FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES
Boosting capacities and partnerships for implementation

PREMIER FORUM INTERNATIONAL SUR LES COMITÉS NATIONAUX DE FACILITATION DES ÉCHANGES
Renforcement des capacités et des partenariats pour la mise en œuvre

23-27 January / Janvier 2017

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER: SUPPORTING TFA IMPLEMENTATION FROM BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

With support of / Avec l’appui de
WTO/UNCTAD system makes trade possible
ITC was set up to make trade happen

Joint agency of the UN and WTO

Fully dedicated to support the internationalization of SMEs

Rules of Trade
Trade policy research
Help businesses trade

Policy Makers
TISIs
Private Sector

Advisory services
Capacity building
Trade and market intelligence
Market linkages
Supporting trade facilitation reforms from business perspective

- Scheduling commitments under the WTO TFA
- Improving inter-agency coordination and SME involvement in PPD
- Enhancing transparency and access to information
- Improving efficiency of cross-border procedures
- Strengthening SMEs ability to cross borders

A holistic approach beyond TFA

- Facilitating public-private dialogue in trade policy/reform formulation
- Collaborating with leading public and private TF agencies
- Implementing TFA to promote and deepen regional integration
Salient features of the ITC Trade facilitation program: promoting…

- A holistic approach beyond TFA
- Business perspective with a dedicated focus on SMEs
- Public-private dialogue in trade policy formulation
- Stakeholders collaboration at national and donors levels
- Regional approaches to the implementation of TF reforms
ITC has supported 50 countries in their categorization process

**LAC: 15 countries assisted**

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**Eurasia and Oceania: 8 countries assisted**

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**Africa: 27 countries assisted**

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**22 countries ratified, 26 notified their category A**
Tajikistan: Mobilizing businesses in Trade Facilitation Committee

**Setting up NTFC**

The private sector was actively involved in the elaboration of recommendations for establishing the NTFC

- Over 50% of the participants to the NTFC establishment validation workshop came from the private sector

**Governance**

Private sector is represented in the NTFC general body, working groups and in its high level steering committee

- Steering committee created under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Prime Minister to provide high-level guidance to the NTFC

**Informed participation**

The private sector composes over 50% of the NTFC Membership and they have been trained to effectively contribute

- 22 private sector representatives involved in the TTFC
- 3 private sector focused training sessions organized
Improving transparency: National TF Portals in collaboration with UNCTAD

Contributes to countries’ compliance with TFA transparency provisions

Provides step-by-step explanation of the import, export and transit formalities

Offers value added services for traders and policy makers
- Market access information, trade obstacle alert mechanism, notification mechanisms, public-private consultation mechanisms,
Building capacity of business for effective participation in NTFC and efficient compliance

Objective: training the private sector to effectively use the TFA to reduce their transaction costs and to advocate for business friendly cross-border reforms

16 case studies and exercises to teach businesses how to use TFA measures and how to improve their compliance with border requirement

The content of the program was much relevant to the operation of my business. It will contribute a lot to improve my practices and the way I interact with public agencies.

Namibian Trader
Promoting SME-friendly methodologies for TFA implementation

**Authorized Operators**

Design qualification criteria that can be met by SMEs
- Most existing AEO schemes automatically exclude smaller businesses

Build capacity of SME to apply to the AO schemes
- Through dedicated awareness raising and training events

**Enquiry points**

Ensure services beyond capital/port city and in local languages
- Implementation of EP at border posts (including free terminals connected to the trade facilitation portal)
- EP Service in Swahili, not just English, at border posts in Tanzania

**Electronic payment**

Identify and implement payment methods which SMEs are more likely to use
- E.g. mobile money in Zimbabwe
Intellectual leadership

Enabling trade: catalyzing TFA implementation in Brazil
• In collaboration with WEF

Enabling trade: increasing the potential of trade reforms
• In collaboration with WEF

SMEs and the WTO TFA: a training manual
• In collaboration with ICC, UNCTAD and UNECE

NTFCs: Moving towards implementation
• In collaboration with UNCTAD and UNECE

Mainstreaming TF in SME Development Strategies
• Coming soon (in collaboration with UNESCAP)

Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide
• In collaboration with UNCTAD and UNECE

NTFC repository
• In collaboration with ICC, UNCTAD and UNECE
Some of our recent achievements

- Business interviewed in ITC Non-Tariff Measures surveys: 10,000
- Sector initiatives in trade workshops: 600
- Proposals request to prioritize for measures: 100
- Assisted in prioritization: 50
- Economic communities to ensure progress: 6
- Established strengthened: 5

ITC TRADE IMPACT FOR GOOD
Our existing network of partnerships in the area of trade facilitation
How to request ITC support

An official letter

Arancha Gonzales
Executive Director
International Trade Centre
Geneva

An email

Mohammad Saeed
Senior Adviser Trade Facilitation
saeed@intracen.org

Or just a chat at the coffee break

ITC Trade Facilitation Team

The ITC is a technical assistance agency
We can support you in implementing the TFA
Thank you!