



Case Study

National Committee on Trade Facilitation Republic of Mauritius

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

Mauritius has established a committee called the ‘National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)’ as a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF).

2. Structure of the Committee

Mauritius established a completely new NCTF in July 2014, in accordance with Article 23.2.

There are 22 members, which include Customs, the Ministry of Trade, government agencies and the private sector.

The Committee reports to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. Notes of meetings are circulated to all Committee members.

3. Role of Customs and Level of Participants

Customs is the Vice-Chair of the NCTF. The level of participants is Director-level and technical-level. The Committee has meetings more than twice and less than five times per year. The International Trade Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade serves as the Secretariat.

4. Challenges and Solutions

Changes in policy in the administration are:

- at the level of the Customs administration, the Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Section, assigned with the responsibility to assist in the ongoing reforms and modernization process, was already in place well before the finalization of the WTO TFA. A dedicated team within this section has now been entrusted to ensure follow up on the TFA;
- additionally, an intersection team meets, as and when required, to examine and discuss ways of fulfilling our Category B & C commitments under the TFA;
- guidance is sought from, and consultations carried out with, the parent Ministry on issues that may have policy implications;
- stakeholders are consulted about proposed changes in legislation, processes and procedures aimed at further facilitating cross-border trade;
- projects requiring technical/financial assistance under Category C commitments are examined and discussed at the level of the NTFC.



The challenge is the identification of projects under Category C commitments by the various agencies that require Technical/Financial Assistance.

The committee is co-chaired by the public & private sector, and matters are dealt with in a transparent and participative manner. This arrangement also helps foster a partnership relationship.

Mauritius, being a small island, resolves any trade or other obstacle reported/identified, as far as possible, at the level of the ministry or agency concerned, without first referring it to the NTFC for remedial action. The Secretariat of the NTFC ensures coordination.

5. Relevant Documentation such as Terms of References

The Terms of Reference are attached.

6. Contact person for the NCTF

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