UNCTAD trade facilitation tools
Explore National Trade Facilitation Committees


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

134 NTFCs are included in the database
Get to know the NTFCs
- Explore country-based information of NTFCs

Access aggregated
- Explore information of NTFCs at global and regional level and by development groupings

Compare data
- Find out how a NTFC is performing compared to other Committees, individually, in a specific region or level of development or globally

INFORMATION IS DIVIDED INTO 5 KEY ELEMENTS

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE
- Provides key aspects of the mandate of NTFCs— from concrete scopes of action, limitations of scope of work, consideration of regional integration and cross-border e-commerce.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
- Includes information on year of establishment, degree of institutionalization, existence of terms of reference, regularity and frequency of meeting, existence of a work plan, and monitoring and evaluation tools.

COMPOSITION AND GENDER
- Information on chairpersonship, on whether there is a permanent secretariat, public-private membership and gender perspective in the NTFC.

COMMUNICATION & OUTCOMES
- Existence of a communication strategy, channels used to inform different stakeholders and concrete outcomes achieved by the NTFC.

SUSTAINABILITY
- Shows crucial factors of sustainability and obstacles to sustainability of the NTFC.
- Provides results related to UNCTAD Sustainability Score which calculates the chances the NTFC has to be sustainable in time.
NTFC studies
NTFC study 2022 – main lessons

II Key Factors influencing the sustainability of National Trade Facilitation Committees

1 Scope of work
The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement at the core of the NTFC focus
Concrete scopes of action for the NTFC
Regional integration and bilateral relations
E-Commerce

2 Institutional framework
Degree of institutionalization
Terms of reference
Work plan/Roadmap
Regularity and frequency of meetings
Permanent secretariat
Chairpersonship

3 Membership
Public-private representation
Level of seniority of members
Gender balance

4 Communication with key stakeholders

5 Concrete outcomes
NTFC study 2022 – main lessons

WHAT IS UNCTAD SUSTAINABILITY SCORE FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES?

The Score aims at assessing the likelihood of National Trade Facilitation Committees to be sustainable. It identifies the main key factors contributing to the daily operations of the National Trade Facilitation Committees. Based on the weight those factors have on the Committee’s capacity to be functional, it calculates its prospects to be sustainable. As such, the Score focuses on the prerequisites for setting up an efficient NTFC but also considers the current practices in each given country.
Figure 4: Main crucial factors for the sustainability of National Trade Facilitation Committees

- Political commitment and high level support: 53 (Developing countries) 68 (Least developed countries)
- Commitment from members and high participation: 37 (Developing countries) 87 (Least developed countries)
- Involvement of the private sector: 50 (Developing countries) 69 (Least developed countries)
- Financial assistance and adequate resources: 44 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Cooperation among members, common understanding and goals, and/or mutual trust: 41 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Development of work plans and proposals: 39 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Regularity of meetings and communications to NTFC members: 35 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Close monitoring of results: 33 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Awareness raising on trade facilitation: 30 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Strong leadership: 32 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Having clear Terms of Reference: 22 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Capacity building: 32 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)
- Clear responsibility of participants: 28 (Developing countries) 77 (Least developed countries)

Other: 10 (Developing countries) 27 (Least developed countries)

Source: UNCTAD
NTFC study 2022 – main lessons

Figure 5: Main obstacles to the sustainability of NTFCs

- Lack of funding and resources: 60
- Lack of awareness of importance of NTFC and understanding of trade facilitation: 39
- Maintain engagement, motivation of participants, absenteeism: 36
- High level support and political buy-in: 36
- Incorrect representation of members or frequent replacement of members: 32
- Resistance to change: 29
- Lack of regularity of meetings: 21
- Lack of permanent secretariat: 19
- Legal issues: 12
- Decisions to be taken in the last moment: 6
- Other: 14
**Figure 6: TOP 10 obstacles for the sustainability of National Trade Facilitation Committees over time**

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<td>8. Lack of high level support / political buy-in</td>
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<td>10. WTO proposals submitted within too short notice to react</td>
<td>10. Legal issues</td>
<td>10. Decisions taken in the last moment</td>
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Source: UNCTAD
Figure 26: Outcomes of the National Trade Facilitation Committees

- Improved coordination: 71%
- Ratification and notifications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent to the WTO: 65%
- Improve transparency and dialogue: 61%
- Raise awareness on the importance of trade facilitation: 59%
- Developed an implementation plan for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: 58%
- Implementation of concrete trade facilitation measures: 56%
- Reduction of time and/or improvement of procedures at the border: 41%
- Improve business environment for traders: 41%
- Reduction of costs of import, export and, or transit: 38%
- Mainstreaming trade facilitation into other national policies: 36%
- Negotiation of trade or trade facilitation agreements: 24%, 31%
- Other: 20%, 25%
- No concrete outcomes: 8%, 25%

Developing Countries: Dark Blue
Least Developed Countries: Yellow
THANK YOU

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