



REPORT (2024) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. This report covers the period from 6 October 2023 to 24 October 2024.¹
2. During the period under review, the Committee on Trade Facilitation (CTF) held three formal meetings: on 16-17 April 2024 ([G/TFA/M/28](#)); on 10-11 July ([G/TFA/M/29](#)); and on 22-24 October ([G/TFA/M/30](#)²).
3. The CTF also held one informal meeting on 15 November 2023 to address the regularization of the Committee's Experience Sharing/Thematic Discussions (agenda item 2 of the regular meetings of the CTF), as reflected in the Chair's Summary Report ([JOB/TF/242](#)).
4. Ms. Chanikarn Dispadung (Thailand) was elected Chairperson of the Committee for the period 2024-2025 on 31 May 2024.
5. During the period under review, the work of the CTF focused on the following areas: (i) matters relating to the implementation and administration of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); (ii) experience sharing/thematic discussions; (iii) MC12 implementation matters; (iv) a document on good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs; (v) update on the work of the informal working group on MSMEs; (vi) highlights of a panel on humanitarian aid for trade; (vii) Indonesia's customs procedures for intangible products; (viii) a dedicated session on transit issues of landlocked country members; (ix) a dedicated session on technical assistance and capacity building; and (x) the work of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF).

1 MATTERS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT (TFA)

1.1 Ratifications

1.1. In 2024, three WTO Members ratified the TFA: Comoros, Timor-Leste, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This brought the number of Members who have ratified the TFA to 160 (96% of the Membership).

1.2 Notifications

1.2. The Committee reviewed notifications received under the TFA at each of its meetings during the period under review, and a full list of notifications received is included in Annex 1.

1.2.1 Transparency notifications

1.3. Under Section I of the Agreement, Members are required to submit a number of transparency notifications under Articles 1.4 (import, export and transit procedures); 10.4.3 (single window); 10.6.2 (customs brokers) and 12.2.2 (exchange of customs information). During the period under review, the Committee received 25 transparency notifications.

¹ This report covers the period through the autumn meeting which took place from 22-24 October 2024. With regard to notifications, this report covers the period through 8 October 2024, which is one day following the date the agenda closed for the 22-24 October 2024 meeting, and therefore includes all notifications circulated up to and including those circulated for consideration at that meeting.

² To be issued.

1.2.2 Implementation notifications

1.2.2.1 Articles 15 and 16

1.4. Developing and least developed country Members wishing to invoke the special flexibilities of the TFA are required to do so under Section II of the Agreement (Articles 13 to 22). Under Section II, Members are required to notify their implementation commitments to the Committee in accordance with Articles 15 and 16.

1.5. During the period under review, four Members (Djibouti, Qatar, Togo and Uganda) submitted notifications under Article 16.

1.6. Eight Members (Angola, Bahrain, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eswatini, Moldova, Saint Lucia and Uganda) notified technical arrangements and progress in the implementation of category C provisions.

1.2.3 Article 17

1.7. The Committee received 22 requests from 19 Members for an extension of definitive dates for implementing category B and C commitments under article 17 of the TFA ("Early Warning Mechanism"), covering 53 measures. The Committee received requests from eight Members (Argentina, Ecuador, Maldives, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru and Seychelles) for a second extension to the notified implementation dates, covering 13 measures. Additionally, four Members (Ecuador, Namibia, Nicaragua and Togo) requested a third extension to the notified implementation dates, covering 13 measures.

1.2.4 Article 19

1.8. Article 19 of the TFA allows for developing and least developed country Members to shift notified provisions between categories B and C. During the period under review, the Committee received five notifications under Article 19 from four Members (Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Uganda), one reflecting a shift of one provision from category B to category C and four indicating shifts of 15 provisions from category C to category B.

1.2.5 Accelerated implementation

1.9. Seven Members (Cambodia, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Maldives, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka) notified the accelerated implementation of a total number of 48 TFA provisions implementation.

1.3 Notifications regarding technical assistance and capacity building support

1.10. In accordance with Article 22 and of the TFA, donor Members are required to provide information regarding their provision of support for capacity building (Article 22.1) as well as regarding their process and mechanisms through which to receive assistance (Article 22.2). During the period under review, three donor Members (Japan, United Kingdom and United States) submitted notifications in accordance with these articles. Eleven developing Members and least developed country Members (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Eswatini, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda) submitted notifications under Article 22.3, which requires Members seeking technical assistance and capacity building support to notify their contact points.

