WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TFA/W/41/Rev.8

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Committee on Trade Facilitation Original: English

FIRST REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Revision[1]

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The First Review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA, the Agreement, TF Agreement) is being carried out in 2021 in accordance with the mandate under Article 23.1.6 of the Agreement. Article 23.1.6 provides that "[t]he Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement four years from its entry into force, and periodically thereafter".

1.2. While the mandate in Article 23.1.6 stipulates that the review period starts from the entry into force of the Agreement, in order to capture all notifications submitted by Members, the notification data contained in this factual report covers the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 October 2021.

1.3. Otherwise, this report covers the period from 22 February 2017 to 31 October 2021.

1.4. At its meeting of 3 March 2021, the Committee on Trade Facilitation (TF Committee, Committee, TFC, CTF) adopted a calendar and procedure to undertake the First Review.[2] A first draft factual section of the review, which provided information regarding the implementation and operation issues of the Agreement, as determined by Members during the review period, was circulated in document G/TFA/W/41. A number of written textual edits on the draft factual report, as well as new proposals, were received from Members and were circulated in the G/TFA/W/ document series. These communications were incorporated in draft form into the draft Secretariat's factual report and this document formed the basis of the draft review and was circulated as document G/TFA/W/41/Rev.1. The Committee reviewed the document at its meetings of 20 July 2021 and 22 September 2021. Following the September meeting, a further revision was circulated in document G/TFA/W/41/Rev.2 which was reviewed at a Committee meeting that took place on 13 October 2021. Following the Committee meeting of 19–21 October, the Secretariat circulated document G/TFA/W/41/Rev.3, which reflected the outcome of the discussions at the 13 October and 19-21 October meetings.

1.5. The draft review document is structured according to Sections I, II and III of the Agreement. It also includes quantitative information on the submitted notifications, a description of the thematic and experience sharing sessions, written submissions by Members and other issues relevant to each Section of the Agreement.

1.6. The TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017; ~~developing Members and least-developed country~~ Members have used the flexibilities that this Agreement provides in the process of implementation. By and large, Members concerned (except a few that have not yet ratified the Agreement) notified their categorization of commitments in a timely manner. This is a remarkable achievement, given the very specific and new modalities of Section II of the Agreement. It is worth noting the specific challenges faced by LDC Members, as they are still struggling for fulfilling the notification obligations and therefore less concentrated on benefitting from the Agreement.[3] Developing Members also notified the definitive deadlines for their category B and C commitments - while LDC Members have notified definitive dates of category B and indicative dates of category C commitments. The LDCs have until 22 August 2022 to notify their definitive dates for implementation of their category C commitments. Based on the timelines notified by Members, at the time of the finalization of this report, about 70.5% of the provisions of the Agreement are implemented.

1.7. The next challenge that several Members stressed during the meetings is to find the appropriate means to review and monitor the implementation of the commitments of category A, B and C that are already due for implementation (notably, but not only on transparency) and those that will be due in the years to come. The least developed country Members expressed their views that the next challenge now is to make sure that the measures notified under the category C by the

[2] G/TFA/1.

[3] ~~This is a placeholder for LDC Members to insert their input as suggested during the informal TFC meeting of 22 September 2021 and based on their contributions such as G/TFA/W/58 and G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1.~~

LDCs are fully implemented in a timely manner with support from the donor country Members.
To facilitate this monitoring of the commitments that are due this year (2021) and next year, the WTO Secretariat has produced a document (G/TFA/INF/1) that lists all definitive implementation dates until the end of 2022. It is understood that the WTO Secretariat will keep updating this document.

1.8. The COVID-19 pandemic has represented an unprecedented challenge for all Members' Customs procedures that had to be adjusted to ensure in particular a smooth flow of the goods that are essential to address the pandemic that is still ongoing at the time of the finalization of this report.

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

Presenting comparative trade (export and import) data based on the different groups of Members such as developed, developing, LDCs and LLDCs from the year 2017 to 2020 would be helpful in providing general understanding of the relationship of TFA implementation and global trade facilitated across different groups of Members.

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para 2.6
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

2 SECTION I OF THE TFA

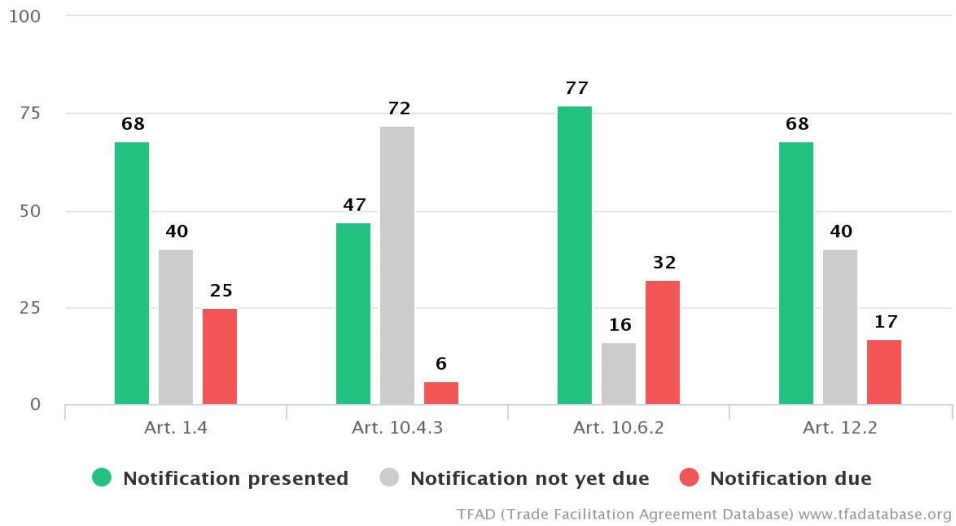
A FACTUAL INFORMATION

2.1 Notifications under Section I of the TFA

2.1. The TFA requires Members to notify the Committee of the following: the publication of information for governments and traders on import, export and transit procedures (Article 1.4); the details of operation of their single window (Article 10.4.3); the use of customs brokers (Article 10.6.2); and details of the contact point for the exchange of customs information (Article 12.2.2). The notifications are due in accordance with each Member's categorization of the transparency provisions, therefore some notifications may have fallen due during the review period and other notifications may not be due until a future date, or after receipt of necessary technical assistance, if the provision is in category C.

2.2. The current status of transparency notifications is shown in Chart 1, below. The number of notifications that have been presented under each transparency provisions are shown in the green column, while the number of notifications that may be in category B or C and are not yet due to be implemented are shown in the grey columns. The number of transparency notifications that are over-due are shown in the red columns.

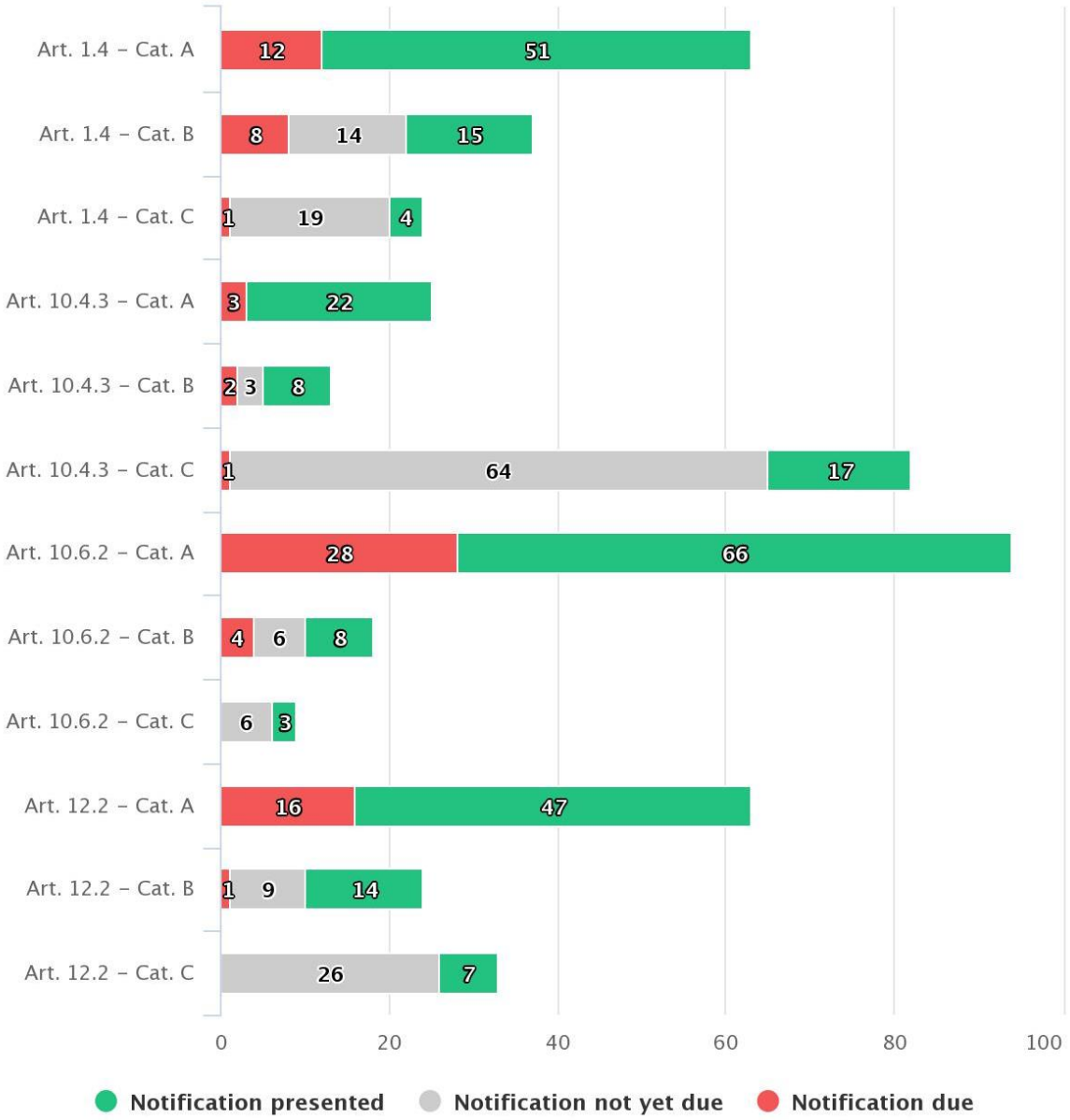
Chart 1: Status of Transparency Notifications by Article



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (https://tfadatabase.org/notifications/transparency/visual-analytics).

2.3. Chart 2 provides further detailed information by separating the notifications under each provision into category A, B and C. The data reflects that the greatest number of notifications not yet due are found in category C. The majority of over-due notifications are in category A.

Chart 2: Status of Transparency Notifications by Article and Category

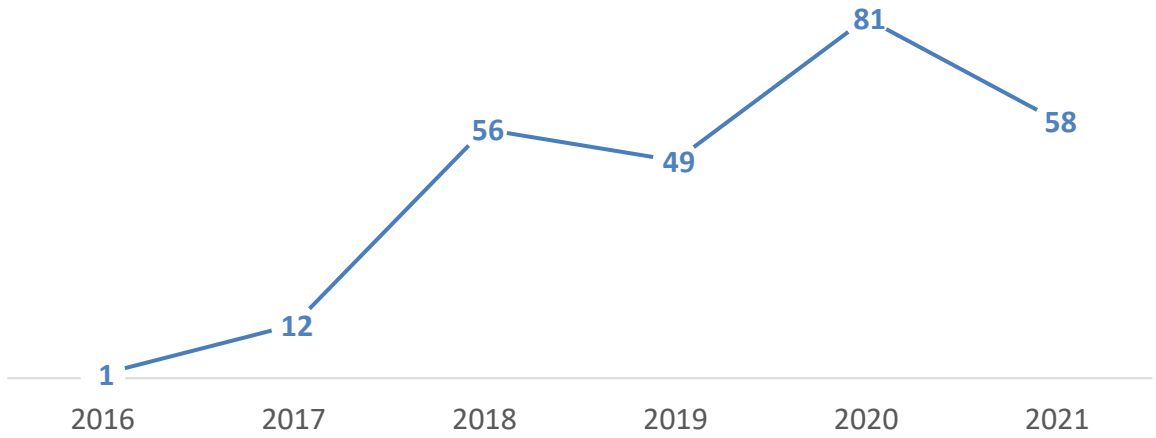


Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (https://tfadatabase.org/notifications/transparency/visual-analytics).

2.4. Chart 3 shows the number of notifications received per calendar year over the period from 1 January 2016, (when the first transparency notification was made) to 31 October 2021.[4] In total, 257 transparency notifications were submitted over this period.

[4] The data reflects the total number of transparency notifications received, including notifications to update information previously submitted, and not the number of Members that submitted transparency notifications.

Chart 3: Number of transparency notifications received per year



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

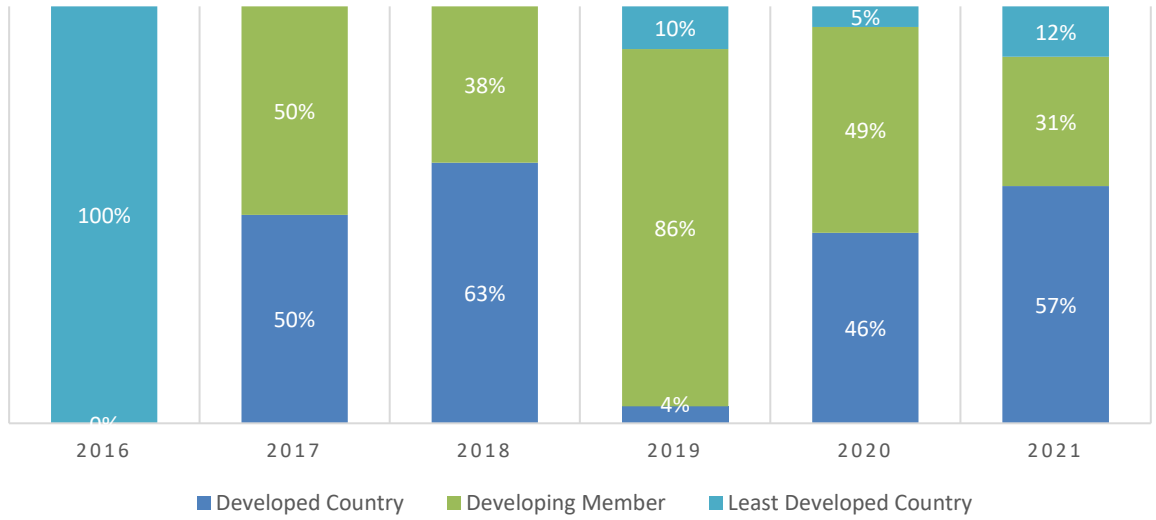
2.5. The cumulative distribution of the transparency notifications submitted by Members is displayed in Table 1.

Table 1: Cumulative break-down of transparency notifications submitted by percentage

Article	Notification	Percentage
Article 1.4	Publication of information for governments and traders on import, export and transit procedures	27%
Article 10.4.3	Details of operation of the single window	22%
Article 10.6.2	Use of customs brokers	26%
Article 12.2.2	Contact point for the exchange of customs information	25%

2.6. Chart 4 shows the percentage of transparency notifications submitted per Member grouping per year.

Chart 4: Percentage of transparency notifications received per Member grouping per year



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

2.7. The information in Chart 4 reflects the implementation of the TFA by developed Members upon entry into force of the Agreement, and the implementation of the Agreement by developing Members and least developed country Members between 2017 and 2021 in accordance with their

self-determined categorization and deadlines. Consequently, the percentage of notifications received per Member per year reflects Members' self-determined dates for implementation of the transparency notifications.

2.2 Experience sharing exercise/thematic discussions

2.8. The first experience-sharing exercise/thematic discussion took place during the fourth meeting of the Committee, held on 2-3 May 2018. Thereafter, it remained as an agenda item for each subsequent Committee meeting. During the review period, a total of 14 experience-sharing exercises took place in relation to provisions under Section I of the TFA. The sharing of experiences by Members took various formats: thematic discussions, cross-cutting issues, and presentations on specific TFA provisions.

2.9. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted Members to intensify their experience sharing on this particular challenge that customs had to face during 2020 and most of 2021. The EU proposal (document G/TFA/W/31/Rev.4) that the WTO Secretariat prepare a compendium of the reported experiences was adopted. The compendium (document G/TFA/W/40/Rev.2) is attached as Annex 1.

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

Section I should elaborate further about the impact of COVID-19 on implementation and measures taken to facilitate trade.

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

2.10. The experience-sharing sessions included the participation of the following international organizations, which comprise some of the so-called "Annex D+ partner organizations": the World Bank Group (WBG), World Customs Organization (WCO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF), a public-private partnership dedicated to international trade facilitation[5], and the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF) a multi-partner initiative[6], also participated in the experience-sharing sessions. The list of presentations is contained in Annex 2, Table 1.

2.11. In total, 29 Members shared their implementation experience with regard to six TFA articles as follows: Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information (5 Members); Article 2: Opportunity to Comment, Information Before Entry Into Force, And Consultations (3 Members); Article 3: Advance Rulings (6 Members); Article 7: Release and Clearance Of Goods (13 Members); Article 10: Formalities Connected With Importation, Exportation And Transit (10 Members); Article 11, and Freedom of Transit (2 Members). See Table 2. A number of Members also made presentations on cross-cutting issues, which are listed in Table 3.

2.12. Article 23.2 of the TFA requires each Member to establish and/or maintain a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA. Seventeen Members took the opportunity to share with the Committee their experiences in both the development and operation of their NCTFs, either through oral presentations or written submissions. Further details regarding experience-sharing on NCTFs are contained in section 4.2.5 of the report entitled "Article 23.2 National Committee on Trade Facilitation".

[5] The Global Alliance is led by the Center for International Private Enterprise, the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Economic Forum, in cooperation with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is currently funded by the governments of the United States, Canada, Germany, Denmark and Australia.

[6] The STDF grew out of a joint communiqué issued by the Heads of FAO, OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001. It is hosted by the WTO Secretariat, supporting increased capacity of developing Members to implement international SPS standards, guidelines and recommendations.

