



## 30<sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Plenary I 11 July 2024 | 11:00 - 13:00

### Agenda I Session 3

#### ROOM III | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

#### Policy dialogue on the role of climate-smart connectivity and digital trade and transport corridors in support of regional and global integration and sustainable development

##### ABOUT THE SESSION

The modern era of international trade involves increasingly complex interactions between people, firms, and organizations. Effective trade performance now requires connectivity across roads, rail, sea, telecommunications, financial markets, and information processing. Inefficient or inadequate systems in transportation, logistics, and trade infrastructure can severely hinder trade opportunities and competitiveness, especially for transition economies.

Over the recent years, the United Nations Member States have been increasingly shifting towards the digital exchange of data and documents, which aims to improve efficiency, reduce costs, enhance transparency, and enable better accessibility and data analysis for trade processes. This transition also holds the potential to foster greener and more inclusive economies. For example, SPECA participating States<sup>1</sup> adopted the *Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange Along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor* at the 2023 SPECA Summit. This roadmap leverages UN legal instruments and standards, such as the TIR Convention, the CMR Convention, and the UN/CEFACT Package of Standards.

This policy dialogue will bring together policymakers, private sector representatives, and the international community to explore the potential of the digital transition for enhancing regional and global connectivity.

##### Guiding questions:

1. What is the role of international, regional, and national initiatives in supporting the digital transformation?
2. How can digitalization of data and document exchange improve supply chain efficiency and reduce costs?
3. How UNECE legal instruments and UN/CEFACT standards can enhance facilitation procedures along trade and transport corridors?
4. How can the digital transition contribute to greener and more inclusive economies?
5. What are the challenges and opportunities for policymakers and the private sector in adopting these digital tools?

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). The countries of SPECA are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



<b>ROUNDTABLE</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sue Probert, Chair, UN/CEFACT
<b>11:00-11:25</b>	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Elisabeth Türk</b>, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Angela Ellard</b>, Deputy Director-General, WTO</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda</b>, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade</li> </ul>
<b>11:25-12:00</b>	<b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: RELEVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL/NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND INSTRUMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Norbert Kouwenhoven</b>, Advisor, Strategy &amp; Innovation Customs, Netherlands</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Loh Sin Yong</b>, Director for Trade, Infocomm Media Development Authority &amp; UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation of Singapore</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine Diagne</b>, Managing Director of GAINDE 2000 and President of the African Performance Institute (API), Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Yanying Li</b>, Legal Officer, International Trade Law Division, UNCITRAL Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-12:35</b>	<b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: REFLECTIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Pamela Mar</b>, Managing Director of the Digital Standards Initiative (DSI), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. William Gain</b>, Global Lead for Trade Facilitation, World Bank Group</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Konstantinos Alexopolous</b>, Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economics Section, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Yann Duval</b>, Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation, UNESCAP</li> </ul>
<b>12:35-13:00</b>	<b>REFLECTIONS BY MEMBER STATES</b>
<b>DOCUMENTS</b>	<p><a href="#">Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: Global Report 2023</a></p> <p><a href="#">Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) 2023</a></p> <p><a href="#">SPECA Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and Document Exchange Along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, Using United Nations Legal Instruments and Standards</a></p>