Coordination and digitalization as a means to accelerated and climate-smart trade facilitation

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Introduction to Trade facilitation and coordination

Presentation by

Mr. Poul Hansen
Chief, Trade Facilitation Section
TLB, UNCTAD

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Trade Facilitation and coordination

- National Trade Facilitation Committee WTO TFA Art. 23.2
- Border Agency Coordination WTO TFA Art. 8
- Private sector involvement
1. National Trade Facilitation Committee or similar body
31. National legislative framework and/or institutional arrangements for border agencies cooperation
32. Government agencies delegating border controls to Customs authorities
33. Alignment of working days and hours with neighbouring countries at border crossings
34. Alignment of formalities and procedures with neighbouring countries at border crossings
Each Member **shall** establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both *domestic coordination and implementation of provisions* of this Agreement.

Art. 2.1. Each Member **shall**, to the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with its *domestic law and legal system*, provide opportunities and an appropriate time period to *traders and other interested parties to comment* on the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application.

Art. 2.2. Each Member **shall**, as appropriate, provide for regular consultations between its border agencies and *traders or other stakeholders located within its territory*.

**Trade Facilitation Stakeholders**

**Public stakeholders**
- Ministries, agencies and officials - involved in export, import and transit processes
- Policy and lawmakers - major players in the design and implementation of national policies, laws and regulations

**Private stakeholders**
- Users of trade services - traders grouped under a chamber of commerce or business association, including SME’s associations
- Service providers - transportation and service providers associations, bankers’ associations, consumers organizations, insurance industry associations
- Civil society - unions, consumer associations, non-governmental organizations, academic communities
Success factors for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Cooperation among members, political support, financial support, member motivation and participation, development of work plan and ToRs, regularity of meetings and awareness.

Main obstacles for National Trade Facilitation Committees

- Lack of funding, low member motivation and participation, lack of political support, resistance to change, incorrect member representation and lack of a permanent secretariat.
- Obstacles will negatively influence the effective development of the activities of the committee.
Trade Facilitation and coordination
UN Global Survey

25. Laws and regulations for electronic transactions
26. Recognized certification authority
27. Electronic exchange of Customs Declaration
28. Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin
29. Electronic exchange of Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary Certificate
30. Paperless collection of payment from a documentary letter of credit
WTO TFA Art. 8

Art.8.1 Each Member shall ensure that its authorities and agencies responsible for border controls and procedures dealing with the importation, exportation, and transit of goods cooperate with one another and coordinate their activities in order to facilitate trade.

Art.8.2 Each Member shall, to the extent possible and practicable, cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other Members with whom they share a common border with a view to coordinating procedures at border crossings to facilitate cross-border trade. Such cooperation and coordination may include:

(a) alignment of working days and hours;
(b) alignment of procedures and formalities;
(c) development and sharing of common facilities;
(d) joint controls;
(e) establishment of one stop border post control.

UNCTAD Programs

- Wide-range of technical assistance programs and methodologies
- Specific tools depending on needs and individual situation assisting developing countries meet obligations
- Focus on WTO TFA obligations and TF reforms such as transparency; simplifying, standardizing and harmonizing procedures; digitalization and monitoring progress

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