Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation:

Trade Logistics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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by

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Why Sustainable Freight Transport (SFT) Toolkit?

The importance of freight transport as a trade enabler, engine of growth and a driver of social development is widely recognized. However, the associated adverse impacts of freight transport activity on the environment, human health and climate are also cause for concern.

If left unchecked, unsustainable patterns are likely to intensify undermining any progress made to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

**KEY DATA**

Global freight transport volumes are projected to grow 4 time by 2050, driven in particular by economic growth in developing countries.

- Freight transport energy consumption could increase by 60% from 2012 to 2050 under business-as-usual scenario.
- Freight transport activity currently account for 7% of Global economy-wide GHG emissions and are expected to grow by a factor of 3.9 by 2050.
- Freight transport activity accounts for about 35-60% of total logistics cost depending on commodity type and supply chain.
- Transport-related externalities, road accidents, congestion, air pollution in many developing countries accounts for 6-10% of GDP.
By promoting to **sustainable freight transport systems** today, developing countries will be better prepared to reap future economic, social and environment benefits.

- Promoting sustainable freight transport systems provides an opportunity for developing countries to work towards improving efficiencies in freight transport, addressing the transport infrastructure needs and capacity requirements, while at the same time reducing the sector’s negative externalities.
- Not seizing this opportunity may lead to increased future costs, including in terms of retrofitting existing infrastructure and equipment, shifting to new technologies and changing operating practices - given the long life cycles of transport infrastructure and assets that can lock in unsustainable patterns.

**UNCTAD** has, over recent years, intensified its work on sustainable freight transport to help developing countries in **mainstreaming sustainability considerations into their freight transport-related policies, plans, operations, and investment decisions**.

**UNCTAD**’s interventions aim to build and strengthen the capacity of key freight transport stakeholders, including government authorities, policy makers, transport infrastructure managers, freight transport and logistic service providers, and shippers, to **effectively plan, design, develop, and implement sustainable freight transport solutions**.
1) UNCTAD SFT Portal
https://unctadsftportal.org/

2) Training Programme

3) UNCTAD SFT Framework
https://sft-framework.org/
UNCTAD SFT Portal is a platform that provides general information, best practices, and material related to sustainability in freight transport - across various modes (maritime, road, rail, aviation), using the three pillars of sustainability.

i) SFT Map - is an interactive map which allows to easily identify selected national and regional strategies aimed at promoting SFT in various countries or regions.
ii) SFT Global Activities allows users to easily search and access information about institutions and organizations working on SFT across all modes of transport.

iii) SFT Online Training Modules/Case studies/Best practices aims to build and strengthen the capacity, skills, and knowledge of freight transport stakeholders (public and private) interested in advancing the sustainable freight transport agenda.
2) UNCTAD SFT Training Programme

Dedicated comprehensive training programme that covers: all modes of transport, multimodal and corridors, as well as city logistics and urban freight transport, and finance.

The training can be tailored to suit the expectations and needs of various stakeholders from developing countries, different regions.

The UNCTAD sustainable freight training course consists currently of 14 modules comprising numerous PowerPoint presentations.
3) UNCTAD SFT Framework

https://sft-framework.org/

UNCTAD SFT Framework is a web-based step-by-step methodology that help in planning, designing, developing, and implementing adequate strategies that promote sustainable freight transport systems.

The Framework is applicable within and across modes of transport and to different stakeholders (public and private) and in various geographical areas (national, regional, corridor, rural/urban, etc.)
The UNCTAD SFT Framework is articulated around six Steps (Diagnosis, Visioning, Targets, Implementation, Partnership & Programme, Monitoring & Evaluation) and one set of crosscutting Enabling Factors.

- The target audience of the Framework spans all relevant players (public and private) from within and outside the freight transport sector.

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**i. A Self-Assessment Questionnaire:** allows for a qualitative evaluation of the current status and performance of freight transport along the three dimensions of sustainable transport (economic, environmental and social).

**ii. A filterable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) List:** features more than 250 indicators related to sustainable freight transport. These can be used to measure performance and progress against the objectives set in the sustainable freight transport strategy.

**iii. A Sustainable Freight Transport Measures Catalogue:** includes more than 300 measures that can support the design and implementation of a sustainable freight transport strategy.
Thank you

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