



9th session

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

26-28 June 2024

Palais des Nations | Geneva



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 1234
www.unece.org



9th session

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

26-28 JUNE 2024 | ROOM V | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

Ninth session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Final Programme¹

(Registration <https://indico.un.org/event/1007144/>)

Tuesday, 25 June 2024

Starting from
18:00

RECEPTION

3rd floor of the Building A at the Palais des Nations
To attend the reception, please register additionally for CICPPP at
<https://indico.un.org/event/1007130/>.

Wednesday, 26 June 2024

15:00 – 15:10

1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- **Mr. Nurbek Maksutov**, Vice Chair, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, UNECE

A. HIGH-LEVEL SUBSTANTIVE SEGMENT

15:10 – 18:00

2. UNECE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

See a separate programme.²

Thursday, 27 June 2024

10:00 – 10:30

B. GENERAL SEGMENT

3. PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Chair and secretariat will report on the status of the implementation of the programme of work currently underway and present the Trade subprogramme's draft programme of work for 2025 and outline of key components of the programme of work for 2026.

3.A STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADE SUBPROGRAMME'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2024

¹Speakers are listed alphabetically by member States (first) and organizations they represent.

²This Conference is part of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships ([CICPPP](#)) (agenda item 9, substantive segment (b) Accelerating the Circular Economy transition in the UNECE) and part of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards ([SCTCS](#)) (agenda item 2, high-level substantive segment (a) Regional Conference on the Circular Economy). It is organized with support of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on "Accelerating the Transition towards a Circular Economy in the UNECE region".



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3.B DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE TRADE SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2025 AND OUTLINE OF KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2026

10:30 – 11:30

4. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

The secretariat will report on the capacity-building activities conducted since the Committee session in 2023 and invite member States to present their capacity-building needs for UNECE technical assistance, including for conducting UNECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and follow-up activities.

- **Mr. Mario Apostolov**, Regional Advisor, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
- Comments from Member States

11:30 – 12:45

5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE BODIES

The secretariat will report on the ongoing cooperation with other international organizations and invite representatives from other international organizations and UNECE bodies to highlight areas where cooperation with the Steering Committee is ongoing as well as potential future activities.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Ms. Gracia Brisco**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Alimentarius Secretariat
- **Mr. Yann Duval**, Chief, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- **Ms. Irene Olivan**, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade Policy Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- **Mr. Ian Dunmill**, Member, International Network on Quality Infrastructure (iNetQI) and Assistant Director, International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
- **Ms. Seul Lee**, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) & United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS)
- **Ms. Serra Ayrál**, Secretary, Technical Barriers to Trade Committee, World Trade Organization (WTO)
- **Mr. Daniil Orlov**, Economic Affairs Officer, Academic Outreach and Chairs Programme, WTO
- **Mr. Umid Yakubkhodjaev**, Dean, Faculty of International Law, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan

UNECE BODIES and NETWORKS

- **Mr. Ralph Heinrich**, Secretary, Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships, UNECE
- **Ms. Maria Teresa Pisani**, Chief ad interim, Trade Facilitation Section and Secretary, Team of Specialists on Environmental, Social and Governance Traceability of Sustainable Value Chains in the Circular Economy, UNECE
- **Ms. Roksolana Melancia**, Lead, Circular STEP initiative, UNECE
- **Mr. Mikael Romàn**, Coordinator, Transformative Innovation Network (ETIN), UNECE



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12:45 – 13:00

6. FOLLOW-UP TO THE EVALUATION OF THE TRADE SUBPROGRAMME AND THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION SUBPROGRAMME BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES

In 2022, the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, sustainability, and integration of cross-cutting issues in subprogramme 4: Economic Cooperation and Integration, and subprogramme 6: Trade of UNECE for the period 2018–2021. The evaluation was part of the United Nations secretariat's regular program periodically evaluating selected aspects of its operations. This segment will discuss the progress of implementing the recommendations of the evaluation as they pertain to subprogramme 6.

13:00 – 15:00

LUNCH BREAK

C. SUBSTANTIVE SEGMENT

7. REMOVING REGULATORY AND PROCEDURAL BARRIERS TO TRADE IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGION, COUNTRY STUDIES: ARMENIA, KAZAKHSTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN

This segment will discuss findings and recommendations emerging from the UNECE Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in [Republic of Armenia](#), [Republic of Kazakhstan](#) and [Kyrgyz Republic](#). Each of the three UNECE studies assesses current and potential export markets and undertakes a business process analysis and assessment of the trade quality infrastructure for exports of selected products to specific destinations. The Studies also highlight the implications of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade for achieving sustainable development goals and provide action-oriented recommendations to improve integration in global and regional value chains. The Studies respectively aim to enhance export opportunities for fish products (Republic of Armenia), vegetable oil (Republic of Kazakhstan) and dried apricots and prunes (Kyrgyz Republic). Each of these two dimensions (quality infrastructure and trade facilitation) will be discussed in separate panels.

Furthermore, recognizing the role of the services sector as a source of economic growth in recent decades and with a view to flagging the importance of re-energizing international cooperation on services trade, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank will present their joint WTO and World Bank [Report on Trade in Services for Development](#), which, among others, looks at the role of logistics, finance and information technologies in the functioning of modern economies.

