

# **Defining an Institutional Framework: The Case of Jamaica's Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF<sup>2</sup>)**

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# Contents

- **Background**
- **The institutional arrangements for the establishment of the TF<sup>2</sup>**
- **Organizational structure**
- **Composition and Chairmanship of the TF<sup>2</sup>**
- **What role should the private sector play?**
- **How should the interests of SMEs be taken into account?**
- **Provisions for financing of the Committee and any related best practices**
- **Challenges and Best practices in the institutional design of the national TF committee**
- **Relationship with CARICOM's regional integration efforts**
- **Status of Jamaica's TF Reform Agenda (Roadmap and Project Plan)**

## Background

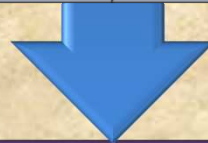
- The Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF<sup>2</sup>) was established in February 2015
- Catalyzed by the signature of the TFA and Jamaica's simultaneous repositioning as a Global Logistics Hub and Logistics-Centred Economy
- TF<sup>2</sup> mandate is WTO-plus, and was created to:
  - Map and drive the implementation of TF measures deemed critical to support economic growth, promote competitiveness and improve the overall trading environment
  - Ensure a coordinated approach across MDAs in the development of the Single Electronic Window for Trade.
  - Coordinate and implement the provisions of the TFA
- TF Roadmap and Project Plan developed - next step is to formulate appropriate projects to implement the relevant TF reform activities, and achieve the six (6) major outputs under the Project Plan, within the established timeframes.

## The institutional arrangement for the establishment of the TF<sup>2</sup>

### Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries

No legislation passed. Instead MOU established between relevant MDAs.

Decisions are approved by the Cabinet.



### National Competitiveness Council (NCC)

Receive reports and updates.

Provide guidance and recommendations.



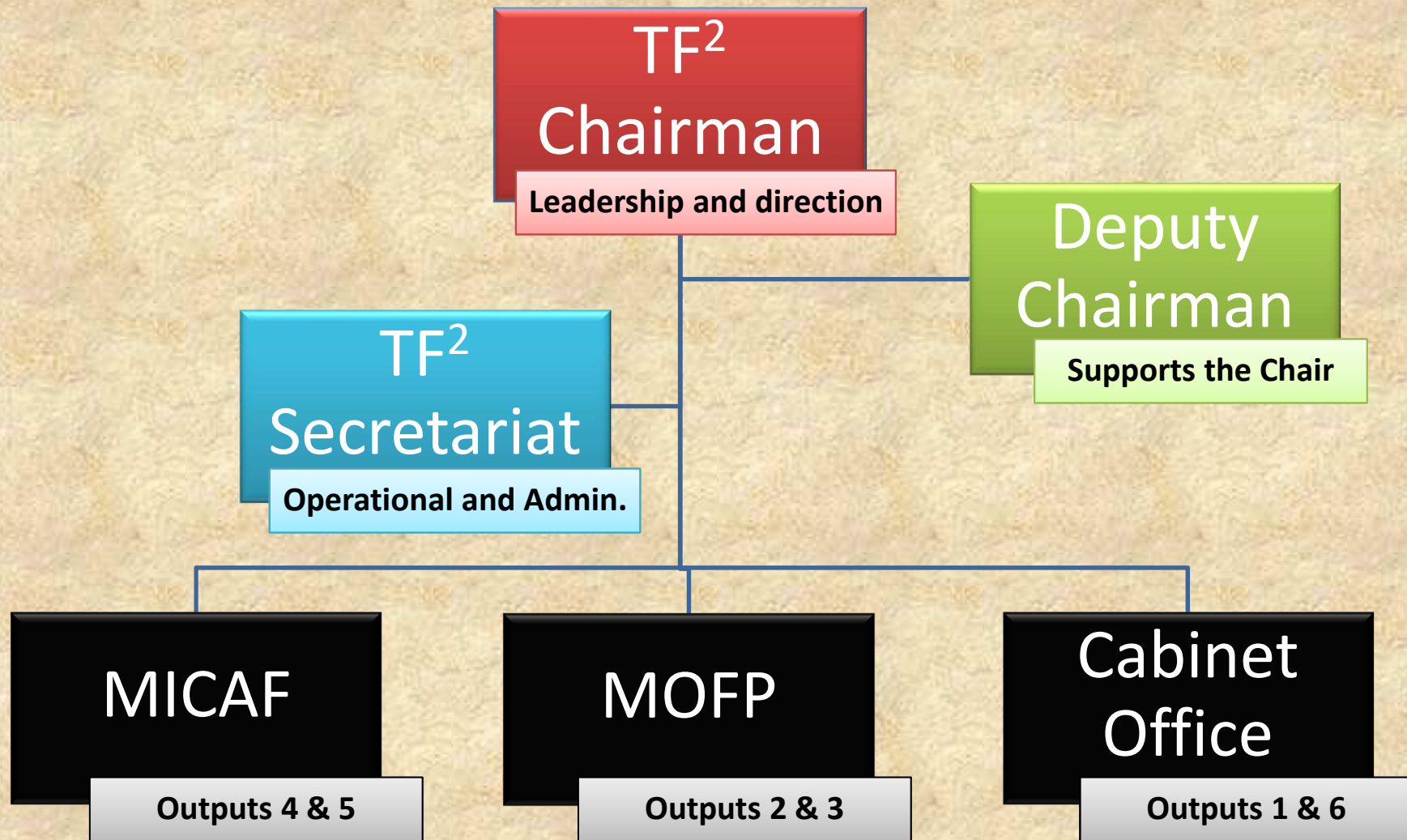
### Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF<sup>2</sup>)