Table 2: Experience-sharing presentations and written communications by Members on Section I provisions

Member	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Ecuador	Publication and availability of information (in Spanish only)	11 February 2020	
Eswatini, Kingdom of	Trade Facilitation Programme and Trade Facilitation Information Portal ETIP	20-22 October 2020	
Jamaica	Jamaica's Trade Information Portal Jamaica's Trade Facilitation Programme	15-16 October 2019	
Tajikistan	Implementation of the TFA measures Tajikistan trade portal video	22 -23 June 2021	
United States	Developing the Article 1.4 notification	25-26 June 2019	G/TFA/W/13
Zambia	Launch of the Zambia Trade Information Portal		G/TFA/W/34
Article 2: Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-discrimination and Transparency			
European Union	EU implementation of Article 2 of the TFA	26 June 2018	
Paraguay	Implementation of Article 2 of the TFA and update of progress on TFA implementation	19-21 October 2021	
United States	The Role of Notice and Comment and Related Administrative Procedures in Trade Facilitation Implementation	26 June 2018	G/TFA/W/6
Article 3: Advance Rulings			
Australia	Australia Advance Rulings - Presentation	12-13 February 2019	G/TFA/W/11
Bahrain, Kingdom of on behalf of Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates	Experience with Advance rulings		G/TFA/W/61
Japan	Advance Rulings - Japan's experience	12-13 February 2019	
Madagascar	Madagascar's experience with implementation of Article 3 of the TFA and implementation of the e-Phyto solution	19-20 July 2021	
Singapore	Singapore - Advance Rulings	9-11 October 2018	
Ukraine	Advanced rulings Advanced rulings - key points	11 February 2020	
United States	Speaking points - The role of advance rulings and administrative procedures in TFA implementation	9-11 October 2018	G/TFA/W/7
Article 5: Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency			
United States	The role of second test procedures in trade facilitation		G/TFA/W/48
Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods			
Australia	Australia's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program - Australian Trusted Trader Video: Australian Trusted Trader - an overview	9-11 October 2018	G/TFA/W/9
Brazil	Brazil's AEO programme	9-11 October 2018	
	Time release study	22-23 March 2021	G/TFA/W/33
Cambodia	Shifting Category C to B - Article 7.9 Perishable goods	22-23 April 2021	
China	China's AEO programme	9-11 October 2018	
European Union	The EU Authorised Economic Operator AEO Programme	9-11 October 2018	

Member	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Guatemala	Guatemala's AEO programme - Presentación del programa de operador económico autorizado en Guatemala	9-11 October 2018	
	Estudio de tiempos de despacho	20-22 October 2020	
Hong Kong, China	Implementation of the AEO Programme in Hong Kong China	9-11 October 2018	G/TFA/W/8
Korea, Republic of	Korea AEO programme	15-16 October 2019	
Sri Lanka	WCO Time Release Study – Sri Lanka's experience	11 February 2020	
Tonga	Implementation of TFA Article 7.8 expedited shipments for the importation of Covid-19 vaccine	19-21 October 2021	
United States	US Cargo time release study phase two executive summary	11 February 2020	G/TFA/W/21
Uruguay	Plazos medios de levante y programa de Operador Económico Autorizado en aplicación del AFC	25-26 June 2019	G/TFA/W/12
Zambia	Authorised Economic Operators AEO - Customs Accredited Client Programme	9-11 October 2018	
Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation			
Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay	Border Agency Cooperation		G/TFA/W/22
Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Brazil	Single window implementation in Brazil	9-11 October 2018	
	TFA implementation in Brazil through Public-Private Partnership		
China	Single Window in China	15-16 October 2019	
European Union	Special procedures processing and temporary admission Room document	12-13 February 2019	
Kazakhstan	Implementation of the TFA using the example of single window for import and export operations	19-21 October 2021	
Korea, Republic of	Single Window in Korea	9-11 October 2018	
Malaysia	ASEAN statement - Discussions on single window	9-11 October 2018	
Rwanda/ UNCTAD	UNCTAD Compendium of Good Practices UNCTAD and Rwanda	15-16 October 2019	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Overview of Trade Facilitation Initiatives in Saudi Customs	9-11 October 2018	
The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	CPT Single Window	15-16 October 2019	
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Electronic Single Window	19-21 October 2021	

Member	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Article 11: Freedom of Transit			
European Union	EU Customs Transit Procedures Including Arrangements with a Number of Neighbouring Countries Under the Common Transit Convention EU Non Paper - European Union Customs Transit including arrangements with neighbouring countries under the Common Transit Convention	2-3 May 2018	
Kyrgyz Republic	Provision on the national transit coordinator		G/TFA/W/16
Mongolia	Provision on the national transit coordinator		G/TFA/W/18
Switzerland	Implementation of National and International Transit Procedures	9-11 October 2018	

Table 3: Experience-sharing presentations and written communications by Members on cross-cutting issues

Member	Presentation	Committee Meeting	Document Symbol
China	Approaches to Planning for Future Experience Sharing among Members	26 June 2018	
	Implementation of WTO TFA by China Customs	2-3 May 2018	
	Accelerated Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Through China's Smart Governance in Customs Administration Explanation of powerpoint presentation	22-23 June 2021	G/TFA/W/44
Costa Rica	Costa Rica statement	11 February 2020	
Ecuador	Global Alliance cooperation to strengthen the implementation of the TFA with public-private participation	19-21 October 2021	
El Salvador	Central American Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness Strategy with Emphasis on Coordinated Border Management (in Spanish only)		
Guatemala	Trade Facilitation Through a Regional Lens	26 June 2018	
Jordan	Elimination of the consularization requirement		G/TFA/W/23
Moldova, Republic of	Moldova's National Action Plan on Trade Facilitation	2-3 May 2018	
Mongolia	Information on Articles 5.1, 5.3, 7.2, 9 and 10.5		G/TFA/W/32
Morocco	Implementation of the TFA through a public-private partnership	11 February 2020	
Multiple (United States and Norway)	Revisiting the need for global action to eliminate consularization requirements		G/TFA/W/38
Nepal	Implementing the TFA – shifting 11 provisions from category C to category B	22-23 June 2021	
North Macedonia	Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation - Some Practical Aspects	2-3 May 2018	
United States	Communication from the United States - Sharing of experiences	11 February 2020	G/TFA/W/19
	Opportunities for MSMEs - Statement by The United States The Trade Facilitation Agreement: A World of Opportunities for MSMEs	22 April 2021 – 23 April 2021	

2.3 Experience sharing by Members on trade facilitating measures taken to mitigate the COVID-19 Crisis

2.13. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the TF Committee held an informal Committee meeting on 30 September 2020 to provide an opportunity to Members to inform the Committee of trade facilitating measures that they had adopted in response to COVID-19. The meeting started with updates from the ITC, the WBG, the WCO, UNCTAD and GATF on their work in this area. The organizations presented their work under the following headings: ITC - "*Continuing TACB during the times of pandemics - ITC experience*"; WBG - "*The World Bank Group response to trade facilitation during the COVID crisis*"; WCO - "*What Customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic*"; World Economic Forum (GATF) "*COVID impact on trade facilitation – observations, challenges and opportunities*"; and UNCTAD "*Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19*".

2.14. The TF Committee instructed the Secretariat to compile a compendium document of the contributions of COVID-19 responses that the TFC Members and Observers have provided to the TFC and is available in document G/TFA/W/40/Rev.2. The compendium also includes presentations made to the Committee by a number of Annex D+ partner organizations. Links to the presentations made by Members and Annex D+ partner organizations are included in the compendium.

2.15. The following seven Members reported to the Committee on the trade facilitating measures that they had undertaken: the Dominican Republic; the European Union; Guatemala; Japan; Nepal (as a focal point of the Core Group on Trade Facilitation of the LDC Group); Switzerland; and the United States.

2.16. The Ottawa Group, which includes Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the European Union, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland, introduced a communication circulated in document G/TFA/W/24 which compiled the COVID-19 measures taken by its members. Brazil, Colombia and the United States introduced a joint communication entitled "Supporting the Timely and Efficient Release of Global Goods Through Accelerated Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement" which was circulated in document G/TFA/W/25.

2.17. Members continued to share information on the trade facilitating measures that they had taken to mitigate COVID-19 at the Committee meetings of 21-22 October 2020, 26-27 January 2021, 3 March 2021, 22-23 April 2021, 22-23 June 2021, and 19-21 October 2021.

2.18. At the meeting of 21-22 October 2020, the following Members informed the Committee of the trade facilitating measures that they had taken to mitigate COVID-19: the European Union "Paper-based proofs of Preferential Origin under Covid-19 crisis"; the US updated the Committee on the communication entitled "Supporting The Timely And Efficient Release Of Global Goods Through Accelerated Implementation Of The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement" (G/TFA/W/25); Paraguay "*Ventanilla única del exportador – medidas en época de pandemia*"; Nepal "Trade and Transit Facilitation – Nepal's experience; Canada "e-Longroom: an Emerging Digital Customs Strategy"; Afghanistan "Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan"; Mongolia "Implementation of the TFA by Mongolia"; Japan "Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19; the Dominican Republic "*Medidas temporales adoptadas por la República Dominicana en respuesta al COVID-19*", and India introduced its communication entitled "Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 Trade Facilitation Measures" circulated in document G/TFA/W/26. Saint Lucia, The Netherlands, and the EU provided additional information.

2.19. At the meeting of 22-23 April 2021, the following Members informed the Committee of the trade facilitating measures that they had taken to mitigate COVID-19: Cambodia "Mitigating COVID-19 – Article 10.4 Single Window"; and Turkey "Outcomes of Turkey's electronic customs procedures in line with TFA on international supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic".

2.20. At the meeting of 19-21 October, Tonga informed the Committee of its experience in implementing Article 7.8 expedited shipments to facilitate the importation of COVID-19 Vaccine.

2.21. A number of Annex D+ partner organizations made presentations to the Committee during these meetings regarding the support that they were providing to Members during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations are listed in Annex 2, Table 2.

2.4 Specific Trade Concerns

Kazakhstan – Border Restrictions of Goods in Transit – Request from the Kyrgyz Republic (G/TFA/W/20; G/TFA/W/20/Corr.1; G/TFA/W/20/Add.1)

2.22. The Committee addressed one matter concerning a specific trade concern that was raised at its meeting of 11 February 2020.[7] The Kyrgyz Republic raised a concern regarding Kazakhstan's treatment of its goods transiting to the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan considered that the issue should be addressed within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, to which they both are members.

2.5 Involvement of the private sector

2.23. If and how the private sector can be involved in the Trade facilitation Committee is still under discussion by Members. However, on 22 April 2021, at the margins of the meeting of the TFC, the Global Express Association (GEA), which represents DHL, FedEx and UPS, organized a webinar to which the Committee was invited.

B MEMBERS' PROPOSALS UNDER SECTION I OF THE TFA UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

2.24. The proposals under this section were submitted by Members during the first review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. At the time of concluding the review, consensus had not yet been reached by the Committee on the proposals included in this section. To allow for further consideration and possible adoption of these proposals by the Committee, Section 9 of this report includes a decision that an agenda item be added to the Trade Facilitation Committee agenda entitled "Follow-up to the four-year review".

Proposal from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen And Matsu, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay.

Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

G/TFA/W/25/Rev.7 (Document series G/TFA/W/25)
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

Proposal from Brazil, Costa Rica, European Union, Norway, Switzerland and the United States

WTO Members should utilize the tools afforded to them in TFA Article 10.1 to review their trade requirements and minimize unnecessary and costly formalities, including consularization requirements. National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) can look to the private sector as a critical and important first step in identifying needless bottlenecks. The private sector and Members have identified consularization requirements as one such bottleneck because it fails to contribute to legitimate customs-related processes. Therefore, during this time of economic global crisis, we call on Members to eliminate consularization requirements to fulfil their TFA Article 10.1 commitment to reduce and eliminated unnecessary and costly formalities.

G/TFA/W/38/Rev.3 (Document series G/TFA/W/38)
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

[7] G/L/1375 and G/TFA/M/10.

Proposal from Brazil
With the intention of improving the implementation of the provisions related to risk management, pre-arrival processing and customs cooperation, provided for in Articles 7.1, 7.3 and 12 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the WTO, Brazil understands that a new approach is essential, one which encourages customs to implement the exchange, by electronic means, of information and data that are normally provided to them by traders involved in foreign trade operations.
Therefore, where permitted by the laws and regulations in force in each member, and within the available resources of their respective Customs administrations, and based on the bilateral agreements, we encourage those members that already have international agreements with this type of provision to consider the implementation of bilateral mechanisms for the advance electronic transmission of data from their export declarations and the automatic and regular exchange of data on their imports and exports, for risk management purposes. Likewise, while there are no multilateral agreements in that regard, we encourage the other members to pursue this kind of bilateral agreements.

G/TFA/W/51/Rev.1 paras. 7-8
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

3 SECTION II OF THE TFA

A FACTUAL INFORMATION

3.1 Notifications under Section II of the TFA

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

The addition of a brief analysis of tables would further add value.

G/TFA/W/59, para. 2.2
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

Include a table in section 3 of the report on the number of LDC Member notifications under categories A, B, and C by article, with analysis of provisions most LDC Members have notified in the same category. This could give Members an idea of those articles LDC Members share in common within the relevant categories.

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para. 2.3
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries
It could be useful to include in the factual report a separate section on LDC Members with a brief assessment of both challenges and achievements. The development of a section on LDC Members might have lessons learnt on what worked and existing gaps. This could assist in easily identifying the situation of the LDC Members in TFA implementation and areas for collaboration.

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para. 2.8
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

3.1.1 Notifications by Members under Articles 15 and 16

3.1. Developing and least-developed country Members invoking the special flexibilities contained in Section II of the TFA are required to notify the Committee in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 of the TFA. The timeline for notification obligations under Articles 15 and 16 is outlined in Table 4.

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

Include a table in section 3 of the report on the number of LDC Members notifications under categories A, B, and C by article, with analysis of provisions most LDC Members have notified in the same category. This could give Members an idea of those articles LDC Members share in common within the relevant categories. This could provide a sense of the provisions different LDC Members see as the most difficult or requiring assistance under category C.

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para. 2.3
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

Table 4: Timeline of Notification Obligations under Articles 15 and 16 of the TFA

2017		
22 February	Developing Members	• Notify designations of categories A, B and/or C • Provide indicative implementation dates for category B and category C designations • Provide TACB requirements for category C designations
2018		
22 February	Developing Members	• Provide definitive dates for category B designations • Provide information on arrangements entered with Donors on TACB for category C designations
22 February	Least-developed country Members	• Notify designations of categories A, B and/or C • May notify indicative implementation dates for category B designations
22 February	Donor Members	• Provide information on arrangements entered with developing Members on TACB for category C designations
2019		
22 February	Least-developed country Members	• Provide TACB requirement for category C designations
22 August	Developing Members	• Provide definitive implementation dates for category C designations • Inform of progress in TACB provision for category C designations
22 August	Donor Members	• Inform of progress in TACB provision for category C designations of developing Members
2020		
22 February	Least-developed country Members	• Provide definitive dates for category B designations
2021		
22 February	Least-developed country Members	• Provide indicative dates for category C designations • Provide information on arrangements entered with Donors on TACB for category C designations
22 February	Donor Members	• Provide information on arrangements entered with LDC Members on TACB for category C designations
2022		
22 August	Least-developed country Members	• Provide definitive dates for category C designations • Inform of progress in TACB provision for category C designations
22 August	Donor Members	• Inform of progress in TACB provision for category C designations of LDC Members

3.1.2 Status of Notifications under Articles 15 and 16

3.2. During the review period, a total of 125 Members - 90 developing Members and 35 least developed country Members - notified their category A B C designations. Out of the 125 Members, approximately 95% presented all of their category designations, approximately 2% presented some category designations while approximately 4% have not presented any designations. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the numbers between developing Members and least developed country Members.

Table 5: Category A B C Designations

ABC Designations	Overall		Developing Members		LDC Members	
Notification Timeline			22/02/2017		22/02/2018	
Number of developing and LDC Members	125		90		35	
Members that have presented ALL designations	119	95%	87[8]	97%	32[9]	91%
Members that have NOT presented ANY designations	4	4%	1[10]	2%	3[11]	9%
Members that have presented SOME designations	2	2%	2[12]	2%	0	0%

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

3.3. Table 6 provides detailed information regarding the approximately 4% of Members that have not presented any category designations. The data reflects notifications of both indicative and definitive dates of implementation for categories B and C that remain outstanding as of 31 October 2021.

Table 6: Notifications and expired deadlines under Articles 15 and 16

Notifications and expired deadlines	Developing Members	Least-developed country Members	Total Outstanding Notifications
ABC Designations	22/02/2017	22/02/2018	6
	3	3	
Category B indicative dates		22/02/2018	1
		1	
Category B definitive dates	22/02/2018	22/02/2020	8
	1	2	
Extension agreed to 21/02/2021		5	
Category C indicative dates	22/08/2019		2
	2		
Category C definitive dates	22/02/2021	N/A[13]	3
	3		
Category C TA requirements	22/02/2017	22/02/2019	10
	4	6	

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

[8] Albania; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Armenia; Kingdom of Bahrain; Barbados; Belize; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Cabo Verde; Cameroon; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Cote d'Ivoire; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Kingdom of Eswatini; Fiji; Gabon; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Israel; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Mauritius; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Namibia; Nicaragua; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Singapore; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Suriname; The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tajikistan; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Viet Nam; Zimbabwe.

[9] Afghanistan; Angola; Bangladesh; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cambodia; Central African Republic; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Djibouti; The Gambia; Guinea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal; Niger; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; Tanzania; Togo; Uganda; Zambia.

[10] Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

[11] Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Yemen.

[12] The State of Kuwait, Qatar.

[13] Deadline for notification of category C definitive dates for Least-developed country Members is 22 August 2022.

Table 7: Forthcoming Notification Deadline under Article 16

Notification	Deadline	Members	Notifications received by 31 Oct 2021
Category C definitive dates	22/08/2022	Least-developed country Members	8[14]

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

3.4. During the period under review, much of the Committee's work was focused on the receipt of notifications submitted by Members under those two Articles.

Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries

Under the para 3.2, it would be appreciated if a summary of constraints and achievements of LDC Members could be incorporated in the draft for a general understanding on the issues and challenges faced and lessons of what has worked to resolve challenges. The section could commence with the following drawn from our submission for the review G/TFA/W/58.

Insert the following text:

"The LDC Group has reported challenges and achievements so far in G/TFA/W/58 based on an internal survey that it devised and conducted. Based on the information received so far and information from the WTO Secretariat, most LDC Members completed notification obligations. In many cases, LDC Members are doing better than what was expected in terms of notifications. However, there are a number of LDC Members that require extensions of time as indicated in paragraph 3.7 of the factual report. However, effective implementation of all the measures notified under the category C measures by the LDC Members is important but challenging. Therefore, additional support from donor Members is desired in the areas of implementation of the measures identified under category C. The gaps in technical and financial support still exist.

Initial problems were found in understanding the Agreement, which impacted the categorization process, the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, as well as involvement of various relevant departments responsible for the corresponding provisions. Assistance from various institutions and partners as well as the organization of the regular session on technical assistance and capacity building mechanism helped Members to overcome these challenges. Moreover, for some, the process of gradually adapting the laws and procedures also contributed to understanding of the agreement. Provisions most difficult or easier to implement so far varied among Members but some provisions were common to a number of Members. Staff training and capacity building remain imperative for sustained implementation. Continuous reform and modernization of customs administration, and cooperation among all stakeholders were also highlighted. For the support received by those who submitted responses, it is clear that different institutional and bilateral assistance were helpful. Methods used by some LDC Members to resolve difficulties included workshops, interactions, and regular monitoring.

Turning to the perceptions of LDC Member traders on the impact of the TFA, indeed improvements were cited in transparency of measures, automation, streamlined procedures, and cooperation among actors in the supply chain; operationalization of single window; and 24/7 operation of port services were also commended. On the other hand, LDC Member traders also noted some difficulties while interacting with some relevant agencies in trade facilitation, which had not yet joined the single window. Similarly, SPS and TBT standards in markets abroad remained problematic; infrastructure problems such as condition of roads, ICT infrastructure, trade logistics, and transit problems, among others were also mentioned as constraints. Some desired improvements cited by LDC Members included:

- The facilitation of LDC Member exports into other markets, transparency of rules in those markets, and the release of those goods in the destination markets are needed.
- Problems are still faced in transit cases where Article 11.2 is yet to be observed and challenges remain on the release of LDC Member goods in other markets.
- Reduction of non-tariff barriers including more transparent and supportive SPS and TBT measures of trading partners are expected.
- Capacity constraints, technology constraints, and limited awareness, among others are hindering implementation of TFA in most LDC Members.
- The gaps in assistance are now much concentrated to implementation of category C provisions.
- Effective implementation of those category C measures has a strong connection with significant additional support from development partners in terms of resource, technological, institutional and human capacity building.

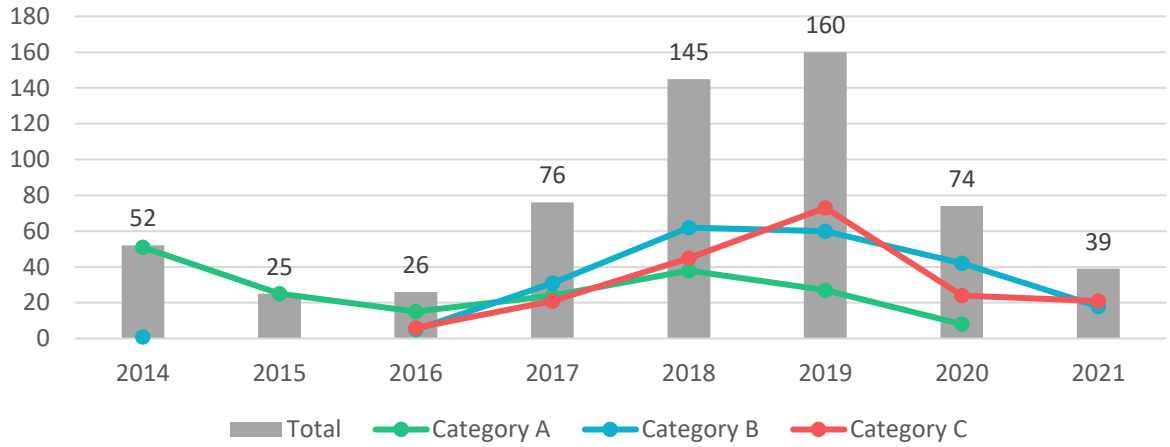
[14] Angola, Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia. Central African Republic has notified some category C definitive dates.

- In this context, donor Members are encouraged to extend additional support in implementation of category C provisions in the LDC Members mainly based on the technical assistance requirement notification and consultations in respective capitals.
- Additionally, landlocked least-developed country Members have further difficulties, especially within their territory, to develop and maintain sufficient trade infrastructure including ICT infrastructure.
- Trade facilitation for LDC Members requires bridging a huge digital gap and the connection of the entire domestic business with an ICT system and e-commerce and then linked with the cross-border trade."

G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para. 2.5
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

3.5. Chart 5 shows the number of notifications submitted by Members under Articles 15 and 16 over the period from 2014 to 2021. The data indicates that the highest number of notifications containing this information was received in 2018 and 2019. This would reflect the notification timeline contained in Table 4 which shows that both 2018 and 2019 each contained three notification deadlines, which was more than in any other year of the notification timeline. During the period under review, all but two Members[15] submitted their definitive dates for implementation of category B designations and C designations.

