



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION



Trade Facilitation  
Agreement Facility

# Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

## What is the status of implementation?

**Roy Santana**

Counsellor

Market Access Division

World Trade Organization

Conference on Single Windows

Brazzaville, Congo

5-7 October 2015

## In this presentation:

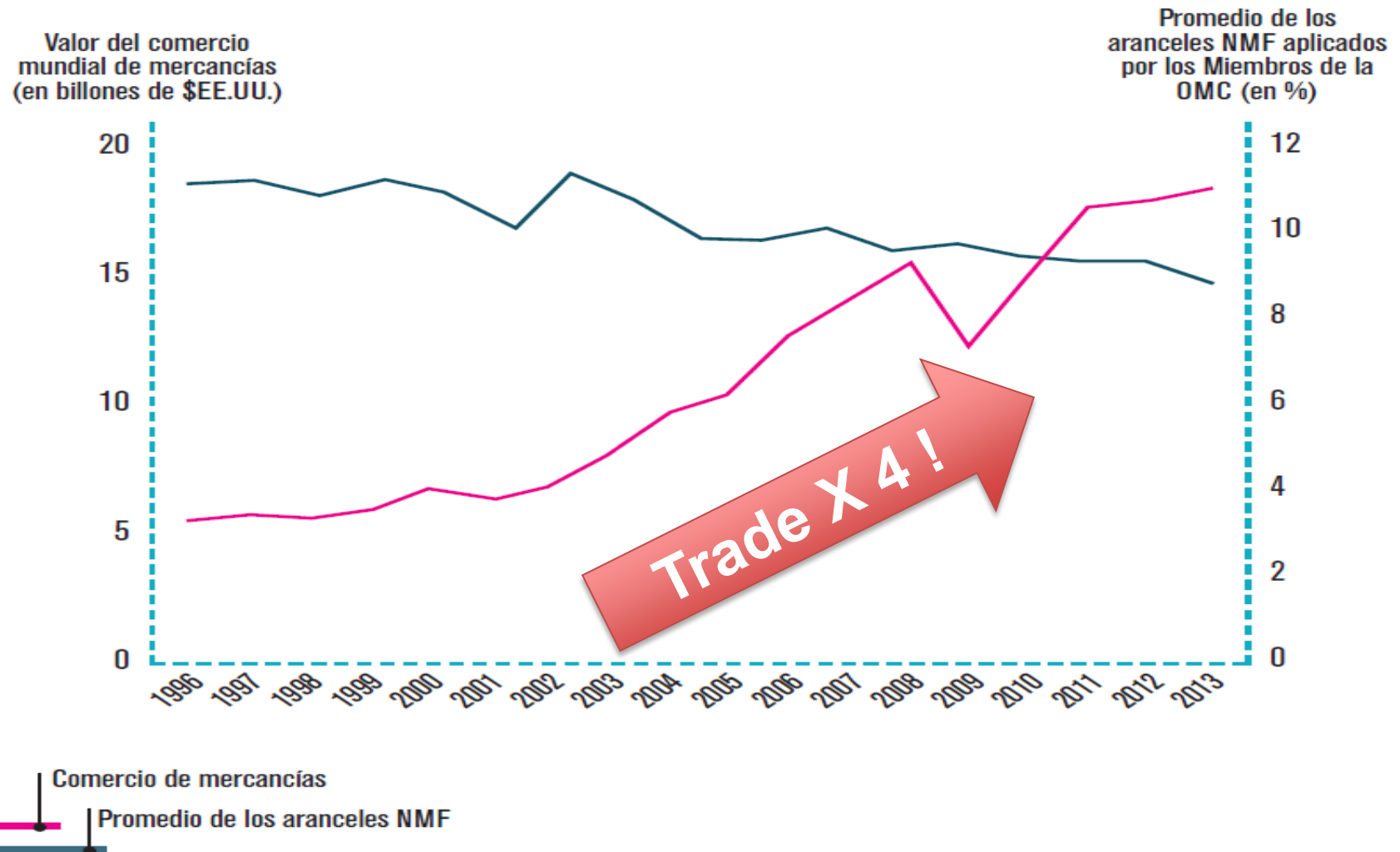
1. What is the starting point?
2. But, why trade facilitation at the WTO?
3. What is covered by the TFA?
4. Status of notifications
5. Status of ratification
6. Some resources (time permitting)

# 1. What is the starting point?



# Significant growth of trade

## OMC y comercio mundial de mercancías: 1996-2013



**Big changes have been necessary...**



# But not everything changed at the same pace

## A customs office in 2015?



**40% of delays** in the supply chain are due to inefficient administrative procedures (e.g. transmission of paper documents, non-coordinated inspections, etc.)

