

# NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TRADE FACILITATION

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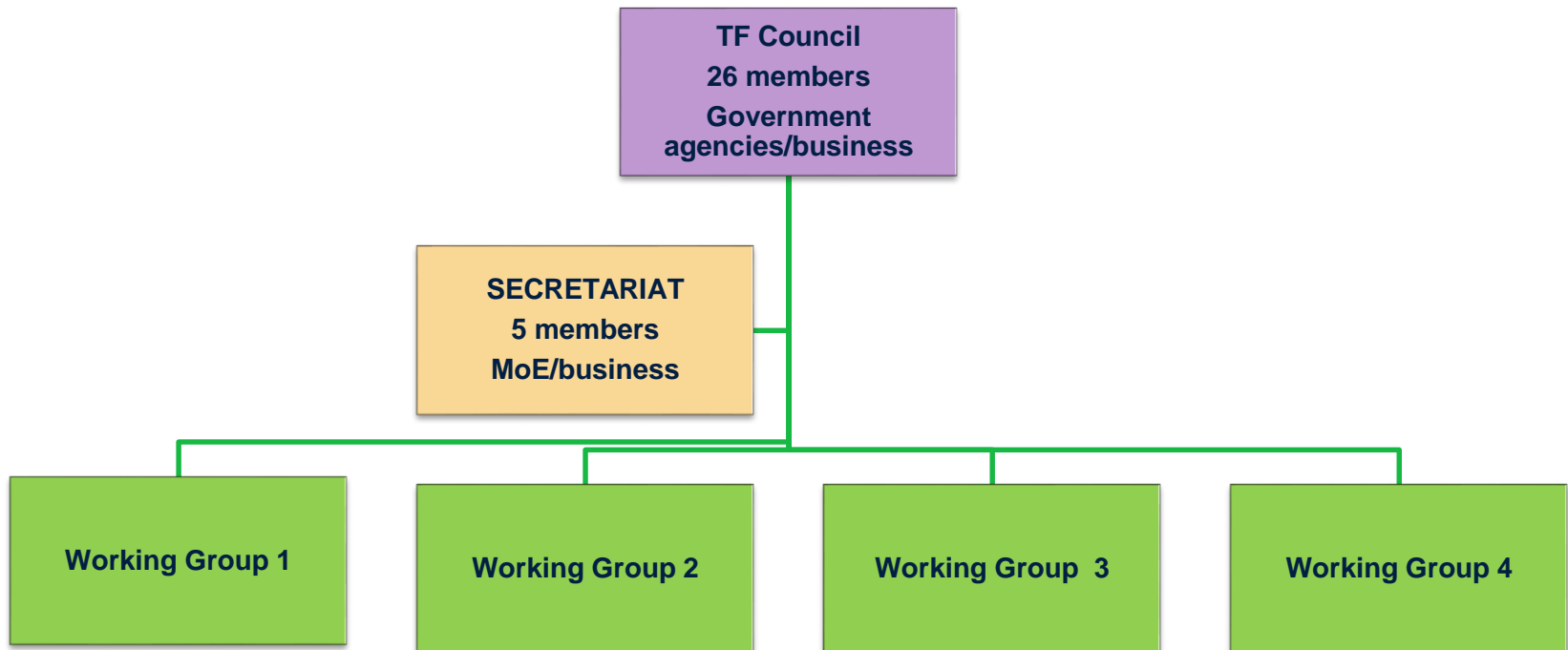
## COUNCIL ON TRADE FACILITATION IN THE KR

- The law of the KR “On Ratification of **the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement** was adopted on November 22, 2016, №183.
- The Ministry of Economy of the KR drafted the Government Resolution and the Regulation on establishment of the **Council on Trade Facilitation in the Kyrgyz Republic** with support from international organizations (IFC, GIZ and USAID ATAR) and the business community.
- **The Trade Facilitation Council in the KR** is an interdepartmental advisory body assigned to **coordinate activities of government agencies and align interests of the state and business on facilitation of procedures in external trade**, including on implementation of provisions of the **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**.

