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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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

COMMUNICATION FROM SURINAME

The following communication, of which the first draft was received 8 August 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Suriname for Members' information.

Suriname hereby makes the following notifications in response to 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	C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting the legal framework to ensure legal validity and authenticity of the information provided; • Defining and organizing the information delivery (means and channels of publication, choice of IT platform for maintenance, storage and publication of information); • Setting up an organizational framework to oversee the maintenance of the information and institutional responsibilities, as well as policies or rules, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security rules; - Legal/Policy: Technical expertise to develop user friendly publications. Technical expertise in translating information in other 2 official languages; - Procedures: Assistance is required to review the range of publications produced by border agencies and develop more formal procedures in order to publish trade related information in easily accessible manner and to provide measures to ensure that relevant agency staffs are aware of the obligation; - Human Resources/Training: Training of all relevant border agency Officials to have better understanding of Suriname's international obligations, relevant domestic laws and roles and responsibilities of other border agencies to facilitate trade. The training will also include identification of type of information that the agencies need to publish; • Technical Assistance in developing a Trade Portal which would encompass a functioning website for the Department of Trade; this would provide a centralized

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					<p>point for publication of relevant laws and regulations. Also capacitate other border agencies with access as well as knowledge of how to properly use this publication platform;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance and Capacity Building to review existing legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and allocate resources to ensure timely publication; - Develop and implement change management programmes in the public sector to effectively disseminate information; - Develop public education content and campaigns, and develop standard operating procedures (SOP); and - Setup the central body to monitor and coordinate the dissemination of information, as well as the adoption of best practices.
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Web development and maintenance - Appropriate connectivity (hardware, software and maintenance) • Capacity Building in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of IT quality management (personnel, data collection, synergy); - Interconnection with relevant governmental bodies and agencies; - Development and implementation of policy guidelines on publication of trade-related information; - Timely review and update of trade-related information on internet by the relevant agencies; - Creation of a trade information portal; - Institutional capacity building; - Human Resource/Training - Train personnel; - Equipment - Equipment for infrastructural upgrades.

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Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance and Capacity building with regards to setting up and maintaining a data information system (website) for each designated enquiry point (with inter-linkage); • Technical Assistance and Capacity Building is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train staff (including cross-training) in core competencies; - Train staff to utilize diverse response mechanisms including new and alternative media.
Article 1.4	Notification	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal expert support on drafting legal amendments to existing ordinances/acts/regulations; • ICT infrastructure and technology for maintaining enquiry points; • Staff capacity building on operating and maintaining 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	A	-	-	-
Article 3 Advance Rulings					
		C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching support and resources for installing the new module of ASYCUDA World for advance ruling (at least 1 international consultant for one month); • Changing the legal and regulatory framework and implementing the necessary institutional and administrative changes; • Organize an awareness campaign to inform traders and other users of this new Functionality; • Acquiring office space for a new team (comprised of 9 officials); • Acquiring IT equipment (computers + 1 server to store the advance rulings);

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance in drafting the rulings & how to establish the implementing organization; • Assistance in establishing an administrative appeal system and training staff in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Processing appeals; - Legal/Policy: Technical assistance to develop legislation and policies to effectively administer and implement advance rulings; - Procedures: Technical assistance to develop specific and clear guidelines on procedures to implement and undertake advance rulings; - Human Resource/Training: Training of Customs Staff, Brokers and Importers on the procedures for advance ruling and its importance as well as how it will be implemented; - Training in Tariff Classification, Rules of Origin and Valuation for Customs Officers; • Technical Assistance to integrate advance ruling into customs automated systems.
Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review					
		C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize sensitization workshops on the importance of independent appeal procedures for all trade related matters; • Capacity building for drafting regulatory language; • Technical assistance to provide specialized training for appeal officers; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operationalization of the Appeal body; - Consultancy to determine the legal framework for Appeal or Review process; - Legal Counsel to determine the framework for the institutionalization of the review and appeals process; - Legal assistance is necessary to develop structure of appeals tribunal;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical Assistance/Guidance to determine the human resource needs; - Financial and technical resources for equipment and software and expertise in developing an efficient electronic filing system; - Assistance with developing an appeal policy and relevant procedures.
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	A	-	-	-
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing adequate testing facilities regarding Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) (coordinated by MoA) • Establishment of adequate testing facilities regarding Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures (coordinated by the Suriname Bureau of Standards): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialized training to carry out this task in order to accredit laboratories - Legal/Policy: Develop relevant laws and policies for agencies Human Resources/Training: Capacity building for relevant border agencies, laboratory technicians and academic institutions on secondary testing. - Institutions: Technical assistance and capacity building is needed for academic institutions, public and private laboratories to provide second testing. • Infrastructure/Equipment: Establishment of accredited laboratory/laboratories to undertake second testing.
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	A	-	-	-
Article 6.2	Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal/Policy: Assistance to develop policies and laws to aid in the implementation of

