



15 November 2023

(23-7715)

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REPORT (2023) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017. This report covers the period from 1 December 2022 to 5 October 2023.
2. During the period under review, the Committee on Trade Facilitation (TFC) held three formal meetings: on 21-22 March 2023 ([G/TFA/M/25](#)); on 15-16 June ([G/TFA/M/26](#)); and on 3-5 October ([G/TFA/M/27¹](#)).
3. The TFC also held one informal meeting on 26 July 2023. As described in the Chair's Summary Report ([JOB/TF/235](#)), the objective of the meeting was to obtain the Committee's feedback on a number of items MC12 implementation matters; good practices and building blocks of successful National Trade Facilitation Committees; preparations for the dedicated session on technical assistance and capacity building; and regularizing the Committee's experience sharing/thematic discussions.
4. Mr. Carlos Guevara (Ecuador) was elected Chairperson of the Committee for the period 2023-2024 on 4 April 2023.
5. During the period under review, the work of the TFC focused on four main areas: matters relating to the implementation and administration of the TFA; experience sharing/thematic discussions; drafting of a document on Good Practices and Building Blocks of Successful NTFCS; MC12 Implementation Matters; Update of the 2015 World Trade Report on the Benefits and Challenges of Implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; Dedicated Sessions on Transit Issues of Landlocked Country Members and on Assistance and Capacity Building; Informal Sessions on Disaster Preparedness; and the work of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF). Matters relating to the implementation and administration of the TFA.

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

- 1.1. The total number of Members that have ratified the TFA remains at 156 (95% of the Membership) as no further Member ratified the Agreement during the review period.
- 1.2. The Committee undertook a review of 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.

1.1 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 26 transparency notifications.

¹ To be issued.

1.2 Implementation notifications

1.2.1 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, three Members (Guinea, Nepal, Tanzania) submitted notifications under Article 16 (category B and C designations) of their definitive implementation dates for category C provisions. These notifications were in accordance with an extension approved at the Committee meeting of 15 August 2023.² Two further Members were provided with extensions up to 31 December 2023 to notify their definitive dates for their category C provisions, and one Member has a deadline of 31 December 2023 to notify its definitive implementation dates for category B provisions.

1.6. Nine Members notified technical arrangements and progress in the implementation of category C provisions.

1.2.2 Article 17

1.7. The Committee received 15 requests for an extension of definitive dates for implementation of category B and C commitments under article 17 of the TFA ("Early Warning Mechanism"). The Committee received four requests for a second extension to the notified implementation dates.

1.2.3 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 six notifications under Article 19, one of which reflected shifts of provisions from category B to category C, five of which indicated shifts of provisions from category C to category B.

1.2.4 Accelerated implementation

1.9. Three Members notified the accelerated implementation of a number of TFA provisions implementation in documents [G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.2](#) and [G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.3](#) for Maldives, in [G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.4](#) for Myanmar, and [G/TFA/N/KHM/1/Add.4](#) for Cambodia.³

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, six donor Members submitted notifications in accordance with these articles. Article 22.3 requires Members seeking technical assistance and capacity building support to notify their contact points. Seventeen developing Members and least developed country Members submitted notifications under Article 22.3. (Annex 1.5)

2 EXPERIENCE SHARING/THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

2.1 Experience sharing presentations

2.1. During the period under review, the Committee heard the following experience-sharing presentations from WTO Members: at the [21-22 March meeting](#), "[Digitization of border trade procedures](#)" (Honduras and USAID); "[Improving procedures for authorizations of exports and imports of processed food](#)" (Peru); "[Advance rulings](#)" (Madagascar); "[Training clearing agents](#)"

² [G/TFA/M/23](#).

³ The accelerated implementation was announced at the Committee meeting of 3-5 October 2023 and the notification was circulated on 24 October 2023.

(Malawi), and "Trade facilitation reforms: TFA and beyond" (India); at the 15-16 June 2023 meeting "Improving Small Package E-Trade for SMEs" (Cambodia); "Trade Facilitation Improvements Under the NTFC in El Salvador" (El Salvador); and "Streamlining Agri-Food Export Control Certification" (Tunisia); and at the 3-5 October meeting "Cargo and Transit Control for Imports Via Air Mode" (Brazil); "Trade Facilitation: The Digital Transformation" (India); "Increasing Transparency and Predictability for the Private Sector" (Jordan); "Trade-Facilitating Agricultural Systems and Technology T-Fast" (Paraguay), and "Progress Made By Peru's National Trade Facilitation Committee" (Peru).

2.2 Regularizing the Committee's Experience Sharing/Thematic Discussions

2.2. At the informal meeting of 26 July 2023, the Committee considered two possible forward-looking actions: (i) to identify specific themes to be covered on an annual basis, and (ii) to identify tangible outputs to capitalize on the information and experiences shared in future experience-sharing sessions, such as a document similar to the one being prepared on "Good Practices and Building Blocks of Successful NTFCs".

2.3. Following an exchange on the proposed forward-looking actions, the Chair noted that there was support to have a tangible outcome which could be a compilation document of the lessons learned and good practices identified as shared with the Committee. The compilation would also include information from beneficiary Members and donors, and it would be updated on an annual basis.

2.4. The Chair invited the Committee to identify at least ten topics for experience sharing, which would cover a number of Committee meetings into 2024. He subsequently circulated a list of the topic suggestions received from Members in document [JOB/TF/238](#).

2.5. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Chair invited Members to submit their top five priorities from [JOB/TF/238](#) by Monday 30 October 2023. He would then circulate a compilation of the priorities and follow up with a short and focused informal discussion by November 2023 to further clarify the priorities and the next steps.

3 DOCUMENT CONTAINING GOOD PRACTICES AND BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESSFUL NTFCs

3.1. The Committee took a decision under the four-year review of the TFA carried out in 2021 ([G/TFA/2](#), 9.3(v)) to draft a document that contains a series of good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs drawing on experience-sharing sessions in the Committee since 2017.

