules.



Uzbekistan's officials at the training session on food safety management. Photo: ITC

## OBJECTIVE 5

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

A key objective of the project is to also create awareness among the business sector, including women entrepreneurs and women's associations, about the possible benefits that could stem from WTO membership for export-oriented businesses in Uzbekistan. The project has already held several such training sessions in different regions of the country for the benefit of the private sector. It awaits further requests from the national partner to organize more such outreach activities.

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