

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Goals and Strategies in Global Scenario



HEADS OF NATIONAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES OF ECO COUNTRIES

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Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Sharif Said

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Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan

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P R E F A C E

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the important organs of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which is an inter-governmental regional organization. ECO was originally established as Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for promoting sustainable socio-economic development of the member states. Then it was renamed 'ECO' and expanded to include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. All ECO member countries have interrelated cultures, religion, and political history in pre Soviet regime. They have interconnected trade routes and mobilization of goods and services and the factors of production. Migration of labor and businesses among these countries was a common phenomenon in centuries old history of the region. The connectivity, cultural adoptability and migration of the peoples among these countries have established similarities in the culture, languages, and traditions in these countries. The era of communism created barriers in their economic and trade relations. Consequently, the uses of historical trade routes were abolished in this period. However, the similarities in their culture, religion, political thoughts and languages are still alive.

Economic cooperation between these countries is not a goal; in fact it is a mean to reach at the goal of economic prosperity. Today's economic cooperation may lead the economic integration and possible economic unification in future, which may revive the economic history of the region by providing a big market, sharing resources and participation in economic activities.

The objective of this report is to show the economic and political positioning of ECO countries and their joint economic strength in global context in one document. This snapshot explains that how the socio-political conditions and descriptive statistics of business and economic indicators of the ECO member countries have strongly justified the formation of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and its off shoot – the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This document summarizes the linkages between the socioeconomic history of ECO member countries, their present political economic scenario and the requirement of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a paramedic picture. A brief overview of the positing of Pakistan in ECO region has also been presented to reflect the importance of the role of Pakistan. It may highlight the direction and advancement of ECO Chambers of Commerce in Industry after shifting its secretariat to Pakistan. There are various areas of concerns including macroeconomic indicators, trade facilitations, legal structure reforms, women empowerment and business performance measurement and ranking in ECO member countries. All these areas are important and comprehensive studies and specialized works are required. We are planning to complete these studies in the near future. However, the present documents present the basic data and information to understand the issues of ECO countries. The basic objective behind compilation of data and highlighting the relevant issues is to reflect our future path of working.

Mian Muhammad Adrees
President
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Economic Cooperation Organization: Significance and Objectives

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is one of the alliances to promote the economic prosperity and welfare. Unlike D8, it is a regional alliance; it covers all those countries which have been included in historical Mongol Empire. It is the successor institution of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), which remained in existence since 1964 up to 1979. This intergovernmental regional organization was originally established by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey which was expanded to include seven new members, namely: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. To promote economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States is the main objective of the organization.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an inter-governmental regional organization which was originally established as Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for promoting sustainable socio-economic development of the member states. It was renamed 'ECO' in 1985 and in 1992 the organization was expanded to include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The region is lacking in appropriate infrastructure and institutions which the Organization is seeking to develop, on priority basis, to make full use of the available resources in the region.

Goals and Objectives

ECO has the following principal aims:

- Sustainable economic development of its Member States which has to be achieved through the progressive removal of trade barriers and the promotion of intraregional trade. The Organization aspires to create a greater role of the ECO region in the growth of world trade and gradual integration of the Member States' economies with the global economy;
- Development of transport and communications infrastructure linking the Member States with each other and the outside world;
- Economic liberalization and privatization;
- Mobilization and utilization of ECO region's material resources;
- Effective use of the agricultural and industrial potential of the region;
- Regional cooperation for drug abuse control, ecological and environmental protection and strengthening of historical and cultural ties among the peoples of the ECO region; and
- Mutually beneficial cooperation with regional and international organizations.



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Principal Organs

- Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs (COM)
- Regional Planning Council (RPC): composed of the Heads of the Planning Organization
- Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):
 - composed of the Ambassadors of the Member states
- The Secretariat
 - Directorate of Trade and Investment
 - Directorate of Transport and Communications
 - Directorate of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism
 - Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD)
 - Directorate of Energy, Minerals and Environment
 - Directorate of Project, Economic Research and Statistics

Regional Institutions

- ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) was established on June 10, 1993. Its objectives include enhancement of economic cooperation and relations in trade, industry, agriculture, tourism, contracting, engineering and banking sectors as well as to realize joint investments among the Member States. National Chambers of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey are member of the ECO-CCI.
- ECO Trade and Development Bank
- ECO Reinsurance Company
- ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company
- ECO College of Insurance

Specialized Agencies

- ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
- ECO Science Foundation (ECO-SF)
- ECO Educational Institute (ECO-EI)

The detailed discussion on the status and achievement of ECO may be useful at this stage. Since its formation ECO has crossed various milestones and signed different agreements for economic development.

Key milestones of the ECO during recent years

- ECO enjoys observer status with the United Nations, World Trade Organization, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Islamic Development Bank
- ECO has signed more than 30 Memoranda of Understanding with a host of regional and international organizations including the UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes
- Agreement on Simplification Visa procedures for the Businessmen and Transit Drivers of ECO Member States has been finalized and is to be ratified by Member States for implementation. The ECO unified Visa Sticker for Drivers and the Crew has been prepared. Procedures for issuance of the unified visa are being finalized.



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- ECO Trade and Development Bank has been established and operationalized in Istanbul with a capital of US\$ 465 million.
- ECO Reinsurance Company is to be established soon with a capital of US\$ 30 Million
- ECO Trade and Investment Network Web Portal has been established
- The ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route had started its regular operation since August 2010
- Construction of the railway line on Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran route has been expedited.
- The 'Feasibility Study for Railway Route from China along Tajikistan and Afghanistan to Zahedan/Chabahar in Iran through Herat-Delaram-Zaranj and through Iran and Turkey to Europe' has been initiated under the umbrella of the ECO
- The ECO Railway Transit routes map has been published. The ECO Road Transit routes map has been finalized
- An online system is being finalized for money transfer through the financial postal services of the member states
- The New Plan of Action on Energy/Petroleum Cooperation in the ECO Region (2011-2015) which will serve as the basic guideline for cooperation among the ECO Member States in the fields of Energy/Petroleum for the next five years was adopted in the 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum (Dushanbe, 2010)
- The ECO Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (ECO-IEST) was established in February, 2011 on project basis in Karaj, Tehran, Iran
- The ECO Regional Programme for Food Security (ECO-RPFS) was prepared and is under implementation in collaboration with FAO, ICARDA. A Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for the RPFS will be established soon
- ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) was established on September 3-5, 2007 in Mashad, Iran
- ECO Tourist Guidebook was published and ECO Tourism Promotion Fund was established
- ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan was established to which a total amount of more than US\$ 11 million was pledged.



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Major Agreements Signed by the ECO Members

Agreements	Signed	Parties	Entry into force
Treaty of Izmir	Izmir, 14 th September 1996	8 (all Signatories except Afghanistan and Uzbekistan).	September 24, 2002
Agreement on Legal Status of the ECO National Representatives and International Staff	Izmir, 14th September 1996	4 ECO member stat	Not yet
Transit Trade Agreement (TTA)	Islamabad, 15 March 1995	8 (all Signatories)	TTA is no longer applicable
Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of ECO Member States	Islamabad, 15 March 1995	5 states (Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkey)	year 2002
Articles of Agreement of the Trade and Development Bank (TDB)	Islamabad, 15 March 1995	Three signatory states	August 3, 2005
The Charter of ECO Cultural Institute	Islamabad, 15 March 1995	4 states (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan)	The document entered into force immediately after signing.
The Charter of ECO Science Foundation	Islamabad, 15 March 1995	5 (Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)	Legally has entered into force
Agreement between I.R. of Iran and ECO Relating the Rights, Privileges and Immunities of the ECO Secretariat	Ashgabat, 14th May 1996	--	1997
The Charter of ECO Educational Institute	Almaty, 9th May 1998	5 states (Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan and Turkey)	2012
Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)	Almaty, 9th May 1998	8 states (all ECO member states except Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)	19th May 2006
Framework Agreement on ECO Trade Cooperation	Tehran, 6th March 2000	6 states (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Pakistan and Turkey)	The document entered into force as per Article 14 after ratification by five member states



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ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)	Islamabad, 17th July	5 states (All signatory States)	24th April, 2008
Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment (APPI)	Istanbul, 7 July 2005	None	Not yet
Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank	Istanbul, 7 July 2005	None	Not yet
MoU on ECO Reinsurance Company	Islamabad, 15th March 1995	3 states Iran, Pakistan and Turkey	Immediately after signing the MoU
MoU on Cooperation against Smuggling and Customs Frauds	Almaty, 9th May 1998	All 10 ECO member states	Immediately after signing the MoU
MoU on the establishment of Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM)	Mashhad-Iran, 4th September, 2007	All 10 ECO member states except Turkey and Uzbekistan	Immediately after signing the MoU



ECO Boundaries: A Corridor from Europe to South Asia

To refer the history has become a usual way on talking relations among the nations. To describe history is not a sufficient justification to infer that development of a nation or region is changed with the time and can be revive in future. Any kind of development is considered an output of the relevant factors and inputs.

History, geography, political ideology, culture, civilizations and economy are interrelated variables. Their complicated and complex relations determine the economic development in a region. All ECO member countries have interrelated cultures, religion, and political history in pre Soviet regime. European Union, Russia, China, India and Arab region are in surrounding of ECO countries. They have interconnected trade routes and mobilization of goods and services and the factors of production. Migration of labor and businesses among these countries was a common phenomenon in centuries old history of the region. The connectivity, cultural adaptability and migration of the peoples among these countries have established similarities in the culture, languages, and traditions in these countries.

The era of communism created barriers in their economic and trade relations. Consequently, the uses of historical trade routes were abolished in this period. However, the similarities in their culture, religion, political thoughts and languages are still alive.

Despite of many similarities and common characteristics in their social and economic lives the political geography divides these countries in different blocs. According to World Bank classification Turkey and Central Asian States (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are included in 'Europe and Central Asia'; Iran is part of Middle East and North Africa (MENA), while Afghanistan and Pakistan belong to South Asia.

What is common in the ECO member countries: their relations are not one-dimensional; they have multi dimensional relations; a common history, a common social ideology, a common geography, common economic problems, common political challenges and common cultural inheritance. They cover the largest non-Arabic Muslim World coalition covering 26 percent of the Muslim population and 6 percent of the world population. The countries in the coalition have multiple socio-cultural relations other than a common religion. Majority of Central and South Asian is the follower of Hanafites and Jaferis School of thoughts. These countries have almost similar opinions on their issues the Muslims of Chechnya, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Turkish Cyprus, and Kashmir.

Share of Muslim Population in ECO Countries

Country	% of World Muslim Population	Muslim (%) of total population
Pakistan	11.1	96.3
Iran	4.7	99.4
Turkey	4.7	98.0
Afghanistan	1.8	99.7
Uzbekistan	1.7	96.3
Kazakhstan	0.6	56.4
Azerbaijan	0.6	99.2
Tajikistan	0.4	84.1
Turkmenistan	0.3	93.1
Kyrgyzstan	0.3	86.3
Total:	26.2	---

ECO Countries: Common Sociology

No	Country	Main sect	Main fiqh	Religion and state	Type of government	Official and Business (not National)
1	<u>Afghanistan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Islamic state	<u>Presidential republic</u>	Dari (Persian) and Pashto
2	<u>Azerbaijan</u>	<u>Shi'a</u>	<u>Jafari</u>	Secular	<u>Presidential republic</u>	Azerbaijani
3	<u>Iran</u>	<u>Shia</u>	<u>Jafari</u>	Islamic state	<u>Presidential republic (Islamic)</u>	Persian; English; French
4	<u>Kazakhstan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Secular	<u>Presidential republic</u>	Kazakh, Russian
5	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Secular	<u>Semi-presidential republic</u>	Kyrgyz, Russian
6	<u>Pakistan</u>	<u>Sunni/ Shia</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Islamic state	<u>Parliamentary democracy</u>	Urdu; English
7	<u>Tajikistan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Islamic state	<u>Presidential republic</u>	Tajik
8	<u>Turkey</u>	<u>Sunni/ Shia</u>	<u>Hanafi/ Alevi</u>	Secular	<u>Parliamentary democracy</u>	English; Turkish
9	<u>Turkmenistan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Secular	<u>Parliamentary republic</u>	Turkmen, Russian
10	<u>Uzbekistan</u>	<u>Sunni</u>	<u>Hanafi</u>	Secular	<u>Presidential republic</u>	Uzbek

It is unfortunate that countries in ECO region are badly facing the severe consequences of terrorism. The types, causes and origins of the terrorism in this region are varied: sectarian, ethnic, or political. Their root-causes may be local or international. Regardless the causes of terrorist activities, the adverse effects hamper their economies in serious ways. Though, is a proven fact that terrorism has always been failed in the history- freedom movement in Algeria,



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controlling over economic resources in Nigeria, freedom movement in India in 1857, guerrilla war by Tamils in Sri Lank, War in Vietnam, Mongo brutality in 13th century, and the guerrilla war by the companions of Hassan bin Sabah against Abbasside Empire are the example of such failures. This option was not recommended in the religious literature of Islam. Even it was not suggested by any notable scholar. There is no success in the history of Islam, which was based on guerrilla wars or terrorism. Gurrila war strategies have never been succeeded to achieve its ultimate objectives, though they can destroy the system or a region for a longer time, while a unified a lawful movement can chive the ultimate targets.

The other considerable option is the revival through Science and technology and knowledge creation activities, this always was proved a right option though currently entry in this option seems impossible not only because of unhistorical and large variation in the level of development of ECO members and Western countries. The alliance of ECO countries is a right direction to achieve the economic prosperity, while the governments of ECO countries have always been discouraging terrorists' activities.



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ECO Region in Global Context

European Union, Russia, China, India and Arab region are in surrounding of ECO countries. Like other parts of world, the boarder related issues with the surrounding countries are also usual in case of ECO countries. However, majority of their boarder related disputes are between the ECO countries.

ECO member countries are active participants in global trade and economic diplomacy and they contribute in WTO negotiations groups and other regional associations and unions. Their political and legal infrastructure are varied which reflect their political history and associations in 20th century. Majority of their boarder related disputes are also continuation of their political and social history.

An Overview of Legal Systems in ECO Countries

Country	Legal System
Afghanistan	Mixed legal system of civil, customary, and Islamic law
Azerbaijan	Civil law system
Iran	Religious legal system based on secular and Islamic law
Kazakhstan	Civil law system influenced by Roman-Germanic law and by the theory and practice of the Russian Federation
Kyrgyzstan	Civil law system which includes features of French civil law and Russian Federation laws
Pakistan	Common law system with Islamic law influence
Tajikistan	Civil law system
Turkey	Civil law system based on various European legal systems notably the Swiss civil code
Turkmenistan	Civil law system with Islamic law influences
Uzbekistan	Civil law system



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Status of implementation of ECO Trade Agreements (ECOTA)

Country	ECO Framework Agreement on Trade Cooperation		ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)	
	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Afghanistan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Azerbaijan	Yes	Yes	No	No
Iran	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kazakhstan	Yes	Yes	No	No
Kyrgyzstan	Yes	Yes	No	No
Pakistan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tajikistan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Turkey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Turkmenistan	No	No	No	No
Uzbekistan	No	No	No	No

Status of World Trade Organization (WTO) accession of ECO countries

Country	Member (date of joining)	Observer	Other
Afghanistan	√		
Azerbaijan	√		
Iran		*	
Kazakhstan	√		
Kyrgyzstan	20 December, 1998		
Pakistan	1 January, 1995		
Tajikistan	2 March, 2013		
Turkey	26 March, 1995		
Turkmenistan			Non-member and Non-observer
Uzbekistan		*	

International Disputes of ECO Countries

Afghanistan

- Afghan, Coalition, and Pakistan military meet periodically to clarify the alignment of the boundary on the ground and on maps;
- Afghan and Iranian commissioners have discussed boundary monument densification and resurvey;
- Iran protests Afghanistan's restricting flow of dammed Helmand River tributaries during drought;
- Pakistan has sent troops across and built fences along some remote tribal areas of its treaty (Durand Line) border with Afghanistan which serve as bases for foreign terrorists and other illegal activities;
- Russia remains concerned about the smuggling of poppy derivatives from Afghanistan through Central Asian countries

Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia ratified the Caspian seabed delimitation treaties based on equidistance, while Iran continues to insist on a one-fifth slice of the sea;
- Dispute over the break-away Nagorno-Karabakh region and the Armenian military occupation of surrounding lands in Azerbaijan remains the primary focus of regional instability;
- Residents have evacuated the former Soviet-era small ethnic enclaves in Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- Local border forces struggle to control the illegal transit of goods and people across the porous,
- Un-demarcated Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Georgian borders;
- Bilateral talks continue with Turkmenistan on dividing the seabed and contested oilfields in the middle of the Caspian Sea.

Iran

- Iran protests Afghanistan's limiting flow of dammed Helmand River tributaries during drought;
- Iraq's lack of a maritime boundary with Iran prompts jurisdiction disputes beyond the mouth of the Shatt al Arab in the Persian Gulf;
- Iran and UAE dispute Tunb Islands and Abu Musa Island, which are occupied by Iran;
- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia ratified Caspian seabed delimitation treaties based on equidistance, while Iran continues to insist on a one-fifth slice of the sea;
- Afghan and Iranian commissioners have discussed boundary monument densification and resurvey.



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Kazakhstan

- **Kyrgyzstan has yet to ratify the 2001 boundary delimitation with Kazakhstan;**
- **Field demarcation of the boundaries commenced with Uzbekistan in 2004 and with Turkmenistan in 2005;**
- **Ongoing demarcation with Russia began in 2007;**
- **Creation of a seabed boundary with Turkmenistan in the Caspian Sea remains under discussion;**
- **Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia ratified Caspian seabed delimitation treaties based on equidistance, while Iran continues to insist on a one-fifth slice of the sea.**

Kyrgyzstan

- **Kyrgyzstan has yet to ratify the 2001 boundary delimitation with Kazakhstan;**
- **Disputes in Isfara Valley delay completion of delimitation with Tajikistan;**
- **Delimitation of 130 km of border with Uzbekistan is hampered by serious disputes over enclaves and other areas.**

Pakistan

- **Kashmir is the site of the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute with portions under the de facto administration of China (Aksai Chin), India (Jammu and Kashmir), and Pakistan (Azad Kashmir);**
- **India does not recognize Pakistan's ceding historic Kashmir lands to China in 1964;**
- **Pakistan protests India's fencing the highly militarized Line of Control and in the Siachen glacier region;**
- **Construction of the Baglihar Dam by India on the Chenab (Pakistani) River in Jammu and Kashmir, which is part of the larger dispute on water sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries;**
- **Tensions on a maritime boundary with India,**
- **Disputed boundary in Sir Creek estuary at the mouth of the Rann of Kutch in the Arabian Sea;**
- **Pakistani maps continue to show the Junagadh claim in India's Gujarat State;**
- **Dispute with Afghanistan on remote tribal areas (Durand Line border), which serve as bases for foreign terrorists and other illegal activities;**
- **Afghan, Coalition, and Pakistan military meet periodically to clarify the alignment of the boundary on the ground and on maps**

Tajikistan

- **Talks continue with Uzbekistan to delimit border and remove minefields;**



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- **Disputes in Isfara Valley delay delimitation with Kyrgyzstan**

Turkey

- **Complex maritime, air, and territorial disputes with Greece in the Aegean Sea;**
- **Status of North Cyprus (Dispute with Greece);**
- **Syria and Iraq protest Turkish hydrological projects to control upper Euphrates waters;**
- **Turkey has expressed concern over the status of Kurds in Iraq;**
- **Diplomatic ties between Armenia and Turkey,**
- **Turkish authorities have complained that blasting from quarries in Armenia might be damaging the medieval ruins of Ani.**

Turkmenistan

- **Cotton monoculture in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan creates water-sharing difficulties for Amu Darya river states;**
- **Field demarcation of the boundaries with Kazakhstan commenced in 2005, but Caspian seabed delimitation remains stalled with Azerbaijan, Iran, and Kazakhstan due to Turkmenistan's indecision over how to allocate the sea's waters and seabed;**
- **Bilateral talks continue with Azerbaijan on dividing the seabed and contested oilfields in the middle of the Caspian.**

Uzbekistan

- **Prolonged drought and cotton monoculture in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan created water-sharing difficulties for Amu Darya river states;**
- **Border delimitation of 130 km of border with Kyrgyzstan is hampered by serious disputes around enclaves and other areas.**



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ECO Countries in the 'Negotiations Groups' by WTO member

Negotiation Groups in the WTO often speak with one voice using a single coordinator or negotiating team. Pakistan, Turkey and Kyrgyz Republic are the members of following most active 'Negotiation Groups in WTO':

Country	Groups
Kyrgyz Republic	Asian developing members, Recent new members (RAMs), Low-income economies in transition, "W52" sponsors
Pakistan	Asian developing members, Cairns group, G-20, G-33, Friends of Fish (FoFs), "W52" sponsors
Turkey	Asian developing members, G-33, Friends of A-D Negotiations (FANs), "W52" sponsors

