

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/ACC/BHS/1

10 May 2001

(01-2404)

Original: English

ACCESSION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

Request for Accession Pursuant to Article XII

The Director-General has received the following communication from the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas with the request that it be included on the agenda of the next General Council.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas presents its compliments to the Director of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has the honour to advise of its decision to apply for membership in the WTO under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO.

As a small island economy, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is mindful of the necessity of full participation in the international trading system and, to that end, looks forward to becoming a member of the WTO in accordance with the procedures established for accession. I should therefore like you to place our application before the General Council at its next meeting.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas remains at your disposal and at the disposal of the governments of all WTO Members for any further information that may be required with regard to its application for accession.



ACCESSIONS: ONGOING ACCESSIONS Summary Table of Ongoing Accessions

(Updated April 2009)



Application	Working Party Established	Memorandum	First/Latest* Working Party Meeting	Number of Working Party Meetings *	Goods Offer	Services Offer	Draft Working Party Report **
					initial latest*	initial latest*	
Afghanistan	Nov 2004D	ec 2004	Apr 2009				
Algeria	Jun 1987	Jun 1987	Apr 1998/Jan 2008	10	Feb 2002	Nov 2007	Jun 2006
Andorra	Jul 1997	Oct 1997	Oct 1999	1	Sep 1999	Sep 1999	
Azerbaijan	Jun 1997	Jul 1997	Jun 2002/Dec 2008	6	May 2005	Feb 2008	Dec 2008 (FS)
Bahamas	May 2001	Jul 2001				May 2005	
Belarus	Sep 1993	Oct 1993	Jun 1997/May 2005	7	Mar 1998	May 2006	Jun 2007 (FS)
Bhutan	Sep 1999	Oct 1999	Nov 2004/Jan 2008	4	Aug 2005	Nov 2007	Dec 2007
Bosnia and Herzegovina	May 1999	Jul 1999	Nov 2003/Mars 2009	6	Oct 2004	Feb 2007	Feb 2009
Comoros	Feb 2007	Oct 2007				Oct 2004	
Equatorial Guinea	Feb 2007	Feb 2008				Mar 1998	
Ethiopia	Jan 2003	Feb 2003	May 2008	1		May 2006	
Iran	Jul 1996	May 2005				Feb 2000	
Iraq	Sep 2004	Dec 2004	May 2007/April 2008	2		Aug 2005	
Kazakhstan	Jan 1996	Sep 1996	Mar 1997/Jul 2008	10	Jun 1997	May 2004	Jun 2008
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Jul 1997	Feb 1998	Oct 2004/Jul 2008	4	Nov 2006	Jun 2008	Jun 2008 (FS)
Lebanese Republic	Jan 1999	Apr 1999	Oct 2002/Feb 2009	6	Nov 2003	Jun 2004	Oct 2008
Liberia, Republic of	Jun 2007	Dec 2007				Nov 2003	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Jun 2004	Jul 2004				Jun 2004	
Montenegro	Dec 2004	Feb 2005	Oct 2005/Nov 2008	7	Draft Schedule Dec 2008	Draft Schedule Dec 2008	Jan 2009
Russian Federation	Jun 1993	Jun 1993	Jul 1995/Mar 2006	30	Feb 1998	Feb 2001	Oct 2004
Samoa	Apr 1998	Jul 1998	Mar 2002	1	Aug 2001	Aug 2001	Nov 2006
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan 2005	May 2005				Aug 2001	
Serbia	Dec 2004	Feb 2005	Oct 2005/Dec 2008	6	Apr 2006	Nov 2008	Nov 2008
Seychelles	May 1995	Jul 1995	Feb 1997	1	Jun 1997	May 1997	Jun 1997

<u>Sudan</u>	Oct 1994	Oct 1994	Jan 1999	Jul 2003/Mar 2004	2	Jul 2004	Oct 2006	Jun 2004	Oct 2006	Sep 2004 (FS)
<u>Tajikistan</u>	May 2001	Jul 2001	Feb 2003	Mar 2004/Oct 2006	3	Feb 2004	Mar 2009	Feb 2004	Mar 2009	May 2006 (FS)
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	Dec 1994	Dec 1994	Oct 1998	Jul 2002/Oct 2005	3	Sep 2005		Sep 2005		
<u>Vanuatu</u>	Jul 1995	Jul 1995	Nov 1995	Jul 1996/Oct 1999	2	Nov 1997	Nov 1999	Nov 1997	Nov 1999	Accession Package Oct 2001
<u>Yemen</u>	Apr 2000	Jul 2000	Nov 2002	Nov 2004/Oct 2008	5	Sep 2005	Aug 2008	Aug 2005	Aug 2008	Aug 2008

