Trade and Development Commission
twelfth session

Promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars of work related to Transport and Trade Facilitation

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UNITED NATIONS
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An overview of the three pillars

Research & analysis

- Review of Maritime Transport & package
- Research collaboration with IMO on impact of decarbonization proposals on developing countries
- Transport cost database
- ASYCUDA compendium of good practices
- TFT Port Management Series
- Policy Briefs and Technical Notes
- Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter

Technical cooperation

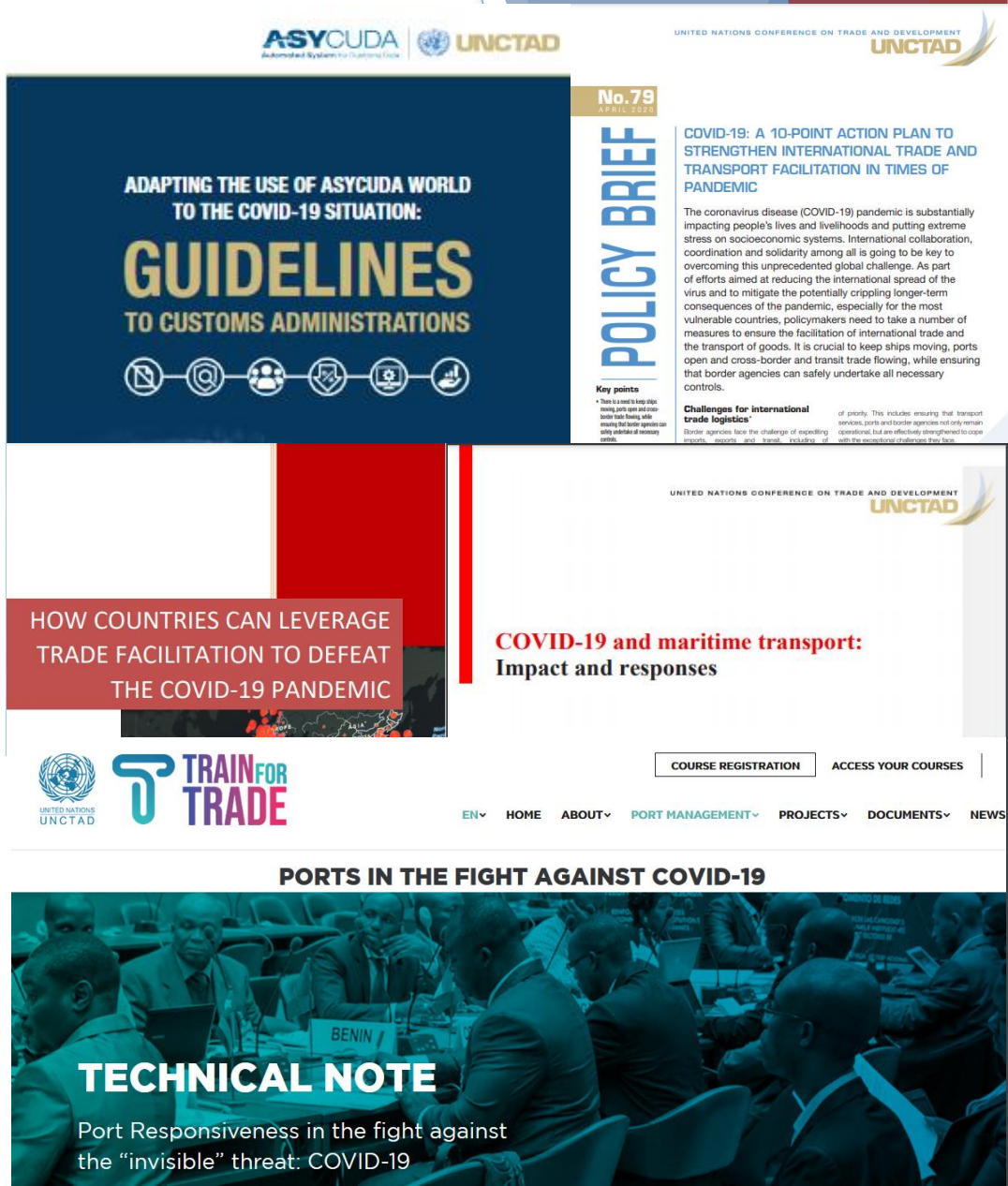
- Rapid response to COVID-19 in trade logistics
- DA project in transport and trade connectivity in pandemic
- ASYCUDA
- Trade Facilitation Empowerment Programme
- Technical cooperation in transport
- TrainForTrade, including Port Management Programme

