

## Country: Ecuador

### Background:

**Type of body:** National Committee on Trade Facilitation

**Official name:** National Committee on Trade Facilitation

**Year of establishment:** 25.02.2019 00:00:00

**Motivation for its establishment:** Resolution No. 007-2017 of the Plenary of the Committee on Foreign Trade (COMEX), in its article 2 states to establish the National Committee on Trade Facilitation, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 23, Section III of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the WTO, which will be coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Trade (MCE) and will be made up of public entities with competence in the matter, designated by said State Portfolio.

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** There are no other groups related to trade facilitation.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** No

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** The Committee is operating.

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** This Instrument was born from Resolution No. 007-2017 of COMEX, and its Operating Regulations were established through the Ministerial Agreement of the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries Nro. MPCEIP-DMPCEIP-2019-0017/2019.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** The National Committee on Trade Facilitation is a collegiate body made up of public and private institutions created by Ministerial Agreement.

**Coordinating agency:** The Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries (MPCEIP)

**Scope/mandate:** The National Committee has the power to apply the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, for which it may foresee and execute all the actions that contribute to achieve this objective.

**Terms of reference:** No

**Working structure of the group:** The National Committee on Trade Facilitation will be composed of the following Members Permanent who will participate with voice and vote: 1. Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, who will preside; 2. National Customs Service of Ecuador, who will serve as Vice President and Technical Secretariat; 3. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (includes AGROCALITY); 4. National Agency for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance; Y, 5.

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Ministry of Interior (includes National Police). In addition, three (3) representatives of the private sector will be members of the Committee with voice but without vote, which will be convened by virtue of the object that is addressed in the respective session and the representativeness of the private sector entity.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Yes, the National Customs Service of Ecuador.

## Funding:

**Budget:** No

**Sources of funding:** N/A

## Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:** The purpose of this Regulation is to regulate the organization and operation of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation and shall be mandatory for all its Members.

**Working plan:** The Committee will have the following powers: 1. Define the roadmap for the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization; 2. Implement and apply the Agreement on Trade Facilitation; 3. Analyze and issue proposals that solve the problem of trade facilitation; 4. Diagnose and identify barriers, limitations or obstacles to trade facilitation; 5. Coordinate the necessary activities and actions based on trade facilitation; 6. Define the responsibilities of Members for the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization; 7. Establish a coordination mechanism with the National Facilitation Committees of other countries; 8. Prepare an annual management report that will be brought to the attention of the Foreign Trade Committee - COMEX.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** The Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, as coordinating body, performs the monitoring through the sessions of the Committee and communications.

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** The following institutions participate in the Committee:

1. Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries;
2. National Customs Service of Ecuador;
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (includes AGROCALITY);
4. National Agency for Regulation, Control and Health Surveillance;
5. Ministry of Interior (includes National Police); and,
6. Three delegates of the Private Sector, the same that will be convened by virtue of the object that is treated in the respective session and the representativeness of the private sector entity.

**Private associations or entities:** Three delegates of the Private Sector, the same that will be

convened by virtue of the object that is treated in the respective session and the representativeness of the private sector entity.

**Level of seniority of participants:** It varies by the institution they represent, on average it is good.

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** The Committee will meet ordinarily during the first quarter of each year; and, in an extraordinary way to deal with any point related to the object of the Committee at any time when a Committee Member requests it from the Presidency, at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. The National Committee reports to the President that it is the MPCEIP and an annual management report is prepared and will be brought to the attention of the Foreign Trade Committee - COMEX.

**Level of participation:** Good

**Meetings format:** The meetings of the Committee are developed according to the topics to be treated according to the proposed agenda.

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** The Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, summons all working Members to the working meetings and presents the working documents and tasks to be carried out for the next meeting.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** The information is exchanged from the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries and its Members, through official communications and emails.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** The Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries together with Members organize events and / or communications of socialization of trade facilitation documents.

## Benefits:

**Impact:** Very good

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** In consolidating technical inputs for the implementation of the TFA.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Yes, notifications of categories and transparency of the TFA, as well as the implementation roadmap.

## Lessons learned:

**Success factors:** Coordination with Members.

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**Greatest obstacles:** Consensus country position.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** Strengthen coordination with the institutions involved in the border, and know the vision from the private sector.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** Compliance with the Trade Facilitation Agreement, as well as other issues that may be affecting trade facilitation in the country

## **Contact information:**

**Contact Information:** Position:

Regional Integration and Trade Facilitation Department

Ministry:

Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade Investments and Fisheries

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