FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Boosting capacities and partnerships for implementation

23-27 January / Janvier 2017

Technical assistance for the implementation of Trade Facilitation reforms

Shamika N. Sirimanne
Director, Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL) UNCTAD
Trade Facilitation and Development

• Trade Facilitation is ever more important for developing countries.

• Yet, Trade Facilitation is also more difficult to implement for them than for developed economies.
Trade Facilitation and Development

• More developed countries have advanced more in the implementation of trade facilitation reforms
Trade Facilitation and Development

We support Trade Facilitation because it is good for

- Trade
- Revenue collection
- Enforcement
- Human and institutional capacity development and the formalization of the informal sector
## Trade Facilitation at UNCTAD

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- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building**
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- **Consensus Building**
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2. Technical assistance
3. Consensus building
4. Looking forward
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Review of Maritime Transport - UNCTAD’s long-established true flagship publication: Maritime transport statistics and trends.

The quarterly Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter provides information on latest events and publications + it features selected topical articles.
Research and Analysis

Research on implementation costs, National TF Committees, development implications, Technical Notes, Trade Facilitation in RTAs, and more
Repository on National Trade Facilitation Committees, jointly maintained with ITC and UNECE
Research and Analysis

UNCTAD has continued and expanded its on-line databases aimed at supporting evidence-based research, technical cooperation and capacity-building in the area of transport and trade facilitation.
UNCTAD’s country-level Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) 2016 has just been published in its 13th year. The Index provides an indicator of a country’s access to the global liner shipping network and thus to overseas markets for most manufactured goods.
UNCTAD activities in Trade Facilitation

1. Research and analysis

2. Technical assistance

3. Consensus building

4. Looking forward
Technical Assistance

UNCTAD contributes to several international teaching programmes, including universities, private sector conferences, regional programmes, as well as UNCTAD’s own training programmes such as the P166 and the Port Training programme.
Technical Assistance

UNCTAD assists numerous member countries in preparing for implementation of the WTO TFA.
Technical Assistance

UNCTAD’s Empowerment Programme for NTFCs
Implemented in collaboration with ITC, UNECE and WCO
Technical Assistance

UNCTAD, the German aid agency GIZ and Trade Mark East Africa collaborate to provide assistance for the Agreement on Trade Facilitation in the **East African Community** (EAC)
Technical Assistance

UNCTAD continued the ASYCUDA implementation, its largest technical assistance programme (presently 98 countries & territories, 113 since its inception).

• One new country: Kazakhstan
• In total, there were 60 operational ASYCUDA technical assistance projects.
• In 2015, UNCTAD staff and consultants undertook 300 support, training and advisory missions, including 225 training sessions, for an audience of more than 2000 participants.
Technical Assistance

Installation of the ASYCUDA Performance Indicators Module in Liberia with the assistance of the World Customs Organization and funding from Norway
Several new MOUs and partnerships were initiated or signed, however funding or allocation of human resources is required to carry forward the initiatives. Such framework instruments can help ensure the long-term sustainability of the ASYCUDA Programme, and increase synergy among IOs.
Technical Assistance

Together with colleagues in the Investment Division and at ITC, we develop comprehensive Trade Portals.
UNCTAD activities in Trade Facilitation

1. Research and analysis
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3. Consensus building
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Consensus Building

UNCTAD just last week co-hosted the steering group meeting of the **Global Facilitation Partnership** for Transportation and Trade (GFP). The meeting helped coordinate UNCTAD’s technical assistance, aimed at implementing Trade Facilitation reforms, with other international players.
Consensus Building

UNCTAD contributes to the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
Consensus Building

Last but not least, we are proud to be co-hosting this important Forum on NTFCs, which we believe is an important contribution to strengthening the multilateral trading system.
UNCTAD activities in Trade Facilitation

1. Research and analysis

2. Technical assistance

3. Consensus building

4. Looking forward
The way forward

**Research:** Trade Logistics & Sustainable Development

Trade facilitation reforms are key for the future development of nations.

At the same time, the necessary reforms and investment are difficult to undertake for many developing countries and LDCs. UNCTAD’s research helps understand and identify the linkages, assisting policy makers and development partners to set the right priorities.
The way forward

Technical Assistance: **Strengthen & Build Capacities**

Transport and trade facilitation reforms are increasingly complex. UNCTAD builds and strengthens national capacities, including through PPPs, national Trade Facilitation Committees, transport observatories et al.
The way forward

Consensus building: Finding common grounds

Trade Logistics is a key component of globalization. Consensus building at UNCTAD helps identify global solutions to serve as “global public goods”, formulate win-win outcomes and underscores the nexus between sustainable development and global/ regional standards and rules.
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Boosting capacities and partnerships for implementation
PREMIER FORUM INTERNATIONAL SUR LES COMITÉS NATIONAUX DE FACILITATION DES ÉCHANGES
Renforcement des capacités et des partenariats pour la mise en œuvre
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Thank You
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