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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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UNCTAD Trade Facilitation mandate

Poul HANSEN, UNCTAD

UNESCWA-UNCTAD

**Seminar E-Customs at the heart of Trade Facilitation
Amman, 25+26 May 2022**

Our Products

- **Wide-range of technical assistance products and methodologies** from UNCTAD
- Specific tools depending on needs and individual situation
- Includes COVID-19 recovery assessments





UNCTAD

ADVISORY SERVICES & LEGAL ASSISTANCE

for National Trade Facilitation Committees

UNCTAD's work in Trade Facilitation

UNCTAD technical assistance and capacity building



1. *Policy, strategic and legal advice* on trade facilitation reforms on national and regional levels;
2. Elaboration of trade facilitation *needs assessments, road maps, implementation plans* etc;
3. Assistance with the *ratification, categorization and notification* of trade facilitation obligations;
4. Development of *project proposals*;
5. *Implementation support and advice*;
6. Customs and Trade *automation and digitalization*;
7. *Advisory services and support* in all fields of trade logistics, including trade, transit and transport.



DATABASE

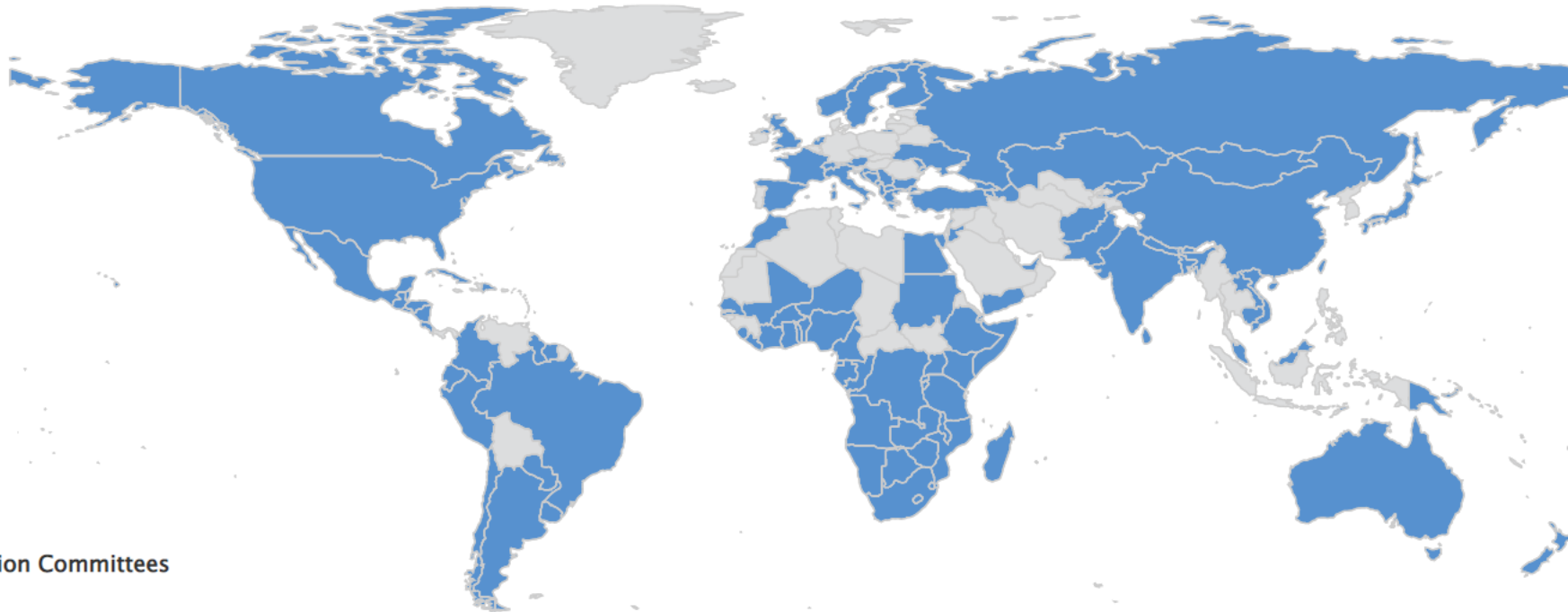
of National Trade Facilitation Committees



