



PROCESSES OF ACCESSION TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: This article provides a detailed analysis of the theoretical and practical aspects of accession to the World Trade Organization. It examines the stages of accession, required economic and legal reforms, and the current progress of Uzbekistan in this process. The results show that WTO membership contributes to economic openness, expansion of export potential, and improvement of the investment climate.

Keywords: WTO, international trade, export, liberalization, economic reforms, global integration

Introduction

In the context of globalization, active participation in the international trade system has strategic importance for every country. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the main institution of this system, establishing trade rules and monitoring their implementation. The Republic of Uzbekistan has also identified accession to the WTO as a priority objective in order to modernize the economy and expand foreign trade relations.

In recent years, the large-scale economic reforms carried out in the country, including trade liberalization, improvement of the customs system, and enhancement of the investment climate, have become important components of the WTO accession process.

ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE RELATED TO THE TOPIC

The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the process of accession to it are among the widely studied topics in international economics. Scientific literature evaluates the WTO as the main institution regulating the global trading system, while its impact on national economies has been analyzed from various perspectives.

One of the prominent representatives of free trade theory, Jagdish Bhagwati, positively assesses WTO activities and emphasizes that reducing trade barriers leads to more efficient use of resources [1]. According to him, trade liberalization strengthens economic integration among countries and stimulates long-term economic growth. At the same time, Paul Krugman substantiates that international trade increases efficiency through economies of scale [2]. In his view, WTO membership improves production efficiency and expands markets. However, Dani Rodrik argues that trade liberalization does not always produce equally positive outcomes for all countries [3]. He notes that domestic industries in developing countries may not withstand international competition. Similarly, Joseph Stiglitz critically evaluates the WTO system, emphasizing that in some cases its rules do not fully correspond to the interests of developing countries [4].

Modern national studies and official documents also widely highlight the importance of WTO membership. In particular, regulatory and legal documents adopted in the Republic of

Uzbekistan are aimed at accelerating this process. Specifically, Presidential Resolution No. PQ-181 dated June 2, 2023, outlines concrete tasks related to accelerating WTO accession, harmonizing legislation with international standards, and intensifying negotiations [5]. This resolution serves as an important institutional basis for liberalizing trade policy and deepening economic reforms in the country.

Research by local scholars also indicates that WTO membership contributes to increasing export potential, expanding investment inflows, and modernizing the economic system [6]. At the same time, the necessity of protecting the domestic market and enhancing competitiveness is particularly emphasized.

Overall, the analysis of scientific and normative sources demonstrates that the effectiveness of WTO membership directly depends on the country's economic policy and the level of implementation of reforms [7].

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed systematic, analytical, and comparative methods. The WTO accession process was examined step by step, and Uzbekistan's current situation was compared with the experiences of other countries. In addition, generalizations were made based on official sources, legislative documents, and information from international organizations.

This methodology made it possible to comprehensively cover the topic and draw well-grounded scientific conclusions.

Analysis And Results

Uzbekistan's WTO accession process is currently continuing at an active stage and can conditionally be divided into several important phases. At the initial stage, the application was submitted and a working group was established, while subsequent stages involved the analysis of trade policy and bilateral negotiations. At present, the process can be assessed as approaching the stage of finalizing commitments and concluding agreements.

Recent analyses indicate that negotiations have become particularly active after 2020. Working group meetings are held regularly, and documents related to the country's trade regime are being updated. One of the most important aspects is the achievement of significant results in bilateral negotiations.

According to the latest information, Uzbekistan has achieved important agreements or is close to finalizing negotiations with the following countries:

1. Israel
2. Türkiye
3. China
4. Republic of Korea
5. Japan
6. United States
7. European Union member states (within separate negotiation formats)

According to some sources, negotiations have been conducted with nearly 20 countries in total, and agreements on market access conditions have been almost finalized with most of them.

Analyses also show that the current stage focuses mainly on the following areas:

1. gradual reduction of customs tariffs;
2. regulation of agricultural subsidies;

3.opening of the services market;

4.harmonization of technical standards with international requirements.

The results indicate that WTO membership will enable Uzbekistan to significantly increase export volumes, reduce logistics costs, and integrate into global value chains. At the same time, certain industrial sectors may face strong competitive pressure in the short term, which will require their modernization.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that Uzbekistan is approaching the decisive stage of the WTO accession process. The active negotiations and reforms carried out in recent years increase the likelihood of the country joining the organization in the near future.

To successfully complete the process, the following recommendations are proposed:

1.accelerate the full harmonization of legislation;

2.support exporting enterprises;

3.modernize industry to improve competitiveness;

4.strengthen the training of WTO specialists;

ensure balanced protection of national interests during negotiations.

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