WTO Negotiation Groups: Goals & Purposes

Groups	Issues	Countries
Asian developing members	Asian developing WTO members. Issues: General Nature: Regional	WTO members (31): Bahrain, Kingdom of, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Republic of, Kuwait, the State of, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam
Recent new members (RAMs)	Recently acceded members (RAMs), ie, countries that negotiated and joined the WTO after 1995, seeking lesser commitments in the negotiations because of the liberalization they have undertaken as part of their membership agreements. Excludes least-developed countries because they will make no new commitments, and EU members Issues: General	WTO members (18): Albania, Armenia, Cape Verde, China, Chinese Taipei, Ecuador, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Republic of, Mongolia, Oman, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of, Tonga, Ukraine, Viet Nam
Low-income economies in	Seeking to secure the same treatment as least-developed countries.	WTO members (3): Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, (Georgia



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transition	Issues: Agriculture	formally withdrew, but in the agriculture draft) Albania and Armenia are also included.
Cairns group	Coalition of agricultural exporting nations lobbying for agricultural trade liberalization. Issues: Agriculture	WTO members (19): Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay
G-20	Coalition of developing countries pressing for ambitious reforms of agriculture in developed countries with some flexibility for developing countries (not to be confused with the G-20 group of finance ministers and central bank governors) Issues: Agriculture	WTO members (23): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic, Zimbabwe
G-33	Also called “Friends of Special Products” in agriculture. Coalition of developing countries pressing for flexibility for developing countries to undertake limited market opening in agriculture Issues: Agriculture	WTO members (46): Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, China, Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Republic of, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Friends of A-D Negotiations (FANs)	Coalition seeking more disciplines on the use of anti-dumping measures Issues: Rules (anti-dumping)	WTO members (15): Brazil, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, China, Israel, Japan, Korea, Republic of, Mexico, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey
Friends of Fish (FoFs)	Informal coalition seeking to significantly reduce fisheries subsidies. Issues: Rules (fisheries subsidies)	WTO members (11): Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, United States
“W52” sponsors	A proposal for “modalities” in negotiations on geographical indications (the multilateral register for wines and spirits, and extending the higher level of protection beyond wines and spirits) and “disclosure” (patent applicants to disclose the origin of genetic resources and traditional knowledge used in the inventions). Issues: Intellectual property (TRIPS)	WTO members (109): Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican



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		Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Republic of, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe
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Simple average of import duties applied by ECO countries

Country	All goods	Agricultural goods	Non-agricultural goods
Afghanistan	5.9	7.1	5.7
Azerbaijan	9.1	13.4	8.3
Iran	26.6	30.4	26.1
Kazakhstan	9.5	13.4	8.8
Kyrgyzstan	4.6	7.4	4.2
Pakistan	13.5	15.5	13.2
Tajikistan	7.8	10.8	7.3
Turkey	9.6	41.2	4.8
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan	15.4	19.2	14.9



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Political Economy and Path for Development

The economic cooperation between these countries is not a goal; in fact it is a mean to reach at the goal of economic prosperity. Today's economic cooperation may lead the economic integration and possible economic unification in future, which may revive the economic history of the region by providing a big market, sharing resources and participation in economic activities.

In addition to sizeable human resources, ECO Countries possess significant natural resources. Pakistan has strong textile base and the 5th largest milk producer, Iran and Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan have Oil & Gas reserves while Afghanistan enriched with precious and semi precious gems and famous for hand-woven carpets. Uzbekistan has gold and mineral resources. Kyrgyzstan is naturally endowed with Uranium and precious metal. Tajikistan blessed by nature with minerals and Turkey is one of the largest exporters of transport equipments.

Despite of the common geography, history and cultural relations, their economic relations have insignificant volume. The trade of European Union countries within the bloc is 66 percent of their total external trade. This ratio is 56 percent in case of NAFTA, but 8 percent only in case of ECO. The flow of goods, services, capital and labor is very common and significant in European countries. It is uncommon in ECO countries.

Since the establishment of ECO after RCD, intra-ECO trade within members is insignificant as compared with the potential available. It is unfortunate that only a small part of the resources is being exploited currently while a large part of natural resources is yet to be exploited which has resulted in sluggish growth in trade and economy.

What are the causes that socio-cultural relations among the ECO member countries were not being transformed into the economic relations? The economic relations are derived on the basis of demand and supply of goods, and the factors of production. The patterns of the demand of goods and services are remaining always in changing. The patterns of demand depend on the requirements of the time. One cannot boost trade relations by selling of grain in a market of high tech products. The trade relation cannot be enhanced by offering vegetables and fruits in a market where newly invented pharmaceuticals are the demanding products. One cannot establish sustainable trade relations by offering primary products in a market of newly invented communication instruments. The new products, new technology and new processes require the development of knowledge-based economies.

To enhance the economic relations among the ECO member countries on sustainable basis, first they will have to develop the knowledge-based economies. The second step to revolutionize the trade relations is the flow of information for the availability of desirable goods, services and factors of production (including labor, investable funds, entrepreneur skills and land of



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opportunities). The faster, feasible and unbreakable transportation and communication linkages can transform this information. It is another weaker area in ECO countries.

Here, it is also notable that the most important country from the linkages point of view in the region is Afghanistan; it provides a link between South Asia and Central Asia. Though, Afghanistan is a landlocked country, it is much important than many sea port countries, because it provides a link to six landlocked central Asian states with the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean through Pakistan. It can provide a trade link between 6 central Asian and 7 South Asian countries. Its land route (and construction of railways in the country) can change the fortune of entire region. The dramatic growth and development and economic prosperity in the lives of Afghan peoples can be achieved by linking central Asian states to Arabian Sea via Pakistan.

The fortune of Afghan Transit Trade, the means of energy production, Gwadar port, Free Trade with India, SAARC, ECO, and all mega projects are based on peace and interconnectivity in ECO region.

The model for a sustainable development in ECO region requires economic integration among the countries in this region. A limited linkage in the form of PTA, FTA or transit trade agreement cannot revolutionize the development activities in the region. Such integration suggests frictionless cross boarder relations among the peoples, which cover development and efficient linkages in transportations, communications, and peoples. The role of academia and higher education is also important in this way. The academic institution including media can promote the implications of such integrations, while exchange of views in academia, media and public life, and students are also required. The last important factor is the requirement of the flow of investments, in the form of debt, equities and transnational corporations (MNCs).

The unity and simultaneous growth of the countries in a region has been discussed various statesmen and scholars. The formation of economic bloc is not a zero sum game. It is not the summation of various zeros. It leads the joint use of the resources to achieve synergy and initiating the formation of a bloc or economic union.

Important evidence is the effect of one country's development on the other countries in the region or blocs. Economic history describes the effect of one country's economic development on others. Countries in Europe have been growing jointly. Communist countries have been facing problems simultaneously. The leading country of the bloc affects the development of the other country. Cause of development is not jointed, but effect of development is jointed. The best strategy for the ECO world is not to grow together; it will not work but mislead and derail the nations. The best strategy to develop the leading nation of the bloc, the development of leading nation will provide the development ingredients to the other countries of the bloc.

The understanding of the differences between the development indicators and the cause of development is an important and required task for the policy makers in the region. Even causes of development are different from its catalysts. The formation of an economic union or bloc may be a catalyst for development which can accelerate the development process. The formation of an economic bloc belongs to the acceleration of development process. The causes of



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development will be determined and provided as a first step, while formation of the union will be a second step.

Availability of Natural Resources

	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Antimony							√	√		
Arable Land							√	√		
Barite							√			
Bauxite		√		√						
Bismuth					√					
Borate							√			
Celestite							√			
Chrome Ore				√						
Chromites	√									
Chromium			√				√			
Clay							√			
Coal	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√
Cobalt										
Copper	√		√	√		√		√		√
Earth Metal					√					
Gold				√	√		√	√		√
Hydropower					√		√			
Iron Ore	√	√	√	√		√		√		
Land						√				
Lead	√		√	√	√		√			√
Lime Stone						√				
Magnesite							√			
Manganese			√	√						
Marble							√			
Mercury					√		√			
Molybdenum				√						√
Natural Gas	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√
Nepheline					√					
Nickel										
Nonferrous Metals		√								
Oil					√					
Perlite							√			
Petroleum	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√
Precious And Semiprecious Stones	√									
Salt	√					√			√	
Silver							√			√
Sulfur	√		√				√	√		
Talc, Barites	√									
Tungsten							√			√
Uranium				√			√			√
Zinc	√		√	√	√		√			√

Agriculture Production

	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Beef						√				
Berries					√					
Cattle		√			√		√			
Caviar			√							
Citrus							√			
Cotton		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
Dairy Products			√							
Egg						√				
Fruits	√	√	√		√	√	√			√
Goats		√			√		√			
Grains		√		√			√	√	√	√
Grapes		√								
Grapes					√		√			
Hazelnuts								√		
Lambskins	√									
Livestock				√			√	√	√	√
Melons				√					√	
Milk						√				
Mutton	√					√				
Nuts	√									
Nuts			√							
Olives								√		
Opium	√									
Others Grains			√							
Pigs		√								
Potatoes				√	√					
Pulses								√		
Rice		√	√			√				
Sheep		√			√		√			
Sheepskins	√									
Sugar Beets			√					√		
Sugarcane			√			√				
Tea		√								
Tobacco		√			√			√		
Vegetables		√		√	√		√			√
Wheat	√		√			√				
Wool	√				√					



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Manufacturing Industries

	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Agriculture machinery				√						
Aluminum							√			
Apparel						√				
Apparel	√									
Armaments			√							
Automobiles							√			
Bauxite				√						
Bricks	√									
Carpets	√									
Caustic soda			√				√			
Cement	√	√	√		√		√			
Chemicals		√								√
Chromite				√						
Coal	√			√						
Construction							√			
Construction materials				√		√				
Copper	√			√						
Electric motors				√	√					
Electronics							√			
Ferrous and non Ferrous Fabrication			√							
Fertilizer	√		√			√				
Food processing			√		√	√			√	√
Food Products	√									
Furniture	√				√					
Gold				√	√					
Handwoven	√									
Hydrocarbon extractions										√
Iron				√						
Iron ore		√		√						
Lead				√						
Lumber							√			
Machine building										√
Manganese				√						
Metallurgy										√
Mineral water	√									
mining							√			√
Natural gas	√	√							√	
Non-alcoholic beverages	√									
Oil				√					√	
Oilfield equipment		√								
Paper & paper product						√	√			
Petrochemicals		√	√							
Petroleum		√	√				√			
petroleum products		√							√	
Pharmaceutical						√				



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Phosphates				√						
Rare earth material					√					
Refrigerators					√					
Sawn logs					√					
Shoes	√				√					
Shrimps						√				
Silver				√						
Small machinery					√					
Soap	√									
Steel		√		√				√		
Sulfur				√						
Textiles	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√
Titanium				√						
Tractor				√						
Uranium				√						
Vegetable oil							√			
Zinc				√						

Key Economic Indicators

Country	Population (millions)	GDP (US\$ billions)	GDP Per capita (US\$)	GDP (PPP) as share (%) of world total	Stage of Development (1-5)
Afghanistan	31.3	20.3	649	--	--
Azerbaijan	9.4	74.1	7,902	0.12	1-2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	78.0	404.1	5,183	1.20	1-2
Kazakhstan	17.4	212.3	12,184	0.28	2-3
Kyrgyzstan	5.5	6.5	1,158	0.02	1
Pakistan	186.3	250.1	1,343	0.62	1
Tajikistan	8.1	9.2	2,700	--	--
Turkey	73.6	794.5	10,609	1.35	2-3
Turkmenistan	5.2	47.9	14,200	--	--
Uzbekistan	30.6	62.6	2,046	--	--

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of ECO Countries

Year/ Country	GDP at current prices (Mln US\$)				% of World GDP
	2000	2005	2011	2014	
Afghanistan	2,778	6,275	18,034	20,300	1.1
Azerbaijan	5,273	13,245	63,404	74,100	3.9
Iran	101,287	192,015	514,060	404,100	21.3
Kazakhstan	18,292	57,124	188,050	212,300	11.2
Kyrgyzstan	1,370	2,460	6,198	7,402	0.4
Pakistan	73,952	109,600	210,741	250,100	13.2
Tajikistan	861	2,312	6,522	9,242	0.5
Turkey	266,568	482,980	774,775	806,100	42.6
Turkmenistan	2,905	8,104	28,062	47,930	2.5
Uzbekistan	13,760	14,308	45,324	62,600	3.3
ECO Region	487,044	888,423	1,855,169	1,894,174	100

Merchandise Trade of ECO Region

	1994	2000	2005	2010	2012	2014
ECO Region (Bln US\$)	110	175	408	697	865	1073
ECO/World (%)	1.26	1.33	1.91	2.26	2.34	2.42

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of ECO Countries

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	2000	2005	2011	2014	
Afghanistan	2,778	6,275	18,034	20,300	1.1
Azerbaijan	5,273	13,245	63,404	74,100	3.9
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ECO Region	487,044	888,423	1,855,169	1,894,174	100

GDP Per Capita of ECO Countries

Country	GDP per capita (US\$)					
	1992	1995	2000	2005	2011	2014
Afghanistan	88	93	107	252	620	649
Azerbaijan	676	397	655	1,578	6,912	7,902
Iran	973	1,502	1,537	2,737	6,816	5,183
Kazakhstan	1,515	1,288	1,229	3,771	11,357	12,184
Kyrgyzstan	513	364	280	476	1,124	1,158
Pakistan	415	479	514	694	1,196	1,343
Tajikistan	346	213	139	340	835	2,700
Turkey	2,850	2,896	4,220	7,130	10,605	10,609
Turkmenistan	824	593	645	1,707	5,495	14,200
Uzbekistan	604	586	558	547	1,545	2,046
ECO Region	1,015	1,109	1,343	2,264	4,283	4,253

Global Competitiveness Index (World Economic Forum)

Country	GCI 2013–2014		Basic requirements		Efficiency enhancers		Innovation and sophistication factors	
	Rank (out of 148)	Score (1-7)	Rank (out of 148)	Score (1-7)	Rank (out of 148)	Score (1-7)	Rank (out of 148)	Score (1-7)
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Azerbaijan	39	4.5	44	4.9	66	4.1	60	3.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	82	4.1	75	4.5	98	3.7	86	3.4
Kazakhstan	50	4.4	48	4.9	53	4.3	87	3.4
Kyrgyzstan	121	3.6	122	3.7	118	3.4	140	2.7
Pakistan	133	3.4	142	3.3	104	3.6	78	3.5
Tajikistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Turkey	44	4.5	56	4.8	45	4.4	47	3.9
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Human Development Index

Country	HDI		Life expectancy at birth (years)	Mean years of schooling (years)	Expected years of schooling (years)
	Rank	value			
Afghanistan	172	0.398	48.7	3.3	9.1
Azerbaijan	91	0.700	70.7	8.6	11.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	88	0.707	73.0	7.3	12.7
Kazakhstan	68	0.745	67.0	10.4	15.1
Kyrgyzstan	126	0.615	67.7	9.3	12.5
Pakistan	145	0.504	65.4	4.9	6.9
Tajikistan	127	0.607	67.5	9.8	11.4
Turkey	92	0.699	74.0	6.5	11.8
Turkmenistan	102	0.686	65.0	9.9	12.5
Uzbekistan	115	0.641	68.3	10.0	11.4

Labor Force Structure

	Labor force participation rate				Labor force (ages 15 and older)			Labor force growth (%)
	Male		Female		Total		Female	
	% ages 15 and older		% ages 15 and older		millions		% of labor force	
	2000	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013	2013	
Afghanistan	81	80	13	16	4.8	8.0	15.9	3.6
Azerbaijan	72	70	57	63	3.6	4.9	48.9	2.4
Iran	74	74	14	17	18.9	26.6	18.3	1.8
Kazakhstan	76	78	65	68	7.5	9.2	49.3	1.7
Kyrgyz Republic	74	80	56	56	2.1	2.7	42.6	2.1
Pakistan	84	83	16	25	41.5	63.6	22.1	3.3
Tajikistan	75	77	58	59	2.3	3.6	43.3	3.2
Turkey	73	71	26	29	21.4	27.4	30.7	2.2
Turkmenistan	74	77	48	47	1.7	2.3	39.2	2.2
Uzbekistan	72	76	47	48	9.3	13.3	40.3	2.8
World	79	77	52	50	2,773.5	3,337.3	39.6	1.4
Low income	84	83	71	72	178.5	262.8	47.3	3.0
Middle income	81	78	51	48	1,981.6	2,389.0	37.5	1.3
High income	71	69	51	53	613.4	685.5	44.2	0.9

Patterns of Trade Balance (2014)

Country	Value (Million US\$)			Percentage (%)			Regional share (%)		
	Exports	Imports	Total	Exports	Imports	Total	Exports	Imports	Total
Afghanistan	535	7,800	8,335	6.4	93.6	100.0	0.1	1.8	1.0
Azerbaijan	29,400	9,000	38,400	76.6	23.4	100	7.1	2.1	4.5
Iran	88,800	52,000	140,800	63.1	36.9	100	21.5	12.0	16.6
Kazakhstan	78,238	41,213	119,451	65.5	34.5	100	19.0	9.5	14.1
Kyrgyzstan	1,500	5,500	7,000	21.4	78.6	100	0.4	1.3	0.8
Pakistan	24,714	47,636	72,350	34.2	65.8	100	6.0	11.0	8.5
Tajikistan	1,180	4,520	5,700	20.7	79.3	100	0.3	1.0	0.7
Turkey	157,642	242,183	399,825	39.4	60.6	100	38.2	55.8	47.2
Turkmenistan	17,500	10,300	27,800	62.9	37.1	100	4.2	2.4	3.3
Uzbekistan	13,300	13,900	27,200	48.9	51.1	100	3.2	3.2	3.2
ECO Region	412,809	434,052	846,861	48.7	51.3	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Composition of Exports by Commodities in 2014 (%)

	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Agricultural products	25.6	1.3	3	1.9	13.2	11.4	...	5.9	...	11.7
Food	25.3	1.3	2.8	1.8	11	9.6	...	5.7	...	4.8
Fuels and mining products	0	48.3	40	45	13.1	1.9	...	5.1	...	32.7
Fuels	0	47.4	38.4	37.8	8.7	0.8	...	2.8	...	26.9
Manufactures	24.6	0.8	8.8	6.8	26.7	42.5	...	40.8	...	14.8
Iron and steel	0	0.2	0.7	3.4	1.3	0.4	...	5	...	0
Chemicals	0	0.4	4.6	2.1	1	2.1	...	3	...	4.2
Pharmaceuticals	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.4	...	0.3	...	0
Machinery and transport equipment	0	0.1	0.8	0.8	10.4	0.9	...	14.2	...	5
Office and telecom equipment	0	0	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	...	1	...	0
Electronic data processing and office equipment	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	...	0.1	...	0
Telecommunications equipment	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.1	...	0.9	...	0
Integrated circuits and electronic components	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0	...	0
Automotive products	0	0	0.2	0	5.9	0.1	...	5.6	...	0
Textiles	24.6	0.1	0.5	0	0.7	20	...	4.2	...	0
Clothing	0	0	0	0	7.8	9.7	...	5.4	...	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	...	100	...	100

Composition of Imports by Commodity in 2014 (%)

	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
Agricultural products	6.3	8.5	13.3	5	7.9	7.5	...	3.8	...	0
Food	6.3	7.4	11.8	4.7	7.2	5.5	...	2.4	...	10.7
Fuels and mining products	36.3	1.4	1.4	6.4	11.2	19.5	...	15.9	...	16.4
Fuels	36.3	0.4	0.7	5.4	10.7	18.2	...	11.5	...	7.9
Manufactures	9.8	40.9	34	38.3	29.9	22.7	...	30.9	...	0
Iron and steel	0	4.6	6.5	4	2.1	1.6	...	2.6	...	0
Chemicals	1.1	5.1	6.4	5.1	5	7.5	...	6.8	...	15.7
Pharmaceuticals	0	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.9	...	1	...	0
Machinery and transport equipment	0.2	21.4	15.6	19	12.5	9.3	...	14.4	...	49.3
Office and telecom equipment	0.2	1.7	3	2.9	1.2	2.1	...	2.4	...	0
Electronic data processing and office equipment	0	0.5	1.4	1.2	0.3	0.3	...	0.8	...	0
Telecommunications equipment	0.2	1.1	1.5	1.6	0.9	1.7	...	1.4	...	0
Integrated circuits and electronic components	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	...	0.2	...	0
Automotive products	0	5.1	2.2	3.5	6	1.7	...	3.8	...	0
Textiles	2.6	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.2	...	1.5	...	0
Clothing	0.5	0.2	0	0.8	2.2	0.1	...	0.6	...	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	...	100	...	100



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Direction of Trade

	Exports						Imports					
	To developing economies, Within region		To developing economies, Outside region		To high-income economies		From developing economies, Within region		From developing economies, Outside region		From high-income economies	
	% of total merchandise exports						% of total merchandise imports					
	2003	2013	2003	2013	2003	2013	2003	2013	2003	2013	2003	2013
Afghanistan	30.8	60.3	6.9	15.9	62.3	23.8	36.7	33.8	22.7	27.4	40.6	38.8
Azerbaijan	11.9	7	3.4	29.4	84.7	63.6	25.7	25.2	12.2	13.3	62.1	61.4
Iran, Islamic Rep.	0.3	2	24.9	52.8	60	19.8	1.1	0.2	22.4	39.6	73.3	58.3
Kazakhstan	9.4	13.5	18.6	26.1	71.7	60.3	10.6	11.6	9.8	27	79.4	61.4
Kyrgyz Republic	20.4	66.6	..	..	73.7	20.5	36.4	16.4	12.9	53	50.6	30.6
Pakistan	6.3	12.4	13.7	27.4	79.5	58.3	2.7	5.2	22.7	38.4	73.3	55.9
Tajikistan	35.2	47.3	..	..	56.6	18.1	55.6	25.5	..	..	32.4	26.5
Turkey	7.2	11.3	12.1	27.4	75	58.5	5.8	6.4	16.4	23.7	75.9	64
Turkmenistan	47.7	10.4	..	..	27.2	14.2	37.1	35.9	..	..	46.5	44.8
Uzbekistan	26.9	35.5	..	..	52.8	23.4	21.4	21.8	..	..	70.8	55.8



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Significance of Pakistan in ECO

Pakistan is a founding member of ECO; though it is classified as a South Asian country. Sometimes it is included in central Asian countries by some international organizations. Even, it has been included in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) by the reputable international organization (like IFC).

