Ministers at Bali in December 2013 concluded the negotiations of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). The Bali Ministerial Decision and the TFA oblige Members to undertake certain actions. The list of various actions which would be required are listed below along with a schematic presentation. The italic wording in small brackets at the end of each action refers to the relevant provision of the TFA or Bali Ministerial Decision for ease of reference.

1 The purpose of this document is to assist in planning different policy initiatives for implementation of the TFA. Accordingly some actions are 'implied' or 'assumed'. Readers are advised to consult the original text of the TFA and WTO Agreement for precise legal obligations.

A. By 31 July 2014
   a. Making the 'Preparatory Committee' operational by electing its chairman with functional secretariat\(^4\) (BMD paragraph 2).
   b. Legal review of the text (BMD paragraph 2).
   c. Draw 'Protocol of Amendment' to insert the TFA in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement (BMD paragraph 2).
   d. Receive notifications of Category A commitments (BMD paragraph 2).
   e. Functions necessary for expeditious entry into force and efficient operation of the TFA (BMD paragraph 2).
   f. Adopt Protocol of Amendment\(^5\) (BMD paragraph 3).
   g. Annex notification of Category A commitments of developing countries to the TFA (BMD paragraph 3).
   h. Open the Protocol for acceptance until 31 July 2015\(^6\) (BMD paragraph 3).

B. From adoption of the Protocol, to entry into force of the Agreement
   a. Receive acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment from Members (BMD paragraph 3).
   b. Inform the Members regarding the exact date of entry into force of the TFA (BMD paragraph 3).

C. Entry into force and beyond
   a. Operationalize the Committee on Trade Facilitation (Article 23 (1.1) of Section III).
   b. Annex different category provisions from developing and least developed countries to the TFA (Article 15 (1.), Article 15 (2.) and Article 16 (5.) of Section II).
   c. Review the operation and implementation of TFA four years after entry into force and periodically thereafter (Article 23 (1.6) of Section III).
   d. Remind Members for notifying the definitive date of implementation of Category B or C provisions three months before those are due (Article 16 (4.) of Section II).
   e. Extension of deadlines for the Member(s) experiencing difficulty to notify its definitive dates (Article 16 (4.) of Section II)
   f. Within 60 days after notification of the definitive dates, Committee on Trade Facilitation would annex these provisions and dates to make it integral part of the TFA (Member's schedule of commitment) (Article 16 (5.) of Section II).
   g. Establishing an Expert Group(s), no later than 60 days, after receiving the notification from a developing Member its inability to implement a particular provision on account of lacking the ability to implement or unforeseen circumstances (Article 18 (2.) of Section II).

\(^3\) It denotes all WTO Members collectively as well as WTO Secretariat.
\(^4\) Already done.
\(^5\) The Protocol of Amendment was adopted on November 27, 2014.
\(^6\) Protocol for acceptance has been opened, with no specific deadline for acceptance.
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

A. From adoption of the Protocol, to entry into force of the Agreement
   a. Deposit acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the WTO (*implied from paragraph 3 of BMD*).

B. Within one year of entry into force
   a. Notify Category A provisions to the WTO (BMD Article 3.2 of Section II).
   b. Notify Category B provisions and *may* notify *indicative* dates of implementation (for the dates, the expression used is 'may' not 'shall') (Article 16 (2.a) of Section II).
   c. Notify the Category C provisions (Article 16 (2.c) of Section II).

C. Within two years of entry into force (one year after notification of Cat C)
   a. Inform the Committee on Trade Facilitation on assistance and support *required* for implementation of Category C provisions (Article 16 (2.d) of Section II).

D. Within three years of entry into force (Two years after the notification date of Category B)
   a. Notification to confirm Category B provisions and dates for implementation. In case of difficulty, there is a possibility to request the Committee on Trade Facilitation for extension in time for notification (Article 16 (2.b) of Section II).

E. Within four years of entry into force (Two years after the notification of assistance 'Required')
   a. Provide information on the arrangements *entered* for provision of assistance and support (also for donor members) (Article 16 (2.e) of Section II).
   b. Notify *indicative* dates for implementation of Category C provisions (Article 16 (2.e) of Section II).

F. Within five and a half years of entry into force (18 months after the notification of indicative dates of Category C)
   a. Provide information to the Committee on Trade Facilitation on the *progress made* on provision of assistance and support (also by donor members) (Article 16 (2.f) of Section II).
   b. Notify the *definitive* dates for implementation of Category C provisions. In case of difficulty possibility to request Committee on Trade Facilitation for extension in time for notification as soon as possible prior to expiration of deadlines (Article 16 (2.f) of Section II).
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. By 31 July 2014
   a. Notify Category A provisions (BMD paragraph 2).

