



# ***STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT IN AFRICA***

***Chiza Charles CHIUMYA***

***Department of Trade and Industry***

***The African Union Commission***

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# The Conclusion

- Successful implementation of Trade facilitation measures requires strong political will, clear strategic and implementation plans, closer cooperation among stakeholders and adequate resources to keep the momentum of the reforms going.
- Collective and Coordinated implementation of the WTO ATF would be an effective Approach for Africa to follow.
- Through properly targeted Assistance in the Implementation of TF measures, Africa can realize the full benefits that accrue through Trade Facilitation.
- Trade Facilitation is one of the **Essential Oils** that the motor of Regional Integration will not do without in moving Africa to the next level.



# What can TF Deliver for Africa?

- Benefit consumers who have to contend with higher prices induced by red tape in imports administration,
- Assist in enhancing Africa's competitiveness due to reduction in compliance costs, service charges, business opportunity costs, and costs associated with uncertainty and corruption.
- Enable firms to increase their continental share of trade in goods and services as a consequence of lower transactions costs.
- Benefit Govts by bringing about more efficient control methods, better resource allocation, and improved trade compliance leading to higher revenues,
- Improve the investment climate which lead to increase in FDI flows and ultimately lead to faster economic development,
- Assist in promotion of protection of security, society and human health through risk management control systems while facilitating legitimate flows of trade
- **Key to its Regional Integration Agenda Program e.g. CFTA**

# Political Will for TF in Africa



## 1. Decision on boosting Intra-African trade and fast tracking the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (January 2012 Summit)

- Endorsed the Framework, Road Map and Architecture for the Establishment of a CFTA by an indicative date of 2017;
- Endorsed the Action Plan for Boosting Intra Africa Trade;
- Requested Development Partners to support the implementation of the Action Plan and the establishment of the CFTA;
- Requested MS supported by the Commission & the RECs to drive the process of Boosting intra-African trade and the CFTA negotiations through the implementation of activities contained in the Action Plan at the national.

# Political Will for TF in Africa



## 2. ...WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (June 2014) the AU

- Reaffirmed its commitment to the DDA and to its rapid completion in accordance with its development objectives;
- Reaffirmed its commitment to all the decisions the Ministers took in Bali which are an important stepping stone towards the conclusion of the Doha Round; and Acknowledged that the TFA is an integral part of this process;
- Reiterated that assistance and support for capacity building should be provided as envisaged in the TFA in a predictable manner so as to enable African economies to acquire the necessary capacity for the implementation of the agreement;
- **Agreed that the TFA should be implemented in line with the decision Trade Ministers took in Bali.**



# Boosting Intra-Africa Trade Program

- **Aims at :-**

- ❖ Addressing some of the major constraints to Intra African trade
- ❖ Deepening Africans market integration and significantly increasing the volume of trade among AU MS

- **Priority Program Clusters of the Action Plan (7)**

- ❖ Trade Policy
- ❖ Trade Facilitation
- ❖ Productive Capacity
- ❖ Trade Related Infrastructure
- ❖ Trade Finance
- ❖ Trade Information
- ❖ Factor Market Integration

# BIAT Trade Facilitation Cluster Vs the WTO TFA



| Program/activity   | Output/ target   | Link with the relevant Articles in the WTO ATF  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Harmonizing and simplifying customs and transit procedures, documentation and regulations</b> | Number of Customs documents are reduced<br>Key Customs Documents are harmonized within RECs<br>Border operation hours are harmonized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Article 1: Publication and availability of information</li><li>• Article 2: Opportunity to comment, information before entry into force and consultations</li><li>• Article 3: Advance rulings</li><li>• Article 4: Procedures for appeal or review</li><li>• Article 7: Release and clearance of goods</li><li>• Article 10: Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit</li><li>• Article 11: Freedom of transit</li></ul> |

