

Pakistan's statement at the Afghanistan accession

11 November 2015

Thank you chair,

We warmly welcome H.E. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan and the Afghan delegation.

Pakistan fully supports the accession of Afghanistan into the WTO. It is very heartening to know that Afghanistan has taken this bold step towards more global integration. Pakistan is fully cognizant of the challenges that Afghanistan faces, but we value our neighbour's efforts in trying to overcome those challenges. Despite the challenges, Afghanistan's economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Afghanistan is our third largest trading partner.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have a unique geographical position. We are a gateway to Central Asia. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) are two initiatives which provide an opportunity to both the countries to take advantage of huge benefits that might accrue in the future by better integration within the regional and eventually the global economies. Forthcoming CASA 1000 – Central Asia – South Asia regional Electricity market between Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan and TAPI - Turkmenistan Afghanistan, Pakistan India gas pipeline will further speed up the regional integration.

The Electronic Data Interchange being set up between Afghanistan and Pakistan can better achieve data sharing and better coordination between the border

agencies of the two countries, Afghanistan's accession will further facilitate the process.

Chair, Pakistan has ratified the TFA, being the 51st country to do so; coupled with Afghanistan's accession this will go a long way in facilitating trade between the two brotherly countries.

In the end Pakistan would like to once again congratulate Afghanistan for the hard work done and wish them well for all their future endeavours.
