

AID FOR SUSTAINABLE TRADE FACILITATION

Opportunities for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

The Role of Partnerships



WORLD BANK GROUP

Alina Monica Antoci
Senior Private Sector Specialist
Global Trade & Regional Integration

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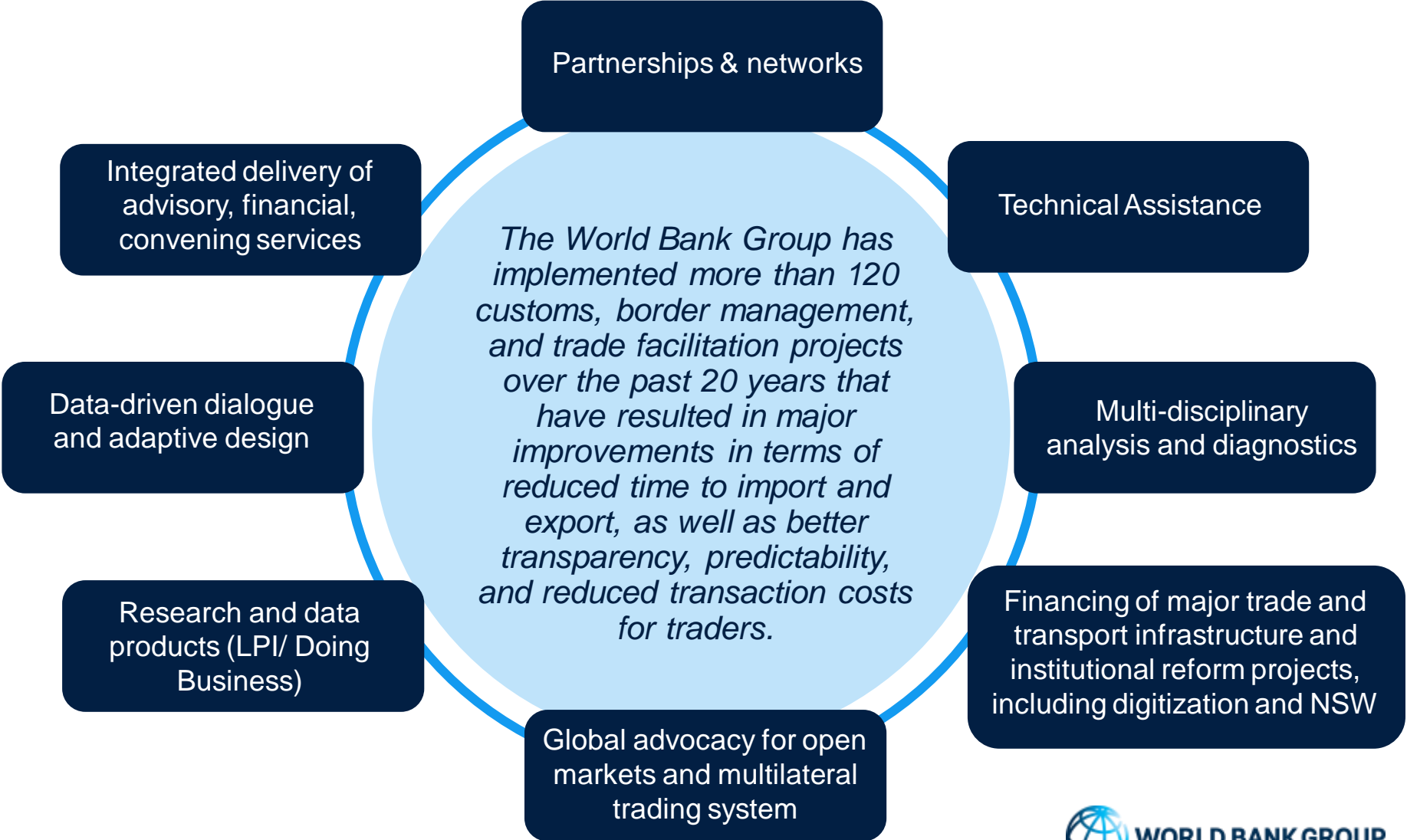
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WBG, A MAJOR PROVIDER OF TRADE-RELATED ASSISTANCE



THE WORLD BANK GROUP'S FLAGSHIP TRADE FACILITATION SUPPORT PROGRAM



Part of the WBG's support to the WTO's TFA agenda is through the **Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP)**



Launched in 2014



Support to 50+ countries



Supported by 9 development partners:

- Australia
- Canada
- European Union
- The Netherlands
- Sweden
- Norway
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- USA

TFSP Program Objective

Assist **developing countries** in reforming and aligning their TF laws, procedures, processes, and systems to enable full & effective implementation of the WTO TFA requirements

