



REPORT (2022) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

1. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017. This report covers the period from 21 October 2021 to 1 December 2022.
2. During the period under review, the Committee on Trade Facilitation (TFC) held four formal meetings: on 4-5 April (G/TFA/M/20); on 30 June-1 July (G/TFA/M/21); on 15 August (G/TFA/M/22); and on 28 November-1 December (G/TFA/M/23).¹ As per article 21.4 of the TFA, the Committee held a Dedicated Session on Assistance and Capacity Building on 1 December.
3. The TFC also held three informal meetings: on 11 February; 3 March; and 29 March.
4. Mr Christopher O'Toole (Canada) was elected Chairperson of the Committee for the year 2021-2022 on 30 July 2021, through written procedures. Subsequently, H.E. Dr Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid (Nigeria) was elected Chairperson for the period 2022-2023 on 30 May 2022, through written procedures.
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, including the final notification deadline by least developed countries; experience sharing/thematic discussions; and an event commemorating the first five years of entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

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

6. Two Members notified their domestic ratification of the TFA – Solomon Islands on 14 April 2022 and Guinea-Bissau on 20 September 2022. This brings to 156 the total number of Members that have ratified the Agreement (95% of the Membership).

Transparency notifications

7. The Committee undertook a review of notifications received under the TFA at each of its meetings during the period under review. 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 20 transparency notifications, of which seven were first time transparency notifications and fourteen were revisions to previous notifications. Eighty-two transparency notifications from 38 Members remain outstanding.²
8. Notifications from the European Union and Nigeria were received on 25 November and will be considered by the Committee at the first meeting of 2023.

Implementation notifications

9. 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. During the period under review, 16 Members submitted notifications under

¹ To be issued.

² A full list can be found in Annex 1.

Article 16 (category B and C designations) and no Member submitted notifications under Article 15 (category A designation). Twenty-one implementation notifications from 15 Members remain outstanding.³

10. In accordance with Article 16, the Committee had granted requests from nine least developed country Members⁴ to extend the notification deadline for category B provisions. No Member submitted notifications under this provision during the period under review and one Member continues to have an outstanding notification.⁵

11. In accordance with Article 16 of the TFA, the deadline for least developed country Members to present their definitive dates for the implementation of category C provisions was 22 August 2022. If a least developed country Member, before this deadline, believes it requires additional time to notify its definitive dates, the Member may request an extension. During the meetings of 30 June and 15 August 2022, the Committee granted requests from five Members to extend the notification deadline for category C provisions.⁶ Two additional requests were granted through silent procedures.⁷

12. The Committee received 16 requests for an extension of definitive dates for implementation of category B and C commitments under article 17 of the TFA ("Early Warning Mechanism"). Extensions were approved for 31 measures from 11 Members. Five developing Members that had requested extensions for longer than 18 months were granted extensions for 18 months – which is the time-frame automatically granted under the TFA for developing Members. One least developed Member that had requested an extension for longer than three years was granted an extension of three years – which is the time-frame automatically granted under the TFA for LDCs. The Committee did not approve extensions for 2 measures from eight Members that did not conform to the requirements set out in Article 17 of the TFA.⁸

13. 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 seven notifications under article 19, two⁹ of which reflected shifts of provisions from category B to category C, and five¹⁰ of which indicated shifts of provisions from category C to category B.

14. A full list of notifications received by the Committee for the period under review is included in Annex 1.

Notifications regarding technical assistance and capacity building support

15. 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, four donor Members submitted notifications in accordance with these articles.¹¹ Article 22.3 requires those Members seeking technical assistance and capacity building support to notify their contact points. Seven developing and least developed country Members submitted notifications under Article 22.3.¹² Nine Members notified progress in assistance received and gaps remaining to implement category C commitments.¹³

³ A full list can be found in Annex 1.

⁴ Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Lao PDR, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands.

⁵ Djibouti.

⁶ Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Nepal, and Togo.

⁷ Tanzania and Uganda.

⁸ A full list can be found in Annex 1.

⁹ Central African Republic and Mauritania.

¹⁰ Lao PDR, Liberia, Myanmar, Rwanda and Viet Nam.

¹¹ European Union, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.

¹² Botswana, Central African Republic, Cuba, Ghana, Honduras, Lao PDR, and Zambia.

¹³ Cambodia, Costa Rica, Lao PDR, Liberia, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, and Tonga.

16. Notifications from the European Union and Nigeria were received in November and will be considered by the Committee at the first meeting of 2023.

EXPERIENCE SHARING/THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

17. The first experience-sharing session took place at the TF Committee meeting of 2-3 May 2018. Since then, it has remained a standing item on the agenda of regular Committee meetings. These discussions take place under informal mode. In 2022, at the committee meeting of 4-5 April, Ghana shared its experience with implementation of Article 10.4 single window. At the Committee meeting of 30 June, China shared its experience with implementation of Article 10.4, Article 7.4 risk management; Article 7.7 authorized operators. At the November meeting, Ghana shared on their enquiry point, Côte d'Ivoire presented its trade portal, India informed of its time release study, Guatemala and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration shared on the advancements in Trade Facilitation in the region. Members also addressed cross-cutting topics such as smart governance. See Annex 2 for details of the presentations.

DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT ISSUES OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRY MEMBERS

18. Under the first four-year review of the TFA, in a communication in document G/TFA/W/53, the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries provided specific information regarding the status of implementation of the Agreement in their countries.

