Committee on Trade Facilitation

**Location: Geneva**

**Date: 02/11/2020**

**Hour:**

**Participants: Ana Laura Lizano**

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| Purpose of the meeting / results: |
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Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in Costa Rica

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| Data: |
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The Ministry of Foreign Trade ensures the follow-up and implementation of the obligations that the country assumed with the entry into force of the TFA, law N°9430. Currently, we are working with the General Directorate of Customs in the identification of improvement areas for compliance with the articles notified in category A.

We will focus on improving the user experience that seeks information on export, import or transit of people and goods in our country. The Ministry is aware that technological and administrative changes grow parallel to modernization. In that sense, developing continuous improvement processes allows us to visualize new challenges that help facilitate trade and increase the country's competitiveness.

Likewise, and in support of the work of the Ministry, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (known as CONAFAC) has determined the need to implement a Priority Agenda of Trade Facilitation measures that mitigate, in the short term, the effects produced by procedural deficiencies, of infrastructure and coordination in national productivity and competitiveness.

These measures are broken down into tasks that seek the automation of some processes, the elimination of documents, inter-institutional work to reduce waiting times at the borders and to enhance the figure of the Authorized Economic Operator, among others.

In December 2019, the Agenda, as well as the actions carried out within CONAFAC, were declared of public and national interest, in accordance with Decree N°42065-MP-COMEX.

Finally, we hope than in the short time we can implement the National Committees of Trade Facilitation in our borders, ports and airports. Also, last year we developed a pilot to implement the figure of “Border Coordinator” to improve work and cooperation between border agencies. This coordinator is a ministry official who performs this role in the north border of our country.