

WHITE PAPER PRIVATE SECTOR NTFB PROJECT

MEETING #2, 1 JUNE 2021 @16:00 GENEVA-TIME

Attendance

Present:	Excused absence:
Birgit Viohl (Project lead) Jake Shostag (Project lead) Lance Thompson (Secretariat)	
Bismark Sitorus Smart Masoni Mario Apostolov Yuri Saito Benedicte Meille Robin Gaarder Reese Hakki Gurkan Eva Chan Felix Yan Rose Ronoh Joeline Modeste HARINIAINA Deep SenGupta Nicole AUstin Kevin Aktinson	

Agenda of the meeting

- Welcome new team members
- Initial discussions with input from members
- Review draft outline which was submitted
- Plan next call

Details of the discussion

- New team members, Eva Chan, Kevin Aktinson, Mario Apostolov, Bismark Sitorus were welcomed to the team
- Initial discussions with input from team members
- Deep and Nicole presented their own experience of participating in trade related public. private dialogues in the US – their inputs are in the attachment below. Issues that were discussed after their presentation; role of trader’s associations such as Chamber of Commerce; feedback and visibility of actions and decisions; mandate of NTFB and link to private sector motivation; different mobilization by industry sector.
- Following this discussion, the draft outline was discussed.
Benedicte Meille, Kevin Aktinson, Muhannad Hamed, Modeste Harinianina provided comments and inputs into the draft outline which was circulated by email and available on dropbox paper. The comments in the draft which was circulated to all members on Monday 31 May.
- Issues that were discussed are
 - Impact of lack private sector engagement and service centric approach of NTFB
 - Available assessment studies of NTFB

- Possibility of carrying out a survey of private sector to collect input / validate information for the challenges and barriers section. Lance recalled the procedural requirements for organizing such a survey, which needs to comply with UN/CEFACT rules. Jake and Birgit will discuss the parameters and inform the team of the decision taken regarding this aspect.
- The following experts volunteered to contribute to the draft of individual sections of the paper
- Kevin, Benedicte, Yuri and Felix: Desk review of existing studies on private sector role in NTFB, including data on causes of NTFB's failures)
- Robin, Hakki on barriers of private sector participation in particular needs and expectations and motivations from private sector representatives.

Next steps:

- 2 June – Jake to upload version 2 of the draft outline in CUE and email it to group members (the latter is necessary as not all members have access to CUE yet).
- 22 June – Experts are requested to submit any of their comments in track changes by this date by email to Jake or Birgit.
- 23 June – Birgit and Jake to compile all comments received and upload version 3 in CUE and circulate it by email to all experts, in preparation for the next call
- 29 June @ 16:00 Gva time, next call to go through the text and the comments received

ANNEX:

Input from Deep and Nicole on their experience in participating in P-P dialogues on Trade in the US

1) What would motivate you (as employee or head of a private company) to spend extra time for P-P dialogue on trade?

Reply:

The main motivations for an employee of a private company to spend extra time for P-P dialog on trade include:

1.1 It helps the company voice its concerns (if directly affected by the subject matter legislation) directly to the governmental/international bodies.

1.2 It helps participating companies build a personal and professional relationship with policy makers.

1.3 It gives these companies an opportunity to shape policy and get a sneak peak at proposed rules that may impact them.

1.4 On a personal level, it does help the individual employee (a) enhance their knowledge & (b) professional development by expanding their professional network on a global level.

2) What would make you stop engaging?

Reply:

The possible reasons for a company to stop engaging include:

2.1 The company (or the employer) may think that the employees are spending too much time on non-productive or non-revenue generating P-P activities.

2.2 The rules set by the P-P committee may be too onerous for a company's voluntary participation.

2.3 Lack of appreciation for a private company volunteering their time.

2.4 The P-P committee may not have a specific agenda/deliverable that appears to add value or perceived benefit to the company.

2.5 The company may feel exploited if repeatedly asked to provide sponsorships or financial assistance for events/conferences.

3) Are u participating in a P-P dialogue or committee? If yes, is it part of your duties or did you choose to do so? If not, has it come up and why did you decide not to participate?

Reply:

3.1 Yes, we do participate in other P-P committees.

3.2 It is not part of our duties but it is generally encouraged by our management/employers.

3.3 We chose to do it since we are passionate about International trade facilitation, and are deeply interested in contributing to this international dialog.

3.4 There is also an element of prestige / professional enhancement for mid-career executives and contributing knowledge leadership for senior executives.

4) Considering companies similar to the ones you work / worked for, which units/functions are more likely to engage with policy questions; compliance; legal; logistics; operations

Reply:

The units that are most likely to engage with Policy questions include:

4.1 For large multinationals: Usually the Government Affairs or Legal (Compliance) team want to have a direct/single-point relationship with the regulatory agencies.

4.2 For midsize / smaller companies: C-level officers, VP-International Sales gets involved as these international issues are very critical and usually affect the company's bottom line.

4.3 For Technical committees: Usually the subject matter experts (for example on trade facilitation/customs clearance/export controls) or Operations personnel add more value.

Best wishes,
Deep

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