

WTO Accession- Lessons from Nepal

Presented by

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Pre-Membership-I

PostMembership-II

My presentation Outline

- Expectation from WTO membership
- Lesson from pre membership
- Lessons from postmembership
- Strategies for mitigating Challenges.
- Efforts to mitigate challenges
- Nepal's postaccession efforts
- Concluding notes

What People Expecting from WTO Membership

- Integrating Economy into Global Mainstream
- Securing Market for Exports
- Maintaining Policy Stability
- Strengthening Domestic Institutions
- Attracting Foreign Investments
- Benefiting from Fair Trade Rules
- Enhancing Competitive Capability

Lesson-1 .Do Not Forget basic facts from our National Perspectives

- Development Needs

- Flexibility provided by WTO

- Policy Space to Protect domestic producers, professional and workers

- Domestic reform opportunities

- Demand from Member States



Lesson-2. There requires also a Balanced Approach

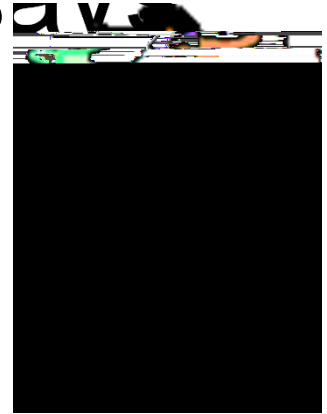
- National Constraints
- Present State of Policy Regime
- Economic & Institutional Capability
- Potential Opportunities/Benefits
- Commercial Interest of Members
- Trend in Neighboring Counties



Lesson-3. Patence is always

Welcome AS...

- There is no Accession Criteria
- Terms to Accede might be Discriminatory to You.
- Process is Complicated and Time Consuming
- Negotiation is one way You have only to give
- Inconsistency in Bilateral and Multilateral



PostAccession

Challenges Ahead –Constant
deterioration of trade
performances from the time of
accession to date.

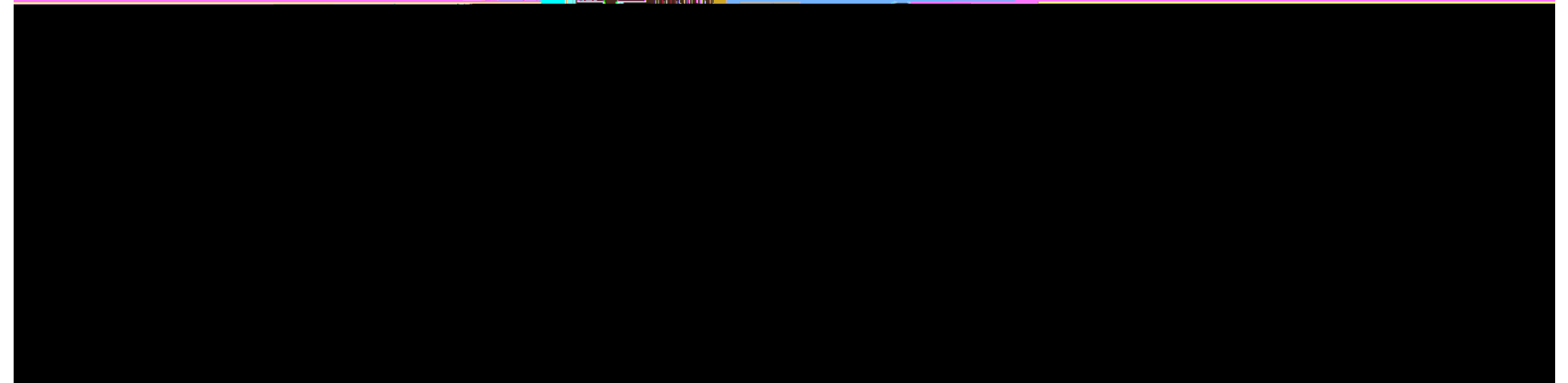
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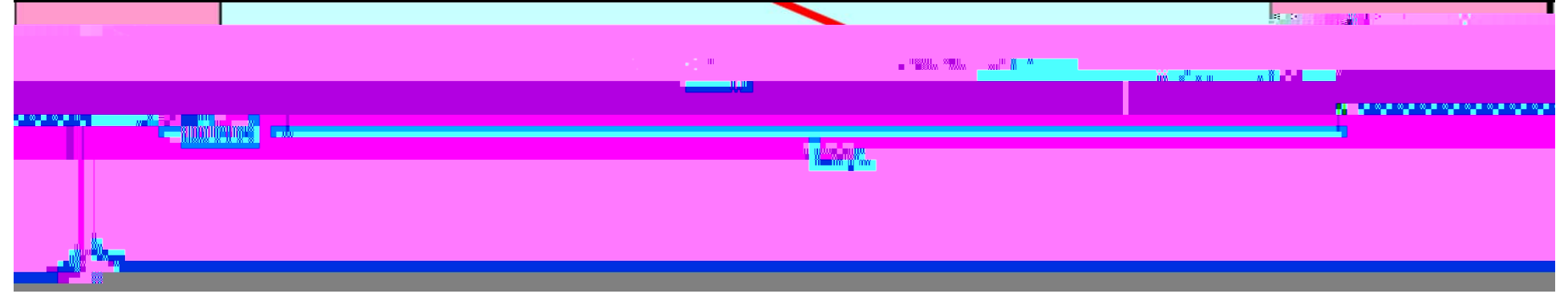
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Export



Major Lessons(1)

- Coordination among agencies is complex
- Expectation of people from WTO Membership is very high- Difficult to fulfill
- Making Service domestic Regulation seems to be a difficult task.

Major Lessons (2)

- Supply-side constraints being major hurdles for expansion in trade.

• Not availability of Trade Assurances

as expected

- Poor Capacity Building remains

stumbling block in the implementation

• Private sector participation is very minimal

- Much about obligation and fulfillment of

Strategies for Mitigating Challenges (2)

- **Try to be visible-** Make strong presence in different international trade negotiation forums
- **Make Awareness** -Build consensus among stakeholders in the country
- **Minimize** supplyside constraints
- **Make better use** of facilities provided by MTA for LDCS

Strategies for Mitigating Challenges (3)

- **Make use of** WTO LDCs Group in Geneva
- **Make use** of think tank in the country including Civil Societies related to trade.
- **Lobbying** externally and internally (Diplomatic mission and abroad)
- **Make use of** WTO 8th Ministerial meeting decisions of accession (it basically calls for, TA, Transparency bench mark and level of development..)

Nepal's Post-Accession Efforts

- **Mainstreaming trade** into National planning document and sectoral policies.
- **Apex Committee** on WTO issues headed by Chief Secretary
- **Trade Policy 2009**
- **NTIS 2010**
- **TPR in March 2012**
- **Working Committee** headed by Secretary MOCS
- **Focal Points** designated to all the concerned Ministries
- **Lobbying** for TRTA at national and global level.
- **Strengthening institutions and HRD** through training and development activities

Nepal's PostAccession Efforts(2)

Concluding Note

1. WTO membership has become **inevitable** for global integration
2. **Delay** brings new and tough terms
3. **Achieving Balance** in terms & time is the challenge
4. **National consensus** for membership
5. **Benefits from WTO system is not automatic** , requires lot of efforts.
6. Postaccession is **more panic** than pre accession

