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Poul HANSEN, UNCTAD

UNCTAD Trade Facilitation program

Trade facilitation in the ECLAC Region

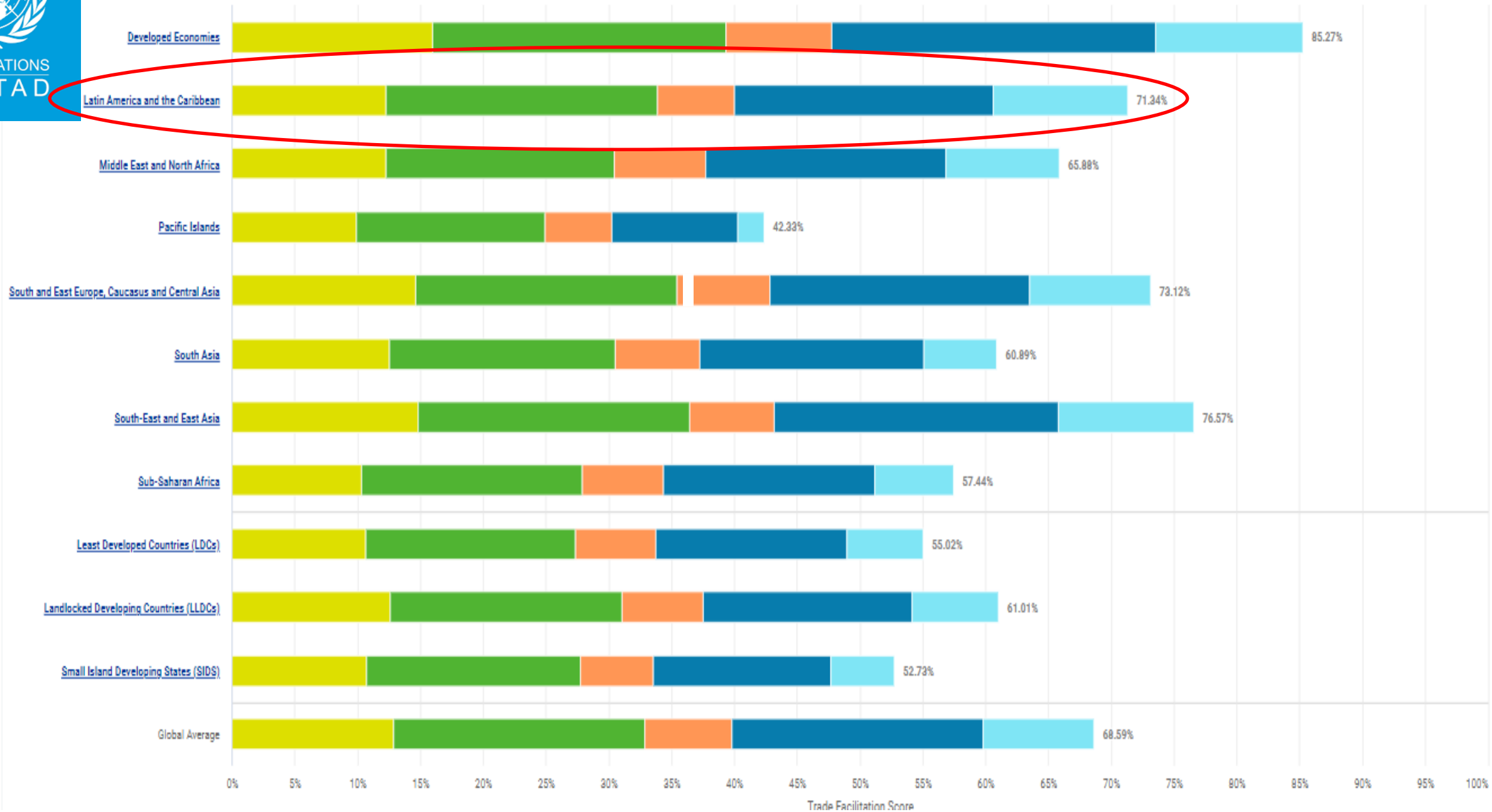
- 1. Trade facilitation status in the region**
- 2. UNCTAD trade facilitation tools**

