

The speech of the First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan Mr. Zavqizoda Z. A. at the 53rd Session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of ITC (2nd July 2019, Geneva, Switzerland (WTO Headquarter, 11:30-12:00 (3-5minutes)))

Dear Chairperson,
Your Excellencies Dear Directors,
Dear distinguished members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the International Trade Center (ITC) and the WTO for constant and fruitful cooperation. It is my pleasure to share with you Tajikistan's experience on the ITC's engagement in the country.

The Government of Tajikistan in its Strategic documents, namely National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and Medium-term Development Program for the period 2016-2020 identifies the following 3 as prioritized areas: first, trade enhancement, second, export promotion and diversification and third, trade simplification.

Tajikistan with support of the ITC and other development partners accomplished a number of achievements under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) including:

- ITC offered technical support during Tajikistan's WTO accession process, especially during the multilateral and bilateral negotiations;
- Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation (CCTF) was established, 7 meetings held, 8 technical working groups were created and 10 legal documents were prepared. The Road Map of the Committee was developed, which contains further actions for implementation of trade facilitation reforms;
- A Permanent Secretariat was established, which facilitates the work of the CCTF (3 national consultants funded by ITC);
- Tajikistan Trade Portal was launched in April 2019 in order to implement the Article 1.2 of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This Portal is the first experience in Central Asia and it is a platform that was created not

just to comply with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, but also to guide both local and foreign entrepreneurs through the import, export and transit procedures;

- New import customs duty based on Tajikistan's commitments under WTO was adopted by the Government;
- An Action plan on reduction of time and costs of the foreign economic activities participants for import, export and transit actions was adopted by the Decree of the Government;
- Customs Service was appointed as the Coordinating body for the transit actions by the Decree of the Government;
- Categorization of the obligations of Tajikistan under TFA was prepared and approved by the CCTF and would be notified to the WTO Secretariat this year;
- A number of seminars and workshops on WTO issues were organized in order to upgrade skills and qualification of the Government employees in trade sector (more than 1200 employees);
- ITC had participated in the development of the Strategy on Development of Textile Sector in Tajikistan for the period 2016-2025.

As a result over the last 3 years export to total trade share increased from 20% to 25,5%, trade partners from 90 to 110 countries and exportable products diversified from 150 to 480.

In summary, from the recipient country's experience we found the ITC's engagement and cooperation very useful and effective.

We would continue our constructive cooperation with ITC that would help Tajikistan in improving trade competitiveness, export promotion and trade simplification.

Thank you for your attention.