# How to find a balance?

**Facilitate trade**

**Effective implementation  
of laws and regulations**



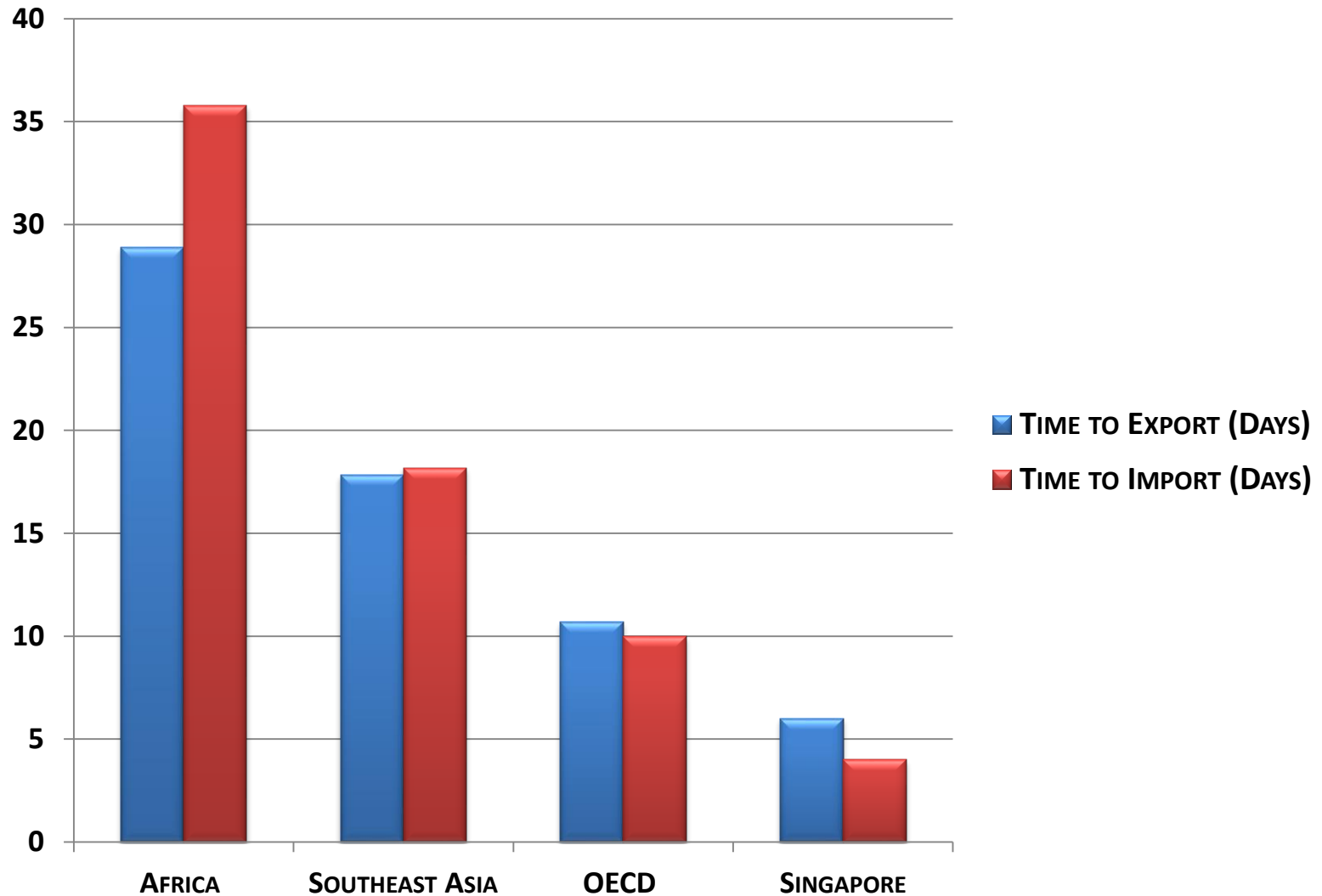


# What has been the result?

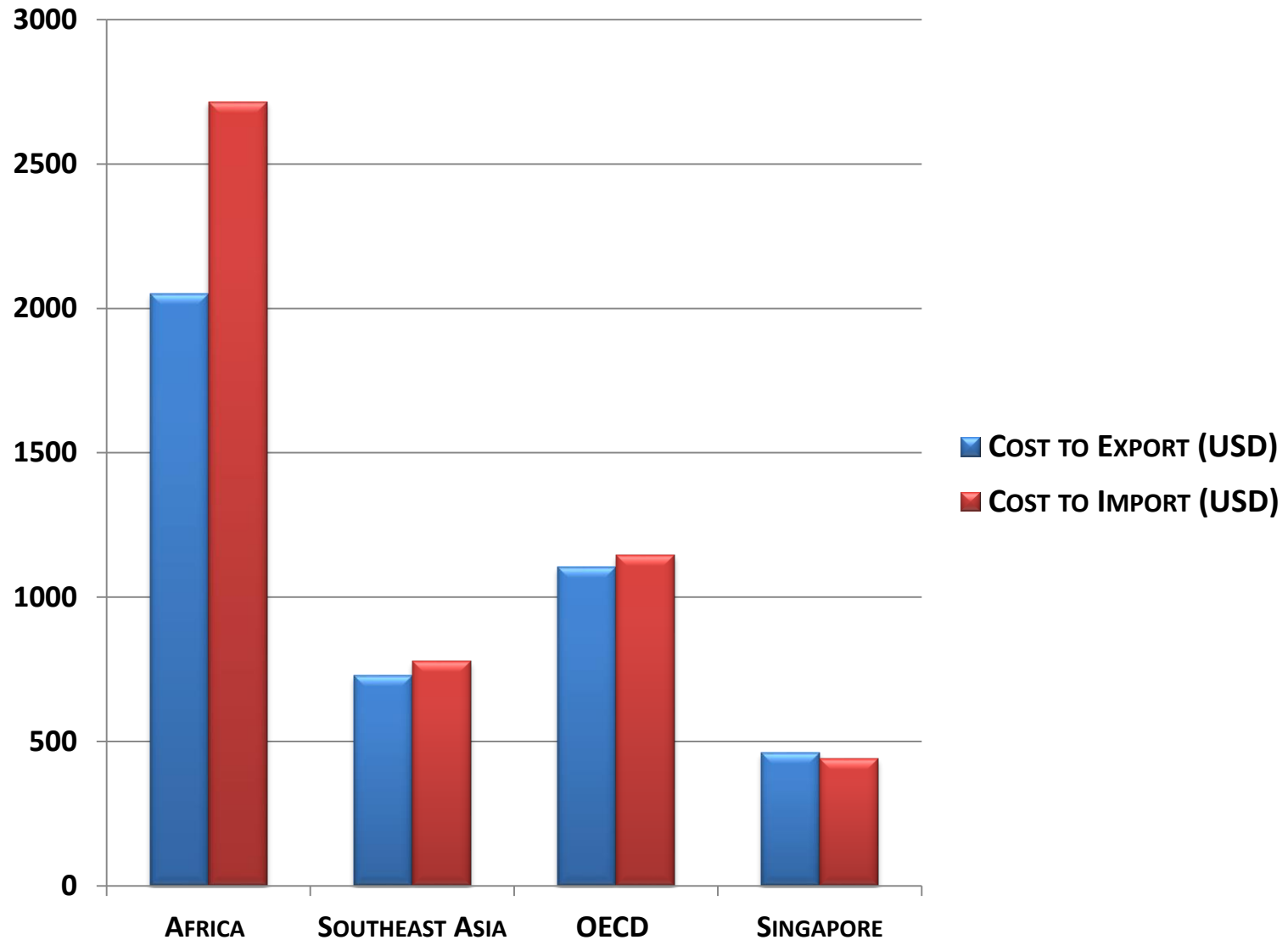




# Time to Export/Import



# Costs to Export/Import



## 2. But, why trade facilitation at the WTO?



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES



**UNECE**



**Many international organizations have been dealing with different aspects of trade facilitation before the WTO.**

**Some even have agreements of their own.**

# So, why TF at the WTO?

- ✓ **Common rules for 163 WTO Members**
- ✓ **Enforcement through dispute settlement**
- ✓ **Pre-existing provisions with basic rules  
(in particular Articles V, VIII, and X)**

# 3. What is covered by the TFA?

# Structure of the TFA



## **Section I**

The TFA contains 12 Articles with approximately 40 “technical measures” (Articles 1 - 12)



## **Section II**

Special provisions for developing and least-developed country Members (Articles 13 – 22)



## **Section III**

Final provisions and institutional arrangements (Articles 23 – 24).