3.2. During the Committee meetings held on 21-22 March and 15-16 June 2023, as well as an informal meeting held on 26 July 2023, the Committee had exchanges on preparing a first draft of a Committee document that would be non-binding and consensual, and that identified such good practices and building blocks that could be of benefit to Members. Such a draft would be based on input from Members, including suggested principles shared by the United States in document [G/TFA/W/91](#). At the 26 July 2023 informal meeting, the Secretariat was requested to circulate a first draft incorporating input received from Members and the draft was circulated in document [G/TFA/W/96/Rev.1](#).

3.3. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Chair invited Members to submit written comments on [G/TFA/W/96/Rev.1](#) by 30 October 2023. The Chair would then circulate a revised draft for future discussion within the Committee.

4 MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS:

4.1 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](#))

4.1. On 9 March 2023, the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) circulated a communication ([JOB/CTG/24](#)) asking Chairpersons of the CTG's subsidiary bodies to organize discussions in their Committee to allow Members to identify possible areas for improvement in the functioning of the Committee. Possible areas of improvement were compiled by the Chairperson of

the CTG in the document "Next steps proposed by the Chairperson following the informal meeting of 31 March 2023" ([JOB/CTG/27](#)). A further update was circulated in document [JOB/CTG/32](#).

4.2. At its meeting of 21-22 March 2023, the Committee held a first exchange on this issue. On 13 June 2023, ahead of the Committee meeting of 15-16 June 2023, the Chair circulated document [JOB/TF/234](#) which consolidated the list of suggestions for improving the functioning of the Committee as identified by Members at the TF Committee meeting of 21-22 March 2023 plus follow-up written input from Members, the current practice in the Committee with regard to those suggestions, as well as a number of suggestions from the Chair on practices that he considered would be easy to implement in the short term.

4.3. Document [JOB/TF/234](#) formed the basis of the discussion on the issue during the informal meeting of 26 July 2023. As a follow-up to the informal meeting and to the circulation of document [JOB/TF/235](#) (the Chair's Summary Report), and as agreed at the meeting, the Chair circulated a subsequent communication [JOB/TF/237](#) which set out the proposed course of action for each of the proposals put forward by Members on how to improve the functioning of the TF Committee.

4.4. As per the table contained in document [JOB/TF/235](#), there were two proposals for adoption by the Committee through a written procedure, as follows: (1) The Secretariat is instructed to circulate an annotated agenda ahead of formal meetings of the Committee on Trade Facilitation, ten days in advance of the meeting. The document will describe each agenda item and provide relevant background to help the preparation by delegations; and (2) an eAgenda will be implemented on a trial basis, subject to budgetary and resource considerations. Subject to budgetary and resource considerations, the trial of the eAgenda would be carried out for the first meeting of the CTF in 2024.

4.5. No objections to the proposals were submitted by the deadline of 20 September 2023 and consequently, the proposals were considered to have been adopted by the Committee.

4.6. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Chair invited delegations to submit any additional comments to the draft report [JOB/TF/237](#) by 30 October 2023 after which it would be finalized and submitted to the CTG ahead of its meeting of 30 November 2023.

4.2 WTO Response to the Pandemic ([G/L/1475](#); [G/TFA/W/89](#)) ([G/TFA/W/97/Rev.1](#))

4.7. The Chair of the TF Committee had submitted a report to the CTG on the response to the pandemic in document [G/L/1475](#) dated 21 December 2022. That report stated that the major action of the TF Committee had been the compendium of trade facilitation measures implemented by WTO Members and observers in response to COVID-19 as presented to the TF Committee ([G/TFA/W/40/Rev.4](#)).

4.8. Following exchanges on the issue at the Committee meetings of 21-22 March 2023 and 15-16 June 2023, at the informal meeting of 26 July 2023 the Secretariat was instructed to draft a summary of the compendium summarizing the actions taken under four thematic headings: "Publication and Availability of Information"; "Release and Clearance of Goods"; "Formalities connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit", and "Other Reported Trade Facilitation-related Measures". The draft summary was circulated in document [G/TFA/W/97/Rev.1](#).

4.9. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Chair invited delegations to submit any additional comments to document [G/TFA/W/97/Rev.1](#) by 30 October 2023 with a view to finalizing it and submitting it to the CTG ahead of its meeting of 30 November 2023.

5 UPDATE OF THE 2015 WORLD TRADE REPORT ON THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

5.1 WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD) Working Paper on Trade and Welfare effects of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

5.1. As part of its four-year review of the TFA concluded in 2021, the Committee requested that the WTO Economic Research and Statistics Division update its "2015 World Trade Report on the Benefits and Challenges of Implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement", including the data

projections, and report the results to the Trade Facilitation Committee no later than its first formal meeting of 2023.

5.2. Accordingly, ERSD presented a working paper on "[Trade and welfare effects of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement](#)" as well as some initial results from work it had carried out on "The Impact of the TFA on Trade Costs". Among the main results, the study showed that the TFA led to a USD 231 billion increase in trade, with an average 5% increase in global agricultural trade, 1.5% increase in manufacturing trade and 1.17% increase in total trade. The increases were largely driven by the trade growth in least developed country Members, where agricultural exports rose by 17%, manufacturing exports by 3.1%, and total exports by 2.4% under the TFA. The estimates further point to a 16-22% increase in agricultural trade between developing Members that have made TFA commitments. The study also showed that real GDP at the world level increased by 0.12%, with gains concentrated among least developed country Members and developing Members. The presentations are available on the TFA Database: [The impact of the TFA Trade Costs](#) and [Trade and Welfare Effects on the TFA](#).

