

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF
TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU**

The following communication, dated 2 June 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu.

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS RELATED TO TRADE FACILITATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu recognizes the potential benefits of trade facilitation (TF) measures with regard to the movement, clearance, and release of goods for all Members. At the same time there are certain difficult issues and challenges to be faced by Members in the longer term when it comes to implementation of trade facilitation measures, including technical assistance, capacity-building and the use of international standards. We recognize, therefore, the need to set up an institution to ensure the smooth operation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and to deal with these future challenges for Members.¹

II. PROPOSALS

2. We propose the establishment of a Committee on Trade Facilitation (CTF) composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall select its own Chairman and meet periodically. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the CTF. A non-exhaustive list of responsibilities of the CTF, which is open for further discussion, may include the following:

- (i) To further the objectives of the Agreement;
- (ii) To afford Members the opportunity of consulting on any matters relating to the operation and implementation of the Agreement;
- (iii) To review periodically progress of implementation of the Agreement by Members;
- (iv) To provide Members with up-to-date information on the work of relevant international organizations, in particular on the establishment and adoption of international standards by these organizations;

¹ This proposal provides further elaboration on the 19 September 2005 paper by the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (TN/TF/W/62).

- (v) To encourage the use by all Members, to the extent possible, of standards, guidelines or recommendations by international organizations;
- (vi) To review needs and priorities as notified by Members and any requests for technical assistance and special and differential treatment.

III. ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- A technical committee to be established under the auspices of relevant international organizations² to deal with technical issues such as coordinating with relevant international organizations in the promotion of international standards.
- The private sector is encouraged to provide practical experience and expert advice through a channel deemed as appropriate.

² See Agreement on Rules of Origin Article 4.2 and Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994 (Customs Valuation) Article 18.2.