

# Item 7. Lessons learned from the Studies on Regulatory Barriers to Trade and country follow-ups

UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, 8<sup>th</sup> session

26 June | 2023



# Scope, objectives and structure of the Report



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Reflects the **request** of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards at its **seventh session on 27-28 June, 2022**

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Provides an **overview of RPBT studies** undertaken since 2012 in selected countries

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Summarizes **lessons learned**

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Provides options for **possible ways forward**

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**Addresses emerging trends** in the current policy-making agenda

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**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**.

# RPBT Studies: overview



## COUNTRIES COVERED

- Albania
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- The Republic of Moldova
- Uzbekistan

## OBJECTIVES:

- Assist in establishing the required institutional and legislative framework
- Promote information exchange among countries on policies and experience
- Foster greater accountability and transparency

## STRUCTURE:

- 5-10 chapters
- Address trade facilitation conditions, regulatory and standardization policies and trade-related infrastructure
- Use UNECE methodology
- UNECE Buy-Ship-Pay reference model
- Feature actor-oriented questionnaires
- Contain complementary Business Process Analysis



# Lessons Learned

## Trade Facilitation (I)



**Access to information is an essential precondition to creating a trade conducive regulatory environment**

### **Recommendation**

- Create one-stop-shop user-friendly portal (e.g., Serbia)
- Institute expert trade training facilities (e.g., Georgia)

**Consolidating and enhancing public-private dialogue is one of the key enablers of trade**

### **Recommendation**

- Set up institutional mechanisms for continued private-public consultations
- Strengthen market support institutions with a research facility to crystalize traders' needs in “white papers”

**A paperless trade environment is essential to remove logistics challenges and enhance trade competitiveness**

### **Recommendation**

- Take steps towards coordinating and harmonizing customs control procedures, certification, quality assurance and metrological development efforts, including through single window systems
- Undertake periodic verification of how trade procedures apply in practice.

# Lessons Learned

## Trade Facilitation (II)



**Digitalization is a crucial component of delivering efficiencies for cross-border activities**

### **Recommendation**

- Take incremental steps with digitalization, addressing the most pressing concerns first (e.g., Kyrgyzstan)
- Equip state agencies with the required digital technologies following international standards
- Introduce new management information technologies for border control agencies

**Reducing at the border inefficiencies can enhance supply chain security and foster transparent, consistent and predictable trading environment**

### **Recommendation**

- Ensure cross-border cooperation and cooperation
- Align procedures and formalities (e.g. working days and hours of BCPs in neighboring countries) (e.g., Tajikistan)
- Develop and share common facilities and joint controls and the establishment of one stop border post controls (e.g., Uzbekistan)

# Lessons Learned

## Regulatory and Standardization Policies (I)



**Incorporating risk management best practices is an essential step for improving the regulatory environment**

### **Recommendation**

- Integrate regulatory impact assessments for the development of technical regulations and standards-setting (e.g., Kazakhstan)

**Market surveillance strategies and mechanisms can help foster trust among consumers and economic operators**

### **Recommendation**

- Establish proper enforcement policies, track-and-trace warning systems and internal procedures to ensure that enforcement actions are proportional to the health and safety risks and the seriousness of the breach

# Lessons Learned

## Regulatory and Standardization Policies (II)



**Metrology plays an important role in improving export competitiveness and structural transformation in the countries concerned**

### **Recommendation**

- Strengthen the research capacity of metrology laboratories to facilitate the development of new measurement methods and legal metrology to cover all base units, starting with those related to priority sectors.

**Strengthening budget resources is necessary for addressing capacity shortfalls in the area of standardization, conformity assessment and metrology institutes**

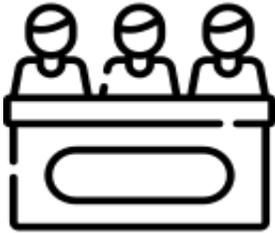
### **Recommendation**

- Ensure adequate and necessary resources are allocated to address capacity shortfalls

# Performance Impact of RPBT Studies



All reviewed countries showed progress



**Improved** implementation rate of **trade facilitation** measures (Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: twofold increase since 2015)



**Progress in regulatory cooperation** - new RTAs with dedicated charters or provisions on technical regulations, standardization and mutual recognition agreements



**Achievements** in the field of **accreditation, standardization and market surveillance**

# The Way Forward



- **Review** the current **evaluation methodology** and **Include new policy areas** in its analysis, if requested by a member State;
- **Pivot to new thematic angles** and explore how complex emerging trends such as the green transition, circular economy and digitalization affect countries' regulatory agendas;
- **Offer sector-specific studies** to address countries' requests (e.g., elective chapters, zooming in on particular products of relevance);
- **Conduct implementation reviews** to evaluate countries' implementation rate of recommendations under RPBT Studies and make proposals for further technical and capacity building assistance;



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# THANK YOU

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