DIVISION ON TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS
REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

WORKING PARTY ON THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THE PROGRAMME BUDGET
14 & 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENTATION BY SHAMIKA N. SIRIMANNE, DIRECTOR, DTL
DTL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

• Closely aligned with DTL/UNCTAD mandates
  • Maafikiano and previous UNCTAD Conferences
  • 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

• In 2019 DTL accounted for: 64% of UNCTAD TC expenditures and 76% of funds for new projects (national, regional and interregional) raised by UNCTAD

• DTL follows a programmatic approach to TC

• DTL TC is demand driven

• Delivered in partnerships, including UN regional economic commissions, specialized UN agencies, Development Banks, Regional Economic Organizations

• Enabled by generous support of our development partners
ASYCUDA

Key facts in 2019

• UNCTAD largest TC programme (54% of total expenditures in 2019, near US$ 21 million)
• ASYCUDA in 100+ countries including 41 African countries, 39 LDCs, 34 SIDS and 21 LLDCs
• 22 new projects or addenda signed in 2019
• 90 operational projects; 11 regional
• 400+ advisory missions; 300+ training sessions for 3’000+ participants
Impacts (2019)

- Bangladesh: 3.8 million import/export declarations processed
- Fiji, PNG & Samoa: simplified customs clearance from an average of 35 steps to 10 steps
- Jamaica: 70% of commercial cargo released within 6 hrs after payment in 2019, against 55% released within 24hrs in 2016; 16% increase of revenue compared to 2018
- Madagascar: 34% increase of customs revenue in 2017-2019
- Uganda: Trade costs reduced by 70% in 2019
ASYCUDA

Developments in 2019

• New user-countries: Gambia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Tuvalu
• Customs-centric Single Window systems for trade in Burundi, Comoros and Timor-Leste
• eCITES system launch in Sri Lanka for international trade of endangered species
• Launch of the Customs Automation Regional Support Centre in Lusaka, Zambia in cooperation with COMESA
• Extraction of trade data tool with ITC and the African Trade Observatory
ASYCUDA

COVID-19 Measures

- **Guidelines for Customs Administrations** to adapt the ASYCUDA system to reduce the impact of COVID-19 (further paperless procedures, review of risk management and organizational arrangements, ICT infrastructure adjustments, implementation of tax policy changes...)

- **Survey** on the tailoring of ASYCUDA systems against COVID-19

  **Key findings:**
  
  ✓ 39% user-countries do not require submission of hard copies of documentation
  ✓ 72% use ASYCUDAWorld reports to monitor impact of crisis on trade
  ✓ 48% need assistance to develop Business continuity plan

- Remote local, regional and international assistance from ASYCUDA experts to user-countries due to travel restrictions
SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT TRANSPORT

• **SFT through Public Private Partnerships:** Assisting Angola since 2018 in reforming/upgrading their PPP policies for transport (TRAINFORTRADE II project-EU)
  - Angola launched new PPP legislation and presidential decree in 2019,
  - 2020 follow-up includes training on methodologies to evaluate new PPP projects for SFT

• **Trans-Saharan Road (TSR) corridor** Partnership with Islamic Development Bank:
  - Assessment of corridor performance and recommendations on suitable corridor management mechanism underway
  - Reviewing trade potentials along corridor with local partners
Sustainable maritime transport

- At request of SIDS: evaluate impact on SIDS and LDCs of 5 proposals discussed in IMO on ship energy efficiency and GHG emissions reduction
  - Support SIDS and LDCs in IMO discussions
  - Help them tailor policy response to IMO decision

Project on **Climate resilient transport infrastructure** for sustainable trade, tourism and development in SIDS, in partnership with UNEP
- help inform countries positions in discussions under COP25-UNCCC
TRADE FACILITATION

Objective: Building capacity to implement trade facilitation reforms, including WTO TFA, AfCFTA, PACER+ etc.

Achievements 2019-2020:
• Activities in 30 countries, 15 new countries
• 500+ people trained – 45% women
• Assistance and advisory services for WTO TFA implementation and transit
• Road Maps for TF implementation
• Simplification of TF procedures
• Transparency in trade facilitation through trade information portals
• TF On-line training roll-out for NTFCs
• Single window legal assessments

Impact
UNCTAD Empowerment Program (EP) for National TF Committees
• 94% believed the EP improved their knowledge on trade facilitation
• 85% feel in a better position to fulfill their role as NTFC members

Since 2016, UNCTAD has developed capacity in 56 countries around the world to improve their trade facilitation committees.

These 56 countries are composed of the following:

- Africa: 34 countries
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 10 countries
- Asia and Oceania: 12 countries

Capacity development done through 3 languages: English, French, Portuguese
Objective: Building capacity to implement trade facilitation reforms, including WTO TFA, AfCFTA, PACER+ etc.