2 EXPERIENCE SHARING/THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

2.1 Regularizing the Committee's Experience Sharing/Thematic Discussions

2.1. At the informal meeting of 26 July 2023, the Committee considered identifying themes to be covered annually and producing a tangible output based on shared experiences. The Chair asked the Committee to suggest at least ten topics for experience sharing, which were circulated in document [JOB/TF/238](#). At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, Members were asked to submit their top five priorities by 30 October 2023, which were consolidated in document [JOB/TF/241](#).

2.2. The Committee held an informal meeting on 15 November 2023, summarized in the Chair's report in document [JOB/TF/242](#). Building on the topics proposed by Members and the interest expressed at the meeting, the Chair proposed that the theme "Use of Digitalization to Facilitate Trade" could be considered the experience-sharing subject for 2024. The Chair proposed the following sequencing of the topics across the three Committee meetings in 2024:

a. Meeting of 16-17 April 2024

- i. Utilizing data and technology to simplify trade;
- ii. Promoting the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) through digital revolution and intelligence technologies;
- iii. Digitalization of border procedures (digitization of customs formalities, document submission, and payments).

b. Meeting of 10-11 July 2024

- i. Adapting formalities and documentation requirements to facilitate trade.

c. Meeting of 22-24 October 2024

- i. Single window for trade facilitation.

2.3. The Chair invited Members to submit comments on the suggested topics, and with none received, the Committee followed this schedule in 2024.

2.4. The Committee reviewed the possibility of future topics or themes for 2025 at the meeting of 22-24 October 2024.

2.2 Experience-sharing presentations

2.5. During the period under review, the Committee heard the following experience-sharing presentations from WTO Members:

a. Meeting of 16-17 April

- i. Utilizing data and technology to simplify trade
 - "Experiences on Accumulation and Utilization of Data in Japan Customs" – Presentation by Japan
 - "Ecosystem of Trust Project and Trade Digitization" – Presentation by the United Kingdom
 - "Data driven risk-based border approach" – Presentation by Peru
- ii. Promoting the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) through digital revolution and intelligence technologies (the TF Committee could develop an evolving compilation of Members' experience-sharing on this theme)
 - "Smart Customs" – Presentation by China and communication from China, Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia ([G/TFA/W/90/Rev.2](#))
 - "Pakistan Single Window Integrated Risk Management System – Trade Facilitation through Data Driven Decision Making" – Presentation by Pakistan
 - "The Dominican Republic's experience of the use of digitalization to facilitate trade" – Presentation by the Dominican Republic

-
- iii. Digitalization of border procedures (digitization of customs formalities, document submission, and payments)
 - "Digitalizing Port Processes in Guatemala" – Presentation by Guatemala
 - "Digitalization of cross-border transit procedure: SIGMAT (Interconnected System for the Management of Goods in Transit)" – Presentation by Togo
 - "Transparency through Digitalization: Import Process" and "Digitalization of Documents: E-Phyto Certificates" – Presentations by the United States
 - b. Meeting of 10-11 July 2024: Adapting formalities and documentation requirements to facilitate trade
 - "Construction of Smart Customs - China's practice to promote trade facilitation driven by digitalization" – Presentation by China
 - "Driving digitalization through public-private collaboration" – Presentation by Colombia
 - "Utilizing digitalization in the ASEAN Customs Transit System" – Presentation by Lao PDR
 - "Digitalization and the Transit System of the Republic of Moldova" – Presentation by the Republic of Moldova
 - "Modernization of the IT Platform for health procedures in Ecuador" – Presentation by Ecuador
 - c. Meeting of 22-24 October 2024: Single window for trade facilitation
 - "China's Single Window Innovation Driven by Digitalization and New Technologies" – Presentation by China
 - "El Salvador's Digitalization Progress in Implementing the Single Window" – Presentation by El Salvador
 - "Implementation of National Maritime Single Window of Georgia – Roadshow to Digitalization" – Presentation by Georgia
 - "Implementation of Single Window in Jamaica" – Presentation by Jamaica Customs Agency and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - "Single Window for Trade Facilitation: Japan's Experience" – Presentation by Japan
 - i. Other topics of Experience Sharing:
 - "First Time Release Study" – Presentation by Bolivia
 - "Declaration on Best Practices on Pre-Arrival Processing by the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity" - Presentation by Chile
 - "Digitalizing Trade Controls for Improved Waste Management and Recycling" – Presentation by Fiji and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF)
 - "Activities Carried out to Digitize Processes at the Border in Order to Simplify Trade Procedures" – Presentation by the Kyrgyz Republic

