



UNDA COVID-19 PROJECT CLOSING EVENT

TRANSPORT AND TRADE CONNECTIVITY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS
UN solutions for contactless, seamless and collaborative transport and trade

Hosted by UNCTAD

In collaboration with UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECA, UNESCWA and UNECLAC

20–23 June 2022, online

Registration: [Click Here - Zoom](#)

The initiative brings together the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five UN regional economic commissions for Africa (ECA), Europe (ECE), Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Western Asia (ESCWA) and provides the possibility for members of beneficiary countries, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to learn about the outcomes, lessons learned and findings regarding the delivery and implementation of a broad portfolio of activities at global level, to palliate the disruptions on transport, transit and trade connectivity caused by COVID-19.

In addition, the project supports to a different level all five pillars indicated in the [UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#),¹ and especially the third pillar: “Economic Response and Recovery; Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers”.

UN and local experts will be sharing insights on good practices regarding trade facilitation, transport and trade connectivity issues in the age of pandemics with a view to providing members of beneficiary countries and other stakeholders with evidence on how planning, organization, automation and digitalization can assist in advancing and accelerating transport and trade connectivity, in particular through the current pandemic situation and the post-covid recovery era.

This event will offer a unique opportunity for countries to get information on the available programmes at UNCTAD and UN Regional Commissions. Participants will also have the chance to interact online with experts, donors, regional organizations and international organizations during the Q&A segment of the event.

¹ <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19>



Programme

Monday, 20 June 2022 (day one)

Opening Remarks

Moderator: **Mr. Jan HOFFMANN**, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD

Description: *The opening session of the “Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics: Closing project event” will feature keynote addresses from heads of the five United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and the head of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). They will give their perspective on how transport and trade connectivity; and facilitation, can assist in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context speakers will address the scope and successful work made by their organizations on alleviating transport and trade constraints caused by Covid-19 pandemic in developing and least developed countries.*

10:00-11:00 Speakers:

- **Ms. Rebeca GRYNSPAN**, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Ms. Armida SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- **Mr. Mario CIMOLI**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)
- **Mr. Mounir TABET**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
- **Ms. Vera SONGWE**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Monday, 20 June 2022 (day one)

Contactless solutions

Moderator: **Mr. Konstantinos ALEXOPOULOS**, Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economics, TIR Secretary, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE

Description	Contactless solutions, aims at reducing physical contact among people in cross-border supply chains by facilitating the flow of goods without spreading the virus. Which includes implementing UN conventions and standards for seamless harmonised electronic exchange of data in digital transport corridors, border crossings and trade operations, as well as developing smart rail and road connectivity.
11:00-12:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Developments on eTIR International System that took place during the last 2 years based on the UNDA project” Mr. Jonathan VALDEZ, TIR Secretariat • “Interconnection of eTIR international system with National customs system” Mr. Elyor KHAKIMOV, Customs Authority of Uzbekistan Mr. Habib AHMAD, Customs Authority of Pakistan Mr. Revaz PAPUKASHVILI, Customs Authority of Georgia • “Preparation of Conformance Tests. Importance for the smooth operations of TIR international system” Mr. Anil SENMANAV, Turkish Customs Authority • “Transit and eTIR International System application in the Arab Region” Dr. Yarob BADR, Regional Advisor for Transport and logistics, ESCWA <p>Q&A</p>
<i>Lunch break</i>	
<p>Contactless solutions</p> <p>Moderators: Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions, UNECE</p>	
14:00-16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Using UN standards and tools in the digitalization of multimodal transport and trade in Ukraine” Mr. Mustafa Masi NAYYEM, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Ukraine • “The significance of global standards for seamless data and document exchange” Ms. Sue PROBERT, Chairperson, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “FIATA’s Multimodal Bill of Lading: A product of FIATA–UNECE cooperation” Mr. Ivan PETROV, President, FIATA • “UN/CEFACT electronic trade and transport documents and data” Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions, UNECE • “Smart rail and road connectivity” Mr. Soteri GATERA, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA Mr. Mohamed GHARIB, Monitoring and Evaluation Data Consultant Mr. Aloys RUSAGARA BAYIRO, Former Director of the Transport Policy and Planning program at NCTTCA Secretariat, Kenya Mr. Ricardo SANCHEZ, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, International Trade and Integration Division – ECLAC Mr. Claudio GARCIA, Chief, Productive Systems Section, Federal Council of Investments, Argentina Mr. Edgar URRUTIA, President, The Logistics Business Council, Panama Mr. Daniel ALVAREZ, Consultant
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Tuesday, 21 June 2022 (day two)	
Contactless solutions	
Moderator: Mr. Julian FRAGA-CAMPOS , Economic Affairs, Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD	
Description	<i>Contactless solutions, aims at reducing physical contact among people in cross-border supply chains by facilitating the flow of goods without spreading the virus. Which includes implementing UN conventions and standards for seamless harmonised electronic exchange of data in digital transport corridors, border crossings and trade operations, as well as developing smart rail and road connectivity.</i>
10:00-11:15	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Introduction to ESCAP’s work on smart rail and road connectivity” Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, UNESCAP

