

Country: Comoros

Background:

Official name: National Committee for Trade Facilitation of the Union of the Comoros

Year of establishment: Creation in progress

Motivation for its establishment: Enable optimization on all value chains so that our country can make better use of international trade.

Improving import and export processes to improve the business climate and boost the competitiveness of our companies "

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: Yes. Directorate General of Economy and Foreign Trade (DGECE) and National Trade Negotiations Committee (CNNC)

Former multi-agency group/committee: No, it is a newly created and established committee it follows the regional and multilateral negotiations on trade facilitation.

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): Pilot phase pending the signing of the decree on organizations and missions of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation of the Union of the Comoros

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: An order establishing the creation, organizations and mission of the National Committee of Trade Facilitation of the Union of the Comoros submitted for signature.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): The National Committee for Trade Facilitation has a legal mandate and operates under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Finance.

Coordinating agency: The leader is provided by the Directorate General of the Economy and Foreign Trade and the General Directorate of Customs

Scope/mandate: Mandate with administrative and legal dimension

Terms of reference: Yes, these terms of reference are found in the decree creating the CNFE

Working structure of the group: Co-chairmanship of the DG for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade and the DG Customs

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes, the permanent secretariat is provided by the Directorate of Foreign Trade

Funding:

Budget: No, but financial assistance required for accession to the WTO

Sources of funding: For the moment only the WTO, and later from donations and legacies

Items covered by the budget: Workshops, sensitization seminars and documentation

Objectives / Focus:

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- coordination and internal steering of the implementation of the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Union of the Comoros.
- coordinate and facilitate the preparation of the required notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee;
- provide technical advice on trade facilitation negotiations at national, regional, interregional and multilateral levels.

Working plan: Yes

Monitoring and evaluation: Monitoring tools: Action Plan of the WTO accession process; Consultations with stakeholders.

Evaluation tools: Questions answered by the accession process document; Focus groups.

Familiar with the following tools to some extent: UNCTAD statistics (country and maritime profiles), and World Economic Forum Global Enabling Trade Report.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: The reports are monthly and are sent to the DG for the Economy and Foreign Trade and the DG of Customs. Afterwards, it is sent to the Ministers in charge of Trade and the one in charge of finances

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: Public sector :

- General Directorate of Customs
- Directorate General of Economy and Foreign Trade
- Ministry of Production; phytosanitary service ...
- Ministry of Maritime and Air Carriers
- General Administration of Taxes and Domains (AGID)
- Moroni Prince Said Ibrahim International Airport
- Port handling (Moroni and Mutsamudu)
- A representative of the Port Authority of the Comoros (APC)

Private associations or entities: Private sector :

- Union of Chambers of Commerce of Industry and Crafts (UCCIA)
- Union of Chambers of Agriculture and Fisheries (UCAP)
- Movement of Comorian Companies (MODEC)
- Organization of the Comoros (OPACO)
- Comorian Consumers Federation (FCC)

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- Comorian Freight Forwarders Association
- Civil society

Level of seniority of participants: Senior managers and technicians for the public and executive directors and presidents for the private sector

Senior-50%, Middle-30%, Junior-20%

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: The committee meets once a month

Level of participation: Normal

Meetings format: Ordinary and specific meetings when needed. Example: specific work for WTO accession files

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 20 percent

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: No

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: Yes

If yes, explain briefly (example: recommendations on gender, special trade procedures for women, etc): Trade Policy and Industrial Strategy

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Communication is by phone, SMS, email or physical mail

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: To be determined

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Yes. Through the Publication of articles in the Press and by holding Meetings

Benefits:

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: Ensure and facilitate the implementation of trade facilitation measures in accordance with the obligations of the Union of the Comoros with regard to the application of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

Ensure and facilitate the preparation of required notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.

Concrete operational outcomes: Conformity of commercial activities with WTO agreements, Negotiation of trade or trade facilitation agreements, Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures,

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Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement,
Reduction of time and / or improvement of procedures at the border,
Reduction of costs of import, export and / or transit

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Commitment from members, Financial assistance / adequate resources, Capacity building, Involvement of the private sector, and Strong leadership

Greatest obstacles: Maintain engagement / motivation of participants / absenteeism, Lack of funding / resources, and Lack of regularity of meetings

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Effective implementation, collaborate with other committees of other countries and set up subcommittees within the committee for specific issues including maritime and air transport

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