



# UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS)



***Ms. Nadezhda Sporysheva, Secretary of the Steering Committee***

# Strategic objective of the Steering Committee



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*“Oversee and guide the development of international norms and standards, procedures and best practices that reduce the costs associated with export and import processes and increase the efficiency, predictability and transparency of trade regulations and procedures and the movement of goods and services.”*

## Forum for Policy Dialogue

- Review and endorse standards and recommendations developed by WP.6 and WP.7

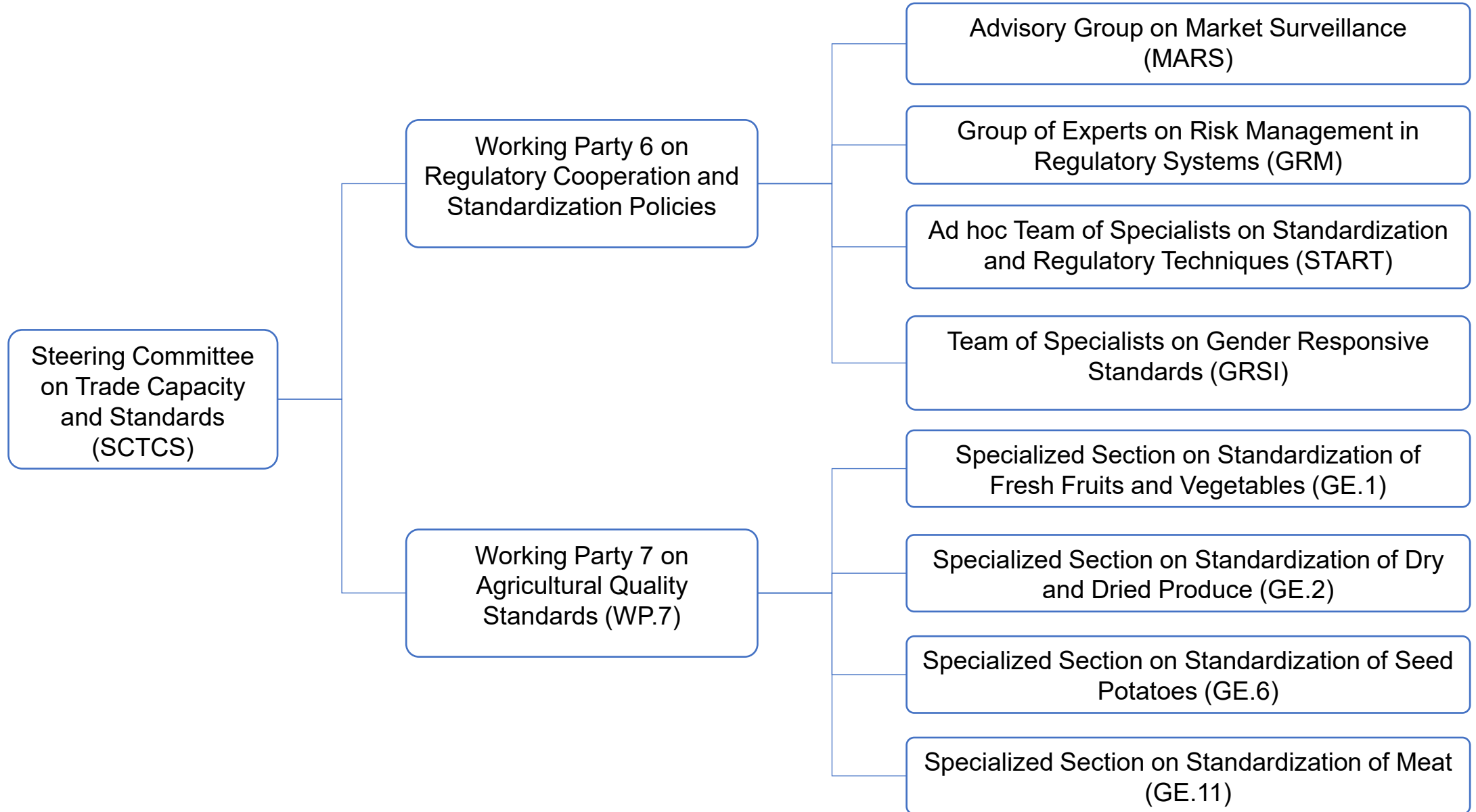
## Analytical Studies

- Reviews the results of demand-driven studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade with action-oriented recommendations