1. Trade facilitation status in the region



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● Transparency ● Formalities ● Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation ● Paperless Trade ● Cross-Border Paperless Trade





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Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean

2023 2021 2019 2017 2015

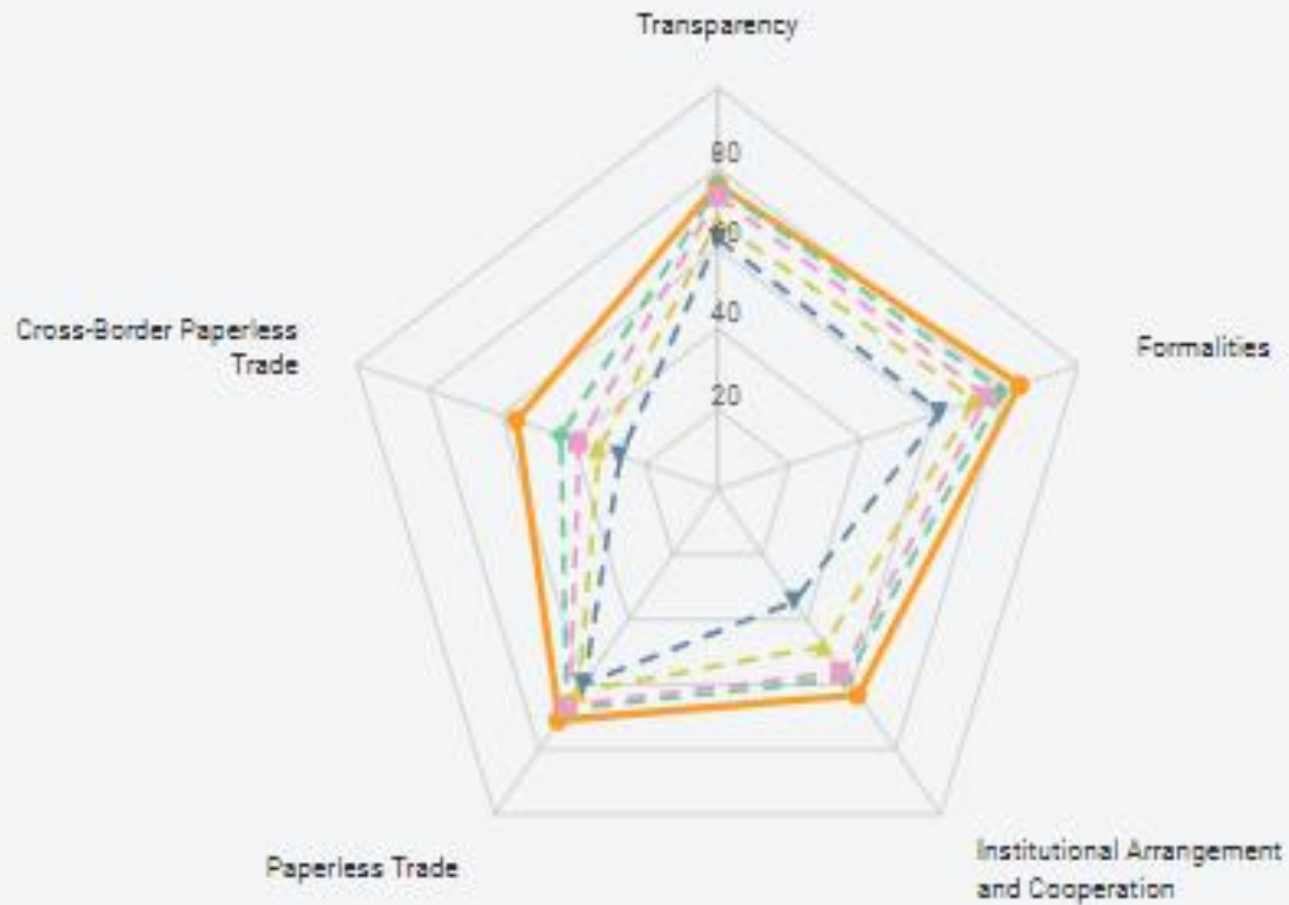


Table
1

Intra- and extra-regional comprehensive trade costs (excluding tariff costs)