5.2 The Evolving Contribution of Trade Facilitation Policies to Enhancing Trade

5.3. At the request of the United States, the OECD presented a first draft of an update of its work quantifying the impact of the TFA policy areas on trade, using the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFIs). Its main findings showed that the impact of trade facilitation reforms on trade flows had continued to grow over time; the trade cost-reducing impact of trade facilitation policies translated into a quantitatively significant trade flow-increasing effect across sectors; automating and streamlining border procedures had been contributing most to enhancing trade worldwide; improvements in operational practices appeared to matter most going forward, and trade facilitation policies not only enhanced existing trade relationships but also helped develop new ones. The presentation is available here: [The Evolving Contribution of Trade Facilitation Policies to Enhancing Trade](#).

5.3 Customs Procedures for Intangible Products

5.4. One Member raised questions about another Member's Regulation entitled "The Transfer of Self-Consumed Goods" in document [G/TFA/Q/IDN/1](#). Responses to the questions were circulated in document [G/TFA/Q/IDN/2](#).

6 DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT ISSUES OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRY MEMBERS

6.1. Under the first four-year review of the TFA ([G/TFA/2](#)), the Committee made a decision 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.

6.2. In the period under review, the dedicated session on transit issues took place (in informal mode) during the meeting of 15-16 June 2023. It consisted of two programmes: (1) "Disaster Preparedness: A view from the Border of Landlocked Developing Countries", which was sponsored by the United States, and (2) "Overcoming Challenges in Trade and Transit Operations", coordinated by the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) Group.

6.3. Under the programme organized by the LLDC Group, Kazakhstan moderated a discussion on the particular challenges faced by LLDCs in the transit of goods. Speakers from Eswatini, Gabon, Pakistan and Zimbabwe presented outcomes of a workshop, organized by TFAF, held earlier in the week amongst LLDC and transit Members, together with WTO officials and development partners. Concrete solutions were developed at the workshop to address challenges relating to customs formalities, transit guarantees, container seals and tracking, transit corridors and improving support to WTO Members in TFA implementation relevant to transit activities. In addition, a number of international organizations – COMESA, EAC, UNCTAD, UNOHRLLS, WCO, and the World Bank – presented their work and support programmes for LLDCs, and Mongolia highlighted recent experiences on transit coordination.

6.4. A number of solutions had been developed at the workshop, including (i) coordinated and integrated border management mechanisms; (ii) joint control of the movement of people and goods across borders; (iii) capacity building initiatives using international instruments to ensure the best

and most efficient practices; (iv) harmonization of transit procedures; and (v) emphasizing the Vienna Programme of Action.

6.5. The Coordinator of the LLDC Group (Botswana) made a report on the session to the TF Committee which is contained in Annex 4 of this document.

6.6. All presentations from the dedicated session on transit issues are available on the [TFA Database Website](#).

7 DEDICATED SESSION ON ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

7.1. In accordance with Article 21:4 of the TFA, the Committee held its annual dedicated session on assistance and capacity building on 5 October 2023.

7.2. The session carried out: (i) a review of progress in the provision of assistance and support for capacity building to support implementation, including the top five provisions in category C, identified by notified definitive dates, to be implemented in the two-year period 2024 to 2025; (ii) shared experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programmes, including challenges and successes; (iii) received a report by international and regional organizations and other agencies supporting the implementation of the TFA on the activities that they have delivered in the period October 2022 to October 2023 ([G/TFA/TFAF/W/2](#)).

7.3. Broader discussions were also held regarding wider on-going implementation support, as well as exploring avenues for further collaboration and cooperation. All presentations made during the session are available in the [TFA Database](#).

8 INFORMAL SESSIONS ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

8.1. The United States held an information session on disaster preparedness on the margins of the 21-22 March 2023 meeting of the TF Committee. The objective of the panel discussion was to share experiences and highlight the challenges that WTO Members, humanitarian relief organizations, and other non-governmental organizations face in moving humanitarian aid and relief supplies across international borders during times of disaster. The United States reported to the Committee on the outcome of the session.⁴

8.2. On 16 June 2023, as part of the Dedicated Session on Transit Issues of Landlocked Countries, the US organized a programme on "Disaster Preparedness: A view from the Border of Landlocked Developing Countries" the United States moderated a follow-up panel discussion which examined the specific challenges LLDCs, aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations face in moving humanitarian aid and relief supplies across international borders during times of disaster. The United States made a report on the session to the Committee.⁵

8.3. On 6 October 2023, the United States held a third informal session on "Disaster Preparedness and Trade Facilitation".

8.4. See Annex 5 for the programmes of the disaster preparedness sessions.

9 "FACILITATING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS" – COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA, THE EUROPEAN UNION, HONDURAS, THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU, TÜRKİYE AND THE UNITED STATES IN DOCUMENT [G/TFA/W/94/REV.1](#)

9.1. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Committee took note of a communication entitled "Facilitating Humanitarian Relief in Emergency Situations" from Canada, the European Union, Honduras, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, Türkiye and the United States in document [G/TFA/W/94/Rev.1](#).

⁴ [G/TFA/M/25](#).

⁵ [G/TFA/M/26](#).

10 PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT THROUGH DIGITAL REVOLUTION AND INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGIES

10.1. At the Committee meetings of 21-22 March 2023 and 15-16 June 2023, the Committee took note of a communication from China entitled "Promoting the Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement through Digital Revolution and Intelligence Technologies" in document [G/TFA/W/90](#). At the Committee meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Committee took note of a revised communication, co-sponsored by China and Mongolia, in document [G/TFA/W/90/Rev.1](#).

11 ENHANCING THE ROLE OF THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY – COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES ([G/TFA/W/95/REV.1](#))

11.1. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Committee took note of a communication from the United States entitled "Enhancing the Role of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Promoting Food Security" in document [G/TFA/W/95/Rev.1](#).

