

# National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025





**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**National Trade Facilitation Roadmap  
of the Kyrgyz Republic  
2021–2025**



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## FOREWORD

Today, harnessing the potential of trade facilitation is more critical than ever. Over the past decades, the gradual reduction of tariffs has brought the role of trade facilitation to the fore. More recently, the trade disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis have put a spotlight on the importance of trade facilitation measures. Trade facilitation helps to move goods faster and more safely—and this includes life-saving goods, such as drugs, medical equipment, and food.

The Kyrgyz Republic is at crossroads in its efforts towards economic development and the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. The country's landlocked nature has exacerbated the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy. To “build back better”, the Kyrgyz Republic needs a robust strategy; one that embodies greater digitalization and sustainability at its core. Fully implementing the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) is a priority in this regard; however, without a comprehensive strategic document, disparate measures pursued by individual actors will be less effective.

Therefore, I am glad that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) of the Kyrgyz Republic, has developed the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2021-2025. This Roadmap provides a framework to overhaul the country's trade facilitation reforms. It represents a strategic vision, developed jointly, and shared by the numerous national stakeholders whose engagement is vital in making trade facilitation a success.

The priorities and goals identified in the Roadmap include improving the legal and regulatory framework, enhancing digitalization, building the capacity of local stakeholders, and promoting sustainable trade facilitation measures. These priorities underpin the vision to which the stakeholders aspire.

UNECE has been a long-standing partner of the Kyrgyz Republic and I am delighted that this Roadmap presents yet another milestone in our cooperation. I commend the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the support and engagement offered throughout the development of this strategic document. As the Government moves towards implementation of the Roadmap, the wide range of normative tools offered by the UNECE, notably those developed by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), are at its disposal.

I am confident that the Kyrgyz Republic is well placed to harness the benefits of international trade—and trade facilitation—for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive recovery, and a circular economy transition. At UNECE, we stand ready to support the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in this onward journey.



Olga Algayerova

Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



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The first draft, prepared by Aidai Baidzhigitova, was approved by the National Trade Facilitation Council on 25 December 2020. At various stages of the report, contributions and comments were received from Aleksei Bondarenko, Pierre Bonthonneau, Maria Ceccarelli, Julian Fraga, Sangwon Lim, Markus Pikart, and Maria Teresa Pisani.

This document also benefitted from the advice and guidance of national and regional experts who took part in the Expert Consultation for the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap, held on 27 October 2020. The experts represented numerous national institutions, including the Center for standardization and metrology under the Ministry of Economics and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic; the Kyrgyz Economic University; State Enterprise "Single Window Center" for Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic"; the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic; the Ministry of Economy and Finance; the Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the World Trade Organization; as well as private sector enterprises such as freight forwarders and logistics operators. Other United Nations and international organizations that contributed include the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in the Kyrgyz Republic, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized economic operator
AGA	Authorized government agency
AMAP KR	Association of International Road Carriers of the Kyrgyz Republic
BCP	Border crossing point
BCS	Business service centre
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMR	Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEC	Eurasian Economic Commission
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross domestic product
GKR	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
GSP plus	Generalized scheme of preferences
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ITC	International Trade Centre
KGS	Kyrgyzstani som (currency)
KR	The Kyrgyz Republic
KEU	Kyrgyz Economic University
LDC	Least developed country
LLDC	Landlocked developing country
MoAWRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
MoEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
MoHSD	Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
MoTACC	Ministry of Transport, Architecture, Construction and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic
NBKR	National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic
NSC	National Statistical Committee
NTFC	National Trade Facilitation Council
PI	Preliminary information
RMS	Risk management system
SBS	Border Service of the State Committee for National Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic
SSDD	State Service for Digital Development under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
SCS	State Customs Service under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIVPS	State Inspection for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic;
SME	Small and medium enterprise
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

STS	State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
SWC	Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade (under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic)
SWIS	Single window information system (the Tulpar system)
TRS	Time release study
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAIS	Unified automated information system of the SCS under MoEF KR
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO TFA	World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement



## GENERAL ROADMAP INFORMATION

<b>VISION</b>	Through implementation of the measures set in this Roadmap, by 2025 the Kyrgyz Republic will
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) transform its trade facilitation services to digitally-enabled services to achieve 60% implementation of the digital trade facilitation measures<sup>1</sup> in the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation;</li> <li>(ii) be in the top 60 countries in the Trading Across Borders section of the Doing Business ranking, and;</li> <li>(iii) fully eliminate paper-based documents for export and import of essential goods.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

<b>GOAL 1</b>	Improve the legal, regulatory, and strategic framework for trade facilitation for EAEU and non-EAEU countries
SUB-GOALS	Accede to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures of 18 May 1973 (Revised Kyoto Convention)
	Accede to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
	Improve the regulations, structure, and functioning of the NTFC

<b>GOAL 2</b>	Enhance digitalization of administrative procedures for export and import
SUB-GOALS	<p>Improve transparency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure the availability of information on international trade procedures</li> </ul>
	<p>Improve formalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simplify the mechanism for calculating customs payments</li> <li>- Implement retesting procedures in case of unsatisfactory results</li> <li>- Improve preliminary information procedures</li> <li>- Increase the use of electronic payments</li> <li>- Improve the process of releasing goods before the final determination of customs payments</li> <li>- Improve the risk management system</li> <li>- Improve post-clearance audit</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. Trade facilitation and paperless trade in the Kyrgyz Republic. Based on the average implementation of the measures in the paperless trade category of the survey. The current (2019) rate of implementation is 37.04%. Available at <https://untfsurvey.org/economy?id=KGZ>.

<sup>2</sup> Eurasian Economic Commission Council Decisions No. 21 of 16 March 2020 and No. 33 of 3 April 2020. Available at [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428008/err\\_24032020](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428008/err_24032020), [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01525325/err08042020\\_33](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01525325/err08042020_33); <https://www.altaru.ru/tamdoc/20sr0033/>.

	- Conduct research on release times
	Improve institutional arrangements and cooperation: - Improve the internal interaction of authorized government agencies (AGAs) at the borders - Improve regional cooperation at borders
	Expand paperless trade
	Introduce cross-border paperless trade

<b>GOAL 3</b>	Develop sustainable trade facilitation measures, ensuring continuity in the import and export of essential goods during states of emergency, pandemics or periods of crisis
SUB-GOALS	Ensure efficient movement of essential goods across borders
	Reduce the number of documents required for the export and import of essential goods

<b>GOAL 4</b>	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
SUB-GOALS	Establish a centre of trade facilitation competence
	Develop an online training course on trade facilitation

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Kyrgyz Republic is committed to taking action to enhance economic growth, to restore trade routes, and especially to tackle the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected small and medium enterprises (SME) involved in trade and cargo services. One of the priority areas is to further trade facilitation, which is crucial to strengthening subregional cooperation and to reducing the impediments to moving goods across borders.

As part of earlier actions in this direction, on 22 November 2016, the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA), which entered into force on 22 February 2017. Given the country's geographical position and landlocked status, the implementation of the WTO TFA is of great importance for the Kyrgyz Republic, contributing to the simplification and harmonization of trade between countries of the Central Asian region and at the global level.

A single conceptual document that provides a common strategic vision for the country and that determines priority areas for action can help monitor and coordinate ongoing and potential measures on trade facilitation by the Government and the NTFC.

Within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) project "Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz Republic National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement", this Trade Facilitation Roadmap was developed, taking into account trade-related solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary conditions for accelerating a sustainable economic recovery.

### **Kyrgyz Republic trade facilitation profile**

Since gaining independence in 1991, the Kyrgyz Republic has gone through a transition period characterized by the implementation of economic reforms. Given the country's geographic location and lack of access to sea routes, the development of a trade environment oriented towards international and regional cooperation has been an integral part of the strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic.

Figure 1

**Main automobile border-crossing points in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Information: 1. Chon-Kapka, 2. Chaldybar, 3. Ak-Jol, 4. Karkyra, 5. Torugart, 6. Irkeshtam, 7. Bor-Dobo, 8. Karamyk, 9. Kulundu, 10. Kyzyl-Bel, 11. Dostyk, 12. Madaniyat.

Source: Caravanistan. Kyrgyzstan border crossings<sup>3</sup>

On 6 March 1992, the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the protocol to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).<sup>4</sup> This integration union was a prerequisite for the formation of the Customs Union, which later became a platform for the creation of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). In August 2015, the country became a member of the EAEU, which provided for freedom of movement of labour, goods and services and contributed to the growth of remittances to the Kyrgyz Republic and to export/import transactions.

The Kyrgyz Republic became a member of WTO in 1998.<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, the country adopted a number of initiatives aimed at meaningful trade facilitation reforms. The Kyrgyz Republic's trade facilitation reform has progressed rapidly thereafter.

Being a member of WTO, the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the WTO TFA in 2016.<sup>6</sup> The WTO TFA includes provisions for allowing and expediting the movement of goods and customs procedures, contributes to border cooperation and the facilitation of cross-border trade, and ensures technical assistance and capacity building.

<sup>3</sup> Caravanistan. Kyrgyzstan border crossings. Available at <https://caravanistan.com/border-crossings/kyrgyzstan>.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic. Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 840-XII of 6 March 1992. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/17537>.

<sup>5</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 146 of 17 November 1998. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/17511?cl=ru-ru>.

<sup>6</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 183 of 22 November 2016. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/111462?cl=ru-ru>.

The Kyrgyz Republic has several organizations working in the area of trade facilitation. On 18 July 2017, according to the Decree of the Kyrgyz Government, the National Trade Facilitation Council (NTFC) was established as the main governing body for coordination, adoption and implementation of trade facilitation measures. The NTFC chairperson is the Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic and the co-chairperson is the President of the Association of Suppliers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The NTFC comprises representatives of Government agencies and the private sector. The main task of the NTFC is to ensure inter-agency coordination and agreement on state and business interests regarding trade facilitation procedures.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) of the Kyrgyz Republic set up a secretariat on 21 August 2017 to support the NTFC, consisting of representatives from the MoE State Customs Service under the MoEF of the Kyrgyz Republic (SCS), and State Enterprise Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade under MoEF (SWC).

The SWC has played a key role in digital trade facilitation procedures since it was established in 2009. The main tasks of the SWC are the provision of services and ensuring the proper functioning of the single window information system (SWIS) in the implementation of pre-customs procedures for import and export activities.

In the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic's overall performance in trade facilitation implementation reached 37.6%, which is lower than the Central Asian average of 54.8%. The country ranked 89 out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Trading Across Borders Doing Business Report in 2020. Depending on the sector, export procedures can take up to 30 days, especially due to certification procedures.

The Kyrgyz Republic is continuing to carry out reforms to improve the country's economy. The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 outlines priority areas for trade facilitation such as (1) reducing the number of procedures, time, and costs for export/import operations; (2) improving the infrastructure of border crossing points (BCPs), highways, information services, and creating regional “green corridors”; <sup>7</sup> (3) providing assistance by promoting the export of domestic products to the markets of neighbouring countries, EAEU countries, and the European Union (EU) based on the generalized system of preferences (GSP plus) status; (4) establishing an institute of advisers on trade and economic issues in the embassies of the Kyrgyz Republic.<sup>8</sup>

In addition, the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040 emphasized the importance of expanding opportunities for SMEs through financing programs and by easing the conditions for their lending by creating a special administration and taxation regime and by providing information and consulting support to businesses, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Development Strategy of the State Custom Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019–2023 plans to implement measures aimed at (1) accelerating the process of performing customs operations through the use of a risk management system and automation of customs processes, as well as the development of electronic inter-agency interaction (paperless declaration); (2) improving the efficiency of the customs administration system based on the

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<sup>7</sup> Dedicated zones/areas for fast clearance of mainly essential goods.

<sup>8</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic, Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 221 of 31 October 2018, National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018–2040. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/430002?cl=ru-ru>.

analysis of foreign economic indicators; and (3) developing transit potential to make it easier and faster for international traders to move through the Kyrgyz Republic.<sup>9</sup>

Thus, the concept of digital transformation “Digital Kyrgyzstan” for 2019–2023<sup>10</sup> emphasizes the legal and regulatory changes needed to eliminate paper documents for international trade transactions and to support e-commerce and e-payments.

Despite the strategies and measures taken so far, there are a number of problems to address in order to advance trade facilitation and digitalization.

With regard to the implementation of the WTO TFA, there are a number of challenges, including (1) lack of awareness of the importance and benefits of the WTO TFA implementation; (2) insufficient monitoring of the implementation of the WTO TFA; (3) the need for capacity building of the NTFC secretariat; (4) lack of interaction between NTFCs in the region and the absence of a platform for regional cooperation on NTFCs ; (5) weak cross-border cooperation between countries in the region; and (6) insufficient public funds to implement the provisions of the WTO TFA.

In addition, the Kyrgyz Republic is still not party to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), which contains standards and practical recommendations for modern customs procedures and techniques; because of this, it will be necessary to accede to RKC and harmonize the country’s legislation with the RKC.

In this regard, the adoption and implementation of the trade facilitation recommendations and e-business standards developed by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) can constitute an essential contribution for simplification, harmonization, and digitalization of trade facilitation measures including cross-border paperless trade. Furthermore, the accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific could create additional impetus to facilitate cross-border trade, as well as reduce the time and cost of trade.

## **A TRADE FACILITATION ROADMAP FOR THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

This Roadmap was developed based on an assessment of needs, the current situation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing initiatives and future goals and activities. The work converged into a vision to harness trade facilitation for sustainable development and for a sustainable and inclusive COVID-19 recovery.

The Roadmap was developed based on a review of the national strategies, reports of international organizations, consultations with NTFC members, a desk survey conducted on the COVID-19 response, interviews with experts, and with input from the national experts including representatives from the public and private sectors of the country including local traders, SMEs, women entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

A national expert consultation workshop was co-organized by UNECE and MoEF on 27 October 2020. Some experts were present physically at the MoEF premises while others joined online.

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<sup>9</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic, Decree of the Government No. 363 of 22 July 2019, Development Strategy of the State Custom Service under the MoEF of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2023. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157006?cl=ru-ru>.

<sup>10</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic, Order of the Government No. 20-r of 15 February 2019. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/216896?cl=ru-ru#p1> and <http://ict.gov.kg/index.php?r=site%2Fsanarip&cid=27>.

Representatives from the public and private sector, the United Nations and other international organizations attended the workshop and provided their feedback.

The goal of the proposed Roadmap is to outline the strategic vision for trade facilitation for the Kyrgyz Republic, as described earlier, and to provide an Action plan to tackle these issues and ensure economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Roadmap is aligned with the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) trade facilitation strategy<sup>11</sup>, which aims, among others, to ‘Develop, in each country, a strategic approach to trade facilitation, which complements other national and regional development plans’.

The Roadmap is primarily beneficial for the Kyrgyz public and private sector actors involved in international trade. It can also be used as a reference for development partners, including international organizations and donors, to provide financial and/or technical assistance for various trade facilitation activities included in the Roadmap.

The Roadmap outlines the strategy of trade facilitation reforms over a five-year period (2021–2025). It was presented and approved at the meeting of the NTFC of the Kyrgyz Republic on 25 December 2020.

## 1. VISION STATEMENT

The Roadmap defines a strategic vision for trade facilitation reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic in the medium term, taking into account the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery. It formulates a common vision for the country’s future, basic principles, and actions to achieve the following objectives in the field of trade facilitation.

Through the implementation of the measures set out in this Roadmap, by 2025 the Kyrgyz Republic (i) will transform its trade facilitation services to digitally-enabled services to achieve 60% implementation of digital trade facilitation measures<sup>12</sup> in the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation; (ii) will be in the top 60 countries in the Trading Across Borders section of the Doing Business ranking; and (iii) will fully eliminate paper-based documents for export and import of essential goods.

This Roadmap outlines the trade facilitation measures needed to help advance the country’s economy, to respond to the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy and trade, and to embark on a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the activities included in this Roadmap will assist in the implementation of the WTO TFA and improve the country’s trade, economic relations and indicators in international ratings.

## 2. ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND IMPEDIMENTS

### 2.1. Impact of COVID-19 on trade and the economy

The first cases of COVID-19 in the Kyrgyz Republic were recorded in March 2020, after which a state of emergency and quarantine was introduced on 22 March 2020 in Bishkek, Osh, and some other

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<sup>11</sup> SPECA Trade Facilitation Strategy. Available at:

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/SPECA/documents/gc/session14/SPECA\\_Trade\\_Facilitation\\_Strategy\\_English.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/SPECA/documents/gc/session14/SPECA_Trade_Facilitation_Strategy_English.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. Trade facilitation and paperless trade in the Kyrgyz Republic. Based on the average implementation of the measures in the paperless trade category of the survey. The current (2019) rate of implementation is 37.04%. Available at <https://untfsurvey.org/economy?id=KGZ>.

regions of the country. As in other countries, restrictions were imposed on borders with neighbouring countries and all international and domestic flights were suspended.<sup>13</sup>

The closure of the borders led to a halt in the import of most consumer goods and raw materials, mainly from China, which negatively affected the textile industry and re-export capabilities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, the Government introduced a six-month ban on the export of wheat flour and some other food products, as well as disinfectants, and later EAEU introduced a temporary ban (until 30 June 2020) on exports of grains and vegetables outside EAEU.<sup>14</sup>

The consequences of these measures had a significant impact on the economic stability and social situation of the country. Based on the preliminary estimates of the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC), for the January-October 2020 timeframe the GDP was 456.7 billion KGS (US\$ 5.4 billion),<sup>15</sup> a decrease of 7.4% as compared to the corresponding period in 2019.<sup>16</sup>

In the January-October 2020 time period, the revenues of the state budget reached US\$ 1.3 billion, 7.7% less than in the same period in 2019<sup>17</sup> and 75.9% of the target amount.<sup>18</sup> The budget deficit for 2020 is expected to amount to 4.7% of the GDP (US\$ 8326.6 million).<sup>19</sup> There was a decline in wholesale trade by 18.1% and retail trade by 15.6% for the January-October 2020 time period.<sup>20</sup>

### Foreign trade during COVID-19

The foreign trade turnover amounted to US\$ 5.6 billion in 2020. Compared to 2019, it decreased by 18.9%.<sup>21</sup> Total exports reached US\$ 1.96 billion (a decrease of 1.1%) and total imports stood at US\$ 3.6 billion (a decrease of 26.2%).<sup>22</sup> The trade balance was negative and amounted to (-) US\$ 1.64 billion (for the same period in 2019 it was (-) US\$ 2.94 billion).<sup>23</sup>

The trade turnover with the EAEU countries decreased by 12%, reaching US\$ 2.4 billion including exports and imports amounting to US\$ 54 million and US\$ 1.8 billion respectively. The trade turnover with third countries decreased by 23.9%, reaching US\$ 3.2 billion including exports and imports amounting to US\$ 1.4 billion (growth of 7.6%) and US\$ 1.8 billion (decrease of 35.8%) respectively.

