



**Capacity-Building Workshop / side event to the
11th Asia-Pacific Paperless Trade Forum**

**Using the UN/CEFACT Semantic Standards and Multimodal
Transport Reference Data Model**

for the implementation of the

***SPECA Roadmap for the Digitalization of Multimodal Data and
Document Exchange along the Trans-Caspian Transport
Corridor, Using United Nations legal instruments and standards***

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 4 April 2024

**To participate in this conference, in person and online participants, please
register at: [registerUNECE4AprSamarkand](https://register.unece.org/4apr2024/samarkand)**

1. This event is organized as a side event to the 11th Asia-Pacific Paperless Trade Forum (1-5 April, Samarkand, Uzbekistan) in collaboration between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other partners. It is a regional seminar to build capacity on digitalizing data and document exchange in the SPECA region using the standards of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It is a response to the demand of the delegations of Uzbekistan and other States participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) at the SPECA Governing Council on 23 November 2023 in Baku to organize capacity-building on the use of the UN/CEFACT standards in the rollout of the Trans-Caspian Corridor Digitalization Roadmap.
2. The Presidential Summit of the States Participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) on 24 November 2023 adopted the SPECA "Roadmap for the digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the Trans-Caspian transport corridor, using United Nations legal instruments and standards",¹ prepared with support from UNECE in 2022-2023. The Roadmap envisages action for the digitalization of multimodal data

¹ <https://unece.org/speca/speca-digitalization-roadmap>

and document exchange along supply chains in the Trans-Caspian Corridor, using the semantic standards and Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

3. The proposal for this Roadmap came at the International High-level Conference “Digital Transformation of Information Exchange in Supply Chains Using United Nations Standards”, Baku, Azerbaijan, 31 October 2022. In their Joint Ministerial Statement on 17 April 2023, the SPECA participating States asked “the UNECE to develop a Roadmap for a digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along the trans-Caspian transport corridor using relevant United Nations standards, including through realizing a regional pilot project for SPECA participating States”. UNECE already started such a project, together with TRACECA, for the digitalization of the CIM/SMGS railway consignment note along the Trans-Caspian Corridor. At the seminar in Samarkand, we will review the implementation of this pilot project and see how it can be linked to other ones; invite Uzbekistan to join this and launch other multimodal data and document exchange projects.
4. The problem that we seek to address is the fragmentation of digitalization efforts in the supply chains in this and other SPECA corridors. The solution we suggest is to base information flows about cargo moved along multimodal digital trade and transport corridors on alignment with the UN/CEFACT global semantic standards and Multimodal Transport reference Data Model (MMT RDM).
5. In this sense, the seminar will seek to:
 - a. Identify business requirements for the digital exchange of data and documents among various modes of transport and sectors in the of the supply chain in the SPECA corridors,
 - b. Assess the availability of technical skills in the SPECA participating States for harmonized digitalization of multimodal transport data and document exchange, aligned with the global standards and reference data models.
 - c. Raise the awareness and capacity of the participants to digitalize data and document exchange aligned with the UN/CEFACT standards,
 - d. Discuss the possibilities for concrete pilot testing projects for the digitalization of information exchange in collaboration with development partners.
6. The target audience of this seminar will include policymakers and experts with technical skills from the relevant national agencies dealing with digitalization, trade regulation, transport, and transit procedures, as well as the business community (traders, transporters, freight forwarders, IT developers, etc.). This will be a capacity-building to generate skills in the target countries to implement the innovative approach of harmonized digitalization of data and document exchange along the corridor.
7. Discussions on the contribution of UN standards and involvement of international organizations and the private sector will help formulate the conclusions and recommendations on the next steps and pilot projects to support relevant initiatives in the region.

CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR AGENDA

OPENING

8:30 – 9:00

Welcome statements and opening

High-level representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Concept and expected results of the seminar; the SPECA digitalization Roadmap

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

State of play in digitalizing documents accompanying goods in the SPECA region

Representatives of the countries

IMPLEMENTATION OF UN STANDARDS TO DIGITALIZE SUPPLY CHAINS

9:00 – 10:50

How to implement standards for digitalization of international supply chains. UN/CEFACT standards on the UN website: how to use them?

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Implementing the Trans-Caspian digitalization Roadmap using the UNECE, UN/CEFACT package of standards and pilot implementation projects for digital corridors

Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE

Best practice experience of the use of UN/CEFACT standards: EU Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation. Significance of electronic platforms

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

A pilot project experience: e-CIM/SMGS railway consignment note pilot

TRACECA (Mr. Asset Assavbayev, Secretary General, TRACECA, t.b.c.)

Development of a prototype for the CIM/SMGS consignment note

Mr. Orkhan Namazov, UNECE consultant

Digitalization of consignment notes and dangerous goods declarations

Ms. Sue Probert, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Implementation of eTIR in Uzbekistan

Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Head of Section, UNECE, or Mr. Elyor Khakimov, Head of unit in the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan

10:50 – 11:10 **Discussion on possible pilot implementation of (1) the digitalization of consignment notes and additional documents, using the international standards, (2) legal aspects of the transition from document to dataset exchange, (3) creating centres of expertise/excellence on digitalizing multimodal data and document exchange in the SPECA region.** *The event will end with a discussion from the perspective of the SPECA Roadmap for digitalization of multimodal data and document exchange along trade and transport corridors, using the UN standards*

11:10 – 11:15 **CLOSING SESSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
