



# National Trade Facilitation Committees: Establishing NTFC and WTO TFA requirements

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# Institutional arrangements under Art 23 TFA

- Art 23 establishes institutional arrangements for the implementation of the TFA at the international and national level
- Art 23.1: Committee on Trade Facilitation
  - Established at the WTO for the purpose of “...affording Members the opportunity to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives”
- Art 23.2: National Committee on Trade Facilitation
  - Established at the national level with the objective “to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of provisions of this Agreement.”

# Art.23.2 of the TFA: National Committee on Trade Facilitation

- **WTO Members concluded negotiations on the TF Agreement in Bali**
- December 2013
  
- **To have a TF Committees has been made a 'binding obligation'**
- This obligation cannot be categorized as B or C
- Must be implemented upon entry into force of the TFA

*Art.23.2 - Each Member **shall** establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both **domestic coordination and implementation of provisions** of this Agreement. (emphasis added)*

## ‘Obligation’ ..... What it means? (1/2)

- ‘SHALL’..... makes it mandatory
- ‘Establish and/or Maintain’ implies either to:
  - Create new body, or
  - Maintain existing one, or
  - Designate an existing ministerial wing, setup, section to perform the functions
- Obligation to have in place a mechanism to perform required tasks
- NTFC responsibilities include (specified but not limited to) to facilitate:
  - Domestic Coordination (sharing information): G2G, G2B and B2G
  - Implementation of Provisions of TF Agreement
  - Not necessarily TF implementation Agency

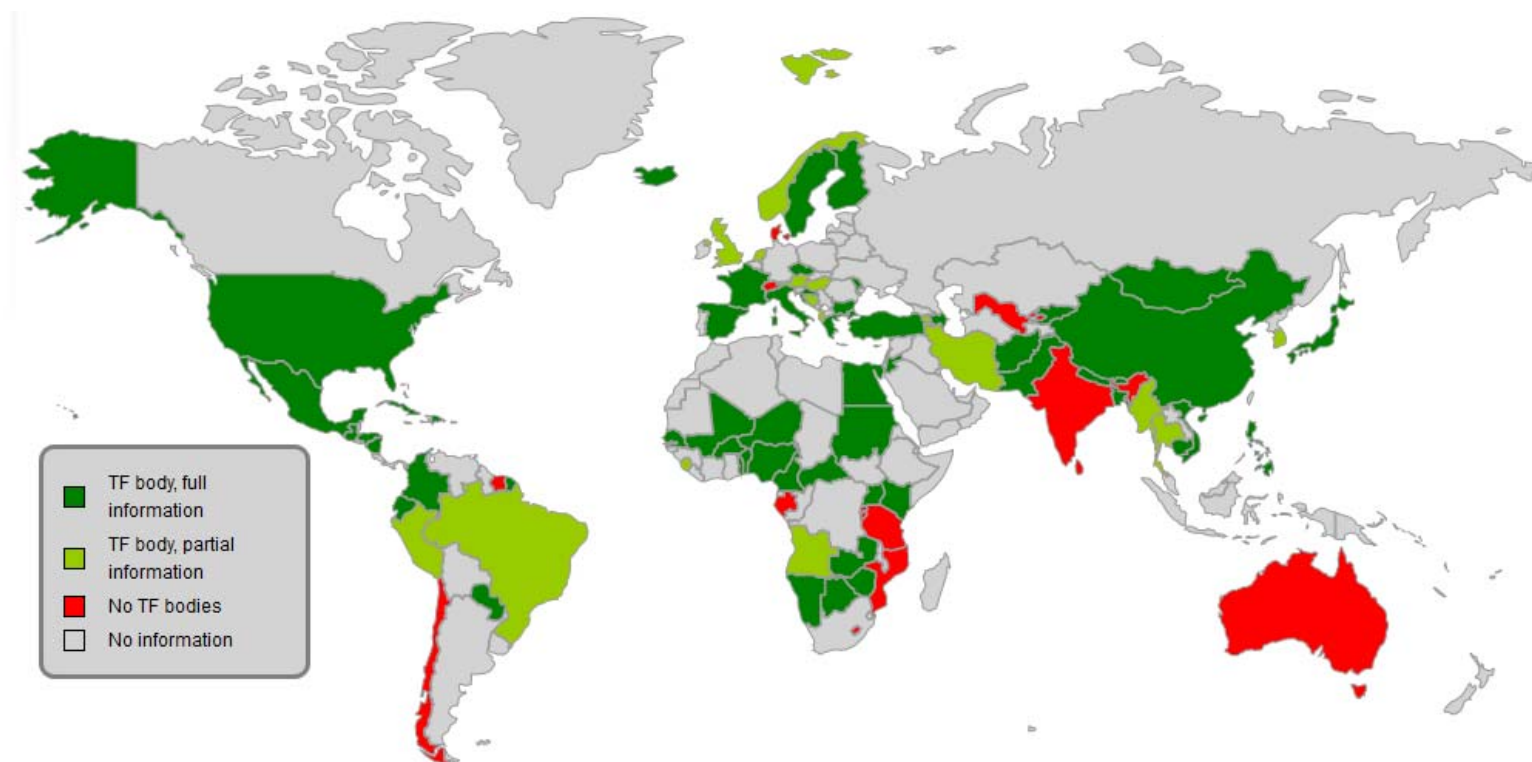
## 'Obligation' ..... What it means? (2/2)

