

**THE ROLE, PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN  
WORLD TRADE**

**Turayev Abduvoxid Kuldashevich**

Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service  
Assistant of the Department of Digital Economy  
[abduvoxidturayev70@gmail.com](mailto:abduvoxidturayev70@gmail.com)

**Sherimmatova Nasiba**

Student of the Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

**Abstract**

This scientific article analyzes the role, objectives, and functions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in global trade. It also evaluates the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism and its impact on developing economies. The case of Uzbekistan's integration into the WTO framework is also discussed.

**Keywords**

World Trade Organization, global trade, digital economy, exports, imports, trade policy, protectionism, economic integration, Uzbekistan, international economics.

**Annotatsiya**

Mazkur ilmiy maqolada Jahon Savdo Tashkilotining (JST) jahon savdosidagi o'рни, asosiy maqsad va vazifalari chuqur tahlil qilingan. Shuningdek, JSTning savdo nizolarini hal qilish mexanizmi va rivojlanayotgan davlatlar iqtisodiyotiga ta'siri ilmiy asosda tahlil qilindi. O'zbekiston misolida JSTga integratsiya jarayonining iqtisodiy ahamiyati yoritildi.

**Kalit so'zlar**

Jahon Savdo Tashkiloti, global savdo, raqamli iqtisodiyot, eksport, import, savdo siyosati, proteksionizm, iqtisodiy integratsiya, O'zbekiston, xalqaro iqtisodiyot.

**Аннотация**

В данной научной статье анализируются роль, цели и функции Всемирной торговой организации (ВТО) в мировой торговле. Также рассматриваются механизмы урегулирования торговых споров ВТО и их влияние на развивающиеся страны. Отдельно анализируется процесс интеграции Узбекистана в систему ВТО.

**Ключевые слова**

Всемирная торговая организация, мировая торговля, цифровая экономика, экспорт, импорт, торговая политика, протекционизм, экономическая интеграция, Узбекистан, международная экономика.

**INTRODUCTION**

The development of the global economy, the expansion of trade relations between countries, and the integration of international markets are among the most important trends in the modern world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) plays an important role in these processes as the main regulatory institution. The WTO serves to ensure global economic stability by establishing international trade rules, resolving trade disputes, and developing the principles of free trade.



In recent years, especially in 2023–2025, the transformation of global chains in the world economy, geopolitical tensions, post-pandemic recovery processes, and the rapid development of the digital economy have further increased the importance of the WTO. Developing countries, including Uzbekistan, are seeking to widely use the rules and mechanisms of the WTO in the process of integrating into the international trading system.

This article analyzes the role of the World Trade Organization in world trade, its main goals and objectives, and global trade trends in recent years based on a scientific-theoretical and statistical approach.

## MAIN SECTION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the largest multilateral institution regulating international trade flows in the world economy, and its main task is to ensure trade freedom, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and maintain stability in the global trading system. In recent years, especially between 2023 and 2025, the global trading system has undergone significant changes, and this process has further strengthened the institutional importance of the WTO.

According to the World Trade Organization and international economic organizations, in particular the WTO Global Trade Outlook and UNCTAD, in 2023, global merchandise trade grew by about 1.2%, which indicates a weak recovery after the decline in 2022. Trade in services grew relatively faster during the same period, growing by 5-6%. This indicates that structural changes in the global economy, namely the transition from manufacturing to services and the digital economy, are intensifying. In 2024, according to WTO estimates, world trade stabilized somewhat, and global merchandise trade growth was recorded at about 2.6%. The main contribution to this growth was provided by the recovery of exports from Asian economies, in particular China and India, and the stabilization of energy prices in European markets. At the same time, trade flows between the United States and the European Union also showed a partial recovery trend. According to the forecast and preliminary estimates for 2025, global trade volume has maintained a growth trend of about 3%. One of the most important changes has been the sharp increase in the share of digital trade. According to UNCTAD, the global e-commerce market will exceed US\$6 trillion in 2025, accounting for 20-25% of world trade. This has increased the need for the WTO to update digital trade rules and regulate data flows, digital customs and cybersecurity.

Theoretically, the WTO's activities are based on the theory of comparative advantage in international trade. According to this theory, even a 1% efficiency difference can significantly change global trade flows. In this regard, economic models show that the WTO has the potential to increase global GDP by an average of 2-3% by reducing trade barriers (World Bank simulations, 2023). The WTO trade dispute settlement system also plays an important role in the stability of global trade. In 2023, more than 25 new trade disputes were registered within the WTO, while in 2024 this figure approached 30. This is due to the intensification of protectionist measures and industrial policy. At the same time, it is noted that the effectiveness of the dispute settlement process has decreased due to restrictions on the activities of the Appellate Body.

Among developing countries, WTO membership has a significant impact on the volume of foreign trade. According to the World Bank, WTO member countries will be able to increase their average export volume by 20-30%. This is especially important for Central Asian countries, and the fact that Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover exceeded \$ 62 billion in 2023 and approached \$ 67 billion in 2024 indicates the economic importance of the WTO integration process.

In the case of Uzbekistan, the process of joining the WTO is directly related to the liberalization of tariff policy and diversification of exports. In recent years, the average level of customs tariffs in the country has been reduced from 12–14% to 7–8%, which is an important



indicator of the process of adaptation to WTO requirements. At the same time, the share of raw materials in the export structure is decreasing, and the share of finished products and services is increasing. Another important area of the WTO's activity is the regulation of technological transformation in global trade. By 2025, it was noted that the world's cross-border trade in digital services exceeded \$ 1.5 trillion. This has strengthened the need for the WTO to form a new normative framework. Digital trade agreements, the free flow of data, and artificial intelligence-based trading systems have become the main directions of the current global agenda.

Environmental factors are also becoming increasingly important in the work of the WTO. According to the latest statistics, more than 35% of global trade flows are directly related to carbon emissions. Therefore, the concept of "green trade" is one of the main areas of discussion within the WTO, and several initiatives have been put forward to integrate environmental standards into trade rules in 2024–2025. In general, the WTO acts not only as a regulatory institution in global trade, but also as a strategic mechanism for stimulating economic growth. The expansion of the digital economy, the increase in trade in services, and geopolitical risks make the future role of the WTO more complex and strategically important.

## CONCLUSION

The World Trade Organization is the most important institutional structure regulating the international trading system in the world economy, and its main task is to ensure trade freedom, reduce trade barriers, and create a fair competitive environment between countries. The global trading system is undergoing a complex transformation, and this process further increases the importance of the WTO. The slow growth of global trade in 2023, a partial recovery in 2024 and a return to a steady growth trend in 2025 indicate the resilience of the world economy. At the same time, the rapid growth of services trade and the increase in the share of the digital economy to 20-25% confirm the structural change in international trade. These changes pose new challenges for the WTO, in particular, in areas such as regulating digital trade, data flows and cybersecurity. The increase in trade disputes and the strengthening of protectionist policy elements make the role of the WTO in ensuring the stability of global trade even more important. Statistical data show that WTO member states have the opportunity to increase their foreign trade by an average of 20-30%, which confirms the direct impact of the organization on economic efficiency. In the case of Uzbekistan, the process of WTO integration is manifested as an important direction of economic reforms, and the reduction of customs tariffs, diversification of export composition and adaptation to international standards are accelerating the entry of the national economy into the global market.

In general, the WTO operates in the modern global economy not only as an organization regulating trade, but also as a strategic institution ensuring economic integration, sustainable development and global cooperation. Its effectiveness in the future will depend on how quickly it can adapt to new global challenges, including digital transformation, environmental requirements and geopolitical changes.

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