

## Country: Philippines

### Background:

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

**Official name:** Export Development Council- Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification

**Motivation for its establishment:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification was established to streamline procedures and facilitate trade transactions.

**Year of establishment:** 1994

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** There are other bodies in the Philippines that are dealing with WTO issues such as the Technical Working Group on Rules of Origin under the Bureau of the International Trade Relations of the Department of Trade and Industry.

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

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification is currently active.

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** The Republic Act N° 7844 or the Export Development Act of 1994.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification, a permanent committee under the Export Development Council was established under Republic Act No. 7844 or the Export Development Act of 1994.

**Scope/mandate:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification is tasked to recommend trade policies, simplify systems and procedures of export and import transactions

**Terms of reference:** Yes

**Coordinating agency:** The Export Development Council, which is attached to the Department of Trade and Industry is the coordinating agency of the Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification.

**Working structure of the group:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification is composed of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Yes. The committee has a Technical Secretariat/ Policy Officer, who assists in undertaking coordination with relevant stakeholders, formulating policy agenda, organizing meetings, researching and carrying out projects

## **Funding:**

**Budget:** Yes

**Sources of funding:** Private and public funds (i.e. Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. and Department of Trade and Industry).

**Items covered by the budget:** The budget is allocated for the committee's meetings, capacity-building and seminars.

## **Objectives / Focus:**

**Objectives:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification shall recommend trade policies that would strengthen the export industry; simplify systems and procedures pertinent to export to reduce the (a) cost of doing business, (b) turnaround time and (c) signatures into half and optimize the use of the Information Technology in streamlining the systems and procedures pertinent to exports.

**Working plan:** Yes, the Committee has annual working plans.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Activities and accomplishments of the working plan are monitored through regular monthly meetings.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification reports and seek endorsements in the Export Development Council, which meets monthly. It ensures the update of the key operating principles as contained in the Export Development Act of 1994.

## **Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Following government agencies are regular members of the committee:• Bureau of Customs• Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas• National Economic & Development Authority• Department of Trade and Industry- Export Marketing Bureau• Philippine Economic zone Authority

**Private associations or entities:** Following private organizations are regular members of the committee:• Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.• Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry• Federation of Philippine Industries

**Level of seniority of participants:** Senior Officials from different agencies compose the committee (i.e. Deputy Commissioners, Company Presidents, Directors, Department Heads)

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification meets monthly.

**Level of participation:** Discussions are based on the approved agenda. Key speakers / officers are

invited if there are urgent matters / actions to be discussed or implemented.

**Meetings format:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification uses different meeting formats (i.e. focus group discussions and public hearings).

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification informs all stakeholders through emails, telephone calls, letters, electronic newsletters, press releases, etc.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Through joint meetings act as resource persons or participants in relevant meetings of other working groups.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** The Committee organizes information sessions and seminars through the Department of Trade and Industry- Philippine Export Competitiveness Program.

## **Benefits:**

**Impact:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification imposed policy reforms for trade facilitation in coordination with relevant government agencies.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** The Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification provides information and policy recommendations responsive to international agreements that will help to increase trade.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Some of the operational outcomes of the committee are: the abolition of unnecessary export clearances and accompanying fees.

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** Success factor is the facilitation of export and import clearance procedures.

**Greatest obstacles:** The obstacle faced by the Networking Committee on Trade Policy and Procedures Simplification is the additional import and export procedures imposed after another.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** Increased coordination among government agencies is needed.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** To continue formulating policies towards trade facilitation, collaboration with international organisations to strengthen agreements and laws, creation of sub-working groups to focus on priority reforms and dissemination of information. Also more authority should be given to the Committee.



# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: Older than 2013

## **Contact information:**

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