



2nd DONORS CONFERENCE OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGION OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

Lome, Togo

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Trade Facilitation initiatives by African Union Commission

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WTO TFA Ratification & Entry into Force

- The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017 when the WTO obtained the two-thirds acceptance of the Agreement from its 164 Members.
- Only 20 African WTO Members have ratified and 25 are still to ratify
- Implementing the TFA could reduce worldwide trade costs by anywhere from 12.5% to 17.5% - OECD

RATIFICATIONS RECEIVED

The Agreement entered into force when 110 ratifications were received.



Chad, Rwanda, Nigeria, Mozambique, Ghana, Gabon, Swaziland, Senegal, Madagascar, Mali, Seychelles, Lesotho, Zambia, Kenya, Cote D'Ivoire, Togo, Niger, Botswana, Mauritius, Sierra Leone

AU Summit Decisions

Assembly/AU/Dec. 531 (XXIII)

23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly; June 2014; Malabo

With Regard to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;

- Reaffirms commitment to the Doha Development Agenda & to its rapid completion in accordance w its development objectives
- Reaffirms commitment to all decisions the Ministers took in Bali for the conclusion of the Doha Round
- Acknowledges that the TFA is an integral part of this process
- Agrees that the TFA should be implemented as per Trade Ministers' Bali decision

BOOSTING INTRA AFRICA TRADE (BIAT)

- In 2012, the Assembly also endorsed an Action for Boosting Intra Africa Trade
- Aims at deepening Africans market integration and significantly increasing the volume of trade that African countries
- Trade Facilitation,
 - One of the immediate actions foreseen under this cluster is the simplification and harmonization of Customs and transit procedures
- Trade Policy,
- Productive capacities,
- Trade related Infrastructure,
- Trade Finance,
- Trade Information
- and Factor Market integration.

The image displays two screenshots of trade portals. On the left is the 'Mauritius Trade Easy' portal, featuring a blue header with the portal's name and a sub-header 'Expanding markets and Facilitating compliance'. The main content area includes a banner for 'AIR MAURITIUS', sections for 'Facilitating imports and exports', and 'Trading with Mauritius'. On the right is the 'Lesotho Trade Portal', with a dark blue header featuring the 'Kingdom of Lesotho' logo. The main content area includes a banner for 'Welcome to the Lesotho Trade Portal', a 'SEARCH' bar, and a 'MINISTRY AREA' sidebar with links for 'Email', 'Password', 'Remember me', 'Logout', 'Register', 'Forgot Password', and 'Search this Site'.



Trade Facilitation Initiatives

Developed a WTO-TFA ratification dashboard

www.tfa4Africa.com

Gap Analysis Study

- Outcome to inform development of the AU TF implementation Strategy

TF Strategy

- Framework in place and to be finalised this year

Interconnectivity of computerized Customs Systems

- A study carried out
- Subject was theme of 6th meeting of DGs of Customs in 2014
- Outcome presented to the Conference of Ministers of Trade

Annual Trade Facilitation Forums



Trade Facilitation Initiatives

Regional Trade Facilitation Forum in December 2016

- The Commission in conjunction with the WCO ROCB ESA Region , held the 1st AUC- WCO ROCB Eastern and Southern Africa Customs Regional Trade Facilitation Forum in December, 2016
- The main objective was to take stock of gaps, country experiences, challenges, technical assistance requirements and definitely bring synergies

Single Window Implementation In Africa

- MOU with AAEC
- Undertake Study in Single Window Gap Analysis
- Action plan for implementation
- Outcome to be incorporated in the AU TF Implementation Strategy



Trade Facilitation Initiatives



Enhancing integrity

- Issues of Integrity and Ethics in Customs will continue to be at the core of all modernization and reform programs inherent with the implementation of this Agreement.
- In collaboration with the WCO, a Workshop on Corruption Risk Mapping in Customs was organized in Senegal in 2016.
- In response to the need of addressing non-tariff barriers in the Trade Facilitation Cluster of the Boosting Intra African Trade program
- The main objective was to provide information on the methodology of corruption risk mapping as well as practical exercises so that participants can initiate corruption risk mapping techniques in their respective Customs Administrations



