



World Trade Organization

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**First Review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement:
Outcomes of Interest to NTFCs**



NTFC
GLOBAL
FORUM
2022



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REVIEW PROCESS

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REVIEW OUTCOMES

Decisions and recommendations that will guide the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee's future work

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SPECIFIC OUTCOMES OF INTEREST TO NTFCs

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NTFCs AND 2022

Forward look to the TFC's work in 2022 to support full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement



Background

**Review
Mandate:**

**TFA Article
23.1.6**

2017-2021

2022-2026

“The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement four years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter.”

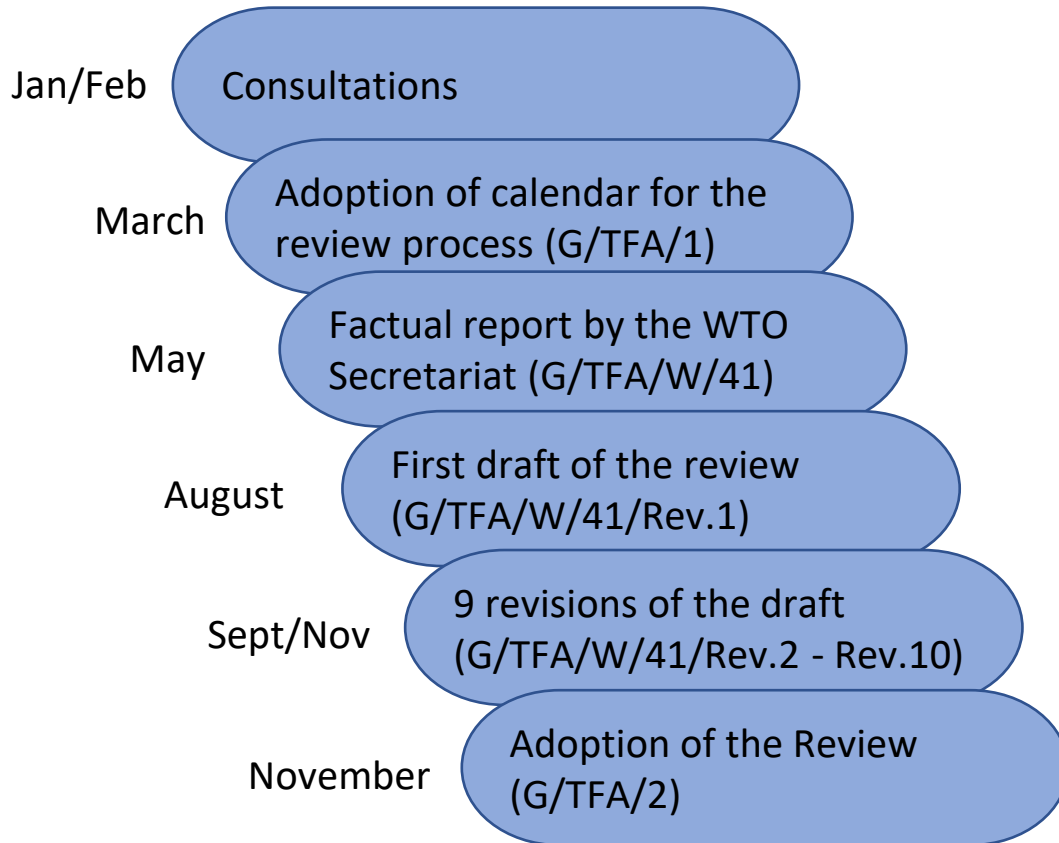
The review took stock of members’ progress in implementing the Agreement from 2017 to 2021, as well as implementation challenges encountered by members, particularly least-developed countries.

The review identified a number of means by which the TFC can strengthen its work to support full implementation of the TFA.

The next review will take place in 2026



1. REVIEW PROCESS



Review in numbers

- # 26 documents by Members
- # 18 committee meetings
- # 10 draft reports
- # 7 rounds of consultations
- # 4 Chair reports



2. REVIEW OUTCOMES G/TFA/2

The report lists **11 decisions** and **5 recommendations** for further work, including:

- updating the 2015 WTO World Trade Report on the benefits and challenges of implementing the TFA.
- holding an annual dedicated session to discuss transit issues of landlocked country members
- conduct another review in four years time



3. SPECIFIC OUTCOMES OF INTEREST TO NTFCs

A. TFA implementation

- Early warning mechanism notifications
- Voluntarily sharing implementation status within the Committee

B. Technical assistance & capacity building support

- Technical assistance notifications
- Addressing the gaps in technical assistance and capacity building support

C. Experience sharing by NTFCs

- Experiences, challenges and successes of NTFCs available at tfadatabase.org
- WTO Committee will produce a document containing good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs



A. TFA Implementation

- A large number of members have submitted in a timely manner the notifications needed to identify implementation timelines.
- Based on these notifications, developing Members have committed to have implemented over 74% of the TFA provisions as of today.
- Notifications under the Early Warning Mechanism (TFA Article 17) were submitted by 21 members between 2019 and 2021 - requests from 6 members were not accepted

(TFA Article 17)

- Important to adhere to the process and timeline for Article 17 notification
- Secretariat issues a reminder document annually of upcoming implementation dates (G/TFA/INF/1 and revisions)

Review recommendation

- that Members, on a voluntary basis, confirm the passing of category B and C implementation dates and share their implementation experiences with regard to those provisions



B. Technical assistance & capacity building support (TACB)

- The report noted that 85 members had notified their need for technical assistance and capacity building, while 3 members have made partial notifications.
- The most cited requests were for human resources and training; assistance in amending laws or regulations or implementing new ones; and information and communication technologies.

