



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



Trade Facilitation
Agreement Facility

TFAF

Agreement on Trade Facilitation Capacity Building

WCO Europe Regional Workshop on Strategic
Initiatives for Trade Facilitation and Implementation of
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In this presentation:

A. Capacity building in the WTO

B. Capacity building in the TFA

C. The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
(TFAF)



A. Capacity building in the WTO

The WTO is not a Technical Cooperation organization, HOWEVER

1. Assisting developing countries and LDCs participate more fully in the global trading system is one of the most important activities of the WTO.
2. WTO “technical assistance” focuses on increasing human capacity (i.e. helping officials to better understand the WTO rules), and not on improving infrastructure (dealt by other IOs).
3. Demand-drive; ITTC: several programs; biennial plan





B. Capacity building in the TFA

The TFA acknowledges the importance of assistance and support for capacity building to implement the Agreement

Article 13:2

- Assistance and support for capacity building should be provided .
- The requirement to implement the Agreement is directly linked to the capacity of the country to do so.

Article 14:1(c): Self-designation of categories, including Category C.





B. Several notifications required



1. Categories / indicative dates for implementation
2. Assistance and support required to implement
3. Arrangements to provide assistance and support for capacity building
4. Arrangements / indicative dates to implement
5. Progress reports
6. Definitive dates to implement
7. Possibility of extension and shifting

B. Article 21: Provision of assistance and support for capacity building



1. Donor Members agree to facilitate TACB to developing and least developed countries on mutually agreed terms
2. Focus is to implement the provisions in Section I of the TFA; sustainable capacity
3. Could be bilaterally or through appropriate international organizations
4. Provided in a way that does not compromise existing development priorities
5. Members shall endeavour to apply predefined principles (e.g. overall development framework, promote coordination, use of in-country structures, etc.)



C.1 The Facility



1. Launched by the WTO Director General on [22 July 2014](#) to help developing countries and LDCs to implement the Agreement.
2. The facility acts as focal point and will complement existing efforts by regional and multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, and other stakeholders to provide Trade Facilitation-related technical assistance and capacity-building support.
3. Became operational on 27 November 2014
(i.e. together with the Protocol)



C.2 The Facility



- ensure developing & LDC countries acquire capacity to take on commitments under the agreement.
- encourage coordination among relevant assistance providers.
- complement existing efforts, enhance their effectiveness.
- Provide flow of information between donors and recipients.
- where no other funds available, provide seed money or resources for implementation.

C.3 The Facility: Main areas of work



**Technical Assistance
and Capacity Building
(TACB)**



**Implementation
Assistance**



Grants

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (TACB)

- Needs Assessments
- Regional workshops for Parliamentarians
- E-learning tools
- Thematic workshops
- Outreach
- Dissemination of information



- Assist in the match-making
- Information about the Donors
- Developing country contact information
- Database of TACB programs of donors, WCO other international and regional organizations
- Case studies
- Link to training materials



Grants

- Project preparation (max \$30,000)
- Project implementation (max \$200,000)
- After entry into force and receipt of Category C notification
- If can't find assistance needed, the Facility will try to find donor



About the Facility

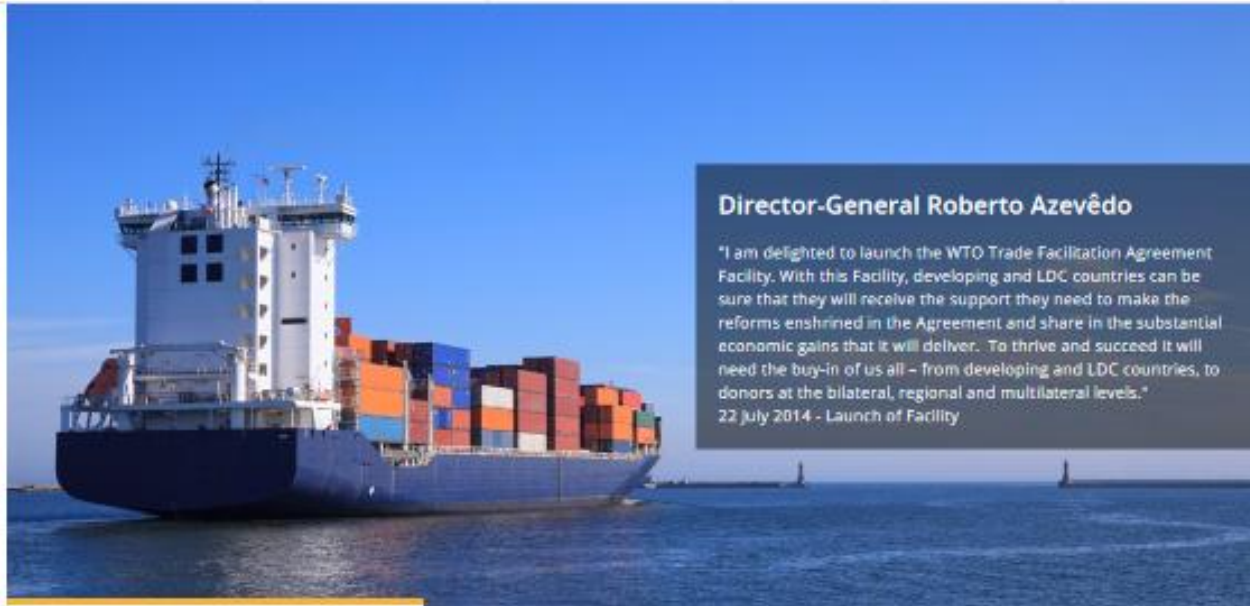
The Trade
Facilitation Agreement

Implementation Support

Beneficiaries

TFAF Assistance

Media and
Resources



Director-General Roberto Azevêdo

"I am delighted to launch the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility. With this Facility, developing and LDC countries can be sure that they will receive the support they need to make the reforms enshrined in the Agreement and share in the substantial economic gains that it will deliver. To thrive and succeed it will need the buy-in of us all - from developing and LDC countries, to donors at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels."
22 July 2014 - Launch of Facility

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo



Check the implementation progress



The latest news from our members



The background features several thick, curved, overlapping lines in shades of light red, light blue, and light green, arranged in a circular, spiral-like pattern around the central text.

Thank you!