ECTD Regional Advisor’s Report
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, 26 June 2023

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Regional Advisor’s Report,
Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards,
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• Work on trade development and facilitation focused on the ECE mandate: integration in the ECE region and achieving the SDGs;
• Coordinate the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA);
• Overall management of the RPTC, UNDA and XB projects;
• Liaison with RCs in 3 countries: North Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
Main activities in trade facilitation and digitalization

• 12th, 13th & 14th Odessa seminars (7.07.22, 22.12.22, 22-23.05.23, Baku) maintain the momentum of trade facilitation, e-business and data sharing in the region. Link to the implementation of the EU eFTI Regulation and the underlying UN/CEFACT semantic standards and MMT RDM.

• International high-level Conference on digitalization of data and document exchange in cross-border supply chains, using UN standards, Baku, 31.10.2022 (request to UNECE to develop a roadmap for this digitalization in the Joint SPECA Ministerial Statement from 17.04.2023)

• UNDA T14: Several pilot projects on the implementation of the package of standards for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange, e.g., concept of data pipeline on exports of grain in the Black Sea; digitalization of the railway consignment note along the TRACECA route.

Foresight: move from documents to data sets – UN standards are the basis

• Draft Trade Facilitation Strategy of Uzbekistan
Data pipeline concept (e.g., in BSGI)
Information chain in the Trans-Caspian route

- EU
- UA
- GE
- AZ
- KZ
- UZ
- KG
- CN

- Black Sea
- S. Caucasus
- Caspian Sea
- Central Asia
- TM
- TJ

- eFTI
- Customs SW
- Business systems
- Customs SW
- NCTS

- Bill of Lading
- IMO FAL docs
- Road and rail
- consignment notes
- Bill of Lading
- IMO FAL docs
- Road and rail
- consignment notes

- Air: airwaybill, consignment
- security declaration

- Regulatory, port community and business systems

- Customs, regulatory exchange of information:
  - Customs data exchange
  - concerted e-TIR system implementation in all
  - SPECA countries

- Regulatory and business systems

- Dangerous goods declarations for 4 modes
Sustainable Trade Principles

• Capacity-building on the nexus between Sustainable Trade, Water Management, Food Security, Trade Facilitation, and the Circular Economy, 21 November 2022, Astana, QazTrade.
• Aim: foster the development of national roadmap for the implementation of the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade
• 20 principles of Sustainable Trade (1 p. in a 7 p. document). Aim: include these principles in the national sustainable development programmes.
Deputy Coordinator of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

• SPECA WG on Trade:
  • SPECA side event to the WTO Ministerial Conference, 14.06.2022
  • WG annual session on 1.09.2022 boosted regional cooperation on the implementation of the SPECA TF Strategy, SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade; RPBT (NTB) studies; digitalization using the UN/CEFACT package of semantic standards and reference data models to limit the effects of the crises;

• 2023: Very active Chair – Azerbaijan. Theme: making SPECA a connectivity hub
  • Joint Ministerial Statement, 17 April 2023
  • Series of events on the digitalization of info exchange in the supply chains
  • Roadmap on digitalization of info exchange along the Middle Corridor
  • GA Resolution on SPECA,
  • SPECA Summit
  • SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund
UNECE trains Turkmenistan’s government officials on regulatory and procedural trade measures as part of accession to WTO

22 June 2023

As the global economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and governments strengthen efforts to “build-back-better”, trade as an engine of growth has re-emerged in policy agendas. For developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are still in the process of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), technical support continues to be critical to enhance the understanding of international trade disciplines, potential costs, benefits and trade-offs involved in trade integration as well as to ensure the negotiations bring sustainable development outcomes for vulnerable populations.
Thanks!