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Tajikistan: action matrix for fostering regional integration

Note by the Secretariat

Within the context of its broader effort to support Tajikistan's regional integration efforts and the successful implementation of the country's commitments with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UNECE revised the national Aid-for-Trade (Aft) action matrix presented to the Committee on Trade during its fifth session on 18-19 June 2012 (ECE/TRADE/C/2012/9).

The aim is to provide development partners with a tool for coordination and improving the effectiveness of on-going activities.

The matrix was revised to incorporate the recommendations emerging from the UNECE Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Tajikistan.¹ The recommendations were integrated into the country's post-World Trade Organization accession plan pursuant to Government Resolution No. 691 of 31 October 2014 (ECE/CTCS/2015/14). The Government also decided to integrate the recommendations into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2016-2020.

This document provides the revised national action matrix for Tajikistan.

¹ The study is available in English and Russian at: <http://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/studies-on-procedural-and-regulatory-barriers-to-trade.html>



Tajikistan: action matrix for fostering regional integration

Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
TJ 1 Productive capacity development with special emphasis on export expansion and diversification	TJ 1.1 Improved production capacity in priority sectors	TJ 1.1.1 Increased volume of domestic and export sales in priority sectors	TJ 1.1.1.1 Update and modernize production processes of food and beverage manufacturers with a special emphasis on those involved in producing juice, jams and canned vegetables and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.2 Update and modernize production processes and train personnel in cotton textile manufacturing and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.3 Update and modernize production processes in silk weaving industries and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.4 Update and modernize production processes in knitting industries and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.5 Update and modernize production processes in sewing/clothing industries and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.6 Update and modernize production processes to develop hosiery manufacturing process and train personnel	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.1.7 Modernize Dushanbe cement plant, including: (i) replacement of rotary kilns, hanging rails; and, (ii) renewal of machinery and equipment	Ministry of Energy and Industry
			TJ 1.1.8. Modernize the porcelain plant in Tursun-Zade city, including (i) renewal of basic machinery and equipment; and, (ii) managerial and technical training activities	Ministry of Energy and Industry

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 1.1.1.9 Update, modernize and develop the handicraft industry, including: (i) measures to increase linkages between the rural and urban area; (ii) reconstruction of handicrafts facilities; (iii) provision of necessary machinery and equipment; and, (iv) training programmes on design and production for artisans.	Ministry of Energy and Industry
		TJ 1.1.2 Increased crop yields and harvests in agricultural export sectors	TJ 1.1.2.1 Develop seed based farming and support with the provision of high-yield seed, and related training	Association of Dekhkan Farmers
			TJ 1.1.2.2 Establish programmes to ensure a reliable and adequate provision to export-oriented crop growers of fertilizers as well as other biological and chemical resources	Ministry of Agriculture & Association of Dekhkan Farmers
			TJ 1.1.2.3 Provide agricultural extension services (expertise) to improve crop volumes	Ministry of Agriculture & Association of Dekhkan Farmers
			TJ 1.1.2.4 Establish equipment and machine leasing companies in main regions	Ministry of Agriculture & Agroinvest Bank
			TJ 1.1.2.5 Train farmers in advanced methods for drying fruits and vegetables	Ministry of Agriculture & Association of Dekhkan Farmers
TJ2 Cross-border trade	TJ2.1 Improved national inter-agency cooperation at major border-crossing points	TJ 2.1.1 Reduced number of physical inspections and improved overall efficiency and effectiveness of border control agencies	TJ 2.1.1.1 Enshrine the concept of integrated border management in existing legislation	Parliament

