




# Preparing for the WTO Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

# Agenda

- **TF Proposals at the WTO NGTF**
- **Special and Differential Treatment (TA and CB)**
- **The TF Needs Assessment Process**
- **UNCTAD's Preparatory Programme**



# TF Negotiations at the WTO

- Negotiations at the WTO (NGTF) focused on 2 key areas:
  - 1) Substantive provisions regarding GATT Articles V (Freedom of Transit), VIII (Fees and Formalities) and X (Transparency)
  - 2) Special & Differential Treatment; and Technical Assistance & Capacity Building
- Over 100 proposals submitted by members
- Now down to 36 “text based” proposals

# Proposals – some examples

- Publication and Notification of Trade Regulations
- Internet Publication
- Reduction/Limitation of Formalities and Documentation Requirements
- Use of International Standards
- Single Window/One-Time Submission
- Border Agency Cooperation
- Advance Ruling
- Pre-arrival Processing
- Risk Management/Analysis, Authorized Traders
- Disciplines on Fees and Charges
- Disciplines on Transit Formalities and Document Requirements

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**But how will developing and least developed countries implement these measures?**



# Special and Differential treatment (S&D)

- **The WTO July Package (2004)  
Annex D**
  - SDT should extend beyond traditional transition periods for implementing commitments.
  - Extent and timing of commitments shall be related to implementation capacities of developing countries and LDCs.
- **Inclusive concept**

# Possible SDT Scheme

## Scope of commitment

All Measures  
Immediate application

## Detailed provisions

*Developed  
Countries*

Measures category a)  
Immediate application

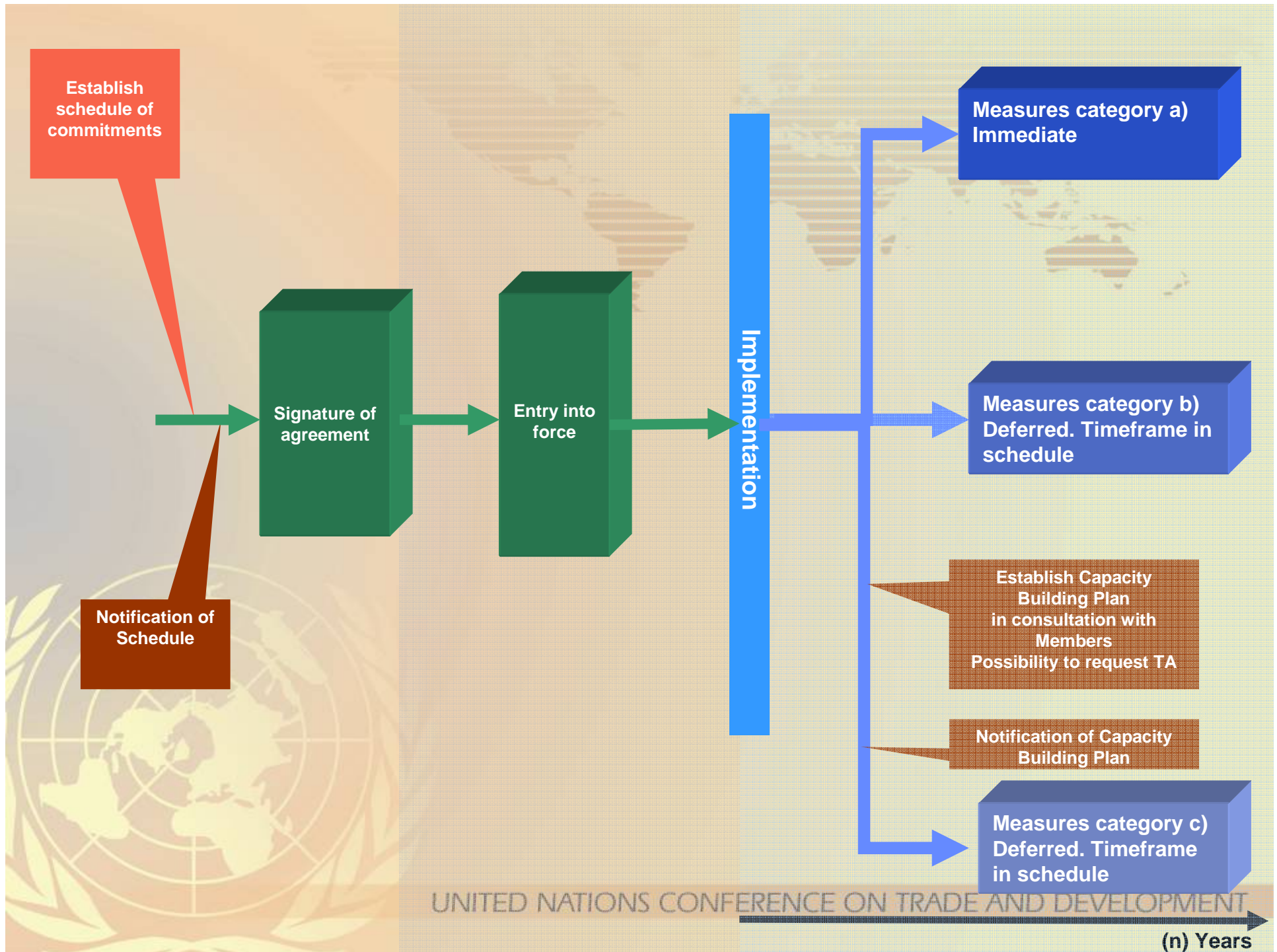
•Every country establishes and **notifies** schedule of commitment after needs assessment.

