



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

***[The journey towards the NTFC
establishment in Eswatini]***

Presented to: Asia- Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum-Dehli India.

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INTRODUCTION



- According to Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA “each WTO 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”.
- NTFCs are key ingredients to TF implementation- Eswatini implementing TFA Plus
- NTFCs provide a structured, rule based forum for dialogue between government and private sector
- Observed in Eswatini is that Privates Sector is able to break silos and reducing significantly the unnecessary beuaroctratic government processes and procedures which negatively impact cross border trade
- TF has benefits for both private sector and governments-



Eswatini Journey



- Journey towards maintaining a vibrant NTFC began in 2009 during TF negotiations
- Main role then
 - supporting Geneva delegation in negotiations
 - Assessing needs and priorities for Eswatini and the current status then
 - General collaboration on TF Matters
- UNCTAD and ITC made first attempt to set up the NTFC
- NTFC was there by name, with no much deliverables
- Anyone would show up, with no proper coordination and Secretariat services
- No one kept records minutes etc
- Generally it was non-functional



Eswatini Journey



- On 21 November 2016 Eswatini ratified the TFA and this was a game changer
- Through the support of the WB, UNCTAD, WCO(in partnership with the HMRC and Finland) one can boldly say Eswatini has a vibrant NTFC
- The WB contracted two fulltime short-term consultants who amongst other thing support the **effective functioning** of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation and its Secretariat(Trade, Customs and Business Eswatini)
- NTFC co-chaired by the Principal Secretary of the MCIT and by the Commissioner General of the SRA
- The SRA was proactive to house the consultants
- The STCs jointly report to the Co-chairs



NTFC Challenges before 2016



- Undefined/Non formally designated Members/ defined membership/unapproved by government(Cabinet)
- No meetings
- Limited understanding of TF and TFA provisions
- Lack of funding for meetings
- No champion
- Lack of a clear defined agenda
- Lack of roadmap or work plan guiding the work of the NTFC
- No teams to work on different projects
- Lack of cooperation and coordination within the NTFC members
- Limited understanding of each members role



RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF NTFC



- A solid and effective body with clear mandate and TOR
- Approved by Cabinet February 2019 and Gazetted by Attorney Generals Office (defining membership)
- Supported by a vibrant Secretariat(SRA, Trade and Business Eswatini with clear TORs as well
- Schedule of meetings(quarterly meetings)
- Approved logo
- Defined roadmap and work plans
- Approved governance structure and Teams
- ongoing empowerment programme for the ENTFC



UNCTAD Empowerment a MUST



- Has cemented the effectiveness of the NTFC, enhanced understanding of TF and each agency's role
- 3 Module undertaken(Module 3 ongoing this week)
 - Module 1: International Standards and Recommendations to TF Trade Facilitation
 - Introduction to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
 - Structure of the Agreement, and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)
 - Legal interpretation of the TFA
 - Notification requirements and upcoming deadlines
 - TF Indicators
 - Module 2: Measuring and implementing Trade Facilitation
 - To assist the Eswatini National Trade Facilitation Committee in ascertaining the necessary technical assistance needed to implement the country's category C measures under the WTO TFA;



UNCTAD Empowerment a MUST



- To support the NTFC in drafting project proposals for the implementation of the category C measures;
- To introduce the Eswatini NTFC to diverse topics such as: Women and Trade Facilitation, Trade Facilitation Indicators and monitoring and evaluation.
- Module 3: Monitoring and evaluating the Trade Facilitation Action Plan
 - What is M&E?
 - Why does it matter for NTFCs?
 - Where should we start?



NTFC Mandate & Accountability



- To facilitate both **domestic coordination and implementation of provisions** of the WTO TFA and any other trade facilitation initiatives through the **involvement of all cross-border trade and trade facilitation stakeholders** in the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- Donor coordination



NTFC Membership



1. Government Ministries and Organisations that have a role to play in cross-border trade and trade facilitation.
2. Government Ministries represented by **Principal Secretaries** (PSs)
3. Other Agencies and Private Sector Organisations represented by **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)** or **Commissioner Generals**, as applicable.
4. In the event the Member is not present for a meeting, **an alternate**, who is in a position to make decisions, shall represent that member.