Region	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	South Asia-4	Latin America-4	North Africa-3	Sub-Saharan Africa-3	Western Asia-3	Europe-3	North America
ASEAN-4	74.9% (-0.6%)	78.6% (3.2%)	129.6% (-1.0%)	151.7% (-0.3%)	211.0% (-12.5%)	217.9% (7.4%)	181.2% (7.5%)	105.3% (-0.2%)	101.9% (-1.2%)
East Asia-3	78.6% (3.2%)	58.0% (10.0%)	129.3% (5.0%)	110.9% (1.5%)	173.7% (3.8%)	167.7% (4.9%)	162.2% (2.1%)	85.6% (1.0%)	78.1% (1.7%)
South Asia-4	129.6% (-1.0%)	129.3% (5.0%)	160.7% (36.5%)	187.1% (-3.4%)	163.7% (-17.8%)	212.6% (4.3%)	168.7% (3.2%)	117.4% (3.4%)	120.3% (2.2%)
Latin America-4	151.7% (-0.3%)	110.9% (1.5%)	187.1% (-3.4%)	102.8% (6.3%)	214.4% (-19.6%)	304.1% (7.0%)	226.0% (-1.7%)	113.6% (1.4%)	92.4% (-1.3%)
North Africa-3	211.0% (-12.5%)	173.7% (3.8%)	163.7% (-17.8%)	214.4% (-19.6%)	157.1% (-19.5%)	308.5% (20.4%)	139.2% (7.5%)	143.0% (6.1%)	229.8% (35.3%)
Sub-Saharan Africa-3	217.9% (7.4%)	167.7% (4.9%)	212.6% (4.3%)	304.1% (7.0%)	308.5% (20.4%)	232.8% (28.1%)	227.8% (11.9%)	153.8% (21.4%)	177.0% (8.3%)
Western Asia-3	181.2% (7.5%)	162.2% (2.1%)	168.7% (3.2%)	226.0% (-1.7%)	139.2% (7.5%)	227.8% (11.9%)	95.1% (15.5%)	152.0% (4.1%)	152.9% (-1.1%)
Europe-3	105.3% (-0.2%)	85.6% (1.0%)	117.4% (3.4%)	113.6% (1.4%)	143.0% (6.1%)	153.8% (21.4%)	152.0% (4.1%)	41.8% (-2.7%)	76.3% (0.3%)
North America	101.9% (-1.2%)	78.1% (1.7%)	120.3% (2.2%)	92.4% (-1.3%)	229.8% (35.3%)	177.0% (8.3%)	152.9% (-1.1%)	76.3% (0.3%)	30.2% (2.1%)

Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, updated July 2023. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/resources/escap-world-bank-trade-cost-database>

2. UNCTAD trade facilitation tools

UNCTAD Trade facilitation



Mandate: 2021 Bridgetown Covenant on Trade Facilitation

- Continue and reinforce its work through its three pillars to support implementation of trade facilitation reforms, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, and enhance its support to the development and the implementation of appropriate frameworks that reduce trade transaction costs.

