



Case Study

National Committee on Trade Facilitation Malawi

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

In order to fulfil its obligation created by the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA, Malawi opted to transform an existing mechanism, the Malawi Trade Logistics Working Group (MTLWG), into a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF).

2. Structure of the Committee

Malawi established a NCTF on 8 July 2015. The NCTF has replaced the Malawi Trade Logistics Working Group, in accordance with Article 23.2. Therefore, it is not a newly established Committee.

There are 15 members and 4 observers in the Committee, which include Customs, the Ministry of Trade, government agencies and the private Sector. The Committee meets quarterly every year.

The NCTF reports to the Cabinet Committee on Doing Business on all trade facilitation matters.

3. Role of Customs and Level of Participants

Customs is the Chair of the Committee, and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism serves as the Secretariat to the NCTF. The level of participants is Principal Secretary-level, Chief Executive, and Director level.

4. Challenges and Solutions

No major changes considering that there was already an existing structure (Malawi Trade Logistics Working Group) which the NCTF succeeded. However, there are revised subcommittees under the NCTF which include a One-Stop Border Post Committee, Electronic Single Window Committee, Transport Route Management Committee, and National Customs Business Forum.

The role of the NCTF is to oversee implementation and give direction on all trade facilitation matters in the country. The NCTF is guided by the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTF-AP) with specific prioritization. The NTF-AP will also be used to solicit support from development partners and other trade support institutions in order to implement the Agreement on Trade Facilitation holistically.



5. Relevant Documentation such as Terms of References

Relevant NCTF documents can be found on the following website:
www.moit.gov.mw

ToR for NCTF:

Introduction

At the apex of the NTF-AP is a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) which is a dialogue platform for discussing all trade facilitation issues and also serves as the steering committee driving the implementation of the NTF-AP. This Committee also serves to fulfil Malawi's obligation under the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, Article 13. This Committee is a transformation of the defunct National Trade Logistics Working Group.

2. Purpose & Specific Tasks of the NCTF

The overall purpose of the NCTF is to provide direction, coordination and implementation of the NTF-AP, including the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Specific tasks of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- providing direction and driving the implementation of the NTF-AP*
- providing the platform for discussion of all trade facilitation issues*
- setting up subsidiary bodies/task forces to deliver specific actions*
- reviewing and approving budgets for specific works/services (if necessary)*
- liaising with development partners and driving resource mobilization*
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the NTF-AP*

3. Membership of the NCTF and Meetings

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the NCTF, membership is to be limited to only the most relevant institutions and kept at a manageable size. The Committee will meet quarterly, except for emergency meetings. The following institutions constitute the NCTF:

Members:

- 1. Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT)*
- 2. Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA)*
- 3. Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)*
- 4. Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)*
- 5. Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC)*
- 6. Department of Immigration*
- 7. Malawi Police Service (MPS)*
- 8. Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure (MTPI)*
- 9. Ministry of Finance*
- 10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- 11. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation*
- 12. Ministry of Justice*
- 13. Ministry of Health and Population*
- 14. Department of Road Traffic and Safety Services*
- 15. National Roads Authority (RA)*



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">16. <i>Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI)</i>17. <i>Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association of Malawi (CAFAAM)</i>18. <i>Road Transport Operators Association (RTOA)</i> |
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6. Contact person for the NCTF

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