# Section I

The trade facilitation Agreement contains 12 Articles with approximately 40 “technical measures”



**Article 1**  
Publication & Availability  
of Information



**Article 5**  
Measures to Enhance  
Impartiality, Non-Discrimination  
& Transparency



**Article 9**  
Movement under  
Customs Control



**Article 2**  
Comment  
and Consultations



**Article 6**  
Disciplines on Fees  
and Charges



**Article 10**  
Import, Export  
& Transit Formalities



**Article 3**  
Advance  
Rulings



**Article 7**  
Release and Clearance  
of Goods



**Article 11**  
Freedom  
of transit



**Article 4**  
Procedures for  
Appeal or Review



**Article 8**  
Border Agency  
Cooperation



**Article 12**  
Customs  
Cooperation



# Nature and scope of obligations

## Binding

Art. 1.1  
(Publication):  
“Each  
Member  
**shall**  
promptly  
publish the  
following  
information  
...”

## Best endeavour

Art. I.3 3.3  
(Enquiry  
Points):  
Members **are  
encouraged**  
not to require  
the payment  
of a fee ...”

## Combination

Art. “Each  
Member **shall**  
make available,  
**and** update **to  
the extent  
possible and as  
appropriate**, the  
following through  
internet...”



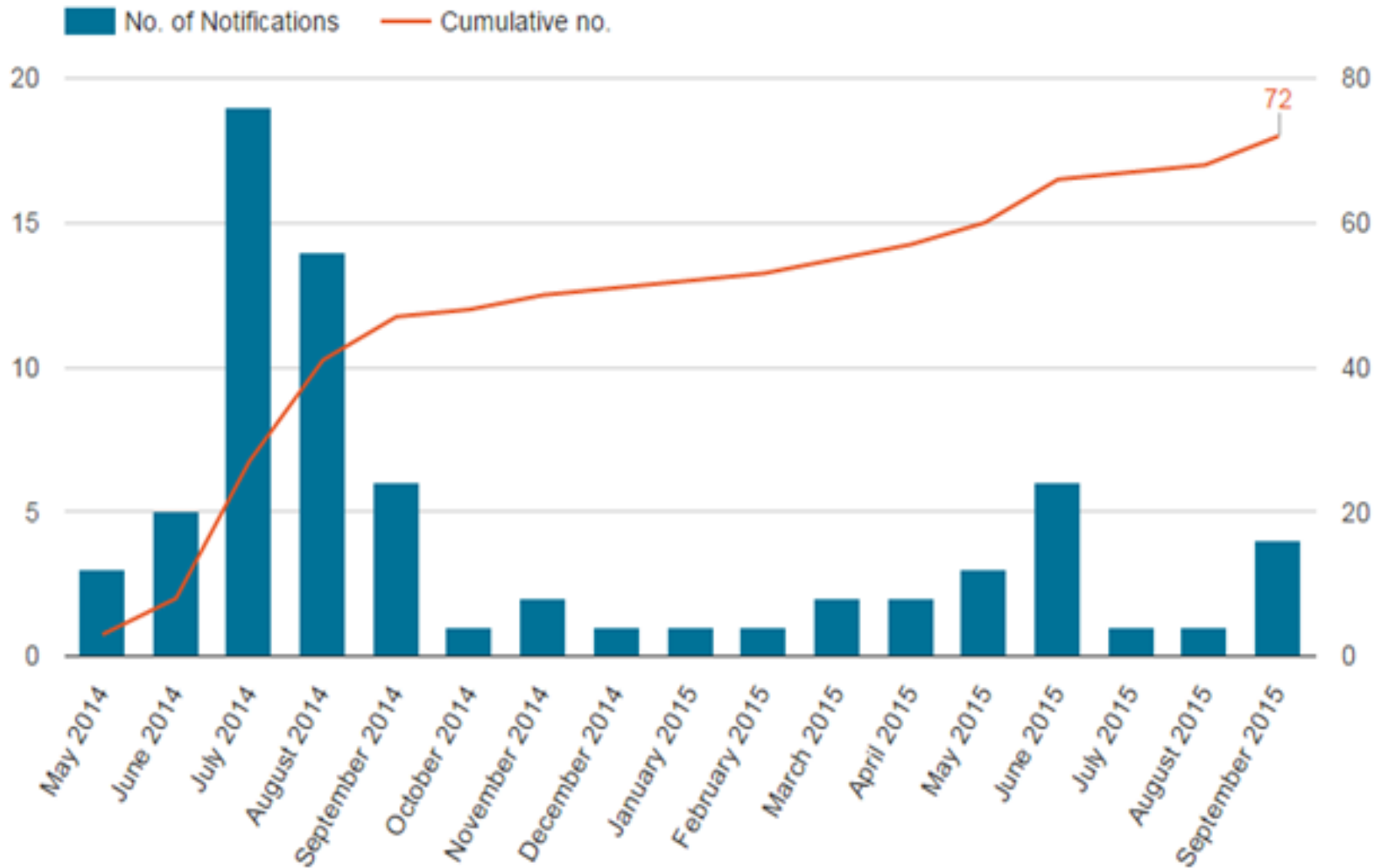
# Article 10: Formalities, procedures and documentation

- ❖ Formalities and documentation Requirements
- ❖ Acceptance of Copies
- ❖ Use of International Standards
- ❖ **Single Window**
- ❖ Pre-shipment Inspection
- ❖ Use of Customs Brokers
- ❖ Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements
- ❖ Rejected Goods
- ❖ Temporary Admission of Goods/Inward and Outward Processing