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<sup>13</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 84-r of 17 March 2020. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/218021>.

<sup>14</sup> EAEU. Decisions of the EEC Board No. 41 of 24 March 2020 and No. 42, 43 of 31 March 2020. Available at <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/covid-19/Pages/measures.aspx>.

<sup>15</sup> National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic. Exchange rate as of 18 November 2020 (1 US\$ = 84.8 KGS). Available at [www.nbkr.kg](http://www.nbkr.kg).

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Available at <http://mineconom.gov.kg/en>.

<sup>17</sup> National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, State budget revenues. Available at <http://www.stat.kg/ru/statistics/finansy>.

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Available at <http://www.minfin.kg/ru/novosti/novosti/glava-gosudarstva-odobril-popravki-v-respublikansk>.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Key indicators of socioeconomic development of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2020. Available at <http://www.stat.kg/ru>.

<sup>21</sup> National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Export-import operations of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2020. Available at <http://www.stat.kg/en/statistics/vneshneekonomicheskaya-deyatelnost>.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

Table 1

**Foreign trade indicators of the Kyrgyz Republic in January–December 2020 (billion US\$)**

Indicator	2019	2020	Deviation
			(+/-)
<b>Trade turnover of the Kyrgyz Republic - total</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 18.9%	
<b>Export from the Kyrgyz Republic</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>-0.02</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 1.1%	
<b>Import to the Kyrgyz Republic</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 26.6%	
<b>Trade turnover with the EAEU countries</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 12.0%	
<b>Export to the EAEU countries</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 15.7%	
<b>Import from EAEU countries</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 14.3%	
<b>Trade turnover with third countries</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 23.9%	
<b>Export to third countries</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>+0.1</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		7.6%	
<b>Import from third countries</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<i>Annual growth</i>		(-) 35.8%	

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Key indicators of socio-economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic in January-December 2020

**Export**

The decrease in exports in the January–December 2020 time frame compared to the same time frame in 2019 was due to a decrease in the export of footwear, waste and scrap copper, tobacco and tobacco products, clothing and clothing accessories, crude oil, cement, cotton fibre, and few other product groups.

Along with this, there was an increase in the export of live animals, equipment and mechanical devices, waste and scrap of ferrous metals, plastics and plastic products, electrical machinery and equipment and a few other product groups.

Table 2

**Main exported goods from the Kyrgyz Republic in January–December 2020 (million US\$)**

No.	Product	January-December 2019	January-December 2020	Annual growth	Share in total export %
1.	Precious or semiprecious stones, metals; imitation jewellery; coins	853.53	1 010.8	18%	51.5%
2.	Mineral products	316.2	269.6	(-) 14.7%	13.7%

No.	Product	January-December 2019	January-December 2020	Annual growth	Share in total export %
3.	Vegetable products	135.7	121.2	(-) 10.7%	6.2%
4.	Textile and textile articles	149.7	89.9	(-) 39.9%	4.6%
5.	Live animals and livestock products	62.8	79.2	26%	4.0%
6.	Base metals and articles thereof	122.9	79.3	(-) 36.2%	4.0%
7.	Vehicles and associated transport, equipment	65.9	56.1	(-) 14.9%	2.9%
8.	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof	41.4	51.6	25%	2.6%
9.	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	58.4	49.8	(-) 14.7%	2.5%
10.	Plastics and articles thereof, rubber and articles thereof	35.3	43.4	23%	2.2%

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Key indicators of socio-economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic in the January–December 2020

## Import

The decrease in imports in January-December 2020 compared to the same time frame in 2019 was due to a decrease mainly in textile and textile accessories, footwear, chemical threads and fibres ceramic products, electrical machinery and equipment, fruits and nuts, fertilizers, oil and other meat or poultry products among all imported goods.

At the same time, there was an increase in the import of vegetables and root crops, products from ferrous metals, wheat flour, pharmaceutical products, and natural gas.

Table 3

Main imported goods to the Kyrgyz Republic in January–December 2020 (million US\$)

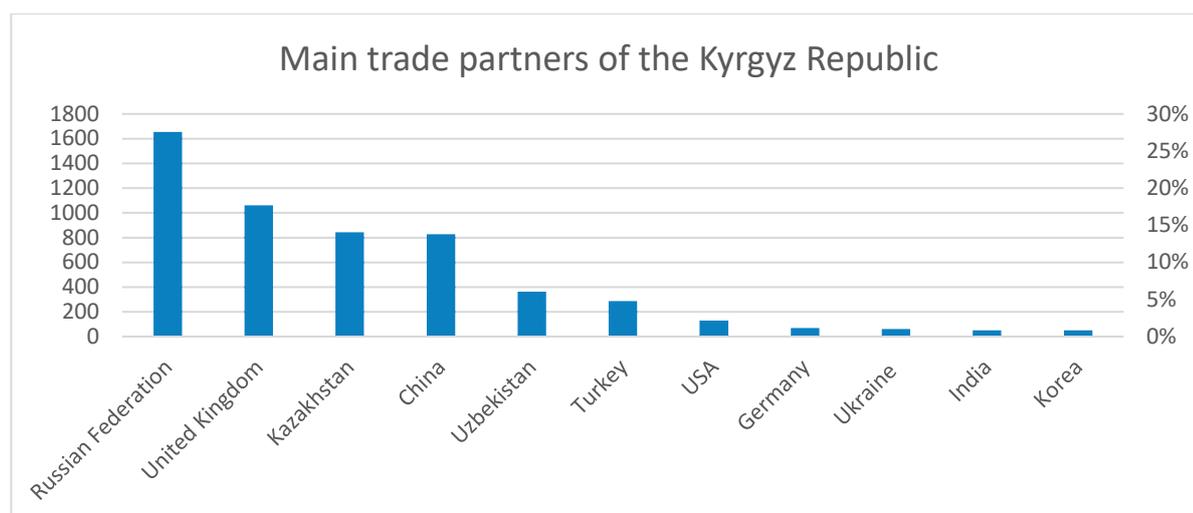
No.	Product	January-December 2019	January-December 2020	Annual growth	Share in total import %
1.	Mineral products	736.2	586.1	(-) 20.4%	15.9%
2.	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof	866.5	558.0	(-) 35.6%	15.1%
3.	Products of the chemical and related industries	474.7	431.6	(-) 9.1%	11.7%

No.	Product	January-December 2019	January-December 2020	Annual growth	Share in total import %
4.	Base metals and articles thereof	468.1	403.0	(-) 13.9%	10.9%
5.	Textile and textile articles	589.5	309.1	(-) 47.6%	8.4%
6.	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	357.1	296.8	(-) 16.9%	8.1%
7.	Vehicles and associated transport equipment	209.2	221.3	5.8%	6.0%
8.	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	220.2	188.7	(-) 14.3%	5.1%
9.	Vegetable products	204.3	188.2	(-) 7.9%	5.1%
10.	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal, cork and articles of cork	96.7	68.3	(-) 29.3%	1.9%

Source: National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Key indicators of socio-economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic in the January–December 2020

The main trading partners of the Kyrgyz Republic in the January-December 2020 time frame were the Russian Federation (\$1557.0 million), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (\$1000.2 million), Kazakhstan (\$794.0 million), China (\$780.1 million), Uzbekistan (\$ 341.3 million), Turkey (\$ 269.4 million), and the United States (\$ 122.9 million).

Figure 2  
Main trade partners of the Kyrgyz Republic



Source: National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Key indicators of socio-economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic in the January–October 2020 time frame.

## 2.2. The Kyrgyz Republic's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

### *Establishment of institutions*

In order to combat and respond to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has taken a number of measures. Among others, it established the State Council to implement economic measures aimed at minimizing the consequences of external shocks and stimulating economic development (State Council)<sup>24</sup>.

### *Support to healthcare*

A contingency plan for the health sector was developed, taking into account the expansion of testing and training of medical personnel.

### *Support to vulnerable populations*

Vulnerable groups received access to essential food and options for deferring rent and utility payments.

### *Cancellation of quarantine*

There were three stages of the phased resumption of economic activity in the country (from 1 May, 11 May and 21 May 2020).

### *Financing*

Loan payments were suspended, and principal and interest on loans were extended and restructured for a period of at least 3 months based on the recommendation of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic.

### *Taxation*

The State Tax Service (STS) extended the deadlines for submitting tax reports and tax returns, provided a deferral or instalment plan for payments for tax debts and social security deductions, declared the cessation of tax sanctions and penalties and prohibited tax audits and bankruptcy procedures by legal entities. Deadlines for the widespread implementation of the components of the electronic fiscal system of tax procedures were also extended until 1 July 2020.

### *Procurement*

For the public procurement, the domestic suppliers benefited from favourable financial evaluations, which were assessed as 20% less than the proposed amounts. For the international bidders, this was not applied. Temporary restrictions were introduced for the public procurement, except for goods, works, and services for essential needs.

### *Customs regulation*

A "green corridor" has been created for the import of food and essential goods, and customs barriers, inspections and cost controls have been eliminated. In addition, a plan of priority measures was developed and adopted to minimize the consequences of external shocks approved by the decision of the State Council of 7 March 2020 (Protocol No. 3).

After the first actions taken in March 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic proceeded to develop and adopt additional supporting measures:

- The "Plan of priority measures of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to reduce the negative impact on economic and social stability in connection with the spread of the

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<sup>24</sup> Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. Order of 5 March 2020 No. 136 on the creation of a State Council for the implementation of economic measures aimed at minimizing the consequences of external shocks and stimulating economic development. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/218075>.

COVID-19 virus” (Order of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 30 March 2020 No. 186).

- The “Plan of measures of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to restore and ensure the activities of sectors of the economy and business entities” (Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 6 May 2020 No. 162).
- The “Action plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to ensure social stability, economic stability and maintenance of incomes of the population” (Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 13 August 2020 No. 272-r).

As part of the “Plan of measures” of 6 May 2020, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic created an anti-crisis fund to subsidize domestic entrepreneurs, especially export-oriented companies.

As part of the action plan of 13 August 2020, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic plans to transform a commercial bank with a State share (the RSK Bank OJSC) into an export-import bank, improve the quality of logistics services by improving Logistics Performance Index (LPI) indicators, open service centres for entrepreneurs, develop a package of regulatory legal documents for the development of e-commerce<sup>25</sup>, and undertake the program “Financing of business entities”.

In addition, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the Act “Towards New Economic Freedom and Development” on 30 April 2020. Within this framework, the long-term activities include the following:

- Restore economic activity by reducing the number of taxes (to be reduced to two: turnover tax and income tax) and tax audits, by introducing a social tax to replace the state social insurance contribution, and by reducing the tax rate from 27.25% to 20%.
- Reduce the regulatory burden on entrepreneurs: There are currently 99 types of licensed activities. These will be reduced to 36 types of licences and 30 types of permits, 55 of which will be exempt from state fees.
- Reduce licensing inspection from 30 to 10 working days.
- Transform physical inspections to a digital platform: Simplify the procedure and reduce the time for inspections by 2.5 to 3 times to reduce the cost of trading, the likelihood of corruption, to eliminate duplicate functions of government agencies, and to reduce the financial costs for government and businesses; provide transparency in the audit procedure.
- Define the concept of a tax tribunal, the basic principles of its work at the International Arbitration Court and its funding independent of the budget in the Tax Code.

### 2.3. Assessment of the pre-COVID-19 trade facilitation scenario

#### The United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019

According to the United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, in 2019 the Kyrgyz Republic’s overall performance in trade facilitation implementation reached 37.6%, which is lower than the Central Asian average of 54.84%. The least developed countries (LDCs) and the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) achieved similar implementation rates to Central Asian average, ranging between 45% and 54%, which is “significantly below the global average implementation rate of 62.7%. This result confirms the need to provide [these countries] with

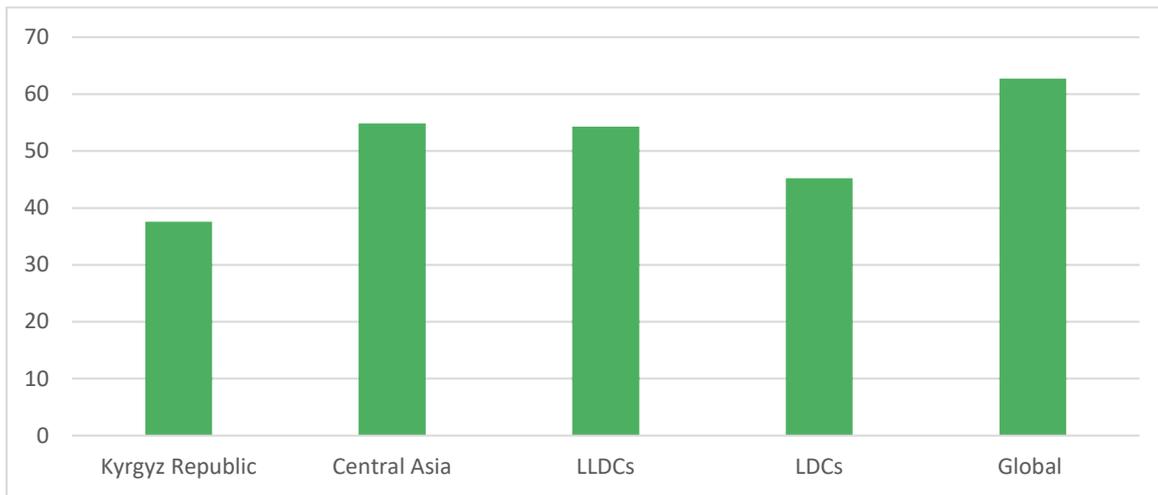
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<sup>25</sup> UNECE 2021, Regional Report on Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Economic Recovery: E-Commerce and Trade Facilitation. To be published and available in: [unece.org/publications/trade](https://unece.org/publications/trade)

special technical assistance and capacity-building support to help them bridge their existing implementation gaps.”<sup>26</sup>

Figure 3

**Trade facilitation implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic and other groups of countries**

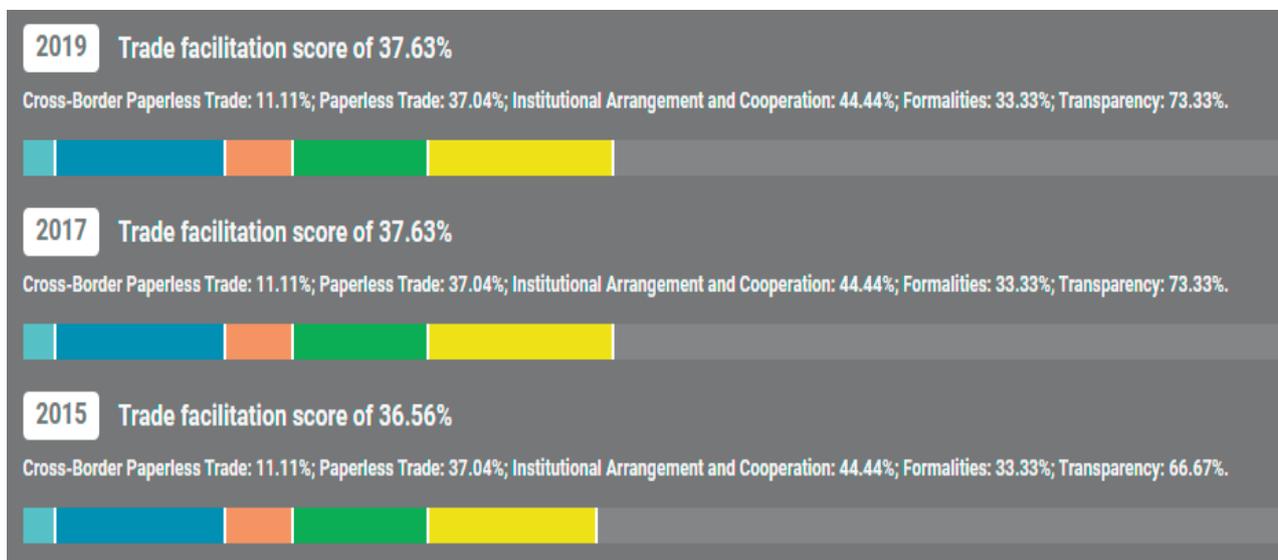


Source: UNECE. Based on the United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. Available at [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org)

Since 2015 there have not been significant changes<sup>27</sup> in the Kyrgyz Republic’s implementation indicators. Except for transparency, which was 66.67% in 2015, other indicators remained the same.

Figure 4

**Position of the Kyrgyz Republic in the United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in 2019**



Source: United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. The Kyrgyz Republic. Available at [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org)

<sup>26</sup> United Nations. UN Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/UNtfsurvey%20global%20report%202019.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> For the Kyrgyz Republic the 2017 and 2019 results are the same because the Kyrgyz Republic did not provide any updated questionnaire in 2019. However, the country is participating in the 2021 survey. The results of the 2021 will be published in summer 2021.

*Transparency-related measures* were the most implemented measures in the country, reaching 73.33% implementation and being the least lagging from the Central Asian average (78.33%) in 2019. Among the measures aimed at improving transparency, only the “independent appeal mechanism” was fully implemented in 2017; others were partially implemented.

Measures related to *institutional arrangements and cooperation* reached 44.44% in 2019, and most of them are partially implemented.

*Formalities measures* were unchanged since 2015 at the point of 33.33%, these indicators were partially implemented except for “acceptance of copies of original supporting documents required for import”.

While the country has been forging ahead with its faster implementation of general trade facilitation measures, a significant gap remains to be addressed, especially regarding digital trade facilitation.

