
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

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**Establishment and operation of national coordinating mechanisms for transport
facilitation**

(Item 5.2 of the draft agenda)

1. Efficient and effective coordination and cooperation among all the relevant agencies through proper inter-agency coordination institutions are crucial for facilitation of international trade and transport. Administrative procedures at borders can include up to 20 separate processes and involve about eight government authorities before cargo-carrying vehicles and transport –operating staff can move across national frontiers.
2. In 2007 the UNESCAP secretariat published a study on National Coordination Mechanisms for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the ESCAP region. The aims of the study were to provide ((i) global and regional overview of activities undertaken by facilitation coordination; (ii) good practices in establishing new mechanisms and strengthening existing of coordination mechanisms; and (iii) and recommendations for establishment or strengthening of such mechanisms. The study has brought into focus the need for an integrated approach to trade and transport facilitation and has encouraged countries to review their current mechanisms and consider suitable options.
3. Over the last few years UNESCAP and ECE has highlighted the importance of facilitation mechanisms in several SPECA countries through national workshops on trade and transport facilitation. As a result, Kyrgyzstan established its National Council on Trade and Transport. During the period under review, UNESCAP provided advisory services to Kyrgyzstan to further progress the National Council on Trade and Transport (NCTT).
4. The UNESCAP secretariat will also prepare in 2009, detailed set of step by step guidelines that countries can use in setting up the most appropriate facilitation mechanism, in accordance with the special circumstances in each country.

Issues for consideration

5. Taking into account the importance of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms, participating countries may wish to report their current status or progress towards establishing/ strengthening/ operation of coordination mechanisms for trade and transport facilitation