Chart 5: Category A, B and C notifications per year



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

3.6. In accordance with the flexibilities under Section II, each of the approximately 36 measures within the 12 articles of Section I of the Agreement can be categorized. Analyzing the notification data in more detail shows the percentage breakdown of TFA provisions by category. According to the notifications, just over 50% of the measures were designated in category A; 18% of the TFA measures were designated in category B and over 27% of measures were designated in category C. See Chart 6 below.

3.7. The notification data can also be disaggregated by Member groupings which allows for a clearer picture to emerge as to how categorization breaks down within different groupings. For example, Chart 7 indicates that developing Members have a greater share of provisions in category A compared to LDC Members, while LDC Members have assigned more provisions in category C compared to developing countries. Developing Members have a substantially greater number of provisions in category A compared to categories B and C, while LDC Members have a greater number of provisions in category C compared to categories A and B.

[15] Djibouti and Mauritania.

Chart 6: Share of Categories, A, B, C

Based on % of all notifiable article items

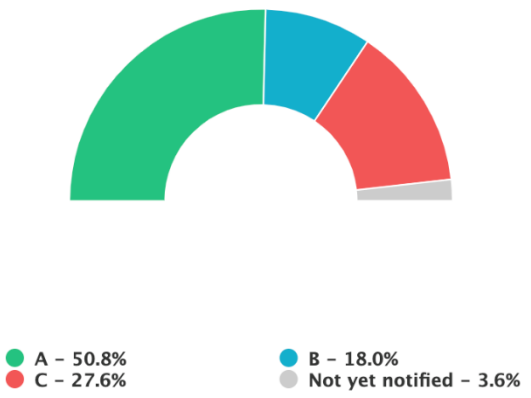


Chart 7: Share of Categories, A, B, C by grouping

Based on % of all notifiable article items



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

3.1.3 Rate of implementation commitments

3.8. Based on the implementation commitment notifications, it is possible to see the rate of implementation commitments, as well as the varying rate of implementation commitments across provisions at the end of the four-year review period.

3.9. Compiling all the notification information regarding A, B and C categorization by Members, the data indicates that, across the WTO membership, the five measures with the highest rate of implementation commitments are: pre-shipment inspection (Article 10.5); movement of goods (Article 9); detention (Article 5.2); use of customs brokers (Article 10.6); and, and temporary admission of goods (article 10.9). See Chart 8. The data shows that for the most part, the measures with the current highest rate of implementation commitments also have the greatest categorization of the provision in A.

3.10. On the other hand, the five measures with the lowest rate of implementation commitments are: risk management (Article 7.4); border agency cooperation (Article 8); test procedures (Article 5.3); authorized operators (Article 7.7); and the single window (Article 10.4) See Chart 9. According to the notified implementation data, the bottom five measures have the greatest categorization of the provision in C.

Chart 8: Top five measures with highest rate of implementation commitments

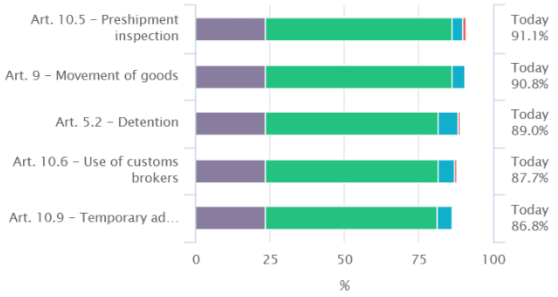
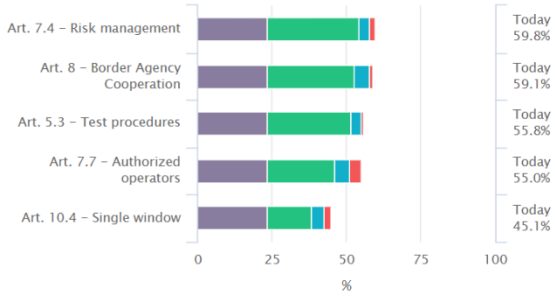


Chart 9: Bottom five measures with lowest rate of implementation commitments



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

3.11. In order to provide a picture of the rate of implementation commitments of the TFA at the end of the first four-year review of the Agreement, the following three charts provide a breakdown

of the rate of implementation commitments by Members for all measures. is provided in the following charts.

3.12. Chart 10 shows the current rate of implementation commitments of developing and LDC Members according to categorization of each measure. This chart expands on charts 8 and 9 above.

3.13. Chart 11 focuses on the current rate of implementation commitments by measures for developing Members only. The chart reflects a very slight variation in the five measures with the highest and lowest rates of implementation commitments.

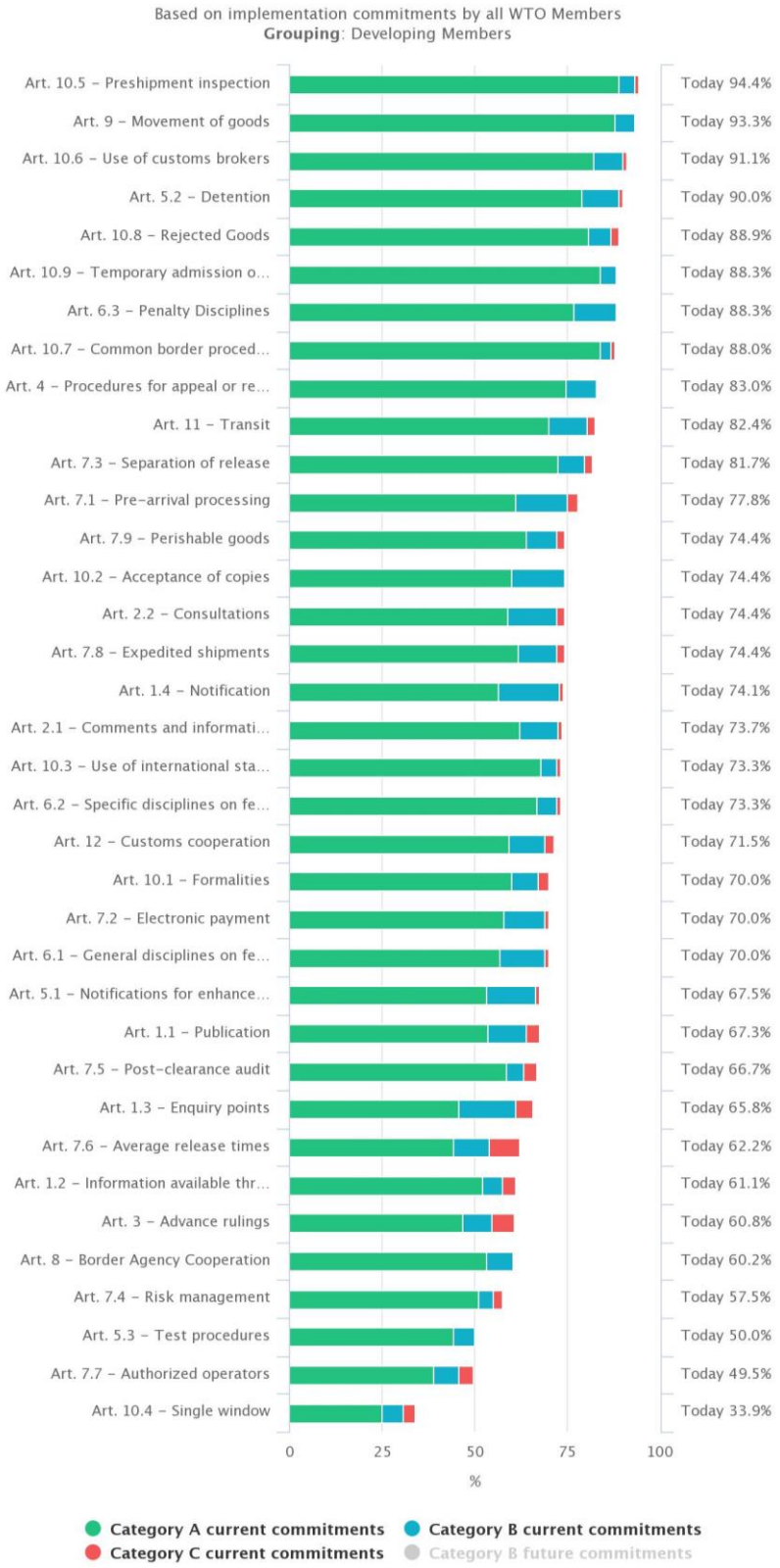
3.14. Chart 12 shows the current rate of implementation commitments by measure for LDC Members. Additional detailed information regarding the implementation of the TFA by LDC Members is contained in Section 6 of this report.

Chart 10: Current rate of implementation commitments by measure (Developing and LDC Members)



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

Chart 11: Current rate of implementation commitments by measure (Developing Members)



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

Chart 12. Current rate of implementation commitments by measure (LDC Members)



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

3.1.4 Requests for extension of the deadline for the notification of definitive dates for category B measures by LDC Members

3.15. In 2020, nine LDC Members notified requests for an extension of the deadline for the notification of definitive dates for category B measures.[16] Between 13 to 22 February 2020, seven LDC Members requested an extension. The Committee met on 20 February 2020 in order to make a decision before the 22 February 2020 deadline. Subsequently, the Committee received two further notifications of requests for extension on 21 February 2020 and the Committee held a second meeting on 28 February.[17] The Committee agreed to all nine requests for an extension of the deadline.[18] As of 31 October 2021, two of the nine requesting Members have not notified their definitive dates for category B measures.[19]

3.16. The notification data for 2020 includes the requests for an extension.

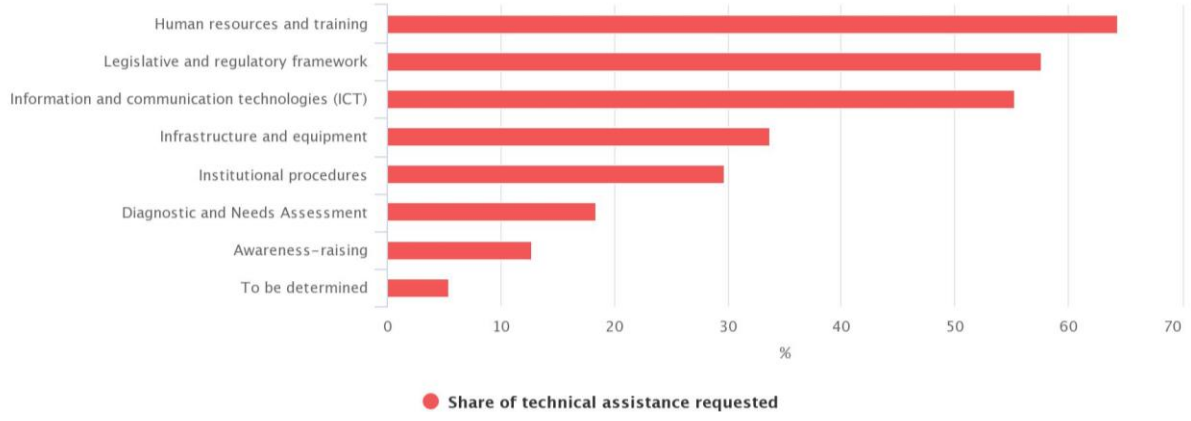
3.1.5 Notifications on technical assistance and capacity building support for category C designations

3.17. Article 16 requires that Members provide three notifications regarding technical assistance and capacity building (TACB) for category C designations: notification by Members of TACB requirements for implementation of their category C designations; notification of information on arrangements entered into with Donors; and notification of progress in TACB provision.

3.18. Over the review period, a total of 85 Members notified the TACB support that was required in order to implement their category C designations, while three Members made partial notifications of their TACB needs. The notified TACB needs were broken down into seven broad headings: awareness-raising; diagnostic and needs assessment; human resources and training; information and communication technologies; infrastructure and equipment; institutional procedures, and legislative and regulatory framework. Explanations of the categories are provided on the Technical assistance page of TFA Database Website.

3.19. Of the 88 notifications received, 61 notifications were received from developing Members. A breakdown of those notifications indicated that the top three needs identified by developing Members were with respect to (1) human resources and training; (2) assistance in amending laws or regulations or implementing new ones; and (3) information and communication technologies (ICTs). See Chart 13.

Chart 13: Type of technical assistance required by Developing Members



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

[16] LDC Members may request the Committee to grant an extension of the deadline to submit its definitive dates for category B under Article 16:2 (b) of the TFA.

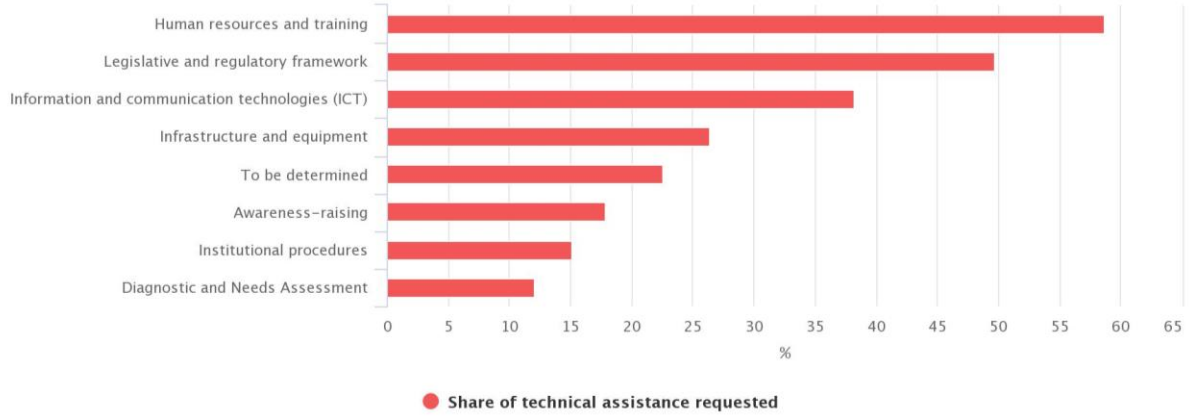
[17] The meetings of 20 and 28 February were convened under Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council, which through its own rules of procedure, apply mutatis mutandis to the TFC.

[18] Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Lao PDR, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands.

[19] Djibouti and Mauritania.

3.20. Twenty-seven LDC Members notified their TACB needs. The breakdown of their needs closely resembles that of developing Members with the major difference being the greater significance of "to be determined". Further details regarding the TACB needs of LDCs are to be found in Section 6 "Least developed country Members" of this report.

Chart 14: Type of technical assistance required by least developed Members



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

> **Proposed textual edit to the factual report from the Least Developed Countries**
>
> Chart 8 represents the type of technical assistance required based on the notifications. It would be appreciated if LDC Member specific information could also be presented in this Chart.
>
> G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1, para. 2.7
> *Proposal under consideration by the CTF*

3.21. Over the review period, notifications of information on arrangements entered into with donors plus notifications on progress made on TACB comprised six notifications from developing Members and 11 notifications from least-developed country Members. See Table 8.

3.22. Not all members with category C commitments have notified aid received and/or identified gaps in capacity building needed to implement their category C commitments.

3.23. In accordance with Article 16, donors are also required to submit a notification on arrangements and progress made with regard to TACB. There have been no notifications received from donor Members during the period under review.

Table 8: Number of donor arrangements and progress notifications received per year, per grouping

Years	Developing Members	Least Developed Country Members
2019	1	1
2020	4	1
2021	1	9

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

3.1.6 Notifications under Article 17

3.24. In 2019, the Committee received four requests for the extension of definitive dates for implementation of category B and C commitments under Article 17 of the TFA ("Early Warning Mechanism"). One request[20] did not exceed 18 months. In line with Article 17.2 of the TFA, the

[20] Belize (G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.1 and Corr.1).

requested extension was therefore automatically granted without any further action by the Committee.

3.25. Three requests[21] were for an extension of implementation dates exceeding 18 months. These requests were considered by the Committee, as indicated in Article 17.4, and granted.

3.26. In 2020, the Committee received six requests for an extension of definitive dates for implementation of category B and C commitments. Requests submitted by four Members[22] did not exceed 18 months. In line with Article 17.2 of the TFA, the requested extensions were therefore automatically granted without any further action by the Committee.

3.27. Requests from two Members[23] for an extension to their implementation dates were submitted after the deadline set out in Article 17.1 of the TFA, which requires requests to be notified to the Committee no later than 120 days for developing Members and 90 days for least-developed country Members before the expiration of the previously notified implementation date. There was no consensus in the Committee to approve the requests. In order to avoid repetition of such situations, the Committee was of the view that a tool such as the document G/TFA/INF/1 provided by the WTO Secretariat was of added value.

3.28. In 2021, the Committee received 13 requests for an extension of definitive dates for implementation of category B and C commitments. Eight[24] did not exceed 18 months. In line with Article 17.2 of the TFA, the requested extensions were therefore automatically granted without any further action by the Committee. One request from a Member[25] was for an extension of its implementation date exceeding 18 months. There were no objections from the Committee to this request.

3.29. In addition, the Committee reviewed four requests from Members[26] which did not adhere to the deadline set out in Article 17.1. There was no consensus in the Committee to approve the requests.

Table 9: Status of notifications under Article 17 – Extension of Implementation Dates

Extension of Implementation Dates	Overall Membership	Developing Members	Least-Developed Country Member
Number of Members that have requested extension of time of already notified definitive dates	21	21	-
Number of Members that have shifted categories with extended definitive dates	5	5	-
Number of extension requests received per measure	71	71	-
Number of extension requests applied per measures	33	33	-
Number of extension requests not applied per measure	21	21	-

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (https://tfadatabase.org/notifications/extension-of-implementation-dates).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

[21] Jamaica (G/TFA/N/JAM/1/Add.2), Kyrgyz Republic (G/TFA/N/KGZ/2/Add.1 and Corr.1), Samoa (G/TFA/N/WSM/1/Add.1).
[22] Nicaragua (G/TFA/N/NIC/1/Add.2), Pakistan (G/TFA/N/PAK/1/Add.3), the Philippines (G/TFA/N/PHL/1/Add.1) and St. Kitts and Nevis (G/TFA/N/KNA/1/Add.1).
[23] Bahrain (G/TFA/N/BHR/1/Add.1) and Samoa (G/TFA/N/WSM/1/Add.2).
[24] Botswana (G/TFA/N/BWA/1/Add.2), Dominican Republic (G/TFA/N/DOM/1/Add.2), Ecuador (G/TFA/N/ECU/1/Add.3), Maldives (G/TFA/N/MDV/3/Add.1), Namibia (G/TFA/N/NAM/1/Add.1), Saint Lucia (G/TFA/N/LCA/1/Add.2), Sri Lanka (G/TFA/N/LKA/1/Add.2), and the United Arab Emirates (G/TFA/N/ARE/1/Add.1).
[25] Mongolia (G/TFA/N/MNG/1/Add.1).
[26] Belize (G/TFA/N/BLZ/1/Add.2), Peru (G/TFA/N/PER/1/Add.1), Tonga (G/TFA/N/TON/1/Add.3) and Ukraine (G/TFA/N/UKR/1/Add.3).

3.30. A document tracking implementation dates from 1 May 2021 to 31 December 2022 was circulated in document G/TFA/INF/1 as a reminder to Members of upcoming implementation dates. This document will be updated on an annual basis until all notified implementation dates have passed.

3.1.7 Notifications under Article 19 of the TFA

Table 10: Status of Notifications Under Article 19 - Shifting of categories

Category Shifts	Overall Membership	Developing Members	Least-Developed Country Member
Members			
Number of Members that have shifted categories from B to C	17	7	10
Number of Members that have shifted categories from C to B	19	14	5
Number of Members that have shifted categories with extended definitive dates	5	5	0
Measures			
Number of measures shifted between categories	95	55	40
Number of measures shifted from B to C	38	16	22
Number of measures shifted from C to B	57	39	18
Number of measures shifted with extended definitive dates	11	11	0

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (https://tfadatabase.org/category-shifts).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

3.1.8 Notifications under Article 22 of the TFA

3.31. Article 22.1 and 22.2 of the TFA require donor Members to notify information regarding their technical assistance arrangements and the process and mechanisms to receive assistance. Article 22.3 requires beneficiary Members to notify contact details with regard to technical assistance.

3.32. Over the period of the review, 17 donor Members submitted 46 notifications under Articles 22.1 and 22.2. Fifty-one developing and LDC Members submitted 61 notifications under Article 22.3. Further details can be found on the Trade Facilitation Agreement Database.

Table 11: Status of Notifications on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building under Article 22

Article 22.1	Article 22.2	Article 22.3
Notification of support for capacity building disbursed by Donor Members	Notification of process and mechanisms to obtain assistance from Donor Members	Notification of Contact points by Developing and Least-developed country Members
17	11	51

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).
Note: Information from the Secretariat report to the TFC during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021.

