

## Country: Niger

### Background:

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

**Official name:** National Committee on Trade Facilitation

**Year of establishment:** 06.04.2009 00:00:00

**Motivation for its establishment:** The committee is responsible for:

- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;
- Ensure the simplification of foreign trade procedures, reduce costs and clearance times;
- Ensure the harmonization and automation of customs procedures and trade practices;
- Make periodic reports on the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:**

- The Ministry of Commerce - Foreign Trade Department and Economic Partnership;
- General Directorate of Customs - the Regulations and International Relations Department; and
- The Niger Council of Public Transport (Chargers).

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** There is a National Transport Facilitation Committee.

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** Ministerial Decision (Ministry of Commerce)

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

**Coordinating agency:** Department of Commerce

**Scope/mandate:** Advisory support to the Government on trade facilitation issues

**Terms of reference:** No

**Working structure of the group:** Public Administration and Private Sector

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Set up ongoing

Ministry of Trade hosts the permanent secretariat, which is composed by 3 people.

### Funding:

**Budget:** No, because of the lack of domestic resources.

A budget will be needed for: Reproduction and publications services, Meeting venues and catering, Training sessions, Public information sessions and media outreach, Salaries of permanent secretariat employee

### Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:**

Perform exploratory work on relevant issues of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;  
Advise the concerned administrations to the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

**Working plan:** No, because of the lack of know-how

**Monitoring and evaluation:** It is thought that to the extent of 64% the NTFC fulfils its role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Monitoring tools: Consultations with stakeholders.

Evaluation tools: Focus groups.

Familiar to some extent with the Indicator of the World Bank Doing Business Trading Across Borders

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** After each session, the group submits report to the ministers concerned.

## **Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** The Committee is composed as follows: -President: the Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of Trade; -Vice-President: the Director of the International Customs Regulations; -First Rapporteur: the Directorate of Foreign Trade and Economic Partnership; -a representative of the Trade Unit of the Presidency of the Republic; -a representative of the Trade Unit of the Prime Minister's Office; -the Director of Internal Trade; -The Director of Competition and Competitiveness; -the Director of Investment Promotion and Business Improvement; -The Director of Small and Medium Enterprises; -The Director of Legislation of the Ministry of Commerce and Private Sector Promotion -The Director of Legislation of the Ministry of Transport; - the Director of Standardization, Quality Promotion and Metrology of the Ministry of Industry; -the Director of Promotion of Industry and Competitiveness of the Ministry of Industry; -Three representatives of the General Directorate of Customs; -The Director of Legislation of the Directorate General of Taxes (DGI); -the Director of Phytosanitary Regulations; the Director of Epizooties; -the Director of Standards and Risk Prevention of the Ministry of the; the Director of International Organizations of the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs; -the Director of Commercial, Administrative and Social Affairs of the Ministry in charge of Justice; -a representative of the High Commander of the National Gendarmerie of Niger; the Director of Legislation of the Ministry in charge of the Interior; -the Director of Legislation of the Ministry in charge of Health; -The Director of Foresight of the Ministry of Planning

**Private associations or entities:** • The Niger Chamber of Commerce and Industry; • Chamber of Trades Crafts of Niger; • the Company House; • the Nigerian Export Promotion Agency (ANIPEX); • The Nigerian Council of Public Transport Users (CNUT); • the Organization of Industry Professionals of Niger (OPIN); • The Focal Point of the Trade Obstacle Alert Mechanism. • the Association of

# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

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Authorized Commissionaires in Customs; • the National Council of Patronage; • the National Committee on Transport Facilitation; • Observatory of abnormal practices

**Level of seniority of participants:** Senior-30%, Middle-50%, Junior-20%

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** Quarterly

**Level of participation:** High level of participation

**Meetings format:** Mainly meetings

## **Gender:**

**Percentage of female in the committee:** 20%

**Chairman / President / Vice-president is female:** Yes

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** Email,Administrative letters,Meetings,Telephone

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Internet

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Very rarely

## **Benefits:**

### **Impact:**

Proposed measures; and  
Internalization measures.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Through the Permanent Mission of Niger in Geneva and its negotiator, representing the Customs administration.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Negotiation of trade or trade facilitation agreements,Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures,Improve transparency / dialogue,Ratification / notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent to the WTO,Reduction of time and / or improvement of procedures at the border,Reduction of costs of import, export and / or transit,Mainstreaming trade facilitation into other national policies

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** It is thought that to the extent of 77% the NTFC is sustainable in time. Crucial factors to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Financial assistance / adequate resources, Capacity building,Involvement of the private sector,Strong leadership

**Greatest obstacles:** Lack of funding / resources,High level support / political buy-in

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** A multi-year plan that establishes consistency with the Economic and Social Development Plan Niger, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the negotiations of the Free Trade Area Continental, etc ...

Also, the regional integration has been considered a lot within the work of the NTFC, and it is in contact with other National Trade Facilitation Committees in the region.

## **Contact information:**

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