



FORUM FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

27– 29 NOVEMBER 2018, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Empowering Public-Private partnership for trade facilitation

AFRICA

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**ROLE OF NTFC
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF
TRADE FACILITATION PROVISIONS
IN THE AfCFTA**



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ANNEXES TO THE PROTOCOL OF GOODS ON TRADE

- Schedules of Tariff Concessions;
- Rules of Origin;
- Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance;
- Trade Facilitation;
- Non Tariff Barriers;
- Technical Barriers to Trade;
- Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures;
- Transit; and
- Trade Remedies.



TRADE FACILITATION-RELATED ANNEXES

- These were negotiated and agreed to by the 55 Member States
- They were benchmarked against:
 - What is taking place in the RECs
 - Best practices such as the Revised Kyoto Convention
 - WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
 - Consideration of the African context



ANNEX 3: CUSTOMS COOPERATION & MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

- Annex establishes a framework for cooperation and mutual administrative assistance amongst Customs Administrations.
- A commitment by States that their Customs Administrations will cooperate to improve the regulation of trade flows and the enforcement of applicable laws within the States Parties
- Mutual Administrative Assistance in order, amongst others, to:
 - Prevent, investigate and combat customs offences;
 - Make available documents necessary for the application of customs laws;
 - Facilitate the simplification and harmonization of their customs procedures; and
 - Ensure the smooth flow of trade and the integrity of the international supply chain



ANNEX 4: TRADE FACILITATION

- **Member States made commitments to implement, amongst others, the following:**
- **Publication, AEO, PCA, Risk Management, Enquiry Points, Freedom of Transit, Advance Rulings, Pre-arrival Processing, Electronic Payment, ICT, Single Window, Use of international standards**



ANNEX 8: TRANSIT

- To facilitate free movement of goods in transit
- To provide procedures for the uniform processing of transit traffic by road
- The Annex has practical details of the procedures to be undertaken in processing transit traffic



ANNEX 4: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

- **Article 27**

Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation Customs Cooperation and Transit

1. The Committee on Trade in Goods shall, in accordance with Article 31 of the Protocol on Trade in Goods, establish a Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation, Customs Cooperation and Transit
2. The Sub-Committee shall be composed of duly designated representatives from State Parties and shall carry out responsibilities assigned to it under this Annex or by the Committee on Trade in Goods



ANNEX 4: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

- **Article 28**

National Committee on Trade Facilitation

- Each State Party shall establish and/or maintain a National Committee on Trade Facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Annex



ARTICLE 28: NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

- Note that this is derived from Section III, Article 23 (2) of the WTO TFA
- Further, note Article 28:
 - builds synergy with existing NTFC
 - avoids duplication with other existing mechanism



IMPORTANCE OF NTFC

- The definition: “The simplification, standardization and harmonization of procedures and associated information flows required to move goods from seller to buyer and to make payment” (UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business)
- It follows that Trade Facilitation issues are not the exclusive domain of Governments or Customs
- Stakeholders therefore involve various Government Depts, private sector, transporters, banks, buyers & sellers etc



CONCLUSIONS

- **Need for a multi stakeholder committee on Trade Facilitation at national level.**
- **Facilitates consultations and communication at national level.**
- **Results in commitment and accountability in implementation at national level.**
- **Builds coherent and representative contributions to regional or continental committees such as at AfCFTA and WTO levels.**



THANK YOU!



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