



DATES – 10 TO 12 NOVEMBER 2015
GABORONE, BOTSWANA

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON “IMPLEMENTING TRADE AND TRANSIT FACILITATION IN BOTSWANA”

Botswana has in 2014 prepared, with assistance of UNCTAD, a National Trade Facilitation Implementation Plan, subsequently has notified its category A commitments to the WTO and on 8 June 2015 Botswana has become the eighth WTO member to ratify the TFA. At this stage, the country would need to work on the preparation for project proposals for category C measures and finalise work on Category B.

This workshop falls into the follow-up support stage provided by UNCTAD to developing countries and LLDCs in the implementation of trade, transport and transit facilitation reforms. It will gather relevant stakeholders -members of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)- to plan the implementation of Botswana’s selected category B and C commitments and initiate building project proposals to request donors financial and technical assistance. Discussion will build on the UNCTAD implementation plan from December 2014 and self-assessment work undertaken in 2015.

Objectives of the workshop

- Strengthen the capacity of the NTFC members on the preparation of project proposals for selected trade facilitation measures under category C. It would include the revision of the obligation as per WTO TFA, the identification of the main challenges to implement the measure in the country, the identification of resources needed and main actions to follow according to international best practices.
- Increase knowledge of the NTFC on transit issues faced by Botswana. Beside the fact that transit is a component of the WTO TFA, it can also be a field of expertise *per se* which requires analyzing the regional and national contexts, trade regulations and policies, surveillance and monitoring of goods transiting the country and the impact on the national productive capacities.

Day 1

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

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

Opening Session

Speakers/Moderators:

Ministry of Trade and Industry

UNCTAD

Day 1

9:30-10:30 Revision of the TF Implementation Plan of Botswana (Session 2)

This session will provide an overview of the measures category C and would validate the selection of the three provisions for which a project proposal would be further developed. The presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:30 Measure 23.2 of the TFA: National Trade Facilitation Committees (Session 3)

This session would provide a special focus on the role of the Botswana NTFC to plan and monitor the implementation of TF reforms in the country, revision of Terms of Reference and Action Plan 2016. The presentation will be followed by Q&A.

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:30 Measure 23.2 of the TFA: NTFC (Session 3 - continued)

14:30-15:30 Session on Transit issues (Session 4)

This session will provide a detailed review of the Article 11 of the WTO TFA on Transit and the readiness of the country to implement this measure. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:00 Working session on preparing project proposals (Session 5)

After an introduction on key aspects for preparing project proposals in the field of trade facilitation and dissemination of best practices, this session will be developed in group work moderated by one UNCTAD expert.

Moderators: UNCTAD

Day 2

09:00-12:30 Working session on preparation of project proposals (Session 5 Continued)

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

Participants will be divided into Groups

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-17:00 Working session on preparation of project proposals (Session 5 Continued)

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

Group Sessions continue

Day 3

09:00-10:15 Presentation from working groups (Session 6)

This session will present the structure and main issues raised on each project proposal. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

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10:15-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:15 Discussion on the way forward (Session 7 Continued)

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

12:15-12:30 Closing session

12:30-13:45 Lunch + filling the evaluation forms