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Tools for the sustainability of National Trade Facilitation Committees

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Tools for the sustainability of National Trade Facilitation Committees

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Agenda

Why is sustainability a challenge for NTFC?

Tools offered by UNCTAD
Why is sustainability a challenge for NTFC?

According to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

“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 the provisions of this Agreement” (Art 23.2)
Why is sustainability a challenge for NTFC?

Map of Trade Facilitation Committees around the world as of October 2018

Legend
- Formally established committee*
- De facto committee**
- No Trade Facilitation Committee
- No Information

https://unctad.org/tfc

*Formally established committee: Committee created by legal instrument
**De facto committee: Existing committee, although not created by a legal instrument

1 Why is sustainability a challenge for NTFC?

Percentage of National Trade Facilitation Committees that mention these aspects as their greatest obstacles

- ** 49% Lack of funding / resources
- • 28% Maintain engagement / motivation of participants / absenteeism
- • 19% Incorrect representation of members / frequent replacement of members
- • 19% Lack of coordination / conflicts of interest
- • 13% High level support / political buy-in
- * 9% Resistance to change

Sample: 53 countries

Source: UNCTAD, based on data from the online repository of National Trade Facilitation Committees, available at https://unctad.org/tfc
Why is sustainability a challenge for NTFC?

Tools offered by UNCTAD
How does the Empowerment Programme promotes the sustainability of the Committees?

Tools offered by UNCTAD

Team building
Capacity building
Planning tools for the medium term
Sustainability tools

Trade Facilitation Roadmap
Training of trainers
Knowledge transfer strategy
Tools offered by UNCTAD

10 courses of 45 minutes

Online course

Course outline

Trade Facilitation
- Understanding Trade Facilitation
- Trade Facilitation and Development
- Trade Facilitation Indicators and indexes

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement - Provisions I
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement - Provisions II

National Trade Facilitation Committees

Other international standards & recommendations
- SPS-TBT
- UN-CEFACT
- WCO
Online course

Timeline

- Complete: June
- Pilot: July
- Promote: August
- September: October

Finding donors to finance the translation of the courses to other languages!

National Trade Facilitation Committees in the world
Key learnings

- Better understand the concept of National Trade Facilitation Committees
- Identify the key elements that will contribute to the sustainability of the committee

You will need approximately 45 minutes to complete this course.

National Trade Facilitation Committees

1. Concept
2. Brief history
3. Key elements
4. Lessons learned
Why countries need a National Trade Facilitation Committee?

Carrying out trade facilitation reforms requires:
• a great deal of coordination and cooperation among the various public and private stakeholders

This is not an easy task
• different stakeholders have different interests
• trade facilitation measures may be complex in their design and operation
• they require the participation of public and private actors

What is a National Trade Facilitation Committee?

A Trade Facilitation Committee is a multi-agency permanent platform where relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors discuss and coordinate trade facilitation measures at a national level
Trade Facilitation Stakeholders

Public stakeholders
- Ministries, agencies and officials - involved in export, import and transit processes
- Policy and lawmakers - major players in the design and implementation of national policies, laws and regulations

Private stakeholders
- Users of trade services - traders grouped under a chamber of commerce or business association, including SME’s associations
- Service providers - transportation and service providers associations, bankers' associations, consumers organizations, insurance industry associations
- Civil society - unions, consumers associations, non-governmental organizations, academic communities

Tools for the sustainability of NTFCs

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