



20 December 2019

(19-8916)

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Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: French

**NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORY COMMITMENTS UNDER
THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Addendum

The following communication, dated 19 December 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Central African Republic for Members' information.

Further to the notification dated 28 May 2019, the Central African Republic hereby makes the following notifications regarding Articles 15 and 16 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (WT/L/931).

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Definitive date for implementation (for categories B and C)	Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation (for category C)
Article 1 Publication and Availability of Information					
Article 1.1	Publication	B	31 December 2022	31 December 2022	-
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<p>1. Creation of a trade intelligence portal (TIP). This portal will become the interface of the single window provided for in Article 10.4 of the TFA. Interactive connection of TIP with customs (ASYCUDA World), commercial banks, the BEAC, sectoral ministries (see below), the Ministry of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce (CCIMA), exporting companies, forwarders (customs agents), the Central African Road Charter Bureau (BARC), the Central African Shippers' Council, the standardization agency, and any stakeholder in the foreign trade chain. NB: BARD is already connected to the Cameroonian Foreign Trade Single Window (GUCE) managed by the Cameroonian Ministry of Commerce, but the latter currently only manages imports from the Central African Republic and not its exports. Assistance in enhancing interaction with users (Q&A system). Assistance in enabling all structures to provide input to the system. Provision of facilities and a server, and training of the focal points responsible for maintaining TIP. Lead donor: Enhanced Integrated Framework/WB/WTO.</p> <p>2. Support for enhancing (bandwidth) the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development website (a website already exists: www.madr-rca.org), in collaboration with the FAO, WB and ADB, which would also include all the bodies directly responsible for agricultural exports and imports, such as the Central African Agency for the Monitoring, Packaging and Marketing of Agricultural Products (ORCCCPA) like coffee and cacao, the</p>

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					<p>National Cotton Office (ONC), the National Seed Office, the Office in charge of food security and the Institute responsible for phytosanitary control. Provision of facilities and training of the focal points responsible for maintaining the website. Interactive connection of the website with TIP. Lead donor: FAO/WB/ADB /WTO.</p> <p>3. Support for creating a website for the Ministry of Water and Forests, Hunting and Fishing, connected to TIP, with assistance from the VPA STP (EU FLEGT) and Forest Data Centre (CDF), and linked to COMIFAC. Publication of timber export conditions (setting of export market values) on the website. Provision of facilities and training of officials. Interactive connection of the website with TIP. Lead donor: EU FLEGT/FAO/WTO.</p> <p>4. Support for creating a website for the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health, with the OIE. Provision of facilities and training of the focal points responsible for maintaining the website. Connection to the portal. Lead donor: OIE/WTO.</p> <p>5. Support for the website of the Ministry responsible for mines, with the Permanent Secretariat of the Kimberley, and connection to TIP. Inclusion of mining companies and mining cooperatives on the website of the Special Anti-Fraud Unit (USAF) of the Bureau for the Valuation and Control of Diamonds and Gold (BECDOR). Provision of facilities and training of the focal points responsible for maintaining the website. Connection to the portal. Lead donor: SPPK/WTO.</p>
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<p>1. Support for establishing enquiry points linked to the National Trade Facilitation Committee (CNFE) in all the ministerial departments and institutions forming the CNFE, particularly in the Ministry of Trade</p>

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					and Industry, at customs, and in the Ministries in charge of Agriculture, Water and Forests, Livestock, Mines, and Transport. Assistance in training two persons per enquiry point. Assistance in providing persons responsible for enquiry points with the necessary computer equipment.
Article 1.4	Notification	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2022	1. Assistance in training persons responsible for enquiry points in how to make notifications to the WTO. Support for establishing or upgrading the focal point for Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), and a focal point for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), at the Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Forests, and Livestock.
Article 2 Opportunity to Comment, Information before Entry into Force and Consultations					
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	A	-	-	-
Article 2.2	Consultations	A	-	-	-
Article 3 Advance Rulings					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshops on raising awareness of the advance ruling mechanism (WTO/WCO). 2. Capacity-building on origin, type of tariff and value (WTO/WCO). 3. Assistance in implementing the legal framework and infrastructure for advance rulings (WTO/WCO). 4. Financial support for the internal and external extension of the advance ruling mechanism (WTO). 5. Assistance in implementing a computerized system to manage the advance rulings programme, with a view to making customs procedures paperless (WCO/UNCTAD).
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review					
		A	-	-	-