Consensus building

- Trade and Development Commission
- MYEMs on Transport and Trade Facilitation: Climate Change Adaptation for Seaports in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Support to GA resolution on seafarers
- Support IMO negotiations on ship decarbonization through research inputs

Rapid response against COVID-19: 3-pillar approach

- Analytical and normative work
  - 10 Point Action Plan for trade facilitation
  - Operational guidelines for Customs
  - SoPs for port management
  - Tracking economic impact through near real time data on shipping
- Emergency advisory services and capacity building; Deployment of e-learning and remote cooperation
- Support to GA resolution on sea-farers

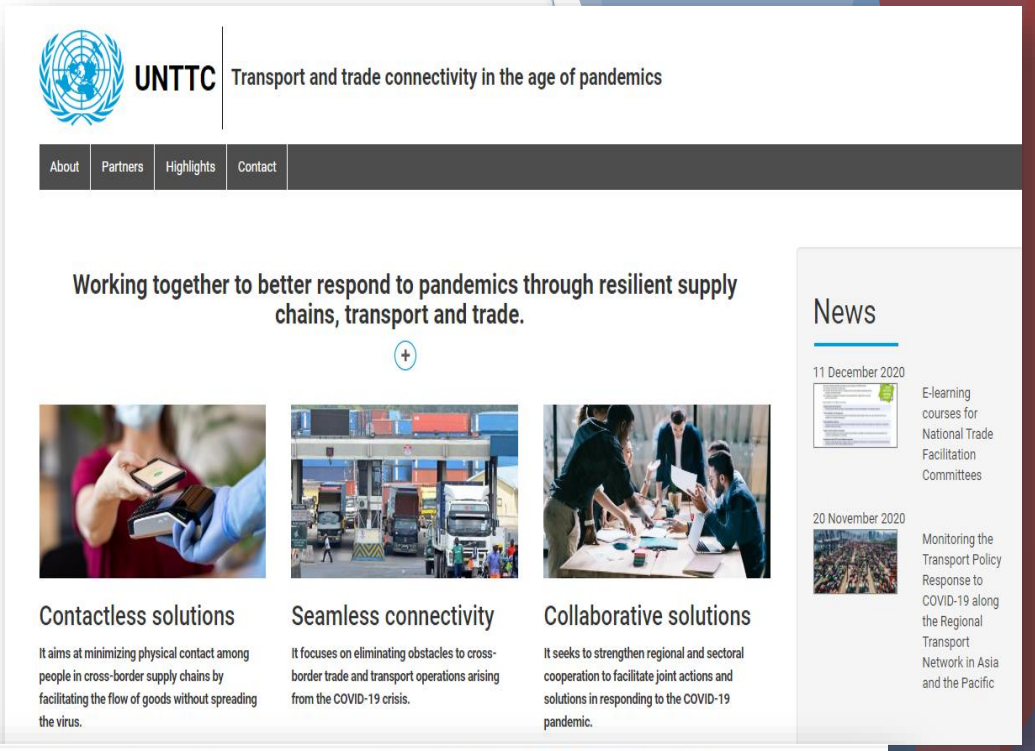


UN-wide project on transport and trade connectivity during the pandemic

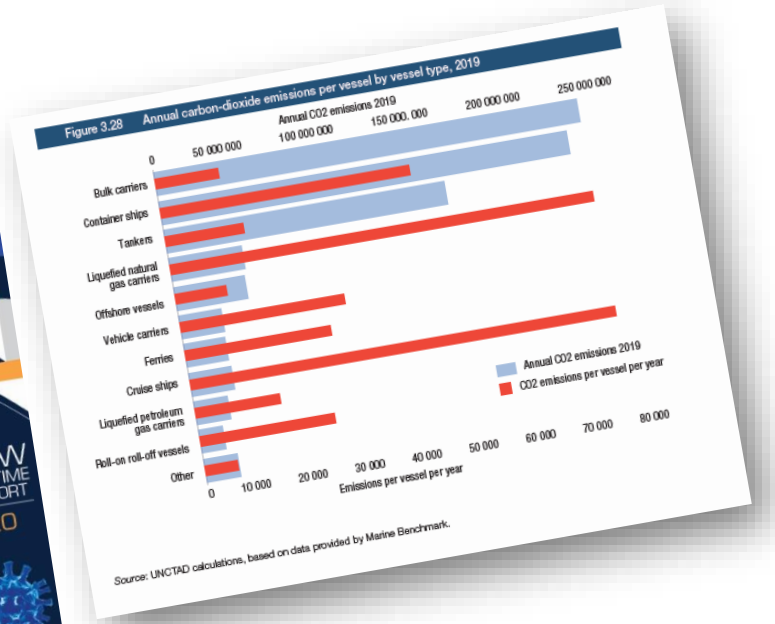
- DTL spearheaded Development Account Project with all UN Regional Commissions

