

# **GHANA'S TRADE FACILITATION ROADMAP – STATUS UPDATE**

ANTHONY K. NYAME-BAAFI  
DIRECTOR

MULTILATERAL, REGIONAL & BILATERAL TRADE  
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EMAIL: [nyame\\_baafi@hotmail.com](mailto:nyame_baafi@hotmail.com)

Cell phone: +23350 529 8697

# Outline of Presentations

- \* The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) milestones
- \* Benefits from the TFA
- \* Sections in the TFA
- \* Ghana's Categories A, B & C measures
- \* Implementation of the TFA
- \* Update on TFA Roadmap of Ghana
- \* Conclusion

# The WTO TFA Milestones

- \* Trade Facilitation is the systematic rationalization of procedures, information flows and documentation for international traders and agencies in order to expedite the international trade process.
- \* At the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (3-7 December, 2013) - WTO Members adopted the TFA subject to legal scrubbing and the adoption of the protocol to amend it to the WTO Agreement
- \* On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 - the WTO General Council adopted the Protocol of Amendment to insert the TFA into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement which is opened for acceptance.

# Benefits from the WTO TFA

- \* Full implementation of the TFA is forecast to slash members' trade costs by an average of 14.3 per cent, with developing countries having the most to gain, according to a 2015 study carried out by WTO economists.
- \* The TFA is also likely to reduce the time needed to import goods by over a day and a half and to export goods by almost two days, representing a reduction of 47 per cent and 91 per cent respectively over the current average.
- \* This would boost global trade by up to 1 trillion dollars each year, with the biggest gains being felt in the poorest countries. The impact will be bigger than the elimination of all existing tariffs around the world.

# Sections in the TFA

The TFA is divided into 3 sections:

- \* Section I - deals with 12 Articles technical measures and explains in detail the necessary improvements for an efficient and effective agreement.
- \* Section II - provides the basis for the special and differential treatment and for technical assistance and capacity building needed for the implementation of the agreement, in some instances with specific deadlines and timetables.
- \* Session III - deals with institutional arrangements and final provisions, including mandate to establish and facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

# Articles in Section II

In Section II of the TF, WTO Members are required to undertake commitments under 3 Categories of provisions consistent with their individual development and financial capabilities to implement them. The 3 categories of provisions are:

- \* Category A contains provisions that a developing country Member designates for implementation upon entry into force of the TF Agreement
- \* Category B contains provisions that a developing country Member designates for implementation on a date after a transitional period of the time following entry into force.
- \* Category C contains provisions that a developing country member designates for implementation on a date after a transitional period of time following the entry into force of the TF Agreement and requiring the acquisition of implementation capacity through the provision of assistance and support for capacity building.

# Ghana's Categories A, B & C Commitments

The Members of the National Trade Facilitation Committee has thoroughly reviewed and validated all the categories of Ghana measures. Ghana's Categories A, B and C measures:

- \* Category A (fully compliant measures) - 5 constituting 14 % in terms of readiness to implement
- \* Category B (partially compliant requiring transition period to nationally upgrade the measures) - 7 constituting 20 %; and
- \* Category C (requiring financial and technical assistance) - 23 measures constituting 66%.

# Category A Measures

The 5 measures identified under Category A and ready to be implemented when TF Agreement is ratified are:

- \* 6.3 Penalty Disciplines
- \* 9 Movement of Goods Under Customs Intended for Imports
- \* 10.7 Common Border Procedures and Requirements and Uniforms and Documentation Relating to clearance
- \* 10.8 Rejected Goods
- \* 10.9 Temporary Admission of Goods/Inward and Outward Processing



# Category B Measures

The 7 measures classified under Category B are:

- \* 5.2 Detention
- \* 7.1 Pre-arrival processing
- \* 7.3 Separation of Release from final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges
- \* 10.2 Acceptance of Copies
- \* 10.3 Use of International Standards
- \* 10.4 Single Window
- \* 10.5 Pre-Shipment Inspection

# Category C Measures

The 23 measures identified under Category C include:

- \* 1.1 Publication
- \* 1.2 Information Available Through Internet
- \* 1.3 Enquire Points
- \* 1.4 Notification
- \* 2.1 Opportunity to Comment on Information before Entry into Force
- \* 2.2 Consultation
- \* 3.1 Advance Rulings
- \* 4.1 Right to Appeal or Review

# Category C Measures (Cont'd)

- \* 5.1 Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections
- \* 5.3 Test Procedures
- \* 6.1 General Disciplines on Fees and Charges imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation
- \* 7.2 Electronic Payment
- \* 7.4 Risk Management
- \* 7.5 Post –Clearance Audit
- \* 7.6 Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times
- \* 7.7 Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators
- \* 7.8 Expedited Shipments

# Category C Measures (Cont'd)

- \* 7.9 Perishable Goods
- \* 8. Border Agency Cooperation
- \* 10.1 Formalities and Documentation Requirements
- \* 10.6 Use of Custom Brokers
- \* 11. Freedom of Transit
- \* 12. Customs Cooperation.

# Implementation of the WTO TFA

- \* Implementation of the TFA commenced from 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017 after over 110 (67%) WTO Member States had ratified it
- \* Ghana ratified the WTO TFA in December 2016.
- \* Ghana TF Measures Gap Analysis conducted by USAID in February and March 2017
- \* West Blue Consulting Ltd launched the National Single Window in 2015
- \* The maiden meeting of NTFC TWG on Fees and Charges was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- \* This is second in the series of launching of NTFC TWGs - on Notifications and Enquiry Points was held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- \* More NTFC TWGs will be set up to upgrade the remaining WTO TFA Category 'B' and "C" Measures.