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	Connection with Importation and Exportation				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fees and charges to be applied by customs and other agencies at the borders; Procedures: Technical assistance to develop fees structure and how it would be applied to importers and exporters; Human Resource/Training: Training of Customs personnel and other agencies in the application of fees and other charges to be applied at the borders; Research and analysis: Consultancy to conduct research and analysis into the application of the fees and implementation.
Article 6.3	Penalty Disciplines	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for legislation; Training of personnel; Capacity development.
Article 7 Release and Clearance of Goods					
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting or amendment of all legislation applicable to this article; Procedural - Assistance in developing and publish procedures.
Article 7.2	Electronic Payment	C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal/Policy - Legislative Drafting or amending of all legislation in order to undertake Electronic Payment; Equipment - Funding upgrades of the necessary infrastructure; Human Resources/Training - Training of personnel.
Article 7.3	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Assistance in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying out a technical/legal diagnosis; - Preparing the legislation needed to implement this provision; - Defining procedures for users and implementing agencies; - Dissemination and training.
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing awareness training and capacity building for the relevant organisations; Organize specialized technical courses for staff directly involved in the implementation of the new procedures;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborating a risk management policy and a strategic management plan. Also, assistance to ensures effective implementation of the risk management system; • Adopting an internal structure for the Customs administration; • Establishment and recruitment of the staff for a separate unit in Customs to gather, chart and analyse intelligent data; • Revising Customs laws and regulations to reflect the use of risk management techniques; • Using the electronic manifest, aligned to international standards, to provide for advance identification of high-risk shipment • Changing legal, regulatory framework as well as institutional and administrative requirements; • Acquiring the software to support ASYCUDA features; • Technical assistance required to develop a mechanism to ensure enhanced coordination and collaboration between border agencies on risk identification and application of risk management, also in establishing the framework for this; • Technical assistance to develop capacity in relevant border agencies to have a full understanding and application of risk management system; • Assistance required to acquire as well as enhance technological capabilities necessary to implement a proper risk management process; • In terms of Infrastructure/Equipment – assistance to have relevant technology such as x-ray machines, scanners, laboratory testing facilities in order to implement a proper risk management system.

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Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize awareness workshops for all involved stakeholders; Legislation or administrative arrangements for post-clearance audit (TA). Set up of a small specialized audit unit; Train Customs officers in becoming competent auditing staff (bookkeeping); Request technical assistance to develop and implement the necessary systems; Resources required include additional staffing with audit skills related to valuation, classification, accounting and procurement of information digitally. Some legislation on the value of digital evidence may be required; Technical Assistance to develop and Publish criteria for Authorised Traders as evolution of "Trusted Trader" Programme; Enable electronic filing and processing at land borders which would be dependent upon availability of infrastructure and connectivity; Draft Legislation for application of electronic filing and processing.
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting a Time-release study; Dissemination of information on release and clearance time; Assistance to put in place systems to meet TFA requirements to be able to regularly measure and publish average release times; Assistance to build capacity within relevant border agency officials to conduct TRS; Assistance to develop and implement automated system to eliminate inaccuracies in the measurement of time taken for processes.
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TA to conduct a feasibility study for the implementation of AO; Review and update the legal and/or regulatory framework for the AO system based on international standards;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing an up-to-date ICT system; Organize consultations and awareness raising events for traders; Develop relevant legislation and policies to allow the setup of an Authorised Operators (AO) program (Develop an Authorised Operators policy); Develop proper procedures and criteria for the assessment of authorised operators that meet specified criteria in the AO program; Human Resources/Training - capacity building for all border agencies such Customs and Excise Department, Quarantine Department and Port Authority.
Article 7.8	Expedited Shipments	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Resources/Training: Train personnel; Legal/Policy - Legislative amendments to the Customs Act; Procedures - Development of procedures for the operation of the programme and provide advice on the criteria to be used to determine companies which qualify.
Article 7.9	Perishable Goods	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and financial support is needed to facilitate the traceability of goods; Design of an electronic alert and notification system; Expert advice on the preparation of a handbook on managing perishables, and development of standards to improve the cold chain for perishable goods; Creation of infrastructure, modification of processes, workshops, etc., and quantification of the cost of such projects and programmes; Technical assistance for all institutions concerned with foreign trade (tariffs, taxes, sanitary and phytosanitary matters, etc.)

