

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

130th meeting

Geneva, 9 October 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Informal Document no. 2023/39

**Extrabudgetary project**

**Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Turkmenistan**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

<b>Project title:</b> Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Turkmenistan		
<b>Expected timing/ duration:</b> November 2023 - October 2025		
<b>Objective and brief summary of the project:</b> Building on consistent economic growth in Turkmenistan, its government has made significant steps to increase trade and enter new foreign markets. This includes the initiation of the WTO accession process in 2021, which will further contribute to modernizing the country's trade policy and subsequent economic progress. To support the WTO accession process, the government of Turkmenistan, at the 7 <sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, requested the UNECE to conduct its flagship Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT study). The objective of the project is to support the government in establishing institutional and legislative trade frameworks for ensuring successful integration in global value chains. The study will present a fit-gap analysis taking into consideration legal requirements and best international practices to identify the areas that require legal amendments and institutional reforms, followed by policy recommendations. In addition to integration into multilateral trade, the study will look at the potential avenues for regional cooperation, including through the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The objective of the project will be achieved by implementing the following activities: A1.1. Prepare the RPBT study of Turkmenistan (conducted based on analysis of available information through desk research and in-depth interviews with stakeholders); A1.2. Conduct capacity-building event to train public officials on trade policy priorities related to WTO accession.		
<b>Link to the SDG targets:</b> SDGs 8.2, 17.10 and 17.11.		
<b>Expected results of the project:</b> EA1. Increased knowledge of cross-border and behind-border barriers to trade in Turkmenistan and recommendations to enhance export competitiveness; EA2. Improved national capacity for the negotiation of WTO accession and other trade agreements, especially for treaties with either dedicated chapters or provisions on technical regulations, standardisation and trade facilitation policies.		
<b>Target group and beneficiaries of the project:</b> Turkmenistan is the beneficiary country of this project. The project targets groups from both the public and private sector. Government beneficiaries include customs authorities, standard setting agencies, quality control and quality assurance agencies, statistical authorities, line ministries. Non-government stakeholders that will benefit from the project include traders, micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially including female owned MSMEs, transport operators, logistical service providers, trade associations, and trade support institutions.		
<b>Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:</b> The project directly contributes to the objective of the subprogramme 6 "Trade" "to strengthen trade facilitation and electronic business, regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region and beyond" of the UNECE programme budget for 2023. At the seventh session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards held on 27-28 June 2022 the Government of Turkmenistan, had requested support for conducting a study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade (ECE/CTCS/2022/2). The project has since been included in the Programme of work of the Steering Committee, which was endorsed at the eighth session of the Steering Committee on 26-27 June 2023.		
<b>Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):</b> G5/1 month; P3/2 months		
<b>Estimated extra budgetary resources:</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (US\$)</b>	
Islamic Center for Development of Trade	108,423	
<b>Project Manager:</b> Ariel Ivanier  06.09.2023	<b>Section/Division:</b> Market Access Section/Economic Cooperation and Trade Division	
<b>Cleared by Programme Management Unit:</b> Nicolas Dath-Baron  06.09.2023	<b>Approved by EXCOM<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>09.10.2023</b>
Due diligence completed on 05.09.23		

<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

**Annex**  
**Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project**

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (US\$)
EA1. Increased knowledge of cross-border and behind-border barriers to trade in Turkmenistan and recommendations to enhance export competitiveness	<p>A1.1. Prepare RPBT study of Turkmenistan, which will be conducted based on analysis of available information through desk research and in-depth interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>2 international consultants x 3 months x 7500\$ to draft the report chapters, support the development of the report methodology, and partake in fact-finding</p> <p>1 national consultant x 5 months x 3,000\$ to assist UNECE with support on the ground, identifying contacts to interview, undertaking primary research on the ground, and fact-checking expert findings with local sources of information</p> <p>1 mission x 3 staff x 3,000\$</p> <p>1 mission x 2 experts x 3,000\$</p> <p>Contractual services (interpretation, venue etc.) x 2,500\$</p>	<p>77,500</p> <p>45,000</p> <p>15,000</p> <p>9,000</p> <p>6,000</p> <p>2,500</p>
EA2. Improved capacity for the negotiation of WTO accession and other trade agreements, especially for treaties with either dedicated chapters or provisions on technical regulations, standardisation and trade facilitation policies	<p>A2.1. Conduct capacity-building event to train public officials on trade policy priorities related to WTO accession</p> <p>1 mission x 3 staff x 3,000\$</p> <p>1 mission x 2 experts x 3,000\$</p> <p>Contractual services for fact-finding missions (interpretation, venue etc.) x 2,500\$</p>	<p>17,500</p> <p>9,000</p> <p>6,000</p> <p>2,500</p>
<b>Budget summary</b>		<b>95,000</b>
13% of Programme Support Costs		12,350
1% coordination levy		1,073
<b>Total (rounded)</b>		<b>108,423</b>