

STEERING COMMITTEE ON TRADE CAPACITY AND STANDARDS (SCTCS)

26 - 27 (am) June 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva



ROOM XXII PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA | SWITZERLAND

[REGISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HERE](#)

Discussions to be moderated and facilitated by **Ms. Damegul Kabiyeva**, Chair, UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards and **Ms. Elisabeth Türk**, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE



**DAMEGUL
KABIYEVA**

Chair, UNECE Steering Committee
on Trade Capacity and Standards,
Kazakhstan



**ELISABETH
TÜRK**

Director, Economic Cooperation
and Trade Division,
UNECE

**Monday
26 June
2023**

10:00–10:15

Opening, adoption of the agenda and election of officers



**OLGA
ALGAYEROVA**

Executive Secretary, UNECE

- Opening remarks by Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

General segment

10:15 –10:30

Matters arising

10:30 –11:00

Updates from the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

- Mr. Lance Thompson, Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (WP. 6)

11:00–11:30

Updates from the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

- Ms. Agnieszka Sudol, Chair, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region

11:30-13:00

Panel 1. Country-specific discussions: Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova

The UNECE Study for Kyrgyzstan, conducted in 2023 focuses on specific agricultural sectors and challenges on trade facilitation and quality infrastructure frameworks and potential opportunities to expand export potential. Importantly, the discussion at the Trade Committee will provide an opportunity to reflect on existing gaps and provide recommendations for the way forward to enhance the export competitiveness of selected agricultural sectors, also taking into consideration the capacity-building activities of donors (paper available [here](#)).

The UNECE Study for the Republic of Moldova, conducted in 2022-2023, provides an overview of the trade facilitation regime and the state-of-play vis-à-vis implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. It looks at existing gaps of the country in this area and provides recommendations for the way forward, including with regard to capacity-building needs. These discussions will also benefit from reflections by delegations and donors, especially with regard to potential activities to respond to existing capacity-building needs (paper available [here](#)).



Presentation of the Studies:

- Mr. Ariel Ivanier, Acting Chief, Market access section, UNECE Secretariat
- Mr. Nazarbek Malaev, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic
- Ms. Nadezhda Sporysheva, Secretary, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, UNECE

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- Ms. Diana Levenco, National Coordinator of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, representative of the Economic Council to the Prime Minister, Republic of Moldova

Reflections by international experts:

- Mr. Suvra Chakraborty, AMC Overseas FZE
- Mr. Rodrigo Polanco, Academic Coordinator, Advanced Master Programmes, World Trade Institute (WTI)
- Ms. Mariam Soumare, Community Engagement Specialist, World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Mr. Simon Springett, UN Resident Coordinator, Republic of Moldova (by video recording)
- Ms. Antje Grawe, UN Resident Coordinator, Kyrgyzstan (by video recording)

13:00-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:00 **Panel 2. Lessons learned from the Studies on Regulatory Barriers to Trade and emerging areas for consideration**

This segment will provide an overview of RPBT studies undertaken since 2012 in selected countries, summarize lessons learned, and provide options for possible ways forward, also taking into consideration emerging trends in the current policy-making agenda.

UNECE RPBT studies are geared to assist countries in establishing institutional and legislative framework for ensuring successful integration into regional and global supply chains; promote information exchange among countries on policies and experiences; and inform donors as to where assistance might be required. Taking into consideration emerging trends (e.g. digitalization) and new challenges associated with the value chains integration etc., UNECE suggests a set of specific recommendations to further enhance the potential of studies to better contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (paper available [here](#)).



Presentation of the UNECE paper:

- Mr. Ariel Ivanier, Acting Chief, Market access section, UNECE Secretariat

Reflections by member States:

- Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
- Mr. Artur Maysuryan, Head of EU Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Economy, Republic of Armenia
- Mr. Zdenko Lucić, State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia

Reflections by international experts:

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- Ms. Marva Corley-Coulibaly, Chief, Globalisation, Competitiveness and Labour Standards Unit, ILO
- Mr. Ralf Peters, Head, Trade Analysis Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD

Concluding observations:

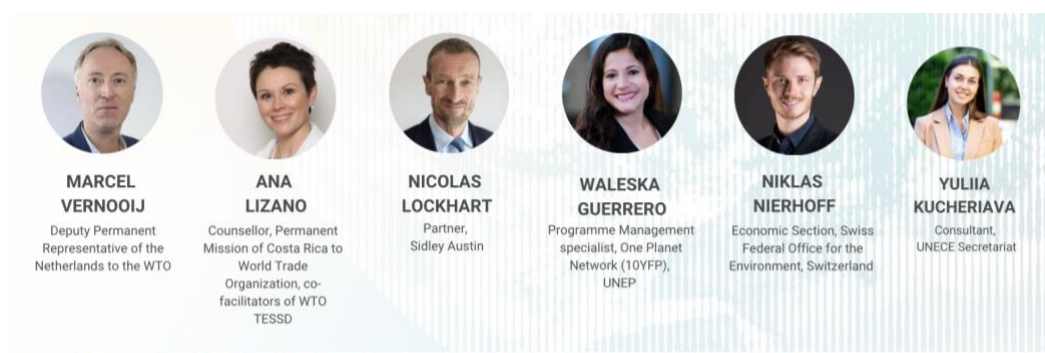
- Mr. Pierre Sauvé, Senior Trade Specialist, World Bank Group

16:00-17:00

Panel 3. Integrating circular economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

This segment will discuss how to best integrate the circular economy and green dimensions into the development of policy guidance and capacity building in trade-related areas.

