



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 April 2021

Original: English and Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 19-20 April 2021

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda

Recommendations and standards:

Support to capacity building and technical cooperation

National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025

Summary

The National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025 serves as the guiding framework for comprehensive national trade facilitation reforms over a five-year period. The Roadmap sets out a strategic vision and respective goals and activities for the Kyrgyz Republic to implement. Through these activities the Kyrgyz Republic can transform its trade facilitation services to digitally-enabled services, improve its position in the Trading Across Borders section of the World Bank's Doing Business ranking and fully eliminate paper-based documents for export and import of essential goods. The activities in the Roadmap are expected to assist with overcoming COVID-19 related challenges. This document was developed as a part of the UNECE project "Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement", funded by the Russian Federation.

Document ECE//TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/16 is submitted by the secretariat to the twenty-seventh session of the Plenary for information.



1. Trade facilitation is a priority area for the Kyrgyz Republic. To enhance economic growth and overcome the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in collaboration with the National Trade Facilitation Council developed a comprehensive National Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2021-2025. During this five-year-period, the strategic vision of the Roadmap will guide the Kyrgyz Republic to:

- transform its trade facilitation services to digitally-enabled services to achieve 60% implementation of the digital trade facilitation measures in the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation;
- be in the top 60 countries in the Trading Across Borders section of the World Bank's Doing Business ranking¹ and;
- fully eliminate paper-based documents for export and import of essential goods.

2. These objectives, as set out in the Roadmap, will be attained through a combination of activities across the four goals: 1) Improve the legal, regulatory, and strategic framework for trade facilitation for the countries members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and non-EAEU countries; 2) Enhance digitalization of administrative procedures for export and import; 3) Develop sustainable trade facilitation measures, ensuring continuity in the import and export of essential goods during states of emergency, pandemics or periods of crisis; 4) Build the capacity of Kyrgyz stakeholders engaged in the implementation of trade facilitation measures and improve access to knowledge for the beneficiaries of trade facilitation.

3. The Roadmap also provides a clear framework of activities, identifies responsible agencies, timeframes, and sources of verification. It provides an implementation schedule based on the prioritization of the activities to allow for a higher impact. It also includes priority actions for category 'C' provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in the Kyrgyz Republic.

4. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected the economy and trade performance of the Kyrgyz Republic. This Roadmap further identifies trade facilitation measures, which can help accelerate a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and foster resilience in case of future crises.

5. This Roadmap was developed as a part of the UNECE capacity-building project "Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyzstan National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement", funded by the Russian Federation.

6. This Roadmap will constitute an important reference for international donors, aimed at supporting the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

7. The final version of the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025 will be available on the UNECE website at: <https://unece.org/trade/support-transition-countries>.

¹ Available at: <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploretopics/trading-across-borders>