



**EIGHTH CHINA ROUND TABLE ON WTO ACCESSIONS**  
**MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 4-6 DECEMBER 2019**

**ACCESSIONS AND WTO REFORM: ON THE ROAD TO MC12**

*Report on the Outcome of the Moscow Round Table<sup>1</sup>*

The following submission, dated 10 December 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Russian Federation.

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<sup>1</sup> This Report has been prepared under the responsibility of the host Government. All statements and presentations, as well as the list of participants, are available at [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/acc\\_e/8thcrtprog\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/8thcrtprog_e.htm).

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. The Eighth China Round Table on WTO Accessions took place in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 4 to 5 December 2019 (hereinafter: the Moscow Round Table). This Round Table was organized by the WTO Secretariat in partnership with the Government of the Russian Federation, as host, and the Government of China under the framework of the China's LDCs and Accessions Programme (hereinafter: the China Programme).

2. The Moscow Round Table was the eighth in the China Round Table dialogue which began in Beijing, China in May 2012.<sup>2</sup> Discussions at this Round Table, entitled "Accessions and WTO Reform: On the Road to MC12", focused on: (i) contributions of accessions to WTO Reform and the relevance of the Joint Initiatives (JIs) to acceding governments (Sessions 1 and 2); (ii) the state of play in accessions (Session 3); (iii) coherence and synergies between deeper regional integration efforts and the WTO accession process (Session 4); and (iv) preparation for the 12<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) (Session 5). The two-day discussions were followed by a meeting of the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG), chaired by Belarus, Coordinator of the Group, on 6 December. The programme of the Round Table is annexed to this Report.

3. The Round Table was well attended. Participants included representatives from 11 acceding governments,<sup>3</sup> eight Article XII Members<sup>4</sup>, and two governments expressing interest in accession<sup>5</sup>. Many of these governments were represented at the level of Minister, Deputy Minister, Ambassador and/or Chief Negotiator. In addition, representatives of original WTO Members and Working Party Chairpersons; as well as various stakeholders from the host country, including government officials, academia and experts from partner institutions took part in the Round Table.<sup>6</sup>

## 2 OPENING REMARKS

4. The Moscow Round Table was jointly opened by Mr Maxim Oreshkin, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO, and Ambassador Alan Wm. Wolff, WTO Deputy Director-General.

5. The opening statements underscored the role of the multilateral trading system (MTS) in promoting economic stability and peace through economic development, trade liberalization and adoption and implementation of agreed WTO rules. The value of the system to least-developed countries (LDCs) was also highlighted. To adapt and stay relevant, the WTO should be maintained and further developed by its Members, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and authority. The lessons from WTO accessions could provide a source of inspiration to help the WTO develop a systemic response to the challenges that it was facing. It was recognized that WTO accessions can have an impact on the ongoing WTO negotiations, and vice versa. The statements highlighted the need for a pragmatic approach as the WTO prepares for MC12, including importance of advancement of discussions on Joint Initiatives (e.g., Investment Facilitation for Development, as one of positive agenda items with promising prospects).

6. The statements recognized the success stories of past WTO accessions, including those of LDCs, in promoting further economic growth. It was noted that accession-related activity continued to expand, as reflected in the pace of the 22 ongoing accessions. Since 2016, when the WTO welcomed its most recent new Members, three new accession Working Parties had been established (for Somalia, Timor-Leste and South Sudan) and two further applicants, present at the Moscow

<sup>2</sup> The successive China Round Tables – held in Beijing, China in May 2012, in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR in October 2013, Dushanbe, Tajikistan in May 2015, Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015, Siem Reap, Cambodia in March 2017; Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017, and Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2018 – have contributed to better understanding of the accession process and have injected positive impetus in specific accessions.

<sup>3</sup> Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Serbia, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan;

<sup>4</sup> Afghanistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Panama, Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

<sup>5</sup> Curaçao and Turkmenistan. Curaçao submitted a request for accession pursuant to Article XII, on 1 November 2019 (WT/ACC/CUW/1).

<sup>6</sup> Original Members: Chile, European Union, Japan, Peru and Uruguay; Chairpersons of the Accession Working Parties of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Comoros; partner institutions: Eurasian Economic Commission, the International Trade Centre, the Higher School of Economics, and the WTO Expertise Center.

Round Table, had recently expressed interest in starting a WTO accession process (Curaçao and Turkmenistan). Among the ongoing accessions, some governments had entered into the final phases of their negotiations (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Comoros), while others were resuming their processes after years of dormancy (e.g., Ethiopia, Iraq, Sudan, Uzbekistan). In parallel to their WTO accessions, many of these acceding governments were also actively pursuing deeper integration at regional level.