Scope of the CFTA

Trade in goods

- Tariff liberalization,
- NTBs,
- RoO,
- Trade Facilitation
 - Customs coop
 - Harmonization of Doc
- Transit & Transit facilities,
- Trade remedies,
- Standards,
- Technical Barriers 2 Trade
- Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)
- Dispute settlement
- Institnl arrangements

Trade in Services

- Transportation
 - Air, maritime
- Financial Services
 - banking,
 - insurance,
- Tourism,
- Energy,

Other Issues

- Competition policy
- Intellectual Property Rights,
- Investment
- Movement of business persons,

Sequencing Issues

Trade in goods only in first phase

Goods and Service concurrently in the first phse

Annex 3:Customs Cooperation & Mutual Administrative Assistance

- 1. Definitions
- 2. Objective and Scope
- 3. Harmonization of Customs Tariff Nomenclatures & Statistical Nomenclatures
- 4. Harmonization of Valuation Laws and Practices
- 5. Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures
- 6. Automation of Customs Operations
- 7. Advance Exchange of Information
- 8. Prevention, Investigation and Suppression of Customs Offences
- 9. Request, Exchange and Provision of Information
- 10. Confidentiality
- 11. Technical Cooperation
- 12. Communication of Customs Information
- 13. Sub-Committee of the Director Generals of Customs

APPENDIX ON TRADE FACILITATION AND TRANSIT

- Measures include :

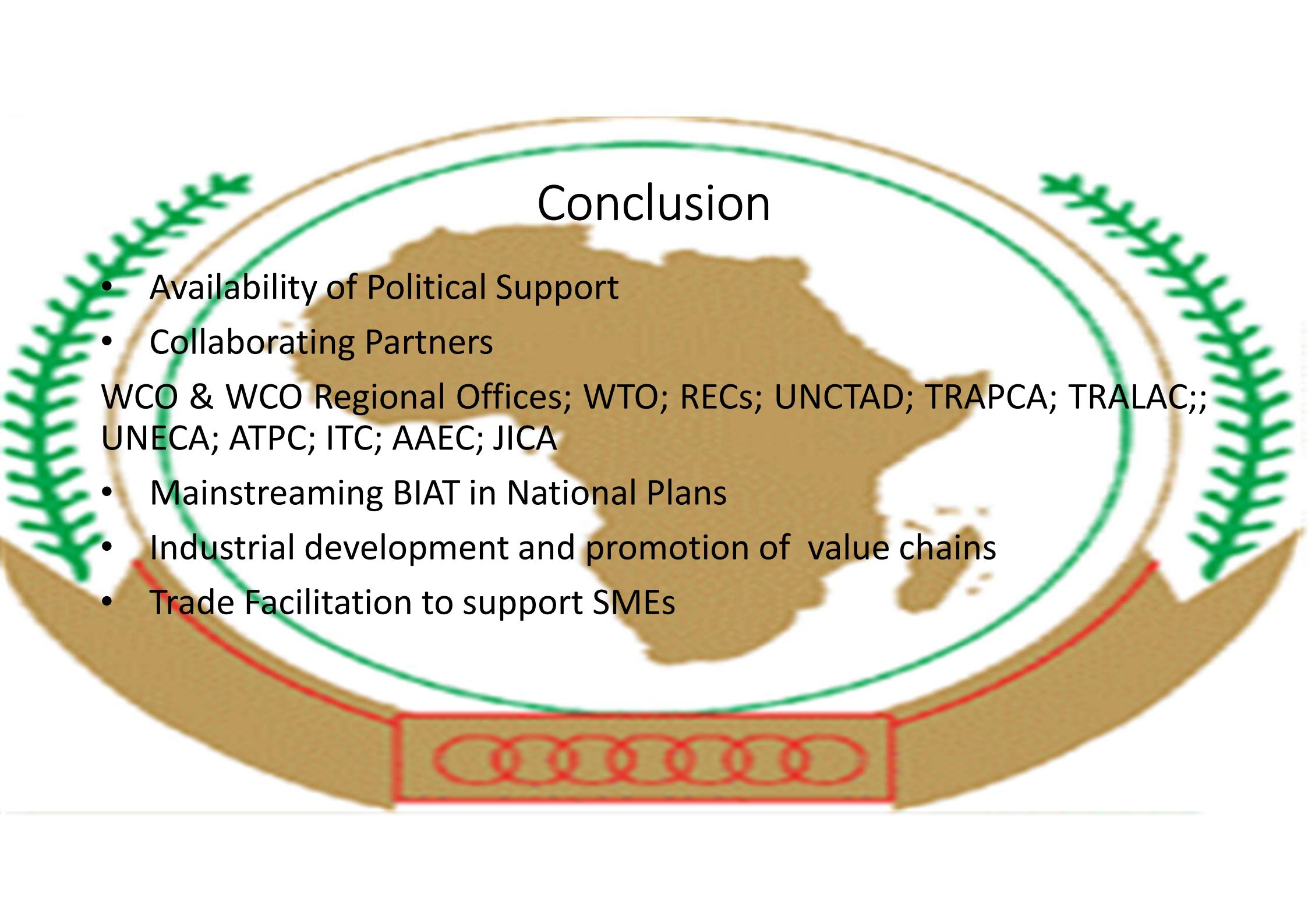
- Publication
- Advance Ruling
- Implementation of International Standards
- Use of IT and Electronic Payment
- Single Window
- Freedom of Transit
- Documentation
- Risk Management
- Post Clearance Audit
- Pre-shipment inspection
- Simplified procedures for low consignment goods
- Border Agency Cooperation