 Think 

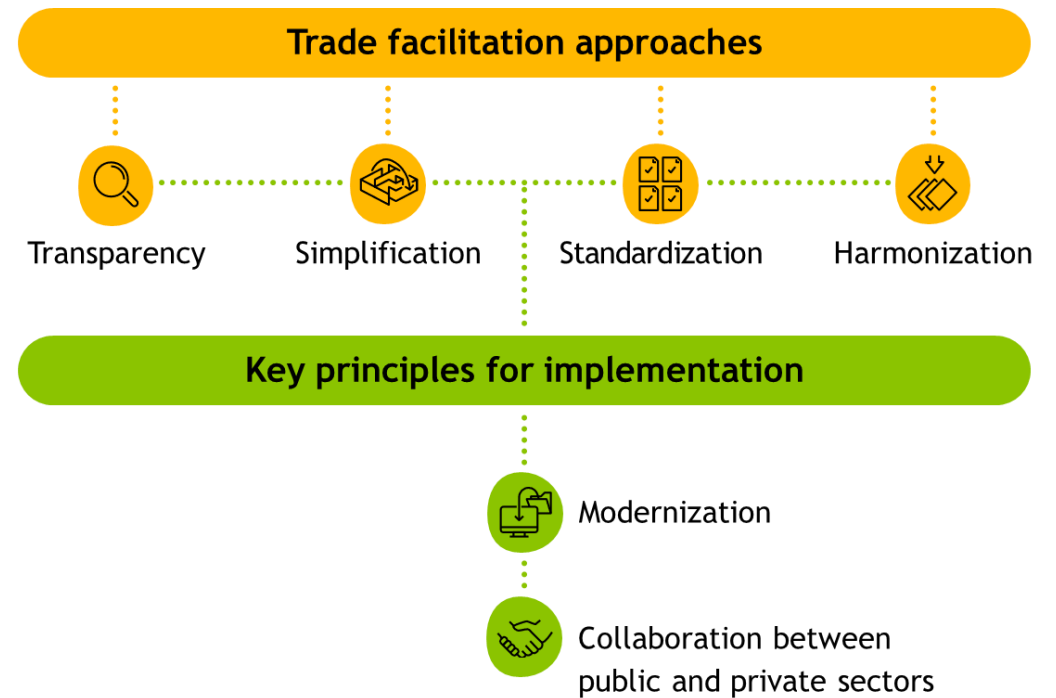
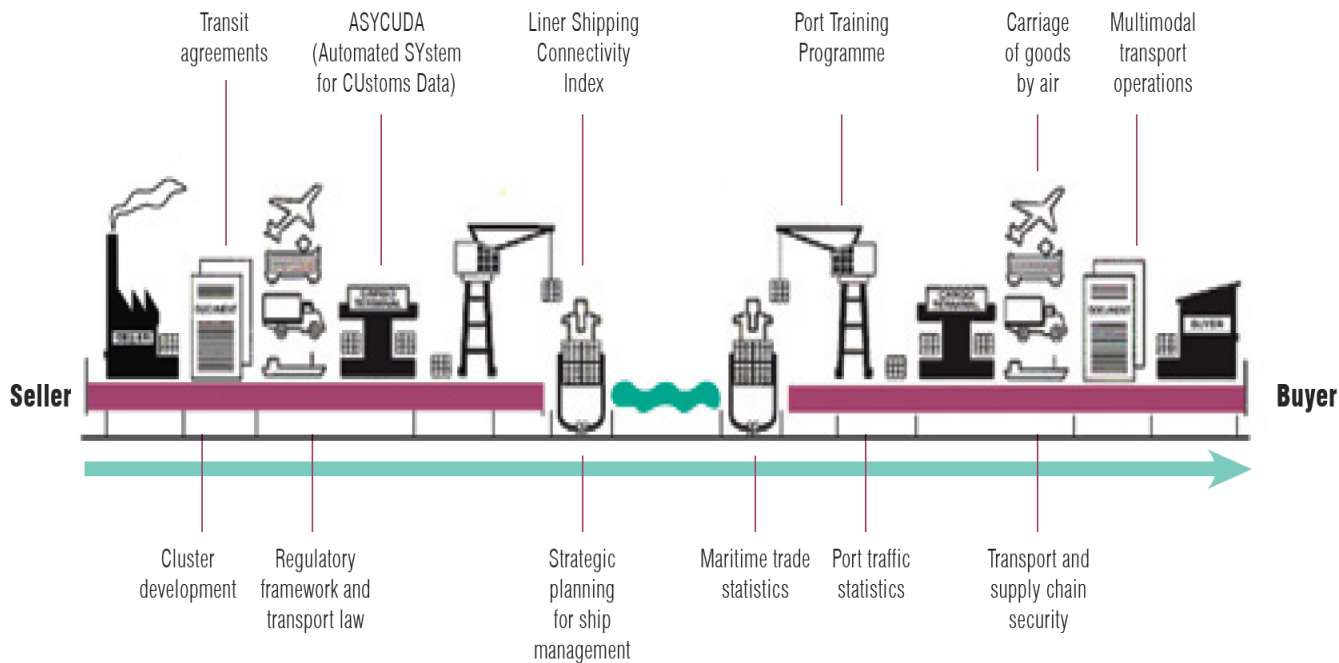
 Debate 

