

Status and Outlook for National Trade Facilitation Committees - 2024



Empowerment program
& trade facilitation

UNCTAD has regularly published **NTFC studies**

In 2023 and 2024, it surveyed 52 and 62 countries respectively, highlighting the growing importance of NTFCs in easing trade amid global supply chain disruptions and rising tariffs.



National Trade Facilitation Committees in the quest for sustainability



National trade facilitation committees as coordinators of trade facilitation reforms


















































National Trade Facilitation Committees: Beyond Compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement?

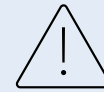


National Trade Facilitation Bodies in the World

➤ The Study includes examples of actions led, monitored, facilitated by 60 NTFCs in 2024

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Angola |  Honduras |  Rwanda |
|  Argentina |  India |  São Tomé and Príncipe |
|  Barbados |  Jamaica |  Senegal |
|  Benin |  Kazakhstan |  Serbia |
|  Bolivia |  Kenya |  Somalia |
|  Bosnia and Herzegovina |  Kyrgyz Republic |  South Africa |
|  Botswana |  Lesotho |  South Sudan |
|  Cabo Verde |  Liberia |  Sri Lanka |
|  Cameroon |  Madagascar |  St Lucia |
|  Comoros |  Malawi |  St Vincent and the Grenadines |
|  Costa Rica |  Maldives |  Tanzania |
|  Democratic Republic of Congo |  Mongolia |  Timor-Leste |
|  Dominica |  Morocco |  Togo |
|  Ecuador |  Myanmar |  Turkmenistan |
|  Egypt |  Namibia |  Uganda |
|  Eswatini |  Niger |  Vanuatu |
|  Fiji |  Norway |  Zambia |
|  France |  Papua New Guinea |  Zimbabwe |
|  Grenada |  Peru | |
|  Guyana |  Philippines | |

➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



The findings of the study reinforce the WTO Document on **KEY PRINCIPLES OF SHARED PRACTICE OF SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES**



1 Fulfilling obligations under the WTO TFA institutional arrangements



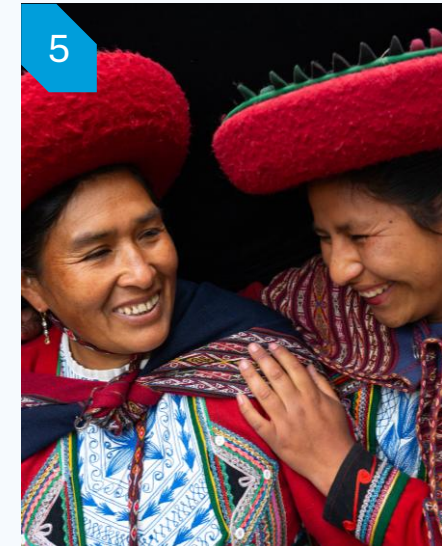
2 Implementing trade facilitation obligations