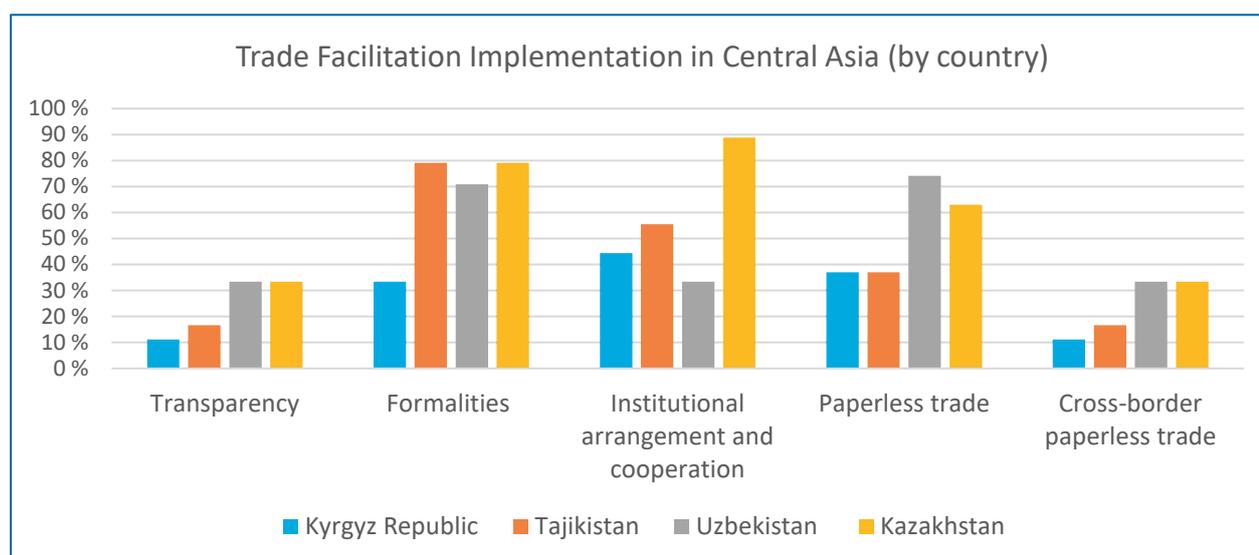
*Paperless trade* indicators were at the level of 37.04% in 2019 and lower than the Central Asian average of 52.78%. This group of indicators is partially implemented except for the following: “electronic application and issuance of import and export permit”, “electronic submission of air cargo manifests”, “electronic application and issuance of preferential certificate of origin”, and “electronic application for customs refunds”.

In relation to the *cross-border paperless trade* indicators, the Kyrgyz Republic reached 11.11% in 2019, lower than the Central Asian average of 23.61%.

From the group of *sustainable trade facilitation* indicators, measures related to agriculture (41.7% in 2019), SMEs (33.3% in 2019), and women entrepreneurs (22.2% in 2019) were lower than the Central Asian averages in these three categories.

Figure 5

**Trade facilitation implementation in Central Asia in the United Nations Global Survey for Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in 2019 (by country)**



Source: UNECE. Based on the Trade Facilitation Agreement Database. Available at [www.untfsurvey.org](http://www.untfsurvey.org)

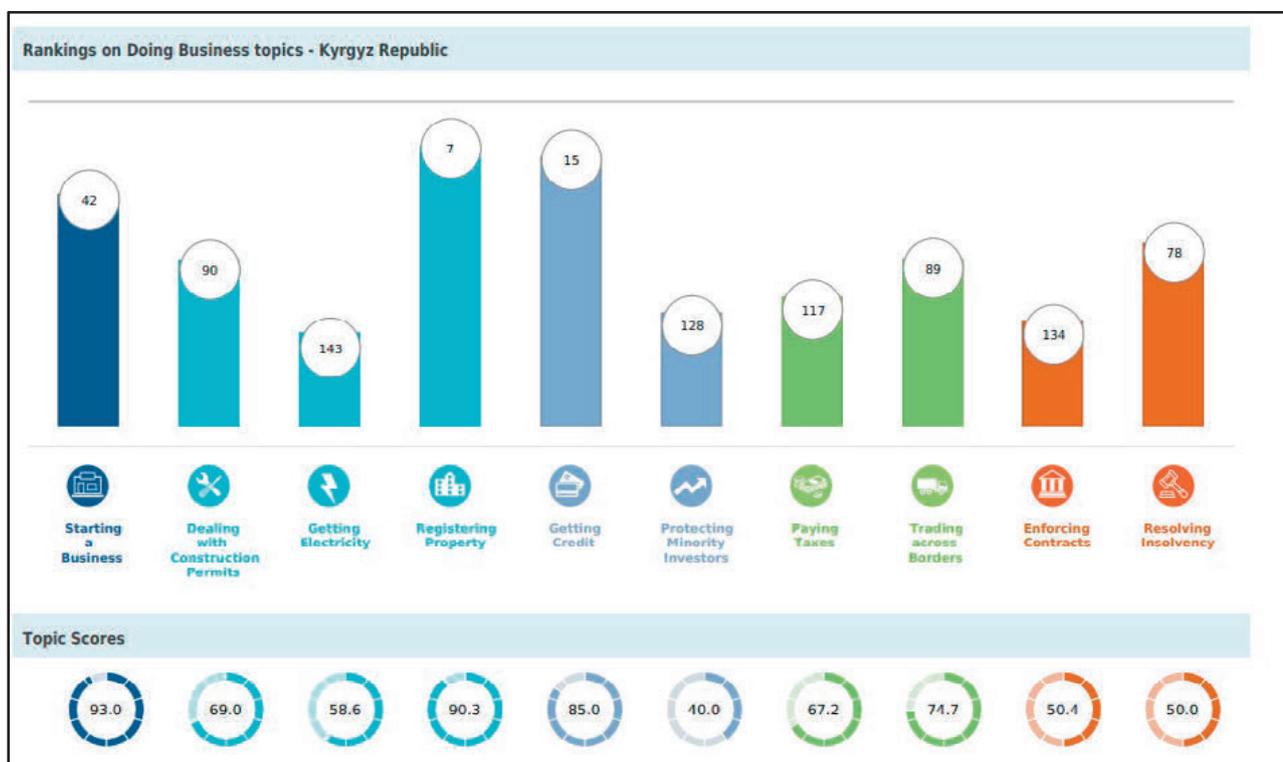
## World Bank Doing Business Report

According to the World Bank Doing Business Report 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic stands at 80<sup>th</sup> place out of 190 countries, although the country has lost 10 positions compared to the 2019 rating.<sup>28</sup> At the same time, this score has increased by 2.4 points, from 65.4 in 2019 to 67.8 in 2020, which indicates an improvement in the conditions for doing business in the Kyrgyz Republic.<sup>29</sup>

The Kyrgyz Republic improved the reliability of its power supply by enhancing the monitoring of outages and modernizing its infrastructure to reduce power outages. In addition, the Kyrgyz Republic improved access to credit information by providing credit scores to banks, financial institutions and borrowers. According to the Doing Business Report 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic has simplified cross-border trade by optimizing exports within the EAEU.

Figure 6

### Position of the Kyrgyz Republic in Doing Business Report 2020



Source: World Bank. Doing Business Report 2020

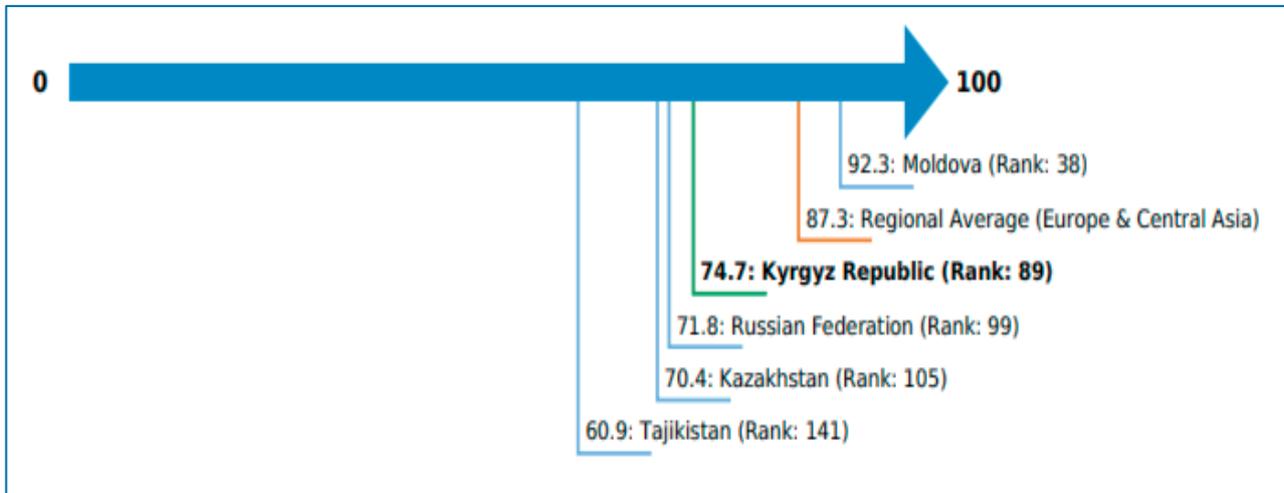
In the “trading across the borders” area of the Doing Business Report 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic’s rank is 89 among 190 countries. In this area, which is related to trade facilitation, the Kyrgyz Republic performs well in comparison with neighbouring countries: the Russian Federation (99), Kazakhstan (105) and Tajikistan (141).

<sup>28</sup> The World Bank. World Bank Doing Business Report, 2019. Available at <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2019>.

<sup>29</sup> The World Bank. Measuring Business Regulations. Available at <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploreconomies/kyrgyz-republic>.

Figure 7

**Ranking of the Kyrgyz Republic and neighbouring countries in the trading across borders section of the Doing Business Report 2020**

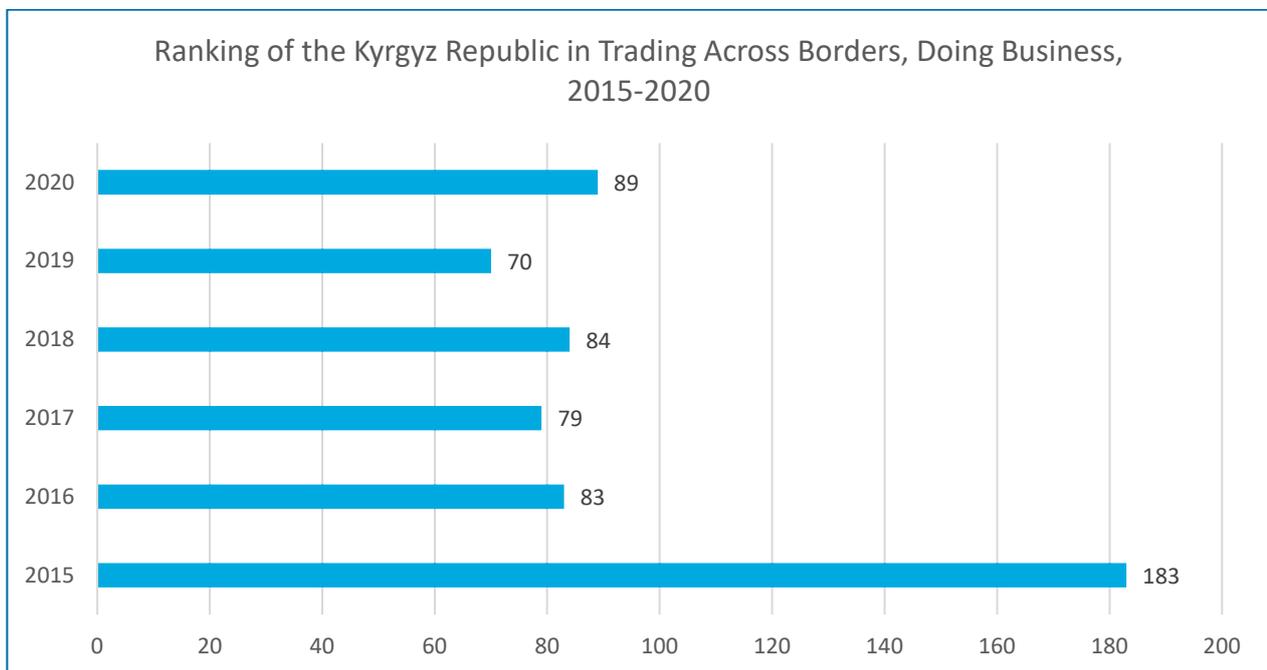


Source: World Bank. Doing Business Report 2020

The Kyrgyz Republic has been improving cross-border trade since 2016 and has taken a relatively stable position in the trading across border sub-indicator.

Figure 8

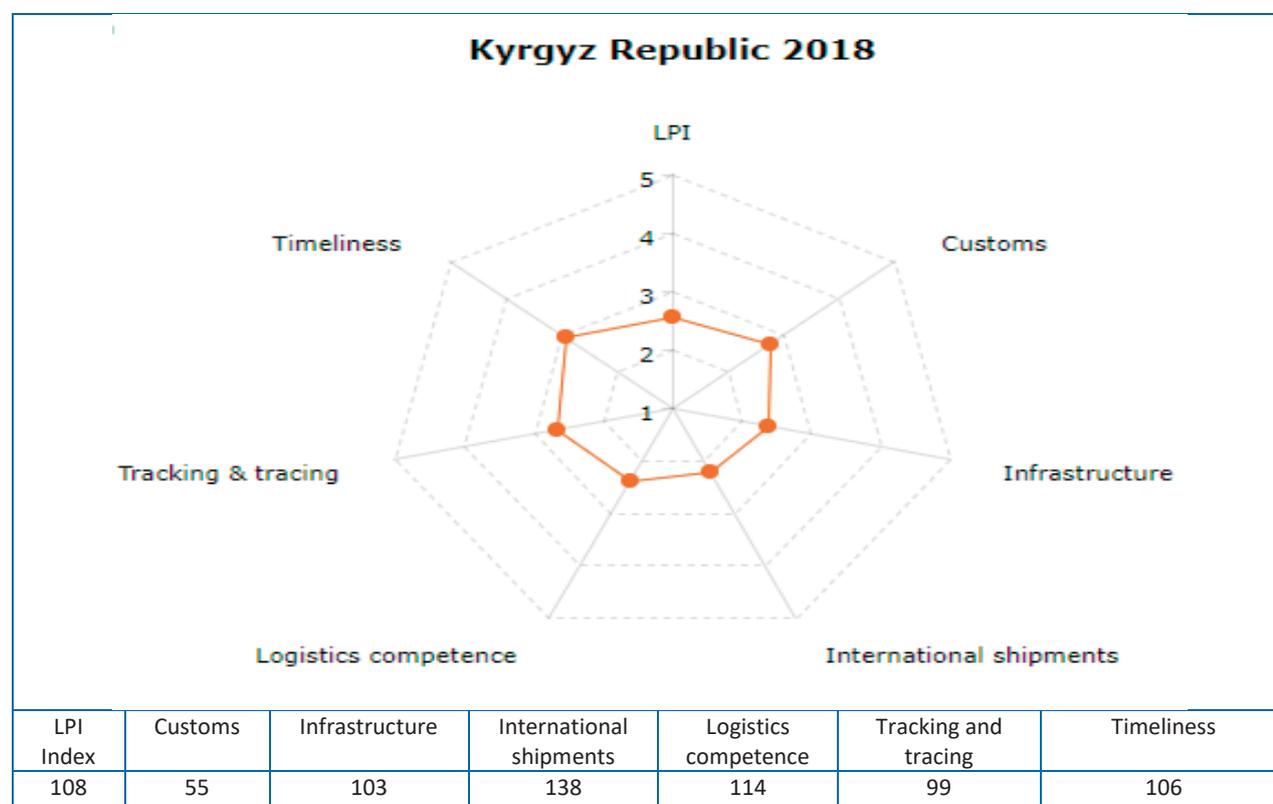
**Ranking of the Kyrgyz Republic in the trading across borders section of the Doing Business Report (from 2015 to 2020)**



Source: World Bank. Doing Business Report 2020

According to the World Bank Logistics Performance Index, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 108<sup>th</sup> (2018) out of 160 countries, reflecting the country's position in six trade parameters.

Figure 9  
Position of the Kyrgyz Republic in International LPI Index 2018



Source: World Bank. LPI Index Report 2018

In recent years, the Kyrgyz Republic has improved indicators for such items as customs (efficiency of customs and border control), tracking (ability to track goods), and timeliness (the frequency with which goods reach the recipient in the planned or expected delivery time frame).

#### 2.4. Trade facilitation situation during COVID-19

As part of the preparation of this Roadmap, a short survey was conducted on trade facilitation measures in times of crisis and pandemic, based on the proposed additional, COVID-related module of the 2021 edition of the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. The interviews for this survey were carried out with representatives from the key public and private sectors.

The results of the survey showed that despite the measures implemented by the Government, the country was not fully ready for appropriate crisis and pandemic response. The survey's findings determined certain gaps in trade facilitation measures to be addressed and implemented for future emergency response. Some of these gaps were also reported in the UNECE study on the impact of COVID-19 and non-tariff measures on SPECA countries.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> UNECE 2020 (draft), The Impact of COVID-19 Induced Non-Tariff Measures on SPECA Countries' trade Patterns Evidence from UNECE's survey of Freight Forwarders. Available at [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/workshop/2020\\_Nov\\_SPECAWG/COVID-ConsolidatedReport\\_Eng.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/workshop/2020_Nov_SPECAWG/COVID-ConsolidatedReport_Eng.pdf)

#### 2.4.1. General trade facilitation measures

Although the State Council performed a central role for the overall COVID-19 response, including trade facilitation, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic did not appoint a specific body to take measures on trade facilitation. Moreover, there was no delegation of authority to the NTFC, that, in turn, did not take any trade facilitation measures to approve or develop guidelines/instructions to deal with emergencies.

##### **Transparency and international cooperation**

Regarding communication between the public and private sectors in times of crisis and pandemic, the survey revealed significant room for improvement and insufficient information channels. The line ministries, such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF), the Ministry of Transport, Architecture, Construction and Communications (MoTACC), and the State Customs Service (SCS) and State Tax Service (STS) published emergency trade facilitation measures on their official websites. The national trade information portal (currently being developed) and enquiry points on emergency trade facilitation measures were not available.

