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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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

COMMUNICATION FROM GABON

The following communication, dated 21 August 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Gabon for Members' information.

Further to the notification dated 17 December 2014 (WT/PCTF/N/GAB/1), the delegation of the Republic of Gabon hereby makes the following notifications in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (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	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2027	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (1): Establishment of the information system relating to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign responsibility for information management project to the Minister of Trade (measure 39); - Produce information to be provided and check that it is user-friendly and readable; - Revise legal framework to ensure legal validity and authenticity of information provided; - Define and organize provision of information (different aspects of publication media and outlets, information technology, maintenance, storage and publication of information); - Adopt organizational framework to supervise maintenance of information and establish institutional responsibilities, together with policies or rules, including security rules; - Recruit additional human resources; - Carry out training and capacity building.

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Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2027	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (1): Establishment of the information system relating to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign to National Trade Facilitation Committee (measure 39) the task of drawing up an inventory of relevant projects that might facilitate implementation of this measure; - Revise legal framework to ensure legal validity and authenticity of information provided; - Define and organize provision of information (different aspects of publication media and outlets, information technology, maintenance, storage and publication of information); - Adopt organizational framework to supervise maintenance of information and establish institutional responsibilities; - Ensure systematic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); - Carry out training and capacity building; - Provide adequate equipment.

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Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2027	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (1): Establishment of the information system relating to the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA)</p> <p>Estimated cost of project: 272.79 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish mechanism for coordination with other agencies, with required cooperation and provision of information (including changing the legal or regulatory framework); - Hold training for staff who will provide the service; - Establish guidelines covering all stages from receiving enquiry to sending reply; - Develop use of standardized communications; - Establish quality control standards and procedures, including deadline for sending replies; - Ensure systematic use of ICTs; - Provide adequate equipment.
Article 1.4	Notification	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2027	Establish enquiry points.
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	B	31 December 2020	31 December 2021	Establish regulatory framework for public/private consultation platform for facilitation of trade at Port of Owendo.

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Article 3 Advance Rulings					
	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (4): Establishment of an operational unit responsible for issuing advance rulings at the Directorate-General of Customs and Indirect Taxation</p> <p>Estimated cost of project: 191.1 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create specialist unit or section at Directorate-General of Customs for processing of advance rulings; - Establish procedures for making and processing an application (legal and regulatory framework); - Carry out training and capacity building (processing of advance rulings, harmonized system); - Establish database on advance rulings; - Create customs laboratory; - Improve national structure for classification work (see WCO study); - Ensure systematic use of ICTs; - Provide adequate equipment. 	
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review					
	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise legal framework to incorporate provisions on appeal time limits and procedures; - Revise legal framework (CEMAC) to incorporate provisions on appeal time limits and procedures. 	

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Article 5 Other Measures to Enhance Impartiality, Non-Discrimination and Transparency					
Article 5.1	Notification for Enhanced Controls or Inspections	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2031	Technical and financial assistance: Project (5): Establishment of a secure system for the importation and exportation of goods in Gabon Estimated cost of project: 218.4 million CFA francs
Article 5.2	Detention	A	-	-	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2028	Technical and financial assistance: Project (5): Establishment of a secure system for the importation and exportation of goods in Gabon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up an accredited multi-sectoral national laboratory; - Obtain ISO certification for other existing laboratories (livestock, consumption, ...); - Provide support for veterinary diagnostic laboratory in establishing quality assurance system for purposes of accreditation; - Help with collection of samples needed for tests; - Provide laboratory with aid fund to cover cost of taking samples from livestock; - Change legal or regulatory framework; - Ensure systematic use of ICTs; - Recruit additional human resources; - Carry out training and capacity building for specialist staff (training of employees in specialist schools for biology, chemistry, physics, etc.);

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide adequate equipment; - Conduct audits of import procedures and processes, particularly inspection of food products, with the assistance of tools or recommendations of relevant international organizations for upgrading the regulatory framework and procedures; - Establish a strategic and operational framework for border agency collaboration; - Computerize formalities relating to sanitary and phytosanitary control procedures and food controls.
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	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct analysis of importation and exportation fees and charges to determine those that are <i>ad valorem</i> or the amount of which does not correspond to the cost of services rendered; - Establish system for calculating real cost of procedures and documents supplied; - Train staff in implementation of changes in procedures for collection of fees and charges.
Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	Revision of CEMAC Customs Code.
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	Revamp Customs Code to incorporate new provisions.
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	A	-	-	
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	B	31 December 2020	31 December 2021	Establishment of a regulatory framework for the electronic payment system.

