

Status of ratification and implementation

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1. Ratifications
2. Implementation notifications
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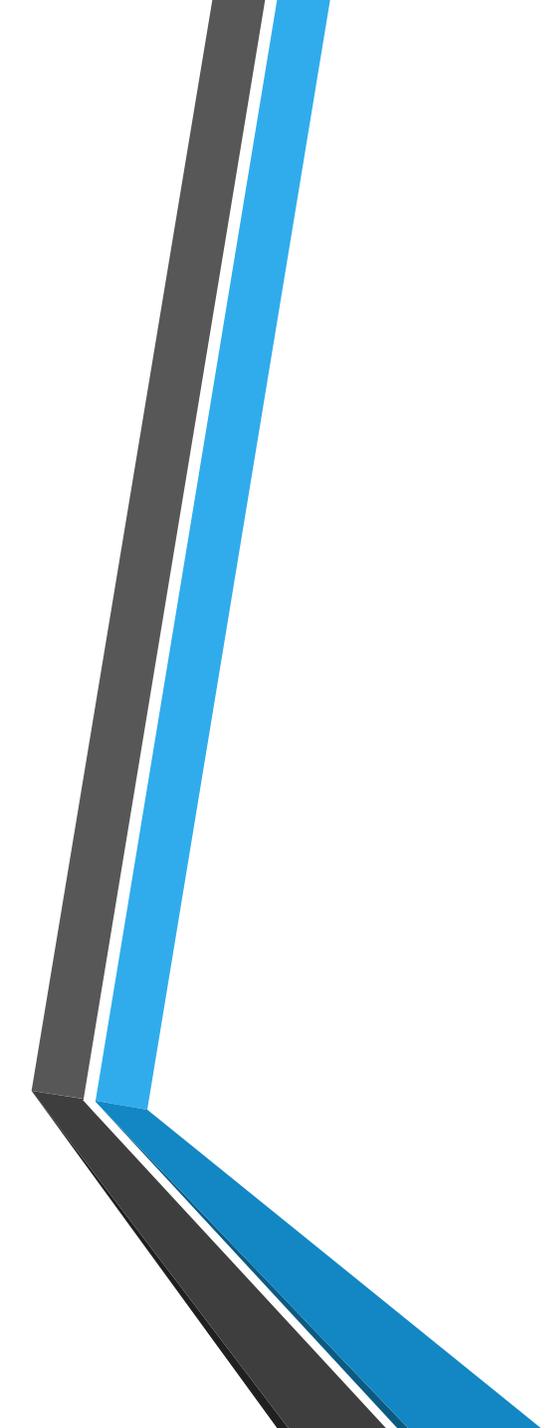
Ratifications

Tajikistan (2 July 2019)

Maldives (1 October 2019)



17 To go



Implementation
notifications

Overview

Category A	Category B	Category C
118	96	86

**56 notifications
received from 48
Members since the
last meeting**

Deadlines

LDCs
Definitive B dates
22 February 2020



LDCs
Indicative C dates
22 February 2021

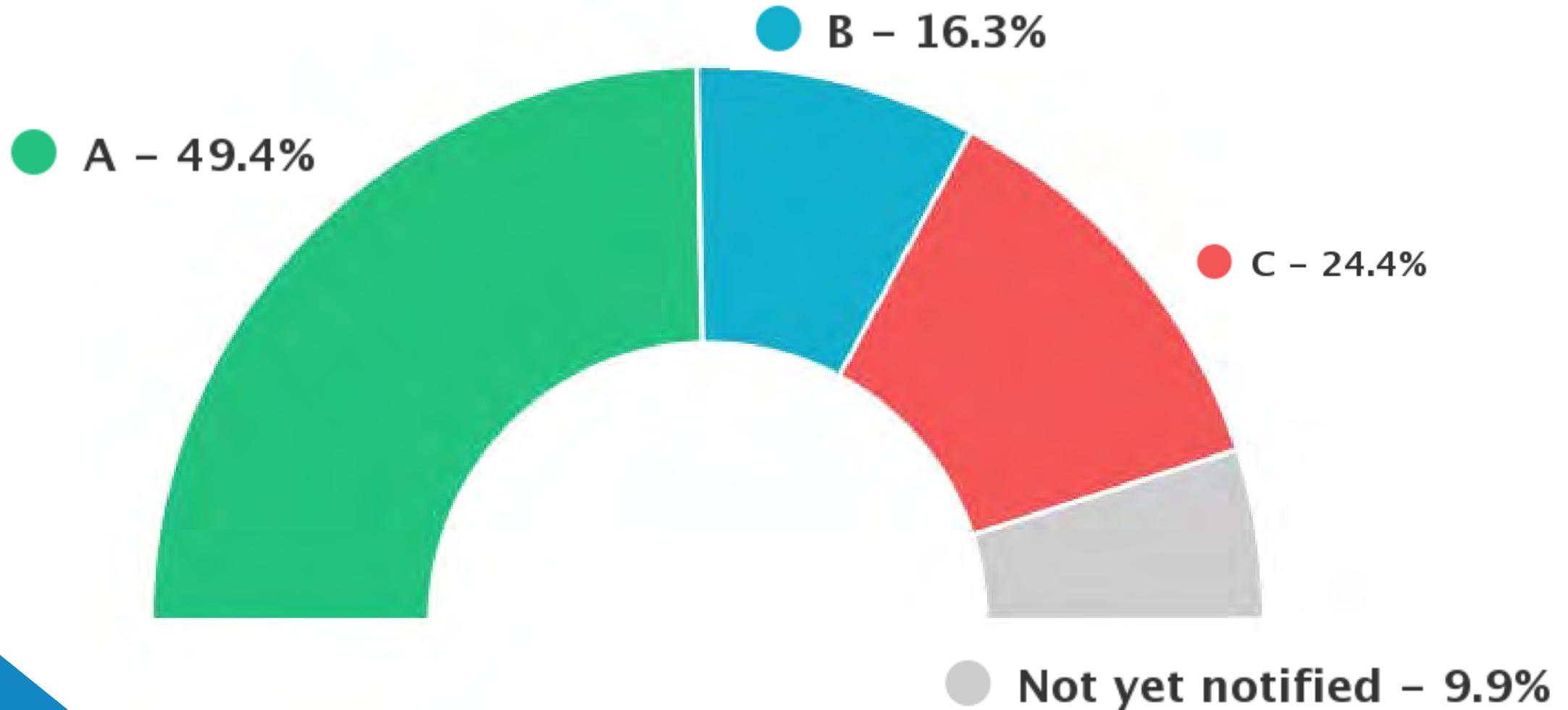


LDCs
Definitive C dates
22 August 2022

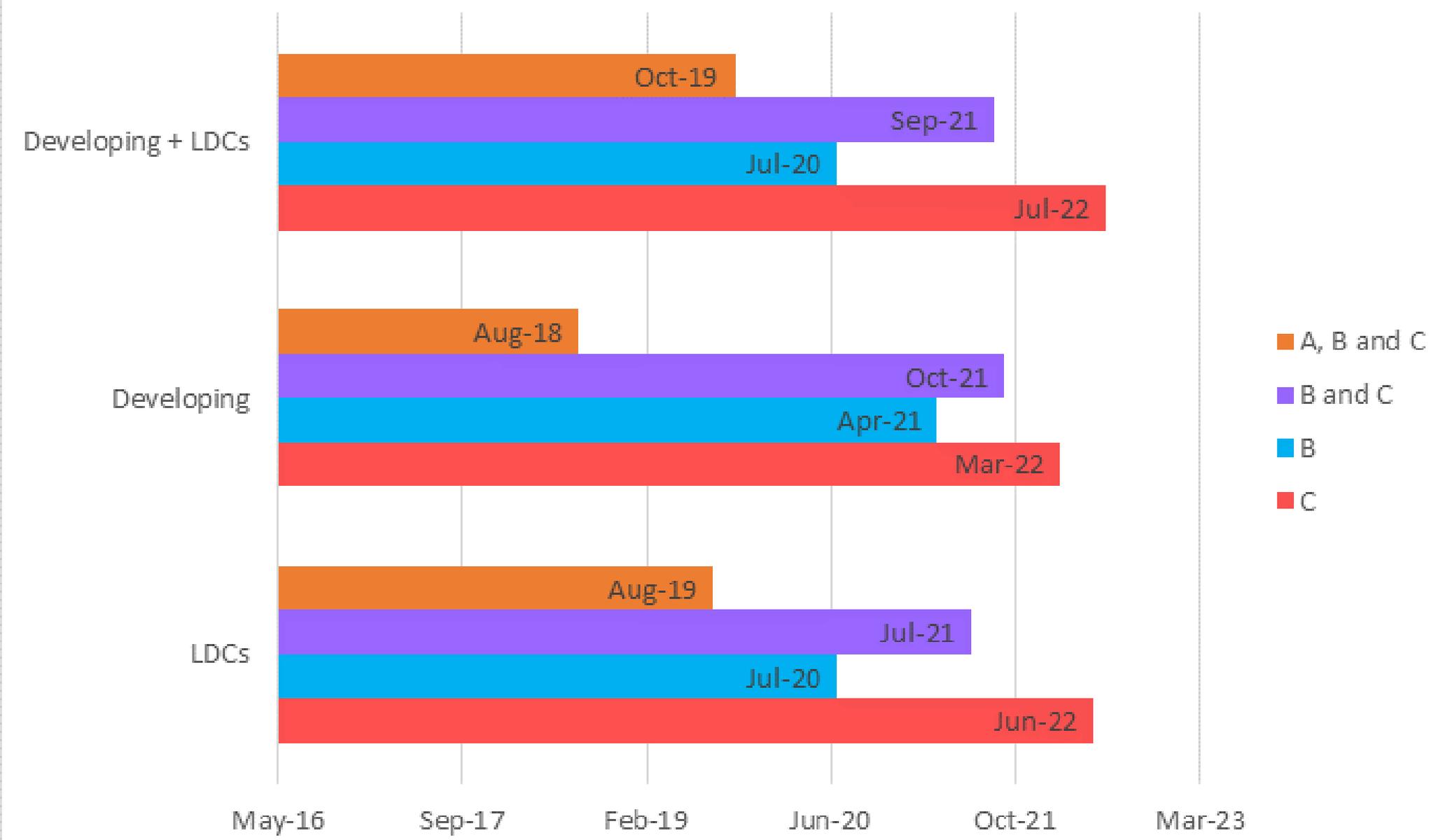
Category C notifications

60 developing Members have designated category C commitments to date of which 55 have presented definitive dates (92%)

Share of categories ABC



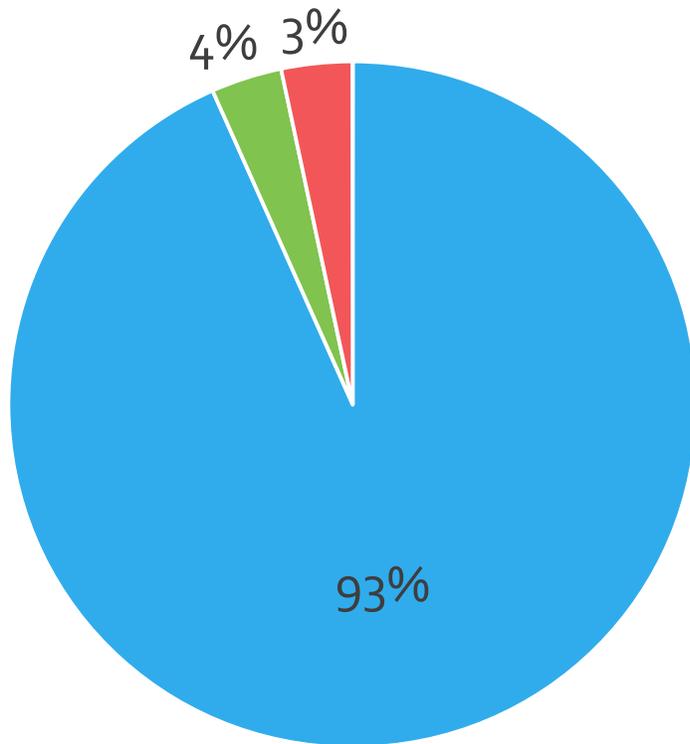
Average implementation timeframes



- A, B and C
- B and C
- B
- C

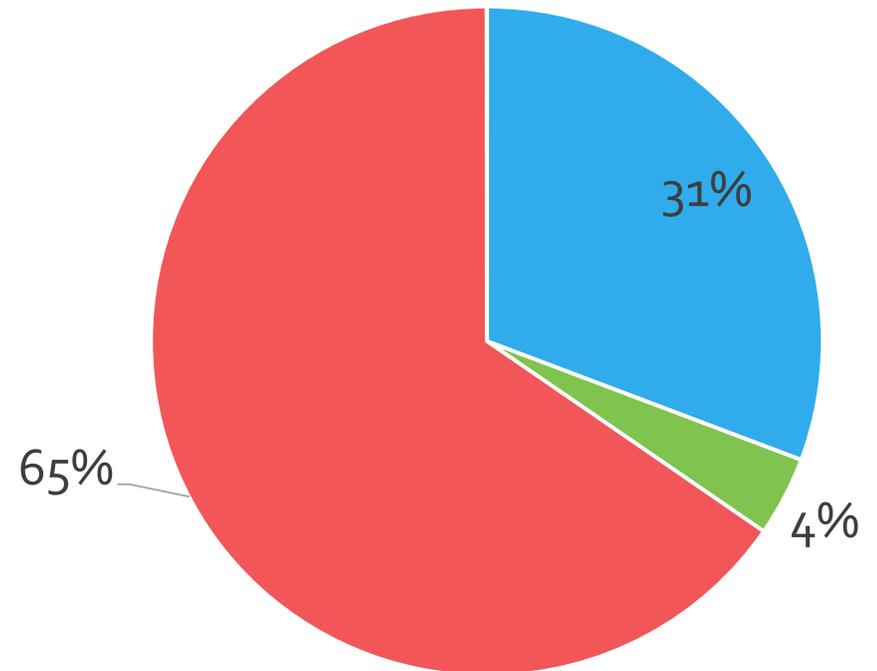
TACB requests

Developing countries



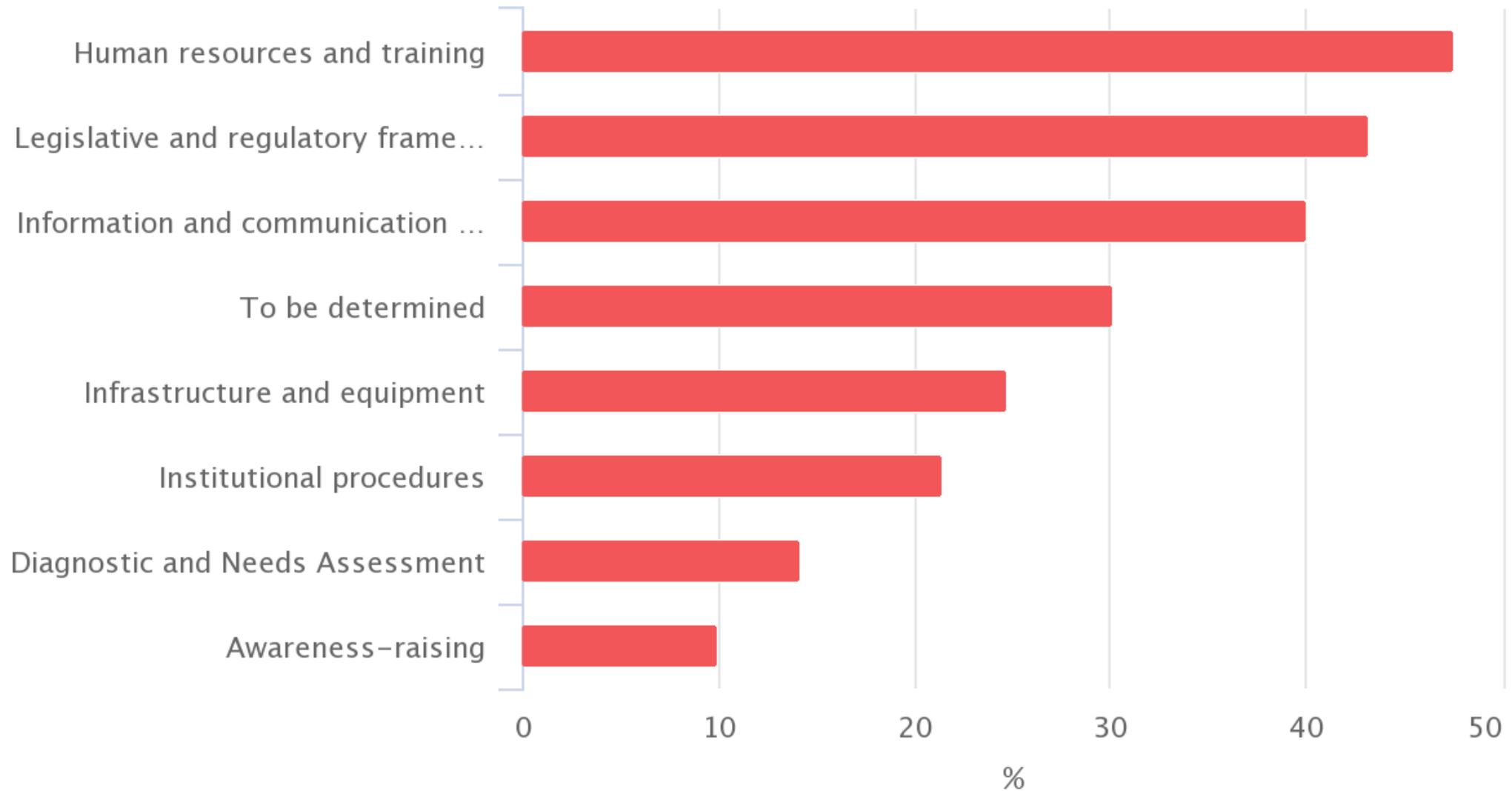
■ All ■ Some ■ None

LDCs

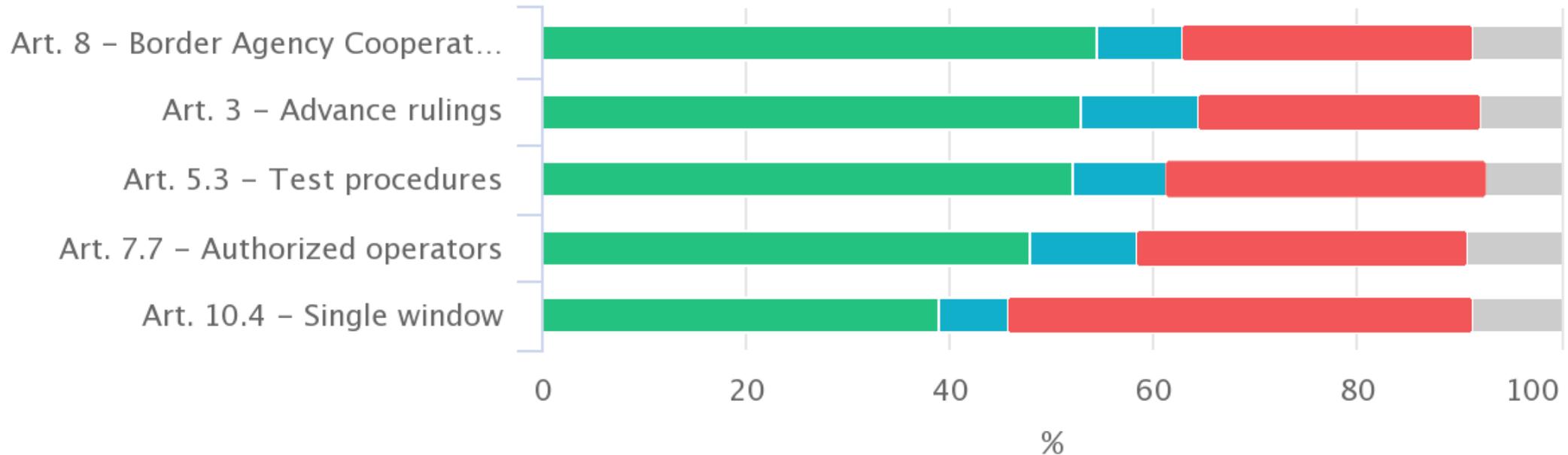


■ All ■ Some ■ None

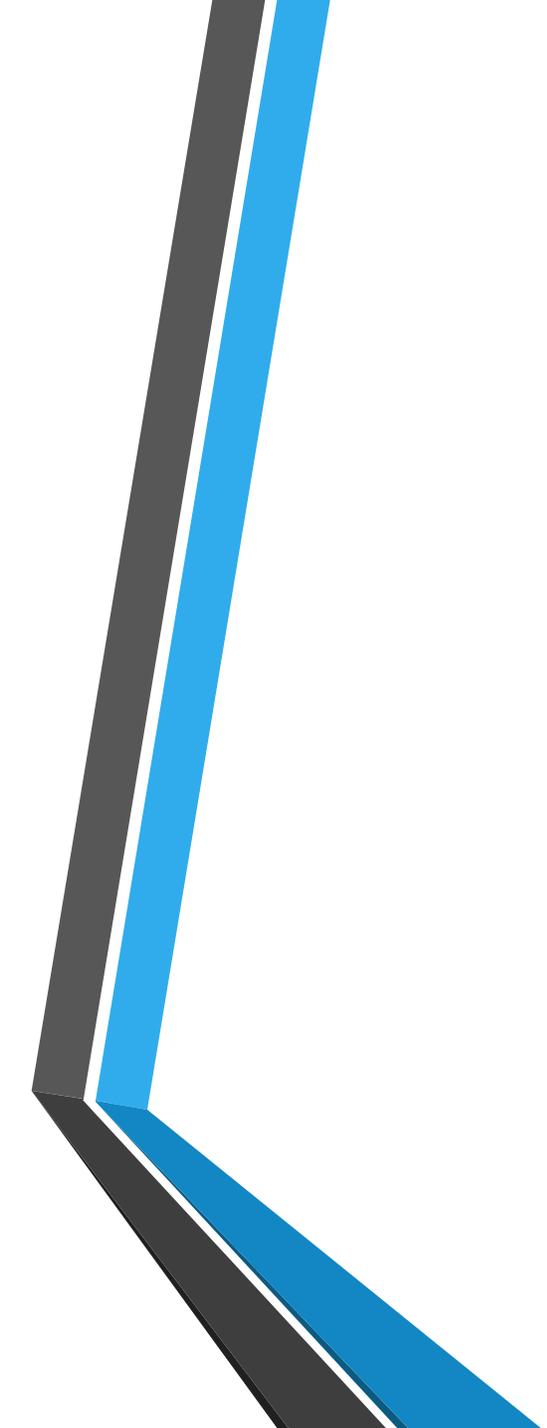
TACB Requests



Top 5 measures with least implementation



- Rate of implementation commitments today
- Rate of implementation commitments requiring additional time
- Rate of implementation commitments requiring additional time and assistance
- Rate of implementation commitments yet to be designated



Transparency notifications

Overview

Article 1.4

82

Article 10.4.3

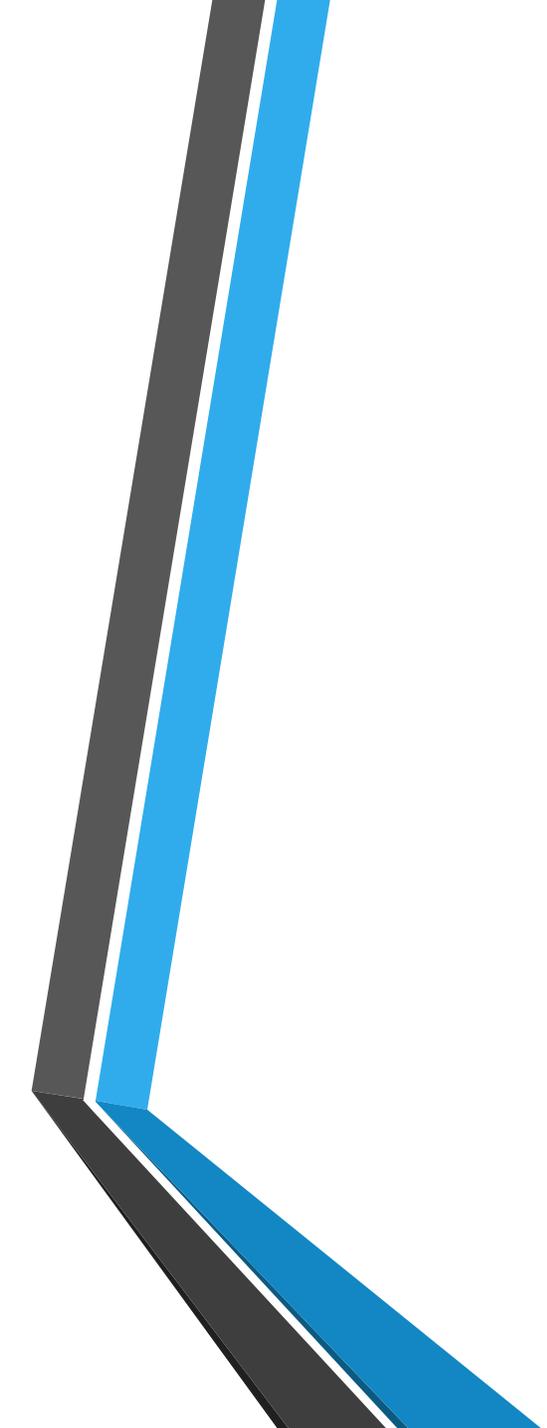
67

Article 10.6.2

85

Article 12.2.2

76



Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Overview

Article 22.1

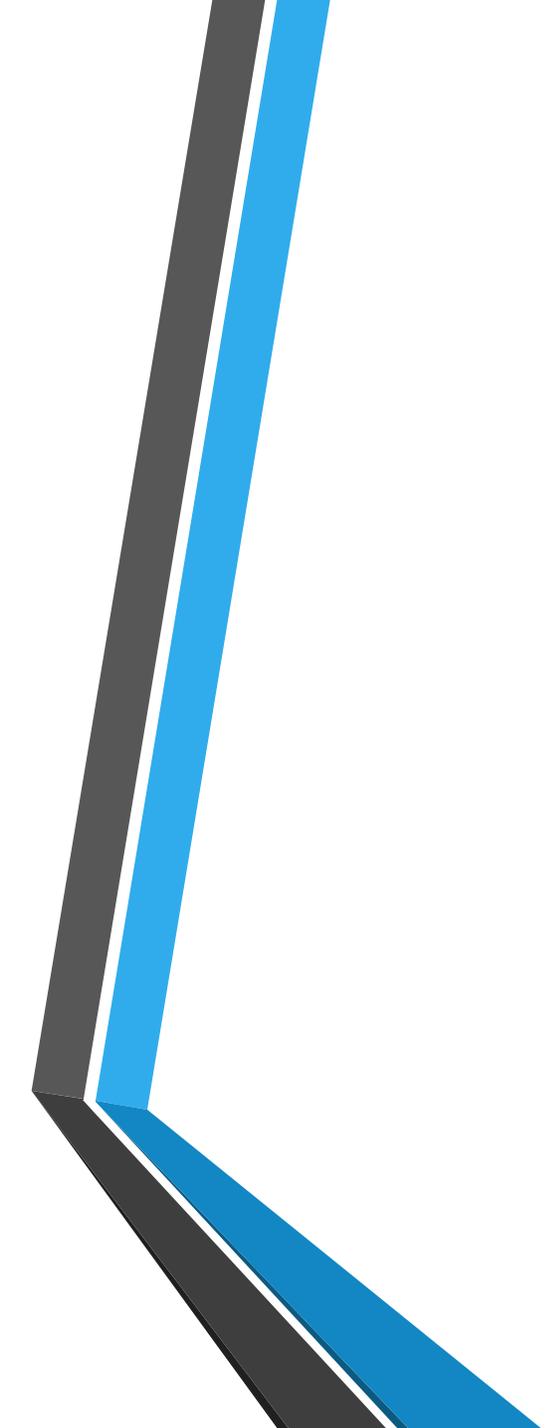
16

Article 22.2

9

Article 22.3