## Technical Cooperation

- Targeted capacity-building activities to facilitate implementation of recommendations and standards

# Steering Committee Structure



# UNECE Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT Studies)



## Purpose of the Studies

- UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade are demand-driven, conducted upon the request of member States, to support economic diversification and pro-poor growth in the region.
- The studies are undertaken within the context of a participatory approach, which brings together public and private sector stakeholders to ensure policy responsiveness and bring about consensus on trade integration strategies.
- The RPBT studies have been conducted by UNECE since 2012 and address **trade facilitation conditions**, regulatory policies, standardization and quality infrastructure.

## Value of the Studies

- Recommendations provided by RPBT studies have contributed to the success of WTO accession processes
- Recommendations have also contributed to improved trade facilitation, quality infrastructure and enhanced commercial potential of beneficiary countries



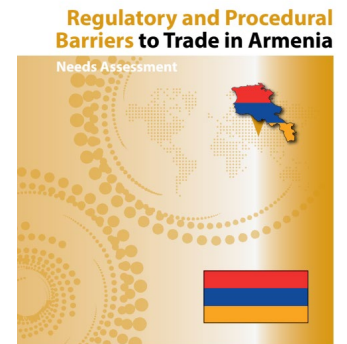
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Regulatory and Procedural Barriers  
to Trade in Serbia

Needs Assessment



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Regulatory and Procedural Barriers  
to Trade in Georgia

Needs Assessment



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# Steering Committee meeting on 26-27 June



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**Item 6, ECE/CTCS/2023/3 - Economic Commission for Europe Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kyrgyzstan: Outline and Initial Findings**

**Item 6, ECE/CTCS/2023/4 - Economic Commission for Europe Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in the Republic of Moldova: Findings and Recommendations**

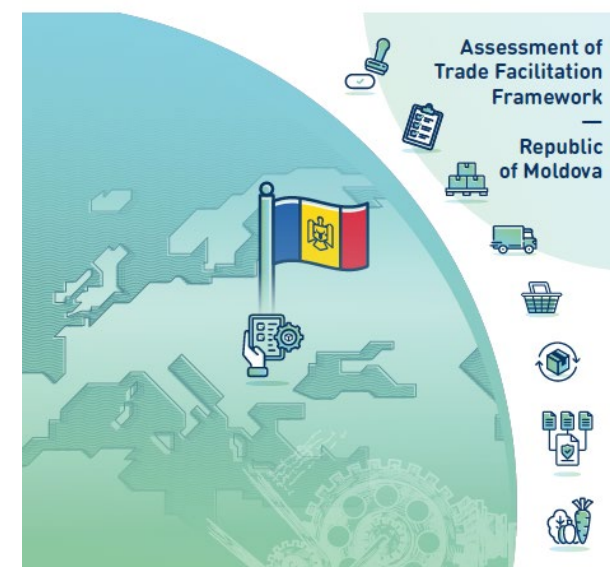
**Item 7, ECE/CTCS/2023/5 - Lessons learned from the Studies on Regulatory Barriers to Trade and the Way Forward**

**Item 8, ECE/CTCS/2023/6 - Integrating circular economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade**

**Item 9, ECE/CTCS/2023/7 - Integrating digital economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade**

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Study on Regulatory and  
Procedural Barriers to Trade



United  
Nations

# Lessons Learned

## Trade Facilitation



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

- **Why?** Easily accessible, continuously updated and user-friendly information helps increase predictability of trade transactions, accommodates strategic business decision-making and improves the compliance record of economic operators with respective regulations.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Information consolidation in a one-stop-shop user-friendly portal with an online help desk facility maintained by one state agency.
- Institution of expert trade training facilities

### Consolidating and enhancing public-private dialog is one of the key enablers of trade

- **Why?** To ensure a comprehensive representation of stakeholders and far-reaching and sector-specific consultations with the private sector

#### **Recommendations:**

- Strengthen market support institutions that already have a strong outreach service with a research facility
- This facility can aid in crystalizing traders' needs in the form of white papers for the government's consideration

# Lessons Learned

## Trade Facilitation



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Measures to accommodate a paperless trade environment are essential to remove logistics challenges and enhance trade competitiveness

### Why?

- Studies found that complex documentation requirements impose a significant burden on economic operators
- Paperless trade lowers compliance and inventory costs, streamlines movement of goods, and affords timely availability of shipping documents, which also enhances opportunities for MSMEs to participate in cross-border trade.