However, the SCS has launched the Situation Centre and has been equipping it with staff and the appropriate technical equipment to perform the following functions: (1) to perform continuous monitoring and modelling of ongoing processes, to forecast scenarios for developing situations and to develop alternative solutions; (2) to visualize the management of situations and determine cause-and-effect relationships for the analysed events; and (3) to organize operational decision-making using information resources, intelligent information technologies and information display facilities. Based on the Situation Centre a Call centre was launched. This Call centre ensures the functioning of the Situation Centre. It provides technical support for the provision of information and consulting services and will ensure prompt solutions to problematic issues involving foreign economic activity. The Situation Centre has been operating in pilot mode since 23 December 2020.

With regard to international cooperation, during COVID-19 the Kyrgyz Republic communicated about the trade facilitation measures with WTO. In addition, as a member of EAEU, the country implemented emergency measures relating to cross-border issues and exemptions for essential goods from import custom fees. However, apart from this, there was no mechanism in the Central Asian subregion to share information on coordinated crisis or pandemic response.

##### **Inter-agency and cross-border coordination**

As part of the implementation of measures to introduce information exchange between regulatory state bodies at the Dostyk border crossing point (BCP) of the south-western customs, a pilot project called “Sanarip Tamga” was carried out to exchange preliminary information between regulatory state bodies using software designed to optimize procedures that allow for the sharing of preliminary information from the SCS database with authorized state bodies and to process information about goods and transport faster. This project enabled the regulatory state authorities at the border to get access to preliminary information from carriers to the SCS. This information is received at least two hours before the arrival of the goods at the automobile checkpoints. Based on results of the pilot, the procedure for the interaction of government agencies at automobile BCPs was approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No.572 on 19 November

2020.<sup>31</sup> Once this preliminary information is received, government agencies must make a decision in 15 minutes to speed up customs procedures.

It was noted in the survey that the one-stop-services at the Kyrgyz borders, which bring together all regulatory agencies to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods, have not been able to fully deliver their services and that they need financial support for modernization.

Furthermore, although the Kyrgyz Republic has implemented the SWIS, which, among other things, allows state regulatory bodies to issue permits for foreign economic activity, the lack of information exchange, duplication in the issuance of documents (both in paper form and through SWIS) does not allow for the harnessing of its full potential.

In order to ensure inter-agency interaction and data exchange through the Tunduk electronic interoperability system,<sup>32</sup> an agreement was made between the Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade (SWC) and the State Enterprise Centre for Electronic Interaction under the State Service for Digital Development under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (operator of the Tunduk system). This will allow for the transferring of data (electronic permits) through the Tunduk system to the Unified Automated Information System of the SCS (UAIS) for customs operations.

In addition, the Infodocs<sup>33</sup> electronic document management system was introduced in 2019. This is an information system designed to automate document circulation in government bodies, local governments, state enterprises and institutions and to translate documents into electronic format using electronic digital signatures. The goal of the Infodocs system is to reduce the time for sending and delivering letters and other paper correspondence, improve executive discipline and standardize document processing.

#### 2.4.2. Cross-border cooperation

The survey's findings indicated that the Kyrgyz Republic implemented special measures for coordinated border management in times of crisis and pandemic within EAEU regarding cross-border issues, including an exemption for essential goods from import custom fees.

However, there is a problem regarding freedom of transit between countries. Since each country has its own national transit policy, this complicates the process of unification and the formation of uniform rules in the region.

The SPECA trade facilitation strategy calls for enhancing regional cooperation. To this end, the Kyrgyz Republic has appointed the SCS<sup>34</sup> as the national coordinator, to facilitate cooperation between the various authorized state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic in the implementation of transit procedures at BCPs.

In addition, as part of the implementation of the WTO TFA, MoEF has plans to create a working group in conjunction with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan to discuss the conditions for data exchange, to

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<sup>31</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 572 of 19 November 2020. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157604>.

<sup>32</sup> The Tunduk electronic interoperability system is an information system that allows state and municipal agencies, as well as legal entities, to exchange the data necessary to render services to citizens and organizations in the electronic form.

<sup>33</sup> State Enterprise "Infocom" under the State Registration Service. Available at <https://infocom.kg/ru/projects/infodocs>.

<sup>34</sup> Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. Decree No. 445 of 2 September 2019 on the National Transit Coordinator. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157053>.

agree on the procedures and working hours at BCPs, and to reach an agreement on the exchange of information with third countries.

### 2.4.3. Trade facilitation measures for essential goods

The survey showed that the Kyrgyz Republic does not have an emergency trade facilitation plan/regulation in place for cross-border relief consignment, including for essential goods. It does not have a relief/essential goods catalogue with detailed specifications and recommended procedures in the event of disruptions to trade; nor does it have a review mechanism in place to improve cross-border facilitation measures for relief goods.

The survey's results indicated that the Kyrgyz Republic implemented measures to facilitate trade of essential supplies during the pandemic, albeit not fully. For instance, at border crossing points (BCP), there were no priority lanes, special counters or corridors for fast customs clearance of essential supplies.

In order to procure essential goods during the pandemic, a number of measures were taken, including an exemption from customs duties on imports (until 30 September 2020) for goods imported to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection in the EAEU. These items included personal protective equipment, disinfectants, diagnostic reagents, certain types of medical equipment and materials.<sup>35</sup>

By Decision of the EEC EAEU No. 33, dated 3 April 2020, a list of imported goods was determined for which a tariff preference was granted in the form of an exemption from customs import duties when importing into of the EAEU member states for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2020. The list of these goods included certain agricultural and food products and certain medicines and medical goods. An exemption was also granted from 16 March to 30 September 2020 (was extended till end of 2020) for goods intended for the production of medicines and for medical goods (thermal bags, films for sealing bottles, medical freezers), subject to confirmation of the intended purpose of such goods by authorized health authorities.<sup>36</sup>

From 18 April to 30 September 2020, the current procedure for the provision of Form A (certificate of origin), issued by developing and least developed countries, was temporarily simplified, which made it possible to use a paper or electronic copy of certificates for 6 months and not submit their originals during customs declaration.

In order to provide the population with a sufficient amount of essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EEC Board of the EAEU by Decision No. 42, dated 31 March 2020, imposed a ban on the export of certain types of food products from the EAEU countries from 12 April to 30 June 2020.

Also, a ban was introduced on the export of personal protective equipment, disinfectants and medical products from the EAEU from 5 April to 30 September 2020 (by decision of the EEC Board of the EAEU dated 24 March 2020 No. 41).

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<sup>35</sup> Eurasian Economic Commission Council. Decision No. 21 of 16 March 2020 on amendments to some decisions of the Customs Union Commission and on approval of the list of goods imported into the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union in order to implement measures by the states of the Economic Union aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus infection 2019-pCoV.

Available at [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428008/err\\_24032020](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428008/err_24032020).

<sup>36</sup> Eurasian Economic Commission Council. Decision No. 33 of 3 April 2020 on amendments to certain decisions of the Customs Union Commission and on approval of the list of critical import goods.

Available at [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01525325/err\\_08042020\\_33](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01525325/err_08042020_33).

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 12 March 2020 No. 147 introduced a ban on the export of respiratory equipment, protective suits, medical gowns, etc., which are included in the list of medicines and medical goods.

Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 13 March 2020 No. 155 introduced temporary state regulation of prices of socially important goods (flour, tin bread, vegetable oil, sugar, eggs, pasta, potatoes, rice, milk, meat and butter).

The country created a “green corridor” for food products imported into the country and eliminated customs barriers, inspections and cost control.

When passing the BCPs of the Kyrgyz Republic, a special order was in effect, approved by joint Order of the MoTACC No. 103, dated 24 March 2020, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MoHSD) No. 183, dated 24 March 2020. This included the following procedures: upon arrival of the cargo, medical workers measure the driver’s temperature and take a sample for COVID-19 express testing, an epidemiological history is collected, a questionnaire is filled out and the drivers are obliged to comply with the self-isolation regime. In the event of a positive test result, the driver is hospitalized in the infectious diseases department; and the vehicle is transported to the sanitary zone for disinfection of the cargo. In case of a negative test result, the vehicle undergoes external disinfection and is released for border control procedures and sent to logistics warehouses for unloading.

In accordance with the Order of the MoHSD No. 208, dated March 30, 2020, drivers who arrive from countries with a high-level risk of infection, regardless of citizenship, must home quarantine for 14 days at their place of residence. During the home quarantine, the primary healthcare unit doctor visits them on the first day of arrival. After that they have subsequent telephone communications with the doctor. The quarantine certificate is issued on the last day. In the absence of suitable conditions for compliance with the home quarantine requirement, drivers are subject to observation for 14 days in places determined by the list of the MoHSD. If found to be positive, drivers are subject to hospitalization.

Within the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Government of China for 2015-2020, since 2015, “green corridors” have been operating for agricultural products at BCPs on the Kyrgyz-Chinese state border. Special logos are applied to vehicles, special windows and dedicated traffic lanes exist to simplify and accelerate the control of agricultural products, and also to provide for priority inspection (the fastest possible control) if there is information about the inspection of goods on the neighbouring side. However, during the pandemic, BCPs on the Kyrgyz-Chinese section of the state border were temporarily closed and did not allow the passage of persons, vehicles and cargo, except for relief consignment.

Cargo traffic resumed on 14 April 2020 at Irkeshtam BCP and on 8 September 2020 at Torugart BCP. The trade was carried out in accordance with the inter-agency order “On the mechanism of implementation of the algorithm for replacing drivers when transporting goods by automobile to/from China”, MoTACC, MoHSD, SCS, State Border Service of State Committee for National Security (SCNS) of the Kyrgyz Republic (SBS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoAWRD), the State Inspection for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SIVPS) under MoAWRD, which prescribes the replacement of the driver of a freight vehicle arriving from China.

#### 2.4.4. Facilitation of movement of people and transportation

According to the survey, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted common rules for the movement of citizens where the state of emergency was introduced, without any exception for persons with a valid negative COVID-19 certificate.

After the introduction of a state of emergency and curfew in the country, the Commandant's Office of Bishkek city adopted an Order (No. 15-pr, dated 30 March 2020), according to which a ban was imposed on the movement of people and personal transport (except for urgent needs) outside of curfew hours and the activities of all organizations and enterprises were temporarily suspended except for those that provide services essential to the functioning of the city.

Individuals were only allowed to travel to their place of work and back with an employment certificate issued by the employer (certified by the STS) and a route sheet.

For transportation, a special regime of electronic permits was used. These were divided into several types: (1) an electronic permit allowing for unimpeded round-the-clock travel, including during curfew hours, entry or exit of vehicles, (2) an electronic permit to move a vehicle outside of curfew hours for travel, (3) a round-the-clock electronic pedestrian permit to enter or exit and move on foot during curfew hours for duties assigned to ensure the state of emergency, (4) a day time electronic pedestrian permit to enter or exit and move on foot outside of curfew hours.

The transportation of goods was allowed for companies engaged in the provision of medicines and antiseptics, trading and supplying food products, and for shipping companies supplying products from various countries.

#### 2.4.5. Digital trade facilitation

According to the survey, the Kyrgyz Republic did not introduce any new digital measures to facilitate trade during the pandemic. In the country, digital trade is at the initial stages of implementation and requires technical solutions and significant financial investments.

According to the Roadmap of the Digital Transformation Concept "Digital Kyrgyzstan" for 2019–2023,<sup>37</sup> the main priorities are focused on (1) the creation of a legal basis for the implementation of e-government and e-signature and the elimination of requests for paper certificates; (2) the modernization of the Single Window Information System and ensuring the exchange of information on electronic control; (3) the development of e-commerce and ensuring the possibility of online non-cash payments; and (4) the automation of registration processes for legal entities and the implementation of a unified electronic reporting system for all types of obligations for entrepreneurs.

In addition, the Kyrgyz Customs Development Strategy for 2019-2023 indicates that the automation and use of modern digital technologies in all customs processes is a main priority (Digital customs project).<sup>38</sup> It envisages the further development of the electronic customs declaration submission and the system for automatic release of goods. The risk management system and post-clearance control will be the main priorities in the digitalization of customs processes.

The SWC carries out activities to optimize administrative procedures and to reduce administrative barriers in the preparation of documents for foreign trade operations. The main tasks of SWC are

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<sup>37</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Order of the Government No. 20-r of 15 February 2019. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/216896>.

<sup>38</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 363 of 22 July 2019. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/157006?cl=ru-ru>.

the creation of a “one-stop-shop” system and the organization, development, and provision of services to ensure the proper functioning of the “one-stop-shop” system in the implementation of pre-customs export and import procedures for participants of foreign trade.

At present, SWIS is a platform allowing actors in international trade to submit applications and transfer documents in electronic format to government agencies and other organizations issuing permits and other documents necessary for the implementation of export, import, and transit operations.

As of 2019, 33 state agencies and other organizations are connected to the SWIS, including 12 private certification agencies. In 2020, 42517 permits were issued through SWIS.<sup>39</sup>

Currently the SWC is modernizing SWIS, taking into account national and international requirements as well as the requirements of the EAEU. This involves a number of measures/actions to develop software modules for the departments involved in the SWIS to ensure data exchange through the Tunduk system and at the supranational level within the EAEU.

Responsible specialists and officials, authorized to sign expert opinions, were trained on how to work in the SWIS and were provided with electronic digital signatures.

*Table 4*

**Agencies and the permitting documents issued in SWIS**

No	Name of agency	Permitting documents issued
1	Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic	Licences, permits, expert evaluations
2	State Communications Agency	Certificate of conformity with the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union (TR CU) and Technical Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic (TR KR)
3	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic (Plant Quarantine Department)	Phytosanitary certificate
4	Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision under the MoHSD of the Kyrgyz Republic	Certificate of state registration of products Declaration of conformity with TR CU and TR KR
5	Product certification bodies	Certificate of conformity with TR CU and TR KR Declaration of conformity with TR CU and TR KR
6	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic	Form A (certificate of origin)

<sup>39</sup> State Enterprise Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Available at <http://swis.trade.kg>.

No	Name of agency	Permitting documents issued
7	Republican certification centre (under development)	Certificate of conformity with TR CU and TR KR
8	Department for the Regulation and Control of Alcoholic Beverages of the State Tax Service	Licences
9	State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under MoAWRD	CITES certificate
10	Office for the Control of Legal Drug Trafficking of the Department of Pharmaceutical Provision and Medical Equipment under the MoHSD of the Kyrgyz Republic	Licences, permits
11	Department of Pharmaceutical Provision and Medical Equipment under the MoHSD of the Kyrgyz Republic (under development)	Statement for the import of medicines and medical equipment Certificate of conformity
12	State Inspectorate of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety under MoAWRD (under development)	Veterinary certificate

Source: State Enterprise Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

#### 2.4.6. Support to business and SMEs

The findings of the survey showed that the Kyrgyz Republic supported traders amid COVID-19; however, it was only partially effective including because of the absence of training programs for traders on new regulations in response to COVID-19.

#### *Simplification of customs procedures and expedited clearance*

In order to simplify customs procedures and expedite customs clearance, the MoEF has created conditions for functioning of the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO). The advantages of the AEO programme include a reduction in the number of inspections and priority in conducting inspections, mutual recognition of foreign AEO programmes, lenient security requirements and guarantees as well as pre-clearance, simplified procedures, priority service in case of emergencies, etc. As of the end of December 2020, only two entities have received the status of AEO, each with a deposit of €1 million.

The AEOs are divided into three types depending on the type of activity:

The first type of certificate gives the AEO the right to:

- perform customs operations as a matter of priority
- carry out customs control as a matter of priority
- release goods before filing a declaration
- impose its own seal, which is recognized by the customs authorities.

Under this type of certificate, the AEO is not required to:

- provide security for the payment of customs fees for the procedures of customs transit
- establish the route for transportation of goods.

The second type of certificate provides simplification in the storage of goods. It gives the AEO the right to:

- temporarily store goods in its own warehouse and to perform customs operations on these premises
- carry out customs control at the facilities/premises of the AEO
- perform customs operations in a customs authority location other than the customs authority in the region in which the goods are located
- release goods before filing a declaration and others.

The third type of certificate is a combination of the first and second types of certificates.

#### 2.4.7. Support to women entrepreneurs

The Kyrgyz Republic did not introduce any specific measures to support women entrepreneurs during or post COVID-19 pandemic. However, since 2012, the National Council for Women and Gender Development<sup>40</sup> has been operating in the Kyrgyz Republic to coordinate and ensure an interaction between state agencies and local self-governing authorities (LSGs), the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyz Republic, employers' associations, non-profit and international organizations, and independent gender experts engaged in gender issues.

In recent years, projects have been implemented to achieve gender equality and to eliminate the imbalance between the opportunities available for women and men. These have included projects to develop women's entrepreneurship, which is one of the most effective ways to overcome poverty and to promote the sustainable socioeconomic development of communities. For example, within the framework of the Asian Development Bank's Women's Entrepreneurship Development project, 405 women received pilot financing loans and 1017 women entrepreneurs were trained in financial literacy, business planning and leadership.<sup>41</sup> The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development launched the Women in Business Program, under which up to US\$ 12 million will be provided for lending to companies run by women. Over US\$ 1 million will be provided to women entrepreneurs to access mentoring, training courses and know-how from local consultants and international experts to develop their businesses.<sup>42</sup>

Currently under consideration is the provision of 40% of the OJSC "Guarantee Fund"<sup>43</sup> specifically to women entrepreneurs. In addition, special preferential financial products "Ishker-Ayim" and "Ayim-Credit" have been launched to provide finance for women entrepreneurs in the rural areas.

In addition, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic is working on the development of a National Program for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030.

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<sup>40</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Decree of the Government No. 268 of 2 May 2012.

Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/93558?cl=ru-ru>.

<sup>41</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic: Women's Entrepreneurship Development Project. Implementation Completion Memorandum.

Available at <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/46010/46010-001-icm-en.pdf>.

<sup>42</sup> Aga Khan Foundation, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network. Available at [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org).

<sup>43</sup> OJSC Guarantee Fund is aimed at providing access to financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in case of insufficient collateral throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. Available at [www.gf.kg](http://www.gf.kg).

In this area, problems include low financial literacy; lack of experience and qualifications; lack of a business plan, benefits and other mechanisms to support women in taxation, lending, and registration; limited concessional loans due to difficulties in collateral; insufficient support from the state to provide material and technical assistance and product sales.

## **2.5. Legal and regulatory framework for trade facilitation**

After gaining independence, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic embarked on a long-term process of trade liberalization and implemented a number of economic reforms including in the customs and trade areas.