Explore National Trade Facilitation Committees

Select a country on this list or click on a country on the map to access relevant information

SELECT A COU



■ National Trade Facilitation Committees
■ No information

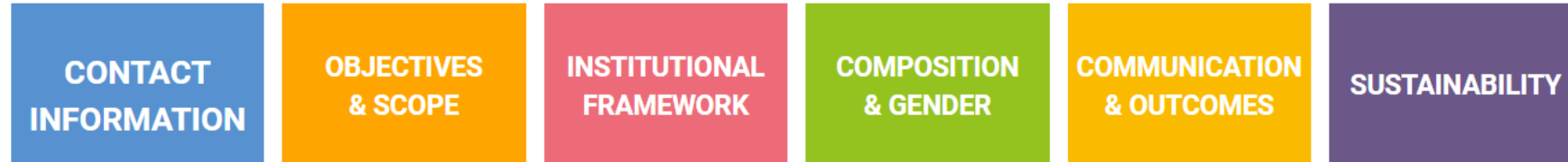


National Trade Facilitation Committee United Arab Emirates

Last update: Older than 2013

Established on 2014

Explore the different features of this National Trade Facilitation Committee



CONTACT INFORMATION

Official name

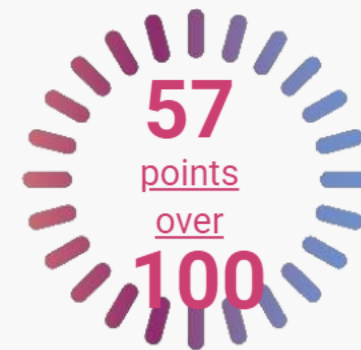
Trade facilitation National team

Contact details

Director of Trade negotiations and International organizations, foreign trade sector, Ministry of economy

Select a country:

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



UNCTAD
SUSTAINABILITY SCORE
for National Trade Facilitation Committees



Download this country profile





UNCTAD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

for National Trade Facilitation Committees



Since 2016, UNCTAD has successfully provided an intensive professional capacity building programme for members of national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) and their secretariats in over 40 countries worldwide.

The Programme aims to empower NTFCs to successfully undertake their mandate to implement trade facilitation reforms in a coordinated manner, including the provisions of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement. Result-oriented and efficient NTFCs will help countries streamline their international trade, contributing to bringing prosperity to all.

With the inclusion of NTFC-specific digital tools in 2020, the Programme moved away from a face-to-face only training to a hybrid holistic support approach.

National Trade Facilitation Committees can now choose from a wide range of technical assistance products and methodologies depending not only on the level of maturity of their NTFC and their specific needs but also contingent upon national and international Covid-19 related restrictions.

ASSESSMENT



E-LEARNING



E-COACHING



DIGITALIZING





Objective

- To **assist and empower countries** to successfully undertake their mandate to **implement trade facilitation reforms** in a coordinated manner, I
- Focus on the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and regional agreements such as the CFTA and others



UNCTAD

E-LEARNING

for National Trade Facilitation Committees

E-learning and e-coaching

Building knowledge ensuring sustainability for National Trade Facilitation Committees



UNCTAD

E-LEARNING

for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Online training and Modules



**Self-paced courses
and interactive
webinars**

In collaboration with other
United Nations and
international organizations



**Offered in different
languages**

Available in English, French,
Portuguese, and Spanish



**More than 1000
policy makers have
joined our
programmes**

From 40 different nationalities

Trade Facilitation Modules



**Understanding
Trade Facilitation**



**Trade Facilitation
and Development**



**Trade Facilitation
Indexes and
Reports**



**National Trade
Facilitation
Committees**



**Introduction to
the WTO Trade
Facilitation
Agreement**



**Understanding
the Provisions of
the WTO Trade
Facilitation
Agreement**



**Technical
Barriers to Trade
and Sanitary and
Phytosanitary**



**Standards and
recommendations
by UN/CEFACT**



**Gender
perspective on
Trade Facilitation
Reforms**

e-Coaching Modules



How to set up an effective NTFC

Focus on identifying the right stakeholders, drafting Terms of Reference and supporting legislation to set up an NTFC