Note:* As of the date of this document. [back to text](#)** Most recent Factual Summary (FS), draft Working Party Report or Elements of draft Working Party Report. [back to text](#)

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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/ACC/11/Rev.7
18 May 2007

(07-2042)

TECHNICAL NOTE ON THE ACCESSION PROCESS

Note by the Secretariat: State of Play and Information on Current Accessions

Revision

This paper contains summary information on the state of current applications for accession and accession Working Parties. Summary information on completed accessions can be found in the latest revision of document WT/ACC/10.

This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and without prejudice to the positions of Members and to their rights and obligations under the WTO

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains information on the status of ongoing WTO accessions, including a brief description of the current state of play for each accession¹. A comprehensive technical note on the accession process, containing information on completed accessions, is presented in the latest revision of document WT/ACC/10.

- Recently Completed Accessions

The General Council approved Viet Nam's accession package on 7 November 2006. Viet Nam became the WTO's 150th member on 11 January 2007. The accession package of the Kingdom of Tonga was adopted at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference (15 December 2006). Tonga will become a Member of the WTO 30 days after notifying the WTO of the domestic ratification of the accession package.

- Ongoing Accessions

As of the date of this document, the following governments are in the process of accession to the WTO (in alphabetical order):

1. Afghanistan	15. Lebanese Republic
2. Algeria	16. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
3. Andorra	17. Montenegro
4. Azerbaijan	18. Russian Federation
5. Bahamas	19. Samoa
6. Belarus	20. Sao Tomé and Príncipe
7. Bhutan	21. Serbia
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina	22. Seychelles
9. Cape Verde	23. Sudan
10. Ethiopia	24. Tajikistan
11. Iran	25. Ukraine
12. Iraq	26. Uzbekistan
13. Kazakhstan	27. Vanuatu*
14. Lao People's Democratic Republic	28. Yemen

* The final meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Vanuatu was held on 29 October 2001.

- 23 Applicants have submitted a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime – a key document containing the factual information needed for activating the work of the Working Party;
- 21 Working Parties have held their first meeting;
- 21 Applicants have tabled their offers on goods and/or services to initiate bilateral market access negotiations with interested Members; and
- A draft Working Party Report or Elements of a draft Report (a document that lays down the basis for the draft Working Party Report) has been prepared for 10 Applicants.

A Working Party has not yet been established to examine a request for accession from Syria (documents WT/ACC/SYR/1, 2 and 3), Equatorial Guinea (document WT/ACC/GNQ/1) and the Comoros (document WT/ACC/COM/1).

¹ Up-to-date information on the state of play in ongoing WTO accessions is available at www.wto.org.

SUMMARY TABLE OF ONGOING ACCESSIONS²

Country	Application	Working Party Established	Memorandum	First/Latest* Working Party Meeting	Number of Working Party Meetings	Goods Offer		Services Offer		Draft Working Party Report**
						initial	latest*	initial	latest*	
<u>Afghanistan</u>	Nov 2004	Dec 2004								
<u>Algeria</u>	Jun 1987	Jun 1987	Jul 1996	Apr 1998/ Oct 2005	9	Feb 2002	Jan 2005	Mar 2002	Jan 2005	Jun 2006
<u>Andorra</u>	Jul 1997	Oct 1997	Mar 1999	Oct 1999	1	Sep 1999		Sep 1999		
<u>Azerbaijan</u>	Jun 1997	Jul 1997	Apr 1999	Jun 2002/ Mar 2006	4	May 2005	Apr 2007	May 2005	Mar 2007	
<u>Bahamas</u>	May 2001	Jul 2001								
<u>Belarus</u>	Sep 1993	Oct 1993	Jan 1996	Jun 1997/ May 2005	7	Mar 1998	May 2006	Feb 2000	Sep 2006	Apr 2005 (FS)
<u>Bhutan</u>	Sep 1999	Oct 1999	Feb 2003	Nov 2004/ Oct 2006	3	Aug 2005	Apr 2007	Aug 2005	Apr 2007	Sep 2006
<u>Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	May 1999	Jul 1999	Oct 2002	Nov 2003/ Mar 2007	3	Oct 2004	Jun 2005	Oct 2004	June 2005	Feb 2007 (FS)
<u>Cape Verde</u>	Nov 1999	Jul 2000	Jul 2003	Mar 2004/ Jul 2005	3	Nov 2004	Nov 2005	Nov 2004	Nov 2006	Nov 2005
<u>Ethiopia</u>	Jan 2003	Feb 2003	Jan 2007							
<u>Iran</u>	Jul 1996	May 2005								
<u>Iraq</u>	Sep 2004	Dec 2004	Sep 2005							
<u>Kazakhstan</u>	Jan 1996	Feb 1996	Sep 1996	Mar 1997/ Nov 2006	9	Jun 1997	May 2004	Sep 1997	Jun 2004	Sep 2006
<u>Lao People's Democratic Republic</u>	Jul 1997	Feb 1998	Mar 2001	Oct 2004/ Nov 2006	2	Nov 2006				
<u>Lebanese Republic</u>	Jan 1999	Apr 1999	Jun 2001	Oct 2002/ May 2007	5	Nov 2003	Jun 2004	Nov 2003	Jun 2004	Mar 2007

