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Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

Report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities

Submitted by the secretariat

Summary

This document provides an overview of capacity-building and technical assistance activities carried out under the ECE subprogramme on trade during the period April 2021–March 2022. It includes activities carried out by the secretariat under the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6); Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7); the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). This also includes capacity-building and technical assistance activities carried out by the Regional Adviser. Since April 2020, a particular focus of ECE support to member States' efforts has been placed on supporting a resilient, inclusive, sustainable post COVID recovery.

Sections covering activities by UN/CEFACT and the Regional Adviser are for information only.

This report is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for decision.



I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Trade subprogramme supports trade and economic cooperation among ECE member States and facilitates their integration into global value chains, drawing on the work of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups. The subprogramme contributes to ensuring:

- A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business through strengthening the convergence of regulations, promoting international standards and developing best practices in areas of regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment and market surveillance.
- Sustainable trade in agricultural produce, integration into international supply chains and food loss reduction through the development of agricultural quality standards and related international best practice for implementation and use by regulatory authorities as well as the private sector.
- Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments including global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to automated electronic environments and for the harmonization and simplification of the business processes underpinning export and import activities.

2. Technical assistance and capacity-building activities are demand-driven and delivered in close cooperation with development partners. The activities aim at supporting ECE member States, especially economically less developed and landlocked countries, in their efforts to implement ECE trade-related standards, recommendations and best practice guides. The activities also seek to support the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade caused by capacity shortfalls and differences in administrative procedures, regulations and standardization policies. Activities also contribute to the cross-cutting topic of circular economy and include development of policy options for harnessing the power of trade and economic cooperation for the circular economy transition in the ECE region, and regional meetings to exchange experience on the topic

3. Based on the mandate of ECE to support integration in the ECE region and set standards for trade facilitation and e-business, the Regional Adviser assists countries with economies in transition to facilitate and develop their trade through the implementation of trade facilitation standards, recommendations and other tool and by building subregional cooperation and integration. Activities are carried out with the overall objective to strengthen countries' capacity for economic development and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2021 and 2022, the Regional Adviser's work focused on four areas: (1) assist transition economies in the implementation of trade facilitation (notably, the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA)), contributing to SDG target 17.10: promotion of a universal, rules-based trading system; (2) promote the implementation of ECE trade facilitation standards, recommendations, and reference data models (RDMs), notably for the digitalization of data and document exchange for multimodal transport; (3) support the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), and (4) provide liaison with three United Nations Resident Coordinators (in Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan).

4. The next section provides an overview of the Trade subprogramme's capacity-building and technical assistance activities for the period April 2021–March 2022, highlighting the main objectives pursued, results achieved, and development partners engaged.

II. Capacity-building activities for the period April 2021–March 2022

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title, Venue, Dates</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Partners</i>
1.	Enhancing usage and uptake of the standards for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (July 2018–June 2022).	To increase awareness of and usage by policymakers of standards developed by national, regional and international standards bodies, as part of their strategies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	<p>With the generous contribution of the Government of Germany, WP.6 secretariat has been updating the Standards for SDGs portal (https://standards4sdgs.unece.org/). This is a tool to identify standards that help to realize SDGs as well as provide case studies from countries on how they have used standards to contribute to achieving SDG.</p> <p>The portal has been updated in early 2022 with over twenty thousand standards mapped to SDGs, around fifty case studies and ten expert commentaries. These are provided directly from standards development organizations. Forty additional case studies enhance the relaunch of this portal which was announced on 11 March 2022.</p>	The Government of Germany, the German Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), ASTM International, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), CODEX.
2.	Enhancing usage and uptake of standards for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with special emphasis on gender equality (July 2018–June 2022).	To enhance the usage and uptake of standards as instruments of sustainable development.	<p>The project is preparing for its finalization and the resulting Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative under WP.6 has prepared a request to become a Team of Specialists. Both are expected to be achieved in June–July 2022.</p> <p>During this period, additional signatories to the Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development were registered bringing the current total up to eighty. A methodology guideline has also been prepared and an advanced copy published, guiding organizations on best practices for inclusiveness in standards development and in the resulting standards.</p>	The Government of Germany, PTB, ISO, IEC, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and national standards bodies.

