

Conclusions and Recommendations from the
International High-level Conference on
**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN
SUPPLY CHAINS USING UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS**
31 October 2022, Baku, Azerbaijan

The participants in the Conference invite the governments and business communities in the SPECA participating countries to

1. Increase interest in the SPECA countries for digitalization of information flows along supply chains, including multimodal trade and transport interoperability of data and document exchange, using the United Nations (UN/CEFACT) standards and tools.
2. Maintain the discussion platform and network of expertise, established at this Conference, on the digitalization of trade and transport information exchange along corridors in the SPECA region using UN standards.
3. Include the results of this Conference in the preparations for the Azerbaijani chairmanship of SPECA in 2023 and the 25th anniversary SPECA Economic Forum and session of the SPECA Governing Council.
4. Involve all relevant agencies dealing with the digitalization of multimodal and intersectoral data and document exchange along supply chains in the countries: agencies responsible for the economy, trade, transport, finance, customs, etc.
5. Each country to nominate focal point for UN projects on digitalization of information flows along supply chains, using the UN/CEFACT standards for interoperability. These focal points will bring together the various relevant agencies and entities dealing with digitalization. In Azerbaijan, for example, the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport is coordinating the process.
6. The SPECA Working Group on Trade to strengthen work on digitalization of data and document exchange along supply chains in the region, building synergies with the WGs on Innovation and Technology and Sustainable Transport.
7. Strengthen work on training and raising the capacity of experts in the SPECA countries to understand and implement the UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models in the digitalization of data and document exchange in the region.
8. Develop and implement pilot implementation projects, e.g., digital twin projects on trans-Caspian movement of goods. UNECE and the Governments of the SPECA countries will collaborate to secure funding from the development partners and other sources for the development and implementation of these pilot projects.
9. Involve the development partners in the implementation work.

Support the implementation of the recommendations of the background study on the use of UN standards in the region:

1. The Customs agencies to consider developing electronic services on collecting and processing data based on documents accompanying goods moved by various modes of transport; adapt data from these documents and use it in the place of summary import declarations.
2. Further harmonize data in the Customs systems of the countries with the WCO and UN/CEFACT data models.
3. Define rules and organizational structure for information exchange between Customs services and transport companies, associations, and government agencies; enhance the organizational structures for such information exchange. In Azerbaijan, refer to the Coordinating Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Transit Freight.
4. Eliminate legal impediments to regulatory agencies and other stakeholders, collecting required information based on electronic transport documents aligned to international standards, such as the WCO Data Model and the UN/CEFACT semantic standards and reference data models and using this information as legally valid to facilitate electronic (paperless) exchange of information.
5. Optimize internal procedures in these structures based on international standards to ensure interoperability between sectors, modes of transport and with Customs. For maritime transport, explore models for developing maritime single window.
6. Accede to international instruments facilitating the digitalization of international information flows for data and documents, such as the e-CMR Protocol.
7. Organize interaction with foreign transport companies that are not members of resident associations but carry out transport activities in the territories of the SPECA countries; develop a simple mechanism for providing trusted cross-border information to such companies (the reason is the lack of procedure for electronic digital signature, EDS).