

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

**UNCTAD Reform Tracker  
tool Implementation:  
Namibia Experience**

Presentation by

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# UNCTAD Reform Tracker tool Implementation: Namibia Experience



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18 July 2023

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## PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

To present the Reform Tracker tool Implementation in Namibia and benefits thereon.  
Insights on what has been achieved, how has the process assisted in implementation,  
organization of the work and what challenges encountered

### Acronyms used within the presentation

-  NTFC (National Trade Facilitation Committee)
-  UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
-  WTO – TFA (World Trade Organisation – Trade Facilitation Agreement)

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- Namibia entered into force to the WTO – TFA on the 22 February 2017.
- Article 23.2 implies the formation of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC).
- Subsequently, Namibia established the NTFC in July 2019 constituting of various institutions from public and private sectors.
- On the 17 November 2020, Namibia requested to participate on the UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Assistance Programme including the Reform Tracker tool - <https://reformtracker.org/>

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## Namibia`s notifications under the WTO TFA

### Longer – term deadlines

On 01 March 2023, Namibia notified all definitive deadlines for the implementation of Cat. B and C commitments under the WTO TFA

(<https://tfadatabase.org/members/namibia/article-22-3>)

<https://tfadatabase.org/en/notifications/extension-of-implementation-dates?member=115>

### Upcoming implementation deadlines

#### 31 December 2023

- Art. 7.6 Average release times (Cat. C)
- Art. 7.7 Authorized Operators (Cat. C)
- Art. 10.4 Single Window (Cat. C)
- Art. 11 Transit (Partially) (Cat. C)

#### 30 June 2024

- Art. 7.4 Risk Management (Cat. C)
- Art. 7.5 Post Clearance Audit (Cat. C)
- Art. 7.8 Expedited Shipments (Cat. C)
- Art. 8 Border Agency Cooperation (Cat. C)

#### 30 December 2024

- Art. 1.1 Publication (Cat. B)
- Art. 1.2 Information available through internet (Cat. C)
- Art. 1.3 Enquiry points (Cat. C)
- Art. 3 Advance Ruling (Cat. C)
- Art. 6.1 General disciplines on fees and charges (Cat. C)
- Art. 10.6 Use of Customs Brokers (Cat. C)
- Art. 11 Freedom of Transit (Cat. C)

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## Namibia`s notifications under the WTO TFA

Namibia decided to use the Early Warning Mechanism

Upcoming implementation deadlines → Early Warning Mechanism

31 December 2023

Art. 7.6 Average release times (Cat. C)

Art. 7.7 Authorized Operators (Cat. C)

Art. 10.4 Single Window (Cat. C)

Art. 11 Transit (Partially) (Cat. C)

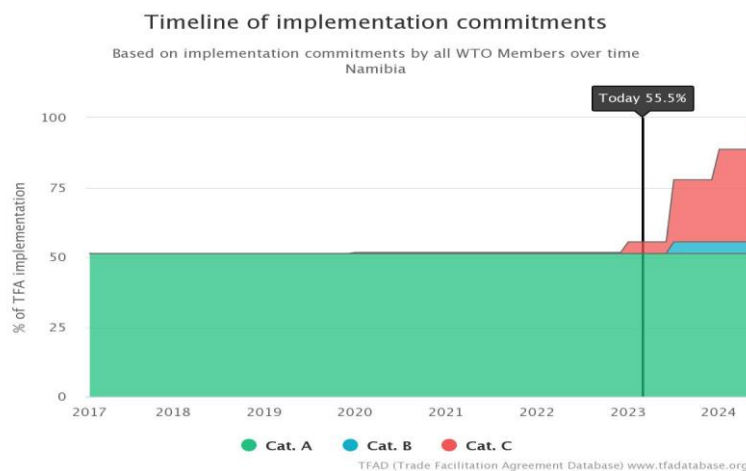
- Allows developing countries to request for **additional implementation time**.
- Developing country shall **notify the WTO Committee** on Trade Facilitation **no later than 120 days before the expiration** of the implementation date
- The notification shall indicate:
  - ❖ **New implementation dates** and
  - ❖ **Reasons for the expected delay** in implementation (such as the need for assistance and support for capacity building not earlier anticipated or additional assistance and support to help build capacity)

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## “Commitment Shock” delayed to December 2024

