TFAF Update

WTO TF COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2019
ACP Workshop and Drop in sessions

ACP Group Workshop on Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
22 July 2019
National workshops

**Dominican Republic**
B & C definitive dates, transparency notifications for all 4 articles, and donor contact point

**Barbados**
Category C definitive dates and TACB needs.
National Committee terms of reference and action plan
The TFAF Supported:

- 21 developing and LDC Members to submit 33 notifications
- and 1 instrument of ratification.

Contribution from TFAF on over a third of the 86 notifications received
TFAF October 14 Workshop

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<th>Article</th>
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<th>Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)</th>
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AUSTRALIA

1. WE HERE WE WORK:
Australia supports global programs focused on helping developing countries and LDCs to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
Australia provides bilateral and regional support for trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. TYPE OF PROGRAMS/ASSISTANCE WE OFFER:
Global programs supported by Australia that assist Members to implement the TFA include:
- The World Bank, Trade Facilitation Support Program
- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility

Australia has a strategic target for its aid for trade investments to comprise 25 per cent of its aid program. Australia’s aid for trade investments are mainly delivered through bilateral and regional programs. The work tends to be programmed well in advance, in consultation with partner countries, based on their identified needs. As per the Strategy for Australia’s Aid for Trade Investments, aid for trade investments focus on three objectives: improving the regulatory environment, addressing poor economic infrastructure, and improving the productive capacity of the private sector. Trade facilitation is an important component of this work.

3. WHO TO CONTACT:
In the first instance, Members seeking assistance with TFA implementation are encouraged to contact the global programs supported by Australia that specifically focus on TFA implementation:
- The World Bank, Trade Facilitation Support Program
- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility

For bilateral and regional trade facilitation-related assistance, Members should engage with their relevant Australian Embassy or High Commission, or in coordination with the library that is responsible for their national development planning. Contact details for Australian Missions are available at [http://www.aid.gov.au/missions](http://www.aid.gov.au/missions)
Facilitation Feud
WTO
Geneva, Switzerland
July 5, 2019
WORK PLAN FOR 2019

This document sets out the work plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) for 2019. Detailed information on the operation of the Facility can be found in the Operational Guidelines that were issued on 25 June 2015.

2019 will be the second Operational Guidelines, that were based on the document of 2016. The activities in the work plan have the primary goal of avoiding developing and least developed country (LDC) Members to (1) foster implementation of the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TPA); (2) notify the TPA to the Special Session II institutions within agreed timelines; and (3) enhance the operation of their national trade facilitation committees.

In order to meet these goals, in 2019, the Facility will carry out tasks organized under four main headings: A. Notification; B. Technical, Methodological, Institutions and Implementations; C. Implementation Support and Advocacy, and D. Advocacy.

In order to ensure that it responds to genuine needs, TFAF’s activities are driven by requests from Members. As such, this work plan outlines the activities, scope and broad focus of the planned initiatives for 2019, without detailing the location and specific topic overview, which are found in the country-by-countryside analysis, which is discussed in the annual update. Throughout the year, TFAF will pay special attention to the participation of women in all its planning and working groups.

On 5 November 2018, 133 countries had submitted their instrument of acceptance containing the Agreement. 119 countries had submitted their country A notifications. Seventy-five countries had notified category B and C notifications.

In order to reflect progress made since the launch of the Facility, at the request of Members and to further study its impact, simply reporting that notified or the contributions of its activities to overall results, the Facility will produce an updated log based on latest dates. This update involves the value of requests for the Facility’s services and the activity feedback of its various outputs. As such there will be a direct link between the activities described in this work plan, monitored throughout the year and evaluated in the annual report, and the overall level of the activity or expenditure in the report.

Success progresses made in mobilizing and implementing the Agreement, TFAF will further develop its project management and monitoring tools, based on the updated log book, to increase its well-formed management and results reporting. Over the course of 2019, TFAF will develop a theory of change on its impact on developing countries, including data on activity and desired outputs, with gender-specific, regional data, more possible, on the relevant activities.

BACKGROUND

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force on 22 September 2015, when more than two-thirds of the WTO Members had deposited their notifications of Amendment and notified the WTO of their acceptance of the Agreement. A total of 139 notifications were received in 2015 and as of 9 November 2018, 127 out of 204 WTO Members had completed the process.

When the TPA entered into force, the category A, B and C notifications became due. As of 9 November 2015, 117 notifications had been received (category A notifications), 32 (category B notifications) and 105 (category C notifications). These notifications confirm the Members’ implementation assistance needs.

The Operational Guidelines are available on the official website at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tfa_e/tfa_e.htm

The WT/WP/2018/15 for Aid to Facilitate the Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was adopted by the General Council on 22 November 2018 (WT/WP/33).
2019 Peer to Peer Trade Facilitation Learning Event
WTO, Geneva, Switzerland
July 2, 2019

Facilitation Feud
WTO, Geneva, Switzerland
July 5, 2019
THANK YOU