

Country: Tanzania

Background:

Official name: National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)

Motivation for its establishment: The National Committee on Trade Facilitation was established for the purpose of enabling the attainment of the National Development Vision 2025 and the improvement of trade environment by inter-alia; promoting the transparency, simplification, harmonization and standardization of cross-border operations in order to reduce the time and cost of import, export procedures and the transit of goods.

Year of establishment: 2016

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: The National Technical Barriers to Trade Committee and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee.

Former multi-agency group/committee: No. It is a newly established committee. However, in the near future we may examine possibility of combining with other committees dealing with matters such as the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee, the National Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, etc.

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): It is running.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: The Committee was officially launched by Hon. Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment. Other legal actions to be undertaken during Trade Facilitation Agreement ratification process have started.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): The National Committee on Trade Facilitation has been set as a legal committee.

Scope/mandate: Supervise and ensure implementation of the Trade Facilitation matters in the country including WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Terms of reference: Yes

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment

Working structure of the group: The National Committee on Trade Facilitation consists of Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Secretariat, and Thematic Working Groups.

Permanent technical secretariat: Not yet. The nature of the secretariat which is currently housed in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment is still under discussion.

Funding:

Budget: Not for the financial year ending June, 2017.

Sources of funding: Government funds to be leveraged by Donor funding currently under the Trade

and Markets East Africa organisation.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Objective 1: To ensure Trade Facilitation Agreement is implemented.

Objective 2: To ensure the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement is inclusive through involvement of multi-stakeholders in order to take views, concerns, and needs from public and private stakeholders.

Objective 3: Increase the understanding of Trade Facilitation Agreement, its implications and benefits among public and private stakeholders as well as general public.

Working plan: The national action plan is under finalization process.

Monitoring and evaluation: Not in place

Reporting form and supervisory authority: The National Committee on Trade Facilitation reports to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Customs,
Standards,
Agriculture,
Legal,
Transportation,
Health,
Finance,
Communication,
Infrastructures,
Trade, and
Investment promotion

Private associations or entities:

Private Sector Umbrella Organization,
Industries,
Transporters,
Exporters Association, and
Chambers of Commerce.

Level of seniority of participants: Most participants representing their institutions are at the level of directors, assistance directors and few Principal Officers.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: According to the Terms of Reference the National Committee on Trade Facilitation is scheduled to meet quarterly.

Level of participation: Satisfactory and fair participation from all members, with hopes of even better participation in the future.

Meetings format: As per the Terms of Reference, the committee will meet in general meetings (all members) and also in the small thematic groups (few selected experts for particular thematic areas).

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Emails, phone calls, and postal/ dispatch to inform stakeholders regarding to various aspects related to Trade Facilitation.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Most members of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation are also members of other committees.

Benefits:

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: The committee will backstop the Geneva based representatives in the negotiation and support the establishment of a well-informed nation position on Trade Facilitation matters.

Concrete operational outcomes: There hasn't been yet concrete operational outcomes.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: The committee is a new one but its sustainability will be com from a work plan, financial resources, coordination, qualitative participation and knowledge/awareness of key stakeholders.

Greatest obstacles: The foreseen challenges the committee will have to overcome are; lack of sufficient financial resources, lack of participation, strong commitment of members, reluctance to change some heads of institution and political influence.

Lessons learned from your experience: The Committee should be officially established, the working mandates of the committee should be well stipulated with legal grounds and the terms of reference and responsibilities of the committee should be well understood by all members. Also, there should be a clear linkage between the Coordinating institution and other stakeholders' institutions in order to be able to enforce implementation of all Committee's recommendations.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: To look for sustainable sources of funding of National Committee on Trade Facilitation committee operations.



UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: 28 September 2016

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