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**Council for Trade in Goods
Committee on Trade Facilitation**

WTO RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS BY THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION**

The following report is being submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade Facilitation, Ambassador H.E. (Dr) Adamu Mohammed ABDULHAMID, under his own responsibility and at the request of the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods. The report was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat and follows the same approach as the reports that were requested from the Chairpersons of the 14 CTG subsidiary bodies.¹

1 INFORMAL SESSION

1.1. The Committee on Trade Facilitation held an informal meeting on 30 September 2020 to discuss the trade facilitation measures that Members had implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty Members informed the Committee of the measures that they had implemented. In addition, at the invitation of the Chairperson, the International Trade Centre, the World Bank, the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (which are Annex D trade facilitation partners) and the Global Alliance updated the membership on their COVID-19 trade facilitation work.

1.2. Presentations made by Members and international organizations at the informal session are available [here](#).

2 REGULAR COMMITTEE WORK

2.1 Transparency notifications

2.1. Under Section I of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), Members are required to submit several transparency notifications under articles 1.4 (import, export, and transit procedures); 10.4.3 (single window); 10.6.2 (customs brokers) and 12.2.2 (exchange of customs information).

2.2. Eight Members submitted transparency notifications to update the sources of information for measures undertaken to face the pandemic in the period 2020-2022.²

2.2 Experience Sharing on COVID-19

2.3. Following the informal session held on 30 September 2020, Members continued the practice of sharing their experiences in responding to the pandemic under the regular session of the Committee.

2.4. Presentations made by Members and international organizations on their response to the pandemic are available [here](#).

¹ See document [JOB/CTG/18](#).

² Canada, China, Dominican Republic, European Union, Indonesia, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, United States.

2.3 Compendium of COVID-19 Measures

2.5. At the informal meeting of 30 September 2020, the European Union proposed to compile the trade facilitation measures implemented by WTO Members and observers in response to COVID-19. The document would be a repository of best practices. The initiative was supported by Canada, Colombia and Hong Kong, China.

2.6. In December 2020, a formal proposal with this objective was introduced by the EU in document [G/TFA/W/31](#). Members discussed this proposal at the meetings of 26-27 January and 3 March 2021. The document was revised on four occasions and agreed to on 25 March 2021, under written procedures.

2.7. The WTO Secretariat presented a first version of the compendium in document [G/TFA/W/40](#) on 20 May 2021. The compendium was last reviewed in December 2021 ([G/TFA/W/40/Rev.4](#)) to include updated information submitted by Members to the Committee.