The history of Pakistan cannot be readable in isolation from ECO countries; it is integrated with the history of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The heroes are same, and the villains are same, the characters in mythology and fictions are same. It may be interesting to note that Bukhari, Gillani, Gardezi, Samarkandi, Sherazi, Chishti, Khurasani, Afghani, and Sabzwari, etc. are the very common surnames of the millions of Pakistanis showing their originations in central Asian cities. There are thousands of the places in Pakistan having their names in the names of Turk, Uzbek, Afghan and Iranian leaders and places. All of these are the indicators of a common heritage. Herat, Chisht, Balkh, Ghore, Ghazni, Kandooz, Qandahar, Samarkand, Bukhara, Oash, Bako, Ashgabat Tashkent, and Khurasan are the region and cities which cannot be disassociated from the lives of Pakistani Muslims.

It is a fact that land of the central Asia (particularly Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan) is important from the religious point of view also for Pakistanis. From the Islamic history point of view it is the second important region after Hejaz in Saudi Arabia. South Asian Muslims give extreme importance to the central Asian region because of their religion history. In fact, Pakistan is an offshoot of the Central Asian Muslim countries including Afghanistan and Iran and to some extent Turkey. This is the reason that Afghanistan cannot be isolated from Pakistan, while it is an historical fact that Kabul and Ghazni have been parts of the Delhi Muslim Empire (instigation of Pakistan). To perform the activities of a great economic union in the South and Central Asia, peace in Afghanistan is a primary requirement. It provides historical root and a central location.

The inter-linked linguistic structure tells the story of the route of Islam in the region and transformation of culture. Pakistan is the ultimate outcome of the centuries' old and long history of the preaching by Arab Muslims, transformation of Persian culture and Mongol invasion. It is interesting to note that South and Central Asian Muslim can speak in same pronunciation as in Arabic but surprisingly they follow Persian pronunciation even in reading the Holy Quran. This is the centuries old tradition. The Arabic word '*sala*' is known in Pakistan as '*Namaz*' because Persians call it *Namaz*. The Arabic word '*Soam*' is known in Pakistan as '*Roza*' because Persians call it '*Roza*'. The national anthem of Pakistan is in Persian language. The national language of Pakistan is Urdu. The word 'Urdu' itself is a Turkish word. The peoples of Pakistan (before separation from India) recorded their vote in favor of Ottoman Empire, now they give honor and respect to Mustafa Kamal Ata Turk. Istanbul Forum, Three Parties Alliance (Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan) and the inclination of Turkey towards sustainable solution of Philistine issue, and taking special interest in Afghan affairs indicate the revival of Turkey's role in the region.



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Intersection of Two (South and Central) Asias

Country	SAARC Member	South Asian country by UNCTAD	MENA by IFC	ECO Member
Afghanistan	√	√		√
Azerbaijan				√
Bangladesh	√	√		
Bhutan	√	√		
India	√	√		
Iran		√	√	√
Kazakhstan				√
Kyrgyzstan				√
Maldives	√	√		
Nepal	√	√		
Pakistan	√	√	√	√
Sri Lanka	√	√		
Tajikistan				√
Turkey				√
Turkmenistan				√
Uzbekistan				√



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ECO- CCI was founded by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, and Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in 1990, in order to promote commercial, industrial and economic cooperation among member states. Today, ECO-CCI has 10 members. Apart from the above mentioned members the other 7 members respectively are the Chambers of commerce and Industry of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey established the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI) in 1990 in accordance with Article 30 of the Treaty of Izmir. (1977). This was preceded by the signing of the statutes of the ECO CCI by the Heads of National Chambers of the founding members in 1989 in Istanbul. Soon after. National Committees of ECO CCI were also established by the National Chambers of the signatory Member States. The aims and objectives of ECO CCI as per its statute are to facilitate trade and economic cooperation and promote closer relations between the business communities of the member states.

Under the auspices of ECO, ECO-CCI aims at crating common policies and delivering suggestions. ECO-CCI aims at becoming an institution pursuing the goals of formulating policies, guiding world business circles and leading the society in the region. ECO- CCI dedicates its efforts to long-term benefits for the ECO region rather than short-term achievements and produces concrete projects in accordance with the mutual interest of member states.

To this end, a work program is initiated and the activities to be carried out are designed according to the needs and interest of our countries. Some of the activities such as the Business Forum and buyers/sellers meetings are being institutionalized and held on a regular basis. The ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, meets annually and provides a valuable platform for the interaction and dialogue amongst the business communities of the ECO region.

ECO CCI Committees:

- ECO-CCI Trade Facilitation
- ECO-CCI Industry & Investment
- ECO-CCI Transportation
- ECO-CCI Tourism
- ECO-CCI Arbitration
- ECO-CCI Women Entrepreneur



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

ECO-CCI Business Rating Program:

It was recommended that the national chambers of the member countries be entrusted to provide due information of their country's companies for due rating under the ECO Business Rating Program (BRP). The program is titled as ECO-CCI Business Rating Program, which intends to "rate" businesses aiming to improve and facilitate trade among the member states.

Three primary goals have been taken into consideration for this project and rating model is supposed to support these targets. These objectives are:

- Making a distinction between businesses through the application of scientific methods and fair ratings.
- Facilitating trade relations through appropriate notification of members' ranks.
- Providing the members with reliable grounds for granting special privileges.

Having this point of view, rating model is said to be an idealized scheme of public expectations of eco-active business and also guidance to achieve common goals in the region.

This project expects to review the duties of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also employ an appropriate patron for this Chamber in order to accomplish good performance and professional duties. These are set forth in the statute as follows:

- Assisting in the development of economic cooperation, including trade, industry, agriculture, tourism, contracts, engineering services and banking companies of the private sector with the establishment of closer links between the member countries
- Encouraging the highest authorities of the member states to increase trade between the countries and the governments
- Arranging meetings between those involved in economical-industrial affairs of the countries
- Providing recommendations for the development of trade and industry between the private sectors of member countries to the governments
- Synchronizing business processes in order to improve the economic trade between the member states
- Collecting and disseminating statistical information on the member states in economical-industrial fields
- Holding common exhibitions, meetings and conferences intended to develop trade and economic relations between member states.
- Conducting market research surveys for manufactured and consumable goods among the countries and also developing the respective reciprocating activities.
- Ensuring coordination of member states' standards and common measures adoptions by the cooperation of these countries' governments to establish cooperation among the preferential trade system.

All the above, are not going to be possible except in the context of developing a common database for the ECO companies and reviews of the basic information about each firm consisting of their ratings and announcements.



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The very function of ECO Chamber is to provide business information to the members of the member countries and to facilitate the process further more. Considering this view, the project is a suitable context to develop the trade of member countries using some ways as offering ranks, determining the extent of their authority, and presenting the initial report of the conditions of each party in order to boost professional business communication.

There was an effort to design a ranking model, using an integrated logic, systematic view, experiences at the international level and some activities were also carried out in this regard in Iran in order to benefit from the best way to gather information, so that companies could easily examine the general status of their firm by contributing basic information, yet important and influential of their own firm.



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Specialized Information & Statistical Supplements

Domestic Environment for Arbitrations and Dispute Resolutions

Dealing with construction permits

Country	Dealing with construction permits (rank)	Procedures (number)	Time (days)	Cost (% of income per capita)
Afghanistan	167	12	330	3,247.3
Azerbaijan	180	28	212	282.3
Iran	169	16	319.5	224.7
Kazakhstan	145	29	157	87.3
Kyrgyzstan	66	12	142	128.7
Pakistan	109	11	222	190.4
Tajikistan	184	24	228	604.5
Turkey	148	20	164	142.5
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	154	22	256	46.7

Enforcing contracts

Country	Enforcing contracts (rank)	Procedures (number)	Time (days)	Cost (% of claim)
Afghanistan	168	47	1,642	25.0
Azerbaijan	28	40	237	18.5
Iran	51	40	505	17.0
Kazakhstan	27	37	370	22.0
Kyrgyzstan	70	38	260	37.0
Pakistan	158	46	976	23.8
Tajikistan	39	35	430	25.5
Turkey	38	36	420	24.9
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	105	41	725	19.0



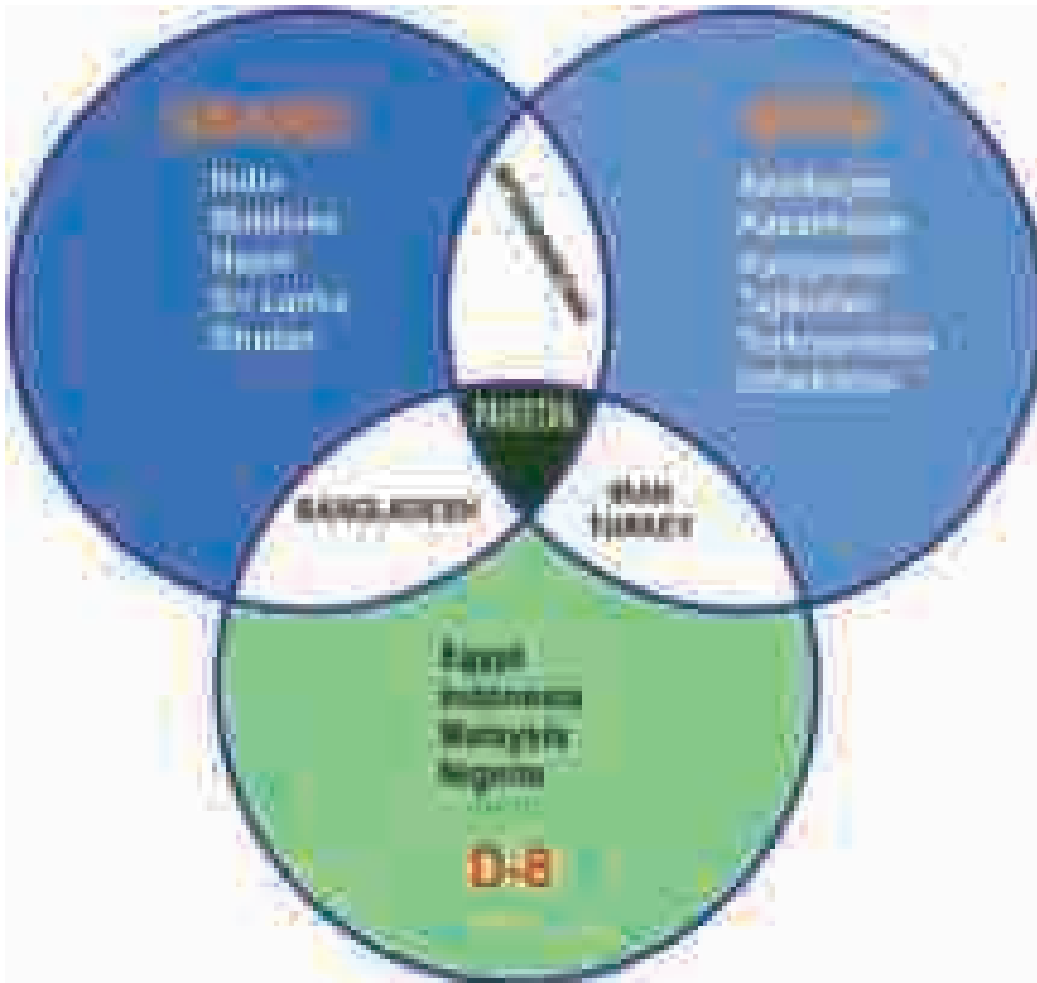
ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Resolving insolvency

Country	Resolving insolvency (rank)	Time (years)	Cost (% of estate)	Recovery rate (cents on the dollar)
Afghanistan	115	2.0	25	26.5
Azerbaijan	86	2.3	8	34.0
Iran	129	4.5	9	22.4
Kazakhstan	24	1.5	15	43.2
Kyrgyzstan	132	4.0	15	21.7
Pakistan	71	2.8	4	37.7
Tajikistan	81	1.7	9	35.8
Turkey	130	3.3	15	22.3
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	51	1.8	7	45.1



Pakistan: the intersection of SAARC, ECO and D-8





ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Trade and Industry

Most problematic factors for trade (Percent of responses)

Exports Problematic Factors

Azerbaijan

- Difficulties in meeting quality/quantity requirements of buyers 19.7
- Inappropriate production technology and skills 14.5
- Technical requirements and standards abroad 13.1

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

- Identifying potential markets and buyers 19.9
- Access to trade finance 18.0
- Inappropriate production technology and skills 13.9

Kazakhstan

- Identifying potential markets and buyers 16.0
- Inappropriate production technology and skills 12.9
- Difficulties in meeting quality/quantity requirements of buyers 12.2

Kyrgyzstan

- Burdensome procedures and corruption at foreign borders 15.8
- Inappropriate production technology and skills 15.0
- Technical requirements and standards abroad 14.5

Pakistan

- Identifying potential markets and buyers 16.1
- Access to trade finance 14.5
- Access to imported inputs at competitive prices 13.2

Tajikistan

- Identifying potential markets and buyers 18.0
- High cost or delays caused by domestic transportation 14.1
- Inappropriate production technology and skills 12.8

Turkey

- Access to imported inputs at competitive prices 25.1
- High cost or delays caused by international transportation 12.8
- Identifying potential markets and buyers 10.9



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Most problematic factors for trade (Percent of responses)

Imports Problematic Factors

Azerbaijan

- Corruption at the border 26.1
- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 24.7
- Burdensome import procedures 19.0

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 30.0
- Burdensome import procedures 26.0
- Domestic technical requirements and standards 11.9

Kazakhstan

- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 22.5
- Burdensome import procedures 17.9
- High cost or delays caused by international transportation 16.3

Kyrgyzstan

- Corruption at the border 26.3
- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 18.2
- Burdensome import procedures 13.7

Pakistan

- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 25.5
- Burdensome import procedures 19.8
- Corruption at the border 16.7

Tajikistan

- High cost or delays caused by international transportation 21.2
- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 21.0
- Corruption at the border 15.9

Turkey

- Burdensome import procedures 26.5
- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers 24.0
- High cost or delays caused by international transportation 18.8

- High cost or delays caused by international transportation18.8

Enabling Trade Index

Country	Enabling Trade Index		Market access		Border administration		Transport & communications infrastructure		Business environment	
	Rank (out of 132)	Score (1-7)	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Azerbaijan	81	3.8	57	4.1	107	3.1	69	3.8	59	4.4
Iran	117	3.3	132	2.2	96	3.4	82	3.6	83	4.0
Kazakhstan	105	3.5	120	3.2	127	2.6	45	4.3	89	3.9
Kyrgyzstan	111	3.4	39	4.4	125	2.6	98	3.3	116	3.4
Pakistan	116	3.4	128	2.9	71	3.9	95	3.4	123	3.3
Tajikistan	110	3.4	100	3.7	128	2.5	92	3.4	72	4.2
Turkey	62	4.1	51	4.2	63	4.1	47	4.3	86	3.9
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Paying taxes

Country	Paying taxes (rank)	Payments (number per year)	Time (hours per year)	Total tax rate (% of profit)
Afghanistan	98	20	275	36.5
Azerbaijan	77	18	214	40.0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	139	20	344	44.1
Kazakhstan	18	7	188	28.6
Kyrgyzstan	127	51	210	33.4
Pakistan	166	47	577	34.7
Tajikistan	178	69	224	86.0
Turkey	71	11	226	40.2
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	146	33	310	41.9

Starting a business

Country	Starting a business (rank)	Procedures (number)	Time (days)	Cost (% of income per capita)	Minimum capital (% of income per capita)
Afghanistan	24	3	5	14.4	0.0
Azerbaijan	10	3	7	1.0	0.0
Iran	107	8	16	3.1	0.4
Kazakhstan	30	6	12	0.6	0.0
Kyrgyzstan	12	2	8	2.7	0.0
Pakistan	105	10	21	10.4	0.0
Tajikistan	87	5	33	25.6	0.0
Turkey	93	6	6	12.7	13.2
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	21	4	8.5	3.5	0.0

Getting electricity

Country	Getting electricity (rank)	Procedures (number)	Time (days)	Cost (% of income per capita)
Afghanistan	104	4	109	1,731.7
Azerbaijan	181	9	241	570.8
Iran	169	7	140	694.9
Kazakhstan	87	6	88	65.3
Kyrgyzstan	180	7	159	2,256.4
Pakistan	175	6	206	1,600.9
Tajikistan	186	9	185	1,077.4
Turkey	49	4	70	475.3
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	23	5	48	16.5

Registering property

Country	Registering property (rank)	Procedures (number)	Time (days)	Cost (% of property value)
Afghanistan	175	9	250	5.0
Azerbaijan	13	4	11	0.5
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	168	9	36	10.6
Kazakhstan	18	4	23	0.1
Kyrgyzstan	9	4	6	0.3
Pakistan	125	6	50	7.7
Tajikistan	78	6	37	4.1
Turkey	50	6	6	4.0
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	167	8	66	7.1

Getting credit

Country	Getting credit (rank)	Strength of legal rights index (0–10)	Depth of credit information index (0–6)	Public registry coverage (% of adults)	Private bureau coverage (% of adults)
Afghanistan	130	7	0	0.0	0.0
Azerbaijan	55	6	5	23.0	0.0
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	86	4	5	41.6	33.3
Kazakhstan	86	4	5	0.0	45.6
Kyrgyzstan	13	10	4	0.0	32.1
Pakistan	73	6	4	8.0	2.1
Tajikistan	159	2	4	0.0	2.1
Turkey	86	4	5	27.0	71.7
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	73	4	6	80.2	100.0

Protecting investors

Country	Protecting investors (rank)	Extent of disclosure index (0–10)	Extent of director liability index (0–10)	Ease of shareholder suits index (0–10)	Strength of investor protection index (0–10)
Afghanistan	189	1	1	1	1.0
Azerbaijan	22	7	5	8	6.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	147	7	4	0	3.7
Kazakhstan	22	7	6	7	6.7
Kyrgyzstan	22	7	5	8	6.7
Pakistan	34	6	6	7	6.3
Tajikistan	22	8	6	6	6.7
Turkey	34	9	5	5	6.3
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	98	3	4	8	5.0

Employing Workers

	Difficulty of hiring				Rigidity of hours							Difficulty of redundancy							Redundancy cost		
	Fixed-term contracts prohibited for permanent tasks?	Maximum length of fixed-term contracts (months)	Minimum wage for a 19-year old worker or an apprentice (US\$/month)	Ratio of minimum wage to value added per worker	50-hour workweek allowed?	Maximum working days per week	Premium for night work (% of hourly pay)	Premium for work on weekly rest day (% of hourly pay)	Major restrictions on night work?	Major restrictions on weekly holiday work?	Paid annual leave (working days)	Dismissal due to redundancy allowed by law?	Third-party notification if 1 worker is dismissed?	Third-party approval if 1 worker is dismissed?	Third-party notification if 9 workers are dismissed?	Third-party approval if 9 workers are dismissed?	Retraining or reassignment?	Priority rules for redundancies?	Priority rules for reemployment?	Notice period for redundancy dismissal (weeks of salary)	Severance pay for redundancy dismissal (weeks of salary)
Afghanistan	No	No limit	0.0	0.00	Yes	6.0	25	50	No	No	20.0	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	4.3	17.3
Azerbaijan	No	60	112.5	0.16	Yes	6.0	40	150	Yes	No	17.0	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	8.7	13.0
Iran	No	No limit	4,000.9	4.73	Yes	6.0	23	40	No	No	24.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	0.0	23.1
Kazakhstan	No	No limit	117.9	0.10	Yes	6.0	50	100	No	No	18.0	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	4.3	4.3
Kyrgyzstan	Yes	60	16.3	0.13	Yes	6.0	50	100	No	No	20.0	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	4.3	13.0
Pakistan	Yes	9	41.6	0.24	Yes	6.0	0	100	No	Yes	14.0	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4.3	22.9
Tajikistan	Yes	No limit	38.3	0.33	No	6.0	50	100	Yes	No	23.3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	8.7	6.9
Turkey	Yes	No limit	167.5	0.12	Yes	6.0	0	100	Yes	No	16.0	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	6.7	23.1
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	Yes	60	40.5	0.19	Yes	6.0	50	100	Yes	No	15.0	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	8.7	8.7

Trade Facilitation

Trade Facilitation Indicators

Country	Logistics performance index	Burden of customs procedures	Lead time		Documents		Liner shipping connectivity index	Quality of port infrastructure	Freight costs to the United States
			To export	To import	To export	To import			1 kilogram DHL nondocument air package
	1-5 (worst to best)	1-7 (worst to best)	days	days	number	number	0-100 (low to high)	1-7 (worst to best)	\$
	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015
Afghanistan	2.07	..	5	..	10	10	..	..	174.57
Azerbaijan	2.45	3.2	..	..	9	11	..	4.3	178.43
Iran, Islamic Rep.	2.49	3.3	7	3	7	11	5.8	4	174.57
Kazakhstan	2.7	3.9	2	..	10	12	..	2.7	178.43
Kyrgyz Republic	2.21	3.4	1	2	9	11	..	1.3	178.43
Pakistan	2.83	3.7	3	3	8	8	27.5	4.4	174.57
Tajikistan	2.53	3.6	14	14	11	12	..	2.1	178.43
Turkey	3.5	3.8	2	2	7	8	52.4	4.4	174.57
Turkmenistan	2.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	168.81
Uzbekistan	2.39	..	18	18	11	13	..	..	178.43
World	2.89	4.1	2.6	3.1	6	7	..	4.1	..
Low income	2.4	3.4	4.2	5	8	10	..	3.1	..
Middle income	2.68	3.7	2.9	3.5	7	8	..	3.6	..
High income	3.48	4.8	2	2.2	5	5	..	5.1	..

