

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, 26.06.2023

- 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



Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Eighth session

Geneva, 26–27 (am) June 2023

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

Report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities

Submitted by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides an overview of capacity-building and technical assistance activities undertaken as part of the Trade subprogramme programme of work. It also includes the overview of the fundraising activities carried out by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Economic Cooperation and Trade Division in 2022-2023 and planned activities since the seventh session of the Steering Committee that are subject to extra-budgetary funding.

The report takes into account the recommendations from the evaluation of the ECE Subprogrammes 4 (Economic Cooperation and Integration) and Subprogramme 6 (Trade) by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight conducted in 2022.

The document is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for decision.



Main activities in trade facilitation and digitalization

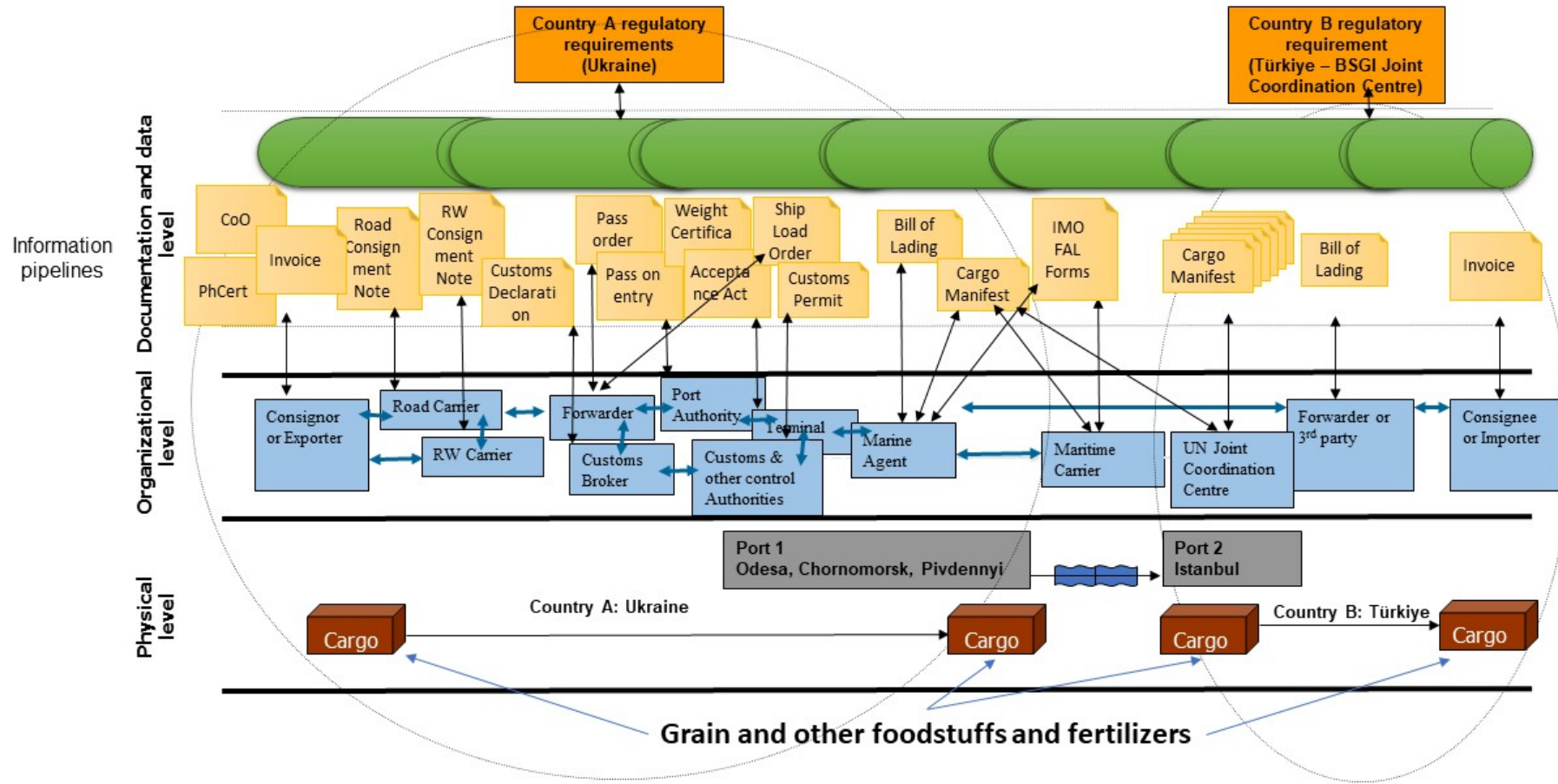
- 12th, 13th & 14th Odessa seminars (7.07.22, 22.12.22, 22-23.05.23, Baku) maintain the momentum of trade facilitation, e-business and data sharing in the region. Link to the implementation of the EU eFTI Regulation and the underlying UN/CEFACT semantic standards and MMT RDM.
- International high-level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