Coordinate monthly operational meetings.

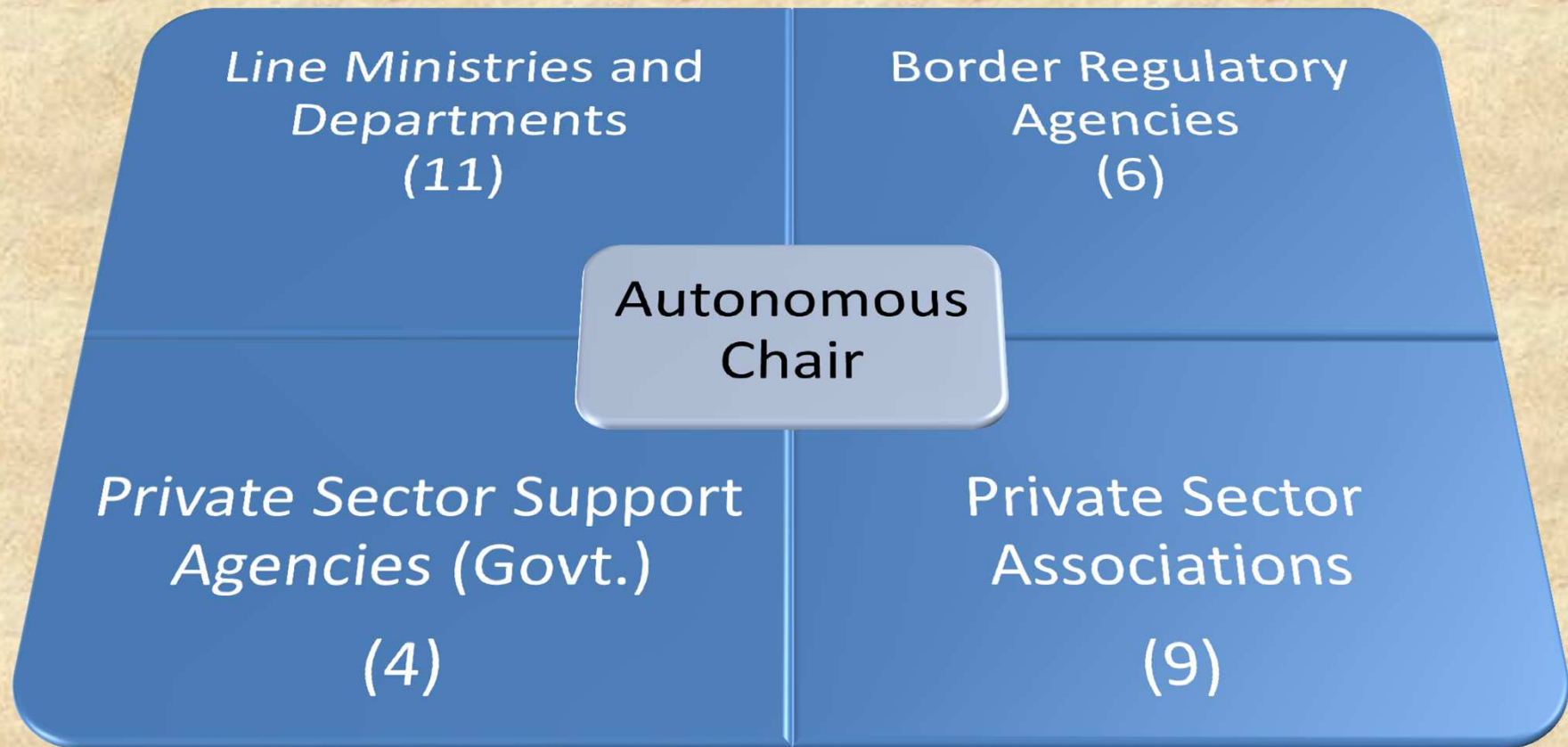
Continuous engagement with IDPs and stakeholders.



