

## Country: Senegal

### Background:

**Type of body:** WTO Negotiations on trade facilitation support group

**Official name:** National Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation.

**Motivation for its establishment:** The Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation, created under the National Committee on International Trade Negotiations, was a recommendation of the self-assessment workshop on trade facilitation needs and priorities of Senegal, held from 15 to 19 June 2009.

**Year of establishment:** 2009

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** The National Committee on International Trade Negotiations is responsible for WTO issues and negotiations. In addition, there are special committees on transport and port.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** The Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation was created under the National Committee on International Trade Negotiations, established in 2001. It includes all stakeholders: trade, Customs, transport, etc.

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** Senegal National Trade Facilitation Committee - Terms of Reference (French)

Ministerial Decision N° 8683 of 9 September 2009.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** The Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation is a legal entity.

**Scope/mandate:** The Sub-committee has a clear mandate from the Government and involves all stakeholders. This mandate consists, especially, on improving the business climate on procedures, infrastructure and communication.

**Terms of reference:** The terms of reference are being developed. The Sub-committee's activities derive from the results of the self-assessment workshop.

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Commerce

**Working structure of the group:** The Sub-committee has a coordinator (Customs Administration) and a rapporteur (Directorate of Foreign Trade Department).

**Permanent technical secretariat:** The Directorate of Foreign Trade (rapporteur of the Sub-committee) is the permanent Secretariat.

### Funding:

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**Budget:** The Sub-committee does not count with own budget. As the other sub-committees, its activities are borne by the budget of the Directorate of Foreign Trade.

**Sources of funding:** The budget of the Directorate of Foreign Trade.

**Items covered by the budget:** Meeting organisation costs.

## Objectives / Focus:

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To formulate negotiating positions in the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation;

To review procedures and requirements related to import, export and transit;

To ensure the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation resulting from the WTO negotiations;

To establish a national coordination mechanism for collecting and disseminating information on best practices in trade facilitation and paperless procedures.

**Working plan:** The work plan is being developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Periodic evaluation in the form of annual report.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** The Sub-committee submits an activity report to the Minister of Commerce, to be submitted then to the Council of Ministers.

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** The Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation is composed of agencies responsible for: trade, Customs, transport, police, gendarmerie, livestock, fisheries, environment, agriculture, port, airport, standardisation, quality and investment.

**Private associations or entities:** All employers' associations, trade associations and the Chamber of Commerce participate in the Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation.

**Level of seniority of participants:** The Sub-committee members are appointed by their agencies.

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** The Sub-committee does not frequently convene.

**Level of participation:** The main stakeholders involved in trade facilitation (more than twenty participants).

**Meetings format:** Participative meeting format. Ad hoc groups may be established for specific issues.

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** Post mail and e-mail. National contact points on trade facilitation are provided.

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**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** The groups exchange reports and organise joint meetings.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** No. Information meetings may be organised, in particular for parliamentarians and the press.

## **Benefits:**

### **Impact:**

Public-private partnership on trade facilitation matters,

Finding solutions to trade facilitation challenges, including reforms.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** The Sub-committee, through the National Committee on International Trade Negotiations, interacts with the Economic and Trade Department of the Embassy of Senegal in Geneva. Thus, the Sub-committee elaborates and formulates the national positions for the on-going WTO negotiations on trade facilitation.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** The Sub-committee shall periodically review the procedures and requirements related to imports, exports and transit in order to reduce, simplify and harmonise them. Ensuring that these measures are appropriate.

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** Awareness at the highest level and among stakeholders through capacity building is crucial for the Sub-committee's success.

**Greatest obstacles:** The lack of own budget (lack of means and resources for regular workshops and seminars).

**Lessons learned from your experience:** For many years, facilitation has had an important place in regulatory initiatives, particularly in the business environment and liberalisation of trade. This approach, which was emphasised in 2000, was insufficient to ensure the elimination of old institutions and cumbersome procedures. With the establishment of the Sub-committee on Trade Facilitation, the authorities realised that a trade facilitation program needs broad political support as well as permanent commitment from the authorities responsible for the formulation and implementation of trade policies. Thus, the Government has realised that the private sector development and the promotion of investment depend on a steady, transparent and effective trade environment.

- The acceleration and modernisation of treatments.

- Simplification of procedures,

Indeed, the level of trade facilitation turns around two axes:

As Chair, the Directorate General of Customs plays a major role in the Sub-committee on Trade

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Facilitation. It is responsible for coordinating the Sub-committee's activities because of its position at the borders. The Customs Administration acts according to its own prerogatives, but also on behalf of other agencies involved in imports, exports and transit controls.

### **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** The Sub-committee, which is a permanent forum involving all stakeholders on issues related to trade facilitation, has adopted dialogue as main priority. Indeed, the dialogue is important in the implementation of trade facilitation solutions to the extent that users should be involved in all trade facilitation initiatives. This is necessary to have a perfect bond with trade facilitation recipients.

In addition, the capacity building component is not disregarded. Thus, it is expected that, in the context of cooperation with Senegal's partners, the capacity of stakeholders involved in trade facilitation activities will be further developed.