

## Country: Gabon

### Background:

**Type of body:** National Committee for the facilitation of transport and trade procedures

**Official name:** National Committee for the facilitation of transport and trade procedures

**Year of establishment:** 29 July 1993, by Decree No. 1101/PR/MCIRS

**Motivation for its establishment:** Create a platform for dialogue and exchanges on issues related to the facilitation of transport and procedures of simplification of the procedures relating to the import and export

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** Yes, there are:

The national monitoring committee for the agreement on the WTO (not very functional)

The Working Group on the updating of the national committee of facilitation of transport and trade procedures

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** Yes (it refers to the provisions of Decree No. 1101/PR/MCIRS of 29 July 1993)

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** Pilot phase

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** No specific text was taken to create the working group. It is a dialogue between the stakeholders from the work of self-assessment of needs and priorities for trade facilitation trade in 2008 (WTO) and 2012 (UNCTAD; MDGS); 2013-2014 (WTO; CEMAC) and 2014 (BCC)

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** The Group met so far on an ad hoc basis

**Coordinating agency:** Directorate General of trade in narrow (Ministry of Trade)

**Scope/mandate:** Undetermined until the effective implementation of the updated national Committee of facilitation of transport and trade procedures

**Terms of reference:** No

**Working structure of the group:** Proposals under discussion. The Presidency of meetings is ensured so far the Ministry of Trade

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Yes. It is hosted by Ministry of Trade

### Funding:

**Budget:** There is no budget for the Secretariat and the NTFC. The reasons are because of lack of domestic resources, lack of financial support of donors and development partners, and lack of agreement between NTFC members

**Sources of funding:** In principle, the budget of the Government

**Items covered by the budget:** If the budget is made available then it would be needed to cover office rental and equipment, software tools, reproduction and publications services, telephones and internet, translation services, meeting venues and catering, public information sessions and media outreach, and salaries of permanent secretariat employee

## Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:** Work on updating the national facilitation committee of transport and especially the trade facilitation trade procedures are among the objectives in respect of the annual programme of performance trade and customs administrations

**Working plan:** No

**Monitoring and evaluation:** By using monitoring plan with indicators and through consultations with stakeholders. Evaluation is done through focus groups

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Reporting to the Minister of trade

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Direction Générale des Douanes et des Droits indirects, Direction générale du commerce, Direction générale de l'agriculture, Direction générale de l'économie, Direction générale des transports, OPRAG, ANINF, AGASA,

**Private associations or entities:** Association des auxiliaires en Douanes, Association des consommateurs

**Level of seniority of participants:** 50% Senior level, 30% Mid-level, and 20% Junior level

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** Way irregular and circumstantial because of funding problems

**Level of participation:** High level of representation (directors, Directors General, advisors)

**Meetings format:** Not yet

## Gender:

**Percentage of female in the committee:** 30%

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

**Comittee 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):** There is a lack of awareness in the importance of gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation

## Promotion / Communication:

### Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:

Telephone and mail information exchanges;

Circumstantial meetings

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Synergies are projected

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** No

## Benefits:

**Impact:** Up-to-date knowledge on the issue of trade facilitation

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Technical advice to negotiators and Gabon Geneva Permanent Mission

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures; Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; Ratification / notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent

## Lessons learned:

**Success factors:** Regularity of meetings / communications to NTFC members; Commitment from members; Political commitment / high level support; Awareness raising on trade facilitation; Strong leadership

**Greatest obstacles:** Incorrect representation of members / frequent replacement of members; Lack of high level support / political buy-in; Lack of awareness of importance of NTFC / understanding of trade facilitation; Resistance to change; Legal issues

**Lessons learned from your experience:** Need for absolute collaboration for the purpose of ensuring the future implementation of the agreement on trade facilitation

## Future plans:

### Plans for further development:

Effective implementation of the national Committee on trade facilitation;

Involvement of stakeholders and awareness on the issues of the trade facilitation agreement

## Contact information:

**Contact Information:** Foreign trade management

Department of the Promotion of private investment, trade, tourism and industry

Building Awendje/B2

Libreville

Tel: (+ 241) - 06733933/07704142