

Item. 9 Integrating digital economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade



ECE/CTCS/2023/7

Digital and Green Transformations

70th Commission session, 18-19 April 2023



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15. *Requests* the relevant Sectoral Committees and bodies reporting directly to the Executive Committee, and their subsidiaries, **to consider how to enhance the impact of relevant existing ECE instruments, in order to foster digital and green transformations, including by proposing ways to identify, assess and fill gaps in governance and good practices;**

16. *Invites* these subsidiary bodies to replicate and **scale up existing approaches that facilitate broad and effective use of the appropriate instruments**, including through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;

17. *Further invites* these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to consider developing proposals in their respective programmes of work, including possible collaboration across subprogrammes, for impactful and measurable solutions that promote digital and green transformations and that can facilitate attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Digital and Green Transformations

At the core of the ECTD work



AT THE CORE OF ECTD WORK STREAMS

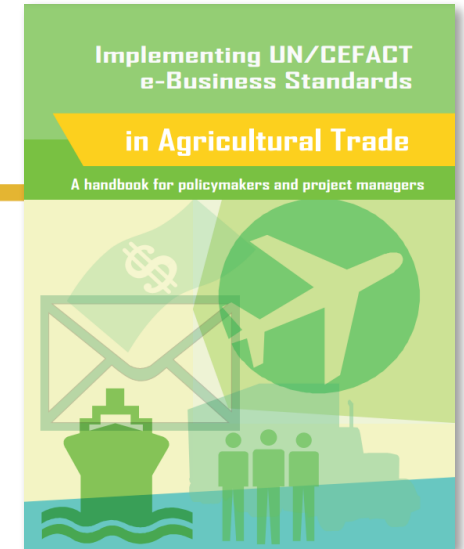
- ESG transparency and traceability of supply chains
- Connectivity and digital data-exchange across multi-modal supply chains
- UN/CEFACT trade facilitation and e-business standards

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

- UNECE's work on digitalization has been recognized by a number of analytical instruments and toolkits recently issued by the ICC, the WEF and the WTO.

NEW DEMANDS FROM MEMBER STATES

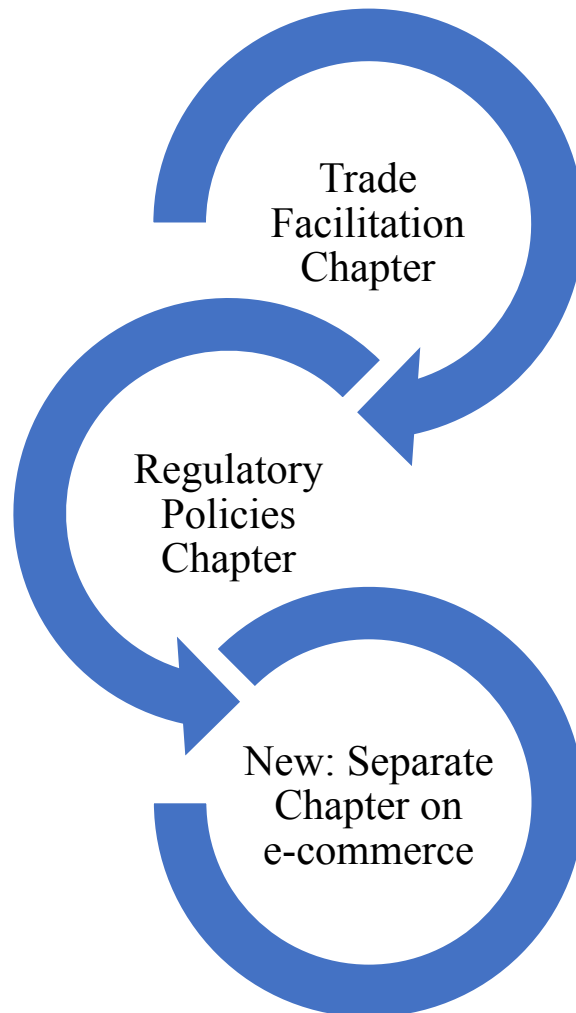
- At the seventh session of the SCTCS in 2022 a number of member-states (Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan) requested technical assistance on matters related to digital trade in the context of Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade.



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This session of the SCTCS: Further Integration of Digital Economy Considerations into RPBT Studies



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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

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Note by the secretariat

Summary

In preparation of the 70th session of the Commission on “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region”, EXCOM invited relevant subsidiary bodies of ECE and the secretariat to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to the cross-cutting theme of the 70th Commission session within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources, and while making full use of the existing nexuses.¹

At the seventh session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity Standards in 2022, several member States (Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, and Uzbekistan) requested technical assistance on issues related to digital trade in the context of the ECE Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT studies).²

