



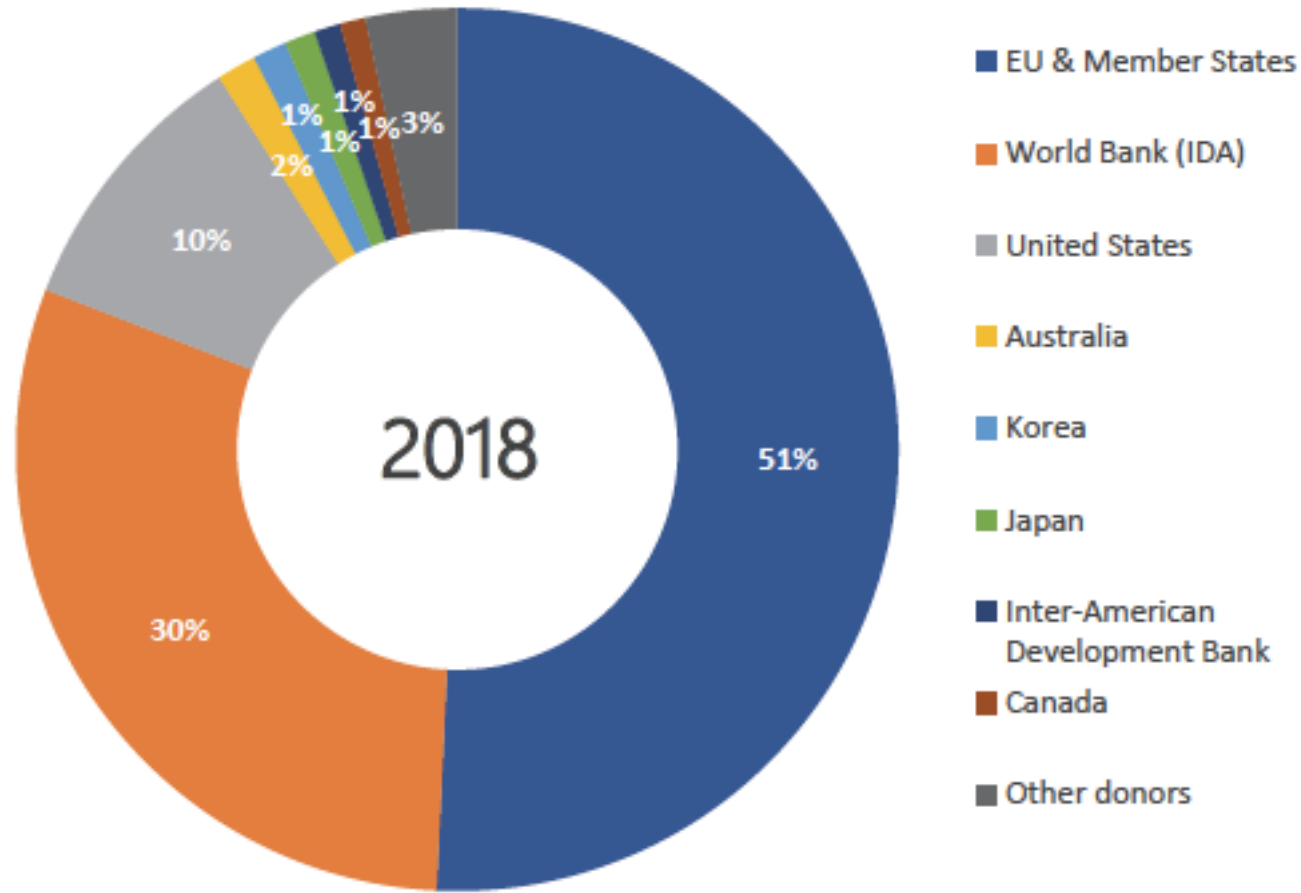
Trade Facilitation

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The EU and MS, a major donor for Trade Facilitation, at €288 million (OECD CRS)



WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement- A game changer for EU Support

Objectives

- Expedite movement, release & clearance of goods
- Improve cooperation between customs and other authorities
- Enhance technical assistance and build capacity

TFA Structure

- Section I: 12 articles of technical measures
- Section II: Special and Differential Treatment (SDT)- provisions for developing countries
- Section III: Institutional arrangements and Final Provisions

40 measures set out in 12 Articles



Art. 1
**Publication and Availability
of Information**



Art. 5
**Other measures to enhance
impartiality, non-discrimination
and transparency**



Art. 9
**Movement of goods intended
for import under customs
control**



Art. 2
**Opportunity to comment,
information before entry into
force and consultations**



