UN/CEFACT 36th Forum Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain Forum meeting

Virtual meeting 3 May 2021



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Update on recently finalized

Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain recommendations

Lance Thompson, Secretary UN/CEFACT





Rec44: Cross-Border Facilitation Measures for Disaster Relief



- Concerns sudden on-set disasters
- And the first fifteen days of relief
- Outlines the key stakeholders (Annex 2), the comment relief goods (Annex 3), brief description on types of disasters and their phases
- Establishes immediate response priorities
- Suggests to take into consideration readiness
- Explains how to deal with unrequested (non-priority) donations
- Provides a list of key documents on the subject (Annex 1)







Rec47: Pandemic Crisis Trade-Related Response

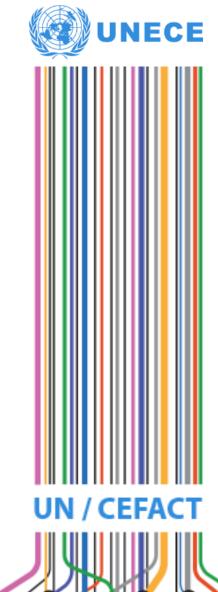
- Provides a definition of pandemic (derived from WHO)
- Outlines some pandemic measures which impace trade
- Lists the key supplies and stakeholders linked to pandemic
- Provides guidance on how to address trade-related aspects
 - Collaboration (through NTFBs, cross-border cooperation, capacity sharing between countries, coordinatrion through regional/bilateral communities, SEZ..)
 - SOP / EOP (knowledge sharing, reliable & qualified information, enquiry points, border agency measures)
 - Use of technology (EDI exchanges, Single Window, teleworking)



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Launch of the White Paper project: Encouraging Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies

Birgit Viohl, co-Domain Coordinator

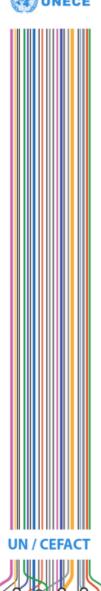






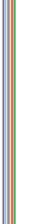
Session 2: Brainstorming on new project

- Proposed projectWhite Paper on F
- White Paper on <u>Encouraging Private Sector Participation in</u> <u>National Trade Facilitation Bodies</u>
- Private Sector Representation in National Trade Facilitation Committees
 - Presentation of proposed project by Domain Coordinators
 - Discussing the objectives and scope, approach Summing up and planning
- Constitute a project team with practitioners from the trade facilitation community.





Background



- UNECE Recommendation No 4 on National Trade Facilitation Bodies
- First version in 1974 but still highly relevant today
- Guidelines that provide
 - steps for establishing the NTFB
 - model terms of reference for an NTFB
 - non-exhaustive list of those stakeholders that should be represented in an NTFB
- Has been complemented by Recommendation No 40 on Consultation Approaches published in 2015





Role of private sector in NTFB

- Rec No. 4 recommends to Governments
 - to set up "national-level platform which can act as coordinating body for any Trade Facilitation reforms and can facilitate effective consultation among the public and private sector stakeholders"
- The contribution of the NTFB is defined as
 - "the NTFB can coordinate the relevant stakeholders in order to devise a strategy that offers a holistic approach to national trade facilitation activities including coordination at a policy level, the development of trade simplification measures and proposals for action plans."
- Robust and dynamic private sector is recognised as key success factor for NTFB
- NTFB are by objective and design a public private platform (Coordination, consultation and dialogue with all relevant stakeholders)







Who's the private sector?

- Recommended to include as members
 - Private sector traders (importers and exporters), who can benefit from such solutions in their international trade transactions; and
 - Private sector trade services providers (carriers, freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators, banking institutions, insurance companies, software providers, etc.), who can offer market-oriented trade and transport solutions within the framework of national and international trade and transport practices, obligations and laws.
- Further specifies
 - Private sector participants in such bodies should include representatives from all industry sectors, all types and size of business, and institutions taking part in international trade: manufacturers, importers, exporters, freight forwarders, carriers, banks, insurance companies, etc.



Reality of NTFB today

- Many NTFB have been set up worldwide
- Most have a private public dimension and have a least formal private sector membership at different levels
- Consultation is often perceived as a box ticking exercise
- Many struggle with effectively mobilising private sector representatives
- Webinar in 2020 confirmed these impressions







35th Forum Webinar findings: Challenges

- Barriers to successful collaboration
 - Different culture and mindset
 - Knowledge and language gap –Recognising the "other side's" issues and perspectives
 - Different expectations of achievements
 - Lack of acknowledgment and correct representation of opinions
 - Time and resources allocation: Collaboration is resource intensive
 - Right people for the right time
 - Inclusiveness (SME, business outside capital)







35th Forum Webinar findings: What works well

- Targeted activities on issues directly of interest to private sector transparency, measuring of barriers, organisation of border crossing points, AEO criteria, fees and charges
- Qualitative and quantitative survey that inform decision makers
- Invite private sector to share insights on specific topics (trade and digitsation, innovation etc)
- Allocating ressources to mobilising private sector representatives in parituclar outside capital (border crossign points)
- Continous and informed mapping of stakeholders
- Transparency over participation and contribution



Exploratroy Research objective



 Private engagement in NTFBs need to be strengthened to ensure the feedback and dialogue needed to design and advocate for appropriate trade facilitation reforms.