- "Central American Strategy for Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness" – Presentation by Nicaragua and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)

3 MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS: IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION ([G/L/1474](#); [G/TFA/W/88](#); [G/C/W/824/REV.1](#); [JOB/TF/234](#); [JOB/TF/237](#))

3.1. On 9 March 2023, the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) circulated a communication ([JOB/CTG/24](#)) requesting discussions within its subsidiary bodies to identify areas for improvement in their functioning.

3.2. The process carried out by the Committee in 2023 was consolidated in the draft Chair's Report in document [JOB/TF/239](#).

3.3. At the 3-5 October 2023 meeting, the Chair invited delegations to submit any additional comments to the draft report. The LDC Group requested that certain views be reflected, and the report was amended to add footnote 10 in document [JOB/TF/239/Rev.1](#). The report was finalized and submitted to the CTG in document [G/L/1515](#), with no further comments being received.

3.4. The eAgenda platform was introduced on a trial basis at the 16-17 April 2024 meeting of the Committee, and Members decided to adopt it for future meetings of the Committee at the 10-11 July 2024 meeting.

4 DOCUMENT CONTAINING GOOD PRACTICES AND BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESSFUL NTFCs

4.1. As part of the first four-year review of the TFA ([G/TFA/2](#), 9.3(v)) conducted in 2021, the Committee decided to draft a document outlining good practices and building blocks for successful NTFCs based on experience-sharing sessions delivered at prior CTF meetings.

4.2. At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat circulated drafts incorporating input from Members, including principles shared by the United States in document [G/TFA/W/91](#) ([G/TFA/W/96](#) and [G/TFA/W/96/Rev.1](#)).

4.3. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Chair invited Members to submit any additional views in writing. Based on input received, the previous Chair (Mr. Carlos GUEVARA, Ecuador) undertook consultations with Members and circulated a revised draft in document [G/TFA/W/96/Rev.2](#) that was discussed at the 10-11 July and 22-24 October 2024 meetings. The Committee will continue discussing with the aim of finalizing the document.

5 UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (MSMES)

5.1. At the meeting of 16-17 April 2024, the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), the Ambassador of Barbados, provided an update on its work linked to the Trade Facilitation Committee for information purposes only, in informal mode.

6 HIGHLIGHTS ON THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TRADE FACILITATION PANEL ON "HUMANITARIAN AID FOR TRADE"

6.1. At the 10-11 July meeting, the United States reported on the humanitarian Aid for Trade session organized by the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation during the Fourth Aid for Trade review. Moderated by USAID, the session featured discussions from stakeholders, including DHL, UNICEF, and Madagascar's customs officials, focusing on how digitalization and other processes can improve humanitarian response efforts.

6.2. Key takeaways included the importance of reducing red tape through the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the need for cooperation between government agencies, the private sector, and humanitarian organizations, and the role of digital customs procedures in expediting the clearance

of critical supplies, particularly within a 72-hour window. The United States emphasized the ongoing challenges of moving humanitarian aid across borders during crises, which have been discussed in the Committee, and expressed readiness to develop solutions in this area further.

7 INDONESIA'S CUSTOMS PROCEDURES FOR INTANGIBLE PRODUCTS

7.1. The United States raised questions about Indonesia's customs procedures for intangible products. A series of questions and answers can be found in the [G/TFA/Q/IDN](#) document series.

8 DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT ISSUES OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRY MEMBERS

8.1. Under the first four-year review of the TFA ([G/TFA/2](#)), the Committee decided that each Spring meeting of the Committee would include a discussion of transit issues of landlocked country Members up to the conclusion of the next review of the TFA.

8.2. In the period under review, the dedicated session on transit issues took place during the 10-11 July 2024 meeting. The programme consisted of two panels: (1) "Cross-border Coordination and Operational Cooperation" and (2) "Management of Transit Operations and Consignments at Border Crossing Inspection Points".

