



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।
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Media Release

Bangladesh Should actively participate in WTO negotiation process for the continuation of the ISMs beyond LDC graduation

Dhaka, 26 July 2022: Speakers at a seminar in the capital today called for more active participation in the WTO negotiation process for the continuation of International Support Measures (ISMs) beyond the country's LDC graduation.

They also emphasized internal capacity building, export diversification, foreign direct investment and skill enhancement for preparing the country for the post-graduation scenario.

Such recommendations came at a seminar on 'WTO MC-12: Implications for Graduating LDCs' held today at the BIAM Foundation of the capital.

Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) under Economic Relations Division (ERD) organized the seminar.

Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh was the chief guest of the inaugural session of the seminar while ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan chaired the session.

The seminar was organized to analyse the key takeaways for Bangladesh from the recently concluded 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that had taken place in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022.

The seminar also discussed the next course of action, and how the country should get prepared in the run-up to the next Ministerial Conference (MC-13) of the WTO in the context of Bangladesh's scheduled graduation from LDC status in November 2026.

'Although the outcome of the MC12 fell short of meeting the expectations of the graduating LDCs—it still recognized the need for certain measures for their smooth and sustainable graduation', said the Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh in his speech.

'We still need to actively negotiate at bilateral and multilateral level to secure the continuation of ISMs beyond graduation', he added.

'It is high time for the reforms of the WTO and Bangladesh should take an active role in that reform process', said the ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan. She also emphasized on improving productivity, enhancing skill and technology transfer for increasing competitiveness in the international market.



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Director General of the WTO Cell of the Ministry of Commerce Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman delivered the keynote presentation of the seminar.

The submission of the LDC group for continuing ISMs needs to be revised in the context of new global scenario, he said in his keynote presentation. In this connection, Mr. Rahman also emphasized on conducting studies on graduation issues to support the negotiators while engaging in bilateral negotiations and keeping the developing countries on board.

The inaugural session of the seminar was followed by a business session. Former Member of Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) Dr. Mostafa Abid Khan, Chief Executive Officer of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) Ms. Ferdaus Ara Begum and International Trade Expert of SSGP, ERD Mr. Nesar Ahmed were the panellists of the session. ERD Secretary Ms. Sharifa Khan moderated the session. A number of representatives from various trade bodies, private sector, government, and think tank participated in the discussion.

Panellists and participants underscored the needs for simplification of trade facilitation related issues and capacity building to remain competitive at the post-graduation regime.

End

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