



40th UN/CEFACT FORUM

Resilience of global supply chains in times of crisis – supporting a sustainable recovery with green and digital solutions

10 May 2023, 14:30-17:00 CEST, Palais des Nations, Geneva

In the aftermath of pandemic and in the wake of regional conflicts, countries have been facing significant disruptions in supply chains, affecting timely delivery of essential goods, such as food and pharmaceuticals. Pressures on global supply chains resulted in a sharp decrease in global trade and investment flows as well as supply shortages, adding to the already growing inflation and price rises. As a result, there has been an increasing attention to the role that advanced technologies and digital transformation could play to address such disruption and supporting a sustainable and just recovery, that would leave no-one behind.

Trade facilitation plays an essential role in fostering resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development and a post-pandemic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical risks have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of global supply and value chains, bringing to light the significance of digital and sustainable trade facilitation in times of crisis and the importance of enhancing preparedness for future crises.

Digital trade facilitation measures supported by the UN/CEFACT instruments have been included in the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, which revealed the increase in average trade facilitation implementation in the UNECE region from 72 per cent in 2019 to 76 per cent in 2021, with higher implementation rates of measures on transparency and formalities.

With its global expert community from both the public and private sectors, UN/CEFACT contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Agenda, where the catalytic role of trade for development has been reflected across SDGs, including Goals 1, 9, 10 and 17.



In the regional context, the work of UN/CEFACT is extremely relevant and aligned to the UNECE strategic priorities of the digital and green transformations for advancing countries' socio-economic recovery in the region – the focus of the 70th Commission session of April 2023. It is therefore important to identify new ways in which UN/CEFACT can best support this transition and new potential activities aimed at fostering digitalization in Member States.

Among the most recent developments are the UN/CEFACT projects on the Digital Product Conformity and Verifiable Credentials for cross border trade as well as its work in support to the multi-agency UN Development Account project for Transport and Trade Connectivity aimed at developing multimodal supply chains digitalization standards.

Agenda

14.30 - 14.45	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE• Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD• Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU• Sue Probert, Chair, UN/CEFACT
14.45 - 15.00	Keynote speech Green and digital transition – challenges and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suja Rishikesh, Director, Market Access Division, WTO
15.00 - 16.15	Panel discussion Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elisabeth Türk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paola Migliorini, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission DG Environment• Ibrahima Nour Eddine Diagne, CEO of GAINDE 2000, UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation for Senegal• Celine Bacrot, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD• Steve Capell, Project Lead, UN/CEFACT• Nena Dokuzov, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport Directorate for Internationalization, Entrepreneurship and Technology of Republic of Slovenia• Aidarbek Samykbaev, Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic• Jeanne Huang, Associate Professor, University of Sydney, Law School
16.15 - 16.45	Questions and answers
16.45 - 17.00	Wrap up and conclusions

Suggested questions:

- What do you see as collaborative solutions and mechanisms for fostering green and digital transformation in the region and globally?
 - What is the role of multistakeholder partnerships in such transition?
 - How to ensure that such transition is affordable for developing and transition economies?
 - Cross-border supply chains still involve a lot of paper documents. Although digitization of an entire supply chain is an ideal goal, how can we blend the digital and the paper world so that they can co-exist and transition gradually?
 - How UN/CEFACT instruments can support it for emerging economies?
 - Tell us more about how UN/CEFACT helps to provide guidance to nations on the adoption of digital standards for sustainable supply chains?
 - What do you see as potential challenges faced by member States to address disruptions in supply chains?
 - Which UN/CEFACT prominent workstreams can contribute to addressing these challenges/gaps?
 - How can the UN support countries in developing the infrastructure to implement digital solutions?
 - Can you provide an example of collaborative solutions that worked to accelerate the green and digital transition and how they can be scaled up?
 - How can we empower communities and incentivize private sector to ensure inclusive transition process?
 - What actions can be put in place to foster the development of applications and services in support of the green and digital transformation in the region and beyond?
-

VENUE

Geneva, Palais des Nations

Scan the QR code to register for the 40th UN/CEFACT Forum



[or via this link](#)

UNECE

For any information contact Kamola Khusnutdinova
kamola.khusnutdinova@un.org