Taking into account priority objectives for active participation in international customs cooperation, harmonization and alignment of national legislation to the international norms and practices, the Kyrgyz Republic joined the WTO, which was one of key steps for integration.

The subsequent stage of integration with the EAEU led to a change in and harmonization of the national legal framework.

Currently, the provisions of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on “Customs regulation” No. 52 of 24 April 2019 are in force, which regulate customs relations not regulated by the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union; international treaties and acts in the field of customs regulation; as well as customs legal relations which are regulated in accordance with the law of the Kyrgyz Republic.<sup>44</sup>

In order to implement the provisions of this Law, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic developed and approved relevant instructions in the field of customs. Tariff and non-tariff regulatory measures, as well as technical regulations are applied in accordance with the Treaty of the EAEU.

The Kyrgyz Republic applies the following trade regimes in trade and economic relations with other countries: (1) free trade regime, (2) most favoured nation treatment and (3) preferential treatment.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Customs Regulation No. 52 dated 24 April 2019 <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/111908?cl=ru-ru>.

<sup>45</sup> Trade regimes applied by the Kyrgyz Republic in trade and economic relations with other countries. Available (in Russian only): [mineconom.gov.kg/ru/direct/13/174](http://mineconom.gov.kg/ru/direct/13/174).

Below is a list of the main laws and regulations<sup>46</sup> applicable in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Table 5

*Relevant laws, by-laws, and regulations on trade facilitation and related topics: selected examples*

Area	Legal acts
Customs	Instruction on customs control of goods in free economic zones of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 4 September 2014 No. 524.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on some issues of the activities of authorized economic operators in the field of customs of 27 July 2015 No. 536.
	EAEU Customs Code entered into force on 1 January 2018.
	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on customs regulation, dated 24 April 2019 No. 54.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on measures to implement the agreement on the introduction of an international certificate of weighing cargo vehicles in the territories of the CIS member states, implementation of Appendix 8 to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Conditions for Conducting Control of Goods at Borders, dated 30 July 2019 No. 375.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the National Transit Coordinator, dated 2 September 2019 No. 445.
	Instructions for the application of certain customs procedures, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.
	Instruction on the control over the calculation and payment of customs duties; special, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.
	Instructions for the organization and conduct of customs inspection and inspection of goods and vehicles approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.
	Regulations on the procedure for making preliminary decisions on the classification of goods in accordance with the Commodity Nomenclature for Foreign Economic Activity of the EAEU (TN VED EAEU), approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.
Regulation on the temporary storage of goods under customs control, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.	
Regulation on customs convoy, approved by the Decree of the Government of	

<sup>46</sup> A list of border-crossing procedures in Central Asia including the Kyrgyz Republic are available in the SPECA Working Paper on Harmonizing Border-crossing Procedures 2020. Available at :

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/workshop/2020\\_Nov\\_SPECAWG/Overview\\_BorderCrossings\\_Eng.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/workshop/2020_Nov_SPECAWG/Overview_BorderCrossings_Eng.pdf)

Area	Legal acts
	<p>the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Regulation on free warehouse, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Procedure for assigning a customs examination, collection of samples and samples during customs examination approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Procedure for customs control of goods using the double corridor system, approved by the Decree of the Government of the KR, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Procedure for conducting customs inspections approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Procedure for the sale or destruction of foreign goods confiscated or turned into the ownership (income) of the Kyrgyz Republic or on which collection is levied, as well as goods detained by customs authorities, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Forms of reporting to the customs authorities by persons carrying out activities in the field of customs and persons using and/or owning foreign goods, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Forms of customs documents approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p> <p>Qualification requirements for employees of customs representatives, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 13 February 2020 No. 79.</p>
Customs and tariff regulation	Annex No. 6 to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, Protocol on Unified Customs and Tariff Regulation.
Non-tariff regulation	Annex No. 7 to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union, Protocol on Non-tariff Regulation with Regard to the Third Countries.
Technical regulation	<p>Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the basics of technical regulation in the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 22 May 2004 No. 67.</p> <p>Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on ensuring the uniformity of measurements, dated 9 July 2014 No. 118.</p> <p>Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on mandatory confirmation of conformity of products in the form of adopting a declaration of conformity, dated 8 January 2019 No. 20.</p>
Sanitary, phytosanitary	Regulations on the procedure for the implementation of sanitary and epidemiological supervision (control) over persons, vehicles, goods and cargo

Area	Legal acts
and veterinary standards	transported across the state border of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 7 October 2014 No. 580.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the list of regulated products (regulated goods, regulated articles, regulated goods) subject to quarantine phytosanitary control (supervision) at the customs border of the customs union and the customs territory of the customs union, dated 7 October 2014 No. 583.
	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on veterinary science, dated 30 December 2014 No. 175.
	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on plant quarantine, dated 12 January 2015 No. 2.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the quarantine phytosanitary rules of the Kyrgyz Republic and regulations on the procedure for issuing phytosanitary, re-export phytosanitary and quarantine certificates, dated 18 June 2015 No. 376.
Foreign economic activity	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on state regulation of foreign trade in the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 2 July 1997 No. 41.
	Decree of the Government on approval of the list of expert organizations and licensors for licensing the export and import of specific goods included in the Unified List of Goods to which non-tariff regulation measures are applied in trade with third countries, and on making additions and changes to some decisions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 24 March 2016 No. 142.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the interim regulation on the procedure for licensing the import and export of arms and military equipment, as well as other military products, dated 3 February 2017 No. 67.
Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the Program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Development of Exports of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2022 and the action plan for implementation, dated 20 December 2018 No. 596.	
Export control	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on export control, dated 23 January 2003 No. 30.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on measures to introduce the national export control system in the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 4 May 2004 No. 330.
	Regulation on the procedure for the implementation of export control in the Kyrgyz Republic in relation to controlled products, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 4 May 2004 No. 330.
	Procedure for issuing a permit for the transit of products subject to export

Area	Legal acts
	<p>control through the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 27 October 2010 No. 257.</p> <p>Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On approval of the National Control List of the Kyrgyz Republic of Controlled Products”, dated 2 April 2014 No. 197.</p>
Trading regimes/ treatments	<p><b>Free trade regime</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kyrgyz Republic has bilateral agreements on a free trade zone with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.</li> <li>• On 18 October 2011, the Agreement on the CIS Free Trade Zone was signed, to which Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine are parties.</li> <li>• In accordance with Article 35 of the Treaty on the EAEU of 29 May 2014, a free trade regime with a third party is established on the basis of an international agreement of the Eurasian Economic Union with such a third party. The following are some of these third party agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 29 May 2015, a free trade agreement was signed between the EAEU, its member states, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.</li> <li>- On 17 May 2018, an interim agreement leading to the formation of a free trade zone was signed between the EAEU, its member states, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.</li> <li>- On 1 October 2019, a free trade agreement was signed between the EAEU, its member states, and the Republic of Singapore.</li> <li>- On 25 October 2019, a free trade agreement was signed between the EAEU, its member states, and the Republic of Serbia.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment:</b></p> <p>In trade with the countries to which the MFN is provided, the rates approved by the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union are applied.</p> <p><b>Preferential treatment (system of preferences):</b></p> <p>Within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, in order to promote the economic development of developing and least developed countries, a unified system of tariff preferences is applied.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 45 of the Treaty on the EAEU of 29 May 2014, the EEC will determine the tariff preferences and conditions, the list of developing and least-developed countries/beneficiaries to which this system of tariff preferences will apply, and the list of goods originating from these countries that will be granted tariff preferences.</p>
Taxation	Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic of 17 October 2008 No. 230.

Area	Legal acts
	Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the formation of the coordinating council on digitalization of tax and customs administration, dated 13 January 2020 No. 3-r.
Investment	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on investments in the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 27 March 2003 No. 66.
	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on free economic zones in the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 11 January 2014 No. 6.
SMEs	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the procedure for conducting inspections of business entities, dated 25 May 2007 No. 72.
COVID-19	Order the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the creation of the Republican headquarters for the implementation of economic measures aimed at minimizing the consequences of external shocks and stimulating economic development” dated 5 March 2020 No. 136.
	Decree the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the introduction of temporary state regulation of prices for certain types of socially significant goods, dated 13 March 2020 No. 155.
	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Assistance Group for the provision of international emergency assistance on the principle of a single window”, dated 17 March 2020 No. 165.
	Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the formation of expert working groups to attract foreign aid”, dated 20 March 2020 No. 172.
	Decree the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the introduction of a temporary ban on the export of certain types of goods from the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 22 March 2020 No. 174.
	Decree the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on measures to provide the population with drugs and medical products in connection with the coronavirus pandemic, dated 23 March 2020 No. 178.
	Order the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the Plan of Priority Measures of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to Reduce the Negative Impact on Economic and Social Stability Due to the Spread of the COVID-19, dated 30 March 2020 No. 186.
	The procedure for the introduction and implementation of restrictive/quarantine measures in the field of public health in the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by Decree the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, dated 9 April 2020 No. 197.
	Order the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the Action Plan of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020 to restore economic activity and support the activities of business entities, dated 6 May 2020 No. 162-r.

Area	Legal acts
	Order the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the Coronavirus Infection Response Plan (COVID-19) and Early Recovery for Cooperation between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Emergency Response Coordination Group, dated 29 May 2020 No. 194-r.
	Decree the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on goods subject to VAT at a rate of zero (0) per cent, used to stabilize the epidemiological situation, dated 1 September 2020 No. 458.
	Order the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on approval of the action plan for preparation for a possible second wave of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection pandemic in the autumn-winter period of 2020/2021, dated 19 August 2020 No. 282-r.
Cooperation with development partners on COVID-19	Credit and Grant Agreements (Rapid Response and Cost Support Program in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic) between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Development Bank, signed on 5 May 2020 in Bishkek.
	Credit and Grant Agreements (COVID-19 Emergency Project) between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Development Bank, signed on 16 June 2020 in Bishkek.
	Funding Agreements (COVID-19 Emergency Project) between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Development Association.
	Grant Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association on the Multilateral Donor Trust Fund for the Program to Improve the Quality of Primary Health Care in the Kyrgyz Republic.
	Financing Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Development Association for the Emergency Support Project for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
	Loan Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for the Emergency Support to the Private and Financial Sector project.
	Funding Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Development Association for the Social protection system and contingency plan project.

Source: UNECE. Based on the database of the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic

## 2.6. Sector-specific challenges for the top four export goods

The main state body responsible for export promotion is the Agency for the Promotion and Protection of Investments of the Kyrgyz Republic,<sup>47</sup> which collects trade information, organizes and

<sup>47</sup> State Agency for the Promotion and Protection of Investments under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Available at <https://export.gov.kg>.

holds events aimed at developing and promoting exports, and provides basic consulting assistance on issues related to export activities.

According to the Program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the Development of Exports of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2022,<sup>48</sup> four priority sectors were selected for the development of further assistance activities: (1) the textile industry, (2) the dairy industry, (3) processing of vegetables and fruits, and (4) green and innovative engineering.

The entrepreneurs of these sectors have priority to access financing, including subsidies, as well as to receive support in marketing and promotion to access foreign markets.

### **Textile industry<sup>49</sup>**

The Program's strategic goal is to triple the export of textile products by 2022:

- To reach US\$ 300 million in 2022 for the export of textile products.
- To have at least 70% of total textile exports contracted to retail chains.<sup>50</sup>

A number of challenges exist in the textile industry including the following:

- Lack of funding: The SMEs in this sector do not have enough funds for development due to their small-scale business operations, making it challenging to enter global value chains.
- Weak access to the raw materials market: Entrepreneurs face lack of local raw materials and they do not have direct access to producers so are forced to buy raw materials from intermediary suppliers.
- Low-efficiency: SMEs do not have the resources to produce textile products on a regular basis.
- Unskilled labour: Employees engaged in this sector are under qualified and do not have the resources to develop necessary knowledge and skills.

### **Dairy industry**

The strategic goal is to develop the dairy industry as a whole in the following ways:

- Increasing the level of processed dairy products from 28 to 50% by 2023.
- Reaching export growth of 1.5 times over 5 years, with an average annual growth of 9 to 11%.
- Developing new markets in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Afghanistan.<sup>51</sup>

The dairy industry faces the following problems: (1) farmers cannot receive veterinary export permits due to the lack of accredited testing laboratories in the dairy industry; (2) there is non-compliance with the requirements of the International Standardization Organization Foundation (ISO)/Food Safety System Certification (FSCC) international standards; (3) there is non-compliance

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<sup>48</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Decree of the Government. The Kyrgyz Government Export Development Program 2019-2022 No. 596 of 20 December 2018. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/12808>.

<sup>49</sup> For policies related to traceability and transparency in textile value chains, see UN/CEFACT Policy Brief – Harnessing the potential of blockchain technology for due diligence and sustainability in cotton value chains, 2021. Available at: [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/ECE\\_TRADE\\_C\\_CEFAC\\_T2021\\_12E-TextilePolicyBrief.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFAC_T2021_12E-TextilePolicyBrief.pdf). Other resources on sustainable textile value chains are available at: <https://unece.org/trade/traceability-sustainable-garment-and-footwear>

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> The Kyrgyz Republic. Decree of the Government. The Kyrgyz Government Export Development Program 2019-2022 No. 596 of 20 December 2018. Available at <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/12808>.

with the requirements for packaging and labelling; and (4) there is a weak leasing system for dairy equipment in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **Processing of vegetables and fruits**

The strategic goal is to increase the export volume of processed fruit and vegetable products by 1.4 times in comparison with 2013, so that export volumes reach US\$ 120 million in 2022.<sup>52</sup>

The following challenging issues exist in this industry: (1) lack of financial resources, high interest rates and insufficient collaterals; (2) a weak raw material market (low yields of raw materials and a small-scale and fragmented supplies preventing economies of scale); and (3) low-efficiency due to outdated equipment, ineffective business processes and a lack of qualified labour resources.

### **Green and innovative engineering**

As this industry is not developed in the country, the 2019–2022 program envisages the following activities: (1) changing school curricula with an increased emphasis on the exact sciences; (2) updating the programs of secondary vocational and higher educational institutions and giving them a complete technological overhaul, equipping them to train specialists to work on automated machines and conveyor lines, etc., and attracting teaching staff of international calibre; (3) restoring production at facilities that previously housed large manufacturing enterprises; (4) completely reconstructing and providing required infrastructure (for railways, water and electricity supply); and (5) attracting investment and advanced management to launch enterprises.<sup>53</sup>

## **2.7. Time and cost to export and import**

### **Time Release Study**

In March 2018, the State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of the IFC Trade Logistics Project in Central Asia and GIZ Trade Facilitation Program in Central Asia conducted the first time release study (TRS) in the Kyrgyz Republic to assess the average time between the arrival of exported and imported goods by road transport, including transit and their release.

This study was carried out over fourteen days at the Torugart, Dostyk and Kyzyl-Bel BCPs and at the Bishkek Trans Service, Kyrgyz Mebel, Kyzyl-Kiya ZhD, Bimi Osh and Osh-Customs terminals. Below are the results of the indicated TRS.

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

Table 6

**Average time for import, export and transit according to the results of the TRS 2018**

Location	Average time for import procedures	Average time for export procedures	Average time for transit procedures
Kyzyl-Bel BCP	4 h 16 min	3 h 08 min	N/A
Torugar BCP	1 h 42 min	0 h38 min	N/A
Dostyk BCP	10 h 52 min	1 h 12 min	N/A
All BCPs	5 h 18 min	2 h 00 min	1:01
All terminals	19 h 24 min	3 h 59 min	N/A

Source: State Customs Service under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, TRS 2018

Based on the results of the TRS, the following recommendations were developed: (1) development and implementation of an ICT method in order to avoid multiple recording by different departments at the border, (2) installation of an automatic vehicle licence plate reader, (3) abolition of the practice of manually recording information, (4) unification of standard operating procedures at BCPs, (5) abolition of the requirement for escort between BCPs and terminals, (6) cancellation of physical inspection of all goods and introducing a risk management system, (7) implementation of a trusted/reliable trader scheme, (8) acquisition of mobile laboratories, (9) introduction of joint border control, (10) promotion of the use of the TIR electronic preliminary declaration (TIR-EPD) system, (11) introduction of an electronic queue tool at the border based on preliminary information data, (12) ensuring the exchange of preliminary information with other state bodies at the border, (13) implementation of the requirement to provide legal information for export for risk analysis and planning of joint inspections, and (14) integration of the weight control system at BCPs and terminals with the Unified Automated Information System (UAIS) of the SCS.<sup>54</sup>

Currently, work is underway to develop a trade information portal (TIP), supported by ITC in cooperation with UNECE, aimed at facilitating international trade in Central Asia by ensuring transparency of cross-border requirements, eliminating regulatory and procedural barriers; strengthening the capacity of businesses to comply with trade formalities and standards; and by improving cross-border e-commerce. It will contain systematic information about the procedures for import, export and transit of products.

As part of this work, an analysis of the business processes on the main exported goods was carried out. Information on the preliminary average cost of exporting dairy products, beans, fruit and vegetable juices, dried fruit and cement is provided below.

Table 7

**Cost and time to export the main exported products from the Kyrgyz Republic**

Products	Stages	Cost*	Time**
Dairy	Obtain a registered declaration of conformity	8 044 KGS	6 – 7 days
	Obtain a voluntary certificate of conformity	Optional	
	Obtain permission to export veterinary products	Free	2 – 18 days

<sup>54</sup> State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz republic. Report on TRS 2018.