12 TRADE RELATED MEASURES TAKEN BY INDIA IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS ([JOB/TF/236](#))

12.1. At the meeting of 3-5 October 2023, the Committee took note of a communication from India entitled "Trade Related Measures Taken by India in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics" in document [JOB/TF/236](#).

13 TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY

13.1. During the period under review, the focus of the TFAF's work has been on capacity building support to developing Members and least developed country Members for enhancing the functioning of National Trade Facilitation Committees and strengthening their coordination capacities for the implementation of the TFA; matchmaking for Members' Expression of Interests (EoI); TFAF grants; and working with a representative group of Members of the TF Committee (Workplan Committee) to prepare the 2024 workplan.

13.2. One EoI was circulated on behalf of an LDC Member, and one project proposal grant (PPG) has been received from an LDC Member.

13.3. The following technical assistance activities were carried out: (i) A Regional workshop for the Pacific Island Countries; (ii) A National Workshop with the Maldives; (iii) An online National Workshop with Egypt; (iv) Participation of Madagascar's NTFC Secretary in the March CTF meeting; (v) An online regional workshop with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); (vi) A National workshop with El Salvador; (vii) Attendance at a Regional workshop for Central Asian NTFCs; (viii) Attendance at a Regional Workshop for the Balkans; (ix) A Regional Workshop with Association of Latin American Integration (ALADI); (x) A thematic workshop for Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Transit countries; and (xi) A Regional workshop for LLDCs in Eurasia.

13.4. Further details of the technical assistance activities carried out by TFAF are contained in Annex 6.

13.5. TFAF organized a retreat with the Annex D+ partners to discuss collaboration in the TFA 2023 workplan, and to receive partners' suggestions on TFAF implementation of the independent evaluation report.

13.6. The independent review of TFAF, carried out pursuant to the TFAF's Operational Guidelines was completed in early 2023. TFAF has already implemented some of the recommendations, such as enhancing efforts to promote the EoI as a matchmaking tool. TFAF will identify additional changes and discuss them with Members after the Committee 3-5 October 2023 meeting. The results will be reported to the Committee in early 2024.

13.7. In accordance with the new TFAF Framework, a draft workplan for 2024 ([G/TFA/TFAF/W/3](#)) was prepared in cooperation with the Workplan Committee that is made up of interested Members.

At the 3-5 October 2023 Committee meeting, the Chair invited Members to submit any comments on the draft workplan in writing by 30 October 2023, following which the workplan would be finalized.

13.1 Reporting by TFAF and other Annex D organizations

13.8. During the period under review, TFAF circulated an update to the Trade Facilitation Committee in document [G/TFA/TFAF/3](#). TFAF also made an oral report to the Committee meeting of 15-16 June 2023.⁶

13.9. A report from Annex D organizations had been circulated in document [G/TFA/TFAF/W/2](#).

14 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

14.1. The Committee adopted the draft Annual Report to the Council for Trade in Goods ([G/TFA/W/93](#)) and requested the Secretariat to update it to take account of the Committee's meeting on 3-5 October 2023.

⁶ [G/TFA/M/26](#).

ANNEX 1**NOTIFICATIONS FROM MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST
ANNUAL REPORT UNTIL 5 OCTOBER 2023****1 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 1:4, 10:4:3, 10:6:2 AND 12:2:2 OF THE TRADE
FACILITATION AGREEMENT**

Member	Document symbol
Armenia	G/TFA/N/ARM/2/Rev.1
Belize	G/TFA/N/BLZ/2/Rev.1
Brunei Darussalam	G/TFA/N/BRN/2
Cambodia	G/TFA/N/KHM/5/REV.1
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/2/Add.1/Rev.2
European Union	G/TFA/N/EU/1/Add.1/Rev.3; G/TFA/N/EU/1/Rev.8
The Gambia	G/TFA/N/GMB/2
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/2/Add.1
India	G/TFA/N/IND/2/Rev.1
Jamaica	G/TFA/N/JAM/3
Japan	G/TFA/N/JPN/2/Rev.2
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/2/Rev.1
Nigeria	G/TFA/N/NGA/3
Norway	G/TFA/N/NOR/2/Rev.3
Panama	G/TFA/N/PAN/3
Philippines	G/TFA/N/PHL/2/Rev.1; G/TFA/N/PHL/2/Rev.2
Seychelles	G/TFA/N/SYC/2
South Africa	G/TFA/N/ZAF/2
Switzerland	G/TFA/N/CHE/2/Rev.2
Tonga	G/TFA/N/TON/3/Rev.2
Tunisia	G/TFA/N/TUN/3
Ukraine	G/TFA/N/UKR/3/Rev.2
Uruguay	G/TFA/N/URY/2/Rev.3
Zimbabwe	G/TFA/N/ZWE/3

2 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 16 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Albania	G/TFA/N/ALB/3
Belize	G/TFA/N/BLZ/4
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/5
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/5
Guinea	G/TFA/N/GIN/1/Add.2
Kenya	G/TFA/N/KEN/5
Malawi	G/TFA/N/MWI/4/Rev.1
Maldives	G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.2; G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.3; G/TFA/N/MDV/4/Rev.1
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.4
Nepal	G/TFA/N/NPL/1/Add.4; G/TFA/N/NPL/1/Add.4/Corr.1
Nicaragua	G/TFA/N/NIC/4/Rev.1
Paraguay	G/TFA/N/PRY/4
Tanzania	G/TFA/N/TZA/2/Add.3; G/TFA/N/TZA/4
Tunisia	G/TFA/N/TUN/1/Add.1

Donor arrangements and progress in the provision of Technical Assistance and capacity building support

Member	Document symbol
Cambodia	G/TFA/N/KHM/4/Rev.1
Costa Rica	G/TFA/N/CRI/3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	G/TFA/N/LAO/3/Rev.1
Liberia	G/TFA/N/LBR/4
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/3
Rwanda	G/TFA/N/RWA/4/Rev.1
Sierra Leone	G/TFA/N/SLE/2
Solomon Islands	G/TFA/N/SLB/2
Tonga	G/TFA/N/TON/4