Trading across borders

Country	Trading across borders (rank)	Documents to export (number)	Time to export (days)	Cost to export (US\$ per container)	Documents to import (number)	Time to import (days)	Cost to import (US\$ per container)
Afghanistan	184	10	81	4,645	10	85	5,180
Azerbaijan	168	9	28	3,540	11	25	3,560
Iran	153	7	25	1,470	10	37	2,100
Kazakhstan	186	10	81	4,885	12	69	4,865
Kyrgyzstan	182	9	63	4,360	11	75	5,150
Pakistan	91	8	21	660	8	18	725
Tajikistan	188	12	71	8,650	12	72	10,250
Turkey	86	7	13	990	8	14	1,235
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	90	6	16	1,125	7	16	1,440

Tariff Barriers

COUNTRY	Most recent year	All Products %						Primary Products (%)		Manufactured products (%)	
		Binding coverage	Simple mean bound rate	Simple mean tariff	Weighted mean tariff	Share of lines with international peaks	Share of lines with Specific rates	Simple mean tariff	weighted mean tariff	Simple mean tariff	weighted mean tariff
Afghanistan	..	..	..	6.5	6.8	6.1	0.6	8.3	7.4	6.2	6.3
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	8.3	4.5	0.0	2.5	9.4	4.0	8.1	4.6
Iran	..	..	..	25.4	21.8	57.3	0.3	22.3	15.4	25.7	23.4
Kazakhstan	..	..	..	6.3	3.0	4.6	18.1	5.6	0.9	6.4	3.6
Kyrgyz Republic	2012	99.9	7.5	3.3	2.4	0.6	2.5	4.2	0.7	3.2	3.8
Pakistan	2009	98.6	60.0	14.8	9.5	45.3	0.3	14.5	6.5	14.8	12.3
Tajikistan	..	..	..	5.0	5.2	0.0	1.4	4.5	1.4	5.0	7.3
Turkey	2011	50.0	29.3	2.5	2.7	5.4	0.1	13.9	6.6	1.2	1.2
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	11.4	5.1	19.8	9.6	10.7	2.2	11.4	6.6
Middle East & North Africa	2012	91.84	33.21	11.62	9.92	32.02	0.780	17.11	7.48	10.94	11.25
World	2012	78.1	32.5	6.8	2.9	12.6	2.7	8.8	2.1	6.5	3.4



**Ministerial Conference
Ninth Session
Bali, 3-6 December 2013**

AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

MINISTERIAL DECISION OF 7 DECEMBER 2013

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement");

Decides as follows:

1. We hereby conclude the negotiation of an Agreement on Trade Facilitation (the "Agreement"), which is annexed hereto, subject to legal review for rectifications of a purely formal character that do not affect the substance of the Agreement.
2. We hereby establish a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation (the "Preparatory Committee") under the General Council, open to all Members, to perform such functions as may be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force. In particular, the Preparatory Committee shall conduct the legal review of the Agreement referred to in paragraph 1 above, receive notifications of Category A commitments, and draw up a Protocol of Amendment (the "Protocol") to insert the Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement.
3. The General Council shall meet no later than 31 July 2014 to annex to the Agreement notifications of Category A commitments, to adopt the Protocol drawn up by the Preparatory Committee, and to open the Protocol for acceptance until 31 July 2015. The Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement.



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ANNEX

AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

Preamble

Members,

Having regard to the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations;

Recalling and reaffirming the mandate and principles contained in paragraph 27 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and Annex D of the Decision of the Doha Work Programme adopted by the General Council on 1 August 2004, as well as paragraph 33 and Annex E of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

Desiring to clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT 1994 with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit;

Recognizing the particular needs of developing and especially least-developed country Members and desiring to enhance assistance and support for capacity building in this area;

Recognizing the need for effective cooperation among Members on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues:

Hereby *agree* as follows:

SECTION I

ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

1 Publication

1.1. Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:

- a. Importation, exportation and transit procedures (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures) and required forms and documents;
- b. Applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
- c. Fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
- d. Rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
- e. Laws, regulations and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;
- f. Import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions;
- g. Penalty provisions against breaches of import, export or transit formalities;
- h. Appeal procedures;
- i. Agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation or transit;
- j. Procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.



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1.2 Nothing in these provisions shall be construed as requiring the publication or provision of information other than in the language of the Member except as stated in paragraph 2.2.

2 Information Available Through Internet

2.1 Each Member shall make available, and update to the extent possible and as appropriate, the following through the internet:

- a. A description¹ of its importation, exportation and transit procedures, including appeal procedures, that informs governments, traders and other interested parties of the practical steps needed to import and export, and for transit;
- b. The forms and documents required for importation into, exportation from, or transit through the territory of that Member;
- c. Contact information on enquiry points.

2.2 Whenever practicable, the description referred to in subparagraph 2.1 a. shall also be made available in one of the official languages of the WTO.

2.3 Members are encouraged to make available further trade related information through the internet, including relevant trade-related legislation and other items referred to in paragraph 1.1.

3 Enquiry Points

3.1 Each Member shall, within its available resources, establish or maintain one or more enquiry points to answer reasonable enquiries of governments, traders and other interested parties on matters covered by paragraph 1.1 as well as to provide the required forms and documents referred to in subparagraph 1.1 a.

3.2 Members of a customs union or involved in regional integration may establish or maintain common enquiry points at the regional level to satisfy the requirement of paragraph 3.1 for common procedures.

3.3 Members are encouraged not to require the payment of a fee for answering enquiries and providing required forms and documents. If any, Members shall limit the amount of its fees and charges to the approximate cost of services rendered.

3.4 The enquiry points shall answer enquiries and provide the forms and documents within a reasonable time period set by each Member, which may vary depending on the nature or complexity of the request.

4 Notification

4.1 Each Member shall notify the Committee of:

- a. The official place(s) where the items in subparagraphs 1.1 a. to j. have been published; and
- b. The URLs of website(s) referred to in paragraph 2.1, as well as the contact information of the enquiry points referred to in paragraph 3.1.

¹ Each Member has the discretion to state on its website the legal limitations of this description.



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ARTICLE 2: OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, INFORMATION BEFORE ENTRY INTO FORCE AND CONSULTATION

1 Opportunity to Comment and Information before Entry into Force

1.1. Each Member shall, to the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its domestic law and legal system, provide opportunities and an appropriate time period to traders and other interested parties to comment on the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application related to the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, and in a manner consistent with its domestic law and legal system, ensure that new or amended laws and regulations of general application related to the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit are published, or information on them made otherwise publicly available, as early as possible before their entry into force, in order to enable traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them.

Changes to duty rates or tariff rates, as well as measures that have a relieving effect or whose effectiveness would be undermined by prior publication, measures applied in urgent circumstances, or minor changes to domestic law and legal system are excluded from paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 above.

2 Consultations

Each Member shall, as appropriate, provide for regular consultations between border agencies and traders or other stakeholders within its territory.

ARTICLE 3: ADVANCE RULINGS

1. Each Member shall issue an advance ruling in a reasonable, time bound manner to an applicant that has submitted a written request containing all necessary information. If a Member declines to issue an advance ruling it shall promptly notify the applicant in writing, setting out the relevant facts and the basis for its decision.

2. A Member may decline to issue an advance ruling to an applicant where the question raised in the application:

- a. is already pending in the applicant's case before any governmental agency, appellate tribunal or court; or
- b. has already been decided by any appellate tribunal or court.

3. The advance ruling shall be valid for a reasonable period of time after its issuance unless the law, facts or circumstances supporting the original advance ruling have changed.

4. Where the Member revokes, modifies or invalidates the advance ruling, it shall provide written notice to the applicant setting out the relevant facts and the basis for its decision. Where a Member revokes, modifies or invalidates advance rulings with retroactive effect, it may only do so where the ruling was based on incomplete, incorrect, false or misleading information.

5. An advance ruling issued by a Member shall be binding on that Member in respect of the applicant that sought it. The Member may provide that the advance ruling be binding on the applicant.

6. Each Member shall publish, at a minimum:

- a. the requirements for the application for an advance ruling, including the information to be provided and the format;



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- c. the time period by which it will issue an advance ruling; and
- d. the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.

7. Each Member shall provide, upon written request of an applicant, a review of the advance ruling or the decision to revoke, modify or invalidate the advance ruling.²

8. Each Member shall endeavour to make publicly available any information on advance rulings which it considers to be of significant interest to other interested parties, taking into account the need to protect commercially confidential information.

9. Definitions and scope:

- a. An advance ruling is a written decision provided by a Member to an applicant prior to the importation of a good covered by the application that sets forth the treatment that the Member shall provide to the good at the time of importation with regard to:

the good's tariff classification, and

the origin of the good;³

- b. In addition to the advance rulings defined in subparagraph 3.9 a., Members are encouraged to provide advance rulings on:

- i. the appropriate method or criteria, and the application thereof, to be used for determining the customs value under a particular set of facts;

- ii. the applicability of the Member's requirements for relief or exemption from customs duties;

- iii. the application of the Member's requirements for quotas, including tariff quotas; and

- iv. any additional matters for which a Member considers it appropriate to issue an advance ruling.

- c. An applicant is an exporter, importer or any person with a justifiable cause or a representative thereof.

- d. A Member may require that an applicant have legal representation or registration in its territory. To the extent possible, such requirements shall not restrict the categories of persons eligible to apply for advance rulings, with particular consideration for the specific needs of small and medium sized enterprises. These requirements shall be clear and transparent and not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination.

² Under this paragraph: a) a review may, before or after the ruling has been acted upon, be provided by the official, office or authority that issued the ruling, a higher or independent administrative authority, or a judicial authority; and b) a Member is not required to provide the applicant with recourse to Article 4.1.1 of this Agreement.

³ It is understood that an advance ruling on the origin of a good may be an assessment of origin for the purposes of the Agreement on Rules of Origin where the ruling meets the requirements of this Agreement and the Agreement on the Rules of Origin. Likewise, an assessment of origin under the Agreement on Rules of Origin may be an advance ruling on the origin of a good for the purposes of this Agreement where the ruling meets the requirements of both agreements. Members are not required to establish separate arrangements under this provision in addition to those established pursuant to the Rules of Origin Agreement in relation to the assessment of origin provided that the requirements of this Article are fulfilled.



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ARTICLE 4: APPEAL OR REVIEW PROCEDURES

1 Right to Appeal or Review

1.1. Each Member shall provide that any person to whom customs issues an administrative decision⁴ has the right, within its territory to:

a. administrative appeal to or review by an administrative authority higher than or independent of the official or office that issued the decision;

and/or

b. judicial appeal or review of the decision.

The legislation of each Member may require administrative appeal or review to be initiated prior to judicial appeal or review.

Members shall ensure that their appeal or review procedures are carried out in a non-discriminatory manner.

Each Member shall ensure that, in a case where the decision on appeal or review under subparagraph 1.1 a. is not given either i. within set periods as specified in its laws or regulations or ii. without undue delay, the petitioner has the right to either further appeal to or further review by the administrative authority or the judicial authority or any other recourse to the judicial authority.⁵

Each Member shall ensure that the person referred to in paragraph 1.1 is provided with the reasons for the administrative decision so as to enable such a person to have recourse to appeal or review procedures where necessary.

Each Member is encouraged to make the provisions of this Article applicable to an administrative decision issued by a relevant border agency other than customs.

ARTICLE 5: OTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE IMPARTIALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TRANSPARENCY

1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

Where a Member adopts or maintains a system of issuing notifications or guidance to its concerned authorities for enhancing the level of controls or inspections at the border in respect of foods, beverages or feedstuffs covered under the notification or guidance for protecting human, animal, or plant life or health within its territory, the following disciplines shall apply to the manner of their issuance, termination or suspension:

c. each Member may, as appropriate, issue the notification or guidance based on risk.

⁴ An administrative decision in this Article means a decision with a legal effect that affects rights and obligations of a specific person in an individual case. It shall be understood that an administrative decision in this Article covers an administrative action within the meaning of Article X of the GATT 1994 or failure to take an administrative action or decision as provided for in a Member's domestic law and legal system. For addressing such failure, Members may maintain an alternative administrative mechanism or judicial recourse to direct the customs authority to promptly issue an administrative decision in place of the right to appeal or review under subparagraph 1.1 a.

⁵ Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent Members from recognizing administrative silence on appeal or review as a decision in favour of the petitioner in accordance with its laws and regulations.



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- d. each Member may issue the notification or guidance so that it applies uniformly only to those points of entry where the sanitary and phytosanitary conditions on which the notification or guidance are based apply.
- e. each Member shall promptly terminate or suspend the notification or guidance when circumstances giving rise to it no longer exist, or if changed circumstances can be addressed in a less trade restrictive manner.
- f. when a Member decides to terminate or suspend the notification or guidance, it shall, as appropriate, promptly publish the announcement of its termination or suspension in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner, or inform the exporting Member or the importer.

2 Detention

A Member shall inform the carrier or importer promptly in case of detention of goods declared for importation, for inspection by Customs or any other competent authority.

3 Test Procedures

3.1 A Member may, upon request, grant an opportunity for a second test in case the first test result of a sample taken upon arrival of goods declared for importation shows an adverse finding.

3.2 A Member shall either publish, in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner, the name and address of any laboratory where the test can be carried out or provide this information to the importer when it is granted the opportunity under paragraph 3.1.

3.3 A Member shall consider the result of the second test in the release and clearance of goods, and, if appropriate, may accept the results of such test.

ARTICLE 6: DISCIPLINES ON FEES AND CHARGES IMPOSED ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION

1 General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation

1.1. The provisions of paragraph 6.1 shall apply to all fees and charges other than import and export duties and other than taxes within the purview of Article III of GATT 1994 imposed by Members on or in connection with importation or exportation of goods.

Information on fees and charges shall be published in accordance with Article 1 of this Agreement. This information shall include the fees and charges that will be applied, the reason for such fees and charges, the responsible authority and when and how payment is to be made.

An adequate time period shall be accorded between the publication of new or amended fees and charges and their entry into force except in urgent circumstances. Such fees and charges shall not be applied until information on them has been published.

Each Member shall periodically review its fees and charges with a view to reducing their number and diversity, where practicable.

2 Specific disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation

2.1 Fees and charges for customs processing:



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- i. shall be limited in amount to the approximate cost of the services rendered on or in connection with the specific import or export operation in question; and
- ii. are not required to be linked to a specific import or export operation provided they are levied for services that are closely connected to the customs processing of goods.

3 Penalty Disciplines

3.1 For the purpose of Article 6.3, the term "penalties" shall mean those imposed by a Member's customs administration for a breach of the Member's customs law, regulation, or procedural requirement.

3.2 Each Member shall ensure that penalties for a breach of a customs law, regulation, or procedural requirement are imposed only on the person(s) responsible for the breach under its laws.

3.3 The penalty imposed shall depend on the facts and circumstances of the case and shall be commensurate with the degree and severity of the breach.

3.4 Each Member shall ensure that it maintains measures to avoid:

- i. conflicts of interest in the assessment and collection of penalties and duties; and
- ii. creating an incentive for the assessment or collection of a penalty that is inconsistent with paragraph 3.3.

3.5 Each Member shall ensure that when a penalty is imposed for a breach of customs laws, regulations, or procedural requirements, an explanation in writing is provided to the person(s) upon whom the penalty is imposed specifying the nature of the breach and the applicable law, regulation or procedure under which the amount or range of penalty for the breach has been prescribed.

3.6 When a person voluntarily discloses to a Member's customs administration the circumstances of a breach of a customs law, regulation, or procedural requirement prior to the discovery of the breach by the customs administration, the Member is encouraged to, where appropriate, consider this fact as a potential mitigating factor when establishing a penalty for that person.

3.7 The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to the penalties on traffic in transit referred to in paragraph 3.1.

ARTICLE 7: RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS

1 Pre-arrival Processing

1.1. Each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the submission of import documentation and other required information, including manifests, in order to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival.

Members shall, as appropriate, provide for advance lodging of documents in electronic format for pre-arrival processing of such documents.



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2 Electronic Payment

Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, adopt or maintain procedures allowing the option of electronic payment for duties, taxes, fees and charges collected by customs incurred upon importation and exportation.

3 Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges

3.1 Each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing the release of goods prior to the final determination of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges, if such a determination is not done prior to, or upon arrival, or as rapidly as possible after arrival and provided that all other regulatory requirements have been met.

3.2 As a condition for such release, a Member may require:

- a. payment of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges determined prior to or upon arrival of goods and a guarantee for any amount not yet determined in the form of a surety, a deposit or another appropriate instrument provided for in its laws and regulations; or
- b. a guarantee in the form of a surety, a deposit or other appropriate instrument provided for in its laws and regulations.

3.3 Such guarantee shall not be greater than the amount the Member requires to ensure payment of customs duties, taxes, fees and charges ultimately due for the goods covered by the guarantee.

3.4 In cases where an offence requiring imposition of monetary penalties or fines has been detected, a guarantee may be required for the penalties and fines that may be imposed.

3.5 The guarantee as set out in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.4 shall be discharged when it is no longer required.

3.6 Nothing in these provisions shall affect the right of a Member to examine, detain, seize or confiscate or deal with the goods in any manner not otherwise inconsistent with the Member's WTO rights and obligations.

4 Risk Management

4.1 Each Member shall, to the extent possible, adopt or maintain a risk management system for customs control.

4.2 Each Member shall design and apply risk management in a manner as to avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination, or disguised restrictions to international trade.

4.3 Each Member shall concentrate customs control and, to the extent possible other relevant border controls, on high risk consignments and expedite the release of low risk consignments. Each Member may also select, on a random basis, consignments for such controls as part of its risk management.

4.4 Each Member shall base risk management on assessment of risk through appropriate selectivity criteria. Such selectivity criteria may include, *inter alia*, HS code, nature and description of the goods, country of origin, country from which the goods were shipped, value of the goods, compliance record of traders, and type of means of transport.



5 Post-clearance Audit

5.1 With a view to expediting the release of goods, each Member shall adopt or maintain post-clearance audit to ensure compliance with customs and other related laws and regulations.