 Deliver 



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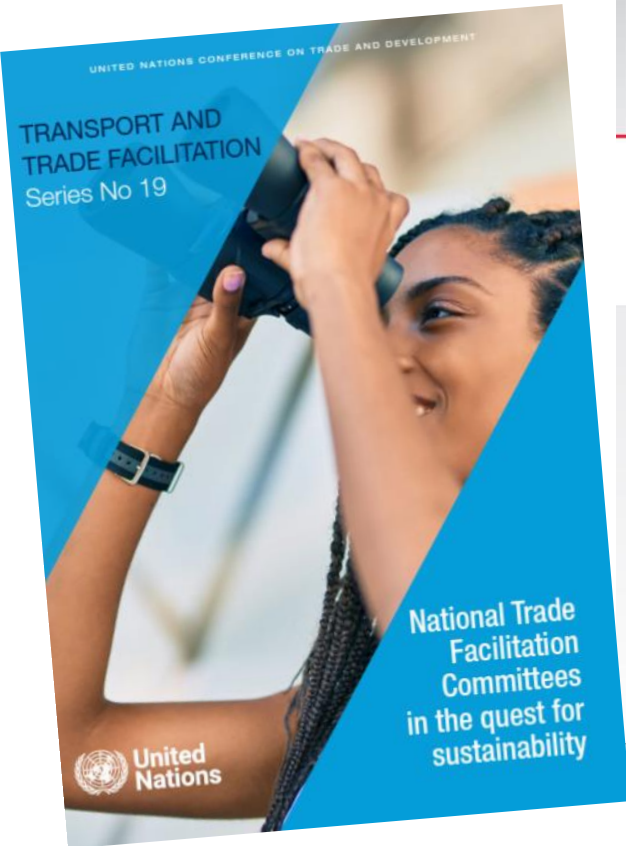
UNCTAD Trade Facilitation approach





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Think : UNCTAD Publications



KEY POINTS

- Women face gender-based barriers at borders that should be addressed through gender responsive trade facilitation measures
- UNCTAD recommends implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) with a gender perspective to maximize benefits for women involved in formal and informal trade
- UNCTAD recommends that national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs) become gender-sensitive bodies that advocate for gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation reforms, and propose measures for women traders

Integrating a gender perspective into trade facilitation reforms*

Women cross-border traders face significant challenges, including time constraints, costs of burdensome procedures, discrimination and harassment at borders.¹ Despite multilateral calls to address those issues and to make trade policies gender responsive, notably the Revised Buenos Aires Declaration,² limited progress has been made on gender equality in trade.

This policy brief outlines key gender-based barriers for women traders and provides 10+1 policy recommendations to address them.

1. Listen to what women traders have to say

The first step is to listen to what women traders have to say. Some may not be aware of the activities or existence of the national committee. Even when they know about NTFCs, they may feel that their committee is not aware of the challenges they face or that such challenges are simply ignored. NTFCs should undertake awareness-raising efforts to reach out to women traders by informing them about NTFC activities and consult them about their needs and the obstacles they face.

Women traders' associations should be invited to take part in the trade facilitation policymaking process, as full NTFC members, or at

* This document has not been formally edited.

¹ UNCTAD, 2022, Gender perspective on trade facilitation reforms, available at <https://learning.unctad.org/facilending>.

² ILO/ITC Ministerial Conference, 2017, Joint ministerial declaration on the advancement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment within trade, WT/MIN(17)/Rev.1 & available at <https://www.ilo.org/ctdbui/pdfmgr/55393e3b-4568-4676-9161-916161616161>.



