INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCES AND ECONOMICS
Impact Factor (research bib) - 9,78
ISSN 2751-9708
https://ijmri.de/index.php/ijpse , German international journals company

THE ROLE OF UZBEKISTAN ACCESSION TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Sobirjonova Saida Sarvar qizi
Uzbekistan State World Languages University,
Faculty of International Journalism,
2nd-year student of International Relations,
Phone: +998 94 944 8983,
sobirjonovasaida73@gmail.com

Abstract. This study analyzes the necessity and implications of Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization. It focuses on the historical development of the multilateral trading system, from GATT to the WTO, and the growing importance of global trade integration for national economies. The research is based on historical-logical and comparative analysis, including the evaluation of WTO member countries' experiences and Uzbekistan's ongoing accession process, along with related institutional and legal reforms. The findings indicate that WTO membership can significantly enhance Uzbekistan's access to international markets, improve the competitiveness of domestic industries, and increase transparency and predictability in trade policy. It also provides stronger mechanisms for resolving trade disputes at the international level. At the same time, the study notes that accession may create short-term adjustment costs for certain economic sectors, requiring effective state policies to manage structural changes. Overall, the study concludes that joining the WTO is a strategically important step for Uzbekistan's long-term economic development and deeper integration into the global economy.

Keywords: World Trade Organization, global trade system, trade liberalization, economic integration, Uzbekistan economy, foreign trade policy, multilateral trade system, GATT, competitiveness, institutional reform.

Introduction. The development of the global trading system has been shaped by the transition from protectionist trade policies to multilateral cooperation. In the early twentieth century, especially during the 1930s economic crisis, countries increasingly adopted restrictive trade measures that significantly disrupted international trade flows. These challenges highlighted the need for a rules-based global trading system capable of ensuring stability, predictability, and fairness in international economic relations.

As a result, the foundation for a multilateral trade framework was laid through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which later evolved into the World Trade Orgnization. Established in 1995, the WTO became the primary international institution responsible for regulating global trade, promoting non-discrimination, and facilitating the resolution of trade disputes among member states. Also, ccording to the WTO Annual Report (2020), membership plays an important role in World Trade Organization stabilizing global trade flows and expanding trade cooperation among member countries [1, 2].

For developing and transition economies such as Uzbekistan, integration into the WTO system represents a strategic priority. It is expected to enhance access to international markets, improve competitiveness of domestic industries, and support structural economic reforms. At the same time, the accession process requires alignment of national legislation with WTO agreements and careful management of potential adjustment costs in sensitive economic sectors.

Therefore, analyzing the necessity and implications of Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO is essential for understanding its long-term economic development strategy and its position within the global trading system.

ISSN 2751-9708

Methodology. This study employs a qualitative research design based on historical-logical and comparative analysis. The historical approach is used to examine the evolution of the global trading system from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to the establishment of theWTO [3].

A comparative method is applied to analyze the experiences of selected WTO member countries before and after accession, focusing on changes in macroeconomic indicators such as trade volume, investment inflows, and industrial competitiveness.

In addition, document analysis is conducted using official WTO reports, legal documents, and Uzbekistan's national policy papers related to foreign trade liberalization and institutional reforms. Special attention is given to the country's accession process, including memorandum updates and legislative alignment with WTO agreements. This mixed analytical approach allows for a comprehensive assessment of both theoretical foundations and practical implications of WTO membership for Uzbekistan.

Analysis and results. The analysis indicates that Uzbekistan's accession process to the Jahon savdo tashkiloti (WTO) represents one of the most significant stages of economic transformation in the country's modern development trajectory. This process should be understood not only as a trade policy reform, but also as a comprehensive institutional, legal, and structural modernization aimed at integrating Uzbekistan into the global rules-based economic system.

From a historical perspective, the formation of the WTO was a direct response to the inefficiencies and destabilizing effects of protectionist policies in the early twentieth century, particularly during the Great Depression era. The fragmentation of global trade into bilateral agreements created inefficiencies, discrimination, and trade conflicts. The establishment of GATT and later the WTO introduced a unified multilateral framework based on core principles such as non-discrimination, transparency, predictability, and reciprocity. These principles fundamentally changed the architecture of global trade governance by replacing power-based trade relations with rule-based regulation.

The results of comparative analysis show that WTO membership generally produces long-term positive macroeconomic outcomes. Countries that joined the WTO experienced:

-expansion and diversification of export markets,
-increased foreign direct investment inflows,
-improved productivity due to competitive pressure,
-deeper integration into global production networks,
and more stable trade relations with partner countries.

However, the magnitude of these effects varies depending on domestic institutional strength, the level of economic diversification, and the readiness of industries to compete under open market conditions. Countries with stronger governance structures and pre-accession reforms tend to benefit more rapidly and more sustainably from WTO integration [4]

In the context of Uzbekistan, the analysis reveals that a substantial portion of foreign trade is already conducted with WTO member states, which indicates that the country is already economically embedded within the multilateral trading system. This reflects a natural alignment between Uzbekistan's trade structure and global trade patterns. Therefore, WTO accession can be interpreted as a formal institutional recognition of existing economic realities rather than a complete restructuring of trade geography.