- **Agreement is silent about**
- Structure & governance
- Funding and sustainability
- Membership and meeting frequency
- All these have been left to discretion of Members....
- Experience so far on these issues in different countries....can serve as best guidelines

# NTFCs around the World

## Best practices and lessons to be learned

## UNCTAD provides information about Trade Facilitation Bodies around the world



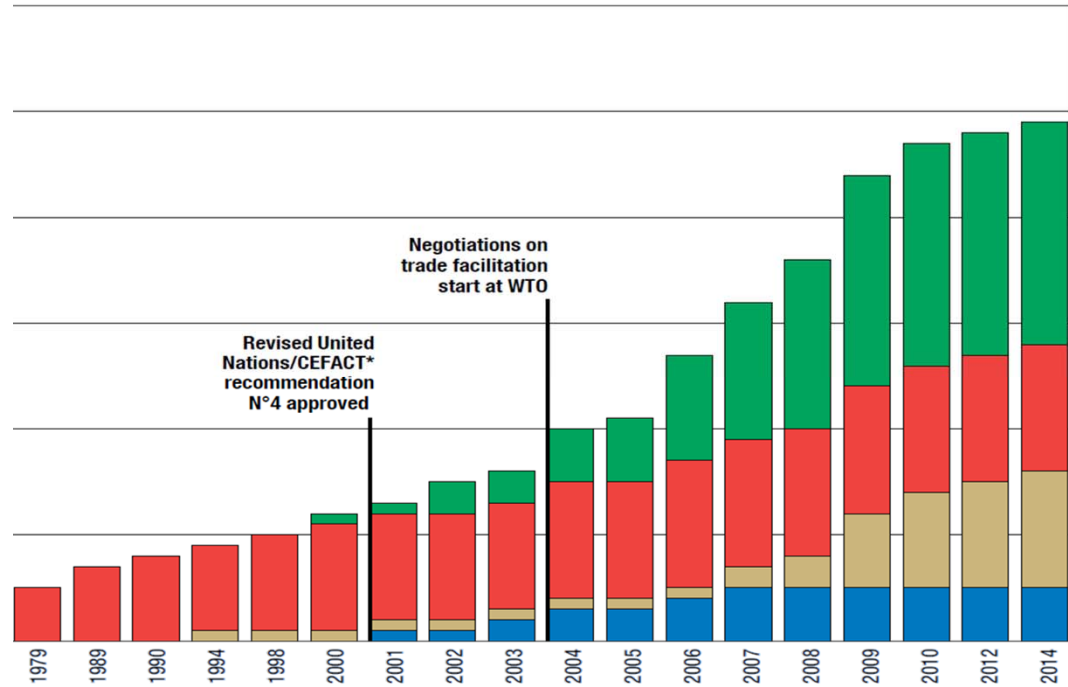
Link to the repository: [www.unctad.org/TFcommittees](http://www.unctad.org/TFcommittees)

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_3986](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_3986)

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：



# Number of TF Committees



in trade facilitation support group  
ilitation Committee

PRO-committee  
National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee

Number of TF Committees would continue to rise...  
to equal the number of WTO Members over time

Source: UNCTAD study 2013