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3.	Metrology and quality infrastructures in the transition to industry 4.0 during International Metrology Congress (CIM) 2021 (September).	To explain that industry 4.0 implies utilizing standards and metrology differently to adapt to new technologies and new processes.	Around 100 participants. Underlined the importance of semantics in order to ensure that all stakeholders are understanding the same things in the same ways. Also underlined the importance of product quality standards for market surveillance and compliance.	International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), ISO, International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).
4.	Regional training workshop on sustainable walnut quality (September 2021).	To strengthen the capacity of authorities, agencies, private sector (walnut producers, traders, and exporters) in using product classification methods, quality control and inspection in accordance with the requirements of ECE standards, and to outline common practices to improve the production, marketing and sales of walnut kernels.	Regional workshop for Central Asia, attended by 62 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. This event was held as part of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project, 11th tranche (2018–2021) “Increased policy coherence and sustainability of national production and consumption patterns in North-South and South-South agriculture trade”.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Hilfswerk International.
5.	Regional policy dialogue “Harnessing trade and economic cooperation for the transition to a circular economy in UNECE region” (online, 28 October 2021).	To kick off the implementation of the 13th tranche UNDA project “Accelerating the transition towards a circular economy” (2021-2024) and facilitate exchange of experience on fostering trade and economic cooperation during the circular economy transition in the ECE region.	The meeting showcased experience of transition towards a more circular economy from countries in the ECE region and provided highlights on the role of trade in the process. Results of the meeting available on the project page (https://unece.org/trade/CicularEconomy/UNDAProject).	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
5a.	Roundtable on Fostering Circularity in Food Trade (16 November 2021).	To explore the links between circular economy and agri-food production, trade, and standards, including in relation to food loss and waste.	The meeting provided insights on the regenerating nature of the circular economy, role of the global trade as the key enabler of efficient food production and on the voluntary sustainability standards. Results of the meeting available on the project page (https://unece.org/trade/CicularEconomy/UNDAProject).	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) [which consists of ECE, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Trade Centre (ITC), UNEP, United Nations Industrial

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				Development Organization (UNIDO), UNCTAD].
5b.	Policy paper: Policy options for harnessing the power of trade and economic cooperation.	To investigate the transitioning to circularity and analyse the role of international trade as an accelerator of this process. Its objective is also to highlight the policies that can boost the transition and provide recommendations about the way forward.	Policy paper will be published to the appropriate web page shortly (https://unece.org/trade/CircularEconomy).	
6.	Strengthening the Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Implement Trade Facilitation Measures (1 April 2021–1 April 2022).	To strengthen national capacities of the beneficiary countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate them into the international rules-based trading system.	Five webinars organized together with partners: on the use of international standards for trade facilitation and e-business (WTO TFA Art.10.3), Single Window (Art.10.4), NTFCs (Art.23.2) and others organized.	Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
6a.	Strengthening the Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Implement Trade Facilitation Measures.	To strengthen national capacities of the beneficiary countries to implement trade facilitation measures and better integrate them into the international rules-based trading system.	In the beginning of 2022 ECE developed a Guide on establishing a trade facilitation enquiry point (TFA Art.1.3). ECE continues to organize activities in support of the implementation of the SPECA trade facilitation strategy. ECE started the creation of an e-learning tool in support of the implementation of the package of standards for the digitalization of data and document exchange in multimodal transport.	Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
7.	Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz National Trade Facilitation Council to implement WTO TFA (October 2019–June 2022).	To strengthen the capacity of the Council to implement trade facilitation reforms and to develop a trade information portal with the focus on emergencies and overcoming trade disruptions caused by COVID-19. The capacity of the Kyrgyz Economic University will be increased through supporting the development and testing of training modules on trade facilitation. Expected results of the project include enhanced knowledge and technical capacities of policymakers and experts of the National Trade Facilitation Council, regulatory agencies and other relevant stakeholders to	National Trade Facilitation Roadmap (2021–2025), Business Process Analysis (BPA) for export of textile products and import of pharmaceutical products from the Kyrgyz Republic have been published in July 2021. Information from BPAs is uploaded to the Kyrgyz Trade Information Portal.	The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, ITC, Kyrgyz Economic University.