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Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	Formalize current procedure (amend CEMAC Customs Code).
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (2): Feasibility study for establishing a multi-sectoral national laboratory in Gabon</p> <p>Estimated cost of project: 99.75 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide specialist training for staff directly involved in the implementation and operation of new procedures, for example with the help of the WCO e-learning module; - Develop risk management strategy and strategic management plan; - Establish a specialist unit within the customs authority (risk management unit) to monitor the implementation and operation of the system for collecting, classifying and analysing data on importers and transporters using relevant databases (CEN at the WCO, national confiscation reports, data provided by other administrations in the context of the WCO Nairobi Convention or bilateral agreements); - Review the legislation and customs regulations to reflect the use of risk management techniques within legal limits; - Introduce the use of an electronic manifest aligned to international

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					standards to enable the identification of high-risk cargos; – Implement data in the computerized system; – Provide adequate equipment.
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	31 December 2020	31 December 2023	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (7): Establish an operational unit responsible for post-clearance audits at the Directorate-General of Customs and Indirect Taxation</p> <p>Estimated costs of project: 223.650 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strategic planning (development of an auditing strategy and a clear, gradual process); – Capacity building (train customs staff to maximize efficiency of post-clearance audits, raise public awareness of analytical work needed to benefit from the system, provide training in accounting and auditing methods); – Establish system of records/reports to provide customs management with sufficient evidence of achievements of audit team; – Institute cooperation with traders (establish positive atmosphere of trust between traders and customs staff, since post-clearance audits are often conducted on traders' premises); – Ensure systematic use of ICTs; – Recruit additional human resources and draw up a plan of

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					<p>training on auditing methods based on risk management for post-clearance auditing staff;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and implement an internal procedure for sharing of information with operational units and risk management to avoid duplication and conflicts regarding areas of competence.
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2021	31 December 2023	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (8): Implementation of a study to determine average release times</p> <p>Estimated cost of project: 110.145 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out study on release of goods (WCO study); - Awareness-raising for other persons working at borders (shipping agents, stevedores, carriers, clearing agents, ...); - Establish a focus group involving the customs authority and the different actors involved in the platform (in particular within the National Trade Facilitation Committee (measure 39)).

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Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2028	<p>Technical and financial assistance:</p> <p>Project (9): Adoption of a facilitation programme for authorized economic operators</p> <p>Estimated cost of project: 173.250 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide enterprise-level training and capacity building on keeping records and archives; - Draw up a training programme for private companies on the requirements of keeping records and archives.
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	A	-	-	-
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		C	31 December 2024	31 December 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up an inter-agency committee for relevant border administrations; - Map procedures, mandates and functioning of all existing entities; - Establish system for monitoring traffic and time periods to measure impact of change with real-time identification of possible bottlenecks at border posts; - Modernize legal framework for border agency cooperation; - Define governance model for adjacent border control posts, including financing modalities for construction, maintenance and operation of facilities.

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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	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign role to National Trade Facilitation Committee (measure 39) of analysing trade procedures in force, required formalities and documentation, and trade and documentation practices; - Computerize data exchange procedures; - Carry out training and capacity building.
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	C	31 December 2024	31 December 2031	Awaiting publication of the new CEMAC Code to ensure application of this Article.
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish baseline for measuring progress achieved on implementation of each measure; - Introduce a common standard for the transmission of data between the different computer systems of public and private operators; - Reinforce and expand participation in international meetings and sessions on the preparation and revision of standards; - Apply relevant conventions on this subject (Nairobi).

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Article 10.4	Single Window	C	31 December 2026	31 December 2035	<p>Technical and financial assistance: Project (10): Study concerning the establishment of a Single Window for foreign trade</p> <p>Cost of project: 175.245 million CFA francs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse the trade process; - Take the decision to share data between agencies and departments; - Raise awareness of all stakeholders regarding the project (see WCO compendium on the Single Window); - Reinforce ICTs and establish a computerized network system; - Modify the legal or regulatory framework; - Change the institutional and/or administrative structure; - Study the establishment of the Single Window; - Standardize import and export procedures; - Harmonize procedures with other border agencies; - Carry out training and capacity building; - Provide adequate equipment.
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	A	-	-	-
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	C	31 December 2025	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revamp and regulate the profession of clearing agent; - Return to application of the CEMAC Customs Code; - Remove Article 112(2) of the Customs Code.
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	C	31 December 2026	31 December 2031	-

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Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	A	-	-	-
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
		C	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	Amend the Customs Code.
Article 12 Customs Cooperation					
		B	31 December 2022	31 December 2027	-