

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TRADE FACILITATION

The Alliance started 2019 positively by launching last month its ninth project in **Zambia**, which will support the design and implementation of a modern customs broker licensing framework.

The Alliance's two projects in **Colombia** have been progressing recently. The first, which focusses on implementing a risk-management system for the National Food and Drug Surveillance Institute is moving to its second phase by addressing medical devices after showing good first phase results on food products. The second project, which aims at establishing a Centre for Trade Facilitation and Good Practices to process advance rulings affecting the automotive industry – has been endorsed by the new Director of Customs.

In **Vietnam**, implementation of a Customs Bond Pilot has begun after receiving approval from the Prime Minister's office. Moving forward, a detailed work plan for next semester is being prepared including key decisions for the pilot to become operational.

In **Ghana**, the Alliance has been working with the National Trade Facilitation Committee's Technical Working Group for Pre-Arrival Processing with discussions focusing on a proposal for joint inspections. Support to the World Customs Organization for the implementation of a Time Release Study is also being provided.

In **Kenya**, where pre-arrival processing is also being implemented, a meeting of the project steering committee and a public private dialogue in partnership with KEPSA, the Ministry of Trade and ICC Kenya is being planned for early 2019. Also, Alliance cooperation with public and private partners has been formalized with the signature of three Memoranda of Understanding.

In **Sri Lanka**, a project aimed to establish a Multi-Country Consolidation hub - an intermediate point where multiple shippers from multiple regional origins consolidate their shipments to build Full Container Loads before sending them to their final destination – is under way. Private sector involvement has been crucial for this – in particular, public-private dialogues in collaboration with South Asian Global Terminals and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce took place in December 2018.

In **Brazil**, the Alliance's Local Deputy Coordinator has been selected to lead the implementation of a project that aims at modernising licensing procedures of the National Standards Agency (INMETRO). As a next step, a study visit of INMETRO technical officials to the Port of Baltimore is being organized for late in the first quarter of 2019, with support from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

The **Morocco** project was officially launched at the end of 2018, with a solid implementation work plan focusing on an analysis of the weighing process at the Port of Casablanca, and a mapping of the phytosanitary certification process – both activities will cover imports and exports. The first session of the National Trade Facilitation Committee is planned to be held in early 2019, with the Alliance project as one of the core initiatives for TFA implementation.

Further project scoping is progressing in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, India and Nigeria.

The Alliance is also **exploring projects possibilities** in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jordan, Malawi, Tunisia and Vanuatu.

As part of continuous efforts to promote **private sector engagement**, TF awareness and public-private dialogues, the Alliance has been working with ICC in-country committees to organize a series of events in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe that will take place throughout 2019. Also, a seminar with start-up companies working on technology-based solutions for trade facilitation was held at the margins of the Steering Group meeting in San Francisco in November 2018. Further engagement with these companies is planned for 2019.

Last but not least, an Alliance-led workshop just took place during the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos**, where high-level participants from private and public sectors, academia and civil society discussed the use of technology to facilitate trade and possible implications for the work of the Alliance.

In its fourth year of existence, the Alliance is making great strides in supporting developing countries implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement and is looking forward to new successes in implementing an ambitious work plan for 2019.