Eswatini NTFC : Government Ministries, Agencies and Organisations

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade – MCIT (Co-Chair)	Attorney General’s Office	Ministry of Health
Eswatini Revenue Authority (Co-Chair)	Ministry of Information Communication & Technology	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
Business Eswatini (Co-chair)	Ministry of Public Works & Transport	Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Finance	Royal Eswatini Police Services	University of Eswatini
Ministry of Agriculture	Eswatini Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association	Federation of Swaziland Business Community (FESBC)
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development	Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority	Swaziland Standards Authority (SWASA)
Ministry of Home Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Eswatini Road Freight Association
Ministry of Justice	Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO)	Eswatini Railway
Investor Roadmap	International Trade Department - MCIT	

Eswatini Trade Facilitation Programme

C1: Institutional Arrangements
[Establishment of NTFC & NTF Secretariat]

C2: TFA Category A
(Maintain & Improve)

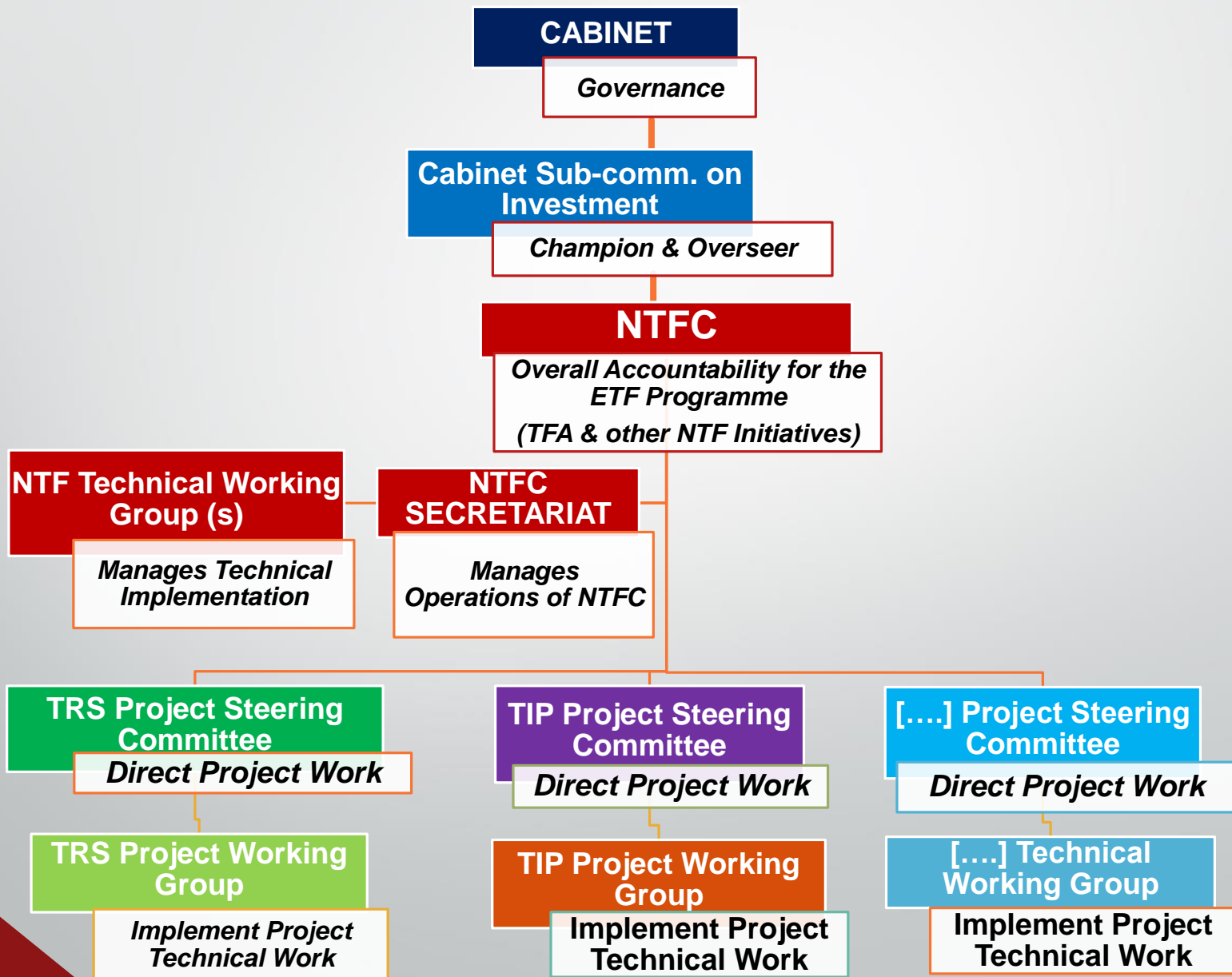
C3: TFA Category B
(Implement with National Resources)

