



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION



## WTO-ADB Seminar Series for Turkmenistan’s Road to WTO Accession: Introductory Session on the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime

15 December 2020, Seminar 1 (virtual)

### Objectives:

The seminar series aim to familiarize Turkmenistan on the process and technical preparations for WTO accession; share experiences from other countries in the Central Asia region and beyond; arrive at common understanding on expectations and responsibilities of relevant agencies; and identify areas of support and collaboration with donors and development partners.

The first seminar will focus on the preparation of key accession documents, in particular, the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR).

Specifically, it will (i) introduce the basic principles, requirements and purpose of the MFTR; (ii) discuss the contents and roles of agencies in the MFTR preparation; and (iii) provide guidance in organizing technical working groups for the preparation of each of the MFTR chapters.

### Participants:

Turkmenistan’s Government Commission on WTO Accession and relevant government agencies

### Experts:

WTO Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, other development partners, external consultants and invited officials from acceding Central Asian governments and members of the WTO.

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### 15 December 2020

1330 – 1400 (Ashgabat time)	<b>Setting up and logging in the zoom meeting</b>
1400 – 1420	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Mr. Maksat Charyyev</b> , Head of International Economic Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Executive Secretary of the Government Commission on WTO Accession, Turkmenistan <b>Ms. Maika Oshikawa</b> , Director, Accessions Division, WTO <b>Mr. Chang Ching Yu</b> , Country Director, Turkmenistan Resident Mission, ADB
1420 – 1430	<b>Introduction of the Agenda</b>  <b>Ms. Dorothea Lazaro</b> , Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB

	<b>Group Photo</b>
1430 – 1530	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction to the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. MFTR process, principles, structure, data requirements</li> <li>ii. Preparation of the MFTR</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter: Ms. Anna Varyanik</b>, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division, WTO Secretariat</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
1530 – 1700	<p><b>Session 2: MFTR: Experiences of Acceding Countries</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><i>Experience of Kazakhstan, Ms. Aray Kassabekova</i>, ADB Consultant</p> <p><i>Experience of Azerbaijan, Ms. Gulchin Alasgarova</i>, Deputy Head of Department for Trade Policy and WTO Issues, Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan</p> <p><b>Commentator: Ms Cecilia Klein</b>, Independent Consultant; former Senior Director for WTO Accessions, United States Trade Representative</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
1700 – 1740	<p><b>Session 3: Preparation of the MFTR: process and next steps</b></p> <p>This session will guide participants in identifying government agencies/stakeholders to be involved in the preparation of each MFTR chapter. Experts will provide guidance in organizing technical working groups for the preparation of MFTR chapters. Turkmenistan officials will also discuss the timeline in the preparation of the draft MFTR.</p> <p><b>Presenters/Facilitators:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Anna Varyanik</b>, Legal Affairs Officer &amp; <b>Mr. Khusrav Rasulov</b>, Legal/Economic Affairs Officer, Accessions Division, WTO Secretariat  <b>Ms. Aray Kassabekova</b>, ADB Consultant</p>
1740 – 1800	<p><b>Next Steps and Closing Session</b></p> <p>The WTO Secretariat will present list of proposed trainings appropriate for stakeholders identified in each MFTR chapter. ADB and WTO will discuss the next steps for the action plan (from observer status to accession process) and tentative calendar for the series of capacity building activities.</p> <p><b>Presenters: WTO, ADB</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Zharkin Kakimzhanova</b>, ADB Consultant (former Head of the Section on WTO Issues at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan)</p>