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		effectively implement trade facilitation policies and priority measures under Category C of WTO TFA. Improved access of traders to information related to trade regulations and procedures on the National Trade Facilitation Council online portal.		
7a.	International seminars on trade facilitation, Issyk -Kul, (15–16 September 2021); Bishkek (1–2 December 2021); Bishkek (12–13 April 2022).	To present and discuss the content of the newly developed by Kyrgyz Economic University in cooperation with ECE modules on trade facilitation.	The training was delivered to over 120 participants from the public and private sectors, universities and NGOs.	Kyrgyz Economic University
7b.	Virtual Project Launch of the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025 (15 June 2021).	To launch the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025, created during the project Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz National Trade Facilitation Council to implement WTO TFA.	ECE in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce launched the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025. The Roadmap sets out a strategic vision and respective goals and activities for the Kyrgyz Republic to implement. Through these activities the Kyrgyz Republic can transform its trade facilitation services to digitally enabled services, improve its position in global ranking and fully eliminate paper-based documents for export and import of essential goods. The activities in the Roadmap are expected to assist with overcoming COVID-19 related challenges. The Roadmap provides an implementation schedule based on the prioritization of the activities to allow for a higher impact. It also includes priority actions for category C provisions of WTO TFA in the Kyrgyz Republic.	ECE, Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic.
8.	Enhancing Traceability and Transparency for Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and	Improving transparency and traceability is a priority for the garment and footwear industry to increase its ability to manage the value chains more effectively, identify and address labour and human rights violations, health and	This project created a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform engaging with more than 200 UN/CEFACT experts representing over 190,000 companies in more than 30 countries, which have been consulted to produce a toolbox to advance	ITC and the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships.

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	Footwear (June 2019–June 2022).	safety and environmental impacts to handle operational and reputational risks, while embracing more sustainable production and consumption patterns in line with the 2030 Agenda, specifically SDGs 8, 12 and 17. The project aims at providing the tools to take risk-informed decisions, build robust sustainability claims and to operate along a set of internationally agreed practices, thereby increasing visibility and accountability throughout the entire value chain.	transparency and traceability. At the twenty-seventh UN/CEFACT Plenary ECE member States adopted a series of policy recommendations, implementation guidelines and an information exchange standard that together make it possible to assert and verify sustainability claims in the highly globalized garment and footwear sector. The project also launched a call to action, inviting Governments and industry actors to apply this toolkit of measures and take a positive step towards improving the environmental and ethical credentials of the sector. The traceability framework is testing the enabling role of advanced technologies, such as blockchain and DNA markers to support traceability and due diligence for the main textile fibres and materials value chains (cotton, leather, synthetic).	
8a.	Webinar: Traceability and Transparency of Circular Value Chains in Garment and Footwear (December 2021).	Training activity on traceability standards as an aim to promote sustainable and circular trade.	This online workshop developed an understanding of what traceability is and what it means, why we have traceability and how it works. It also created a common understanding of the topic among key industry actors in the Latin American region.	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC).
8b.	International conference on Traceability and Transparency of Sustainability and Circular Value Chains in Garment and Footwear (25 March 2022).	Conference about traceability standards, to promote sustainable and circular value chains, back-to-back with Tashkent International Investment Forum 2022.	The conference developed an understanding of what traceability is and what it means, why we have traceability and how it works. It also created a common understanding of the topic among key industry actors in the Central Asia region.	Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan
9.	Business process analysis for export of pharmaceutical products in Georgia; regular coordination meetings (2020–2021).	To establish and identify possible bottlenecks and propose solutions in the trade-related regulatory and commercial procedures for exporting pharmaceutical products to the Central Asian countries. This study has been conducted under UNDA and its 11th tranche.	The scope of BPA has been agreed with the Government of Georgia. BPA is composed of an overview of the pharmaceutical industry in Georgia and a BPA of export of pharmaceutical	Georgian Revenue Service, Enterprise Georgia.