How to run a successful NTFC

Learn effective tools and best practices to run the day-to-day work of the NTFC Secretariat



How to become the chairperson your NTFC needs

Focus on empowering NTFC chairpersons to become result-oriented but empathetic trade facilitation leaders



How to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Learn key concepts of monitoring and evaluation and how to apply those to the work of the NTFC



How to draft a Resource Mobilization Strategy

Learn what is a resource mobilization strategy for trade facilitation, its benefits and how to draft one



How to draft trade facilitation project proposals

Get trained in the process of drafting trade facilitation project proposals



How to draft a communication strategy for NTFCs

Learn key concepts of communication and how to apply them to draft a communication strategy for the NTFC



Effective communications for NTFC members

Get coached on how to improve your presentation skills to become a driver of change in trade facilitation



How to draft a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap

Learn what is a national trade facilitation roadmap, its benefits and how to draft it in an inclusive way



How to draft a knowledge transfer strategy

Learn key concepts of knowledge transfer and how to apply them to draft a knowledge transfer strategy for the NTFC



How to do Business Process Analysis

Learn a specific methodology to undertake Business Process Analysis of trade procedures to be able to better identify bottlenecks and redundancies



How to simplify trade procedures


Master the art of simplifying trade procedures making cross-border trade faster, simpler and cheaper

Courses



BOTSWANA - UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Learn the basic concepts of trade facilitation and fulfil your role as member of your National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC).

 UNCTAD

2% COMPLETE

[Continue](#)

MORE VIDEOS

← Back to course page

NAMIBIA - UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Path Learners Discuss

READ BEFORE YOU START

UNDERSTANDING TRADE FACILITATION

▶ Introduction - Module 1
video 00:56

▶ International Trade Transactions
video 02:11

▶ Obstacles to trade transactions
video 02:51

☰ Quiz 1.1
quiz

▶ Trade facilitation solutions
video 06:47

☰ Quiz 1.2
quiz

▶ Trade facilitation matters more than ever
video 06:37

☰ Quiz 1.3
quiz

MORE VIDEOS
▶ Key learnings - Module 1

< previous

next >



International trade transactions



Obstacles to trade transactions



Trade facilitation solutions



Trade facilitation matters more than ever

Short videos



MORE VIDEOS

Sergio Martinez

Following 2 Followers 0

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Course Discussions

- BOTSWANA - UNCTAD Empowerm...
- ESWATINI - UNCTAD Empowermen...
- LESOTHO - UNCTAD Empowerment...
- MALAWI - UNCTAD Empowerment ...
- NAMIBIA - UNCTAD Empowerment...
- ZAMBIA - UNCTAD Empowerment ...

Groups

- Create a group

Type your message, share images, ask questions

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search for posts

Sergio Martinez
13 hours ago @BOTSWANA - UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees, Quiz 1.1 (quizInformal)

Hello everyone! Hope you are enjoying this module.

comment 0 like 1 best of 1

add a comment [share](#)

Private forum

Bismarck Sitorus **instructor**
5 days ago @MALAWI - UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Your Attention please!
When you start your exam, please remember:

1. Use the ARROW icon to move between questions
2. ONLY use "Submit" button after you've answered all exam questions.
3. You only have two tries to do the exam.

Many thanks for your attention.

comment 0 like 3 best of 1

add a comment [share](#)

Bismarck Sitorus **instructor**
5 days ago @MALAWI - UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees

Welcome to Course Discussion for Malawi.

comment 0 like 1 best of 1

add a comment [share](#)

A high-angle photograph of a meeting around a wooden table. Several people's hands and arms are visible, interacting with documents, a laptop, and a coffee cup. One document in the center features a bar chart and two pie charts. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor office or meeting room environment.