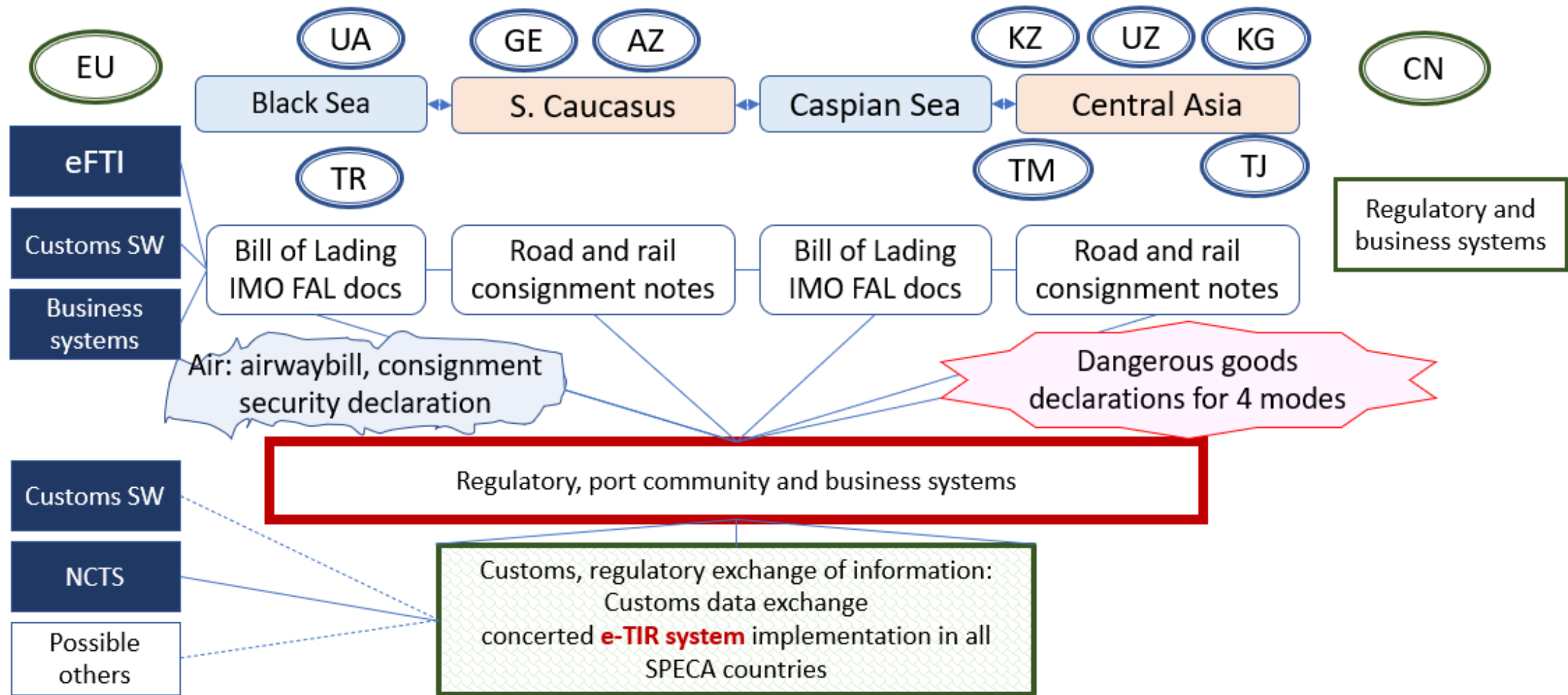


Data pipeline concept (e.g., in BSGI)



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Information chain in the Trans-Caspian route



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.



CAPACITY-BUILDING ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE TRADE, WATER MANAGEMENT, FOOD SECURITY, TRADE FACILITATION, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

21 November 2022, Astana, QazTrade

Business center "Alтын Orda", 1 floor, Mangilik Yel Street, 8, Yesil region, Astana, Z05K5K8

To register for this event, please follow the link: <https://forms.gle/X9j1nibQLpG8ytjv7>

The objective of the meeting is to foster the development of **national roadmap** for the implementation of the **SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade**. The government of Kazakhstan already took pioneering steps to include these Principles in its sustainable development strategies, and the meeting will further support the national endeavors. It also **aims** to strengthen knowledge and capacities of national experts in sustainable trade and circular economy and their link to sustainable development plans.

This event will cover several **topics** including the international trading system and sustainable trade; instruments for trade and sustainable development in SPECA; business process analysis of grain and fruit exports for sustainable trade, efficient management of water and food security in

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



Support with WTO Accession Process



UNECE trains Turkmenistan's government officials on regulatory and procedural trade measures as part of accession to WTO

SDGs ▷

UN/CEFACT ▷

Trade facilitation ▷

WP.6 - Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization ▷

WP.7 - Agricultural Standards ▷

Sustainable Development ▷

Technical Cooperation ▷

Trade ▷

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.



Very pleased @UNECE contributed to session on #digitalization of information flows for #Azerbaijan

Great discussions on the potential for #digital corridors in the region – UN/CEFACT tools can play important role

Thanks to Ambassador Israfilov @galib_is for this invitation





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Thanks!