

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

**SUMMARY OF WTO TRADE FACILITATION
NEEDS ASSESSMENTS RESULTS**

Note by the Secretariat

The WTO trade facilitation needs assessment project was conducted between September 2007 and December 2010. During the life of the project the WTO Secretariat oversaw the implementation of 94 national self-assessments in 60 developing countries and 34 least-developed countries. The project was funded by nine WTO Members through the WTO Trade Facilitation Trust Fund. Additional support was provided in the form of 76 expert facilitators who were provided by 23 organizations or national administrations. (See attached Chart of Needs Assessment Implementation by Date in Annex I and Chart of Implementation Information by Country in Annex II).¹

For the information of Members the Secretariat has prepared a consolidation of the findings of the needs assessments results that were provided to it. These results are only indicative and do not reflect individual assessments, but rather provide an aggregate overview of the results. The individual results are the property of the country and have been held in the strictest confidence by the Secretariat.

Compliance Levels:

The first version of the Needs Assessment Guide contained 70 proposed trade facilitation measures. As proposals were streamlined the guide was revised two times to reflect the changes. The last version of the Guide was issued in early 2009 and contained approximately 45 measures. Thirty-three countries conducted their Needs Assessments in 2009 using that Guide. Statistics from this year were used for the chart below to show the average levels of compliance. (Only 6 assessments were conducted in 2010.)

The statistics from 2009 show that an average of 39 measures were assessed². On average Member and observer countries complied with 35% of proposals, were in partial compliance with 43%, non-compliant with 17% and 6% of the measures were found to be not applicable. These figures closely reflect the compliance levels found throughout the duration of the project.

¹ In English only.

² The final count of measures assessed varied because many measures were assessed together (such as publication and publication for transit), or because some countries did not include measures that do not apply to them.

Compliance level of measures	2009 Average Number	2009 Average %	Average % 2007-2010
Full compliance	14	35	37
Partial compliance	17	43	42
Non compliance	6	17	13
Not applicable	2	6	6
Average Total Assessed (many island countries did not assess transit issues)	39		

Overall Findings:

The findings of the most common results are summarized below under 3 main topics:

1. Reasons for non-compliance/barriers for implementation of the proposed trade facilitation measures
2. Local remedy/action needed to implement some of the proposed trade facilitation measures
3. Technical assistance and capacity building needs and priorities

1. Reasons for non-compliance/barriers for implementation of the proposed trade facilitation measures

The main barriers for implementation of the proposed measures that have been identified in the needs assessments can be grouped under five main categories:

(i) *Lack of Cooperation/Coordination*: all of the assessments undertaken have depicted a lack of cooperation/coordination of some kind, whether it is between two or more government agencies or between government agencies and the private sector. The case is most prominent among agencies at border posts and/or transit related issues. Other related barriers included restricted dissemination of information and lack of awareness or perceived need of the proposed measures.

(ii) *Human Resource Constraints*: lack of skilled manpower/technical expertise in customs and other government border agencies; lack of planning and management of human resources; lack of tailored and specialized training programs for customs and other border agencies and the private sector.

(iii) *Legislation and Policy-related issues*: lack of national legislation for many of the proposed trade facilitation measures. In some cases, the laws exist but no regulations or procedures have been put in place. Additional legislative barriers are related to the adoption, interpretation (ambiguities), enforcement and updating of trade laws and regulations.

(iv) *Institutional-related issues*: unclear/overlapping responsibilities of institutions; overly bureaucratic institutional structures; centralization of agencies/institutions in the capital without proper dissemination mechanisms for other parts of the country and lack of political will/resistance to change/corruption- e.g. abuse of discretionary power on the part of the implementing agencies.

(v) *Poor Trade-Related Infrastructure*: barriers related to poor infrastructure were often identified but they were more prominent in the case of the LDCs.