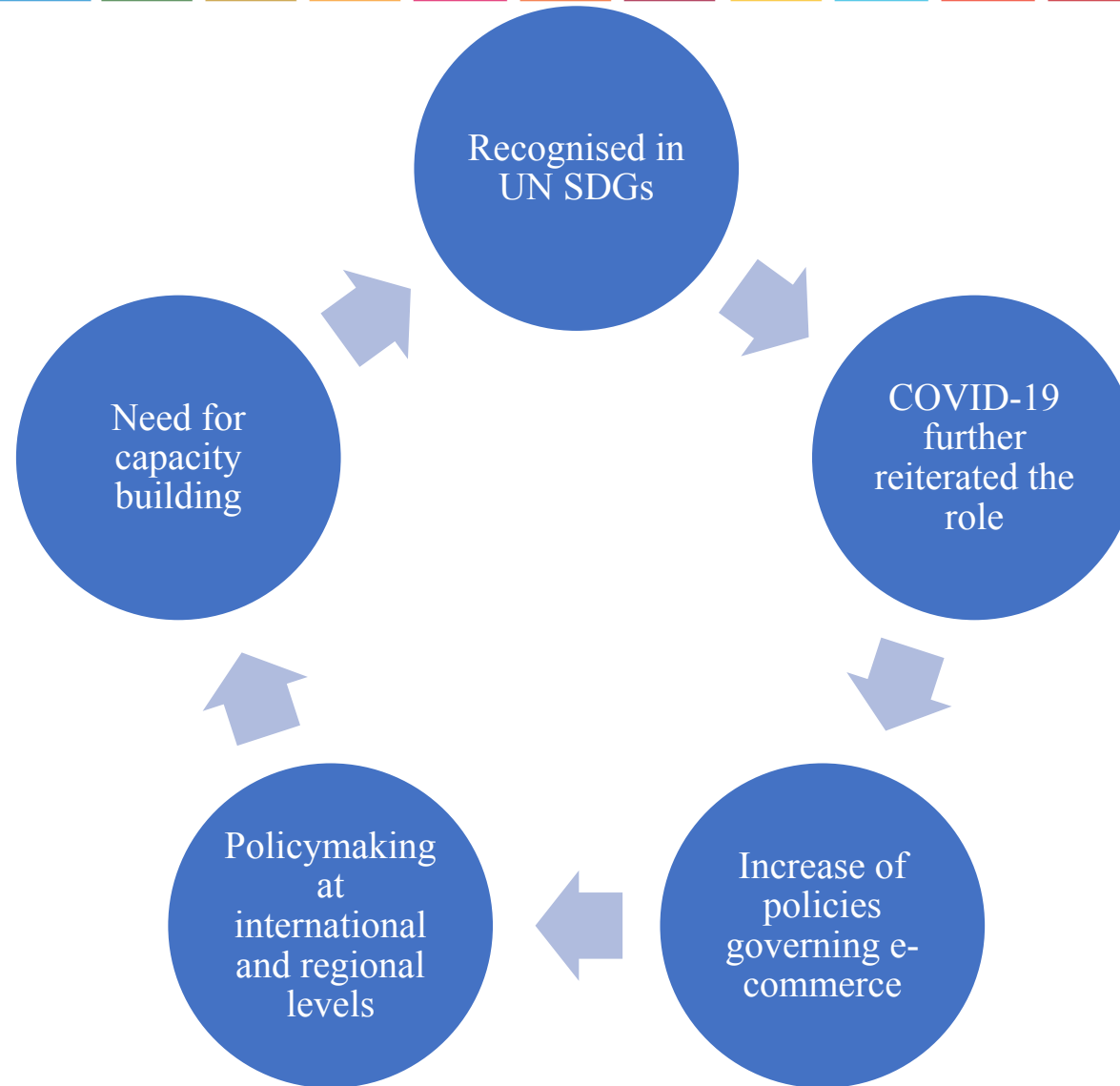
This note, prepared by the secretariat, provides several options on how digital economy considerations could be integrated into the work under the RPBT studies.

Zooming into the proposed RPBT approach



	Border Measures (Trade Facilitation)	Regulatory Policy (Quality Infrastructure)	Dedicated E-commerce Chapter
Role of digitalization	Improving the efficiency of cross-border movement of goods: reducing trade costs, speeding up processes	Positive impact on policies related to infrastructure (digital measuring tools in the context of metrology – discussed within WP6)	
Risks	Potential risks of regulatory divergence	The need to adapt existing measures (e.g. conformity assessment) and technical regulations.	New barriers, including data localization, confidentiality, data protection, cybersecurity.
RPBT contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify border measures that create bottlenecks in e-commerce • Gap analysis by identifying rules that may be necessary to promote digital trade facilitation in a country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect best practices and relevant discussions at the international level regarding challenges and opportunities to improve the quality infrastructure system • Can study specific problems related to quality infrastructure in the context of e-commerce. 	Include a dedicated e-commerce chapter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of e-commerce (issue: limited data; related tools by UNCTAD, OECD) • Assessment of new barriers to trade • Barriers to MSMEs • Overview of legal and regulatory framework related to e-commerce in the country (experience of WTO and RTAs)

Integration of Digital Economy Considerations: Global and regional context





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Thank you

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