5.2 Each Member shall select a person or a consignment for post-clearance audit in a risk-based manner, which may include appropriate selectivity criteria. Each Member shall conduct post-clearance audits in a transparent manner. Where the person is involved in the audit process and conclusive results have been achieved the Member shall, without delay, notify the person whose record is audited of the results, the person's rights and obligations and the reasons for the results.

5.3 Members acknowledge that the information obtained in post-clearance audit may be used in further administrative or judicial proceedings.

5.4 Members shall, wherever practicable, use the result of post-clearance audit in applying risk management.

6 Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times

6.1 Members are encouraged to measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, *inter alia*, the WCO Time Release Study.⁶

6.2 Members are encouraged to share with the Committee their experiences in measuring average release times, including methodologies used, bottlenecks identified, and any resulting effects on efficiency.

7 Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators

7.1 Each Member shall provide additional trade facilitation measures related to import, export or transit formalities and procedures, pursuant to paragraph 7.3, to operators who meet specified criteria, hereinafter called authorized operators. Alternatively, a Member may offer such facilitation measures through customs procedures generally available to all operators and not be required to establish a separate scheme.

7.2 The specified criteria shall be related to compliance, or the risk of non-compliance, with requirements specified in a Member's laws, regulations or procedures. The specified criteria, which shall be published, may include:

- a. an appropriate record of compliance with customs and other related laws and regulations;
- b. a system of managing records to allow for necessary internal controls;
- c. financial solvency, including, where appropriate, provision of a sufficient security/guarantee; and
- d. supply chain security.

The specified criteria to qualify as an operator shall not:

- a. be designed or applied so as to afford or create arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between operators where the same conditions prevail; and
- b. to the extent possible, restrict the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises.

⁶ Each Member may determine the scope and methodology of such average release time measurement in accordance with its needs and capacity.



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7.3 The trade facilitation measures provided pursuant to paragraph 7.1 shall include at least 3 of the following measures:⁷

- a. low documentary and data requirements as appropriate;
- b. low rate of physical inspections and examinations as appropriate;
- c. rapid release time as appropriate;
- d. deferred payment of duties, taxes, fees and charges;
- e. use of comprehensive guarantees or reduced guarantees;
- f. a single customs declaration for all imports or exports in a given period; and
- g. clearance of goods at the premises of the authorized operator or another place authorized by customs.

7.4 Members are encouraged to develop authorized operator schemes on the basis of international standards, where such standards exist, except when such standards would be an inappropriate or ineffective means for the fulfillment of the legitimate objectives pursued.

7.5 In order to enhance the facilitation measures provided to operators, Members shall afford to other Members the possibility to negotiate mutual recognition of authorized operator schemes.

7.6 Members shall exchange relevant information within the Committee about authorized operator schemes in force.

8 Expedited Shipments

8.1 Each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for expedited release of at least those goods entered through air cargo facilities to persons that apply for such treatment, while maintaining customs control.⁸ If a Member employs criteria⁹ limiting who may apply, the Member may, in published criteria, require that the applicant shall, as conditions for qualifying for the application of the treatment described in paragraphs 8.2 a. – d. to its expedited shipments:

- a. provide adequate infrastructure and payment of customs expenses related to processing of expedited shipments, in cases where the applicant fulfills the Member's requirements for such processing to be performed at a dedicated facility;
- b. submit in advance of the arrival of an expedited shipment the information necessary for release;
- c. be assessed fees limited in amount to the approximate cost of services rendered in providing the treatment described in paragraph 8.2 a. – d.;
- d. maintain a high degree of control over expedited shipments through the use of internal security, logistics, and tracking technology from pick-up to delivery;
- e. provide expedited shipment from pick-up to delivery;

⁷ A measure listed in sub-paragraphs a. -g. will be deemed to be provided to authorized operators if it is generally available to all operators.

⁸ In cases where a Member has an existing procedure that provides the treatment in paragraph 8.2, this provision would not require that Member to introduce separate expedited release procedures.

⁹ Such application criteria, if any, shall be in addition to the Member's requirements for operating with respect to all goods or shipments entered through air cargo facilities.



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- f. assume liability for payment of all customs duties, taxes, and fees and charges to the customs authority for the goods;
- g. have a good record of compliance with customs and other related laws and regulations;
- h. comply with other conditions directly related to the effective enforcement of the Member's laws, regulations and procedural requirements, that specifically relate to providing the treatment described in paragraph 8.2.

8.2 Subject to paragraphs 8.1 and 8.3, Members shall:

- a. minimize the documentation required for the release of expedited shipments in accordance with Article 10.1, and to the extent possible, provide for release based on a single submission of information on certain shipments;
- b. provide for expedited shipments to be released under normal circumstances as rapidly as possible after arrival, provided the information required for release has been submitted;
- c. endeavour to apply the treatment in sub-paragraphs 8.2 a. and b. to shipments of any weight or value recognizing that a Member is permitted to require additional entry procedures, including declarations and supporting documentation and payment of duties and taxes, and to limit such treatment based on the type of good, provided the treatment is not limited to low value goods, such as documents; and
- d. provide, to the extent possible, for a *de minimis* shipment value or dutiable amount for which customs duties and taxes will not be collected, aside from certain prescribed goods. Internal taxes, such as value added taxes and excise taxes, applied to imports consistently with Article III of the GATT 1994 are not subject to this provision.

8.3 Nothing in paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 shall affect the right of a Member to examine, detain, seize, confiscate or refuse entry to goods, or to carry out post-clearance audits, including in connection with the use of risk management systems. Further, nothing in paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 shall prevent a Member from requiring, as a condition for release, the submission of additional information and the fulfillment of non-automatic licensing requirements.

9 Perishable Goods¹⁰

9.1 With a view to preventing avoidable loss or deterioration of perishable goods, and provided all regulatory requirements have been met, each Member shall:

- a. provide for the release of perishable goods under normal circumstances within the shortest possible time; and
- b. provide for the release of perishable goods, in exceptional circumstances where it would be appropriate to do so, outside the business hours of customs and other relevant authorities.

9.2 Each Member shall give appropriate priority to perishable goods when scheduling any examinations that may be required.

9.3 Each Member shall either arrange, or allow an importer to arrange, for the proper storage of perishable goods pending their release. The Member may require that any storage facilities arranged by the importer have been approved or designated by its relevant authorities. The movement of the goods to those storage facilities, including authorizations for the operator moving

¹⁰ For the purposes of this provision, perishable goods are goods that rapidly decay due to their natural characteristics, in particular in the absence of appropriate storage conditions.



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the goods, may be subject to the approval, where required, of the relevant authorities. The Member shall, where practicable and consistent with domestic legislation, upon the request of the importer, provide for any procedures necessary for release to take place at those storage facilities.

9.4 In cases of significant delay in the release of perishable goods, and upon written request, the importing Member shall, to the extent practicable, provide a communication on the reasons for the delay.

ARTICLE 8: BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION

1. A Member shall ensure that its authorities and agencies responsible for border controls and procedures dealing with the importation, exportation and transit of goods cooperate with one another and coordinate their activities in order to facilitate trade.

2. Members shall, to the extent possible and practicable, cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other Members with whom they share a common border with a view to coordinating procedures at border crossings to facilitate cross-border trade. Such cooperation and coordination may include:

- i. alignment of working days and hours;
- ii. alignment of procedures and formalities;
- iii. development and sharing of common facilities;
- iv. joint controls;
- v. establishment of one stop border post control.

ARTICLE 9: MOVEMENT OF GOODS UNDER CUSTOMS CONTROL INTENDED FOR IMPORT

Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, and provided all regulatory requirements are met, allow goods intended for import to be moved within its territory under customs control from a customs office of entry to another customs office in its territory from where the goods would be released or cleared.

ARTICLE 10: FORMALITIES CONNECTED WITH IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION AND TRANSIT

1 Formalities and Documentation Requirements

1.1. With a view to minimizing the incidence and complexity of import, export, and transit formalities and of decreasing and simplifying import, export and transit documentation requirements and taking into account the legitimate policy objectives and other factors such as changed circumstances, relevant new information and business practices, availability of techniques and technology, international best practices and inputs from interested parties, each Member shall review such formalities and documentation requirements, and, based on the results of the review, ensure, as appropriate, that such formalities and documentation requirements:

- a. are adopted and/or applied with a view to a rapid release and clearance of goods, particularly perishable goods;
- b. are adopted and/or applied in a manner that aims at reducing the time and cost of compliance for traders and operators;
- c. are the least trade restrictive measure chosen, where two or more alternative measures are reasonably available for fulfilling the policy objective or objectives in question; and



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d. are not maintained, including parts thereof, if no longer required.

The Committee shall develop procedures for sharing relevant information and best practices as appropriate.

2 Acceptance of Copies

2.1 Each Member shall, where appropriate, endeavour to accept paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export or transit formalities.

2.2 Where a government agency of a Member already holds the original of such a document, any other agency of that Member shall accept a paper or electronic copy, where applicable, from the agency holding the original in lieu of the original document.

2.3 A Member shall not require an original or copy of export declarations submitted to the customs authorities of the exporting Member as a requirement for importation.¹¹

3 Use of International Standards

3.1 Members are encouraged to use relevant international standards or parts thereof as a basis for their importation, exportation or transit formalities and procedures except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement.

3.2 Members are encouraged to take part, within the limits of their resources, in the preparation and periodic review of relevant international standards by appropriate international organizations.

3.3 The Committee shall develop procedures for the sharing by Members of relevant information, and best practices, on the implementation of international standards, as appropriate. The Committee may also invite relevant international organizations to discuss their work on international standards. As appropriate, the Committee may identify specific standards that are of particular value to Members.

4 Single Window

4.1 Members shall endeavour to establish or maintain a single window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation or transit of goods through a single entry point to the participating authorities or agencies. After the examination by the participating authorities or agencies of the documentation and/or data, the results shall be notified to the applicants through the single window in a timely manner.

4.2 In cases where documentation and/or data requirements have already been received through the single window, the same documentation and/or data requirements shall not be requested by participating authorities or agencies except in urgent circumstances and other limited exceptions which are made public.

4.3 Members shall notify to the Committee the details of operation of the single window.

4.4 Members shall, to the extent possible and practical, use information technology to support the single window.

¹¹ Nothing in this paragraph precludes a Member from requiring documents such as certificates, permits or licenses as a requirement for the importation of controlled or regulated goods.



5 Pre-shipment Inspection

5.1 Members shall not require the use of pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.

5.2 Without prejudice to the rights of Members to use other types of pre-shipment inspection not covered by paragraph 5.1, Members are encouraged not to introduce or apply new requirements regarding their use.¹²

6 Use of Customs Brokers

6.1 Without prejudice to the important policy concerns of some Members that currently maintain a special role for customs brokers, from the entry into force of this agreement Members shall not introduce the mandatory use of customs brokers.

6.2 Each Member shall notify and publish its measures on the use of customs brokers. Any subsequent modifications thereof shall be notified to the Committee and published promptly.

6.3 With regard to the licensing of customs brokers, Members shall apply rules that are transparent and objective.

7 Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements

7.1 Each Member shall, subject to paragraph 7.2, apply common customs procedures and uniform documentation requirements for release and clearance of goods throughout its territory.

7.2 Nothing in this Article shall prevent a Member from:

- e. differentiating its procedures and documentation requirements based on the nature and type of goods, or their means of transport;
- f. differentiating its procedures and documentation requirements for goods based on risk management;
- g. differentiating its procedures and documentation requirements to provide total or partial exemption from import duties or taxes;
- h. applying electronic filing or processing; or
- i. differentiating its procedures and documentation requirements in a manner consistent with the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

8 Rejected Goods

8.1 Where goods presented for import are rejected by the competent authority of a Member on account of their failure to meet prescribed sanitary or phytosanitary regulations or technical regulations, the Member shall, subject to and consistent with its laws and regulations, allow the importer to re-consign or to return the rejected goods to the exporter or another person designated by the exporter.

¹² This sub-paragraph refers to pre-shipment inspections covered by the Pre-shipment Inspection Agreement, and does not preclude pre-shipment inspections for SPS purposes.



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When such an option is given and the importer fails to exercise it within a reasonable period of time, the competent authority may take a different course of action to deal with such non-compliant goods.

9 Temporary Admission of Goods/Inward and Outward Processing

a. Temporary Admission of Goods

Each Member shall allow, as provided for in its laws and regulations, goods to be brought into a customs territory conditionally relieved, totally or partially, from payment of import duties and taxes if such goods are brought into a customs territory for a specific purpose, are intended for re-exportation within a specific period, and have not undergone any change except normal depreciation and wastage due to the use made of them.

b. Inward and Outward Processing

- i. Each Member shall allow, as provided for in its laws and regulations, inward and outward processing of goods. Goods allowed for outward processing may be re-imported with total or partial exemption from import duties and taxes in accordance with the Member's laws and regulations in force.
- ii. For the purposes of this Article, the term "inward processing" means the Customs procedure under which certain goods can be brought into a Customs territory conditionally relieved totally or partially from payment of import duties and taxes, or eligible for duty drawback, on the basis that such goods are intended for manufacturing, processing or repair and subsequent exportation.
- iii. For the purposes of this Article, the term "outward processing" means the Customs procedure under which goods which are in free circulation in a Customs territory may be temporarily exported for manufacturing, processing or repair abroad and then reimported.

ARTICLE 11: FREEDOM OF TRANSIT

1. Any regulations or formalities in connection with traffic in transit imposed by a Member shall not:

- a. be maintained if the circumstances or objectives giving rise to their adoption no longer exist or if the changed circumstances or objectives can be addressed in a reasonably available less trade restrictive manner,
- b. be applied in a manner that would constitute a disguised restriction on traffic in transit.

2. Traffic in transit shall not be conditioned upon collection of any fees or charges imposed in respect of transit, except the charges for transportation or those commensurate with administrative expenses entailed by transit or with the cost of services rendered.

3. Members shall not seek, take or maintain any voluntary restraints or any other similar measures on traffic in transit. This is without prejudice to existing and future national regulations, bilateral or multilateral arrangements related to regulating transport consistent with WTO rules.

4. Each Member shall accord to products which will be in transit through the territory of any other Member treatment no less favourable than that which would be accorded to such products if they were being transported from their place of origin to their destination without going through the territory of such other Member.



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5. Members are encouraged to make available, where practicable, physically separate infrastructure (such as lanes, berths and similar) for traffic in transit.

6. Formalities, documentation requirements and customs controls, in connection with traffic in transit, shall not be more burdensome than necessary to:

- a. identify the goods; and
- b. ensure fulfillment of transit requirements.

7. Once goods have been put under a transit procedure and have been authorized to proceed from the point of origination in a Member's territory, they will not be subject to any customs charges nor unnecessary delays or restrictions until they conclude their transit at the point of destination within the Member's territory.

8. Members shall not apply technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures within the meaning of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade on goods in transit.

9. Members shall allow and provide for advance filing and processing of transit documentation and data prior to the arrival of goods.

10. Once traffic in transit has reached the customs office where it exits the territory of the Member, that office shall promptly terminate the transit operation if transit requirements have been met.

11.1. Where a Member requires a guarantee in the form of a surety, deposit or other appropriate monetary or non-monetary¹³ instrument for traffic in transit, such guarantee shall be limited to ensuring that requirements arising from such traffic in transit are fulfilled.

11.2. Once the Member has determined that its transit requirements have been satisfied, the guarantee shall be discharged without delay.

11.3. Each Member shall, in a manner consistent with its laws and regulations, allow comprehensive guarantees which include multiple transactions for same operators or renewal of guarantees without discharge for subsequent consignments.

11.4. Each Member shall make available to the public the relevant information it uses to set the guarantee, including single transaction and, where applicable, multiple transaction guarantee.

11.5. Each Member may require the use of customs convoys or customs escorts for traffic in transit only in circumstances presenting high risks or when compliance with customs laws and regulations cannot be ensured through the use of guarantees. General rules applicable to customs convoys or customs escorts shall be published in accordance with Article 1.

12. Members shall endeavour to cooperate and coordinate with one another with a view to enhance freedom of transit. Such cooperation and coordination may include, but is not limited to an understanding on:

- i. charges;
- ii. formalities and legal requirements; and
- iii. the practical operation of transit regimes.

¹³ Nothing in this provision shall preclude a Member from maintaining existing procedures whereby the mean of transport can be used as a guarantee for traffic in transit.



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13. Each Member shall endeavour to appoint a national transit coordinator to which all enquiries and proposals by other Members relating to the good functioning of transit operations can be addressed.

ARTICLE 12: CUSTOMS COOPERATION

1 Measures Promoting Compliance and Cooperation

1.1. Members agree on the importance of ensuring that traders are aware of their compliance obligations, encouraging voluntary compliance to allow importers to self-correct without penalty in appropriate circumstances, and applying compliance measures to initiate stronger measures for non-compliant traders.¹⁴

Members are encouraged to share information on best practices in managing customs compliance, including through the Committee on Trade Facilitation. Members are encouraged to cooperate in technical guidance or assistance in building capacity for the purposes of administering compliance measures, and enhancing their effectiveness.

2 Exchange of Information

2.1 Upon request, and subject to the provisions of this Article, Members shall exchange the information set out in paragraph 6 b. and/or c. for the purpose of verifying an import or export declaration in identified cases where there are reasonable grounds to doubt the truth or accuracy of the declaration.

2.2 Each Member shall notify to the Committee the details of its contact point for the exchange of this information.

3 Verification

A Member shall make a request for information only after it has conducted appropriate verification procedures of an import or export declaration and after it has inspected the available relevant documentation.

4 Request

4.1 The requesting Member shall provide the requested Member with a written request, through paper or electronic means in a mutually agreed WTO or other language, including:

- a. the matter at issue including, where appropriate and available, the serial number of the export declaration corresponding to the import declaration in question;
- b. the purpose for which the requesting Member is seeking the information or documents, along with the names and contact details of the persons about which the request relates, if known;
- c. where required by the requested Member, provide confirmation¹⁵ of the verification where appropriate.
- d. the specific information or documents requested;

¹⁴ Such activity has the overall objective of lowering the frequency of non-compliance, and consequently reducing the need for exchange of information in pursuit of enforcement.

¹⁵ This may include pertinent information on the verification conducted under paragraph 12.3. Such information shall be subject to the level of protection and confidentiality specified by the Member conducting the verification.



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- e. the identity of the originating office making the request;
- f. reference to provisions of the requesting Member's domestic law and legal system that govern the collection, protection, use, disclosure, retention and disposal of confidential information and personal data;

4.2 If the requesting Member is not in a position to comply with any of the sub-paragraphs of 4.1, it shall specify this in the request.

5 Protection and confidentiality

5.1 The requesting Member shall, subject to paragraph 5.2:

- a. hold all information or documents provided by the requested Member strictly in confidence and grant at least the same level of such protection and confidentiality as that provided under the domestic law and legal system of the requested Member as described by it under paragraphs 6.1 b. and 6.1 c.;
- b. provide the information or documents only to the customs authorities dealing with the matter at issue and use the information or documents solely for the purpose stated in the request unless the requested Member agrees otherwise in writing;
- c. not disclose the information or documents without the specific written permission of the requested Member;
- d. not use any unverified information or documents from the requested Member as the deciding factor towards alleviating the doubt in any given circumstance;
- e. respect any case-specific conditions set out by the requested Member regarding retention and disposal of confidential information or documents and personal data; and
- f. upon request, inform the requested Member of any decisions and actions taken on the matter as a result of the information or documents provided.

5.2 A requesting Member may be unable under its domestic law and legal system to comply with any of the sub-paragraphs of 5.1. If so, the requesting Member shall specify this in the request.

5.3 The Requested Member shall treat any request, and verification information, received under paragraph 4 with at least the same level of protection and confidentiality accorded by the requested member to its own similar information.

6 Provision of information

6.1 Subject to the provisions of this article, the requested Member shall promptly:

- a. respond in writing, through paper or electronic means;
- b. provide the specific information as set out in the import or export declaration, or the declaration, to the extent it is available, along with a description of the level of protection and confidentiality required of the requesting Member;
- c. if requested, provide the specific information as set out in the following documents, or the documents, submitted in support of the import or export declaration, to the extent it is available: commercial invoice, packing list, certificate of origin and bill of lading, in the form in which these were filed, whether paper or electronic, along with a description of the level of protection and confidentiality required of the requesting Member;



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- d. confirm that the documents provided are true copies;
- e. provide the information or otherwise respond to the request, to the extent possible, within 90 days from the date of the request.

6.2 The requested Member may require, under its domestic law and legal system, an assurance prior to the provision of information that the specific information will not be used as evidence in criminal investigations, judicial proceedings, or in non-customs proceedings without the specific written permission of the requested Member. If the requesting Member is not in a position to comply with this requirement it should specify this to the requested Member.