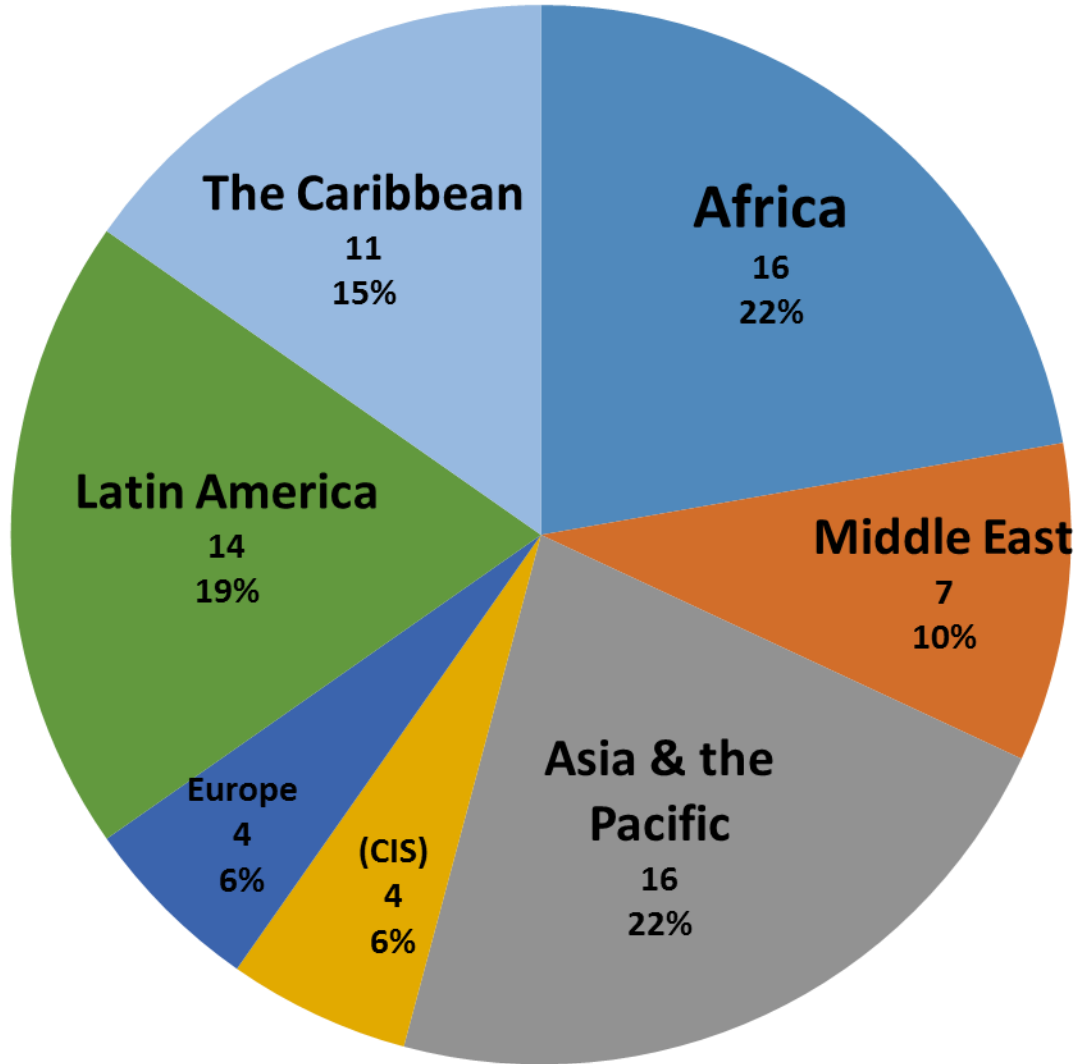


# 4. Status of notifications

# Category A Notifications Received: 72



# Category A Notifications Received - Regional breakdown



# Category A Notifications

## Africa – 16 countries

- **Botswana**
- **Burundi**
- **Congo**
- **Cote d'Ivoire**
- **Egypt**
- **Gabon**
- **Kenya**
- **Mauritius**
- **Morocco**
- **Nigeria**
- **Rwanda**
- **Senegal**
- **Seychelles**
- **Tanzania**
- **Tunisia**
- **Uganda**