### 3 ACCESSIONS AND WTO REFORM (SESSION 1)

7. *As the global economy is undergoing unprecedented change and the MTS has come under pressure, a policy debate is underway on how to improve and adapt the rules and operation of the WTO. Through the acceptance of accession-specific commitments, Article XII Members and WTO acceding governments are also contributing to the evolution of the MTS and have a role to play in this discussion. At the same time, any agreed outcomes resulting from the ongoing work in the WTO can have a substantial impact on the parameters of accession negotiations. This session focused on the role and contributions of completed and ongoing WTO accessions in the ongoing debate and the possible way forward.*

8. The speakers recognized the existence of unprecedented challenges facing the WTO and provided a general overview of ongoing WTO Reform discussions, including transparency, notification obligations, differentiation and S&D treatment, and the functioning of the dispute settlement system. It was acknowledged that WTO Reform is a continuous process. All speakers noted that: (i) accessions have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the evolution of the MTS, in terms of both geographical scope and substance; (ii) acceding governments are in the vanguard of WTO Reform through the acceptance of accession commitments, and have the potential to light the path forward for the MTS; and (iii) WTO acceding governments should follow the WTO's current agenda, including Reform discussions, as this would likely play a part in their accession negotiations. It was noted that participation of the acceding governments in informal WTO meetings, including those focused on the Joint Initiatives discussions, should be strongly encouraged. China expressed support for accession outcomes at MC12 and highlighted the role of the China Round Table as a platform for information exchange and capacity building for acceding governments, in particular LDCs. The European Union noted that its priorities in the current WTO Reform debate were to (i) level the playing field with regard to subsidization; and (ii) update approaches to S&D treatment in the WTO. Promoting the evolution of the WTO's architecture by incorporating, for instance, plurilateral approaches was also important. Panama (coordinator, Article XII Members Group) noted that there was no causal link between the acceptance of "WTO+" accession commitments and the evolution of WTO rules. However, acceding governments could contribute to WTO Reform through active involvement in the WTO negotiations and by seeking to level the playing field as soon as they became new Members.

9. In response to specific questions, the speakers noted that accession could be embraced as an opportunity to dock reforms which would otherwise be difficult. Thus, "WTO+" requests should not be dismissed outright as bad ideas as they could be appropriate in a particular domestic context. In general, Members have avoided requesting accession commitments (or making multilateral proposals) which go beyond their own applied levels of protection. Support mechanisms are available through the WTO Secretariat, other organizations, and also bilaterally through WTO Members. It was also noted that, in general, acceding governments tended to achieve greater trade and economic growth after accession.

### 4 JOINT INITIATIVES AND WTO ACCESSIONS (SESSION 2)

10. *Since the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires (MC11), like-minded WTO Members have engaged in discussions on E-Commerce; Investment Facilitation for Development; Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and Domestic Regulation in Services. These Joint Initiatives (JI) are aimed at making the MTS more responsive to the evolving needs of the global economy. Article XII Members are participating in these initiatives. The session discussed the state of play and focused on the potential implications of these initiatives on the ongoing WTO accessions.*

11. This session provided historical background and reported on the current state of play in three JIs. The prospects for outcomes at MC12 were also discussed. The speakers stressed the relevance of all the JIs for development. WTO acceding governments were invited to participate in, and

contribute to, the JI discussions. They were reminded of the importance of following these discussions. It was noted that active interest by acceding governments in the JIs would be received positively by WTO Members, especially where bilateral negotiations were still ongoing with the acceding government.

12. The Russian Federation noted that when accession negotiations run in parallel with other negotiating processes among WTO Members, there could be consequences for the dynamics of the accession negotiations. Thus, there was a risk that acceding governments would be asked to undertake "WTO+" commitments or to accept commitments on issues where there were differing views among WTO Members. However, on the positive side, the incorporation of best regulatory practices could be beneficial, even if the acceptance of a particular commitment amounted to a "WTO+" obligation.

## 5 WTO ACCESSIONS – STATE OF PLAY (SESSION 3)

13. *This interactive session updated participants on ongoing accession negotiations. It provided an opportunity for an exchange of views, through a panel and a round table discussion, on the specific challenges facing the acceding governments and ways to overcome these challenges. The session began with an overview presentation on the state of play in ongoing WTO accessions by the WTO Secretariat and highlighted the achievements to date.*

14. Speaking in the panel, Belarus stressed that the accession commitments package should be well-balanced and beneficial both to acceding governments and WTO Members. The speed of the accession process did not depend on the acceding government only. Bosnia and Herzegovina believed that, despite the existing challenges with certain Members, possibilities always existed for compromise.