•Schedule contains timeframe on a final or provisional basis

*Developing  
countries &  
LDCs*

Measures category b)  
Deferred implementation.  
After scheduled timeframe

Measures category c)  
Deferred implementation.  
Subject to TA + CB





**How will countries establish their commitments and determine their needs and TA & CB Requirements ...?**

**..... WTO Trade Facilitation  
Self Assessment Exercise**

# WTO Trade Facilitation Self Assessment

- 5 day event with international facilitators
- National Task Force on Trade Facilitation
- Assess all proposals
- WTO Self Assessment Guide  
TN/TF/W/143/Rev.2
- WTO Compilation TN/TF/W/43/Rev.14
- UNCTAD Technical Notes (on the Website)

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# Identify stakeholders in group

## K.1(c) AUTHORIZED TRADERS

**Basic Standard:** A Member shall provide for simplified import, export and transit formalities for traders who demonstrate a high level of compliance with trade-related laws and regulations.

**3** **COMPLY:** Yes: \_\_ No: \_\_ Partially: \_\_ Not applicable: \_\_

**National Priority:** High: \_\_ Medium: \_\_ Low: \_\_ None: \_\_

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Current situation relative to the Basic Standard. Describe in detail.	Barriers to meeting Basic Standard	Actions needed to meet basic standard <i>(Consider needs in legal framework, administrative policy, human resources, training, equipment, organization, change management. If possible include estimated costs and/or implementation times.)</i>	
		What can be done locally to address barriers? (Specify in detail)	Is Technical Assistance or Capacity Building support needed? If yes, specify in detail
2	4	5	6
8 <b>Priority for Technical Assistance:</b> High: __ Medium: __ Low: __ None: __ <b>Comments:</b>			
7 <b>For organization and other stakeholders that would be responsible for implementation of this measure:</b>			
9 <b>Stakeholders not participating in assessment of this measure(s) that should be consulted:</b>			
<b>Issues to note (any comments or recommendations for negotiators, etc.):</b>			