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Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation					
		C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	Technical Assistance in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysing/mapping of each agency's existing procedures, mandate and operations; Designing a monitoring system of the traffic flow and time delays to measure the impact of the changes and to continuously identify possible bottlenecks at the border posts; - Assistance in Introducing a new IT environment, simplifying and harmonization of existing procedures; Defining a governance model for the joint border post (including financing modalities for the construction, operations and maintenance); Technical Assistance to develop a IT system to capture all the required information and data at the borders; Technical and financial in order to Increase institutional capacity, while harmonizing the different systems, as well as training and developing of testing facilities.
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 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to create a Review body comprising stakeholders' representatives in order for regular review of the existing documentary requirements; Technical assistance to review relevant laws in order to streamline import and export permits and other necessary requirements; Assistance is needed to develop a government-wide strategy to replace all documentation with electronic processing especially in other border related agencies; Assistance to streamline procedures across border agencies to avoid duplication of both

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					<p>procedures and documentation in order to facilitate trade;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance needed to promote border coordination as well as assist other agencies to transition to electronic documents; • Capacity building for relevant border agency Officials to ensure enhanced border coordination; • Assistance needed to capacitate other agencies with ICT tools and enablers in order to meet international standards for computerised system as well as expedite clearance.
Article 10.2	Acceptance of Copies	C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA in Consultation sessions with all relevant public and private stakeholders on formalities reduction; • Technical and financial assistance in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparing regulations within domestic legislation to enable the implementation of this measure; – Adaptation of the IT systems of the relevant government agencies; – Implementation of a software tool for the digitization and storage of customs and other government agency documents, as necessary; – Capacity building for implementation and effective follow-up of the measure.
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance and Capacity Building support is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fund participating in overseas training; – Organize training in change management tools for senior managers; – Assess the testing, certification, inspection and accreditation capabilities of food safety regulatory agencies and provide assistance for upgrading facilities and achieving compliance with relevant standards;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement a training and certification program to assist exporters to meet relevant standards; - Provision of IT infrastructure; - Training and enlightenment of Customs officers on the use of WCO instruments and tools for uniform implementation of the TFA amongst Customs Administration; - Support to attend Standard setting meetings of international standards; - Assistance to develop a coherent and consistent national policy in adopting and implementing international standards.
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	31 December 2027	31 December 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA in developing Awareness Programs for stakeholders, but also the sensitizing of Policy makers; • Revisiting legislation in areas where overlapping of functions occurs; • Establish technical infrastructure for the operation of SW; • Technical Assistance: equipment for the operation of the single window; • Capacity Building: Training for users (authorities, customs brokers, etc.) of the single window; Training for users of the Single Window to include all Border Agencies, Shippers, and Customs Brokers among others; • Public awareness campaign on the need and benefits of the single window; • Administrative/Operational support to develop a model harmonized common data proposal for relevant Border Agencies including proposal for single payment of all fees; • Technical Assistance to update the Legislative, Institutional and Regulatory framework of relevant Agencies;

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for users of the Single Window to include all Border Agencies, Shippers, and Customs Brokers among others; • Develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism; • Sensitization of the Private Sector.
Article 10.5	Pre-shipment Inspection	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize Training of Customs officials in pre- and post-shipping inspections, especially to re-enforce Customs' capability to fight under invoicing; • Training of customs officers in scanner management techniques; • Training of valuation and tariff division personnel.
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	C	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train personnel; • Conduct awareness campaigns.
Article 10.7	Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	A	-	-	-
Article 10.8	Rejected Goods	C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Guidelines for the procedure and disposal of rejected goods to be developed and implemented by the relevant Agencies e.g. Divisions of Agriculture, Bureau of Standards etc.
Article 10.9	Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	A	-	-	-
Article 11 Freedom of Transit					
		C	31 December 2028	31 December 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance to conduct a Comprehensive study and review of other fees and charges; • Technical assistance needed in drafting a Legal text; • Technical Assistance and Capacity Building support is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that cost apportionment is accurate; - Train personnel in appropriate methodology to assess the trade impact of transit fees.

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Article 12	Customs Cooperation				
		C	31 December 2029	31 December 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance to revise the legal framework to provide for the exchange of information with other parties; • Technical assistance to develop necessary procedures that ensures effective notification; • Legislative Drafting/Amending of all legislation applicable such as Customs and Act; • Technical assistance to build capacity in relevant border agencies in order to implement and facilitate information sharing systems and protocols; • Development of efficient procedures in order to facilitate and implement information sharing system at the Regional/International level • Technical assistance to build capacity in relevant border agencies in order to implement and facilitate information sharing systems and protocols; • Assistance to ensure reasonable to high level access to IT equipment's especially for other border agencies; • Procedures - development of efficient procedures in order to facilitate and implement information sharing system at the National /Regional/International level; • Technical assistance to build capacity in relevant border agencies in order to implement and facilitate information sharing systems and protocols; • Training capacity building needed for relevant border agency Officials, business community to be sensitised, equipped and trained in order to implement information system; • Assistance to ensure reasonable to high level access to IT equipment's especially for border agencies.