15:00 – 15:30

PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBER STATES

- **Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Zhak Hakobyan**, Head of the CEPA and WTO Division of the EU Economic Cooperation Department, the Republic of Armenia
- **Ms. Aliya Alimbetova**, Director, Department of Foreign Trade Activities, Ministry of Trade and Integration, the Republic of Kazakhstan



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15:30 – 16:15

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE: CHALLENGES TO INTEGRATION INTO VALUE CHAINS. PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS FROM THE STUDIES BY UNECE SECRETARIAT AND REFLECTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- **Mr. Ariel Ivanier**, Chief ad interim, Market Access Section, UNECE
- **Mr. Ravi Khetarpal**, Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
- **Ms. Irene Olivan**, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade Policy Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- **Ms. Tatiana Chernyavskaya**, Project Manager, Department of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

16:15 – 17:00

TRADE FACILITATION: FINDINGS FROM BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYSIS. PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS FROM THE STUDIES BY UNECE SECRETARIAT AND REFLECTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- **Ms. Nadezhda Sporysheva**, Secretary, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, UNECE
- **Mr. Marco Nindl**, Senior Banker, Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- **Ms. Valerie Picard**, Head of Trade, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- **Mr. Steven Tipman**, Executive Director, Trade Facilitation Office (TFO), Canada

17:00 – 18:00

WAY FORWARD: FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION – ROLE OF TRADE IN SERVICES

- **Mr. Martin Roy**, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO
- **Mr. Pierre Sauvé**, Senior Trade Specialist, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice, World Bank Group
- **Ms. Elisabeth Türk**, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
- **Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic

Friday, 28 June 2024

10:00 – 12:00

8. UPDATES FROM THE WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES (WP. 6) AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Steering Committee will review the report of the thirty-third session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), as well as the work plan of the Working Party with the objective to endorse them. The Working Party has undertaken work on the regulatory compliance of products with embedded artificial intelligence or other digital technologies and has made efforts to better disseminate the basic guidance on the topics it covers.

The Working Party will present the summaries of working practices (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/12) and the practices for representation and the use of titles within the Working Party (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2023/13) to the Steering Committee for information. Delegates will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the work of WP.6.



9th session

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

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- **Mr. Lance Thompson**, Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (WP. 6), UNECE
- **Mr. Marco Pangallo**, Vice-Chair, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (WP. 6), UNECE
- **Mr. Jan Deconinck**, Chair, Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS), WP.6, UNECE and Head of Department of Metrology, Belgium
- **Ms. Maureen Logghe**, President, European Cooperation for Accreditation
- **Mr. Ian Dunmill**, Member, International Network on Quality Infrastructure (iNetQI) and Assistant Director, International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
- **Ms. Caro Robson**, Lex Informatica
- **Ms. Caitlin Kraft-Buchman**, CEO/Founder, Women at the Table

12:00 – 13:00

9. UPDATES FROM THE WORKING PARTY ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS (WP. 7)

The Steering Committee will review the report of the seventy-eighth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), as well as the work plan of the Working Party for 2024 with the objective to review them.

The Working Party has undertaken work on the revision of its terms of reference, the adoption of new standards, the revised standard layout for UNECE standards on fresh fruit and vegetables, and the revised position papers of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes. The Working Party also continued to focus on food loss, waste, and sustainability. Delegates will have an opportunity to clarify questions and provide comments on the work of WP.7.

- **Ms. Agnieszka Sudol**, Chair, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), UNECE
- **Ms. Marit Nilses**, Secretary, Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), UNECE

13:00 – 15:00

LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 16:30

10. REMOVING REGULATORY AND PROCEDURAL BARRIERS TO TRADE IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGION, COUNTRY STUDIES, FORTHCOMING COUNTRY STUDIES: AZERBAIJAN AND TURKMENISTAN

In 2023, the EXCOM approved two extra-budgetary projects (i.e. “Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Turkmenistan” (Informal Document no. 2023/39) and “Strengthening capacity of Azerbaijan to reduce regulatory and procedural barriers to trade” (Informal Document no. 2023/44)).

The secretariat will present the initial outlines proposed under these projects and invite member States and representatives of international organizations to reflect on the technical assistance needs in the framework of the Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade for Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

With the objective to assist countries in establishing the institutional and legislative framework for ensuring their successful integration into the global economy, including as part of the WTO accession process, these tailor-made Studies will provide an in-depth analysis of the non-tariff



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measures governing trade in goods, identify a country's needs to improve the trade regime and customs system and provide action-oriented recommendations.

PRESENTATION OF THE FORTHCOMING STUDIES ON REGULATORY AND PROCEDURAL BARRIERS

- **Ms. Nadezhda Sporysheva**, Secretary, Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, UNECE
- **Mr. Kadir Basboga**, Senior Regional Integration and Trade Economist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (pre-recorded)
- **Mr. Nazrin Mirzazada**, Deputy Head of the Standardization, Technical Regulation and Certification Department, State Service for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Control under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Mr. Ata Chapaev**, Senior Specialist, International Division, Department of Public Finance and Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan

STUDIES ON REGULATORY AND PROCEDURAL BARRIERS TO TRADE: EXPERIENCE OF OTHER UNECE MEMBERS

- **Mr. Hiddo Houben**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of the European Union to the WTO
- **Ms. Diana Levenco**, National Business Regulation and Investment Consultant, Economic Council to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

REFLECTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- **Ms. Daria Karman**, Associate Programme Officer for Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business of the International Trade Centre (ITC)
- **Ms. Seul Lee**, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD
- **Ms. Silvia Sorescu**, Policy Analyst, Trade Policy Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- **Mr. Maarten Smeets**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, World Trade Institute (WTI), Bern
- **Mr. Suvra Chakraborty**, Managing Partner of Rishi Partners

16:30 – 17:00 | **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

17:00 – 18:00 | **12. MODALITIES FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

Registration:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1007144/>

Further information:

[Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards - Ninth Session | UNECE](#)

Contact:

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