3 Strengthening trade facilitation governance and monitoring

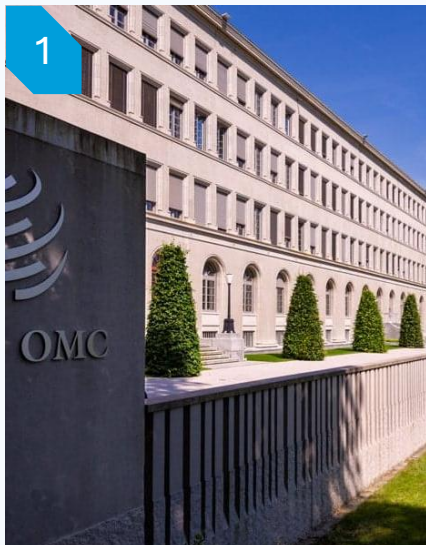


4 Enhancing regional and international cooperation



5 Advancing gender equality in trade

➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



Fulfilling obligations
under the WTO TFA
institutional
arrangements

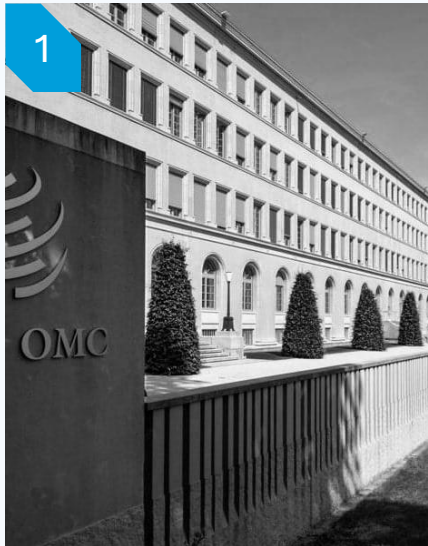


49%

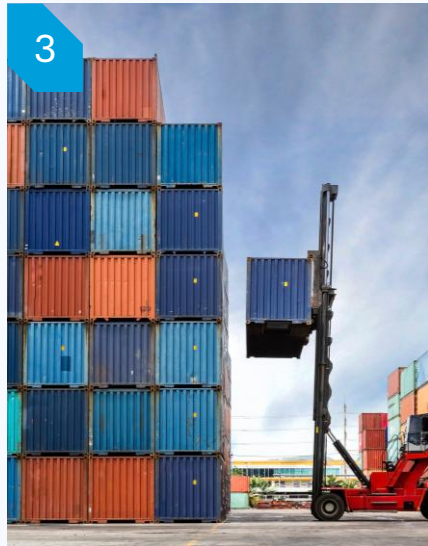
NTFCs drafted and/or transmitted **notifications** to the WTO TFA Committee, fulfilling their institutional obligations under the Agreement.



➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



Fulfilling obligations under the WTO TFA institutional arrangements



Implementing trade facilitation obligations

➤ Implementing trade facilitation obligations

 **54%**

NTFCs were involved in **implementing TF projects** within the scope of the WTO TFA

Percentages increase significantly for LDCs and LLDCs

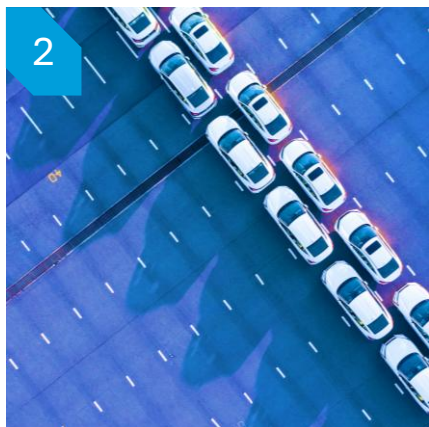
- 61 per cent of LDCs
- 70 per cent of LLDCs

➤ Implementing trade facilitation obligations

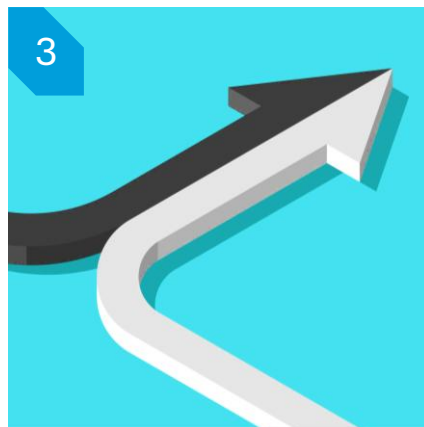


1
**Trade Information
Portals**

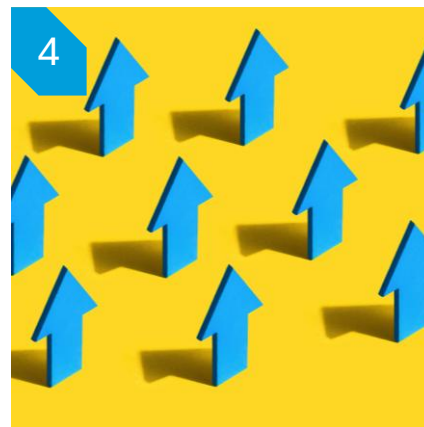
NTFCs' role in implementing transparency measures, like trade portals, rose from 38% in 2013 to 50% in 2024.



