



**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF TRADE**

National Committees on Trade Facilitation and Turkish Experience

*15th Meeting of Trade Working Group, COMCEC
22.09.2020*



Presentation Plan

- I** National Committees on Trade Facilitation – their role and functions
- II** Trade Facilitation and Turkey
- III** Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation
- IV** Trade Facilitation Strategy and the Five Year Work Plan
- V** Challenges, Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

I. National Committees on Trade Facilitation

NCTF's and Their Purpose

❑ Art. 23.2 of World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation

«Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.»



❑ UNCEFACT Recommendation No: 4

«...Governments and the trading community should adopt trade facilitation as an indispensable component of trade policy formation and should aim to establish a National Trade Facilitation Body (NTFB) which embraces the views and opinions of all stakeholders and pursues agreement, cooperation and collaboration...»

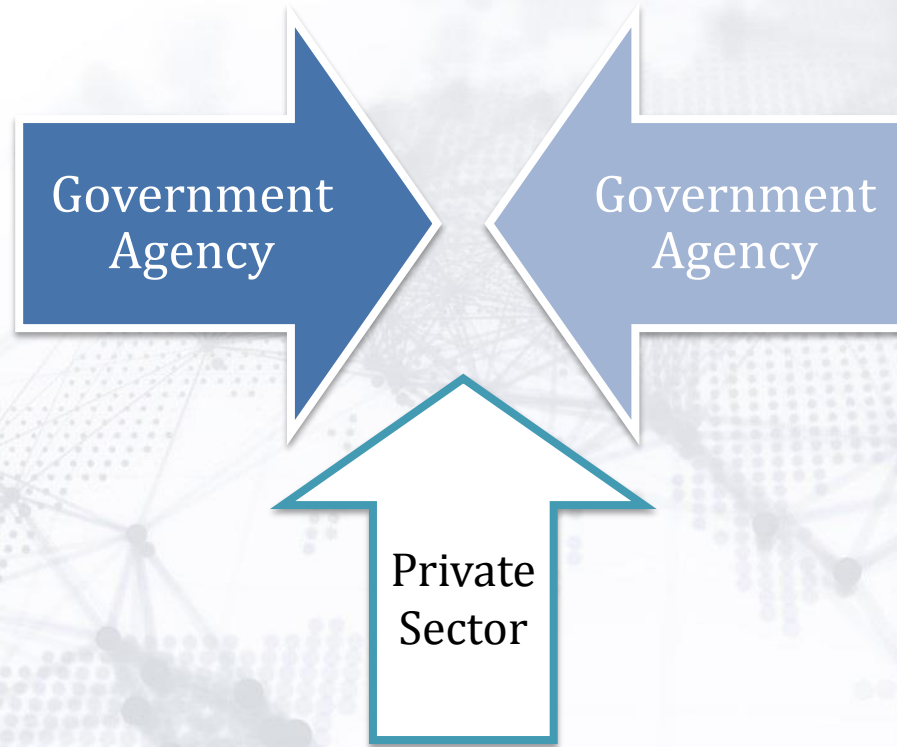
«...An NTFB encompasses all trade facilitation issues including regulatory, operational, customs, multimodal transport, transit, logistics, banking and finance, agriculture, sanitary and phyto-sanitary, health, and electronic business issues, among other related topics...»





I. National Committees on Trade Facilitation

Cooperation



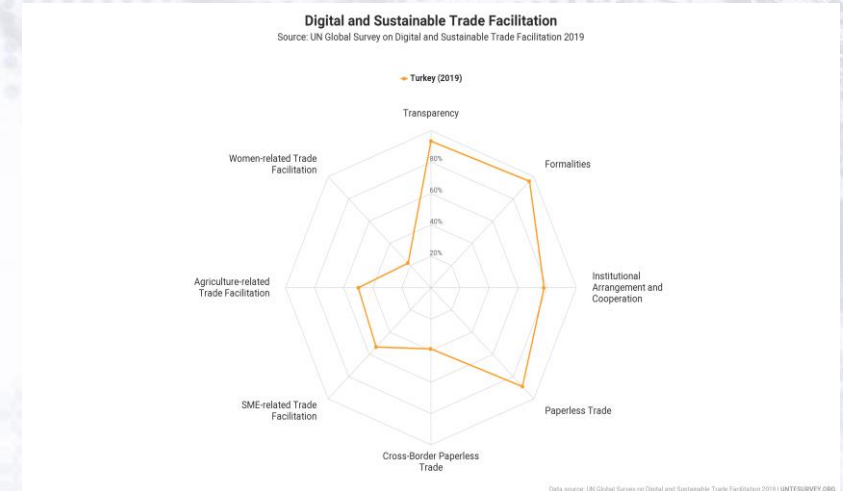
- ☐ Better coordination among government agencies responsible for trade facilitation and at large, foreign trade
- ☐ Cooperation between government agencies and private sectors (and other stakeholders)



II. Trade Facilitation and Turkey

- ❑ Party to all relevant trade facilitation agreements;
 - ✓ WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
 - ✓ WCO Revised Kyoto Convention
 - ✓ SAFE Framework of Standards
 - ✓ UN Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods

- ❑ High implementation rate on trade facilitation measures;
 - ✓ *WTO TFA* – All measures in Category A
 - ✓ *OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators 2019* – Average Score of 1.6 out of 2.0
 - ✓ *UN Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019* – Trade Facilitation Score of 80,65%






III. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

Establishment

WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT
Art. 23/2

- 
- ☐ *Joint meetings between relevant authorities*
 - ☐ *Preparation of Draft Circular*
 - ☐ *Sending Draft Circular to Prospective Members for their remarks*
 - ☐ *Amendments to Draft Circular*
 - ☐ *Sending Draft Circular to Presidency for publishing*

CIRCULAR OF PRESIDENCY
ESTABLISHING
COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION



III. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

Members

Committee is chaired by;



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Members

Public Sector

- ☐ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- ☐ Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
- ☐ Ministry of Finance and Treasury
- ☐ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ☐ Ministry of Health
- ☐ Ministry of Industry and Technology
- ☐ Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- ☐ Presidency of Strategy and Budget
- ☐ Turkish Standards Institution
- ☐ Small and Medium Sized Industry Development Organization

Private Sector

- ☐ Foreign Economic Relations Board
- ☐ Turkish Exporters Assembly
- ☐ The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- ☐ International Transporters' Association
- ☐ Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers
- ☐ The Banks Association of Turkey
- ☐ Associations of Customs Consultancy
- ☐ Turkish Industry and Business Association
- ☐ Independent Industrialist and Businessmen Association
- ☐ Maritime Association of Shipowners and Agents
- ☐ Chamber of Shipping
- ☐ Turkish Foreign Trade Association

«Observers»

International Investors Association



III. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

Structure

General Board

- ⑩ Coordinating and establishing a trade facilitation strategy and work plan.

Technical Committee

- ⑩ Coordinating the technical work being done within Committee.

Working Groups

- ❑ Main bodies for technical work.

Secretariat

Logistic and technical support

WG on Transparency

WG on Customs and
Foreign Trade

WG on Infrastructure
and Logistics



III. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

Objectives

- ❑ Overseeing implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Turkish Customs Area,
 - ✓ Harmonized implementation of the WTO TFA
 - ✓ Going beyond the WTO TFA
- ❑ Coordinating implementation procedures among related government agencies,
 - ✓ A policy coordination mechanism for government agencies
- ❑ Being a platform for public-private sector partnership in the area of trade facilitation,
 - ✓ Dialogue between government agencies and private sector stakeholders for solving foreign trade problems



**PRIVATE
SECTOR**

Vision of the Committee;

«Making Republic of Turkey one of the best countries within the areas of foreign trade costs, transaction speed and simplification.»

IV. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

- ❑ Trade Facilitation Strategy is the roadmap for the work of Committee. Strategy was created through extensive technical work done by technical working group
 - ✓ Working Group held 22 different meetings between 6th of June 2017 and 3rd of August 2017.
 - ✓ Extensive attendance of stakeholders were one of the most important side of these meetings.
 - ✓ Results of aforementioned meetings were enriched with a Trade Facilitation Workshop held between 2nd and 5th of October, 2017.
- ❑ Trade Facilitation Strategy of Turkey entered into force by approval of Board in 8th of March, 2018.
- ❑ Strategy has been updated and revised in 2019 and revised version approved on 25th of November, 2019.



IV. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

Strategic Goals and Actions



- ❑ Strategy includes 46 actions which are grouped under five main pillars;

- ✓ Provision of Transparency;
- ✓ Simplification;
- ✓ Reduction of Costs;
- ✓ Improving Cooperation;
- ✓ Capacity Building

- ❑ Each of the actions has a respective timeline for implementation, short term (in 2020), mid term (between 2020 and 2022) or long term (until 2023)

IV. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

Strategic Goals and Actions

Two of the examples of actions included in Strategy;

Under the pillar of Provision of Transparency:

1. Establishment of Trade Information Portal	Ministry of Trade (R), Union of Chambers and Stock Exchanges of Turkey (C)	A website for Committee has been established. It has been expected that website will turn into a Trade Information Portal in future.	Goal 1 Goal 2
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Under the pillar of Simplification:

18. Provision of presentation of customs declaration and supportive documents before arrival of goods to Turkish Customs Area and introduction of new legislation and technical infrastructure for allowing pre-arrival declaration.	Ministry of Trade (R) International Transporters' Association, Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers, Chamber of Shipping, Maritime Association of Shipowners and Agents(C)	System allowing pre-arrival declaration has been established in April 2020 for goods coming from seaways. Technical work for pre-arrival declaration for airways and road are still under development.	Goal 7 Goal 8
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V. Conclusion, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- ❑ NCTF's as a facilitator for comprehensive and inclusive implementation of trade facilitation measures and at large, effective policies of foreign trade.
 - ✓ Coordination, cooperation and understanding among all stakeholders
- ❑ Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation is a new and democratic platform for policymaking.
 - ✓ Solving problems arising from customs transactions for private sector and coordinating the joint operations of government agencies.
- ❑ Trade Facilitation Strategy will bring new action areas for getting over bottlenecks in customs and foreign trade transactions of Republic of Turkey.
 - ✓ Actions covering every area of transactions (procedures, documents, infrastructure...)
 - ✓ Coordinated implementation by all stakeholders

V. Conclusion, Challenges and Lessons Learned

- ❑ Comprehensive and inclusive attendance from stakeholders
 - ✓ «How is this topic related to our agency/institution?»
 - ✓ Seeing work of the Board as «extra workload»
 - ✓ Private sector as «troublemaker/naysayer»
- ❑ Stakeholders' view of trade facilitation measures
 - ✓ Different meanings: «abolishing all control»
 - ✓ A threat to national security, national health etc.
- ❑ Differing priorities between government agencies
 - ✓ Some of the agencies are more oriented towards domestic trade control
- ❑ Financial Resources
 - ✓ Currently, only financial resources are Ministry of Trade's budget



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**Thank you for your attention.
Questions?**

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