7 Postponement or refusal of a request

7.1 A requested Member may postpone or refuse part or all of a request to provide information, and shall so inform the requesting Member of the reasons for doing so, where:

- a. it would be contrary to the public interest as reflected in the domestic law and legal system of the requested Member.
- b. its domestic law and legal system prevents the release of the information. In such case it shall provide the requesting Member with a copy of the relevant, specific reference.
- c. the provision of the information would impede law enforcement or otherwise interfere with an on-going administrative or judicial investigation, prosecution or proceeding.
- d. the consent of the importer or exporter is required by domestic law and legal system that govern the collection, protection, use, disclosure, retention and disposal of confidential information or personal data and that consent is not given.
- e. the request for information is received after the expiration of the legal requirement of the requested Member for the retention of documents.

7.2 In the circumstances of paragraph 4.2, 5.2 or 6.2 execution of such a request shall be at the discretion of the requested Member.

8 Reciprocity

If the requesting Member is of the opinion that it would be unable to comply with a similar request in case such a request was made by the requested Member, or if it has not yet implemented this Article, it shall state that fact in its request. Execution of such a request shall be at the discretion of the requested Member.

9 Administrative burden

9.1 The requesting Member shall take into account the associated resource and cost implications for the requested Member's administration in responding to requests for information. The requesting Member shall consider the proportionality between its fiscal interest in pursuing its request and the efforts to be made by the requested Member in providing the information.

9.2 If a requested Member receives an unmanageable number of requests for information, or a request for information of unmanageable scope from one or more requesting Member(s), and is unable to meet such requests within a reasonable time it may request one or more of the requesting Member(s) to prioritize with a view to agreeing on a practical limit within its resource constraints. In the absence of a mutually-agreed approach, the execution of such requests shall be at the discretion of the requested Member based on the results of its own prioritization.



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10 Limitations

Requested Members shall not be required to:

- a. modify the format of their import or export declarations or procedures;
- b. call for documents other than those submitted with the import or export declaration as specified in paragraph 6 c.;
- c. initiate enquiries to obtain the information;
- d. modify the period of retention of such information;
- e. introduce paper documentation where electronic format has already been introduced;
- f. translate the information;
- g. verify the accuracy of the information;
- h. provide information that would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of particular enterprises, public or private.

11 Unauthorized use or disclosure

11.1 In the event of any breach of the conditions of use or disclosure of information exchanged under this Article, the requesting Member that received the information shall promptly communicate the details of such unauthorized use or disclosure to the requested Member that provided the information, and:

- i. take necessary measures to remedy the breach;
- j. take necessary measures to prevent any future breach; and
- k. notify the requested Member of the measures taken under sub-paragraphs a. and b. above.

11.2 The requested Member may suspend its obligations to the requesting Member under this Article until the measures set out in paragraph 11.1 have been taken.

12 Bilateral and regional agreements

12.1 Nothing in this Article shall prevent a Member from entering into or maintaining a bilateral, plurilateral, or regional agreement for sharing or exchange of customs information and data, including on a secure and rapid basis such as on an automatic basis or in advance of the arrival of the consignment.

12.2 Nothing in this Article shall be construed to alter or affect Members' rights or obligations under such bilateral, plurilateral or regional agreements or to govern the exchange of customs information and data under such other agreements.

ARTICLE 13: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1 COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

1.1. A Committee on Trade Facilitation is hereby established.



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1.2 The Committee shall be open for participation by all Members and shall elect its own Chairperson. The Committee shall meet as needed and envisaged by the relevant provisions of this Agreement, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

1.3 The Committee may establish such subsidiary bodies as may be required. All such bodies shall report to the Committee.

1.4 The Committee shall develop procedures for sharing by Members of relevant information and best practices as appropriate.

1.5 The Committee shall maintain close contact with other international organizations in the field of trade facilitation, such as the World Customs Organization, with the objective of securing the best available advice for the implementation and administration of this Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided. To this end, the Committee may invite representatives of such organizations or their subsidiary bodies to:

- a. attend meetings of the Committee; and
- b. discuss specific matters related to the implementation of this Agreement.

1.6 The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement 4 years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter.

1.7 Members are encouraged to raise before the Committee questions relating to issues on the implementation and application of this Agreement.

1.8 The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc discussions among Members on specific issues under this Agreement, with a view to reaching a mutually satisfactory solution promptly.

2 NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of provisions of this Agreement.



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SECTION II

13 SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT PROVISIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS

1 General Principles

1.1 The provisions contained in Articles 1 to 12 of this Agreement shall be implemented by developing and least developed country Members in accordance with this Section, which is based on the modalities agreed in Annex D of the July 2004 Framework Agreement (WT/L/579) and paragraph 33 and Annex E of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(05)/DEC).

1.2 Assistance and support for capacity building¹⁶ should be provided to help developing and least-developed country Members implement the provisions of this agreement, in accordance with their nature and scope. The extent and the timing of implementing the provisions of this Agreement shall be related to the implementation capacities of developing and least developed country Members. Where a developing or least developed country Member continues to lack the necessary capacity, implementation of the provision(s) concerned will not be required until implementation capacity has been acquired.

1.3 Least developed country Members will only be required to undertake commitments to the extent consistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs or their administrative and institutional capabilities.

1.4 These principles shall be applied through the provisions set out in Section II.

2 CATEGORIES OF PROVISIONS

2.1 There are three categories of provisions:

- a. Category A contains provisions that a developing country Member or a least developed country Member designates for implementation upon entry into force of this Agreement, or in the case of a least developed country Member within one year after entry into force, as provided in paragraph 3.
- b. Category B contains provisions that a developing country Member or a least developed country Member designates for implementation on a date after a transitional period of time following the entry into force of this Agreement, as provided in paragraph 4.
- c. Category C contains provisions that a developing country Member or a least developed country Member designates for implementation on a date after a transitional period of time following the entry into force of this Agreement and requiring the acquisition of implementation capacity through the provision of assistance and support for capacity building, as provided for in paragraph 4.

2.2 Each developing country and least developed country Member shall self-designate, on an individual basis, the provisions it is including under each of the Categories A, B and C.

3 Notification and Implementation of Category A

3.1 Upon entry into force of this Agreement, each developing country Member shall implement its Category A commitments. Those commitments designated under Category A will thereby be made an integral part of this Agreement.

¹⁶ For the purposes of this Agreement, "assistance and support for capacity building" may take the form of technical, financial, or any other mutually agreed form of assistance provided.



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3.2 A least developed country Member may notify the Committee of the provisions it has designated in Category A for up to one year after entry into force of this Agreement. Each least developed country Member's commitments designated under Category A will thereby be made an integral part of this Agreement.

4 Notification of Definitive Dates for Implementation of Category B and Category C

4.1 With respect to the provisions that a developing country Member has not designated in Category A, the Member may delay implementation in accordance with the process set out in this paragraph.

Developing Country Member Category B

- a. Upon entry into force of this Agreement, each developing country Member shall notify to the Committee the provisions that it has designated in Category B and corresponding indicative dates for implementation.¹⁷
- b. No later than one year after entry into force of this Agreement, each developing country Member shall notify to the Committee its definitive dates for implementation of the provisions it has designated in Category B. If a developing country Member, before this deadline, believes it requires additional time to notify its definitive dates, the Member may request that the Committee extend the period sufficient to notify its dates.

Developing Country Member Category C

- c. Upon entry into force of this Agreement, each developing country Member shall notify to the Committee the provisions that it has designated in Category C and corresponding indicative dates for implementation. For transparency purposes, notifications submitted shall include information on the assistance and support for capacity building that the Member requires in order to implement¹⁸.
- d. Within one year after entry into force of this Agreement, developing country Members and relevant donor Members, taking into account any existing arrangements already in place, notifications pursuant to paragraph 10.1 and information submitted pursuant to sub-paragraph c. above, shall provide information to the Committee on the arrangements maintained or entered into that are necessary to provide assistance and support for capacity building to enable implementation of Category C.¹⁹ The participating developing country Member shall promptly inform the Committee of such arrangements. The Committee shall also invite non-Member donors to provide information on existing or concluded arrangements.
- e. Within 18 months from the date of the provision of the information stipulated in sub-paragraph 4.1 d., donor Members and respective developing country Members shall inform the Committee on progress in the provision of assistance and support. Each developing country Member shall, at the same time, notify its list of definitive dates for implementation.

¹⁷ Notifications submitted may also include such further information as the notifying Member deems appropriate. Members are encouraged to provide information on the domestic agency/entity responsible for implementation.

¹⁸ Members may also include information on national trade facilitation implementation plans or projects; the domestic agency/entity responsible for implementation; and the donors with which the Member may have an arrangement in place to provide assistance.

¹⁹ Such arrangements will be on mutually agreed terms, either bilaterally or through appropriate international organizations, consistent with paragraph 9.3.



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4.2 With respect to those provisions that a least developed country Member has not designated under Category A, least developed country Members may delay implementation in accordance with the process set forth in this paragraph.

Least Developed Country Member Category B

- a. No later than one year after entry into force of this Agreement, a least developed country Member shall notify the Committee its Category B provisions and may notify corresponding indicative dates for implementation of these provisions, taking into account maximum flexibilities for least developed country Members.
- b. No later than two years after the notification date stipulated under sub-paragraph a. above, each least developed country Member shall notify the Committee to confirm designations of provisions and notify its dates for implementation. If a least developed country Member, before this deadline, believes it requires additional time to notify its definitive dates, the Member may request that the Committee extend the period sufficiently to notify its dates.

Least Developed Country Member Category C

- c. For transparency purposes and to facilitate arrangements with donors, one year after entry into force of this Agreement each least developed country Member shall notify the Committee of the provisions it has designated in Category C, taking into account maximum flexibilities for least developed country Members.
- d. One year after the date stipulated in sub-paragraph c. above, least developed country Members shall notify information on assistance and support for capacity building that the Member requires in order to implement.²⁰
- e. Within two years after the notification under sub-paragraph d. above, least developed country Members and relevant donor Members, taking into account information submitted pursuant to sub-paragraph d. above, shall provide information to the Committee on the arrangements maintained or entered into that are necessary to provide assistance and support for capacity building to enable implementation of Category C.²¹ The participating least developed country Member shall promptly inform the Committee of such arrangements. The least developed country Member shall, at the same time, notify indicative dates for implementation of corresponding Category C commitments covered by the assistance arrangements. The Committee shall also invite non-Member donors to provide information on existing and concluded arrangements.
- f. Within 18 months from the date of the provision of the information stipulated in sub-paragraph 4.2 e., relevant donor Members and respective least developed country Members shall inform the Committee on progress in the provision of assistance and support. Each least-developed country Member shall, at the same time, notify its list of definitive dates for implementation.

4.3 Developing country Members and least developed country Members experiencing difficulties in submitting definitive dates for implementation within the deadlines set out in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 because of the lack of donor support or lack of progress in the provision of assistance and support should notify the Committee as early as possible prior to the expiration of those deadlines. Members agree to cooperate to assist in addressing such difficulties, taking into account the particular circumstances and special problems facing the Member concerned. The Committee shall,

²⁰ Members may also include information on national trade facilitation implementation plans and projects and information on the domestic agency/entity responsible for implementation, and the donors with which the Member may have an arrangement in place to provide assistance.

²¹ Such arrangements will be on mutually agreed terms, either bilaterally or through appropriate international organizations, consistent with subparagraph 9.3.



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as appropriate, take action to address the difficulties including, where necessary, by extending the deadlines for the Member concerned to notify its definitive dates.

4.4 Three months before the deadline stipulated in paragraph 4.1 b. or 4.1 e., or in the case of a least developed country Member paragraph 4.2 b. or 4.2 f., the Secretariat shall remind a Member if that Member has not notified a definitive date for implementation of provisions that it has designated in Category B or C. If the Member does not invoke paragraph 4.3 or paragraph 4.1 b., or in the case of a least developed country Member paragraph 4.2 b., to extend the deadline and still does not notify a definitive date for implementation, the Member shall implement the provisions within one year after the deadline stipulated in paragraph 4.1 b. or 4.1 e., or in the case of a least developed country Member paragraph 4.2 b. or 4.2 f., or extended by paragraph 4.3.

4.5 No later than 60 days after the dates for notification of definitive dates for implementation of Category B and Category C in accordance with paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 or 4.3, the Committee shall take note of the annexes containing each Member's definitive dates for implementation of Category B and Category C provisions, including any dates set under paragraph 4.4, thereby making these annexes an integral part of this Agreement.

5 Early Warning Mechanism: Extension of Implementation Dates for Provisions in Categories B and C

5.1

- a. A developing country Member or least developed country Member that considers itself to be experiencing difficulty in implementing a provision that it has designated in Category B or Category C by the definitive date established under paragraph 4.1 b. or 4.1 e., or in the case of a least-developed country Member paragraph 4.2 b. or 4.2 f., and should notify the Committee. Developing countries shall notify the Committee no later than 120 days before the expiration of the implementation date. Least developed countries shall notify the Committee no later than 90 days before such date.
- b. The notification to the Committee shall indicate the new date by which the developing country Member or least developed country Member expects to be able to implement the provision concerned. The notification shall also indicate the reasons for the expected delay in implementation. Such reasons may include the need for assistance not earlier anticipated or additional assistance to help build capacity.

5.2 Where a developing country Member's request for additional time for implementation does not exceed 18 months or a least developed country Member's request for additional time does not exceed 3 years, the requesting Member is entitled to such additional time without any further action by the Committee.

5.3 Where a developing country or least developed country Member considers that it requires a first extension longer than that provided for in paragraph 5.2 or a second or any subsequent extension, it shall submit to the Committee a request for an extension containing the information described in 5.1 b. no later than 120 days in respect of a developing country and 90 days in respect of a least developed country before the expiration of the original definitive implementation date or that date as subsequently extended.

5.4 The Committee shall give sympathetic consideration to granting requests for extension taking into account the specific circumstances of the Member submitting the request. These circumstances may include difficulties and delays in obtaining assistance.



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6 Implementation of Category B and Category C

6.1 In accordance with paragraph 1.2, if a developing country Member or a least developed country Member, having fulfilled the procedures set forth in sub-paragraph 4.1 or 4.2 and in paragraph 5, and where an extension requested has not been granted or where the developing country Member or least developed country Member otherwise experiences unforeseen circumstances that prevents an extension being granted under paragraph 5, self-assesses that its capacity to implement a provision under Category C continues to be lacking, that Member shall notify the Committee of its inability to implement the relevant provision.

6.2 The Trade Facilitation Committee shall immediately establish an Expert Group, and in any case no later than 60 days after the Committee receives the notification from the relevant developing country Member or least developed country Member. The Expert Group will examine the issue and make a recommendation to the Committee within 120 days of its composition.

6.3 The Expert Group shall be composed of five independent persons, highly qualified in the fields of trade facilitation and assistance and support for capacity building. The composition of the Expert Group shall ensure balance between nationals from developing and developed country Members. Where a least developed country Member is involved, the Expert Group shall include at least one national from a least developed country. If the Committee cannot agree on the composition of the Expert Group within 20 days of its establishment, the Director-General, in consultation with the chair of the Committee, shall determine the composition of the Expert Group in accordance with the terms of this paragraph.

6.4 The Expert Group shall consider the Member's self-assessment of lack of capacity and shall make a recommendation to the Trade Facilitation Committee. When considering the Expert Group's recommendation concerning a least developed country Member, the Committee shall, as appropriate, take action that will facilitate the acquisition of sustainable implementation capacity.

6.5 The Member shall not be subject to proceedings under the Dispute Settlement Understanding on this issue from the time the developing country Member notifies the Committee of its inability to implement the relevant provision until the first meeting of the Committee after it receives the recommendation of the Expert Group. At that meeting, the Committee shall consider the recommendation of the Expert Group. For the least developed country Member, the proceedings under the Dispute Settlement Understanding shall not apply on the respective provision from the date of notification to the Committee of its inability to implement the provision until the Committee makes a decision on the issue, or within 24 months after the first Committee meeting set out above, whichever is the earlier.

6.6 Where a least developed country Member loses its ability to implement a Category C commitment, it may inform the Committee and follow the procedures set out in paragraph 6.

7 Shifting between Categories B and C

7.1 Developing Country Members and least developed country Members who have notified provisions under Categories B and C may shift provisions between such categories through the submission of a notification to the Committee. Where a Member proposes to shift a provision from Category B to C, the Member shall provide information on the assistance and support required to build capacity.

7.2 In the event that additional time is required to implement a provision as a result of it having been shifted from Category B to Category C, the Member may:

- a. use the provisions of paragraph 5, including the opportunity for an automatic extension;
- or



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- b. request an examination by the Committee of the Member's request for extra time to implement the provision and, if necessary, for assistance and support for capacity building, including the possibility of a review and recommendation by the Expert Group under paragraph 6; or
- c. in the case of a least developed country Member, any new implementation date of more than four years after the original date notified under Category B shall require approval by the Committee. In addition, a least developed country continues to have recourse to paragraph 5. It is understood that assistance and support for capacity building is required for a least developed country Member so shifting.

8 Grace Period for the Application of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes

8.1. For a period of 2 years after entry into force of this Agreement, the provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of GATT 1994 as elaborated and applied by the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes shall not apply to the settlement of disputes against a developing country Member concerning any provision that the Member has designated in Category A.

8.2. For a period of 6 years after entry into force of this Agreement, the provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of GATT 1994 as elaborated and applied by the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes shall not apply to the settlement of disputes against a least developed country Member concerning any provision that the Member has designated in Category A.

8.3. For a period of 8 years after implementation of a provision under Category B and C by a least developed country Member, the provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of GATT 1994 as elaborated and applied by the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes shall not apply to the settlement of disputes against that least developed country Member concerning those provisions.

8.4. Notwithstanding the grace period for the application of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, before making a request for consultations pursuant to Articles XXII or XXIII, and at all stages of dispute settlement procedures with regard to a measure of a least developed country Member, a Member shall give particular consideration to the special situation of least developed country Members. In this regard, Members shall exercise due restraint in raising matters under the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes involving least developed country Members.

8.5. Each Member shall, upon request, during the grace period allowed under this paragraph, provide adequate opportunity to other Members for discussion with respect to any issue relating to the implementation of this Agreement.

9 Provision of Assistance for Capacity Building

9.1. Donor Members agree to facilitate the provision of assistance and support for capacity building to developing country and least developed country Members, on mutually agreed terms and either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations. The objective is to assist developing country and least developed country Members to implement the provisions of Section I of this Agreement.

9.2. Given the special needs of least developed country Members, targeted assistance and support should be provided to the least developed country Members so as to help them build sustainable capacity to implement their commitments. Through the relevant development cooperation mechanisms and in coherence with the principles of technical assistance and capacity building as



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referred to in paragraph 9.3, development partners shall endeavour to provide assistance and support in this area in a way that does not compromise existing development priorities.

9.3. Members shall endeavour to apply the following principles for providing assistance and support for capacity building with regard to the implementation of this Agreement:

- a. take account of the overall developmental framework of recipient countries and regions and, where relevant and appropriate, ongoing reform and technical assistance programs;
- b. include, where relevant and appropriate, activities to address regional and sub-regional challenges and promote regional and sub-regional integration;
- c. ensure that ongoing trade facilitation reform activities of the private sector are factored into assistance activities;
- d. promote coordination between and among Members and other relevant institutions, including regional economic communities, to ensure maximum effectiveness of and results from this assistance. To this end:
 - i. coordination, primarily in the country or region where the assistance is to be provided, between partner Members and donors, and among bilateral and multilateral donors, should aim to avoid overlap and duplication in assistance programs and inconsistencies in reform activities through close coordination of technical assistance and capacity building interventions;
 - ii. for least developed country Members, the Enhanced Integrated Framework should be a part of this coordination process; and
 - iii. Members should also promote internal coordination between their trade and development officials, both in capitals and Geneva, in the implementation of the Agreement and technical assistance.
- e. encourage use of existing in-country and regional coordination structures such as roundtables and consultative groups to coordinate and monitor implementation activities; and
- f. encourage developing countries Members to provide capacity building to other developing and least developed country and consider supporting such activities, where possible.

9.4. The Committee shall hold at least one dedicated session per year to:

- a. discuss any problems regarding implementation of provisions or sub-parts of provisions;
- b. review progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building to support the implementation of the Agreement, including any developing or least developed country Members not receiving adequate technical assistance and capacity building;
- c. share experiences and information on ongoing assistance and implementation programs, including challenges and successes;
- d. review donor notifications as set forth in paragraph 10; and
- e. review the operation of paragraph 9.2.