3 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Angola	G/TFA/N/AGO/4
Cabo Verde	G/TFA/N/CPV/1/Add.1
Costa Rica	G/TFA/N/CRI/4
Cuba	G/TFA/N/CUB/1/Add.2
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.5; G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.6
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/1/Add.3
Maldives	G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.4
Namibia	G/TFA/N/NAM/1/Add.3; G/TFA/N/NAM/1/Add.4
Nicaragua	G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.4
Saint Lucia	G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.4
Seychelles	G/TFA/N/SYC/1/Add.3
Togo	G/TFA/N/TGO/1/Add.3; G/TFA/N/TGO/1/Add.4
Trinidad and Tobago	G/TFA/N/TTO/2/Add.1

4 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Guinea	G/TFA/N/GIN/1/Add.2
Maldives	G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.4
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.3
Namibia	G/TFA/N/NAM/1/Add.4
Nepal	G/TFA/N/NPL/1/Add.4; G/TFA/N/NPL/1/Add.4/Corr.1
Saint Lucia	G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.4

5 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 22 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT BY DONOR MEMBERS

Article 22.1 and 22.2

Member	Document symbol
Australia	G/TFA/N/AUS/6; G/TFA/N/AUS/7
Canada	G/TFA/N/CAN/5
European Union	G/TFA/N/EU/2/Add.4
Japan	G/TFA/N/JPN/8
United Kingdom	G/TFA/N/GBR/4
United States	G/TFA/N/USA/7

Article 22.3

Member	Document symbol
Belize	G/TFA/N/BLZ/3/Rev.1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	G/TFA/N/COD/2/Rev.1 ; G/TFA/N/COD/2/Rev.2
The Gambia	G/TFA/N/GMB/3
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/4
Kyrgyz Republic	G/TFA/N/KGZ/3
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/4
Nepal	G/TFA/N/NPL/3/Rev.1
Nicaragua	G/TFA/N/NIC/2/Rev.1 ; G/TFA/N/NIC/5 ; G/TFA/N/NIC/5/Corr.1
Nigeria	G/TFA/N/NGA/2
Paraguay	G/TFA/N/PRY/2/Rev.2
Senegal	G/TFA/N/SEN/2/Rev.1
Tajikistan	G/TFA/N/TJK/3
Tonga	G/TFA/N/TON/2/Rev.3
Tunisia	G/TFA/N/TUN/4
Zimbabwe	G/TFA/N/ZWE/2/Rev.1

ANNEX 2**EXPERIENCE SHARING AND THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS
IN THE WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION**

The following table offers an overview of the experience-sharing/thematic discussions that take place in the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.

A dedicated webpage has been created on the TFA Database where all referenced presentations and related documents can be easily accessed under the following link: <https://tfadatabase.org/trade-facilitation-committee/experience-sharing>

Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting 21-22 March 2023

Presentation	Presenter
The implementation of Advance Ruling Mechanism in Madagascar	Madagascar
Proposal on the six principles of shared practice of successful NTFCs G/TFA/W/91	United States
Trade Facilitation during a crisis lessons learnt from Covid-19	United Kingdom
Improving procedures for authorization of exports and imports of processed food	Peru
Support to the National Service of Agrifood Health and Service SENASA of Honduras	USAID
Malawi trade facilitation project	Malawi
Promoting implementation of the TFA through digital revolution and intelligent technologies	China
Trade Facilitation reforms beyond the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	India
Natural Disaster Relief and Turkish Customs Administration	Türkiye
IMPACCT - Disaster Preparedness A View from the Border	IMPACCT
MEDAIR presentation	MEDAIR
IFRC presentation	IFRC
Tonga statement	Tonga

Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting 15-16 June 2023

Presentation	Presenter
Trade Facilitation improvements under the NTFC in El Salvador in Spanish	El Salvador
	USAID
Transit coordination	UNCTAD
Workshop results on transit issues	Eswatini, Kingdom of - Gabon - Pakistan
Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System	EAC
Transit corridors	World Bank
Mongolia sharing of experience on transit coordination	Mongolia
Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024	UNOHRLLS
Promoting the Construction of Smart Customs by Innovating Regulatory Measures through Digitalization and New Technologies	China
Streamlining agri-food export control certification	Tunisia
Improving small package e-Trade for SMEs	Cambodia
Disaster preparedness a view from the border of LLDCs	IMC
COMESA RCTG CARNET	COMESA
Statement (Paraguay)	Paraguay

Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting 3-5 October 2023

Presentation	Presenter
<u>Progress made by Peru's National Trade Facilitation Committee (In Spanish)</u>	Peru
<u>Trade Facilitation - the digital transformation</u>	India
<u>Trade facilitation in Jordan - increasing transparency and predictability for the private sector</u>	Jordan
<u>Trade facilitating agricultural systems and technology T FAST (in Spanish)</u>	Paraguay
<u>Cargo and transit control for imports via Air Mode</u>	Brazil

ANNEX 3**MC12 IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS**

Improving the functioning of the Committee on Trade Facilitation ([JOB/TF/235](#))

