

## Country: Sierra Leone

### Background:

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

**Official name:** National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)

**Motivation for its establishment:** World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

**Year of establishment:** May 2015

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** No

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

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** The World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and a Memorandum of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). It was established at Ministerial level.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** Legal Entity

**Scope/mandate:** To implement of provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

**Terms of reference:** Yes

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Trade and Industry

**Working structure of the group:** Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chair), National Revenue Authority (NRA), Customs (Co-chair) (as well as Sub-Group when needed)

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Yes, the Directorate of Foreign Trade

### Funding:

**Budget:** No

**Sources of funding:** N/A

**Items covered by the budget:** N/A

### Objectives / Focus:

#### Objectives:

To raise awareness on trade facilitation

Taking care of the ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Coordinate the implementation and monitor the provisions WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

**Working plan:** Yes

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Yes

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Quarterly Reports, National Coordinating Committee on Trade (NCCT) and SPS

## **Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Ministries / Departments / Agencies

**Private associations or entities:**

Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture

Clearing and Forwarding Agencies

**Level of seniority of participants:** Head of departments, directors, head of agencies

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** Regularly

**Level of participation:** Participation is at decision making level

**Meetings format:** Meetings / workshops / training

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** Yes, through minutes of meeting

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Meetings and sharing information with committees working on similar issues

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Not yet

## **Benefits:**

**Impact:** Awareness was raised on the Trade Facilitation Agreement

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Secured buy-in from public, private and civil society

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Concurrence from Ministries / Department / Agencies

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** Buy-in and national ownership

**Greatest obstacles:** Inadequate human and financial resources

**Lessons learned from your experience:** The benefits of trade facilitation reforms

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:**





# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

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Expand and strengthen the secretariat;  
Capacity building for the committee;  
Resource mobilization; and  
Support further trade facilitation reforms.

## **Contact information:**

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