

## Country: Kenya

### Background:

**Official name:** National Trade Facilitation Committee (NCTF).

**Motivation for its establishment:**

Kenya as a regional hub, hence its effort to build appropriate global competitiveness as envisioned in its economic development blue print – Vision 2030.

Compliance with Article 23 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) concluded in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013.

**Year of establishment:** 2015

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** Yes, National Council for Trade Negotiations (NCTN) which is the overall body giving direction on matters related to trade negotiations. The National Trade Facilitation Committee is a Sub-Committee of this body.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** No. It has just been constituted afresh taking into consideration the provisions of the Economic Pillar of Vision 2030 and Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment Report (2015) that UNCTAD assisted Kenya to prepare.

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** Cabinet Approval of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and subsequently, its ratification by the National Parliament and National Trade Facilitation Needs Assessment Report (2015).

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** Attained legal status through The Kenya Gazette Notice No.7319 (Published by Authority of the Republic of Kenya) dated 16th September 2016.

**Scope/mandate:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Terms of reference:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Coordinating agency:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Working structure of the group:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

### Funding:

**Budget:** Not yet as the Committee has just been gazetted.

**Sources of funding:** Expected to come from the Government of Kenya and the development partners.

## Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:** To coordinate operations of border agencies with the aim of ensuring expedited movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

**Working plan:** It is yet to be drawn up.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be set up.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Private associations or entities:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Level of seniority of participants:** Steering Committee: Principal Secretary & CEOs level

Working Groups: Technical level.

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** Please refer to the Gazette Notice.

**Meetings format:** Yes, the membership of National Trade Facilitation Committee stands at 60, therefore the committee will set up working groups.

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** Through the website of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, which currently is providing secretariat services to the National Trade Facilitation Committee. Secondly, the secretariat has a data base of emails of all organizations that are members of National Trade Facilitation Committee.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Through meetings of National Trade Facilitation Committee.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Yes, with the support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), the Trade Facilitation Agreement has been announced to the public in one meeting, and four meetings with cross-border trade committees are scheduled between now and June 2017.

## Benefits:

**Impact:** The business community is keen to see expedited movement, clearance and release of goods. Since the Trade Facilitation Agreement covers this, the impact was positive and the agreement was well received.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Any well-structured negotiating mechanism would provide timely responses and this is useful in influencing outcomes

and decisions in a complicated and a fast-moving process such as that of the WTO.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** In the past, yes. With the support and capacity build under the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP), Kenya was able to cope with the speed and complexities of the WTO negotiations and ultimately managed to influence some paragraphs in the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** A well trained, dedicated and organized team in the capital is crucial directing WTO negotiations in Geneva.

**Greatest obstacles:** A disjointed negotiating body in the capital.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** An effective negotiating strategy is not a preserve of one single ministry. It is team work of all stakeholders. Adequate resource is paramount.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** Inclusive participation is critical and therefore setting up of various working groups with the committee at the top will facilitate realization of this objective. Formulation of a funds-raising strategy is another area to look at and adequate finance will enable the National Trade Facilitation Committee to execute its mandate.

## **Contact information:**

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