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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 27 January 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States for Members' information.

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1. Section III, Article 23.1.4, of the Trade Facilitation Agreement provides that the Committee shall develop procedures for the sharing by Members of relevant information and best practices as appropriate.
 2. The United States has participated in this sharing of experiences and best practices in documents G/TFA/W/5, G/TFA/W/6, G/TFA/W/7, G/TFA/W/13, and in specific agenda items in the Committee on Trade Facilitation: Assessing Benefits of the TFA for Agricultural Trade, The US Approach to Trade Facilitation Assistance, and Project Support for TFA Implementation in Vietnam.
 3. We note that over 30 Members have shared their experiences in written documents, presentations, and oral interventions covering more than 10 separate topics.
 4. Of particular note is the number of Members that have shared their experiences in establishing and maintaining a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), itself a requirement established in Section III, Article 23.2. The United States shared our experience in document G/TFA/W/5, and over a dozen Members have also delivered presentations on this topic over the course of that last two years of Committee exchanges. We also note that NTFC experience sharing is rightly a standing agenda item for the TF Committee.
 5. We consider that in order to ensure the success of the ongoing implementation of the TFA, including the establishment, maintenance, and functioning of NTFCs, Members would benefit from the Committee exploring what are good practices and building blocks of successful NTFCs based on the beneficial exchanges between Members. In addition to promoting a better understanding among Members of the elements of successful NTFCs and possible solutions to challenges encountered, future Committee work should also inform, support, and enhance technical assistance efforts deployed by development partners.
 6. The United States welcomes discussions on what next steps the Committee is prepared to take to capitalize on the experience sharing that has been so integral to the functioning of the Committee, in an effort to further advance and improve the implementation of the TFA and bring real world benefits to traders and Members alike.
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