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 2.1.1.2 Establish a common risk management policy to serve as a reference framework for guiding the implementation of integrated border management	State Committee for National Security, Customs Service and border control agencies
			TJ 2.1.1.3 Reconsider the existing functions and responsibilities of border control agencies	State Committee for National Security, Customs Service and border control agencies
			TJ 2.1.1.4 Provide advanced training for all staff on modern control techniques and approaches to risk management	State Committee for National Security, Customs Service and border control agencies
			TJ 2.1.1.5 Facilitate the exchange of information between and across agencies by: (i) reducing, streamlining and simplifying the documentary requirements and administrative procedures of each agency; (ii) creating integrated and shared IT systems	State Committee for National Security, Customs Service and border control agencies
			TJ 2.1.1.6 Introduce modern equipment at all border crossing points to reduce the time needed to check cargo.	State Committee for National Security, Customs Service and border control agencies
	TJ 2.1.2	Improved levels of regional cooperation	TJ 2.1.2.1 Ensure the implementation of the TIR Convention.	Government
			TJ 2.1.2.2 Ensure that trade agreements with regional partners are in line with internationally recognized rules and regulations.	Government
			TJ 2.1.2.3 Harmonize national transport policies with those in China.	Ministry of Transport

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 2.1.2.4 Increase awareness among the logistics service providers and transport operators and traders about these conventions and their benefits.	Ministry of Transport and Association of Freight Forwarders
TJ 3 Trade facilitation	TJ 3.1 To minimize transaction costs (both financial and time wise) for exporters and importers	TJ 3.1.1 Improved overall predictability and transparency of trade-related regulations and administrative procedures	TJ 3.1.1.1 Organize mobilization seminars to familiarize traders with trade-related laws, regulations and administrative procedures and their implication for the management of day import-export processes.	Government
			TJ 3.1.1.2 Revise the existing fee scales for trade documents, so that they are based on the general cost structure and common margins charged to similar services in the country	Government and relevant State agencies

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			<p>TJ 3.1.1.3 Provide traders with reliable, up-to-date information on trade-related regulatory and administrative procedures and their implication for export-import processes. Priority should be given to: (i) developing the institutional website of all State agencies, so that they could provide up to date information on applicable regulations, procedures and price lists pertinent to their respective areas; (ii) developing guidelines and brochures to help traders adhere to related laws, regulations and administrative procedures; and, (iii) establishing information centres, in the form of help desks, in key trade support institutions.</p>	<p>Customs Service, Tajikstandart, State Centre for Sanitary Epidemiological Control under the Ministry of Health, State Veterinary Inspection Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, State Service for Phytosanitary and Quarantine Inspection under the Ministry of Agriculture</p>
			<p>TJ 3.1.1.4 Establish a coordinating committee, or a trade facilitation forum, to conduct regular consultations with the private sector representatives concerning the CU procedures and documentary requirements. UNECE Recommendations on national trade-facilitation bodies provide guidance and examples of best practices for developing or consolidating such a broad mechanism.²</p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Development and Trade</p>

² See Recommendation No.4: "National Trade Facilitation Bodies" (TRADE/CEFACT/1999/11), and its supporting document: "Creating an efficient environment for trade and transport" (TRADE/CEFACT/2000/8).

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
		TJ 3.1.2 Increased efficiency and effectiveness of customs clearance	TJ 3.1.2.1 Develop customs operation manuals for staff in the Customs Service and other relevant State agencies to guide the implementation of the new Customs Code and the day-to-day customs clearance operations.	Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.2.2 Create teams of experts within line Ministries and State agencies capable of implementing reform measures, which seek to ensure adherence to international agreements and best practices in the area of trade facilitation	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.2.3 Introduce measures to expedite customs clearance	Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.2.4 Introduce post-clearance system	Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.2.5 Expand the pool of qualified customs brokers	Association of Customs Brokers
			TJ 3.1.2.6 Promote the development of new payment schemes to facilitate payment of customs duty and taxes	Customs Service and Tax Committee
		TJ 3.1.3 Simplified, harmonized and standardized trade-related procedures and documentary requirements for export and import activities	TJ 3.1.3.1 Streamline and reduce documentary requirements and administrative procedures	Customs Service, Tajikstandart, State Centre for Sanitary Epidemiological Control under the Ministry of Health, State Veterinary Inspection Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, State Service for Phytosanitary, Quarantine Inspection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 3.1.3.2 Install paperless electronic documentation systems in each agency.	See above
			TJ 3.1.3.3 Provide advanced training for staff on electronic business standards (such as the UNCEFACT eBusiness standards	Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.3.4 Implement the law on digital signatures	Relevant Government agencies
			TJ 3.1.3.5 Provide specific training for traders on the use of electronic documents, and solicit their input in designing electronic documents.	Development partners
			TJ 3.1.3.6 Sequencing the implementation of the Single Window. Focus in the first stage on one type of documents, and expand gradually building on accumulated experience.	Customs Service
			TJ 3.1.3.7 Coordination of SW implementation with other Central Asian countries. This will facilitate data exchange for regional trade/transit in Central Asia in the future.	Customs Service
TJ 4 Transport development	TJ 4.1 To develop inland transport and logistical services	TJ 4.1.1 New and improved quality of transport and logistical services	TJ 4.1.1.1 Developing the country's warehouse facilities and regional terminals	Ministry of Transport
			TJ 4.1.1.2 Developing the country's truck fleets	Ministry of Transport
			TJ 4.1.1.3 Expanding the range of services provided by logistics service providers	Association of Freight Forwarders

