

27 March 2024

(24-2655)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: Spanish

**NOTIFICATION OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRESS IN THE PROVISION
OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT
FOR CATEGORY C DESIGNATIONS**

COMMUNICATION FROM HONDURAS

The following communication, dated 27 March 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Honduras.

Honduras hereby notifies information on the arrangements concluded and progress made in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support for the following category C designations, in accordance with Article 16 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Definitive date for implementation
Article 2.2	Consultations	C	1 March 2024
Donors/Agencies: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (sponsored by United Kingdom and Germany)/Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP)			
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:			
<p>Honduras-UNCTAD technical cooperation</p> <p>Honduras joined the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees thanks to funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Members have participated in seven online courses on the e-learning platform on the following topics: empowering committees, gender perspectives in trade facilitation reforms, how to use the UNCTAD Reform Tracker, effective communications for national trade facilitation committee members, how to effectively run a national trade facilitation committee and how to draft and implement a resource mobilization strategy for the facilitation of trade.</p> <p>UNCTAD also conducted a consultancy exercise, with the aim of preparing a road map on the Reform Tracker platform, and produced a Rapid Scan of Trade Facilitation Preparedness in Times of Crisis. As a result, information has been incorporated into the Reform Tracker that allows agencies to identify the responsibilities assigned to each of them.</p> <p>Ongoing actions in cooperation with UNCTAD: Online training and coaching for members of the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the Technical Secretariat, based on the needs identified (e.g. monitoring and evaluation, road map, resource mobilization and effective communications).</p> <p>Honduras-CLDP technical cooperation</p> <p>Commercial Law Development Program</p> <p>Best practices: Benefits of implementing inclusive public consultation mechanisms</p> <p>A workshop was held to explore the complexities of public consultation mechanisms, the principles governing inter-agency coordination and good regulatory practices. Government officials from countries across the region, including El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico, presented their respective notification processes and suggestions to foster greater regional integration. This workshop was organized as part of multiphase efforts to promote transparency, cooperation and coordination between the Governments of the Northern Triangle and to improve interregional trade in Central America.</p>			

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Definitive date for implementation
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	1 March 2025
Donors/Agencies: UNCTAD (sponsored by United Kingdom and Germany)			
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:			
<p>Honduras-UNCTAD technical cooperation</p> <p>A consultancy exercise has been conducted with the aim of preparing a road map on the Reform Tracker platform. As a result, information has been incorporated into the Reform Tracker that allows agencies to identify the responsibilities assigned to each of them.</p>			

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	1 March 2022
Donors/Agencies: UNCTAD (sponsored by United Kingdom and Germany)/United States Agency for International Development (USAID)			
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:			
<p>Honduras-UNCTAD technical cooperation</p> <p>A consultancy exercise has been conducted with the aim of preparing a road map on the Reform Tracker platform. As a result, information has been incorporated into the Reform Tracker that allows agencies to identify the responsibilities assigned to each of them.</p>			
<p>Honduras-USAID technical cooperation</p> <p>Support has been given in the implementation of Honduras's Authorized Economic Operator programme through the provision of assistance to companies in fulfilling the requirements and becoming certified as authorized economic operators. It has also been provided in the implementation of the strategy for the inclusion of other control authorities and actors in the logistics chain, thereby helping to strengthen the programme and contributing to the conclusion of a Central American mutual recognition agreement.</p>			

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	1 March 2027
Donors/Agencies: UNCTAD/European Union through Support Measures for Institutional Development and Public Management (MAGIDEP)			
Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:			
<p>Honduras-UNCTAD technical cooperation</p> <p>A consultancy exercise has been conducted with the aim of preparing a road map on the Reform Tracker platform. As a result, information has been incorporated into the Reform Tracker that allows agencies to identify the responsibilities assigned to each of them.</p>			
<p>Honduras-European Union technical cooperation</p> <p>Proposal for the incorporation of import and export formalities and services that have not yet been developed in the Honduran Electronic Foreign Trade System (SECEH). The proposal contains the phased road map for the automation of formalities and the restructuring of the SECEH in its current form, adapting it to the services-oriented architecture in order to interoperate with other relevant institutions and regional and third-party bodies.</p> <p>The goal is to strengthen, improve and expand the Single Window for Export Formalities in order to transform it into the Honduran Single Window for Foreign trade (VUCEH) through the simplification and incorporation of various import and export formalities that are not yet available under the SECEH.</p>			

Specific objectives

- Propose amendments to the law establishing the Export Processing Centre (CENTREX) (Decree No. 180-87 of 10 December 1987) in order to incorporate all import- and export-related formalities envisaged as part of the VUCEH project.
 - Conduct an analysis in order to produce a proposal for the improvement of the various formalities and services offered under the single window, making use of human resources, technical and logistical capabilities and the electronic tools already available through CENTREX.
 - Transform CENTREX into the VUCEH through the incorporation of the various foreign trade formalities and procedures under the SECEH, thereby facilitating trade and contributing to public decision-making.
 - Develop a work plan for pilot tests and training for all users on the changes, processes and formalities covered by the consultancy exercise for the development and implementation of the VUCEH.
-