20





中国国际贸易单一窗口

China International Trade Single Window

联通世界，让贸易更畅通

Let Trade Simple

Single Window in China: Practice and Progress

National Office of Port Administration, GACC



Contents

1	Background
2	Stages
3	Layout & ICT
4	Governance structure
5	Business model

6	Service coverage
7	Performance
8	Achievements
9	Future steps
10	Lessons learned

1. Background

➤➤➤ the SW is highly valued by Chinese Government

Time line

- 1970s Customs automation system.
- 1988 H883 - decentralized customs service system.
- 2001 The birth of China E-port, with other CBRAs (cross-border regulatory agencies).
- 2016 The initiation of National Single Window(NSW) based on China E-port.
- 2018 NSW as the one-stop Trade Service Platform is proposed

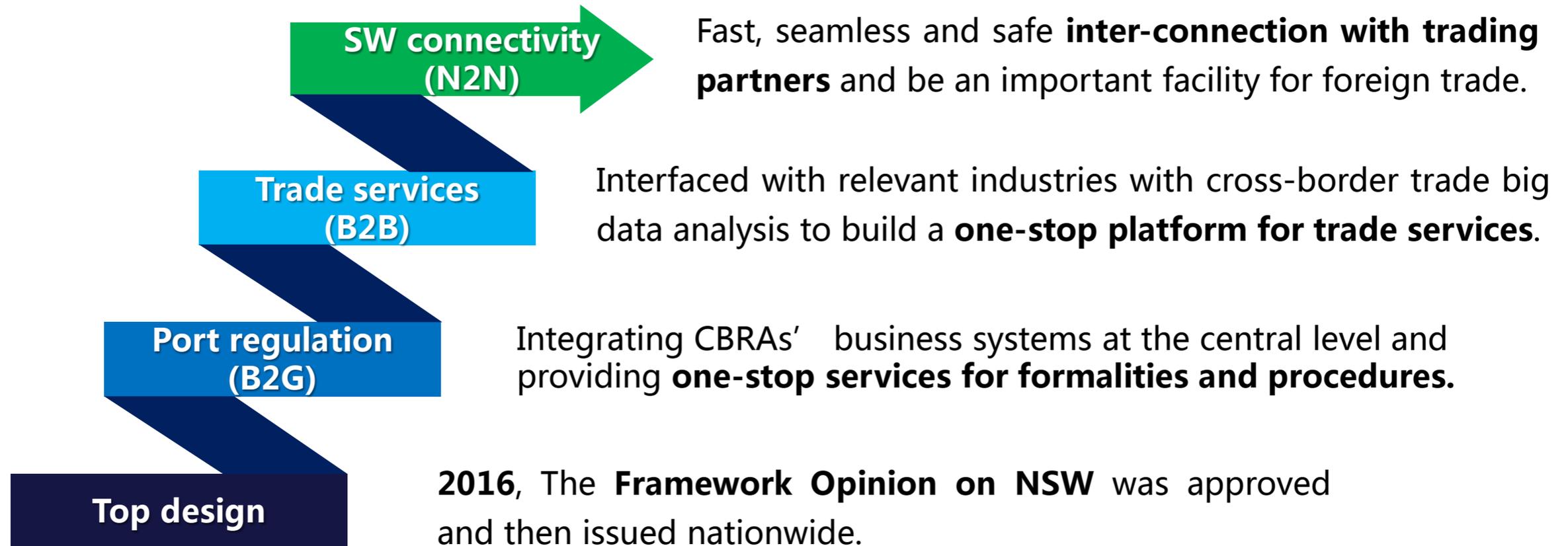


In recent years, a series of important documents in the field of economic development issued by the State Council emphasize the construction of Single Window based on e-port and the promotion of trade facilitation.