8.3. The programme is attached in Annex 2, and presentations made during the session are available in the [TFA Database](#) and reflected in the minutes for the meeting ([G/TFA/M/29](#)).

9 DEDICATED SESSION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

9.1 Revisiting the Dedicated Session on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

9.1. At the Committee meeting of 16-17 April 2024, a Member raised the suggestion that the Committee consider the effectiveness of the agenda of the Dedicated Session on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB), with a view to potentially reforming the existing agenda prior to this year's Dedicated Session.

9.2. The current and former Chairs conducted consultations in April and July 2024, respectively. At the 10-11 July meeting of the Committee, the Chair reported that her consultations had highlighted several issues and areas for improvement for future Dedicated Sessions on TACB.

9.3. Based on further consultations with Members, the Chair circulated two draft programmes of the Dedicated Session on TACB for Member's consideration on 3 and 26 September. An updated version was circulated to Members on 11 October 2024.

9.2 Dedicated Session on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

9.4. In accordance with Article 21:4 of the TFA, the Committee held its annual dedicated session on technical assistance and capacity building on 24 October 2023.

9.5. The programme for the 2024 Dedicated Session included: (i) an opening reception on 23 October for informal exchanges between donors and beneficiaries; (ii) a session titled "Outlook for TACB for the Next Two-Year Period" which reviewed progress and provided updates on capacity building support, particularly focusing on the top-five category C provisions set to be implemented in the 2025-2026 period; (iii) "Panel I: Enhancing Coordination on TACB", to discuss domestic, regional, and international coordination challenges and opportunities; and (iv) "Panel II: How to Mobilize TACB for Sustained Reform", featuring a roundtable where Members shared experiences on securing technical assistance and capacity building for sustained reform efforts. The session concluded with a wrap-up discussion to reflect on lessons learned and the way forward.

9.6. The programme is available in Annex 3, and presentations made during the session are available in the [TFA Database](#) and reflected in the minutes for the meeting ([G/TFA/M/30³](#)).

³ To be issued.

10 TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY

10.1. During the period under review, the TFAF has carried out its activities in accordance with the work plan for 2023 ([G/TFA/TFAF/2](#)) and for 2024 ([G/TFA/TFAF/6](#)). TFAF's activities in the reporting period have focused on strengthening Members' capacity to engage with development partners for the implementation of the TFA. It delivered on this objective through in-country missions to advise NTFCs on TACB mobilization strategies and discussions with domestic development partners, through circulation of expression of interests from Members seeking partner's support for capacity building for category C measures, funding of project preparation grants, and funding of participation of selected capital-based delegates to share implementation experience and challenges in the CTF.

10.2. In accordance with the new TFAF Framework, a draft work plan for 2025 ([G/TFA/TFAF/W/5](#)) was prepared in cooperation with the Representative Group, which is made up of interested Members. Following the 22-24 October 2024 Committee meeting, Members were requested to approve a final version of the work plan to be circulated as document [G/TFA/TFAF/11](#).

10.1 Reporting by TFAF and other Annex D organizations

10.3. During the period under review, TFAF provided written progress updates to the Trade Facilitation Committee in documents [G/TFA/TFAF/7](#) and [G/TF/TFAF/10](#) and made oral reports to the Committee meetings of 16-17 April and 22-24 October 2024. In addition, TFAF also produced its 2023 Annual Report in document [G/TFA/TFAF/8](#).

10.4. TFAF also shared with Members a revised set of operational rules for consideration by Members in document [G/TFA/TFAF/W/4](#), and a report on technical assistance gaps contained in [G/TFA/TFAF/9](#). A report from Annex D and other partner organizations was circulated in document [G/TFA/TFAF/W/6](#).

11 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

11.1. The Committee reviewed the draft Report (2024) to the Council for Trade in Goods ([G/TFA/W/100](#)) and requested the Secretariat to edit and update it to take account of the Committee's meeting on 22-24 October 2024.