3.2 Experience sharing exercise/thematic discussions

3.33. Over the period of the review, 31 Members have shared their experiences or made statements on matters under Section II relating to implementation of the TFA and/or issues concerning capacity building. These Members are Afghanistan; Brazil; Cambodia; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; European Union; Finland; Germany; Guatemala; Jamaica; Japan; Lao PDR; Moldova; Mongolia; Nepal; Netherlands; North Macedonia; Paraguay; Rwanda; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom; United States; Viet Nam and Zambia.

3.34. Over the review period, a number of Annex D+ partner organizations regularly updated the Committee at its meetings of their work to support implementation of the Agreement by Members. In 2020[27] and in 2021[28] they provided their updates in a written report.

3.35. In addition, the GATF also made a number of presentations on their initiatives relative to TFA implementation at the meetings of 12-13 February 2019; 25 June 2019; 20-22 October 2020; 22-23 April 2021; and 19-21 October 2021. The presentations made by Annex D+ partner organizations are listed in Annex 2, Table 2.

3.3 Article 21:4: Dedicated Sessions on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

3.36. Article 21.4 of the TFA provides that the Committee shall hold at least one dedicated session per year to: (a) discuss any problems regarding implementation of provisions of the TFA; (b) review progress in the provision of assistance and support for capacity building to support the implementation of the TFA, including any developing or LDC Members not receiving adequate assistance and support for capacity building; (c) share experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs, including challenges and successes; (d) review donor notifications as set forth in Article 22 of the TFA; and (e) review the operation of Article 21 of the TFA.

3.37. During the period under review four annual dedicated sessions have taken place. (See Table 12 for a list of presentations and statements made during these sessions, where available.) The first dedicated session was held on 3 May 2018. The United States delivered presentations in connection with the subject matter under Article 21.4(a) and (b) of the TFA. With regard to Article 21.4(c) of the TFA, presentations and other contributions were made by Colombia; the European Union (including interventions by Germany, Ireland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom on their bilateral programmes); the United States; and Viet Nam. Finally, Australia presented a donor notification as referenced under Article 21.4(d), and the United States intervened with respect to support for LDC Members as referenced under Article 21.4(e) of the TFA.

3.38. A second dedicated session was held on 16 October 2019. Following the structure of Article 21.4 of the TFA, the Chair organized the session by first inviting exchanges on any implementation problems, a review of progress in the provisions of assistance and support for capacity building, and the sharing of experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs. With regard to these issues, the following Members made presentations or shared certain information: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Zambia. In addition, Jamaica made a presentation on behalf of CARICOM, and Nepal intervened on behalf of the LDC Group.

3.39. Presentations pertaining to the review of donor notifications as set forth in Article 22 of the TFA were made by the European Union (including interventions by Finland, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom on their bilateral programmes). At the invitation of the European Union, the Committee also heard a contribution from the WCO.

3.40. Summaries of these presentations can be found in the minutes for the 16 October 2019 meeting as set out at pages 27-45 of G/TFA/M/9.[29]

3.41. The third dedicated session was held on 22 October 2020. As during the second session, Committee Members were invited to exchange on several matters listed under Article 21.4 of the TFA, including any implementation problems, a review of progress in the provisions of assistance and support for capacity building, and the sharing of experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs. With regard to these issues, the following Members made presentations or shared certain information: Canada; China; Ecuador; Eswatini; the European Union; (including interventions by Finland; France; the

[27] G/TFA/W/29.
[28] G/TFA/W/39 and G/TFA/W/67.
[29] No presentations were made pertaining to the review and operation of Article 21:2 of the TFA.

Netherlands; Sweden on their bilateral programmes); Japan; Paraguay; and the United Kingdom. A presentation was also made by Saint Lucia on behalf of the OECS.

3.42. Summaries of these presentations and contributions are provided in greater detail in the minutes for the 22 October 2020 meeting as set out at pages 27-39 of G/TFA/M/13.

3.43. Donor notifications under Article 22 of the TFA from Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States were covered in the regular meeting of the Committee.[30] "Recent and upcoming activities", usually a standing item on the agenda of the regular Committee meetings, was covered in the dedicated session. The Committee heard statements from Brazil, Nepal (on behalf of the LDC Group), the United States, as well as a presentation by GATF, as set out in pages 39-42 of G/TFA/M/13.

3.44. The fourth dedicated session was held on 21 October 2021. During this session, Cambodia, the EU Commission plus four Member States (Finland, France, Netherlands and Sweden), Japan, and the UK, all took the floor. They were followed by the Annex D+ partner organizations - Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, ITC, OECD, World Bank Group, WCO, and UNTAD – who reported on their work to support Members in their implementation of the TFA.[31]

Table 12: Presentations by Members under the Dedicated Sessions

Member	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Cambodia	Implementation of category C provisions and the technical assistance and financial assistance needed	19-21 October 2021	
European Union	Statement by the European Union	15-16 October 2019	
	Statement by the European Union	20-22 October 2020	
	Statement by the European Union	19-21 October 2021	
Eswatini, Kingdom of	Trade Facilitation Programme and Trade Facilitation Information Portal ETIP	20-22 October 2020	
Finland	Finland statement	20-22 October 2020	
	Finland statement	19-21 October 2021	
France	France statement	20-22 October 2020	
	France statement	19-21 October 2021	
Germany	Ongoing Assistance and Support - Germany	2-3 May 2018	
Jamaica	CARICOMs implementation experience Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM	15-16 October 2019	
Japan	Japan statement	19-21 October 2021	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Trade Facilitation in Lao - key achievements and challenges	15-16 October 2019	
Netherlands, The	The Netherlands statement The Netherlands statement Trade Facilitation, Digitalization and The Netherlands Trust Fund	20-22 October 2020 19-21 October 2021 19-21 October 2021	
Saint Lucia	OECS report	20-22 October 2020	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Presentation by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Trade Facilitation	15-16 October 2019	
Spain	Technical assistance from Spain in the framework of the WCO MERCATOR Programme	15-16 October 2019	
Sweden	Ongoing Assistance and Support - Sweden	2-3 May 2018	
	Sweden statement	20-22 October 2020	
	Sweden statement	19-21 October 2021	
United Kingdom	Trade Facilitation UK Statement	15-16 October 2019	
	UK Statement	19-21 October 2021	
United States	Trade Facilitation Agreement Notifications as Tools for Demand Driven Assistance Conversations	2-3 May 2018	
	United States Approach to Trade Facilitation Assistance		

[30] G/TFA/M/13, pp. 15-16. No presentations were made pertaining to the review and operation of Article 21:2 of the TFA.

[31] All presentations and statements are to be found on the WTO TFA database.

Member	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
	United States Department of Agriculture Trade Facilitation Agreement Related Technical Assistance Commercial Law Development Program – Contribution by The United States		
	Article 16		G/TFA/W/15
United States/ Viet Nam	Project Support for TFA implementation in Vietnam	2-3 May 2018	
Zambia	Support from cooperating partners and Zambia's achievements in the implementation of the TFA	15-16 October 2019	

B MEMBERS' PROPOSALS UNDER SECTION II OF THE TFA UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

3.45. The proposals under this section were submitted by Members during the first review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. At the time of concluding the review, consensus had not yet been reached by the Committee on the proposals included in this section. To allow for further consideration and possible adoption of these proposals by the Committee, Section 9 of this report includes a decision that an agenda item be added to the Trade Facilitation Committee agenda entitled "Follow-up to the four-year review".

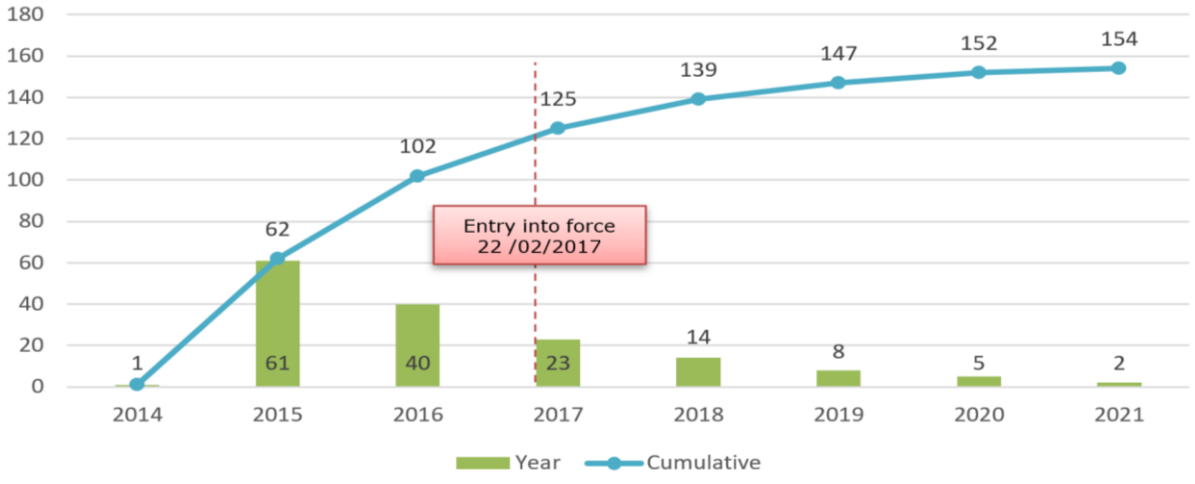
4 SECTION III OF THE TFA

A FACTUAL INFORMATION

4.1 Ratifications[32]

4.1. During the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 October 2021, 154 Members ratified the Amendment Protocol to modify the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and deposited their instruments of acceptance. As of 31 October 2021, nine Members are yet to deposit their instruments of acceptance. See Chart 15.

Chart 15: Number of ratifications per year



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

[32] While the issue of ratification is not included in Section III of the TFA, this information has been included for the interest of Members.

4.2 Article 23 Institutional Arrangements

4.2.1 Article 23.1 Committee on Trade Facilitation

4.2. Following the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement on 22 February 2017, a Committee on Trade Facilitation was established in line with Article 23.1 of the Agreement.

4.3. At a meeting on 7 April 2017, the General Council (GC) took note of a statement by the Chair of the General Council, informing delegations of the consensus on the appointment of Ambassador Daniel Blockert from Sweden as Chairperson of the TFC.

4.4. On 16 May 2017, the TFC held its inaugural session. The sole agenda item was the confirmation of the Chairperson-designate. Members formally elected Ambassador Blockert (Sweden) as the first TFC Chair. Ambassador Blockert announced his intention to consult delegations on the Committee's rules of procedure and the organization of work. The TFC held two further meetings in 2017: on 19 July and 3 November.

4.5. In 2018, the TFC held three formal meetings: on 2 to 3 May (G/TFA/M/4); on 26 June (G/TFA/M/5); and on 9 to 11 October (G/TFA/M/6). The meeting of 2 and 3 May was chaired by Ambassador Daniel Blockert (Sweden) and the remaining meetings were chaired by his successor, Ambassador Dalia Kadišiene (Lithuania), who was elected at the May meeting as Chair of the Committee for 2018.

4.6. In 2019, the TFC held three formal meetings: on 12 to 13 February (G/TFA/M/7); on 25 to 26 June (G/TFA/M/8); and 15 to 16 October (G/TFA/M/9). The meeting of 12 and 13 February was chaired by Ambassador Dalia Kadišiene and the remaining meetings were chaired by her successor Ambassador Mohammad Haqjo (Afghanistan) who was elected at the June meeting as Chair of the Committee for 2019.

4.7. In 2020, the TFC held four formal meetings: on 11 February (G/TFA/M/10); on 20 February (G/TFA/M/11); on 28 February (G/TFA/M/12) and on 20 to 22 October (G/TFA/M/13). The TFC held an informal meeting on 30 September. The meetings of 11, 20 and 28 of February were chaired by Ambassador Mohammad HAQJO. The remaining meetings were chaired by his successor Ambassador Katrina NAUT (Dominican Republic) who was elected on 30 July as Chair of the Committee for 2020. Ambassador Naut resigned as Chairperson in December 2020.

4.8. In 2021, during the period under review, the TFC held six formal meetings: 29 January 2021 (G/TFA/M/14); 22-23 March 2021 (G/TFA/M/15); 22-23 April 2021 (G/TFA/M/16); 22-23 June 2021 (G/TFA/M/17)[33], 27-28 July 2021 (G/TFA/M/18)[34], 19-21 October 2021 (G/TFA/M/19)[35]. The Committee held seven informal meetings during the year – 13 January, 26 February, 22 June, 27 July, 22 September and 13 October. The informal meetings from June to October, inclusive, were dedicated to the four-year review of the TFA. Following the departure of Ambassador Naut in December 2020, the TFC meeting of 29 January was chaired on an *ad hoc* basis by the Chair of the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG), H.E. Mikael Anzén (Sweden). Mr. Christopher O'Toole (Canada) was then selected on 5 February 2021 as Interim Chair of the TFC through silent procedure. Mr O'Toole was subsequently elected Chairperson of the Committee for the year 2021-2022 on 30 July 2021, through written procedures.

Table 13: Trade Facilitation Committee Meetings and Minutes 2017 to 2021

TFC Meeting	Minutes
16 May 2017	G/TFA/M/1
19 July 2017	G/TFA/M/2
3 November 2017	G/TFA/M/3
2-3 May 2018	G/TFA/M/4
26 June 2018	G/TFA/M/5
9-11 October 2018	G/TFA/M/6
12-13 February 2019	G/TFA/M/7

[33] To be issued.
[34] To be issued.
[35] To be issued.

TFC Meeting	Minutes
25-26 June 2019	G/TFA/M/8
15-16 October 2019	G/TFA/M/9
11 February 2020	G/TFA/M/10
20 February 2020	G/TFA/M/11
28 February 2020	G/TFA/M/12
20-22 October 2020	G/TFA/M/13
29 January 2021	G/TFA/M/14
22-23 March 2021	G/TFA/M/15
22-23 April 2021	G/TFA/M/16
22-23 June 2021	G/TFA/M/17
27-28 July 2021	G/TFA/M/18
19-21 October 2021	G/TFA/M/19

4.2.2 Rules of procedure of the Committee on Trade Facilitation

4.9. At its meeting of 25 and 26 June 2019, Members finalized work on the Committee's rules of procedure and agreed to forward them to the Council for Trade in Goods for approval. At its meeting of 14 and 15 November 2019, the Council for Trade in Goods approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Committee on Trade Facilitation[36], consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure[37] applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

4.2.3 Annual reports by the Committee to the Council for Trade in Goods

4.10. According to the "Procedures for an annual overview of WTO Activities and for reporting under the WTO" (WT/L/105), which were adopted by the General Council on 15 November 1995, all bodies constituted under Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement are required to submit an annual factual report to the Council for Trade in Goods, which is then to take note of these reports.

4.11. Accordingly, the Committee submitted annual reports to the Council for Trade in Goods from 2017 to 2021.[38]

4.2.4 Other business

4.12. Over the review period, and in addition to administrative points raised by the Chair under this agenda item, six Members requested the addition of an item under other business:

i. During the Committee meeting of 2-3 May 2018, Uganda to report on the World Customs Organization's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Conference that had taken place in March 2018;
ii. During the Committee meeting of 12-13 February 2019, Ukraine concerning a new transit restriction by the Russian Federation;
iii. During the Committee meeting of 11 February 2020, Mongolia concerning the importance of Article 11 - Freedom of Transit to it and to other landlocked developing Members of the WTO;
iv. During the Committee meeting of 11 February 2020, China to thank all Members who had provided support in its fight against the Coronavirus pandemic;
v. During the Committee meeting of 20-22 October 2020, Hong Kong, China concerning a revised origin marking requirement by the United States;
vi. During the Committee meeting of 26-27 January 2021, the United States, on behalf of the co-sponsors of document G/TFA/W/25/Rev.2 to inform Members that Mexico and Thailand had joined the communication as co-sponsors;
vii. During the Committee meeting of 3-4 March 2021, the United States to preview a paper it would circulate for the next Trade Facilitation Committee meeting entitled, "Revisiting the Need for Global Action to Eliminate Consularization Requirements" (G/TFA/W/38/Rev.3); and
viii. During the Committee meeting of 22-23 June, the United States to invite all delegations and capitals to attend an upcoming webinar for a conversation with the U.S. private sector about its experiences with the Trade Facilitation Agreement during the pandemic.

[36] G/C/M/136, item 4. The text of the Rules of Procedure can be found in G/L/1342.
[37] WT/L/161.
[38] G/L/1201; G/L/1267; G/L/1329; G/L/1375; G/L/1416 and G/L/1416/Corr.1.

~~**Proposed textual edit to the factual report from Ukraine**~~

~~Insert the following text:~~

~~"At the Committee meeting of 12-13 February 2019, Ukraine raised the concern regarding a new transit restriction imposed by the Russian Federation on 29 December 2018 by government resolution No. 1716-83. In particular, Ukraine indicated that goods originating from Ukraine had been subjected by the Russian Federation to various import bans and transit restrictions for the last few years. The latest measures prohibited, *inter alia*, the importation into the Russian Federation of certain agricultural and industrial goods if such goods had been in transit through the territory of Ukraine. This meant that the measures also applied to products originating from other WTO Members. Ukraine considered such measure to be inconsistent with Article 11.4 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, as well as with Article V:6 of the GATT. Ukraine urged the Russian Federation to adhere to its commitments under the Trade Facilitation Agreement. "~~

~~G/TFA/W/60~~
~~*Proposal under consideration by the CTF*~~

~~**Proposed alternative approach by the Chair**~~

~~Over the review period, and in addition to administrative points raised by the Chair under this agenda item, five Members requested the addition of an item under other business:~~

- ~~i. During the Committee meeting of 2-3 May 2018, Uganda to report on the World Customs Organization's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Conference that had taken place in March 2018;~~
- ~~ii. During the Committee meeting of 12-13 February 2019, Ukraine concerning a new transit restriction by the Russian Federation;~~
- ~~iii. During the Committee meeting of 11 February 2020, Mongolia concerning the importance of Article 11 – Freedom of Transit to it and to other landlocked developing Members of the WTO;~~
- ~~iv. During the Committee meeting of 11 February 2020, China to thank all Members who had provided support in its fight against the Coronavirus pandemic;~~
- ~~v. During the Committee meeting of 20-22 October 2020, Hong Kong, China concerning a revised origin marking requirement by the United States;~~
- ~~vi. During the Committee meeting of 26-27 January 2021, the United States, on behalf of the co-sponsors of document G/TFA/W/25/Rev.2 to inform Members that Mexico and Thailand had joined the communication as co-sponsors;~~
- ~~vii. During the Committee meeting of 3-4 March 2021, the United States to preview a paper it would circulate for the next Trade Facilitation Committee meeting entitled, "Revisiting the Need for Global Action to Eliminate Consularization Requirements" (G/TFA/W/38/Rev.3); and~~
- ~~viii. During the Committee meeting of 22-23 June, the United States to invite all delegations and capitals to attend an upcoming webinar for a conversation with the U.S. private sector about its experiences with the Trade Facilitation Agreement during the pandemic.~~

~~*Proposal under consideration by the CTF*~~

4.2.5 Article 23.2 National Committee on Trade Facilitation

4.13. Article 23.2 of the TFA requires each Member to establish and/or maintain a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA. Twenty-two Members have taken the opportunity to share with the Committee their experiences in both the development and operation of their NCTFs, either through oral presentations or written submissions.

4.14. At its meeting of 2-3 May 2018, three Members shared their experience regarding the functioning of their NCTFs as follows. Brazil; Turkey; and the United States. At the Committee meeting of 9-11 October 2018, the Dominican Republic reported on the progress of its NCTF.

4.15. At its meeting of 12-13 February 2019, five Members shared their experience with the establishment and operation of their NCTFs: Costa Rica; Pakistan; Paraguay; Thailand and Tonga. Sri Lanka made a presentation on the functioning of its NCTF at the meeting of 25 June 2019. At the meeting 15-16 October 2019, five more Members reported on their NCTFs: Egypt; El Salvador; Norway; Montenegro; and Paraguay.

4.16. At its meeting of 11 February 2020, seven Members shared experiences with their NCTFs: Chile; Costa Rica; Ecuador; India; Mexico; Paraguay and Uruguay.

4.17. At its meeting of 19-21 October 2021, Ecuador shared its experience regarding its cooperation with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation to strengthen Ecuador's implementation of the TFA with joint public-private partnership. Honduras shared its experience with their use of the Trade Facilitation Reform Tracker developed by UNCTAD.