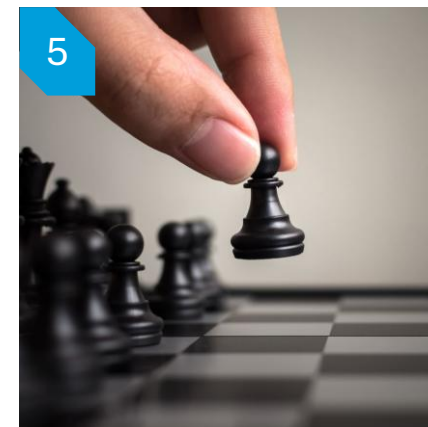
2
Advance Rulings



3
**Time Release
Study**



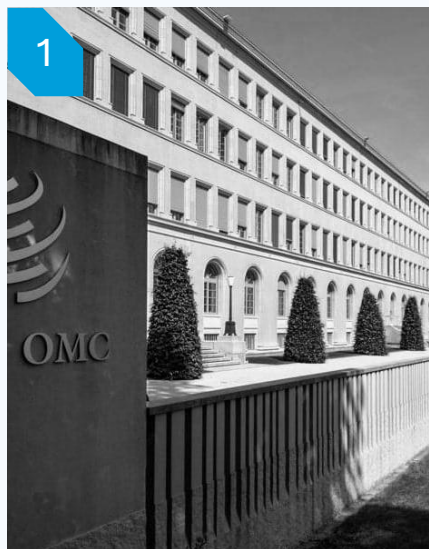
4
AEO & CBM



Did you know?

A single window trade system using ASYCUDA is now live in Turkmenistan, and a technical project started with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joining 13 other countries already working on or using ASYSW. UNCTAD's roadmap guides countries in building custom ASYSW systems using existing ASYCUDA setups and real-world case studies.

➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



1 Fulfilling obligations under the WTO TFA institutional arrangements



2 Implementing trade facilitation obligations



3 Strengthening trade facilitation governance and monitoring



4 Enhancing regional and international cooperation



5 Advancing gender equality in trade

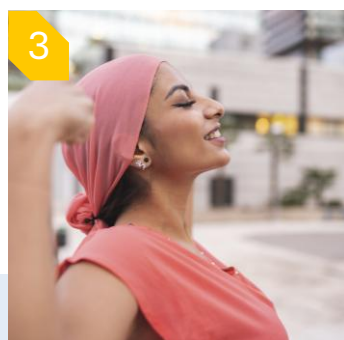
➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



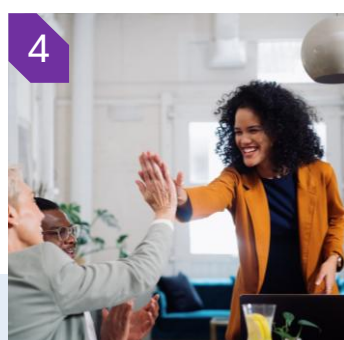
➤ Coordinating trade facilitation reforms



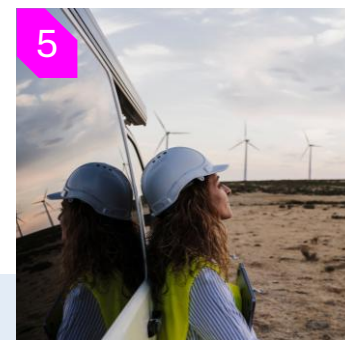
➤ Engaging stakeholder, building capacity and outreach



➤ Enhancing governance frameworks



➤ Enabling strategic planning



➤ Establishing robust monitoring mechanisms



➤ Mobilizing Resources for Trade Facilitation

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring

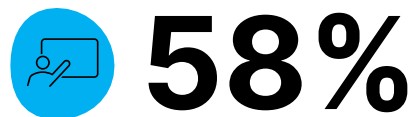


 **74%**

NTFCs **met 1-5 times** during the year. Meeting frequency increased slightly in 2024, with 82% of NTFCs convening at least once, up from 76% in 2023.

- Coordinating trade facilitation reforms

Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



NTFCs reported sharing trade facilitation information, but **only 46% communicated about their own work**



Increase need for technical support to improve communication, with 63% citing it as critical to performance—up from 58% in 2023.

