

Country: Central African Republic

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: National Committee on Trade Facilitation

Year of establishment: 31/07/2009 00:00:00

Motivation for its establishment:

The isolation of the Central African Republic raises many problems both in exports and imports;
At the Douala port, traders complain about the difficulty and long delay of Customs administrative procedures for goods in transit;
There are illegal barriers to the free movement of goods;
Illegal taxes are levied on goods;
There are road and police harassment;
The state of the roads is not good, often blocked during the rainy season;
Lack of adequate infrastructure to facilitate trade with neighbouring countries;
The border checkpoints do not have informatics tools;
Border agents disregard the regulations and they are not trained;
Lack of material resources to do technical services work;
Lack of coordination between the technical services; and
Shortage of products on the market and high prices. So, the business environment is not appropriate.

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the public body responsible for monitoring WTO files, in collaboration with the structures involved in implementing CAR trade policies. There is the National Committee for Trade Negotiations (CNNC) which deals not only with the WTO file but also with other questions such as the EPA, AGOA, ZLECAF

Former multi-agency group/committee: Yes

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

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Order establishing the NTFC. A draft decree is in the process of being adopted.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): Established as a separate structure.

Coordinating agency: Ministry of Trade and Industry, Directorate General of Trade and Competition

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Scope/mandate:

Terms of reference: Yes.

Working structure of the group: Présidence, vice-présidence, secrétariat technique permanent

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes

Funding:

Budget: It is planned that the NTFC may, if necessary, create working groups according to the concerns raised.

Sources of funding: Government and technical and financial partners

Items covered by the budget: Cf PTA

Objectives / Focus:

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Working plan: Yes, the actions plan.

Monitoring and evaluation: À travers les réunions du Comité National de Facilitation des Echanges, et les rapports du STP

Reporting form and supervisory authority: Quarterly reports are transmitted by the structures of the AFE to the Permanent Technical Secretariat which draws up a global report to be presented at the quarterly meeting of the NTFC

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

The Chamber of Commerce;

The Chamber of Agriculture;

The Bureau Veritas; and

Bureau of Central African Charter Road.

Private associations or entities: Chamber of Commerce, Employers (UNPC), GICA, etc.

Level of seniority of participants: Ministry of Commerce, President, Department of Foreign Trade providing the STP, the other structures are members of the NTFC.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: It is created according to the questions raised

Level of participation: $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members are always present at the meetings.

Meetings format:

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: Women represent almost 1/3 of the members of the NTFC

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: No

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: There is no legal text as such, but the president ensures that women are represented in the NTFC and the NTFC meetings.

If yes, explain briefly (example: recommendations on gender, special trade procedures for women, etc): There is a gender dimension in the Trade and Industry Development Strategy.

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

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: The documents are shared either by net, or delivered immediately during the meetings. From time to time, the President uses the radio channels reserved for the Ministry to get the message across. During the information and training sessions, the private press is invited.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: During the meetings of the National Commission for Commercial Negotiations which is the umbrella structure, all thematic groups are invited to present their activity reports. Groups exchange information with each other.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Yes

Benefits:

Impact:

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:

Concrete operational outcomes:

Lessons learned:

Success factors:

Greatest obstacles:

Lessons learned from your experience:

Future plans:

Plans for further development:

Contact information:

Contact Information: