Mobilizing Private Sector Perspective in TFA Implementation

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Structure of Presentation

- Brief on Mauritius private sector’s involvement on policy development and trade facilitation agreement.

- Overview of ITC and UNCTAD project to help Mauritius implement the TFA.

- The importance of TFA to the Mauritian economy and to the region.
Private Sector in Mauritius

- Institutional arrangements bring together government agencies and private sector.

- The business community collaborates on projects designed to improve the country’s economic and trade prospects.

- For trade negotiations issues under WTO, a national co-ordination committee and nine sub-committees where the government and private sector share responsibility for policy development.

- In all WTO Ministerial Conferences, including the Bali Conference, participation of high representatives from private sector.
MCCI & Trade Facilitation

- Trade Net System
- Mauritius Cargo Community System
- Online submission of Electronic Certificates of Origins
- Cargo Dwell Time Study
- Study on options and technical requirements for implementing a ‘Single Window’ in Mauritius
TFA Priorities for Private Sector

- Article 2: Prior publication and consultation
- Article 6: Disciplines on fees and charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation
- Article 8: Border agency coordination
- Article 10: Formalities connected with importation and exportation and Transit
- Article 12: Customs cooperation
- Article 13: Trade Facilitation Institutional Structure
Build awareness of all stakeholders – and in particular private sector - on the TFA and its implications.

Determine the categorization of the TFA provisions for notification to WTO.

Help the establishment of the Mauritius National Trade Facilitation Committee
3-phases ITC/UNCTAD Project

- Initial One week - Two days’ workshop + Bilateral meetings ITC/UNCTAD and TF stakeholders from public and private sector

- Two months consultation by National Consultant with TF stakeholders to determine provisional categorization

- Final conference to validate the categorization proposal
1st Phase - Workshop & Bilateral meetings 1-5 April 2014

ITC/UNCTAD experts

- Presented the TFA agreement
- Highlighted the potential benefits for businesses
- Presented the questionnaire to determine provisional categorization
- Introduced the national consultant who would carry out the stakeholder consultations as per questionnaire
1st Phase - Workshop & Bilateral meetings 1-5 April 2014

ITC/UNCTAD experts

- Held bilateral meetings with different stakeholders including the private sector to further build knowledge on the TFA

- Discussed with the Directorate of International Trade how to institutionalize the informal consultation process amongst stakeholders into a National Trade Facilitation Committee
1st Phase - Workshop & Bilateral meetings 1-5 April 2014

- Ensured all stakeholders share a common level of information
- Addressed apprehension on the consultation process and on the questionnaire.
- Created national momentum around the TFA implementation process.
- Need to have a collaborative forum for regular consultation amongst the TF stakeholders including the Private Sector.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Phase – Consultation Process

Project aims at collecting stakeholders’ perspectives on categorization of TFA provisions and capacity building needs

- Consultation carried out by the national consultant
- Based on the questionnaire developed by the ITC /UNCTAD
- Emphasis on business inputs and capacity building needs on trade facilitation
- Establishing the National Trade Facilitation Committee.
3rd Phase - Validation Conference

main objectives:

- Validate the categorization proposals to notify to the WTO
- Present the newly constituted National Trade Facilitation Committee
Value of ITC/UNCTAD project

4 elements of value to Mauritius:

- ITC/UNCTAD synergy contributed to project impact on the ground
- Systematic involvement of private sector at each stage of the project
- Need to bring other countries in region on the same page
- Similar project should be extended to other countries to maximize benefits of the TFA
ITC- Coordinate TF technical assistance

- Mandate to be the technical assistance agency of WTO and UNCTAD
- Mandate to support private sector participation in international trade
- MOU with UNCTAD and WCO on TF related activities.
- Expertise and resources to act as ‘coordinator’ for international organizations besides continuing its own technical assistance.
Mauritius in midst of Growing Trade

- Mauritius is an open export-oriented economy
- International trade stands at 80% of GDP
- Exports of goods and services alone account for 53% of GDP
- Mauritius sits in middle of the triangle of growth with immense potential for imports and exports of goods and services.
- The ongoing Tripartite FTA, if concluded by 2017, will lead to greater inter-African trade and enlarged markets for goods and services
Thank you for kind attention