# Key Issues Related to Establishment of the NCTF

- ❖ Structure of the Committee
- ❖ Committee membership: Committee's Chair and members
- ❖ Committee's goals and objectives
- ❖ Frequency of Committee meetings
- ❖ Decision making process
- ❖ Monitoring of implementation of Committee's decisions
- ❖ Secretariat
- ❖ Working groups
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ International support
- ❖ Transparency
- ❖ Action Plan

# Structure of the TF Council in the KR



## COUNCIL ON TRADE FACILITATION IN THE KR

- The council members are representatives from government bodies, the business community, activities of which are related to **external economic activities and/or provision of related services in this area.**
- The Chair of the Council is the Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Co-Chair – a representative from the business community.
- **The initial membership of the Council is approved by the KR Government** upon proposal by the Ministry of Economy of the KR.
- The subsequent composition from **the business community is approved by the Council's decision.** The number of representatives from the business community shall not exceed the number of members from government bodies.
- International donor organizations providing technical assistance in trade facilitation may be a part of the Council membership as observers.

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COUNCIL IN THE KR

STATE AGENCIES	BUSINESS COMMUNITY
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ministry of Economy, Chair of the Council</b></li> <li>2. Ministry of Transport and Roads of the KR</li> <li>3. Ministry of Finance of the KR</li> <li>4. Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration of the KR</li> <li>5. Ministry of Health of the KR</li> <li>6. State Committee on Industry, Power and Subsoil Use of the KR</li> <li>7. State Customs Service under the Government of the KR</li> <li>8. State Frontier Service of the KR</li> <li>9. State Inspectorate on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under the Government of the KR</li> <li>10. State Agency for Promotion of Investment and Export under the Ministry of Economy of the KR</li> <li>11. State Enterprise “Single Window Center in External Trade”</li> <li>12. Center for Standardization and Metrology under the Ministry of Economy of the KR</li> <li>13. Council’s Secretary - the head of the trade division of the Ministry of Economy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Association of Suppliers of the KR, Co-Chair of the Council</b></li> <li>2. National Alliance of Business Associations</li> <li>3. Commerce and Industry Chamber of the KR</li> <li>4. Association of Transporters of Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>5. Association of Customs Brokers of the KR</li> <li>6. Association of Forwarders of the KR</li> <li>7. Association of Markets, Trade and Service Enterprises of the KR</li> <li>8. Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises of Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>9. Association of International Road Transporters of the KR</li> <li>10. Association of Textile Industry Enterprises of the KR “Soyuztekstil”</li> <li>11. Association “Legprom”{ (light industry)</li> <li>12. Head of Jash Ishkerller Association</li> <li>13. Head of “StandartSertik” Ltd.</li> </ol>

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE TF COUNCIL IN THE KR: BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Annual approval of the Council membership from the business community by the Council's decision.

## **Criteria for Council membership for the business community:**

- Activities of associations and association members shall be related to **external economic activities and/or provision of related services in this sphere for at least 3 years.**

## For associations and business structures **pretending to become Council members:**

- Provision of information on activities of the organization and its members, including external trade performance indicators, other performance indicators in the relevant sphere, including active interaction with government bodies when addressing issues related to external economic activities:

## For **current Council members** from the business community:

- **Active participation in the Council's work throughout the year:**

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TF COUNCIL

## Key goal of the Council:

- ❖ To ensure interdepartmental coordination and alignment of interests of the state and business on facilitation of procedures in external trade and external trade transport, as well as implementation of provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

## Objectives of the Council in 4 key areas:

- **Objectives in trade facilitation:** to identify problems affecting delays and efficient participation of the country in external trade, to identify priority areas in trade facilitation, to develop measures for barriers elimination or reduction and to promote their implementation, etc.;
- **Legal and regulatory objectives:** to develop proposals, recommendations, strategies, plans and draft legal acts aimed at trade facilitation in external trade;
- **Awareness and capacity building** of traders in trade facilitation issues;
- **Objectives related to participation in bilateral, regional and international cooperation** in external trade facilitation.



## COUNCLS' OBJECTIVES: TRADE FACILITATION

- **Ensuring coordination and interaction** among authorized state bodies for implementation of facilitation measures related to external trade (export, import and transit) and external trade transport, including for implementation of provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- **Identifying priority areas and developing recommendations** for trade facilitation;
- **Supporting implementation of the Single Window for External Trade Project** and overall monitoring of adopting and implementing works on introduction of the SW information system;
- **Monitoring implementation of trade facilitation measures**, including implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement with submission of regular reports to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- **Ensuring interaction with the WTO TF Committee** on issues related to implementation of the Agreement.

