



# HOW TO ENSURE COORDINATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES AGENDA 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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# EAC Partner States

Burundi;

Kenya;

Rwanda;

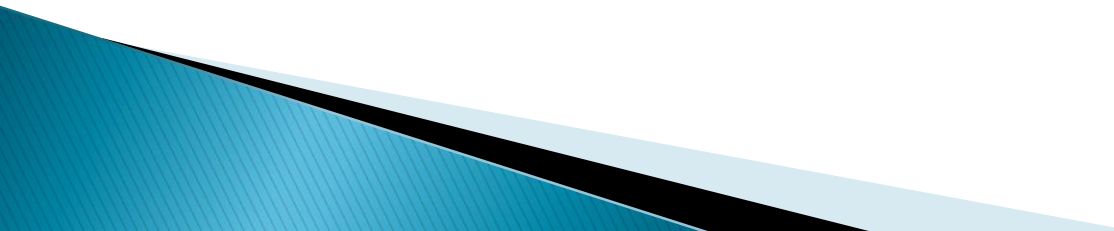
Tanzania;

Uganda;

South Sudan

# EAC legal provisions on TF before Bali

- **The Treaty for the establishment of the EAC**

- Art. 74 : In order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community as set out in article 5 of this Treaty, and in furtherance of Article 2 of this Treaty, the Partner States shall develop and adopt EAC trade Regime and Cooperate in trade liberalisation and development in accordance therewith.
  - Article 75.1 (m): Simplification and harmonisation of trade documentation and procedures
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## **EAC legal provisions on TF before Bali (Cont.)**

- **Articles 6 and 7 of the EAC Customs Union Protocol**

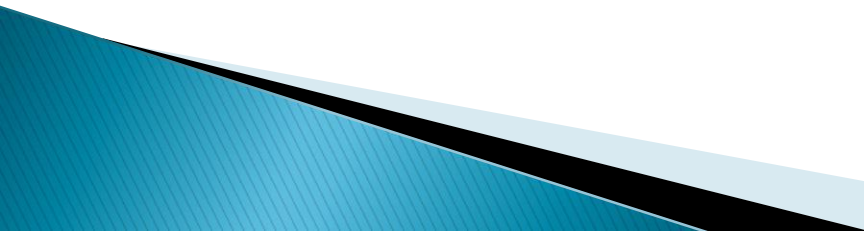
Among others, the Protocol under Article 6 and 7, emphasis is placed on the cooperation on trade facilitation initiatives at a regional level. Specifically the articles articulate the following:

- a) Reducing the number and volume of documentation required in respect of trade among the Partner States;
- b) Adopting common standards of trade documentation and procedures within the community where international requirements do not suit the conditions prevailing among the Partner States.