B. From adoption of the Protocol, to entry into force of the Agreement
   a. Deposit acceptance of the Protocol to the WTO\(^7\) (implied from paragraph 3 of BMD).

C. Upon entry into force
   a. Implement Category A provisions (Article 15 (1.) of Section II).
   b. Notify Category B and C provisions along with indicative dates of implementation. (Article 16 (1.a and c) of Section II).
   c. Inform the Committee on Trade Facilitation on arrangements required for implementation of Category C provisions (Article 16 (1.c) of Section II).

D. Within one year of entry into force
   a. Notify definitive dates for implementation of Category B provisions. In case of difficulty possibility to request Committee on Trade Facilitation for extension in time for notification as soon as possible prior to expiration of deadlines (Article 16 (1.b) of Section II).
   b. Inform the Committee on Trade Facilitation on arrangement made or entered into for implementation of Category C provisions (also by donor members) (Article 16 (1.d) of Section II).

E. Within two and a half years after entry into force (18 months after notification of assistance 'Required' for Category C)
   a. Provide information to the Committee on Trade Facilitation on the progress made on provision of assistance and support (also by donor members) (Article 16 (1.e) of Section II).
   b. Notify the definitive dates for implementation of Category C provisions. In case of difficulty possibility to request CTF for extension in time for notification as soon as possible prior to expiration of deadlines (Article 16 (1.e) read with Article 16 (3.) of Section II).

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\(^7\) On December 10, 2014, Hong Kong, China became the first WTO member to formally ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
DEVELOPED MEMBERS

A. From adoption of the Protocol, to entry into force of the Agreement
   a. Deposit acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the WTO (implied from paragraph 3 of BMD).

B. Upon Entry into force
   a. Implement all measures upon entry into force (BMD Para 3).
   b. Submit information on Technical Assistance (TA) and Capacity Building (CB) in the annexed format upon entry into force and annually thereafter (Article 22 (1.) of Section II).
   c. Notify contact information of their agencies responsible for TA and CB and contact points within the country or region of intended assistance (Article 22 (2.a) of Section II).
   d. Submit the process and mechanism of requesting assistance (Article 22 (2.b) of Section II).

C. After one year of entry into force
   a. Inform the CTF on arrangements made or entered into for implementation of Category C provisions for developing countries (Article 16 (1.d) of Section II).

D. Within two and a half years after entry into force
   a. Provide information to the CTF on the progress made on provision of assistance and support to the Developing Countries (Article 16 (1.e) of Section II).

E. Within four years of entry into force
   a. Notify TA arrangements made with Least Developing Countries to enable implementation of Category C provisions (Article 16 (2.e) of Section II).

F. Within five and a half years of entry into force
   a. Inform the Committee on Trade Facilitation on the progress made in delivery of TA to Least Developing Countries (Article 16 (2.f) of Section II).

8 Developing countries in a position to provide TA are also encouraged to submit information at c to i.
9 On January 23, 2015, the United States became the third WTO member to complete its domestic process and formally ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), behind Hong Kong, China and Singapore respectively.
### SCHEMATIC PRESENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS AFTER BALI MINISTERIAL DECISION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WTO</strong></th>
<th><strong>LDCs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Developed Countries</strong></th>
<th><strong>Developing Countries (DC)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Entry into force, upon acceptance by two third Members</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Dec. 2013</td>
<td>2 July 2014</td>
<td>Within one year (Y1)</td>
<td>Notify Category A provisions to the WTO</td>
<td>- Implement Cat. A measures. - Notify Cat. B and C provisions &amp; indicative dates of implement. - Inform on assistance required for Cat. C</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preparatory Committee</td>
<td>- Legal review of the text</td>
<td>- Operationalize the Committee on Trade Facilitation (CTF)</td>
<td>- Notify Category B provisions and may notify indicative dates of implementation</td>
<td>- Remind Members for notifying definitive date of implementation of Category B or C provisions (3 months before deadline)</td>
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<td>- Draw Protocol of Amendment (PoA)</td>
<td>- Receive notifications on Category A provisions</td>
<td>- Annex different Category provisions from DCs and LDCs to TFA</td>
<td>- Notify Category C provisions</td>
<td>- Extension of deadlines for Member(s) with difficulties on notifying its definitive dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Receive notifications on Category A provisions</td>
<td>- Adopt PoA</td>
<td>- Remind Members for notifying definitive date of implementation of Category B or C provisions (3 months before deadline)</td>
<td>- Inform the CTF on arrangements entered for provision of assistance</td>
<td>- Within 60 days after notification of definitive dates CTF would annex provisions and dates to TFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Open PoA for acceptance until 31 July 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review the operation and implementation of TFA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Protocol of Amendment was adopted on November 27, 2014.
2. The legal scrubbing of the English, French and Spanish text of the Agreement was completed by July 2014.