

# National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee

# National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC)

- NTTFC established in August 2001
- A public/private sector joint venture
- Membership comprises of:
  - Federal ministries related to trade and transport
  - Public sector organizations
  - Various chambers of commerce and industry and trade associations.
- Consensus based decision making
- Decision of recommendatory nature
- Coordination and technical support by NTTFC Secretariat for implementation by concerned ministry or organization

# Terms of reference of NTTFC

- Review the regulations, procedures and systems pertaining to the conduct of trade and transport that impact the cost and efficiency of country's international trade;
- Develop and promote the adoption of measures for simplification and harmonization of trade and transport procedures to reduce the cost and improve the efficiency of international trade;
- Act as national focal point for the collection and dissemination of information on best practices in international facilitation;
- Undertake coordination of efforts of concerned organizations in the field of facilitation of international and transport;
- Promote adoption of standard trade and transport terminology and international codes for trade and transport information.



# Terms of reference of NTTFC (continued)

- Pursue the simplification and alignment of trade and transport documents on the basis of the United Nations Layout Key, including documents designed for use in computer and other automated systems with the aim of adopting single window processing for all trade transactions;
- Organize and present training seminars and workshops to improve the capacity of domestic industry in international trade and transport procedures and knowledge of international trading practices, promote and support training and research by other national bodies and stakeholders;
- Maintain interface with international and regional organizations with the objective of improving trade facilitation and efficiency;
- Establishment of institutional framework of NTTFC and hiring staff/experts for carrying out activities as per ToR of NTTFC and matters relating to their salary structure.

# Introduction of UNLK based document

- Goods Declaration form was introduced as Single Administrative Document in December 2002
  - It can be submitted electronically through internet
  - Customs officials and agents trained in use of electronic document
  - It has been adopted in all Customs stations in Pakistan under WeBOC and will lead to development of National Single Window
- Certificate of Origin issued by authorized Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Phytosanitary Certificates issued by Department of Plant Protection
- Health Certificates issued by Animal Quarantine Department
- Commercial Invoice for exporters

# Standardized ship clearance forms

- Port clearance of ships requires submission of documents to Port Authorities, Customs, Health, Immigration and Mercantile Marine Departments
- Following documents were standardized according to IMO FAL Convention for same forms to be submitted to all organizations:
  - Ship's General Declaration
  - Crew List
  - Crew's Effects Declaration
  - Passenger List
  - Ship's Stores Declaration
- Necessary software developed and ship agents trained for electronic submission of these document to Customs



# Other measures for facilitating international trade

- Developed codes for trading locations of Pakistan in accordance with UNLOCODE and got these approved by UNECE
- Worked with port authorities to implement ISPS Code of IMO at all designated port facilities and on Pakistani ships to meet international security requirements
- Coordinated with terminal operators and NLC for installation of container scanners to strengthen security and anti-smuggling operations
- Studied border crossing operations to facilitate trade through land border crossings and provided information for improving facilities
- Studied cargo handling facilities at international airports of Pakistan and proposed necessary improvements
- Established [www.nttfc.org](http://www.nttfc.org) website for NTTFC information

# Measures for improving exports of perishable commodities

- Studied fishing industry to develop efficient cool chain system meeting requirements of international standards and provided guidelines to Marine Fisheries Department and Fishermen Cooperative Society
- Studied post harvest treatment of mangoes to identify processing, cold storage and refrigerated transport requirements for horticultural products and coordinated with PHDEC and APF&VEA for necessary improvements
- Studied international food safety, traceability and phytosanitary requirements and other international standards and coordinated with concerned organizations for their implementation



# Improving trade related financial procedures

- To enable banks issue faultless Letters of Credit and create awareness among the business community of ICC Uniform Customs and Practices for Documentary Credit (UCP 500) training workshops were arranged in Karachi, Lahore & Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan Banking Institute (PBI)
- Trainers faculty developed in PBI for further training of bankers when ICC standard enhanced to UCP 600
- Collaborating with Customs, SBP and commercial banks for electronic exchange of E-form data to reduce delays in processing shipment documents

