



**GLOBAL FORUM 2022 FOR NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES:
*Accelerating the implementation of trade facilitation reforms through the national trade
facilitation committees despite the pandemic situation***

Hosted by UNCTAD

In collaboration with GATF, ITC, OECD, UNECE, UNESCAP, WBG, WTO, WCO

Online, 1–4 February 2022

Registration: <https://unctad.org/meeting/global-forum-2022-national-trade-facilitation-committees> Global forum 2022 for national trade facilitation committees

The forum will provide a possibility for members of national trade facilitation committees, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to learn about and discuss the latest trends regarding implementation of trade facilitation reforms, including the implementation of the WTO TFA and other trade facilitation agreement at the national and the regional level. Experts and practitioners will be sharing insights on good practices regarding trade facilitation implementation with a view to providing members of the NTFCs and other stakeholders with evidence on how planning, organization, automation and digitalization can assist in advancing and accelerating trade facilitation reforms, in particular through the current pandemic situation and the post-covid recovery era.

Policy makers, trade, and Customs officials, and business representatives will contribute to the discussions on the success factors in the implementation of Trade Facilitation reforms.

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

Participating countries: All UN Members.



Draft Core Programme

Day One (Tuesday, 1 February 2022)	
<p><i>Opening (High-level) session: A global overview on the WTO TFA implementation despite the pandemic situation</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Shamika SIRIMANNE, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</i></p>	
Description	<p><i>The opening session of the Global Forum 2022 for National Trade Facilitation Committees will feature keynote addresses from heads of international organizations. They give their perspective on how trade facilitation can assist in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and will also focus on the development potential of trade facilitation in relation to the achievement of the 2030 goals. In the context of trade facilitation reforms, the speakers will address the conditions required, in particular for developing and least developed countries to be successful in implementing the obligations set out in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and regional agreements and how National Trade Facilitation Committees, in collaboration with donors and international organizations play a crucial role in these efforts.</i></p>
11:00-13:00	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Isabelle DURANT, Deputy 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. Kunio MIKURIYA, Secretary General, World Customs Organization (WCO) • Mr. Rajesh AGGARWAL, Officer in Charge Director, Division of Market Development, International Trade Centre (ITC) • Ms. Susan F. STONE, Head, Emerging Policy Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) • Mr. William GAIN, Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group (WBG) • Mr. Philippe ISLER, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) • Ms. Anabel GONZÁLEZ, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)



Day One (Tuesday, 1 February 2022)

Tangible solutions and approaches to empower NTFCs as coordinators of trade facilitation reforms Moderator: Dr Mohammad SAEED, Chief of Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business Section of the International Trade Centre (ITC)

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>Trade facilitation reforms aim at simplifying, harmonizing, standardizing and making trade procedures more transparent and, as such, they are a constant endeavor of every country not a one-off activity, giving NTFCs a permanent mandate. Consequently, NTFCs need to be considered as permanent platforms, coordinating national efforts to make trade, every day, a little bit cheaper, faster and simpler for economic prosperity. Understandably, Article 23.2 of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement obliges countries to set up or maintain a coordination mechanism that will support the implementation of the trade facilitation provisions included in the Agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Implementing trade facilitation reforms requires planning and coordination, because it involves several government agencies as well as collaboration with the private sector. All of this takes place within busy reform processes with tight schedules and short deadlines, political pressure and legal obligations. Monitoring therefore help to keep track of everything that is going on simultaneously, by providing tools and methods for an efficient and coordinated approach to the implementation of trade reforms in the context of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.</i></p>
<p>15:00-16:30</p>	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>“UNCTAD Reform Tracker as an instrument of coordination for the National Trade Facilitation Committee of Madagascar”. Mr. Iraldo LUIS DJAO, Head of the Division for the Application of International Conventions, Direction General of Customs, Madagascar</p> <p>“Experience of the U.K. National Trade Facilitation Committee” Mr. Orlando CANTELL, Head of World Trade Organization, Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building, Her Majesty Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom</p> <p>“Coordinating Ecuador’s trade facilitation agenda through UNCTAD Reform Tracker” Mr. Daniel LEGARDA, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, Ecuador</p> <p>“Regional co-ordination of trade facilitation reforms - Lessons from the Caribbean Community” Ms. Michele LOWE, Senior Coordinator, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Two (Wednesday, 2 February 2022)

