

WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION AND SINGLE WINDOW

CASABLANCA, NOVEMBER 2015



- WHY TRADE FACILITATION AT WTO?
- STRUCTURE OF THE AGREEMENT
- ROLE OF SINGLE IN IMPLEMENTING TFA
- STATE OF PLAY IN RATIFICATIONS & NOTIFICATIONS OF CATEGORY A
- NEXT STEPS

TYPICAL PROBLEMS:

- ✓ Excessive documentation requirements
- ✓ Inefficient border-crossing procedures
- ✓ Transport and transit impediments
- ✓ Lack of transparency and predictability
- ✓ Lack of cooperation and coordination
- ✓ Lack of automated processes and scarce use of information technology
- ✓ High administrative costs

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

IT TAKES 9 BILLION DOCUMENTS A YEAR TO
PROCESS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS

1 DAY CUSTOM CLEARANCE EQUALS ALMOST 1%
TARIFF COSTS

**TF REFORMS WOULD SAVE TIME, MONEY AND
EFFORTS FOR REGULAR BUSINESS PEOPLE AND
CONSUMERS**

AND WHY AT WTO?

- Common rules for 161 WTO members
- Enforcement through dispute settlement
- In line with existing rules and articles
- It's been with us for a while

HISTORY AT WTO

- 1996 “Singapore issue”
- 2001 DDA launch
- 2004 establishment of negotiating group
- 2013 conclusion of negotiations in Bali during 9th Ministerial Conference
- November 2014 protocol to amend WTO agreement adopted

ESTIMATED BENEFITS OF THE TFA

2015 WORLD TRADE REPORT OF THE
WTO

- **750 to 1 000 billion dollars increase in world exports.**
- **170 billions to 730 billions** for developing countries.
- And **310 to 580 billions** for developed countries.



- Impact on export diversification.
- 20% new products exported by Developing and up to 35% for LDCs.
- L'accès aux marchés étrangers devrait augmenter de 30% pour les pays en développement et de 60% pour les PMA.



- **A 14,5% average decrease of transaction cost for world trade.**
- SMEs greater beneficiaries.
- Positive correlation Between TFA and FDI.



C. STRUCTURE OF THE TFA

Section I

The TFA contains 12 Articles with approximately 40 “technical measures”

Section II

Special provisions for developing and least-developed country Members

Section III

Final provisions and institutional arrangements

Section I

The trade facilitation Agreement contains 12 Articles with approximately 40 “technical measures”

Article 1

Publication & Availability
of Information

Article 5

Measures to Enhance
Impartiality, Non-Discrimination
& Transparency

Article 9

Movement under
Customs Control

Article 2

Comment
and Consultations

Article 6

Disciplines on Fees
and Charges

Article 10

Import, Export
& Transit Formalities

Article 3

Advance
Rulings

Article 7

Release and Clearance
of Goods

Article 11

Freedom
of transit

Article 4

Procedures for
Appeal or Review

Article 8

Border Agency
Cooperation

Article 12

Customs
Cooperation

Some examples of provisions that fight inefficiency

- Article 1: publication & available information

information made available through
internet;

national enquiry points;

notifications

- Article 3: Advance Rulings

a written decision prior to import
for tariff classification and origin
delivered reasonable and time bound way
binding on the Member that issued

- Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation

alignment of working days, hours,
procedures and formalities;

development and sharing of common
facilities;

joint controls, one stop border post control

- Article 10: Formalities, procedures and documentation
 - acceptance of copies;
 - use of international standards;
 - single window;
 - use of custom brokers;
 - common border procedures and uniform documentation requirements

ROLE OF THE SINGLE WINDOW IN IMPLEMENTING THE TFA

- There are 3 broad categories of Single Windows: for clearance formalities; Logistics coordination and B2B Transactions.
- The first category of single window seems to be the type of operations envisaged by the provisions of Article 10.4 of the TFA.

ROLE OF THE SINGLE WINDOW IN IMPLEMENTING THE TFA

- Although the three categories of single windows are distinct, some countries have been trying to develop two or more of them under a single program. For this reason, it is important to keep in mind that the term "single window" could be referring to very different systems, some of which are not covered by the provision of the TFA.