## **COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES: LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

- Conducting studies, reviews of legal framework, administrative procedures and implementation practice in the area of external trade (import, export, transit) to identify problems affecting costs and competitiveness of the KR in foreign trade;
- Developing proposals, recommendations and draft regulatory and legal acts aimed at external trade facilitation;
- Supporting development of the uniform public policy, strategies, plans and practical measures on external trade facilitation issues in the KR based on international standards, including the plan for implementation of provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;

## **COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES: AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

- Conducting awareness campaigns and workshops for government bodies and the private sector on methods and benefits of external trade facilitation, as well as international best practices in this area;
- Preparing guidelines and other information materials on issues of external trade facilitation;
- Developing an information database on external trade facilitation issues and international practices;

## **COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES: PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF TRADE FACILITATION**

- Participation in bilateral, regional and international cooperation on external trade facilitation;
- Development of proposals on the KR's position in bilateral and multilateral and negotiation processes under Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation and other international organizations on trade facilitation issues;
- Ensuring mutually beneficial exchange of information and experience with regional and international trade facilitation committees.

# DECISION MAKING BY THE TF COUNCIL

- Council's meetings are held **as needed, but at least once a quarter.**
- Council's decisions are adopted: **by a simple majority of votes of the Council members** present at the meeting and in the form of **absentee vote.**
- Should the votes be equal, the vote of the Council's Chair, and in case of his absence – of the Council's co-chair – shall be decisive.
- Council's decisions shall be adopted in the form of the minutes. The minutes of the Council's meeting shall be posted on the web-site of the Ministry of Economy of the KR.
- Council's decisions adopted within its competence, shall be disseminated by the Council's Secretariat to relevant executive bodies of the KR **for implementation.**
- **Council's proposals and recommendations requiring a decision from the Government of the KR,** shall be submitted by the Council's Secretariat to the Government of the KR.
- **Implementation of the Council's decisions** shall be monitored by the Council's Secretariat. The report on implementation of the Council's decision by relevant executive bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be submitted to the Government of the KR for consideration on a regular basis.

# SECRETARIAT OF THE TF COUNCIL

- **The Council's Secretariat** provides organizational and methodological support to Council's activities.
- The responsibilities of the Secretariat are assigned to **the Ministry of Economy of the KR.**
- The Council's Secretariat shall consist of **five members**, including the Council's Secretary.
- The composition of the Council's Secretariat shall be approved by the Ministry of Economy of the KR upon recommendation of the Council's Secretary.
- The Secretariat membership may also include **representatives from businesses.**

## **COUNCIL'S SECRETARIAT: KEY FUNCTIONS**

- Drafting meeting agendas and establishing the list of priority issues to be considered at the Council's meeting;
- Preparation of Council's meetings, dissemination of meeting agendas, materials and minutes to Council members;
- Summarizing proposals of government bodies and business representatives on external trade facilitation;
- Monitoring of implementation of Council's decisions;
- Interaction with the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee on issues of implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- Interaction with other regional and international bodies on external trade facilitation;
- Ensuring transparency of Council's activities;
- Preparation and submission of reports on Council's operations to the Government of the KR on a regular basis;

## WORKING GROUPS OF THE TF COUNCIL

- The Council establishes permanent or temporary **working groups on certain priority or specific issues.**
- The working groups are established by a Council's decision.
- Working groups consist of specialists from authorized government bodies, private sector representatives, experts in relevant areas
- Working groups are authorized:
  - ✓ to conduct reviews and analysis on issues under consideration;
  - ✓ to submit recommendations for Council's consideration;
  - ✓ To draft regulatory and legal acts; and
  - ✓ To perform other functions needed to achieve Council's objectives.



# TRANSPARENCY OF THE TF COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

The following information shall be posted on the web-site of the Ministry of Economy of the KR:

- The Council's membership and detailed information on Council's members
- The Regulation on the Council
- Council's meeting agendas and minutes
- Council's plans
- Council's proposals and recommendations
- Draft regulatory and legal acts
- Results of monitoring of implementation measures
- Information database on external trade facilitation issues and international practices
- Feedback arrangements enabling to provide comments on issues of interest by all stakeholders.

## FURTHER ACTION PLAN

- **Development of the TF Council's plan:** identifying key areas of activities on trade facilitation based on:
  - Findings of evaluation of the compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
  - Priority issues of trade facilitation submitted by authorized government bodies and the business community.
- **Establishment of the Council's Secretariat** by the Ministry of Economy of the KR.
- Preparation and **conduction of the first TF Council's meeting.**
- **Establishment of working groups** to review issues and to develop recommendations.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**