



12 May 2021

(21-4042)

Page: 1/4

Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: English

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

COMMUNICATION FROM ESWATINI

The following communication, dated 6 May 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Eswatini.

The Kingdom of Eswatini hereby notifies information on the arrangements concluded and progress made in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support of the following category C designations, in response to Article 16 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) (WT/L/931).

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.1	Publication	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donors:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation (IFC)				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
Eswatini Trade Information Portal developed with assistance from World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation and launched on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.2	Information Available through Internet	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donors:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
Eswatini Trade Information Portal developed with assistance from World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation and launched on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donors:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
Eswatini Trade Information Portal developed with assistance from World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation and launched on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	10 years as of entry into force of the TFA	8 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> To be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
No technical assistance and capacity building support received to date.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.4	Risk Management	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation, others to be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
Eswatini Revenue Authority (SRA) has a risk management system. Collaboration efforts between SRA and some partner regulatory agencies are ongoing; currently 4 agencies connect to ASYCUDA World.				
Preliminary engagements with the World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation on improving SRA Customs Risk Management and engage all the relevant border agencies underway.				
No technical assistance received to date on the other areas.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.5	Post-clearance Audit	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> To be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
As part of the efforts aimed toward improving SRA Customs Risk Management, considerations for strengthening PCA alongside are underway at organisational level. However, no technical assistance and capacity building support received to date.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
The World Bank Group conducted the Time Release Study (TRS) in February 2018 for Eswatini in collaboration with cross-border regulatory agencies and Eswatini Revenue Authority Customs. Preparations for the next TRS 2021 are underway, with support also from the WBG – IFC. This will be a Mini-TRS, given the current limitations of the global pandemic.				
Furthermore, the recently developed ASYCUDA Performance Measurement System (ASYPM) supported by the SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF), has opened a window for the country to explore opportunities for further opportunities to develop ASYPM to include certain indicators that measure release times nationally. Technical support and capacity building will be required in this regard.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	C	10 years as of entry into force of the TFA	7 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> Southern African Customs Union (SACU) with TA and funding by Sida and UK Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Services.				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
The SRA has implemented a Preferred Trader Programme (focusing on Customs compliance), where two traders have been accredited.				
No technical assistance and capacity building support received to date on expanding the programme to Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	10 years as of entry into force of the TFA	7 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donors:</b> World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation, others to be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
Article 8 (1) With support from WBG - IFC, the country has defined the Eswatini CBM concept and indicative model. Currently under development is the CBM Blueprint for implementation.				
Article 8 (2) Discussions have been initiated and are ongoing with neighbouring South Africa for implementation of a One Stop Border Post at Oshoek - Ngwenya Border Post. However, to date, no technical support and capacity building has been received in this regard.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	7 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> To be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
No technical assistance and capacity building support received to date.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.3	Use of International Standards	C	5 years as of entry into force of the TFA	11 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> To be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
No technical assistance and capacity building support received to date.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.4	Single Window	C	15 years as of entry into force of the TFA	8 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> World Bank, others to be determined				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
<p>The World Bank has assisted Eswatini in implementing building blocks towards the implementation of the National Single Window (NSW), and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developed 'As Is' and 'To Be' business processes for all trade regulatory agencies</li> <li>- developed the functional specifications for the NSW</li> <li>- conducted the ICT assessment for implementation of NSW</li> <li>- legal review of the legislation for implementing NSW and</li> <li>- developed the NSW Blueprint/Roadmap.</li> </ul> <p>No technical assistance has been received for the development of the NSW system and the other areas required</p>				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 12	Customs Cooperation	C	15 years as of entry into force of the TFA	10 years as of entry into force of the TFA
<b>Donor:</b> Sida; WCO and UK				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
<p>a) Article 12 (1) C2B cooperation: The SRA is developing a programme for an accredited training on Customs clearance to build capacity and customs competence for clearing and freight forwarding agents. The curriculum was documented with technical assistance provided under the SADC Trade Related Facility</p> <p>b) Article 12 (2 – 11) C2C cooperation: Data exchange framework (legal framework and system procedure) has been put in place among SACU countries The initiative was advanced through support that was initially extended to the SACU region under Sida – WCO and more recently with the UK SRA is also using the SADC Protocol on Trade to process requests for administrative assistance and these are handled in line with legal provisions governing use of the information and ensuring the required confidentiality.</p> <p>c) Article 12 (12) SRA entered into a bilateral agreement to operationalise the electronic data exchange with SARS for exchange of customs declaration data.</p>				