2. Local remedy/action to help implement some of the proposed trade facilitation measures

While many of the barriers identified in the previous section would require some form of technical assistance and/or capacity building, the self-assessments have also identified actions to be

taken on the local/national level. These actions would primarily overcome barriers related to lack of cooperation/coordination, legislation and policy-related issues and institutional related issues. The actions most frequently mentioned in this area are as follows³:

(i) *Lack of Cooperation/Coordination:*

- Strengthen inter-institutional coordination through consultation among agencies with trade-related responsibilities by setting up a national committee/task force on trade facilitation, where it does not already exist.
- Design administrative and legislative provisions to ensure internal coordination and cooperation among border agencies.
- Improved data gathering, management & dissemination.
- Promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as a modern method for information transmission.
- Sensitize key stakeholders on trade facilitation matters.
- Wider consultation prior to adoption of policies.
- Promote public-private partnerships.

(ii) *Legislation and Policy-related issues:*

- Set up internal units to regularly review and update new trade regulations whether paper-form (official gazette) or on the relevant websites and databases.
- Comprehensive review, consolidation and streamlining of all existing trade related laws and regulations.
- Reform of appeal procedures.
 - Establish adequate mechanism for timely dissemination of trade laws and procedures.
 - Develop trade and customs procedures and guidelines.
 - Streamline and simplify trade-related documents and procedures.

(iii) *Institutional-related issues:*

- Restructure and strengthen various institutions to focus on trade facilitation.
- Receive appropriate backing and support from senior management.
- Strengthen and recruit additional staff.
- Establish a risk management unit within customs.
- Establish a customs valuation database.
- Develop and publish criteria for authorized traders.

3. Technical assistance and capacity building needs and priorities

The technical assistance and capacity building (TACB) needs identified in the self-assessments vary widely depending on the level of development of each of the countries assessed. They range from minimal needs such as assistance in setting up awareness workshops/sharing of country experiences on publication matters to more complex needs such as the development of ICT infrastructure. A summary of the main TACB priorities identified⁴ are as follows:

³ This is an illustrative and non-exhaustive list

⁴ This is an illustrative and non-exhaustive list

(i) *Transparency-related needs:*

- Assistance in drafting legislation.
- Country experience sharing /best practices on trade facilitation measures.
- Funding a project for the legal translation of all trade laws and regulations for publication on the internet.
- Establishment of regional enquiry points.
- Conducting a feasibility study to review fees and charges collected.
- Harmonization of border procedures.
- Website development, design and management.

(ii) *Customs-related procedures, including transit-related needs:*

- Single Window/one-time submission: financial assistance to establish single window infrastructure; request a resident consultant to assist with this project.
- Risk Management/Analysis: improve risk assessment; develop capacity to set up a risk management system which includes before, during and after clearance of goods; set up an automated system for risk analysis, review legislation.
- Assistance in setting up the following systems: authorized trader; pre-arrival clearance; post clearance audit and expedited shipments.
- Reinforcement of customs administration in order to eliminate pre-shipment inspection (PSI) and build capacity to facilitate destination inspections.
- Establishment of clearance & release times -conduct a time release study.
- Setting up a cargo tracking system including training in risk management.
- Establish a regional bond guarantee system.

(iii) *Infrastructure /Equipment/ICT related needs:*

- Development of ICT infrastructure (hardware, software, networks, valuation database, etc).
- Operationalization and harmonization of juxtaposed border posts, including provision of necessary equipment.
- Procurement of laboratories for testing facilities and improve existing ones; facilitate accreditation of laboratories; develop standards and acquisition of equipment and training.
- Acquisition of adequate expertise and financing for the restructuring of the customs department.
- Equipment for proper functioning of a national enquiry point.

(iv) *Human Resource-related needs:*

- Development of human resource capacity through specialized and skill-based training on legal drafting; risk management; post-clearance audit; authorized trader criteria and determination; port management; ICT; advance rulings; valuation; appeal mechanisms, rules of origin; classification; freight forwarding; and other WCO programmes/standards.
- Training of personnel in customs, standard bureaus (laboratory testing) and other border agencies as well as the private sector.
- Training in application of international standards.
- Technical Training in SPS, test procedures.
- Training in information, organization and change management.

