Multiyear Expert Meeting on

Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation, Seventh session: Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

7 to 9 May 2019

Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Presentation by

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Objectives of the TFA

1. Expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit

2. Improve cooperation between customs, and between customs and other authorities

3. Enhance technical assistance and build capacity for the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement
TFA Online Resources

- www.tfafacility.org
- Explanation of the agreement, provision by provision
- Information on technical assistance provision, development partners and donor coordinators
- www.tfadatabase.org
- Ratification and notification guidance
- State-of-play for each Member

Section I
12 Articles with approximately 40 technical measures

Article 1 Publication & Availability of Information
Article 2 Comment and Consultations
Article 3 Advance Rulings
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review
Article 5 Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination & Transparency
Article 6 Disciplines on Fees and Charges
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation
Article 9 Movement under Customs Control
Article 10 Import, Export & Transit Formalities
Article 11 Freedom of transit
Article 12 Customs Cooperation
Ratifications
The TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017 when the WTO obtained the two-thirds acceptance from its 164 Members

142 Ratifications 86.6%

Notification Commitments

- **Category A Commitments**
  - 115 Members
  - 86 developing country Members committed to implement TFA provisions immediately upon entry into force of the agreement, Feb 2017, and 29 least developed countries will do so by Feb 2018

- **Category B Commitments**
  - 78 Members
  - 56 developing country Members and 22 LDC Members have committed to implement TFA provisions following a transition period determined by them

- **Category C Commitments**
  - 66 Members
  - 45 developing country Members and 22 LDC Members have committed to implement TFA provisions following a self-determined transition period and receiving the necessary capacity-building support
Transparency Notifications

Publication of information for governments and traders

- **Art.1.4**
  - 66 notifications
  - Import, export and transit procedures

- **Art. 10.4.3**
  - 55 notifications
  - Operation of the single window

- **Art. 10.6.2**
  - 64 notifications
  - The use of customs brokers

- **Art. 12.2.2**
  - 60 notifications
  - Contact points to respond to enquiries
Technical assistance and capacity-building support

Notifications

Art. 22.1
15 notifications received

• Donor Members are required to notify the support that they provide for TF capacity-building

Art. 22.2
8 notifications received

• Donor Members are required to notify the process and mechanisms that should be followed in order to request assistance

Art. 22.3
9 notifications received

• Developing and LDC Members seeking Technical Assistance must provide details of their contact point(s) of the office(s) responsible for coordinating and prioritizing assistance and support

Notification guidance
Information Extracted from Article 22 Notification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the assistance</th>
<th>Committed / Disbursed</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Implementing agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border and related agencies capacity building</td>
<td>Disbursed USD 149,144</td>
<td>Africa Sub-Saharan</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication and trade promotion</td>
<td>Disbursed USD 26,000</td>
<td>Africa Sub-Saharan</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication and trade promotion</td>
<td>Disbursed USD 32,738</td>
<td>Africa Sub-Saharan</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCP and private sector engagement</td>
<td>Disbursed</td>
<td>Africa Sub-Saharan</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Botswana**

**TRADING FACILITIES AGREEMENT RATIFIED: JUNE 18, 2015**

**COORDINATOR(S) OF NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE:**

Lebedi Kgotile
Deputy Director - Department of International Trade
Private Bag 2073
Gaborone
Botswana
Telephone: +267 368 5300
Fax: +267 318 8380
E-Mail: bgo.int trade@gbo lw

**GENEVA DELEGATE(S):**

**ADDITIONAL CONTACT(S):**

**Article 22.2 - Canada**

Process and mechanisms for requesting assistance

Developing countries seeking assistance should contact the relevant Canadian government office abroad. Contact information can also be accessed through the following link:


Contact Points

Information regarding Canada’s international assistance can be accessed through the following link:

Transparency Notifications - Article 1.4(c)

Contact Information of the Enquiry Points

Malawi Revenue Authority
- Website: [http://www.mra.gov.mw](http://www.mra.gov.mw)
- Email: mra@malawi
- Tel: +265 1 823 388

Malawi Investment and Trade Centre
- Website: [http://www.mic.gov.mw](http://www.mic.gov.mw)
- Email: tradeinfo@mic
- Tel: +265 1 789 000
Background

- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) was created at the request of developing and least-developed country (LDC) Members to help ensure that they receive the assistance they need to reap the full benefits of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and to support the ultimate goal of full implementation of this new Agreement by all Members.
- The Facility was formally launched on 22 July 2014, by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo and became operational on 27 November 2014, when Members adopted the Protocol of Amendment to insert the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement. The TFAF is housed within the Market Access Division of the WTO.
- 4.5 FTE staff members.
- 9 Donors:

Primary goals

1. find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA),
2. ratify the TFA,
3. submit TFA Section II notifications within agreed deadlines, and
4. enhance the operation of their national trade facilitation committees.

NB: Request driven
Activities to be funded in 2019

A. Matchmaking and funding activities
   1. Matchmaking
   2. Grant Program

B. Ratification, notification, implementation
   3. National Workshops
   4. Regional and sub-regional workshops
   5. National needs assessments...

C. Implementation support and capacity building
   6. Dedicated thematic workshops
   7. TFAF Website

D. Advocacy
   8. Advocacy

A.1. Matchmaking

- Notifications on www.tfadatabase.org
- Analysis of notifications on www.tfafacility.org
- Donor information (inc. Art 22) on www.tfafacility.org
- Dedicated sessions on accessing assistance included in all events
- Coordinate Annex D+
- Expression of Interest process
A.2. Grant Program

- Launched on 9 October at TF Committee meeting
- Expression of interest list in place
- Project Implementation Grants (PG) Selection Committee 2 donors and 2 developing country representatives
- Strong interest, but no eligible applications as yet

http://www.tfafacility.org/grant-program
B.3. National workshops

Upon request, in the following areas:

- outstanding category A, B and C notifications;
- support national trade facilitation committees;
- workshops for Parliamentarians in countries that have not ratified;
- general national workshops (via requests made to TFAF or ITTC).

- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program

B. 4. Regional and Sub-regional Workshops

- Upon request, in the following areas:
- Border Agency cooperation to strengthen the NTFCs
- Organized with the STDF, World Bank Group, IPPC, OIE, UN-OHRLLS
- Speakers from WCO, UNCTAD, regional orgs
- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program
B.4. CARICOM January 2019

- 83 participants from 13 States including 1 LDC.
- 55% of participants women
- 73 of 83 participants completed feedback from (88%).
- Of those, 96% found that the workshop far exceeded (37%) or exceeded (62%) their expectations.

CARICOM outcomes

- Since its conclusion, seven WTO Members (more than half of those) participating in the workshop have submitted a total of ten notifications with the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.
- All seven Members had committed to notify in their feedback given in the workshop's concluding evaluation session and have subsequently followed through to send them in short order.
B.5. Needs Assessments

- Mauritania end of March, notified 24 April
- We do not anticipate further requests;
- Remains available in case needed in the context of preparing notifications.

C.6. Dedicated thematic workshops

- Organize and fund capital based officials at TFC meetings/dedicated session;
- Possible side events such as experience sharing;
- Need 3 months + for logistics
- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program
- Recent example – October TF Committee – Positive feedback
C.7. TFAF Website

www.tfafacility.org

- Continuous maintenance
- News and events to support stakeholder coordination
- Tools and resources to share best practices and provide practical assistance
- Activity requests and grant applications to ensure transparency and accessibility
- Supports delivery of activities: www.tfafacility.org/workshops

D.8. Advocacy

- Continue advocacy on TFA implementation and TFAF by participating in events that are organized by:
  - international or regional organizations,
  - industry/business groups
  - national governments,
  - aid organizations,
  - private sector or
  - academia