Table 14: Experience-sharing presentations and written submissions by Members regarding NCTFs

Member/Presenter	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Brazil	National Committee on Trade Facilitation - CONFAC	2-3 May 2018	
Chile	National Trade Facilitation Committee (in Spanish)	11 February 2020	
Costa Rica	National Trade Facilitation Committee (in Spanish)	12-13 February 2019	
Dominican Republic	Avances del Comité Nacional de Facilitación del Comercio	9-11 October 2018	
El Salvador	Advances in Trade Facilitation (in Spanish)	15-16 October 2019	
Ecuador	National Trade Facilitation Committee - Video	11 February 2020	
	Cooperation with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation to strengthen the implementation of the TFA with joint public-private partnership	19-21 October 2021	
Egypt	Statement by Egypt	15-16 October 2019	
Honduras	The Trade Facilitation Reform Tracker - Presentation by Honduras	19-21 October 2021	
India	National Committee on Trade Facilitation - India's Experience Summary of India's presentation	11 February 2020	
Montenegro	National Trade Facilitation Committee - Montenegro	15-16 October 2019	
Norway	The National Trade Facilitation Committee of Norway	15-16 October 2019	
Pakistan	Pakistan - National Trade Facilitation Committee NCTF	12-13 February 2019	
Paraguay	National Trade Facilitation Committee in Spanish	12-13 February 2019	
	National Committee on Trade Facilitation in Paraguay	15-16 October 2019	
Sri Lanka	Functioning of Sri Lanka's National Trade Facilitation Committee	25 June 2019	
Thailand	Thailand - National Committee on Trade Facilitation	12-13 February 2019	
Togo	Togo's experience in French	12-13 February 2019	
Turkey	National Committee on Trade Facilitation - Experience of Turkey	2-3 May 2018	
United States	Structure and Role of the US National Trade Facilitation Committee	2-3 May 2018	G/TFA/W/5
	Communication from the United States regarding National Trade Facilitation Committees		G/TFA/W/19
	Proposal to update the WTO's Committee's Trade Facilitation meeting agenda as part of the four-year review of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation Article 23.1.1.6		G/TFA/W/35
	Role of the Trade Facilitation Committee in the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility		G/TFA/W/36

Member/Presenter	Title	Committee meeting	Document Symbol
Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay	Informe sobre el primer encuentro latinoamericano de los comités nacionales de facilitación del comercio - Montevideo Uruguay - Noviembre 2019	11 February 2020	

B MEMBERS' PROPOSALS UNDER SECTION III OF THE TFA UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

4.18. The proposals under this section were submitted by Members during the first review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. At the time of concluding the review, consensus had not yet been reached by the Committee on the proposals included in this section. To allow for further consideration and possible adoption of these proposals by the Committee, Section 9 of this report includes a decision that an agenda item be added to the Trade Facilitation Committee agenda entitled "Follow-up to the four-year review".

Proposal from Brazil and the United States

Proposal to formalize engagement with the private sector:

On the margins of the formal Committee meetings, the Committee should formalize engagement with the private sector by hosting discussions and presentations to facilitate direct feedback regarding the on-the-ground implementation of the TFA. The Committee may consider establishing a process addressing how Members should submit topics and potential private sector presenters for consideration. The Committee should consider operationalizing this proposal with the objective of facilitating participation from a wide variety of businesses and encouraging diversity of organizations, geographic locations and perspectives.

~~5. […] that the Committee convene informally, virtually or in hybrid format, on the margins of formal Committee meetings to host discussions with and presentations from the private sector to facilitate direct feedback regarding on the ground implementation of the TFA. The private sector organizations may present how implementation of specific provisions of the TFA has improved the private sector experience or identify areas of remaining challenges.~~
~~5bis. In order to encourage participation from a wide variety of businesses and diversity of organizations, geographic locations, and perspectives, the Committee may consider in operationalizing this proposal as follows:~~

- ~~A. Rotate the geographical location of active participants shall rotate at each informal meeting, for example, Europe, Central Asia, and Russia; Africa and the Middle East; Asia; and the Americas. Thus ensuring a focus on each region of the world;~~
- ~~B. Allow for "silent-mode" participation of any interested private sector participant, outside the region in (A) in order to encourage new business connections;~~
- ~~C. Encourage Members, as appropriate, to draw participants from its National Trade Facilitation Committee; to that end, Members will be responsible for inviting and maintaining contact information for those participants;~~
- ~~D. Encourage Members to put an emphasis on the participation of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), including any organizations that represent their interests; and~~
- ~~E. The Committee may choose to focus on a particular topic(s) of interest in a region in order to solicit direct comments and feedback, and repeat or vary topics, or include no particular focus on specific topics.~~

~~6. The Committee may consider establishing a process to increase the efficiency of reviewing the many anticipated requests from the private sector to present at these informal sessions. We propose that any members of the private sector submit to the Secretariat requests to present on a topic of interest that relates to TFA implementation. Submissions would be accepted throughout the year, and Members should consider reviewing and accepting requests on a rolling basis. The Committee will then invite members of the private sector with an approved topic to present to Members on the margins of a formal Committee meeting.~~

~~7. Further to the objective of encouraging participation from a wide variety of businesses and diversity of organizations, geographic locations, and perspectives, the Secretariat shall:~~

- ~~A. Maintain a registration sheet for participants to register to participate;~~
- ~~B. Provide convening notices that can be broadly distributed to a diverse range of potential participants;~~

~~C. Work with the IT staff to provide access to participants to those meetings for which they have been invited; and~~
~~D. Provide, as possible, for meeting times that take into account maximum participation of the participants of the particular geographical location.~~

G/TFA/W/42 and G/TFA/W/42/Rev.1, paras. 5.7
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

Proposal from the European Union

The EU suggests that when the private sector comments on TFA implementation, that they are invited to inform, to the extent possible, whether the transparency notifications are sufficient, as these notifications aim primarily to help SMEs and traders to comply with their obligations.

EU comment: The US Brazil proposal on business engagement is more comprehensive and would make this proposal less pertinent if the US Brazil document G/TFA/W/42/Rev.1 were adopted.

G/TFA/W/50, para. 7 and G/TFA/W/65
Proposal under consideration by the CTF

5 REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PLUS THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON TRADE FACILITATION ON THEIR ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT MEMBERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TFA

5.1. The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) provides regular reports on its activities to the Committee.[39] These include updates on workshops and other events relating to trade facilitation matters organized with donors, partner organizations and representatives from the private sector. The Facility also reports on the grant program that offers project preparation and project implementation grants to assist Members in identifying and liaising with donors and with the implementation of category C measures as a contingency when no other assistance has been identified. The Facility further provides annual workplans and reports on its activities. These documents and all other information relating to its grant work, coordination efforts with the Annex D+ partner organizations and all other activities can be found on the TFAF website.[40]

5.2. During the review period TFAF made seven presentations to the Committee. An information session was organized in the margins of the Committee meeting of 25-26 June 2019 on the operational and administrative structure of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The session provided information on the origins, structure and membership of the STDF, its management, and its relationship with the WTO Secretariat. The STDF had been an important partner in developing the operational rules for the TFAF and the rules for the Facility grant program, which learned from the experience of the STDF. [41]

5.1 TFAF Operation

5.3. Since 2017, the Committee engaged in discussions to clarify the operational structure of the TFAF and intended interaction between the Committee, WTO Secretariat, and TFAF.[42] At the Committee's meeting of 9-11 October 2018, the Committee considered an agenda item on the administrative separation between the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility and the Committee on Trade Facilitation.[43] At the Committee's meeting of 25-26 June 2019, the Committee requested TFAF address how it worked in line with the Paris and Busan principles.[44]

5.4. The 2021 TFAF Workplan was circulated in advance of the Committee's meeting of 20-22 October 2020. In response, Members raised concerns regarding TFAF grant program operation and representation of the Committee at international events.[45] The US requested the TFAF continue to focus only on its grant programme, and not pursue other activities provided for in its operational

[39] See G/L/1201, G/L/1267, G/L/1329, and G/L/1375. The most recent reports by the Facility to the Committee can be found at G/TFA/W/28 (20-21 October 2020), G/TFA/W/37 (22-23 April 2021)) and G/TFA/W/66 (19-21 October 2021).
[40] TFAF - Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (http://www.tfafacility.org).
[41] G/TFA/M/8
[42] G/TFA/M/2
[43] G/TFA/M/6
[44] G/TFA/M/8
[45] G/TFA/M/13

guidelines including technical assistance, capacity-building and coordination with Annex D partner organizations.[46]

5.5. In 2021, the Committee began discussions regarding TFAF guidelines which sought to further clarify who directs the activities and functions of TFAF as well as ensure transparency concerning proposed activities and grants. At the Committee meeting of 22–23 April 2021, the United States submitted a proposal calling for the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) to fall under the purview and direction of the TF Committee as a means to ensure that Committee oversight, direction, and responsibility will provide transparency to the TFAF activities being undertaken, the funding of TFAF, and transparency to Member's assistance by TFAF.[47] The Committee agreed at its meeting of 22-23 April that the Chair would hold consultations in an effort to resolve the current moratorium on technical assistance elements of TFAF's activities.[48]

5.6. The Chair held eight[49] rounds of consultations, four of which were open-ended format, and the remainder were small-group meetings. The participating Members including the US, came to an agreement, endorsed by the Committee which will allow TFAF to continue technical assistance and capacity building activities for Members. As a result, an on-line assistance activity request form for submission to the TFAF, and enhancements to transparency through a tracker dashboard were developed which offers Committee Members the ability to monitor the follow-up to these requests in real-time. In 2022, Committee Members will review the operation of this activity request system, consider possible improvements, and return to its discussion on a form of guidance from the Committee to set out its relationship with the TFAF.

5.7. Annex D organizations (i.e., IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO and WBG) are invited to and regularly attend Committee meetings. In addition, certain of these organizations have made presentations to the Committee regarding their work in the area of trade facilitation. The ITC made presentations at the meetings of 22-23 June 2021 and 19-21 October 2021; OECD made presentations at the meetings of 26 June 2018 and 19-21 October 2021.

5.8. UNCTAD made presentations during the meetings of 15-16 October 2019 (including a presentation with Rwanda); 3 March 2021, 22-23 June 2021 (including a presentation with Vanuatu), and 19-21 October (including a presentation with Honduras). The WBG made a presentation during the meeting of 19-21 October 2021 and the WCO has shared information during the meetings of 11 February 2020, 26-27 January 2021, 3-4 March 2021, 19-20 July 2021, and 19-21 October 2021.

5.9. In an informal session of the Committee held on 30 September 2020, UNCTAD, WCO and the WBG, along with the ITC, and GATF, each made presentations on matters relating to measures adopted in response to the COVID-19 situation.[50]

5.10. In addition, the Annex D+ partner organizations provided reports that were circulated to the Committee in the context of the dedicated sessions on technical assistance and capacity building that took place on 20-22 October 2020[51] and 19-21 October 2021[52]. The Annex D partners and the ITC also provided a report to the Committee for the 22-23 April 2021 meeting that, with respect to each organization, outlined their role in supporting implementation of the TFA, offered a brief description of upcoming assistance and activities, and described how Members could request assistance.[53]

[46] G/TFA/W/64
[47] G/TFA/W/36
[48] G/TFA/W/64
[49] 20 May, 9 June, 7 July, 28 July, 15 September, 1 October, 14 October.
[50] https://tfadatabase.org/trade-facilitation-committee/meeting/2020-09-30.
[51] G/TFA/W/29.
[52] G/TFA/W/67.
[53] G/TFA/W/39.

6 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS

6.1 TFA implementation achievements and constraints of LDCs

6.1. As part of its engagement with the TFA review process, the LDC Group circulated two communications related to LDC Member experience with regard to implementation of the TFA in documents G/TFA/W/58 and G/TFA/W/59/Rev.1.

6.2. The information provided in document G/TFA/W/58 is based on a survey devised and conducted by the LDC Group. The survey asked questions regarding the specific challenges for capitals to prepare the required notifications under Section II of the TFA. It also asked questions on the broader challenges for capitals and stakeholders, including importers and exporters, with regard to the benefits and difficulties of TFA implementation. It included questions on LDCs experiences with acquiring technical assistance and capacity-building support, as well as asking capitals and stakeholders to identify areas where they would desire improvements with regard to implementation of the Agreement.

6.3. The LDC Group indicates that the results of the survey to date are not exhaustive but they do provide preliminary information on LDC implementation experiences to date. The LDC Group continues to collect information from LDC members on their experiences in the implementation of the TFA. The Committee welcomes the LDC Group's intention to submit updated revisions of this communication to reflect further information received from capitals toward LDC inputs into the work of the Committee, as appropriate.

6.2 LDC notifications under Section II of the TFA

6.4. The LDC Group considers, based on the survey feedback from capitals as well factual information reported by the WTO Secretariat, that most LDCs have completed their notification obligations. It considers that in many cases, LDCs surpassed expectations in terms of notifications.

6.2.1 Challenges

6.5. According to the results of the survey, a number of delegations had difficulties to notify their categorization designations. Some of the reasons cited were the lack of mastery of the Agreement itself. It emerged during the exercise of categorizing the Agreement's measures that there was no convergence on the understanding of the TFA provisions, including among the private sector.

6.6. Other challenges were cited by LDC Members in regard to obtaining information on the use of customs brokers (Article 10.6.2); contact point(s) for customs cooperation (Article 12) plus necessary information to prepare the definitive implementation dates of category B measures. In the case of at least one LDC, the difficulties caused delays in the country's notification of their indicative implementation dates for category B and C measures, as well as transparency notifications, particularly information on the operation of its single window.

6.2.2 Support received

6.7. The survey noted that assistance from various institutions and partners as well as the organization of the regular session on technical assistance and capacity building mechanism helped Members to overcome these challenges. Initial problems were found in understanding the Agreement, which impacted the categorization process, the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, as well as involvement of various relevant departments responsible for the corresponding provisions. Moreover, for some LDC Members, the process of gradually adapting the laws and procedures also contributed to understanding of the Agreement.

6.8. Such challenges are reflected in the requests from nine LDC country Members for additional time to notify their definitive implementation dates for category B measures (see Section 3.1.4 of the report).

6.9. A number of LDCs required extensions of time as indicated in paragraph 3.7 of the factual report. In some cases, the challenges were overcome through the provision of basic training on the

TFA provisions. Workshops, including in capitals with stakeholders, organized by the WTO and other agencies facilitated the designation of categories for notification.

6.10. According to the survey, support was received in the categorization and implementation of category C measures through sequencing and prioritization of category C measures, consultation with relevant stakeholders, identifying required technical assistance, sensitization and training workshops for the various stakeholders on the perception of the substantive provisions of the agreement. The stakeholders were thus able to progressively conduct the process of categorization.

6.11. As a result of the training, some of the relevant stakeholders attained an understanding of the legally binding obligations under the TFA, including designation of category A, B and C measures, implementation timelines and technical assistance needed, particularly for Category C measures, and potential benefits of implementation. The training also gave an impetus to expedite preparations needed from relevant institutions to comply with the commitments of the TFA.

6.12. In addition, some of the difficulties were resolved through follow-up in the framework of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, and in at least one case, the revision of domestic legislation to comply with the TFA was identified as being of potential assistance.

6.3 Implementation of the provisions of the TFA

6.13. Categorization of the TFA provisions is carried out individually by LDCs based on their national needs assessments. At the same time, review of the notification data from LDCs shows that there is a level of commonality among Members of the group with regard to those provisions that are most difficult to implement and those that are easier to implement.

6.14. Chart 16 shows the categorization of all TFA provisions by LDC Members, in descending order of category A, B and C. Results from the survey conducted by the LDC Group provide some context for the data. With regard to category A measures, in the majority of cases, these measures were already in place, and in other cases existing laws and regulations were already aligned with the TFA provisions. In other cases, category A provisions were easier to implement as a result of leveraging existing and on-going efforts by government. In the case of one LDC, the survey reported that their category A provisions were easiest to implement as a result of the continuous reforms and modernization of the Customs Administration, as well as having held consultations among stakeholders. Provisions for which a lot of support had been received and for which there was domestic interest in reform were also easier to implement.

6.15. Looking in more detail at the provisions in category C, it can be seen that LDC Members require technical assistance in a number of common provisions. In particular, the top five provisions for which LDCs require the greatest level of technical assistance are border agency cooperation (Article 8); single window (Article 10.4); authorized operators (Article 7.7); test procedures (Article 5.3), and risk management (Article 7.4). Details are provided in Chart 17.

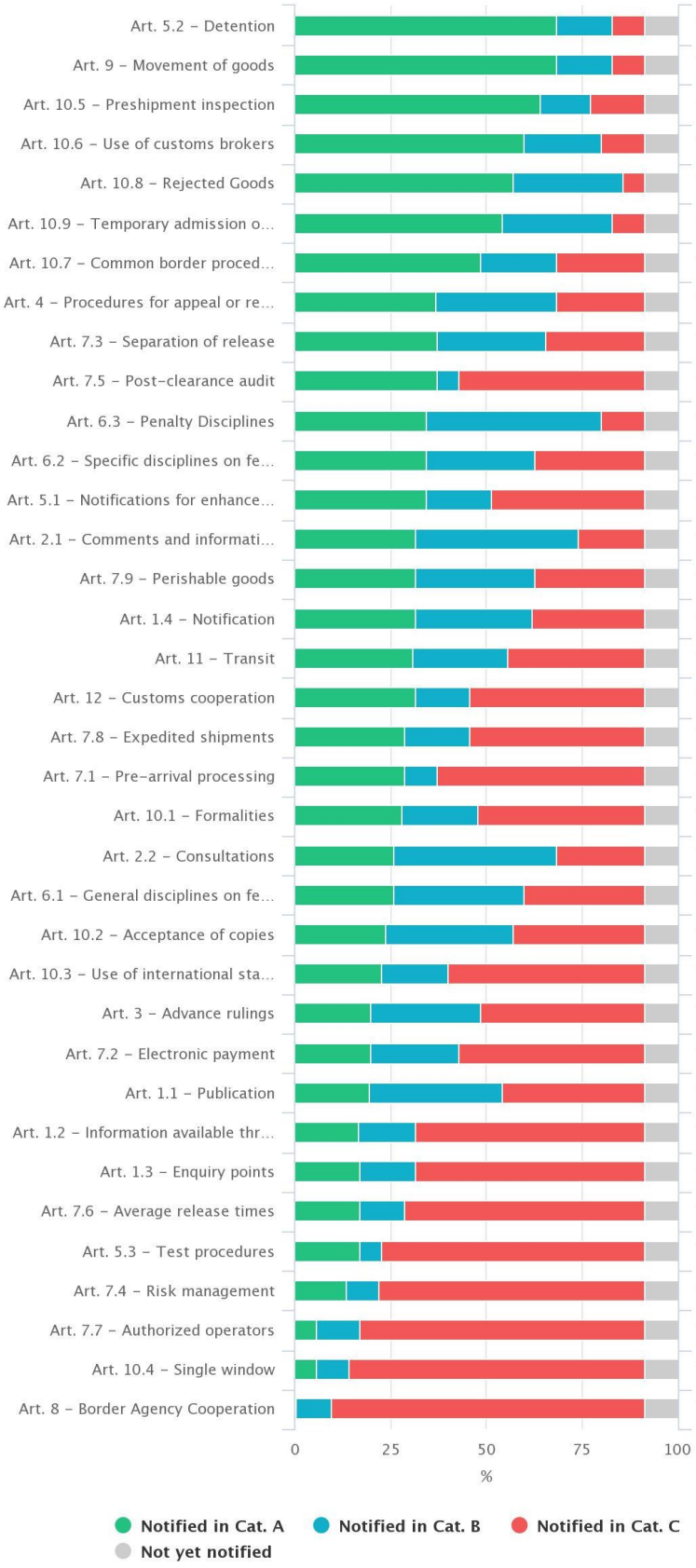
6.16. The survey, even though it continues to be completed, provides some insight into some of the challenges being experienced by a number of LDC Members in trying to implement these provisions.

6.17. Difficulties to implement Article 8.2 was mainly in the case of Member due to the need for mutual agreements with border agencies. In some cases, this required technical assistance and capacity building assistance to negotiate and reach agreement, especially on joint controls, establishment of one stop inspection and establishment of one stop border post control.

6.18. For another Member, some of the single window implementation challenges included the reluctance of some agencies and the private sector to change their practices.

