

Sweden Contribution to the Upcoming Dedicated Session on capacity-building in the Trade Facilitation Committee 2 May 2018

Chair, the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is highly prioritized by our government for many reasons. From our own experience, as a small open country, we are aware of the crucial role that trade can play to sustain economic growth, which in turn, is a pre-requisite for sustainable poverty reduction.

A key priority for Sweden's Aid for Trade is to strengthen developing countries' ability to participate in regional and global value chains and trade. For instance through efforts for trade facilitation, reduced trade barriers, trade related sustainable infrastructure and private sector development.

Sweden is supporting several global and regional initiatives connected to trade facilitation programs, which are benefiting a large amount of countries.

Such as the World Bank's Trade Facilitation Support Program and Umbrella Trust Fund and the World Customs Organization, totaling around 8,5 million euro.

In recent years we have had support to Trapca and Trade Mark East Africa of about 23 million euro, and are now reviewing possible next steps.

Today I would like to highlight a couple of successful projects linked to TFA implementation.

They are a part of a broader, 5 million euro collaboration with the WCO and the Sub-Saharan African Customs Modernization Programme.

It's a program that comprises of four regional projects in the EAC, ECOWAS and SACU. These are projects defined by ownership by the recipients and with an aim to facilitate trade without compromising the security of their country and the safety of their citizens.

In Cape Verde, the WCO effectively supported implementation of three measures of the TFA; the establishment of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation, Consultations through formal dialogue platform, and performing a Time Release Study. The Time Release Study was performed in port Praia and provided valuable guidance for a more effective clearance of goods. TRS are set to be rolled out in all ports of the country, which would lead to the improvement of the business environment and to financing the country's development. These measures have hopefully set a foundation for a successful ratification of the TFA.

In the EAC program, covering Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya, there have been positive results regarding the Authorized Economic Operators. The benefits of an AOE is the recognition as a low risk company and hence a faster clearance procedure. The program

now counts 75 companies that represent 7% of regional trade value, 3 Billion USD in annual regional trade as well as 9% of revenue collected across the region by Customs. The EAC region was also able to sign an AEO Mutual Recognition Agreement with South Korea and is about to sign one with India.

Chair, I thank you for this opportunity to provide a short presentation on the Swedish support, and we are committed to continue supporting the implementation of the TFA.

Thank you.