15. The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina acknowledged the political commitment of the Government, the Parliament and the negotiating team of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the goodwill of WTO Members to conclude this accession. As the WTO and EU accession processes were related, the outstanding issues could hopefully be resolved in the context of the EU accession.

16. The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Comoros stressed the importance of understanding by acceding governments of the consequences of accession in the short run. Members at large did not understand the particular situations of acceding governments and were not aware of acceding governments' efforts to accede to the WTO. In this context, a collective assistance to acceding governments was needed. To overcome challenges, it was important to benefit from synergies in international collaboration, including with the World Bank and the IMF.

17. Internal coordination, raising public awareness and convincing the domestic critics about the positive impact of WTO membership were among the biggest challenges facing many acceding governments. In addition, building a dedicated negotiating team was a difficult task due to the lack of technical expertise and a complex nature of accession negotiations. In this context, acceding governments stressed the importance of optimal and efficient use of technical assistance available for WTO accessions.

18. Ethiopia viewed the WTO accession as a logical outcome of its unilateral domestic reform process. Iraq called for a united stand and voice of the Arab region in the WTO decision-making process. Iran noted that decision-making by consensus should not be applied to accessions to avoid deadlock situations. The enactment of the WTO-consistent legislation on GMO was an outstanding multilateral issue in the accession of Serbia.

## 6 REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND WTO ACCESSIONS (SESSION 4)

19. *Session 4 focused on the interplay between WTO accession, the broader MTS, and regional integration efforts. The speakers recognized the high relevance of the issue, which needed to be studied and explored, and discussed the challenges associated with WTO accession processes running in parallel with regional integration efforts.*

20. Ethiopia discussed the challenges related to maintaining coherence and consistency between the regional (AfCFTA) and multilateral (WTO accession) agenda, as well as their sequencing. Regional trade agreements (RTAs) had to be built on broader development objectives. Both regional and multilateral obligations could be embraced as long as they helped achieve development objectives. RTAs and the MTS were complementary and not mutually exclusive. They provided two tracks for integration into the global economy. WTO accession was used as an external anchor for internal reform.

21. For Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, WTO accession was a pre-requisite for EU accession. Serbia noted that accession to the WTO and the EU were mutually supportive and that accession challenges remained purely internal. Bosnia and Herzegovina noted that convincing WTO Members about the priority of EU accession was challenging. Sometimes, geopolitics negatively affected the WTO accession process. Timor-Leste underlined the need to align ASEAN integration efforts with WTO accession.

22. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic pursued integration within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which also includes the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan described the complexities associated with pursuing accession negotiations during the creation of a customs union with Belarus and the Russian Federation, which later became the EAEU. Belarus, as an acceding government, noted that exemptions from the EAEU rules as part of its WTO accession package would not be beneficial to any of the parties concerned, i.e., Belarus, the EAEU and the WTO.

23. China highlighted the importance of the discussion on RTAs, MTS and WTO accession. On the one hand, RTA negotiations provided capacity building for acceding governments. On the other hand, the rules of the MTS provided a basis for RTA negotiations. The European Union viewed the accession process from a domestic reform perspective, which would lead to the creation of a market economy based on competition.

## **7 PREPARATION FOR THE 12<sup>TH</sup> WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (SESSION 5)**

24. *This session provided an overview of the state of play in preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC12) and focused on how acceding governments could best prepare for Nur-Sultan.*

25. Kazakhstan, as the host of MC12, reported on the status of logistical preparations and on the scope for substantive outcomes at MC12 based on the state of play in ongoing work among WTO Members.

26. Belarus, as coordinator of the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG), provided information on the activities of this Group. The IGAG sought to promote the interests of acceding governments. The IGAG would meet at the level of capital-based officials on 6 December in Moscow to continue discussions. Members were invited to voice their support for accession outcomes at MC12.

27. Panama, as coordinator of the Group of Article XII Members, provided practical advice to acceding governments on how to approach preparations for MC12, e.g., by exchanging information with delegations informally, making use of small groups formats, and collaborating with the Group of Article XII Members. Acceding governments were advised to follow developments in the JI discussions and to make their views known.

28. Afghanistan (coordinator, g7+ WTO Accessions Group) discussed: (i) lessons learnt from Afghanistan's WTO accession; (ii) the role of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group; and (iii) ideas to be considered by acceding governments for MC12. Concerning the latter, acceding governments could use MC12 to convey messages to WTO Members, e.g., better tailoring of accession negotiations to the specific needs of acceding governments; and providing more effective frameworks for supporting accessions. MC12 also presented an opportunity to convey messages promoting the case for WTO membership to the Ministers of acceding governments. Acceding governments were invited to join the Ministerial-level meetings of the Landlocked Developing Countries Group and the g7+ WTO Accessions Group, which were envisaged on the margins of MC12.