Single Window as a must was written into the **central government work report** consecutively for three years (2016, 2017, 2018).

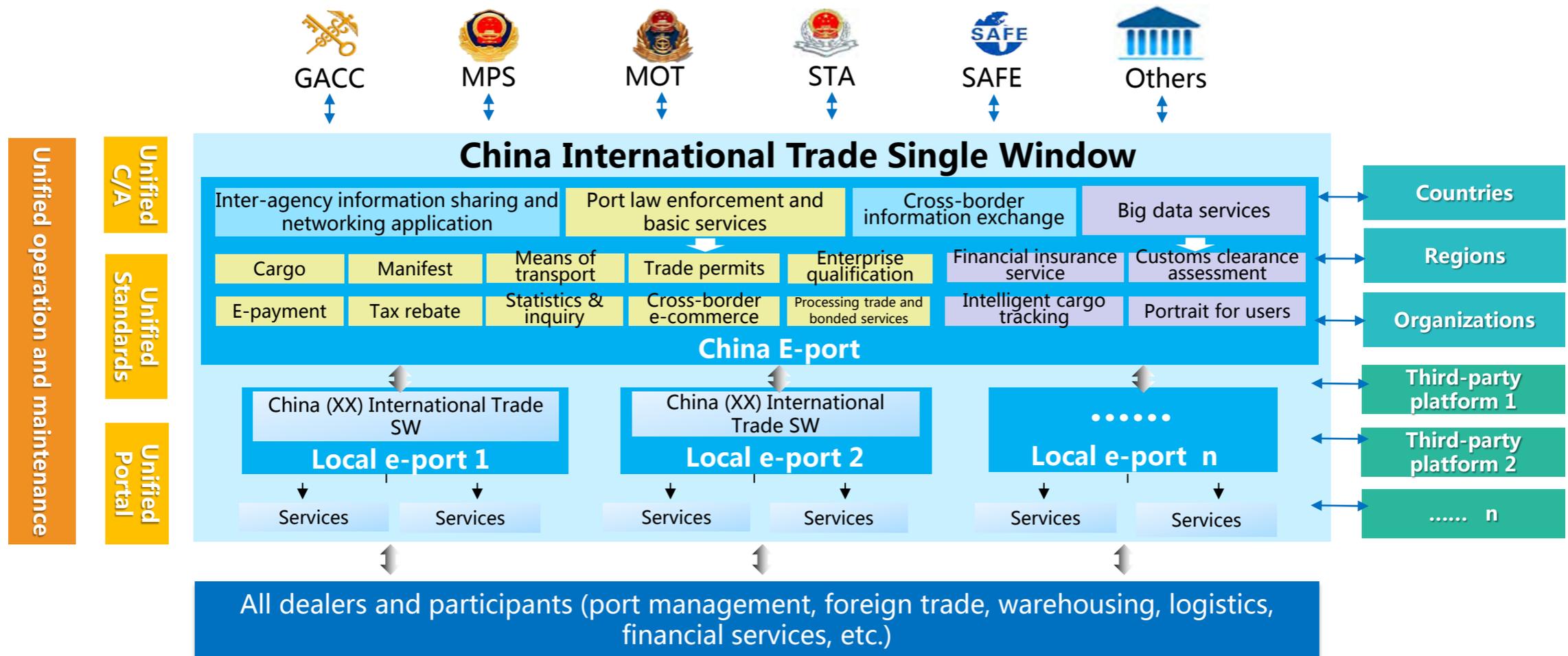
2. Stages

Four stages of development



3. Layout & ICT integration

➤➤➤ The layout includes both central and local levels



4. Governance structure

➤➤➤ Responsibilities of central and local levels respectively

The central gov.

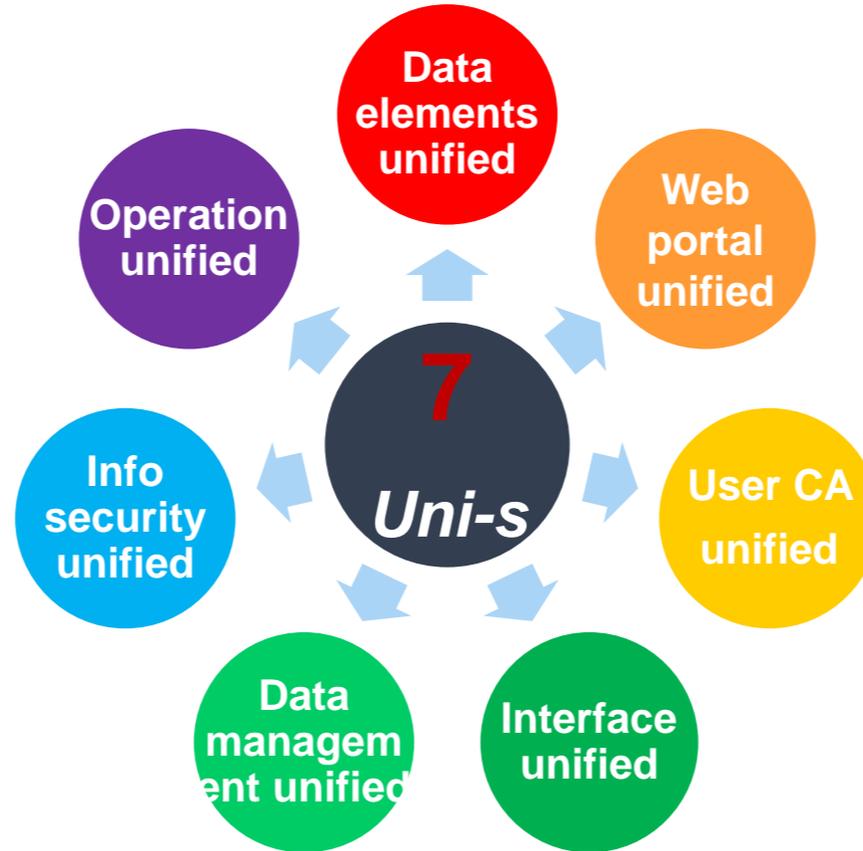
- **The Inter-ministerial Joint Conference on Port Administration (IJCPA)** is responsible for the overall planning of China SW.
- **The National Office of Port Administration (NOPA)** of GACC takes the lead to promote the implementation of SW.
- **The Working Group for the Establishment of National Single Window (NSW Group)** consisting of Cross-Border Regulatory Agencies (CBRAs) acts as the decision-making and steering entity.
- **China E-port Data Center** is the technical implementer of China NSW.

The local gov.

- **The provincial governments** take the lead to organize the local leading group, being responsible for applying and promoting the NSW, and also actively expanding local special services.

5. Business model

➤➤➤ Free of charge and standards unification nationwide



6. Service coverage

16+ categories of basic service functions

600+ service items

25+ CBRAs

- Cargo dec
- Manifest
- Means of transport
- Trade licenses
- c/o
- Qualification
- Inquiry & statistics
- Export tax rebate
- Tax payment
- processing & bonded business
- Financial services
- Cross-border e-commerce



7. Performance

➤➤➤ Key indicators (as of Sept. 2019)

➤ Daily volume of declarations	8 million+
➤ Coverage of core applications	to be 100%
➤ Core system availability	99.9%+
➤ Number of registered users	2.7 million+
➤ Paperless rate of customs clearance	98%+
➤ Compression rate of customs clearance time	50%+
➤ Cut enterprises' customs clearance costs	1/3
➤ Charge for using SW	zero

8. Achievements

➤➤➤ Benefits and praises received

Reduced **documents**



Better **process**

Higher **efficiency**

Lower **cost**



The World Bank's **Doing Business 2019** shows a jump of **32** places for China's cross-border trade ranking.....



