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HOW KENYAN NTFC COORDINATES WITH EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY(EAC) REFORMS OF TRADE FACILITATION

BY

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Coordination Using Existing EAC Framework
2. What are the Benefits of this National - Regional Coordination
3. How we Manage to Keep this Coordination and Flow of Information On-going(Concrete Tools)
4. Challenges Encountered

1. Coordination Using Existing EAC Framework

- Even before conclusion of TFA, EAC Partner States, had established ministries handling EAC affairs and coordination was at the centre of their mandate
- Since this mechanism is serving partner states well, supplementary TFA Coordination mechanism was envisaged within the existing structures at regional level – TF Unit within EAC Secretariat
- Effort will be directed towards strengthening this existing mechanism
- At national level, coordination is done through the ministry responsible for international trade and Ministry of EAC is a member of NTFC

2. What are the Benefits of this National - Regional Coordination

- The existing framework has been tested over a period of time and is fairly functioning well
- It enables us to avoid proliferation and overlap of institutions and corresponding rivalry associated with such scenario
- Officers from Ministry of EAC which coordinates EAC issues have a seat in NTFC. This helps in harmonization of national and regional agenda and formulation of a common approach to implementation of TF issues
- Facilitates mobilisation of resources as a region for implementation of TF issues and optimum use of available human and financial resources
- Well coordinated TF issues will result into expedited clearance of goods - hence supportive to EAC integration process . EAC Partner States have agreed to use the TF Reforms to deepen EAC integration.

3. How we Manage to Keep this Coordination and Flow of Information On-going

- The treaty that established EAC made it mandatory for every partner state to establish a fully fledged Ministry for EAC Affairs
- Key mandate of this ministry is coordination of EAC integration agenda
- The EAC Secretariat has established a TF Facilitation Unit to coordinate TF activities with Partner states. TF Measures with a regional bearing will be implemented with a regional focus.
- Member States of EAC agreed to form a Regional Trade Facilitation Committee with Membership From National TF Committees
- Donor Support - Trade Mark East Africa has been a key supporter of TF activities in the EAC both at National and Regional Level.

4. Challenges Encountered

- Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (RTFC) was to be made up of NTFC of partner states. As members are at different stages of establishing NTFC – RTFC might take a while to establish
- In the absence of RTFC – that role is being played by the EAC Secretariat with support from UNCTAD regional office at Arusha and GIZ .
- Inadequate capacity both human and resource as TFA has been rolled out – hence need for TA & CB over a period of time
- NTFC activities are yet to be mainstreamed into national budget-making process for purposes of long-term sustainability
- EAC Decision making Process is by Consensus. It takes time to build consensus.
- EAC Configuration. Majority of Members are LDCs and one Member is a developing Country. Obligations differ as per category of Members. This presents time frame challenges.



Thank you for your Attention