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10 Information on Assistance to be Submitted to the Committee

10.1. To provide transparency to developing and least developed Members on the provision of assistance and support for implementation of Section I, each donor Member assisting developing country and least developed country Members with the implementation of this Agreement shall submit to the Committee, at entry into force of the Agreement and annually thereafter, the following information on its assistance and support for capacity building that was disbursed in the preceding twelve months and, where available, that is committed in the next twelve months²²:

- a. a description of the assistance and support for capacity building;
- b. the status and amount committed/disbursed;
- c. procedures for disbursement of the assistance and support;
- d. the beneficiary country, or, where necessary, the region; and
- e. the implementing agency in the Member providing assistance and support.

The information shall be provided in the format specified in Annex 1. In the case of OECD members, the information submitted can be based on relevant information from the OECD Creditor Reporting System. Developing country Members declaring themselves in a position to provide assistance and support are encouraged to provide the information above.

10.2. Donor Members assisting developing country and least developed country Members shall submit to the Committee:

- a. contact points of their agencies responsible for providing assistance and support for capacity building related to the implementation of the provisions of Section I of this Agreement including, where practicable, information on such contact points within the country or region where the assistance and support is to be provided; and
- b. information on the process and mechanisms for requesting assistance and support.

Developing country Members declaring themselves in a position to provide assistance and support are encouraged to provide the information above.

10.3. Developing country and least developed country Members intending to avail themselves of trade facilitation-related assistance and support shall submit to the Committee information on contact point(s) of the office(s) responsible for coordinating and prioritizing such assistance and support.

10.4. Members may provide the information in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 through internet references and shall update the submitted information as necessary. The Secretariat shall make all such information publicly available.

10.5. The Committee shall invite relevant international and regional organizations (such as the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO, UN Regional Commissions, the World Bank, or their subsidiary bodies, and regional development banks) and other agencies of cooperation to provide information referred to in paragraphs 10.1, 10.2 and 10.4.

²² The information provided will reflect the demand driven nature of the provision of technical assistance.



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FINAL PROVISIONS

1. For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "Member" is deemed to include the competent authority of that Member.
2. All provisions of this Agreement are binding on all Members.
3. Members shall implement this Agreement from the date of its entry into force. Developing country Members and least developed country Members that choose to use the provisions of Section II shall implement this Agreement in accordance with Section II.
4. A Member which accepts this Agreement after its entry into force shall implement its Category B and C commitments counting the relevant periods from the date this Agreement enters into force.
5. Members of a customs union or a regional economic arrangement may adopt regional approaches to assist in the implementation of their obligations under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation including through the establishment and use of regional bodies.
6. Notwithstanding the General interpretative note to Annex 1A, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as diminishing the obligations of Members under the GATT 1994. In addition, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as diminishing the rights and obligations of Members under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
7. All exceptions and exemptions²³ under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 shall apply to the provisions of this Agreement. Waivers applicable to the GATT 1994 or any part thereof, granted according to Article IX:3 and Article IX:4 of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO and any amendments thereto as of the date of entry into force of this Agreement, shall apply to the provisions of this Agreement.
8. The provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 as elaborated and applied by the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes shall apply to consultations and the settlement of disputes under this Agreement, except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Agreement.
9. Reservations may not be entered in respect of any of the provisions of this Agreement without the consent of the other Members.
10. The Category A commitments of developing and least developed country Members annexed to this Agreement in accordance with paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of Section II shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.
11. The Category B and C commitments of developing and least developed country Members taken note of by the Committee and annexed to this Agreement pursuant to paragraph 4.5 of Section II shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

²³ This includes Articles V:7 and X:1 of the GATT 1994 and the Ad note to Article VIII of the GATT 1994.



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ANNEX 1: FORMAT FOR NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 10.1

Donor Member:
Period covered by the notification:

Description of the technical and financial assistance and capacity building resources	Status and amount committed/disbursed	Beneficiary country/ Region (where necessary)	The implementing agency in the Member providing assistance	Procedures for disbursement of the assistance

Transport

Transport services

	Roads				Railways			Port	Air		
	Total road network	Paved roads	Passengers carried	Goods hauled	Rail lines	Passengers carried	Goods hauled	Port container traffic	Registered carrier departures worldwide	Passengers carried	Air freight
	km	%	million passenger-km	million ton-km	total route-km	million passenger-km	million ton-km	TEU thousands	thousands	thousands	million ton-km
	2005-2011	2005-2011	2005-2011	2005-2011	2005-2012	2005-2012	2005-2012	2012	2013	2013	2013
Afghanistan	23,133	36.4	233	7,033	..	..	..	..	12	1,212	85
Azerbaijan	18,986	55.6	18,264	12,356	2,068	591	8,212	..	16	1,652	18
Iran	229,057	74.3	..	..	8,368	17,172	22,604	2,850	157	18,867	65
Kazakhstan	97,155	88.7	163,996	121,074	14,319	18,498	235,846	..	55	4,851	67
Kyrgyz Republic	34,000	..	7,379	1,303	417	76	923	..	8	526	1
Pakistan	262,567	72.6	322,765	177,954	7,791	20,619	1,757	2,281	67	7,800	254
Tajikistan	..	..	..	..	621	24	555	..	6	629	2
Turkey	370,276	89.4	242,265	203,072	9,642	4,598	10,691	6,230	566	74,353	2,349
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	3,115	1,811	11,992	..	1	147	3
Uzbekistan	..	..	67,954	24,500	4,192	3,025	22,482	..	24	2,570	107
World	..	57	..	..	..	2,134	5,708	601,508	31,117	3,023,302	175,580
Low income	..	20.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	385	22,967	1,412
Middle income	..	53.5	..	..	..	1,834	2,903	292,302	9,864	1,072,180	33,741
High income	..	83.7	93,933	26,408	..	6,907	9,275	305,104	20,868	1,928,155	140,427

Tourism

Movement of people across borders

	Net migration (thousands)	International migrant stock (thousands)	Emigration rate of tertiary educated to OECD countries (% of tertiary educated population age 25+)	Refugees (thousands)		Workers remittances (US\$ Millions)	
				By country of origin	By country of asylum	Received	Paid
				2012	2012	2012	2012
Afghanistan	-400	91	22.6	2,586.20	16.2	385	275
Azerbaijan	0	264	1.8	15.5	1.5	1,990	2,073
Iran	-300	2,129	14.3	75.9	868.2	1,330	..
Kazakhstan	0	3,079	1.2	3.6	0.6	171	3,764
Kyrgyz Republic	-175	223	0.9	3.5	4.9	2,031	286
Pakistan	-1,634	4,234	12.7	49.8	1,638.50	14,007	30
Tajikistan	-100	284	0.6	0.7	2.2	3,626	263
Turkey	350	1,411	5.8	135.4	267.1	1,015	255
Turkmenistan	-25	208	0.4	0.7	0	..	..
Uzbekistan	-200	1,176	0.8	11.6	0.2	..	..
World	0	213,316	5.4	15,202.50	15,202.50	478,461	356,249
Low income	-4,337	10,935	12.5	5,710.30	2,350.10	28,153	1,829
Middle income	-12,655	57,727	7.7	4,312.30	11,125.40	322,240	44,403
High income	16,941	144,654	3.9	190.4	1,942.40	128,067	310,017

Travel and Tourism

	International tourists				Inbound tourism expenditure				Outbound tourism expenditure			
	Inbound		Outbound		\$ millions		% of exports		\$ millions		% of imports	
	thousands		thousands									
	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	89	..	2.5	..	100	..	0.9
Azerbaijan	732	2,130	1,631	4,285	317	2,618	1.4	7.3	381	3,032	4.1	15.6
Iran, Islamic Rep.	2,219	4,769	..	..	1,950	..	..	..	7,335	..	..	..
Kazakhstan	3,876	4,926	4,544	10,144	1,214	1,717	2.3	1.9	1,396	2,033	3.1	3.3
Kyrgyz Republic	1,656	3,076	559	1,401	392	585	19.4	18.9	215	505	6.7	7.5
Pakistan	840	..	..	..	912	929	4.2	3.1	2,083	1,618	5.5	3.3
Tajikistan	..	208	..	15	17	57	1	4.9	7	14	0.2	0.3
Turkey	26,122	37,795	4,956	7,526	21,662	34,863	14.9	16.7	4,254	5,268	2.4	2
Turkmenistan	8	..	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	903	1,969	1,248	..	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
World	944,183	1,123,200	1,040,686	1,214,972	1,035,511	1,381,109	6.1	6.1	963,606	1,274,940	5.7	5.6
Low income	12,888	18,727	..	..	8,150	..	15.5	15.2	4,341	6,966	5.6	4.6
Middle income	298,771	376,972	207,675	341,396	248,488	349,300	6.5	5.7	162,245	337,012	4.4	5.1
High income	618,049	710,605	685,496	711,925	780,224	1,018,325	6	6.2	796,877	934,114	6.1	5.9
Euro area	299,857	328,724	228,787	..	336,364	362,353	6.6	6.2	284,129	304,704	5.8	5.7

Women Entrepreneurs

Women in Society

Country	Female population % of total	Life expectancy at birth (Years)		Female Headed Households	Unpaid family workers		Gender equality Index 1-6 (low to high)
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
					% of male employment	% of female employment	
Afghanistan	49.3	59	62	--	..	..	1.5
Azerbaijan	50.3	68	74	25	..	..	--
Iran	49.6	72	76	11	..	..	--
Pakistan	48.6	66	67	10	17.3	63.4	2.5
Tajikistan	49.8	64	71	--	..	..	4.0
Turkey	50.9	72	78	--	4.6	33.6	--
Turkmenistan	50.8	61	70	--	..	..	--
Uzbekistan	50.3	65	72	18	..	..	4.0
World	49.6	69	73	--	..	..	--
High income	50.8	76	82	--	0.6	1.9	--

Women in Business

Country	Women in wage employment in nonagricultural sector	Firms with Female Participation in Ownership (%)	Female part-time employment	Female legislators, senior officials, and managers	Women in parliaments	
	% of nonagricultural wage employment		% of total		% of total seats	
Afghanistan	..	2.8	..	..	4	28
Azerbaijan	44	10.8	..	7	..	16
Iran	15	--	..	13	2	3
Pakistan	..	6.7	..	3	10	21
Tajikistan	29	34.4	..	..	..	19
Turkey	24	40.7	60	10	1	14
Turkmenistan	..	--	26	17
Uzbekistan	..	39.8	22
World	..	--	13	22
High income	47	--	69	..	13	25



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Doing Business in ECO Member Countries



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Doing Business Reforms 2012-13

Country	Starting a business	Getting credit	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Dealing with construction permits	Registering property	Getting electricity	Protecting investors	Enforcing contracts
Afghanistan	√	√							
Azerbaijan	√			√	√				
Iran									
Kazakhstan	√					√			
Kyrgyzstan									
Pakistan									
Tajikistan	X	√	√						
Turkey	X				√	X	√	√	
Turkmenistan									
Uzbekistan	√	√	√	√		√			√

Ease of Doing Business

Country	Ease of doing business (rank)	Region	Income level	GNI per capita (US\$)	Population (m)
Afghanistan	164	South Asia	Low income	622	29.8
Azerbaijan	70	Europe & Central Asia	Upper middle income	6,050	9.3
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	152	Middle East & North Africa	Upper middle income	7,211	76.4
Kazakhstan	50	Europe & Central Asia	Upper middle income	9,730	16.8
Kyrgyzstan	68	Europe & Central Asia	Low income	990	5.6
Pakistan	110	South Asia	Lower middle income	1,260	179.2
Tajikistan	143	Europe & Central Asia	Low income	860	8.0
Turkey	69	Europe & Central Asia	Upper middle income	10,830	74.0
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	146	Europe & Central Asia	Lower middle income	1,720	29.8

Business Environment: Enterprise Surveys

	Survey Year	Regulations and tax		Permits and licenses	Corruption	Crime	Informality	Gender	Finance	Infrastructure	Innovation	Trade	Workforce
		Time spent dealing with the requirements of government regulations	Number of visits or required meetings with tax officials	Time required to obtain operating license	Informal payments to public officials	Losses due to theft, robbery, vandalism, and arson	Firms competing against unregistered firms	Firms with female top manager	Firms using banks to finance investment	Value lost due to electrical outages	Internationally-recognized quality certification	Average time to clear exports through customs	Firms offering formal training
		% of senior management time		days	% of firms	% sales	% of firms	% of firms	% of firms	% of sales	% of firms	days	% of firms
Afghanistan	2014	9.1	1.3	14.8	33.5	5	45.3	4.6	2.2	7.3	21.1	8.1	34.3
Azerbaijan	2013	0.3	1.7	5.3	6.8	0	18.5	2.4	27.6	1	12.8	1.9	20.3
Iran,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kazakhstan	2013	5.6	0.9	41	20.9	0.4	36	18.8	16.4	1.3	16.2	7.2	29.4
Kyrgyz Republic	2013	12.9	1.9	28.7	52.1	0.4	43.5	28.8	19.3	3.7	28.4	7.5	65.3
Pakistan	2007	1.9	1.5	10.2	48	0.4	12.4	..	9.7	9.2	9.6	2.6	6.7
Tajikistan	2008	11.7	1.4	22.6	44.6	0.3	35.3	11.8	21.4	15.1	16.7	20.4	21.1
Turkey	2008	27.1	1.3	36	18	0.4	52.4	12.4	51.9	2.8	30	5.2	28.8
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	2008	11.1	0.7	9.1	59.5	0.7	39.2	11.4	8.2	5.4	1.3	5.1	9.6
World
Low income
Middle income
High income



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Most Problematic factors for Doing Business (Percent of responses)

Azerbaijan

Corruption	23.6
Tax rates	13.2
Inadequately educated workforce	11.2

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Policy instability	20.1
Foreign currency regulations	14.4
Access to financing	13.9

Kazakhstan

Corruption	18.9
Inadequately educated workforce	13.3
Inefficient government bureaucracy	8.8

Kyrgyzstan

Corruption	21.5
Government instability/coups	18.7
Policy instability	18.6

Pakistan

Corruption	16.7
Policy instability	11.8
Access to financing	11.6

Turkey

Tax rates	14.8
Inadequately educated workforce	12.8
Inefficient government bureaucracy	12.4

Doing Business Reforms 2012-13

1. Afghanistan

Starting a business

Afghanistan made starting a business easier by reducing the time and cost to obtain a business license and by eliminating the inspection of the premises of newly registered companies.

Getting credit

Afghanistan strengthened its secured transactions system by implementing a unified collateral registry.

2. Azerbaijan

Starting a business

Azerbaijan made starting a business easier by introducing free online registration services and eliminating pre-registration formalities.



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Trading across borders

Azerbaijan made trading across borders easier by streamlining internal customs procedures.

Dealing with construction permits

Azerbaijan adopted a new construction code that streamlined procedures relating to the issuance of building permits and established official time limits for some procedures.

3. Kazakhstan

Starting a business

Kazakhstan made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to register a company at the Public Registration Center.

Registering property

Kazakhstan made transferring property easier by introducing a fast-track procedure for property registration.

4. Tajikistan

Starting a business

Tajikistan made starting a business more difficult by requiring preliminary approval from the tax authority and the submission of additional documents at registration.

Getting credit

Tajikistan improved access to credit information by establishing a private credit bureau.

Paying taxes

Tajikistan made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate, merging the minimal income tax with the corporate income tax and abolishing the retail sales tax. At the same time, Tajikistan increased the land and vehicle tax rates.

5. Turkey

Starting a business

Turkey made starting a business more difficult by increasing the minimum capital requirement.

Dealing with construction permits

Turkey reduced the time required for dealing with construction permits by setting strict time limits for granting a lot plan and by reducing the documentation requirements for an occupancy permit.

Registering property

Turkey made transferring property more costly by increasing the registration and several other fees.



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Getting electricity

Turkey made getting electricity easier by eliminating external inspections and reducing some administrative costs.

Protecting investors

Turkey strengthened investor protections through a new commercial code that requires directors found liable in abusive related-party transactions to disgorge their profits and that allows shareholders to request the appointment of an auditor to investigate alleged prejudicial conflicts of interest.

6. Uzbekistan

Starting a business

Uzbekistan made starting a business easier by abolishing the paid-in minimum capital requirement and by eliminating the requirement to have signature samples notarized before opening a bank account.

Paying taxes

Uzbekistan made paying taxes easier for companies by eliminating some small taxes.

Trading across borders

Uzbekistan made trading across borders easier by eliminating the need to register import contracts with customs, tightening the time limits for banks to register export or import contracts and reducing the number of export documents required.

Registering property

Uzbekistan made transferring property easier by reducing the notary fees.

Enforcing contracts

Uzbekistan made enforcing contracts easier by introducing an electronic filing system for court users.

Investment and Financial Environment

Ranking of Investment Factors

Reason for Investment	%	Reason for Investment	%
Large Sales Market	37	Economic Framework	5
Work Force Availability	13	Infrastructure	5
Free Land / Industrial Site	14	Inputs Availability	3
Public Subsidies	12	Innovations Potential	2
Constitutional Framework	8	Research Promotion	1

Financial assets by major type (US\$ billions)

Country	Public debt securities	Private debt securities	Banking deposits	Equity securities	Total Asset
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	--
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	--	--
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	--	--	--	--	--
Kazakhstan	22.9	40.5	45.8	60.7	170.0
Kyrgyzstan	--	--	--	--	--
Pakistan	89.7	0.0	56.7	38.2	184.5
Tajikistan	--	--	--	--	--
Turkey	316.9	14.5	371.0	306.7	1,009.0
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--

Financial Development Index

Country	Index Rank (out of 62)	Score (1-7)	Institutional environment		Business environment		Financial stability		Banking financial services		Non-banking financial services		Financial markets		Financial access	
			Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score		
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kazakhstan	47	3.1	49	3.6	30	4.6	32	4.4	55	2.5	28	2.2	44	1.7	47	2.9
Kyrgyzstan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pakistan	58	2.6	58	3.1	58	3.2	50	3.8	54	2.8	55	1.3	38	2.0	61	2.1
Tajikistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Turkey	42	3.3	37	4.1	33	4.5	58	3.2	35	3.7	45	1.7	30	2.4	39	3.3
Turkmenistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FDI Flows (US\$ Millions)

	FDI inflows		FDI Outflows		FDI inward Stock		FDI outward Stock	
	2008	2013	2008	2013	2000	2013	2000	2013
Afghanistan	94	69	--	--	17	1,638	--	--
Azerbaijan	14	2,632	556	1,490	3,735	13,750	1	9,005
Iran	1,980	3,050	380	380	2,597	40,941	572	3,725
Kazakhstan	16,819	9,739	3,704	1,948	10,078	129,554	16	29,122
Kyrgyzstan	377	758	(0.13)	(0.01)	432	3,473	33	1
Pakistan	5,438	1,307	49	237	6,919	27,589	489	1,731
Tajikistan	376	108	--	--	136	1,625	--	--
Turkmenistan	1,277	3,061	--	--	949	23,018	--	--
Turkey	19,762	12,866	2,549	3,114	18,812	145,467	3,668	32,782
Uzbekistan	711	1,077	--	--	698	8,512	--	--

Value of cross-border M & As (US\$ Millions)

	Net Sales		Net Purchases	
	2007	2013	2007	2013
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-
Iran	-	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	727	217	1,833	-
Kyrgyzstan	209	-	-	-
Pakistan	1,213	8	-	2
Tajikistan	5	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-
Turkey	15,150	867	767	590
Uzbekistan	-	3	-	-

Value of Greenfield FDI projects, by source/destination (US\$ Millions)

	By source		By destination	
	2007	2013	2007	2013
Afghanistan	-	15	6	320
Azerbaijan	4,307	221	1,999	964
Iran	6,137	-	6,217	79
Kazakhstan	109	221	4,251	1,370
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	3,362	49
Pakistan	40	686	5,049	3,033
Tajikistan	-	-	327	44
Turkmenistan	-	-	1,051	-
Turkey	2,399	6,864	14,655	9 491
Uzbekistan	-	-	1,016	289

International Investment Agreement (No)

	BIT	Other IIA	Total
Afghanistan	3	4	7
Azerbaijan	46	4	50
Iran	61	2	63
Kazakhstan	45	7	52
Kyrgyzstan	29	7	36
Pakistan	46	7	53
Tajikistan	34	7	41
Turkmenistan	26	6	31
Turkey	89	19	108
Uzbekistan	50	5	55

