UN/CEFACT 36th Forum
Trade Procedures Facilitation
Domain Forum meeting

Virtual meeting 3 May 2021

UN/CEFACT 36th Forum
27 April – 7 May 2021
International Trade Procedures PDA
Trade Facilitation Procedures Domain
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Update on recently finalized
Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain recommendations

Lance Thompson, Secretary UN/CEFACT

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Concerns sudden on-set disasters
And the first fifteen days of relief
Outlines the key stakeholders (Annex 2), the comment relief goods (Annex 3), brief description on types of disasters and their phases
Establishes immediate response priorities
Suggests to take into consideration readiness
Explains how to deal with unrequested (non-priority) donations
Provides a list of key documents on the subject (Annex 1)
Rec47: Pandemic Crisis Trade-Related Response

• Provides a definition of pandemic (derived from WHO)
• Outlines some pandemic measures which impact trade
• Lists the key supplies and stakeholders linked to pandemic
• Provides guidance on how to address trade-related aspects
  • Collaboration (through NTFBs, cross-border cooperation, capacity sharing between countries, coordination through regional/bilateral communities, SEZ..)
  • SOP / EOP (knowledge sharing, reliable & qualified information, enquiry points, border agency measures)
  • Use of technology (EDI exchanges, Single Window, teleworking)
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Launch of the White Paper project: Encouraging Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies

Birgit Viohl, co-Domain Coordinator
Session 2: Brainstorming on new project

- Proposed project
- White Paper on Encouraging Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies
- Private Sector Representation in National Trade Facilitation Committees
  - Presentation of proposed project by Domain Coordinators
  - Discussing the objectives and scope, approach Summing up and planning
- Constitute a project team with practitioners from the trade facilitation community.
Background

- UNECE Recommendation No 4 on National Trade Facilitation Bodies
- First version in 1974 but still highly relevant today
- Guidelines that provide
  - steps for establishing the NTFB
  - model terms of reference for an NTFB
  - non-exhaustive list of those stakeholders that should be represented in an NTFB
- Has been complemented by Recommendation No 40 on Consultation Approaches published in 2015
Role of private sector in NTFB

• Rec No. 4 recommends to Governments
  • to set up “national-level platform which can act as coordinating body for any Trade Facilitation reforms and can facilitate effective consultation among the public and private sector stakeholders”

• The contribution of the NTFB is defined as
  • “the NTFB can coordinate the relevant stakeholders in order to devise a strategy that offers a holistic approach to national trade facilitation activities including coordination at a policy level, the development of trade simplification measures and proposals for action plans.”

• Robust and dynamic private sector is recognised as key success factor for NTFB

• NTFB are by objective and design a public – private platform (Coordination, consultation and dialogue with all relevant stakeholders)
Who’s the private sector?

- Recommended to include as members
  - Private sector traders (importers and exporters), who can benefit from such solutions in their international trade transactions; and
  - Private sector trade services providers (carriers, freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators, banking institutions, insurance companies, software providers, etc.), who can offer market-oriented trade and transport solutions within the framework of national and international trade and transport practices, obligations and laws.

- Further specifies
  - Private sector participants in such bodies should include representatives from all industry sectors, all types and size of business, and institutions taking part in international trade: manufacturers, importers, exporters, freight forwarders, carriers, banks, insurance companies, etc.
Reality of NTFB today

• Many NTFB have been set up worldwide
• Most have a private – public dimension and have a least formal private sector membership at different levels
• Consultation is often perceived as a box ticking exercise
• Many struggle with effectively mobilising private sector representatives
• Webinar in 2020 confirmed these impressions
35th Forum Webinar findings: Challenges

• Barriers to successful collaboration
  • Different culture and mindset
  • Knowledge and language gap – Recognising the “other side’s” issues and perspectives
  • Different expectations of achievements
  • Lack of acknowledgment and correct representation of opinions
  • Time and resources allocation: Collaboration is resource intensive
  • Right people for the right time
  • Inclusiveness (SME, business outside capital)
35th Forum Webinar findings: What works well

- Targeted activities on issues directly of interest to private sector – transparency, measuring of barriers, organisation of border crossing points, AEO criteria, fees and charges
- Qualitative and quantitative survey that inform decision makers
- Invite private sector to share insights on specific topics (trade and digitisation, innovation etc)
- Allocating resources to mobilising private sector representatives in particular outside capital (border crossing points)
- Continuous and informed mapping of stakeholders
- Transparency over participation and contribution
Problem statement:
• Private engagement in NTFBs need to be strengthened to ensure the feedback and dialogue needed to design and advocate for appropriate trade facilitation reforms.

Objectives:
• Identify barriers for successful engagement
• Collect input from private sector on their expectations from NTFB and TF
• Collect experiences on successful PPD
• Indicate practices, solutions and standards that can improve
Organisational matters

• Timeline
  • Draft by 30 November 2021 (Publication by January 2022)

• People
  • Project lead, Editor, Team of Experts (registered to UN/CEFACT)
  • Language: English but efforts are planned to integrate French speaking experts and contributions

• Calendar of activities
  • May–June: Design and adopt outline
  • July–September: Drafting
  • October–November: Finalising review process
Questions

• Do you agree with our background description and problem statement?

• Are the objectives feasible and correct?

• Are you aware of good practices to be featured in the white paper?

• Are you interested in joining the project as expert?
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CUE pages related to the TPF Domain and TPF Projects

Jake Schostag, co-Domain Coordinator

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Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain Overview Site

* Public

https://unefact.un.org/display/unefactpublic/EncouragingPrivateSectorParticipationinNationalTradeFacilitationBodies
Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain Site

*Restricted to Members

https://uncefact.unece.org/display/uncefactpublic/EncouragingPrivateSectorParticipationinNationalTradeFacilitationBodies
Encouraging Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies

Project Overview Site

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CONTACTS

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• UN/CEFACT Secretary
  • Lance Thompson, lance.thompson@un.org
For more information

• UN/CEFACT public website

https://unece.org/trade/uncefact

• Collaborative UN/CEFACT Environment (CUE) (project development website)
  • Domain page: public page link; working area link
  • Project page on Encouraging Private Sector Participation in NTFBs: public page link; working area link

• To join UN/CEFACT as an expert: link to registration page
Thank you

http://unece.org/cefact
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