Reform Tracker **blog** introduced, enabling NTFCs to publish articles shared via a monthly newsletter

New intensive training on communication for NTFCs to be piloted in 2025

Eliminating
barriers to
trade facilitation
information
sharing

Engaging stakeholder, building capacity and outreach

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



71% of Committees reported needing to strengthen members' trade facilitation knowledge—up 9 points from 62% the previous year.



NTFCs organized or participated in **training / capacity-building**

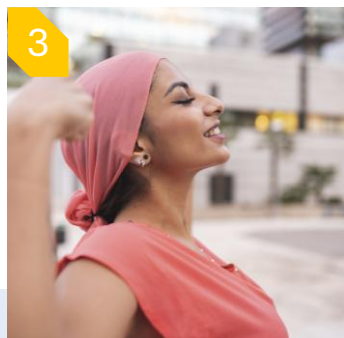


2

- Engaging stakeholder, building capacity and outreach

Eliminating
barriers to
trade facilitation
services

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



NTFCs see Secretariat reinforcement as critical, and 38% highlight the importance of broader structural or legal reforms

Engaging stakeholder, building capacity and reach

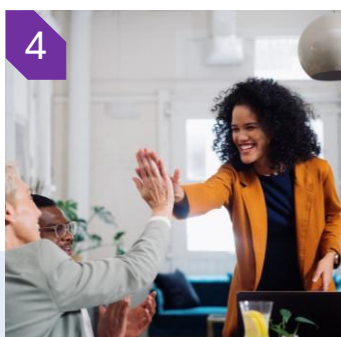
➤ Enhancing governance frameworks

NTFCs developed or updated their **Terms of Reference**

21% revised those of their **NTFC Secretariat**

Strengthening NTFC Secretariats and making institutional changes remain key needs

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



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networks

➤ Enabling
strategic
planning



NTFCs worked on national trade facilitation roadmaps or workplans,

while 44% updated action plans for the Chair and Secretariat—highlighting a strong focus on strategic planning

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



NTFCs prioritized the **monitoring** of trade facilitation projects

but only 35% contributed to international reports—down from 58% in 2023

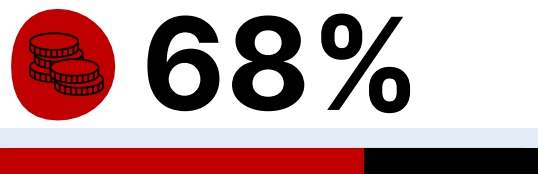
➤ Establishing robust monitoring mechanisms



NTFCs still see a **need to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation capacities**

Did you know? 25 countries used the Reform Tracker to track initiatives, with five more set to join in 2025.

➤ Strengthening trade facilitation governance & monitoring



NTFCs did engage in resource mobilization.

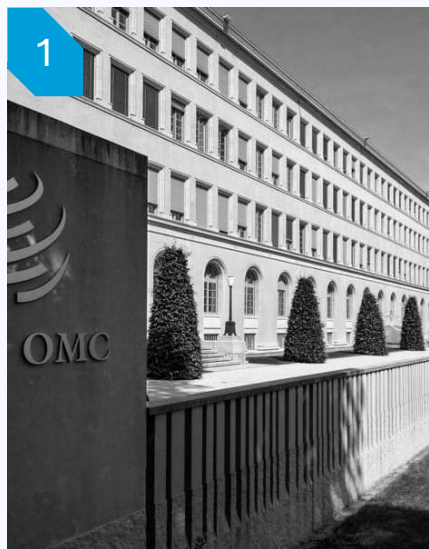
71% expressed a growing need to boost resource mobilization, up from 62% the previous year.

To support this, UNCTAD delivered a resource mobilization course in French and English, completed by over 100 NTFC stakeholders. The course will continue annually.

