

TRADE FACILITATION PROCEDURES DOMAIN

RECOMMENDATION ON TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION

MONITORING MECHANISM (TTFMM)

CONFERENCE CALL 2
JULY 5TH 2016, 13:00 -15:00 CET

Attendance

Present:

Bassil EID (FIATA)
Bismark SITORUS (UN)
Erwan GAMBERT (FR)
Estelle IGWE (NG)
Evdokia Moise, OECD
Jari SALO (FI)
Mitsuru ISHIGAKI (JP)
Paloma BERNAL TURNES (US)
Prabir DE (IN)
Somnuk KERETHO (TH)
Tania GARCIA-MILLAN (UN)
Tengfei WANG (UN)
William LUDDY (US)

Absents:

Mohammad SAEED (ITC)
Gordon CRAGGE (UK)
Lance THOMPSON (US)
Silvia SORESCU (OECD)
Johan PONTEN (SW)

Summary of the meeting

The draft text of the Recommendation on TTFMM (v. 02)¹ was discussed by the participants. Discussions were mainly focused on *Section A. Introduction* and *Section B. Institutional arrangement*. Some revisions and discussion were made.

Draft version (v. 03) was prepared according to discussion during this second conference call² (it would be circulated separately). All participants were invited to review Draft version (v. 03) and send feedback to the project team as soon as possible before the 3rd Conference call.

It was recognized that there was a need to identify the experts who would be able to contribute to case studies related to TTFMM. In this respect, all participants are encouraged to provide information to help identify such experts. It was also requested to resend the case study survey to the ITPD Domain experts with a introductory letter explaining to the reader the content of the survey from the leader of the project.

It was mentioned that the case studies survey form should be reviewed to check whether it would be possible to improve it. It was also proposed that some case studies could be presented at the forthcoming 28th UN/CEFACT Forum to be held in Bangkok during 26-30 September 2016.

Specific Comments on the draft text of the Recommendation on TTFMM (v. 02)

1. For the section A “Introduction”

¹ It is available at the Confluence website

² The difference between v. 03 and v. 02 is that v. 03 includes two sections titled *C4: Trade routes and corridors* and *C5: Overall national trade and transport facilitation performance and an Annex (Annex 1)* while v.02 does not include these sections.

It is proposed that better explanation of Figure 1 is required to be better in line with the proposed structure of the TTFMM Guidelines. It is also proposed that the consideration should be given on the usage of symbols in figure 1 such as rectangles and arrows. Participants were invited to contribute ideas for improvement. Alternatively, a suggestion was given that figure 1 could be removed.

Text in the section titled Introduction could be improved, especially in the way to explain different components of figure 1.

For the section 2.B. titled “Institutional arrangement”, It was proposed that the UN/CEFACT *Recommendation N°. 4 - National Trade Facilitation Bodies* and *Recommendation N°. 40 - Consultation approaches Best Practices in Trade and Government Consultation on Trade Facilitation matters* should be properly reflected.

Referring to WTO TFA, it was argued that it should be up to the country whether TTFMM should be under the auspices of NTFC or not based upon each country’s context and choices. Indeed, it was recognized that NTFC was probably the most suitable body to lead TTFMM whenever possible because policy formulation and monitoring should be inter-connected. For example, NTFC could utilize the monitoring report to further improve the implementation of its policy and roadmap.

It was proposed that the role of private sector needs to be highlighted for implementing TTFMM. Responding to this concern, some participants mentioned that NTFC should be the right platform since it comprises of different stakeholders including government agencies and private sector.

It was proposed that a third party such as UNION or CCI should be introduced to ensure the neutrality and quality of collected data and reports. However, some participants felt there might not be applicable in many countries. Also, there would be resources and cost implications for setting up a third party.