- **Objective**: keep transport networks and borders operational to facilitate flow of goods and services, while containing spread of COVID-19

- **Activities**: 1) implement digital, contactless trade solutions,
  2) promote smooth cross-border trade and transport operations,
  3) strengthen regional cooperation for policy response to COVID-19



Research:
The Review of Maritime Transport package



- Special focus on COVID-19: The perfect storm
  - Pandemic, climate change and technology transform the sector
- On-line statistics, maritime country profiles and near real-time data
- 2020 focus: seafarer's situation, SIDS, digitization

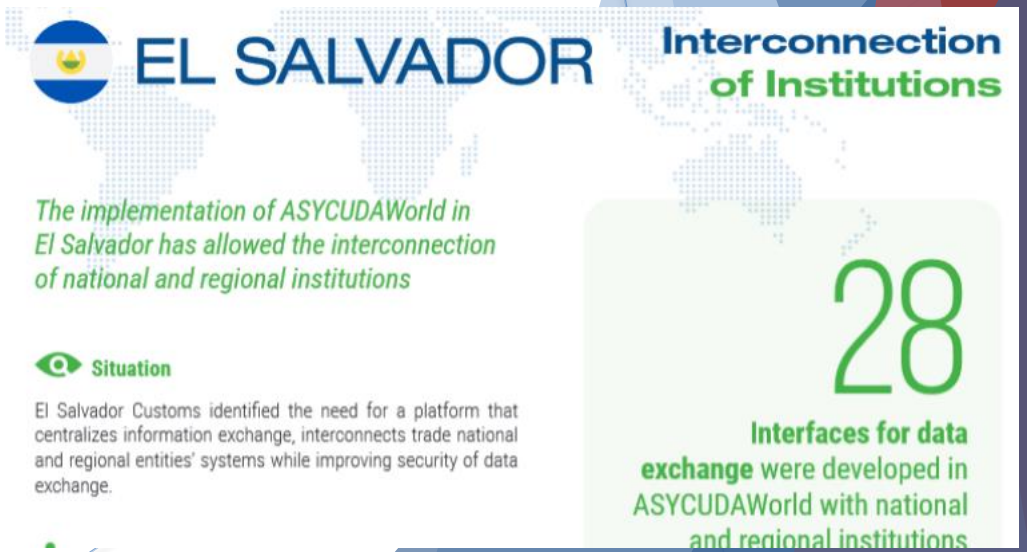
Research in trade logistics

- The energy transition in maritime transport: Supporting the IMO negotiations through impact assessments of decarbonization measures
- Launched in 2020:
  Global Transport Cost Database with World Bank, IMO
- SIDS focus:
  Transport costs, connectivity and climate vulnerability
- Trade and Transport Facilitation Series
- Newsletter and blogposts

Research: ASYCUDA

Sharing policy lessons of 40 years field experience

- ASYCUDA compendium 2020: Partnerships for Sustainable Development
  - Good practices 25 countries and RECs
- Supporting trade policy through a whole of government approach: E-Single Window--what to do and what not to (joint research with TLB, forthcoming)
- ASYCUDA lessons highlighted in UNCTAD flagships
  - ALDC Report 2020--how mining tracking system MOSES in Zambia reduce illicit financial flows
  - TIR 2021--successful e-government initiatives
  - Commodity Report 2021--role of digital technologies for diversification
- Research on blockchains for trade logistics