1



Think

Debate

Deliver

Debate: UNCTAD meetings

<https://unctad.org/conference/global-supply-chain-forum-2024>



Deliver: UNCTAD Programs



- Wide-range of technical assistance programs and methodologies
- Specific tools depending on needs and individual situation assisting developing countries meet obligations
- Focus on WTO TFA obligations and TF reforms such as transparency; simplifying, standardizing and harmonizing procedures; digitalization and monitoring progress

unctad.org/tf



ASYCUDA
Automated System for Customs Data



National Trade Facilitation Committees – A TFA obligation and an UNCTAD focus

WTO TFA Art. 23.2

*Each Member **shall** establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both **domestic coordination and implementation of provisions** of this Agreement.*



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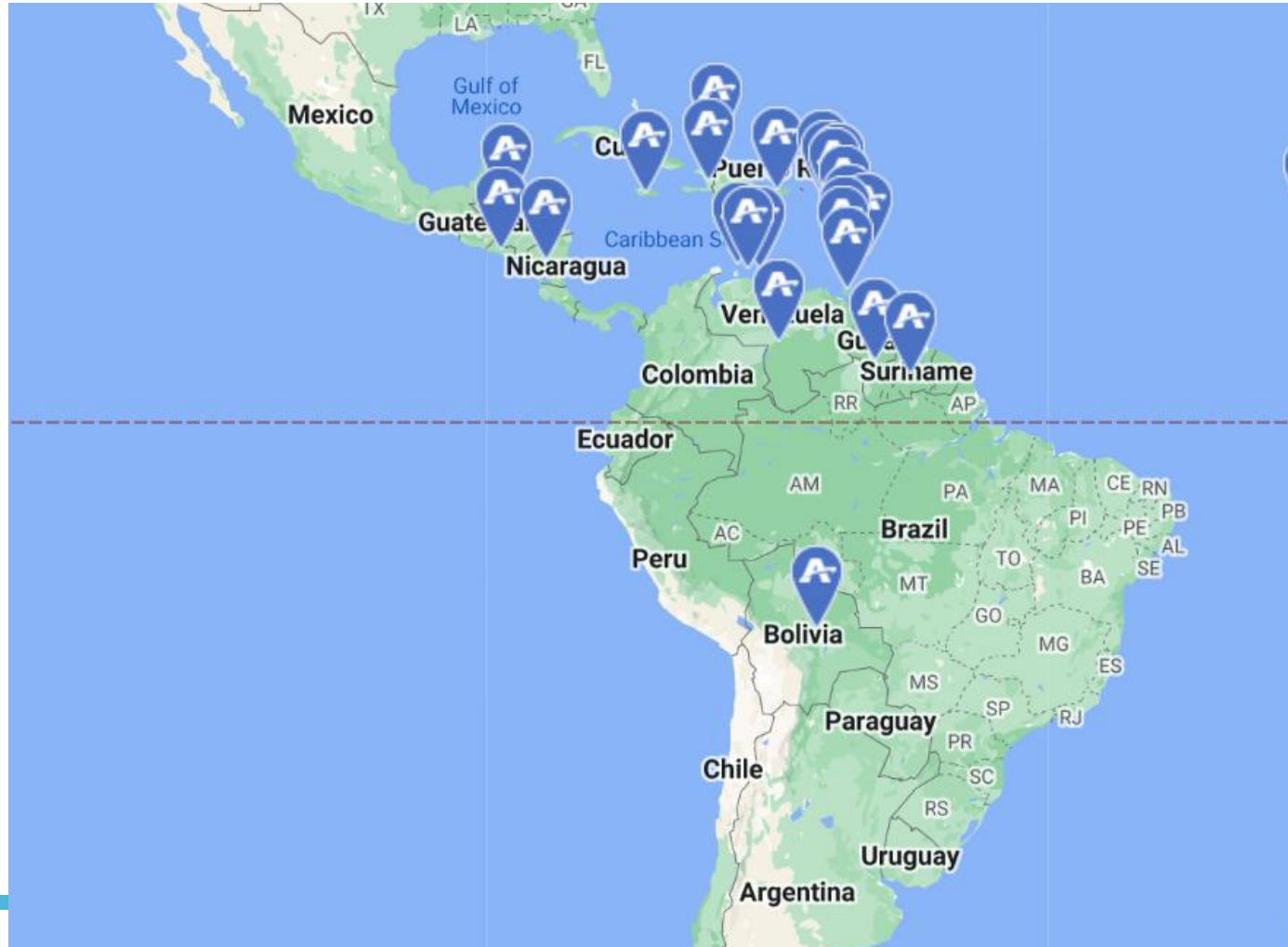