² In alphabetical order.

Country	Application	Working Party Established	Memorandum	First/Latest* Working Party Meeting	Number of Working Party Meetings	Goods Offer		Services Offer		Draft Working Party Report**
						initial	latest*	initial	latest*	
<u>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</u>	Jun 2004	Jul 2004								
<u>Montenegro</u>	Dec 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Oct 2005/ Feb 2007	3	Jun 2006	Feb 2007	Jul 2005	Jun 2006	
<u>Russian Federation</u>	Jun 1993	Jun 1993	Mar 1994	Jul 1995/ Mar 2006	30	Feb 1998	Feb 2001	Oct 1999	Jun 2002	Oct 2004
<u>Samoa</u>	Apr 1998	Jul 1998	Feb 2000	Mar 2002	1	Aug 2001		Aug 2001	Feb 2006	Nov 2006
<u>Sao Tomé and Príncipe</u>	Jan 2005	May 2005								
<u>Serbia</u>	Dec 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Oct 2005/ Dec 2006	3	Apr 2006		Oct 2006		
<u>Seychelles</u>	May 1995	Jul 1995	Aug 1996	Feb 1997	1	Jun 1997		May 1997		Jun 1997
<u>Sudan</u>	Oct 1994	Oct 1994	Jan 1999	Jul 2003/ Mar 2004	2	Jul 2004	Oct 2006	Jun 2004	Oct 2006	Sep 2004 (FS)
<u>Tajikistan</u>	May 2001	Jul 2001	Feb 2003	Mar 2004/ Oct 2006	3	Feb 2004	Jun 2006	Feb 2004	Jun 2006	May 2006 (FS)
<u>Ukraine</u>	Nov 1993	Dec 1993	Jul 1994	Feb 1995/ Jun 2006	16	May 1999	May 2002	Feb 1997	Jun 2004	Apr 2007
<u>Uzbekistan</u>	Dec 1994	Dec 1994	Oct 1998	Jul 2002/ Oct 2005	3	Sep 2005		Sep 2005		
<u>Vanuatu</u>	Jul 1995	Jul 1995	Nov 1995	Jul 1996/ Oct 1999	2	Nov 1997	Nov 1999	Nov 1997	Nov 1999	Accession Package Oct 2001
<u>Yemen</u>	Apr 2000	Jul 2000	Nov 2002	Nov 2004/ Jul 2006	3	Sep 2005	Jun 2006	Aug 2005	Jun 2006	Jun 2006 (FS)

* As of the date of this document.

** Most recent Factual Summary (FS), draft Working Party Report or Elements of draft Working Party Report.

BAHAMAS

A Working Party to examine the application of the Bahamas was established at the General Council meeting on 18 July 2001. The Bahamas has not yet submitted a Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime. The Working Party has not yet met.

Application Received	10 May 2001	WT/ACC/BHS/1
Working Party Established Chairperson: to be designated	18 July 2001	WT/GC/M/66
Memorandum		
Questions and Replies		
Meetings of the Working Party		
Other Documentation		
(a) Additional Questions & Replies		
(b) Agriculture (WT/ACC/4)		
(c) Services (WT/ACC/5)		
(d) SPS/TBT (WT/ACC/8)		
(e) TRIPS (WT/ACC/9)		
(f) Legislative Action Plan		
Market Access Negotiations		
Goods Offer		
Services Offer		
Factual Summary		
Draft Working Party Report		