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Prospects for the Republic of Uzbekistan's Membership in the World Trade Organization

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Resume: This article examines the emergence, development, and role of the World Trade Organization in the globalizing world economy.

Key words: World Trade Organization, total exports, international trade, export volume, Export, Import, trade turnover, World Bank.

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Introduction:

Peace is partly a result of the two most fundamental principles of the trading system: facilitating the smooth flow of trade and providing countries with a constructive and fair trading tool for resolving trade disputes. It is also a result of the international trust and cooperation that the system creates and strengthens.

Literature review:

V.V. Baturina, in her article "Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO: state regulation and protection of national industries," argues that the expected outcome of Uzbekistan's WTO accession will largely depend on the conditions and mechanisms created. In particular:

- liberalizing the economy and regulating the development of industrial sectors;
- regulating prices and creating a reasonable tax system;
- maintaining subsidies in individual sectors and production;
- increasing the attractiveness of foreign investment;
- regulating the tariff of import and export duties;
- regulation of the system of standardization and certification of goods;

development of other measures to protect producers, etc. are listed.

M.S. Yusupov in his scientific research on "Experiences of CIS countries in regulating and supporting agriculture upon accession to the World Trade Organization" states that "Ensuring food security in our country is the top priority issue upon accession to the WTO, which should

occupy a special place in the economic policy of the state. It is emphasized that one of the important issues is the establishment of a comprehensive set of measures to form an effective mechanism for ensuring food security within the framework of the law.

Membership in the WTO provides an opportunity to avoid trade barriers and directly participate in the creation of international trade rules. At the same time, Uzbekistan should also open its markets to other member states and reduce import duties. The Russian Federation, as a member of the WTO, also plans to reduce the average rate of import duties in Russia from 10.3% to 7.1% in 2020, including on agricultural products. 339 for household products from 15.6% to 11.2%, and for industrial goods from 9.4% to 6.4%.

Since April 2020, work has been underway to exchange technical experience to facilitate the process of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO. In particular, studies have been conducted by a special commission to ensure the compliance of national legislation with WTO principles and relevant best practices.

Also, in order to ensure the effective organization and systematic coordination of the preparatory stage of the process of the Republic of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the “Composition of the Interdepartmental Commission on Work with the WTO” by Resolution No. 1040 of December 24, 2018. This commission consists of 23 people and is chaired by the Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Discussion:

It is worth noting that when members of the commission transfer to another job, persons newly appointed to these positions or entrusted with the performance of relevant functions are included in the commission.

In addition, in order to regulate the activities of the Interdepartmental Commission for Work with the World Trade Organization, the Regulation on the Interdepartmental Commission for Work with the World Trade Organization, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 339 of May 28, 2020, was adopted. The Interdepartmental Commission is a collegial body that coordinates work on the accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the World Trade Organization and determines the directions.

The commission is studying internationally accepted rules and principles for the verification and implementation of standards, technical regulations, certificates, tests and laws on technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Experts from the International Trade Center (ITC), as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), analyzed good practices in standardization and the differences between voluntary standards and mandatory technical regulations approaches. Uzstandard, the Ministry of Health, the State Veterinary Committee and the State Plant Quarantine Inspectorate were involved in the study on TBT and SPS issues on board.

When developing special documents and programs of a conceptual nature dedicated to the current problems of Uzbekistan's foreign economic activity (in the framework of which they address the problems of increasing the country's international competitiveness), it is necessary to fully and comprehensively take into account the need to coordinate the country's domestic and foreign economic policies. At the same time, the international competitiveness of local business is problematic It is necessary to approach these problems comprehensively and systematically, assessing them from the perspective of Uzbekistan's approaching the WTO and, thereby, a wider opening of the domestic market.

Indeed, the main issue in the negotiations on Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO is the question of whether the benefits and opportunities that the Republic of Uzbekistan will receive as a result of its accession to the WTO will outweigh the losses that our country will suffer as a result of its

membership in this organization. Therefore, a mandatory aspect of making a decision on WTO membership is a detailed analysis of the current situation in various sectors of the economy of Uzbekistan. A comprehensive consideration of the differences in the economic interests of the territorial structures of the Republic of Uzbekistan remains a very important problem for Uzbekistan.

It is known from the experience of developed and developing countries that each country that becomes a member of the WTO, after becoming a member, must comply with the WTO rules applicable to other member states. Membership in the organization, in turn, imposes certain obligations, but also provides its own privileges and opportunities. One of such privileges is that membership in the organization allows Uzbekistan to be free from discrimination against companies in foreign markets.

Conclusion:

Membership in the WTO creates many opportunities for countries in terms of trade. We can first determine the changes expected as a result of Uzbekistan's membership in this organization by examining the experience of other countries.

In particular, in the spring of 2000, China sought to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO is a global institution that sets trade rules. By 2021, it will have 164 members and all decisions will be made unanimously. It promotes free trade by requiring all members to adhere to certain principles, emphasizing low and predictable trade barriers. In return, members are guaranteed better deals with other WTO members.

Since late 2016, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has been able to reshape its negative image as one of the world's most politically repressive and economically closed countries into an open and cooperative one.

Notably, the Uzbek government has announced its serious intention to resume accession negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO), which have been suspended since 2005. This step is significant in that it signifies readiness, but in words only, efforts are being made by the Government of Uzbekistan to improve its foreign trade and investment regulations, government administration, and relevant laws in line with international standards and existing international practices.

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