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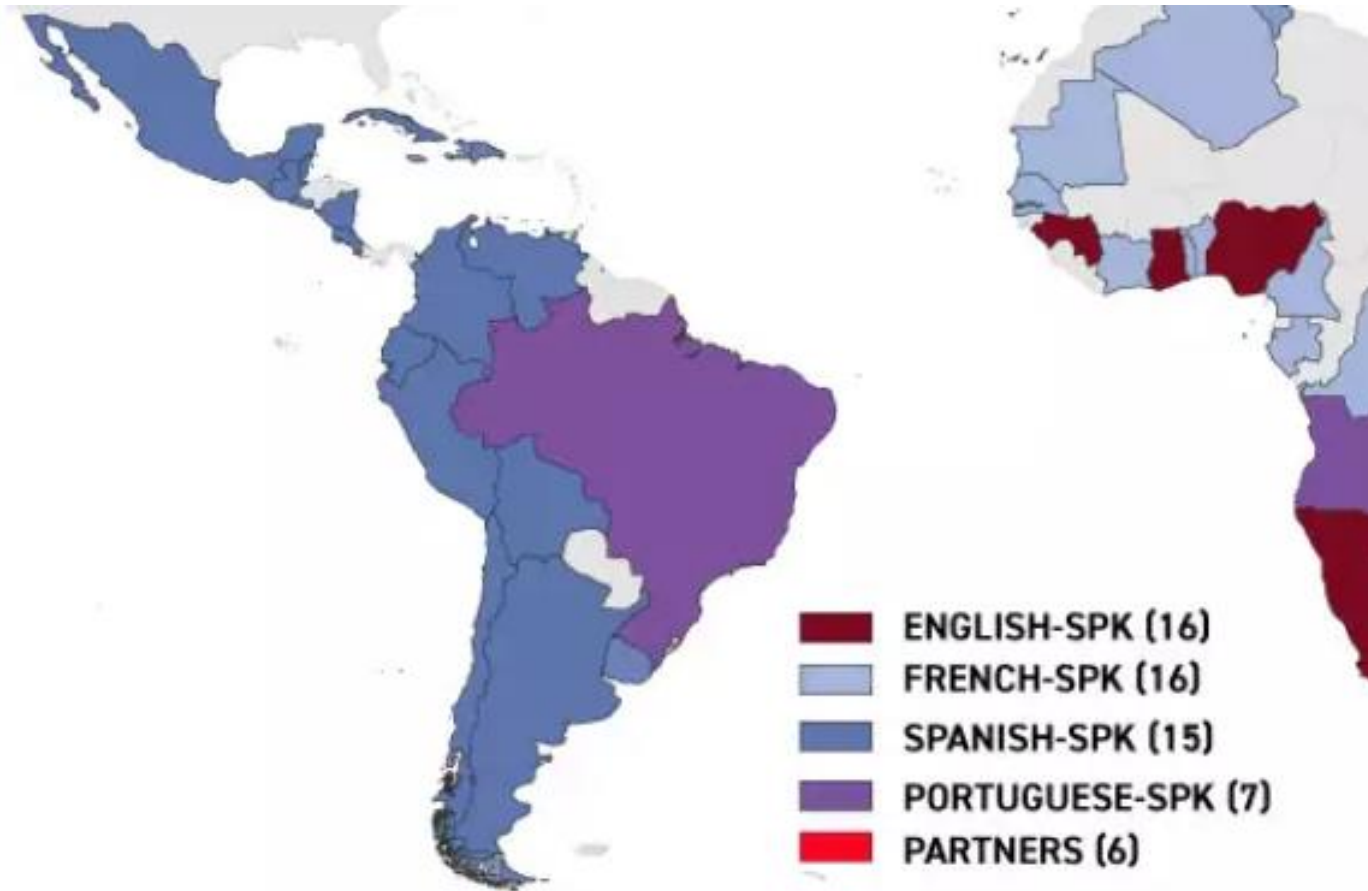
Automated System for Customs Data





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Port Management





Non-funded requests for assistance to UNCTAD in LATAM region on trade facilitation

- SIECA (Capacity building, Reform Tracker and Trade Portals)
- Caribbean (Capacity building, Reform Tracker and Trade Portals)
- Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay (Trade Portals)

Disruptions in the Black Sea and Panama and Suez Canals





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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