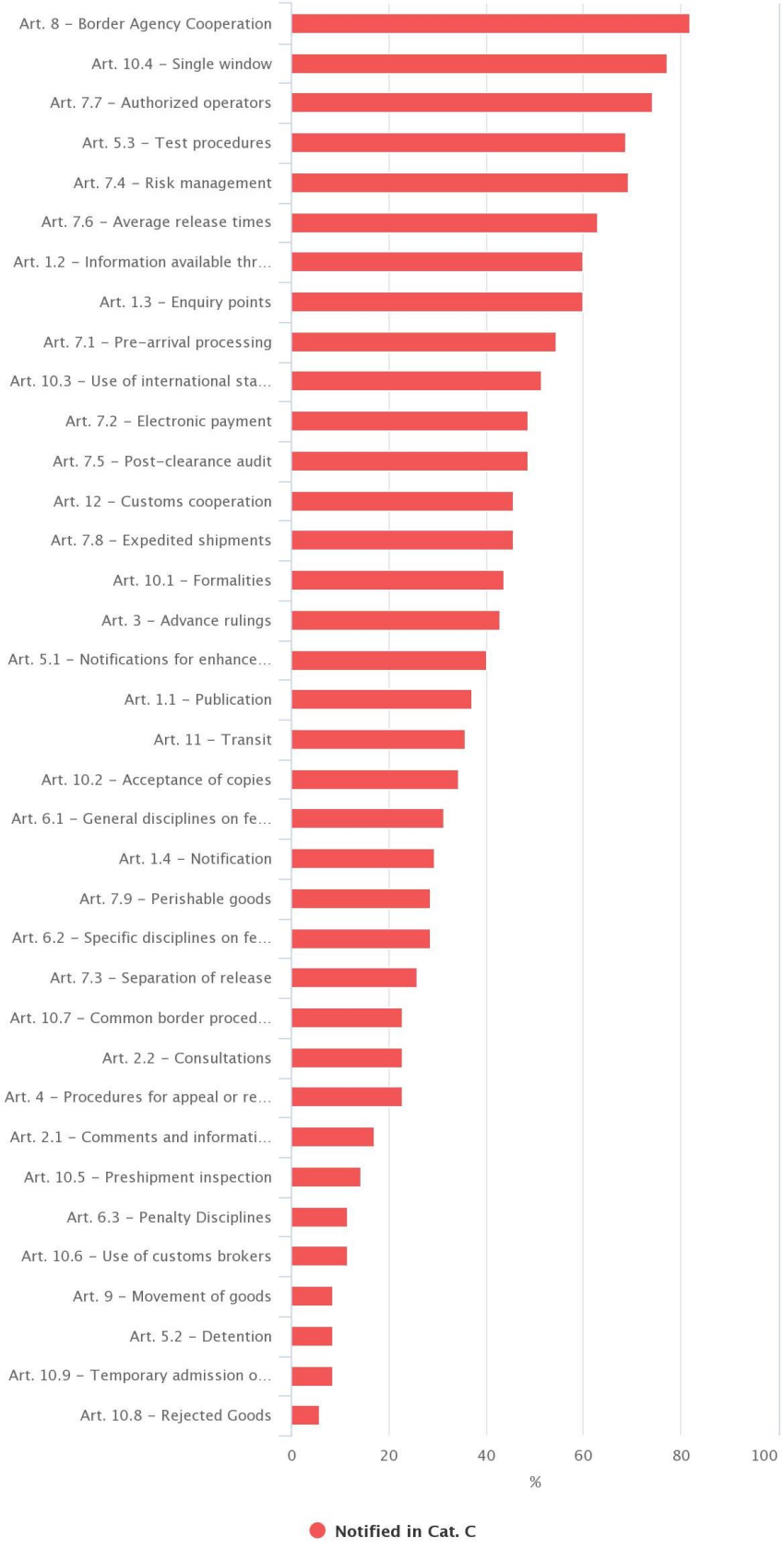
6.19. One common general reason cited for difficulties behind the need for technical assistance in particular for these top five provisions is the requirement of infrastructure development which requires technical assistance on a continuous and integrated manner.

Chart 16: LDC notifications by article and by category



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

Chart 17: LDC notifications by article and by category C



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database (http://www.tfadatabase.org).

6.4 Category C measures

6.20. The survey identifies that effective implementation of all the measures notified under the category C measures by the LDCs is important but at the same time it is also challenging. Respondents to the survey indicated that gaps in technical and financial support still exist and are now much concentrated to implementation of category C provisions. With regard to category C measures, the difficulties are linked to the transposition of the needs into coherent and relevant projects according to the requirements of the Agreement.

6.21. The survey identified gaps in assistance as related to the lack of information on the funding mechanism for the implementation of the TFA, the lack of mobilization of funds to support the operation of the National Trade Facilitation Committees, and the implementation of the TFA category C provisions. To remedy this, the LDC Group encouraged donor country members to increase awareness at the global, regional, and national levels on mobilizing sufficient support for the implementation of the TFA Category C. Donor country Members are also encouraged to extend additional support in implementation of category C provisions in the LDCs mainly based on the technical assistance requirement notification and consultations in respective capitals

6.5 Perceptions of traders regarding implementation of the TFA

6.22. According to the survey, LDC traders were already seeing benefits resulting from implementation of the TFA via a reduction in time and costs. Improvements were cited in the areas of simplified procedures, publication of measures, automation and streamlining of procedures, cooperation among actors in the supply chain, operationalization of a single window, 24/7 operation of port structures and services. In addition, implementation of the authorized operator system was providing increased incentive to export and import.

6.23. On the other hand, LDC traders also noted some continuing difficulties with regard to some TFA measures not being implemented. The difficulties identified covered a broad range of issues that are addressed in the TFA.

6.24. Traders experienced challenges resulting from cumbersome administrative procedures at the borders as well as from arbitrary behaviour of officials. They experienced high costs of exchanges as a result of multiple barriers, as well as charges unduly applied. Another challenge identified was that of double customs taxation. In addition, traders experienced challenges when interacting with relevant agencies that were not integrated into the single window for foreign trade.

6.25. Challenges were also identified resulting from multiple difficulties related to technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS). Some problems were faced in addressing SPS measures as there were not sufficient border check points for SPS measures in parallel to Customs points. One LDC faced some problems with trading partners in particular due to SPS related requirements and internationally accredited certifications.

6.26. Other constraints identified included infrastructure problems such as the poor condition of roads and transport infrastructure, ICT infrastructure, and trade logistics. Continued encountering of transit problems were cited, with one example being the implementation of a single guarantee on transit corridors. Problems were also still faced in transit cases where Article 11.2 was yet to be observed

6.6 Desired improvements identified by traders

6.27. According to the survey, LDC traders would like to see some improvements in a number of areas, including: the facilitation of LDC exports into other markets, transparency of rules in those markets, and the release of those goods in the other markets; more transparency in foreign markets to facilitate access to operators, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); reduction of non-tariff barriers including more transparent SPS measures and international standards of trading partners.

6.7 Some examples of lessons learned

6.28. According to the survey, staff training and capacity building remain imperative for sustained implementation of the TFA. Continuous reform and modernization of customs administration, and cooperation among all stakeholders are also important. Institutional and bilateral assistance were helpful to support implementation of the TFA. Methods used by some LDC Members to resolve difficulties included workshops, interactions, and regular monitoring. Other LDCs identified the operation of the National Trade Facilitation Committee as being key to implementation of the Agreement.

6.8 Summary

6.29. The LDC Group summarized its observations, experiences and the results of the survey as follows:

- The facilitation of LDC exports into other markets, transparency of rules in those markets, and the release of those goods in the destination markets are needed.
- Problems are still faced in transit cases where Article 11.2 is yet to be observed and challenges remain on the release of LDC goods in other markets.
- Reduction of non-tariff barriers including more transparent and supportive SPS and TBT measures of trading partners are expected.
- Capacity constraints, technology constraints, and limited awareness of the TFA, among others, are hindering implementation of TFA in most LDCs.
- Effective implementation of those category C measures has a strong connection with significant additional support from development partners in terms of resource, technological, institutional and human capacity building.
- The gaps in assistance are now much more concentrated to implementation of category c provisions.
- In this context, donor country Members are encouraged to extend additional support in implementation of category C provisions in the LDCs mainly based on the technical assistance requirement notification and consultations in respective capitals.
- Additionally, landlocked least developed countries have further difficulties, especially within their territory, to develop and maintain sufficient trade infrastructure including ICT infrastructure.
- Trade facilitation for LDC Members requires bridging a huge digital gap and the connection of the entire domestic business with an ICT system and e-commerce and then linked with the cross-border trade.

6.9 LDC merchandise trade 2017-2020

6.30. The Secretariat, on an annual basis, provides an update on the trends in the least developed countries' (LDCs) trade and market access conditions in a document entitled "Market Access for Products and Services of Export Interest to Least Developed Countries"[54]. The updates are circulated in the document series "WT/COMTD/LDC/W/*".

6.31. The reports circulated in 2019, 2020 and 2021 provides data regarding merchandise trade in imports and exports for LDCs over the period of this review. The follow table (Table 15) shows the data for the years 2017 to 2020 in value terms (US billion dollars). Further information on LDC-related trade data can be found in the referenced WT/COMTD/LDC/W documents.

Table 15: LDC merchandise trade 2017 – 2021 (Value)

Value (US$bn)

2017		2018		2019		2020	
Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
176	237	196	260	193	276	173	247

Source: WT/COMTD/LDC/W/67, WT/COMTD/LDC/W/68 and WT/COMTD/LDC/69

[54] This document is prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

7 DATABASE AND WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE TF COMMITTEE

7.1. A database – tfadatabase.org – was created in response to a request expressed by Members in the TFC.

7.2. The database is publicly available in the three WTO official languages. It is a fact-based reference source for information on TFA notifications which also provides analytical functionalities. It follows the evolution of the TFA and continually adapts to accommodate new notification data.

7.3. The Member profile pages provide a platform to view the notification status of an individual Member in depth as well as any information notified by Members. All notification documents and other submissions made by Members can be accessed on these pages.

7.4. The TFA database hosts a dedicated page of the TF Committee containing all the information provided under the experience-sharing and thematic discussions in the Committee.

7.5. Government officials and traders can access all URLs and contact points as Members are required to notify under the TFA.

7.6. All technical assistance disbursements provided by Members can also be accessed on the TFA database.

7.7. The TFA Database automatically feeds data to three other websites, comprising the main WTO website, The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) website and the Global Trade Helpdesk website.

8 MEMBERS' GENERAL PROPOSALS

8.1. Recalling the discussions during this first review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Committee notes that the recommendations contained in communication G/TFA/W/53 remain under consideration by it.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS RESULTING FROM THE REVIEW

9.1 Section I of the TFA

9.1. 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.

9.2 Section II of the TFA

9.2. 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 by [xxx].
ii. 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 organisations 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 organisations 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.

iii. 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.
iv. 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.

~~First, in order to provide support for Members to better manage their implementation plans, we propose that the Committee 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, . The list aims to remind Members of their own definitive dates for category B and C so that those Members who face difficulties in implementing category B or C provisions can take appropriate actions as stipulated in Articles 17, 18 and 19 of the TFA. It is expected that the Committee could improve the list and the methods for circulating it the list by reflecting feedback from Members in order for the list to further contribute to this purpose. We believe this would to promote better self-management by Members of their own implementation status and allow adequate monitoring by the Committee TFC.~~

~~Second, we propose that the Committee recommend the following practice recommends that for Members whose implementation dates have passed for their category B or C provisions. That is, and on a voluntary basis and for informational purposes only, to: (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.~~

~~G/TFA/W/46/Rev.2~~
~~*Proposal under consideration by the CTF*~~

9.3 Section III of the TFA

9.3. 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, Interprefy (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 8.2 (iii) and (iv) above.

~~recommends In order to make these two proposals above effective and practical, we propose to set a new standing agenda item "Status of Definitive Date Implementation" be included after the existing agenda item "Status of Notifications and Ratifications" for . Under the new standing agenda item, Members can review of the effectiveness of the list of definitive dates in G/TFA/INF/1 based on the report by the Secretariat and voluntary interventions by Members, if any, highlighting implementation of provisions as per 8.2 (iii) and (iv) above.~~

~~G/TFA/W/46/Rev.2~~
~~*Proposal under consideration by the CTF*~~

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 conduct a second review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement in 2026, and periodically thereafter.

ANNEX 1

COMPENDIUM

SHARING EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS AS OF 1 JULY 2021

1.1. In accordance with the decision reached in the Trade Facilitation Committee, agreed to by Members through a silent procedure on 9 April 2021, and with the mandate received in document G/TFA/W/31/Rev.4, the Secretariat has compiled a compendium document of the contributions of COVID-19 responses that the Committee on Trade Facilitation (TFC, the Committee) Members and Observers have provided the TFC so far. The compendium includes the presentations made by Members and international organizations.

1.2. The compendium report is structured similarly to the TFA. For each provision, the report presents the COVID-19 related trade facilitation measures taken by the Members and reported by Members to the Committee, including the challenges and difficulties addressed, if mentioned in the contribution. The reported measures under each article are identified strictly in accordance with the information provided by Members. In those cases where reported information was not identified as specifically related to any provision, the measures reported are included under a section "Other TF-related COVID-19 measures", as stipulated in document G/TFA/W/31/Rev.4, paragraph 7.

1.3. The information was sourced from the presentations made and written statements submitted by Members and international organizations to the Committee. The presentations and written statements were considered at the following Committee meetings: 30 September 2020, 21-22 October 2020, 26-27 January 2021, and 3 March 2021. The information was also sourced from TFA notifications circulated to Members in the document series G/TFA/N/.[55] All information sources are available in the Trade Facilitation Agreement Database Website.[56]

1.4. The information contained in the compendium document is presented under four headings: Member; Reported Measure; Source (of the information); and, date of the Committee meeting at which the measure was reported.

1.5. The reported measures, in most cases, did not identify a specific challenge to which the measure was addressed, except in the case of the reported measures by land-locked developing country Members. Therefore, as indicated in paragraph 8 of document G/TFA/W/31/Rev.4, which references the identification of specific problems and solutions adopted by different categories of Members, the information reported by land-locked developing country Members indicating the challenges they faced during the pandemic is contained in a separate table which is located in Section II of the compendium document.

1.6. Reflecting the references to International Organizations as found in document G/TFA/W/31/Rev.4, paragraphs 2, 7 and 9, a separate table has been created containing the information presented by International Organizations. This table is located in Section III of the compendium document.

[55] At the request of Members at the Committee on Trade Facilitation meeting on 22-23 June 2021.
[56] https://tfadatabase.org/trade-facilitation-committee/experience-sharing/topic/13.

Section I. COVID-19 responses reported by Members to the Committee on Trade Facilitation

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Chile	Agriculture and Livestock Service of Chile (SAG) – Measures related to phytosanitary certificates in order to facilitate trade in the context of the problems related to COVID-19. Sets-up a webpage available to all national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to verify and obtain directly from the SAG certification system an image of all original data from phytosanitary certificate. In the case of imports, SAG will accept the submission of a scanned image of the phytosanitary certificate, as an alternative for importers that do not have the original document.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
China	Notice on Effectively Conducting the Work Related to Further Facilitating Enterprises' Application for Import and Export Licenses during the Prevention and Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic issued by the General Office of the Ministry of Commerce. http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202002/20200202934222.shtml	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 April 2020
China	Circular of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Optimizing Approval Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic Circular No.1 [2020] of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-02/13/content_5478044.htm	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 April 2020
Dominican Republic	The DGA has attempted to address the impact of the emergency situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic by adopting the following measures: (1) Elimination of the surcharge for late declaration (Art. 52 of Law No. 3489), through an application submitted to the customs administration. (2) The period from Friday, 20 March 2020, until three working days after the lifting of the state of emergency will not be included when calculating the number of days goods were kept at the bonded warehouse for any purpose (fiscal, re export or cargo consolidation). (3) From 24 March, customs administrations will not count the days under lockdown in calculating the period of time after which goods are declared abandoned. (4) From 24 March, for procedures involving digital signatures, support will be provided via the email address firmasdigitales@aduanas.gob.do and by phone. (5) From 24 March, the following applications can only be submitted by email (info.corresporidenciayarchivo@aduanas.gob.do): applications for the payment of tax under Law No. 253.42, applications for exemption from the payment of tax under Provision No. 7204, and WTO quota authorizations (technical rectifications). (6) From 23 March, the administrations will be open for payments until 3 p.m. Users are therefore invited to make payments electronically. (7) The registration of importers/exporters, inclusion of administrators and access authorizations may be carried out digitally from 23 March, provided that the requirements established by the DGA have already been met. Details of these requirements can be found at www.aduanas.gob.do. Applications must be sent to unidadregistro@aduanas.gob.do.	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 June 2020

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
	(8) From 26 March, the administrations will stop clearing containers at 5 p.m., due to the curfew imposed by the Government. (9) From 2 April and for the duration of the emergency, the collection of all import taxes via the Integrated Customs Management System will be temporarily suspended on masks, clothing, medical protective equipment and devices, machines and appliances required to combat the pandemic. This suspension of taxes specifically includes customs duty, where applicable, and tax on the transfer of goods and services (ITBIS). (10) With regard to the clearance of vehicle imports during this emergency, the DGA, in order to minimize the risk of infection from the coronavirus and reduce the presence of persons and taxpayers at its facilities in the country's ports, has adopted a number of measures to facilitate the import of vehicles that will take effect from 20 March.		
Dominican Republic	Customs intelligence. The following measures have been implemented since 20 March 2020 to mitigate customs risks and maintain trade facilitation: (1) The risk analysis has focused on items that are of key importance in the current circumstances, such as medicines and medical industry products, with a view to mitigating the risks of, inter alia, counterfeits and expired products. The same applies to the analysis of imports of high-risk products, such as contraband cigarettes. (2) An analysis of businesses with low-risk profiles is under way in order to speed up the clearance of these businesses' goods, so that efforts can be focused on cases of a more sensitive nature. (3) Through the World Customs Organization's Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform, the task force is keeping abreast of the various modus operandi used internationally in order to gather information on confiscations made by other customs administrations. (4) According to information from administrators at each border crossing, the transit of goods is occurring twice a week at land border crossing points. The goods in custody are clothing, alcohol and juices. (5) Vehicle related applications will be handled remotely. It is hoped that the following applications can be received by email: • applications for payment of tax and clearance of vehicles; • applications for the correction of vehicle related manifests or characteristics; • applications for the clearance of buses.	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 June 2020
Dominican Republic	Customs administrators have been instructed to authorize, as of 2 April, the clearance, using tariff preferences, of imports on goods from the European Community, without the submission of the EUR.1 Movement Certificate. This is subject to prior evaluation of the risk profile of the taxpayer and the submission of a document in which the taxpayer commits to providing said certificate when it is subsequently issued.	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 June 2020

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
European Union	VAT and duty exemption applied to certain goods procured by certain entities designed by EU Member States. Commission Decision on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020 is extended until 30 April 2021. Member States can grant VAT relief to sales of coronavirus vaccines and testing kits to hospitals and medical practitioners. The European Commission has also proposed a Council directive amendment 2006/112/EC. If adopted, the new rules would allow a temporary VAT exemption to be given to vaccines and testing kits being sold to hospitals and medical practitioners, as well as closely related goods and services. member States would also be able to apply reduced rates to testing kits if they so choose. Once agreed by all Member States, the new rules would allow a temporary VAT exemption to be given to vaccines and testing kits being sold to hospitals and medical practitioners, as well as closely related goods and services. Member States would also be able to apply reduced rates to testing kits if they so choose. COVID-19: Commission puts forward taxation and customs measures to support access to more affordable equipment, vaccines and testing kits, Taxation and Customs Union (europa.eu). https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/news/covid-19-commission-puts-forward-taxation-and-customs-measures-support-access-more-affordable-equipment-vaccines-and-testing-kits_fr	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
		Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 November 2020
European Union	Specific Trade facilitation measures have been adopted by the EU to facilitate trade in the specific circumstances under COVID-19. Guidance on Customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency, 30 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/covid-19-taxud-response/guidance-customs-issues-related-covid-19-emergency_fr	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 November 2020
European Union	Border management flexibilities in conformity with/consistent with the European Union Customs Code legal framework. Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services, 16 March 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf Communication from the Commission on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services, 23 March 2020. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020XC0324(01)&from=FR Air cargo related customs procedures Communication from the Commission - European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak, 26 March 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
		Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 November 2020