NEXT STEPS PROPOSED BY CTF ¹	Status of discussions at CTF informal meeting 26 July 2023
1. Assistance to capital-based and Geneva-based officials	
a) Organization of introductory sessions (in a hybrid format) or pre-recorded introductory tutorial for interested Geneva and capital-based delegates	Support for organizing periodic introductory sessions twice a year about the TFA, the TFA database, and update on the work of the CTF.
b) Development of a written manual on the functioning of the Committee, covering its operation, rules of procedures, regular activities, commitments, notification processes, and the digital tools used.	Support for drafting a manual describing the main procedural and substantive aspects of the work of the CTF. An outline will be shared with Members in advance.
c) Organization of capacity building sessions on notification submissions	Support for organizing capacity building sessions on TFA notification submissions on an annual basis, in the context of informal meetings. Additional sessions to be held on and ad hoc basis as requested by Members. Participation of capital-based officials in the sessions will be considered.
d) Availability online of training materials for delegates plus material for external stakeholders.	Support for the Secretariat uploading the training materials used in the periodic introductory capacity building sessions to the Trade Facilitation webpage of the WTO website and to the TFA database website.
2. Planning and organization of meetings	
a) Annual planning and scheduling of meetings to allow sufficient planning time	No specific follow-up in CTF at this time with discussions continuing in CTG.
b) Avoiding overlapping of meetings and re-scheduling	No specific follow-up in CTF at this time with discussions continuing in CTG.
c) Introduction of an automated alert system to the WTO calendar of meetings	No specific follow-up in CTF at this time with discussions continuing in CTG.
3. Work Procedures	
a) Introduction of an annotated agenda (document providing background information about the issues that will be discussed at a meeting)	Support for the Secretariat to circulate an annotated agenda ahead of formal meetings of the CTF, ten days in advance of the meeting. The document could describe each agenda item and provide relevant background to help the preparation by delegations
b) Timely circulation and uploading on digital platforms of materials for the meeting well in advance, including the minutes from the last meeting, Secretariat oral reports, presentations, and documents.	Support for circulating documents with a document symbol sufficiently in advance of meetings so that they could be translated and made available through Documents Online, (Reference: JOB/CTG/32 item f.1.1) Both Members and the Secretariat will make their best efforts to ensure that all presentations are circulated and made available online (i.e. under the RD document series) prior to the meetings, (Reference: JOB/CTG/32 item f.1.2).
c) Improvements to the preparation of minutes of formal meetings	Further analysis and sharing of views needed regarding the format and preparation of the minutes of the CTF and discuss any possible recommendations in this area.
d) Circulation of summary notes after the meetings	Support for the Secretariat circulating the Chairperson's written reports or statements when this can be useful or when it is requested by delegations.

¹ At the TF Committee meeting of 21-22 March 2023 and in response to a communication from the Chair of the Committee on Trade Facilitation dated 3 April 2023.

NEXT STEPS PROPOSED BY CTF ¹	Status of discussions at CTF informal meeting 26 July 2023
4. Use of digital tools	
a) Implementation of an eAgenda	Support for implementing the eAgenda on a trial basis, subject to budgetary and resource considerations.
b) eRegistration	No specific follow-up in CTF at this time with discussions continuing in CTG.
c) Adoption of the trade concerns database	No action required at this time
d) Establishment of a Notifications portal as a single window for notifications	No specific follow-up in CTF at this time with discussions continuing in CTG.

ANNEX 4**DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT FOR THE LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES*****"Overcoming Challenges In Trade And Transit Operations"*****Programme****16 June 2023**

AGENDA ITEM
Welcome remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Carlos S. Guevara (Ecuador), Trade Facilitation Committee Chairperson • H.E Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova, Ambassador of Kazakhstan
Presentation of the outcomes of the Workshop on Transit for Landlocked Developing and Transit WTO Members that was held on June 13-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings and solutions for the priority issues identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Khetsiwe Khumbuzile Marina Makhanya, Eswatini, Mr Gildas Kevin Assambou, Gabon and Mr Ashfaq Ahmad, Pakistan • Recommendations for Taking Transit Issues Forward in the Trade Facilitation Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Constance Zhanje, Zimbabwe
Presentations by International Organizations on an overview of their support programmes for LLDCs and sharing of experience by an LLDC transit Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vienna Programme of Action - Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, UNOHRI • Guarantees - Mr. Berhane Giday Kassa, COMESA and Mr. Charles Chaitezvi, COMESA • Tracking - Mr. Evariste Munyampundu, EAC • Transit Corridors - Mr. William Gain, World Bank • Transit Coordination - Ms. Ariunaa Adiya, Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia • Formalities - Mr. Phuntsho Dorji, WCO • Coordination - Mr. Poul Hansen, UNCTAD
Closing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Mr. Raul Cano Ricciardi, Ambassador of Paraguay

REPORT BY BOTSWANA, COORDINATOR OF THE LLDC GROUP ON THE DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT ISSUES FOR LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

