

Country: Djibouti

Background:

Official name: Technical Committee on Trade Facilitation

Motivation for its establishment: The purpose of creating the committee was to prepare our country's compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and to coordinate trade facilitation programs.

Year of establishment: July 6, 2014

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: Yes, there is a larger structure of national consultation, it is a National Committee of Trade Negotiations (CNNC).

Former multi-agency group/committee: There is a National Committee on Transportation Facilitation since 1999.

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): Study phase, pilot and operational.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: The group is established by presidential decree on the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): The working group is established by a presidential decree and does not have its own legal status.

Scope/mandate: The committee examines all issues related to trade facilitation and proposes to the government.

Terms of reference: Yes

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Commerce

Working structure of the group: Presidency

Permanent technical secretariat: The group's secretariat is provided by the Department of Foreign Trade and Regional Integration.

Funding:

Budget: No

Sources of funding: There is no other source of funding

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: The group aims to: prepare our country's compliance with the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement with a view to making Djibouti an exchange hub at regional, continental and global level.

Working plan: No. The group examines the questions submitted to it.

Monitoring and evaluation: Progress is evaluated by the achievements and the number of meetings organized.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: The group is required to prepare annual reports to the Minister of Commerce on the state of compliance of their provisions with the TF agreement through the National Trade Negotiations Committee.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

The Ministry of Equipment and Transport,
the Authorities of Ports and Free Zones,
the Directorate of Customs and Indirect Rights,
the Directorate of Foreign Trade and Regional Integration,
the National Laboratory for Food Analysis,
the Ministry of Health are members

Private associations or entities:

The Chamber of Commerce of Djibouti,
the Association of Freight Forwarders,
the Association of Banks of Djibouti.

Level of seniority of participants: The Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce chairs the meetings.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: The Committee meets, as necessary, at the call of the Chairman and at least once a quarter.

Level of participation: good

Meetings format: It is planned to create Commissions on specific issues

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: At all times, we communicate by email to share documents or new information. And the Chair is available for suggestions from other stakeholders of the Committee.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: The links are made by the transmission of reports, minutes and the organization of a consultation meeting.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: A series of sensitizations sessions are planned

Benefits:

Impact: The group has an essential impact.

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: The group shares sectoral views, comments on trade facilitation issues and consolidates a national position on each issue.

Concrete operational outcomes: Implement trade facilitation programs.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Have a membership building program, developing a work plan and operating budget.

Greatest obstacles: Budget obstacle.

Lessons learned from your experience: The Directorate of Trade does not have the financial autonomy to carry out the objectives and work of the committee.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Notification of Categorization of Measures of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Contact information:

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Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: There is only one female member

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: No

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: Any

If no, why not. (Example: It not considered a priority, not considered relevant at this stage, lack of awareness, etc): The question was not addressed

If no, explain future plan in this area.: The Committee will sensitize stakeholders on more gender participation.