



**Current practices and challenges:**  
*Examples of challenges encountered  
by Rwanda National Trade  
Facilitation Committee (NTFC)*





# Issues encountered in terms of private sector involvement in Trade Facilitation Reforms

---

- ▶ While preparing for the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap (2019-2024), with support of UNCTAD, a survey was conducted with members of the NTFC and other traders to engage them in designing a roadmap that will lead to effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
- ▶ Among the risks/challenges identified as capable to hamper the smooth implementation of the TFA in Rwanda were:
  - Inadequate awareness of TFA among TFA implementing institutions and the private sector (67%)
  - Lack of participation of private sector in the trade facilitation reforms which are supported to be private sector-driven (42%)
- ▶ Capacity and interest of businesses in engaging in TF reforms was still inadequate, inconsistent and largely limited to reporting trade barriers (NTBs).



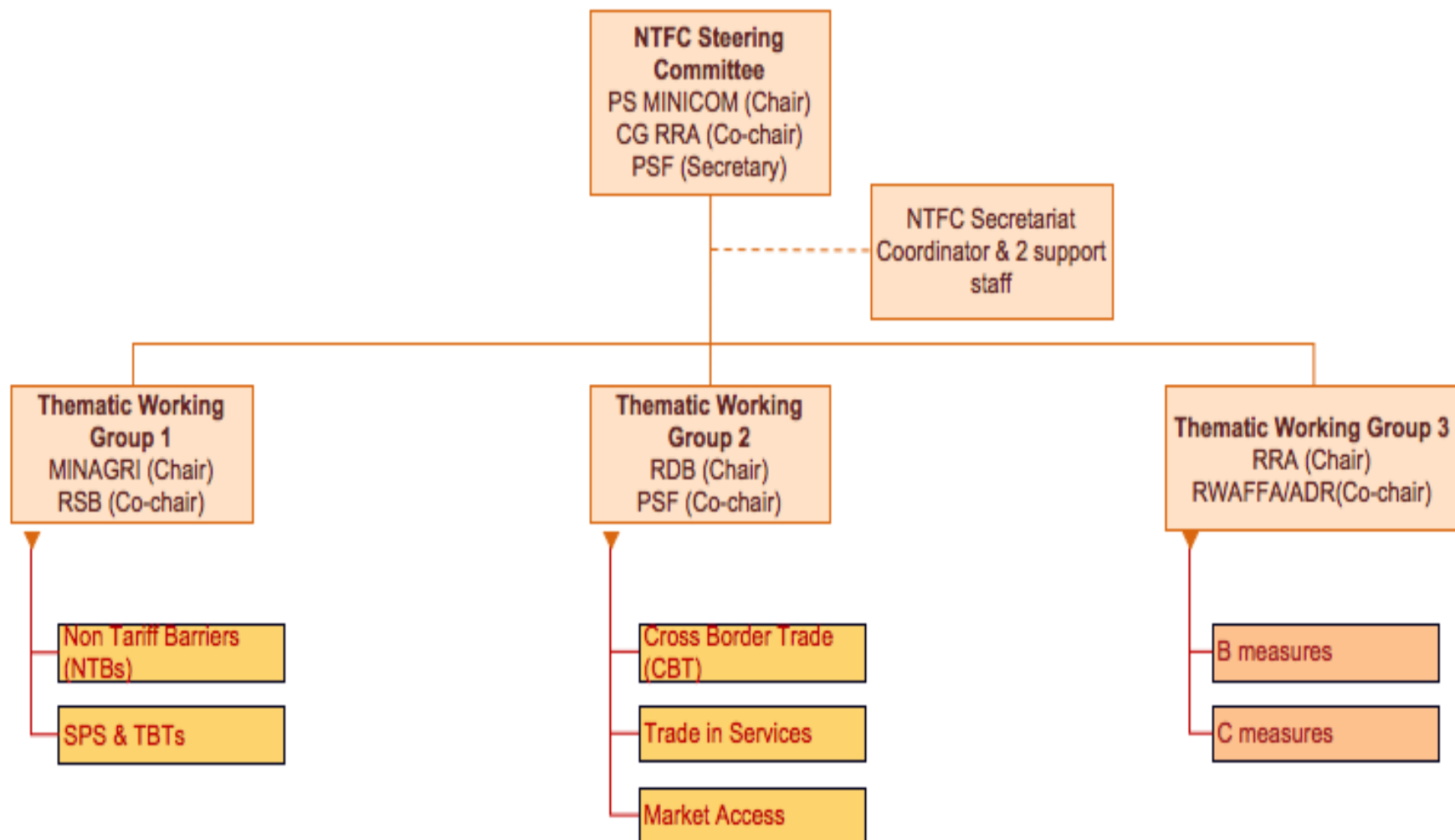
# How did we address these issues?

We addressed the identified challenges by:

1. Reviewing the Structure and the composition of the NTFC to ensure private sector has a big role to play in trade facilitation reforms
  1. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry who is seconded by the Commissioner General for RRA while the Private Sector Federation (PSF) plays the role of Secretary.
  2. 2 of the three thematic working groups are co-chaired by the private sector
  3. Our NTFC member composition was reviewed to include more players from the private sector. The representation of the private sector in the committee moved from 33% to 43% (majority being apex bodies and associations from different sectors).
2. Organizing national awareness campaign for private sector on trade reforms and benefits (the recent being in February and March before COVID-19 where 304 Cross Border Traders were sensitized on TFA and the Trade Information Portal).
3. Involving private sector in all our simplification processes as part of the simplification working groups ( all the 7 working groups formed such as Coffee, Tea, Plant and Plant Products , private sector was represented ).



# Structure of the National Trade Facilitation Committee





# What do we do in our NTFC to ensure private sector plays a pertinent role in trade facilitation?

---

- ❖ The combination of the following three roles helps to ensure that the private sector reaps maximum benefits from the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement :
  - i. To identify the trade facilitation reforms that will yield maximum results (for instance the establishment of the Kiyanzi Dry Port to continue facilitating trade during COVID-19 period and the establishment of a Joint Risk Management Committee)
  - ii. To partner with the government to implement the identified reforms
  - iii. To provide feedback on implementation challenges to help monitor whether the reforms are functioning as intended
- ❖ A strong political drive and close collaboration between the ministries, agencies, the private sector and support from partners such as UNCTAD and TradeMark East Africa is being a key success factor for the implementation of the TFA and National Trade Facilitation Roadmap in Rwanda.



---

Thank you