# Category A Notifications received

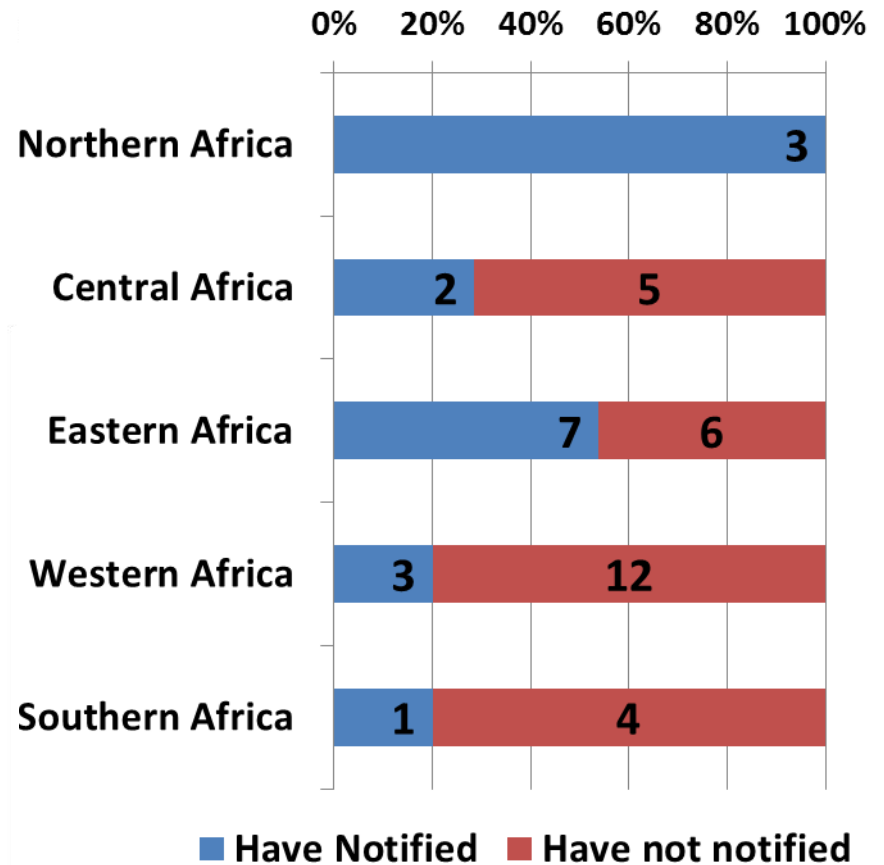
## Africa – by Subregion



JS map by amCharts

 72 Members Notified Category A

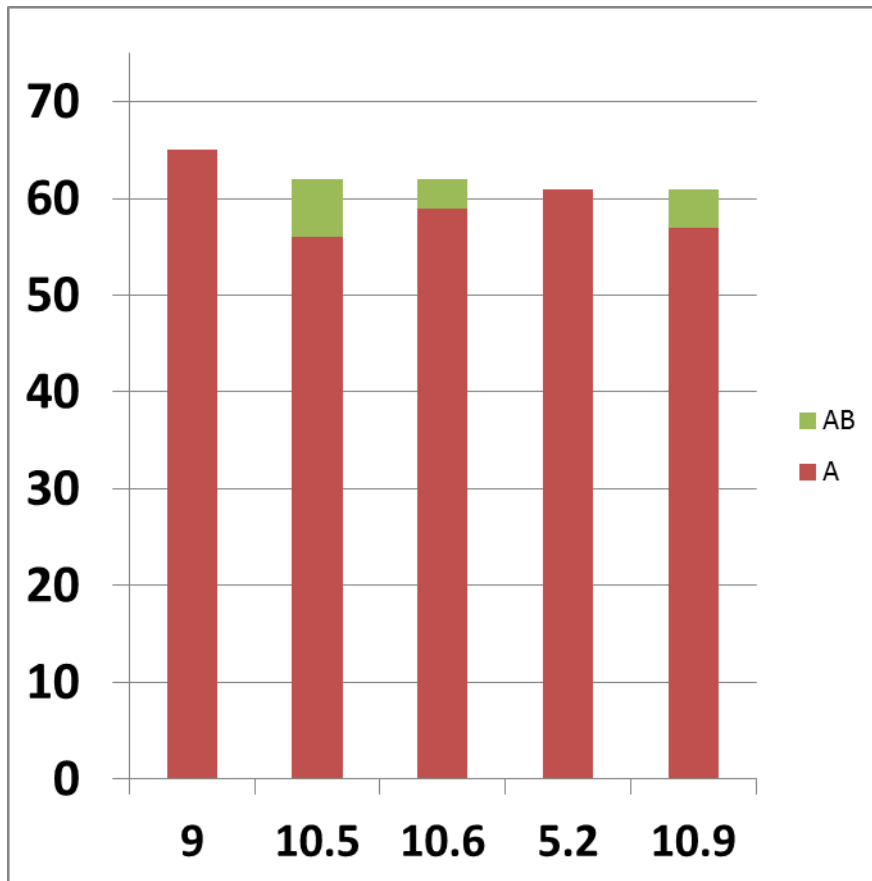
 Shown as Not Applicable, as requested by the Member.



