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Support to an Enabling Business Environment for MSMEs Development & Financial Inclusion

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT:

PANEL 1: WTO TFA and Paperless Trade

Simplification and Digitalization of Foreign Trade Procedures, Egypt

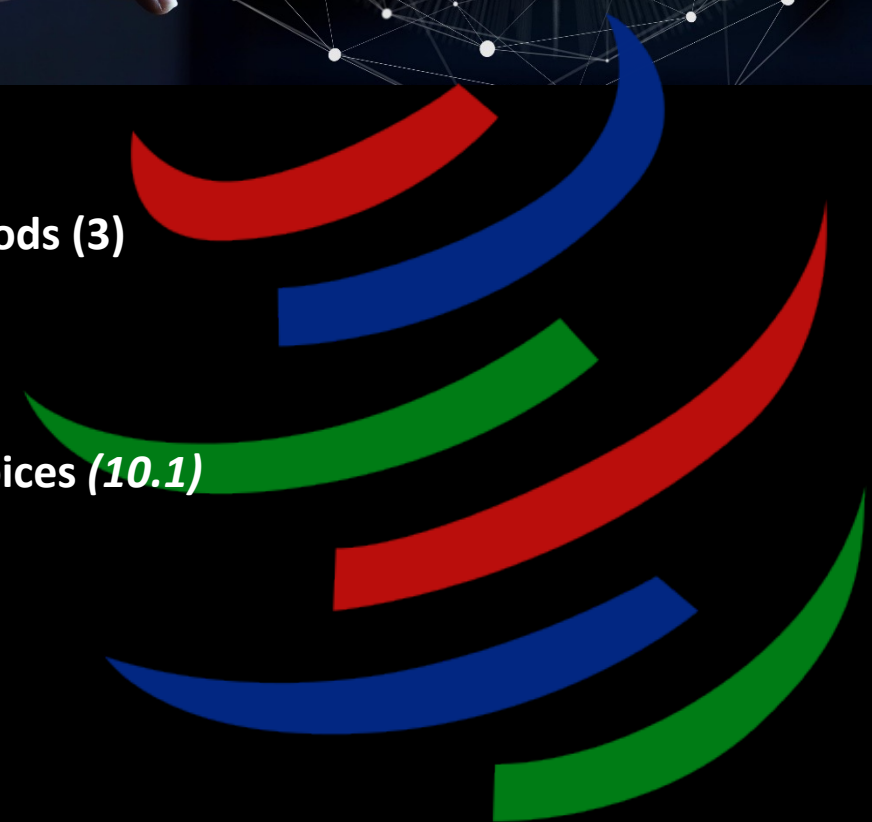Marrakech, September 26, 2022

GOPA
WORLDWIDE CONSULTANTS

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1. Implementation of the WTO's TFA – *progress to date*

1. **Egypt ratified TFA on 24 June 2019**

2. **The current rate of implementation is 23.1% and fully implemented by the end of 2025 except Single Window (by 2030)**

3. **Recent developments of the implementation (simplification and digitalization/paperless trade) :**

- ✓ **New Customs law No 207/2020**

- ✓ **Advance ruling on tariff classification and origin of imported goods (3)**

- ✓ **Test procedures *(5.3)***

- ✓ **TRS *(6.7)***

- ✓ **Abolition the ratification of certificate of origin /commercial invoices *(10.1)***

- ✓ **ACI/Pre-arrival processing *(7.1)***

- ✓ **E-Payment of customs duties and fees *(7.2)***

- ✓ **E-single Window *(10.4)***

2. 'Bottlenecks'/Key Challenges

- **Limited resources in terms of IT infrastructure** for some National Agencies

- **Monitoring and frequent review of captured procedures** to measure the progress of the relevant stakeholders

- **Testing and laboratory facilities** availability to increase the flow of trade, with main trading partners

3. Reforms to modernise and ease Cross-border Trade Procedures and Processes

1. NTFC Strategy/Road map

2. Trade Information Portal (TIP)

3. Integrated Risk Management

4. Prior comment and consultation of Stakeholders on new draft regulations (prior to their finalization)

5. Advance publication/information of new trade-related regulations (before their implementation)

6. Greater inclusion of SMEs NTFCs and AEO scheme

7. Approved Exporter scheme

8. Electronic Certificates of Origin (eCO) scheme

4. Support Needs

Financial and technical supports to achieve:

- ✓ Reforms started to modernize TF process and its sustainability; in particular:

  - Setting-up of a TIP

  - Risk Management

  - Testing by Laboratories at all customs zones

- ✓ Needs of all national agencies stakeholders; in particular:

  - Enquiry Points

  - Advanced (ICT)

  - Reform Tracker for NTFC.

5. Some suggestions for regional cooperation

1. Improve the legal and regulatory environment to be more consistent in general and to allow exchange of data in electronic form such as customs declaration (CD) and certificate of origin (CO) in particular

2. Transit facilitation:

- ✓ Limit the physical inspection and use risk management - pre-arrival processing for transit

- ✓ Greater intra-regional cooperation between agencies from other countries

- ✓ Transit facilitation agreement(s) with neighboring country(ies)

Shukran

Merci

Thank you