TACB notifications required

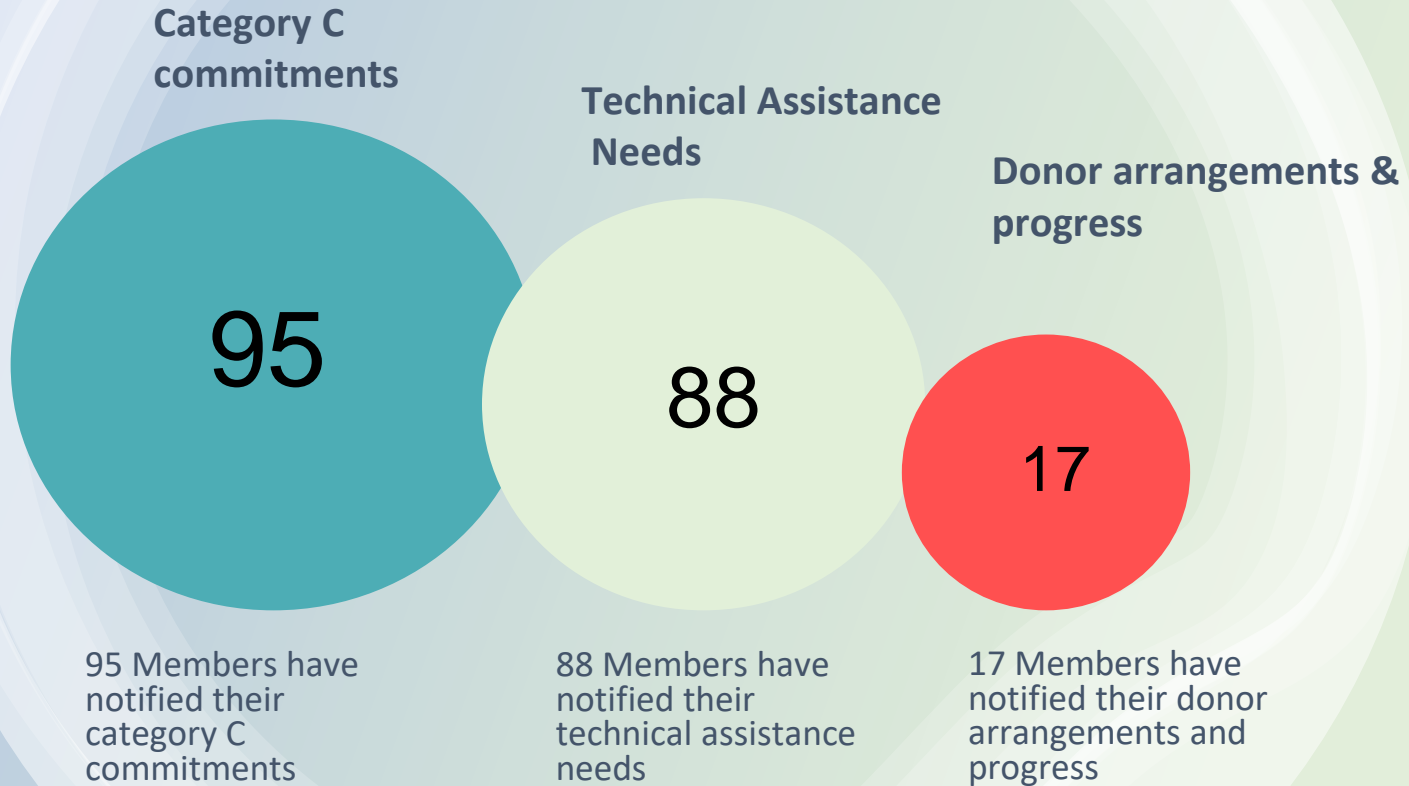
- To encourage further support from donors, important to have the follow-up notification of TA progress. So far these have been slow to come in and encourage NTFCs in countries requiring assistance to do what they can to expedite these notifications

Review recommendation

- That beneficiary Members with category C commitments to organize meetings with donors in capital, to review the state of assistance and potential future needs.



Gap in technical assistance notifications





C. Experience sharing by NTFCs

- The report noted that 22 Members have taken the opportunity to share with the Committee their experiences in the development and operation of their NCTFs between 2017 and 2021.

Experience-sharing resource

- All NTFC experience-sharing by Members, as well as presentations made by UNCTAD and the World Customs Organization are available on the WTO TFA database website
- tfadatabase.org

Review recommendation

- WTO Committee will draft a document that contains good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs, identifying at least three elements agreed by Members as essential for a successful NTFC: full government agency participation, clear leadership with political imperatives, and strong links to the private sector



4. NTFCs and 2022

TFA implementation notification

- 22 August 2022 – deadline for notification of category C definitive implementation dates by least-developed country members

Technical assistance & capacity building support notification

- Expedite notifications of arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support of category C provisions

Address the gaps in technical assistance and capacity building support

Experience sharing

- NTFCs may like to consider the review recommendation - on a voluntary basis, confirm the passing of category B and C implementation dates and share their implementation experiences with regard to those provisions

Thank you!

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