Art. 6
Disciplines on fees and charges



Art. 10
**Formalities connected with
importation, exportation and
transit**



Art. 3
Advance Rulings



Art. 7
**Release and Clearance
of Goods**



Art. 11
Freedom of transit



Art. 4
Procedures for appeal or review



Art. 8
Border Agency Cooperation



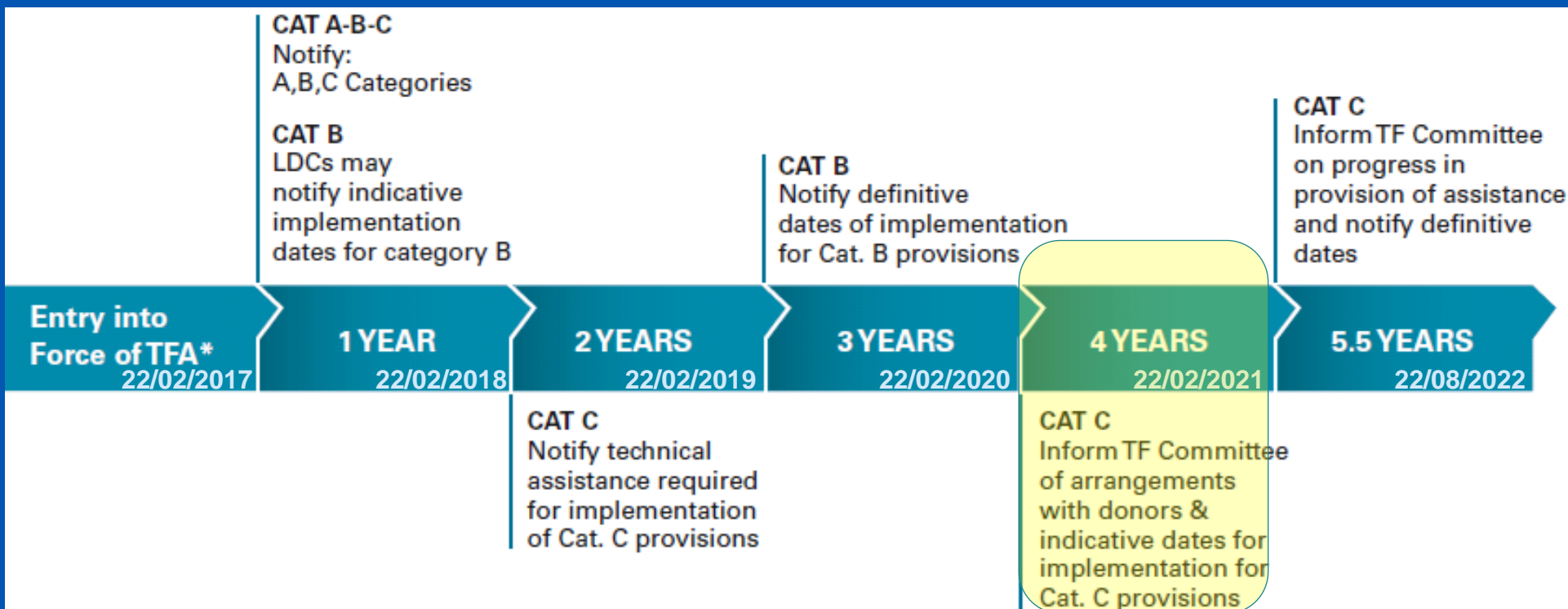
Art. 12
Customs Cooperation

Categorisation of each measure

Each developing country and LDC will categorise each measure into one of these 3 categories:

- Category A: at time Agreement enters into force (one year later for LDCs)
- Category B: entry into force + (X) time (only “local action” needed)
- Category C: after technical assistance and capacity building

Notification timeframe for LDCs



Special and Differential Treatment

- Applies only to developing countries (including LDCs)
- Gives flexibility in the implementation of obligations
- Each developing country decides when it can implement each provision
- Needs assessment, especially by LDCs is important
- Implementation of agreement linked with technical assistance and capacity building (notification as Category A, B or C)
- Donors to provide technical assistance and capacity building support

COVID-19 and trade facilitation

- Pertinent need for trade facilitation measures to ensure movement of essential goods and services during the lockdown imposed by a number of countries.
- Accelerated reforms and renewed efforts to advance on the implementation of the TFA in areas such as exports/imports and transit procedures simplification, digitization, cooperation at the borders and between border agencies.
- Highlighted the importance of digitalisation to facilitate trade including via e-commerce (platforms, payments etc)- what is the implication for LDCs?

Challenges

- Due to COVID-19, the mobilisation of experts has been difficult; in-person trainings and consultations were cancelled and had to be organized via virtual means and a delay of activities that cannot be organised in virtual way.
- It has proven challenging at times to agree on dates/implementation modalities of remaining activities and it will be a challenge to sequence them once the pandemic is over due to an overflow of activities of other programmes and donors that await the same moment.
- At these times of crisis, there seems to be low interest/capacity of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) coordinating agency (usually under Min. of Trade) to take benefits from various development partners' programmes.
- Often reported: lack of coordination between Ministries and low institutional capacity of the WTO TFA stakeholders.

Lessons learnt

- Need for coordination between national and international development partners to better streamline support. E.g the TWFA programme has multiple sources of donor and country funding to help West African countries implement the TFA.
- Need for on information on e-commerce that can be easily accessed such as on e-commerce platforms; e-payment gateways; logistics; shipping. E.g request from SMES in the Caribbean region (under EU Regional Private Sector Development Programme for the Caribbean)
- Coordination and communication will be also needed at the time of recovery. Project components and development agencies would need to make sure that not all activities are organized at the same time (need to sequence activities).

Suggestions for EUDs

- **Understanding the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) dynamics:** leading authority and mandate, existence of a Secretariat, institutional strengths and weaknesses, effective functioning
- **Understanding TF donor dynamics:** leading/ traditional TF donor, donor coordination
- **EU positioning on TF:** within donor coordination, division of labour, funding sources to mobilise (MIP, RIP, etc)
- Use **DAC Code 33120** in your Action Document and in CRIS as main or secondary code

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Thank you



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