

**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation**  
**Seventh session, 7 to 9 May 2019**  
**Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Provisional programme**

**7 May 2019 (day 1)**

10–10.30 a.m.	<p><b>Opening plenary</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 1: Election of officers</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</b></p> <p><b>Opening remarks:</b> Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p> <p><b>Agenda item 3: Trade facilitation and transit in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Jan Hoffmann, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</p>
10.30 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<p><b>Session 1: The Sustainable Development Goals and trade facilitation</b></p> <p>On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda came into force, under which countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, by 2030. On 22 February 2017, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization entered into force, which contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of import and export goods, including goods in transit, as well as appropriate customs issues. This session will explore how the Sustainable Development Goals and trade facilitation are interlinked.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bradley Felix, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs, Saint Lucia</li> <li>• Kayula Siame, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia</li> <li>• Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Raul Torres, Counsellor, World Trade Organization</li> <li>• Celine Bacrot, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>
3–6 p.m.	<p><b>Session 2: Implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization – status and United Nations assistance</b></p> <p>This session will address the status of implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, details of how to seek assistance from the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility of the World Trade Organization and information on technical assistance provided by United Nations organizations in Geneva.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Henderson, Economic Affairs Officer, World Trade Organization</li> <li>• Sacha Silva, Senior Trade for Development Policy Adviser, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Bismark Sitorus, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Mohammad Saeed, Senior Adviser, International Trade Centre</li> <li>• Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Policy Officer, Economic Commission for Europe</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>

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**8 May 2019 (day 2)**

10 a.m.– 1 p.m.	<p><b>Session 3: Technology solutions for trade facilitation implementation</b></p> <p>The use of technology is an important factor in increasing efficiency and transparency in cross-border trade. The automation of trade and customs procedures has become an important competitiveness benchmark in global value chains, through solutions such as electronic single windows. This session will provide an overview of selected technical solutions for trade facilitation efficiency, as well as online training resources for trade facilitation capacity-building.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean-Marc Benoit, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Pamela Ugaz, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Frank Grozel, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Lance Thompson, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Europe</li> <li>• Arantzazu Sanchez, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>National experiences</p> <p>Interactive debate</p>
3–6 p.m.	<p><b>Session 4: Border agency cooperation in trade facilitation</b></p> <p>Trade facilitation is a complex multi-stakeholder process at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels. It involves the coordination of many stakeholders, both public and private, especially microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises. This session will provide an overview of assistance provided by various institutions in relation to a number of procedures other than customs, and highlight assistance provided to small cross-border traders.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank van Rompaey, Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, United Nations Industrial Development Organization</li> <li>• Marlynne Hopper, Deputy Head, Standards and Trade Development Facility</li> <li>• Mariangela Linoci, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Ralf Peters, Chief, Trade Information Section, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>National experiences</p> <p>Interactive debate</p>

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**9 May 2019 (day 3)**

10 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.	<p><b>Session 5: Transit solutions supporting trade facilitation</b></p> <p>The transit of goods is a complex, key element for inclusion in global value chains, especially landlocked chains. In particular, landlocked developing countries and neighbouring transit developing countries are impacted by efficient and well-functioning transit solutions. This session will focus on a number of tools and solutions for the smooth and efficient functioning of transit traffic.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Frida Youssef, Chief, Transport Section, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Jean-Marc Benoit, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> <li>• Andre Sceia, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Europe</li> <li>• Union of African Shippers' Councils (to be confirmed)</li> </ul> <p>National experiences</p> <p>Interactive debate</p>
12.30– 1 p.m.	<p><b>Concluding remarks by the Chair</b></p> <p><b>Agenda item 4: Adoption of the report of the meeting</b></p>