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**Zambia's Update on WTO Trade Facilitation
Agreement Implementation**

Presentation by

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Ministry of Commerce , Trade & Industry- Zambia
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Article 1: Information availability through the Internet

- ▶ Zambia has made significant progress in addressing the digital divide and promoting open and affordable access to Internet for all 1009 Communication Towers have been put up so far which will see the country at about ninety-six (96%) network coverage
- ▶ To meet commitments under Article 1 is implementing an Electronic Trade Portal to be hosted by Ministry of Commerce. So far 85% of the content of this Trade Portal has been collected this includes the various laws, regulations, procedures, charter of fees, fines and forms.

Article 2: Opportunity to comment on new legislation and regulations before they enter into force

- ▶ To enhance transparency in this area we established the Business Regulatory Review Agency under Act 3 of 2014 ensuring that all new legislation and regulations undergo Regulatory Impact Assessment which allows for stakeholder consultation and comment before enactment.
- ▶ We have seen more involvement by our agencies and stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

Article 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency

- ▶ With the use of ASYCUDA and our Single Window platform the notification of any enhanced controls are electronically, sent to the importers, exporters or Customs Brokers as the case may be. Any other Border Agency with an interest is also notified to facilitate operations like joint physical inspections were required.
- ▶ We are fully availing stakeholders the opportunity to appeal and request for a second test on any goods where a second test is desired

Article 6: Disciplines on fees and charges

- ▶ Zambia is currently undertaking a review of fees and charges imposed with respect to exportation, importation or transit. This will assist to identify all the fees, the amounts, the frequency and the reason for the fees.
- ▶ This process will enable the country to make the necessary decisions in conformity with Article 6.



Article 7: Timely release and clearance of goods

- ▶ Zambia started implementing Electronic Payment in 2014 currently nineteen (19) Commercial Banks offer electronic payment
- ▶ Three (3) out of four (4) Mobile Operators also offering mobile payment facilities
- ▶ As at March 2019 ninety-six (96%) of payments of our Revenue Authority are through electronic payment.
- ▶ With Zambia also implementing the Single Payment Point system where payments to other border agencies are also collected by



Article 8: Border agency cooperation

- ▶ Zambia enacted the Coordinated Border Management and Trade Facilitation Act of 2018 the addresses border coordination by appointing Zambia Revenue Authority as a Lead Agency at the border recognizing their being critical part in the Trade facilitation agreement activities but also a leader in connectivity with the Single Window.
- ▶ This legislation also addresses other areas of border agency cooperation like harmonization of working hours.
- ▶ In addressing cross border cooperation in the same law we have provided for setting up of One Stop Border Posts for the alignment of working days and hours; alignment of procedures and formalities; development and sharing of common facilities and joint controls with our neighbouring countries.

Article 8: Border agency cooperation

- ▶ The Chirundu One Stop Border Post with Zambia/Zimbabwe which is a flagship one stop border post launched in 2009. The OSBP at Chirundu border has reduced processing times as well as transport costs thereby achieving efficiency and effectiveness of border operations. This has improved competitiveness in the region which handles 450 trucks daily on average.
- ▶ Nakonde/Tunduma One Stop Border Post with Zambia/Tanzania is operating as a pilot One Stop Border Post Discussions are underway with Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia for possible One Stop Border Posts at other common borders.



Article 10.1: Formalities and documentation requirements

- ▶ Zambia enacted Act 4 on 2019 which provided for the Integrated Border Declaration Form which combines the requirements of all border agencies with respect to crossing the border with passenger cars. The form incorporates all formalities, requirement and payments into one form processed by a single agency.
- ▶ Zambia is also looking at working with our REC's in developing electronic versions of the Certificates of Origin and other International partners on the E- Phyto sanitary certificate

Article 10.4: Single Window

- ▶ Zambia is implementing the Single Window (Article 10.4) on ASYCUDA World.
- ▶ This has resulted in the application of risk management by a number of our border agencies. Faster clearance of requests subject to regulations, facilitated in real time for Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency who operate in real time on ASYCUDA.
- ▶ The connectivity of Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency led to improved enforcement of their controls, created transparency and efficiency due to predictable procedures and release times.
- ▶ This has also resulted in other benefits such as increased

Article 10.4: Single Window

- ▶ In complying with TFA provisions, Zambia is also implementing the One Stop Shop Integrated System (OSSIS) aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the institutions through information sharing. This has strengthened the governance system of institutions, improved the business climate in Zambia as companies are registered faster and has increased business compliance across institutions and high levels of data integrity as participating institutions now hold consistent data sets.



Article 11: Improving the efficiency of transit operations

- ▶ Zambia as a landlocked country is already facilitating transits through its territory with minimum formalities and documentation requirements for transits which are limited to fulfilment of transit requirements.
- ▶ The major challenge faced has been constrained treasury fiscal space which resulted in Government prioritising its expenditure which led to some projects stalling. As a result, some of the country's infrastructure remains inadequate as with no separate lanes for transit traffic at all our borders, substantially increasing the total expenses for transport and other transaction costs. Other challenges include:
- ▶ Cumbersome transit procedures with some neighbouring countries such as non-reciprocal fees.

Article 13.2: Institutional Arrangements

- ▶ The National Trade Facilitation Committee was set up in 2016
- ▶ Chaired by Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and Zambia Revenue Authority and its Secretariat domiciled at the Ministry of Commerce with support from cooperating partners
- ▶ Representation at a technical level from both public and private sectors. The Steering Committee which is the Apex body is chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet with representation from the same agencies at a higher level.

Article 13.2: Institutional Arrangements

- ▶ The Coordinated Border Management and Trade Facilitation Bill Act enacted in 2018 legislated for the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and all its structures.
- ▶ While Private sector representatives have been members of the NTFC since inception in 2016 it is worth noting that the Steering Committee granted authority for private sector representatives to seat on the Steering Committee with the first meeting with Private Sector was held in April 2019

DONOR PLATFORM A CASE FOR ZAMBIA

- ▶ The process of leveraging funds from cooperating partners is facilitated by the following issues:
 - ▶ Ratification of the TFA 2015
 - ▶ Preliminary costing of the Category C measures 2015
 - ▶ Development of the implementation matrix 2016 indicating articles, challenges and activities to be undertaken

DONOR PLATFORM A CASE FOR ZAMBIA

- ▶ GRZ-Donor platform has been established with the assistance from the Enhanced Integrated Framework:
 - ▶ Government, including border agencies
 - ▶ Private sector
 - ▶ Development/Cooperating partners
 - ▶ Civil society
- The last donor platform was convened in 2018

DONOR PLATFORM A CASE FOR ZAMBIA

- ▶ The Donor platform assists in determining the gaps
- ▶ It assists in avoiding duplication of efforts by Donors to maximise on the support



INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UN ORGANIZATIONS TO ZAMBIA

- ▶ Zambia is grateful to be receiving technical support from various cooperating partners in implementing various trade facilitation reforms under the Trade Facilitation Agreement. In particular, we have had the support of UNCTAD to upgrade our Customs System at Zambia Revenue Authority from ASYCUDA PLUS to the higher version ASYCUDA World. This support includes capacity building of personnel to support the system. UNCTAD is still continued supporting our Customs Administration to upgrade to an advanced version of ASYCUDA World with better functionality
- ▶ Zambia is also benefitting from the UNCTAD capacity building for National Trade Facilitation Committee. Members of the National Trade Facilitation Committee from both public and private sector have already undertaken two modules and are scheduled to undertake the third module at the end of May 2019.

Status Update on Zambia's implementation of the TFA

▶ I THANK YOU

