Key steps to be considered for conducting an IFD needs assessment (NA)

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

1. IDENTIFY A FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATING THE IF NA

The focal point will be coordinating domestically the NA with all relevant authorities and agencies and other concerned stakeholders.

Key roles: identify all domestic entities and agencies that will participate in the NA process. (an indicative checklist of relevant authorities and entities is included in Annex II of the IF Self-Assessment Guide, accessible here).

2. IDENTIFY A RELEVANT PARTNER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION(S)/ DONOR(S)

Key in case your government needs technical-assistance and capacity-building support to undertake the NA. It is also important to identify the type of assistance needed: expertise, financial resources, etc. (a list of possible partner international organizations is accessible here).

3. IDENTIFY RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE IF NA

They involve notably all directly concerned authorities that will take part in the future implementation of the Agreement at both the national and sub-national levels. Governments should also consider inviting representatives from the private sector and civil society to participate in the NA.

It may be useful to identify those authorities that will be more directly concerned with the implementation of the IFD Agreement.

4. TRAININGS ON IFD AGREEMENT AND IF SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Training sessions on the IFD Agreement and the IF Self-Assessment Guide (document INF/IFD/W/56) conducted by the WTO Secretariat and/or relevant international organization(s), which can be conducted online.

5. ORGANIZE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM ALL RELEVANT AUTHORITIES AND ENTITIES

This stage can be the most time-intensive, potentially extending from several weeks to several months. For the focal point, it implies coordinating with each relevant domestic authority or agency involved in the NA and the Agreement's future implementation to obtain their inputs for conducting the gap analysis and assigning a preliminary categorization (A, B, or C) of each of the IFD Agreement's provisions.

6. VALIDATION OF RESULTS ON CATEGORIZATION

The preliminary categorization should be validated by the relevant authorities.

To summarize the key results of the NA process and its validation, the following Excel file may be utilized, accessible here.