

Country: Honduras

Background:

Type of body: National Committee for Trade Facilitation

Official name: National Committee for Trade Facilitation (CONFACO)

Year of establishment: The National Committee for Trade Facilitation (CONFACO) was created by Executive Decree Number PCM - 039-2018 dated July 20, 2018.

Motivation for its establishment: The creation of the committee was motivated by the commitments acquired by Honduras as a member of the WTO, and to comply with the provisions of Article 23.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation which establishes the commitment that each member establishes and / or will maintain a Committee National Trade Facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate internal coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement in question.

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: In commercial facilitation, specifically, no, but there is also the National Logistics Council that coordinates national efforts to make Honduras the regional logistics hub.

Former multi-agency group/committee: No

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): The Committee is underway, in the middle of the year an AFC compliance analysis was concluded through an article-by-article review with all government institutions that are key actors in their compliance and with the private sector present always providing observations and recommendations. The Committee is currently developing a strategic plan through the technicians of the institutions to work in compliance with the AFC taking into consideration its three categories and the time taken to comply with the articles.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: The document was the Protocol of Amendment to the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, to insert the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. DECREE N ° 146-2015 dated December 17, 2015.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): Legal Entity composed of officials from various government entities and the private sector.

Coordinating agency: The Secretary of State in the Economic Development Office.

Scope/mandate: The scope of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation is at the National Level.

Terms of reference: N/A

Working structure of the group: The CONFACO will be chaired and coordinated by the Secretary of State in the Economic Development Office, through the Undersecretariat for Economic Integration

and Foreign Trade, in turn will have a Technical Secretariat that will be in charge of the Secretariat indicated above.

The CONFACO will be composed of a representative and a substitute representative of the public and private sectors as follows:

From the Public Sector:

1. Secretary of State in the Economic Development Office, through the Undersecretariat for Economic Integration and Foreign Trade, who will chair and coordinate the Committee;
2. Secretary of State in the Offices of Agriculture and Livestock through the Undersecretariat of Livestock and the National Service of Agrifood Health and Safety (SENASA);
3. State Secretariat in the Health Office through the Undersecretariat of Integrated Health Services Networks;
4. Secretary of State in the Security Office through the Secretariat for Security in Interinstitutional Affairs and the National Directorate of Border Police Services;
5. Secretary of State in the Office of Infrastructure and Public Services through the Undersecretariat of Transportation;
6. Secretary of State in the Finance Office through the Undersecretariat of Finance and Budget;
7. Presidential Commission for Integral Reform of the Customs System and Trade Operators (COPRISAO) through its President Commissioner and the Deputy Directorate of Customs Revenue;
8. Health Regulation Agency through its President Commissioner; and,
9. National Migration Institute (INM).

From the private sector:

1. Honduran Council of Private Enterprise
2. Industrial sector
3. Export sector
4. Logistics sector (air, shipping and Courier)
5. Transportation sector
6. Production sector
7. Agroindustry Sector

Presiding Secretary. Representatives with holders and alternates (8 private and 9 government).

A technical committee.

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes

Funding:

Budget: So far no.

Sources of funding: N/A

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Ensure and coordinate the continuous dialogue between the Private Sector and the Public Sector to achieve joint work in the design and implementation of trade facilitation measures, simplified border procedures that encourage trade flows.

Working plan: Yes, the committee has been working since June 2019 on the elaboration of the CONFACO Strategic Plan, it will be ready in December 2019.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: The technical committee meets once or twice a month. It is reported to the full CONFACO composed of the authorities.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: With the review of the articles and the elaboration of public policies, strengthening border security and tax collection, in favor of the economic development of the country.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: - Secretariat of Economic Development.

- SENASA

- HEALTH

- SECURITY

- INSEP / TRANSPORTATION

- Finance Secretary

- CUSTOMS

- Health Regulation Agency

- Migration

Private associations or entities: - Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP)

- ASSOCIATIONS: INDUSTRIAL, EXPORTERS, LOGISTICS, TRANSPORTERS, PRODUCTS and AGROINDUSTRIALS

- Appointed by COHEP.

Level of seniority of participants: Very high.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: Yes, once or twice a month.

Level of participation: The assistance is approximately 15 technicians from the relevant institutions (public and private).

Meetings format: Yes, all the options.

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: 50/50

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 is not currently considered a priority.

If no, explain future plan in this area.: N/A

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: A lot of information is always shared in monthly meetings. The Secretariat also always calls and there is a permanent chat.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: To date, the exchange of information with other (regional) committees is carried out through trade facilitation workshops.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Les résultats du Comité sont partagés dans les ateliers sur la facilitation des échanges et dans la partie du secteur privé, ils sont inclus dans le bulletin mensuel.

Benefits:

Impact: Increase in governmental inter-institutional coordination.

Alignment of all actors to work in the same direction for compliance with the AFC and commercial facilitation.

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: Il est avantageux de disposer des informations de chaque institution sur les questions établies devant l'OMC.

Concrete operational outcomes: Identification of the compliance status of the articles and solutions and routes of action have been proposed.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Currently there is a better relationship and information facilitation between state institutions and the private sector.

Greatest obstacles: That the institutions that make up CONFACO fully commit themselves to provide all the support and support to comply with the commitments adopted by Honduras as a member of the WTO

Lessons learned from your experience: There is a need for greater access to information and member commitments.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: In General: Comply with the commitments made in the Trade Facilitation Agreement, in the Trade Facilitation Strategy with Emphasis on Coordinated Border Management and the Deep Integration Process.

Contact information:

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