ROLE OF THE SINGLE WINDOW IN IMPLEMENTING THE TFA

- In addition to the obvious relationship to Article 10.4 of the TFA, countries could use Single Windows as an instrument to:
 - improve the publication and availability of information (Article 1),
 - announce new laws and regulations so interested parties could comment on them (Article 2),
 - allow trade operators to apply for advance rulings (Article 3),

ROLE OF THE SINGLE WINDOW IN IMPLEMENTING THE TFA

- In addition to the obvious relationship to Article 10.4 of the TFA, countries could use Single Windows as an instrument to :
 - provide transparency on the fees and charges (Article 6.1),
 - allow for the electronic payment of duties, taxes and fees (Article 7.2),
 - minimize the formalities and documentation requirements, including the use of copies (Articles 10.1 and 10.2), etc.

SECTION II

special provisions for developing and least-developed countries

- Category A

- to be implemented at the time the TFA enters into force (developing);

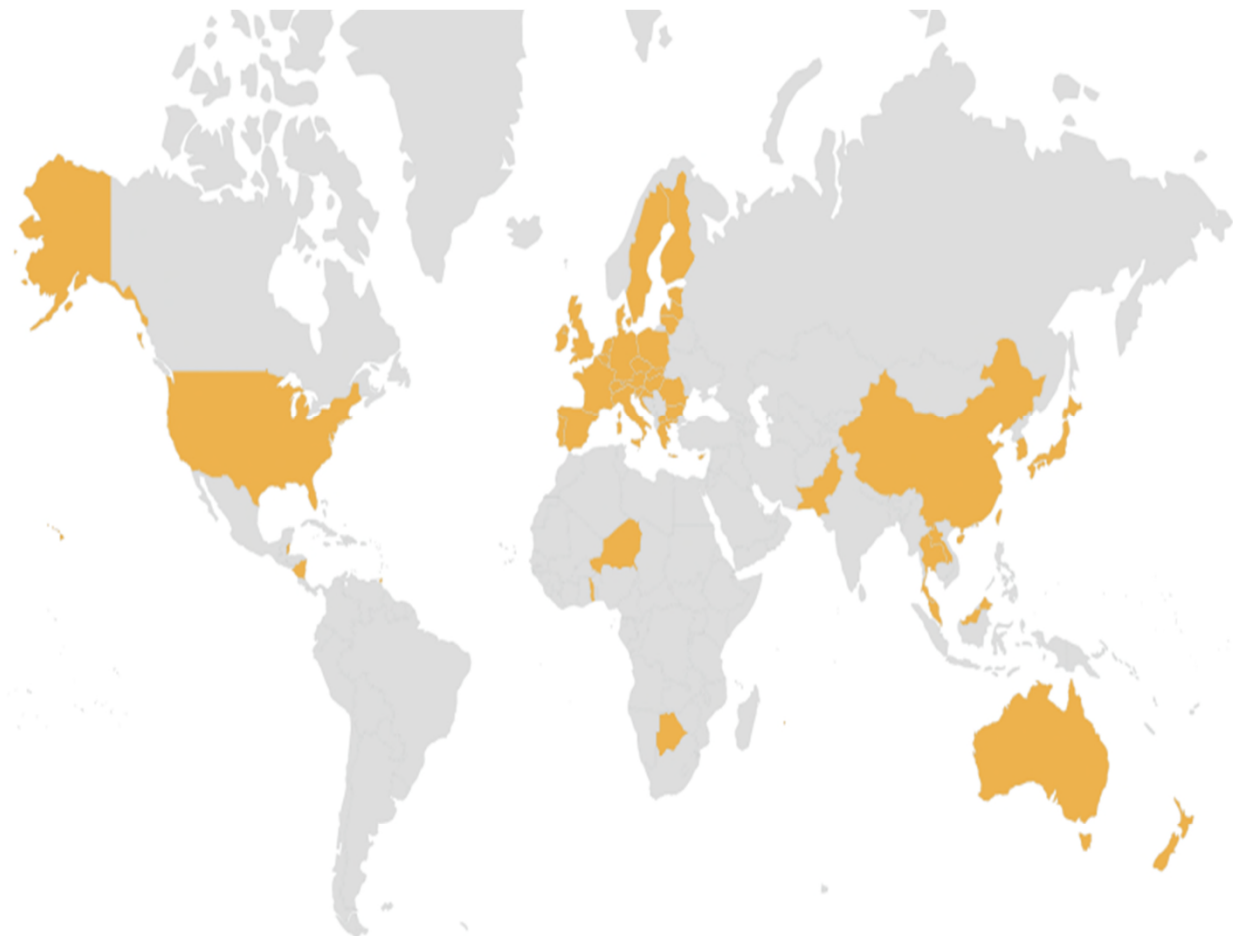
- to be implemented within one year (LDCs)