**RKC=23/54**



# BIAT Trade Facilitation Cluster Vs the WTO TFA ...

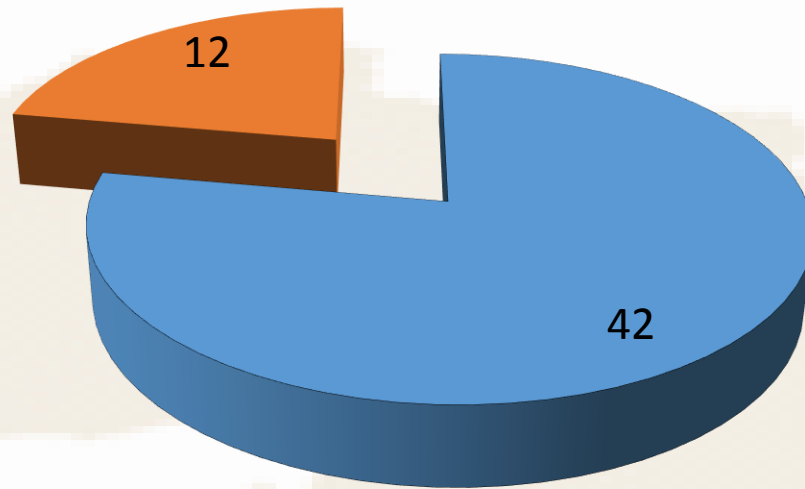


| Program/activity  | Output/ target  | Link with the relevant Articles in the WTO ATF   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Establishment and operationalization of One stop Border post (OSBPs)</b> | OSBPs at key border posts established and border time crossings of goods are reduced by 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 12: Customs Cooperation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Integrated border Management (Coordinated border management)</b>         | Goods clearance procedures simplified and clearance times reduced                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 8: Border agency cooperation</li> <li>Article 10: Formalities connected with importation and exportation and transit</li> </ul> |
| <b>Reduction of Road blocks</b>   | All unnecessary roadblocks are removed  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency</li> </ul>                                       |



