UNCTAD Trade Facilitation Implementation Plans

Example of the OECS
Background

- First Round of National Needs Self Assessments
- Establishment of national TF Task Forces
- Participation in the negotiations
- Second needs assessment and development of TF implementation plans

Support provided generally and specifically by The Multi-donor TF Trust Fund; the EU, Norway and Sweden
Developing TF Implementation Plans - The Process

- Regional Launch Meeting: August 21-22, 2012
- National launch activities: August-September 2012
- Work by National Consultants: September 2012 - May 2013
  - Data collection
  - Preparation of draft national implementation plans
- National Validation workshops: February - May 2013
- Final Regional Workshop October 2013
The Final Outputs

• National Trade Facilitation Implementation Plans
  – Description of the current situation - the gap
  – Identification of the necessary action for achieving compliance
  – Proposal of a preliminary implementation sequence
  – A synthesis of:
    • tentative sources of funding
    • time requirements and
    • distribution of implementation responsibilities
The Benefits of the Exercise

- Deeper understanding among main stakeholders of:
  - the TF disciplines that were being negotiated;
  - The process and requirements for implementation and compliance
- Systematic stock taking and analysis of TF needs
- Strengthened task forces/working groups
The Regional Element

• **Context**
  – OECS Economic Union
    • Establishing the Free Circulation regime
    • Upgrading of trade facilitation infrastructure
    • Improvement in the ‘Doing Business Environment’ in particular "Trading Across Borders".

• **Objective of final regional workshop**
  – Practical implementation issues and regional solutions on six selected TF Measures
  – Prepare project proposals to request assistance
Benefits of the Regional Component

- Experience sharing, exchange of knowledge and learning;
- Identification of potential regional solutions in six areas;
- Presence of different donors such as the IDB, CDB, IFC and Compete Caribbean;
- Six TF measures ranked as national priority with draft project proposals prepared;
Challenges

• Limited number of participants for non-host countries
• Logistical coordination and arrangements
Next Steps – Post Bali

- Review and confirmation of implementation plans;
- Updating of needs assessment;
- Finalisation of Category A provisions;
- Finalisation of the 6 project proposals;
- Securing assistance for the costing of implementation requirement;
- Securing assistance for awareness and education of wider stakeholders;
- Further strengthening of national task forces;
- Securing political will/support for ratification.
THANK YOU

Ricardo James
rmjames@oecs.org