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HOW KENYAN NTFC COORDINATES WITH EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) REFORMS OF TRADE FACILITATION

BY

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Coordination Using Existing EAC Framework
2. What are the Benefits of this National - Regional Coordination
3. How we Manage to Keep this Coordination and Flow of Information On-going(Concrete Tools)
4. Challenges Encountered
1. Coordination Using Existing EAC Framework

• Even before conclusion of TFA, EAC Partner States, had established ministries handling EAC affairs and coordination was at the centre of their mandate

• Since this mechanism is serving partner states well, supplementary TFA Coordination mechanism was envisaged within the existing structures at regional level – TF Unit within EAC Secretariat

• Effort will be directed towards strengthening this existing mechanism

• At national level, coordination is done through the ministry responsible for international trade and Ministry of EAC is a member of NTFC
2. What are the Benefits of this National - Regional Coordination

- The existing framework has been tested over a period of time and is fairly functioning well
- It enables us to avoid proliferation and overlap of institutions and corresponding rivalry associated with such scenario
- Officers from Ministry of EAC which coordinates EAC issues have a seat in NTFC. This helps in harmonization of national and regional agenda and formulation of a common approach to implementation of TF issues
- Facilitates mobilisation of resources as a region for implementation of TF issues and optimum use of available human and financial resources
- Well coordinated TF issues will result into expedited clearance of goods - hence supportive to EAC integration process. EAC Partner States have agreed to use the TF Reforms to deepen EAC integration.
3. How we Manage to Keep this Coordination and Flow of Information On-going

- The treaty that established EAC made it mandatory for every partner state to establish a fully fledged Ministry for EAC Affairs.
- Key mandate of this ministry is coordination of EAC integration agenda.
- The EAC Secretariat has established a TF Facilitation Unit to coordinate TF activities with Partner states. TF Measures with a regional bearing will be implemented with a regional focus.
- Member States of EAC agreed to form a Regional Trade Facilitation Committee with Membership From National TF Committees.
- Donor Support - Trade Mark East Africa has been a key supporter of TF activities in the EAC both at National and Regional Level.
4. Challenges Encountered

- Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (RTFC) was to be made up of NTFC of partner states. As members are at different stages of establishing NTFC – RTFC might take a while to establish.

- In the absence of RTFC – that role is being played by the EAC Secretariat with support from UNCTAD regional office at Arusha and GIZ.

- Inadequate capacity both human and resource as TFA has been rolled out – hence need for TA & CB over a period of time.

- NTFC activities are yet to be mainstreamed into national budge-making process for purposes of long-term sustainability.

- EAC Decision making Process is by Consensus. It takes time to build consensus.

- EAC Configuration. Majority of Members are LDCs and one Member is a developing Country. Obligations differ as per category of Members. This presents time frame challenges.
Thank you for your Attention