1. The WTO group of landlocked developing country Members, in cooperation with the TFAF, organized a workshop on 13 to 14 June 2023 to bring together landlocked developing and transit country Members to identify key transit issues and possible solutions to prepare for the second WTO Trade Facilitation Committee dedicated session on transit under the theme "Overcoming Challenges in Trade and Transit Operations". The workshop was attended by capital-based officials from 26 landlocked developing and transit country Members and included speakers and presentations from the WTO Secretariat and expert facilitators from [UNCTAD](#), the [World Bank Group](#), [COMESA](#), [EAC](#), [OECD](#), [WCO](#), and [UNOHRLLS](#).
2. The specific topics covered during the workshop included transit coordination, corridors, guarantees, tracking and formalities. During the dedicated session held this morning, the participants of the workshop on transit issues presented the outcomes, key findings, and solutions for transit issues, discussed during the workshops. Many thanks to the Chairperson of the Trade Facilitation Committee, Mr. Carlos Guevara, for delivering the welcome remarks, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Ms. Aitzhanova, for moderating the session, and the Ambassador of Paraguay for his closing remarks. A more detailed report on the workshop will be shared at a later date.
3. On transit coordination, participants identified varying procedures and formalities with neighbour Members, limited collaboration across borders and capacity development as key issues. Other issues identified were the lack of dedicated transit coordinators and a trans-coordination network, solutions for addressing these issues included simplification, standardization and harmonization of procedures and working hours, establishing cross-border working groups for enhanced cooperation between neighbours and the creation of a transit coordinator in customs and all National Trade Facilitation Committees. The absence of regional or international guidelines on guarantees, including the lack of harmonization between neighbours, calculation and timely release of guarantees were identified as key issues on the topic of guarantees. Proposed solutions for addressing these issues included, joint advocacy with the private sector, developing specific regional regulations and guarantees necessary for transit operations along the lines developed by COMESA, digitalization and automation of customs procedures concerning guarantees to include cross-border connectivity and harmonize the methods of calculating guarantees. Key issues relating to tracking and sealing included internal road checkpoints; the vulnerability of conventional seals to tampering and high costs. In order to overcome these challenges, the implementation of technology-based solutions, capacity building and effective management were recommended.
4. By utilizing technology, such as electronic tracking systems, the need for checkpoints and convoys can be eliminated, resulting in more efficient transit. Furthermore, it was suggested to explore the removal of fees associated with freedom of transit under Article 11 of the TFA to streamline logistics operations. However, caution was advised regarding the use of regional, affordable bonds as a solution. At the border corridors, predominant issues included the interoperability and interconnectivity of transit data which identified the needs to have consistent assistance to share data across corridors. Various formalities and procedures in countries in the corridor route were inadequate with no mutual recognition of controls resulting in the delays in increasing cost of trading. Introducing international standards such as authorized economic operators, mutual recognition for customs and SPS, and digitalization of information are vital.
5. The challenges posed by complex burdensome and excessive border formalities included unnecessary inspections at the border, lack of risk management in transit, lack of transparency on formalities for multimodal transport, other than road, coordination controls, and special formalities in respect of special cargo, such as live animals, over dimensioned cargo, is lacking. Solutions to mitigate these burdensome formalities included enhanced coordination, cooperation, harmonization and simplification of inspections and documentation, whereby encouraging the implementation of a one-stop-border facility, the use of non-intrusive inspection equipment, coupled with the utilization of digital and automated means leading to less time in transit and trade more facilitative. The recommendations from the workshop stressed the need for finding implementation support for LLDCs, including enhanced donor coordination through NTFCs and the TFAF, developing and using monitoring tools and conducting training for those tools and developing a nationally coordinated approach to ensure prioritization of implementation of TFA commitments. Another important point

that came out of the workshop was to enhance the sustainability of the implementation support that was provided by the donors.

6. Further experience sharing was also envisaged as a way to take transit issues forward in the Trade Facilitation Committee. This included experience sharing on specific issues such as transit coordination cooperation, corridors, and formalities and on cross-cutting issues such as rules of origin and sanitary and phytosanitary measures applicable to goods in transit. On technical assistance, the recommendations included, conducting needs assessments for Members implementing the TFA, especially category C measures and encouraging the submission of technical assistance requests to the TFAF by Members through their permanent missions.

7. Further, on donor support, the workshop recommendations included encouraging donors to support monitoring and evaluating tools and provide more information on support provided on transit issues. Finally, other recommendations included establishing sub-committees on transit as part of NTFCs, conducting dedicated sessions and transit at the national and regional levels, encouraging capital-based officials to share experiences through their missions, as well as leveraging and learning from experiences of Members that have successfully implemented transit reforms.

8. Following the presentation by participants on key findings and recommendations coming out of the workshop, we heard presenters from several regional and international organizations, provide an overview of their support programmes for LLDC Members. The session included presentations by UNOHRLLS and the Vienna Programme of Action by COMESA on guarantees, the EAC on tracking, the World Bank on transit corridors, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia on transit coordination, the WCO on formalities, and UNCTAD on coordination. We are thankful to these organizations for participating in the workshop and for their continued support to the LLDCs as they tackle the transit issues. Follow-up work is necessary to explore how the Trade Facilitation Committee can best support the uptake of the recommendations made today. Findings from the workshop are available upon the request at the TFAF website. Our aim is for the outcome of this session to make a valuable contribution to the upcoming Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which is set to take place from 18 to 22 June 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda. The Conference aims to formulate and adopt a renewed framework for international support to address the special needs of LLDCs and to strengthen partnership between LLDCs and transit countries and their development partners. The Conference will adopt a decade long Programme of Action for LLDCs and it is key that solutions to transit and trade facilitation are an integral part of this programme of action. Botswana feels highly honoured to be Chair of the Conference and look forward to further engage with member countries, international organizations, and partners to ensure a successful Conference. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for its assistance with the preparation of the report.

ANNEX 5**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: A VIEW FROM THE BORDER****21 March 2023****Programme**

<p style="text-align: center;">WELCOME REMARKS</p> <p>H.E. (Dr) Adamu Mohammed ABDULHAMID, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the WTO, Chairman of the Committee on Trade Facilitation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VIEW FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF (IMPACCT)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15 – 10:30</p>
<p>Presenter</p> <p>Ms. Virginie Bohl, Coordinator, IMPACCT Working Group</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PANEL 1 – DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONG LITTORAL STATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 – 11:45</p>
<p>Moderator: Christina Kopitopoulos, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Jose Valencia, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Ecuador • Mr. Onur Yengil, Trade Expert at the Ministry of Trade, Türkiye • [Speaker tbc], Mozambique • Ms. Corinna Drechsel, Senior Global Logistics Advisor, Medair • Ms. Danielle Jurman, Humanitarian Supplies Analyst, Humanitarian Response Division, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
<p style="text-align: center;">PANEL 2 – DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AMONG ISLAND STATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:45 – 13:00</p>
<p>Moderator Christina Kopitopoulos, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Sumbue Antas, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Vanuatu • Mr. Raymond Batac, Commercial Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Philippines • Mr. Olivier Andriakaja Elack, Directeur Général du Bureau national de gestion des risques et des catastrophes (BNGRC), Madagascar • Ms. Esterlina Alipate, WTO Netherlands Trainee, (formerly Ministry of Trade and Economic Development), Tonga • Ms. Mulki Fozia Abdullah, Field Supply Referent, Médecins sans Frontières • Mr. Nelson Castano, Manager, Operations Coordinator, Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<p style="text-align: center;">WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS</p>