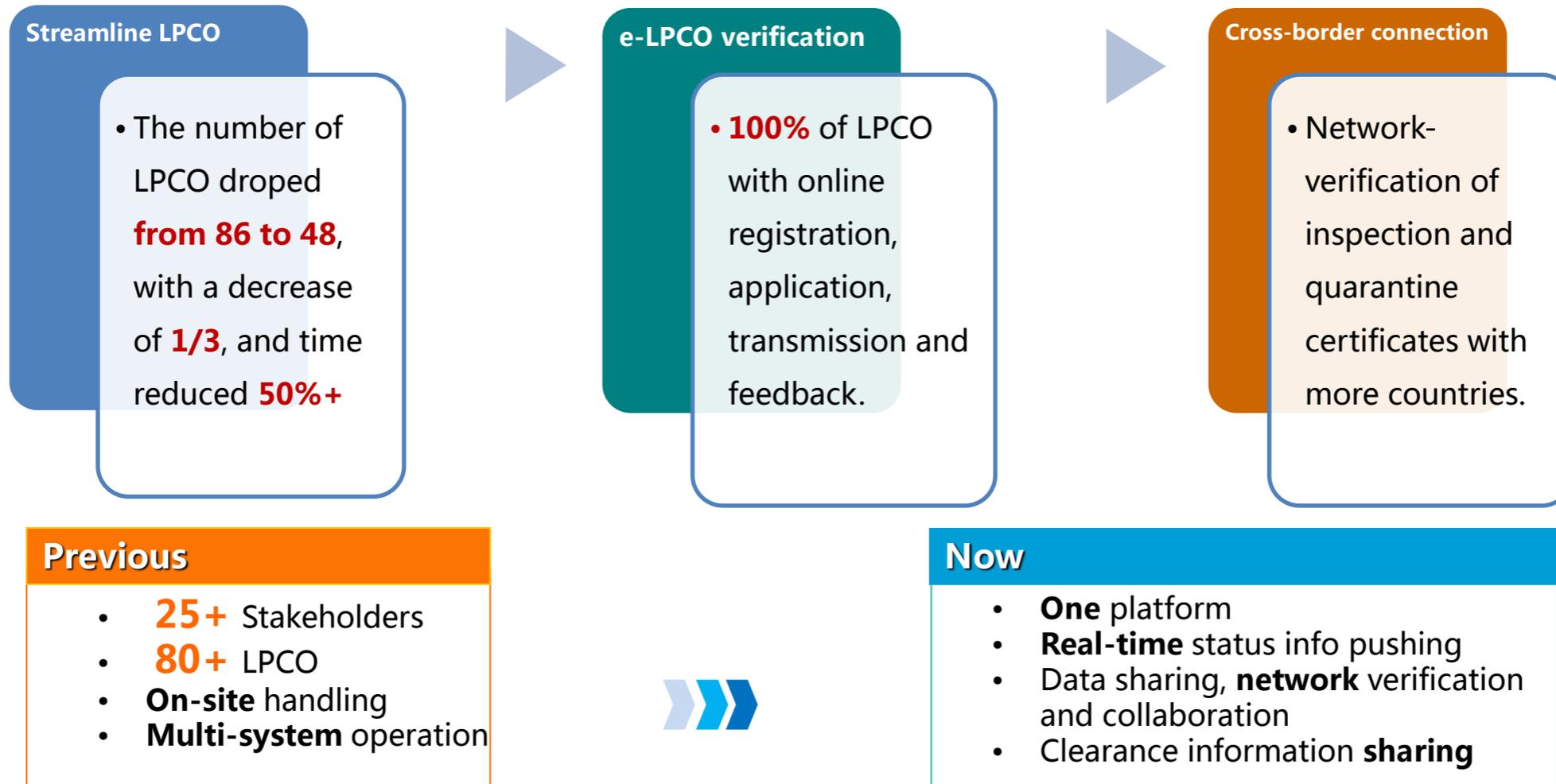
The Session of **WTO's Seventh Trade Policy Review on China** on 13 July 2018.....



The American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai's **2018 Trade Environment Satisfaction Survey Report**

8. Achievements

➤➤➤ Case1: Online handling regulatory documents (or LPCO)



8. Achievements

»»» Case2: business process optimization and paperless

—Taking the means of transportation as an example (ship)

For the entry or exit of the means of transportation, the carrier or its agent shall report to authorities the dynamic forecast, confirmation, number of passengers, quantity of goods of the means of transport, all with dynamic information.

Previous

2 Days

- Multiple system
- **1113** data elements
- **44** categories, **70+** kinds, **150+** pages paper application materials
- Back and forth, **9+** times
- **Series** procedures



Nowadays

<2 Hours

- One system, once log in
- **371** data elements
- All paper materials are cancelled except for the crews' passport
- At most **1** time offline procedure (crew passports)
- **Parallel** procedures

9. Future steps

Three more-s

1. More convenient



2. More intelligent



3. More internationalized



10. Lessons learned

➤➤➤ Five key conclusions can be drawn

- 1 **Strengthening the leadership** is the key factor for a successful implementation of the SW.
- 2 **Responding to users' needs** is the vitality of the SW.
- 3 **Scientific and rational top-level design** surely exert the benefits of the SW.
- 4 **Stakeholders' collaboration** support the effective implementation of the SW.
- 5 **Innovative technological applications** help create a more convenient SW for traders.

http://www.singlewindow.cn



中国国际贸易单一窗口

China International Trade Single Window

首页

信息动态

标准规范

政策法规

标准版应用

我要办事



FIRST GLOBAL CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE CONFERENCE
PREMIÈRE CONFÉRENCE MONDIALE SUR LE COMMERCE
ÉLECTRONIQUE TRANSFRONTALIER

首届世界海关跨境电商大会

AN INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE, STRATEGIC AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE
CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

POUR UNE DÉMARCHÉ INNOVANTE, INCLUSIVE, STRATÉGIQUE ET COLLABORATIVE
EN FAVEUR D'UN COMMERCE ÉLECTRONIQUE TRANSFRONTALIER DURABLE

创新、包容、审慎、协同，推动跨境电商可持续发展



World Customs Organization
世界海关组织



General Administration of China Customs
中华人民共和国海关总署

February 9-10, 2018 Beijing, China



汪洋：促进贸易自由化便利化 推动全球跨境

新华网
1 2 3 4

新闻动态

通知公告

- 国务院总理李克强会见2017夏季达沃斯论坛企业家代表 2017-06-28
- 汪洋出席全国通关一体化工作推进现场会并讲话 2017-12-05
- 国家口岸管理办公室召开提升跨境贸易便利化水平专项行动协调... 2018-03-20
- 张广志在首届世界海关跨境电商大会上发表主旨演讲 2018-02-10
- 中国（福建）国际贸易单一窗口在全国率先实现收付汇信用证综... 2018-03-31
- 国际贸易“单一窗口”标准版在中国（浙江）自由贸易试验区率... 2018-03-08
- 汪洋：促进贸易自由化便利化 推动全球跨境电商加快发展 2018-02-09

推进“三互”大通关

促进国际贸易便利化

标准规范

· 一致化贸易单证设计指南

2016-12-30

政策法规

· 商务部贸易救济调查局关于召开卤化丁基橡胶...

2018-04-09

我要办事

助手下载



Thank You

National Office of Port Administration
October, 2019

Korean AEO Program

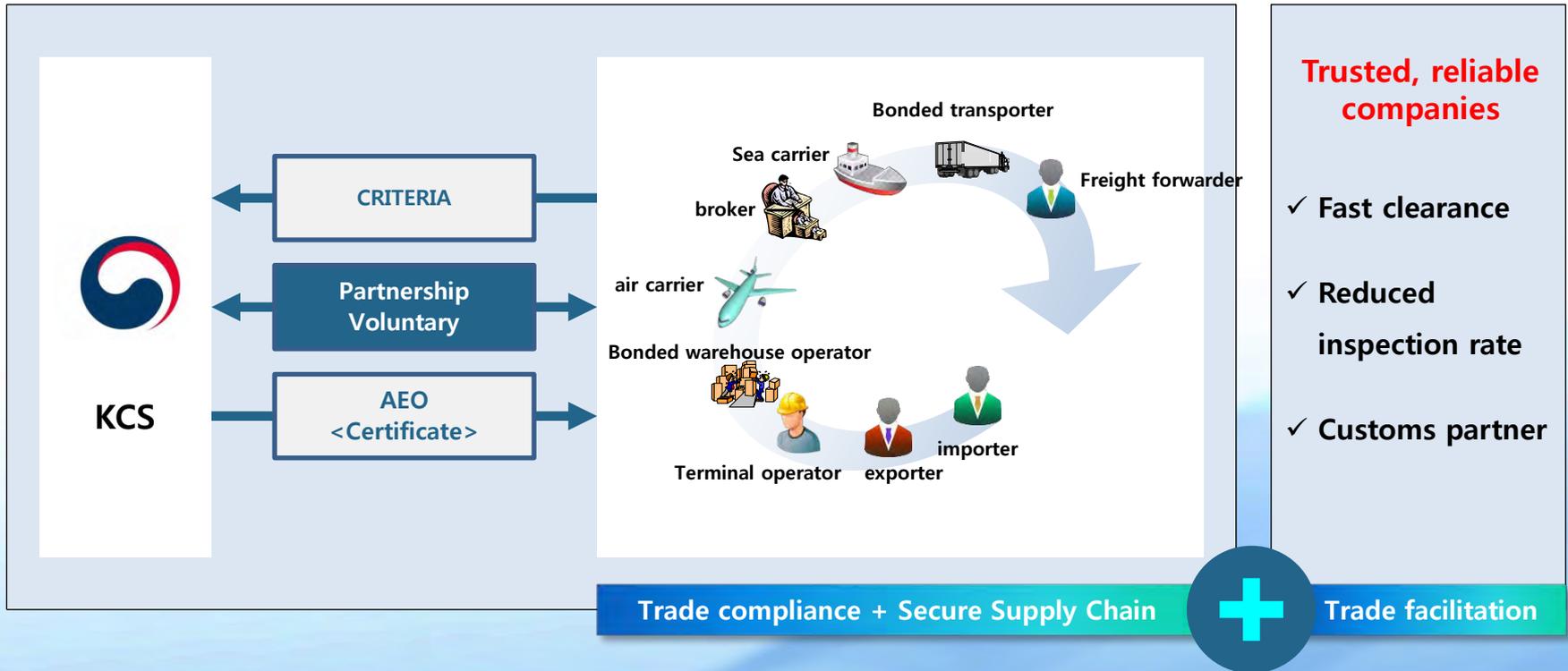
October 2019



Korea Customs
Service

1 AEO Program Profile

- AEO program provides clearance benefits for those involved in global supply chains who have met security requirements.

