

**Steering Committee of Trade Capacity and Standards
Geneva, 3-4 May 2018**

**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia under agenda item 4(b)
Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade**

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for giving me the opportunity to speak at the Fourth Session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

We congratulate both UNECE and Georgia for successfully completing the Study on removing the regulatory barriers to trade in Georgia, which has been of great interest to us.

As you know, the UNECE has started the “Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia” study last year. With the coordination of the UNECE secretariat the terms of references have been prepared and agreed, the evaluation of the applications for the purpose of identifying the experts for conducting the data collection has been conducted. At the end of last year the traders’ survey has been conducted and currently it is in its final stages. The surveys and interviews on the national quality infrastructure and Trade facilitation, as well as the additional areas on female traders will be launched in May 2018.

The successful completion of the study is of high importance for Armenia, to which end the Armenian side stands ready to provide its assistance and support for the effective conducting of the process.

As the experience of the other countries completing the study shows, the studies are important assessments of the areas where the country has a need to make more effort to eliminate trade barriers and the UNECE recommendations are invaluable to that end. In this regard, Armenia hopes that the recommendations of UNECE, resulting from the completion of the study, will help target specific areas and issues for effective elimination of procedural barriers to trade in Armenia.

I would also like to briefly highlight a few important achievements of Armenia during the last year in this sphere.

Armenia has ratified and acceded to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and notified its A, B and C category commitments. We have already implemented many of the B category commitments earlier than indicated in the notification.

In quality infrastructure sector:

- 3 testing laboratories have been awarded international accreditation.
- The calibration laboratory in Armenia, which is performing calibration in 7 directions (mass, heat, pressure, radio electrical, time and frequency, linear and material quantities calibration) was accredited by Accreditation national body. Accreditation of this

laboratory gave an opportunity to our testing labs to ensure the harmonization of measurements with the international system of units.

- Further, on the basis of the agreement signed between the Accreditation national body of RA and the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA), international experience on legislation and best practice have been studied, and structural changes in the Accreditation body and legislative changes in the accreditation sector of Armenia have been initiated.

In the framework of the EU GSP+ scheme, Armenia has started applying the system of self-certification of origin - the Registered Exporter System (“REX” system), since 1 January 2018. REX will progressively replace the system of certification of origin with certificates of origin Form A, reducing the documentation requirements.

Armenia has also signed the “Comprehensive and Enhanced Cooperation Agreement” with the European Union. Upon successful implementation, the Agreement will be an important step towards strengthening the bilateral trade relations, but also addressing issues on removing trade barriers.

Once again, I wish to express my gratitude to the UNECE for carrying out the “Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Armenia” study and to the UNECE coordinator for all her support and hard work.

Thank you for your attention.