ANNEX 1**NOTIFICATIONS FROM MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST
ANNUAL REPORT UNTIL 8 OCTOBER 2024****1 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 1:4, 10:4:3, 10:6:2 AND 12:2:2 OF THE TRADE
FACILITATION AGREEMENT**

Member	Document symbol
Bahrain, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/BHR/3/Rev.2
Bangladesh	G/TFA/N/BGD/4 ; G/TFA/N/BGD/4/Rev.1
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	G/TFA/N/BOL/2
Burkina Faso	G/TFA/N/BFA/3
Democratic Republic of the Congo	G/TFA/N/COD/3
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/4/Rev.2 ; G/TFA/N/ECU/4/Rev.3
Eswatini, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/SWZ/4/Rev.1
European Union	G/TFA/N/EU/1/Add.1/Rev.4
Honduras	G/TFA/N/HND/3/Rev.2
Iceland	G/TFA/N/ISL/1/Rev.1
Indonesia	G/TFA/N/IDN/2/Rev.2
Maldives	G/TFA/N/MDV/5
Mozambique	G/TFA/N/MOZ/4
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/5 ; G/TFA/N/MMR/2/Rev.2
Nepal	G/TFA/N/NPL/4
Paraguay	G/TFA/N/PRY/3/Add.1 ; G/TFA/N/PRY/3/Rev.1
Trinidad and Tobago	G/TFA/N/TTO/5
Uganda	G/TFA/N/UGA/2
United Kingdom	G/TFA/N/GBR/2/Rev.2
Uruguay	G/TFA/N/URY/2/Rev.4
Vanuatu	G/TFA/N/VUT/3

2 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 16 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Djibouti	G/TFA/N/DJI/1/Add.3
Qatar	G/TFA/N/QAT/1
Togo	G/TFA/N/TGO/1/Add.5
Uganda	G/TFA/N/UGA/1/Add.2

**Donor Arrangements and Progress in the Provision of Technical Assistance and Capacity
Building Support**

Member	Document symbol
Angola	G/TFA/N/AGO/6
Bahrain, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/BHR/4
Dominican Republic	G/TFA/N/DOM/4
Egypt	G/TFA/N/EGY/4
Eswatini, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/SWZ/5/Rev.1
Moldova, Republic of	G/TFA/N/MDA/4
Saint Lucia	G/TFA/N/LCA/5
Uganda	G/TFA/N/UGA/4

3 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Angola	G/TFA/N/AGO/5
Argentina	G/TFA/N/ARG/1/Add.3
Côte d'Ivoire	G/TFA/N/CIV/4
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.7 ; G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.8
El Salvador	G/TFA/N/SLV/1/Add.1
Eswatini, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/SWZ/6
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/1/Add.4
Kenya	G/TFA/N/KEN/1/Add.2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.6
Lesotho	G/TFA/N/LSO/1/Add.5
Maldives	G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.5
Namibia	G/TFA/N/NAM/1/Add.5 ; G/TFA/N/NAM/1/ADD.6
Nicaragua	G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.5 ; G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.6
Niger	G/TFA/N/NER/2/Add.3
Pakistan	G/TFA/N/PAK/1/Add.4
Paraguay	G/TFA/N/PRY/1/Add.3
Peru	G/TFA/N/PER/1/Add.3
Seychelles	G/TFA/N/SYC/1/Add.4
Togo	G/TFA/N/TGO/1/Add.6

4 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Kenya	G/TFA/N/KEN/1/Add.2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.6
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.5
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.9
Uganda	G/TFA/N/UGA/1/ADD.2

5 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 22 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**Article 22.1 and 22.2 – Notifications by Donor Members**

Member	Document symbol
Japan	G/TFA/N/JPN/9
United Kingdom	G/TFA/N/GBR/5
United States	G/TFA/N/USA/8

Article 22.3 – Notifications by developing and LDC Members

Member	Document symbol
Bangladesh	G/TFA/N/BGD/5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	G/TFA/N/COD/2/Rev.3
Costa Rica	G/TFA/N/CRI/5
Cuba	G/TFA/N/CUB/3/Rev.2
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/3/Rev.1
Eswatini, Kingdom of	G/TFA/N/SWZ/3/Rev.1
Paraguay	G/TFA/N/PRY/2/Rev.3
Saint Lucia	G/TFA/N/LCA/4
Seychelles	G/TFA/N/SYC/3

Member	Document symbol
Sri Lanka	G/TFA/N/LKA/2/Rev.2
Uganda	G/TFA/N/UGA/3
Bangladesh	G/TFA/N/BGD/5

