

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Background:

Official name: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Institutional Framework:

Terms of reference: Yes

Working structure of the group: Ministry of Trade and Customs holds the chairmanship of the Committee

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes. Ministry of Trade holds the permanent secretariat. There are three people who compose the secretariat. It is financed by domestic resources.

Funding:

Budget: Yes

Sources of funding: Domestic resources

Items covered by the budget: Fees and travelling allowance for members of the Committee

Objectives / Focus:

Monitoring and evaluation: Monitoring channel: Consultations with stakeholders. Familiar with: UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation, World Bank Doing Business Trading Across Borders. Familiar with OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators to some extent.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: Ministry of Trade and Industry, Customs and Excise Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division, Tobago House of Assembly, Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation, Airport Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, ExportTT

Private associations or entities: Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce, Customs Brokers and Clerks Association, Shipping Association of Trinidad and Tobago, American Chamber of Commerce Trinidad and Tobago

Level of seniority of participants: Senior-16%, Middle-84%

Participation:

Meetings format: Yes, quarterly

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 58%

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: Yes

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: No

If no, why not. (Example: It not considered a priority, not considered relevant at this stage, lack of awareness, etc): The matter has not been considered

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Email, Administrative letters, Telephone

Benefits:

Concrete operational outcomes: Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Improved coordination, Ratification / notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent to the WTO

Lessons learned:

Success factors: It is thought that to the extent of 78% the NTFC is sustainable in time. Crucial factors to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Regularity of meetings / communications to NTFC members, Having clear Terms of Reference, Political commitment / high level support, Strong leadership, Strong and active NTFC Secretariat.

Lessons learned from your experience: Maintain engagement / motivation of participants / absenteeism, High level support / political buy-in

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.