C4: TFA Category C
[Mobilize Financial, Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Support from Development Partners]

C5. other Trade Facilitation Initiative
(National Resources & External Support)

“ WTO TFA Plus”

Governance of NTF Programme





ACHIEVEMENTS

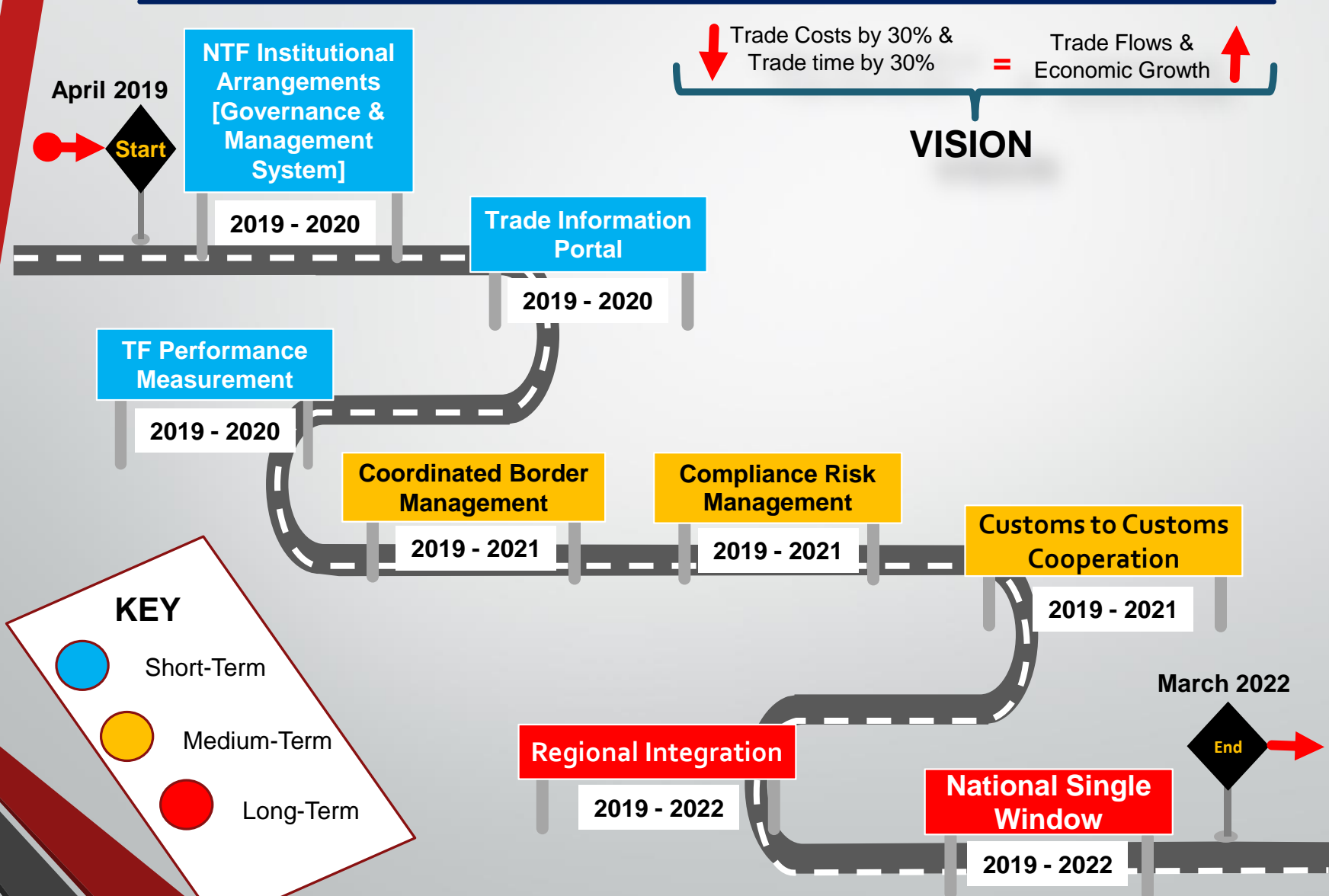


- 1. Establishment of NTFC and its Secretariat (6 Meetings held)**
- 2. Signed an Advisory Agreement with IFC of WBG**
- 3. Development of NTF Roadmap**
- 4. Documentation of Business Processes & Functional Specifications for National Single Window (NSW)**
- 5. Training on Harmonized System for Classification of Goods**
- 6. Initiated review of Trade related legislation to support implementation of NSW**
- 7. Development of NSW Blueprint, ICT Assessment**
- 8. Approved the establishment of Project Teams (Lead agencies and Key Stakeholders)**
- 9. Conducted the 3rd Workshop of UNCTAD NTFC and its Secretariat**



NTF ROADMAP – 2019 to 2022

(PPP Approach)



While the Committee is effective:

- Varying understanding of the WTO TFA and its obligations (complex and specialized TF Provisions)
- Varying understanding of International standards, tools and Instruments such as the WCO tools
- Inadequate and Inconsistence Participation of NTFC members in meetings
- Limited prioritizations and funding of National Trade Facilitation initiatives
- Inadequate IT Infrastructure to support digital and sustainable TF (in line with theme of APTFF)
- Limited ownership and accountability in the implementation of national trade facilitation initiatives
- Delayed development of project proposals



SUPPORT REQUIRED FROM GOVERN.



1. Secure political will, Buy-in at all levels of leadership
 - *Accountability on NTF Programme implementation*
 - *Active cooperation & participation of Principal Secretaries*
 - *Implementation of NTFC Decisions & Recommendations*
