



12 Trends of National Trade Facilitation Committees

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01

National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC) are here to stay



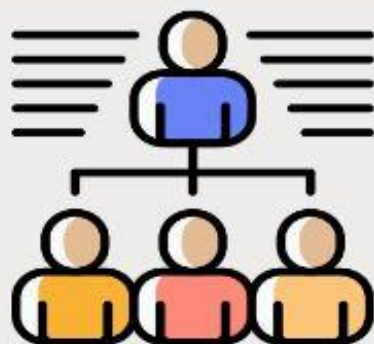
More countries are considering NTFCs as permanent platforms for coordinating trade facilitation efforts.

NTFCs over time are evolving to cover trade facilitation needs beyond those envisaged in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

02

NTFCs are legally established

More committees have been legally set-up and have terms of references.



69% of NTFCs are institutionalized at governmental level

87% of NTFCs have defined terms of reference

03

Multi-chairpersonship is becoming more frequent

NTFCs started having two or more simultaneous chairpersons to efficiently address complex nature of trade facilitation. In 2017, the usual was only single chairpersonship.



04

Permanent secretariats are still a luxury for many NTFCs

There is a correlation between the number of people needed at the permanent secretariat and the level of development of a country.

On average, **4** people work at a permanent secretariat of the NTFCs



The more developed a country is



the less people work in the permanent secretariat

05

NTFCs are broadening their scope of action

The core of NTFC competencies is the coordination of implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

37% of NTFCs has a scope of action **broader** than the TFA

13% of NTFCs has a scope of action **strictly related** to the TFA

Three major scopes of action for NTFCs



Monitor the implementation of the WTO TFA



Advise government and make recommendations



Search and maintain financing partnerships with donors and implementing agencies

06

Specific monitoring and evaluation tools for NTFCs are increasingly important

NTFCs' ability to monitor progress and report on compliance and deviations for policy intervention is critical but they do not seem well equipped for this task



75% of NTFCs has a work plan

The probability of having a work plan is lower in Least Developing Countries



40%

of NTFCs do not use any specific tools to evaluate their work

07

NTFCs are opting for inclusiveness

Dialogue between public and private sectors are key to successful development and implementation of trade facilitation reforms



The average number of members in an NTFC have increased since 2015



The more developed a country is



the higher the percentage of senior staff involved

NTFC member composition



Public sector

66%

33%



Private sector

08

No progress in gender mainstreaming since 2017

Around one third of NTFCs consider gender mainstreaming as not relevant at this stage



37% of members of NTFCs are female, on average

No significant change from previous years

40% of NTFCs are chaired or co-chaired by women



In LDCs and Developing countries, only one third of NTFCs are chaired or co-chaired by a woman



83%

of NTFCs has done not taken any action or decision to mainstream gender in trade facilitation

09

NTFCs are developing the necessary communication tools

In coordinating concrete trade facilitation reforms, managing the expectations of all stakeholders becomes critical for the successful implementation of various project

37% of NTFCs has communication strategy



the majority of NTFCs communicate with stakeholders by email

Top 3 reasons for not having a communication strategy:

- lack of financial resources
- lack of personnel
- found it not necessary



1 out of 5 NTFCs uses a website to communicate information about their work

10

NTFCs work is translating into concrete and positive outcomes

Almost all NTFCs in the study can name concrete outcomes produced by the Committee since establishment

Most cited outcomes by NTFCs



Ratification and notification of WTO TFA



Developed implementation plan



Contributed to negotiation of trade and trade facilitation agreements



Contributed to implementation of trade facilitation measures
ex. Single window



17%

increase in NTFCs that reported concrete outcomes

Impact of the work of NTFCs:

- improvement in coordination, transparency and dialogue
- more support to raise awareness on importance

Budget and financial resources are still scarce

Financial sustainability is essential for NTFCs to ensure efficient and regular operations



only **27%** of NTFCs has budget available for their activities

Budget of NTFCs

- in Least Developed Countries, come solely from **donors** or **development agencies**
- in Developing Countries, come mostly from **domestic resources**

Despite the concrete outcomes, the sustainability of NTFCs remains at stake

NTFCs existence and overall functioning is becoming increasingly relevant



The more developed a country is



the higher the level of sustainability of its NTFC

Greatest obstacles to sustainability

- lack of funding and resources
- lack of awareness of importance of NTFC and trade facilitation
- Resistance to change and lack of political buy in

Thank you!



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