

## Country: Ghana

### Background:

**Type of body:** National Committee for the facilitation of transport and trade procedures

**Official name:** National Trade Facilitation Committee

**Year of establishment:** 2008 but revitalised in April 2016

**Motivation for its establishment:** The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and also as part of trade reform efforts to reduce the cost and time of doing business and improve the trade environment in the country in general

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** Yes. There is the National Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committee that deals with road transit issues, act as consultative mechanisms to promote facilitation, study international trade and transport regulations, prepare recommendations and foster transparency on major transport initiatives.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** Yes, it was partly based on the defunct Inter Institutional Committee on WTO Issues.

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** Parliament approved the ratification of WTO TFA in October 2016. It will be institutionalized once Presidential Assent is received.

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

**Coordinating agency:** The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the Coordinating Agency

**Scope/mandate:** The NTFC functions as a coordinating, assessment and consultative body with the authority to prepare recommendations and advise on domestic, regional and multilateral policy matters related to Trade Facilitation

**Terms of reference:** Yes

**Working structure of the group:** There is a Chair and Co-Chair, and then Members. Sub-groups will be created soon.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Not yet, but an adhoc Secretariat in operation at the Ministry of Trade and Industry will be strengthened to become the permanent Secretariat

### Funding:

**Budget:** Not yet.

Lack of financial support of donors and development partners; Trade Facilitation related activities by NTFC not mainstreamed into the National Budget.

## Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:** Specific objectives of the NTFC shall include the following:

To assess Ghana's trade facilitation needs and priorities and to identify the cost implications of proposed measures;

To make recommendations on strategic trade facilitation goals and operational solutions encapsulated in WTO/GATT Articles V, VIII, and X;

To strengthen policy coherence between national development priorities and international obligations, and between trade facilitation reform initiatives and technical assistance projects;

To provide technical backstopping to national and Geneva based officials in the context of the WTO negotiations and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

To provide a forum for stakeholder consultation on trade facilitation related policies and implementation;

To increase public awareness of trade facilitation measures, practices and standards;

To constitute or have oversight responsibilities over sub-committees dealing with specific issues; and

Any other trade facilitation related business brought before the NTFC.

**Working plan:** Roadmap for 5 years

**Monitoring and evaluation:** It is thought that to the extent of 46% the NTFC fulfils its role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Monitoring channel: Consultations with stakeholders.

Evaluation tools: Focus groups, Oral consultations and interactions with stakeholders.

Familiar with the following tools: UNCTAD statistics (country and maritime profiles), World Bank Doing Business Trading Across Borders, World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI), and OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators.

Familiar with the following tools to some extent: UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation, and World Economic Forum Global Enabling Trade Report.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Reports will be submitted to Cabinet through the Minister for Trade and Industry on a quarterly basis

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:**

Ministry Of Trade And Industry

Ministry Of Finance

Ministry Of Transport

Ministry Of Roads And Highways

Ghana Standards Authority

Food And Drugs Authority  
Ghana Shippers Authority  
Plant Protection And Regulatory Services  
Department Of Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Veterinary Services Department Of Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
Ghana Revenue Authority – Customs Division  
Ministry Of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration  
National Security Council

**Private associations or entities:**

Ghana Chamber Of Commerce And Industry  
Ghana Union Of Traders Association  
Federation Of Associations Of Ghanaian Exporters  
Ghana Institute Of Freight Forwarders  
Customs Brokers Association  
Ghana Ports And Harbours Authority  
Ghana Airport Company Ltd  
Ghana Community Network Ltd (Gcnet)  
Aviance Co. Ltd  
West Blue Consulting Ltd.  
Gateway Services Ltd  
Nick Tc Scan Company Ltd  
Ship Owners & Agents Association Of Ghana  
Swiss Port  
Meridian Port Services Ltd  
Association Of Ghana Industries

**Level of seniority of participants:** Directors, CEOs, Managers and fairly high level representatives  
Senior-70%, Middle-20%, Junior-10%

**Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** Quarterly

**Level of participation:** Very good attendance at meetings

**Meetings format:** Meetings are formally conducted

**Gender:**

**Percentage of female in the committee:** 45%

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** Information about NTFC meetings are circulated to Members by email, formal invitation letters followed by telephone calls.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Some Members of NTFC are also Members of other working Groups, eg. National Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committee, National Single Window, etc. Information is shared between groups and invitations to participate in meetings when necessary are extended.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** So far three information sessions on the TFA have been held at fora for particular stakeholders including Traders, Importers, Freight Forwarders, Shippers, Association of Ghana Industries, Ghana National Chamber of Commerce, Parliamentary select Committees on Trade, Industry and Finance.

Also publicize through the Website of the organisations that are members of the NTFC, and TV and radio (interviews, participation in talk shows, etc)

## Benefits:

**Impact:** There is a clearer understanding of the TFA measures as well as the responsibilities of the Group to ensure coherence between domestic policies and priorities and international obligations regarding the TFA and other WTO issues. It has enhanced inter-agency cooperation. It has also brought together government officials and traders to work in partnership through a platform for continuous dialogue. This enables the design and implementation of border procedures that minimize regulatory costs and inconvenience to trade flows, while enabling governments to pursue public policy objectives related to border controls, consumer protection, public health and revenue collection.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** It has assisted Ghana to identify and validate its Categories ABC measures under the TFA. The NTFC will also provide technical backstopping to national and Geneva-based officials in the context of the WTO negotiations and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Sub-Committees that will be formed, to work on the other areas of the WTO negotiations like Agriculture, NAMA products, Services, will also provide the necessary expertise and inputs to our Geneva-based officials for the negotiations.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Ghana has notified all category ABC designations and has notified Technical Assistance requirements.

In detail, concrete outcomes include: Negotiation of trade or trade facilitation agreements, Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures, Improve transparency / dialogue, Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Improved

coordination, 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.

## Lessons learned:

**Success factors:** It is thought that to the extent of 70% the NTFC is sustainable in time. Crucial factors to the sustainability of the NTFC are as follows: Cooperation among members / Common understanding and goals, Financial assistance / adequate resources, Political commitment / high level support, Close monitoring of results, and Development of work plans and proposals.

**Greatest obstacles:** Maintain engagement / motivation of participants / absenteeism, Lack of funding / resources, Incorrect representation of members / frequent replacement of members, High level support / political buy-in, and Lack of permanent secretariat

**Lessons learned from your experience:** All stakeholders should be involved in the process and consultations right from the start to have their buy-in as well as ownership. Members of the NTFC should be trained and be conversant with the TFA as well as be aware of their roles and responsibilities. Trade facilitation should be mainstreamed into the national development process of the country. Activities should be well planned and budget should be provided for implementation. This pre-supposes that there should be political commitment.

## Future plans:

**Plans for further development:** Committee members will meet quarterly to discuss and recommend specific actions to implement decisions.

At the technical level, working groups will be formed to undertake the actual technical work as needed.

The Committee will draw on best practices from around the world and make recommendations for optimal solutions to maximize trade flows and minimize trade transaction costs.

The Committee will also join and maintain a solid network of external relations with key international institutions.

Also, the regional integration has been considered to some extent within the work of the NTFC.

## Contact information:

**Contact Information:** Mr. Anthony Kwasi Nyame-Baafi  
(+223505298697 or nyame\_baafi@hotmail.com)

Mr. Patrick Amos Poku  
(+233508496 or patpoku@hotmail.com)



# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: 05.12.2019 00:00:00

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Accra



**UNCTAD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**  
*for National Trade Facilitation Committees*