



Case Study

National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) Botswana

Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA: “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 the provisions of this Agreement.”

1. Introduction

The main purpose of the Committee is to provide policy guidance on trade facilitation reforms and support the implementation of operational solutions that are in line with national development strategies and international obligations. In order to fulfil its obligation created by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA, Botswana has opted to designate an existing mechanism as a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) in accordance with Article 23.2.

2. Structure of the Committee

Botswana established a NCTF called the Technical Committee on Trade Facilitation (TCTF) in 2010, in accordance with Article 23.2. However, it is not a newly established Committee. About 30 organizations are members of the Committee; these include Customs, the Ministry of Trade, government agencies and the private sector. The Committee has meetings more than twice and less than five times per year.

For now, the Committee reports to the National Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations, which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade.

3. Role of Customs and Level of Participants

Customs is the Vice-Chair of the Committee. The level of participants is Director-level and technical-level, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry serves as the Secretariat.

4. Challenges and Solutions

There is a likelihood of policy changes in the near future, driven by the TCTF. The biggest challenge the Committee has faced has been participation in the meetings by certain government agencies and private sector representatives. This was solved by continuously lobbying these organizations and teaching them the benefits of trade facilitation and the role they could play. The development of an Implementation Plan will play a critical role in guiding the work of the Committee.

5. Relevant Documentation such as Terms of References

The terms of reference are attached to the case study.

6. Contact person for the NCTF



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