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Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	A	-	-	-
Article 5.2	Detention	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for migration of customs from ASYCUDA ++ to ASYCUDA World (UNCTAD, WB and WTO); 2. Assistance for customs and licensed customs clearing agents in connecting non-automated offices, with a view to formalizing a procedure to inform licensed customs clearing agents of the detention of cargo for inspection (UNCTAD, WB and WTO); 3. Assistance for other government border agencies (procedures, automated processing system), with a view to making arrangements for formal notification, as soon as possible, of the goods inspection to be conducted (UNCTAD, WB and WTO); 4. Funding for training of domestic actors (ADB, WB and WTO); 5. Assistance for customs in improving automatic selection for inspections (% of the various green, yellow and red channels) (UNCTAD, WB, WCO and WTO); 6. Assistance for Central African Customs in implementing comprehensive risk management (WB, UNCTAD, WCO and WTO); 7. Funding to purchase non-intrusive inspection equipment (scanners etc.) (WB, WTO and ADB).
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	B	31 December 2022	31 December 2022	-
Article 6 Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation and Penalties					
Article 6.1	General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	B	31 December 2022	31 December 2022	-

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Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	B	31 December 2022	31 December 2022	-
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance with legal expertise to bring the legislative framework into line with the TFA (WCO/WTO). 2. Financial support for workshops on extending the measure (WCO/WTO). 3. Implementation of an incentive strategy to compensate for the loss of drawbacks due to penalties (WCO/WTO/MINFI).
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical assistance in implementing the regulatory framework integrating all border agencies (WCO/WTO). 2. Financial support for workshops on raising awareness and extension of regulations (WCO/WTO). 3. Technical assistance in implementing a risk management system (WCO – technical support/WTO – funding). 4. Support for establishing an advance passenger information (API/PNR) mechanism (WCO).
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	C	31 December 2024	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance in setting up the legal framework for electronic payment (electronic signature) (WCO/UNCTAD/EDIFACT, WTO). 2. Funding to interface ASYCUDA and the Treasury and the banking systems to enable customs to accept credit card payments (WCO/UNCTAD/EDIFACT, WTO). 3. Funding to train customs and treasury officials in electronic payment systems (WCO/UNCTAD/EDIFACT, WTO).
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial support for workshops on raising awareness and extension of the measure (WTO/WCO).

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					2. Assistance in putting in place legislation and administrative arrangements that reflect the principles contained in the WCO Guidelines for the Immediate Release of Consignments by Customs (Immediate Release Guidelines) (WCO/WTO).
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2024	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance with benchmarking in a member country of the WCO-WCA region, e.g. Burkina Faso (WTO). 2. Technical assistance in developing an inter-agency risk management strategy and an institutional framework with mechanisms for sharing risk-related data and information (WCO). 3. Technical assistance in setting up the legal framework for risk management and selective examinations relating to the automated clearance system (WCO). 4. Capacity-building for the competent authorities on risk management (WCO/UNCTAD); capacity-building on the WCO Guidelines for Post-Clearance Audit for the post-clearance structure (WCO/WTO). 5. Financial support to ensure that risk criteria is regularly reviewed and updated (WTO). 6. Funding of migration to ASYCUDA World and, in particular, its single window module (WTO/UNCTAD).
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	A	-	-	-
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2021	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance in organizing a workshop on the time release study (TRS) with all border agencies (WCO). 2. Training of the multidisciplinary TRS team in the use of WCO software and planning of the TRS (WCO). 3. Assistance in conducting the TRS and publishing its findings (WTO/ADB/AFRIBANK/WB).

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Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2024	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance with a training workshop for all stakeholders on the concepts of authorized economic operators and authorized operators. 2. Assistance with benchmarking in a country that has already implemented the measure (WTO). 3. Assistance in providing (for at least three months) an expert to bring the legal framework into conformity and to set up authorized operator and authorized economic operator programmes (WCO/WTO).
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	31 December 2024	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance in establishing, through a legal text, (based on the WCO Immediate Release Guidelines) the criteria for prior authorization to use expedited release procedures; and in publishing such criteria (criteria for eligibility for the procedure / definition of documents and basic information required at the time of clearing) (WCO). 2. Assistance in establishing an automated goods declaration system to accommodate the expedited shipment channel (WCO/UNCTAD).
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for electricity supply points for refrigerated containers and perishable goods (WTO, WB and ADB). 2. Assistance in establishing formal procedures between border agencies to ensure that examination and release of perishable goods are carried out as a matter of priority (WCO/WTO/UNCTAD and WB). 3. Funding to train customs and other border agents in procedures for the expedited release and clearance of perishable goods (WB, ADB, WCO and WTO).

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					4. Funding for appropriate facilities for the storage of perishable goods pending their release (WB, WTO and ADB).
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance in establishing memorandums of understanding between customs and border agencies to define the remit of each entity and possible cooperation to ensure effective coordinated border management (CBM, including exchange of information and intelligence; exercise of joint operations and controls; common risk management; sharing of equipment and facilities) (WB/WCO/WTO). 2. Assistance in establishing, allocating resources to and funding the National Trade Facilitation Committee. Providing the Committee with resources to ensure the coordination, steering and implementation of the TFA (WTO and WCO). 3. Assistance in training of border agents in inter-agency cooperation requirements and procedures (WTO and WCO). 4. Funding of single window border post facilities (WB/ECCAS).
Article 9 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control					
		A	-	-	-
Article 10 Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit					
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	C	31 December 2022	-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Putting in place the legislative framework (e.g. by means of a decree, as the Central African Republic has ratified the Revised Kyoto Convention) providing for mandatory procedures for the periodic review, by customs, of documentation requirements and import, export and transit formalities, in collaboration with all the bodies involved in these processes. 2. Ensuring that these procedures provide for the invitation of the private sector to these periodic reviews. Currently, every quarter, customs invites forwarders and private

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					<p>sector representatives to informal discussions on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>3. Assistance in training agent in how to develop document analysis methods and formalities in order to reduce their negative impact on trade.</p> <p>4. The new legislative framework must establish procedures to amend the relevant legislation if certain formalities or documents are no longer required. E.g. the Observatory of Procedures of Madagascar/WTO.</p> <p>5. Assistance in setting up an office at customs to coordinate the process. Lead donor: WCO/WTO.</p>
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<p>1. Assistance in introducing legislation authorizing customs and other border agencies to accept copies of supporting documents required for import, export and transit formalities in place of the original, subject to any exceptions or conditions that may be justified (WTO and WCO).</p> <p>2. Assistance for customs in transcribing TFA provisions on acceptance of copies (WCO/CEMAC/WTO).</p> <p>3. Funding to train customs and other border agents in the new regulations on acceptance of copies (WTO, WCO and CEMAC).</p>
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2022	To be determined	<p>1. Assistance in reviewing domestic procedures, rules and regulations and bringing them into line with international conventions (regional and multilateral framework) (WCO/WTO).</p> <p>2. Support for participation in meetings on the development and updating of international standards (WCO, AU, CEMAC, ECCAS and WCO).</p> <p>3. Assistance in transcribing international standards into domestic legislation (WTO, CEMAC, ECCAS and WCO).</p>

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Article 10.4	Single Window	A	-	-	-
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	A	-	-	-
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	A	-	-	-
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	A	-	-	-
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
		A	-	-	-
Article 12 Customs Cooperation					
		C	31 December 2024	To be determined	<p>1. Assistance in establishing a legal framework that encourages customs, subject to mutual arrangements established and ratified by States, to exchange intelligence on the prevention, investigation and punishment of customs offences, and on the fight against intellectual crime, including money laundering, with similar administrations of foreign countries and with international organizations dealing with customs or trade matters (transit countries/WTO).</p> <p>2. Designation and training of an entity and agents specifically responsible for matters relating to cooperation and international mutual assistance agreements (IMAA and WCO).</p> <p>3. Assistance in implementing the WCO guidelines on international transit of landlocked countries (WCO/WTO).</p> <p>4. Assistance in signing bilateral transit facilitation protocols with neighbouring countries.</p>