|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

**Seminar**

**“National Trade Facilitation Committees and**

**the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement”**

**Ministry of Economy of Kazakhstan, Astana, Kazakhstan**

**10-11 November 2016, t.b.c.**

**Organized by:**

Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH GIZ

**With the participation of:** national stakeholders (government agencies involved in the regulation of international trade), the business community, and international organizations working on trade facilitation

**AGENDA**

**Note:** This workshop builds on the years of work in support of trade facilitation projects in Kazakhstan and the results of the UNCTAD-UNECE supported study of the readiness of Kazakhstan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. It aims at assisting Kazakhstan in developing a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), drafting its Terms of Reference, mandate, and programme of work. It also supports the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA): notably measures notified as category A, and deciding on timing for categories B and C. The seminar will assist efforts in Kazakhstan to develop a trade facilitation strategy, which may be implemented on the platform of the NTFC. Speakers from the relevant regulatory bodies and the business community, as well as UNECE, GIZ and other development partners present the benefits and challenges of trade facilitation for Kazakhstan. A training will be organized on the second day in the form of an interactive sessions: short presentations followed by interactive discussions with the participants. The training sessions will address organizational issues of establishing a functional NTFC: ToR, programme of work, secretariat, financing, contents of work, and scope of activities.

**Day one**

**09:30 – 10:00** **Registration**

**10:00 – 10:20** **Opening, welcome, and presentation of the agenda of the seminar**

Ministry of Economy and UNECE

**11:20 – 11:30 Session I: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Kazakhstan Status of Implementation**

*Moderated by UNECE*

**10:20 – 11:30** **Review of the categorization of TFA measures for Kazakhstan and timing for category B and C measures**

*Ministry of Economy*

*Alexander Strokatov, Kazakhstan expert*

*Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE*

***Discussion***

*11:30 – 11:45 – Coffee Break*

**11:45 – 15:00 Session II: Establishment and Functioning of a National Trade Facilitation Committee in Kazakhstan**

*Moderated by GIZ*

**11:45 – 12:15 The need to establish a National Trade Facilitation Committee**

*Ministry of Economy, the business community Economic Chamber Atameken, other stakeholders, UNECE*

**12:15 – 13:00** **Scope and** **Contents of Work on TF /** *UNECE* / Recommendations 4 and 40

*13:00 – 14:00 – Lunch Break*

**14:00 – 14:30** **Organizational issues of the establishment and functioning of a NTFC**

*UNECE, GIZ, Ministry of Economy, Interagency Commission on WTO issues*

**14:30 – 15:00** **The drivers for the work: political will, motivation of stakeholders, and financing**

*UNECE, GIZ, Ministry of Economy, Interagency Commission on WTO issues*

***Discussion***

**15:00 – 15:45 Session III: International Best Practice**

**15:00 – 15:15** **Lessons learned from international best practices** / Experiences of NTFBs

*UNECE and UNCTAD Repository*

**15:15 – 15:45** **Possibilities for international assistance**

*GIZ, etc.*

***Discussion***

*15:45 – 16:00 – Coffee Break*

**16:00 – 17:45 Session IV: Practical issues for establishing and functioning an NTFC. The need for:**

*Discussions moderated by UNECE after brief presentation on each topic*

**16:00 – 16:20** **A founding document** (e.g. a decree)

*Discussion on the Decree and ToR of the Interagency Commission on WTO Issues*

**16:20 – 16:40** **Structure of the Committee (governing bodies, subcommittees)**

*Discussion*

**16:40 – 17:00** **Functioning secretariat** *(where it can be placed, and other issues)*

**17:00 – 17:30 Wrap up of the day: basic ideas for a plan for the NTFC**

**Day Two**

**10:00 – 11:45 Session IV: Practical issues for establishing and functioning an NTFC (continued)**

*Discussions moderated by UNECE after brief introduction of each topic, and the Kazakhstani expert, GIZ and others citing best practices from other countries.*

**10:00 – 10:15** **Drafting Terms of Reference** *with presentation of draft model ToR*

**10:15 – 10:30** **Drafting Programme of Work** *with**discussion of a draft model PoW*

**10:30 – 10:45** **Financing the activities of the NTFCs**

**10:45 – 10:55** **Methodologies for training NTFC members** *(drafting a training work plan?)*

**10:55 – 11:20** **Effective participation of the private sector as a success factor**

*Discussion moderated by the Economic Chamber Atameken*

**11:20 – 11:45** **A collaborative framework for development partners, NTFC, and trade facilitation**

*Discussion moderated by* *Representatives of GIZ, etc.*

*11:45 – 12:00* *Coffee Break*

**12:00 – 12:30 Session V: National Trade Facilitation Roadmap (Strategy) for Kazakhstan**

**12:00 – 12:30** **Guide on a National Trade Facilitation Strategy. Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism, and international benchmarking studies**

*UNECE*

**12:30 – 13:30** **Closing and conclusions: Elements for a summary document**

*Ministry of Economy / UNECE / GIZ*