### Recommendations:

- Adopt Single Window systems allowing for the electronic submission and issuance of trade-related documents including trade licenses and customs declarations.
- Take steps towards coordinating and harmonizing customs control procedures, certification, quality assurance and metrological development efforts between regional partners (e.g. customs cooperation agreements, transport conventions and agreements)
- Undertake periodic verification of how trade procedures apply in practice.

# Lessons Learned

## Trade Facilitation



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

### Why?

- Cumbersome and lengthy clearance procedures, ineffective customs valuation procedures and practices, and underdeveloped risk management systems add costs and impact on a country's competitiveness
- Reducing border control inefficiencies can enhance supply chain security and foster a transparent, consistent and predictable trade environment
- Digital tools like online platforms, big data analytics, machine learning, and internet of things (IoT) are becoming essential to the functioning of modern global value chains (GVCs)

### Recommendations:

- Take incremental steps with digitalization, addressing the most pressing concerns first
- Alignment of procedures and formalities can help (e.g. working days and hours of BCPs in neighboring countries)
- Develop and share common facilities and joint controls and the establishment of one stop border post controls



# RPBT Studies and circular economy



United Nations

ECE/CTCS/2023/6



**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
17 April 2023

Original: English

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

### **Eighth session**

Geneva, 26–27(am) June 2023

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Integrating circular economy considerations into Studies on  
Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade**

### **Integrating circular economy considerations into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade**

**Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

Following decisions at the sixty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in April, the ECE secretariat has been integrating a circular economy (CE) approach in its relevant activity streams, including under Trade Subprogramme.<sup>1</sup> The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards recognized the important role of trade and economic cooperation in the circular economy transition and requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of integrating the circular economy dimension into Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT studies) (ECE/CTCS/2022/2 Decision 2022-11). This note is prepared to address this request. Its objective is to explore and suggest solutions how the circular economy dimension could be integrated RPBT studies, if requested by a member State.

- New UNECE document suggests a new approach about how the assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade could take into consideration the circular economy dimension. This includes in particular addressing the interface between the circular economy and selected trade regulatory areas (i.e. **trade facilitation**; standardization and technical regulations; labeling and certification; conformity assessment procedures). Trade reform in these areas should have synergies with related innovation and infrastructure reforms in UNECE programme countries.
- It will be presented and discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (26-27 June).

# RPBT Studies and digital trade



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ECE/CTCS/2023/7



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#### **Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

In preparation of the 70th session of the Commission on “Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region”, EXCOM invited relevant subsidiary bodies of ECE and the secretariat to consider how they may contribute, as appropriate, to the cross-cutting theme of the 70th Commission session within their respective mandates, ongoing work and existing resources, and while making full use of the existing nexuses.<sup>1</sup>

At the seventh session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity Standards in 2022, several member States (Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, and Uzbekistan) requested technical assistance on issues related to digital trade in the context of the ECE Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT studies).<sup>2</sup>

This note, prepared by the secretariat, provides several options on how digital economy considerations could be integrated into the work under the RPBT studies.

- New UNECE document suggests a new approach to assessing regulatory and procedural barriers to digital trade. It covers areas related to measures at the border (i.e. **to enhance and streamline border procedures**), regulatory policies (e.g. standardization, conformity assessment) and novel issues related to regulatory framework vis-à-vis digital trade. Digital trade reforms should have synergies with innovation, intellectual property and aspects of the digital infrastructure of UNECE programme countries.
- It will be presented and discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (26-27 June).

# Thank you!

*More information is available on the UNECE website:  
<https://unece.org/trade/sctcs-about>*