REFORM TRACKER

for National Trade Facilitation Committees

SHARED WORKSPACE

Offering each participant access to an online shared workspace



ACCOUNTABILITY

Making accountable each person involved in the concrete implementation of the reforms



Sustainability

Project Management

Team Management

PROGRESS MONITORING

Offering simplified access to senior management to monitor the progress of the reforms



Monitoring of results

Tracking of priority actions

KENYA Reform Tracker



SERGIO MARTÍNEZ

- ADMIN SECTION
- TRACK CHANGES
- TUTORIALS
- LOGOUT
- ALL ARTICLES >
- ALL WORKING GROU... >

Articles & WG

Reforms

Users

Agencies

+ ADD REFORM

Articles WG

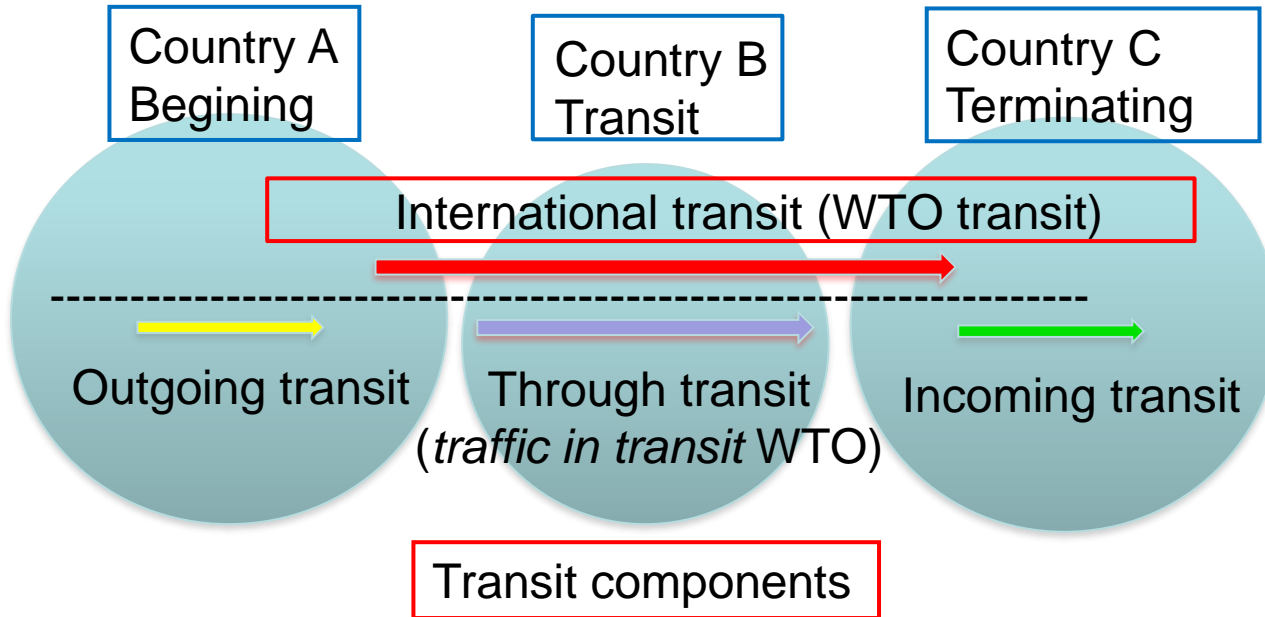
Article	Order	Reform	Category	Complexity	Agency	Deadline	Status
> A1 Availability of information	1	1.1 Publication	B	Middle	State Department for Trade & Enterprise Development (SDT & ED)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING
> A1 Availability of information	2	1.2 Information available through internet	C	High	Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade)	30 Jun 2029	ONGOING
> A1 Availability of information	3	1.3 Enquiry Points	B	Middle	State Department for Trade & Enterprise Development (SDT & ED)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING
> A1 Availability of information	4	1.4 Notification	A	Low	State Department for Trade & Enterprise Development (SDT & ED)	10 Mar 2021	DONE
> A2 Opportunity to comment	1	2.1 Opportunity to comment and information before entry into force	B	Middle	State Department for Trade & Enterprise Development (SDT & ED)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING
> A2 Opportunity to comment	2	2.2 Consultations	B	Middle	Customs and Border Control Department (C&BCD)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING
> A3 Advance rulings	1	3.1 Advance Rulings	B	Middle	Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)	30 Jun 2025	ONGOING
> A4 Appeal procedures	1	4.1 to 4.5 Procedures for appeal or review	A	Low	Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)	10 Mar 2021	DONE
> A4 Appeal procedures	2	4.6 Administrative Decisions by other Border Agencies other than Customs	C	Middle	Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING
> A5 Other measures to enhance impartiality	1	5.1 Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	C	High	Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)	30 Jun 2026	ONGOING

A group of people shaking hands, symbolizing collaboration and support. The image is a close-up of several hands clasped together in a firm grip. The background is blurred, showing more people in a group setting. The overall tone is professional and positive.

