

HOW TO PREPARE FOR WTO MEMBERSHIP: EXPERIENCE OF TAJIKISTAN



By Saidrahmon Nazrizoda
First Deputy Minister of Economic
Development and Trade
Republic of Tajikistan

TAJIKISTAN

Main factors of the successful completion of the negotiation process of the Republic of Tajikistan

- Political will of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Development of plan of actions by the Government of Tajikistan and approval of relevant road map to accelerate the process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO
- Establishment of the Two Level Inter - ministerial Commission
- Success in negotiations mostly depended on personnel qualities and competency of the national negotiating team
- Constructive cooperation with the WTO Secretariat and other WTO members
- Completion of the negotiations depended on the “mobility” of negotiations
- Direct support of the donor countries, in particular Switzerland, USA and the European Union

Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- **May 2001** – The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has submitted its application on membership to the WTO
- **July 2001** – The General Council has adopted a decision on establishment of a Working Group on accession of Tajikistan to the WTO
- **September 2001** – Inter-ministerial Commission was established on issues related to accession of Tajikistan to the WTO
- **10 December 2012** – The Protocol on accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO was adopted by General Council
- **2 March 2013** - The Republic of Tajikistan has become 159th member of the WTO.

Bilateral Negotiations

1. USA
2. EU
3. Japan
4. Canada
5. Korea
6. India
7. Taiwan
8. Thailand
9. China
10. Turkey
11. Dominican Republic
12. El Salvador
13. Honduras



Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- 18 March 2004
26 April 2005
6 October 2006
24 October 2009
24 November 2010
5 July 2011
8 March 2012
17 July 2012
9/26 October 2012
Working Party meetings.
- Answers to 1300 specific questions asked by WTO members
- More than 100 laws and other legal acts have been amended or newly drafted to comply with WTO rules

Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

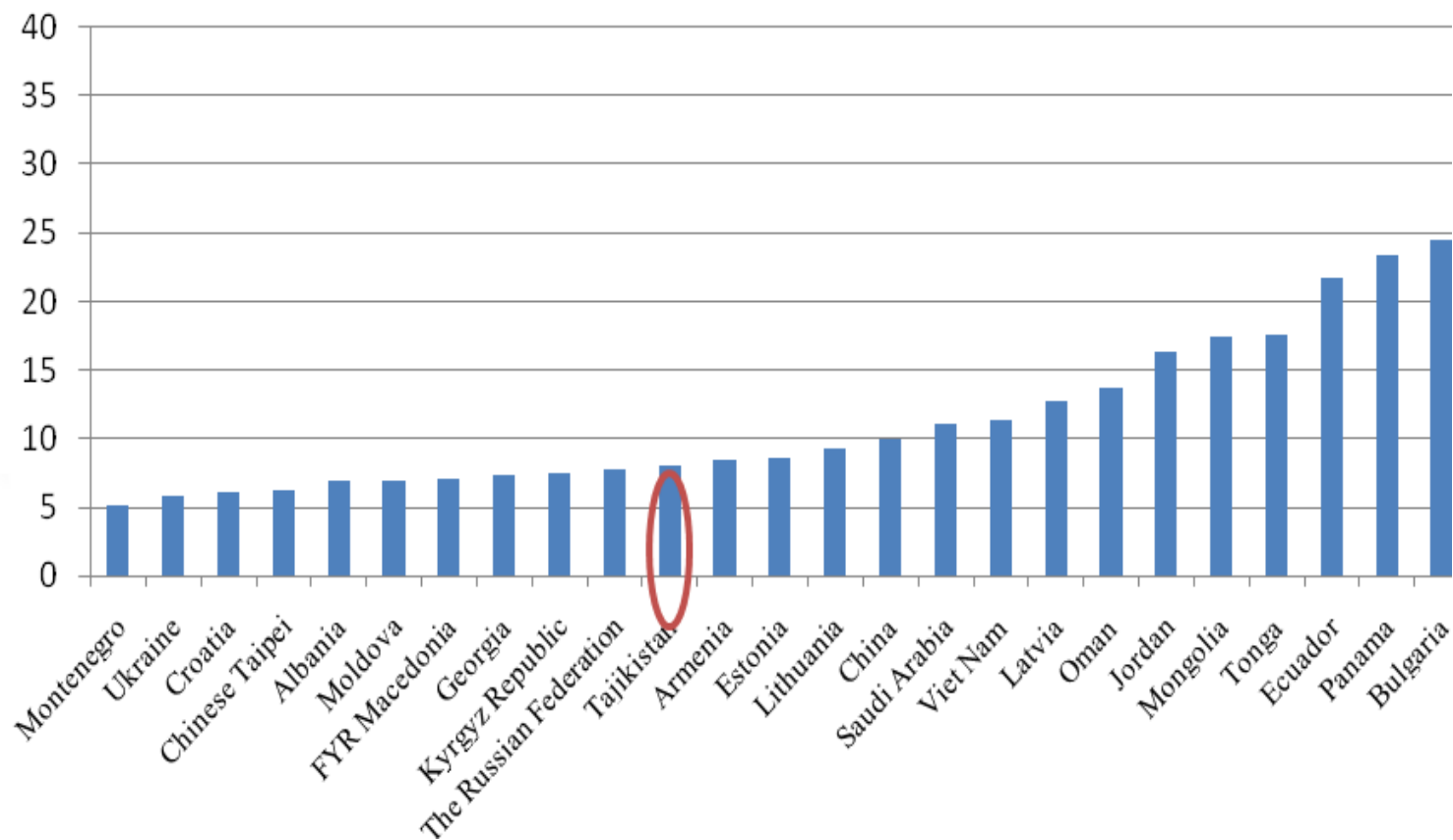
- The Republic of Tajikistan has concluded bilateral negotiations on market access on goods with 13 WTO Members; bilateral negotiations on market access on services have been concluded with 6 WTO Members.
- More than 100 laws and regulations have been either amended or replaced. New laws have been adopted, such as: «On foreign trade activity»; «On safety of food products»; «On cryptography»; «On plant protection»; «On conformity assessment»; Tax Code of the Republic of Tajikistan in new edition
- Tajikistan ratified Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention); Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention)