19. At a meeting on 23 November 2021, Mongolia, on behalf of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) proposed to include in the review report a recommendation to amend the Committee's spring meeting agenda until the next review of the TFA is completed, to include a dedicated session to discuss transit issues of landlocked country members. The dedicated space would highlight the importance of transit and would reserve time for the Committee to discuss best practices as well as the constraints and challenges facing landlocked developing countries.

20. The session took place during the 4-5 April regular meeting of the Committee and was organized by the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries led by Botswana in its role as Coordinator of the Group. Ambassador Dr Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme (Botswana) moderated the session. Ambassador Molokomme's opening statement is contained in Annex 3.

21. LLDC members Kazakhstan, Bolivia and Malawi made presentations. The session also heard presentations from the WTO Secretariat, UNCTAD, WCO and ITU. H.E. Dr Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid, Chairperson of the CTF made the concluding remarks. More details on the information and experience sharing discussions can be found on the TFA database.¹⁴

22. Three further annual dedicated sessions will take place at the spring meetings of the Committee until 2026 when the next review of the TFA will be completed.

TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

23. The Chairperson raised the suggestion, first at the Committee meeting of 19-21 October 2021 and again at the meeting of 26 November 2021, of holding an event in the first half of 2022 to mark the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the TFA. With no objections raised, the Chairperson subsequently issued an invitation to all interested delegations to submit to him ideas, suggestions or comments on the possible topics, format, and structure of the proposed event contact by mid-January 2022. He circulated a communication on 2 February containing the suggestions that he had received and convening an open-ended consultation on 11 February to advance the Committee's work on putting together a programme for the anniversary event.

24. Building on the initial suggestions that circulated on 2 February and the views expressed at the meeting of 11 February, a first draft programme was circulated on 25 February. This was followed up with open-ended consultations on 3 March. A revised, more detailed draft programme was circulated on 23 March which was followed by a further open-ended consultation on 29 March to further refine the programme. A third draft programme was circulated on 25 April followed by a

¹⁴ <https://tfadatabase.org/trade-facilitation-committee/experience-sharing/all>.

small group meeting of Members and Annex D partners participating in the programme. A fourth and final draft programme was circulated on 31 May.

25. The anniversary event took place on 29 June on the margins of the Committee's regular meeting held on 1 and 2 July. The programme was organized in four sessions as follows: (i) Measuring the impact of five years of TFA implementation; The Trade Facilitation Agreement and Digitalized Trade; (iii) Critical role of National Trade Facilitation Committees in TFA implementation; and (iv) Challenges and opportunities in TFA implementation. The final event programme is contained in Annex 4 and the Chairperson's report on the event to the Trade Facilitation meeting of 30 June is contained in Annex 5. A full list of speakers, recordings of the presentations and summaries of the sessions can be found [here](#).

FOUR YEAR REVIEW OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

26. The Committee carried out the first four-year Review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in accordance with article 23.1.6 which states: "The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement four years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter."

27. The Review took stock of Members' progress in implementing the Agreement from 2017 to 2021, as well as implementation challenges encountered by Members, particularly least-developed countries. It identified a number of means by which the TFC can strengthen its work to support full implementation of the TFA. The next Review will take place in 2026

28. The review process started in January 2021 with a round of consultations carried out by the Chair through February. The Committee adopted a calendar for the review process (G/TFA/1) in March 2021. The Secretariat prepared a draft factual report which was circulated in May (G/TFA/W/41). A first draft of the Review (G/TFA/W/41/Rev.1) in August and nine revisions of the draft (G/TFA/W/41/Rev.2-Rev.10) were made during September and October. The Committee adopted the Review (G/TFA/2) at its meeting on 26 November 2021.

29. The substance of the Review was driven by Members' submissions and active discussions, with a total of 43 communications and 13 future-looking proposals feeding into the Review. This resulted in 17 decisions and recommendations for future work of the Committee. The Review also recognized how work of the Committee had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the Committee had taken steps to allow Members to share their experiences on the trade facilitating measures they took to face the pandemic.

30. The recommendations and decisions resulting from the Review are as follows:

Section I of the TFA

31. Building on the discussions during this first Review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and with a view to furthering its work in regard to Section I of the TFA, the Committee:

Recognizing that WTO Members are responsible for the maintenance of their transparency notifications, including regarding the official places where information under Article 1 of TFA is published, decides that the Secretariat shall annually check the operability of the related web links, namely, those related to the implementation of Article 1.4 of TFA, and request the relevant Members to update the links that are identified as broken.

Section II of the TFA

32. Building on the discussions during this first review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and with a view to furthering its work in regard to Section II of the TFA, the Committee:

- i. recommends that beneficiary Members with category C commitments organize meetings with donors in capital, to review the state of assistance and potential future needs. Beneficiary

- Members are invited to share the outcome of these meetings with the Trade Facilitation Committee as soon as possible.
- ii. recalls the importance of LDCs and donor Members informing the Trade Facilitation Committee on the arrangements of assistance and support for capacity building to enable the implementation of category C
 - iii. decides that the Secretariat will lead a process with Members to agree regularised agenda topics for the dedicated session on assistance and capacity building, within the parameters of Article 21.4. As part of this process, the following items will be discussed at every dedicated session henceforth:
 - a. International and regional organizations and other agencies supporting the implementation of the TFA are invited to provide a report on the activities that they have delivered in the preceding twelve months. This should provide details on which Members they are supporting, the TFA articles they are helping to implement, and reflections on challenges and successes to enable improved future capacity building support.
 - b. Members and organizations are invited to share experiences on where synergies between capacity building programmes have benefited implementation of the TFA and consider where further collaboration and cooperation (including on a regional level) might best support a future implementation of specific Articles.
 - iv. decides to review the effectiveness of the list of definitive implementation dates prepared by the WTO Secretariat (G/TFA/INF/1) on a regular basis and, as appropriate, improve the list and the methods for circulating it by reflecting feedback from Members in order to promote better self-management by Members of their own implementation status and allow adequate monitoring by the Committee.
 - v. recommends, as appropriate, Members and international organizations take into account the information provided in the LDC Section of this Report in their efforts to support the implementation of the TFA.
 - vi. recommends that Members whose implementation dates have passed for their category B or C provisions, and on a voluntary basis and for informational purposes only: (i) confirm the passing of implementation dates in any form or reporting (orally or in writing); and/or (ii) share their implementation experiences with the Committee while explicitly mentioning the provision they have implemented. Category B and Category C provisions shall be implemented on the definitive dates as notified by Members as per Article 16.5 of the Agreement. The Committee could encourage those Members who have implemented category B provisions in particular to take the actions above. It should be noted that this proposal never intends to modify the Members' obligations under the TFA.

Section III of the TFA

33. Building on the discussions during this first review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and with a view to furthering its work in regard to Section III of the TFA, the Committee:

- i. decides to remove "Review of Notifications Under Article 15 of the TFA" as a standing agenda item for its meetings, recognizing that the Committee may review new Article 15 notifications on an *ad hoc* basis;
- ii. decides to add a new standing agenda item for Members to provide updates on overdue Section I and Section II notifications;
- iii. recommends that even when physical participation in meetings resumes, Interpretive (or an alternative IT platform) allowing remote connection should be enabled for all WTO Members;
- iv. recommends that notifications be circulated as far in advance of Committee meetings as possible in order to promote meaningful review and comment from Members;
- v. decides to draft document that contains good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs, and identifies a minimum of three concrete elements that all Members agree are essential for implementing a successful NTFC: full government agency participation, clear leadership with political imperatives, and strong links to the private sector
- vi. decides to include a new standing agenda item "Status of Definitive Date Implementation" after the existing agenda item "Status of Notifications and Ratifications" for review of the effectiveness of the list of definitive dates in G/TFA/INF/1 and voluntary interventions by Members, if any, highlighting implementation of provisions as per 9.2 (iv) and (vi) above.

- vii. decides to amend the Committee's spring meeting agenda, until next review of the TFA is completed, to include a Dedicated Session to discuss transit issues of landlocked country members.
- viii. decides to include an agenda item "Follow-up to the four-year review" for the purpose of continuing discussions, at the request of proponents, on the proposals that remain under consideration by the CTF from this review;
- ix. decides to request 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.
- x. decides to conduct a second review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement in 2026, and periodically thereafter.

TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY

34. At its meeting of 4-5 April 2022, the Committee adopted a Framework for the Management and Operation of the Facility.¹⁵ The Framework updated the operational guidelines of the Facility which had been developed in 2015, prior to the entry into force of the Agreement. The new framework takes account of the evolution of the needs of Members as expressed through the Committee. The Framework is intended to supplement the provisions of the 2015 Operational Guidelines.

35. During the period under review, the focus of the TFAF's work has been on LDC TFA implementation notifications, grants, the independent evaluation of the Facility and working with a representative group of Members of the TF Committee (Workplan Committee) to prepare the 2023 workplan.

36. One Expression of Interest (EoI) was circulated on behalf of an LDC Member, one preliminary EoI is being coordinated with the national authorities of an applicant Member, and another preliminary EoI was matched with STDF to consider a possible grant application.

37. The following technical assistance activities were carried out: (i) in-person Kazakhstan mission to regional TF committee meeting; (ii) in-person meeting with Kyrgyz Republic and donors/development partners to present the Kyrgyz Republic's PPG report; (iii) in-person Madagascar meeting of its NTFC to identify definitive dates for category C provisions; and (iv) 13 one-to-one sessions on notifications for LDCs.

38. Details of the technical assistance activities carried out by TFAF are contained in Annex 7.

39. TFAF organized meetings with the Annex D+ partners to share updates and discuss collaboration in future events.

40. TFAF's Operational Guidelines require the Facility to commission an independent review within five years of entry into force of the TFA, which was 22 February 2022. The evaluation was conducted by KPMG Norway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

41. In accordance with the new TFAF Framework, a draft workplan for 2023¹⁶ was prepared in cooperation with the Workplan Committee that is made up of interested Members. The workplan was reviewed without request for any alteration by the Committee at its 1 December dedicated session on technical assistance meeting. Following this review, the document is considered as final and will subsequently be issued as G/TFA/TFAF/2.

REPORTING BY TFAF AND OTHER ANNEX D ORGANIZATIONS

42. During the period under review, TFAF reported updates to three regular Committee meetings. TFAF presented an oral update at the meeting of 4-5 April. Ahead of the Committee meeting of June, TFAF circulated its annual report (G/TFA/4). It also provided its regular update in document G/TFA/W/9. TFAF's draft workplan was raised at the June meeting, with priorities to be identified by

¹⁵ [G/TFA/3](#).

¹⁶ [G/TFA/TFAF/W/1](#).

the Committee. Ahead of the November meeting, TFAF circulated a regular update in document G/TFA/TFAF/1. It circulated a draft workplan of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility for 2023 in document G/TFA/TFAF/W/1.

43. A report from Annex D organizations was circulated in document G/TFA/W/80 ahead of the April meeting.

DEDICATED SESSION ON ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

44. In accordance with article 21:4 of the TFA, the Committee held its annual dedicated session on assistance and capacity building on 1 December 2022. This was the first dedicated session that was based on a regularized agenda as agreed upon during the 2021 Review of the TFA and circulated in document [G/TFA/5](#) (Annex 6). This was also the first dedicated session to take place following the final notification deadline (22 August 2022) which means that the Committee has collectively amassed a timeline for the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, including where additional assistance is required.

45. The Director-General made the opening remarks at this session. 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 2023 to 2024; (ii) shared experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs, 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 2021 to October 2022 (G/TFA/W/80).

46. A number of Members made presentations, including donor Members, as did a number of international and regional organizations and other agencies supporting the implementation of the TFA. All presentations are available [here](#).

47. In her opening remarks, the Director-General urged the Committee to undertake work on consolidating all information exchanged by Members during all the dedicated sessions held so far, as a valuable tool in assisting the Committee to strengthen their efforts to operationalize the TFA Section II flexibilities. A report by the International Trade Centre and the Annex D organizations was circulated ahead of the meeting in document G/TFA/W/85.

48. A Member requested that the Secretariat organize an informal session at the margins of the next Spring meeting on the topic of COVID-19 and disaster preparedness. It was also requested that the Secretariat invited Members to procure participation from the private sector, civil society, and aid organizations.

STATEMENT BY CHINA ON DIGITAL TRADE FACILITATION TECHNOLOGIES

49. At the Committee meeting of 28–29 November, China delivered a statement calling for discussions in the committee on digital trade facilitation technologies.

REQUEST FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS FOR A REPORT ON ACTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION TO IMPROVE ITS WORK AND ITS WORK ON THE RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

50. At the Committee meeting of 28–29 November, the Chairperson indicated that in accordance with the CTG Chair's request for the Chairs of CTG subsidiary bodies to prepare reports on the functioning of the Committee and on the Committee's response to the pandemic, he would circulate a draft report to Members for comment before submitting it on his own responsibility to the CTG.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

51. At the meeting of 28–29 November, the Committee adopted the Annual Report to the Council for Trade in Goods (G/TFA/W/87) and requested the Secretariat to update it to take account of the Committee's November meeting.

ANNEX 1**NOTIFICATIONS FROM MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST
ANNUAL REPORT UNTIL 22 NOVEMBER 2022****1 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 16 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT****1.1 Implementation notifications (categories B, C)**

Member	Document Symbol
Antigua And Barbuda	G/TFA/N/ATG/1/ADD.1 and G/TFA/N/ATG/1/ADD.1/CORR.1
India	G/TFA/N/IND/1/ADD.2
Indonesia	G/TFA/N/IDN/1/ADD.1
Mali	G/TFA/N/MLI/1/Add.3
Bangladesh	G/TFA/N/BGD/1/ADD.5
Burkina Faso	G/TFA/N/BFA/1/Add.4
Cambodia	G/TFA/N/KHM/1/Add.3
Gambia, The	G/TFA/N/GMB/1/Add.3
Kazakhstan	G/TFA/N/KAZ/2/Add.2
Lesotho	G/TFA/N/LSO/1/Add.4
Madagascar	G/TFA/N/MDG/1/Add.3
Niger	G/TFA/N/NER/2/Add.2 and G/TFA/N/NER/2/Add.2/Corr.1
Saint Kitts And Nevis	G/TFA/N/KNA/1/Add.3
Senegal	G/TFA/N/SEN/1/Add.3
Solomon Islands	G/TFA/N/SLE/1/Add.3

1.2 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

2 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 17 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Zambia	G/TFA/N/ZMB/1/ADD.1
Lesotho	G/TFA/N/LSO/1/ADD.3
Guatemala	G/TFA/N/GTM/1/ADD.2
Ghana	G/TFA/N/GHA/1/ADD.2
Argentina	G/TFA/N/ARG/1/ADD.2

Member	Document Symbol
Botswana	G/TFA/N/BWA/1/ADD.3
Ecuador	G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.4
Grenada	G/TFA/N/GRD/1/Add.2
Mongolia	G/TFA/N/MNG/1/Add.2
Nicaragua	G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.3
Peru	G/TFA/N/PER/1/Add.2
Saint Kitts And Nevis	G/TFA/N/KNA/1/Add.2
Saint Lucia	G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.3
Sierra Leone	G/TFA/N/SLE/1/Add.4
Sri Lanka	G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.3
Zambia	G/TFA/N/ZMB/1/Add.2

3 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 19 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document Symbol
Central African Republic	G/TFA/N/CAF/1/Add.3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	G/TFA/N/LAO/1/Add.5
Liberia	G/TFA/N/LBR/1/Add.1
Mauritania	G/TFA/N/MRT/1/Add.2
Myanmar	G/TFA/N/MMR/1/Add.2
Rwanda	G/TFA/N/RWA/1/Add.4

4 NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 1:4, 10:4:3, 10:6:2 AND 12:2:2 OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Member	Document symbol
Tonga	G/TFA/N/TON/3/REV.1
Niger	G/TFA/N/NER/5
Kenya	G/TFA/N/KEN/4
Indonesia	G/TFA/N/IDN/2/REV.1
Norway	G/TFA/N/NOR/2/REV.2 and G/TFA/N/NOR/2/REV.2/CORR.1
Egypt	G/TFA/N/EGY/2/REV.1
Kenya	G/TFA/N/KEN/3/REV.1
India	G/TFA/N/IND/2/ADD.1
Angola	G/TFA/N/AGO/3
Bahrain	G/TFA/N/BHR/3/REV.1
Congo	G/TFA/N/COG/2
Cuba	G/TFA/N/CUB/4
El Salvador	G/TFA/N/SLV/2/Rev.1
Ghana	G/TFA/N/GHA/2
Kazakhstan	G/TFA/N/KAZ/1/Rev.1
New Zealand	G/TFA/N/NZL/1/REV.1
Pakistan	G/TFA/N/PAK/2/REV.2

Member	Document symbol
United Arab Emirates	G/TFA/N/ARE/2
United Kingdom	G/TFA/N/GBR/2/REV.1
Hong Kong, China	G/TFA/N/HKG/1/REV.3

5 MEMBERS WITH OVERDUE TRANSPARENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Afghanistan	Armenia	Benin
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Brunei Darussalam	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Cabo Verde	Cameroon
Central African Republic	Chad	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti	Fiji	Ghana
Grenada	Guatemala	Guyana
Jamaica	Jordan	Kuwait, the State of
Liberia	Mauritania	Mozambique
Nigeria	Panama	Papua New Guinea
Paraguay	Philippines	Qatar
Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands
South Africa	Tunisia	Uganda
Vanuatu	Zimbabwe	

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

6.1 Donor

Member	Document symbol
European Union	G/TFA/N/EU/2/ADD.3 and G/TFA/N/EU/2/ADD.3/CORR.1
United Kingdom	G/TFA/N/GBR/3
United States	G/TFA/N/USA/6
Japan	G/TFA/N/JPN/7

6.2 Developing and least developed country Members

Member	Document symbol
Zambia	G/TFA/N/ZMB/2/REV.1
Cuba	G/TFA/N/CUB/3/REV.1
Ghana	G/TFA/N/GHA/3
Honduras	G/TFA/N/HND/2/Rev.2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	G/TFA/N/LAO/4/Rev.1
Central African Republic	G/TFA/N/CAF/3
Botswana	G/TFA/N/BWA/3

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 4-5 April

Subject/TFA Provision	Presenter	Title
Article 10.4 - Single window	Ghana	Ghanas implementation of Article 10.4 single window

Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting 30 June 2002

Subject/TFA Provision	Presenter	Title
Article 10.4 - Single window Article 7.4 - Risk management Article 7.7 - Authorized operators Various	China	Chinas experience in improving trade facilitation through Smart Customs Start Borders and Smart Connectivity
Article 23.2 - National Committee on Trade Facilitation	Kyrgyz Republic	Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Kyrgyz Republic and next steps to introduce electronic document management in foreign trade
	Angola	Angola National Committee on Trade Facilitation

ANNEX 3**WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION DEDICATED SESSION ON
TRANSIT ISSUES, 5TH APRIL 2022**

PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Led by
10:00-10:05	Opening Remarks	Ambassador Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Botswana, Coordinator of LLDCs in Geneva
10:05-10:50	Sharing of best practices and experiences LLDC	LLDC members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan • Bolivia • Malawi (Malawi Revenue Authority)
10:50-11:05	Q & A	
11:05-11:15	Presentation on WTO publication on LLDC bottlenecks	WTO
11:15-11:30	Q & A	
11:30-11:45	ASYCUDA solutions for transit Transit coordination according to Art 11.16 and 17 of the TFA.	UNCTAD
11:45-11:55	Q & A	
11:55-12:10	Impact of Covid-19 on Global Supply chains and what the WCO is doing to Support the Economies and Sustain Supply Chain Continuity and current status on containerization.	World Customs Organization
12:10-12:20	Q & A	
12:20- 12:35	Transit facilitation and E-Commerce, (bridging the digital divide)	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
12:25-12:50	Q & A	
12:50-3:00	Closing Remarks	H.E. (Dr) Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid (Nigeria) Chairperson of the Trade Facilitation Committee

DEDICATED SESSION ON TRANSIT ISSUES OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRY MEMBERS

AMBASSADOR DR. ATHALIAH LESIBA MOLOKOMME (BOTSWANA)
LLDCS COORDINATOR

Opening Statement

1. At outset, I wish to thank this committee for including in its agenda a dedicated session on transit issues of the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). I also wish to thank my predecessor, former coordinator of the Group of LLDCs and PR of Mongolia for facilitating the inclusion of this important agenda item in the discussions of the committee.
2. This is a very pertinent issue for landlocked developing countries and it has become even more important as we continue to deal with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and make concerted efforts to recover from its devastating impact.
3. The issue of transit indeed deserves focused discussions if we are dedicated to achieving the main objective of the WTO: "to help WTO members use trade as a means to raise living standards, create jobs and improve people's lives". Addressing the transit challenges faced by LLDCs will ensure that these countries are not left behind in using trade to achieve sustainable development.
4. Excellencies, International trade is recognized as a driver of economic prosperity and an important means to achieving sustainable development. LLDCs are however missing out on the opportunities brought by open trade.
5. The 32 LLDCs are marginalized from global trade as their share in global merchandise exports has lingered around 1% and below over the years despite their efforts to grow and diversify their trade. The LLDCs' marginalization from global trade has been attributed mainly to high trade costs. LLDCs depend on passage through transit countries to engage in international trade. They therefore face several challenges including, multiple border crossings, complex administrative transit and border procedures, inadequate transit transport infrastructure as well as security challenges. These challenges result in delays and relatively high trade costs for LLDCs.
6. The basic trade costs of LLDCs are nearly twice those of neighbouring countries with coastlines. These high trade costs erode the competitive edge of the LLDCs as well as their trade volumes, resulting in an enormous negative impact on their overall sustainable development. They remain a stumbling block to LLDCs' pursuit to achieving their trade potential.
7. This also has an impact on LLDCs' ability to attract and retain FDI which is necessary to achieve structural economic transformation and integration into global value chains. It also adversely affects their potential to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Excellencies, The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the challenges faced by LLDCs. The COVID-19 restrictive measures imposed by LLDCs and their transit neighbours to curb the spread of the virus has negatively impacted the timely delivery of goods and services and therefore further increased LLDCs' trade costs.
9. Achieving efficient transit regimes and addressing high trade costs faced by LLDCs is important to ensure that they are not left behind in benefiting from increasing global trade. The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs emphasizes the need to establish secure, reliable and efficient transit systems to enable LLDCs to reduce transport costs and enhance the competitiveness of their exports to regional and global markets.
10. The VPoA also places trade facilitation at the core of addressing transit challenges. It recognizes that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between LLDCs and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solutions to cross border trade and transit-transport problems.

11. Whilst the full implementation of the TFA remains important, several measures have been identified as being critical in addressing transit challenges faced by LLDCs. These measures include: Article 1 (Publication and availability of information); Article 7 (release and clearance of goods); Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation); Article 10 (Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit); Article 11 (Freedom of Transit) and Article 12 (Customs Cooperation).

12. The implementation of these provisions, including by their transit neighbours as well as their trade partners is necessary to ease movement of goods and services to LLDCs and reduce trade costs associated with being landlocked.

13. The implementation of these measure by LLDCs and by their transit neighbours still lag behind due to limited financial and technical capacity. According to the WTO TFA database the current rate of TFA implementation commitments by LLDCs stands at about 34% (category A). It further states that LLDCs lag behind the global rate of implementation of commitments with implementation rates below 40% in the following articles: Article 10.4 on single window, article 7.7 on authorized operators, article 8 on border agency cooperation, article 7.4 on risk management, article 1.3 on enquiry points, article 7.8 on expedited shipments, article 1.2 on information available through internet, article 3 on advance rulings, article 7.6 on average release times and article 10.3 on use of international standards amongst many. This demonstrates that more remains to be done to achieve efficient transit for the benefit of LLDCs.

14. We therefore call for enhanced support towards the implementation of these measures to further facilitate transit and address LLDCs high transit costs.

15. Excellencies, whilst recognizing that infrastructure development is beyond the issues under the purview of this committee, it is also important to recognize that addressing only the soft issues is not sufficient to achieve efficient transit. The establishment of secure, sustainable, reliable and efficient transport systems is critical. Both the LLDCs and transit countries lack the capacity to develop and maintain such infrastructure. We therefore call on enhanced aid for trade towards infrastructure development and maintenance.

16. Excellencies, The aim of this first dedicated session on the transit issues of Landlocked Developing Countries is to discuss transit related challenges faced by LLDCs and propose possible solutions to these challenges. We will also share experiences on dealing with the transit challenges, including those brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. We expect to get information on opportunities for the relevant technical, financial and capacity building. We also expect to come up with possible strategies to achieve efficient transit and integrate LLDCs into the multilateral trading system.

18. Over the next four years we hope that these sessions would have increased awareness on the transit challenges confronting LLDCs and intensified partnerships. We hope that solutions that are identified in these sessions will be implemented, and in particular the technical assistance and capacity building support needs towards LLDCs and transit countries will be enhanced.

19. We also hope that through follow up actions to these sessions we would be able to achieve a higher implementation rate of the TFA by both LLDCs and transit countries, which can result in a meaningful decrease in trade costs that we face.

20. Let us fully engage and have candid discussions on these issues. I look forward to your fruitful engagement as well as new ideas that can help landlocked and transit countries to achieve efficient transit and address LLDCs high trade costs.

Thank you.

ANNEX 4

TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

*PROGRAMME
Geneva, 29 June 2022*

SESSION 1 – MEASURING THE IMPACT OF FIVE YEARS OF TFA IMPLEMENTATION

9:30 – 10:15 (CEST)

In this session, speakers from the public and private sectors will carry out a stock-take of the TFA after five years of implementation through measuring the impact of the Agreement today.

Moderator: Erik Solberg, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Norway to the World Trade Organization

Presentations

- Silvia Sorescu Economist/Policy Analyst, Emerging Policy Issues Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD – Trade facilitation around the world: State of play and economic impacts
- Roberta Piermartini, Counsellor, Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD), World Trade Organization – ERSD Research on Trade Facilitation
- Cosimo Beverelli, Research Economist, Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD), World Trade Organization – ERSD Research on Trade Facilitation
- William Gain, Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group – Measuring Impact of TFA Implementation Beyond Notifications
- Koen Berden, Executive Director International Affairs, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

SESSION 2 – THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT AND DIGITALIZED TRADE

10:30 – 12:45 (CEST)

In this session, speakers will examine the Trade Facilitation Agreement and digitalized trade. Topics to be covered include a discussion of the relevant provisions under the TFA such as single windows and the framework it can provide for enabling digital trade. Speakers will also highlight the role of the role of digital technology in supporting and accelerating implementation of the TFA.

Moderator: Suja Rishikesh Mavroidis, Director, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization

1. SINGLE WINDOW AND DIGITALIZED TRADE

Presentations

- Don Lee, Director General, e-Revenue Stamp Department - Korea Trade Network (KTNET)
- Xiaohui Zhang, First Secretary of Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the WTO - Accelerated Implementation of the WTO TFA through "Smart Customs, Smart Borders, and Smart Connectivity"
- Tiago Martins Barbosa, Brazil Single Window Manager and General Coordinator of Strategic Projects at the Ministry of Economy of Brazil - Brazil's outcomes due to implementation of TFA and Single Window

Follow-up interactive discussion

- Özlem Soysanli, Technical Officer, Facilitation, World Customs Organization
- Carlos Grau Tanner, Director General, Global Express Association

2. WIDENING IMPLEMENTATION AND REALISING THE BENEFITS OF SINGLE WINDOWS**Panel discussion**

- Zahouani Saadaoui, Head of Sector for Electronic Customs, DG Taxation and Customs Union (DGTAXUD), European Commission
- Kyeremeh Yeboah, Head, Trade Facilitation and Import Management, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana
- Jean Louis Kaliningondo, Deputy Commissioner General, Rwanda
- Debora Ponce, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the World Trade Organization
- Buket Asaf, Head of Department, Directorate General of Customs of Türkiye
- Philip Horswill, Head of Single Trade Window Policy, Borders and Trade, HM Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom

SESSION 3 – CRITICAL ROLE OF NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES IN TFA IMPLEMENTATION**14:30 – 15:30 (CEST)**

WTO members are required to have in place a National Trade Facilitation Committee to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the TFA. In this session, panelists will look at the critical role that has been played by NTFCs over the past five years. Building on lessons learned, they will also look ahead to how NTFCs may need to evolve to continue to facilitate implementation of the TFA.

Moderator: H.E. (Dr) Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the WTO, Chairman of the Committee on Trade Facilitation

Panel discussion

- Kolawole Sofola, Ag. Director – Trade, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Elçin Edis, Head of Department, Directorate General for International Agreements and European Union, Ministry of Trade of Türkiye
- Joeline Modeste Hariniaina, Permanent Secretary of the National Trade Facilitation Committee of Madagascar
- Edwin Vasquez, Under-Secretary of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Production of Ecuador
- Chea Samnang, Deputy Director, Department of International Customs Cooperation, General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, Ministry of Economy and Finances of Cambodia
- Vijay Singh Chauhan, Customs Authority for Advance Rulings, India

SESSION 4 – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TFA IMPLEMENTATION**15h45 – 17:50 (CEST)**

In this session, speakers will examine the challenges faced by Members to implement the TFA and explore the means by which necessary support can be provided. The session will also look at the opportunities available to Members as a result of implementation of the TFA, including the contribution of the Trade Facilitation Agreement to supply-chain resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderator: Christopher O'Toole, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization

Presentations

- Anke Raloff, Head, Division for Special Trade Policy (EU/WTO), Customs and Tariff Policy, and Trade Policy Instruments, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action - The experience of implementing the TFA agreement from the ground, a donor's perspective from Germany
- Stephan Bethe, Head, Trade Division, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development - The experience of implementing the TFA agreement from the ground, a donor's perspective from Germany
- Carolina Acosta, CIPE Representative, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation - Innovative Cooperation: The experience of implementing the TFA agreement from the ground
- William Gain, Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group - Challenges and Opportunities of TFA Implementation, Experience from the World Bank Group's Trade Facilitation Support Program
- Buddhi Upadhyaya, Counsellor/DPR (Commerce) Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva Nepal

Panelists

- Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation, UNCTAD
- Sheri Rosenow, Counsellor, World Trade Organization
- Pierre Bonthonneau, Trade Facilitation Expert, International Trade Centre
- Philippe Isler, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

ANNEX 5

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION ON THE 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 30 JUNE 2022

1. I think all those of you who participated can agree that we had a very full day with many examples of impactful implementation of TFA provisions and their advancement of trade facilitation reform.
2. The event underlined that while the TFA is making a difference, of course there are also some challenges to be overcome.
3. I would like to highlight a number of the major points in particular that came through the discussions yesterday: Digitalization, Resilience, Inclusiveness, and Coordination:
4. First, digitalization. There seemed to be a broad recognition today that the TFA can accelerate – and yet heavily relies on – the sorts of automated processes that make customs procedures both more efficient and more effective. For instance, various commentators noted how the success of certain technological innovations can be borne out of the introduction of single window systems – electronic documentation, data analytics, the use of blockchain and artificial intelligence, to name a few. At the same time, there continue to be challenges in the implementation of single window, particularly as it relates to developing better quality data and finding solutions to maximize data interoperability.
5. Second, trade facilitation also strengthens resilience. The experience with recent health and geopolitical shocks has confirmed the proof of concept of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Several commentators noted, for instance, that countries who had implemented TF reforms were better able to adapt to changes in trade volumes and regulatory controls during the pandemic. The TFA helps members build resilience, and thus efforts to improve TF compliance not only yield the immediate benefits of reduced trading times and costs, but also strengthen members' ability to respond to the next crisis.
6. Third, trade facilitation promotes inclusiveness. There was a spirited discussion about the extent to which benefits extend to all traders, and more work remains to be done to identify the areas of maximum benefit for the world's smallest traders – the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and in many cases the women who run them. Several countries identified their efforts to facilitate trade for small businesses and noted how efforts to streamline customs processes and formalities can only accrue to the benefits of these entities by clarifying the rules and lowering the barriers to participate in global markets.
7. Finally, trade facilitation relies on sound coordination within and between countries. We heard common themes from participants about the importance of improving coordination and ownership by various national agencies responsible for border matters, having a sound legal mandate to ensure a strong foundation for that dialogue, and to the critical importance that the private sector plays in informing NTFCs about what is truly happening at the border while also serving as a critical partner in designing and implementing trade facilitation reforms. Yet a host of challenges remain – technical, human, and budgetary – and further cooperation both nationally and internationally is critical to long term NTFC sustainability.
8. We also heard the warning we have heard from developing and LDC members and from some international organizations about the gaps in meeting technical assistance and capacity building needs.
9. Overall, it has been very encouraging to hear and see how Members are committed to the implementation of the Agreement and how they are committed to trade facilitation reform. And I am pleased that Members have had the opportunity to continue the conversation in sharing experiences and exchanging best practices.
10. I would like to conclude my report by thanking all those who contributed to the event.

11. Firstly, I would like to express my warm appreciation to all speakers, panelists for sharing their experience and insights with us. I would also like to thank the moderators for their great job in ensuring the sessions ran smoothly and efficiently,
12. Of course, I would like to thank everyone who intervened and those who joined us in the room and virtually.
13. And I would like to finish by thanking the WTO team, across several divisions, who worked hard to provide a very worthy celebration of the first 5 years of the TFA.

ANNEX 6**REGULARISED AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE DEDICATED SESSION ON
ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING, WITHIN
THE PARAMETERS OF ARTICLE 21.4 (G/TFA/5)***Adopted on 30 June 2022*

Under the four-year review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (G/TFA/2), the Trade Facilitation Agreement Committee agreed to have regularized agenda topics for the dedicated session on assistance and capacity building, within the parameters of Article 21.4 (G/TFA/2, paragraph 9.2(iii)). Following discussions by Members, the regularized agenda topics for the dedicated session on assistance and capacity building, in line with the parameters of Article 21.4 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, are identified as follows:

1. 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 2023 to 2024:
 - Status update by the Secretariat;
 - Experience-sharing by Members with top five category C implementation dates within the 2023 to 2024 period on their technical assistance arrangements and progress;
 - Experience-sharing by international and regional organizations and other agencies supporting the implementation of the TFA on their activities to support implementation by Members of these category C provisions in the 2023 to 2024 period;
 - Experience-sharing by donor Members supporting the implementation of these category C provisions in the 2023 to 2024 period;
 - Report by the TFAF on how the top five issues will be prioritised in the delivery of its technical assistance activities and grants.
2. Sharing of experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs, including challenges and successes
 - Experience-sharing by Members on discussions with development partners and donors in capitals;
 - Experience-sharing by Members and organizations on how such synergies have benefited implementation of the TFA;
 - Consideration of where further collaboration and cooperation (including on a regional level) might best support a future implementation of specific articles.
3. 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 2021 to October 2022 (G/TFA/W/80).
4. Other business.

ANNEX 7**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY TFAF
1 JANUARY TO 18 NOVEMBER 2022**

Activity and date	Desired outcome	No. of participants
Regional workshop with Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) 1-4 February 2022 Online	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee	150+
UNCTAD Global forum 2022 for national trade facilitation committees, 1-4 February 2022 Online	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee	200+
Senegal session on definitive dates for Cat C with NTFC 5 May 2022	Preparation of TFA notifications	20
Maldives session on reinforcement of NTFC 23 May 2022	Enhance the operation of the national trade facilitation committee	15
In-person Kazakhstan mission to regional TF committee meeting - follow up to Kyrgyz Republic PPG 20-22 June 2022	Enhance the operation of National Trade Facilitation Committees	200
In-person meeting with Kyrgyz Republic and donors/development partners to present Kyrgyz Republic PPG report 1 July 2022	Find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the TFA	20
In-Person Madagascar meeting of NTFC to identify definitive dates 26 July 2022	Submit TFA Section II notifications within agreed deadlines	40
In-person one-to-one sessions on notifications for LDCs - 13 sessions held in the period covered by this report (March – July)	Submit TFA Section II notifications within agreed deadlines. TFA ratification.	65