ANNEX I

TRADE FACILITATION NEEDS ASSESSMENTS
by Implementation Date

Total Needs Assessments Conducted	94
Requested but not Conducted (due to lack of follow-up by country or security situation)	14
Total Requests	108

	Country	Dates	Facilitators	Country Status *
2007 Implemented				
1.	Zambia	Feb. 25- Mar.2	WTO, World Bank, WCO, USAID Zambia Threshold Project	LLDC/LDC
2.	Mexico	Sept. 24 - 28	WTO, WCO	DC
3.	Bangladesh	Oct. 22 - 25	WTO, IMF	LDC
4.	Mauritius	Oct. 22 - 26	WTO, UNCTAD	DC/SIDS
5.	Tanzania	Oct. 29 – Nov. 2	WTO, USAID	LDC
6.	Burundi	Nov. 19 - 23	OECD, WCO	LLDC/LDC
7.	Paraguay	Nov. 26 - 30	UNCTAD, WCO	LLDC
8.	Uganda	Dec. 3 - 8	USAID, WCO	LLDC/LDC
9.	Jordan	Dec. 9 - 13	WTO, Switzerl., EU Twinning Project	DC
10.	Honduras	Dec. 10 - 14	World Bank, Canada (WCO-CP)	DC
2008 Implemented				
11.	Egypt	Jan.13-17	WTO, World Bank, USAID TAPR II Project	DC
12.	Guatemala	Mar. 10-13	WCO, World Bank, CBSA	DC
13.	Vietnam	Mar.10-14	World Bank, WCO, Sweden, JICA	DC
14.	Rwanda	Mar. 10-14	USAID, Switzerland	LLDC/LDC
15.	Yemen ⁺	Mar. 15-19	WTO, WCO, UNCTAD	LDC
16.	Tunisia	31 Mar-4 Apr	OECD, Switzerland	DC
17.	Chinese Taipei	Mar. 31 -4 Apr	WTO, Finland	DC
18.	Nigeria	Apr. 7-11	WCO, USAID, Norway	DC
19.	Benin	April 14-18	WTO, Switzerland	LDC
20.	Dem. Rep. of Congo	April 14-18	WCO, UNCTAD	LDC
21.	Nepal	May 12-16	WTO, World Bank	LLDC/LDC
22.	Trinidad and Tobago	May 19-23	World Bank, Denmark	DC/SIDS
23.	Dominica	May 26-29	UNCTAD, Finland, Switzerland	DC/SIDS
24.	Kenya	June 9-13	USAID, WCO	DC
25.	Antigua and Barbuda	June 9-13	WTO, UK	DC/SIDS
26.	Swaziland	June 23-27	WTO, USAID Trade Hub	LLDC/DC
27.	Pakistan	June 23-27	UNCTAD, Finland, JICA	DC
28.	Lesotho	July 7-11	USAID Trade Hub	LLDC/LDC
29.	Gabon	July 7-11	OECD, Switzerland	DC
30.	Grenada	July 21-25	Finland, UNCTAD	DC/SIDS
31.	Fiji	July 28- Aug 1	WTO, AusAID/NZ/OCO	DC/SIDS
32.	Jamaica	July 28 – Aug 1	USAID, Sweden	DC/SIDS