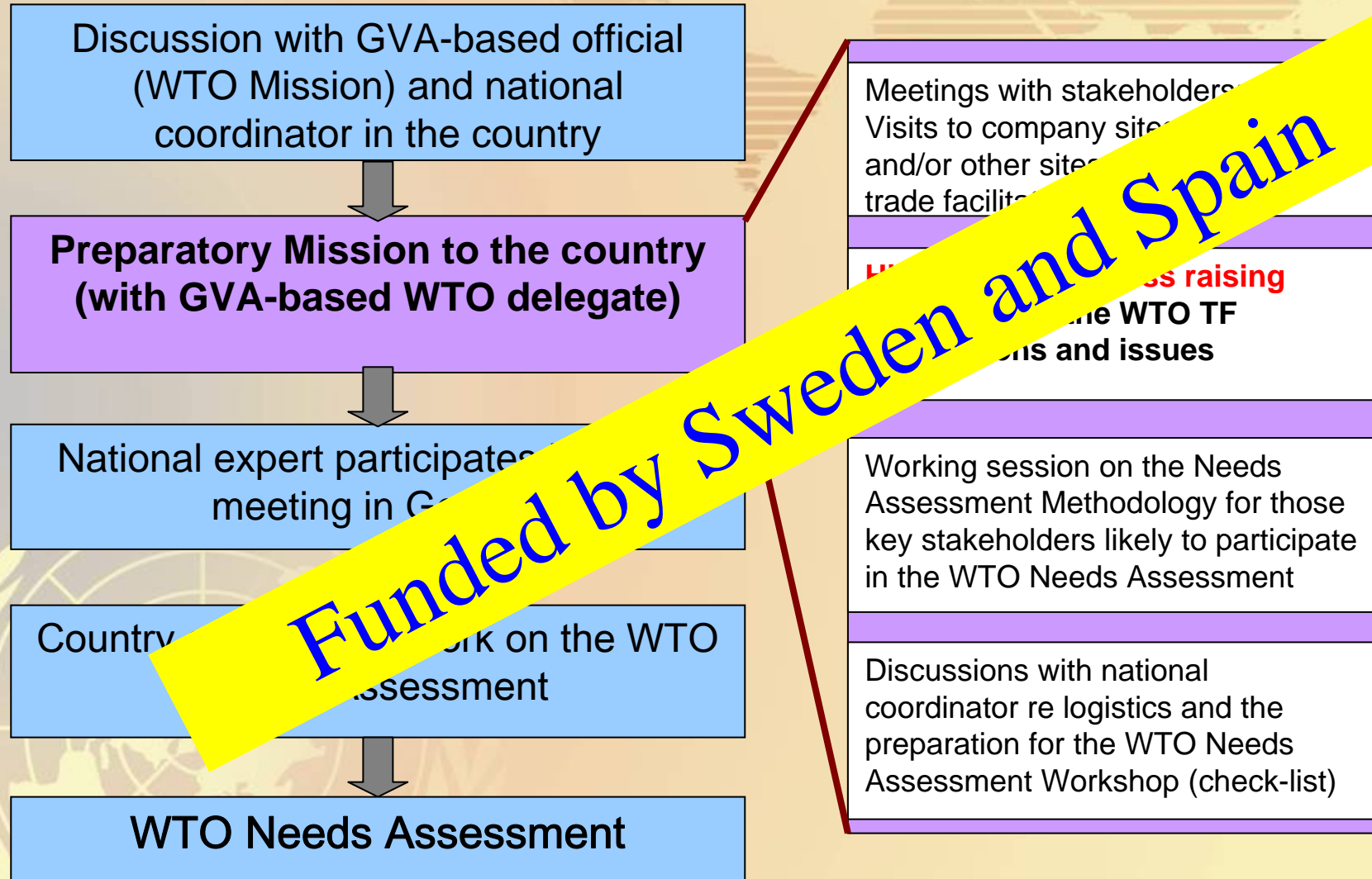
# The Needs (Self) Assessment

- Needs Assessment key to determining a countries schedule for extra time and/or TA and CB requirements – that must be notified to the WTO (TF Committee)
- Also key to identify priorities for the negotiators
- Our experience ....

# Some key points ...

- WTO TF Needs Assessment a valuable exercise
  - But must prepare well (hence UNCTAD programme)
  - And integrate with other strategies
  - Need to consider integrated approach – and scheduling
  - Need stakeholder buy in
- Political will
- Opportunity to implement
- TA and CB opportunities and strategies

# UNCTAD Support Programme for the WTO TF Negotiations



# UNCTAD Programme

- Have completed 8 Preparatory missions
- Could do 2 more within current budget
- Hope to get additional funding to do more
- Will likely work with countries to help develop the Capacity Building Plans after the Agreement (subject to funding)
- Experience to date very positive

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# Questions / Comments



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