Products	Stages	Cost*	Time**
	Obtain the test report of the Centre for Veterinary Diagnostics and Expertise	Optional	--
	Obtain a certificate of origin	2250 KGS	2 hours – 2 days
	Organization of cargo transportation (road transport)	9550 KGS	2 – 14 days
	Obtain a veterinary certificate	Free	2 hours – 2 days
	Obtain an insurance policy	Optional	--
	Customs clearance, crossing the border, covering transportation costs	13013 KGS	4 hours – 5 days
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32 867 KGS</b>	<b>11 – 47 days</b>
<b>Beans</b>	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 1/2)	300 KGS	5 hours – 2 days
	Obtain a registered declaration of conformity	1818 KGS	10 minutes – 3 hours
	Obtain a voluntary certificate of conformity	Optional	
	Obtain a certificate of origin	1800 KGS	15 minutes – 3 hours
	Register with REX (registered exporter system) for self-certification of origin for the EU market	Free	
	Organization of cargo transportation (road transport)	9550 KGS	2 – 14 days
	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 2/2)	--	--
	Obtain an insurance policy	Optional	
	Customs clearance, crossing the border, covering transportation costs	13013 KGS	4 hours – 5 days
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26 481 KGS</b>	<b>3 – 21 days</b>
<b>Fruit and vegetable juices</b>	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 1/2)	300 KGS	5 hours – 2 days
	Obtain a registered declaration of conformity	7004 KGS	6 – 7 days
	Obtain a voluntary certificate of conformity	Optional	
	Obtain a certificate of origin	2250 KGS	2 hours – 2 days
	Organization of cargo transportation (road transport)	9550	2 – 14 days
	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 2/2)	--	--
	Obtain an insurance policy	Optional	
	Customs clearance, crossing the border, covering transportation costs	13013 KGS	4 hours – 5 days
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32 117 KGS</b>	<b>9 – 29 days</b>
<b>Dried fruit</b>	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 1/2)	300 KGS	5 hours – 2 days

Products	Stages	Cost*	Time**
	Obtain a registered declaration of conformity	6301 KGS	6 – 7 days
	Obtain a voluntary certificate of conformity	Optional	
	Obtain a certificate of origin	1800 KGS	15 minutes – 3 hours
	Register with REX for self-certification of origin for the EU market	Free	
	Organization of cargo transportation (road transport)	9550 KGS	2 – 14 days
	Obtain a phytosanitary certificate (Part 2/2)		
	Obtain an insurance policy		
	Customs clearance, crossing the border, covering transportation costs	13013 KGS	4 hours – 5 days
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33 964 KGS</b>	<b>9 – 27 days</b>
<b>Cement</b>	Obtain a mandatory certificate of conformity	2961 KGS	5 minutes – 1 days
	Obtain a certificate of origin	2250 KGS	2 hours – 2 days
	Organization of cargo transportation (road transport)	9550 KGS	2 – 14 days
	Obtain an insurance policy		
	Customs clearance of dairy products, crossing the border, covering transportation costs		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27 774 KGS</b>	<b>3 – 21 days</b>
<b>Textile</b>	Obtain certificate of conformity	<b>16924 KGS</b>	7 – 40 days
	Arrange transportation	<b>101540 KGS</b>	5 – 7 days
	Pass border crossing point (BCP) at the Kyrgyz- Kazakh border	<b>1692 KGS</b>	1 day
	Pass BCP at the Kazakh-Russian border		6 days
	Sign a handover protocol		1 day
	Order payment	<b>170 KGS</b>	3 days
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120326 KGS</b>	<b>23 – 58 days</b>
* The quoted cost estimate is based on approved prices and may vary from case to case. ** Time depends on waiting in line, time spent in the organization, and waiting until the next step.			

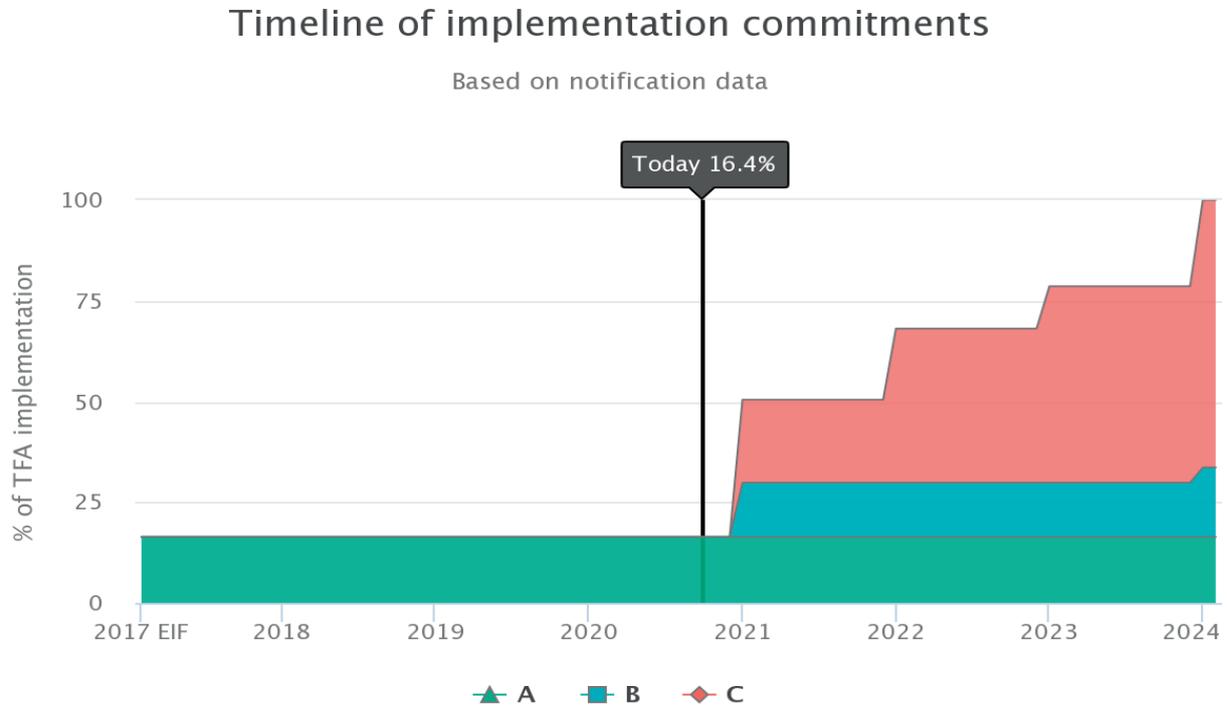
Source: UNECE. Based on the preliminary data of the Kyrgyz trade information portal as of 1 November 2020.

## 2.8. Implementation status of the WTO TFA

As part of the integration process, the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the WTO TFA on Trade Facilitation on 22 November 2016. To date, the rate of implementation of commitments under WTO TFA is 16.4% across the following categories:

- 16.4% rate of category A commitments
- 0.0% rate of category B commitments
- 0.0% rate of category C commitments

Figure 10  
 Status of implementation of the WTO TFA in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2020

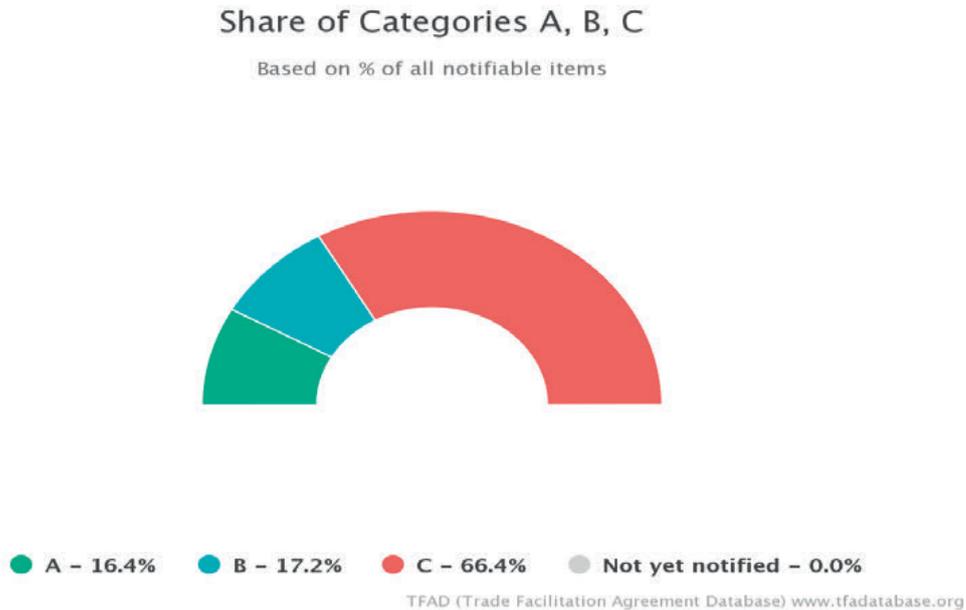


TFAD (Trade Facilitation Agreement Database) [www.tfadatabase.org](http://www.tfadatabase.org)

Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database. Available at [www.tfadatabase.org](http://www.tfadatabase.org)

Category B (17.2% implementation of commitments under WTO TFA) is for the period from December 2020 to December 2023 and category C (66.4%) is expected to be implemented from December 2020 to December 2023 upon receipt of capacity building support.

Figure 11  
WTO TFA latest notification of the Kyrgyz Republic by category



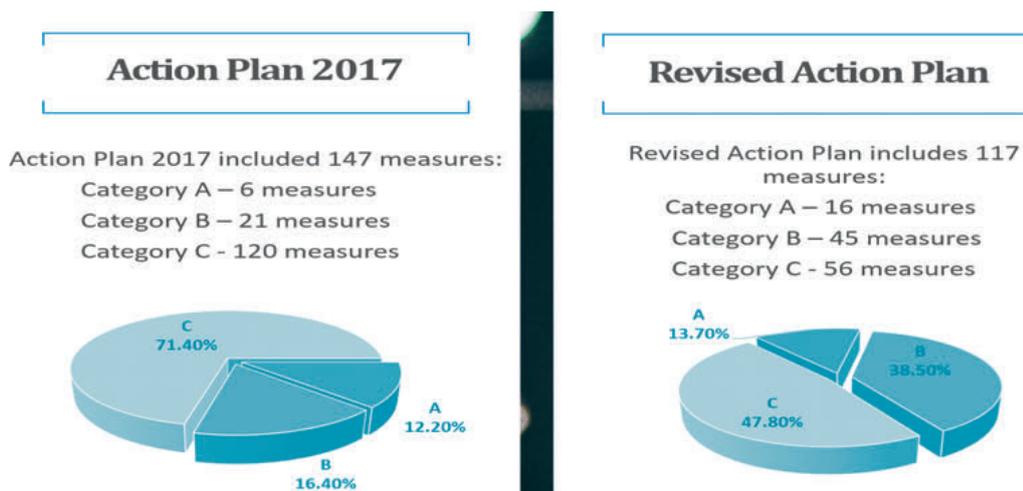
Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement Database. Available at [www.tfadatabase.org](http://www.tfadatabase.org)

### WTO TFA implementation plan

After ratification of the WTO TFA, in 2017, MoEF developed an action plan with the following categorization: category A – 6 activities; category B – 21 activities; and category C – 120 activities.

Later, in 2019, this plan was revised. According to the revised plan, the Kyrgyz Republic included 117 activities out of which 16 measures (13.7%) are in category A, 45 measures (38.5%) are in category B and 56 measures (47.8%) are in category C.<sup>55</sup>

Figure 12  
Revised WTO TFA Action Plan 2019



Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Action Plan 2017 and Revised Action Plan

<sup>55</sup> Category A – measures to be implemented at the time the TFA comes into force; Category B – measures to be implemented within a time frame independently determined by the country; Category C – actions to be implemented after receiving technical/capacity building support and within the time frame specified by the country.

### 3. GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1. Description of goals and activities

The following goals and activities were approved by the National Trade Facilitation Council of the Kyrgyz Republic on 25 December 2020. These will contribute to achieving the vision of this Roadmap, will support the implementation of the WTO TFA Action Plan, and strengthen the country's commitment to fulfil its trade facilitation agenda. Expected results, responsible agencies, time and relevance of the activities are indicated too. The activities and their related details will be supplemented or updated as needed within the period of the execution of this Roadmap.

Table 8

#### Goals and activities

Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap					
No.	Name of goal	Indicator	Source of verification	Responsible agency	Time
Goal 1	Improve the legal, regulatory and strategic framework for trade facilitation for EAEU and non-EAEU countries.	At least 50% of WTO TFA measures are completed by the end of 2025.	NTFC working groups will review the national legislation and propose relevant amendments, including those to reflect provisions of international conventions and agreements.		
No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
Sub-goal 1.1	Accede to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures of 18 May 1973 (Revised Kyoto Convention).	The Kyrgyz Republic will join the Revised Kyoto Convention by the end of 2021.	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures of 18 May 1973 (to be adopted).		
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 01	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention of 18 May 1973).	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021-2022	Roadmap

No.	Name of the sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
			Expected result	Responsible agency	Time
Sub-goal 1.2	Accede to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.	Kyrgyz Republic will join the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific by the end of 2022.	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (to be adopted).		
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 02	Implementation of a cross-border paperless trade readiness assessment.	Legal and technical readiness assessment report, recommendations, and individual action plan for the transition to cross-border paperless trade.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021-2022	Roadmap
A 03	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.	Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific Development of an action plan and participation in the Paperless Trade Council and Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2022	Roadmap
A 04	Integrate the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines to develop a draft Law on the accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.	The draft law includes the reference to the UN/CEFACT tools.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2022-2023	Roadmap
No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
Sub-goal 1.3	Improve the regulations, structure and functioning of the NTFC.	Relevant regulations have been adopted.	Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (regulation on the NTFC); Order of the Government (composition of the TFA); Orders of the MoEF (composition of the NTFC secretariat and working groups).		

No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 05	Development of and approval at the legislative level for a mechanism which will allow agencies involved in foreign economic activity to update information on the trade portal.	Decree of the Government of the KR, Order of the Government of the KR Orders of the MoE.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021	Roadmap
No.	Name of goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
Goal 2	Enhance digitalization of administrative procedures for export and import.	Achieve a rate of 60% implementation for digital trade facilitation measures in the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation by the end of 2025.	United Nations Global Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation Surveys 2023 and 2025.		
No.	Name of the sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
Sub-goal 2.1.	Improve transparency: Ensure the availability of information on foreign economic activity.	Information on foreign economic activity, available on the Internet, is regularly updated on the websites of state agencies and members of the NTFC.	Websites of state agencies, members of the NTFC. Decree of the Government of the KR.		
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 06	Development and approval of standards and requirements for published information provided in clauses 1.1 and 1.2. Article 1 of the WTO TFA.	Decree of the Government of the KR.	MoEF (SWC)	2021-2022	WTO TFA Category B
A 07	Upgrade and continuous development of the Single Window Information System (SWIS).	SWIS is updated.	MoEF (SWC)	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 08	Development of the NTFC web page on the website of the MoEF.	The NTFC web page is developed. Information is constantly updated.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021	Roadmap
A 09	Development of a trade information portal, including completion of a business process analyses.	Trade information portal is launched, and business process analyses are completed.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021	Roadmap

No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification
<b>Sub-goal 2.2.</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Simplify the mechanism for calculating customs payments.</b>	<b>Refinement of the SCS online calculator.</b>	<b>SCS online calculator <a href="http://www.calc.trade.kg">www.calc.trade.kg</a></b> (update in progress, currently unavailable)
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>
A 10	Involvement of an ICT specialist in order to finalize the online SCS calculator.	The SCS online calculator is functioning.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS
No.	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Sub-goal 2.3.</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Implement retesting procedures in case of adverse results.</b>	<b>The customs laboratory is functioning.</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 11	Involvement of a consultant for the development of a feasibility study for the creation of a customs laboratory. Creation of a customs laboratory. Training of relevant personnel.	The feasibility study is developed. The customs laboratory was created and put into operation. The staff is trained.	WTO TFA Category C
No.	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>
<b>Sub-goal 2.4.</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Improve preliminary information (PI) procedures.</b>	<b>The technical module/interface is functioning.</b>	<b>Technical module/interface on procedures for submission and processing of preliminary information (PI).</b>
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Time</b>
A 12	Implementation of a technical module/interface on the procedures for submitting and processing preliminary information (PI) and ensuring its exchange with other AGAs.	Processing preliminary information mechanism is introduced.	2021-2022
No.	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
<b>Sub-goal 2.5</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Increase the use of electronic payments.</b>	<b>Share of use of electronic payments increased by 50% by 2025.</b>	<b>WTO TFA Category C</b>
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>
A 13	Update the state classifier system of payment transactions with new codes for e-payments.	Classifiers for electronic payment are updated.	MoEF (Financial Unit) SCS
No.	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Sub-goal 2.5</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Increase the use of electronic payments.</b>	<b>Share of use of electronic payments increased by 50% by 2025.</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 13	Update the state classifier system of payment transactions with new codes for e-payments.	Classifiers for electronic payment are updated.	WTO TFA Category B

A 14	Involvement of an ICT consultant in the integration of the information systems of the SCS and SWC with the state system of electronic payments.		Integration of information systems of the SCS, SWC with the state system of electronic payments was carried out.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021-2022	WTO TFA Category B
	No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
Sub-goal 2.6.	Formalities improvement: Improve the risk management system (RMS).		The risk management system is optimized and automated by the end of 2023.	-Corresponding regulatory acts -Number of goods and vehicles registered using the RMS		
No.	Name of activity		Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 15	Improvement of the risk management system (RMS) of the SCS by developing and improving the regulatory framework governing the use of the RMS.		Relevant acts regulating the use of RMS have been developed.	SCS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 16	Implementation of the subject-oriented RMS model (categorization of foreign economic activity participants).		Foreign economic activity participants are divided into categories.	SCS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 17	Development and approval of a list of information and related elements on customs offenses in accordance with international practice. Ensure integration with the RMS of SCS.		The list of information and their elements about customs offenses are entered into the database in electronic format. The list of information and their elements about customs offenses is integrated with the RMS module.	SCS	2022	WTO TFA Category B
A 18	Implementation of the RMS for the preliminary information processing in SCS and AGAs.		Relevant regulatory act (inter-agency agreement). RMS for preliminary information is implemented.	AGAs at BCPs	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 19	Approval of the concept on the inter-agency risk management system. Implementation of the inter-agency risk management system.		Inter-agency risk management system is implemented concept is approved.	AGAs	2022	WTO TFA Category C

