

Country: Sudan

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: Sudan National Working Group on Trade Facilitation

Year of establishment: 2009

Motivation for its establishment: It was motivated by WTO program of Needs Assessment 2007–2010

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: Technical Committee on Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business / National Committee on Trade Facilitation of Transport

Former multi-agency group/committee: Yes

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

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: A ministerial decree from State Minister of Trade.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): At first it was set up as an ad hoc group and then reestablished as a permanent group.

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Trade

Scope/mandate: The mandate is to work on all trade facilitation matters.

Terms of reference: Yes Sudan's National Trade Facilitation Committee - Terms of Reference

Working structure of the group: Chair

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes. Ministry of Cabinet hosts the permanent secretariat. Four people hosts the permanent secretariat.

Funding:

Budget: No. This is because the lack of domestic resources and the lack of financial support of donors and development partners.

Budget will be needed for: Office rental and equipment, Software tools, Reproduction and publications services, Telephones and internet, Translation services, Meeting venues and catering, Training sessions, Public information sessions and media outreach.

Sources of funding: Some financial assistance from some member agencies in the working group like Customs, Standards and Cleaning agents.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: To coordinate the work of border agencies to facilitate trade on the basis of international

standards

Working plan: Yes. One per year

Monitoring and evaluation: Monitoring tools: Monitoring plan with indicators, Consultations with stakeholders

Evaluation tools: Focus groups

Familiar with the following tools: UNCTAD statistics (country and maritime profiles), UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation, World Bank Doing Business Trading Across Borders, World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI), OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators, World Economic Forum Global Enabling Trade Report

Reporting form and supervisory authority: To the State Minister of Trade

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance, Customs, Ministry of Agriculture, Standards, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Animal Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Cabinet, Bank of Sudan, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Telecom

Private associations or entities: Business Union including all trade Chambers and Investors

Level of seniority of participants: Senior-100%

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Level of participation: Very good attendance.

Meetings format: Yes

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 40%

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: No

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: No

If no, why not. (Example: It not considered a priority, not considered relevant at this stage, lack of awareness, etc): It was not considered a priority

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Email, Administrative letters, Meetings, also through WhatsApp, Website, Telephone

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Through joint meetings and exchange of reports and coordination of activities.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Publication of articles in the Press, Website of the organisations that are members of the NTFC, Social media, TV and radio (ads), TV and radio (interviews, participation in talk shows, etc)

Benefits:

Impact: It has good impact on sensitizing stakeholders and the public on the importance of trade facilitation

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: It linked activities in Trade Facilitation in Sudan with WTO negotiation and provided a good opportunity to meet with donors in the Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation in the WTO.

Concrete operational outcomes: Negotiation of trade or trade facilitation agreements, Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures, Improve transparency / dialogue, Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Improved coordination, Improve business environment for traders, Reduction of time and / or improvement of procedures at the border, Reduction of costs of import, export and / or transit, Raise awareness on the importance of trade facilitation, Mainstreaming trade facilitation into other national policies

Lessons learned:

Success factors: It is thought that to the extent of 93% the NTFC is sustainable in time. Crucial factors to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Clear responsibility of participants, Financial assistance / adequate resources, Involvement of the private sector, Awareness raising on trade facilitation, Development of work plans and proposals

Greatest obstacles: Lack of funding / resources, Incorrect representation of members / frequent replacement of members, High level support / political buy-in, Resistance to change, Lack of regularity of meetings

Lessons learned from your experience: National working groups are proper mechanisms for coordination between border agencies to facilitate trade.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: To work actively to implement UNCTAD plan of implementation of Trade Facilitation measures with assistance from UNCTAD, WTO and other Annex D organisations and Donors.

Contact information:

Contact Information:

Colonel / Ali Giddo Adam



UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

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Chair of the National Working Group on Trade Facilitation

Chief of Policies Division

Sudan Customs Authority

Khartoum / Sudan

P.O.Box 323

Email: ali_giddo@yahoo.com