# Organizational structure (TF<sup>2</sup>, Sub-committees and Secretariat)



## Composition and Chairmanship of the TF<sup>2</sup>



# What role should the private sector play?

Synergy/Cooperation

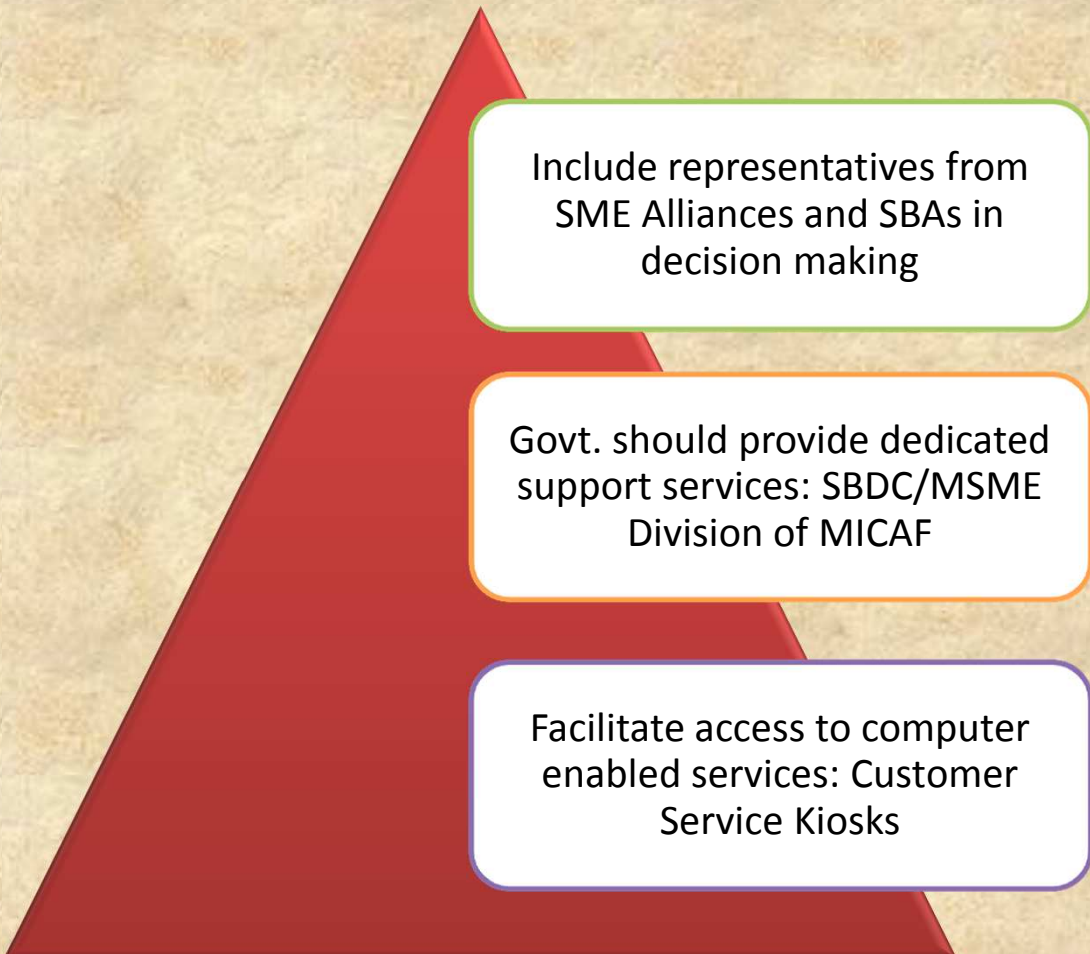


Challenges & concerns

Iterative Feedback

Mkt. Awareness & Execution

# How should the interests of Small and Medium Size Enterprises be taken into account?



Include representatives from  
SME Alliances and SBAs in  
decision making

Govt. should provide dedicated  
support services: SBDC/MSME  
Division of MICA

Facilitate access to computer  
enabled services: Customer  
Service Kiosks

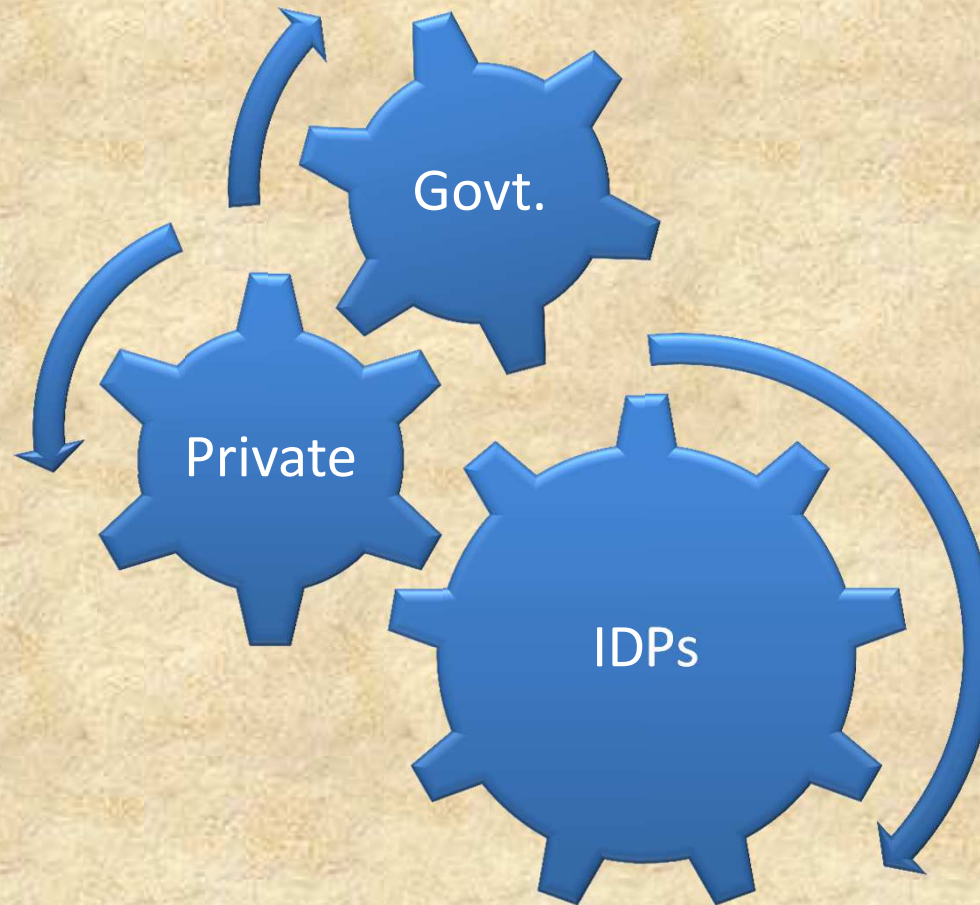


## Provisions for financing of the Committee

- No financing provided/set aside for TF<sup>2</sup>
- Role of Chairman is unremunerated
- Secretariat is unremunerated



## Provisions for financing of the Committee: Best practices?



PPP/IDP funded Committee and Secretariat, including a project manager, to oversee the implementation of Projects

## Challenges and Best practices in the institutional design of the national TF committee



- Lack of financing
- No dedicated staff/Secretariat comprised of public servants
- Difficulties in decision making
- Issues with mindset and resistance to change
- Moral Hazard: Task Force members employed to agencies affected by the reforms



- Autonomous NTFC supported by Secretariat
- Establish working groups reporting to a small Operations Committee/Board under the NTFC
- Quarterly NTFC and monthly Board meetings
- Define clear mandate, objectives and deliverables for the NCTF at conceptualization
- Ensure widest inclusion and buy-in in decision making
- Law may be passed to ensure continuity



# TF<sup>2</sup> Relationship with CARICOM's regional integration efforts

## TF<sup>2</sup>

- Develop National TF Work Programme
- Formulate National TF Implementation Plan and Strategy
- Ratification of TFA
- Validation of Category B and C Commitments
- Identification of TF priorities, and TACB needs

## RTFC

- Recommended by the Customs Committee & mandated by COTED
- Reps. from NTFCs
- Oversee, monitor and evaluate regional TFA implementation/initiatives
- Formulate Regional Implem. Plan and Strategy, based on MS' TFA implementation and Region's priorities
- Mobilize technical and financial resources for TF implementation

