Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation

Trade Logistics Branch
Division on Technology and Logistics

Content

The 4 sessions
Participation
Key issues

The four sessions

Session 1: February 2009
Session 2: December 2009
Session 3: December 2010
Session 4: December 2011

Terms of Reference

Document TD/B/55/9:
“Terms of reference for multi-year and single-year expert meetings”

Session 1

Terms of Reference (inter alia):

“Emerging challenges (…) in particular the impact of high fuel prices and high freight rates, climate change and supply-chain security imperatives (…)”

“The regulatory and legal framework (…)”

Session 1

Background document/ theme:

“Maritime transport and the climate change challenge”
Session 2

Terms of Reference (inter alia):

“Best practices for public-private partnerships in developing infrastructure (…)”

“Support to the implementation process of the Almaty Programme of Action (…)”

Session 2

Background document/ theme:

“Public and Private Partnerships for the Development of Infrastructure to Facilitate Trade and Transport”

Session 3

Terms of Reference (inter alia):

“(…) effective implementation of trade facilitation measures (…)”

“(…) the use of information and communication technologies (…)”

“Emerging challenges affecting transport costs and connectivity (…)”

Session 3

Background document/ theme:

“Emerging challenges and recent developments affecting transport and trade facilitation”

Session 4

Terms of Reference (inter alia):

“(…) implementation of trade facilitation measures”

“(…) landlocked and transit developing countries”

“(…) contribution of investment, in particular private sector investment, in trade facilitation, with a particular focus on its impacts on international transport networks (…) use of information and communication technologies in logistics, trade facilitation and supply chain security”

Session 4

Background document/ theme:

“Challenges and policy options for transport and trade facilitation”
**Content**

The 4 sessions

**Participation**

Key issues

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**Participation: Number of States and participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Session 3</th>
<th>Session 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States members</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOs, NGOs, observers</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Panelists: participation by country groups and institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
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<th>Session 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developed countries</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organizations and NGOs</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing countries</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Panelists: Regional percentages**

Developed countries from Asia and the Pacific: 20%
Developed countries from Africa: 19%
Developed countries from Latin America and the Caribbean: 9%
International Organizations and NGOs: 33%

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**Financed experts: Regional percentages**

Asia: 33%
Latin America and the Caribbean: 29%
Africa: 30%

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**Financed experts: Country groups**

 Islands: 29%
LLDCs: 41%
Transit: 30%
Chairs, Vice Chairs

- Greece
- Indonesia
- Uruguay
- St. Lucia
- United States
- Nepal
- Oman
- Paraguay

Experts’ contributions

- Active participation in discussions
- More than 100 states participated in at least one of the sessions
- Linking the discussions to UNCTAD’s research and technical assistance

Content

The 4 sessions
Participation

Key issues

Transport

- Promoting greater collaboration between transit and land-locked developing countries
- Promoting increased focus on sustainable freight transport and addressing the required financing needs

Trade Facilitation

- Inclusion of trade facilitation commitments in regional and multilateral agreements
- Benefits of regional collaboration in the implementation of trade facilitation reforms
- Need to create or strengthen national trade facilitation committees

Transport

- Addressing the challenge of high transport costs
- Promoting access to efficient multi-modal transport systems and services
- Key role of ports and transport connectivity for developing countries’ competitiveness
**Customs Automation**
- Increased revenue collection and facilitation of trade
- Technological advances and possibilities for developing countries towards e-Government and Single Windows
- ASYCUDA Programme shown to expand and enhance its impact

**Legal and regulatory framework**
- Importance of a supportive legal and regulatory framework
- Policymakers to consider the benefits of ratifying recent international legal instruments e.g. in relation to ship-source pollution, wreck-removal and seafarers

**Emerging issues affecting transport and trade: security, energy, environment**
- Mandatory supply-chain security requirements: new challenges, particularly for developing countries
- High oil prices affect maritime freight rates; impacts differ across cargo types and geographical markets
- Climate change: the dual challenge of reducing emissions and of adapting ports and other infrastructure, as well as services and operations to the impacts of climate change

**Trade and Development Commission**
Fourth session
13 November 2012
Item 3 - Reports of expert meetings

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