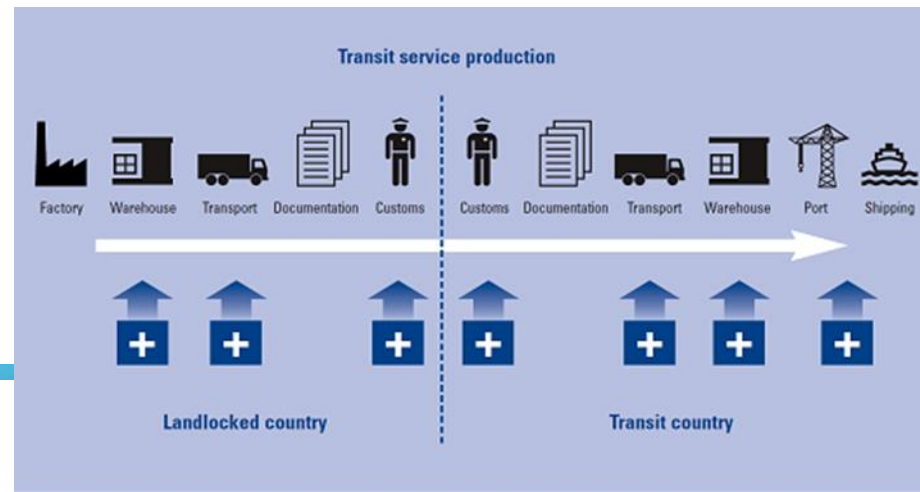
TRANSIT COORDINATORS

Empowerment Programme

Transit is complicated



- Infrastructure, e.g. obligatory route
- Means of transport, e.g. weight and dimensions
- Operation, e.g. driver qualifications and visa
- Services, e.g. obligatory use of Customs broker
- Goods, e.g. guarantee scheme





Transit regime requires compliance with laws and regulations of different countries that may be different and changing from time to time.

Thus, greater national and international coordination is required to facilitate the flow of goods

- **UNCTAD capacity building for transit coordinators**
- Training and capacity building and experience and best practice sharing with other transit coordinators
- Training on transit concepts , rules and regulations
- Develop Terms of Reference
- Draft Work plan for national transit coordinator
- **Ultimate objective: Establishment of regional transit network**



TRADE PORTALS

for Trade Facilitation

Rwandair cargo serves Africa, Europe, Asia & the Middle East

Search by Choose operation

EXPORT

EXPORT OF PROCESSED PRODUCTS

Free access to Standards contributing COVID-19 prevention

EXPORT OF AVOCADO

Obtain horticulture export license
Obtain phytosanitary certificate

EXPORT OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

Export license for processed food products

[Show All Procedures](#)

IMPORT

IMPORT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Import license for medicines
Import license for medical equipment

IMPORT OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

Register as an importer of processed food products
Obtain import visa
Obtain import license

[Show All Procedures](#)

TRANSIT

TRANSIT OF TEA

Transit of tea from DRC through Rusumo border

TRANSIT OF MINERALS

Transit of minerals from DRC through Kagitumba border

[Show All Procedures](#)



Steps (6)

- Contracting a clearing agent (1)
 - 1 Contract a clearing agent
- Clearance of consignment (4)
 - 2 Declare cargo
 - 3 Pay import tax & processing fee
 - 4 Consignment inspection by customs
 - 5 Obtain number plate and motor vehicle log book
- Obtain goods exit note (1)
 - 6 Obtain goods exit note

Summary of the procedure

Institutions involved (4)

- 1 Clearing agent
- 2 e-Single Window
- 3 BANK
- 4 5 6 Customs Service Department - Gikondo Office (x 3)

Results (4)

- 1 Contract
- 5 Motor vehicle number plate
- 5 Motor vehicle log book
- 6 Exit note - IM

