

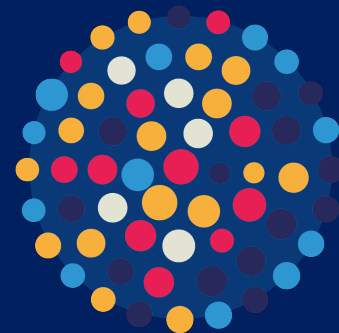


REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION OF TF

REFORMS: *Lessons from the Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)*

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

*Michele Lowe, Senior Coordinator, Hemispheric
& Bilateral Negotiations*



NTFC
GLOBAL
FORUM
2022



CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



- ✓ Antigua & Barbuda
- ✓ The Bahamas **
- ✓ Barbados
- ✓ Belize
- ✓ Dominica
- ✓ Grenada
- ✓ Guyana
- ✓ Haiti
- ✓ Jamaica
- ✓ Monserrat **
- ✓ St. Kitts and Nevis
- ✓ Saint Lucia
- ✓ St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- ✓ Suriname
- ✓ Trinidad and Tobago

TFA AND REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION

Article 24: 5

Members of a customs union or a regional economic arrangement may adopt regional approaches to assist in the implementation of their obligations under this Agreement including through the establishment and use of regional bodies.

Article 21(d)

Promote coordination between and among Members and other relevant institutions, including regional economic communities, to ensure maximum effectiveness of and results from [TACB assistance]





REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

COTED MANDATES

- ✓ *Adopt a co-ordinated regional approach to implementation ;*
- ✓ *Utilise regional approaches, where appropriate, to minimise/rationalise TFA implementation costs;*
- ✓ *Co-ordinate mobilisation of donor resources and TACB to support implementation;*
- ✓ *Establish Regional Committee on TF;*
- ✓ *CCS and OECS Commission to collaborate to monitor and support national and regional implementation (including mobilisation of donor support)*





REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ✓ *Fulfil international obligations on Trade Facilitation (EPA, TFA).*
- ✓ *Rationalise and co-ordinate donor engagement and interventions for ongoing trade facilitation reforms in CARICOM.*
- ✓ *Support and drive regional trade facilitation reforms through harmonised and co-ordinated actions.*
- ✓ *Improve the CARICOM business environment; reduce time and cost of doing business.*





REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

CARICOM TFA STRATEGY

- ✓ *Common framework for design and delivery of regional capacity building initiatives and interventions;*
- ✓ *Tool for engaging donors and coordinating donor support at the regional level;*
- ✓ *Rationalize use of scarce donor resources;*
- ✓ *Harness regional expertise for TACB support;*
- ✓ *Public-private dialogue and partnerships to design regional projects.*



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(13)/36
WT/L/911

11 December 2013

(13-6825)

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Ministerial Conference
Ninth Session
Bali, 3-6 December 2013

AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION MINISTERIAL DECISION OF 7 DECEMBER 2013

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement");

Decides as follows:

1. We hereby conclude the negotiation of an Agreement on Trade Facilitation (the "Agreement"), which is annexed hereto, subject to legal review for rectifications of a purely formal character that do not affect the substance of the Agreement.
2. We hereby establish a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation (the "Preparatory Committee") under the General Council, open to all Members, to perform such functions as may be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force. In particular, the Preparatory Committee shall conduct the legal review of the Agreement referred to in paragraph 1 above, receive notifications of Category A commitments, and draw up a Protocol of Amendment (the "Protocol") to insert the Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement.
3. The General Council shall meet no later than 31 July 2014 to annex to the Agreement notifications of Category A commitments, to adopt the Protocol drawn up by the Preparatory Committee, and to open the Protocol for acceptance until 31 July 2015. The Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement.



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

CARICOM REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION (RCTF)



- ✓ Oversees and guides regional co-ordination and implementation of the TFA within the Community;
- ✓ Ensure coherence and consistency between national and regional trade facilitation priorities;
- ✓ Monitoring;
- ✓ Facilitate public- private sector dialogue;
- ✓ Institutional platform for sharing of experiences and regional best practices;
- ✓ Mobilise TACB support for approved regional projects and other regional initiatives.



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

CARICOM REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION (RCTF)



- © **Trade Ministerial Council (COTED)** – Political/Policy Oversight
- © **NTFCs Chairs** - National Co-ordination
- © **CARICOM Customs Committee** – Technical guidance on Customs Matters
- © **CROSQ** – Regional standards setting body
- © **CAHFSA** – Regional plant and animal health issues
- © **Regional Private Sector Organizations**
- © **OECS Commission** – Sub-regional co-ordination
- © **CARICOM Secretariat** – Regional co-ordination



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

SCORE CARD



- ✓ *Donor Engagement & Co-ordination;*
- ✓ *TACB mobilization (advisory, technical expertise, capacity building resources) – regional support for national implementation;*
- ✓ *Experience-sharing - regional best practices, expertise;*
- ✓ *Reporting and Monitoring*
- ✓ *Public-private dialogue;*



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION

KEY SUCCESS FACTORS



- ✓ **Effective regional co-ordination can spur national momentum; identify and fill implementation gaps at the national level.**
 - ◎ Requires a strong political commitment at the national and regional levels to drive the regional agenda;
 - ◎ Ensure coherence and consistency between national and regional trade facilitation priorities;
- ✓ **A robust network of NCTFs will also drive the momentum at the regional level:**
- ✓ **Robust private sector engagement;**
 - ◎ Public-private sector dialogue and co-operation on trade facilitation reforms
- ✓ **Consultation, Communication and Ownership**



REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION FOR TFA IMPLEMENTATION



- ✓ *Geographical and other eligibility criteria attached to donor resources and bilateral aid programmes;*
- ✓ *Notification /information gaps at national level;*
- ✓ *Some obstacles to involvement of regional bodies in the TFC.*

#NTFCForum

<https://unctad.org/conference/ntfc-global-forum-2022>