# Implementation of legal provisions

- ▶ The EAC Partner States have been implementing a Customs Union since 2005, a Common Market since 2010.
  - ▶ The EAC is also consolidating its Customs Union through the operationalization of a Single Customs Territory that started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 with the aim for free circulation of goods and reduction on the cost of doing business in the region.
  - ▶ Trade Facilitation has been an important aspect of the EAC regional integration agenda as it has been vital in boosting intra-regional trade.
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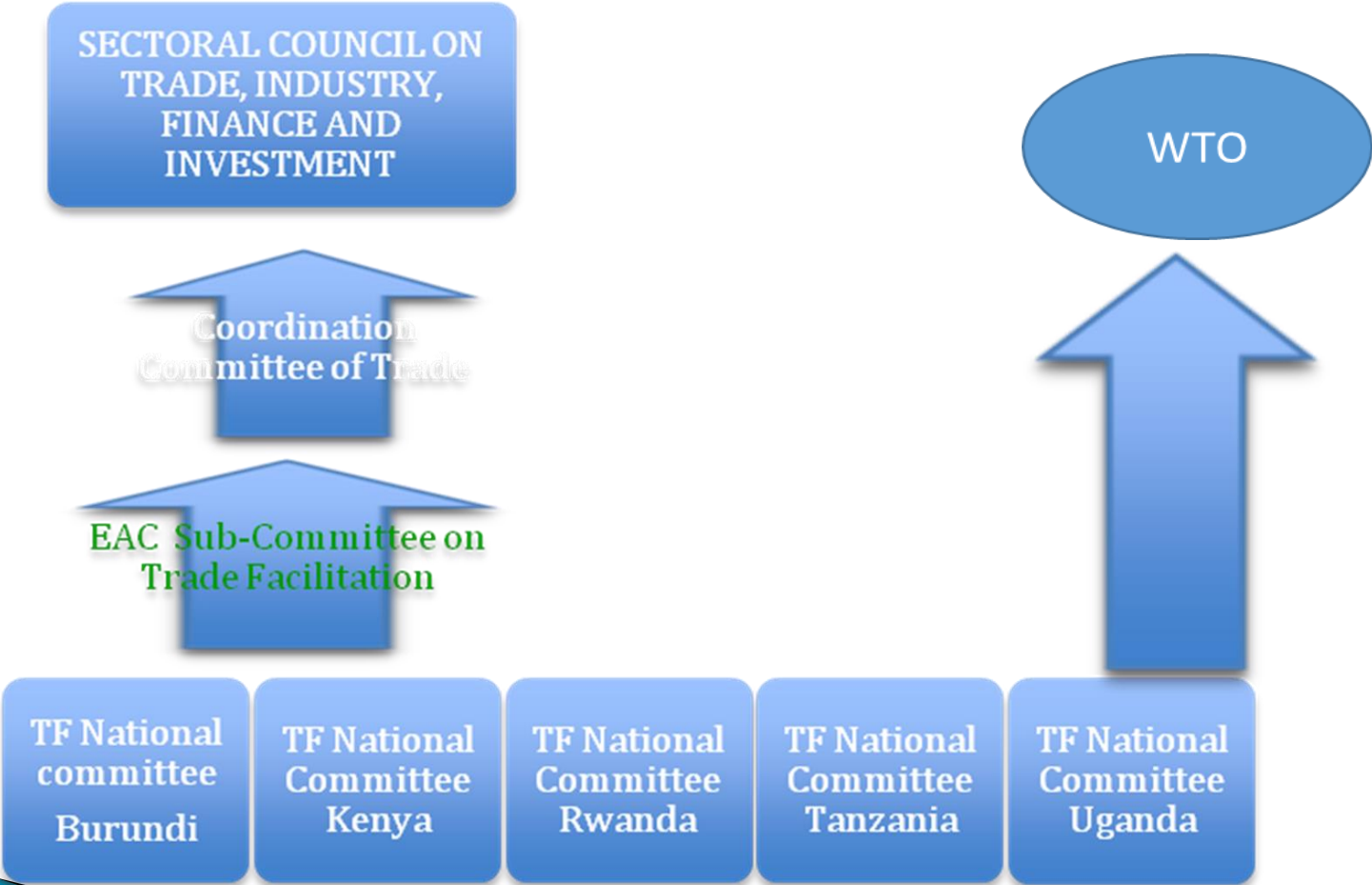
# ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES (NTFC)

- ▶ The EAC Secretariat supported Partner States to develop the Terms of Reference of the National Trade Facilitation Committees and the national action plan.
  - ▶ All the Partner States have established NTFCs
  - ▶ Two sets of national training workshops were held in mid 2015 and mid 2016 by the EAC Secretariat in cooperation with UNCTAD and GIZ.
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# Establishment of Regional Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation

- ▶ The Regional Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation was established in May 2015. It works in cooperation with the National Trade Facilitation Committee of each EAC Partner State.
- ▶ Its functions are:
  - i) to supervise the implementation of the WTO TFA at regional and national levels,
  - ii) to ensure the convergence of the national implementation plans; and
  - iii) to formulate and manage a regional TF Action Plan.

# STRUCTURE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE





# NOTIFICATION OF THE A MEASURES OF THE WTO TFA BY THE EAC PARTNER STATES

▶ The Partner States agreed to converge as much as possible A measures to notify to the WTO so as to promote in the regional milestones achieved since the adoption of the EAC Customs Union and EAC Common Market.