Covid-19 response in Trade Facilitation

• On-line training roll-out for NTFCs

• National and regional TF and transit coordination capacity building

• National crisis preparedness assessments

• Advisory services
NEW DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT ON TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS IN TIMES OF COVID

Together with the five UN Regional Commissions providing COVID-19 response in trade and transport through 6 initiatives:

1. ASYCUDA solutions: Supporting critical measures by countries to promote minimal physical contact, and ensure business continuity through Customs and trade procedures automation.

2. Trade facilitation response: Improving national and regional TF and transit coordination through crisis preparedness assessments and NTFC assistance.


4. Non-Tariff Measures awareness: Providing TRAINS online NTM portal and training to increase transparency and raise awareness regarding NTMs.

5. Maritime supply chain resilience and robustness: Developing global Port Resilience Tracker; training, knowledge material and guidelines on risk management and resilience.

TRAINFORTRADE

Building capacity on port management, e-commerce and trade statistics through innovative approaches.

From September 2019 to August 2020:

- 49 activities delivered to over 2,600 participants from 173 countries
- Certification, performance and satisfaction rates between 72-96% (RBM compliant)
- Development and regular updates of the webpage “Ports in the fight against COVID-19”
- Design of the new Special Course “Building Port Resilience Against Pandemics”
COURSES ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA – P166

• **Regional courses:**
  ✓ Africa (Kenya), Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia) and Asia and the Pacific (Singapore) delivered in 2019
  ✓ 44th regional course for Eastern Europe (North Macedonia) postponed to October 2020 due to the impact of the global pandemic
  ✓ Middle East and North Africa tentatively scheduled for December 2020

• **Pilot Interregional Course**
  ✓ Delivered in June 2019 in a parallel event to the TDB
  ✓ The 2020 Interregional Platform is postponed due to the impact of the global pandemic

• **Short courses** for Geneva-based delegates:
  ✓ 6 were held in 2019
  ✓ 3 will be held in September, October and November 2020
ECOMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessments
• 7 new eT Readies delivered in 2019 for Benin, Kiribati, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Tanzania and Tuvalu.
• 3 eT Readies in the pipeline (Iraq, Cote d'Ivoire, Tunisia)

National eCommerce Strategy
• Underway in Myanmar, Botswana, Rwanda
• Exploring funding opportunities for 15 eT Readies and 11 National eCommerce strategies for which we received requests

Follow-up survey in e-tradey countries
• examines how e-commerce businesses have been affected by the COVID crisis and presents good practices from countries in terms of measures to boost e-commerce in response to the crisis.
ECOMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

eTrade for Women Master Classes

Objective: combine inspirational, business-oriented and networking sessions to women entrepreneurs, as well as a policy dialogue.

- Eastern Europe and Economies in Transition, North Macedonia (Oct 2019)
- Western Africa (in French), Côte d'Ivoire, February 2020
- Virtual session for Eastern African countries, July 2020
- Virtual session for South East Asian countries, September 2020

Measuring the Digital Economy

- Updating manual on the production of statistics on the information economy
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

• STIP Review for Dominican Republic and Uganda finalized in 2020
• Ethiopia began a new National STI policy and related implementing plan following the STIP review completed in late 2019
• STIP review advancing for Zambia and started for Botswana
• Requests made by Lesotho and Nigeria - require funding
FORGING PARTNERSHIPS ON STI THROUGH CSTD

UNCTAD-China

- Training to build capacities, share experiences, lessons on STI Policy and Management for SDG (Guangzhou), and High-Tech Park and Incubator Development (Wuhan)

- CROPWATCH New capacity-building programme to enable use of earth observation systems to monitor crop growth, and early warning of natural disasters affecting food security.

UNCTAD-Brazil

- To build STI policy making capacity on creating technology centers and ecosystems for CSTD member countries

UNCTAD-Okayama University

- Young Female Scientist Programme & PhD courses to build human capital in STI-related fields in developing countries
PARTNERSHIPS ON STI

UNCTAD co-leads UN Interagency Task Team of Technology Facilitation Mechanism (IATT)

• Online training modules being prepared
• STI for SDG Roadmaps being prepared

New Development Account project on technology assessment in African countries with UNECA, about to start

Tech Access Partnership (TAP):

UNCTAD (with UNDP and WHO) supports the UN Technology Bank for LDC’s initiative to ensure equitable access to essential health technologies by scaling up local production of critical health technologies needed to combat COVID-19
RISKS AND CHALLENGES

• Main challenge is the mismatch between the limited resource availability and the increasing demands on the sub-programme

• At least 36 formal TC requests to DTL by countries and regional organisations in the past 5 years have remained unfunded
Thank you

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