FOCUS OF WBG TRADE FACILITATION INTERVENTIONS



Risk-based border clearance



Border collaboration & coordination



Automation & Single Windows & technology



Review of trade-related fees & charges, documents and processes



Transparency & predictability



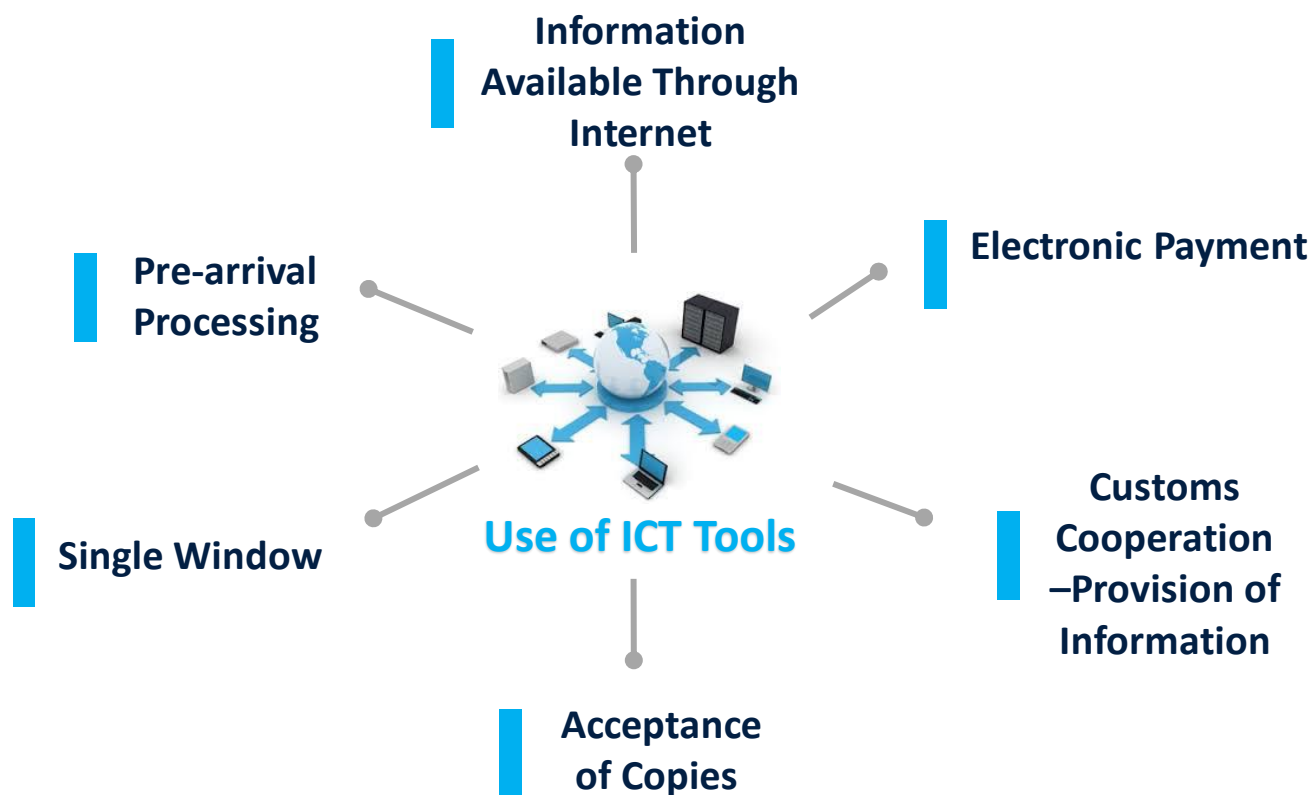
National trade facilitation committees



International standards, conventions and agreements

In response to Covid-19, support in these areas have been scaled up

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS CAN FAST TRACK TRADE INTEGRATION



Trade Information Portal a good place to start
– requires the same inter-agency coordination



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ARTICLE 23.2: NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

Who should participate?

Government Agencies

- Department of Trade/Commerce/Industry
- All border agencies including
 - Customs
 - Border Police
 - Human, animal and plant health
 - Standards
- Agencies responsible for monitoring imports or exports (documentary or physical checks)
- Agencies responsible for international airports, rail or road infrastructure

Private Sector

- Chamber of Commerce
- Brokers and Freight Forwarders Associations
- Industry associations
- Representation for SMEs
- Where ports, airports, clearance terminals or warehousing facilities are privatized representation by trade body or individual senior managers

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ARTICLE 23.2: NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

Role

TFA Implementation leadership mechanism

Responsible for:

- developing a national implementation strategy
- overseeing development of action plans, and monitoring progress across Government

What is the purpose

- To effectively and efficiently implement the TFA, coordinate with technical assistance donors and carry out notification or other requirements
- The NTFC must have the necessary political recognition and financial resources to support its activities

Private Sector Role

- Participate in meetings to identify constraints and validate reforms
- Important to be representative of the private sector
- Provide transparency and input into solutions that work
- Need to be committed for the long term

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Weak or inactive NTFC

- Early set-up of an NTFC improves coordination and reduces risk of duplicating funds
- NTFC can take lead to sequence reforms based on priorities
- Requires legal framework and mandate; and adequate structure and with dedicated staff

Unclear mandates or frequent changes to Customs and OGAs

- Requires clear legal mandates and legal foundations
- Codifying interagency agreement establishes the ground rules
- Distribution of contact points on the government side to ensure continuity of work despite government changes

Lack of communication, consultation, or coordination

- Bringing stakeholders together at the early stages
- Demonstration of national, regional and international best practices can help motivate reform efforts
- Coordination can help anticipate resistance between different agencies
- Improved donor coordination and collaboration on the ground

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Stakeholders
are unaware of
the benefits of
reforms

- **Bottom-up approach** drives the development of a better solution
- **Early achievable reform** will bring benefits to multiple work areas and spur commitment to reform plans
- **Communicating the benefits to secure buy-in** from the private sector through open dialogue

Lack of
automation and
reliance on old
paper-based
systems

- **Base level of automation across border agencies** is needed
- Adequate automation will enable deployment of TFA to be more effective as all border agencies will be better positioned to implement reforms

Change
Management &
Capacity of
border agencies
varies

- Customs often has higher capacity than other agencies; **capacity building across all border agencies is vital**
- CB to enhance overall understanding of trade reforms and ensure that benefits of interventions are maximized is critical
- CB is often also required to ensure client buy-in and cooperation in delivering project results

NTFCs – THE KEY FOR LONG TERM ADAPTABILITY



Source: WTO Secretariat based on the e-survey on National Committees on Trade Facilitation, 2016.

Thank you!

Contact: Alina Monica Antoci

aantoci@worldbank.org



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