**National Workshop on Sri Lanka's implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement**

**Workshop facilitated by a representative of the WTO TFA secretariat and the Head of the TFA Facility**

**Colombo, Sri Lanka, 18-19 July 2024**

**Objectives of the workshop**

1. The workshop will enhance the capacity of government officials to operationalize and correctly implement the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

2. It will identify gaps in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support and identify steps to address those gaps in order to support full and timely implementation of the TFA.

**Programme**

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| **Day 1 – Thursday, 18 July 2024** |
| 09:00-09:30 | **Registration of participants** |
| 09:30-10:00 | **Opening of the Workshop**Objectives of the workshop, presentation of the programme, presentation of the speakers and participants. |
| 10:00-10:30 | **Session 1: Work of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee and presentation of the TFA Database** *Presenter: Ms Dolores Halloran, WTO* |
| 10:30-11:00 | **Session 2: Introduction by the TFA Facility of its role and activities in addressing the gaps in technical assistance and capacity building support** *Presenter: Ms Birgit Viohl, Head of the TFA Facility* |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-14:45 | **Session 3: Current status of TFA implementation in Sri Lanka** Update on Sri Lanka's TFA implementation roadmap *Breakout groups facilitated by Dolores Halloran and Birgit Viohl* |
| 14:45-15:30 | **Session 4: Evaluation of implementation and identification of gaps;** TFA Gap Analysis and Implementation of Sri Lanka’s commitments *Breakout groups facilitated by Dolores Halloran and Birgit Viohl* |
| 15:30-16:00 | *Recess* |
| 16:00-17:00 | **Session 4: cont'd**Continued discussion on TFA Gap analysis and implementation of Sri Lanka's commitments*Presentation by breakout groups of their Gap Analysis and potential next steps* |
| 17:00-17:45 | **Session 5: The Early Warning Mechanism (Article 17 notification); Sri Lanka's Notifications*** How to trigger the Early Warning Mechanism (Article 17)
* Status of Sri Lanka's TFA notifications

*Presenter: Dolores Halloran and interactive discussions* |
| 17:45-18:00 | **Identification of the main conclusions of the day** |

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| **Day 2 – Friday, 19 July 2024** |
| 09:00-10:30 | **Session 6: How to address current technical assistance and capacity building needs*** Current challenges in identifying needs, particularly for provisions with upcoming implementation dates
* Donor coordination: Challenges, best practices, success stories and lessons learned to establish contact, develop relationships, and obtain the necessary cooperation for the implementation of the TFA.
* Role of National Trade Facilitation Committee in this work

*Group activity/Brainstorming**Presentation and facilitation: Birgit Viohl and Dolores Halloran* |
| ***10:30-11:00*** | ***Recess*** |
| 11:00-12:00 | **Session 7: Sustainable implementation of the TFA*** Enhancing the effectiveness of the commitments with definitive dates that have already passed
* Implementation support

*Group work facilitated by Dolores Halloran and Birgit Viohl* |
| 12:00-13:00 | **Session 8: Digitalization of business processes*** Experiences shared on digitalization by WTO Members at TF Committee meetings: [Electronic certificates (SPS, RO), electronic documents (invoices, goods declarations, etc.) and single window].

*Presenters: Dolores Halloran and Birgit Viohl* |
| ***13:00-14:30*** | ***Lunch*** |
| 14:30-15:30 | **Session 9: National Trade Facilitation Committee*** Role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee in implementing the TFA
* Current challenges
* Strengthening the National Trade Facilitation Committee

*Group work facilitated by Dolores Halloran and Birgit Viohl* |
| 15:30-16:00 | **Session 10: Identification of the main conclusions of Day 2** |
| 16:00-17:00 | **Session 11: Identification of priorities and next steps for the National Trade Facilitation Committee and for other stakeholders***Group activity* |
| 17:00-17:30 | **Session 12: Evaluation and identification of lessons learned** |
| 17:30-17:45 | **Closing of Workshop** |

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