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
European Union	Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466 of 31 March on temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal and plant health and animal welfare during certain serious disruptions of Member States' control systems due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/SPS/EEC/20_2299_00_e.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/SPS/EEC/20_2299_00_f.pdf https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/SPS/EEC/20_2299_00_s.pdf	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	5 November 2020
Japan	Exemption of customs duty and (domestic) consumption tax for imported goods which are proved to be provided free of charge	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Use institutional records to find out the tax situation of importers.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Simplification of customs procedures for safety products: Setting up contact points to speed up customs clearance https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/3448?cntId=e2294b53841a4f3f93f09eadd59cf761 Guidelines for clearance procedures https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/multiplehtml/3448 Press release related to trade facilitation measures taken by customs https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/3448?cntId=9c42256550d14b1e8c5a3a86a19380bc	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	31 March 2021
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Relaxation of the storage period of bonded goods in duty-free shops Article 20 of the Regulations Governing the Establishment and Management of Duty-free Shops https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=G0350036	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	31 March 2021
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary reduction of customs duty on "masks" and "ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol": ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol, 27 Feb to 26 Aug 2021 https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/1868?cntId=6f152622532e4759932b6012a01f9b7e ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol, 27 Nov 2020 to 26 Feb 2021 https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/1868?cntId=613ff0178e164fb3b604f9cd52cc2a65 ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol, 27 Aug to 26 Nov 2020 https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/1868?cntId=cus16_186132_1868 ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol, 27 May to 26 Aug 2020 https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/1868?cntId=cus16_185102_1868 ingredients of pharmaceutical alcohol and masks, 27 Feb to 26 May 2020 https://eweb.customs.gov.tw/singlehtml/1868?cntId=cus16_184129_1868	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	31 March 2021

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
United States	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), pursuant to the Defense Production Act (DPA) and other authorities, issued a temporary final rule banning the export of certain personal protective equipment (PPE), including certain respirators, certain surgical masks, and certain medical gloves, without explicit approval from FEMA. The rule included various exemptions, including exports of subject goods that are destined for either Canada or Mexico. https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-10/pdf/2020-17467.pdf	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	The Department of State's Office of Defense Trade Controls Policy announced that they are temporarily suspending, modifying, and excepting certain International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) requirements in an effort to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The temporary changes are set out in the following notification: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/01/2020-08839/international-traffic-inarms-regulations-notification-of-temporary-suspension-modification-or	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	Treasury and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a temporary final rule to temporarily postpone the deadline for importers of record with a significant financial hardship to deposit certain estimated duties, taxes, and fees that they would ordinarily be obligated to pay as of the date of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption, for merchandise entered in March or April 2020, for a period of 90 days from the date that the deposit would otherwise have been due but for this emergency action. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/22/2020-08618/temporarypostponement-of-the-time-to-deposit-certain-estimated-duties-taxes-and-fees-during-the	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has extended the interim guidance for the electronic submission of veterinary health certificates for shipment clearance due to COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance is now effective for shipments arriving through 30 September 2020. https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/2943fa9	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	USDA extended the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification due to the COVID-19 crisis: https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-temporarily-extends-expiration-dates-some-goodagricultural-practices-domestic-origin This only applied to US and Canada producers. This is extension was for only 60 days for those certifications scheduled to expire on or before 31 May.	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	USDA's main Coronavirus response page: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus#usda-actions	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020
United States	APHIS continues to regulate some animal-derived products: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/import/covid-19-info.pdf	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
United States	The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regularly updates its COVID-19 information for Filing Personal Protective Equipment and Medical Devices During COVID-19 here: https://www.fda.gov/industry/importing-covid-19-supplies/information-filing-personalprotective-equipment-and-medical-devices-during-covid-19	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	26 October 2020

Article 1.1: Publication			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
New Zealand	When New Zealand went into lockdown as a result of COVID-19, The New Zealand Customs Service published on its website COVID-19 related updates for traders.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 1.1 (b): applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
New Zealand	In April 2020, New Zealand concluded a plurilateral declaration (initially between New Zealand and Singapore) which: removes tariffs on a range of medical supplies needed for the COVID-19 response; commits not to impose export restrictions; includes commitments on NTBs; and contains commitments to expedite and facilitate the flow and transit of these products consistent with TFA obligations.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 5: Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-discrimination and Transparency			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Kenya	Protocol providing best practices on the importation and sale of used textiles and used shoes and how the supply chain operators conduct their operations while ensuring the health and safety of the sellers, importers, wholesalers and buyers from the risk of spread of COVID-19 virus.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Japan	Refund of, reduction of, or exemption from certain customs fees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
New Zealand	12-month deferral of the scheduled fees and charges for Customs' clearance of imported and exported goods across New Zealand's border.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Brazil	Simplification and streamlining of customs procedures for certain products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Note: also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Brazil	Prioritized transit, release and clearance of goods according to HS Classification Reference from WCO. Note: also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary criteria for the import of products for in vitro diagnostics Note: also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Chile	National Customs Service (SNA) - Resolution N° 1313, provides instructions for the importation (including donations) of essential inputs for the management, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. Measures include the preferential entry of such merchandises (a special code for priority in their assessment), as well as the use of simplified import declaration for expedited processing and clearance of such goods.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Japan	Japan Customs has been implementing TFA provisions, which facilitate customs procedures: Art.7.1: Pre-arrival Processing; Art. 7.3: Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties etc.	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Prioritization of customs clearance for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 and other goods that require an urgent clearance to maintain the lifeline. Note: Also applicable under TFA Article 10	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Prioritization of customs clearance for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 and other goods that require an urgent clearance to maintain the lifeline. Note: Also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Japan	Simplified import and export declaration forms for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc. Note: Also applicable under TFA Article 10	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Simplified import and export declaration forms for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc. Note: Also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	There will be special protocols to expedite the clearance of the following goods: • Supplies donated to the Ministry of Health; • Goods (import) in accordance with the rule for simplified procedure for imports made by the Ministry of Health and decentralized agencies of the Health Sector; • Perishable goods, medicines, and health products or other essential goods. Note: also applicable under TFA Article 10	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
New Zealand	Notices of direction provided for New Zealand border clearance staff to clear consignments (based on an emailed copy of a health certificate where authenticity could be verified in other ways with the relevant competent authority – provided an original is subsequently sent)	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Norway	Norwegian Customs introduced a temporary regulation giving the opportunity to economic operators to postpone the completion of customs declarations. The regulation was repealed when the situation normalised.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Singapore	Singapore and New Zealand launched the Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic ("Declaration") on 15 Apr 2020. Under the Declaration, both economies agree to eliminate tariffs, refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions as well as expedite the movement through sea and airports for a list of essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical and agriculture products. The purpose of the Declaration is to facilitate trade in these essential products and ensure that they continue to flow freely to their intended destinations during the COVID-19 global pandemic.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Switzerland	Simplified procedures (imports) Customs declarants have the possibility of completing Swiss customs formalities before lorries arrive, so that consignments of goods are stopped at the border only in certain necessary cases.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 7.2: Electronic Payment			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
New Zealand	All payments to New Zealand Customs should be made online or on deferred accounts.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
New Zealand	Implementation of e-Invoicing in New Zealand. This initiative represents a joint commitment by the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand to combine efforts through the Trans-Tasman e-Invoicing arrangement heads of agreement. Note: this measure also relates to article 10 of the TFA.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Mexico	Communication channels with CBP (USA), as well as with other authorities that act at the border.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
New Zealand	Agreement with the EU to allow the long running meat and seafood trial to go fully paperless.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Australia	Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) extended temporary alternative arrangements to the use of original paper import certificate requirements for a range of imported plant-based, animal, biological and animal-based goods.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Brazil	Implementation of a Customs Operational Center for Crisis Management to supervise, monitor and guide the customs procedures.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import licensing requirements on certain products (e.g., vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection and syringes).	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary simplification of requirements on the manufacture, import and purchase of certain products identified as essential for use in healthcare services on the fight against the COVID-19	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for the certification of good manufacturing practices for the purposes of registration and postregistration changes to active pharmaceutical ingredients, medicines and health products due to the COVID-19 international public health emergency	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for handling requests for regularization of personal protective equipment, medical equipment of the ventilator type and other medical devices identified as strategic	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Extraordinary and temporary criteria and procedures for handling requests for registration of medicines, biological products and products for in vitro diagnosis and postregistration change of medicines and biological products due to the COVID-19 international public health emergency	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary exemption from the requirement of inexistence of national production for the import of used pulmonary ventilators, vital signs monitors, infusion pumps, oximeters and capnographs and stretchers for the transport of patients	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Canada	The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has recently implemented an e-Longroom initiative which created a new process for providing electronic copies of release documents to the CBSA, thereby further reducing the paper burden. CITES and Kimberley permits must still be presented in hard copy. The e-Longroom process will remain in place following the pandemic. https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/e-services-e/longroom-sal-comp-eng.html	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 12 April 2021
	e-Longroom Part of an Emerging Digital Customs Strategy for CBSA	e-Longroom: an Emerging Digital customs Strategy	20 - 22 October 2020
Chile	National Customs Service (SNA) - Resolution Nº 1179 establishes new modalities for the handling of a number of procedures related to verification overseen by the Customs Service, with the view to facilitate trade, meet social distancing instructions and sanitary recommendations. These include the implementation of electronic procedures (responses to requests from customs brokers, exchanges or modifications of B&L by email and remote working of customs brokers), as well as the suspension of some deadlines deemed unmeetable due to COVID-19 outbreak.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Chile	National Customs Service (SNA) –Resolution No. 1377/2020, amends Exempt Resolution No. 1179. Authorizes individuals and state administration bodies to make their submissions to the National Customs Directorate, by email.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Dominican Republic	Trade facilitation measures taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic Single Window for Foreign Trade (VUCE) The Single Window for Foreign Trade continues to operate as usual. However, due to COVID-19 measures, assistance is being offered remotely as of 26 March. G/TFA/N/DOM/3/Rev.1 - 7 - Institutions are accepting copies of plant and animal health certificates, which are being reviewed electronically. A number of resources have been created to coordinate the granting of authorizations in the Single Window for Foreign Trade, which enables importers and exporters to schedule inspections (if necessary) and monitor the authorization process at the port. Users in need of assistance can call (+1) 809-547-7070, ext. 2662 and 2663, email gestiónyprocesosvuce@aduanas.gob.do or visit the website: www.vucerd.gob.do	Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	05 June 2020
Japan	Measures reducing Person-to-Person Interactions: Single Window in Japan enables traders to submit declarations and data electronically. Since 2013, Japan customs has allowed traders to submit electronic copies of supporting documents in PDF format through NACCS and the coverage of documents has been expanded as of October 2020.	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Korea, Republic of	Accept a copy instead of the original document of the certificate of origin to impose preferential tariffs.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Korea, Republic of	Omit document screening and visit inspection in the process of issuing certificates of origin in case companies recognized by the Korea Customs Service as excellent companies in export safety management.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Korea, Republic of	Include surgical and protective masks, hand sanitizers and thermometers in the list of tariff exemptions for self-use of small quantities of goods.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Korea, Republic of	Minimize customs clearance procedures for protective masks imported for the purposes of relief, donation and free distribution to employees by companies.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Staff (Except priority workers) is currently working in staggered periods from 25 March 2020, with 2 officials per area in each shift, in order to provide services to customers as necessary.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Assistance is provided to adults over 60, pregnant, lactating or staff with a chronic illness to carry out their work activities from their home.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Mexico	Attention and processing of matters related to the clearance of goods, through digital means. Presentation of documents through electronic means.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Transport services measures. Extended the validity of permits, licences and certificates for technical personnel.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Suspension of legal terms, deadlines, the receipt of documents and reports, procedures, actions, proceedings, initiation, substantiation and resolution of administrative procedures, notifications, requests for reports or documents and means of challenge, as well as any administrative act that is requested from its attached public servants. All administrative procedures before the Ministry of Economy will be conducted by electronic means of communication, so the receipt of documentation is suspended physically.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	There will be special protocols to expedite the import of: - Products and by-products of plant origin that require the presentation of an original Phytosanitary Certificate; - Merchandise subject to compliance with Official Mexican Standards.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Certificates of origin, certificates of eligibility for textile goods and clothing (TPL) and certificates of quota, which by their nature require to be printed, stamped and signed, the form of delivery will be through the website designed by the Ministry of Economy.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Mexico	Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS) has published a list of 219 priority procedures related to the disease caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus (COVID-19), including import health certificates, notices or sanitary authorizations for medicines or medical products, among others.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
New Zealand	The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and its Trade Single Window enables a goods clearance process before goods arrive to New Zealand. This ensures that critical supplies i.e., PPE and test kits continue to be cleared before arrival in New Zealand.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Norway	Norwegian Customs introduced a temporary regulation giving the opportunity to economic operators to postpone the completion of customs declarations. The regulation was repealed when the situation normalised.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Norway	The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food introduced a temporary regulation giving an exception from the plant health regulation section 19 on import certificates.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Norway	The Norwegian Ministry of Finance has allowed the import of donated aid with personal protective equipment without collecting customs duty and VAT.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Norway	Norwegian Customs introduced an electronic version of the preferential Movement Certificate EUR.1. The launch was expedited as a corona measure, but the solution is a permanent trade facilitating measure.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Norway	Norwegian Customs introduced a temporary regulation giving the carriers who have a permit for goods transport outside opening hours on roads where there is a customs office, may as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 viruses also pass during opening hours on the terms otherwise provided by the permit granted.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Singapore	Since 31 January 2020, importers of surgical masks, particulate respirators (such as N95 masks), thermometers for measuring human body temperature, and any protective gear for medical professionals (such as isolation gown and gloves), do not require an importer's licence from Health Sciences Authority (HSA). Instead, importers only need to notify HSA of their intention to import, as well as provide information on the brand and quantity of the devices to be imported into Singapore. They must also maintain proper sales and distribution records, which might be required for submission when necessary (such as for a recall of products).	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
Singapore	Singapore has already put in place a National Single Window (NSW) since 1989 that has put us in good stead during the COVID-19 situation. Singapore's NSW provides a single platform for Singapore's trade and logistics community to fulfil all import, export and transhipment related regulatory requirements. All customs declarations can be submitted electronically via the NSW prior to the arrival of the goods, and traders are notified when the permit application is approved or rejected. This minimises face-to-face interactions without delaying processing times and allows fees and taxes to be processed electronically.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Switzerland	Accelerated border crossing for goods: green lanes Use of priority lanes ("green lanes") in road traffic for certain categories of goods. The "green lanes" set up at certain border crossings for important goods are maintained. DATE:29.4.2020 Regulation 10-27 The "green lanes" established at certain border crossings for important goods (such as medical products, foodstuffs, mail, fuels, and packaging material and machine parts for the medical and food industries) remain in place. https://www.ezv.admin.ch/dam/ezv/fr/dokumente/verfahren-betrieb/Aufgabenvollzug/Dokumentation/R-10%20Zollverfahren/r-10-27_vorrangige_fahrspuren.pdf.download.pdf/R-10-27_Vorrangige_Fahrspuren_f.pdf HS codes Medical devices Respiration apparatus Systems for assessing the condition and functions of the body In vitro diagnostics ("COVID-19 tests") Surgical masks/OP masks Surgical gloves/examination gloves Medical oxygen Infusion solutions Personal protective equipment Surgical masks Protective masks Single-use gloves Gowns Protective clothing Protective goggles Hand sanitizer Surface disinfectant Hygiene items for intensive care medicine (such as medical absorbent mats, diapers, faecal management systems, and oral and throat hygiene items) Medicines Chapter 30 Foodstuffs Chapters 1 to 23, excluding goods containing alcohol and manufactured tobacco Fuel of all kinds Chapter 27 Machinery and spare parts Only if they are to be used in the medical and food industries Packaging material Only if it is to be used in the medical and food industries Letter and parcel post In accordance with the Universal Postal Convention	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
		Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	8 October 2020