29. The importance of following developments in the JI discussions was highlighted by several panellists, particularly as the ideas explored in these frameworks may eventually be presented in accession negotiations. It was noted that there were difficulties to access all relevant documents in the area of E-commerce.

## 8 CLOSING REMARKS

30. The Moscow Round Table was jointly closed by Ambassador Zhang, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO; Ms Ekaterina Mayorova, Director, Department for Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation; and Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO. As the Chairperson, Ms Ekaterina Mayorova presented a short report on the outcome of the Round Table.

31. Taking note of the discussions during the Round Table, the Chairperson made the following summary points:

- The Round Table acknowledged the net positive contributions to the MTS of the 36 concluded accessions since the establishment of the WTO in 1995. The results of accession negotiations could provide possible direction and inspiration for the ongoing debate on WTO Reform, *inter alia* in the areas of transparency; domestic support; and the use of targeted flexibilities in response to specific development needs. The fundamental aim is to jointly make the WTO more responsive to the evolving needs and challenges of the global economy.
- The Round Table welcomed the increased level of activities in the Joint Initiatives by WTO Members and also by some acceding governments. As WTO Members are currently engaging in various formats, including in the Joint Initiatives and in plurilateral formats, it is important that acceding governments get full access to these discussions and to relevant documents.
- The Round Table welcomed the progress to date and urged acceleration of the ongoing 22 accessions, while acknowledging the various challenges faced by each acceding government. In particular, Round Table participants encouraged further progress in the accessions of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Comoros, towards their finalisation in 2020, including as possible deliverables for the upcoming MC12. They also acknowledged the on-going activation and re-activation efforts by several acceding governments - including Azerbaijan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan - which aim to hold their respective Working Party meetings in 2020.
- The Round Table stressed the importance of synergies and coherence in the parallel processes of regional integration and WTO accession, in support of the foreign policy goals and economic reform agenda of acceding governments. In this context, additional efforts would be required for regional integration initiatives not to undermine multilateral trade cooperation. It was suggested that WTO Reform discussions may eventually focus on assessing the balance between regional integration and the MTS, especially in light of the non-discrimination principle. The Round Table also acknowledged that regional integration efforts have systemic implications for WTO accessions, and vice versa. Taking into account the growing role of regional integration, issues related to the participation of regional integration entities in WTO work and to the relationship between the WTO and regional arrangements should be further explored.
- All participating governments expressed a sense of responsibility for the multilateral trading system, while acknowledging that it is currently facing severe threats from unilateralism and protectionism. In this context, the Round Table welcomed the preparatory efforts towards MC12 by WTO Members, including by Kazakhstan as host of the Conference. Participants stressed the importance of deliverables at MC12 to sustain the credibility of the MTS. In particular, they called for deliverables on, *inter alia*, disciplines on fisheries subsidies; improving the functioning of the dispute settlement system; improvements in the functioning of the WTO's regular bodies; improvements in transparency disciplines; disciplines on industrial subsidies; the Joint Initiatives on E-Commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development and MSMEs; the extension of the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions; and accessions.

32. Round Table participants expressed appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting the Round Table, and for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality.

33. Round Table participants expressed appreciation to the Government of China, through the China Programme, in assisting acceding governments in joining the Organization. It was noted that the annual China Round Table provided a valuable platform for acceding governments, especially LDCs, to exchange accession experience and advance the accession negotiations.