2. Prioritisation of Trade Facilitation as a National Agenda
 - *Inclusion of NTF Initiatives in the Budget & Annual Plans*
 - *Visibility of NTFC Reports at Cabinet Level*
3. Sustainability of NTFC with its Secretariat
4. Coordination and Monitoring of NTF Plans & activities
5. Expediting Legal Reforms to support Trade Facilitation, in particular the implementation of a National Single Window



ACTION PLAN (APRIL TO SEPT. 2019)



No.	Key Activity	Responsible	Delivery Timeline
1.	Validation of ICT Assessment Report	World Bank – IFC Consultant & ICT Official of regulatory agencies	3 May 2019
2.	Risk Management Workshop	NTFC & WBG -IFC	27 -31 May 2019
5.	Kick-off the Trade Information Portal Project	NTFC & WBG -IFC	31 May 2019
6.	Disseminate the ICT Assessment Report	World Bank – IFC Consultant	31 May 2019
7.	Conduct the Second (2 nd) Session of the UNCTAD NTFC Empowerment programme	UNCTAD in collaboration with NTFC Secretariat	10-12 June 2019
8.	NTFC Meeting (including presentation of the final National Single Window Blueprint)	NTFC Secretariat & World Bank – IFC Consultant	13 June 2019
9.	Conduct a donor Conference to solicit funding opportunities for funding of Category C projects/interventions of the NTF Roadmap	NTFC Secretariat in collaboration with WBG - IFC	June 2019
10.	Development of detail funding proposal to the various Strategic initiatives	Project Working Groups and Development Partners	July to September 2019

SUCCESS FACTORS.

- Political and Administrative Will
 - New government
 - Leadership from Co-Chairs
 - Short term Experts/NTFC Secretariat
- UNCTAD Empowerment Programme
 - Improved TF Understanding
 - Improved relationships
 - Improved understanding of roles
- Application of project management methodologies
 - Teams and Lead agencies
 - Project work plans
 - Change management



SUCCESS FACTORS.



- Governance structure
 - Accountability

QUESTIONS & RESPONSE

