



JOINT SACU-WTO WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT (TFA)

PRESS RELEASE

25-29 January 2015, Johannesburg, South Africa

The SACU and WTO Secretariats are co-hosting a SACU regional workshop as part of the process of building technical capacity to ease the process of notification and ratification of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) by the SACU Member States.

The workshop is attended by 38 officials from the WTO Secretariat, the SACU Secretariat and the Ministries and agencies responsible for Trade, Customs, Agriculture, Standards, and the Private Sector representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

The objectives of this joint workshop are to:

- a. clarify some of the provisions of the WTO TFA;
- b. to take stock of where the Member State are in terms of notification of Categories A, B, and C measures, ratification process, as well as to update a regional action matrix that will guide coordination of implementation of the Agreement at a regional level.

The expected deliverables from the workshop include a common understanding, amongst the SACU Member States, of the measures contained in the WTO TFA and an indicative and guiding draft matrix consisting of the measures that will be coordinated at a regional level.

Further, the matrix will serve as a basis for development of a regional programme for coordinating implementation of the WTO TFA.