Afghan Government Endorses National Trade Policy

Afghanistan has achieved another milestone in its efforts to use global markets to drive growth and job creation with a cabinet meeting chaired by President Ashraf Ghani endorsing the country’s national trade policy.

KABUL-GENEA – The policy, which was endorsed on 6 October, sets out a five-year agenda for overcoming challenges that Afghan businesses face in doing business at home and abroad and creating an enabling environment more conducive to doing business at home and across borders. It will also seek to foster policy coherence across the government by spelling out how the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) can achieve synergies with other ministries and their policies.

The reforms set out in the policy include numerous measures to implement regulations resulting from Afghanistan’s WTO commitments, thus supporting its post-accession process. They also support national priorities for private sector and agriculture development described in the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework, the country’s overarching development described in the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework, the country’s overarching strategy.

The ANTIP is a central component of the Advancing Afghanistan Trade project, a trade-related support programme funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in support of Afghanistan’s MoIC. Leading up to the cabinet approval, the ANTIP had received support from the council of ministers chaired (More on P4).