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17-18 JUNE 2014  
DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

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## NATIONAL WORKSHOP “IMPLEMENTING THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT”

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In December 2013, WTO members concluded the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) at the 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali. Upon entry into force, the TFA will create binding obligations for WTO members to improve customs procedures, transparency and efficiency as well as cooperation amongst border regulatory agencies and private sector. The developing and least developed Members shall self-designate, on individual basis the provisions of the TFA into Category A (implementation upon entry into force), B (deferred implementation) or C (linked with acquisition of capacity through assistance and support) and the date of their choice for the implementation of respective provisions.

This two-day workshop will gather public and private trade facilitation stakeholders to determine Tajikistan target categorization of the TFA commitments for notification to the WTO and initiate the process of building project plans to request donors financial and technical assistance for Category C provision implementation. Discussion will build on the WTO Needs Assessment conducted by COUNTRY in 2009 (year).

### Key questions driving the discussion

For each of the 37 Trade Facilitation Agreement provisions, the following questions will be submitted to discussion in order to determine the appropriate categorization:

- What could be the appropriate category for this measure?
- Is Tajikistan already implementing this measure?
- What laws and/or administrative instructions correspond to this measure?
- What type(s) of actions are required to implement this measure, including incurring costs?
- What would be the resources required to implement this measure?
- How much time (in months / years) would be required to implement the measure?
- Do you need any external assistance for the implementation of this measure?
- How important is the implementation of this measure for the overall national development strategy?
- Do you think implementation of this measure would require some other measure to be implemented prior to this measure?
- In your opinion, which Ministry / department is best suited to lead and ensure implementation of the measure?

## 17 June 2014 – Day 1

**8:00-9:00 Participant Registration**

**9:00-09:30 Welcome (Session 1)**

Opening Session

Speakers/Moderators: Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan / ITC / UNCTAD / WTO / Private sector representatives

**9:30-10:30 Understanding the TF Agreement and Its Implications (Session 2)**

This session will provide an overview of the concept of trade facilitation, a review of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and an analysis of the expected benefits of the TFA, in particular for the private sector. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD /WTO

**10:30-10:45 Coffee Break**

**10:45-12:30 Reviewing S&DT, Notification Requirements (Session 3)**

This session will provide a detailed review of the Special and Differentiated Treatments agreed in Section II of the TFA as well as the notification timeline for developing and least-developed countries. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Speakers / Moderators: ITC

**12:30-14:00 Lunch**

**14:00-16:00 The role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (Session 4)**

This session will provide a detailed review of the role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee going forward. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Speakers / Moderators: UNCTAD

**16:00-16:15 Coffee Break**

**16:15-17:30 Categorizing TFA provision into A, B and C categories (Session 5)**

This session will allow trade facilitation stakeholder to discuss and validate in which category each of the TFA commitments should be allocated. Based on WTO Needs assessment conducted by Tajikistan in 2009, the session will primarily focus on projected A provisions, then on projected C provisions and finally, projected B provisions. For each of the TFA provision, the session will go through the following:

- Detailed presentation of the measure (i.e. key features);
- Analysis of the nature of the obligation (i.e. obligation of means or results);
- Review of the implementation checklist;
- Discussion between national stakeholders to determine provision categorization based on the 10 key questions listed in this document.

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

## 18 June 2014 – Day 2

### 09:00-10:30 **Categorizing TFA provision into A, B and C categories (Session 5 – Con'd)**

This session will allow trade facilitation stakeholder to discuss and validate in which category each of the TFA commitments should be allocated. Based on WTO Needs assessment conducted by Tajikistan in 2009, the session will primarily focus on projected A provisions, then on projected C provisions and finally, projected B provisions. For each of the TFA provision, the session will go through the following:

- Detailed presentation of the measure (i.e. key features);
- Analysis of the nature of the obligation (i.e. obligation of means or results);
- Review of the implementation checklist;
- Discussion between national stakeholders to determine provision categorization based on the 10 key questions listed in this document.

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

### 10:30-10:45 **Coffee Break**

### 10:45-12:30 **Categorizing TFA provision into A, B and C categories (Session 5 – Con'd)**

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

### 12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

### 14:00-15:00 **Categorizing TFA provision into A, B and C categories (Session 5 – Con'd)**

Description of the session

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

### 15:00-16:00 **Summary of Key Findings and Validation (Session 6)**

This session will provide a global summary of the commitment categorization decision for the stakeholder to collectively validate the workshop output.

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

### 16:00-16:15 **Coffee Break**

### 16:15-17:00 **Presenting Next Step (Session 7)**

This session will present the project next steps: Structuring bankable project plans for Category C provision implementation. It will give the participants an overview of the objectives and methodology that will be used and raise their awareness on the inputs they will be required to provide.

Moderators: ITC / UNCTAD

### 17:00-17:30 **Closing (Session 8)**

Wrap up session

Speakers/Moderators: Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan / ITC / UNCTAD / WTO / Private sector representatives