

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
A Project to develop a UN/CEFACT Recommendation on Trade and Transport Facilitation
Monitoring Mechanisms (TTFMM)

Despite the efforts made by many countries around the world to facilitate trade and transport, few countries have established sustainable mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of policies and procedures that facilitate trade and speed up international shipments.

Even though several global Trade Facilitation performance surveys and databases¹ are now available and very useful as benchmarking and awareness raising tools, they do not provide sufficiently detailed information to develop or update national Trade Facilitation action plans. Trade and transport facilitation assessments have also been conducted in some countries. However, in many cases, they are ad-hoc in nature, with little coordination among development partners and limited buy-in from the governmental agencies concerned.

There is a need for countries to establish sustainable national Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms (TTFMM). The key benefits of establishing such a mechanism within a country include:

- Trade and transport facilitation will be monitored in a cost-effective manner.
- Micro-data on trade and transport facilitation will be collected by a country and used for the benefit of the country. A more coordinated way for data collection based on the Buy- Ship-Pay Model covered by UN/CEFACT Recommendation 18 can be adopted by the country whenever appropriate.
- National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and other stakeholders in Trade Facilitation (referring to UN/CEFACT Recommendations 4 and 40) can lead this monitoring initiative and utilize its results to effectively improve their national trade and transport facilitation policies and development plans.
- TTFMM will guide development partners and international organizations to channel their resources to assist the country better, especially at when the TTFMM is set up and the first TTFMM baseline study is carried out.
- The national human capacity will be emphasized and developed under the framework of TTFMM.

UN/CEFACT has launched a project to develop a Recommendation on Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms. It is envisaged that the Recommendation will encourage governments and business to establish institutional arrangements with policies, structure, and methodology to effectively monitor progress related to trade and transport facilitation.

Relevant experts and interested parties are invited to join the project team that will work collaboratively to develop the Recommendation over the next six to eight months, mainly through conference calls and other electronic means.

For more information, please contact the Project Leader Somnuk KERETHO (sk@ku-inova.org), Lead Editor Tengfei WANG (wangt@un.org) and Editor Paloma BERNAL TURNES (pb737@georgetown.edu).

¹ These include, for example, the World Bank Doing Business and Logistics Performance Index databases, the World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Surveys, and the ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database.