

This is an information note to assist acceding governments with preparations for meetings and

NOTE ON ACCESSIONS INFORMATION FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS

The Informal Group on Accessions convened today, 14 October, for the seventh time in 2010. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on a work plan and the evolving calendar of accessions meetings. Twenty-one delegations attended the meeting. The Secretariat briefed the Group on the progress of the 2010 accession process, namely, the three LDCs of Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen; Montenegro; the Russian Federation; Serbia. The Group was also briefed on recent developments in 14 other active accession processes.

Members were notified that the LDC Group had requested the inclusion of an agenda item on LDCs' Accessions for the next meeting of the General Council (21 October).

The Group was also informed that the General Workshop had been re-scheduled for January 2011. Due to the heavy accessions programme of the coming months and the pre-eminence of substantive work and technical advice, the Accessions Division had to scale back on the delivery of technical assistance and outreach.

Members agreed with the proposed calendar of accession meetings for the last quarter of 2010 (annexed).

¹ Accessions-related meetings are scheduled, based on the submission of substantive and qualitative inputs on the multilateral track of accession negotiations; and, meaningful offers and progress on bilateral market access negotiations.

Annex

Accessions Division – Indicative Meeting Schedule 20¹⁰

14 October 2010

| Date | Working Party | Meeting |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 14 October | Informal Group on Accessions | |
| 18 October | Azerbaijan | th 8 Working Party |
| 20 October | Serbia | th 9 Working Party |
| 25 (and 26 AM only) October | Russian Federation | Informal Chair Consultations |
| 26 October | | Plurilateral on Agriculture |
| 21 October | General Council | |
| 15-19 November | Geneva week | |
| 22 November | Seychelles | nd 2 Working Party |
| 24 November | Tajikistan | th 5 Working Party |
| [29 November] | Afghanistan | st 1 Working Party |