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Switzerland	Simplified procedures (imports) Customs declarants have the possibility of completing Swiss customs formalities before lorries arrive, so that consignments of goods are stopped at the border only in certain necessary cases. Regulation 10-00 Customs declarants may carry out Swiss clearance formalities prior to the arrival of the mode of transport. To do so, customs declarants send a pre-declaration. This is equivalent to a final customs declaration, the only difference being that it is sent prior to the arrival of the consignment, so that it is easier for goods to cross the border at off-peak times. https://www.ezv.admin.ch/dam/ezv/fr/dokumente/verfahren-betrieb/Aufgabenvollzug/Dokumentation/R-10%20Zollverfahren/R-10-00%20Einfuhrzollveranlagungsverfahren.pdf.download.pdf/R-10-00.pdf	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 8 October 2020
Switzerland	Simplified procedures (exports) The "Libero Export" procedure provides a fully electronic export process, so that over 95% of consignments can be handled by the transporter without additional Swiss customs formalities. Regulation R-10-26 The "Libero Export" procedure, which simplifies export procedures at border customs offices, has recently been introduced across Switzerland (as far as is logistically possible). The customs declarant selects the export customs declaration and may export consignments selected as "free" without carrying out additional Swiss customs formalities. The submission of customs documents to Swiss windows, as well as the resulting waiting times, will thus gradually be eliminated. https://www.ezv.admin.ch/dam/ezv/fr/dokumente/verfahren-betrieb/Aufgabenvollzug/Dokumentation/R-10%20Zollverfahren/r-10-26_libero_export.pdf.download.pdf/R-10-26_Libero_Export_f.pdf	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 8 October 2020
Switzerland	Digitalisation: Electronic communication From July 2020, the possibility, via the E-Begleitdokument and E-com applications, to send documents, applications and requests directly to the customs system using an instant messaging function. Customs clearance, as well as the processing of applications and requests, will thus be considerably accelerated and simplified. https://www.ezv.admin.ch/ezv/fr/home/declaration-en-douane/declaration-pour-entreprises/e-begleitdokument.html	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 8 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Canada	The timeframe for all payments due to the CBSA (customs duties and GST on regular imports, re-assessments, penalties, etc.) was extended to 30 June 2020. This included charges on the statement of account of March due on 1 April 2020. The measure served to alleviate burden on businesses experiencing financial hardship and provide additional flexibility to traders. Information on deferral of payments is set out in Customs Notice 20-11 - Extension of Timeframes for Payment of Customs Duties and GST (COVID-19). Measure expired 30 June 2020. https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-11-eng.html	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 12 April 2021
Canada	The CBSA is provided a 45-day grace period for late accounting penalties. Clients did not have to submit an application to have late accounting penalties waived. This applied to transactions released from 11 March to 26 May 2020, inclusively.	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 12 April 2021
Canada	Canada has extended by 30 days the period of 90 days for submitting corrections following a CBSA trade compliance verification where errors were found. The measure, which expired on November 11, 2020, served to alleviate administrative burden on businesses and provide additional flexibility to traders. Information on the extension of the 90-day correction period is set out in the following notice. Measure expired 11 November 2020. https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-32-eng.html	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 12 April 2021
Canada	Canada is temporarily waiving customs duties and sales taxes on all goods used in response to COVID-19 imported by or on behalf of public health agencies, hospitals, testing sites, and first response organizations, as well as public or private care residences such as seniors' residences, retirement homes, nursing homes and shelters. Canada is also waiving customs duties on certain goods for all importers, including personal protective equipment, in order to support efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. G/MA/W/145 G/MA/W/153	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19 Notification under articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020 12 April 2021
Dominican Republic	Temporary suspension of import duties and internal taxes in the acquisition of denatured ethyl alcohol for antibacterial gel and similar products.	Medidas temporales adoptadas por la República Dominicana en respuesta al COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary suspension of import duties on face masks, outfits, personal protective equipment and medical instruments and devices.	Medidas temporales adoptadas por la República Dominicana en respuesta al COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Dominican Republic	Simplified procedures through the single window to release high priority goods (medicines, medical instruments and devices and food)	Medidas temporales adoptadas por la República Dominicana en respuesta al COVID-19	20-22 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Dominican Republic	Suspension of VAT tax on the importation of companies and goods classified by the PROINDUSTRIA law.	Medidas temporales adoptadas por la República Dominicana en respuesta al COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
European Union	Temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal, plant welfare during COVID-19	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
European Union (with respect to partner countries – Sri Lanka)	EU-Sri Lanka Trade-Related Assistance Project: • Technical support to implement specific Trade Facilitation Agreement measures; • Strengthening the institutional capacity of NTFC	European Union statement	20-22 October 2020
European Union (with respect to partner countries - the Caribbean)	11th EDF Regional Private Sector Development Programme for the Caribbean: • Support the TFA obligations in terms of availability of information on rules and procedures, automation and e-service	European Union statement	20-22 October 2020
European Union	Challenges: • Impossibility for declarants to come to the customs office; • Closure of customs offices. Measures: • Issuance of confirmation letters digitally signed to prove the authenticity of unstamped certificates; • Exchange of scanned certificates via e-mail between the economic operator and the customs office; • Exchange by post of certificates; • Legal analysis: Draft of an information note for economic operators; • Coordination with EU Member States authorities and partner countries: Digital platform CIRCA-BC interest group «PEM»; • Communication to economic operators: Websites of European Commission	Paper-based proofs of Preferential Origin under Covid-19 crisis	20-22 October 2020
European Union (with respect to partner countries - Mozambique)	EPA - Supporting Trade and Development in Mozambique – "PROMOVE Comércio": Implementation of TFA reforms	European Union statement	20-22 October 2020
European Union (with respect to partner countries - Uzbekistan)	Facilitating the Process of Uzbekistan's Accession to the WTO: • Establishment/strengthening of NTFC • Review/develop the Trade Facilitation-related legislative/regulatory framework	European Union statement	20-22 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
European Union (with respect to partner countries – Egypt)	I. The Trade and Domestic Market Enhancement Programme (TDMEP): 1. Foreign trade and trade agreements • Support to improving rules and procedures related to foreign trade and reinforcing Ministry of Trade and Industry's capacity to build positions, negotiate trade agreements, and analyse implications of international agreements; • Technical Assistance project on Trade Policy and Trade Facilitation. 2. Industrial policy and quality infrastructure. II. Twinning Program with the Egyptian Customs Authority (ECA): • simplify customs compliance requirements for businesses, • reduce customs bureaucracy for better trade facilitation; • make the movement of goods across borders more efficient and predictable; • strengthen administrative and operational capacities of the Egyptian Customs Authority (ECA).	European Union statement	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Deferment of Submission of C/O Due to Disaster	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Extension of time limits for customs procedures, including those for payment of customs duties in certain cases, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Japan Customs' Response to COVID-19	20-22 October 2020
Japan	Extension of time limits for customs procedures, including those for payment of customs duties in certain cases, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	OTTAWA GROUP: Trade Facilitation measures taken in response to COVID-19	30 September 2020
India	Implementation of 24x7 custom clearance facility at all custom formations to avoid any supply chain disruption. Instruction No.02/2020-Customs dated 20.02.2020 and Instruction No. 08/2020 dated 01.06.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-instructions/cs-instructions-2020/cs-ins-02-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	All customs formations to show greater sensitivity in dealing with cargo from affected areas, condone the delay in filing import declarations and waive late filing fees in genuine cases. CBIC Chairman letter No.03/CH(IC)/2020 dated 24.02.2020.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Creation of a dedicated single window COVID-19 helpdesk for EXIM trade to facilitate quick resolution of issue(s) faced by importer/exporter. https://icegate.gov.in/coronavirus-tradehelp	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Designation of a nodal officer in each Customs Zone who can be approached for any issue pertaining to clearance of cargo. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/CBIC-Customs-Nodal-Officer-Covid-19.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
India	With effect from 5 March 2020, extension of automated clearance of Bills of Entry to all Customs formations Where the Customs Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system is operational to minimize human interface and maintain social distancing. So far, this function was performed by a Customs Officer, Circular No. 15/2020-Customs Dated 28.02.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-15-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Shipping Lines have been asked not to levy detention charges on containers held up for reasons attributable to lockdown measures. DG Shipping Order no. 07/2020 dated 29.03.2020.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	All major ports have been asked not to levy penalties, demurrage, charges, fee, rental on any port user (traders, Shipping Lines, concessionaries, licensees etc.) for any delay in berthing, loading/unloading operations or evacuation/arrival of cargo for reasons attributable to lockdown measures Ministry of Shipping letter No. PD-14300/4/2020-PD VII dated 31.03.2020. Likewise, customs airports have been asked for waiving of demurrage charges at 50% by airport operator/cargo terminal operator for the lockdown period. Order date 01.04.2020 of Ministry of Civil Aviation issued under F. No. AV-29012/41/2020-ER.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	The time limit for filing of appeal, furnishing of return, or any other compliance under the Customs Act or Customs Tariff Act, which was expiring from 20 March 2020 to 29 June 2020, has been extended up to 30 September 2020 The Taxation and Other laws (relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 2 of 2020) read with relevant notification. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/NN_English_Ordinance_date%20extension.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	To address the difficulties faced by importers/exporters and their authorized Customs Brokers, during the lockdown period, the requirement of submitting different types of customs bond was dispensed with. Importers/exporters and their authorized Customs Brokers can submit undertaking on plain paper in lieu of such bonds Circular no. 17/2020-Customs dated 03.04.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-17-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	With the subsequent extension of lockdown period, and resultant difficulties in obtaining stamp papers for the submission of customs bonds, the facility of submitting undertaking on plain paper in lieu of such bond provided vide Circular 17/2020 was further extended to 30.06.2020 Circular 21/2020 dated 21.04.2020, Circular 23/2020 dated 11.05.2020 and Circular 26/2020-Customs. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-26-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
India	Import clearance of Edible oils and Food Grains against Provisional No-Objection Certificate P-NOC based on visual examination without waiting for the analysis report. On receipt of analysis report, final No Objection Certificate shall be issued FSSAI's direction dated 03.04.2020 and 16.04.2020 issued under F. No. 1-1771/FSSAI/Imports/2018. https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/04/5e98366960e97Direction_PNOC_Imported_Food_16_04_2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Prioritized clearance of critical goods used for fighting COVID-19, such as medical equipment, drugs and pharmaceuticals, testing kits, PPEs and exemption from basic customs duty and health cess has been granted to such goods- ventilators, masks, personal protection equipment, testing kits and inputs used in manufacturing these items Notification No. 20/2020-Cus dated 09.04.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs20-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Allowing provisional clearance of goods imported under free trade agreements without production of original certificate of origin. Customs Circular No. 18/2020-Cus dated 11.04.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-18-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	DGFT Trade Notice No. 59/2019-20 dated 28 March 2020 https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/Trade%20Notice%2059.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Issuance of electronic certificates of origin for exports under India's trade agreements with ASEAN, Japan, South Asia, Sri Lanka and Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) on a digital platform. Trade Notice 1/2020-21 dated 7 April 2020. https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/Trade%20Notice%201%20eCoO%20go-live%207Apr2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Exemption from Integrated Goods and services Tax (IGST)/Compensation Cess on goods imported against Adv. Authorization/EPCG extended up to 30.03.2021 (Notification No. 18/2020- Customs dated 30.03.2020). https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs18-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Electronic communication of PDF based final electronic Out of Charge eOoC (electronic Out of Charge) copy of BoE and eGatepass to the importers/Customs Brokers reduce interface between the Customs Authorities and Importers/Exports/Customs Brokers, with effect from 15.04.2020 Circular No. 19/2020-Customs dated 13.04.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-19-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
India	Personal hearing with respect to any proceeding under Customs Act, 1962 by video conferencing mechanism and., online submission of all documents for personal hearings through official emails. F. No. 390/Misc/3/2019-JC dated 27.04.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-instructions/cs-instructions-2020/cs-ins-04-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	To ease the burden of compliance on the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)'s, the AEO certificates that were expiring between 01.03.2020 and 31.05.2020 have been extended to 30.06.2020 vide Circular 27/2020-Customs dated 02.06.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-27-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	All the AEO entities have been sent individual intimations over email. Extension communications have been made from 24 April 2020 onwards.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Validity of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued to various promoters for setting up of Inland Customs Depots (ICDs)/Container Freight Stations (CFSs) due to expire during lockdown period extended up to 31 August 2020.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	8 June 2020 (Notification No 50/2020) (N.T.) and Notification 51/2020 dated 05.06.2020, Circular No. 28/2020 dated 05.06.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-28-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Instruction No .09/2020 dated 05.06.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-instructions/cs-instructions-2020/cs-ins-09-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Contactless customs - To reduce non-essential physical interactions in the Customs work environment, allowing Registration of Authorized Dealer Code, Bank Accounts through Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), Automated debit of bond after Assessment; Simplified Registration of Importers /Exporters in ICEGATE and Extension of Turant Suvidha Kendra in All Customs Formations. Circular No.32/2020-Customs dated 06.07.2020. https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-32-2020.pdf	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Online issuance of health certificates by the Export Inspection Council EIC, over e-mail.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020
India	Online issuance of Certificates for exports by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for the USA market w.e.f. 1 April 2020 DS 2301 certificates.	Intimation to the Committee on Trade Facilitation about India's COVID-19 trade facilitation measures (G/TFA/W/26)	8 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures			
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Date**
Netherlands support to developing countries	An immediate support package in the short run (USD 100 million)	The Netherlands statement	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	New Protection of front-line workers, including customs workers – through improved systems and automation.	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Streamlining of procedural formalities between and across border agencies [customs, bureau of standards, port authorities, SPS authorities etc.]	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Strengthened Risk management to prioritize clearance of imports and exports of low-risk critical supplies	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Border agency cooperation to facilitate the import of critical suppliers (including medical supplies)	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	ICT to support trade (e.g., single windows and trade information portals	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Extending border agency working hours	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Increased dialogue between industry and governments	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020
Saint Lucia on behalf of OECS	Increasing the availability of trade-related information on websites and through inquiry points	OECS report	20 – 22 October 2020

Section II. COVID-19 responses reported by land-locked developing country Members to the Committee on Trade Facilitation

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures by land-locked developing country Members				
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Challenge**	**Date**
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Amendment of legislation: new legislation or amendment of the existing legislation is a lengthy process.	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Institutional changes: establishment of new unit or bringing the current units in one umbrella, for example single window, enquiry points, risk management team and recruitment of new staff	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of border coordination and harmonization	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of equipment and infrastructures (ICT and Laboratory equipment for the implementation of TFA)	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Large number of documentary requirements	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of cooperation between customs and other border agencies and traders	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of standardization and harmonization	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Continued manual processing of documentation – hard copies still have to be submitted	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Time at ports is very high (consignment take more time to release)	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of automated processes and scarce use of IT	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of human and financial resources	20 – 22 October 2020
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Deficiencies in infrastructure	20 – 22 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures by land-locked developing country Members				
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Challenge**	**Date**
Afghanistan		Status and challenges of Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Afghanistan	Lack of capacity or shortage of skilled and professional staff (for new or existing staff) to promote better understanding of the agreement (exacerbated due to COVID-19)	20 – 22 October 2020
Mongolia		Implementation of the TFA by Mongolia	Decrease in global freight transport	20 – 22 October 2020
Mongolia		Implementation of the TFA by Mongolia	Restrictive measures at border	20 – 22 October 2020
Mongolia		Implementation of the TFA by Mongolia	Losses in export	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal	Necessary safety measures adopted in customs procedures & always remained open Trade facilitation through virtual meeting at regional (SAARC) and bilateral levels Border processing based on soft copies of documents and quick response team (24 H)	Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	International trade reduced from 5 billion daily to 1 billion at initial stage Lockdown & other restriction in economic activity impacted reduction Supply chain disruption both at the domestic and international level Delay in receiving cargo at customs resulted in congestion at border Problem in a smooth flow of goods, information and documentation	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	Insufficient trade related infrastructures including ICT (at border and inside)	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	Coordination in development/maintenance of transit transport infrastructure and harmonisation of policy, regulatory and administrative instruments	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	Slow process of customs cooperation at the regional or sub-regional level	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	High trade cost linked to trade (export) reducing effect causing negative impact on economic growth and unable to fully harness its potential	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	Low product diversification, low value addition, & limited trade partners	20 – 22 October 2020
Nepal		Trade & Transit Facilitation: Nepal's experience	Condition further sever as landlocked least developed country	20 – 22 October 2020

Other TF-related COVID-19 measures by land-locked developing country Members				
Member	**Reported Measure**	**Source**	**Challenge**	**Date**
Nepal		Statement by Nepal	Huge digital divide among and within the countries A huge portion of business running without automation and not connected to ITC Only few domestic online business operators concentrated in major cities have been able to run their business smoothly due to insufficient health protective measures and disruption in domestic transportation and supply system Major businesses are compelled to remain fully disconnected from the regular supply system and are mostly closed	30 September 2020
Paraguay	Almost 100% of trade procedures, including payments, could be completed online, with face-to-face procedures remaining optional.	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020
Paraguay	Teleworking was made possible due to digitalized procedures.	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020
Paraguay	Acceleration of implementation of electronic rules of origin certificates with ALADI and MERCOSUR countries. In other circumstances, the use of scanned documents was allowed.	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020
Paraguay	Decrease in the time to process customs declarations using digital procedures.	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020
Paraguay	Logistic centers that would allow cross-border trade, through orders made online with electronic payments.	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020
Paraguay	Automatization of transit and cabotage procedures	Ventanilla única del exportador - medidas en época de pandemia		20 – 22 October 2020

Section III. COVID-19 presentations by international organizations to the Committee on Trade Facilitation

International organization	Reported measure	Date	Source
International Trade Centre	(1) Analysis and insights from businesses; (2) Advice for business competitiveness; (3) Adapt TRTA delivery modalities: • Invest more in national resources and capacity; • Boost investment in e-learning facilities; • Adapt implementation modalities; • Leverage bilateral and regional online consultations (4) Implement digitally enabled TF reforms:	30 September 2020	ITC - Coping with COVID-19 through trade facilitation
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	(1) Ensure uninterrupted shipping. (2) Maintain ports open. (3) Protect international trade of critical goods and speed up customs clearance and trade facilitation. (4) Facilitate cross-border transport. (5) Ensure the right transit. (6) Safeguard transparency and up-to-date information. (7) Go paperless. (8) Address legal implications for commercial parties. (9) Protect shippers and transport services providers alike. (10) Ensure coordination.	30 September 2020	UNCTAD - Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)regarding LLDCs and SIDS'	(1) Governments to refrain from any unjustified restraints on traffic. (2) LLDCs and transit partners as well as SIDS' and transshipment ports to make use of trade facilitation standards and digital technologies to limit physical checks and contact at borders to protect health of workers. (3) View the crisis as an opportunity to reorient international transport operations on a sustainable path. (4) LLDCs, SIDS and partners to strengthen global and regional cooperation on transport connectivity and coordination.	30 September 2020	UNCTAD - Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Actions by NTFCs • **Emergency Task Forces:** Some NTFCs have been setting up ad-hoc crisis committees or have been integrated parts of the national emergency task forces. • **Dissemination of information during crisis:** Some countries have used trade information portals to ease trade by simplifying and explaining procedures and processes as well as COVID-19 emergency measures. • **Coordinating border actions**: NTFCs have worked with local authorities to expedite customs clearance and release of goods essential to combatting the spread of the pandemic, such as masks, gels and disinfectants, setting up clearance, organizing convoys etc.	30 September 2020	UNCTAD - Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19

International organization	Reported measure	Date	Source
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Asycuda COVID-19 Measures: • Guidelines for Customs Administration; • Survey on tailoring Asycuda systems against COVID-19 • UN Development account project on Transport and Logistics in times of COVID-19	30 September 2020	UNCTAD - Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19
World Bank	Activated 14 Billion in emergency financing to support COVID-19 country responses including health, PPE, and Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank	The Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP) increased the use of virtual modalities and local staffing.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank	The team produced two guidance notes and a video to assist recipient countries with responses to the crisis: "Managing Risk and Facilitating Trade in the COVID-19 Pandemic": provides initial guidance on measures to support business continuity and protection of front-line officers, as well as to facilitate safe cross-border trade. "Trade Facilitation Best Practices Implemented in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic": provides examples of good practices implemented by countries in response to COVID-19 in order to support governments in dealing with the crisis and improve trade in critical commodities. "Managing Risk and Facilitating Trade during COVID-19": trade facilitation experts discuss how countries can mitigate pandemic-related trade risks in a time of crisis	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Vanuatu	A remote video conferencing assistance schedule was developed with Vanuatu officials.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Malawi	The TFSP supported the government to procure WiFi Routers, especially for the NTFC. The TFSP supported the Malawi Revenue Authority with implementation of a risk management program on the expedited release and clearance of critical imports.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Fiji	The TFSP supported the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service in releasing the "COVID-19 Response Budget and Revenue Policies" paper to provide details of arrangements to assist with the border clearance process during the pandemic.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Sierra Leone	The TFSP supported continued engagement with the government on project activities and positioned the project to accelerate delivery to respond to postCOVID-19 recovery challenges. The team will focus on streamlining customs procedures and harmonization with other border agencies procedures; strengthening existing automation systems.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis

International organization	Reported measure	Date	Source
World Bank assistance in Central America	At the request of the Central American Secretariat of Economic Integration and the Regional Customs Committee, the TFSP-supported WBG team prepared and delivered an inventory of constraints being faced by the private sector and best practice solutions seen globally	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Europe and Central Asia	TFSP-supported SPS experts have commenced developing a guide and a set of virtual training sessions on risk management in SPS agencies in the Western Balkans and beyond	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Bank assistance in Africa	In Southern Africa, recovery action plans are being developed at national and regional levels with NTFCs.	30 September 2020	World Bank - WB response to Covid-19 crisis
World Customs Organization	(1) Dedicated IPR CENComm group on the CENComm Platform for the exchange of enforcement sensitive information. (2) Global enforcement operation "STOP". (3) Use of the Global Travel Assessment System (GTAS) (4) Use of the nCEN for the collection and sharing of COVID-19 related intelligence. (5) Use of the Global Rapid Alert Network (GRAN). (6) Newly established section, COVID-19 - WCO updates, on WCO website: • Repository of 115 Members' practices and measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic aimed at: (i) facilitating the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies; (ii) supporting the economy and sustaining supply chain continuity; (iii) protecting staff; and (iv) protecting the society. • HS Classification reference for COVID-19 medical supplies, available in 6 languages. • List of priority medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic, available in 6 languages. • Secretariat Note on how to establish and utilize essential goods lists during a disaster.	30 September 2020	WCO - What Customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

International organization	Reported measure	Date	Source
World Customs Organization	Secretariat Note on What Customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat Note highlights measures in four categories:(i) facilitating the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies;(ii) supporting the economy and sustaining supply chain continuity; (iii) protecting staff and (iv) protecting the society. Guidelines on disaster management and supply chain continuity. The guidelines are grouped in three sections linked to different phases of the disaster management cycle Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The Guidelines provide a combination of recommendations and best practices and are illustrated by specific Members' practices. Resolution on the role of Customs in facilitating the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines. As a follow-up to the Resolution, the WCO Secretariat started collecting Members' practices in facilitating the cross-border movement of the COVID-19 vaccines.	26-27 January 2021	Statement by the WCO - Vyara Filipova
World Customs Organization	(1) A new section on the WCO website to share information related to the cross-border movement of the COVID-19 vaccines. (2) Published a Secretariat note on practical steps to facilitate and secure the cross-border movement of COVID-19 vaccines by Customs. (3) Issued an HS Classification reference for vaccines and related supplies and equipment. (4) Secretaries General of ICAO and the WCO signed a Joint Statement on the global transportation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and associated medical supplies. (5) Developed a tool for Customs Risk Management during a pandemic, and announced the organization of operation STOP II.	3 March 2021	WCO presentation on Covid-19 related measures

ANNEX 2

Table 1: Information-Sharing by Annex D+ partner organizations on their activities

Member/Presenter	Title	Committee Meeting
Annex D+ Partner Organizations	Report by the Annex D+ partner organizations to the Trade Facilitation Committee G/TFA/W/29	20-22 October 2020
	Report by the ITC and the Annex D partner organizations to the Trade Facilitation Committee (G/TFA/W/39)	22-23 April 2021
GATF	Update on activities of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	12-13 February 2019
	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	25 June 2019
	Update from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	15 October 2019
	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation update	11 February 2020
	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation presentation	20-22 October 2020
	Building trust through public-private partnerships for trade facilitation	22-23 April 2021
	Capacity building support	19-21 October 2021
OECD	Summary of Events on Trade Facilitation and Future Trade Cooperation	26 June 2018
	Trade facilitation analysis at the OECD: Mapping opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the WTO TFA	19-21 October 2021
STDF	Driving safe trade solutions worldwide STDFs role	25 June 2019
UNCTAD	UNCTAD tools for NTFCs	3 March 2021
	UNCTAD's Reform Tracker	19-21 October 2021
UNCTAD and Rwanda	UNCTAD Compendium of Good Practices UNCTAD and Rwanda	15 October 2019
UNCTAD and Vanuatu	Vanuatu's experience with implementation of customs automation and single window – ASYCUDA programme	22-23 June 2021
UNCTAD and Honduras	Reform tracker for NCTFs	19-21 October 2021
WCO	WCO statement	11 February 2020
	Tracking progress on implementation of WCO's standards, instruments and trade facilitation measures	19-20 July 2021
	2021 WCO survey results on the state of play in the area of NCTFs	19-21 October 2021

Table 2: Information-Sharing by Annex D+ partner organizations on their work to support Members to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis

Member/Presenter	Title	Committee Meeting
GATF	Global Alliance – COVID-19 impact on Trade Facilitation	30 September 2020
ITC	ITC - Coping with COVID-19 through trade facilitation	30 September 2020
UNCTAD	UNCTAD - Easing global trade and transport during COVID-19	30 September 2020
World Bank Group	World Bank - WB response to COVID-19 crisis	30 September 2020 19-21 October 2021
WCO	WCO - What Customs can do to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic	30 September 2020
GATF	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	26-27 January 2021
WCO	Statement by the WCO	26-27 January 2021
WCO	WCO presentation on COVID-19 related measures	3 March 2021