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Committee on Trade Facilitation

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

COMMUNICATION FROM RWANDA

*Revision*

The following communication, dated 22 August 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Rwanda for Members' information.

Following up from the notification dated 14 July 2021 (G/TFA/N/RWA/4), Rwanda 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 (WT/L/931).

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.3	Enquiry Points	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2026
<b>Donors:</b> USAID, UNCTAD and TMEA (Trade Mark East Africa)				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
A One Stop Centre Enquiry Point has been established under the auspices of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and operates as a centralized body/secretariat that transmits requests, compiles replies and sends them back to the requesting parties, through the Trade Portal live chat or per email. The Trade Portal live chat is a point of entry for enquiries on the homepage which go directly to the One Stop Centre Enquiry Point email.				
To ensure operationalization of One Stop Centre Enquiry Point that was established, Rwanda held discussion with USAID Rwanda on trade facilitation space to inform USAID Economic Growth future programming on 20 January 2022 where Rwanda presented needs and gaps in enquiry point implementation.				
In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation and have not been able to sustain support so far.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 5.3	Test Procedures	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2026
<b>Donors:</b> TMEA, USAID and UNCTAD				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b>				
The findings of the confirmatory test are valid and accepted.				
The contact information of any laboratory where the second test can be done are published and findings of the confirmatory test are considered for the release and clearance goods. Capacity building to traders and laboratories was conducted however a lot is needed to be done.				
USAID currently finance Rwanda on Machine testing and other discussion were held to ensure support to the remaining activities.				
TMEA supported Rwanda to create the Laboratory information Management Systems (LIMs), that helped for digitization of testing results, both online reporting system and certificate delivery. This helped external Clients				

and staff in laboratories to save time for other businesses. It saved cost of printing certificate and the protection of environment.

In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation. Rwanda have not been able to sustain support so far.

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.4.3	Risk Management	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2030
<b>Donors:</b> TMEA				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b> A Joint Risk Management Committee (JRMC) composed of key stakeholders involved in risk management for clearance of goods (import, export and Transit) has been established and operationalized with clear Terms of Reference (ToRs).				
Training needs have been identified, a workplan developed and the committee update at a monthly basis the Risk Register. The donor TMEA was presented with the workplan and need to support implementation of the JRMC activities.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2026
<b>Donors:</b> ITC and UNCTAD				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b> Rwanda has conducted three consecutive Time Release Studies (TRS) in 2007, 2010 and 2014. Rwanda presented the need for Time release study to ITC to be financed under European Union MARK UP project phase II.				
In addition, Rwanda presented to the UNCTAD the pending activities of C category implementation that requires Assistance and Support for Capacity Building Required for Implementation.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 8	Border Agency Cooperation	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2030
<b>Donors:</b> European Union, World Bank and TMEA				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b> Four 1 stop border posts (Kagitumba, Rusumo, La Cornishe and Gatuna) were completed. The operationalization of joint border committees is going well. European Union, World Bank and TMEA have been providing infrastructure support.				
However, a lot needs to be done in terms of enhancing coordinated border management by harmonizing procedures and formalities, improve Operationalization of Joint Border Committees, procuring equipment such as e-gates, luggage scanners, IT facilities, etc and joint awareness with neighbouring countries.				

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Indicative date for implementation	Definitive date for implementation
Article 10.6	Use of Customs Brokers	C	31 August 2024	31 August 2030
<b>Donors:</b> USAID and UNCTAD				
<b>Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:</b> The licensing procedure in Rwanda is non-discriminatory, it has transparent procedures which follow in line with art 149 EAC Customs management regulation 2010.				
Article 145 of the East African Customs Management Act in the Customs law however there are exceptional situations determined in terms of the Customs. Value of less than 2,000 USD which is allowed to be cleared from Customs without using a Customs broker (small consignments). With this exception, a simplified Customs declaration is generated by Customs officers in the system and payment is made either by cash or bank.				
To ensure use of customs brokers, Rwanda held discussion with USAID and UNCTAD on needs of customs brokers. Rwanda have not been able to sustain support so far.				