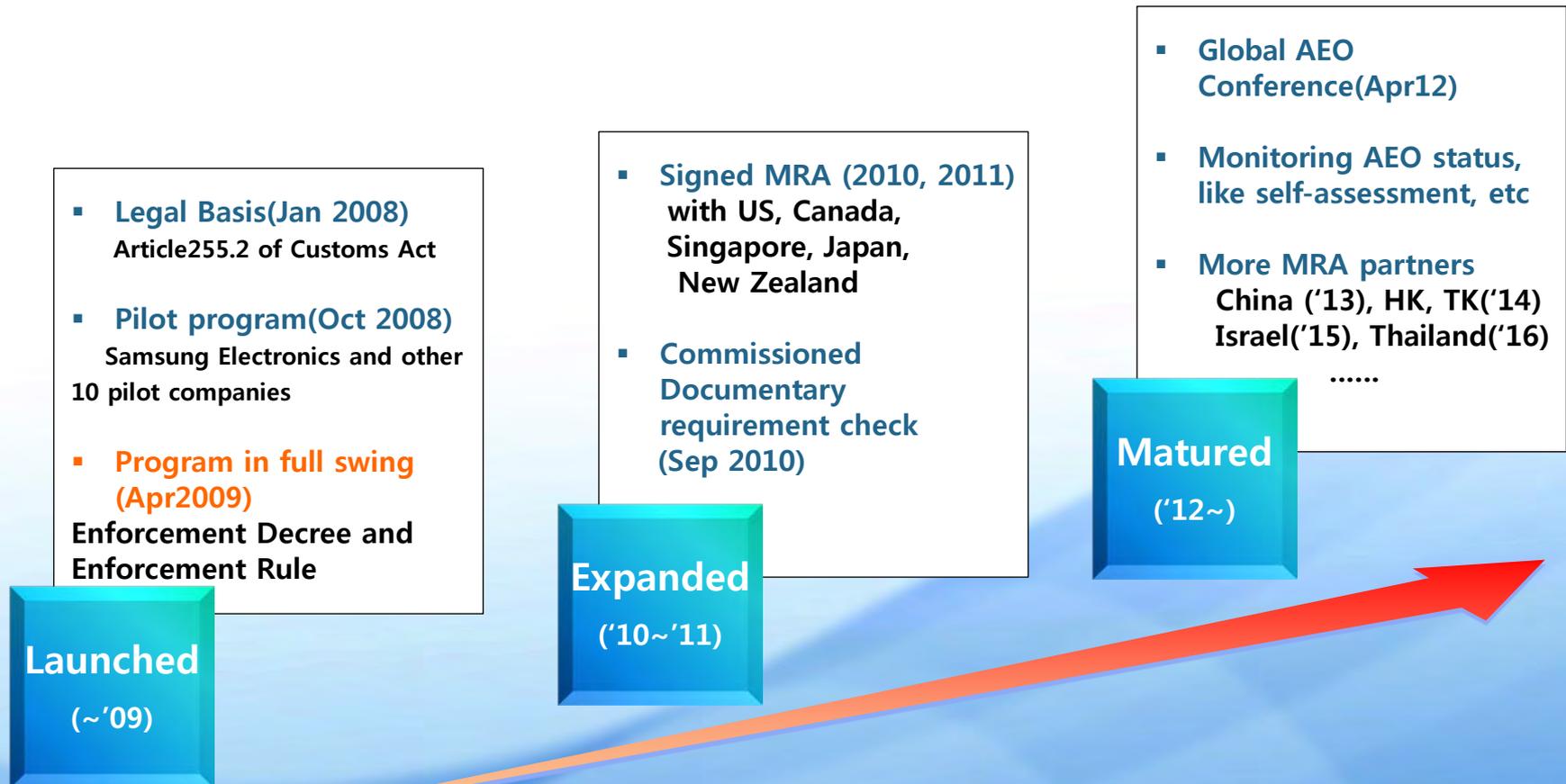


1. Speedier, more secure Customs clearance
2. Risk management based on companies
3. Broader Customs Territory

4. Holistic approach to cargo management

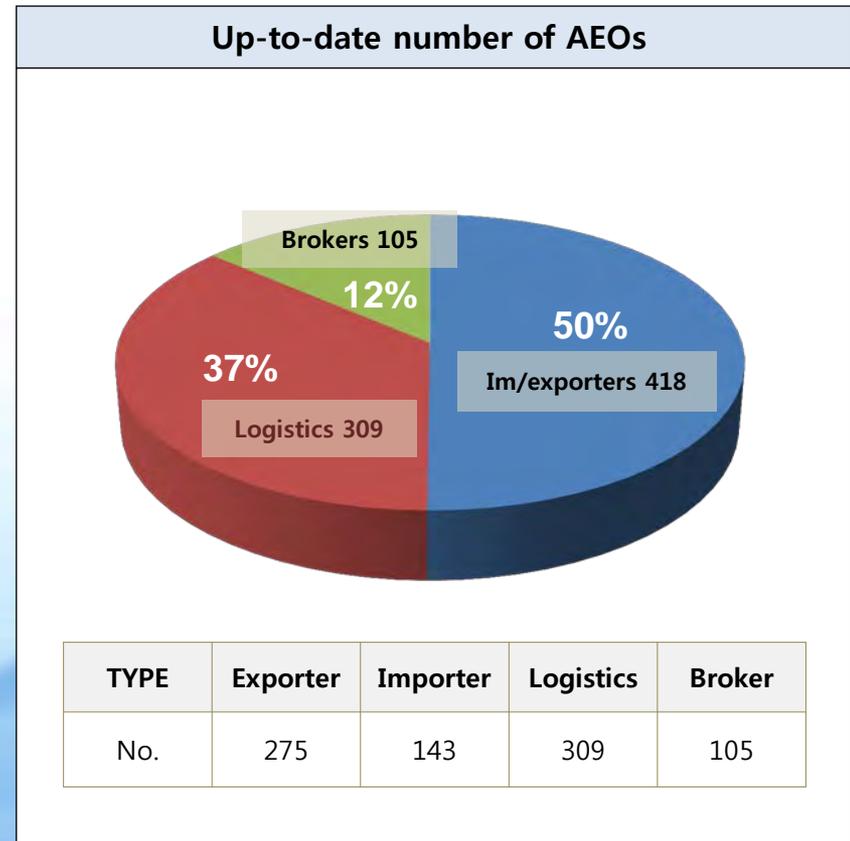
Progress AEO Program in Korea

- Since official launch of AEO program in 2009, Korean AEO program has broaden and deepened, with more MRA being signed.



Up-to-date Figures and Ratio on Korea AEOs(As of Jun 2019)

- Type of AEOs includes im/exporters, brokers, bonded transporter, freight forwarder, warehouse operator, sea carrier, air carrier, ground handler. As of Jun 2019, Korea certifies as AEO 832 entities in aggregate.



Features of Korea AEO program

① Two-track Customs Audit on AEOs and non-AEOs

AEO		Non-AEO
<p>Comprehensive Audit Informed Compliance</p>	<p>VS</p>	<p>Special Audit Enforced Compliance</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher compliance based on customs-to-business partnership ▪ Consulting service ▪ Periodic check 	<p>Different Features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under direct, enforceable Customs Control ▪ Penalties and sanctions imposed ▪ Enforced Audit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced or non-inspection ▪ Customs clearance without bond, Monthly duty payment ▪ Import tax invoice issued <p>Self Management</p>	<p>Benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Benefits <p>Direct Customs Control</p>

4 Features of Korean AEO program

② Customs assigns account manager to inform AEOs of what they should know about dealing with trade law, which leads AEOs to voluntarily fulfill 'informed compliance' responsibility



- **Account Manager**

Dedicated Customs Officer helps AEOs to increase law compliance and enhance their internal control system

5

AEO Benefits

① AEOs enjoy speedier, streamlined clearance benefits, (figuratively likened to dedicated bus lane) thereby reducing trade cost

BENEFITS

Reduced Inspection rate
Priority inspection

Simplified customs procedure

Reduced Trade Cost



② Audit exempted, reduced inspection rate, etc (different depending on AEO Grade)**GRADE**

- Financial Solvency + Security Management+ Internal Control system with 80 points or more
- A : 80 points or more in law compliance score
- AA : 90 points or more in law compliance score
- AAA : 95 points or more in law compliance + Best Practices

VALIDITY PERIOD

- 5 YEARS

BENEFIT

- Exemption from Customs audit, foreign currency transaction audit
- Im/export declaration via ERP system, e-clearance audit
- Reduced inspection rate or priority inspection when selected for inspection
- Monthly duty payment, reduced payment in penalties/noticed disposition
- Prolonged licensing period, relaxed periodic check, package declaration of bonded transport
- Speedier Immigration clearance via fast track, CIP lounge available

- To validate AEO applicant, 4 major criteria and 60-80 sub-criteria apply.

Law Compliance

1. Disqualification
2. False Declaration
3. Violation of Regulation
4. Law Compliance

Internal Control System

1. CEO will , Organization and Budget
2. Cooperation with Customs
3. Records Mgmt
4. Manual on Customs - related Affairs
5. Management and Improver
6. Information Sharing
- ⋮
13. Integrity Maintenance

Financial Solvency

1. Audit report
2. Credit ratings

Security Management

1. Biz partner Mgmt
2. Containers and Trailers
3. Access Control
4. Personnel Mgmt
5. Procedural Mgmt
6. Facilities and Equipment
7. IT Mgmt
8. Education and Training

Korea takes into account criteria of WCO, EU AEO, C-TPAT* for mutual recognition

Key Point**Korea's MRA Partners : 20 economies**

USA('10) Canada('10) Singapore('10) Japan('11) New Zealand('11) China('13) Hong Kong('14) Mexico('14) Turkey('14)
Israel('15) Dominican Republic('15) India('15) Taiwan('15) Thailand('16) Australia('17) UAE ('17) Malaysia('17)
Peru ('17) Uruguay('17) Kazakhstan('19)

Key Point

357.7 million US dollars(for 300 im/exporters in 2018)

< Importers >

Direct Impact: *faster clearance*

- the number of exempted cargo physical inspection x daily warehouse fee

+

Direct Impact: *Duty payment*

- Issuance of revised tax invoice
- Reduced guarantee insurance of tax payment

+

Unmeasured impact

- streamlined procedure in entry into/from bonded factory and in claiming drawback, etc.

< Exporters >

Direct Impact: *lower inspection fee in overseas customs territory*

- the number of exportation x reduced inspection rate x inspection fee

+

Direct Impact:

- Non-AEO importers abroad enjoy benefits without any cost incurred, arising from AEO exporters paying to obtain and maintain AEO status(paid money estimated against overseas price)

+

Indirect impact

- *rising operating profit* due to increased export; less dwell-time in customs clearance facilitates more trade, thereby driving up operating profits.

A vibrant landscape featuring a lush green field in the foreground and a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds in the background. Sun rays emanate from the top left corner, creating a sense of brightness and optimism. The overall scene is peaceful and uplifting.