Tuesday, 21 June 2022 (day two)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Smart and Seamless connectivity along the Asian Highway Network” Mr. Edouard CHONG, Transport Division, UNESCAP • “Supporting railway digitalization in Asia” Mr. Sandeep JAIN, Transport Division, UNESCAP • “Accelerating cross-border paperless trade facilitation: insights from the webinar series” Mr. Armen MANUKYAN, Consultant, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP <p>Q&A</p>
<p>Seamless connectivity</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jan HOFFMANN, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD</p>	
Description	<p><i>Seamless connectivity focuses on eliminating obstacles to cross-border trade and transport operations arising from the COVID-19 crisis. It also aims at promoting synergies among border agencies by empowering national trade facilitation committees, improving customs automation and identifying non-tariff barriers.</i></p>
11:15-12:30	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Implications of the pandemic for key commercial contracts in international trade – an overview of UNCTAD’s work and related policy considerations” Ms. Regina ASARIOTIS, Chief, Policy and Legislation Section, UNCTAD • “Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial contracts covering the transportation of goods in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond” Mr. Fedor KORMILITSYN, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, UNESCAP • “UNCITRAL Dispute resolution tools – a brief overview” Ms. Judith KNIEPER, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL • “UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records – a brief overview” Mr. Raoul J. RENARD, Deputy Director of Legal Reform, Digital Standards Initiative, International Chamber of Commerce <p>Q&A - <i>discussion on suggestions for policy action</i></p>
Lunch break	



Seamless connectivity

*Moderator: **Mr. Jan HOFFMANN**, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD*

Description	<p><i>Seamless connectivity focuses on eliminating obstacles to cross-border trade and transport operations arising from the COVID-19 crisis. It also aims at promoting synergies among border agencies by empowering national trade facilitation committees, improving customs automation and identifying non-tariff barriers.</i></p>
14:00-16:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) solutions” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Renaud MASSENET, Responsible for the ASYCUDA Programme's Development & Operations, UNCTAD Mr. Richard WARREN, UNCTAD/ASYCUDA Programme's Public Information Officer Mr. Stanley TRIEF, Manager, Electronic Single Window Project, Vanuatu Ms. Meena SHAH, Resident UNCTAD/ASYCUDA IT Expert Mr. Constantin CIUTA, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD/ASYCUDA • “National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) coordination” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Julian FRAGA-CAMPOS, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD Mr. Innocent CHIKUNI, Head Customs Technical Support & Risk Management, Revenue Authority - Customs and Excise Division, Zimbabwe Ms. Davaa TSENSUREN, Senior Customs Officer and Secretary of the Trade Facilitation Working Group, Mongolia Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV, Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions, UNECE (TBC) Ms. Larisa KISLYAKOVA, Chairperson, Partnership for Transport and Logistics in Central Asia, Tajikistan, UNECE Consultant Mr. Oleg PLATONOV, Deputy Chairman, National Trade Facilitation Committee of Ukraine <p>Q&A</p>

Wednesday, 22 June 2022 (Day Three)

Seamless connectivity

Moderator: **Ms. Soo Hyun KIM**, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP

Description	<p><i>Seamless connectivity focuses on eliminating obstacles to cross-border trade and transport operations arising from the COVID-19 crisis. It also aims at promoting synergies among border agencies by empowering national trade facilitation committees, improving customs automation and identifying non-tariff barriers</i></p>
10:00-12:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Advancing Trade Digitalization in Times of Crisis” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Yann DUVAL, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP Ms. Jiangyuan Fu, Consultant, UNESCAP Ms. Soo Hyun KIM, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP Mr. Allan C. GERONIMO, Deputy Commissioner, Management Information Systems and Technology Group (MISTG), Bureau of Customs, the Philippines Mr. John GREGORY, expert, United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) Mr. Alvin MAH, expert, United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) Mr. Tengfei WANG, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP • “Addressing Non-tariff barriers and enhancing transparency in trade regulations” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ralf PETERS, Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD Mr. Revaz TOPURIA, Georgia Mr. Edil KALMAMATOV, Kyrgyzstan Ms. Kimberly BORDON, Technical assistant, ALADI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Progress in the Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Uzbekistan” Mr. Tengiz ASANOV, Deputy Head, Investment Climate Department, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan <p>Q&A</p>
<i>Lunch break</i>	
Wednesday, 22 June 2022 (Day Three)	
<p><i>Collaborative solutions</i> <i>Moderators: Ms. Soo Hyun KIM, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP</i></p>	
Description	<p><i>Collaborative solutions, seeks to strengthen regional and sectoral cooperation on transport, trade, and logistics operations to facilitate joint actions and solutions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p>
14:00-16:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strengthening regional cooperation on coordinated trade and transport policy response to COVID-19” Mr. Soteri GATERA, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA Mr. Adel A. ALGHABERI, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Integration Division, UNESCWA Mr. Ricardo SANCHEZ, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, International Trade and Integration Division, ECLAC Ms. Teresa OYHAMBURU, Director of Programs, Federal Investment Council, Argentina Mr. Joao Carlos PARKINSON DE CASTRO, Minister, General Coordinator for Development and Infrastructure of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. Mr. Rodolfo SABONGE, Secretary General, Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Mr. Frederic GOIG, Director Straightline Mr. Mark DOREY, Co-founder Straightline Aviation. Mr. Jose BENI, President, Federal Administration of Ports, Argentina Mr. Nicolás GARCÍA, Governor (a.i.), Department of Rocha, Oriental Republic of Uruguay <p>Q&A</p>

