TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TRADE FACILITATION TASK FORCE

Purposes and Objectives

The purpose of the Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF) is to support the modernization of trade practices in support of Jamaica's Trade Facilitation Reform Programme.

The specific objectives of TF are as follows:

- To make policy recommendations on trade facilitation.
- Serve as a coordinated forum for hosting and collaborating with all the Ministries,
    - Departments and Agencies of Government involved in trade facilitation.
- Make policy recommendations on trade facilitation;
- Support oversight of the TFRP work programme;
- Give advice to the TF[2] Project Management Office (PMO) within the members' respective areas of competence, in matters that come to their attention, whether officially or unofficially;
- Review and provide recommendations on proposed external consultancies;
- To promote the adoption of best practices and modernization of the trade regulatory services, within and without government and the private sector;
- To increase awareness of the methods and benefits of trade facilitation;
- To give due regard, in the improvement to trade related policies and processes, to the special place of exports in value to the economy;
- Review, approve and/or endorse recommendations for changes to systems, processes, legislation impacting trade and Border Regulatory Agencies;
- To be change champions for the various measures to be adopted, within their respective spheres of influence;
- Serve as a coordinating forum for changes to be implemented between and across stakeholder entities in their respective portfolio areas;

Composition and Authority of the Task Force

The Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce appoints members of the TF. The TF will have authority to make recommendations and give advice to the Minister on matters of trade facilitation in general.

The TF will bring together authorized representatives of all parties concerned with trade facilitation and issues thereof in Jamaica. These include:

- Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government (Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Works & Housing, Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy & Mining, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Finance & Planning, The Cabinet Office, Jamaica Customs Agency, The Port Authority of Jamaica).

- Private Sector Organizations, Business Organizations, Shipping Associations, Custom Broker Associations.
- Civil Society.

A Trade Facilitation Project Management Office (TF^2), established in the Ministry, of Industry, Investment and Commerce, will have full responsibility for the daily operations of the Task Force.

The TF^2 will have a reporting relationship with the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

Scope of the Committee Recommendations

The TF is a consulting body. It will have authority to prepare recommendations and advice on trade facilitation. Its recommendations will be made in the form of proposals to the National Competitiveness Council.

The chairperson of the TF will, at the request of the TF submit the TF's proposals to the appropriate authority.

Work Programme

The Task Force will prepare and implement its work programme aimed at:

- The implementation of harmonized trade regulation and the organization of trade facilitation.
- The development of policies and recommendations on trade facilitation matters
- The committee will meet on a monthly basis until implementation is fully developed or at the request of its Chairman.