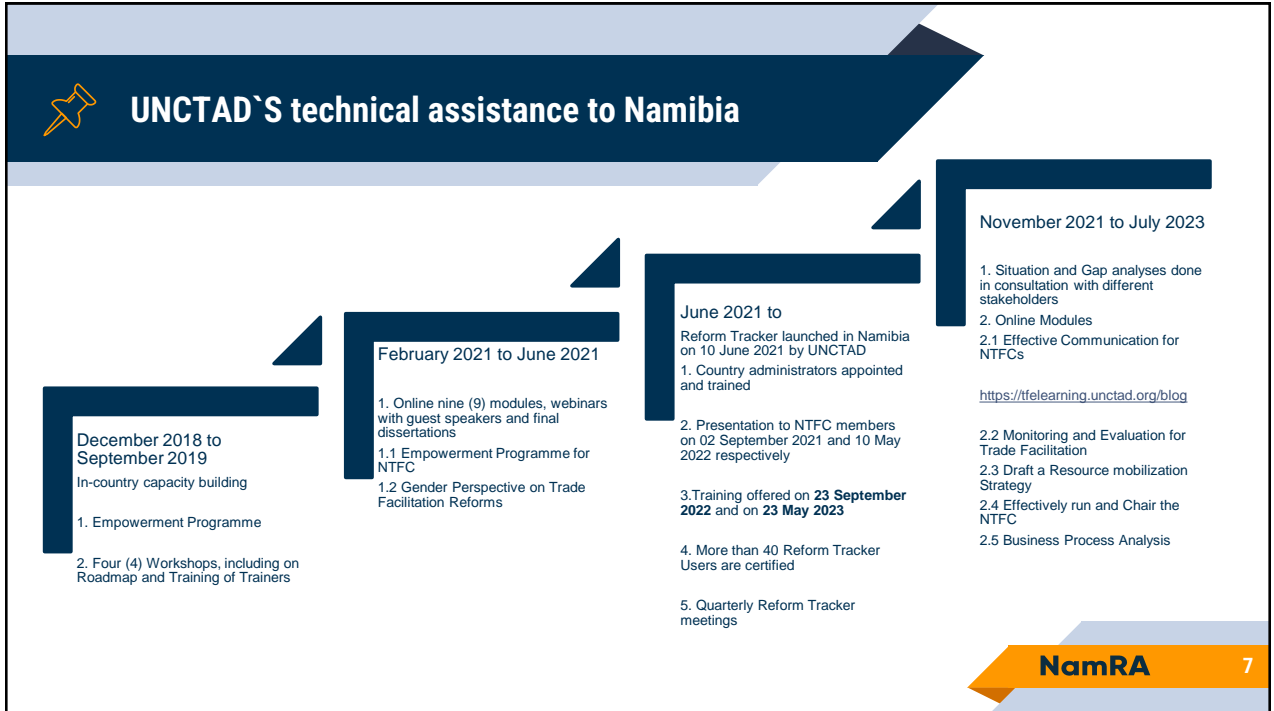


Before 30 December 2024 (in 16 months) Namibia will have to implement 44,5% of all TFA measures (!)

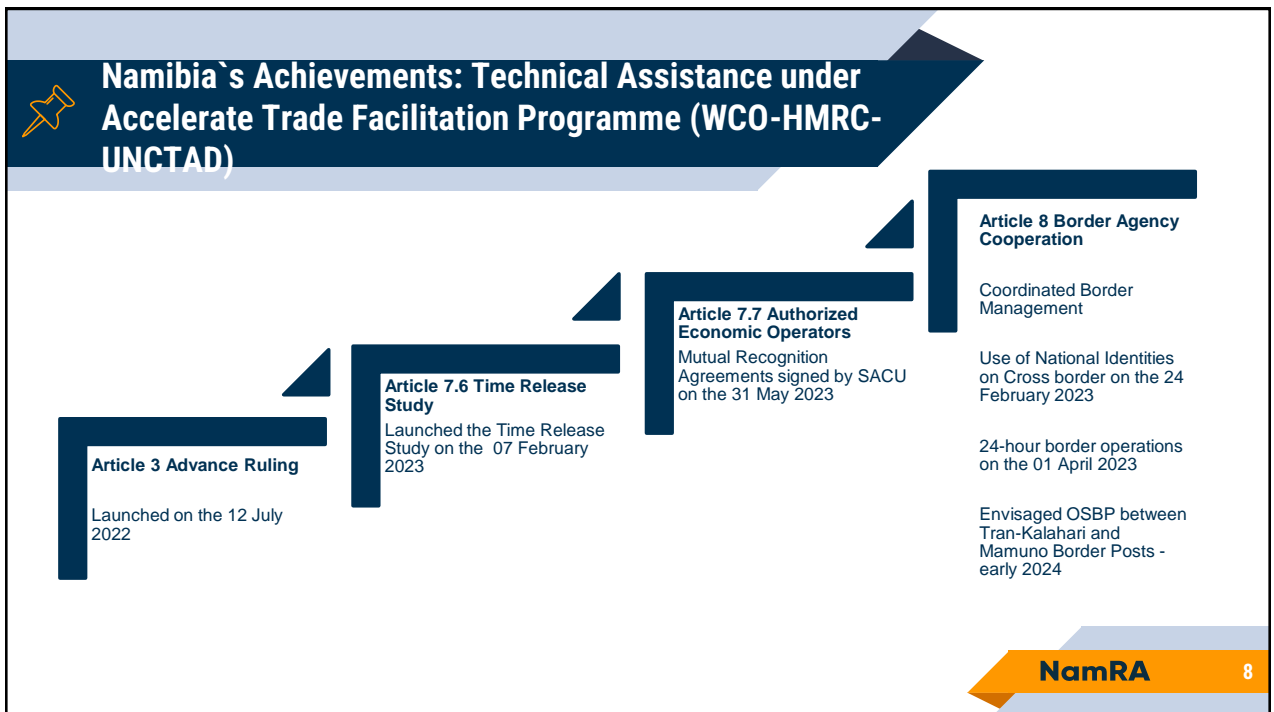
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## NamRA launches Pilot Time Release Study on the 07 February 2023