Results of negotiations - goods

- Republic of Tajikistan managed to keep the agricultural support at the level of 8% of the GDP
- Final average bound rate is 8.0%, which is relatively high, and actually higher than the average currently applied rate (7.3%).
- The final average bound rate for agricultural products is 10.4%.
- Un-denatured ethyl alcohol (80, but not less than 2 € per L), alcoholic drinks (18-23%), dry fruits (15%), natural honey (20%), certain fresh and prepared vegetable (20-23%) and raw silk and cotton (20%).
- For non-agricultural products the average final bound rate is 7.6%.
- Textiles (20%), clothing (17%), footwear (20-30%), carpets (30%), aluminum products (10%), construction materials (15%), certain chemicals (20%) and mattresses 20%).

Results of negotiations - goods

Figure1: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: average final bound rates
- all products



Results of negotiations - goods

Figure 2: Comparison of tariff concessions of selected Members

Government	Date of Membership	All Products	Ag Products	Non-ag Products
Montenegro	29/04/2012	5.1	10.8	4.3
Ukraine	16/05/2008	5.8	11.0	5.0
Croatia	30/11/2000	6.1	10.4	5.5
Albania	08/09/2000	7.0	9.5	6.6
Moldova	26/07/2001	7.0	14.0	5.9
FYR Macedonia	04/04/2003	7.1	12.9	6.3
Georgia	14/06/2000	7.4	13.0	6.5
Kyrgyz Republic	20/12/1998	7.5	12.8	6.7
The Russian Federation	22/08/2012	7.8	10.8	7.3
Tajikistan	02/03/2013	8.0	10.4	7.6
Armenia	05/02/2003	8.5	14.7	7.6
China	11/12/2001	10.0	15.7	9.2
Viet Nam	11/01/2007	11.4	18.5	10.4