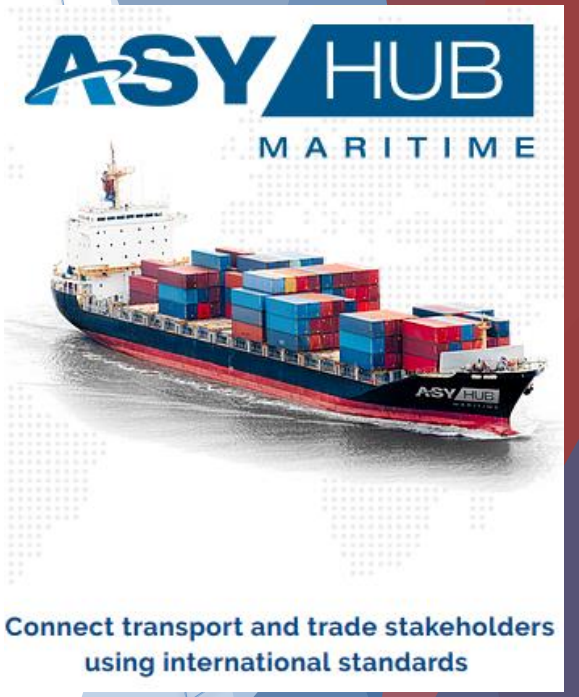
Technical cooperation: ASYCUDA

- Largest technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD
- ASYCUDA in over 100 countries
  - New user-countries: Gambia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Sierra Leone, Tuvalu
- 79 operational projects in 2020; 8 regional projects
- Recent results
  - Lebanon: 350+ containers processed through ASYCUDAWorld in Beirut Port 1 day after the blast
  - Sudan: 30% reduction of Customs clearance time and 48% increase in Customs revenue

Technical cooperation: ASYCUDA

Moving beyond Customs

- E-Single Window: supporting Burundi, Comoros, Haiti, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Vanuatu
- ASYHUB with GiZ: Interface to facilitate pre-arrival processing of sea cargo manifests. Pilot rolled out in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, involving maritime operators
- ASYPCD (ASYCUDA Postal Customs Declaration) with UPU: connects customs and postal systems to address massive surge in eCommerce
  - Piloted in Gibraltar and to be implemented in Georgia, under discussions in other regions
- ECOWAS: SIGMAT project interconnecting customs and automate transit in the region
  - + 111% of transit documents (T1) processed for corridor Abidjan-Ouagadougou (Sept. 2019 - Sept.2020)



Technical cooperation in Trade Facilitation

- 50+ beneficiary countries
- Projects in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific
- In 2020, 95%+ assistance delivered online in response to COVID-19
- New e-learning and blended capacity building in EN, ES, FR, PT
  - Trained 500+ participants through e-learning and webinars in 2020
- Support and advisory services on ratification, notifications and implementation of WTO TFA and regional agreements, e.g. AfCFTA
- Support for COVID-19 response, e.g. Rapid Scans in TF for Crisis Preparedness

UNCTAD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME
for National Trade Facilitation Committees

- UNCTAD E-LEARNING for National Trade Facilitation Committees
- UNCTAD REFORM TRACKER for National Trade Facilitation Committees
- UNCTAD LEGAL SUPPORT for National Trade Facilitation Committees
- UNCTAD TRADE PORTALS for Trade Facilitation
- UNCTAD DATABASE of National Trade Facilitation Committees
- UNCTAD TRANSIT COORDINATORS Empowerment Programme

TRADE MARK EAST AFRICA
Growing Prosperity Through Trade

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
Building today, a better Africa tomorrow

WORLD BANK GROUP

Technical cooperation: Transport

- Development of a regional corridor management mechanism for the Trans-Saharan Road Corridor (with IsDB)
  - Reviewed the needs
  - Proposed management mechanism for the corridor
  - Proposed action plan for implementation

- Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure: enhancing the adaptive capacity of Small Island Developing States
  - UNCTAD/UNEP project on “Climate resilient transport infrastructure for sustainable trade, tourism and development in SIDS”

Intergovernmental dialogue and consensus building

- Supported GA resolution on seafarers, and UNCTAD SG call for action to protect seafarers, keep ports open
- Support IMO negotiations on maritime decarbonization through comprehensive impact assessments
- MYEMs on Transport and Trade Facilitation on Climate Change Adaptation for Seaports in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Source: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com

IMO

Trade logistics towards UNCTAD XV

- 1. COVID-19 demonstrated vital importance of keeping ships moving, ports open and cross-border trade flowing, while ensuring health control at borders:
  - **Efficient trade logistics critical for recovery and beyond**
- 2. Maritime transport is emerging as a strategic sector: COVID-19, new technologies, climate change, energy transition/decarbonization will have major impacts on developing countries including SIDS
  - **UNCTAD's maritime work needs strengthening**

Thank you

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