National Trade Facilitation Committees in Latin America and the Caribbean: State of Play

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First International Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees
UNCTAD, Geneva, 23-27 January 2017
Contents

• Baseline (mid 2015)
• State of play as of January 2017
• Key questions and challenges
Has a national trade facilitation committee (or similar body) been established in your country? (mid 2015)

(Out of 19 countries)

- Fully implemented: 3 (16%)
- Partially implemented: 8 (42%)
- Pilot stage: 2 (10%)
- Not implemented: 6 (32%)

Forward to early 2017...

Preparing decree that will create the NTFC
- Argentina
- Chile
- Colombia
- Honduras
- Uruguay

Decree creating NTFC awaiting executive approval
- Ecuador
- Panama
- Paraguay

NTFC created, TORs defined
- Barbados
- Brazil
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Trinidad & Tobago

Awaiting TFA ratification to create the NTFC: Peru

NTFC included in the TFA ratification bill: Costa Rica

No information: Bolivia, Haiti, Venezuela, rest of CARICOM
Main features of NTFCs

**Mandate**
- Broader than TFA implementation
- Overall responsibility for TF agenda

**Who chairs?**
- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- MTI joint chairmanship with Finance Ministry or the Customs Agency
- Presidency (Paraguay?)

**Membership (public)**
- Typically all the above plus: Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture, Home Office, Public Works, Transport, Defense
- And many specialized agencies (standards, environment, SPS, IPRs, drugs, etc.)
Main features of NTFCs

- **Membership (private)**
  - In most cases, invited on an ad hoc basis
  - Representation by business associations

- **Decision-making**
  - Consensus as first-best
  - If not possible, vote (with the Chair deciding in case of draw)

- **Budget, frequency of meetings**
  - NTFCs don’t have their own budget
  - They would meet 2 to 4 times a year; more frequently if needed
Key questions/challenges

- NTFCs are at a very early stage in the region; more time is needed to identify main problems, challenges & technical assistance needs

- But some challenges are obvious:
  - Ensuring adequate human and financial resources
  - Aligning priorities across ministries and agencies including buy-in from their leadership
  - How to avoid duplication with similar existing bodies? (ex. logistics commissions)
  - Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework
  - What role for the private sector?
  - Coordination of NTFCs at the regional/subregional level?
Thank you
Gracias - Merci

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