



## PAGE 3: B. ABOUT YOU

**Q1: Respondent details**

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**Q2: Country or Customs territory**

BRAZIL

**Q3: Organization**

Public sector

## PAGE 4: C. ABOUT YOUR CASE STORY

**Q4: Title of case story**

Technical assistance provided to African countries on trade facilitation.

**Q5: Case story focus**

Trade Facilitation.

**Q6: Case story abstract**

The Brazilian Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Trade Center – ITC in order to coordinate actions to provide technical assistance to African countries on trade facilitation initiatives. As a result of this MoU, two workshops were held, in Angola and Mozambique, with a focus on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement measures.

**Q7: Who provided funding?**

Other (please specify) The Brazilian Government.

**Q8: Project/Programme type**

Regional

**Q9: Your text case story**

On 10 June 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the International Trade Center – ITC, the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency – APEX and the Brazilian Foreign Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of the Industry, Foreign Trade and Services – SECEX/MDIC, with the objective of providing cooperation and technical assistance in the fields of trade facilitation.

Initially the MoU focused on supporting selected African countries in:

- Conducting or updating their Trade Facilitation needs assessment;
- Categorizing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement commitments;
- Preparing notification of categorization of the WTO and domestic ratification process;
- Developing project plans for the implementation of category C commitments;

Regarding the financial resources needed to perform these actions, each party committed to providing the resources to cover the expenses of its own staff activities.

Under the MoU, two workshops took place, in Angola and Mozambique, with a focus on the implementation of the TFA commitments.

In Angola, the workshop took place on the 5th and 6th October 2015 and received 91 key participants, from public and private entities to evaluate the country's target categorization of the TFA commitments for notification to the WTO and initiate the process of building project plans to request financial aid and technical assistance for Category C provision implementation.

Concerning the Categorization of the provisions, the workshop went through:

- Detailed presentation of the measure (i.e. key features);
- Analysis of the nature of the obligation (i.e. binding or best endeavour);
- Review of the implementation checklist;
- Discussion between national stakeholders to evaluate provision categorization;

Concerning the Category C provisions, the ITC representative presented the project's next steps for structuring project plans for its implementation. The participants were offered an overview of the objectives and methodology that are applied and awareness was raised on the inputs they would be required to provide.

Apart from cooperation related to the TFA implementation, the Angolan side demonstrated interest in institutional capacity-building and suggested that personnel from the Angolan Ministry of Commerce could be sent to Brazil for an internship/exchange program in Brazilian institutions. Other initiatives also took place as a videoconference on the methodology of publicizing the trade balance data and additional videoconferences were suggested on topics such as the Brazilian system of application of Rules of Origin; the system to perform quota administration and the system to monitor trade in services.

The workshop in Mozambique took place on the 8th and 9th of October, 2015, and had the presence of approximately 30 representatives from public and private institutions. This workshop had a different format than the one in Angola, as Mozambique had already conducted a seminar to assess the compliance to the TFA provisions with the support of the WTO Secretariat. Therefore, that workshop focused on the topics that were of greater interest for Mozambique, namely:

- The system of issuing notifications, in accordance to the TFA's Article 5.1, to enhance the level of controls at the border in respect of foods, beverages and feedstuffs;
- A detailed review of the role of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, as per Article 23.1;
- An approach to the system of regular consultations used between border agencies and interested parties, as per Article 2.2;
- The availability of the Enquiry Points to answer common enquiries of governments and interested parties and to provide required forms and documents, as per Article 1.3;
- Analysis of the imposition of penalties by the customs administration in case of breach of customs law and procedures, as per Article 6.3;
- Examination of the system of risk management in the release and clearance of goods to avoid unjustifiable discrimination and to expedite the release of low risk consignments, as well as the criteria that can be used, as per Article 7.4;
- Comments on the measures taken to establish and maintain a single window as a sole point to enable traders to submit documentation and information required to carry out the foreign trade operations, as per Article 10.4;
- Review of the common customs procedures and uniform documentation requirements for release and clearance of goods, as per Article 10.7;
- Overview of the Brazilian experience in the context of establishing and maintaining its single window mechanism.

The Mozambican side emphasized the importance of the continuation of the cooperation initiatives in order to accomplish the implementation of the TFA.

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**Q10: Lessons learnt**

The workshops had good results as they allowed for an exchange of experiences between the Brazilian, Angolan and the Mozambican governments with the technical support of the ITC. One of the most positive aspects of this cooperation is the synergy from the joint contribution of governments which are currently implementing trade facilitation initiatives and an institution such as the ITC, which can provide the technical knowledge and guidance required for the successful implementation of complex initiatives as the Single Window project and other TFA provisions. The following steps of this cooperation will encompass the continuation of provision of technical assistance, mainly through videoconferences, and the exchange of experiences and expertise as the countries advance in the implementation of the TFA provisions.

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