Thank you



**TOLL
CUSTOMS**

15 October 2019

The National Trade Facilitation Committee of Norway

Directorate of Customs, Norway



- The Act on Customs Duties and Movement of Goods (Customs Act)
Customs Regulations Section 12-16
- Regulations to the Act on Customs Duties and Movement of Goods (Customs Regulations):
 - Section 12-16-1 Consultations between border agencies and the business community

- From the Parliament to
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
 - Ministry of Finance
- Mandate settled on ministerial level
- Implementation of Article 23.2 is delegated to The Directorate of Norwegian Customs:
 - The Committee is chaired by the Directorate
 - The Directorate also performs the Secretariat function

- The Norwegian NCTF meets two times per year, preferably a short time before the WTO meetings.
- NCTF acts as the general coordinating body for the work with TF issues.
- Working groups (sub-groups):
 - Continuation of existing, separately operated, groups e.g.
 - Development of new customs procedures
 - IT communication (declarations)
 - New groups are formed to take care of specific issues, e.g.
 - Revision of the customs legislation
 - Rules of origin: Regional FTAs and GSP issues

Governmental participants

Broad participation from relevant ministries:

- Ministry of Foreign affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Health and Care Services

and their agencies, e.g.:

- Statistics Norway
- Innovation Norway
- Norwegian Agriculture Agency
- Norwegian Food Safety Authority
- Norwegian Medicines Agency
- Police
- Norwegian National Security Authority

- **Representative Business Organisations:**
 - The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise and affiliated organizations
 - the Enterprise Federation of Norway (Virke)
 - Logistics and Transport Companies Association
 - Norwegian Industry Association
 - Norwegian Seafood Federation
 - Norwegian Truckowners Association
 - Norwegian Shipowners Association
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Norstella – Network for trade, industry, transport and service
- **Companies with special challenges, e.g.**
 - Norwegian Postal Service
 - Large importers/exporters with their own customs department

Major elements in the mandate

- Surveillance of the coordination and implementation of TFA in Norway:
 - “Shall” obligations, as well as
 - “Endeavour” obligations etc.
- Removal of unnecessary obstacles to the flow of goods by importation, exportation or transit
- Assessment of Norwegian Exporters’ offensive interests
- Support cooperation and development in international fora
 - WTO, WCO, OECD, ICAO, IMO, UNECE
 - Regional FTAs
- Identify needs in developing countries for technical assistance to implement TF measures

Some issues addressed in the NCTF

- Improve the dialogue between business and certain governmental border agencies
- Appoint contact persons available also outside ordinary business hours
- Impact on operators of the ongoing reorganization of Norwegian Customs
- Develop system for immediate clearance of goods at the border
- Improve routines for handling post, courier dispatchments etc. with many consignees
- Simplify document checks for repetitive situations (ref. risk management)
- Improve statistical information for means of transport
- Use ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) to allow for goods to pass through unmanned border crossings in remote areas
- Effective use of customs seals (e.g. possibility to remove seals outside ordinary business hours and premises)
- Impact of «brexit» for operators

- Acceptance of the NCTF as the major player for the dialogue on international trade in goods between business and government
 - E.g. adaptation to already existing ministerial structures etc.
- Defining and structuring issues in a way that they can be addressed in the right fora and formats
- Balancing the different grades of interest in TF matters from the potential players
 - Some agencies and business structures have specific or limited interests, which nevertheless may be important
- Engaging the most relevant business representatives to address a huge variation of needs and interests
- Including agencies and business structures with specific or limited interests, which nevertheless may be important
 - E.g. SMEs, postal or rail services, traders in medicines etc.

Thank you for your attention!

Visit us at www.toll.no/en/corporate

II -DEDICATED SESSION ON ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

1) Trade Facilitation within EU Aid for Trade strategy and support

- **Trade facilitation and integration of partner countries in global trade play a critical role in EU development cooperation.**
- **Trade facilitation gained initial prominence with the entry of force into the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). From the entry into force of the Agreement, the EU and its Member States have committed to mobilise at least EUR 400 million in trade facilitation assistance over a five-year period, including for projects improving developing countries' customs systems. Specifically, EU Aid for Trade will prioritise those Trade Facilitation Agreement provisions notified as Category C¹.**
- **The EU's Aid for Trade (AfT) Strategy was adopted in October 2007 in response to the WTO-led AfT Initiative to help developing countries better integrate into the international trading system and take greater advantage of poverty-reducing benefits of economic openness and enhanced trade efficiency. In context of the 2030 Agenda, the EU AfT Strategy was subsequently updated in 2017².**
- **The Strategy's objectives – the reduction of poverty and the integration of developing countries into world trade - remain unchanged. However, in the advancement of new instruments, such as the European External Investment Plan (EIP), the vision for EU AfT has evolved to deliver the high volume of EU AfT in an effective and impactful way, to seek complementarity between EU trade and development policies and to increase its effectiveness in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as priority.**
- **EU AfT encompasses a third of EU projects and programmes supporting trade and productive capacities in developing countries. EU AfT operated within the partner countries and regions' trade and economic policies as mainstreamed into their development strategies. It plays a vital role in building the capacity of developing countries to negotiate and implement such agreements. We also work with key actors in partner countries, across many areas and types of aid, from strengthening the capacity of local government and private sector, to the facilitation of customs procedures and compliance with safety, technical and quality standards.**

¹ Category C notifications contain provisions that a developing country or LDC designates for implementation on a date after a transition period and requiring the acquisition of implementation capacity through the provision and assistance of capacity building (source: WTO).

² Ref: COM(2017)667, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'Achieving Prosperity through Trade and Investment: Updating the 2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade.'

- **EU AfT maintains a high degree of flexibility in order to incorporate the development cooperation implications of WTO topics relating to both existing negotiations and commitments. Multilateral and bilateral trade agreements which partner countries adhere to, including the TFA, Free Trade Agreements and Economic Partnership Agreements, are strong drivers for reform that EU AfT supports and builds on to scale up the development impact. In Africa specifically, implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be one of such drivers.**
- **During the 7th Global Aid for Trade Review at the WTO in Geneva of July of this year, the EU launched its EU Aid for Trade Progress Report. The Report reflects the prioritisation of a stronger coherence between EU and MS' development priorities and trade and investment instruments, with a view to improve the economic, job creation and sustainability impacts. The Report itself is based on both qualitative data extracted from the OECD Development Assistance Committee Credit Reporting System, as well as qualitative information conveyed by EU Delegations, including information on projects from Member States in developing countries. The Report includes information on AfT related to trade facilitation.**
- **More than half of the countries where EU Delegations were surveyed have or intend to request assistance to implement provisions of the TFA. The EU is ready to respond to this, including supporting the establishment and effective cooperation of the National Committees for Trade Facilitation (NCTF).**
- **As EU AfT actions continue to expand and deepen, the establishment of active NCTF in developing countries is indeed pivotal to these actions. NCTF are composed of a dynamic working group of implementing agencies (e.g. Customs, Port Authorities), public institutions (e.g. Ministry of Transport) and the Private Sector (e.g. importers and exporters, carriers and shipping associations).**
- **In 2018, the EU provided a full and clear overview to the WTO of current projects in the Aid for Trade Facilitation spectrum, and could provide key and concise updates for 2019.**

2) Examples of EU Aid for Trade Programs in the area of Trade Facilitation:

- **The EU and Member States are among the main donors regarding Trade Facilitation, with commitments reaching EUR 154 million in 2017³. We have clear examples of EU-funded regional and country programs that are actively contributing towards trade facilitation efforts in partner countries.**
- **First, the *West Africa Trade Facilitation Programme*, jointly commissioned by the EU (EUR 20 million), the WBG and GIZ, commenced in September 2018 and is improving and effectively implementing trade facilitation measures at the**

³ Under the DAC purpose code 33120.

regional and national levels, encouraging a more efficient movement of goods along selected corridors and reducing barriers for small-scale traders, with an emphasis on improving conditions for female traders in particular.

- **Second, the *COMESA Programme on Small-Scale Cross-Border Trading* (EUR 15 million) is increasing the formalisation of informal cross-border trade and enhancing small-scale cross-border trade flows in the COMESA/tripartite region, leading to increased fiscal revenues for governments as well as to increased security and higher incomes for small-scale cross-border traders.**
- **Third, the *INTEC (Integración Económica Regional Centroamericana) Programme* (EUR 20.5 million) is a flagship program for trade facilitation in Central America with the specific objective of reducing the regional constraints to competitiveness and diversification in this region, by supporting trade facilitation and increasing capacity to trade in goods and services.**
- **In addition, the *Support to Investment, Competitiveness and Trade in Central Asia Programme* (EUR 31.2 million), focused on five countries (i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia) will promote international trade in Central Asia, as Kazakhstan, for instance, focuses on transforming its growth model away from reliance on natural resource extraction. With policy makers, ministries, private sector representative, and larger companies expected to benefit from trade facilitation reforms, the Programme will map trade regulation and procedures and publish them through online National Trade Facilitation Platforms, in compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Furthermore, the Programme will provide capacity building for women's associations to increase skills and confidence to advocate for their rights as traders and participate in the work of trade institutions, including NCTF.**
- **At country level, the EU Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Programme (EUR 4.55 million) has allowed *Afghanistan* to advance swiftly in implementing the WTO TFA. Specifically, the EU has supported the Afghan government to categorise TFA commitments – including Category C – and supports the Afghan NTFC through increased private sector involvement, technical training and the promotion of inter-agency collaboration.**
- **Furthermore, within the *AfT portfolio*, the EU supports the establishment and effective operation of the NCTFs. For example, EU funding in *Cameroon* has contributed to training officials of the Ministry of Commerce to finalise a road map of its NTFC, operational since 2016. This road map will define the measures and priorities of TFA implementation, including the allocation of measures under Category and C Notifications. In *Haiti*, the Ministry of Trade has organised two meetings with other concerned ministries, the private sector and the EU to prepare a process to finalise the needs assessment of the Category C Commitments and subsequently establish the country's own NTFC. Furthermore,**

in Sri Lanka, the EU Trade Development Project supports the Government's Trade Information Portal. The Portal streamlines documentation necessary for import and export, as well as providing regulatory information to traders. Hosted by the Department of Commerce with the NTFC, the Portal helps to improve predictability and transparency of Sri Lanka's business environment by providing the domestic and foreign business communities and investors with timely access to trade rules and regulations.

