

Country: Suriname

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: Suriname National Trade Facilitation Committee

Year of establishment: June 2016

Motivation for its establishment: The NTFC was created in order to have oversight over all the preparations required to ratify the WTO TFA and also deal with other trade facilitation related matters for example making an inventory of out-dated legislation

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: N/A

Former multi-agency group/committee: The NTFC was newly created

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): The NTFC is currently active

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: The Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the NTFC through a Ministerial Decree

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): The NTFC is been set up through a ministerial decree.

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Trade and Industry

Scope/mandate: The mandate is to advise and prepare the relevant trade-related matters concerning trade facilitation so as to ratify the TFA.

Terms of reference: No, there are no terms of reference; specific objectives have been set out.

Working structure of the group: Chair and members

Permanent technical secretariat: No

Funding:

Budget: No formal budget

Sources of funding: The financial expenses are covered from the budget of the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Items covered by the budget: N/A

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives:

Prepare draft laws or new legislative proposals taking into account the contemporary developments within the regional and multi-lateral trade.

Stimulate mutual communication between the relevant stakeholders.

Coordinate / prepare all other activities and the development of measures which are of importance for the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Working plan: Yes

Monitoring and evaluation: Monthly evaluations by the NTFC

Reporting form and supervisory authority: Monthly meetings and by email correspondence to the Chair of the NTFC.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Ministry of Finance,
Customs,
Health,
Agriculture and
Trade

Private associations or entities:

Suriname Trade and Industries
Association Customs Broker Association

Level of seniority of participants: Directors, Heads of Department and staff members.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: Yes

Level of participation: Full participation since it is a small group

Meetings format: No

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: By email correspondence and issue-specific consultations

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Through the Council of Ministers

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Yes

Benefits:

Impact: Better awareness and understanding of the subject matter

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: It highlights the importance and relevance of trade related matters in terms of facilitating international trade.

Concrete operational outcomes:

A Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an Electronic Single Window (with the Support of Caribbean Development Bank)

Suriname Trade Facilitation & Customs Diagnostic Report (with the Support of the World Bank Group)

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Raising awareness

Greatest obstacles: Financial constraints and out-dated laws and regulations

Lessons learned from your experience: Need for financial and technical assistance in order to better comply with international requirements in terms of trade facilitation

Future plans:

Plans for further development: After ratification of the TFA the NTFC will be used as a monitoring body.

Contact information:

Contact Information: Chairman of the NTFC / Director of Trade (Ministry of Trade and Industry)

Mrs. Yvette Rokadji

yvroka@yahoo.com / Yvette.rokadji@minhi.gov.sr