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## ANNEX

## PROGRAMME OF THE ROUND TABLE

<b>Wednesday, 4 December 2019</b>	
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30 – 10:00	<b>High-level opening session</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO  <b>Opening remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Maxim Oreshkin, Minister of Economic Development, Russian Federation;</li> <li>• Mr Alan Wm. Wolff, Deputy Director-General, WTO;</li> <li>• Mr Zhang Xiangchen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO.</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Group photograph</b>
10:10 – 11:40	<b>Session 1: Accessions and WTO Reform</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mr Maxim Medvedkov, Professor, Higher School of Economics; Advisor, WTO Expertise Center, Moscow, Russian Federation  <b>Keynote speaker:</b> Mr Alan Wm. Wolff, Deputy Director-General, WTO  <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Fu Xingguo, Deputy Director General, Department of WTO Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China;</li> <li>• Mr Paolo Garzotti, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the WTO;</li> <li>• Mr Mark Linscott, Consultant, Atlantic Council, Asia Group; former Assistant United States Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs;</li> <li>• Mr Alfredo Suescum, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO, Coordinator of the Article XII Members Group.</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
12:00 – 13:30	<b>Session 2: Joint Initiatives and WTO Accessions</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Mr Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC  <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Katsuro Nagai, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the WTO; Co-convenor of the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce;</li> <li>• Mr Eduardo Galvez Carvallo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO; Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development;</li> <li>• Mr José Luís Cancela Gomez, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO; Coordinator of the Informal Group on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).</li> </ul> <b>Commentators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan;</li> <li>• Ms Ekaterina Mayorova, Director, Department for Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Session 3: WTO Accessions – State of Play</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation:</b> "Overview of WTO accessions – State of Play"</li> </ul> <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Hamdo Tinjak, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Vladimir Serpikov, Ambassador-at-Large, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Directorate General for Foreign Economic Activities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Atanas Paparizov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the WTO; Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina;</li> <li>Mr Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia, Director-General for Europe, Ministry of External Relations, Peru; Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of the Comoros.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tour de table:</b></p> <p><b>Acceding governments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Shovqi Mehdizade, Counsellor, Embassy of Azerbaijan in the Russian Federation;</li> <li>Mr Penday Dorji, Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan;</li> <li>Mr Mamo Mihretu, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia;</li> <li>Mr Aziz Mansouri, Director, Division of International and Multilateral Financial and Trade Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran;</li> <li>Mr Abdulrahman Hamid Mohammed Al-Hussaini, Ambassador in the Russian Federation, Iraq;</li> <li>Ms Olivera Jocić, Acting Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia;</li> <li>Mr Yasin Eisa Mohamed Abdalla, Secretary General, National Secretariat for WTO Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Sudan;</li> <li>Mr Marcio Rosa Lay, National Director for External Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Tourism and Industry, Timor-Leste;</li> <li>Mr Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expressions of interest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Caryl Monte, Chairman of the Permanent Commission on International Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Curaçao;</li> <li>Mr Ezizgeldi Annamammedov, Deputy Finance and Economy Minister, Turkmenistan.</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
18:00 – 21:00	<p><b>Cultural programme and Official dinner hosted by the Ministry of Economic Development the Russian Federation</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, 5 December 2019</b></p>
09:30 – 13:30	<p><b>Session 4: Regional Integration and WTO Accessions</b></p> <p><b>Moderators:</b> Mr Alan Wm. Wolff, Deputy Director-General, WTO / Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Mamo Mihretu, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia;</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>EU Accession:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Hamdo Tinjak, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina;</li> <li>Ms Olivera Jocić, Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession; Acting Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>ASEAN Accession:</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms Maria Angela Freitas Da Silva, Economic Advisor, Ministry for Economic Affairs;</li> <li>• <b>Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr Vahagn Ghazaryan, Deputy Head, Department for Trade Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission;</li> <li>○ Mr Eldar Alisherov, Deputy Minister of Economy, Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>○ Mr Avetis Hovhannisyan, Advisor to the Minister of Economy, Armenia;</li> <li>○ Mr Gaziz Seitzhanov, Third secretary, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the WTO;</li> <li>○ Mr Vladimir Serpikov, Ambassador-at-Large; Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Directorate General for Foreign Economic Activities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Commentators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Fu Xingguo, Deputy Director General, Department of WTO affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China;</li> <li>• Mr Paolo Garzotti, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the WTO;</li> <li>• Mr Mark Linscott, Consultant, Atlantic Council, Asia Group; former Assistant United States Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs;</li> <li>• Ms Polina Tonkikh, Director General, WTO Expertise Center, Moscow.</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
14:30 – 16:00	<p><b>Session 5: Preparation for MC12</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Dmitri Fomchenko, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UNOG, Coordinator of the Informal Group of Acceding Governments (IGAG);</li> <li>• Mr Alfredo Suescum, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO, Coordinator of the Article XII Members Group;</li> <li>• Mr Mohammad Qurban Haqjo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the WTO, Coordinator of the g7+ WTO Accessions Group;</li> <li>• Mr Gaziz Seitzhanov, Third secretary, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the WTO.</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by open discussion</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Report on the Outcome of the Eighth China Round Table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Ekaterina Mayorova, Director of Department for Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation;</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Zhang Xiangchen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of China to the WTO;</li> <li>• Ms Maika Oshikawa, Director, Accessions Division, WTO.</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 6 December 2019</b>	
09:30 – 13:00	Meeting of WTO Acceding Governments
14:00 – 17:00	Bilateral meetings