A 20	Optimization of business processes for the use of RMS in customs procedures for export, import, transit, and to ensure the exchange of risk data between the AGAs and the customs authorities of other countries.	RMS business processes are optimized.	SCS AGAs	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 21	Training of SCS employees in the use of complex customs-inspection standards.	SCS employees are trained in the use of complex customs-inspection standards.	SCS	2021-2022	WTO TFA Category C
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>		
<b>Sub-goal 2.7.</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Improve post-clearance audit.</b>	<b>Post clearance audit procedures are optimized.</b>	<b>Corresponding regulatory act Post-clearance audit software/module.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 22	Engaging a consultant to analyse and provide recommendations for improving post-clearance audit procedures, including criteria for selecting foreign trade participants.	Analysis is carried out. Recommendations are provided.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS STS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 23	Amendments to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on the provision of information by commercial banks to SCS on payments made by traders.	Corresponding regulatory act.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS NBKR Commercial banks of the Kyrgyz Republic	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 24	Software product development and development of post-clearance audit modules.	Software product/post-clearance audit module is developed and implemented.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2023	WTO TFA Category C
A 25	Conducting training programs for employees of SCS on accounting and auditing issues, including information and other commercial systems.	SCS employees are trained.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2023	WTO TFA Category C
A 26	Optimization of business processes for customs control and audit after the release of goods.	Post-clearance audit software/module is optimized.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2025	WTO TFA Category C

No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
			Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
<b>Sub-goal 2.8.</b>	<b>Formalities improvement: Conduct time release study (TRS).</b>	<b>TRS procedures are approved.</b>	<b>Corresponding regulatory act. Software product.</b>		
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 27	Conducting and publishing TRS results.	TRS is conducted and published.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 28	Development of the regulations on the procedure for conducting a TRS.	TRS Regulations is approved.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 29	Development and approval of a national TRS methodology.	TRS methodology is approved.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021	WTO TFA Category C
A 30	Development of a software product for TRS.	TRS Software product is developed.	SCS MoEF (NTFC secretariat) Donors	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 31	Training of responsible employees of AGAs on the use of TRS software.	AGAs staff are trained.	SCS Donors	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 32	Conducting TRS based on the developed national methodology and software product.	TRS was carried out according to a new methodology.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2022	WTO TFA Category B
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>		
<b>Sub-goal 2.9.</b>	<b>Improve the internal cooperation of AGAs at the borders.</b>	<b>Internal cooperation mechanism is implemented.</b>	<b>Corresponding regulatory act. Software product.</b>		
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 33	Implementation of the procedure for the exchange of preliminary information between AGAs at all road BCPs of the EAEU in the Kyrgyz Republic, and implementation of risk management measures.	Decree of the Government of the KR.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2022	WTO TFA Category B

No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
			Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
<b>Sub-goal 2.10.</b>	<b>Improving regional cooperation at borders.</b>	<b>The mechanism of regional cooperation is implemented.</b>	<b>Information of MoEF</b>		
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>			
A 34	Creation of a regional working group to discuss with neighbouring countries the terms of data exchange, harmonization of procedures and working hours at BCPs.	Regional working group is established.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2022	WTO TFA Category C
A 35	Coordination of procedures and working hours of BCPs with neighbouring countries based on the protocols of the regional working group.	BCP procedures and working hours with neighbouring countries are agreed.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2022	WTO TFA Category C
No.	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>		
<b>Sub-goal 2.11.</b>	<b>Introduction of paperless trade.</b>	<b>Increase in the number of electronic documents issued in SWIS by 50% by the end of 2025.</b>	<b>Relevant decisions of the Government of the KR. SWC information.</b>		
No.	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 36	Development of a program for the development of electronic commerce for 2021–2025.	Program approved by Decree of the Government of the KR.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SSDD SCS STS SRS	2021	Roadmap
A 37	Adoption of a decision by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the elimination of paper copies of electronic documents issued by the SWIS, and regular monitoring of them.	Increase in the number of all issued electronic documents by 30% by the end of 2022, by 40% by the end of 2023 and by 50% by the end of 2024.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) AGAs	2021-2024	Roadmap

A 38	Decision of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure that 100% of the SCS documents are issued electronically through the SWIS by the end of 2024.	Increase in the share of electronic documents in the field of export and import, relative to the total share of documents issued in the SWIS, by 50% by the end of 2024.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021-2024	Roadmap
A 39	Implementation of the UN/CEFACT Recommendation no 33 (Single Window Development) and other related recommendations and e-business standards.				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>		
<b>Sub-goal 2.12.</b>	<b>Introduction of cross-border paperless trade.</b>	<b>Minutes of regional meetings.</b>	<b>MoEF information</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 40	Establishing interaction with national coordinators of Central Asian countries.	Conduct several meetings in order to create a regional platform for national committees to interact and exchange experiences and best practices from the countries in the region on the implementation of trade facilitation measures.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021	Roadmap
A 41	Assistance in the use of electronic TIR and the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR).	Collaboration with the SCS and AMAP to increase the use of electronic TIR and CMR.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS STS AMAP (subject to agreement)	2022	Roadmap
A 42	Ratification of the Additional Minutes to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR).	The Additional Minutes to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) is ratified.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021-2022	Roadmap

A 43	Adopt the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines for cross-border paperless trade.	Official decision to use UN/CEFACT tools is undertaken.	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2022-2023	Roadmap
A 44	Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.	Development of an action plan and participation in the Paperless Trade Council and Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement.	MoEF (NTFC)	2022	Roadmap
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of sub-goal</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>		
<b>Sub-goal 2.13.</b>	<b>Trade facilitation measures for SMEs, agriculture, and women entrepreneurs</b>	<b>Training is conducted</b>	<b>MoEF information.</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of activity</b>	<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Responsible agency</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Relevance</b>
A 45	Conducting training for SMEs and women entrepreneurs - on the use of the SWIS trade portal - on e-commerce - on the advantages of using the NTFC platform	Training is conducted	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS	2021-2022	Roadmap
A 46	Providing information on the benefits of using the SWIS trade portal and the NTFC website through the business service centres (BSCs), including regional BSCs	Information is provided, the trained employees of the BSCs to provide the necessary information	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) BSCs	2021	Roadmap
A 47	-Development of the terms of reference/specifications for the purchase of laboratories for certification of veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements -Seeking funding from donor assistance	Terms of reference is developed	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SIVPS MoAWRD MoHSD	2022	Roadmap
A 48	-Determine in which BCPs laboratories will operate to certify veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements -Training of responsible employees	-BCPs are identified -Responsible employees are trained	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SIVPS	2023	Roadmap

No.	Name of goal	Indicator	Source of verification
Goal 3	Develop sustainable trade facilitation measures ensuring continuity of import and export of essential goods during state of emergency, pandemic or crisis periods	Reduction of the amount of customs procedures/number of documents for essential goods by 50%	The NTFC working groups should analyse the current customs procedures for essential goods and make a proposal to the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
No.	Name of the sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification
Sub-goal 3.1	Ensure efficient movement of essential goods across borders	Green corridors are introduced and BCPs are open where any checks or health checks should not take more than 15 minutes.	MoEF information
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency
A 49	Conduct an analysis of the infrastructure capabilities of BCPs to expand/add lanes for green corridors	Analysis is carried out	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS SBS STS
A 50	Explore the possibility of securing financing from donor funds to expand/add lanes for green corridors and to provide technical equipment for BCPs who have been recommended to receive it, based on analysis	Funds are provided	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS SBS STS
No.	Name of sub-goal	Indicator	Source of verification
Sub-goal 3.2	Reduce the documents necessary for export and import of essential goods.	At least two documents for the report / import of essential goods are reduced.	MoEF information.
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency
A 51	Analysis of the existing documents required for the export / import of essential goods, and the development recommendations for their reduction	Analysis is carried out	MoEF (SWC) SCS STS
A 52	Use of the UNECE Recommendation no 47 (Pandemic Crisis-Trade Related Response)	Official decision to use the Recommendation no 47 is undertaken	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS STS
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency
A 52	Use of the UNECE Recommendation no 47 (Pandemic Crisis-Trade Related Response)	Official decision to use the Recommendation no 47 is undertaken	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS STS

No.	Name of goal	Indicator	Source of verification		
			Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
Goal 4	Build capacity of Kyrgyz stakeholders engaged in the implementation of trade facilitation measures or the beneficiaries of trade facilitation.	400 employees are trained by the end of 2025.	Kyrgyz Economic University.		
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 53	Establish a centre of trade facilitation competence, develop an online training course on trade facilitation	Centre of trade facilitation competence is established at the Kyrgyz Economic University; online training course is developed	KEU MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	2021	Roadmap
A 54	Conduct training seminars on the issues of trade facilitation	Two workshops and one roundtable are conducted	KEU	2021–2022	Roadmap
<b>Additional activities of the Roadmap</b>					
No.	Name of activity	Expected result	Responsible agency	Time	Relevance
A 55	Identification of resources and fundraising for the implementation of Roadmap activities, including through donor funds	Agreements with donors are reached on financing of the Roadmap activities	NTFC secretariat NTFC working groups	2021	Roadmap
A 56	1. Ensuring the centralized publication of the information required by Article 1.1 of the WTO TFA on SWC website 2. Ensuring the publication of information on the procedures for import, export, transit and appeal in the state and official languages, including English 3. Posting and timely updating of the information specified in clauses 1.1 and 2.1 Article 1 of the WTO TFA on the websites of the AGAs the SWC	The websites of state agencies-members of the NTFC are constantly updated. The content of the published information is presented in the state, official and English languages	SWS State agencies (Members of the NTFC)	Constantly as information is updated	WTO TFA Category C  WTO TFA Category B
A 57	1. Preparation and updating of a list of all fees and charges levied by customs authorities and other AGAs and posting this information on the websites of AGAs and SWCs 2. Implementing a regular review of fees and charges	A list of all fees and charges has been compiled  Fees and charges are reviewed on a regular basis (semi-annually)	MoEF (NTFC secretariat) SCS (customs payments) STS (tax payments) MoEF (no-tax payments)	Constantly as information is updated	WTO TFA Category B  WTO TFA Category C

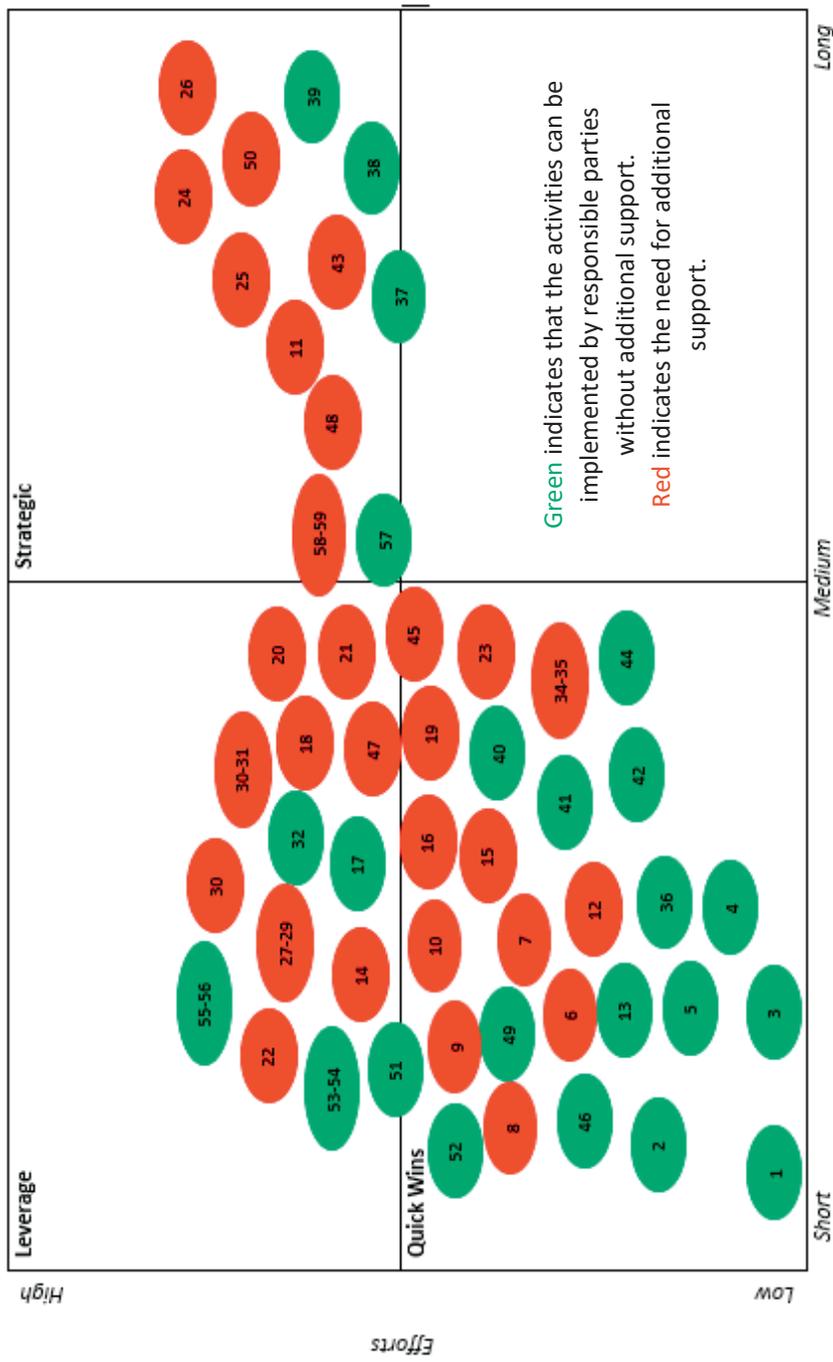
A 58	Consideration of the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist the TFA secretariat in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the WTO TFA and this Roadmap, including through donor funds	Consultant is hired	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	As needed	Roadmap
A 59	Consideration of the possibility of requesting technical assistance from donors for the implementation of this Roadmap	Technical assistance provided	MoEF (NTFC secretariat)	As needed	Roadmap

### 3.2. Prioritization of activities taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic

The above-mentioned activities were prioritized by NTFC members based on three categories as shown in the figure below. Support to implement activities coloured in red will be required. Activities in green can be implemented by the responsible parties without additional support.

- Quick wins: Activities requiring low to medium effort in the short term. Their impact on goal performance is normally moderate.
- Leverage: Activities requiring medium to high effort in the medium-term. Their impact is considerable.
- Strategic: Activities requiring greater effort in the long term. They will usually have a high impact on the goals.

Figure 13  
Quick wins, medium and strategic plans



Source: UNECE. Based on the consultations with the Ministry of Economy and Finance

### 3.3. Implementation schedule

The Roadmap establishes a framework of activities to be implemented over a five-year period. Table 9 shows the timeline for the implementation of the activities.

Table 9  
Timeline of activities

Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap						
No.	Name of the activity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A 01	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention of 18 May 1973).					
A 02	Implementation of a cross-border paperless trade readiness assessment.					
A 03	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.					
A 04	Integrate the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines to develop a draft Law on the accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.					
A 05	Development of and approval at the legislative level for a mechanism which will allow agencies involved in foreign economic activity to update information on the trade portal.					
A 06	Development and approval of standards and requirements for published information provided in clauses 1.1 and 1.2. Article 1 of the WTO TFA.					
A 07	Upgrade and continuous development of the Single Window Information System (SWIS).					
A 08	Development of the NTFC web page on the website of the MoE.					
A 09	Development of a trade information portal, including completion of a business process analyses.					
A 10	Involvement of an ICT specialist in order to finalize the online SCS calculator.					
A 11	-Involvement of a consultant for the development of a feasibility study for the creation of a customs laboratory. -Creation of a customs laboratory. -Training of relevant personnel.					
A 12	Implementation of a technical module/interface on the procedures for submitting and processing preliminary information (PI) and ensuring its exchange with other AGAs.					

Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap						
No.	Name of the activity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A 13	Update the state classifier system of payment transactions with new codes for e-payments.					
A 14	Involvement of an ICT consultant in the integration of the information systems of the SCS and SWC with the state system of electronic payments.					
A 15	Improvement of the risk management system (RMS) of the SCS by developing and improving the regulatory framework governing the use of the RMS.					
A 16	Implementation of the subject-oriented RMS model (categorization of foreign economic activity participants).					
A 17	-Development and approval of a list of information and related elements on customs offenses in accordance with international practice. -Ensure integration with the RMS of SCS.					
A 18	Implementation of the RMS for the preliminary information processing in SCS and AGAs.					
A 19	-Approval of the concept on the inter-agency risk management system. -Implementation of the inter-agency risk management system.					
A 20	Optimization of business processes for the use of RMS in customs procedures for export, import, transit, and to ensure the exchange of risk data between the AGAs and the customs authorities of other countries.					
A 21	Training of SCS employees in the use of complex customs-inspection standards.					
A 22	Engaging a consultant to analyse and provide recommendations for improving post-clearance audit procedures, including criteria for selecting foreign trade participants.					
A 23	Amendments to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on the provision of information by commercial banks to SCS on payments made by traders.					
A 24	Software product development and development of post-clearance audit modules.					
A 25	Conducting training programs for employees of SCS on accounting and auditing issues, including information and other commercial systems.					
A 26	Optimization of business processes for customs control and audit after the release of goods.					
A 27	Conducting and publishing TRS results.					

Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap						
No.	Name of the activity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A 28	Development of the regulations on the procedure for conducting a TRS.					
A 29	Development and approval of a national TRS methodology.					
A 30	Development of a software product for TRS.					
A 31	Training of responsible employees of AGAs on the use of TRS software.					
A 32	Conducting TRS based on the developed national methodology and software product.					
A 33	Implementation of the procedure for the exchange of preliminary information between AGAs at all road BCPs of the EAEU in the Kyrgyz Republic, and implementation of risk management measures.					
A 34	Creation of a regional working group to discuss with neighbouring countries the terms of data exchange, harmonization of procedures and working hours at BCPs.					
A 35	Coordination of procedures and working hours of BCPs with neighbouring countries based on the protocols of the regional working group.					
A 36	Development of a program for the development of electronic commerce for 2021–2025.					
A 37	Adoption of a decision by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the elimination of paper copies of electronic documents issued by the SWIS, and regular monitoring of them.					
A 38	Decision of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure that 100% of the SCS documents are issued electronically through the SWIS by the end of 2024.					
A 39	Implementation of the UN/CEFACT Recommendation no 33 (Single Window Development) and other related recommendations and e-business standards.					
A 40	Establishing interaction with national coordinators of Central Asian countries.					
A 41	Assistance in the use of electronic TIR and the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMIR).					
A 42	Ratification of the Additional Minutes to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMIR).					
A 43	Adopt the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines for cross-border paperless trade.					

