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**accession of turkmenistan**

Technical working sessions

on the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR): Cluster 1

3-14 July 2023, Ashgabat

Draft programme

WTO Secretariat: Ms Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division;

Ms Anastasia Smirnova, Legal Affairs Officer, Accessions Division.

Asian Development Bank: Ms Zharkin Kakimzhanova, WTO Accession and Trade Facilitation Expert;

Ms Aray Kassabekova, WTO and International Trade Expert.

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| **Sunday, 2 July 2023** | | |
| **02.10** | Arrival in Ashgabat: **Flight TK0322**  • Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer; WP Secretary.  • Anastasia Smirnova, Legal Affairs Officer. |  |
| **TBC** | ADB/WTO pre-meeting |  |
| **Monday, 3 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | Introductory/coordination session:  **Presentation by WTO Secretariat/ADB:** MFTR and Process |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview of the economic and trade policy regime, objectives and vision on WTO accession  *Followed by open discussion* |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 15.00** | **Presentation by WTO Secretariat:** Section on Framework for Making and Enforcing Policies |  |
| **15.00 – 16.00** | **Presentation by WTO Secretariat:** Section on Transparency |  |
| **16.00 – 17.00** | **Presentation by WTO Secretariat:** Legislative Action Plan |  |
| **Tuesday, 4 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview of the economy |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * **Introduction**: statement on the general objectives of the trade policy regime and their relation with the objectives of the WTO * **Economy**: General description, including territory, population, economic specialization, main economic indicators; current economic situation |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 15.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview of the Government – structure and competencies |  |
| **15.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * **Framework**: Powers of executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; Government entities responsible for making and implementing policies affecting foreign trade * **Framework**: Authority of sub-central governments (division of authority between central and sub-central governments) |  |
| **Wednesday, 5 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by ADB**: Article X of the GATT 1994 |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * **Framework**: Description of judicial, arbitral or administrative tribunals or procedures; right of appeal |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 17.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan:** Trade-related legislation of Turkmenistan; publication of information on trade  *Followed by open discussion* |  |
| **Thursday, 6 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 17.00** | **Technical working session**:   * **Framework**: Laws and legal acts (Annex III) * **Framework**: Any legislative programmes or plans to change the regulatory regime |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * **Transparency**: Publication of information on trade |  |
| **Friday, 7 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Legislative Action Plan |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Legislative Action Plan |  |
| **Saturday, 8 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 17.00** | Follow-up sessions/meetings, as requested by the Government |  |
|  | Meetings with donors - TBC |  |
| **Sunday, 9 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 17.00** | Follow-up sessions/meetings, as requested by the Government |  |
|  | Meetings with donors - TBC |  |
| **Monday, 10 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by WTO Secretariat**: Section on Economic Policies |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Presentation by WTO Secretariat**: State Trading; State Ownership and Privatization |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 15.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview of the Economic policies |  |
| **15.00 – 17.00** | **Presentation and discussion with the IMF - TBC** |  |
| **Tuesday, 11 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Main directions of the ongoing economic policies (tactical and strategic goals of economic policies, economic development plans, sectoral priorities, regional development plans, etc.) |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 15.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Investment regime |  |
| **15.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Investment regime (foreign and domestic investment policies) |  |
| **Wednesday, 12 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview of monetary and fiscal policy; foreign exchange and payments |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Monetary and fiscal policy |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Foreign exchange and payments (relations with International Monetary Fund (IMF), application of foreign exchange controls if any) |  |
| **Thursday, 13 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: State ownership, pricing and competition |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * State ownership and privatization |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 17.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Pricing policies * Competition policy |  |
| **Friday, 14 July 2023** | | |
| **10.00 – 11.00** | **Presentation by Turkmenistan**: Overview on trade in goods and services |  |
| **11.00 – 13.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Foreign trade in goods and services (volume and value of trade, exports and imports, foreign trade balance, structure of trade, trade by geographic areas and dynamics of trade, accompanying statistical data and information on publications (Annex II) |  |
| ***13.00 – 14.00*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| **14.00 – 16.00** | **Technical Working Session**:   * Domestic trade in services (value and composition of foreign direct investment) * Information on financial movements related to nationals working abroad, remittances, etc. * Information on growth in trade in goods and services over recent years and forecasts for years to come. |  |
| **16.00 – 17.00** | **Wrap up session and Next Steps** |  |
| **Saturday, 15 July 2023** | | |
| **03.30** | Departure from Ashgabat: **Flight TK0323**  • Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer; WP Secretary.  • Anastasia Smirnova, Legal Affairs Officer. |  |