

## INDICATIVE AND EVOLVING ROADMAP FOR THE ACCESSION OF THE BAHAMAS TO THE WTO<sup>1</sup>

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Timeline	Action	Action by	Action Completed
<b>2018</b>			
19-23 March	<b>Secretariat visit to Nassau to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-establish contacts with the Government of The Bahamas and its Negotiating Team</li> <li>• Assist the Negotiating Team in updating multilateral negotiating inputs</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat Bahamas	DONE
8 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of the <b>Chairmanship</b> of the Working Party on the Accession of The Bahamas</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat WTO Members	DONE
June - August	<b>Circulation of updated negotiating inputs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Factual Summary of the Points Raised</li> <li>- Legislative Action Plan (LAP)</li> <li>- SPS Checklist</li> <li>- TBT Checklist</li> <li>- Import Licensing Procedures Questionnaire</li> <li>- TRIPS Questionnaire</li> <li>- Agriculture Supporting Tables</li> <li>- Customs Valuation Checklist</li> <li>- Draft Subsidies Notification</li> <li>- State-Trading Questionnaire</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat	DONE (except, - Draft Subsidies Notification & State-Trading Questionnaire)
July	<b>Bilateral market access negotiation with the US</b>	Bahamas US	DEFERRED
August	<b>Submission of Revised Goods and Services Offers</b>	Bahamas	DONE
20 September	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Plurilateral Meeting on Agriculture</b>	Bahamas WTO Members WTO Secretariat	DONE
21 September	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Working Party Meeting on the Accession of The Bahamas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official resumption of the Working Party</li> <li>• Plurilateral meeting on Agriculture</li> <li>• Bilateral market accession negotiations</li> </ul> Meeting between Minister Brent Symonette and WTO Director-General Roberto Azêvedo	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	DONE
19 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Submission of questions to the Secretariat</b></li> </ul>	WTO Members	
By mid-November (at the very latest)	<b>Submission of updated negotiating inputs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replies to Members' questions</li> <li>- Updated legislative action plan (LAP)</li> <li>- Relevant legislation, if applicable</li> <li>- Questionnaire on STEs</li> </ul> Draft Notification Pursuant to Art.25 of the SCM Agreement	Bahamas	
Immediately after the above done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Circulation of updated negotiating inputs</b></li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat	

<sup>1</sup> The Indicative Roadmap is tentative and proposed by the WTO Secretariat for consideration by the delegation of The Bahamas. Timelines/ dates are suggested to assist planning. The indicated meetings are *not automatic* and will only go ahead on the basis of inputs that need to be submitted with sufficient time for processing by the WTO Secretariat and review by Members upon circulation.

Timeline	Action	Action by	Action Completed
November/December	<b>Preparation/Circulation of updated documentation</b> , based on negotiating inputs provided by Bahamas	Bahamas WTO Secretariat	
[TBC]	<b>Possible Chairperson visit to Nassau before the 4th WP Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson meetings with key stakeholders (Government, private sector, media, civil society)</li> </ul>	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat	
[TBC]	<b>Report to the IGA by the WP Chairperson</b> on the visit to Nassau	WP Chairperson	
<b>2019</b>			
End January	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting on the Accession of The Bahamas</b> , also including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plurilateral meeting on Agriculture</li> <li>Bilateral market accession negotiations with a view to signing the first bilateral market access protocols</li> </ul>	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	
End February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Submission of questions to the Secretariat</b></li> </ul>	WTO Members	
Mid-March	<b>Submission of updated negotiating inputs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replies to Members' questions</li> <li>All updates to the Elements of a draft Working Party Report (DWPR)</li> <li>Updated legislative action plan (LAP)</li> <li>Relevant legislation</li> <li>Updated questionnaires on STEs, import licensing, TRIPS, TBT/SPS checklist</li> </ul> Updated AGSTs	Bahamas	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Preparation of a Draft Working Party Report (DWPR)</b>, based on negotiating inputs provided by Bahamas</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat	
April	<b>Circulation of updated negotiating inputs</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replies to Members' questions</li> <li>Updated legislative action plan (LAP)</li> <li>Relevant legislation</li> <li>Updated questionnaires on STEs, import licensing, TRIPS, TBT/SPS checklist</li> <li>Updated AGSTs</li> </ul> Draft Working Party Report	WTO Secretariat	
May	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting on the Accession of The Bahamas</b> , also including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plurilateral meeting on Agriculture</li> <li>Bilateral market accession negotiations with a view to signing bilateral market access protocols</li> </ul>	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Submission of questions to the Secretariat</b></li> </ul>	WTO Members	
June	<b>Submission of updated negotiating inputs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replies to Members' questions</li> <li>All updates to the Elements of a draft Working Party Report (DWPR)</li> <li>Updated legislative action plan (LAP)</li> <li>Relevant legislation</li> <li>Updated questionnaires on STEs, import licensing, TRIPS, TBT/SPS checklist</li> </ul> Updated AGSTs	Bahamas	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Preparation of a revised Draft Working Party Report (DWPR)</b>,</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat	

Timeline	Action	Action by	Action Completed
	based on negotiating inputs provided by Bahamas		
July	<b>Circulation of updated negotiating inputs</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Replies to Members' questions</li> <li>- Updated legislative action plan (LAP)</li> <li>- Relevant legislation</li> <li>- Updated questionnaires on STEs, import licensing, TRIPS, TBT/SPS checklist</li> <li>- Updated AGSTs</li> </ul> Revised Draft Working Party Report	WTO Secretariat	
September	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting on the Accession of The Bahamas</b> , <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conclusion of all bilateral market accession negotiations</li> </ul>	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation of concluded bilateral market access agreements on goods and services and preparation of Draft Goods and Services Schedules</li> </ul>	WTO Secretariat	
September	Preparation of the final version of the draft Working Party Report and legal scrubbing of the final text	WTO Secretariat Bahamas	
End September	Technical Verification Meetings on Draft Goods and Services Schedule	Bahamas WTO Secretariat Signatory Members	
End September	<b>Circulation of draft Accession Package:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Working Party report;</li> <li>- Draft Goods Schedule (re-circulation to all WP Members);</li> </ul> Draft Services Schedule (re-circulation to all WP Members).	WTO Secretariat	
End October	<b>Final Working Party Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - to adopt, <i>ad referendum</i>, draft Accession Package.</li> </ul>	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	
December	Ministerial Conference/General Council to consider formal adoption The Bahamas's Accession Package	Bahamas WP Chairperson WTO Secretariat WTO Members	
TBD	Complete process of <i>any outstanding</i> legislative enactment before WTO Membership, as per The Bahamas's final Legislative Action Plan (LAP).	Bahamas	
TBD	Ratification by Parliament/full Membership effective 30 days after ratification notified.	Bahamas	