At the same time, ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan demonstrate consistent progress toward WTO compliance. These reforms include modernization of customs procedures, simplification of import-export operations, reduction of non-tariff barriers, improvement of technical regulation systems, and gradual alignment of national legislation with international trade rules. These

ISSN 2751-9708

changes are aimed at increasing transparency, reducing administrative burdens, and improving efficiency in foreign trade operations [5].

One of the most important results of the analysis is the impact of WTO accession on investment climate. Membership in the WTO is widely perceived by international investors as a signal of policy stability and legal predictability. By committing to internationally accepted trade rules, Uzbekistan reduces regulatory uncertainty, which is one of the key risks for foreign investors. As a result, WTO accession is expected to increase foreign direct investment, particularly in export-oriented and manufacturing sectors.

However, the analysis also highlights significant short- and medium-term adjustment challenges. Increased exposure to international competition may create pressure on less competitive domestic industries, especially those that have historically relied on state protection, subsidies, or limited foreign competition. Such sectors may experience declines in market share, profitability challenges, and restructuring pressures. This includes industries with low technological capacity and weak productivity levels. The results further show that WTO accession has important implications for economic governance and institutional quality. The requirement to ensure transparency in trade regulations, eliminate discriminatory practices, and comply with dispute settlement mechanisms strengthens the rule of law in economic policymaking. This reduces arbitrary decision-making, enhances accountability of state institutions, and improves overall policy credibility. Over time, this contributes to more stable and predictable economic governance.

Another significant outcome is related to consumer welfare. Trade liberalization associated with WTO membership leads to lower prices, increased availability of imported goods, and improved product quality due to competition. Consumers benefit from a wider range of choices, improved standards, and access to more technologically advanced products. This increases overall welfare and efficiency in domestic markets.

Additionally, WTO integration promotes export diversification by encouraging domestic producers to meet international standards and compete in global markets. This process gradually shifts the economy from dependence on primary goods toward higher value-added production. It also supports technological transfer, innovation diffusion, and modernization of production processes.

Furthermore, the analysis highlights that WTO accession strengthens Uzbekistan's participation in global value chains. By reducing trade barriers and improving regulatory compatibility, domestic firms are more likely to integrate into international production networks, particularly in sectors such as textiles, agro-processing, metallurgy, and light manufacturing. This integration enhances productivity and increases the competitiveness of domestic industries [6].

In addition, the institutional discipline imposed by WTO rules reduces the risk of trade policy volatility. Binding commitments limit the possibility of sudden policy changes, which is crucial for long-term business planning and economic stability. This predictability is particularly important for attracting long-term investments and ensuring sustainable economic growth.

Overall, the results confirm that accession to the WTO has broad and multidimensional effects on Uzbekistan's economy. It improves trade efficiency, strengthens institutional frameworks, enhances investment attractiveness, increases consumer welfare, and promotes long-term economic modernization. At the same time, it requires careful management of structural adjustment processes, particularly in vulnerable sectors, to ensure that the benefits of global integration are maximized while minimizing transitional costs [7].

Conclusion. Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO is an important step in integrating its economy into the global trading system. The WTO principles-transparency, non-discrimination, and stable trade rules-help create a more open and competitive market environment. According, to the analysis, WTO membership expands foreign trade opportunities, diversifies exports, and attracts foreign investment. It also improves access for national producers to international markets and strengthens overall economic competitiveness.

In addition, accession supports institutional reforms, aligns national legislation with international standards, and increases transparency in economic governance, contributing to long-term stability and investment attractiveness. However, it may also create short-term challenges, such as stronger competition in the domestic market and adjustment pressure in some sectors. Therefore, supportive state policies and structural reforms are necessary. Overall, WTO membership is a key strategic opportunity for Uzbekistan that promotes long-term economic growth and deeper integration into the global economy.

REFERENCES:

1. World Trade Organization. (2020). WTO Annual Report. Geneva: WTO Secretariat.
2. World Trade Organization. (2024). Understanding the WTO. Available at: Url: https://www.wto.org
3. Ismailova, N.S., Dadabayev, U.A., Axmadjonov, A.X., Fayziyeva, X.K., Axmadaliyeva, Z.X. (2022). Jahon savdo tashkiloti va ko‘p tomonlama savdo tizimi. Tashkent: O‘quv qo‘llanma.
4. Hoekman, B., & Kostecki, M. (2009). The Political Economy of the World Trading System. Oxford University Press.
5. Krugman, P., Obstfeld, M., & Melitz, M. (2018). International Economics: Theory and Policy. Pearson.
6. Uzbekistan Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade. (2023). WTO Accession Process Reports. Tashkent.
7. World Bank. (2022). Trade and Development Report: Global Integration Indicators. Washington, D.C.