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		This project, 1819AC, aims to strengthen national capacities for better integration of selected economies in transition in the international rules-based trading system (SDG Target 17.10).	products to Central Asian economies. The BPA analysis will be published in Q2 of 2022.	
10.	ECE / Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Task Force on eCITES electronic permit information exchange (EPIX) Pilot.	To support ECE and ESCAP interested management authorities of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other relevant national stakeholders of CITES Parties, in initiating and carrying out live electronic exchanges of CITES permits.	Regular meetings of the task force (one every two months) on CITES permits to provide a forum for discussion, information sharing and mutual capacity assistance. Electronic exchange is developing in the ECE/ESCAP region.	ESCAP, UNCTAD and ECE/ESCAP interested management authorities.
11.	36th UN/CEFACT Forum Webinar: Single Window and COVID-19 (virtual, 4 May 2021).	Short-term training activity to promote the Single Window concept.	This webinar provided an opportunity to remind about the importance of the Single Window concept and discuss the latest trends. These include the advances in the recently revised UNECE Recommendation 33, the results of the White Paper on Core Principles and the results of the new Recommendation 38 on Pandemic Crisis Trade-Related Response.	
12.	37th UN/CEFACT Forum Webinar: Strengthening Private Sector participation in National Trade Facilitation Bodies (virtual, 12 October 2021).	Short-term training activity to provide insights for broadening and strengthening the organizational framework and performance of National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFB).	With this webinar UN/CEFACT discussed the successes and failures of others who have been tasked with the challenge of increasing participation in NTFB. The findings of the webinar are reflected in the White Paper on “Encouraging private sector participation in NTFB”.	
13.	Launch of the UNECE Regional Report on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021 (15 October 2021).	The United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021 provides updated and comparable information on implementation of nearly 60 trade facilitation measures in 143 countries around the world. As such, it enables countries and development partners to support evidence-based trade facilitation strategies and policies,	At the launch event, the 2021 Survey results were presented to all the ECE member States. Results were also made available on an interactive website (unftsurvey.org), which can generate customized reports based on the Survey results. Also, progress was made towards digital and sustainable trade facilitation at a global level as well as at regional and subregional levels. The	ESCAP.

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		share good and innovative practices and identify capacity-building and technical assistance needs.	survey report and a brochure on the main findings are available online (https://unece.org/trade/outreach-support-TF/global-survey-digital-and-sustainable-trade-facilitation).	
14.	Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19 (24 February 2022).	Strengthen the capacity of the Eurasian region to build resilient, diversified and sustainable value chains at the regional level and to integrate into global value chains post-COVID-19, including through identifying data and knowledge gaps and developing policy options aimed at promoting cooperative ties and export of industrial products with higher value added.	The launch event provided an opportunity for the Eurasian economies to share their insights into existing developments and challenges in the area of global and regional value chains and suggest directions for the project. Discussions also benefitted from the reflections on existing features of the region's integration into regional and global value chains and the impact of COVID-19 by international experts.	UNCTAD, WTO, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation.
15.	Eleven advisory services to the Governments and business community in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and other countries. Most meetings were online, and this allowed for many more participants and countries to benefit.	Support for the functioning and regional cooperation of national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) in these countries. Support trade facilitation and digitalization of multimodal transport projects in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Promote subregional cooperation to achieve SDGs, notably in Central Asia. Cooperate with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) / Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), and other key partners on trade facilitation in the transition economies of Central Asia.	Regional network of NTFCs in Central Asia strengthened. Capacity of over 900 experts to implement the WTO TFA measures, standards for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange for 14 transition economies significantly increased. Strengthened capacity of the SPECA countries to cooperate for the achievement of the SDGs.	Governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, ESCAP, Association Central Asian Partnership for transports and logistics development, GIZ, ADB, EEC.
16.	Capacity-building on exchange of information on trade procedures through dedicated web pages among SPECA countries (series of	Assist SPECA countries (notably their customs services) establish electronic exchange of information.	The web page resources were developed through an ECE capacity-building project and uploaded on the unttc.org project website.	GIZ, the Central Asian Partnership on Transport and Logistics in Central Asia and national customs services.

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	four webinars from February 2021 to March 2022).			
17.	Capacity-building on establishing national trade facilitation enquiry points (series of three webinars from March to November 2021).	Assist the SPECA countries to establish trade facilitation enquiry points (TFA Art.1.3).	Guide on how to establish a trade facilitation enquiry point drafted and published on the unttc.org website. As a pilot country Uzbekistan established such enquiry points following the recommendations of the Guide (see below).	WTO, the Central Asian Partnership on Transport and Logistics in Central Asia and the Government of Uzbekistan.
18.	11th ECE Odessa trade facilitation and Single Window seminar 26–28 May 2021).	Organize the eleventh ECE Odessa seminar as an online event, due to the COVID-19 pandemics, to advance the implementation of standards for electronic document equivalents accompanying goods in five modes of transport, using UN/CEFACT standards and reference data models; support implementation pilot projects, notably in the multimodal digital transport corridors passing through Ukraine, port community and related systems; promote the use of UN/CEFACT standards in digitalization projects in Ukraine and the other countries of the Black Sea – Baltic Sea and Georgia – Ukraine – Azerbaijan – Moldova (GUAM) corridors.	Seminar successfully organized as an interactive online event with English-Russian interpretation. It brought together key representatives (experts and policymakers) from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, and other countries (46 in total), ECE, ICAO, International Maritime Organization (IMO), the European Commission (Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) and Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD)), the EU4DIGITAL project, Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia (TRACECA), GUAM, International Federation of Freight Forwarders (FIATA), International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Port Community System Association (IPCSA), and others. Experts covering all modes of transport led six panels on the advancement of multimodal harmonization and standardization of data and document exchange. Important steps were made for the definition of the next generation of standards for data and document exchange. Reinforced cooperation with FIATA and work on the digitalization of the FIATA multimodal Bill of Lading (seminar materials published at http://unece.plaske.ua/).	National Trade Facilitation Committee of Ukraine, Ministry of Agriculture, various government agencies, UN/CEFACT, European Commission, FIATA.

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19.	Validation seminar on the report on the readiness assessment of Uzbekistan to implement TFA (virtual, 22 April 2022).	Review the report of Uzbekistan consultants on the assessment of readiness of Uzbekistan to implement WTO TFA to meet the requirements for WTO accession, upon request from the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan. The participants (specialists from various agencies and the business community, who had been interviewed by the consultants) reviewed the assessment of the readiness, measure-by-measure, as well as the supporting evidence. Their comments will be used for finalizing the report and submitting it to the Deputy Minister for use in the WTO accession negotiation process and the planification of activities to implement all TFA measures.	Seminar successfully organized as an interactive event on 22 April 2021. We reviewed the report, drafted using a template and questionnaire offered by ECE. Comments were made for the final editing of the readiness assessment report. Decision to use this report as a basis for developing a trade facilitation strategy. First draft of the national trade facilitation strategy prepared in early 2022. The validation seminar was carried out in Russian as per the request of the Uzbek beneficiaries, who provided the online platform.	Government of Uzbekistan, WTO, UNCTAD.
20.	Fourth capacity-building seminar on Single Window and data sharing for the Western Balkans (virtual/Skopje, North Macedonia, 26–27 January 2022).	Organize with the Customs Administration of North Macedonia the fourth workshop on Single Window and data sharing in the Western Balkans to review progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the workshops in 2019 and 2020, discuss progress on the Single Window projects (SW blueprints in Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia), and review directions for new work on data modelling and use of the new package of standards for the digitalization of transport and trade data and document exchange for future work. Explore interest in a new pilot implementation project. Strengthen the network of organizations and country teams working on SW and data sharing in the Western Balkans as well as the willingness to implement the new UN/CEFACT standards for digitalization of multimodal data exchange.	Over one hundred participants joined an innovative workshop that revealed progress and marked advancements in the work on the Single Window projects, deepening work on data models and considering the integration of the UN/CEFACT aligned technical specifications and supporting tools for the digitalization of multimodal transport data exchange. After the presentations, North Macedonia expressed its willingness to participate in the data mapping exercise between the package of standards on multimodal transport data exchange and its customs data sets, using the UN/CEFACT reference data models (notably, the Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM)) as the underlying interface.	Governments of the Western Balkan countries (notably customs), UN/CEFACT, the European Commission (DG TAXUD and DG MOVE), the World Bank, Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA2006), Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development (SEED), and others.
21.	SPECA Days, including the 16th session of the SPECA	Organize, jointly with the Government of Uzbekistan and ESCAP, the 16th session of the	16th session of the SPECA WG on Trade, 2021 SPECA Economic Forum and 16th session of the	ESCAP, UNCTAD, United Nations Regional Centre for

