

Country: Paraguay

Background:

Official name: National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)

Year of establishment: It was created in 2017. On April 27, 2017. (DECRETO n ° 7102)

Motivation for its establishment: The implementation of this article was driven by the interest shown by the private sector in establishing a space for dialogue with the public administration regarding the implementation of trade facilitation measures in the country.

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: There is no answer.

Former multi-agency group/committee: The group was created based on an existing committee, called the National Ad-hoc Trade Facilitation Committee, created to coordinate the TFA negotiation process

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): The measure is fully implemented, given that the National Trade Facilitation Committee of Paraguay was established by presidential decree.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: A survey of the institutions involved in import, export and transit procedures was made. The databases of the institutions and companies participating in the "need assessments" carried out in 2012 by UNCTAD and the WTO were also used. The President of the Republic signed the Decree by which the Committee was created and was endorsed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): There is no answer.

Coordinating agency: The coordinating body is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Scope/mandate: Implement the TFC and other international standards related to trade facilitation in the country. Participation by public institutions is mandatory due to the existence of the Decree by which the Committee is created, binding on public institutions and voluntary for private sector organizations.

Terms of reference: No

Working structure of the group: The structure of the group is as follows: Head Coordination, Alternate Co-ordination, Technical Secretary and Working Groups

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes, the agency has a technical secretary in charge of the Directorate of Multilateral Economic Organizations.

Funding:

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Budget: The development and maintenance of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation is solved with the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sources of funding: The source of funding is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: The Committee was established in order to agree on aspects related to the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and regional initiatives among the actors involved.

Working plan: In 2018, the National Trade Facilitation Agenda was established, whereby priorities for AFC implementation were agreed upon

Monitoring and evaluation: The National Trade Facilitation Committee fulfils its role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to the extent of 8%. There is no specific monitoring or evaluation tool. Familiar with the following tools to some extent: 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: The Coordination of the Committee is in charge of the Vice Ministry of Economic Relations and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: 27 public institutions participate in the Working Group.

Private associations or entities: 17 private sector associations participate in the Working Group.

Level of seniority of participants: Senior-25% Middle-50% Junior-25%

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: Yes. Monthly

Level of participation: Satisfactory

Meetings format: Yes, depending on the issues to be treated

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 50%

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: Yes, currently the Alternate Coordination is exercised by Mrs. Kuni Hashimoto.

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: Yes, there is a chapter on trade facilitation and women in the National Trade Facilitation Agenda.

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Emails and news reports are sent to all members and participants of the committee

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: As needed, the coordinators of the relevant working groups are contacted directly.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Through meetings and social media

Benefits:

Impact: The private sector and the public sector are benefited. On the one hand, the private sector can access a workspace that includes the main public administration institutions that have an impact on international trade processes. On the other hand, it grants ease to the public agencies involved as they access a coordination space with other agencies involved in the area of their competence.

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: The representatives participate in the Committee's discussions on equal terms. The contribution of each member varies according to the theme to be addressed on each occasion.

Concrete operational outcomes: The establishment of the Committee has been very successful in deepening public-private dialogue and identifying obstacles that hinder trade at the national level and agree actions to solve these problems.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: The constant support from the Coordination and Technical Secretariat of the Committee to its members to understand the provisions of the TFC and support in the identification of responsibilities to the interests of each actor in the scope of the Committee was a crucial factor for the implementation.

Greatest obstacles: Limited human and logistic resources, low budget allocated to the Committee, difficulty in coordinating actions with some institutions.

Lessons learned from your experience: They were the need to maintain high coordination between the institutions and the need to adopt mechanisms for the transmission of information.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Mainly it is planned to work on strengthening the institutional framework of the Committee to monitor and coordinate the correct application of category B and C measures. Regional integration within the work of the Committee has been considered to some extent.

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