Trade Facilitation Technical Assistance Update
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Negotiation phase:
- TF Plan, Categorization, notification, ratification
- 35+ countries assisted through this project
- Donor financed through UNCTAD TF Trust Fund

Implementation phase:
- Gap analysis, Project plans and implementation as
- NTFC focus, PPP assistance

Donor support:
- ITC, UNECE, UN Regional Commissions, OECD, WB, WCO, WTO etc.
- Regional: EAC, trapca, OECS, UEMOA, CEFTA ECCAS, etc.
National Implementation Plans
Improve coordination in the implementation of TF reforms

UNCTAD has intensive experience supporting

National Trade Facilitation Committees

ART 23.2
National Trade Facilitation Committees

Repository of more than 80 national trade facilitation committees

Repositories of National Trade Facilitation Bodies

Studies and Recommendations
INTRODUCTION

At the Ninth Ministerial Conference in December 2013, Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) concluded the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). The TFA will enter into force once 2/3 of the WTO Members, i.e. 108 Members as of June 2015, have ratified and notified acceptance of the Agreement to the WTO Secretariat.

To achieve this, WTO Members shall first complete the following THREE MAIN STAGES.

STAGE I
RATIFICATION

At the domestic level, each Member shall undertake ratification procedures, which vary from Member to Member.

STAGE II
ACCEPTANCE

At the multilateral level, WTO Members having completed their domestic ratification procedures should notify their acceptance of the Protocol Amending the WTO Agreement.

STAGE III
ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Protocol will take effect upon acceptance by two-thirds of the WTO Members.

This Technical Note describes the steps within these three stages in a consecutive manner to guide Member States towards the application of the TFA.
2. CUSTOMS AUTOMATION: Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)

ASYCUDA program provides expertise and powerful ICT tools to implement customs-related WTO TFA provisions.

UNCTAD has over 30 years of experience with Customs automation and is used in over 90 countries/territories.

Since its inception, ASYCUDA has supported Customs Administrations of 111 countries/territories.

ART 1: Publication and Availability of Information
ART 3: Advance Ruling
ART 5: Notifications on Enhanced Controls & Inspections
ART 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges

ART 7: Release and Clearance of Goods
ART 8: Border Agency Cooperation
ART 9: Movement of Goods for Import

ART 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit
ART 11: Freedom of Transit
ART 12: Customs Cooperation
3. ONLINE PORTALS ON FOREIGN TRADE PROCEDURES

**eRegulations**, an electronic tool to help governments make rules and procedures fully transparent and to facilitate business, trade and investment.

**eRegistrations**, a facility to traders for online tracking of their procedures through a single interface can be developed in cooperation with ASYCUDA

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**ART 1**
**PUBLICICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

**ART 10.4**
**SINGLE WINDOW**

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**ONLINE PORTALS ON FOREIGN TRADE PROCEDURES**

- 28 countries
- 49 systems implementation
- 1936 procedures documented online
- 80% reduction of business registration steps, forms and documents
4. TRAINFORTRADE PROGRAMME

TrainForTrade supports developing countries to acquire efficiency and competitiveness

TrainForTrade programme on e-commerce law and e-commerce promotion

UNCTAD PORT TRAINING PROGRAMME RESULTS FROM 1996 TO DATE

- More than 25 countries have participated in the Port Training Programme
- 2400 port operators trained
- 1085 case studies drafted by national port operators as a result of training received
- 50 international workshops to train and coach national trainers
- 880 senior managers trained as trainers
- 4 languages: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish
6. COMPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE

UNCTAD can assist developing countries with policy issues contributing to the overall implementation of the TFA

- Accession to WTO
- Collection of non-tariff measures
- Analysis of transport connectivity
- Competition law
Case study:

East African Community, National and regional

- Project funded by GIZ, Germany over 2-3 years
- Collaboration with TMEA
- Focus on implementation assistance
  - NTFC
  - Elaboration of Cat. C projects
Case study: 
East African Community National and regional

UNCTAD will focus on the following activities:
- develop the strategic planning on trade facilitation at both national and regional levels;
- strengthen existing national and regional TF bodies in the five EAC Partner States;
- increase technical knowledge on trade facilitation issues of relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector;
- reinforce dialogue and coordination between stakeholders as a condition sine qua non to succeed in the implementation of the TFA.
Case study

East African Community National and regional

Achievements so far...

- Notification of the A measures of the WTO TFA by the EAC Partner States
- Establishment of the EAC Regional Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation under the Sectoral Committee on Trade
- Establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committees
Case study:
East African Community, National and regional

Complementarity between direct TF assistance and
- Customs automation / ASYCUDA
- Trade Portals
- Port training
Thank you

Questions?

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