Commitments in sectoral initiatives

Republic of Tajikistan has fully committed to three sectoral initiatives:

- Civil Aviation,
- Information Technology
- Toys

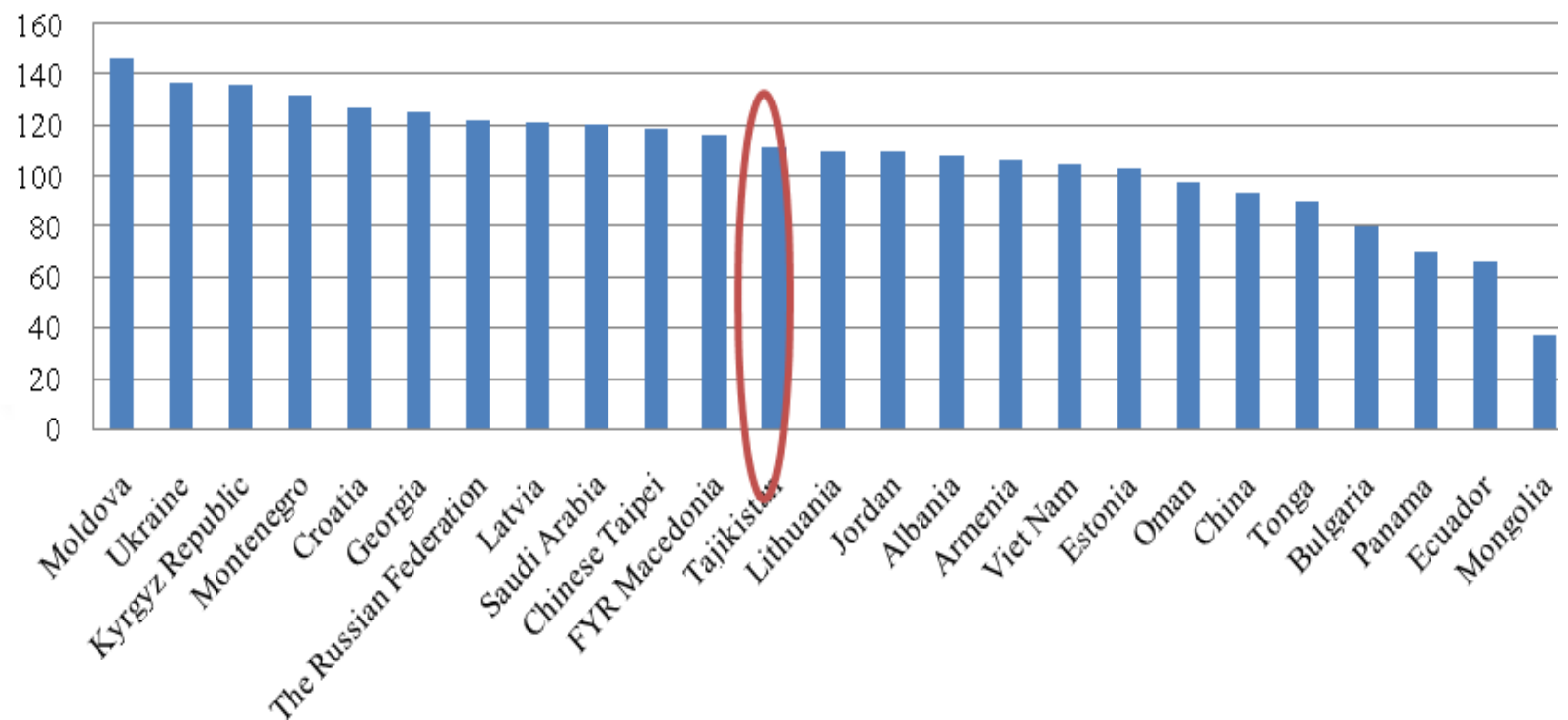
Partial commitments in two sectoral initiatives

- Construction equipment
- Pharmaceuticals

Obligation comes into force 5 years after joining the WTO

Commitments in services

Figure 3: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: Number of Services Subsectors with GATS commitments





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION