

SHIPPERS COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

18TH April, 2018

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Cooperatives**

TRADE FACILITATION

- The simplification - Paperwork
- Modernization- Procedures
- and harmonization of export and import processes - Customs

BENEFITS

- Reduce red tape
- slash the costs and time needed to export and import goods
- TFA is expected to increase exports from existing traders while also enabling new firms to export for the first time.

BACKGROUND

- On **22 February, 2017**, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement came into force when two thirds of WTO members ratified and deposited their instruments of acceptance.

TFA AGREEMENT

The TFA contains provisions for:

- expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.
- It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.
- It further contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area.

TFA AGREEMENT

- It is the first WTO agreement in which these WTO members can determine their own implementation schedules and in which progress in implementation is explicitly linked to technical and financial capacity.

TFA AGREEMENT

In view of the special and differential provisions, the WTO Trade facilitation agreement allows developing and least developed countries longer transitional periods to implement the agreement. Specifically, it allows for the following transitional periods:

TFA AGREEMENT

- a. **Category A:** Self-designated measures that the Member will implement by the time the agreement enters into force (LDC countries can take an additional year)
- b. **Category B:** Self-designated measures for which the Member will need additional time to implement
- c. **Category C:** Self-designated measures for which the Member will need additional time and technical assistance/capacity building to implement.

Implementing the TFA

- Developed countries have committed to immediately implement the Agreement upon its entry into force.

Implementing the TFA

- Developing countries, meanwhile, will only apply those substantive provisions of the TFA which they have indicated they are in a position to do so from the date of the TFA's entry into force..

Implementing the TFA

- Least-developed countries were given an additional year to do so. These commitments are set out in the submitted Category A notifications.

Implementing the TFA

- **Category B notifications** from developing countries and LDCs list the provisions the WTO member will implement after a transitional period following the entry into force of the TFA.

Implementing the TFA

- **Category C notifications** contain provisions that a developing country or LDC designates for implementation on a date after a transition period and requiring the acquisition of implementation capacity through the provision and assistance of capacity building.

Notifications

- Category A - 112
- Category B - 61
- Category C - 51

Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF)

A Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) was created at the request of developing and least-developed countries to help ensure that they receive the assistance needed to reap the full benefits of the TFA and to support the ultimate goal of full implementation of the agreement by all WTO members.

WTO PROJECTIONS

- The full implementation of the TFA is estimated to reduce global trade costs by an average of 14.3%, with African countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) forecast to enjoy the biggest average reduction in trade costs.
- Full implementation has also been found to potentially reduce the average time needed to import by 47%. Cuts in export time will be even more dramatic: estimates predict a 91% reduction of the current average.

Implementing the TFA

- Section III contains provisions that establish a permanent committee on trade facilitation at the WTO, *require members to have a national committee* to facilitate domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement. It also sets out a few final provisions.

UGANDA`s STATUS

- Notified Category A provisions in 2015
- Cabinet ratified the TFA in 2017
- Constituted a NCTF, TORs developed
- Currently engaging on B & C categories.
- Under Construction: eTrade Portal
- eSingle Window Project

NCTF- Uganda

Among the TORs, the National Committee has to:

- To analyse and consolidate national position on the categories B and C.
- Monitor Implementation of the WTO TF Agreement
- Actively engage in the EAC- TF Standing Committee meetings
- Engage in Trade Facilitation reform e.g. Coordinate implementation of our national commitments.
- Make proposals for funding the implementation of the TF Agreement
- Representative of Logistics: UCIFA

NCTF-UGANDA

- Identify the specific ACTIONS you must take to comply with each measure
- Estimate TIME you will need to implement each measure
- Identify the external TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE you will require to implement each measure (if any)
- Estimate COST to implement ... where possible

EAC STATUS

UGANDA	KENYA	RWANDA	BURUNDI	TANZANIA
	15.12.2015	22.2.2017		
9 Measures	6 Measures	27 Measures	9measures	6 Measures
7.08.2015	29.04.2015	27.04.2015	1-05.2015	5.05.2015

END OF SLIDE

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME