



# Trade Facilitation Technical Assistance Update

9 November 2015

Poul Hansen

Trade Logistics Branch  
Division on Technology and Logistics



## UNCTAD TACB support on WTO TFA

### 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:



### Cooperating with:

- ITC, UNECE, UN Regional Commissions, OECD, WB, WCO, WTO etc.
- Regional: EAC, trapca, OECS, UEMOA, CEFTA ECCAS, etc.

# National Implementation Plans





<http://unctad.org/en/DTL/TLB/Pages/TF/Committees/default.aspx>



**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





# TRADE FACILITATION TECHNICAL NOTE #23

## STEPS TOWARDS THE RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

### 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*

www.asycuda.org

**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**

**ASYCUDAWORLD CUSTOMS PORTAL**



**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.**



**ART 1**

**PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**



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



**ART 10.4**

**SINGLE WINDOW**

<http://businessfacilitation.org>



#### 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



**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  
INTERCON-  
NECTIVITY

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 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...

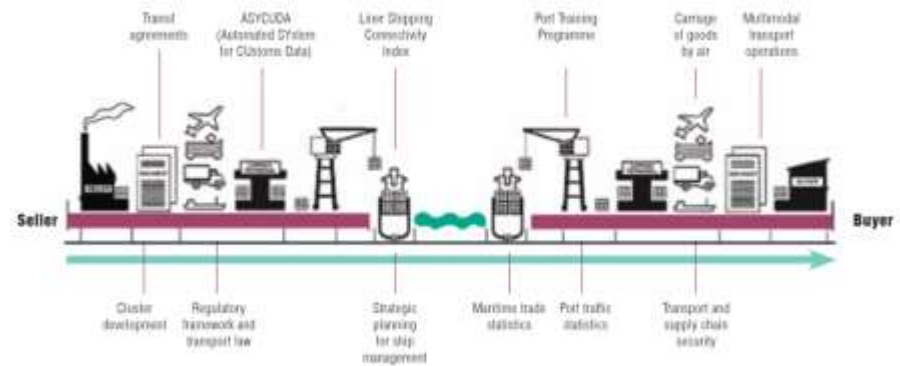
- Notification of the A measures of the WTO TFA by the EAC Partner States
- Establishment of the EAC Regional Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation under the Sectoral Committee on Trade
- Establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committees





# Case study:

## East African Community, National and regional



Complementarity between direct TF assistance and

- Customs automation / ASYCUDA
- Trade Portals
- Port training

Thank you  
Questions?

[www.unctad.org/TLB](http://www.unctad.org/TLB)  
[trade.logistics@unctad.org](mailto:trade.logistics@unctad.org)

**UNCTAD**  
PROSPERITY FOR ALL

[www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)

