

**COUNTRY REPORT OF GHANA ON
ACTIVITIES OF INTER-
INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE(IIC)
PRESENTED AT THE
ECOWAS TNCB MEETING IN ABUJA
FROM 26TH-28TH JANUARY,2015**

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1. OBJECTIVES OF THE IIC

- Coordinate and manage national trade policy formulation
- Monitoring of implementation of world trade organization (WTO) Agreements
- Preparation of technical position papers for overall Ghana trade negotiations
- Coordination of domestic trade policy issues
- Engage in awareness creation within Ghana on international trade issues and
- Follow up actions on the outcomes of submissions of our negotiators

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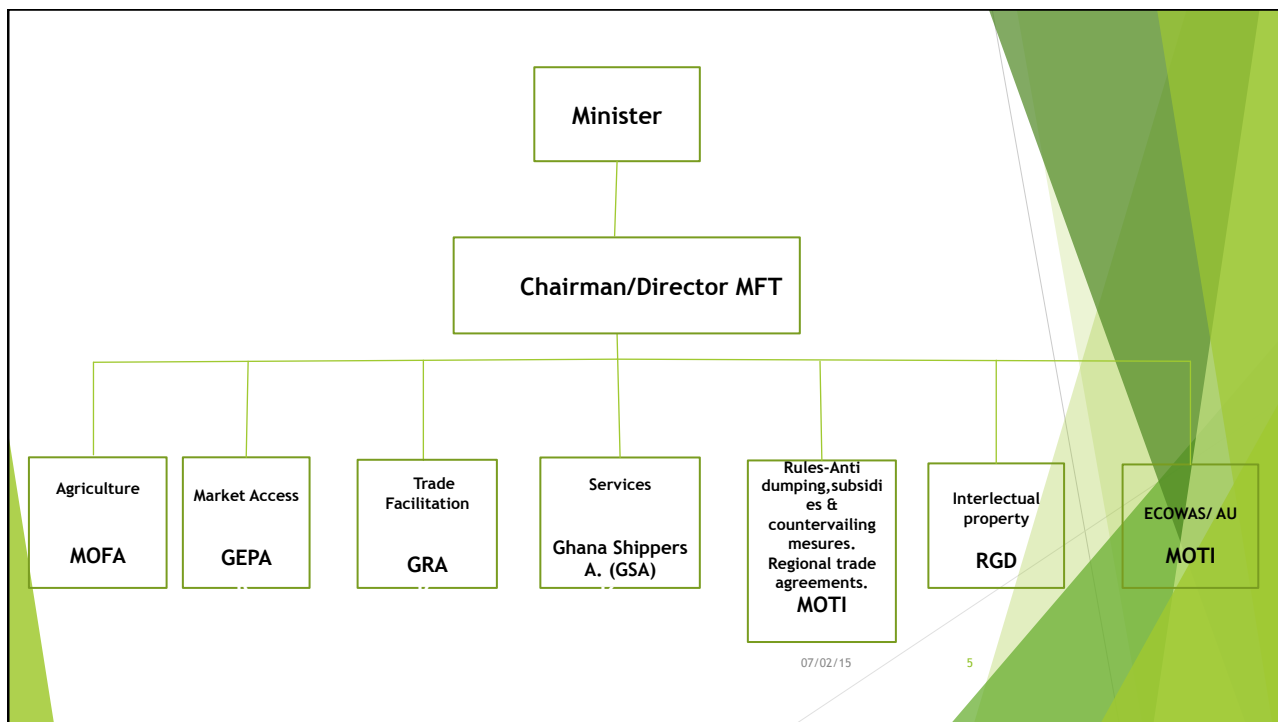
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2. COMPOSITION OF THE IIC

- ▶ The Director of Multilateral and Foreign Trade is the Chairman of the Committee, supported by a secretariat and overseen by the Hon. Minister.
- ▶ The IIC and its Sub-Committees comprise of representatives from ministries, departments, Agencies, Civil Society and the Private sector.
- ▶ The committee meets in plenary to discuss and oversee the work undertaken by the sub-committees
- ▶ Sub-committees liaise with relevant stakeholders and establish working groups with interested institutions and present their findings to the general committee for further discussions.

