

Multi-year Expert Meeting  
on Transport, Trade Logistics and  
Trade Facilitation  
10th Session

**Coordination and digitalization as a  
means to accelerated and climate-smart  
trade facilitation**

17–19 July 2023

**Introduction to  
Trade facilitation and coordination**

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Multi-year Expert meeting on

# TRANSPORT, TRADE LOGISTICS AND TRADE FACILITATION

17–19 July 2023

Palais des Nations, Geneva



1



## Trade Facilitation and coordination

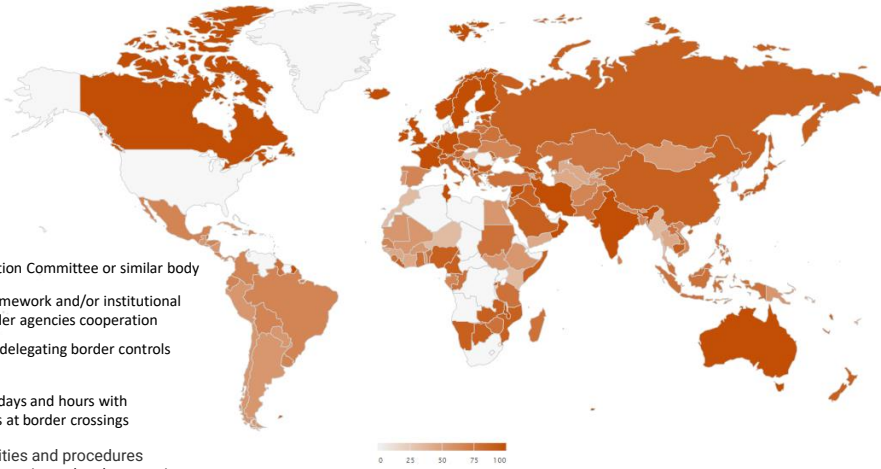
- **National Trade Facilitation Committee WTO TFA Art. 23.2**
- **Border Agency Coordination WTO TFA Art. 8**
- **Private sector involvement**



2

# Trade Facilitation and coordination UN Global Survey

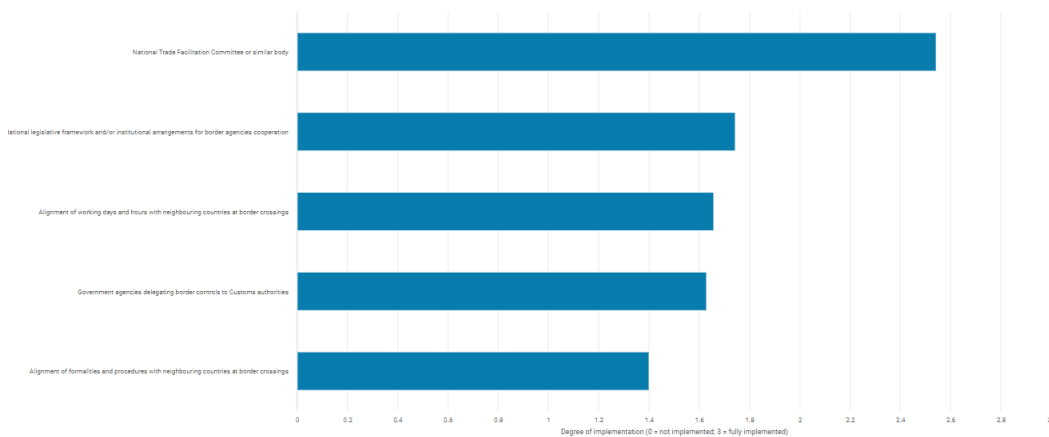
Implementation of Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation Measures (2023)



- 1. National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar body
- 31. National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation
- 32. Government agencies delegating border controls to Customs authorities
- 33. Alignment of working days and hours with neighbouring countries at border crossings
- 34. Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighbouring countries at border crossings

# Trade Facilitation and coordination UN Global Survey

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Measures (2023)  
Based on scores of 33 selected economies\*



## National Trade Facilitation Committees – A WTO TFA obligation

5

### WTO TFA Art. 23.2

Each Member **shall** establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both **domestic coordination and implementation of provisions** of this Agreement.

### WTO TFA Art. 2

Art.2.1. Each Member **shall, to the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its domestic law and legal system, provide opportunities and an appropriate time period to traders and other interested parties to comment** on the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application

Art. 2.2. Each Member **shall, as appropriate, provide for regular consultations** between its border agencies and **traders** or other stakeholders located within its territory..

5

## Trade Facilitation Stakeholders



### Public stakeholders

- **Ministries, agencies and officials** - involved in export, import and transit processes
- **Policy and lawmakers** - major players in the design and implementation of national policies, laws and regulations



### Private stakeholders

- **Users of trade services** - traders grouped under a chamber of commerce or business association, including SME's associations
- **Service providers** - transportation and service providers associations, bankers' associations, consumers organizations, insurance industry associations
- **Civil society** - unions, consumer associations, non-governmental organizations, academic communities



6

6



## Key success factors



# Success factors for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Cooperation among members, political support, financial support, member motivation and participation, development of work plan and ToRs, regularity of meetings and awareness

7

Programa de Empoderamiento para los Comités Nacionales de Facilitación del Comercio de la UNCTAD

7



## Key obstacles



# Main obstacles for National Trade Facilitation Committees

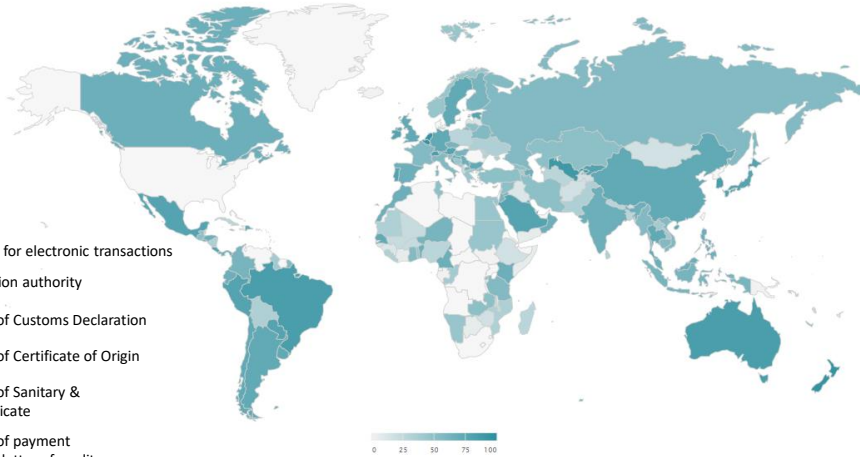
- Lack of funding, low member motivation and participation, lack of political support, resistance to change, incorrect member representation and lack of a permanent secretariat.
- Obstacles will negatively influence the effective development of the activities of the committee

Programa de Empoderamiento para los Comités Nacionales de Facilitación del Comercio de la UNCTAD

8

# Trade Facilitation and coordination UN Global Survey

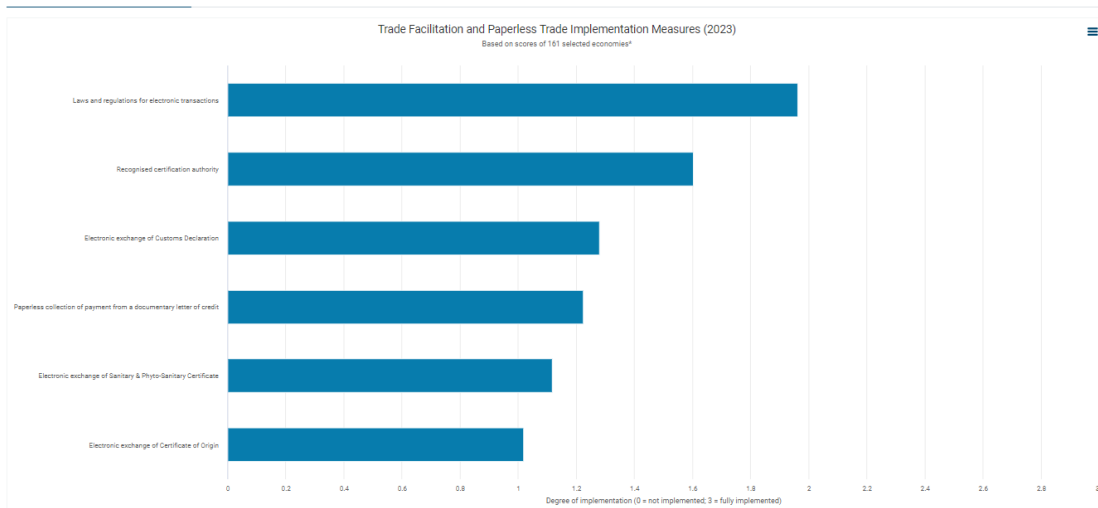
Implementation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade Measures (2023)



- 25. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions
- 26. Recognized certification authority
- 27. Electronic exchange of Customs Declaration
- 28. Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin
- 29. Electronic exchange of Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Certificate
- 30. Paperless collection of payment from a documentary letter of credit

# Trade Facilitation and coordination UN Global Survey

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Measures (2023)  
Based on scores of 151 selected economies\*





## Border Agency Coordination – but no cross-border exchange of data obligation

11

### WTO TFA Art. 8

Art.8.1 Each Member **shall ensure** that its **authorities and agencies** responsible for border controls and procedures dealing with the importation, exportation, and transit of goods **cooperate** with one another and coordinate their activities in order to facilitate trade.

Art.8.2 Each Member **shall, to the extent possible and practicable, cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other Members** with whom they share a common border with a view to coordinating procedures at border crossings to facilitate cross-border trade. Such cooperation and coordination may include:

- (a) alignment of working days and hours;
- (b) alignment of procedures and formalities;
- (c) development and sharing of common facilities;
- (d) joint controls;
- (e) establishment of one stop border post control.

11

## UNCTAD Programs



- Wide-range of technical assistance programs and methodologies
- Specific tools depending on needs and individual situation assisting developing countries meet obligations
- Focus on WTO TFA obligations and TF reforms such as transparency; simplifying, standardizing and harmonizing procedures; digitalization and monitoring progress

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12

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