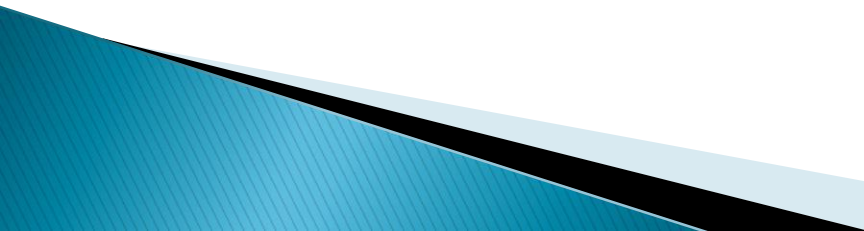
The A measures agreed by the EAC Partner States for notification to the WTO were the following:

- **Article 1.4**      **Notification**
- **Article 5.2**      **Detention**
- **Article 9**        **Movement of goods under customs control**
- **Article 10.5.1**   **Pre-shipment inspection**

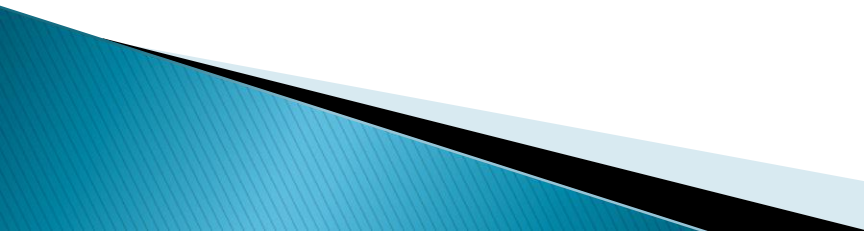
# Summary of Commitments

Commitments	Status
Notification of Category A	
WT/PCTF/N/RWA/1	Circulated on 27th April 2015
WT/PCTF/N/BDI/1	Circulated on 1st May 2015
WT/PCTF/N/TZA/1	Circulated on 5th May 2015
<b>WT/PCTF/N/UGA/1</b>	Circulated on 7 August 2015
WT/PCTF/N/KEN/1	Circulated on 29th April 2015
South Sudan (new EAC Partner State is yet to notify)	
▶ Notification of B and C	Not yet . Still in consultation to finalize the national plans
▶ Capacity Building	
▶ Ratification	Only Kenya.

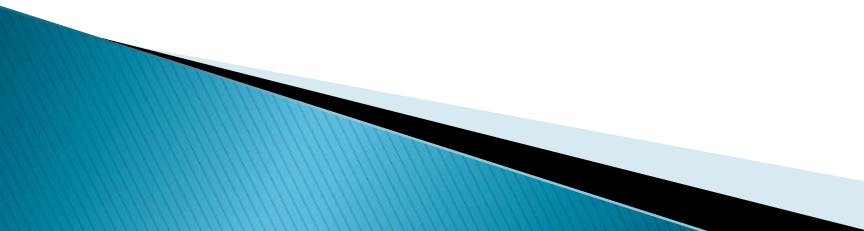
# DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PLANS

- ▶ The Partner States have developed draft national action plans and are in the process of finalizing them.
  - ▶ The Regional Trade Facilitation Sub-Committee finalized the EAC Regional Trade Facilitation Implementation Action Plan in June 2016.
  - ▶ The Secretariat is preparing project proposals for the measures to be undertaken under the Regional Trade Facilitation Implementation Action Plan
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# Why support EAC TF as a regional

- Political will : Notification; Creation on NTFC; Ratification (Kenya);
  - Existing legal Commitments in EAC instruments (Treaty and Customs Union Protocol);
  - Regional Committee to supervise the implementation;
  - Efficient allocation of resources .
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# OTHER FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Capacity building activities for the NTFCs will continue.
  - Awareness activities to sensitize stakeholders, including private sector.
  - A Monitoring & Evaluation system would be required to measure and follow-up the implementation of the TFA at national and regional level.
  - Organization of a donor round table with the presentation of the Regional Action Plan, particularly on category C proposals of the TFA. The donor roundtable will help attract the partners ready to commit financially in the implementation of the TFA in the EAC region.
  - Implementation of the TF Regional Action Plan.
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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

