

COMMERCIAL LAW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – CONTRIBUTION BY THE UNITED STATES

- The Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) is a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce that provides government-to-government legal framework technical assistance to improve countries' ability to meet international and bilateral trade obligations.
- CLDP has worked with over 50 developing and transitional countries to modernize laws and regulations that lead to economic growth. Additionally, CLDP plays an important role in providing Trade Facilitation Agreement assistance and support for capacity building.
- To ensure countries receive the assistance needed to fully implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), CLDP partners with other U.S. Government agencies to design and implement training. Past CLDP programs covered a wide range of topics such as advance rulings, authorized economic operators, and other TFA implementation topics.
- For example, CLDP conducted a multi-phase program for Pakistan on advance rulings. For two of the programs, CLDP partnered with the Governments of Malaysia and Sri Lanka respectively to assist Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue understand best practices in advance rulings and develop an action plan for formalizing advance rulings. The trainings demonstrated excellent collaboration between governments to provide technical assistance.
- To fund and implement training programs, CLDP coordinates with U.S. Department of State and U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Any country interested in working with CLDP should submit inquires to the technical assistance contact point (ptf@usaid.gov) which is also listed on the tfadatabase.org website.
- Since 2017, CLDP in partnership with European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine has held a working group focused on TFA implementation for Ukraine and Moldova. The working group helps the customs agencies of both countries to drive reforms and conform with the TFA.
- Through the Working Group, CLDP has helped Ukraine identify improvements to its draft Customs Code on Post Clearance Auditing.
- This year, CLDP – in conjunction with Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA), will host a series of roundtables with Central American government officials to address the topics of transparency, as well as reforms which can improve and simplify customs and border procedures. This initiative will assist several countries, including

Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, to develop recommendations and individual country work plans towards fulfilling their TFA commitments under articles 1 & 2.

- This program draws on a diverse group of advisors, from within the U.S. government and the greater Latin America, to encourage best practices in TFA obligations for public consultations, inter-agency coordination, and online publication.
- So far, CLDP and ITA have made initial assessment trips to all countries involved in this program, and is currently planning a series of workshops and round table events to develop both individual and regional work plans to achieve programing objectives