The discussion will focus in particular on the interface between the circular economy and selected trade regulatory areas (including trade facilitation; standardization and technical regulations; labelling and certification; conformity assessment procedures), also building on the recent document prepared by the secretariat, which presents the new approach how assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade could take into consideration circular economy dimension (paper available [here](#)). This deep dive is a concrete follow-up to the Trade Committee's last [year's introductory paper](#) and [high-level lunchtime debate](#).



Presentation of the UNECE paper:

- Ms. Yuliia Kucheriava, Consultant, UNECE Secretariat

Reflections by member States and international experts:

- Ms. Ana Lizano, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, co-facilitators of WTO TESSD
- Mr. Marcel Vernooij, Deputy Permanent Representative, Kingdom of the Netherlands to the WTO
- Mr. Niklas Nierhoff, Scientific Officer, Federal Office of Environment (BAFU), Switzerland
- Mr. Nicolas Lockhart, Partner, Sidley Austin
- Ms. Beatriz Fernandez, Environment and Trade Associate Programme Management Officer, UNEP
- Ms. Waleska Guerrero, Programme Management Specialist, One Planet Network (10YFP), UNEP

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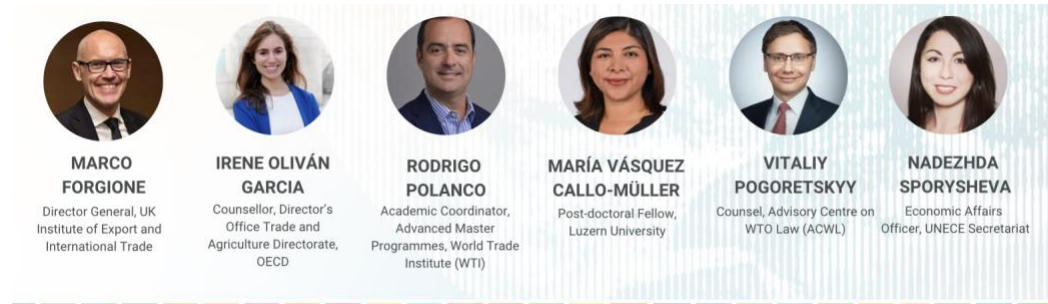
Secretary of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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17:00-18:00

Panel 4. Integrating digital economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

This segment will look at emerging challenges vis-à-vis digital trade regulatory frameworks, especially focusing on UNECE transition economies. The discussion will respond to new capacity-building needs of member States. In line with the UNECE cross-cutting topic this year on digital and green transformations, the secretariat will present a new UNECE approach to assessing regulatory and procedural barriers to digital trade (paper available [here](#)).



Presentation of the UNECE paper:

- Ms. Nadezhda Sporysheva, Secretary, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, UNECE

Reflections by member States and international experts:

- Mr. Marco Forgione, Director General, UK Institute of Export and International Trade
- Ms. Irene Olivan Garcia, Counsellor to the OECD Director on Trade and Agriculture
- Mr. Vitaliy Pogoretsky, Counsel, Advisory Centre on WTO Law
- Ms. María Vásquez Callo-Müller, Post-doctoral Fellow, Luzern University
- Mr. Rodrigo Polanco, Academic Coordinator, Advanced Master Programmes, World Trade Institute (WTI)

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

the reception to be hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

26 June 2023, 18:15 CEST, the hall of H building, Palais des Nations in Geneva



Tuesday

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27 June
2023

10:00–10:45

Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

- Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Advisor, UNECE Secretariat
- Reflections and capacity building needs by member States

10:45–11:30

Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

International organizations

- Mr. Werner Zdouc, Director, Knowledge and Information Management, Academic Outreach and WTO Chairs Programme Division, WTO
- Ms. Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer, Accession Division, WTO
- Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba, Senior Economist, Coordinator, United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS)
- Ms. Irene Olivan Garcia, Counsellor to the OECD Director on Trade and Agriculture
- Mr. Vitaliy Pogoretsky, Counsel, Advisory Centre on WTO Law
- Ms. Lorena Jaramillo Castro, Project Officer of the BioTrade Initiative, UNCTAD
- Mr. Dmitry Shlapachenko, UN Resident Coordinator, Turkmenistan (by video recording)

UNECE bodies

- Mr. George Katapodis, Chair, UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships
- Ms. Kamola Khusnutdinova, Secretary, UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), UNECE
- Ms. Maria Teresa Pisani, Secretary, Team of Specialists on ESG and Project Lead, The Sustainability Pledge, UNECE
- Ms. Roksolana Shelest, Lead of the UNECE Circular STEP initiative
- Ms. Immanuela Badde, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Transformative Innovation Network

**Recommendations from the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe:
Subprogramme 4 and Subprogramme 6 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight**

11:30-11:45

Programme of Work

11:45-12:15

Other business

12:15-12:30

Adoption of the report

12:30-13:00

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