

Maldives National Trade Facilitation Agreement Workshop Champa Central Hotel, Malé 22 - 25 January 2023

Organised by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) in cooperation with UNCTAD, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Republic of Maldives.

Evaluation Report

DESCRIPTION

To reinforce the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), strengthen the capacity of its members and enhance cooperation of border agencies as a basis to launch an UNCTAD e-learning programme and reform tracker, 40 officials of Maldives' NTFC, border agencies and private sector attended a four-day workshop in Malé.

Responding to an activity request submitted to the WTO TFAF in June 2022, a bespoke programme of assistance to the Maldives' NTFC was designed with partners and launched at this workshop through a series of presentations, working groups and plenary discussions.

Reference materials were prepared for all participants to guide through Maldives' notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee and the provisions of the Agreement which have been designated Category C - requiring technical assistance along with the definitive dates identified for their implementation.

The meeting was opened by Minister of State for Economic Development, Ms Neeza Imad. Participants followed sessions giving introductions to the Agreement, the implementation state of play in the Maldives and various tools and instruments available to support implementation.

Working groups explored the necessary steps to implement some of Maldives' outstanding commitments under the Agreement and visited Malé Sea Port to see relevant customs procedures in practice and to understand planned reforms along with presentations from Maldives Customs Service on risk assessment and document management.



LINKS TO INFORMATION AND MATERIALS:

- The programme of the workshops is available at the following [link](#).
- All presentations delivered by speakers and reference materials can be found at the following [link](#).
- Photographs from the workshop can be found at the following [link](#).

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK BASED ON AN EVALUATION FORM COMPLETED BY THE PARTICIPANTS:

- All participants present completed an evaluation form.
- Of those, all found that the workshop **exceeded** (33%) or **met** (67%) their **expectations**.
- **All individual sessions were evaluated as a success**, with all sessions exceeding or meeting expectations. This is particularly positive, given the various agencies and ministries which participants represented.
- Concerning the logistical arrangements of the workshop, **more than half (52%) found the arrangements exceeded their expectations**. All participants considered their needs to have been met.

OUTCOMES

Even before the workshop was held, during the planning period, Maldives submitted two notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee. As a launch event, the workshop is followed by an [e-learning programme](#) and the establishment of the UNCTAD [Reform Tracker tool](#) for the National Trade Facilitation Committee. Outcomes of the training and implementation of the reform tracker will be monitored and reported. WTO, UNCTAD and ADB met with the Ministry of Economic Development after the workshop to further plan next steps.

