



MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON TRANSPORT, TRADE LOGISTICS AND TRADE FACILITATION

Second session

Trade facilitation rules as a trade enabler: Options and requirements

Geneva, Switzerland, Palais des Nations, Room XXVI, 1–3 July 2014



INTRODUCTION

Trade facilitation is receiving increasing attention and investment at the national, regional and multilateral levels, especially in the context of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation concluded in Bali, Indonesia. At the same time, the increasing number of regional trade agreements may pose additional challenges to trade facilitation, though can also promote trade facilitation reform and a further global harmonization of rules.

The second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation will address some of the specific issues that developing countries face in designing and implementing national and regional trade facilitation reforms, taking into consideration the new World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation. During the meeting, experts will in particular analyse and discuss the following four key issues:

- Session 1: Setting the scene: World Trade Organization rules and field realities
- Session 2: Costs and benefits of trade facilitation reforms and their impact on development
- Session 3: Multilateral and regional trade facilitation negotiations and agreements: Ensuring coherence
- Session 4: Trade facilitation implementation: Tools and the institutional setting



PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 1 July 2014

**10 –
10.45 a.m.**

Item 1 – Election of officers

- Welcoming remarks: Mr. Petko Draganov Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Item 2 – Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

- Opening remarks: Ms. Anne Miroux, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

**10.45 a.m. –
1 p.m.**

Item 3 – Trade facilitation rules as a trade enabler: Options and requirements

SESSION 1: Setting the scene: World Trade Organization rules and field realities

Introduction: Mr. José María Rubiato, Head, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Mr. Esteban B. Conejos, Jr., Chair, Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation, World Trade Organization, Geneva
- Mr. Stephen Fevrier, Trade Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat, Geneva

Interactive discussion

National experiences

Interactive discussion

3 – 6 p.m.

Item 3 continued

SESSION 2: Costs and benefits of trade facilitation reforms and their impact on development

Main issues to be addressed in this session: What are the latest experiences and research findings on the costs and benefits of trade facilitation? Experts will present and discuss the impact of trade facilitation reforms from different angles, including trade, Customs, regional integration and institutional development. Additional background information for this session is included in chapter I of the document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/5.

Introduction: Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Mr. John Edwin Mein, Executive Coordinator, Procomex, Brasilia
- Ms. Brenda Horne Ferreira, Chief Executive Officer, South African Shippers Council, Johannesburg
- Mr. Carlos Grau Tanner, Director General, Global Express Association, Geneva
- Mr. Mohammad Farhad, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, Dhaka

Interactive discussion

National experiences

Interactive discussion

6 – 7 p.m. Welcome cocktail on behalf of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Restaurant des Délégués, 8th floor, Building A

Wednesday, 2 July 2014

**10 a.m. –
1 p.m.** **Item 3** continued

**SESSION 3: Multilateral and regional trade facilitation negotiations and agreements:
Ensuring coherence**

Main issues to be addressed in this session: What are the most recent developments at the multilateral and regional levels concerning trade facilitation commitments? Experts will present and discuss opportunities and challenges emanating from the inclusion of customs procedures and other trade facilitation measures in trade agreements. Additional background information for this session is included in chapter II of the document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/5.

Introduction: Mr. Poul Hansen, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Mr. Joakim Reiter, Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization and Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- Mr. Christian Kitenge Kingombe, African Development Bank, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Shrikant Kamat, Senior Director and Practice Leader, B K Khare and Company, Mumbai, India

Interactive discussion

National experiences

Interactive discussion

3 – 6 p.m. **Item 3** continued

SESSION 4: Trade facilitation implementation: Tools and the institutional setting

Main issues to be addressed in this session: What are the main available tools and mechanisms to ensure the successful implementation of trade facilitation reforms? Experts will present and discuss experiences and proposals concerning trade facilitation implementation plans, institutional settings and ways to mainstream trade facilitation in national and regional trade facilitation policies. Additional background information for this session is included in chapters III and IV of the document TD/B/C.I/MEM.7/5.

Introduction: Mr. Bismark Sitorus, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Mr. Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt, Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization, Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework, Geneva
- Ms. Christina Busch, Extended-term Consultant, International Trade Unit, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Interactive discussion

National experiences

Interactive discussion

Thursday, 3 July 2014

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Item 3** continued

SESSION 5: Closing session – the way forward

Main issues to be addressed in this session: What are the main conclusions and lessons learned for the way forward? The experts' deliberations should help identify areas for further research and contribute to the strengthening of existing collaboration among networks of transport and trade facilitation experts. Participants will have gained a better understanding of the key challenges, as well as ways to develop trade facilitation implementation plans and approaches towards the mainstreaming of trade facilitation into national and regional trade and development policies.

Introduction: Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur

Discussant: Ms. Alicia Greenidge, Team Leader/Expert Adviser for African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in Geneva, and World Trade Organization Call Down Support Advisers

Interactive discussion

Chairperson's summary and closing comments

Item 4 – Adoption of the report of the meeting