- Category B


- transitional period

- Category C

- transitional period + assistance and support for capacity building



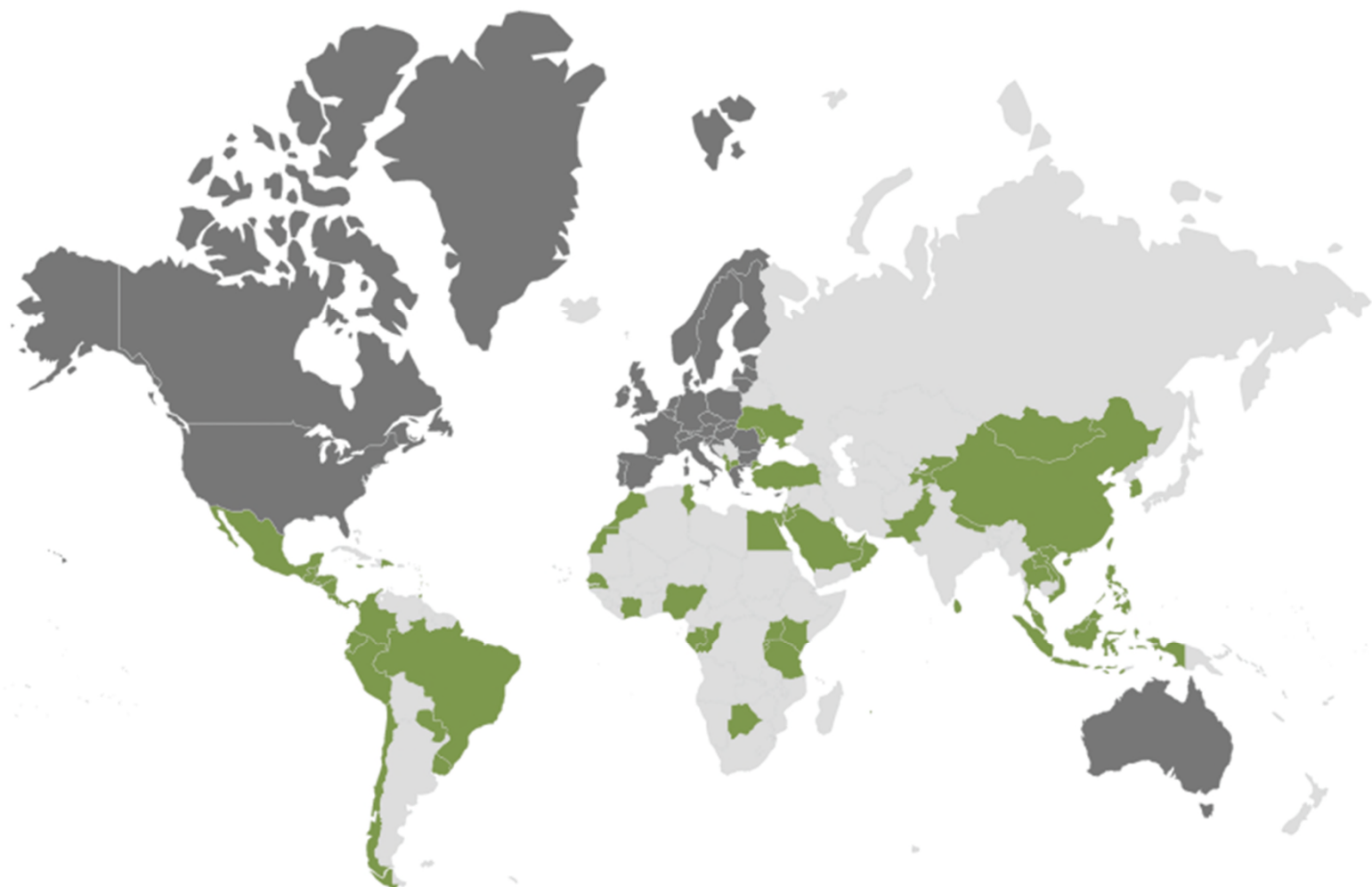
JS map by amCharts

 51 Instruments d'Acceptation du Protocol reçus

Selectionner un Membre



[› LISTE DES RATIFICATIONS](#)



JS map by amCharts

73 Membres ont présenté des notifications pour la catégorie A

Selectionner un Membre

SECTION III

final provisions and institutional arrangements

- Committee on Trade Facilitation
oversees implementation of the TFA
- National Committee
each WTO Members shall establish or
maintain a national committee

NEXT STEPS

- The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF)
- Conclude “needs assessments”
- Receive Category A commitments
- Ratification
- Acceptance by 2/3s of Members
- Entering into Force of the Agreement

THANK YOU VERY MUCH