

Country: Yemen

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: National Committee for Trade Facilitation

Motivation for its establishment: Yemen's membership in the WTO, and its liability towards and participation in the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and achieving full benefits from the agreement.

Year of establishment: Not formally established yet.

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

Currently: the coordination and communication office with the WTO at the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT);

Several local agencies dealing with WTO issues and/or trade facilitation in coordination with the MOIT, such as, Customs Authority, Yemeni Standardization and Metrology Organization and, Ministry of Agriculture.

Former multi-agency group/committee: There was a committee related to trade facilitation and transport under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport within the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). This body was established in 2009 and Ministry of Industry and Trade was a member of it and participated in one or two meetings. But since then, this body has not met or worked on any issues; particularly those related to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Ministry of Industry and Trade is fully responsible for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and prepared an initial draft decree to establish the National Trade Facilitation Committee immediately after Yemen became a member of the WTO in June 2014, but due to the unfortunate current circumstances that escalated to the displacement of the government and war, the draft decree has not yet been developed or issued.

The WTO needs assessment workshop regarding Trade Facilitation Agreement held in June 2014 in Sana'a – Yemen led to the creation of a working group. The future National Trade Facilitation Committee will be based on a national mechanism for Yemen accession to the WTO

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): Under initial preparation but studies might be needed.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Legislation would be needed at the level of the Ministerial Cabinet.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): It would be set up as a legal committee.

Terms of reference: Not yet

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Employment and the Economy

UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: 16 February 2016

Working structure of the group: The chair of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation will be the Minister of Industry and Trade, with members of related different public and private agencies mainly at the level of deputy ministers and general directors.

Permanent technical secretariat: Not decided yet.

Funding:

Budget: No, a formal budget has not been prepared yet.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Objectives would include:

Management of trade facilitation related issues; decisions and procedures.

Providing information and support to the private sector and parties of interest regarding trade facilitation issues.

Coordinating all technical assistance and capacity building related to trade facilitation.

Working plan: No working plan has been developed or prepared yet.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Ministry of Industry and Trade,
Yemen Customs,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Yemeni Standardization and Metrology Organization,
and some NGOs.

Private associations or entities:

Federation of Yemen Chambers of Commerce Industry;
Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Level of seniority of participants: Minister, deputy ministers, and general directors.

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Mostly via official letters and emails

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Not until the formal establishment of the trade facilitation body.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Not until the formal establishment of the trade facilitation body.



Lessons learned:

Success factors: No work performed yet to evaluate success factors.

Greatest obstacles: No work performed yet to evaluate obstacles.

Lessons learned from your experience: No work performed yet to evaluate lessons learned.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Will be created after the formal establishment of the trade facilitation body.

Contact information:

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