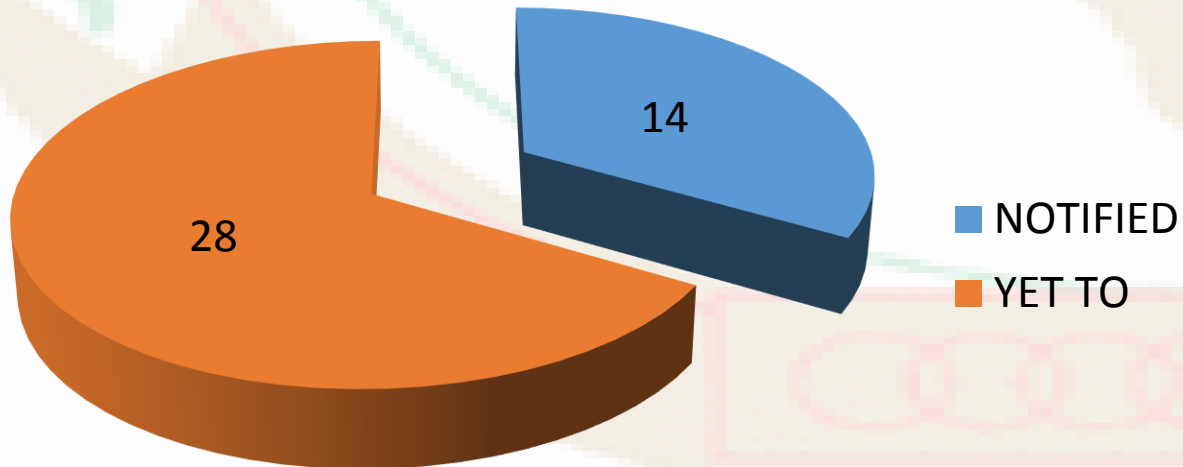
# The Situation so far

- MEMBERS
- NON MEMBERS

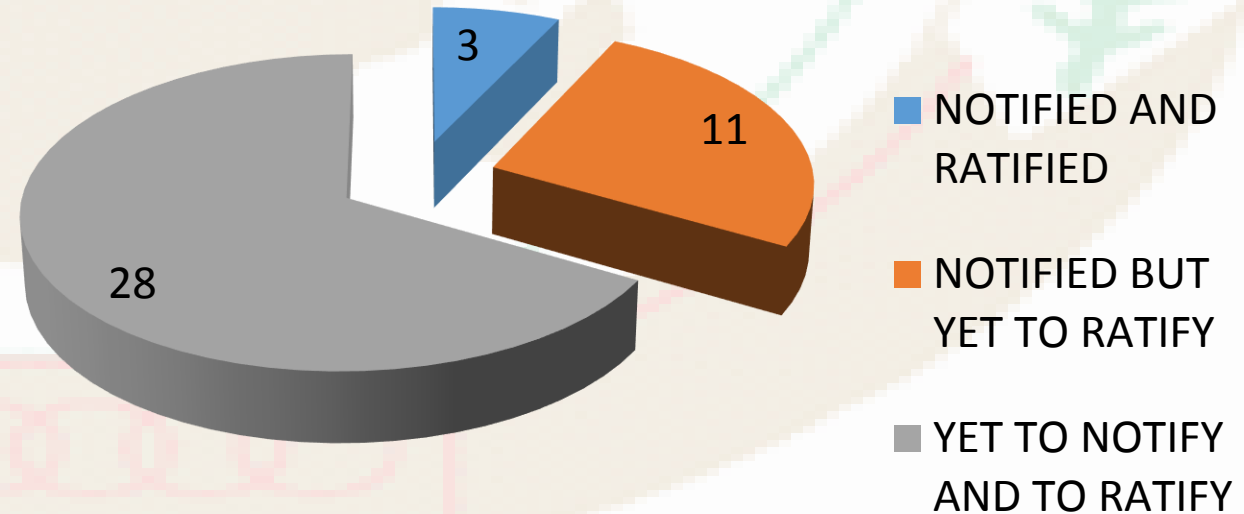


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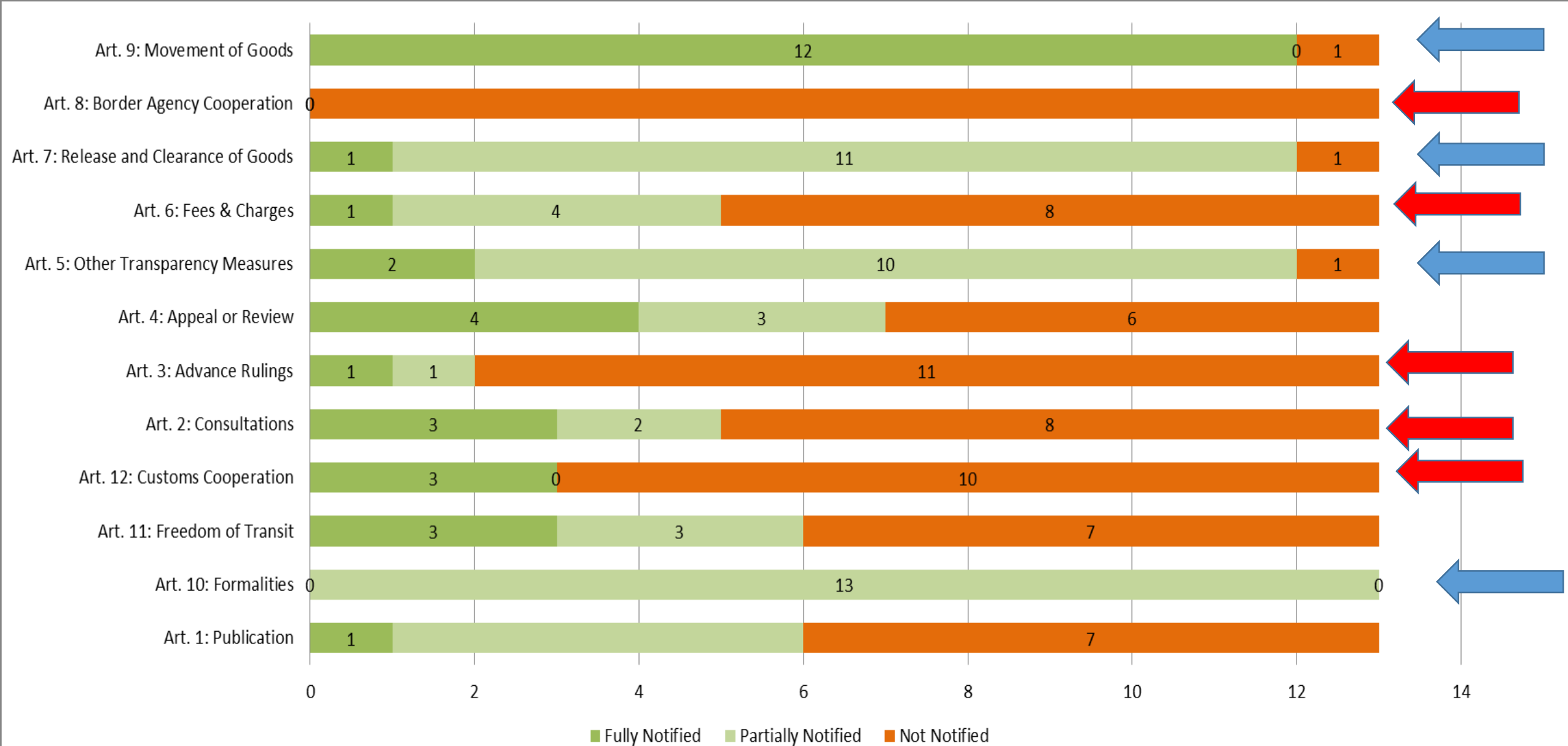
## CAT A. NOTIFICATION



## RATIFICATION STATUS



# Extent of Category A notifications by AU MS





# Some TFA implementation challenges...

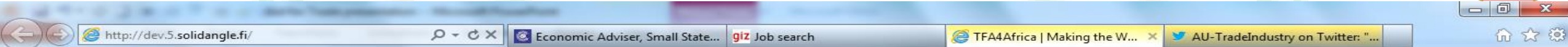
- Existing legal Framework
- Capacity issues (human and resource constraints)
- Absence Organization and institutional Frameworks
- Understanding /knowledge of the TF measures
- ICT and infrastructure constraints
- Inter agency cooperation
- Conflicting/Competing priorities



# Way Forward

- **Studies to cover:** -
  - A Situational Analysis
  - A Gap Analysis; and
  - Identify areas requiring TA /CB
- **Programing on Specific Measures :** -
  - Single Window Implementation
  - Coordinated Border Management
- **The AU Trade Facilitation Platform:-**
  - User-friendly, "helicopter view" monitoring TFA implementation
  - MS pages with TF indicators, national contacts etc
  - Links to important pages (RECs, WTO, WCO
  - Private sector engagement platform.
  - Mapping of development partner support for TFA implementation
  - Africa TF experts virtual network page.

# The AU TFA Platform



## AU Trade Facilitation Agreement Dashboard



### News & Events

AU-TradeIndustry



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Thank You

[chiumyac@Africa-union.org](mailto:chiumyac@Africa-union.org)