ANNEX 2**DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT FOR THE LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES****Programme**

<p align="center">INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW PRESENTATION</p> <p align="center">BOTSWANA, LLDC GROUP COORDINATOR</p> <p>Opening remarks: H.E. Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Ambassador, Mission of Botswana</p> <p align="center">EFFECTIVE CUSTOMS TRANSIT MANAGEMENT REGIME</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Mokone Godfrey Zacharia, Senior Customs Officer, Botswana Unified Revenue Service.</p>									
<p align="center">PANEL 1 – CROSS-BORDER COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL COOPERATION</p> <p>This session will discuss Members' experience with arrangements that they have adopted for cross-border coordination and operational cooperation including in areas such as inspections, risk management, harmonised procedures, information sharing. The discussions will extend to encompass Customs and other government agencies, such as SPS authorities, as well as the private sector.</p>									
<p>Moderator (Mr. Carlos Guevara, Counsellor, Mission of Ecuador)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Burkina Faso</td><td>Mr. Martial Boris Nacoulma, Legal Counsel and Research and Analysis Advisor, Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport, Ministry of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety</td></tr> <tr> <td>Kenya</td><td>Ms. Lucy Ikonya, Manager Trade Affairs, Kenya Bureau of Standards</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lao</td><td>Mr. Canda Sinpaseuth, Acting Director, International Cooperation Division, Lao Customs Department, Ministry of Finance</td></tr> <tr> <td>Zambia</td><td>Mr. Philip Soko, Trade and Investment Promotion Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry</td></tr> </table>		Burkina Faso	Mr. Martial Boris Nacoulma, Legal Counsel and Research and Analysis Advisor, Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport, Ministry of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety	Kenya	Ms. Lucy Ikonya, Manager Trade Affairs, Kenya Bureau of Standards	Lao	Mr. Canda Sinpaseuth, Acting Director, International Cooperation Division, Lao Customs Department, Ministry of Finance	Zambia	Mr. Philip Soko, Trade and Investment Promotion Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry
Burkina Faso	Mr. Martial Boris Nacoulma, Legal Counsel and Research and Analysis Advisor, Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport, Ministry of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety								
Kenya	Ms. Lucy Ikonya, Manager Trade Affairs, Kenya Bureau of Standards								
Lao	Mr. Canda Sinpaseuth, Acting Director, International Cooperation Division, Lao Customs Department, Ministry of Finance								
Zambia	Mr. Philip Soko, Trade and Investment Promotion Officer, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry								
<p>Questions</p> <p>1: Coordination across borders. On which transit issues do you coordinate across borders with your neighbours? (<i>Example: Risk management, Inspection, Opening hours, infrastructure, data exchange, harmonization</i>)</p> <p>2: Domestic coordination. How do you ensure a coordinated response across agencies? (<i>How do OGA/PGA (SPS, standards, health, coordinate with each other? and, what is the role of Customs in ensuring coordination? What is the contribution and role of the Ministry of Transport?</i>)</p> <p>3: What is the role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee with regards to freedom of transit? (<i>Is it discussed regularly? Which is the lead agency? Do you have strategy plan for transit efficiency? Is there consultation with the private sector?</i>)</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>									
<p align="center">Break</p>									

PANEL 2 - MANAGEMENT OF TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND CONSIGNMENTS AT BORDER CROSSING AND INSPECTION POINTS

This session will discuss Members' experience and good practices with regards to seamless border clearance for transit consignments, such as anticipated notifications or information, agency coordination, separate infrastructure, digital processing and new technologies used. Members are also encouraged to share experiences on how to measure performance at border crossing for transit operations.

Moderator (Ms Sheila Santana Afonso, Mozambique)

Panellists

EU	Mr. Pierre-Jean Laborie, Policy officer, TAXUD, EU Commission
Eswatini	Mr Muntu Almeida, Acting Deputy Director, International Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce Industry and Trade.
Niger	Ms. Zeinabou Sidi, Manager, Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport
Moldova	Ms. Marina Chitanu, Permanent Mission, Moldova

Questions:

Q1: Which bottlenecks at border crossings need to be addressed? *(Have you measured performance and times for transit consignments at borders?)*

Q2: What mechanisms have you put in place to smoothen traffic flow at borders? *(Separate infrastructure 11.5, pre-arrival processing 11.9, digitalization, authorized traders)*

Q3: *Moldova: What improvements did you observe since the digitalization of the transit system? And what challenges did you have to overcome?*

Q4: To improve efficiency of transit consignments at border: What technical assistance or infrastructural support is currently needed?