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 4.1.1.4 Establishing a legal foundation for supporting multi-modal transport services	Ministry of Transport
			TJ 4.1.1.5 Provide advanced training to staff in relevant line Ministries and Government agencies in the area of transport management and regulations	Development partners
TJ 5 Product quality	TJ 5.1 Improved system of quality control and quality assurance	TJ 5.1.1 Increased compliance with international best practices in the area of technical regulations	TJ 5.1.1.1 Create the authorized body for technical regulation	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.1.2 Strengthen the national TBT enquiry point with additional institutional structures and expertise skills to carry out its mandate	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.1.3 Strengthen national capacities in the area of technical regulation development	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.1.4 Further harmonization of regulations with international standards	Tajikstandart
		TJ 5.1.2 Increased compliance with international best practices in the area of standardization	TJ 5.1.2.1 Create the authorized body for standardization	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.2.2 Strengthen national capacities in the area of standard development	Tajikstandart

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
			TJ 5.1.2.3 Further harmonization of national standards	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.2.4 Support Tajikistan's efforts to increase its participate in international standards-setting	Tajikstandart
		TJ 5.1.3 Increased compliance with international best practices in the areas of conformity assessment and product certification	TJ 5.1.3.1 Establish a market surveillance council	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.3.2 Further improve the food safety control system	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.3.3 Simplify and harmonize conformity-assessment procedures	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.3.4 Establish measures for supporting acceptance of other countries' conformity-assessment results	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.3.5 Strengthen the capacities of the new conformity-assessment body with expertise and skills in conformity assessment	Tajikstandart
		TJ 5.1.4 Improved metrology system	TJ 5.1.4.1 Further develop the institutional capacities of testing and calibration laboratories and metrological service agencies	Tajikstandart
			TJ 5.1.4.2 Further develop Tajikistan's measurement system	Tajikstandart
			5.1.4.3 Further develop Tajik's system of legal metrology	Tajikstandart

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Priority Action Areas	Objectives	Outcomes	Actions	Responsible Government Agencies and development partners
TJ 6 Market support institutions	TJ 6.1 Strengthened market support institutions for trade development	TJ 6.1.1 Improved range and quality of trade support services offered by market support institutions	TJ 6.1.1.1 Develop the institutional capacity to support the promotion of Tajik agricultural products in regional and global markets and support participation in international fairs and exhibits	NGO, Ministry of Agriculture
TJ 7 Human resources development in support of trade	TJ 7.1 An increase in the number of qualified staff capable of contributing to their enterprises' increased participation in international trade	TJ 7.1.1 Expanded and improved quality of training programmes for farmers and agribusinesses	<p>TJ 7.1.1.1 Implement training programmes for crop producers on management, including productivity management, and administrative practices.</p> <p>TJ 7.1.1.2 Implement training programmes, including coaching, on best practices for increasing crop yields</p> <p>TJ 7.1.1.3 Train farmers in advanced methods for drying fruits and vegetables</p> <p>TJ 7.1.1.4 Implement training programmes on best practices in marketing and advertising</p>	<p>Academy of Agricultural Sciences</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture & Association of Dekhkan Farmers</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture & Association of Dekhkan Farmers</p> <p>NGOs & Ministry of Agriculture</p>