Required Documents (8)

- 1 Certificate of domestic company
- 2 Invoice - import
- 2 Bill of lading - motor vehicles
- 2 Transport invoice
- 2 Recommendation letter for the Ministry of
- 3 Assessment notice for import
- 5 Release order
- 6 Payment confirmation - import

Estimated cost **RWF 78,000**

RWF





UNCTAD RAPID SCAN

of trade facilitation preparedness in times of crisis

UNCTAD Rapid Scans of trade facilitation preparedness in times of crisis

- **A national rapid assessment of the national regulations and measures pertaining to facilitation of trade and transit implemented**
- **Overview of the preparedness in facilitating international trade and transit, the effectiveness of the regulations and measures put in place in times of crisis, as well as providing a clear plan of action to put into practice recommendations derived from the and evaluation based on an UNCTAD methodology**
- **Methodology systematic approach with the following six steps undertaken:**
 - **desk research;**
 - **online survey;**
 - **onsite and online interviews,**
 - **elaboration of recommendations and rapid response plan,**
 - **presentation and validation of recommendations and the submission of the final report which encompasses findings, recommendations as well the tailor-made rapid response plan for the facilitation of international trade and transit.**

UNCTAD Publications

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNCTAD

TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION
 Series No 14

National trade facilitation committees as coordinators of trade facilitation reforms

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

POLICY BRIEF
 No. 98

MARCH 2022

KEY POINTS

- Women face gender-based barriers at borders that should be addressed through gender responsive trade facilitation measures
- UNCTAD recommends implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) with a gender perspective to maximize benefits for women involved in formal and informal trade
- UNCTAD recommends that national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) become gender-sensitive bodies that advocate for gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation reforms, and propose measures for women traders

Integrating a gender perspective into trade facilitation reforms*

Women cross-border traders face significant challenges, including time constraints, costs of burdensome procedures, discrimination and harassment at borders.¹ Despite multilateral calls to address those issues and to make trade policies gender responsive, notably the Revised Buenos Aires Declaration,² limited progress has been made on gender equality in trade.

This policy brief outlines key gender-based barriers for women traders and provides 10+1 policy recommendations to address them.

1. Listen to what women traders have to say

The first step is to listen to what women traders have to say. Some may not be aware of the activities or existence of the national committee. Even when they know about NTFCs, they may feel that their committee is not aware of the challenges they face or that such challenges are simply ignored. NTFCs should undertake awareness-raising efforts to reach out to women traders by informing them about NTFC activities and consult them about their needs and the obstacles they face.

Women traders' associations should be invited to take part in the trade facilitation policymaking process, as full NTFC members, or at

* The document has not been formally edited.

¹ UNCTAD, 2022, Gender perspective on trade facilitation reforms, available at <https://www.unctad.org/tradepolicy>

² 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, 2007, Joint ministerial declaration on the advancement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment within trade, WT/MIN(07)/4/Rev.1 5, available at <https://docs.wto.org/docdoc/eng/t/07/min07/07-14/1411.pdf?Open=1>



CHAPTER 1 INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

Publication: Article 1.1

Transparency is one of the core pillars of the international trade system. Lack of transparency or restricted access to regulatory and procedural requirements usually leads to higher costs for business and governments to collect information and mitigate formalities, corrupt and discriminatory practices, and unpredictable rules.

Article 1.1 promotes equal and unfettered access to relevant information by requiring WTO Members to make available in published form a wide array of specific information on regulatory requirements related to the import, export or transit of goods.

Members shall promptly publish a set of trade-related information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner.

The measure

ARTICLE 1 PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

1 Publication

1.1 Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders, and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:

- procedures for importation, exportation, and transit (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures), and required forms and documents;
- applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
- fees and charges imposed by or for government agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
- rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
- laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;
- import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions;
- penalty provisions for breaches of import, export, or transit formalities;
- procedures for appeal or review;
- agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation, or transit; and
- procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.

1.2 Nothing in these provisions shall be construed as requiring the publication or provision of information other than in the language of the Member except as stated in paragraph 2.2.



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THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



✉ Poul.hansen@unctad.org

🌐 unctad.org/TF, asycuda.org