



**WTO ADVANCED COURSE ON TRADE FACILITATION
GENEVA, JUNE 7, 2016**

**SESSION 4:
*HOW TO ENSURE THE PROPER FUNCTIONING AND LONG-
TERM ADAPTABILITY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE***

GUYANA
Presentation by Omar Jason Chung

GUYANA NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION (NCTF)

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- **TRADE POLICY (incl WTO matters)** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- **CUSTOMS & TRADE FACILITATION** – Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA)
- **JOINT COORDINATORS of NCTF** –GRA and the MFA
- NCTF Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures



NCTF IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 31, 2015** – Cabinet approved establishment of National Committee
- **April 9, 2015** – Public launch of the National Committee (at the GRA).
- **Nov 30, 2015** – TFA Ratified & Notified to WTO
- **Jan 5, 2016** – Category 'A' Measures Notified WTO
- **May 31, 2016** – Draft Category 'B' & 'C' Measures Notified to OFFICE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (OTN)



NATIONAL COMMITTEE (NCTF)

MEMBERS – Border Agencies:

- **Key Border Agencies:**

- Ministry of Agriculture;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Business;
- Guyana Customs Brokers Association;
- Shipping Association of Guyana;
- Guyana National Bureau of Standards;
- Government Analyst, Food and Drug Department.

- **Private Sector:**

- The Private Sector Commission
- Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association



HOW TO ENSURE THE PROPER FUNCTIONING AND LONG-TERM ADAPTABILITY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

(i) How to ensure the proper functioning of the National Committee over time?

- It is important that the Lead agencies (GRA & MFA, in the case of Guyana), in the first instance, remain proactive and drive the process.
- Task the various members with specific actions or reporting responsibilities. For example, the private sector would want to be involved and see real action taken to reduce transaction costs and unnecessary regulations at the border. In this way, there will be increased buy-in to the work of the Committee

(i) How to secure long term political support?

- Ensure the National Committee has a representative and active role in the oversight of the GRA/Customs modernization programme/ reforms. This will attract the support of the authorities (eg Ministries of Finance, Trade and Business).



HOW TO ENSURE THE PROPER FUNCTIONING AND LONG-TERM ADAPTABILITY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

(iii) How to deal with the rotation and replacement of representatives to the National Committee?

- Comments at (i) above apply. It is important that the Committee is active and meets regularly. In this way, the member agencies will be engaged and easily observed for any absence or lack of activity.

(iv) What are the common success factors and what the most frequent challenges faced?

- Success factors would include: actions taken on schedule, stakeholders feedback taken on board.
- Challenges: inactive members, lack of meetings etc.





REGIONAL COORDINATION - CARICOM

OFFICE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (OTN)

- Establishment of Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (RCTF) networking National Committees
- Assisting Member States to identify Category 'C' measures & TACB
- Coordinate Donors meeting



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**Thank You for Your
Attention!**