

WHITE PAPER PRIVATE SECTOR NTFB PROJECT

MEETING #3, 29 JUNE 2021 @16:00 GENEVA-TIME

Attendance

Present:
Jake Shostag (Project lead) Lance Thompson (Secretariat)
Narine Aldasheva Kevin Atkinson Nicole Austin Aleksi Bondarenko Robin Gaarder Reese Joeline Hariniaina Smart Masoni Bismark Sitorus Daniele Tumietto Felix Yvan

Agenda of the meeting

- Presentation of the current version and comments
- Inputs on private sector motivations and expectations as per previous meeting
- Discussion on individual team members motivating factors and interests in current project
- Discussion of next step forward and next call

Meeting Notes

Presentation of the current version and comments

Reviewed current draft revision

- Discussed updates based on feedback from team
- Agreed that CUE site and emailed copies of current revision should be made available to team no later than one week prior to monthly meeting
 - For this to be possible, any changes or comments provided after this date will be rolled into the following revision
- Discussion and agreement that document revisions need to clearly identify assigned roles and tasks
 - Potentially, the use of the task tracker on the CUE project site
- For next meeting, Kevin volunteered to work on section 3.2, "Attraction and motivation"

Inputs on private sector motivations and expectations as per previous meeting

Information provided by Hakki was not included for draft revision reviewed

- To be included in next revision and commentary provided as an annex to these meeting notes below

Robin provided detailed update and current findings related to exercise on identifying barriers of private sector participation in NTFB

- General lack of awareness and communication noted as being common barriers for P-P
- Leveraging newer technologies deployed by private and public sector throughout the pandemic noted as potentially worthy of additional focus
- Noted that a recent live meeting produced very good P-P dialog and feedback
- Current findings and commentary noted as being approximately 50/50 P-P

Discussion on individual team members motivating factors and interests in current project

Roundtable discussion focused on individual team member expectations through project participation, desired outcome, and areas of interest (responses summarized/paraphrased)

- Bismark: P-P collaboration opportunity & improvement in participation from broader range of countries
- Felix: increasing private sector interest and motivation to participate in NTFB & additional guidance on best practices for P-P relationship development
- Daniele: utilizing smart standardization efforts to increase interactions, proposal previously provided (see CUE)
- Joeline: overall effectiveness in P-P engagement and collaboration efforts
- Kevin: a stronger presence/voice for the private sector (as a driving force) & leveraging private sector advances for public sector (noting that public sector is often playing “catchup”)
- Lance: better P-P balance and representation, emphasis added on private sector participation
- Nicole: better global focus and collaboration with increased standardization and transparency for private sector to access
- Robin: continuous improvement, feedback and brainstorming with group and CEFACT leadership
- Smart: identifying best practices for engaging private sector and working with other international organizations (example of WTO)

Next steps:

- Before 27 July – Ongoing discussion, commentary, and feedback from group via email. Please feel free to volunteer to work on a section of the paper that does not currently have any names assigned
- 27 July – Birgit and Jake to compile all comments received from team into updated draft revision and upload in CUE + circulate by email to all Experts, in preparation for the next call
- 03 August @ 16:00 Geneva next team meeting

Annex:

From Hakkı Gürkan Email (Monday, June 28, 2021 16:50 CDT)

On the topic of outline

I think current version is pretty well shows team's intention and final goal regarding how the document will be look like. I just have three proposals not for general headlines within document but certain subtopics that can be inserted into structure.

First is overall idea of public-private partnership. Rec No 40 is very well establishes the idea and provides a good view for consultation practices like explaining principles, selection of forms of consultations and such. I know that we have a limited page for White Paper but I think that at least giving one paragraph for principle of public-private partnership within trade facilitation and Rec No 40 would be crucial for explaining overall concept to readers.

Second is about mandate of NTFBs. I couldn't find the right place for this, and I'm so sorry that I've missed within outline and it is already included, but there should be a place for explaining legal background of NTFBs and how private sector fits in said background. Are certain NTFBs established as legal/official organisms? Are they non-official in the sense of that private sector attends certain meetings organized by public sector but there is no strict "membership"? I think that document should set out different ways that NTFBs have been established. I apologize if this idea is a bit out of the scope of project but coming from lawmaking side, I feel that this should give a effective guidance to interested parties.

Third and lastly, I'm really offended (!) on certain lack of references to WTO TFA Article 23.2. Developed countries have a long history of using such committees but NTFBs really became a "trend" (forgive the use of term) with WTO TFA coming into force, so, I think that we should a subtopic on WTO TFA Article 23.2 explaining how it is a binding provision within an international agreement about NTFBs.

On the topic of drafting

I see that you have included me within second headline as drafter and thank you for that. I would be really grateful if you can add me to drafting team within "Standards" topic as well because UNCEFACT Standards are my one of the favourite subjects. Yes, I'm that weird guy that reads internation standards in his free times, so, sue me!

Also, if you can not find volunteers, I'd be happy to lend a hand on certain topics and become your "joker" staff.

On the topic of questions and survey

So, this is the big one. Sadly, unlike Reese, we couldn't have a NTFB meeting due to change in management of Ministry. Yes, our Minister has changed and that situation give birth a plethora of different briefing meetings. And,our head of NTFB, Deputy Minister just called off the meeting to an uncertain date.

But thankfully, I had some phone calls with our regulars from three associations about questions accepted at least within e-mail. They didn't want their names or names of their organizations to be included for time being, but please find answers below:

1. What would motivate your institution to spend extra time for Public-Private dialogue on trade facilitation/customs ?

Organization A/C: Solving day-to-day problems encountered within international trade transactions in ports, border crossing points and airports.

Organization B: Impacting future of trade facilitation agenda of Turkey.

Org. B has a bigger vision than other two, as they want to inspire a "digital transformation" within understanding of international trade.

2. What would you stop engaging?

Organization A: Lack of interest from public sector and not getting concrete solutions.

Organization B: Inactivity

Organization C: None.

3. What are your expectations from NCTF with regards to customs procedures/trade facilitation ?

Organization A/C: Reduction in customs release times and decrease in cost of compliance.

Organization B: Better understanding from public sector representatives, especially agencies other than customs, for expectations.

4. Considering institutions similar to you've worked for/Considering regional/local Members' of your Association, which units/functions are more likely to engage with policy questions? Compliance? Legal? Logistics? Customs Operations?

Organization A: Freight Forwarders/Customs Brokers/Customs Warehouse Owners

Organization B: Customs Operations in general

Organization C: Customs Brokers

5. How do you prepare for meetings of the NTFB? Do you reach out to your membership to collect their input and opinions?

Organization A: We sent out a call to all our local representatives for their input, gather and analyse them in HQ and bring them to meetings depending on level of participations, i. e. experts, directors or heads of organizations.

Organization B: Technical team within Secretariat handles all issues for attendance for meetings of NTFB:

Organization C: Generally, we organize meeting such one day before large meetings of committee for getting members' input to agenda and conclusions of meeting.

This is just some preliminary answers I got from close friends. Hopefully, I'd be able get all members' answers within following two weeks, if I can persuade our Secretary/my Head of Department for sending answers officialy.