Financial access, stability, and efficiency

	Getting credit		Financial access and outreach				Bank capital to assets ratio	Ratio of NPL to total gross loans	Banks' credit to private sector	Interest rate spread	Risk premium on lending
	Strength of legal rights index	Depth of credit information index	Depositors with commercial banks	Borrowers from commercial banks	Commercial bank branches	Automated teller machines	%	%	% of GDP	lending rate minus deposit rate	Prime lending rate minus treasury bill rate
	0-10 (weak to strong)	0-6 (low to high)	per 1,000 adults		per 100,000 adults					percentage points	
	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012
Afghanistan	7	0	175	4	2.2	0.67	7.8	6	4	..	..
Azerbaijan	6	5	461	151	9.6	31.09	..	..	20	8.1	15.9
Iran	4	5	..	..	27.1	46.07	..	..	13	-0.2	..
Kazakhstan	4	5	1,109	..	3.3	69.49	13.2	19.5	37	..	..
Kyrgyz Republic	10	4	205	40	7.8	15.81	16.9	5.5	..	7.5	6.6
Pakistan	6	4	268	26	9	5.42	9.3	14.3	17	5.5	2.5
Tajikistan	2	4	640	30	7.2	9.69	19.6	11.7	12	17.5	20.2
Turkey	4	5	930	875	18.7	63.39	11.2	2.6	54	..	..
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	2	5	909	45	45.4	6.69	11.2	0.4	..	..	..
World	6	3	..	117	11.7	34.21	10.1	4	88	5.9	..
Low income	6	2	125	12	3.2	3.37	..	..	30	10.7	..
Middle income	5	4	571	186	10.4	30.37	10.4	3.7	77	6.4	..
High income	7	4	23.6	68.24	8.1	4.1	94



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Participation of ECO countries in International Organizations



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International organization participation

International organization	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Iran	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Turkey	Uzbekistan	Pakistan
ADB	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ASEAN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	D.Partner
Australia Group	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
BIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
BSEC	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
CDCE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
CERN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
CICA	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
CIS	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	X	√	X
CP	√	X	√	X	X	√	X	√	X	√
CSTO	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	X
D-8	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	√
EAEC	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	X
EAPC	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	√	X
EBRD	√	X	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ECO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
EITI	√	√	X	√	√	X	X	X	X	X
EU	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	candidate	X	X
FAO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
FATF	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
G-11	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
G20	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
G-24	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
G-77	√	X	√	X	√	√	√	X	X	√
GCTU	X	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	X	X
IAEA	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
IBRD	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ICAO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ICC	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
ICRM	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√



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IDA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IDB	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IFAD	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IFC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IFRCs	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IHO	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	√
ILO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IMF	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IMO	X	√	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	X
IMSO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	√
INTERPOL	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IOC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
IOM	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√
IPU	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	X	√
ISO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ITSO	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
ITU	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ITUC	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
MIGA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
MINURSO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
MINUSMA	√	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X
MONUSCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
NAM	√	√	√	observer	observer	√	√	√	√	√
NATO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
NEA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
NSG	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	√	X	X
OAS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
OECD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
OIC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
OPCW	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
OPEC	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
OSCE	Partner	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Pacific Alliance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X



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Paris Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	observ er	X	X
PCA	X	X	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	√
PFP	X	X	X	√	√	√	√	X	√	X
SAARC	√	X	obser ver	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
SACEP	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
SCO	√	X	obser ver	√	√	√	X	√	√	obser er
SELC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	X	X
UN	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UNAMID	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
UNCHR	X	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	√
UNCTAD	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UNESCO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UNIDO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UNISFA	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	√
UNMIL	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	√
UNMISS	X	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
UNWTO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UPU	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WCO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WFTU	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WHO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WIPO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WMO	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
WTO	√	√	obser ver	√	√	√	X	√	Observ er	√
ZC	X	X	X	√	√	X	X	√	X	X



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

International Organizations

1. Advanced developing countries
2. African Development Bank Group (AFDB)
3. African Union (AU)
4. African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
5. African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)
6. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)
7. Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
8. Andean Community (CAN)
9. Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA)
10. Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)
11. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
12. Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
13. Arctic Council
14. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
15. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
16. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
17. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
18. Australia Group (AG)
19. Australia-New Zealand-United States Security Treaty (ANZUS)
20. Baltic Assembly (BA)
21. Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
22. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
23. Benelux Union (Benelux)
24. Big Seven
25. Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone (BSEC)
26. BRICS
27. Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom)
28. Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
29. Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC)
30. Central African States Development Bank (BDEAC)
31. Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)
32. Central American Common Market (CACM)
33. Central American Integration System (SICA)
34. Central European Initiative (CEI)
35. centrally planned economies
36. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)
37. Colombo Plan (CP)
38. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
39. Commonwealth (C)
40. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
41. Communist countries
42. Community of Democracies (CD)
43. Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)
44. Comunidade dos Paises de Lingua Portuguesa (CPLP)



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

45. Conference of Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
46. Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)
47. Coordinating Committee on Export Controls (COCOM)
48. Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA)
49. Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)
50. Council of Europe (CE)
51. Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
52. Council of the Entente (Entente)
53. countries in transition
54. Customs Cooperation Council (CCC)
55. developed countries (DCs)
56. developing countries
57. Developing Eight (D-8)
58. East African Community (EAC)
59. East African Development Bank (EADB)
60. East Asia Summit (EAS)
61. Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
62. Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
63. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
64. Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)
65. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
66. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
67. Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC or Euras EC)
68. Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
69. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
70. European Central Bank (ECB)
71. European Community (or European Communities, EC)
72. European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
73. European Investment Bank (EIB)
74. European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
75. European Space Agency (ESA)
76. European Union (EU)
77. Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)
78. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
79. First World
80. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
81. former Soviet Union (FSU)
82. former USSR/Eastern Europe (former USSR/EE)
83. Four Dragons
84. Franc Zone (FZ)
85. Front Line States (FLS)
86. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
87. General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU)
88. Group of 10 (G-10)
89. Group of 11 (G-11)
90. Group of 15 (G-15)



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91. Group of 20 (G-20)
92. Group of 24 (G-24)
93. Group of 3 (G-3)
94. Group of 5 (G-5)
95. Group of 6 (G-6)
96. Group of 7 (G-7)
97. Group of 77 (G-77)
98. Group of 8 (G-8)
99. Group of 9 (G-9)
100. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
101. High income countries
102. Indian Ocean Commission (InOC)
103. Industrial countries
104. Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
105. Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
106. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
107. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
108. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
109. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
110. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
111. International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH)
112. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
113. International Court of Justice (ICJ)
114. International Criminal Court (ICCt)
115. International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)
116. International Development Association (IDA)
117. International Energy Agency (IEA)
118. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS)
119. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
120. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
121. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
122. International Labor Organization (ILO)
123. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
124. International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
125. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
126. International Olympic Committee (IOC)
127. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
128. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
129. International Organization of the French-speaking World (OIF)
130. International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM)
131. International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)
132. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
133. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
134. Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
135. Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (LAES)
136. Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)



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137. League of Arab States (LAS)
138. least developed countries (LLDCs)
139. less developed countries (LDCs)
140. low-income countries
141. middle-income countries
142. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
143. Near Abroad
144. new independent states (NIS)
145. newly industrializing countries (NICs)
146. newly industrializing economies (NIEs)
147. Nonaligned Movement (NAM)
148. Nordic Council (NC)
149. Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)
150. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
151. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
152. Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
153. Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
154. Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM)
155. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
156. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
157. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
158. Organization of African Unity (OAU)
159. Organization of American States (OAS)
160. Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
161. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
162. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
163. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
164. Pacific Alliance
165. Pacific Community (SPC)
166. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
167. Paris Club
168. Partnership for Peace (PFP)
169. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
170. Petrocaribe
171. Rio Group (RG)
172. Schengen Convention
173. Second World
174. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
175. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
176. socialist countries
177. South
178. South American Community of Nations (CSN)
179. South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP)
180. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
181. South Pacific Forum (SPF)
182. South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (Sparteca)



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183. Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
184. Southern African Development Community (SADC)
185. Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) or Southern Common Market
186. Third World
187. underdeveloped countries
188. undeveloped countries
189. Union Latina
190. Union of South American Nations (UNASUR - Spanish; UNASUL - Portuguese)
191. United Nations (UN)
192. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
193. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
194. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
195. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
196. United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)
197. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
198. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
199. United Nations General Assembly
200. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
201. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
202. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
203. United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)
204. United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
205. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
206. United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)
207. United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)
208. United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
209. United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
210. United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)
211. United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)
212. United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)
213. United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, MINUSMA
214. United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
215. United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
216. United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
217. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
218. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
219. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
220. United Nations Secretariat
221. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
222. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)
223. United Nations Trusteeship Council
224. United Nations University (UNU)
225. Universal Postal Union (UPU)
226. Warsaw Pact (WP)
227. West African Development Bank (WADB)



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- 228. West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- 229. Western European Union (WEU)
- 230. World Bank Group
- 231. World Confederation of Labor (WCL)
- 232. World Customs Organization (WCO)
- 233. World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- 234. World Food Program (WFP)
- 235. World Health Organization (WHO)
- 236. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- 237. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- 238. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- 239. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 240. Zangger Committee (ZC)

Regional trade blocs

Bloc	Year of creation	Year of entry into force of the most recent agreement	Type of most Recent agreement	Merchandise exports within bloc		Merchandise exports by bloc % of world exports
				\$ millions	% of total bloc exports	
High-income and low- and middle-income economies						
APEC	1989	--	None	4,868,838	67.5	47.3
EEA	1994	1994	EIA	3,519,827	68.7	33.6
EFTA	1960	2002	EIA	2,096	0.6	2.2
European Union	1957	1958	EIA, CU	3,356,310	67.3	32.7
NAFTA	1994	1994	FTA	955,598	48.7	12.9
SPARTECA	1981	1981	PTA	20,717	8.1	1.7
Trans-Pacific SEP	2006	2006	EIA, FTA	3,969	0.9	3.0
East Asia and Pacific and South Asia						
APTA	1975	1976	PTA	278,451	12.1	15.1
ASEAN	1967	1992	FTA	262,270	25.0	6.9
MSG	1993	1994	PTA	99	0.8	0.1
PICTA	2001	2003	FTA	308	2.6	0.1
SAARC	1985	2006	FTA	15,702	5.8	1.8
Europe, Central Asia, and Middle East						
Agadir agreement	2004		NNA	2,068	3.2	0.4
CEFTA	1992	1994	FTA	5,229	17.5	0.2
CEZ	2003	2004	FTA	18,065	4.0	2.9
CIS	1991	1994	FTA	68,596	12.9	3.5
Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russian Federation	2010		CU	18,065	4.0	2.9
EAEC	1997	2000	CU	21,200	4.7	2.9
ECO	1985	2003	PTA	27,654	8.8	2.1
GCC	1981	2003	CU	28,623	4.8	3.9
PAFTA	1997	1998	FTA	81,816	9.7	5.5
UMA	1989	1994	NNA	3,926	2.9	0.9
Latin America and the Caribbean						
Andean Community	1969	1988	CU	7,825	8.5	0.6
CACM	1961	1961	CU	6,330	22.5	0.2
CARICOM	1973	1997	EIA	3,356	15.2	0.1
LAIA	1980	1981	PTA	128,829	15.9	5.3
MERCOSUR	1991	2005	EIA	44,239	15.7	1.9
OECS	1981	1981	NNA	132	17.5	0.0
Sub-Saharan Africa						
CEMAC	1994	1999	CU	383	1.2	0.2
CEPGL	1976		NNA	81	1.5	0.0
COMESA	1994	1994	CU	8,158	7.7	0.7
EAC	1996	2000	CU	1,997	20.3	0.1
ECCAS	1983	2004	NNA	483	0.6	0.6
ECOWAS	1975	1993	PTA	8,911	8.8	0.7
Indian Ocean Commission	1984	2005	NNA	184	5.3	0.0
SADC	1992	2000	FTA	14,576	9.8	1.0
UEMOA	1994	2000	CU	2,250	14.6	0.1

Note: APEC is Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, EEA is European Economic Area, EFTA is European Free Trade Association, NAFTA is North American Free Trade Agreement, SPARTECA is South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, Trans-Pacific SEP is Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership, APTA



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is Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, ASEAN is Association of South East Asian Nations, MSG is Melanesian Spearhead Group, PICTA is Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement, SAARC is South Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation, CEFTA is Central European Free Trade Area, CEZ is Common Economic Zone, CIS is Commonwealth of Independent States, EAEC is Eurasian Economic Community, ECO is Economic Cooperation Organization, GCC is Gulf Cooperation Council, PAFTA is Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, UMA is Arab Maghreb Union, CACM is Central American Common Market, CARICOM is Caribbean Community and Common Market, LAIA is Latin American Integration Association, MERCOSUR is Southern Common Market, OECS is Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, CEMAC is Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, CEPGL is Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, COMESA is Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, EAC is East African Community, ECCAS is Economic Community of Central African States, ECOWAS is Economic Community of West African States, SADC is Southern African Development Community, UEMOA is West African Economic and Monetary Union.

CU is customs union; EIA is economic integration agreement; FTA is free trade agreement; PTA is preferential trade agreement; and NNA is not notified agreement, which refers to preferential trade arrangements established among member countries that are not notified to the World Trade Organization (these agreements may be functionally equivalent to any of the other agreements).



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Brief Profiles of ECO Member Countries



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



- Area: 652,090 sq. km
- Bordering countries: China (76 km), Iran (936 km), Pakistan (2,430 km), Tajikistan (1,206 km), Turkmenistan (744 km), Uzbekistan (137 km).
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 12.13%
 - Meadows and pastures: 46%
 - Forest and woodland: 3%
 - Other: 39%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

1	Population (000)	26,488
2	Population Density (Population per Km2)	40.6
5	Total Fertility Rate	---
6	Share of Urban Population (%)	22.2
7	Literacy Rate (%)	---
22	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports 51.9
23		Exports 59.0
24		Total 52.3
25	Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)	---
26	Production of Natural Gas (Mln M3)	161
27	Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)	547



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Republic of Azerbaijan



- Area: 86,600 sq. km,
- Bordering countries: Armenia (1007 km), Georgia (480 km), Iran (765 km), (Russia 390 km), (Turkey 15 km)
- - Petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, nonferrous metals, alumina
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 21.8%
 - Meadows and pastures: 30.7%
 - Forest and woodland: 12.0%
 - Other: 32.9%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1	Population (000)	9,173	
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)	105.9	
3	Total Fertility Rate	2.40	
4	Share of Urban Population (%)	53.0	
5	Literacy Rate (%)	99.8	
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	17.9
		Exports	3.2
		Total	7.2
7	Production of Crude Oil (Min Ton)	45,626	
8	Production of Natural Gas (Min M ³)	25,728	
9	Production of Electricity (Min Kwh)	20,294	

Islamic Republic of Iran



- Area: 1,648,196 sq km
- Bordering countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan (Nakhichevan), Armenia, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
- Land use (1998):
 - Arable land: 300,000 sq. Km 18.2%
 - Meadows and pastures: 900,000 sq. Km 54.6%
 - Forest and woodland: 120,000 sq. Km 7.3%
 - Other: 258,000 sq. Km 15.7%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Islamic Republic of Iran

1	Population (000)	75,150	
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)	46.1	
3	Total Fertility Rate	---	
4	Share of Urban Population (%)	71.4	
5	Literacy Rate (%)	84.2	
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	6.6
		Exports	4.0
		Total	4.7
7	Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)	---	
8	Production of Natural Gas (Mln M ³)	---	
9	Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)	---	



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Republic of Kazakhstan



- Area: 2,724,900 sq. km
- Bordering countries: China (1,533 km), Kyrgyzstan (1,051 km), Russia (6,846 km), Turkmenistan (379 km), Uzbekistan (2,203 km)
- , cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bitumite, gold, uranium
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 15%
 - Meadows and pastures: 57%
 - Forest and woodland: 4%
 - Other: 24%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1	Population (000)	17,948	
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)	48.7	
3	Total Fertility Rate	2.34	
4	Share of Urban Population (%)	53.6	
5	Literacy Rate (%)	99.7	
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	...
		Exports	...
		Total	...
7	Production of Crude Oil (Mln bbl/day)	1,606	
8	Production of Natural Gas (bmn M3)	20.2	
9	Production of Electricity (bn Kwh)	90.3	



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Kyrgyz Republic



- Area: 198,500 sq. km
- Bordering countries: China (858 km), Kazakhstan (1,051 km), Tajikistan (870 km), Uzbekistan (1,099 km)
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 7.137%
 - Meadows and pastures: 45%
 - Other: 48%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Kyrgyz Republic

1	Population (000)		5,515
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)		27.6
3	Total Fertility Rate		3.09
4	Share of Urban Population (%)		34.0
5	Literacy Rate (%)		99.2
6	BCO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	15.0
		Exports	24.3
		Total	18.2
7	Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)		90
8	Production of Natural Gas Mln M ³		27
9	Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)		15,223



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Islamic Republic of Pakistan



- Area: 796,095 sq km
- Bordering countries: Afghanistan (2,430 km), China (580 km), India (2,240 km), Iran (909 km)
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 30.18 thousand hectares
 - Meadows and pastures: 6%
 - Forest and woodland: 4%
 - Other: 67%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1	Population (000)		177,100
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)		222.0
3	Total Fertility Rate		3.50
4	Share of Urban Population (%)		...
5	Literacy Rate (%)		58.0
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	2.5
		Exports	13.8
		Total	6.8
7	Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)		3,225
8	Production of Natural Gas (Mln M ³)		41,460
9	Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)		94,653



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Republic of Tajikistan



• Land use:

- Arable land: 861.3 thousand hectares
- Meadows and pastures: 23%
- Mountains: 71%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Republic of Tajikistan

Population (000)	8051
Population Density (Population per Km ²)	64.3
Total Fertility Rate	2.76
Share of Urban Population (%)	26.5
Literacy Rate (%)	99.7
FCO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports
	Exports
	Total
Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)	28
Production of Natural Gas (Mln M ³)	15
Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)	16,238



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Republic of Turkey



- Area: 774,815 sq. km
- Bordering countries: Georgia (276 km), Armenia (325 km), Azerbaijan (18 km), Bulgaria (269 km), Greece (203 km), Iran (529 km), Iraq (378 km), Syria (877 km)
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 39%
 - Permanent crops: 4%
 - Meadows and pastures: 20% *
 - Forest and woodland: 33%
 - Other: 4% *

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Republic of Turkey

Population (000)	73,950	
Population Density (Population per Km2)	96.1	
Total Fertility Rate	2.09	
Share of Urban Population (%)	76.8	
Literacy Rate (%)	95.1	
ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	7.2
	Exports	6.9
	Total	7.1
Production of Crude Oil (bn bbl/day Ton)	56,650	
Production of Natural Gas (Mln M3)	632	
Production of Electricity (bn Kwh)	217.7	



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Turkmenistan



- Area: 491,200 sq. km
- Bordering countries: Afghanistan (744 km), Iran (992 km), Kazakhstan (379 km), Uzbekistan (1,621 km)
- Land use:
 - Arable land: 3.47%
 - Hay-mowing land: 0.02%
 - Meadows and pastures: 78.6%
 - Other: 18.1%

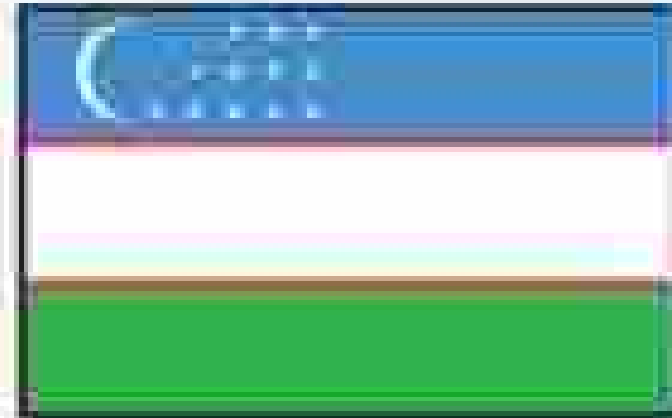
Selected Key Statistical Indicators of Turkmenistan

1	Population (000)	5171
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)	
3	Total Fertility Rate	2.1
4	Share of Urban Population (%)	48.7
5	Literacy Rate (%)	99.6
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports
		Exports
		Total
7	Production of Crude Oil (bb/day)	244100
8	Production of Natural Gas (Mln M3)	64.4
9	Production of Electricity (Bn Kwh)	19.97



ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Republic of Uzbekistan



- Area: 448,900 sq. km
- Bordering countries: Kazakhstan (2203 km), Kyrgyzstan (1099 km), Tajikistan (1161 km), Turkmenistan (1821 km), Afghanistan (137 km)
- Land use:
 - o Arable land: 10.8%
 - o Pastures: 40%
 - o woods: 3%
 - o Other: 48%

Selected Key Statistical Indicators of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1	Population (000)	29,559	
2	Population Density (Population per Km ²)	...	
3	Total Fertility Rate	1.8	
4	Share of Urban Population (%)	36.2	
5	Literacy Rate (%)	99.4	
6	ECO Trade/Total Foreign Trade (%)	Imports	17.5
		Exports	27.8
		Total	23.6
7	Production of Crude Oil (Mln Ton)	4	
8	Production of Natural Gas (Bn M ³)	62.9	
9	Production of Electricity (Mln Kwh)	52,400	

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