### NamRA In Brief

8 February 2023



#### NamRA LAUNCHES PILOT TIME RELEASE STUDY

In line with its strategic objective of providing customs and excise services that facilitate legitimate trade, the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) yesterday, 7 February 2023 launched the first Namibia Time Release Study (TRS) at the Port of Walvis Bay with technical and financial support from the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and His Majesty Revenue & Customs.

The Time Release Study is a strategic and internationally recognized tool developed by WCO to measure the actual time required for the release and/or clearance of goods, from the time of arrival until the physical release of cargo.

The objective is to determine bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take necessary measures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

www.namra.org.na

Speaking at the launch, NamRA Commissioner Sam SHIVUTE said the success of the TRS project will contribute greatly to the trade environment in Namibia, improve the country's competitiveness to attract more investors, and ultimately contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

He further encouraged all stakeholders to participate in the project particularly regulatory agencies involved in clearing goods, to avail data to the Technical Working Group.

The Pilot TRS will be conducted this month at the Port of Walvis Bay while TRS at other entry/exit points across the country will be conducted in the future.



**ART. 7.6 TIME RELEASE STUDY (TRS) LAUNCHED**

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## NamRA and WCO Firms up relations

### NamRA In Brief

8 February 2023



#### NamRA and WCO Firm Up Relations

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) are set to consolidate relations in identified areas.

WCO Head of the Accelerated Trade Facilitation Programme Donia Hammami indicated that the global body was prepared to assist NamRA with the Coordinated Border Management Programme and the Electronic Advance Ruling.

She further pledged support in providing guidance on the enhancement of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme and the air cargo streamlining, as influenced by the growing e-commerce.

During an engagement at Walvis Bay yesterday (Tuesday), NamRA Commissioner Sam SHIVUTE stressed that the entity was committed to the implementation of all interventions that would contribute to its vision of becoming a world class revenue agency.

www.namra.org.na



**NamRA and WCO**

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Members of the Namibian NTFC secretariat at the UNCTAD Intensive Executive training, discussing upcoming action points for 2023 on 30 March 2023. <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-training-bolsters-trade-facilitation-southern-africa>

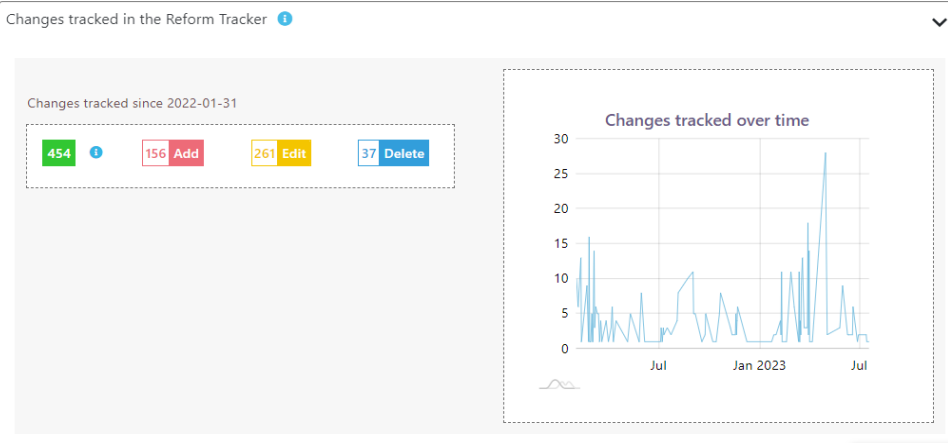


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## Reform Tracker Changes Tracked



**454** Changes tracked on the Reform Tracker

CHAT

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## Namibia NTFC sharing best practices on Sierra Leone NTFC on the 06 June 2023

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## What can Namibia do?

### Using the Early Warning Mechanism again?

#### For those measures due on 30 December 2023:

Art. 7.6 Average release times (Cat. C)

Art. 7.7 Authorized Operators (Cat. C)

Art. 10.4 Single Window (Cat. C)

Art. 11 Transit (Partially) (Cat. C)

\*\*\*To be considered only if those reforms cannot be implemented by 30 December 2023.

\*\*\*Remember that the second request is not automatically accepted

### Accelerating the implementation process!

- By revitalizing Namibia's NTFC, with regular meetings and annual plan
- By using the Reform Tracker to its full potential – **Online training has been offered by UNCTAD – more than 40 Users from Namibia are certified**
- By intensifying fund raising efforts
- By strengthening coordination amongst NTFC members, especially for Art. 8

\*\*\*NamRA will be the primary leading agency for implementing upcoming commitments (Art. 7.6, and 7.7)

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# THANKS!

Any questions?  
You can find me at  
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