	Country	Dates	Facilitators	Country Status *
33.	Ghana	Aug. 25-29	WCO, UK, World Bank	DC
34.	Colombia	Sept. 1-5	World Bank, UNCTAD	DC
35.	Mali	Sept. 8-12	UNCTAD, Swiss consultant	LLDC/LDC
36.	Burkina Faso	Oct. 6-10	UNCTAD, OECD, Switzerland	LLDC/LDC
37.	Mozambique	Oct 6-10	USAID Trade Hub, WCO	LDC
38.	Morocco	Oct 13-17	WCO, Switzerland	DC
39.	Panama	Oct.13-17	WTO, World Bank	DC
40.	Cambodia	Oct. 20-24	World Bank, UNESCAP, Sweden	LDC
41.	Albania	Oct.27-31	WCO, WTO, Switzerland	DC
42.	China	Nov. 3-7	OECD, Sweden, UNESCAP	DC
43.	Angola	Nov. 3-7	WCO, USAID Trade Hub, USAID	LDC
44.	Central African Rep.	Nov.7-13	WTO, Switzerland	LLDC/LDC
45.	Ecuador	Nov. 10-14	WTO, World Bank	DC
46.	Papua New Guinea	Nov 17-21	AusAID, OCO	DC/SIDS
47.	Malawi	Nov 17-21	USAID Trade Hub	LLDC/LDC
48.	Argentina	Nov.24 -28	WTO, World Bank, WCO	DC
49.	St Kitts and Nevis	Dec 1-5	WTO, UNCTAD, UK	DC/SIDS
50.	St Lucia	Dec 1-5	WTO, UNCTAD, UK	DC/SIDS
51.	St Vincent & Grenadines	Dec 1-5	WTO, UNCTAD, UK	DC/SIDS
52.	Seychelles+	Dec 1-5	USAID Trade Hub	DC/SIDS
53.	Dominican Republic	Dec 8-11	WTO, WCO, WCO	DC/SIDS
54.	Cote d'Ivoire	Dec 8-11	WCO, Switzerland	DC
2009 Implemented				
55.	Madagascar	Jan 19-23	WTO, OECD, WCO	LDC
56.	Suriname	Feb. 9-13	USAID, Finland	DC/SIDS
57.	Philippines	Feb 9-13	WB, UNESCAP, WCO	DC
58.	Afghanistan ⁺	March 6-10	UNCTAD, USAID	LLDC/LDC
59.	Malaysia	April 13-17	WTO, Finland, JICA	DC
60.	Nicaragua	April 13-17	UNCTAD, WCO, WB	DC
61.	Djibouti	April 19-23	WCO. Switzerland	LDC
62.	Cape Verde	May 11-14	WCO, UNCTAD, Switzerland	DC/SIDS
63.	Botswana	May 11-15	USAID Trade Hub	LLDC
64.	Zimbabwe	May 11-15	World Bank, UNCTAD	LLDC/DC
65.	Uruguay	May 13-15	World Bank, WCO	DC
66.	Comoros	May 18-22	UNCTAD, Swiss, WCO	LDC/SIDS
67.	Sri Lanka	May 18-21	WB, Japan	DC
68.	Tonga	May 25-29	OCO, AusAID	DC/SIDS
69.	Mongolia	May 25-29	World Bank, Sweden, Japan	LLDC
70.	Belize	June 8-12	Sweden, Switzerland, OECS	DC/SIDS
71.	Brunei Darussalam	June 15-19	World Bank, Pakistan, Japan	DC
72.	Senegal	June 15-19	UNCTAD, Switzerland, EC	LDC
73.	Togo	June 29 – July 3	UNCTAD, Switzerland, WCO	LDC

