

## Country: Namibia

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### Background:

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

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

**Year of establishment:** 2010

**Motivation for its establishment:** To be compliant with the Trade Facilitation Agreement

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

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

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** Inactive since March 2015

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** Terms of Reference drafted by Ministries of Trade and Industry and Finance plus Industry Associations

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

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED)

**Scope/mandate:** Deal with trade facilitation related matters

**Terms of reference:** Yes

**Working structure of the group:** Chair/co-chair and Secretary

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Set up is ongoing. It is hosted at the Namibia Trade Forum.

### Funding:

**Budget:** There is no budget yet for the NTFC and the Secretariat

**Sources of funding:** Government

**Items covered by the budget:** If budget is available then it would have been used for: Reproduction and publications services; Meeting venues and catering; Training sessions; Public information sessions and media outreach

### Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:** Implementation of the TFA and coordination of trade facilitation matters at national level

**Working plan:** Not yet as it is still work in progress

**Monitoring and evaluation:** We don't use any specific tool

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** No formal structure of reporting

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Ministry of Industrialization Trade and SME Development; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Home Affairs (Immigration Department); Ministry of Safety and Security; Ministry of International Relations and Corporation; Ministry of Communication; National Planning Commission; Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources; Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Ministry of Public Enterprises; Walvis Bay Corridor Group; Namibia Ports Authority; Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat; Walvis Bay Port Users Association; Namibia Trade Forum (Secretariat); Namibian Standards Institution; Namibia Agro-Marketing and Trading Agency; Road Authority; Communication (Dealing with Telecommunication Infrastructure); Southern African Customs Union (SACU); Meat Board of Namibia; Namibia Agronomic Board

**Private associations or entities:** Namibia Logistics Association; Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry>

**Level of seniority of participants:** Senior level

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** Yes, twice per year

**Level of participation:** Good

**Meetings format:** Formal meetings

## Gender:

**Percentage of female in the committee:** 65%

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

**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:** Reports; Email communications; Administrative letters; Meetings and telephone

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Some of the members of the Trade Facilitation Committee also form part of the committees of the Namibia Trade Forum and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group who also focus on trade facilitation matters nationally as well as with neighbouring countries.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** We don't do anything yet

particular to address the general public because the committee is still new. This could be developed for future

## **Benefits:**

**Impact:** It helped in formulating Namibia's position during trade facilitation negotiations

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Discuss issues objectively to defend Namibia's interest in the negotiations

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Improvement of transparency / dialogue; Improved coordination; Ratification / notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent to the WTO

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** Commitment from members; Financial assistance / adequate resources; Political commitment / high level support; Awareness raising on trade facilitation; Strong leadership

**Greatest obstacles:** Maintain engagement / motivation of participants / absenteeism; Lack of funding / resources; Lack of high level support / political buy-in; Lack of awareness of importance of NTFC / understanding of trade facilitation

**Lessons learned from your experience:** The functioning of the TF committee requires a dedicated team and buy-in from all the stakeholders involved. The Committee should be chaired by a Permanent Secretary.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** Customs and Excise Administration should be the one to lead the development of the trade facilitation body

## **Contact information:**

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