# National Trade Facilitation Roadmap

- A short but comprehensive **document**
- laying down a **strategic vision for implementing TF reforms** in a country
- within a **given period** of five years
- includes set of **Activities** in order to reach pre- defined **goals** that will be measured
- with the help of **performance indicators**.

→ Not an easy task to do...

# Validation Phase of the Roadmap

- \* **UNCTAD Empowerment Module 3 + work from April to July 2017**
- \* **1.** Drafting Team to work on **draft from April to July** with the support from UNCTAD
- 2. Final Draft** to be discussed by NTFC and presented back to their agencies for ensuring support in July 2017
- 3.** If document gets approved, organise a **public event** to inform a broader range of stakeholders (ideally during module 4 - August 2017)

# Vision Statement of Ghana

- \* By 2022, through improved efficiency and risk management, the trade facilitation reforms implemented in Ghana will decrease the time for clearance of imports, exports and transit to 48 hours, will reduce the cost of Doing Business – cross border trade by 40 %, will improve Ghana's ranking to be among the top 100 countries of the World Bank Doing Business - trading across borders

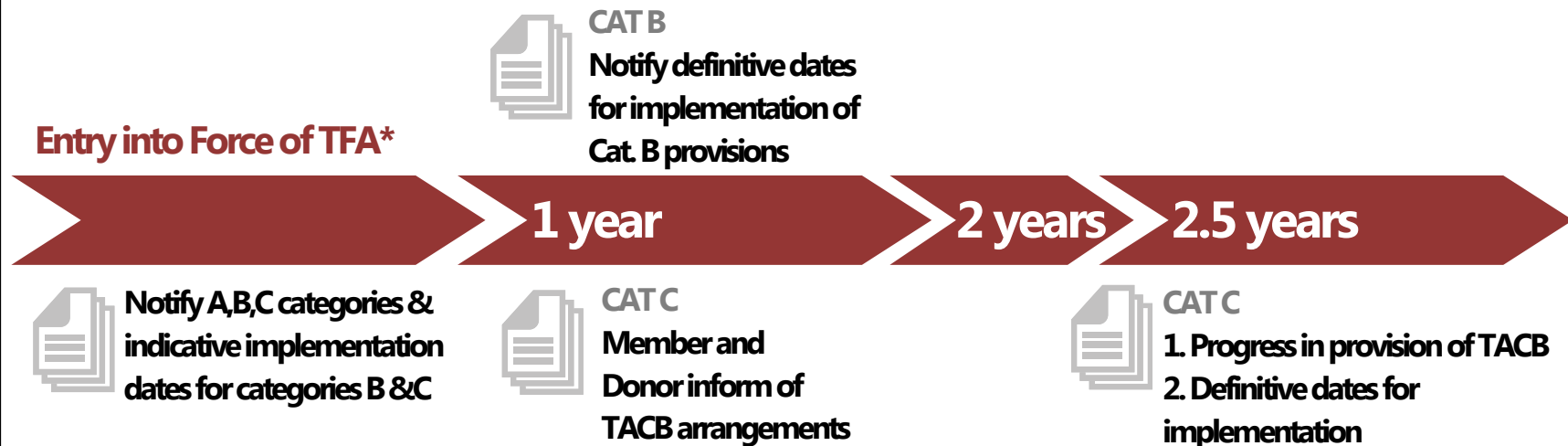


Goal	Indicator	Means of Verification
1. Reduction in Clearance Time for Imports and Exports and goods in transit to 48 hours by 2022	Clearance time for imports, exports and transit goods reduced to 48 hours	World Bank Doing Business Report /Customs/National Time release studies
2. 40% Reduction in Clearance Cost for Imports, Exports and transit goods by 2022	Clearance cost for imports, exports and transit goods reduced by 40%	World Bank Doing Business Report
3. Implement at least 60% of the Measures of the TFA by 2022	60% (Category B and C)of TFA Measures Implemented	WTO TFA Committee/National Monitoring and evaluation tools
4. 50% Reduction in the number of Documents required for imports and exports by 2022	Number of documents required reduced to 10 ( 5 for Export,5 for Import) .	World Bank Doing Business Report / Customs/ NTFC
5. Improve Ghana's ranking position to be among the top 100 countries	Ghana's ranking in the World Bank Doing Business Report improves from 154 <sup>th</sup>	World Bank Doing Business Report

# Timelines run from date TFA enters into force

## Notification Timeline for Developing Members

**Figure 1.** Developing countries notification for all categories of provisions



\* Entry into force of TFA when 2/3 of Members ratify. Obligations for an individual country will only commence once this country completed its ratification process as well.

# Ghana's Timelines for notification of Categories B & C Measures

- \* Notification of Categories B & C Measures with indicative dates for implementation by end of September 2017
- \* Notify the implementation of Category B Measures by September 2017
- \* Inform Donors of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building by November 2017

# Conclusion

- \* 60 percent of Categories B & C measures to be implemented by 2022
- \* Ghana is expected to implement all its Category B Measures(except NSW long term ones) about 42 percent of its Category C Measures by 2022
- \* Ghana is expected to implement about 75 percent of its Category A, B & C Measures by 2022
- \* Ghana will need the support of Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Private Sector Operators and Development Partners to fully implement its TFA Measures.