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It is a pleasure for me



- Concerning services, we have analyzed the structure of our services market focusing on further liberalization of market access conditions and taken a wide range of specific commitments in 113 services sub-sectors, including full commitments in different sectors, as well as additional obligations for some services. Once we are WTO member, this liberalization would result in increase of investment in services sectors. As a country in the crossroads of East-West and North-South transport corridors, we envisage that liberalization of transport services would bring positive yields to the trade and economy as a whole.
- As a result of collaboration with our international partners like USAID, GIZ, EU and etc, we managed to harmonize our domestic support to agriculture to the WTO agreed framework and prepared draft of national strategy on the development of agriculture.
- We are developing our own expert potential through the assistance of members and development partners.
- In order to timely answer the enquiries of the member states, we have set up WTO TBT Enquiry Point at the State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents, WTO SPS Enquiry Point at the Ministry of Agriculture and WTO Services Enquiry Point at the Ministry of Economy.

Concerning domestic coordination, our team mostly consists of representatives of Ministry of Economy and Foreign Affairs and some relevant agencies. We have set a special Commission for the accession of Azerbaijan to the WTO. Minister of Economy is the head of the Commission and is responsible for preparation of accession documents, offers, answering of questions, liaison with the WTO focal points at the line ministries and agencies. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs is the deputy-head of the Commission and also Chief Negotiator. Me and my team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for conducting negotiations. Commission has 6 working groups on goods, services, legislature, agriculture, IP, TBT and SPS.

In conclusion, I would like to note that, there are more advantages of joining WTO than disadvantages and I hope that in the near future, all the countries, including Azerbaijan, would be equal members of the WTO. Thank you for your attention.