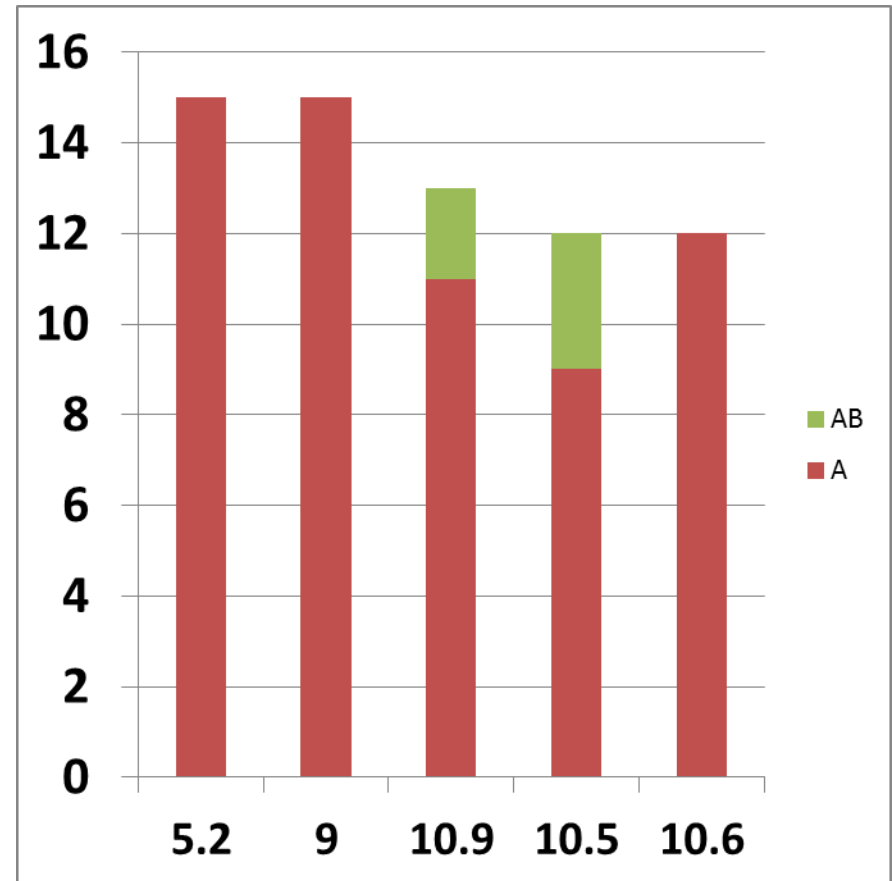
# Category A Notifications received

## Most notified provisions

### 72 WTO Members



### 16 African Members



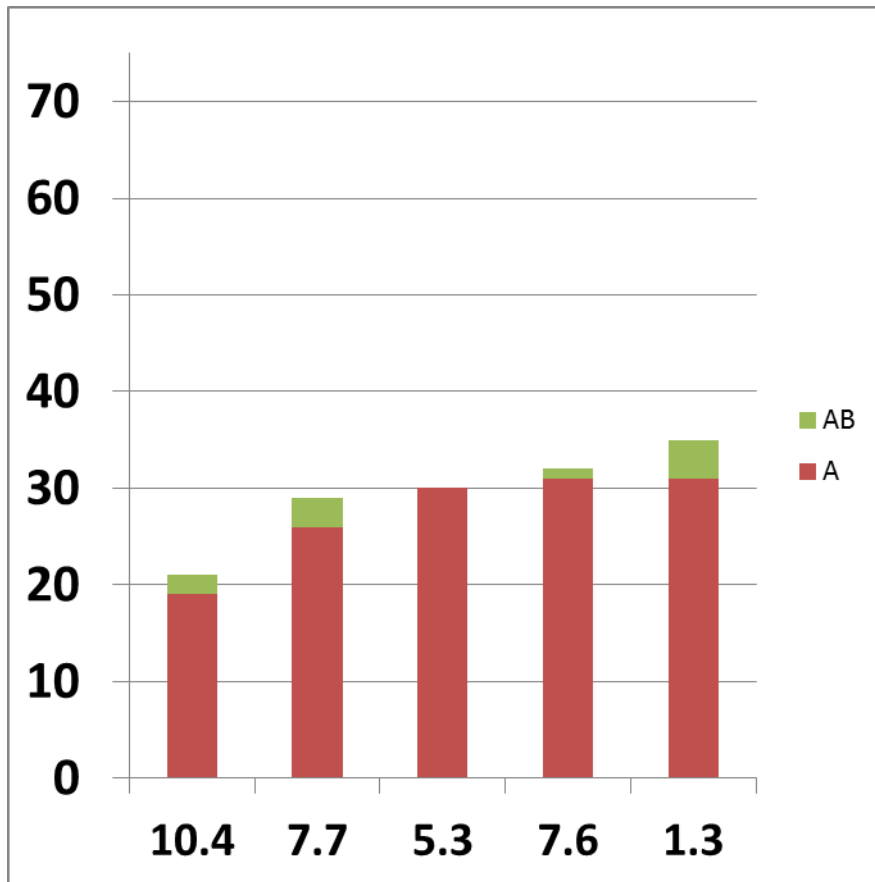
Same provisions, slightly different order...



