

Dear participants of the event,

Allow me briefly inform you about the ongoing reforms in customs administration and implementation of trade facilitation in Uzbekistan.

In recent years, Uzbekistan **has acceded to two international conventions** such as:

International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (done at Kyoto 05/18/1973) (as amended)

“Convention on temporary admission” (done at Istanbul, 26 June 1990).

A Working Group on TFA was created from among experts from interested ministries and agencies.

A thorough comparative analysis was carried out on compliance of national legislation with the requirements of the TF Agreement, based on the results of which **an Action Plan for 2022-2023** was developed.

In accordance with the requirements of the TFA and International Conventions, the following main activities **were carried out :**

- **On 1 March 2019, a risk management system** was introduced;
- **29 April 2019 the Institute of Authorized Economic Operators** was introduced ;
- **On 1 January 2020**, the automated **“Single Window”** system was introduced (*which included 12 agencies and 60 types of documents*);
- **1 January 2021 Customs duty rates** are set at a fixed amount.
- **On 1 January 2021**, an **automatic release** system was introduced;
- **On 1 May 2021**, the Institute of Customs **Audit was introduced**;
- **On 1 January 2022**, the practice of making **a preliminary decision** on customs **payments was introduced**;
- **6 April 2022** a new **procedure was approved** determination of **customs value**.
- **On 1 May 2022**, the customs clearance period **was reduced from 3 three days to 1 working day**;
- **On 23 November 2022**, the national **trade portal “Uz Trade Info” was launched**;

As part of the agreement on mutual cooperation with the customs services of foreign countries, information exchange was organized in real time (online) with **8 countries** (*Russian Federation (07/25/2017); Kazakhstan (09/25/2017); Belarus (12/01/2019); Azerbaijan (09/01/2020); Tajikistan (09/10/2020); Afghanistan (12/01/2019) .); Kyrgyzstan (01/01/2021) , Turkmenistan (02/03/2023).*

Work is underway to organize the exchange of information with other foreign countries (Ukraine, India, Iran, Pakistan, Georgia, Turkey).

Currently work is underway to:

- create the **National Committee for Trade Facilitation as** a priority task;
- **conduct a study of the average time for releasing goods** jointly with the World Bank;
- introduce the practice of issuing **preliminary decisions on the origin of goods**;
- determine **a national coordinator for transit transportation**.

Along with this, in Uzbekistan **the Global Trade Facilitation Program** is being actively implemented with the assistance of **the World Customs Organization** and **the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)**, within the framework of which **legislation is also analyzed** for compliance with the requirements of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

Based on the results of the study, international experts outlined high level implementation of the TFA in **Uzbekistan**.

As part of the implementation of reforms in the field of foreign trade, together with the UNECE, an analysis of national legislation with WTO requirements was carried out and, according to the results of the analysis, the compliance with the Trade Facilitation Agreement was **90%**.

In conclusion I would like to underscore that to further improve foreign trade regime and implement the TFA, we to request the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) of the UNECE to:

- produce an analytical study with a focus on trade facilitation, considering the accession process of Uzbekistan to the WTO; and subsequently
- organize a technical workshop to present the key findings and recommendations emerging from the study.

We believe that this study would also support the country in its WTO accession process.

Thank you for your attention!