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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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NOTIFICATION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRESS IN THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT OF CATEGORY C DESIGNATIONS

COMMUNICATION FROM BANGLADESH

The following communication, dated 19 August 2019 is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Bangladesh for Members' information.

Bangladesh hereby notifies information on the arrangements concluded and progress made in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support of the following category C designations, in response to Article 16 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donors: USAID, World Bank				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
The National Enquiry Point (NEP) for Customs has been established by the National Board of Revenue with technical assistance from the USAID.				
Therefore, the NBR will require capacity development and training assistance from other development partners/WTO.				
The NEP for Ministry of Commerce for non-customs issues is being established with technical assistance from the World Bank Group. WBG is providing the following assistance:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support for legislation2. Consultation with stakeholders through workshops, seminars and round table meetings3. Logistics for the ministry of Commerce				
Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce will require assistance from other development partners/WTO on – (i) Capacity development and training, (ii) Development of software connectivity with other Ministries/Departments and develop linkage with Ministry of Commerce, (iii) development of a coordination mechanism and (iv) logistics for other ministries and department.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: USAID				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>The National Board of Revenue is currently working to implement this measure with technical assistance from the USAID. The USAID is providing technical assistance with respect to support for legislation, training, capacity building, and consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate in capacity development and training activities on Pre-Arrival Processing.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: USAID, World Bank				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>A. The National Board of Revenue is currently working to implement this measure with technical assistance from the USAID and the World Bank Group (WBG). The USAID and the World Bank Group are providing technical assistance with respect to need assessment, support for legislation, training, and consultation with stakeholders. However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate in capacity development and training activities on Risk Management.</p> <p>B. The Plant Quarantine Wing has previously received training from the WBG. Currently it is not receiving any assistance from any donor. It requires assistance from development partners/WTO for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity development of surveillance mechanism 2. Establishment of pest Risk Analysis (PRA) procedure 3. Technical support on risk assessment and mitigation 4. Documentary and awareness development program in social media for moral and ethical responsibilities 5. Preparation of some SOPs and manuals for risk management issues 6. Legislation support and technical assistance for processing bio-security clearance 7. Technical assistance for facilitation of the accreditation process in Developing laboratory facilities <p>C. The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) has previously worked to implement this measure with technical assistance from the World Bank Group. Currently it is not receiving any assistance from any donor. It requires assistance from development partner/WTO for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stabilization of the Risk management system following international best practices 2. Training for the Risk Management Committee members 3. On-site visit for Risk Management Committee that have successfully established the system <p>No development partner is currently working with Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission in this regard. It requires assistance from development partners in the area of risk management.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: USAID, Asian Development Bank (ADB)				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>The National Board of Revenue is currently working in collaboration with the USAID (for transaction-based audit) and the Asian Development Bank (for system-based audit) to become compliant with this Measure.</p> <p>The USAID and ADB are providing technical assistance with respect to support for legislation, training, and consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate capacity development and training activities on Post-clearance Audit.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: USAID, Asian Development Bank (ADB)				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>The National Board of Revenue is currently working in collaboration with the USAID and the Asian Development Bank to implement the AEO system in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The USAID and ADB are providing technical assistance with respect to need assessment, support for legislation, training, and consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate only in capacity development and training activities on Authorized Operator.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: USAID				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>The USAID is providing technical assistance to the National Board of Revenue in establishing an expedited courier system that complies with international best practice.</p> <p>The USAID is providing technical assistance with respect to support for legislation, training, capacity development and consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate in capacity development and training activities on Expedited shipments.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: To be determined				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of perishable goods. Assistance required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for legislation 2. Consultation with stakeholders through workshops, seminars and round table meetings 3. Training 4. Capacity development 5. Infrastructure Support <p>Again, Port authorities require both technical (feasibility study, drawing, design etc.) and financial (infrastructure, equipment, maintenance etc.) assistance.</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donors: World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB)				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<p>(A) In-country border-agency cooperation:</p> <p>The World Bank Group is providing loan assistance to the Ministry of Shipping to develop facilities and infrastructure only at four ports, namely Benapole, Bhomra, Sonamasjid and Burimari. Ministry of Shipping requires assistance from other development partners/ WTO in developing facilities and infrastructure at other ports.</p> <p>The ADB is considering to provide technical assistance to the National Board of Revenue for the development of facilities and infrastructures at Sonamasjid, Sonahut, Tamabil, Akhaura, Teknaf, Haluaghat, Bibirbazar, Nakugaon, Shaola, and Darsana land customs stations.</p> <p>On the other hand, Plant Quarantine Department is not currently receiving any assistance from any development partner.</p> <p>(B) Cross-border agency cooperation:</p> <p>No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of cross-border agency cooperation. SASEC program under ADB coordinates activities in different South Asian Countries.</p> <p>Assistance required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negotiation and Consultation 2. Capacity development 3. Infrastructure 4. Automation 				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.1.1(a)	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: To be determined				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of perishable goods. Assistance required:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training 2. Capacity development 				
Again, Plant Quarantine Wing requires assistance for- (a) the preparation of a valid organogram of Plant Quarantine Authority in Bangladesh, and (b) the establishment of E-Phyto System.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: World Bank				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
The National Board of Revenue is currently implementing the project with loan assistance from the World Bank.				
The World Bank Group is providing loan assistance with respect to support for legislation, training, capacity development and consultation with stakeholders, and development of coordination mechanism.				
However, the NBR appreciates any opportunity from other development partners/WTO for the relevant officials to participate in capacity development and training activities on Single Window.				
Further, technical assistance for data standard management will be required at BCSIR. BCSIR is not currently receiving any assistance from any development partner in this area related to perishable goods. Therefore, it requires assistance highlighted above from the development partners/WTO.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 11.5	Freedom of Transit	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: To be determined				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of traffic-in-transit (establishing separate physical infrastructure for traffic-in-transit).				
Assistance required:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with stakeholders through workshops, seminars and round table meetings 2. Training 3. Capacity development 4. Development of Integrated Transit Policy 				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 11.9	Freedom of Transit	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: To be determined				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
No development partner has so far offered any assistance in the area of traffic-in-transit (allowing advance filing and processing of transit documentation and data prior to arrival of goods under traffic-in-transit).				
Assistance required:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for legislation 2. Consultation with stakeholders through workshops, seminars and round table meetings 3. Training 4. Capacity development. 5. Development of Integrated Transit Policy 				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 11.16	Freedom of Transit	C	To be determined	To be determined
Donor: To be determined				
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No donor agency is working on this measure, so support is required 2. Assistance is required for Development of Integrated Transit Policy 				