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DATES – 22 AND 23 OCTOBER 2015  
BASSETERRE, SAINT KITTS & NEVIS  
VENUE: OCEAN TERRACE INN

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## NATIONAL WORKSHOP “IMPLEMENTING THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT”

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In December 2013, WTO Members concluded the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) at the 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali. Upon entry into force, the TFA will create binding obligations for WTO members to improve customs procedures, transparency and efficiency as well as cooperation amongst border regulatory agencies and private sector. The developing and least developed Members shall self-designate, on individual basis the provisions of the TFA into Category A (implementation upon entry into force), B (deferred implementation) or C (linked with acquisition of capacity through assistance and support) and the date of their choice for the implementation of respective provisions. Saint Kitts and Nevis, as many developing countries, has notified their category A commitments to the WTO<sup>1</sup> and are now focused on implementing those other trade facilitation measures.

This two-day workshop will gather public and private trade facilitation stakeholders to identify what will be required to implement Saint Kitts and Nevis's category B and C commitments and initiate the process of building project plans to request donors financial and technical assistance for Category C provision implementation. Discussion will build on the UNCTAD implementation plan from April 2013 and self-assessment work undertaken between 2014 and today.

### Key questions driving the discussion

For each of the TFA provisions which Saint Kitts and Nevis is not yet implementing, the following questions will be submitted to discussion in order to determine the appropriate categorization:

- Do you need external assistance to implement this measure?
- What could be the appropriate category for this measure?
- How much time would be required to implement the measure?
- What would be the resources required to implement this measure?
- Which Ministry/Agency is best suited to lead and ensure implementation of the measure?
- How important is this measure for the overall national development strategy?
- What steps are required to implement the measure in terms of legislation, administrative processes, capacity of staff, IT systems etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Saint Kitts and Nevis notified to the WTO its Category 'A' commitments on 2 June 2015. Source: <http://www.tfafacility.org/list-category-notifications>

## Day 1

**8:30-9:00 Participant Registration**

**9:00-09:30 Welcome (Session 1)**  
Opening Session

**9:30-10:30 Understanding the TF Agreement and Its Implications (Session 2)**  
This session will provide an overview of the concept of trade facilitation, a review of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and an analysis of the expected benefits of the TFA, in particular for the private sector. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

**10:30-10:50 Coffee Break**

**10:50-11:40 Reviewing S&DT, Notification Requirements (Session 3)**  
This session will provide a detailed review of the Special and Differentiated Treatments agreed in Section II of the TFA as well as the notification timeline for developing and least-developed countries. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

**11:40-12:30 Implementation assistance to TFA provisions under B&C categories (Session 4)**  
This session will allow trade facilitation stakeholders to better know and discuss the non-implemented commitments contained in the WTO TFA. This session would build upon the UNCTAD National Trade Facilitation implementation plan 2013. For each of the TFA provision, the session will go through the following:

- Detailed presentation of the measure (i.e. key features);
- Analysis of the nature of the obligation (i.e. binding or best endeavour);
- Review of the implementation checklist;
- Discussion between national stakeholders to determine technical assistance requirements per measure and next steps based on questions listed in this document.

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Implementation assistance to TFA provisions under B&C categories (Cont'd)**

**15:00-15:15 Coffee Break**

**15:15-16:30 Implementation assistance to TFA provisions under B&C categories (Cont'd)**

## Day 2

**09:30-11:15 Implementation assistance to TFA provisions under B&C categories (Cont'd)**

**11:15-11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30-12:30 Implementation assistance to TFA provisions under B&C categories (Cont'd)**

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:15 The role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (Session 5)**

This session will provide a detailed review of the role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee going forward. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

**15:15-15:30 Coffee Break + Evaluation form filling**

**15:30-16:30 Presenting Next Step (Session 6)**

This session will present the project next steps for structuring bankable project plans for Category C provision implementation. It will give the participants an overview of the objectives and methodology that will be used and raise their awareness on the inputs they will be required to provide.