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3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF IIC

To enhance the operationalization of ICC, the following recommendations were made:

- ▶ Development of monitoring and evaluation mechanism for effective performance of the IIC.
- ▶ Prepare and circulate scope of work for the sub-committees.
- ▶ Addition of African Union trade related issues to the work of the IIC.
- ▶ Inclusion of other key Ministries and Agencies in the IIC.
- ▶ Need to put in place effective structures early enough to take full advantage of the benefits of the EPA when signed.
- ▶ Need to renegotiate for an increment of the EPADP fund to substantially cater for loss of custom revenue.
- ▶ A comprehensive sensitization and technical capacity building programmes for local industries and IIC members to identify key provisions in the EPA agreement such as rules of origin, the EPA development programme, the tariff elimination schedule in order to position them address the potential challenges of the EPA.

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF IIC CONT...

- ▶ Need to transform TNCB project into a premier trade capacity building institute for West Africa countries.
- ▶ Need for the chief negotiators to have a critical look at certain provisions in the EPA Draft Text which are considered WTO Plus.
- ▶ Need to consider alternative sources of funding for the EDAIF since the current levy may be illegal with the signing of the EPA.
- ▶ Need to identify mechanism to reward Member States that comply with the ETLs protocol.
- ▶ Need for a widespread sensitization on the CET for Government Agencies as well as the Private Sector Operators.

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OVERVIEW OF IIC WORK PROGRAMMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The scope of work of Ghana Inter-institutional Committee are inter alia:

- Revive the dialogue on trade policy within the relevant Government institutions of Ghana.
- Facilitate the flow of information's between institutions to ensure that policies undertaken by these institutions and ministries are not contradictory.
- Disseminate trade policy and international trade information to the public through organisation of workshops, lectures and informing the media.
- Undertake research on relevant issues that need to be addressed in the context of trade policy and international negotiations, and disseminate research findings in a timely manner to relevant institutions.

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OVERVIEW OF IIC WORK PROGRAMMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS CONT.....

- Ensure that schedules of trade related meetings such as ECOWAS, EPA negotiations WTO events, and African Union trade issues are made known and adequate preparation are made for their participation.
- Participate in a number of International trade related meetings as part of Ghana's delegation.
- Support the establishment of good regulatory practices for establishing SPS/TBT measures and ensuring they are met.
- Identify needs for additional capacity building of IIC members to allow them meet the professional demands that will be imposed on them.
- Set up and maintain a communication network allowing members of the IIC, relevant institutions, and the Ghana Trade Missions to communicate easily and inexpensively. ETC.

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ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE IIC

The IIC has succeeded in achieving the following:

- Facilitate the flow of information's between institutions to ensure that policies undertaken by these institutions and ministries are not contradictory.
- Assisted in the formulation of both the Ghana Trade and Industrial Policies.
- Provision of technical inputs into the Ghana-W/A - EU EPA.
- Successfully assisted in the dissemination of trade related information to the public through the organisation of workshops etc.
- Assisted in the development of trade related briefs and positions and their dissemination to our negotiators in Brussels and Geneva.
- Participated in a number of international meetings as part of Ghana's delegation .
- Have played a critical role in the provision of trade related information to feed MOTI 's website.

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ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The under-mentioned are MOTI`s needs and priorities:

(A) Capacity building for IIC members on trade negotiation skills, Services, industrial Products ,Agric, TBT, SPS and strategies on international trade issues to help them become very good negotiators.

(B) ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)

- Support to develop ECOWAS-EU EPA Accompanying Measures Strategy for Ghana with key stakeholders.
- A comprehensive sensitization and technical capacity building programmes for local industries and IIC members to identify key provisions in the EPA agreement such as rules of origin, the EPA development programme, the tariff elimination schedule in order to position them address the potential challenges of the EPA.

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ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS CONT...

(C) ECOWAS COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF (CET)

- Capacity building of IIC members to have a better appreciation of the CET
- Widespread sensitization on the CET for Government Agencies as well as the Private Sector Operators.

(D) ECOWAS TRADE LIBERALIZATION SCHEME

- Need to impress upon ECOWAS members states who have not amended their national laws to incorporate the ETLs to do so within the shortest possible time.
- Support to help identify implementation bottlenecks together with the relevant stakeholders for an improved implementation of the ETLs programme.
- Support for a widespread sensitization on the ETLs for the private sector operators so as to encourage all Ghanaian business operators to fully utilize the scheme to their outmost benefit.

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THANK YOU!

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