

**DISSEMINATION OF
NOTIFICATIONS/TREATMENT OF
FEEDBACK TO/FROM STAKEHOLDERS
AND PREPARATION OF COMMENTS
ON REGULATIONS FROM OTHER WTO
MEMBERS IN UGANDA**

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Implementation Infrastructure of the Transparency Provisions of the TBT Agreement

- Ministry of Tourism, Trade & Industry (MTTI):
 - WTO focal point
 - National Notification Authority (NNA) for TBT & SPS
 - Responsible for the notification procedures
 - Responsible for bilateral & plurilateral trade negotiations
- Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS):
 - Statutory institution under MTTI



Implementation Infrastructure Cont.

- National Enquiry Point (NEP) for TBT & SPS
- Secretariat & Chair for National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee
- National Codex Contact Point for the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Responsible for answering enquiries about technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures, sanitary & phytosanitary regulations, etc.



Implementation Infrastructure Cont.

- National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee
 - An institutional & multisectoral Committee consisting of regulatory & private sector organisations
 - Responsible for the implementation of the TBT & SPS Agreements at national level



Implementation Infrastructure Cont.

- Composition of the Committee:
 - Ministry of Tourism, Trade & Industry;
 - Uganda National Bureau of Standards;
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries;
 - Uganda Export Promotion Board;
 - Uganda Coffee Development Authority;
 - Dairy Development Authority;



Implementation Infrastructure Cont.

- Uganda Investment Authority;
- Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Horticulture Exporters Association;
- Uganda National Farmers Federation;
- Uganda Flower Exporters Association;
- Uganda Fish Processors & Exporters Association;



Implementation Infrastructure Cont.

- Uganda Fisheries & Fish Conservation Association;
- The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation;
- Uganda Manufacturers Association;
- Uganda Beef Producers Association;
- Uganda National Chambers of Commerce & Industry;
- Uganda Coffee Trade Federation;
- Private Sector Foundation Uganda.



How other Members' Notifications & TBT Documents are Disseminated

- The National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee is composed of umbrella organisations whose membership are spread throughout the country
- The Committee provides a backbone used for the distribution of notifications & TBT documents
- Notifications are summarised as shown in the following table & distributed to Members of the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee



Dissemination of Notifications/ Documents Cont.

| Date of issue | Notification reference | Product covered | Country notifying | Title of regulation notified | Dateline for comments |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01/07/02 | G/TBT/N/AUS/12 | Medicine with specified ingredients | Australia | Therapeutic goods order | 30/11/2002 |
| 14/10/02 | G/TBT/N/CAN/46 | Living modified organisms | Canada | Living modified organisms regulations | 19/12/02 |

Dissemination of Notifications/ Documents Cont.

- Members of the Committee distribute notifications within their institutions (public sector) or to their members (private sector) for scrutiny
- Draft regulations (notifications) that require comments are identified & brought to the attention of the NNA



Tools used for Dissemination of Notifications & TBT Documents

- Electronic tools
 - Email
 - Use of email is still inadequate because some institutions represented in the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee do not have access to the Internet
 - Facsimile (used for notifications only)
- Courier services



Treatment of Feedback received from Domestic Stakeholders

- The NNA requests for the text of notified regulations identified by stakeholders for comment
- Members of the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee are informed about this request
- Upon obtaining notified draft regulations, the NNA circulates the regulations to Members of the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee to make comments



How Comments are prepared on other Members' Draft Regulations

- Each Member of the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee submits written comments to the NNA
- The NNA compiles the comments from each Member of the Committee
- The comments (merged) are circulated by the NNA to Members for discussion during the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee's meeting



Preparation of comments cont.

- The comments agreed upon during the meeting are forwarded by NNA to the NNA of the notifying WTO Member
- The NNA circulates feedback received from the notifying WTO Member to Members of the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee including information on how the comments were handled



Implementation Gaps of the Transparency Provisions of the TBT Agreement

- Strengthening the National TBT/SPS Coordination Committee
 - ICT infrastructure to facilitate speedy & efficient communication
 - Legal status
 - Facilitation of members of the Committee
- Old ICT equipment at the NEP
- Inadequate personnel at the NEP
 - Staff managing the NEP is also responsible for other duties



Implementation Gaps Cont.

- Failure to attend most WTO TBT Committee's meetings by capital based officials due to budgetary constraints
- Low awareness about TBT issues among stakeholders
- Low operational budget



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