AU Trade Facilitation Strategy

- The strategy will aim primarily at fostering implementation of AU priorities in the area of Trade Facilitation- as encapsulated in the AU Action Plan for BIAT
- Key Activities :
 - *awareness-raising on understanding the TFA and the need to fast track implementation of TF reforms*
 - *preparation for WTO ratification including submission of notifications on categorization of measures in the TFA.*
 - *Leading the coordinated delivery of technical assistance and support for capacity building on various areas in Trade Facilitation*
 - *lobby for financial support for African countries notably in areas of notified Category C measures*
 - *Coordinate implementation of measures that requires a definite regional approach such as:*
 - *Publication of information*
 - *Transit*
 - *Single Window*
 - *AEO*
 - *NTFC*
 - *NTBs*
 - *Interconnectivity*
 - *Special Schemes for SMEs*
 - *Issues related to SPS/TBTs*

1st EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AUSCDGC

- The AU Sub Committee of Directors General of Customs held its 1st extraordinary meeting in Abuja, Nigeria from 23-25 May 2017 with the theme '*Entry into force of the WTO TFA and implications for African Customs Administrations*'.
- Attended by Member States, WTO, WCO, ROCB, AUC
- **Key recommendations include:**
 - Assess the individual challenges of Member States in ratification
 - Need for a regional approach
 - Need to collaborate with RECs and other partners (WCO, WTO, ROCB, UNCTAD, etc)
 - Implementation of the TFA does not mean revenue loss and on the contrary boost revenue collection
 - Develop clear time frames for monitoring and evaluation purposes
 - Members who have not yet acceded the RKC, need to do same and implement relevant the provisions



Conclusion

- Availability of Political Support
- Collaborating Partners

WCO & WCO Regional Offices; WTO; RECs; UNCTAD; TRAPCA; TRALAC;; UNECA; ATPC; ITC; AAEC; JICA

- Mainstreaming BIAT in National Plans
- Industrial development and promotion of value chains
- Trade Facilitation to support SMEs



Thank You
Merci beaucoup

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