

Country: **Dominica**

Background:

Type of body: De Facto Committee

Official name: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Year of establishment: 2012

Motivation for its establishment: It was established at Cabinet level. Its mandate is to improve the regulatory interface between government bodies and the trading community as well as act as an advisory body to the Ministry of Trade. In addition, the Committee is also responsible for: Following the ongoing Doha Negotiations in the area of trade facilitation, and undertake coordination of stakeholders in the field of facilitation of international trade, Providing a venue for identifying and addressing constraints (e.g. regulatory, legal), Managing procedures, processes, practices and tools for facilitating trade-related transactions in Dominica, and Serving as a focal point for agencies/authorities involved in trade facilitation.

Institutional Framework:

Permanent technical secretariat: Set up ongoing. The Secretariat has not been created completely because of lacking of financial resources. Main financial resource is from the domestic. Ministry of Trade will host the Secretariat.

Funding:

Budget: No. It is because of lacking of domestic resources .Budget is needed for Office rental and equipment, Software tools, Reproduction and publications services, Meeting venues and catering, Training sessions, Public information sessions and media outreach, Salaries of permanent secretariat employee

Objectives / Focus:

Working plan: Not yet. It is being developed in the process.

Monitoring and evaluation: It is thought that to the extent of 67% the NTFC fulfils its role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Committee uses monitoring plan with indicators as monitoring tool. There is no specific evaluation tool. Familiar to some extent with the following tools: World Bank Doing Business Trading Across Borders, OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators, World Economic Forum Global Enabling Trade Report

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: Quasi- public: Dominica Export Import Agency, Bureau of

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Standards, Invest Dominica, Dominica Coalition of Service Industries, Dominica Air and Sea Port Authority. Public: Ministry of Trade, Customs & Excise, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Central Statistics Division, Ministry of Justice

Private associations or entities: Hucksters Association, Tropical Shipping, Truckers Association, Dominica Chamber of Agriculture Business, Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: The Committee does not meet regularly. It meets every quarter, or at the request of the Chairperson, or by any member through a request made to the Chairperson.

Level of participation: Senior-40% Middle-60%

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 30%

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: No.

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: No. there is no gender related decisions or actions taken because it is not considered relevant at this stage.

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: There is no communication strategy because of lacking of financial resources for this. Through Email, administrative letters and telephone to keep all stakeholders informed of the NTFC meetings and new documents, upcoming event

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: TV and radio (ads)

Benefits:

Concrete operational outcomes: Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures, Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Improved coordination, Ratification / notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent to the WTO, Improve business environment for traders, Raise awareness on the importance of trade facilitation, Mainstreaming trade facilitation into other national policies

Lessons learned:

Success factors: It is thought that to the extent of 49% the NTFC is sustainable in time. Crucial factors to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Cooperation among members / Common understanding and goals, Regularity of meetings / communications to NTFC members, Clear responsibility of participants, Commitment from members, Strong leadership

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Greatest obstacles: Main obstacles to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Incorrect representation of members / frequent replacement of members, Lack of awareness of importance of NTFC / understanding of trade facilitation, Lack of permanent secretariat, Resistance to change, Lack of regularity of meetings

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Regional integration has been considered a lot within the work of the NTFC, and it is in contact with other National Trade Facilitation Committees in the region.