World Bank Trade Facilitation Program

- $13.3 billion trade related assistance
  - Around $7 billion devoted to trade facilitation
- Two thirds devoted to low or lower middle income countries
- Financed around 120 Customs & Trade facilitation projects in last 20 years
- Program includes:
  - Knowledge and analytical products (LPI/Doing Business)
  - Diagnostics and implementation support tools
  - Technical assistance and advisory services
  - Financing for major trade infrastructure and reform projects
  - Global advocacy and partnerships
Bank Group TFA Implementation Support

- On-the-ground validation of existing needs assessments to assist countries to meet deadlines for nominating commitments
- Project design assistance, practical implementation plans, and identification of sources of financing
- Establish or strengthen National Trade Facilitation Committees
- Short–medium term technical assistance and capacity building support to implement specific TFA measures
WBG projects typically align with the TFA

- Trade Information Portals and National Single Window systems
- Customs and border agency automation
- Legal and regulatory framework review and modernization
- Procedural simplification and harmonization

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- National Trade Facilitation Committees and mechanisms for enhanced public/private dialogue
What have we learnt on the ground

- No country is starting from scratch
- Customs far ahead of other border management agencies on many fronts
- Implementation costs relatively modest - but
  - low implementation capacity
  - already stretched in many countries
- No shortage of donor funds
- High level of support from key stakeholders
- TFA commitments are in keeping with existing global standards and good practice approaches
Implementation challenges going forward

- Significant TA and capacity building support needed
- Political will
- Coordination of donor support
- Limitations of regional economic communities in implementation
- Sequencing of reforms
- Holistic implementation process needed
Resources

- Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP)
  - Trust fund to finance Bank Group trade facilitation activities
  - Administered centrally through Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice.
  - Complements existing Bank financing vehicles
  - $30 million funds available currently
  - 42 requests – 20 missions already completed
For further information:

- Bill Gain  wgain@worldbank.org
- Gerard McLinden  gmclinden@worldbank.org