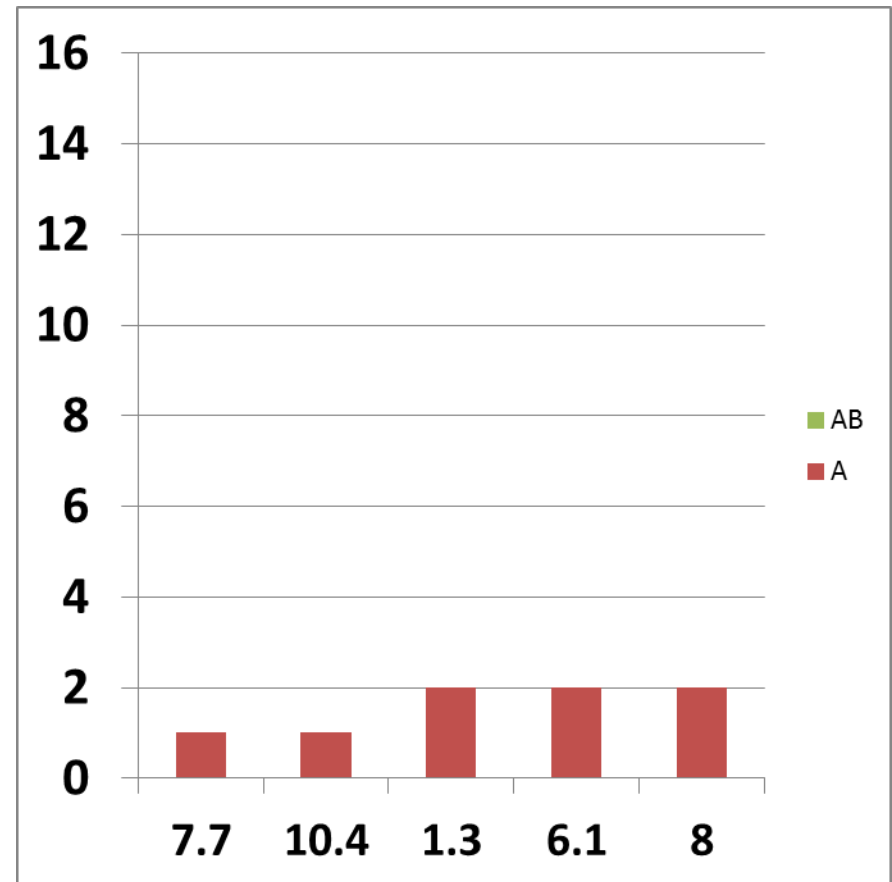
# Category A Notifications received

## Least notified provisions

### 72 WTO Members

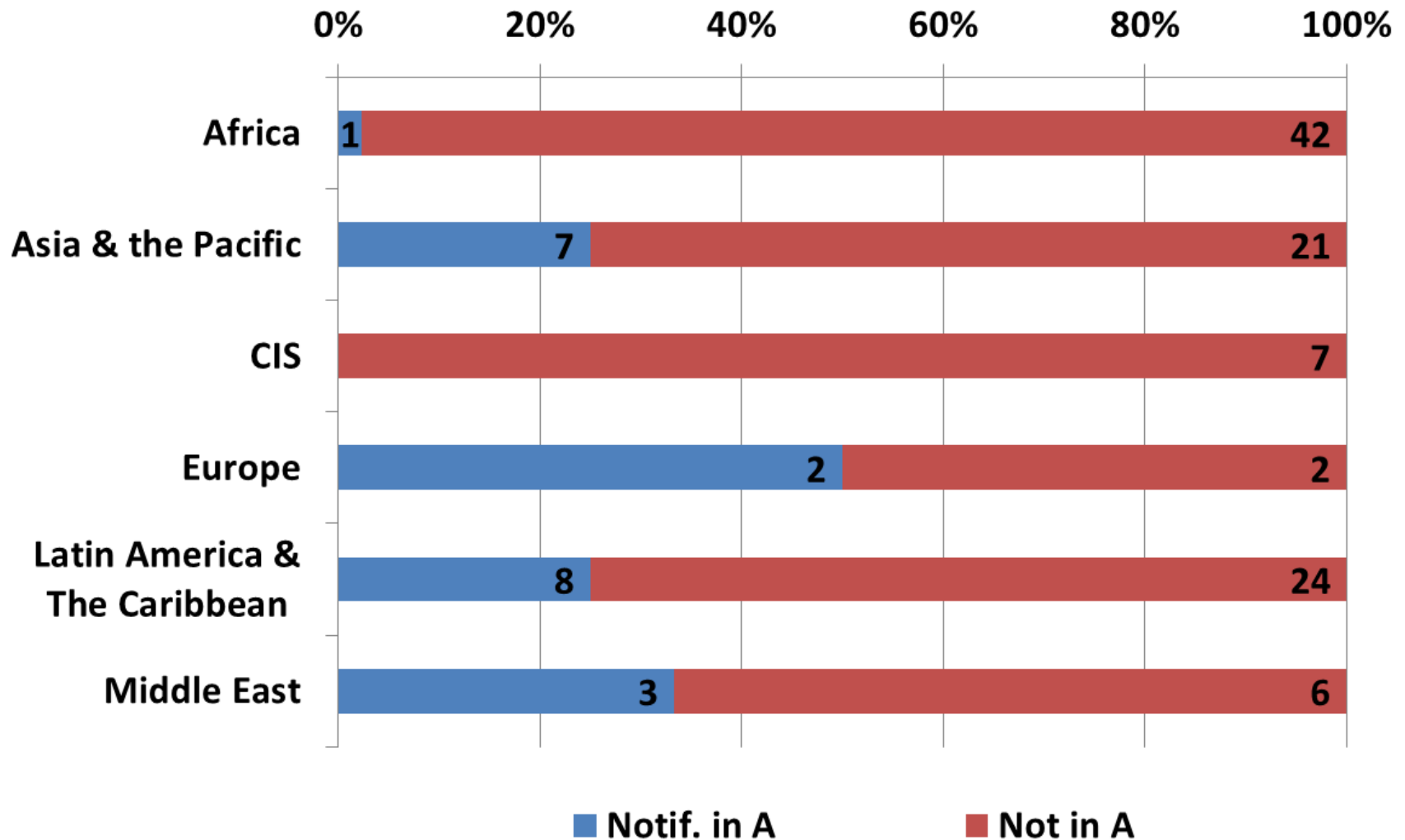


### 16 African Members



# Category A Notifications Received

## 10.4 Single Window

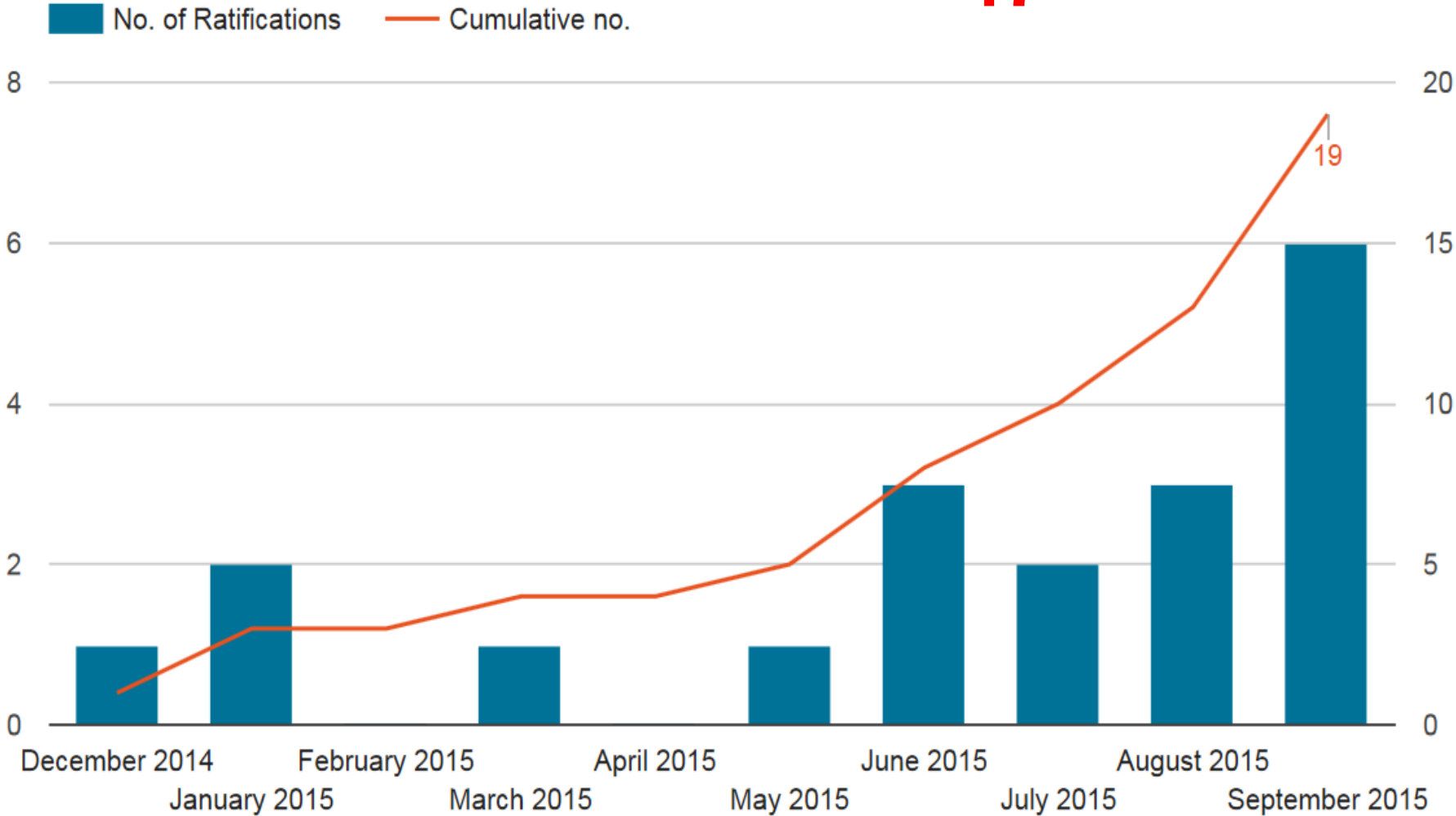


# 5. Status of ratifications

# RATIFICATIONS RECEIVED (PROTOCOL OF ACCEPTANCE DEPOSITED) - TIMELINE

This charts displays a timeline of Ratifications received to date.

