TRADE FACILITATION CHALLENGES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Background and objectives

- Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organisation
- Agreement entered into force on 22 February 2017
- The TFA aims to expedite trade procedures, including the movement, release and clearance of goods
- Full implementation can cut trade costs down by 14.3% for least developed countries and more than 13% for developing countries

Implementation notifications in West and Central Africa (Categories A, B, C)

West African members state which have not yet notified any designation

1. Benin
2. Cape Verde
3. Guinea
4. Guinea-Bissau
5. Liberia
6. Mauritania

Non-WTO member
Equatorial Guinea

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
Main Corridors in Central Africa and Trade Facilitation Challenges

Trade facilitation challenges for imports and exports at the port

Container Import

- **16 days** vs **11 days**
- $14 million of illicit charges over a distance of 2Km from terminal to the port exit
- 4 control posts (Police, Costum, Gendarmerie, Port control)

Vehicle Import

- **21 days** vs **5 days**

Transit corridors performances (illicit charges)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corridor</th>
<th>Road (Km)</th>
<th>Rail (Km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Africa Corridor: 30% of traffic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douala – Bangui</td>
<td>1500 Km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dla – Ngoundere – Bangui</td>
<td>867 Km</td>
<td>922 Km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dla – Belabo – Bangui</td>
<td>670 Km</td>
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<td>Chad Corridor: 70% of traffic</td>
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<td>Douala – N’Djamena</td>
<td>2100 Km</td>
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<td>Dla – Ngoundere</td>
<td>750 Km</td>
<td>922 Km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ngoundere – N’djamena</td>
<td>1350 Km</td>
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<td>Congo and Equatorial Guinea corridor: 10%</td>
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Report by Chadien transporters
- Cost per truck and per voyage: US$237,813

Report by Cameroonian transporters
- 120 control posts along Douala-Ndjamena corridor
  - Bribery between US$1,729,55 and US$8,647,76 per control
  - Average US$302,671,000 of illicit charges per year for all trips on both corridors
Institutional and operational reforms on trade facilitation

- Simplification +
- Transparency
- Reduction of time and cost of transaction

Electronic Single Window

Revision of Chad-Cameroon / CAR–Cameroon corridor transport convention

Perspective to enhance trade facilitation

Implementation of one stop border post

Elaboration of a national strategy on trade facilitation in 2019-2023

Ratification of the AfCFTA

ASCUYDA/ NEXUS++