

**PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE IN  
NIGERIA AT THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION COURSE, WTO  
SECRETARIAT, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 6<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2016**

**Introduction**

Since 2010 Nigeria established Task Force on Trade Facilitation in Nigeria and the membership drawn from various MDAs, private sector and NGOs. In view of the current development especially the endorsement of WTO Members on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2013 at the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, the present administration reconstituted and re-inaugurated a National Trade Facilitation Committee with clear mandates on both domestic and WTO Trade Facilitation issues.

**Objectives of the Committee**

- The main objective of the Committee is to support the enforcement of policies and WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in Nigeria as well as ensure that all barriers to its implementation are addressed; and
- It was also to provide operational solutions to sea ports, border posts and international airports procedures in line with our national development strategies, international best practices and obligations in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements; etc.

**Membership of the Task Force**

- The membership of the Committee as approved by the Federal Executive Council is 24 members;
- All the members were drawn from the MDAs, OPS and Civil Society;
- The list of the members includes:
  - ❖ Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment as the Chairman & Secretariat
  - ❖ Nigeria Customs Service serves as Co-chair and Member
  - ❖ other members are:
    - ✓ Federal Ministries of Transport, and Finance;
    - ✓ National Planning Commission;

- ✓ Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC);
- ✓ Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA);
- ✓ National Agency for Food, Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC);
- ✓ Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON);
- ✓ Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS);
- ✓ Federal Produce Inspection Service (FPIS);
- ✓ Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC);
- ✓ Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN);
- ✓ NEXIM Bank;
- ✓ National Association of Clearing & Forwarding Agencies (MAC&FA);
- ✓ Nigeria Police Force (NPF);
- ✓ Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN);
- ✓ Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC);
- ✓ Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS);
- ✓ National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA);
- ✓ Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); and
- ✓ National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS).

### **Terms of Reference (TOR)**

- i. Receiving of reports from stakeholders on bad conduct by operational officers at Nigerian Ports and Border posts with a view to intervening;
- ii. Making recommendations to Government on strategic trade facilitation goals and operations;
- iii. Ensure that Trade Facilitation related agencies provide Trade Facilitation infrastructure based on their responsibility;
- iv. Provide forum for discussions by stakeholders on trade facilitation related policies to address any overlap functions and;
- iv. Sensitizing the public on trade facilitation measures, practices and standards;
- v. Mapping National positions on the WTO Trade facilitation for negotiations in line with the National Trade Policy;

- vi. Facilitating the process of implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation;
- vii. Ensuring the free movement of goods and people at High ways, Airports, Sea and Border Posts;
- viii. Ensuring that there is total elimination of unauthorized check points;
- xii. Elimination of Multiple Taxation; and
- xiii. Reducing Administrative Bottlenecks, Institutional rigidities and Bureaucracy.

### **Categorization**

- The Committee in consultations with stakeholders drafted the Categories A, B and C and already submitted to WTO Category A. The Categories B and C are being revalidated after which would be submitted in due course.
- The instrument of ratification is being process and as soon as it is ready, Nigeria will deposit it at the WTO.

### **Action plan**

**Two working groups were created in the membership of the Committee.** The working groups developed draft action plan for implementation which has been harmonized.

### **Supports received from Development partners on TF**

- **National Needs Assessment exercise by USAID;**
- **Stakeholders processes on TFA Categorization by GIZ with funding from the EU;**
- **Validation workshop on categorization by ITC;**
- **Funding of some NTFC meetings by USAID & GIZ;**
- **Capacity building Seminars in China by Chinese Authority; and**
- **Funding of expert to participate in TFA Meetings & Negotiations in Geneva by WTO;**
- **Supports to Nigeria Customs Service by WCO, GIZ/EU & USAID, etc**

## **Challenges**

- Inadequate funds to enable the NTFC actively perform its activities outlined in the action plan;
- Lack of supports from some Development partners (Some renders supports while others don't);
- Supports are mostly based on interest of Development partners rather than on demand driven;
- Lack of adequate Trade support infrastructure & facilities to expedite action on Trade Facilitation in Nigeria;
- Inadequate logistics to support the Committee in carrying out some surveillance and performance evaluation on TF in Nigeria;
- Some TFA implementation agencies lack adequate internet facility & website to ensure full implementation of the TFA; etc