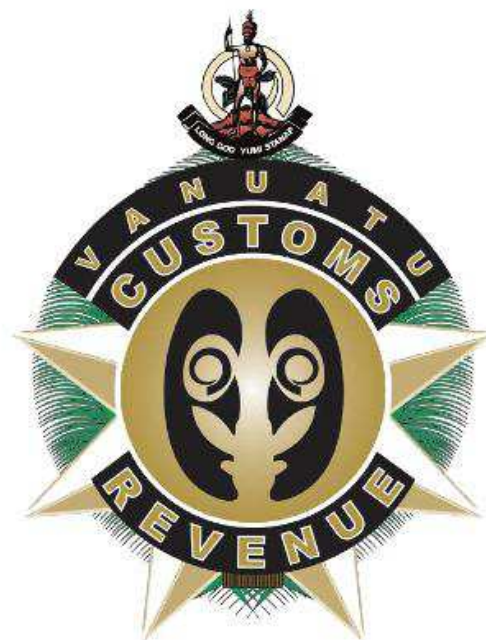


Experience Sharing on Establishing and Maintaining National Committee on Trade Facilitation in Vanuatu.



WTO Workshop on Trade Facilitation Committee.

Geneva, SWITZERLAND, 8th June 2016.

Mandate of the National Trade Development Committee.

1. National Trade Development Committee (NTDC).

- Established by the Council Of Ministers in 2012.
- (Governance Framework) Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister who is the Minister responsible for Trade and Commerce
- Co-Chaired by Director General of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce
- Has a permanent secretariat
- Meets four times in one year
- Members include all government agencies (MFEM/Trade/Agriculture/Tourism/Fisheries/Lands/Climate Change/etc); private sector; chamber of commerce; development partners (EU/AusAid/NZAid/etc); regional and international organization i.e. OCTA/MSG/etc; Non State Actors (NGO's); Civil Society representatives.
- Oversees the implementation of the recommendations emanating from Vanuatu's overarching Trade Policy Framework (TPF) – which covers both trade in services and trade in goods.

Unresolved Mandate of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation.

1. National Single Window Steering Committee.
2. Customs Reform and Modernization Committee.
3. ASYCUDA Project Steering Committee.

Other Committees.

1. Port Users Committee - Chaired by Ports and Harbour Department.
2. Airport Committee - Chaired by Civil Aviation Authority.
3. Customs Brokers Association (including Shipping Agents/Airline Agents).

Elements Not Covered in the Mandate.

- Cruise ship traffic management plan.
- Tourism Infrastructure development plan i.e. Airports (upgrading of runway funded by World Bank) and Sea Ports (Lapitasi wharf project funded by The Government of Japan - \$ 50 million USD and NISCOL Wharf – soft loan EXIM Bank of China); Port Vila Beautification Project (funded by EIF and Co-Funded by NZAid);
- 80 kilometre road infrastructure project funded through soft loan from China EXIM Bank.
- Project Management Unit (PMU) established under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities is tasked to supervise and oversee all these infrastructure development projects. One

Other Functions of the Trade Facilitation Committee.

- Single Window Component (system interface).
- Oversee the validation of SW project proposal document .
- Funding sourced from Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)
– Secretariat Office based in Geneva.
- 2015 Pledging Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Way forward for Vanuatu.

1. Develop **Briefing Paper** for Head of Customs Administration (Director of Customs and Inland Revenue) on possible reformation and streamlining of our (Vanuatu's) National Trade Facilitation Committee.
2. **Recommend only one Committee** to oversee all trade facilitation matters, including the implementation ASYCUDA World project – in consultation with UNCTAD.
3. It's Terms Of Reference to recognize the other smaller ports and airports committees as Technical Working Groups or Task Force Committees.
4. Oversee the validation of Category of Commitments (CAT A, CAT B, CAT C); Notification and Ratification requirements and processes.
5. The chairperson to provide regular update reports to NTDC, and seek endorsements.