

Information sharing session: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and Standards

Victoria Waite

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NATHAN

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TFA Quick Facts

- Concluded TFA negotiations at WTO Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013
 - “enhancing technical assistance and support for capacity building in this area”
 - “provisions for effective cooperation between customs or any other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues”
- In November 2014, WTO members adopted a Protocol of Amendment - TFA would enter into force once two-thirds of all WTO members completed domestic ratification procedures
 - Entered into force on February 22, 2017 (after the 110th member ratified TFA domestically)
 - Cote d'Ivoire (December 8, 2015); Senegal (August 24, 2016); Ghana (April 1, 2017)

TFA – Additional information

- Compliments other WTO agreements, such as TBT and SPS
- Increases transparency and predictability by improving information sharing
- Might consider TFA as operational piece
- Concerns publication and administration of trade regulations
- Aims to ensure that measures applied at borders are not arbitrary

Implementing measures uniformly at border posts

- Several government entities can be found at border posts (vary according to country)
 - Customs service
 - Food and drug agency
 - Plant protection
 - Veterinary/fisheries
 - Standards
 - Health
 - Trade
 - Water and forest
 - Insurance
 - Police
 - Environmental protection
 - Others

Trade Africa Trade Facilitation Project Objectives

- Launched in August 2016, 2 year duration, funded by USAID
- Support the governments of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Senegal to increase compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Simplify procedures for importation and exportation of goods to reduce the cost and time of doing business
- Increase transparency and the competitiveness of goods in regional and global markets, including the United States
- Learn from and share regional experiences with implementation of TFA articles, and coordinate technical assistance initiatives between the three bilateral programs and with ECOWAS

Current Trade Facilitation Project Linkages

- Article 1 – Publication and Availability of Information
 - E.g. publication through the Internet (Trade information portals); establishing TFA enquiry points (coordinating with SPS and TBT enquiry points)
- Article 5 – Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination, and transparency
 - E.g. Notification of enhanced controls or inspections related to food, beverages or feedstuffs
- Article 6 – Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties
 - E.g., related to fees and charges placed on inspections
- Article 8 – Border Agency Cooperation
 - E.g., coordinated efforts at border between different government agencies, such as joint inspections

Trade Africa Trade Facilitation Project Priorities

Provision	TFA Title	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Senegal
Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information				
1.1	Publication			X
1.2	Information Available through Internet			X
1.3	Enquiry Points	X	X	X
1.4	Notification		X	
Article 2: Opportunity to comment, information before entry into force and consultations				
2.1	Opportunity to comment and information before Entry into Force		X	
2.2	Consultations		X	
Article 3: Advance Rulings				
3.1	Advance Rulings	X*		
Article 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination, and transparency				
5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections		X	

* Subject to available resources

Trade Africa Trade Facilitation Project Priorities

Provision	TFA Title	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Senegal
Article 6: Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties				
6.1 / 6.2	General and Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	X	X	X
Article 7: Release and clearance of goods				
7.4	Risk Management		X***	
7.5	Post Clearance Audit		X***	X
7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	X		
7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	X*	X**	X
Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation				
8.1	Border Agency Cooperation	X	X**	X

* Subject to available resources

** Proposed phase 2 work plan activities

*** Subject to work done by Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF)

Trade Africa Trade Facilitation Project Priorities

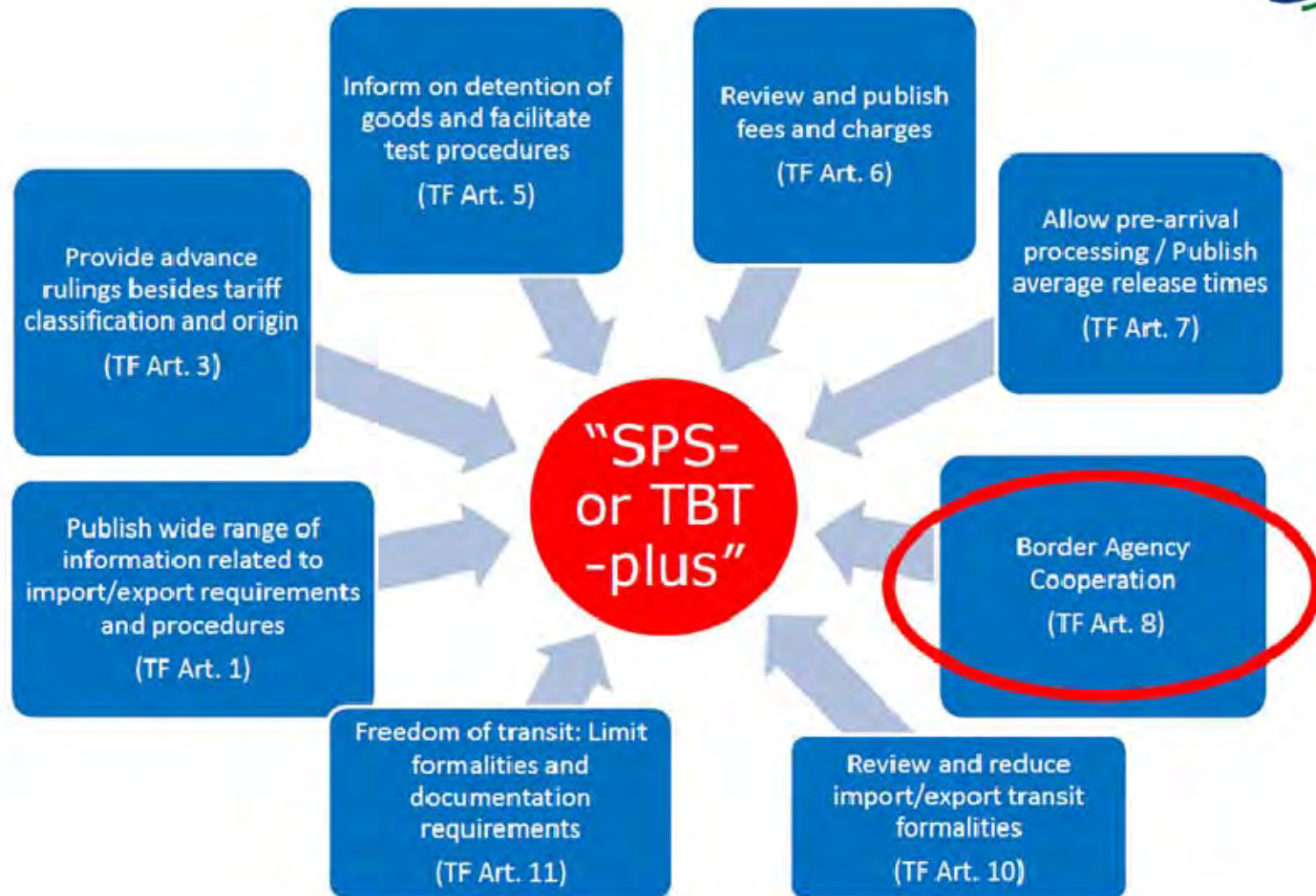
Provision	TFA Title	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Senegal
Article 10: Formalities and documentation requirements				
10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	X*		
Article 12: Customs Cooperation				
12.1	Customs Cooperation	X*	X**	

* Subject to available resources

** Proposed phase 2 work plan activities

TFA Provisions – Linkages to SPS or TBT

Source: WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility Presentation



Questions?



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