	Country	Dates	Facilitators	Country Status *
74.	Barbados	July 13-17	WTO, CRNM, Barbados	DC/SIDS
75.	Indonesia	July 27-31	OECD, Japan, UNESCAP	DC
76.	Solomon Islands	September 14-18	AusAID, OCO	LDC/SIDS
77.	Lao PDR	September 21-24	World Bank, Sweden, Finland	LLDC/LDC
78.	Costa Rica	September 22-25	WTO, Swiss, WCO	DC
79.	Maldives	Sept 28-October 1	UNESCAP, UK. Pakistan	LDC/SIDS
80.	Bahrain – GCC regional	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Finland, WB	DC/SIDS
81.	Kuwait – GCC	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Finland, WB	DC
82.	Oman - GCC	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Finland, WB	DC
83.	Qatar - GCC	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Fin., WB	DC
84.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of - GCC	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Fin., WB	DC
85.	UAE – GCC regional	October 10-14	WTO, WCO, UK, Sweden, Fin., WB	DC
86.	Kiribati	October 8 - 15	AusAID, OCO	LDC/SIDS
87.	Sudan ⁺ (UN level 3)	Oct 27- Nov 1	Sudan negotiator	LDC
88.	Vanuatu	November 23-27	AusAID, OCO	LDC/SIDS
2010 Implemented				
89.	Congo (Brazzaville)	February 1 - 5	UNCTAD, WCO, Switzerland	DC
90.	Namibia	March 8-12	USAID Trade Hub, World Bank	DC
91.	Niger	March 15-19	WCO, UNCTAD	LDC/LLDC
92.	Samoa	May 10-14	AusAid, OCO	LDC/SIDS
93.	Ethiopia ⁺	October 11-15	World Bank, Sweden	LDC/LLDC
94.	Algeria ⁺	October 17-21	WTO, Swiss consultant	DC
Inactive Requests – request made but no follow-up to request for notification and/or to schedule dates.				
1.	Bolivia, Plurinational State of			LLDC/DC
2.	Cameroon			DC
3.	Chile			DC
4.	Kyrgyz Republic			CIT
5.	Sierra Leone			LDC
6.	Mauritania			LDC
7.	Moldova			CIT
8.	Serbia			CIT
9.	Venezuela			DC
10.	Azerbaijan ⁺			CIT
11.	Turkey		Made initial request but decided to conduct assessment independently.	DC
Not Conducted Due to Security Situation				
12.	Chad	UN level 3		LLDC/LDC
13.	Guinea	UN level 3		LDC
14.	Haiti	UN level 3		LDC/SIDS

*LLDC: Landlocked Developing Country; LDC: Least Developed Country; SIDS: Small Island Developing State; CIT: Country in Transition; DC: Developing Country.

+ Accessing Country.

ANNEX II
TRADE FACILITATION NEEDS ASSESSMENTS
Implementation Information by Country

(If the second column is blank then no request was made)

Developing Countries						
1.	Albania	Completed Oct. 2008		32.	Grenada	Completed July 2008
2.	Antigua and Barbuda	Completed June 2008		33.	Guatemala	Completed March 2008
3.	Argentina	Completed Nov. 2008		34.	Guyana	
4.	Armenia			35.	Honduras	Completed Dec. 2007
5.	Bahrain	Completed Oct. 2009		36.	Hong Kong, China	
6.	Barbados	Completed July 2009		37.	India	
7.	Belize	Completed June 2009		38.	Indonesia	Completed July 2009
8.	Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Requested but did not follow through		39.	Israel	
9.	Botswana	Completed May 2009		40.	Jamaica	Completed Aug. 2008
10.	Brazil			41.	Jordan	Completed Dec. 2007
11.	Brunei Darussalam	Completed June 2009		42.	Kenya	Completed June 2008
12.	Cameroon	Requested but did not follow through		43.	Korea	
13.	Cape Verde	Completed May 2009		44.	Kuwait	Completed Oct. 2009
14.	Chile	Requested but did not follow through		45.	Kyrgyz Republic	Requested but did not follow through
15.	China	Completed Nov. 2008		46.	Macao, China	
16.	Colombia	Completed Sept. 2008		47.	Malaysia	Completed April 2008
17.	Costa Rica	Completed Sept. 2009		48.	Mauritius	Completed Oct. 2007
18.	Côte d'Ivoire	Completed Dec. 2008		49.	Mexico	Completed Sept. 2007
19.	Congo (Brazzaville)	Completed Feb. 2010		50.	Moldova	Requested but did not follow through
20.	Croatia			51.	Mongolia	Completed May 2009
21.	Cuba			52.	Morocco	Completed Oct. 2008
22.	Dominica	Completed May 2008		53.	Namibia	Completed March 2010
23.	Dominican Republic	Completed Dec. 2008		54.	Nicaragua	Completed April 2009
24.	Ecuador	Completed Nov. 2008		55.	Nigeria	Completed April 2008
25.	Egypt	Completed Jan 2008		56.	Oman	Completed Oct. 2009
26.	El Salvador	Conducted self-assessment without technical assessment		57.	Pakistan	Completed June 2008
27.	Rep. of the Fiji Islands	Completed Aug. 2008		58.	Panama	Completed Oct. 2008
28.	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia			59.	Papua New Guinea	Completed Nov. 2008
29.	Gabon	Completed July 2008		60.	Paraguay	Completed Nov. 2007
30.	Georgia			61.	Peru	
				62.	Philippines	Completed Feb. 2009