- Mobilizing Resources for Trade Facilitation

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➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



1 Fulfilling obligations under the WTO TFA institutional arrangements



2 Implementing trade facilitation obligations



3 Strengthening trade facilitation governance and monitoring



4 Enhancing regional and international cooperation



5 Advancing gender equality in trade

Key areas of work for NTFCs



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governance
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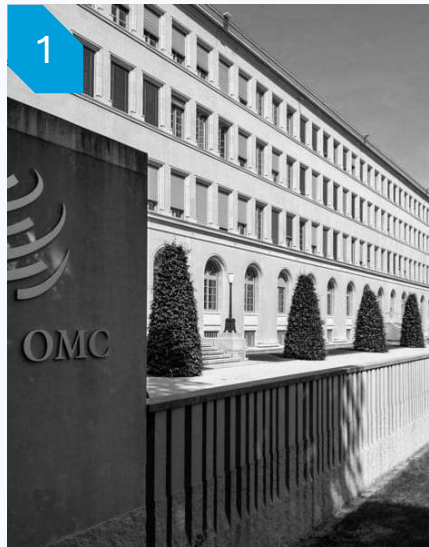


4
Enhancing regional
and international
cooperation

National Trade Facilitation Committees play a crucial role in supporting regional integration across various countries. However, **engagement in this area appears to have decreased in 2024 compared to 2023.**

- 28% negotiated or promoted trade facilitation agreements (down from 36%),
- 47% advised or promoted the implementation of international or regional trade facilitation obligations and standards (down from 51%),
- and 61% participated in meetings and/or experience-sharing with other NTFCs at the regional and/or international level (down from 67%).

➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



Fulfilling obligations under the WTO TFA institutional arrangements



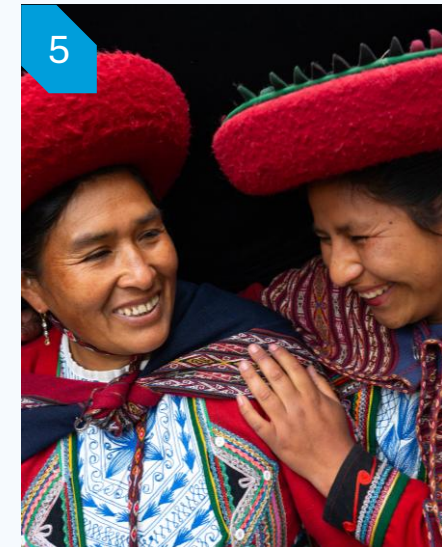
Implementing trade facilitation obligations



Strengthening trade facilitation governance and monitoring



Enhancing regional and international cooperation



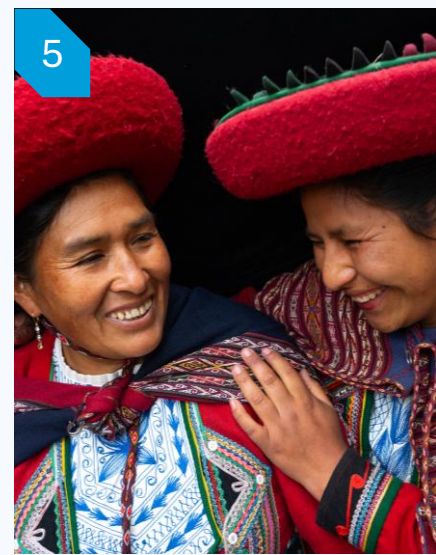
Advancing gender equality in trade



➤ Key areas of work for NTFCs



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Advancing gender
equality in trade



21%



NTFCs reported having implemented initiatives aimed at facilitating trade for **cross-border women traders**



KEY NEEDS FOR SUPPORT



(apart from previously mentioned areas in M&E, comms, resource mobilization, etc)

 **48%**

NTFCs claimed to discuss topics such as issues relating to **supply chain disruptions, emergency preparedness, or congestion at ports or borders**

 **4%**

Incorporation of **climate change and green policies** in the trade facilitation national agenda (from 18% in 2023)

 **56%**

NTFCs' engagement in **transit coordination** decreased drastically from 18 per cent in 2023 to 4 per cent in 2024

The background features a repeating pattern of stylized, nested chevrons pointing left, transitioning from white to light blue. A large yellow triangle is positioned on the left side, pointing right towards the text.

NTFCs have proven their worth as key drivers of trade facilitation reforms across all levels of development

Their continued support and empowerment through capacity building & digital tools will ensure that they remain at the forefront of advancing trade facilitation contributing to a more efficient, inclusive, and resilient global trade system.



CHANGE

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Visit us: <https://unctad.org/tf>



Have comments or suggestions?

Contact us: unctad-tf@un.org



Empowerment program
trade facilitation