

Country: Bhutan

Background:

Type of body: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Official name: National Trade Facilitation Committee

Motivation for its establishment

Year of establishment: 18 February 2013

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Former multi-agency group/committee: No

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

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Bhutan National Trade Facilitation Committee -Terms of Reference Experience sharing of country of its role and responsibility.

Presently, the role and responsibility of the National Trade Facilitation Committee is limited to following:1. Coordinative, review and monitoring role related to policy issues in Trade Facilitation2. Advisory, consultative and recommendatory role3. Awareness creation and capacity building role

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): Ministry of Finance is taking a lead role in setting up the working group.

Scope/mandate: Study, prepare recommendation and advice on matters related to development of Trade and transport, especially in relation to TF

Terms of reference: Yes

Coordinating agency: Program Management Unit, Department of Revenue and Customs is acting as a temporary Secretariat to the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

Working structure of the group: Chair, Member Secretariat and Members.

Permanent technical secretariat: Program Management Unit, Department of Revenue and Customs is acting as a temporary Secretariat to the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

Funding:

Budget: No

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Review, recommend and propose trade facilitation measures.

Working plan: Yes

Monitoring and evaluation: No clear procedure has been established.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: The decision of the NTFC will be implemented by the relevant agencies.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: Public since all the key agencies are represented

Private associations or entities: Bhutan Chamber and Commerce Industries.

Level of seniority of participants: Director level and above.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly basis under normal circumstances. However, chairman can convey meeting at any time if immediate action are required.

Meetings format: Yes

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: It will be done through notification and minutes of the meeting.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: Through shared information.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: No, but will have to be carried out.

Benefits:

Impact: Positive

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: Just observing but there has been no direct impact.

Concrete operational outcomes: It will have to be studied.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Participation

Greatest obstacles: Resources

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Setting up the institution in carrying out the Trade Facilitation program

Contact information:

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UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: Older than 2013

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