Measuring and monitoring the implementation of Trade Facilitation Reforms

Moderator: Mr. Yann DUVAL, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>As bodies responsible for the coordination and implementation of trade facilitation reforms, National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) are involved in several initiatives running in parallel, led by different stakeholders. Thus, NTFCs require means to assess and keep track of these reform-initiatives, resources allocated to their implementation, and their impact.</i></p> <p><i>This session seeks to unveil the different tools available to measure and monitor the implementation of trade facilitation measures at the national level as well as to compare performance at the regional and international levels.</i></p> <p><i>The session will look at providing answers to the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How do these tools work?</i> - <i>How do these initiatives increase accountability of NTFCs members?</i> - <i>What are the benefits and lessons learned from deploying these tools?</i> - <i>What is the way forward?</i>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>“First Review of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement” Mr. Christopher O'TOOLE, Chairperson of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee and Counsellor of the Mission of Canada to the WTO</p> <p>“OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators as a benchmark tool” Ms. Silvia SORESCU, Policy Analyst / Project lead Trade facilitation, Emerging Policy Issues Division, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>“Creating indicators to monitor NTFC performance and implementation of trade facilitation reforms” Ms. Arantzazu SANCHEZ, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>“Monitoring the implementation of the WTO TFA through the UNCTAD Reform Tracker in Honduras” Ms. Karen SOSA, Coordinator of the Technical Group of the National Trade Facilitation Committee, Honduras</p> <p>“Increasing Customs efficiency through ASYCUDA SYSTEM for Performance Measurement (ASYPM)” Ms. Tigcebe MNDZEBELE, Senior Customs officer, Operational Policy Division, Eswatini Revenue Service</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Two (Wednesday, 2 February 2022)

NTFCs in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

Moderator: Mr. Ricardo TREVIÑO, Deputy Secretary-General, World Customs Organization (WCO)

Description	<p><i>Developing Countries and Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) aim to improve their national and/or regional capacity to better respond against future crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic as well as ensure the minimum disruption of trade flows by identifying and understanding the effectiveness of trade measures and regulations in times of crisis. With a view to ensuring the continuation of supply and value chains and maintaining the flow of imports, exports, and transit, including essential goods, while ensuring compliance controls such as Customs, health, sanitary etc. NTFCs could have a main role on this, by coordinating such actions, particularly by assessing the awareness of the existence of the measures, how to implement them and the impact they have in alleviating the negative trade effects of a crisis.</i></p>
15:00-16:30	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>“Mongolia's trade facilitation response to the COVID-19 pandemic” Ms. Davaa TSENSUREN, Senior Customs Officer and Secretary of the Trade Facilitation Working Group; and Ms. Dulguun ENKHBAATAR, Custom Officer, both from General Customs Administration, Mongolia</p> <p>“Trade Facilitation in Paraguay: experiences and challenges in the framework of the pandemic” Mr. Enrique CARILLO, Director of Multilateral Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paraguay</p> <p>“The progress of digitalization in Peru in terms of trade facilitation in the context of the pandemic - challenges and opportunities” Ms. Ingrid HUAPAYA, Customs coordinator and facilitation of foreign trade, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR), Peru</p> <p>“Vanuatu’s NTFC involvement and response to COVID-19” Mr. Harold TAROSA, Director at the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue; and Chair of the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee (TFSC), Vanuatu</p> <p>“Trade facilitation in emergency situations and crises: challenges faced, measures implemented, and lessons learnt in Zimbabwe” Ms. Silvia CHAUKE, Risk Manager, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), Zimbabwe</p> <p>“TMEA’s Covid Response: The Safe Trade Emergency Facility” Mr. Frank MATSAERT, Chief Executive Officer, TradeMark East Africa</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Three (Thursday, 3 February 2022)

NTFCs role in mainstreaming digital trade facilitation solutions

Moderator: Mr. Eugene TORERO, Director, Trade Policy and Facilitation, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA)

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>Trade facilitation ecosystem is very much linked to the progress made by technology towards the digitalization of the trade environment. The simplification and streamlining of the trade procedures are being undertaken through the customs automation and the online access to a single point of information (with the Trade Information Portals) but also a single point of transactions for customs clearance (with the Single Windows). Efficiency of trade facilitation means reducing time consuming formalities and paper-based procedures and this can only happen with the integration of IT tools and technology in the border services. The examples of the electronic cargo tracking system in the EAC and the implementation of the e-phyto certificates are also innovations which can contribute to increasing the efficiency of the trade facilitation ecosystem.</i></p> <p><i>What are the conditions for the Governments and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to ensure that at national and regional levels, the trade facilitation ecosystem integrates the required technology to transform the public services in order to best serve the business community?</i></p>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>“Using Trade Information for Business re-engineering and Automation” Ms. Jane MUSYOKI, Trade Information Portal and Facilitation Value Add Services Practitioner, Kenya Trade Network Agency (Kentrade)</p> <p>“The experience of Single Window in Vanuatu and the case of ASYREC” Mr. Stanley TRIEF, Manager Vanuatu Electronic Single Window System Project, National Revenue Authority, Vanuatu</p> <p>“The experience of Single Window in Kazakhstan and transit corridors” Mr. Zhomart YELEUSSIZOV, Chief Expert, department of Foreign Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan</p> <p>“The electronic phytosanitary certificate for export in Ecuador (e-phyto)” Mr. David TELLO, Agrocalidad, Ministry of Agriculture, Ecuador</p> <p>“The Electronic Cargo Tracking System in the EAC” Ms. Flavia BUSINGYE, Acting Director Customs, East African Community Secretariat (EAC)</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Three (Thursday, 3 February 2022)

How can NTFCs become promoters of gender equality in trade facilitation policies?

Moderator: Ms. Simonetta ZARRILLI TRAEGER, Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>Women exporters and importers and female informal cross-border traders face significant gender-based challenges, which include time constraints, compliance costs of burdensome procedures, legal discrimination, and harassment at the border. Despite multilateral calls to address those issues and to make trade and development policies more gender responsive, including at the 2017 Buenos Aires WTO Ministerial Conference, limited progress has been made on gender equality in international trade.</i></p> <p><i>At the national level, very few NTFCs have taken decisions or actions to mainstream gender into trade facilitation policies. Their membership and chairmanship remain male dominated, with limited awareness on gender issues. How can NTFCs effectively address gender-based challenges faced by women traders and better integrate a gender perspective into trade facilitation reforms?</i></p>
<p>15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>“What are the main challenges faced by women traders?” Ms. Éliane MUNKENI KIEKIE, National Vice-President in charge of Women and Young Entrepreneurs, Congolese Business Federation, Democratic Republic of Congo</p> <p>“Rwanda’s experience in mainstreaming gender into trade facilitation reforms” Ms. Chantal TUYISHIMIRE, Acting coordinator of National Trade Facilitation Committee, Rwanda</p> <p>“Establishment of Ghana's NTFC Sub-Committee on Trade and Gender” Ms. Naa Densua ARYEETAY, Chair of the Trade and Gender Subcommittee, Ghana</p> <p>“Customs trade facilitation initiatives for women traders” Ms. Ari TIASTARY, Head of Multilateral Section I, Directorate of International Customs and Inter-Institutional, Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Indonesia</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Four (Friday, 4 February 2022)

The role of NTFCs in emerging issues: simplification of procedures, cross-border cooperation, and e-commerce

Moderator: Ms. Alina Monica ANTOCI, Senior Private Sector Specialist, Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practice, Global Trade & Regional Integration Unit, World Bank Group (WBG)

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>Covid-19 highlighted the role of NTFCs in the simplification of procedures and the linkages with cross-border cooperation and E-Commerce.</i></p> <p><i>What is the role of NTFCs and how can the private and public sector work together to simplify procedures and increase cross-border cooperation? Around the globe, NTFCs are finding it difficult to increase cross border cooperation, while focusing on simplifying procedures and considering the challenges and benefits of E-Commerce.</i></p> <p><i>This session will go in depth how to simplify procedures while focusing on E-Commerce and allows NTFCs members to exchange good practices.</i></p>
<p>11:30-13:00</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>“The pan-regional perspective of trade facilitation – the example of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)” Ms. Demitta GYANG, Director, Customs Cooperation, Trade Facilitation and Transit, Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat</p> <p>“E-Commerce and trade facilitation” Mr. Steve POPE, Group Head of Trade Facilitation, GoTrade, Deutsche Post DHL</p> <p>“Trade facilitation and Digitalization – the example of ASYCUDA” Mr. Constantin CIUTA, Programme Management Officer/Senior Customs Adviser, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>“Climate Change and Trade Facilitation” Ms. Celine BACROT, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>Q&A</p>



Day Four (Friday, 4 February 2022)

Closing session

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

<p>Description</p>	<p><i>The closing of the Forum will include deliberations of the key takeaways from the Forum for the community of National Trade Facilitation Committees and related stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>Specifically, it will also reflect on key outcomes of the Forum for the future engagement of international organizations with National Trade Facilitation Committees focusing on the collaborative efforts between these Committees to be agents of change and contribute to sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>The event will terminate with closing remarks from key stakeholders.</i></p>
<p>15:00-16:30</p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elisabeth TUERK, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) • Mr. Yann DUVAL, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) • Dr Mohammad SAEED, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business Section, International Trade Centre (ITC) • Mr. Brendan O’HEARN, Deputy Director, Procedures and Facilitation, World Customs Organisation (WCO) • Mr. William GAIN, Global Lead, Trade Facilitation, Customs Reform & Border Management, World Bank Group (WBG) • Ms. Sheri ROSENOW, Counselor, Market Access Division, World Trade Organization (WTO) • Ms. Silvia SURESCU, Project lead Trade facilitation, Emerging Policy Issues Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) • Mr. Poul HANSEN, Chief, Trade Facilitation, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)