Thursday, 23 June 2022 (fourth day)

Collaborative solutions

Moderator: Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, UNESCAP

Description	<i>Collaborative solutions, seeks to strengthen regional and sectoral cooperation on transport, trade, and logistics operations to facilitate joint actions and solutions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.</i>
10:00-12:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strengthening regional cooperation on coordinated trade and transport policy response to COVID-19” Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, UNESCAP • “COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines for Resilient and Sustainable International Road Freight Transport Connectivity in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations” Mr. Kuancheng HUANG, ESCAP consultant • “Transport Outlooks for Asia: supporting sustainable transport recovery policies in Asia” Ms. Vatsalya SOHU, International Transport Forum (ITF) • “Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic and Regional Trade Agreements: Way Forward” Mr. Yann DUVAL, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP Ms. Runqiu DU, Consultant, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UNESCAP Ms. Gabrielle Marceau, Senior Counsellor, Research Division (ERSD) of the WTO Secretariat • “Implementation of the SPECA regional strategy on trade facilitation” Mr. Abdurahmon ABDURAHMONZODA, Deputy Minister of Economic Cooperation and Trade of Tajikistan • “Regional Trade Facilitation coordination” Ms. Pamela UGAZ, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD • “Regional Trade Information Portals to enhance transparency during the pandemic” Ms. Flavia BUSINGYE, Acting Director Customs, East African Community

Thursday, 23 June 2022 (fourth day)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Regional Transit coordination during COVID-19” Mr. Joseph NGUENE NTEPPE, Trade Facilitation Expert and former Secretary of the NTFC, Cameroon
<i>Lunch break</i>	
<p>Collaborative solutions Moderator: <i>Ms. Celine BACROT, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD</i></p>	
Description	<i>Collaborative solutions, seeks to strengthen regional and sectoral cooperation on transport, trade, and logistics operations to facilitate joint actions and solutions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.</i>
14:00-16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Maritime supply chain resilience and port cooperation” Mr. Mark ASSAF, Chief, Human Resources Development/ TrainForTrade Section – UNCTAD Mr. Rafa COMPANY, Director of Safety and Security, Valenciaport Foundation Mr. John MOORE, Port Specialist Mr. Bryan HABIB GAUTAMA, Directorate General Customs and Excise of Indonesia Mr. Elar Julio SALVADOR GRANDA, Head of the Port Training Unit, Perú • “Transport Section Technical Assistance Work Ms. Frida Youssef, Chief, Transport Section - UNCTAD • “Highlights of activities under the project” Ms. Hassiba BENAMARA, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport - UNCTAD • “Building Resilience against pandemic disruptions - some perspectives from Africa's ports sector” Mr. Michael ACHAGWE LUGUJE, Director General of Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority – Ghana • “Building supply chain resilience through collaboration” Ms. Zera ZHENG, Global Head of Business Resilience Lead Logistics, A.P. Moller – Maersk • “Port of Açu Risk & Resilience – Collaborative Approach” Mr. Vinicius PATEL, Port Administration Director, Port of Açu, Brazil <p>Q&A</p>



Thursday, 23 June 2022 (fourth day)

Closing session

Moderator: Mr. Poul HANSEN, Chief, Trade Facilitation, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD

Description	<p><i>The closing of the project will include deliberations on the key takeaways from the meeting. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on how to sustain collaboration between international organizations for future engagements, to ensure coherence and commitment towards the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 agenda.</i></p> <p><i>The event will conclude with closing remarks from key implementation partners.</i></p>
16:15-17:15	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jan HOFFMANN, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • Ms. Azhar JAIMURZINA DUCREST, Chief, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, UNESCAP • Mr. Yann DUVAL, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section UNESCAP • Mr. Konstantinos ALEXOPOULOS, Chief, Transport Facilitation and Economics, TIR Secretary, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE • Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV Regional Adviser, Economic and Integration and Trade Divisions, UNECE • Mr. Ricardo SANCHEZ, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, International Trade and Integration Division, ECLAC • Mr. Robert LISINGE, Chief of Energy, Infrastructure and Services Section, UNECA • Mr. Adel A. ALGHABERI, First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Integration Division, UNESCWA • Mr. Martin Kraus, Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Development Office, UNDESA
