

**ECOWAS – NTCB NATIONAL  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON  
TRADE MEETING, ABUJA, NIGERIA  
26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**STATUS REPORT – THE GAMBIA**

JANUARY 2015

**Outline of Presentation**

- Background Information
- Composition of Committee/Sub-Committees
- Achievements
- Summary and Key Recommendations
- Assessment of Needs

## Background Information

- In 2006, MOTIE established the National Committee on Mainstreaming Trade and Trade-Related Issues (MATTRICOM).
- The committee consists of all relevant public, private sector and civil society institutions.
- In 2009, the ECOWAS-TNCB project assisted to increase the scope of the committee as part of the project's efforts to set up institutional mechanisms to strengthen trade policy decision making in member states.
- The current name is the National Trade Decision Making Committee. The committee was officially launched in April 2009 by the Minister of Trade and the ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement.
- The membership criteria of the committee includes organizations with trade related activities, organizations with development plan activities as well as organizations with interest in the impact of trade policy.

07/02/15

3

## Composition of Committee



07/02/15

4

### Composition of Sub-Committees

Sub-Committees	Members	Chairs of the Sub-Committees
Trade Facilitation	Gambia Revenue Authority, Gambia Ports Authority, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport, Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, Gambia Police Force, Gambia Immigration Department, Association of Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Gambia National Transport Control Association.	Gambia Revenue Authority
Productive Sectors	National Environment Agency, Association of Gambian Manufacturers, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Association of Gambian Fishing Companies, National Farmers Platform, National Agriculture Research Institute, CODEX Committee, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Veterinary Services, Gambia Horticultural Enterprise, National Nutrition Agency.	Ministry of Agriculture
Information, Education and Communication	National Assembly, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, National Authorizing Office Support Unit, University of the Gambia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Association of NGO Organizations, Media, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Gambia Tourism Board, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information	University of the Gambia

07/02/15

5

### Trade Facilitation Committee

- Mandate is to advise Government on trade facilitation and related matters with a view to enhancing the efficiency of clearance and delivery of goods.
- Ensure that The Gambia's trade facilitation measures are in line with WTO Agreements and ECOWAS Protocols.
- Monitors the implementation of the ECOWAS Inter-State Road Transit Scheme.

07/02/15

6

## Trade Negotiations Advisory Group

- UK Trade Advisory Facility institutionalized a well organized Trade Negotiations Advisory Group for The Gambia.
- Launched in February 2014 and comprises of senior technical personnel who passed through the advanced training course under the TAF-MOTIE-WTIA project “Strengthening The Gambia’s Trade Negotiating Capacity”.
- Advice and provide technical support to Government during international trade negotiations.
- Recognized forum for advice on formulation and execution of policy at all stages of development and implementation, relating to international trade negotiations involving The Gambia.

07/02/15

7

## Membership of the Trade Negotiations Advisory Group

- Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (Chair)
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure
- Food Safety and Quality Authority of The Gambia
- Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
- Gambia Revenue Authority
- Gambia Standards Bureau
- Gambia Bureau of Statistics
- Association of Clearing and Forwarding Agents
- Association of Gambian Manufacturers
- Gambia Association of Horticultural Producers and Exporters
- Gambia Tourism Board
- ActionAid
- University of The Gambia

07/02/15

8

## Achievements of the National Trade Policy Decision Making Committee

- In September 2009, WTO/MOTIE conducted a training for the committee on TBT and SPS matters.
- In April 2010, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Enhanced Integrated Framework Project conducted a training for the committee on trade negotiations, trade analysis tools, trade facilitation, regional integration, trade mainstreaming and market access issues.
- In October 2010, MOTIE/EIF conducted a training on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights and notifications were submitted on The Gambia's trade measures.
- In December 2010, MOTIE/TNCB conducted a training on regional integration issues, CET, ETLs and EPA negotiations.
- In February 2011, MOTIE/EIF conducted a one day consultative dialogue on trade promotion and trade facilitation with the relevant stakeholders.
- In October 2011, MOTIE/EIF conducted a one day dialogue on trade promotion and environmental protection.
- In December 2011, MOTIE/EIF/WTO conducted a national seminar on the Agreement on Agriculture.
- In June 2012, MOTIE/EIF conducted a training on the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement.
- In September 2013, MOTIE/ECA/WTO/EIF conducted a training on trade and development.
- In November 2013, MOTIE/TNCB conducted an Institutional Capacity Building Workshop on regional integration issues.
- The committee helped the Ministry to review the EPA and CET Negotiating Texts.
- The members of the committee serve as a link between the Ministry and their sectors on trade matters.

07/02/15

9

## Trade Facilitation Sub-Committee Achievements

- Negotiate and develop guidelines with the relevant sectors for the implementation of the ECOWAS Inter-State Road Transit Scheme.
- Conducted a nationwide sensitization targeting the border agencies, truck drivers and business community.
- Solved several problems emanating from the operations of the trade related institutions with a view to ensuring trade is facilitated in The Gambia.
- Monthly meetings on trade facilitation issues.
- Assist the Gambia Chamber of Commerce to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ziguinchor Chamber.

07/02/15

10

## Summary and Key Recommendations

- The TNCB project should disburse the funding initially earmarked for the committee's activities.
- The TNCB should build the capacities of the Ministries coordinating these committees by ways of creating internship programs, capacity building on trade policies and regional integration.
- The TNCB should create a linkage between their work and the ECOWAS National Units for sustainability.
- The TNCB should conduct E-Learning and regional certificate courses on trade policy, regional integration among others.

07/02/15

11

## Assessment of Needs

- Support the National Trade Policy Decision Making Committee to conduct their meetings and trainings.
- Support the Trade Negotiations Advisory Group to carry out its specific activities and programmes as EIF only funded the launching of the Group.

07/02/15

12

Thank you for your attention