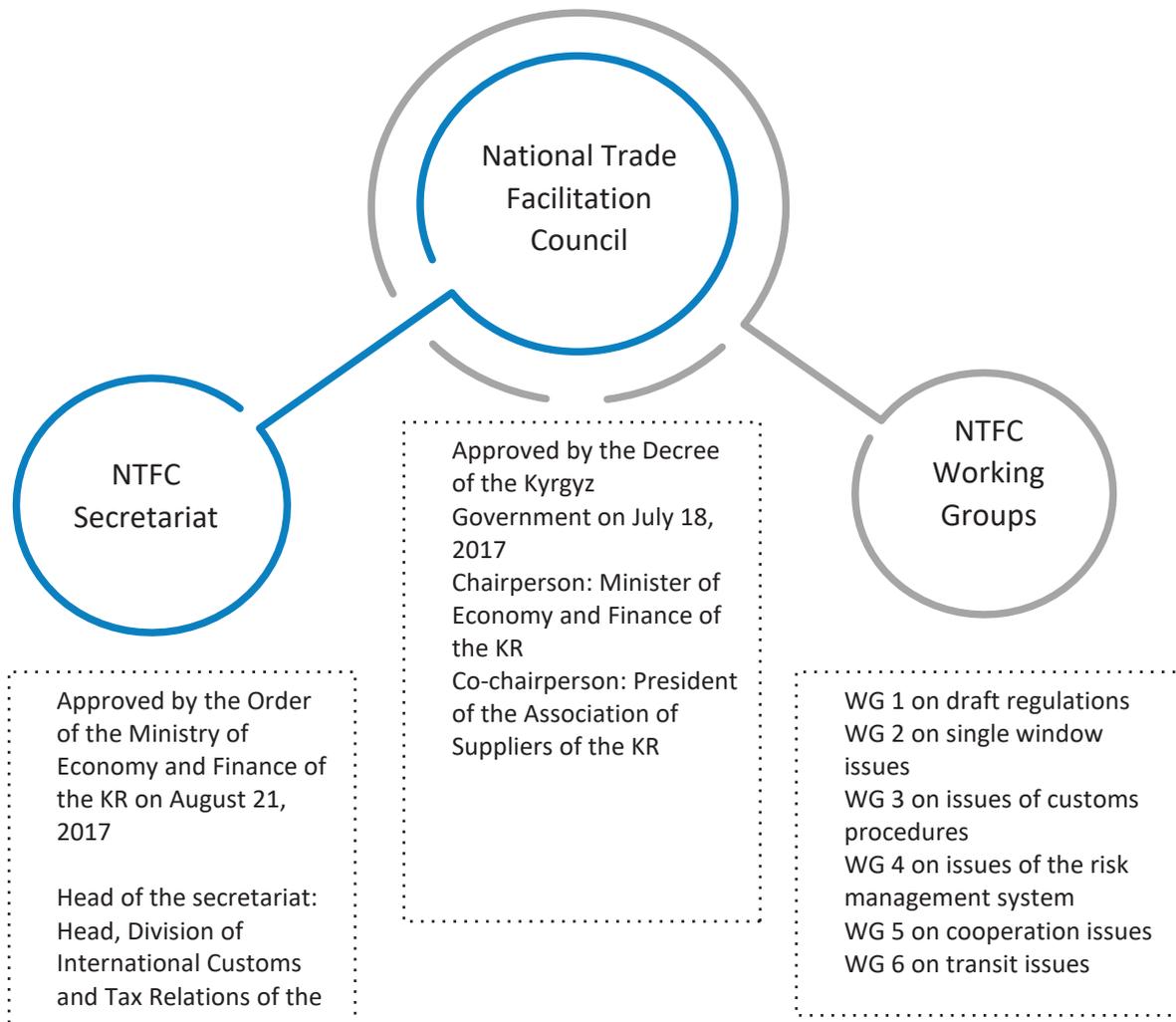
Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap							
No.	Name of the activity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
A 44	Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.						
A 45	Conducting trainings for SMEs and women entrepreneurs: - on the use of the SWIS trade portal. - on e-commerce. - on the advantages of using the NTEC platform.						
A 46	Providing information on the benefits of using the SWIS trade portal and the NTEC website through the business service centres (BSCs), including regional BSCs.						
A 47	- Development of the terms of reference/specifications for the purchase of laboratories for certification of veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. - Seeking funding from donor assistance.						
A 48	- Determine in which BCPs laboratories will operate to certify veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. - Training of responsible employees.						
A 49	Conduct an analysis of the infrastructure capabilities of BCPs to expand/add lanes for green corridors.						
A 50	Explore the possibility of securing financing from donor funds to expand/add lanes for green corridors and to provide technical equipment for BCPs who have been recommended to receive it, based on analysis.						
A 51	Analysis of the existing documents required for the export/import of essential goods, and the development recommendations for their reduction.						
A 52	Use of the UNECE Recommendation no 47 (Pandemic Crisis-Trade Related Response)						
A 53	Establish a centre of trade facilitation competence, develop an online training course on trade facilitation.						
A 54	Conduct training seminars on the issues of trade facilitation.						
<b>Additional activities of the Roadmap</b>							
A 55	Identification of resources and fundraising for the implementation of Roadmap activities, including through donor funds.						
A 56	1. Ensuring the centralized publication of the information required by Article 1.1 of the WTO TFA on SWC website.	As information is updated.					

Activities to achieve the goals of the Roadmap						
No.	Name of the activity	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	2. Ensuring the publication of information on the procedures for import, export, transit and appeal in the state and official languages, including English.	As information is updated.				
	3. Posting and timely updating of the information specified in clauses 1.1 and 2.1 Article 1 of the WTO TFA on the websites of the AGAs the SWC.	As information is updated.				
A 57	1. Preparation and updating of a list of all fees and charges levied by customs authorities and other AGAs and posting this information on the websites of AGAs and SWCs. 2. Implementing a regular review of fees and charges.	As information is updated.				
A 58	Consideration of the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist the TFA secretariat in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the WTO TFA and this Roadmap, including through donor funds.	As needed.				
A 59	Consideration of the possibility of requesting technical assistance from donors for the implementation of this Roadmap.	As needed.				

#### 4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The implementation of this Roadmap will be governed by a three-level governance structure. The figure below shows the governance structure while the table describes the composition and tasks.

Figure 14  
Roadmap governance structure



Source: UNECE. Based on information received from the Ministry of Economy and Finance

Table 10  
Composition and tasks of the Roadmap governance structure bodies

Governance level	Composition	Tasks
National Trade Facilitation Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chairman: First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>2. Co-chairman: President of the Association of Suppliers of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> </ol> <p>Public Sector members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Minister of Transport, Architecture, Construction and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>4. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>5. Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>6. Minister of Health and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>7. Minister of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>8. Chairperson of the State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>9. Chairperson of the State Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>10. Chairperson of the State Inspection for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>11. Director of the State Agency for the Promotion and Protection of Investments of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>12. Director of the State Enterprise “Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade”;</li> <li>13. Director of the Centre for Standardization and Metrology;</li> <li>14. Chairperson of the State Service for Digital Development under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>15. Head of Customs and Tariff Policy Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, Secretary of the Council.</li> </ol> <p>Private Sector members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Head of the National Alliance of Business Associations;</li> <li>17. Head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>18. Head of the Association of Carriers of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> <li>19. Head of the Association of Customs Brokers of the Kyrgyz Republic;</li> </ol>	<p>Tasks of the NTFC are indicated in the Regulation of the National Trade Facilitation Council of the Kyrgyz Republic; see Annex 3.</p>

Governance level	Composition	Tasks
	<p>20. Head of the independent trade union of truck drivers;</p> <p>21. Head of the Association of Markets, Trade Enterprises and Services of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>22. Head of the Association for Agro-industrial Development of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>23. Head of the Association of International Road Carriers of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>24. Head of the Association of E-commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>25. Head of the Association of Light Industry Enterprises of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>26. Head of the Association of Young Entrepreneurs;</p> <p>27. Head of the International Business Council.</p>	
Secretariat of the NTFC	<p>1. <b>Head of the secretariat:</b> Head of Customs and Tariff Policy Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p><b>Secretariat Members:</b></p> <p>2. Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>3. Representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>4. Representative of the State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>5. Representative of the State Enterprise “Single Window Centre for Foreign Trade”;</p> <p>6. Representative Ministry of Transport, Architecture, Construction and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic;</p> <p>7. Independent expert.</p>	Tasks of the NTFC secretariat are indicated in the Order of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic; see Annex 4.
NTFC Working groups	The composition of the NTFC working groups is specified in Annex 5	

Source: UNECE. Based on information from the Ministry of Economy and Finance

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION RISKS

There are objective and subjective factors that affect the success of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Roadmap. To minimize risks and ensure its successful implementation, it is necessary to assess possible risks and threats, among which the following should be identified:

- Low possibility of financing the implementation of the Roadmap from the state budget.
- Limited human resources of the responsible state bodies.
- Lack of proper coordination and coherence of actions between government agencies, and with the private sector, which may lead to fragmentation and inconsistency in the application of an integrated approach for the implementation of the Roadmap activities.
- Insufficient support from international organizations, public and other associations involved in trade facilitation issues, including due to poor coordination and coordination of assistance from international donors and partners in this area.
- Limited time frame to adopt a number of institutional and regulatory measures, which may require a longer time to agree upon and to develop options for decisions that satisfy all stakeholders.
- Social and political instability in the country.

To prevent or eliminate the listed risks, it is proposed to take all necessary actions and measures as they arise. An effective monitoring and evaluation system will allow for the tracking of difficulties and obstacles in the implementation of the Roadmap objectives.

The table below contains a partial list of specific risks that could hamper achievement of specific activities.

Table 11  
Specific risks of the Roadmap activities<sup>56</sup>

No.	Activity	Specific risk
A 01	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention of 18 May 1973).	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations. Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 02	Implementation of a cross-border paperless trade readiness assessment.	Lack of capacity to conduct readiness assessment.
A 03	Development of a relevant draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations. Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 04	Integrate the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines to develop a draft Law on the accession to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 05	Development of and approval at the legislative level for a mechanism which will allow agencies involved in foreign economic activity to update information on the trade portal.	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations.
A 06	Development and approval of standards and requirements for published information provided in clauses 1.1 and 1.2. Article 1 of the WTO TFA.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 07	Upgrade and continuous development of the Single Window Information System (SWIS).	Lack of information and unavailability of data. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 08	Development of the NTFC web page on the website of the MoE.	Lack of information and unavailability of data.
A 09	Development of a trade information portal, including completion of a business process analyses.	Lack of information and unavailability of data. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 10	Involvement of an ICT specialist in order to finalize the online SCS calculator.	Lack of financing.

<sup>56</sup> The specific risks are summarized based on collective assessment from the participants of the Roadmap development, based on the consultative methodology for the Roadmap.

No.	Activity	Specific risk
A 11	Involvement of a consultant for the development of a feasibility study for the creation of a customs laboratory. Creation of a customs laboratory. Training of relevant personnel.	Lack of financing.
A 12	Implementation of a technical module/interface on the procedures for submitting and processing preliminary information (PI) and ensuring its exchange with other AGAs.	Lack of financing.
A 13	Update the state classifier system of payment transactions with new codes for e-payments.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 14	Involvement of an ICT consultant in the integration of the information systems of the SCS and SWC with the state system of electronic payments.	Lack of financing.
A 15	Improvement of the risk management system (RMS) of the SCS by developing and improving the regulatory framework governing the use of the RMS.	Lack of financing.
A 16	Implementation of the subject-oriented RMS model (categorization of foreign economic activity participants).	Lack of financing. Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 17	Development and approval of a list of information and related elements on customs offenses in accordance with international practice. Ensure integration with the RMS of SCS.	Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 18	Implementation of the RMS for the preliminary information processing in SCS and AGAs.	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 19	Approval of the concept on the inter-agency risk management system. Implementation of the inter-agency risk management system.	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 20	Optimization of business processes for the use of RMS in customs procedures for export, import, transit, and to ensure the exchange of risk data between the AGAs and the customs authorities of other countries.	Lack of financing. Conflict between positions of different AGAs. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 21	Training of SCS employees in the use of complex customs-inspection standards.	Lack of financing.
A 22	Engaging a consultant to analyse and provide recommendations for improving post-clearance audit procedures, including criteria for selecting foreign trade participants.	Lack of financing.

No.	Activity	Specific risk
A 23	Amendments to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on the provision of information by commercial banks to SCS on payments made by traders.	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations. Conflict between positions of different AGAs. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 24	Software product development and development of post-clearance audit modules.	Lack of financing.
A 25	Conducting training programs for employees of SCS on accounting and auditing issues, including information and other commercial systems.	Lack of financing.
A 26	Optimization of business processes for customs control and audit after the release of goods.	Lack of financing.
A 27	Conducting and publishing TRS results.	Lack of financing.
A 28	Development of the regulations on the procedure for conducting a TRS.	Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 29	Development and approval of a national TRS methodology.	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations.
A 30	Development of a software product for TRS.	Lack of financing.
A 31	Training of responsible employees of AGAs on the use of TRS software.	Lack of financing.
A 32	Conducting TRS based on the developed national methodology and software product.	Lack of financing.
A 33	Implementation of the procedure for the exchange of preliminary information between AGAs at all road BCPs of the EAEU in the Kyrgyz Republic, and implementation of risk management measures.	Lack of financing.
A 34	Creation of a regional working group to discuss with neighbouring countries the terms of data exchange, harmonization of procedures and working hours at BCPs.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 35	Coordination of procedures and working hours of BCPs with neighbouring countries based on the protocols of the regional working group.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 36	Development of a program for the development of electronic commerce for 2021–2025.	Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 37	Adoption of a decision by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the elimination of paper copies of electronic documents issued by the SWIS, and regular monitoring of them.	Conflict between positions of different AGAs.
A 38	Decision of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to ensure that 100% of the SCS documents are issued electronically through the SWIS by the end of 2024.	Conflict between positions of different AGAs.

No.	Activity	Specific risk
A 39	Implementation of the UN/CEFACT Recommendation no 33 (Single Window Development) and other related recommendations and e-business standards.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 40	Establishing interaction with national coordinators of Central Asian countries.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 41	Assistance in the use of electronic TIR and the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMIR).	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 42	Ratification of the Additional Minutes to the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMIR).	Lengthy and complex procedures to approve new laws and regulations.
A 43	Adopt the UN/CEFACT tools including recommendations, e-business standards and guidelines for cross-border paperless trade.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 44	Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 45	Conducting trainings for SMEs and women entrepreneurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– on the use of the SWIS trade portal,</li> <li>– on e-commerce,</li> <li>– on the advantages of using the NTFC platform.</li> </ul>	Lack of financing.
A 46	Providing information on the benefits of using the SWIS trade portal and the NTFC website through the business service centres (BSCs), including regional BSCs.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 47	Development of the terms of reference/specifications for the purchase of laboratories for certification of veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Seeking funding from donor assistance.	Lack of financing.
A 48	Determine in which BCPs laboratories will operate to certify veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Training of responsible employees.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 49	Conduct an analysis of the infrastructure capabilities of BCPs to expand/add lanes for green corridors.	Lack of financing.
A 50	Explore the possibility of securing financing from donor funds to expand/add lanes for green corridors and to provide technical equipment for BCPs who have been recommended to receive it, based on analysis.	Lack of financing.

No.	Activity	Specific risk
A 51	Analysis of the existing documents required for the export/import of essential goods, and the development recommendations for their reduction.	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 52	Use of the UNECE Recommendation N°47 (Pandemic Crisis-Trade Related Response)	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 53	Establish a centre of trade facilitation competence, develop an online training course on trade facilitation.	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 54	Conduct training seminars on the issues of trade facilitation	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 55	Identification of resources and fundraising for the implementation of Roadmap activities, including through donor funds.	Not all internal resources can be identified, insufficient funding from donors leading to delays in implementation.
A 56	1. Ensuring the centralized publication of the information required by Article 1.1 of the WTO TFA on SWC website. 2. Ensuring the publication of information on the procedures for import, export, transit and appeal in the state and official languages, including English. 3. Posting and timely updating of the information specified in clauses 1.1 and 2.1 Article 1 of the WTO TFA on the websites of the AGAs the SWC.	Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 57	1. Preparation and updating of a list of all fees and charges levied by customs authorities and other AGAs and posting this information on the websites of AGAs and SWCs. 2. Implementing a regular review of fees and charges.	Lack of financing. Lack of collaboration of government agencies.
A 58	Consideration of the possibility of hiring a consultant to assist the TFA secretariat in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the WTO TFA and this Roadmap, including through donor funds.	Lack of financing.
A 59	Consideration of the possibility of requesting technical assistance from donors for the implementation of this Roadmap.	Lack of financing.

## 6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

To implement this Trade Facilitation Roadmap and address the above risks, the following measures are required:

- Improve the organizational structure of the state authorized agencies.
- Conduct briefing and training for employees of the state authorized agencies and other stakeholders, as well as for the private sector.
- Ensure the active participation and collaboration of the private sector.
- Implement all necessary legislative amendments.
- Mobilize and ensure internal and external human, financial, legal and material resources.

The NTFC should actively support domestic fundraising activities. If resources are not available, there will be a need to secure funds from external donors. It is important to emphasize that the Kyrgyz Republic needs to secure funding on a long-term basis to ensure the sustainability of trade facilitation measures.

## **7. ANNEXES**

### **Annex 1**

**Action plan to implement the WTO TFA measures**

### **Annex 2**

**BPAs for export of textile and import of pharmaceutical products**

### **Annex 3**

**Regulations on the National Trade Facilitation Council of the Kyrgyz Republic**

### **Annex 4**

**Order of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic on the NTFC secretariat**

### **Annex 5**

**Composition of the NTFC working groups on Trade Facilitation in the Kyrgyz Republic**

The documents in annexes are currently being updated by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. Links to these documents will be added as soon as they are available.

# National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025

UNECE supports closer economic relations among its 56 member States in the pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. Its Trade and Economic Cooperation and Integration sub-programmes assist member States in better integrating their economies into the world economy and in promoting enabling and promoting a better policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to inclusive economic growth, innovative and sustainable development and higher competitiveness in the UNECE region.

One of the objectives of the trade sub-programme is to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business in the UNECE region including the economies in transition. The development of a national trade facilitation roadmap is a demand-driven strategic approach based on the UNECE Guide to Drafting a Trade Facilitation Roadmap.

The Roadmap is developed in line with the national development policies including for building back better from crisis situations like the COVID-19 pandemic.

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