## Key Constraints

- Funding required to set up RTFC
- RTFC needs to include regional private sector associations
- Regional coordination is difficult due to differing priorities, sensitivities with submitting NAs and slow reporting of Cat. B and C commitments
- Regional implementation may only be feasible in a few areas



## Status of Jamaica's TF Reform Agenda (TF Roadmap)

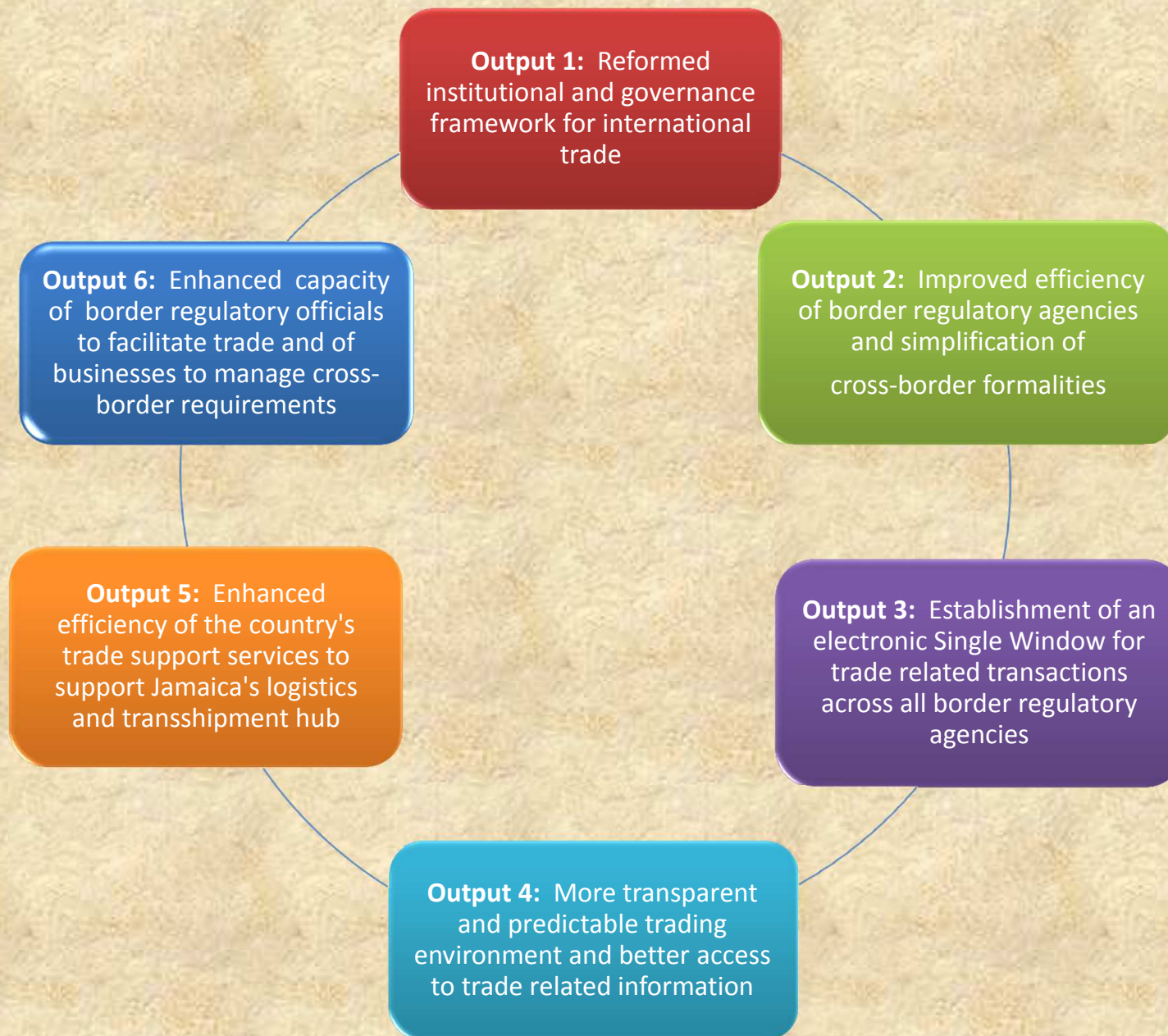
Axis 1: TFA Implementation

Axis 2: Improving Cross-Border Operations beyond TFA

Axis 3: Improving Maritime Operations

Axis 4: Improving Special Economic Zones

# Status of Jamaica's TF Reform Agenda (TF Project Plan)



**Tetelestai**