

Notification practice in Costa Rica



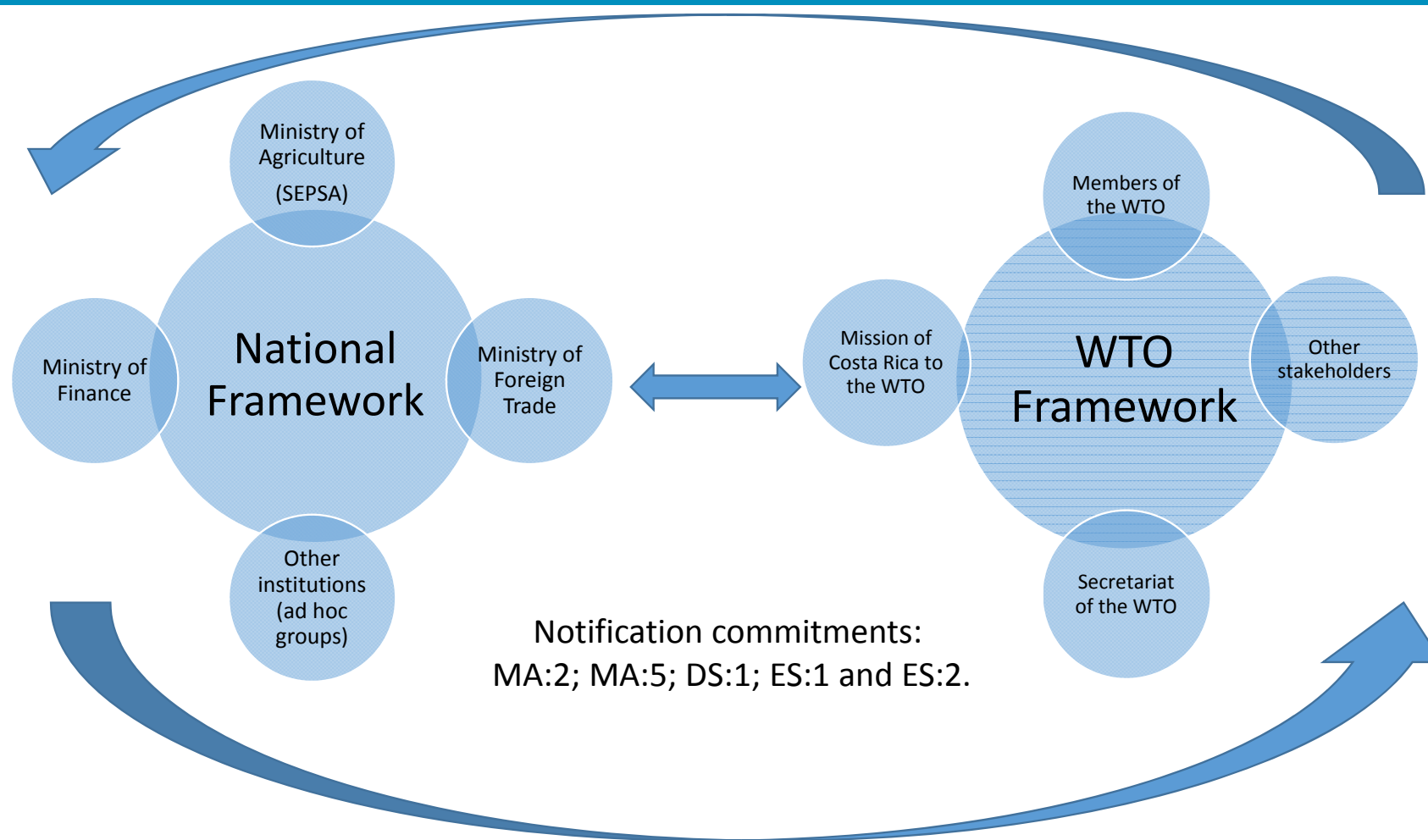
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I. A circular framework



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II. About the notification system: Three main lessons




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1. Raising Awareness
2. Creating a monitoring and surveillance system
3. Ensuring transparency and accountability

Three key challenges:

1. Institutional
2. Methodological
3. Cultural

The lack of general knowledge about the WTO needs to be addressed: available tools include information sessions, workshops and technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat



2. Creating a monitoring and surveillance system

- Existing programs may change or be eliminated.
- New programs must reflect existing commitments.
- WTO rules and procedures may change to include new topics or be more detailed in others.
- Trained staff may rotate or leave the institutions.


Formal monitoring mechanisms must be created to ensure the continuity of the process.



3. Ensuring transparency and accountability

- By law, the Ministry of Foreign Trade is in charge of the notification process regarding the WTO.
- A notification system keeps track of all notification commitments.
- Automatic alerts are sent regularly to the persons in charge, as well as their immediate superiors.

Sometimes a push is needed: the Secretariat regular updates and reminders, and other WTO members may help to increase the awareness on the importance of notifications in due time and form.



II. Some conclusions

1. Awareness is essential to increase interinstitutional cooperation
2. The system must be able to adapt and manage risks.
3. Accountability is necessary, but sometimes a little help is needed.



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Thank you!