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: A VIEW FROM THE BORDER
OF LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

DEDICATED SESSION OF TRANSIT ISSUES OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRY MEMBERS

16 June 2023

Programme

AGENDA ITEM
Welcome remarks and introduction of panellists
Ms. Christina Kopitopoulos , Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs (Moderator)
Panel discussion on Disaster Preparedness among LLDCs to identify future work the TFC could undertake to streamline and expedite humanitarian shipments.
<p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lydia MATAPO, Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO, Zambia • Mr. Gobinda Bahadur KARKEE, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal • Mr. Samnang CHEA, Head of International Affairs at the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, and a member of Cambodia's National Trade Facilitation Committee Secretariat • Ms. Virginie BOHL, Working Group on Customs and Humanitarian Relief (IMPACCT) • Mr. Jean-Cedric MEEUS, Chief Global Transport, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Supply Division • Mr. Sebastien CAZENAVE, Senior Director, Global Logistics & Supply Chain, International Medical Corps
Key findings and solutions for the issues discussed
Audience Q&A
Closing: Wrap up and next steps

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: INTERNATIONAL DONOR COOPERATION TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS DURING EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

6 October 2023

Programme

Overview: This is the third in a series of panel discussions to share experiences and highlight the challenges WTO Members, donor agencies, NGOs, and private-sector stakeholders face in moving humanitarian aid and relief supplies across international borders during times of disaster, whatever form it may take. The intent of these panel discussions is to identify future work the TFC could undertake to streamline and expedite humanitarian shipments.

In March 2023, the WTO Secretariat with assistance from the United States organized a panel to share experiences among littoral and island states and included the participation of several humanitarian organizations and NGOs. In June 2023, the United States organized a panel discussion to examine the specific challenges of Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) as part of the Dedicated Session on Transit Issues of Landlocked Country Members.

This third panel discussion (in hybrid mode) will examine the role that international donors and development banks play in working with WTO Members to help move humanitarian goods and supplies across international borders during times of disaster. This session is meant to complement the TFC dedicated session on technical assistance and trade capacity building.

10:00 Welcome remarks and introduction (10 min)

Ambassador Maria Pagan, United States Permanent Representative to the WTO [confirmed]

10:10 Introduction of panelists (5 min)

Moderator, Alan Treat, Attaché, U.S. Mission to the WTO

10:15 Panel and Moderated Discussion (60 min)

1. **Mr. Jaime Granados**, Chief, Trade and Investment Division, Integration and Trade Sector, Inter-American Development Bank [confirmed]
2. **Mr. William Gain**, Global Product Specialist for Trade Facilitation & Border Management, World Bank [confirmed]
3. **Mr. Youssouf Kone**, Regional Integration Coordinator for West and Central Africa, African Development Bank Group [confirmed]
4. **Ms. Kanya Sasradipoera**, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Asian Development Bank [confirmed]
5. **Mr. John David**, Information Systems Officer, ASYCUDA Programme, UNCTAD, [confirmed]

Format: *Panel presentations with a moderated discussion. Each panelist will give a 7-10 minute presentation highlighting the following:*

- 1) Role the int'l donor and brief overview of the programming activities
- 2) How int'l donor works with WTO Member to implement activities pre-, during, and/or post-disaster to move humanitarian goods across borders
- 3) Role of other external stakeholders (eg, private sector, civil society, humanitarian organizations)
- 4) Experiences and lessons learned
- 5) potential future work the WTO TFC could undertake to streamline procedures and expedite humanitarian shipments.

Moderator Discussion Questions for Panelists:

1. In your experience what are the three or four steps that Members need to take to utilize your resources to prepare for a future disaster?
2. What are the common actions of Members that are most successful in navigating through, and recovering from, a disaster or crisis?
3. The WTO Trade Facilitation Committee has been working towards developing universal principles for all Members to prepare for future pandemics. Do your organizations agree that uniform implementation of these principles is important? Can you support Members in adopting and implementing these principles and practices?

11:15 WTO Member partner perspectives (30 min) [short interventions from the floor]
WTO Members that are highlighted in the above presentations and that have partnered with these regional development banks and donors on disaster preparedness are invited to share their perspectives on lessons learned and potential future work of the WTO TFC.

- 11:45 Audience Q&A (30 min)
- 12:15 Wrap up and next steps (15 min)
Moderator, USTR
- 12:30 Session ends

ANNEX 6**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY TFAF
FROM 1 DECEMBER 2022 TO 30 OCTOBER 2023**

Activity and date	Desired outcome (From TFAF logframe)	No. of participants
Regional Workshop for Pacific Islands Countries – 13-16 December 2022	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee. Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA.	65
Maldives National workshop – 22-25 January 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee.	40
Annex D retreat – 27-28 February 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees.	10
Egypt National Workshop for TFA Delivery Unit – 15 March 2023 (Online)	Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA.	12
Madagascar NTFC Secretary participation in CTF – 21-22 March 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee. Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA.	1
Regional workshop with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – 27-29 March 2023 (Online)	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees. Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA.	60
El Salvador National workshop – 15-17 April 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee.	20+
Regional Workshop of National trade Facilitation Committees, Uzbekistan - 25-26 April 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees.	20+
Regional workshop on NTFC Maturity and Capacity Building for the Balkans and other neighbouring economies – 16-17 May 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees.	20
Regional workshop with Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) – 23-26 May 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees.	50
Transit workshop, Geneva – 13-14 June 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees. Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA	28
UNOHRLS Regional Activity in Eurasia – 24-25 August 2023	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committees. Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA.	100+