

Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan Where Are We?

CAREC Trade Policy Coordinating Committee
Tbilisi, Georgia, 19 June 2017



Outline

- Review of status of trade policy commitments
 - End-2014 commitments
 - End-2015 commitments
 - End-2016 commitments
- TPSAP achievements and challenges: Main themes
- World Economic Forum: Rankings of trade policies
- Implementation bottlenecks

Review of Status of Trade Policy Commitments

End-2014 Commitments

- Tariff-tax measures (#1-5) closely related to WTO accession
- Capacity building (#7) and knowledge sharing (#8-9)
- Strong implementation record

Measures: Due by end-2014	AFG	AZE	CHN	KAZ	KGZ	MNG	PAK	TJK	TKM	UZB
#1: Eliminate any remaining discrepancies between taxes applied to domestic production and imports	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#2: Eliminate, or incorporate into tariffs, all miscellaneous taxes and fees applied to imports	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#3: Reduce the average tariff to 10 percent or less	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#4: Implement tariff cuts to achieve the 20 percent cap	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#5: Eliminate or tariffy import quantitative restrictions and licenses	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#6: Formally acknowledge the importance of WTO SPS and TBT agreements	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
#7: Form a NJC permanent secretariat	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#8: Conduct a knowledge sharing workshop on WTO accession related issues	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
#9: Participate in ADB's training and TA related to the Revised Kyoto Convention	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed



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Review of Status of Trade Policy Commitments

End-2015 Commitments

- Strong record on WTO accession-related measures (#1-2)
- But NJC-related measures seem challenging (#3-5, #7)
- What is the status of NJC permanent secretariats?

Measures: Due by end-2015	AFG	AZE	CHN	KAZ	KGZ	MNG	PAK	TJK	TKM	UZB
#1: Adopt legislation compliant with the SPS and TBT agreements	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#2: Prepare a SPS strategy and action plan to guide the gradual transition to WTO compliant systems	Not completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#3: Begin reviewing the existing and new regulations by NJCs	Not yet submitted	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#4: Start producing annual report of NJCs in 2015	Not yet submitted	Completed	Completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#5: Complete national studies to assess key bottlenecks to expansion of trade in services	Not completed	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#6: Confirm whether a bilateral agreement has been put in place for temporary labor movement	Not yet submitted	Not completed	Completed	Not applicable	Completed	Not completed	Not completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Completed
#7: Prepare annual report on regulatory improvements for trade in services	Not completed	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#8: Participate in the ADB' TA program for modernization of SPS measures	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not applicable	Completed	Completed	Not applicable	Not completed	Not applicable	Completed

 Completed
 Not applicable



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Review of Status of Trade Policy Commitments

End-2016 Commitments

- Likely similar outcomes as for end-2015 commitments

Measures: Due by end-2016	AFG	AZE	CHN	KAZ	KGZ	MNG	PAK	TJK	TKM	UZB
#1: Encourage key regulatory changes based on national studies for expanding cross-border trade in services	Not yet submitted	Not completed	Completed	Not completed	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#2: Develop mutual recognition agreement for professional qualifications in the context of bilateral labor agreements	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Completed	Not applicable	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed
#3: Review the existing and new regulations on trade in services by NJCs	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Completed	Not completed	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not completed	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted	Not completed

 Completed
 Not applicable

 Not completed
 Not yet submitted

TPSAP Achievements and Challenges

Main Themes

Achievements

- Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan joined WTO
- Almost all countries reported setting up NJC secretariats
- Commitments on tariffs, SPS, and TBT largely met
- Knowledge sharing commitments generally met

Challenges

- Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan not yet WTO members
- But most commitments related to outputs by NJCs not met
- But commitments related to trade in services largely not met
- But commitments requiring bilateral agreements on labor movements largely not met

World Economic Forum Rankings of Trade Policies

World Economic Forum Rankings^{1/}

	Tariff Barriers ^{2/}			Non-Tariff Barriers ^{3/}		
	2012	2017	Change	2012	2017	Change
AZE	83	89	-6	128	71	57
CHN	126	118	8	63	78	-15
GEO	3	4	1	37	14	23
KAZ	102	75	27	112	67	45
KGZ	107	72	35	130	107	23
MNG	60	59	1	92	93	-1
PAK	136	134	2	115	112	3
TJK	64	74	10	122	96	26

1/ Higher rank indicates higher competitiveness; 138 countries.

2/ Based on average tariff rate.

3/ Based on prevalence of non-tariff barriers.

Implementation Bottlenecks

- **Ownership:** How well aligned are TPSAP commitments with countries' trade policy agenda?
- **Relevance:** Even if ownership in place, are trade policy commitments sufficiently relevant for member countries?
- **Capacity:** And even with ownership and relevance in place, do countries have the ability to implement the commitments?

Thank You!

