

# Trade Policy: Recent Developments and Key Issues

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# Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan (TPSAP)

- Endorsed at 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (Nov 2008)
- Policy actions to:
  - Support WTO accession
  - Eliminate quantitative restrictions
  - Reduce and simplify trade taxes
  - Capacity building
  - Reduce transit and border barriers

# Trade Policy: Progress Achieved

- WTO accession training
  - Seminars by countries
  - Seminars by World Bank
  - Analytical note

# Trade Policy: Progress Achieved

- Monitoring TPSAP implementation
  - Questionnaire formulated
  - Some progress but more efforts needed:
    - Simplification of trade tax regime
    - Reduction of tariffs
  - Trade Liberalization Index 2009: most 2010 targets met

# Trade Policy: Progress Achieved

- Institutional impediments to trade
  - Analytical study completed
  - Recommendations:
    - Simplify procedures for import and export
    - Improve general business environment
    - Deepen financial system
  - Next steps:
    - Countries' specific agendas to be monitored by TPCC

# Trade Policy: Work Plan for 2010-2011

- WTO accession
  - Impact of trade agreements and customs union
  - Knowledge sharing training program
  - Round Table on progress and impediments at next TPCC meeting

# Trade Policy: Work Plan for 2010-2011 (continued)

- Monitoring TPSAP implementation
  - Submit responses by end-February 2011
  - Trade Liberalization Index for 2010
- Institutional impediments to trade
  - Country-specific plans by end-February 2011

# Trade Policy: Issues

- Countries' commitment to a liberalization program
- Improved flow of communication
- Timely and complete reporting
- Appropriate trade officials at meetings