

**IV Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and  
Competition in the Latin America and the  
Caribbean, Held in Punta Cana, Dominican  
Republic, 05-06 November, 2015**



***Implications of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation Reached at the IX  
Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (Bali,  
December 2013) for Intra-Regional Trade in Latin America and the  
Caribbean***

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**November 06, 2015**

# Structure of Presentation

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**1. I WILL OUTLINE SOME OF THE ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT.**

**2. WHERE POSSIBLE, I WILL SHOW HOW THE AGREEMENT CAN ENHANCE INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

# CATEGORIES OF COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT

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- 1. Category A** - sets out those provisions or sub-provisions in the Agreements which WTO members would be fully compliant in and implementing upon entry into force of the Agreement.
- 2. Category B** - are those provisions in the Agreement for which there are substantial compliance. However these provision will not be implemented when the Agreement comes into force.
- 3. Category C** – those provisions of the Agreement for which there are partial compliance. The provisions will not be implemented upon entry into force of the Agreement. Member state will require technical assistance.

# Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information

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- 1. Publication :** Information relating to importation, exportation and transit procedures; rates of duties and fees; and rules for classification and valuation.
- 2. Internet:** Import and export information, transit and appeal procedures, forms and contact information for enquiry points must be placed on the internet.
- 3. Enquiry Points:** Member state should establish one or more Enquiry Point(s) – provide information and forms.

## **Article 2: Opportunities to Comment on regulation before they come into force**

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- 1. Opportunity to comment** – Provide opportunities and appropriate time period for traders, and other parties to comment on proposed introduction or amendments to laws and regulations relating to: movement, release and clearance of goods.
- 2. Consultations** – Between Border agencies and traders.

# Article 4: Appeals or Review procedures

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## **Rights of Appeal or Review:**

- Administrative appeals to or review by an administrative authority higher than or independent of the office or official that issue the decision.
- Judicial appeal or review of the decision.

## **Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods**

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- 1. Pre-arrival processing**
- 2. Electronic Payments**
- 3. Risk management**
- 4. Post – clearance audit**
- 5. Establishment and publication of average release time**
- 6. Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorised Operators**
- 7. Expedited Shipments**

## **Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation**

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- Alignment of working days and hours;
- Alignment of procedures and formality;
- Development and sharing of common facilities;
- Joint controls; and
- Establishment of one stop post control.



## **Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit**

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- 1. Formalities and Documentations** – minimize the complexity of import, export and transit formalities.
- 2. Acceptance of Copies-** Paper or electronic.
- 3. Use of International standards** – use relevant international standards as a basis for import, export or transit.
- 4. Single Window**
- 5. Pre-shipment inspection-** should not be required in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.
- 6. Use of Customs Broker** – members should not introduce the mandatory use of Customs Brokers.

# Article 12: Customs Cooperation

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## 1. Measures promoting Compliance and cooperation

- share information on best practices in managing customs compliance.

- technical cooperation

- capacity building

## 2. Exchange of information

## 3. Protection and confidentiality

## 4. Provision of information

## 5. Bilateral Agreement

# Article 13: Institutional Arrangements

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## 1. **Committee of Trade Facilitation**

- Committee should meet at least once per year.
- Afford Members the opportunity to consult on matters relating to the Agreement

## 2. **National Committee on Trade Facilitation** – to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of provisions of the Agreement

**Thanks you for your  
time and attention.**