Objectives:

- Identify barriers for successful engagement
- Collect input from private sector on their expectations from NTFB and TF
- Collect experiences on successful PPD
- Indicate practices, solutions and standards that can improve







Organisational matters

Timeline

Draft by 30 November 2021 (Publication by January 2022)

People

- Project lead, Editor, Team of Experts (registered to UN/CEFACT)
- Language: English but efforts are planned to integrate French speaking experts and contributions

Calendar of activities

- May–June: Design and adopt outline
- July-September: Drafting
- October–November: Finalising review process





Questions

 Do you agree with our background description and problem statement?

Are the objectives feasible and correct?

 Are you aware of good practices to be featured in the white paper?

Are you interested in joining the project as expert?



Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain Forum meeting

CUE pages related to the TPF Domain and TPF Projects

Jake Schostag, co-Domain Coordinator





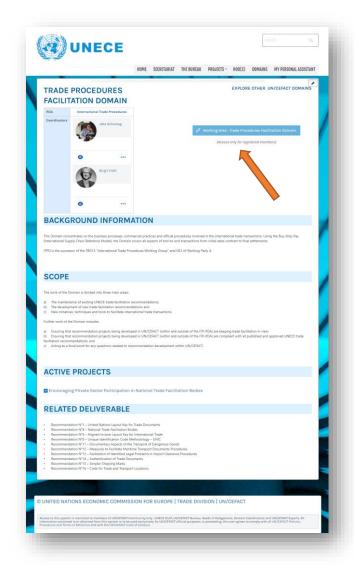




Trade Procedures Facilitation Domain Overview Site

* Public

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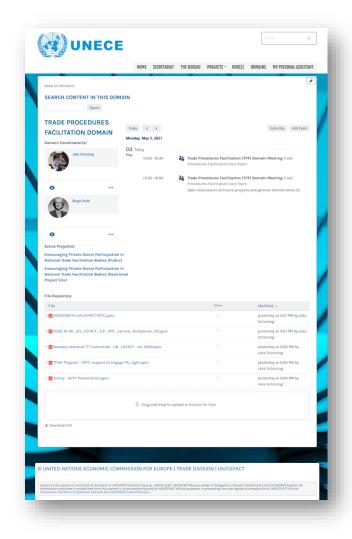




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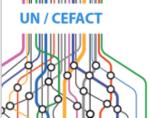




Encouraging Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies Project Overview Site

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HOME SECRETARIAT THE BUREAU PROJECTS - HOD(S) DOMAINS MY PERSONAL ASSISTANT

ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODIES PROJECT PROPOSAL: ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODIES **BACK TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES** SEARCH IN THIS PROJECT INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT If interested in this project, click the W on the keyboard or the (W)atch button in the top menu bar. **PROJECTS ACTIVITIES** Finalize project site setup. @Jake Schostag Monday, May 3, 2021 **i** 03 May 2021 Establish core project team. @ Jake Schostag @ Birgit Viohl Trade Procedures Facilitation (TPF) Domain Meeting Encouraging ii 14 May 2021 Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies Schedule first project team meeting. @ Birgit Viohl 📋 21 May 2021 Deadline for Draft @ Birgit Viohl All day Trade Procedures Facilitation (TPF) Domain Meeting Encouraging @Jake Schostag 📋 30 Nov 2021 Private Sector Participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies Click to add a new task... Open discussion on future projects and general maintenance of... **PROJECT DELIVERABLES** · White Paper on Encouraging Private Sector Participating in National Trade Facilitation Bodies (final name to be determined at a later White Paper





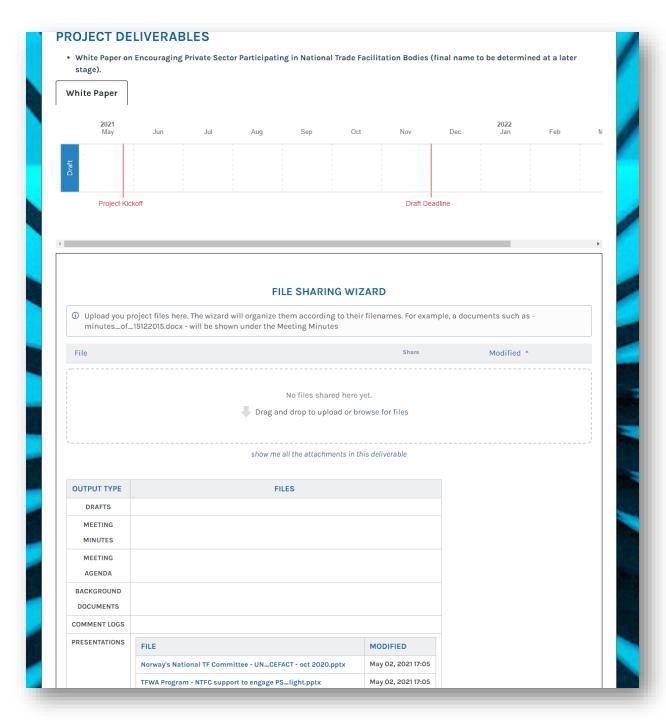




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INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT

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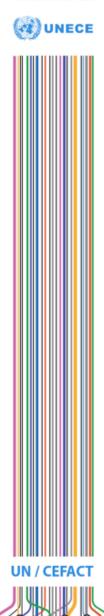
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For more information

- UN/CEFACT public website
- https://unece.org/trade/uncefact

- Collaborative UN/CEFACT Environment (CUE) (project development website)
 - Domain page: <u>public page link</u>; <u>working area link</u>
 - Project page on Encouraging Private Sector Participation in NTFBs: <u>public page link</u>; <u>working area link</u>
- To join UN/CEFACT as an expert: link to registration page