EU programmes towards the neighbourhood

- *Regarding EU programmes that are about to be launched*, I would like to mention the following: the programme SEED + on systematic exchange of electronic data : It is a 4-year project that an implementing period between October 2019 to December 2022, with an allocated amount of €5.3 million that benefits the WB6 countries and Moldova, and is implemented by CEFTA. The project aims at securing the needed maintenance to the current SEED whilst developing new elements related to enhance progressive harmonisation and transparency of procedures among involved beneficiaries, in turn, enabling electronic exchange of trade documents in WB in line with the provisions and actions agreed upon in AP5
- *Regarding EU Tunisia cooperation*, the EU would like to stress the following: The EU is implementing a EUR 90M budget support programme in support of competitiveness and exports which covers the following aspects: digitalisation of a number of trade procedures ("titre du commerce extérieur", "visa d'embarquement" and "avis d'arrivée des marchandises"); publication of a trade procedures guide (to ensure transparency of procedures and facilitate cross-border operations (relates to article 10.1. in the notification table); improve the performance of the Sectoral Technical Centers (responsible for testing imported and exported products - relates to article 5.3. in the notification table); reduction of the number of imported and exported products subjected to technical controls (relates to article 7.5. in the notification table); increased productivity of Radès Harbour operations, which channels 80% of trade by sea; and increase in the number of "opérateurs économiques agréés" (relates to article 7.7. in the notification table). Finally, upon request by the Tunisian Authorities, the EU has organised a number of targeted events and activities in Tunisia using the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX). TAIEX programmes are largely needs-driven and deliver appropriate tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice through workshops, expert missions, and/or study visits. The EU has such programmes in the area of customs with Western Balkans and other countries and would consider additional support that could target trade facilitation activities if the Tunisian Authorities express a clear, and structured need for such activities to support the implementation of Tunisia TFA commitments.

Trade Facilitation UK Statement: Dedicated Session on Capacity Building

- Aid for Trade (AfT) is a central pillar of the UK's approach to economic development.
- Our objective is to support developing countries to play an active role in the global trading system and to use trade as an instrument for growth, job creation and poverty alleviation.
- A key part of our aid for trade support is dedicated to trade facilitation projects which help developing countries implement reforms relevant to the implementation of the TFA (Trade Facilitation Agreement).
- A key part of our aid for trade support is spent on trade facilitation projects which help developing countries implement reforms relevant to the implementation of the TFA.
- As well as bilateral and regional programmes such as TMEA – which began its life as a DFID project – the UK funds a Capacity Building Programme to support implementation of the TFA through the WCO Mercator Programme and the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees.
- A recent positive example from the programme is in Namibia, where capacity building on National Trade Facilitation

Committees has resulted in a Trade Facilitation Roadmap for implementing TFA measures. During the workshop, the NTFC of Namibia was formally launched with a mandate to lead the country's trade facilitation efforts and the implementation process of the country's trade facilitation obligations under the TFA.

- The UK also provides funding for the 'Support for the Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement' or SITFA programme. The aim of the programme is to help reduce trade costs and waiting times at the border, and in the long-term to contribute to inclusive growth.
- The programme has been working with four main implementing partners, the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme, the Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility and the Standards and Trade Development Facility.
- A good example of where we are seeing positive impact on the ground through this programme is in Vietnam, where the Trade Facilitation Support Programme has helped launch the Vietnam Trade Information Portal. This portal enables access to all cross-border trade regulation information in one place.
- Making all of Vietnam's regulatory requirements for import and export available to the private sector in an easily

accessible, transparent, and searchable format, is a key step toward a simpler, faster, and lower-cost business environment.

- The UK is committed to working with partners around the world to build on the good progress that has been made and target the specific needs of developing countries for trade facilitation.
- Thank you.

**Statement (Draft) to be Delivered by Nepal on behalf of the LDC Group at the
Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting**

(16 October 2019)

At the end of item C of TF Committee Meeting

Good Morning Everyone!

Thank you Chair for convening the meeting and giving me the floor !

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the LDC Group.

The LDC Group wishes to thank the WTO for organizing the workshop, Committee meeting followed by dedicated session on Trade Facilitation from 14 to 18 October by providing opportunity to the representatives from the capital and Geneva. Both the TF workshop and committee meeting are quite useful, including the experiences sharing by the member countries.

Likewise, the LDC Group would also like to thank the WTO Secretariat for updating the notification, ratification and information about the implementation of the TFA.

We are pleased to note that the progress in the submission of instrument of ratification and notification is encouraging. As of 14 October, 146 members have ratified the agreement. Similarly, 118, 96, and 86 members have notified category A, B and C TF measures respectively. It may be noted that for the LDC Group, the

deadline to submit the category A notification is one year after the agreement has entered into force. The TFA entered into force since 22 February 2017.

The participation of multilateral stakeholders including development partners, the discussions and presentations on donor coordination, sessions on trade Facilitation and SPS, trade and natural disaster nexus, among others, remained significant as they help to understand the various perspectives in and the dynamics of Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The discussions with key development partners, supporting the implementation of the TFA, including the World Bank, Trade Facilitation Support Programme (TFSP), the Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation (GATF), and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) are useful.

LDC Group also would like to thank to the members for sharing the experiences on the implementation of different aspects of the TFA. These sharing are vital for the implementation of the TFA.

Similarly, the session on UNOHRLLS bearing in mind the mid-term review of VPoA seems significant. As the VPoA is in the halfway of implementation and at the eve of mid-term review, comments and feedback to be received from the participants would be highly significant as feedback could be used as inputs for VPoA.

Mr. Chair,

As a Focal Point on Trade Facilitation at the LDC Group, Nepal values the importance of implementation of the TF Agreement as it is about reducing the delays and cost of cross-border trade. Without external support from development partners, it would be very difficult for LDC members to implement the category C commitments. We, therefore, would urge our development partners to notify their technical assistance plan under the Article 22 of the agreement in an annual basis and make sure that the support is demand-driven and tailor-made to the specific context of LDCs.

We would also like to thank WTO TFAF and Summit Alliance International for accepting our request in organizing LDC Second Retreat on 2nd week of June and preparing the LDC profile on TFA implementation.

Finally, Chair, I take this opportunity to thank developed members and development partners for the support provided so far and would like to call upon them to provide additional support in line with TFA to address the need and priority of the LDC members.

I thank you all.

**Presentation by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at the Committee on Trade
Facilitation – Dedicated Session**

16th October, 2019

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines efforts' towards Trade Facilitation reform commenced way before the coming into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. A National Trade Facilitation Taskforce, later renamed a National Trade Facilitation Committee was formally established by way of a Cabinet memorandum in 2011. This Committee is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade and the Customs and Excise Department. The committee consists of members from both the private and public sector and it has overseen the implementation of needs assessments as well as customs reforms.

On January, 9th, 2017, St. Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement and subsequently notified all its implementation dates ahead of deadlines. Its commitment towards TFA is being advanced on two tracks – at the National Level and at the Regional Level as articulated by the representative from CARICOM.

St.Vincent and the Grenadines has worked and continue to work collaboratively with regional and international stakeholders in the quest for trade facilitation reform. With funding assistance of the International Trade Center (ITC), a consultant was employed with a mandate to develop project proposals for the Category C measures. Of course we are extremely grateful to ITC for their usual support.

Individual project proposals were written for all Category C designated measures – a total of 16 – including publication; enquiry points; advance rulings; test procedures; risk management; single window; Post Clearance Audit, formalities for documentation requirements, and general

disciplines on fees and charges. Critically, each project proposal envisaged or identified implementation partners and carefully matched them with possible donors. A number of those identified donors have since been approached to assist us in implementing these category C measures. Regrettably for us, there have been no successful cases to report. Nevertheless, preparatory work has started in an effort to implement the first phase of a single window using the ASYCUDA World platform. The first phase is being funded by the Government of St.Vincent and the Grenadines. We have also received assistance from Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC) in terms of building capacity in areas such as Risk Management and Post Clearance Audit. However, there is still need for financial assistance.

On the regional track, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is part of a Regional Strategy for the implementation of the TFA in the CARICOM region. This was done with input from policy makers, technical experts and other government and private sector agencies across the OECS Member States and the broader Caribbean Community. The regional strategy highlights regional approaches and strategies to support the implementation of the TFA provisions both collectively and individually. I will not elaborate as this has already been explained by the representative from CARICOM.

Another noteworthy initiative of the Regional approach which St.Vincent and the Grenadines is currently benefitting from is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees and for that we are very thankful to UNCTAD and the OECS Geneva Mission. The first module of this on-going initiative was conducted in country in November 2018. Under this Programme, current and potential members of the National Trade Facilitation Committee were trained with the requisite planning skills to implement trade facilitation reforms and to ensure a sustainable

national Trade Facilitation Committee. Under this programme, we are in the final stage towards adoption of a national trade facilitation road map reflecting our vision for the next five (5) years with corresponding goals and activities to achieve the desired outcome of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of trade facilitation. The Empowerment Programme also played a critical role in helping us determine our Category C definitive dates ahead of the August 22 deadline.

In January, 2019, The World Trade Organization (WTO)) supported a regional border agency coordination workshop in St. Lucia under the theme: “*The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Supporting Strategic and Effective Implementation in CARICOM.*” It was organized by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF), CARICOM Secretariat, The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission in conjunction with other agencies such as Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). A critical component of this engagement was the donor dialogue, in that it facilitated contact between Member States and major international organizations and development partners including: the World Bank Group, IMF, World Customs Organization; UK/DFID; the European Union; and the Caribbean Development Bank.

Despite our best efforts, St.Vincent and the Grenadines is faced with a number of challenges to fully implement its Category C measures. Some of them are being addressed nationally; however, some require forging partnerships with development partners. The most significant challenge in this regard is the lack of financial support. While agencies as previously mentioned

have been extremely helpful in providing technical expertise, they do not have the financial resources to fund the full implementation of certain initiatives.

In closing, I wish to reiterate to members that the focus should not be solely on notification but equally, focus should be placed on encouraging donor members and development partners to play their part in making available the requisite support which we have clearly disclosed in our Category C notification submissions. As you have heard earlier, some of these challenges are not peculiar only to us but also to our sister OECS and CARICOM countries.

We therefore wish to remind our development partners of the spirit of the negotiations of the Agreement and the special and differential provisions agreed upon to offer technical and financial assistance in order for developing countries like ours to implement the TFA.

Thank you.