



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

SPECA/WG-Trade/2019/EN/1

**Fourteenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade**

Hotel Yyldyz, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 19 November 2019<sup>1</sup>

**Agenda<sup>2</sup>**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) together with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing<sup>3</sup> the fourteenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade on 19 November 2019, back-to-back with the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum *Connectivity: Sustainable Trade and Transport Facilitation in the SPECA Region* and the session of the SPECA Governing Council (20-21 November 2019). The Working Group supports cross-border and regional cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Central Asia, in the area of sustainable trade, (notably SDG targets 17.10 and 17.11). The session will focus on the deliverables of the SPECA Working Group on Trade:

- Strengthened network of cooperation on trade policy and WTO issues;
- SPECA strategy for trade facilitation and developing a roadmap for its implementation;
- Further development and application of the principles of sustainable trade in SPECA in specific areas;
- Analyze and draft recommendations for reducing non-tariff barriers to trade in the SPECA region.

Participants in the session and SPECA participating countries are requested to contribute to the background documents and discussions in Ashgabat on those issues, which the SPECA Working Group on Trade will work on in the coming 3-4 years.

The event will review national and regional plans and strategies of the SPECA countries for sustainable trade development and facilitation. It would strengthen cooperation among trade diplomats of the SPECA countries.

**Target audience:** trade policymakers from the SPECA countries.

H.E. Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade will lead the fourteenth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade. Its overall objectives are to foster exchange of experiences and mutual assistance among the SPECA countries, to implement trade facilitation and achieve the trade-related SDGs; review a regional trade facilitation strategy and encourage the development of a regional private sector network in support of these objectives.



<sup>1</sup> Back-to-back with the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum and 14<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 20-21 November 2019)

<sup>2</sup> For information, contact Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (e-mail: [mario.apostolov@un.org](mailto:mario.apostolov@un.org); tel.: +41 22 917 11 34) and Ms. Mijidgombo Oyunjargal (e-mail: [mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org](mailto:mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org), tel. +41 22 917 41 47)

<sup>3</sup> Countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) currently are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

## Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in the SPECA Region

*18 November, afternoon, Roundtable on Trade Policy (TFA) for the SPECA country delegations only*

10:00 – 10:15	<b>Opening:</b> H.E. Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade H.E. Mr. Karar Mammedov, Deputy Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan Mr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General, ECO
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Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade

All the document can be consulted here:

<https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/trademeetings/speca-pwg-on-trade-in-central-asia/sessions/2019/fourteenth-session-of-the-speca-working-group-on-trade/doc.html>

10:15 – 13:00	<b>Session I. Regional Trade Cooperation and Trade Facilitation</b> <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Tour de table:</i> SPECA countries exchanging experiences on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cooperation on WTO and trade policy issues;</li><li>• mutual assistance on implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and/or WTO accession;</li><li>• National Trade Facilitation Committees; Single Window interoperability; etc.</li></ul> <i>Progress report of the SPECA WG on Trade: regional cooperation on trade policy, trade facilitation and sustainable trade.</i> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan and Chairperson of the SPECA WG on Trade  <i>Regional Strategies on Trade Facilitation</i> Ms. Sheri Rosenow, Counsellor, Market Access Section, WTO  <i>Coffee break (11:30 – 11:40)</i>  <i>Regional cooperation on trade facilitation and sustainable trade: SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy</i> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan and Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE Deputy Coordinator of SPECA, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE  <i>Regional initiatives on trade facilitation</i> <i>CIS work on trade facilitation</i> Mr. Sergei Ivanov, Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee, CIS  <i>GIZ perspectives on Trade Facilitation in Central Asia</i> Ms. Christina Schmahl, Regional Trade Policy Advisor, GIZ
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<b>Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in the SPECA Region</b>	
	<p><i>OSCE work on connectivity, trade and transport facilitation in the region</i> Ms. Ivana Markovic, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE</p> <p><i>The private sector view on trade and transport facilitation in the SPECA region</i> Ms. Larisa Kislyakova, Chairperson of the Association of Transport and Logistics Partnership in Central Asia</p> <p>Discussion on what activities for implementing the strategy will be feasible; how to involve development partners (e.g. OSCE, GIZ, ADB, etc.).</p> <p><i>Launch of the new UNECE Publication “Trade Facilitation Terms: an English-Russian-Chinese Glossary (revised third edition)”</i> Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE Deputy Coordinator of SPECA, Regional Adviser, and Mr. Grant Akopyan, Consultant, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session II: Regional Trade for Achieving Sustainable Development, Non-Tariff Measures and Barriers</b> <i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>Non-tariff Measures and Sustainable Development in the SPECA region</i> Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p> <p><i>Trade Facilitation and sustainable development in the region: capacity-building project. Proposal for a study on non-tariff barriers to trade in the SPECA region</i> Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE</p> <p><i>Development partner statements on strengthening partnerships for sustainable trade in the region</i> Representatives from UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNCTAD, the business community and civil society;</p> <p><i>Discussion on cooperation with other organizations on trade facilitation: OSCE, CAREC, GIZ, EAEU, etc., proposal to co-organize expert/working group meetings with relevant CAREC expert groups; information exchange on the implementation of the trade-related SDGs, mutual assistance</i></p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p><b>Session III: Updated Terms of Reference (ToR) of the SPECA Working Group on Trade</b></p> <p><i>Updated ToR of the SPECA WG on Trade</i> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan</p> <p><i>Discussion on how to integrate recommendations of the Working Group on Trade into national policy-making processes of the SPECA participating countries</i></p>

Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in the SPECA Region	
	Led by Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Organizational matters:</b> countries may consider dividing responsibilities for the above tasks among themselves  <b>Conclusions and Recommendations on the steps ahead</b> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division