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	WG on Trade, the 2019 SPECA Economic Forum and 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council, (16–19 November 2021, Tashkent, Uzbekistan).	SPECA Governing Council, 2021 SPECA Economic Forum on Sustainable Transport and Trade for Greener and Inclusive Economy after the Pandemic, and 16th session of the SPECA WG on Trade. Support the development and adoption of concluding documents and recommendations from the 16th session of the SPECA Governing Council, including decisions on the SPECA Secretariat and the SPECA Fund. Support the development of a SPECA Work Plan for 2022–2023. Support the development and adoption of a “Tashkent Statement” and continue the implementation of the SPECA programme documents, e.g. the “Ashgabat Initiative” to reduce barriers to trade, transport and connectivity using United Nations instruments, the SPECA Strategies on Innovation for Sustainable Development, Trade Facilitation and Principles of Sustainable Trade. Advance work on sustainable development, green economy, sustainable tourism, gender and SDGs, etc.	<p>SPECA Governing Council successfully carried out. They reviewed and endorsed background documents for future work: promoting sustainable trade and circular economy in SPECA countries; sustainable tourism and the circular economy; harmonization of border-crossing procedures; the connection between trade, water management, food security and the circular economy in the SPECA Regions, as well as a Guide on how to establish trade facilitation enquiry points, progress reports and work plans.</p> <p>Concluding documents and recommendations developed at each meeting. The Working Group on Trade developed and adopted a list of recommendations for its future work. The Economic Forum adopted the Tashkent Declaration to guide future implementation of the SPECA Work Programme in the areas of transport, trade, connectivity, green and circular economy, sustainable tourism, etc. The 16th session of the Governing Council adopted a series of decisions defining the future practical work of the Programme, the SPECA secretariat and Fund.</p> <p>Meetings took place with officials from Uzbekistan, the countries, international organizations and development partners.</p> <p>A press information item was published at the end.</p>	Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), ADB, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), European Union (EU), GIZ, ITC, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), WTO.
22.	Projects to implement several TFA measures (a trade facilitation enquiry point national trade facilitation strategy, alignment of digitalization of transport	Organize several small projects on establishing a trade facilitation enquiry point; drafting a national trade facilitation strategy; alignment of digitalization of transport data and document exchange to the United Nations standards to	Trade facilitation enquiry point established; first draft of a national trade facilitation strategy ready; study prepared on possible alignment of digitalization of transport data and document exchange to the UN/CEFACT standards.	Government of Uzbekistan: Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, customs, Ministry of Transport, etc. (Chief Negotiator on accession to WTO and State

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	data and document exchange to the United Nations standards) in Uzbekistan.	help agencies of Uzbekistan implement WTO TFA to meet WTO accession requirements.		Customs Committee of Uzbekistan).
23.	Segment of the UNDA project “Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemic: United Nations solutions for contactless, seamless and collaborative transport and trade”.	Implement existing (UN/CEFACT) standards for electronic data and document exchange, develop new ones for various modes of transport, allowing for a quick change towards more standardized electronic data and document exchange. Build on the wealth of traditional best practices in trade and transport facilitation accumulated by the participating agencies.	<p>The package of standards for electronic document equivalents accompanying goods in multimodal transport completed (standards and artefacts for the last 3 air cargo documents developed in 2021 and published in January 2022). The digital version of the FIATA multimodal Bill of Lading, aligned with the UN/CEFACT MMT RDM, tested and launched in March 2022. Matrices of data in the various transport documents and dangerous goods documents prepared.</p> <p>Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and other countries involved in pilot projects to implement the UN/CEFACT standards along multimodal transport routes. Significant advancements in railway cargo transport.</p> <p>Activities on data sharing and alignment with MMT RDM in 2021 included a brainstorming on data harmonization and modelling using UN/CEFACT standards, organized by ECE and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on 7 June 2021.</p> <p>Twenty-one expert meetings on four modes of transport (rail, road, air, and inland water) discussing the practical use and improvement of the standards and artefacts for the digitalization of the data and document exchange in multimodal setting.</p> <p>Six pilot implementation projects on the package of standards for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange (Dnieper-Danube timber exports; IMO/FAL forms digitalization; GUAM</p>	All ECE countries with economies in transition.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title, Venue, Dates</i>	<i>Objective(s)</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Partners</i>
			digital twins pilot; converter between UN/EDIFACT and Western European XML based solutions, using the UN/CEFACT standards; multimodal and road consignment note digitalization in Eastern Europe; EU-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) pilot test (for the standards and pilot project reports see https://unttc.org/stream/electronic-trade-and-transport-documents-and-data).	
			For more details, see ECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division segments at unttc.org .	
24.	Seminar on organizing the WTO accession process for Turkmenistan.	Assist Turkmenistan to organize its process of accession to WTO and prepare to implement WTO TFA.	Webinar organized successfully on 25 March 2022.	Mission in Geneva and the Government of Turkmenistan.
25.	Extrabudgetary project to assist the SPECA countries implement the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade.	Assist SPECA countries to assess their readiness to implement the SPECA Principles of Sustainable Trade, adopted by the 14th session of the SPECA Governing Council.	Study on the nexus between trade facilitation, water management and food security started. It will be used for a series of national capacity-building seminars in SPECA countries.	All SPECA countries.
26.	Coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinators in Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan on the overall activities of ECE in these countries.	Assist the coordination effort between ECE and the United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan.	Work plans for coordination between ECE activities and the United Nations Country Teams in Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan drafted, endorsed and implemented.	Kazakhstan, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan.