

The Trade Facilitation Agreement and the IPPC

**IPPC Secretariat
2018 IPPC Regional Workshop**



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



International Plant
Protection Convention

Overview of the presentation

- Background
- The Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Linkages and Benefits



What prompted all of this?

- Imagine all of the processes that commodities go through before they arrive
 - Examples: customs, animal health, plant health, food safety, fumigation certificates (in addition to phytosanitary certificates), CITES and many more.
 - Historically each certificate requires going through a separate process.

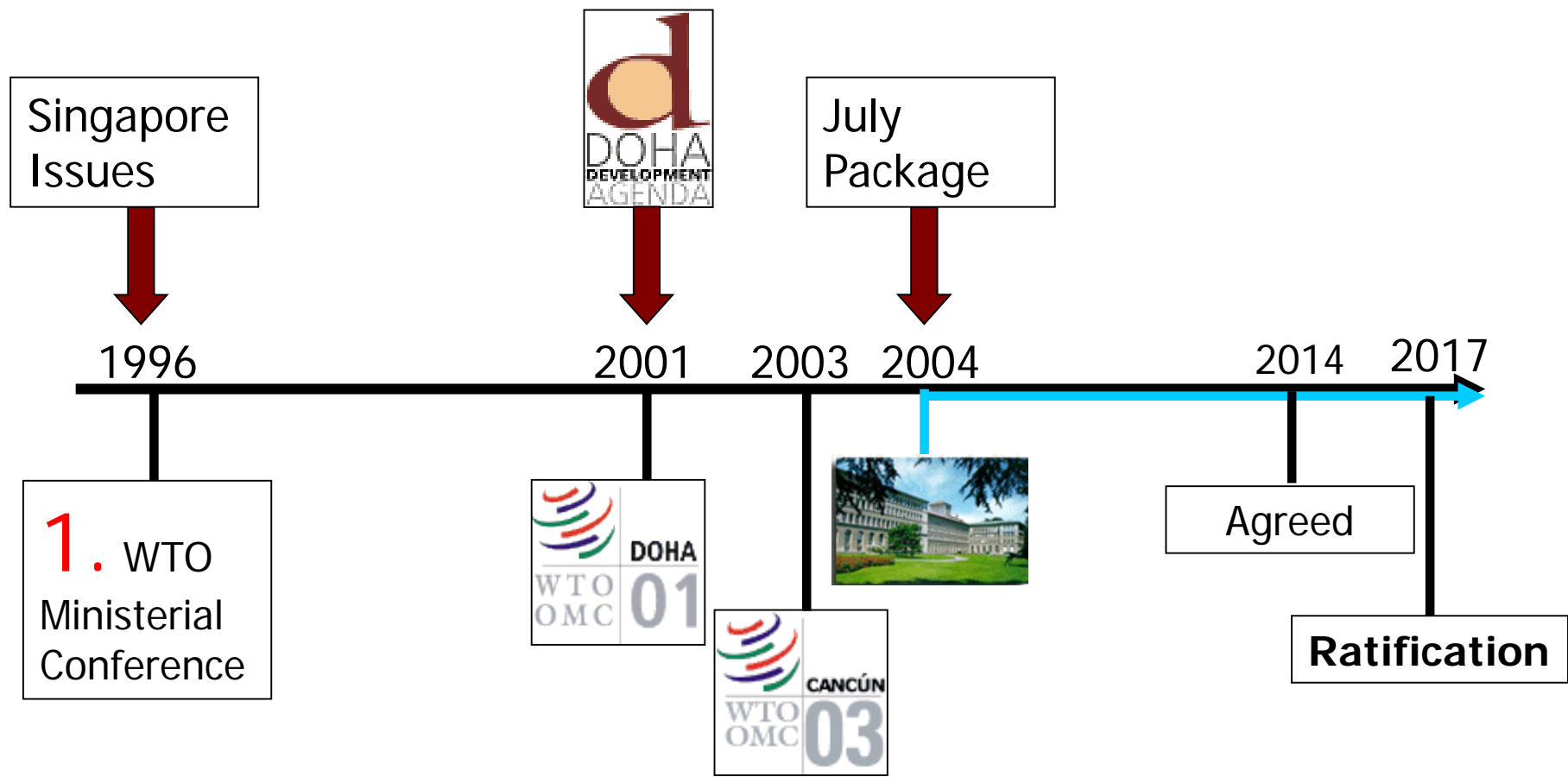


Why the TFA?



Objectives are to expedite movement, release & clearance of goods
Improve cooperation between customs/other authorities
Enhance technical assistance and build capacity

Timeline of TF at WTO



The Trade Facilitation Agreement

Section I:

- ❖ 12 articles of technical measures

Section II:

- ❖ Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) Provisions for developing countries

Section III:

- ❖ Institutional Arrangements and Final Provisions



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation

AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION*

Preamble

Members,

Having regard to the negotiations launched under the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

Recalling and reaffirming the mandate and principles contained in paragraph 27 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1) and in Annex D of the Decision of the Doha Work Programme adopted by the General Council on 1 August 2004 (WT/L/579), as well as in paragraph 33 of and Annex E to the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(05)/DEC);

Desiring to clarify and improve relevant aspects of Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT 1994 with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit;

Recognizing the particular needs of developing and especially least-developed country Members and desiring to enhance assistance and support for capacity building in this area;

Recognizing the need for effective cooperation among Members on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues;

Hereby agree as follows:

SECTION I

ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

1 Publication

1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:

- (a) procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents;
- (b) applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
- (c) fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
- (d) rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
- (e) laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;

* This document has previously been issued under the symbol WT/PCTF/W/27.



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TF Measures

Transparency and Appeals

- Publication/internet publication
- Enquiry Point for trade information
- Opportunity to comment
- Consultations
- Advance rulings
- Right of appeal

Transit

- Restrictions on fees and charges
- Use of guarantee

Import/Export/Transit Fees & Formalities

- Disciplines on fees
- Pre-arrival processing
- Risk management
- Post clearance audit
- Publish average release times
- Authorized operators
- Border agency cooperation
- Review formalities and documents
- Single window
- Eliminate use of PSI for tariff classification and customs valuation.
- Separate release from clearance
- Customs cooperation

Special & Differential Treatment for developing and LDC countries

- 🕒 Implementation of agreement linked with capacity
- 🕒 Each country can say when it will implement each measure
- 🕒 Donors have promised sufficient technical assistance



Challenges ^(1/2)

- Limited awareness among NPPOs and other SPS authorities of international efforts at trade facilitation and customs modernization.
- Customs do not always consult SPS authorities early in the discussion on how to modernize border controls – their focus is on speed.
- SPS measures are complex. Specific scientific and managerial capacity required – NPPOs must be involved and aware.



Challenges ^(2/2)

- Policy makers typically think of customs when they think of regulating trade – need to make the role of the NPPO clearly known.
- In many cases integration efforts are led by customs agencies, supported by trade ministries.
- Involvement of SPS agencies is key but may not be sought out.
- NPPOs need to stay informed of these efforts and participate actively.



Some Positives

- If NPPOs engage, there is an opportunity to improve and take a “whole of government” approach to reduce duplication and fill gaps.
- Many donors are interested in supporting these initiatives.
- Context of “trade facilitation” offers many opportunities to strengthen trade systems.
- IPPC ePhyto project gives NPPOs a seat at the table in single window and other discussions.



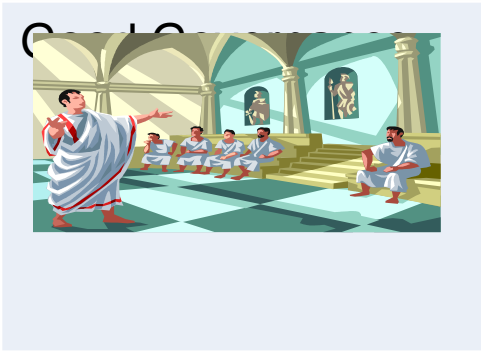
	Benefits for Your Exporters	Benefits for Government
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Transparency + Fairness



- Predictability
- Reduced time/costs

- Better compliance
- Better quality decisions



- Reduced costs
- Reduced delays
- Reduced complexity

- Better compliance
- More effective government
- More efficient government

Modernization



- Reduce clearance times and costs

- Align with modern business practice
- More effective government
- More efficient government

And ePhyto is a good fit

- Globally harmonized approach for certification
- Allow developing countries to participate on an equal footing with developed countries
- Remove the need for bilateral agreements between NPPOs for exchange;
- Expedite participation and thereby paperless trade
- Intention to link with other e-systems (e.g. single window)
- Reduced potential for fraud
- Improved efficiencies by reduced data entry and validation
- Improved security
- Expedited arrival for commodities in trade
- Ability to address certification problems in advance of commodity arrival



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