**+ 28 today?**  
**= 47**



# 19 Acceptances Deposited so Far

- Australia
- Belize
- **Botswana**
- China
- Hong Kong, China
- Japan
- Korea
- Liechtenstein
- Lao People's D.R.
- Malaysia
- **Mauritius**
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- **Niger**
- Singapore
- Trinidad & Tobago
- United States
- Switzerland
- Chinese Taipei

## 6. Some resources



<http://www.tfafacility.org/>



ENGLISH | FRANÇAIS | ESPAÑOL

Search...

About the Facility

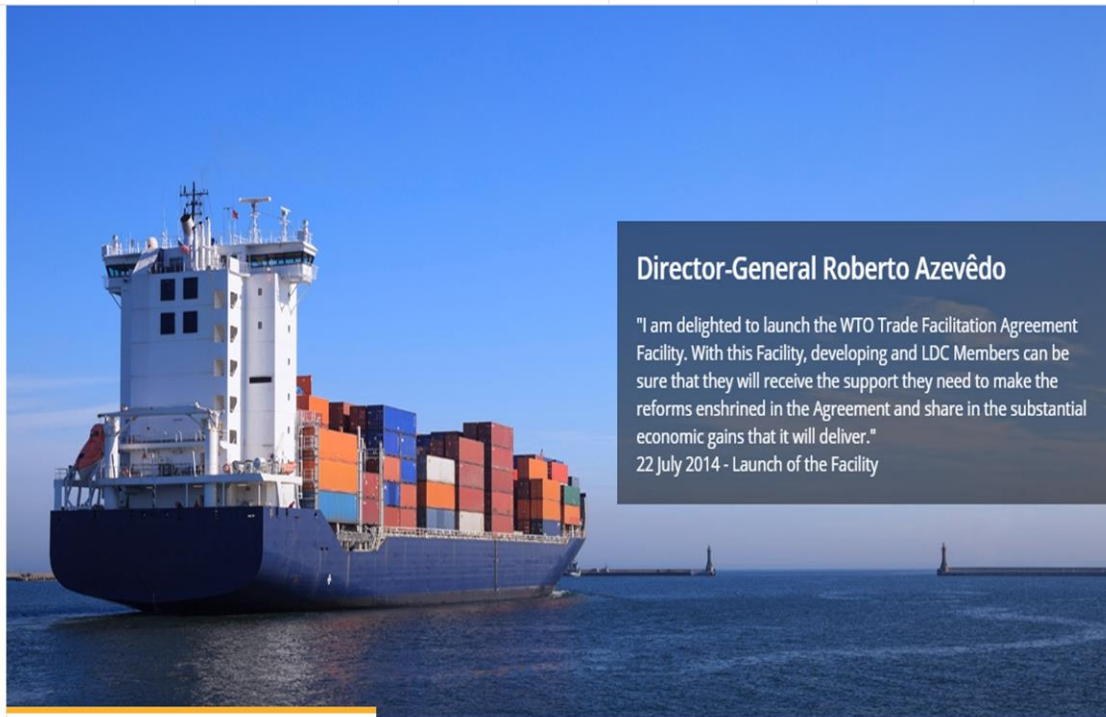
The Trade Facilitation Agreement

Donors & Organizations

National contact points

TFAF Assistance

Media and Resources



**Director-General Roberto Azevêdo**

"I am delighted to launch the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility. With this Facility, developing and LDC Members can be sure that they will receive the support they need to make the reforms enshrined in the Agreement and share in the substantial economic gains that it will deliver."  
 22 July 2014 - Launch of the Facility

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo



Why the TFAF?



New publication: "TFA: easing the flow of goods across borders"







# IN ACTION

## WTO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE

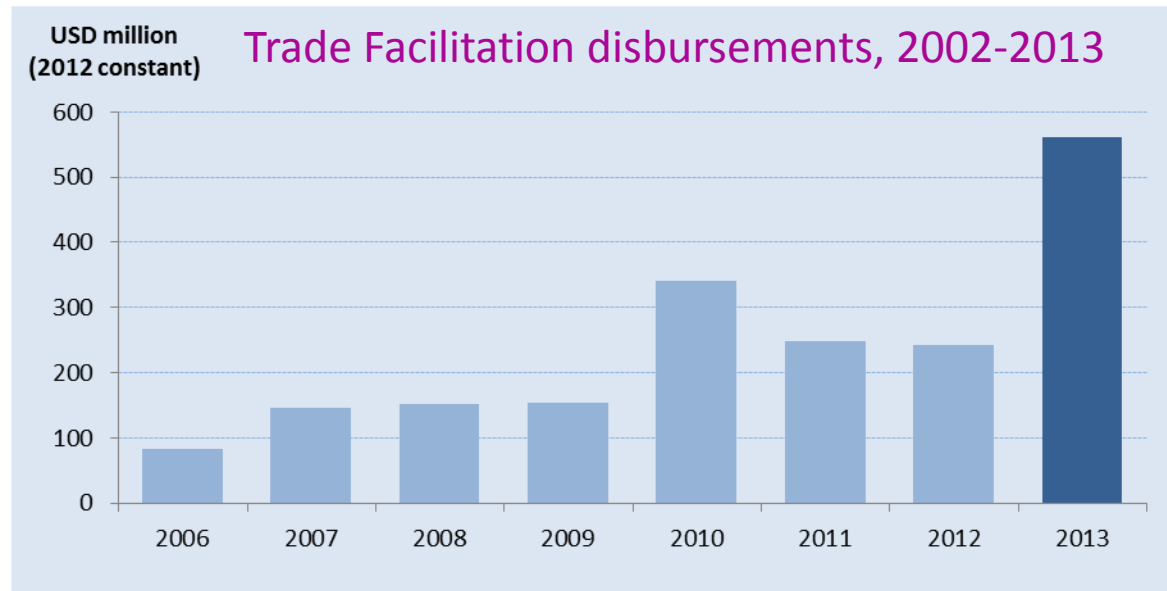
- Information on donor TACB projects
- Matchmaking
- Case studies and training materials

### GRANTS

After EIF and receipt of Category C notification

- Project preparation (\$30,000)
- Project implementation (\$200,000)

Donor  
Support  
For TF  
Continues  
To  
Increase



The background features several thick, curved, overlapping lines in shades of light red, light blue, and light green, arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

**Thank you**