UNCTAD 16 GENEVA
20–23 OCTOBER 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Parallel event

20 October 2025
Room IX
3–4.30 p.m.

ASYCUDA: New technology to foster efficient, secure and sustainable trade

Description

The Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) is the largest technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD. It has supported over 100 developing economies in digitalizing customs and facilitating trade, and has continuously evolved by adapting new technology, to improve efficiency, strengthen transparency and build more resilient and inclusive trade systems.

This event will showcase the new-generation ASYCUDA platform, which provides for secure data exchanges and integrates artificial intelligence and machine learning for smarter risk management and faster clearance. The platform helps to strengthen Government and public sector ownership and interoperability, while supporting electronic commerce, revenue collection, paperless transactions and cross-border cooperation.

Participants, including representatives from customs authorities, government agencies, institutional partners and development actors, will discuss how ASYCUDA enables more secure, connected and equitable trade and helps countries shape their digital futures.

UN trade & development
UNCTAD

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Programme

Opening remarks: UNCTAD Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General/Director, Division on Technology and Logistics

Keynote address: To be determined

High-level panel and interactive discussion

Questions

- How can emerging digital technologies be leveraged to enhance the efficiency, security and sustainability of cross-border trade operations, particularly in developing country contexts?

- Which practical and institutional insights can be drawn from national and regional experiences in designing, deploying and scaling the single window for trade systems?

- How can the ASYCUDA programme and broader technical cooperation support member States in working together to accelerate the transition to cross-border paperless trade, including legal, institutional and technological readiness?

- Which institutional frameworks are most effective in managing change during digital transformation projects, particularly in fragile or post-conflict States?

- How can the automation of permit issuance and compliance monitoring strengthen the enforcement of international environmental agreements while simplifying trader obligations?

Moderator: To be determined

Interpretation

English, French

Contact

Kamal Tahiri Jouti, Programme Management Officer, ASYCUDA Programme, Division on Technology and Logistics, kamal.tahiri@un.org