

# **WTO & RTAs: Experiences of Afghanistan in RTAs. Legal issues and Transparency requirements**

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# **Economic Cooperation / Integration**

**5.4 \ Un]ghUn] membership**

**Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**

**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

**Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program**

**Comprehensive description of 5.4 \ Un]ghUn] activities in paras. 293-299 of the Working Party Report (WPR)**

# **Economic Cooperation / Integration**

**As a WTO Member, Afghanistan remains free to pursue economic cooperation, bilaterally and as part of a group of countries, both regionally and beyond**

**However, when trade preferences are granted to other countries, certain WTO requirements have to be met**

# Trade Agreements

**Different terminology: Regional Trade Agreement (RTA), Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Economic Cooperation Agreement, Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), etc.**

**What matters from a WTO standpoint are the trade preferences granted to select countries (*and not to ALL WTO Members*  
*Most Favored Nation MFN*)**

# **Trade Agreements**

**Most Favored Nation principle (GATT Article I and GATS Article II, TRIPS Article IV)**

**Favour one favor all, no discrimination between trading partners**

**Exceptions possible for trade agreements**

**Trade in goods: GATT Art. XXIV / Enabling Clause**

**Trade in services: GATS Art. V**

# Trade Agreements

WPR para. 300 [Ø] Afghanistan [Å] would observe the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement, including Article XXIV [GATT] [Å], the [Å] Enabling Clause and Article V [GATS] in its trade agreements [Å Q

# Transparency

WPR para. 300 [5] would ensure that the applicable provisions of the WTO Agreements for notification [Å] were met from the date of accession.Î



# Transparency

## Initial notification

57 \ Ub]ghUb] participation in SAFTA in coordination with SAARC Secretariat

## Note:

2008 notification of SAFTA the WTW e6n75dination

# Transparency

# **Transparency**

**Upon notification, the preferential trade agreement is considered by the WTO Committee on Trade and Development**

**Information to be provided (paras. 6-13 of the WTO General Council Decision of 14 December 2010)**

**Coordinate with partner country(ies), institutions (e.g. SAARC Secretariat) and interact with WTO Secretariat**



***Thank You***