Q&A

Closing remarks

Way forward

Question to all panellists: In short and medium term what specific support and assistance do you need to improve efficiency of freedom of transit?

Closing WRAP-UP

ANNEX 3**DEDICATED SESSION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING****Wednesday 23 October 2024 (17:30-19:00)****Opening Reception**

An informal networking dialogue to open the dedicated session involving beneficiary Members, donor Members, and development partners. This event will provide a valuable opportunity for meaningful interactions and exchanges and also welcome interested Members to participate.

Thursday 24 October 2024 (10:00-17:00)

Time	Session
10:00-11:00 or 11:15 (60-75 min)	Outlook for TACB for the Next Two-Year Period <i>Forward-looking update on progress in TACB support, including the top five provisions in category C to be implemented in the next two-year period through 2026:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status report by the Secretariat focusing on upcoming implementation dates for category C provisions over the next two-year period (10 min) • Status report by TFAF with focus on upcoming targeted TACB (10 min) • Update by international development partners on support for TFA implementation over the next two-year period (7 min each; 25-40 min total) • Question and answer session with audience (15 min)
Morning Break (11:15-11:30)	
11:30-13:00 (90 min)	Discussion I: Enhancing Coordination on TACB <i>Group discussion among Members to share experiences and to examine the achievements and challenges in domestic, regional, or international coordination in the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building. The discussion will be facilitated by a moderator as follows:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion with Members, to share experiences and insights on the basis of guiding questions (60 min; 6 Panellists) • Question and answer session with audience (20 min) • Concluding remarks from moderator and panellists (10 min) <p>Moderator: Mr. Simon HESS, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation, WTO Enhanced Integrated Framework</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Omar Darar MOUSSA, Director of Foreign Trade and Regional Integration, President of the CNFE, Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, Djibouti • Ms. Iman Refaat Abdelsattr NASR, Undersecretary, Head of Central Department of WTO Affairs, Deputy Chair of the NTFC, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Egypt • Ms. Raquel MARTINEZ, Director of Trade Policy, Ministry of Economy, El Salvador • Ms. Lattanaphone VONGSOUTH, Director of NIU, Permanent Secretary Office, MOIC to Lao PDR, Lao PDR • Mr. Gobinda Bahadur KARKEE, Secretary (Commerce and Supplies), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal • Mr. Paul RUHAMYA, USAID Mission, Kigali, Rwanda

Time	Session
Lunch Break (13:00-15:00)	
15:00-16:30 (90 mins)	<p>Discussion II: How to Mobilize TACB for Sustained Reform</p> <p><i>Round-table discussion with donor Members to hear their views on the factors needed to secure the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building support, followed by reflections from the development perspective and experience with regard to the provisions of such support. The discussion will be facilitated by a moderator as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion on the processes Members should consider when soliciting TACB, as well as experiences on the provision of TACB, with examples of what has worked and what has not in securing TACB support (40 min; 4 Panellists) • Reflections from the development perspective and experience on the provision of TACB (25 min; 3 Commentators) • Question and answer session with audience (15 min) • Concluding remarks from moderator, panellists, and commentators (10 min) <p>Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Adamu Mohammed ABDULHAMID (Nigeria)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Martijn BOELEN, Head of Trade Sector at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Union • Ms. Andrea ULBRICH, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany • Ms. Helena KERR, International Capacity Building Lead, HM Revenue & Customs, United Kingdom • Mr. Paul FEKETE, Senior International Trade Advisor, USAID, United States <p>Commentators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. HUANG Sha, Customs Superintendent, General Administration of China Customs • Mr. Assiènin Felix KOUAKOU, Deputy Director of Support to Negotiations and Promotion of Trade Agreements, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire • Mr. Christian ANCHALUISA, Permanent Mission of Ecuador
16.30-17.00 (30 min)	<p>Wrap-Up Session</p> <p><i>An opportunity for Members to reflect on lessons learned and to discuss the way forward in the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations by the Chairperson of the Committee (10 min) • Floor opened for observations by participants (20 min)