Developing Countries						
31.	Ghana	Completed Aug. 2008		63.	Qatar	Completed Oct. 2009
Developing Countries						
64.	St. Kitts and Nevis	Completed Dec. 2008		75.	Tonga	Completed May 2009
65.	St. Lucia	Completed Dec. 2008		76.	Trinidad and Tobago	Completed May 2008
66.	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Completed Dec. 2008		77.	Tunisia	Completed April 2008
67.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Completed Oct. 2009		78.	Turkey	Requested but decided to conduct on own
68.	Singapore			79.	Ukraine	
69.	South Africa			80.	United Arab Emirates	Completed Oct. 2009
70.	Sri Lanka	Completed May 2009		81.	Uruguay	Completed May 2009
71.	Suriname	Completed Feb. 2009		82.	Venezuela	Requested but did not follow-through
72.	Swaziland	Completed June 2008		83.	Viet Nam	Completed March 2008
73.	Taipei, Chinese	Completed April 2008		84.	Zimbabwe	Completed May 2009
74.	Thailand					
Total Developing Countries that did not request or did not follow through on their request = 24						

Least Developed Countries						
1.	Angola	Completed Nov. 2008		17.	Malawi	Completed Nov. 2007
2.	Bangladesh	Completed Oct. 2007		18.	Maldives	Completed Sept. 2009
3.	Benin	Completed April 2008		19.	Mali	Completed Sept. 2008
4.	Burkina Faso	Completed Oct. 2008		20.	Mauritania	Requested but did not follow-through
5.	Burundi	Completed Nov. 2007		21.	Mozambique	Completed Oct. 2008
6.	Cambodia	Completed Oct. 2008		22.	Myanmar	
7.	Central African Republic	Completed Nov. 2008		23.	Nepal	Completed May 2008
8.	Chad	Not conducted because of security issues		24.	Niger	Completed March 2010
9.	Dem. Rep. Congo	Completed April 2008		25.	Rwanda	Completed March 2008
10.	Djibouti	Completed April 2009		26.	Senegal	Completed June 2009
11.	Gambia			27.	Sierra Leone	Requested but did not follow-through
12.	Guinea Bissau			28.	Solomon Islands	Completed Sept. 2009
13.	Guinea, Rep. of	Not conducted because of security issues		29.	Tanzania	Completed Oct. 2007
14.	Haiti	Not conducted because of security issues		30.	Togo	Completed June 2009
15.	Lesotho	Completed July 2008		31.	Uganda	Completed Dec. 2007
16.	Madagascar	Completed Jan. 2009		32.	Zambia	Completed Feb. 2007
Total Least Developed Countries that did not request or did not follow through on their request = 8						

Observer Governments						
1.	Afghanistan	Completed March 2009		14.	Lao P.D.R.	Completed Sept. 2009
2.	Algeria	Completed Oct. 2010		15.	Lebanon	
3.	Azerbaijan	Requested but did not follow-through		16.	Liberia	
4.	Bahamas			17.	Libya	
5.	Belarus			18.	Montenegro	
6.	Bhutan			19.	Russian Federation	
7.	Bosnia and Herzegovina			20.	Samoa	Completed May 2010
8.	Comoros	Completed May 2009		21.	Sao Tome and Principe	
9.	Equatorial Guinea			22.	Serbia	Requested but did not follow-through
10.	Ethiopia	Completed Oct. 2010		23.	Seychelles	Completed Dec. 2008
11.	Iran			24.	Sudan	Completed Oct. 2009
12.	Iraq			25.	Tajikistan	
13.	Kazakhstan			26.	Uzbekistan	
				27.	Vanuatu	Completed Nov. 2009
				28.	Yemen	Completed March 2008
Total Observer Governments that did not request or did not follow through on their request with no request = 18						