

**Item 10. Removing Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade.
Forthcoming Country Studies:
Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan**



Forthcoming Studies for Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan



Demand-Driven Initiatives:

Studies conducted upon request by member states to support economic diversification.

Focus on reducing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

Support for Economic Diversification:

Both studies aim to assist countries in establishing robust institutional and legislative frameworks.

Focus on successful integration into the global economy.



Forthcoming Studies for Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan



Azerbaijan

Turkmenistan

Request Initiation:

Requested during the **seventh session** of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity on **June 27-28, 2022**.

Aim:

Strengthen capacity to reduce regulatory and procedural trade barriers. Support trade reforms as part of WTO accession process.

Project Approval:

ECE Executive Committee approved the project in **December 2023**.

ECE Executive Committee approved the project in **November 2023**.

Donor

Funded by **Azerbaijan** with potential for expansion based on additional funding.

Funded by the **Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade**.

Forthcoming Studies' Objectives



Azerbaijan

Main Goal:

- Establish institutional and legislative frameworks for successful GVC integration

Focus Areas:

- Trade patterns and economic context
- Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
- Digital economy and 4th Industrial Revolution technologies

Turkmenistan

Main Goal:

- Align trade regime with international best practices and enhance market access

Focus Areas:

- Economic analysis and trade profile
- Trade-related laws and strategies
- Quality infrastructure and trade facilitation measures

Forthcoming Studies' Outlines: Azerbaijan



Introduction

- Overview of the economic context
- Country's performance regarding trade-related SDGs
- Trade patterns, including imports and exports.

Chapters I & II: Overview of the current trade regime of Azerbaijan

- Review of the current regime of Azerbaijan vis-à-vis:
 - technical barriers to trade (including technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment procedures and accreditation),
 - trade facilitation measures (including digital trade facilitation, such as paperless trade, cross-border paperless trade) and
 - legislation that supports or hinders the adoption of the fourth industrial revolution (4SI) technologies in trade processes (e.g., data protection laws, digital document recognition and cross-border data flow policies).

Recommendations for the way forward

- Recommendations for further enhancing the trade regime, with a particular focus on available ECE tools (i.e., WP. 6, WP.7 and UN/CEFACT).

Forthcoming Studies' Outlines: Turkmenistan



Introduction

- Economic and trade profile from a historical and comparative perspective
- Country's main trade patterns and general business climate (e.g., key import and export industries and trade partners)
- Key drivers of export growth and potential to join regional and global value chains.

Chapter I: Overview of the current trade regime of Turkmenistan

- Overview of trade-related laws and strategies
- Ongoing regional integration processes of relevance to Turkmenistan and potential avenues for regional cooperation through the SPECA
- Trade-related framework for digitalization in Turkmenistan.

Chapters II & III: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade*

- Review of the current regime of Turkmenistan vis-à-vis:
 - regulatory and standardisation conditions (i.e. standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and related quality infrastructure) and
 - trade facilitation measures (including digital trade facilitation, such as paperless trade and cross-border paperless trade measures).

Recommendations for the way forward

- Recommendations for further enhancing the trade regime, with a particular focus on available ECE tools (i.e., WP. 6, WP.7 and UN/CEFACT).

* Both chapters consider WTO requirements and identify areas that require legal amendments and institutional reforms to enhance trade efficiency, including integration into global and regional value chains.

Next Steps



Methodology:

- Desk research and stakeholder interviews
- Workshops for discussing findings and gathering diverse perspectives

Key Recommendations:

- Legal amendments for trade efficiency
- Institutional reforms for GVC integration
- Benchmarking against international best practices
- Alignment with WTO accession requirements
- Digital transformation in trade processes
- Trade regime enhancement using ECE tools