# Transit trade to landlocked Central Asian States (CAS)

- Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are landlocked
- To enable access to CAS new Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement drafted and participated in bilateral negotiations
- Worked with Ministry of Communications to achieve ratification of old Pakistan Uzbekistan Road Transport Agreement and drafted necessary Protocols for its implementation
- Drafted Pakistan Turkmenistan Road Transport Agreement which is now being negotiated
- Drafted Afghanistan Pakistan Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement which is now being negotiated

# Accession to international conventions

- For smooth operation of international trade accession to some international conventions is necessary
- Worked to achieve accession to following conventions:
  - Istanbul Convention on ATA Carnet for Temporary Admission, 1990
  - Montreal Convention for International Carriage by Air, 1999
  - Revised Kyoto Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, 1999
  - Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail, 1980 (COTIF)



# Accession to international conventions

Work on accession to number of other conventions is under progress

- Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnet (TIR Convention, 1975)
- Customs Convention on Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles, 1956
- Customs Convention on Containers, 1972
- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods, 1982
- Hague-Visby Rules for Carriage of Goods by Sea as amended by SDR Protocol, 1979
- Convention on International Carriage by Road (CMR)

# Modernization of transport legislation

- To replace outdated legislation the following Bills have been drafted and are being processed in respective ministries:
  - Sea Carriage Shipping Documents Bill
  - Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill
  - Carriage of Goods by Road Bill
  - Carriage by Air Bill (Already enacted by the Parliament)
- Considering that there is no marine insurance law in Pakistan, Marine Insurance Bill has been drafted and is being processed in Ministry of Commerce
- Drafted Logistics Service Providers Development and Regulatory Authority Bill for establishment of an Authority to resolve issues between traders and logistics service providers

# Modernization of freight forwarding

- To improve the quality of services offered by freight forwarders the following standards were introduced:
  - Standard trading conditions
  - Minimum qualification standards
  - Code of conduct of freight forwarders
- Freight forwarders' training for trainers workshop was conducted at Karachi with support of FIATA and a faculty of trainers created
- National course for training of freight forwarders, validated by FIATA, has been developed
- Similar training for trainers workshop was conducted at Lahore and a faculty of freight forwarders' trainers created there
- To regulate services of freight forwarders and other logistics service providers Logistics Service Providers Development and Regulatory Authority Bill has been drafted



# Additional studies

Following additional studies have been carried out recently:

- Application of transit fees on transit traffic
- Disposal of abandoned cargo
- Development of integrated border check posts
- Study on Customs House Agents Industry

# WTO agreement on trade facilitation

- Capital Based Working Group on Trade Facilitation (CBWGTF) constituted to study WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation proposals and recommend measures for negotiations in WTO
- Need assessment of WTO TF Proposals carried out to evaluate status of compliance with proposals and determine requirements for technical assistance and capacity building
- Consolidated Draft Negotiating Text of WTO TF Agreement was examined, country position finalized in consultation with all stakeholder and communicated to Pakistan Mission to WTO for negotiations
- On WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation getting finalized Category A, B and C provisions of the agreement are being worked out for communicating to Pakistan mission to WTO

# National trade facilitation strategy

- Trade facilitation measures being adopted internationally were examined to determine the measure that may be adopted by Pakistan
- After consultation with all stakeholders National Trade Facilitation Strategy (NTFS) was prepared and approved by the Government in 2008
- In view of subsequent developments, especially WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, NTFS was reexamined and revised trade facilitation strategy has been prepared
- This was referred to UNESCAP for its comments before obtaining approval of the Government
- In light of comments of UNESCAP the document has been renamed as National Trade & Transport Facilitation Strategy and referred to Ministry of Commerce for approval of the Government



# Pakistan Land Port Authority

- Federal Cabinet approved on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 establishment of Pakistan Land Port Authority (PLPA) as part of Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2012-15
- ADB has offered soft term credit up to USD 120 million for establishing modern integrated land ports at Wagah, Torkham and Chaman
- (PLPA) has to be established for development and management of integrated land ports
- Steering Committee chaired by the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue to spearhead development of Integrated Transit Trade Management System has given go ahead for establishment of PLPA
- Proposal for establishment of PLPA and Pakistan Land Port Authority Bill for have been prepared and forwarded to Ministry of Commerce for consideration

THANK YOU