

UNECE

Trade Subprogramme

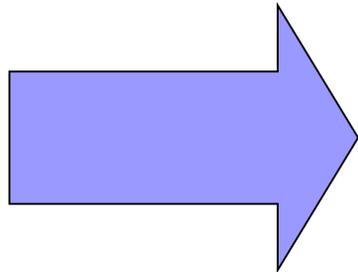
Work on Trade Facilitation and e-Business under
the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and
Standards

8 April 2019

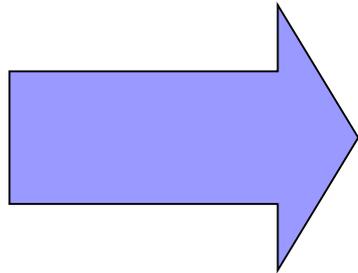
Mr. Mika Vepsäläinen
Chief, Market Access Section



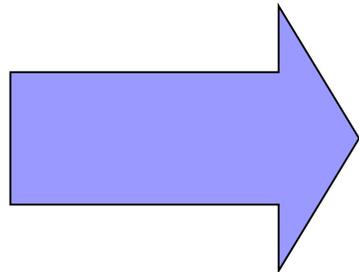
UNECE Trade Programme: 3 Priorities



Facilitating trade flows

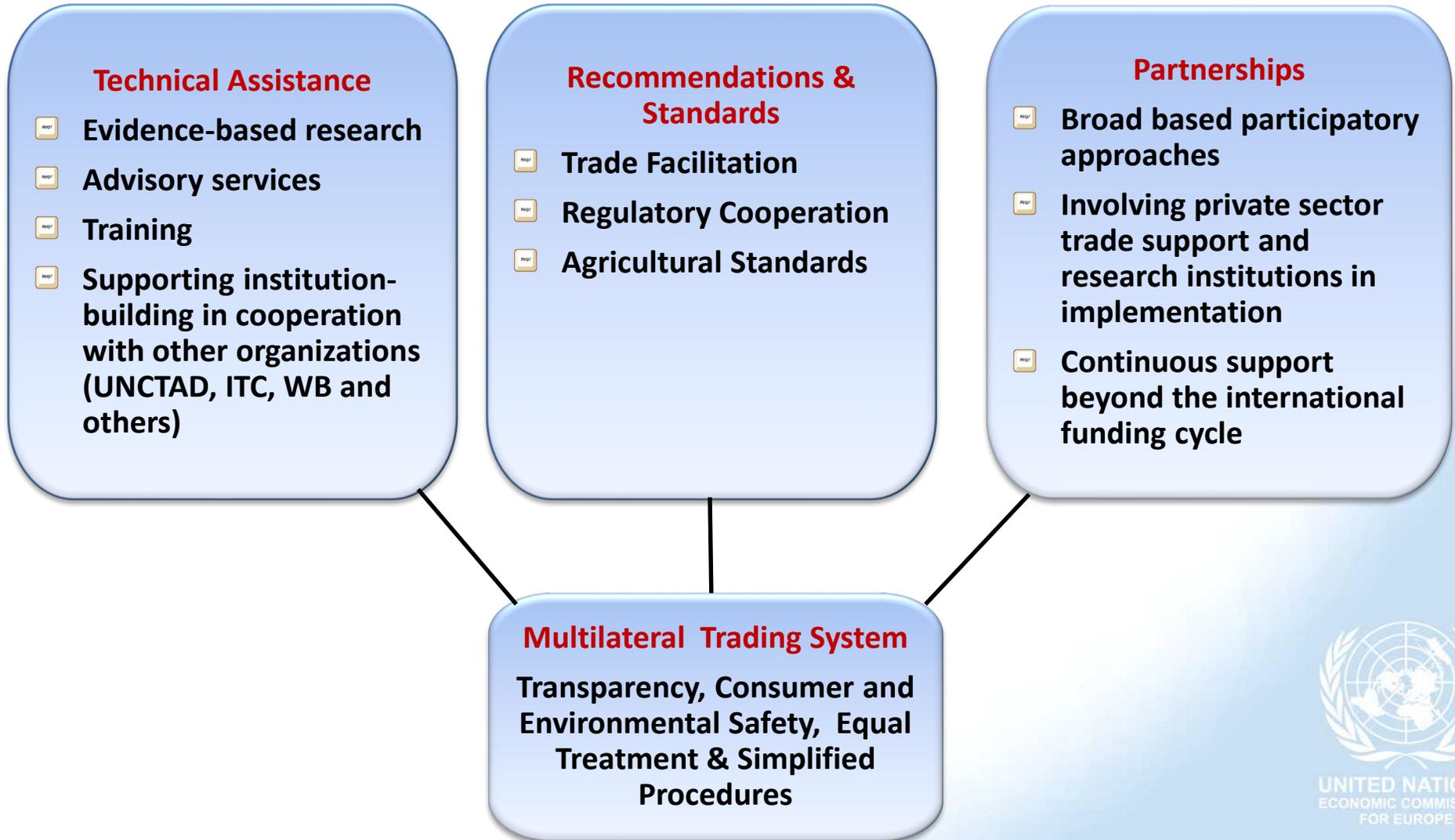


Simplifying and harmonizing regulations



Implementing standards-based agricultural trade

UNECE Trade: How we work



UNECE Trade Expert Groups

**Steering Committee on
Trade Capacity and
Standards**

**UN/CEFACT
United Nations Centre for
Trade Facilitation and
Electronic Business**

**WP.6
Regulatory Cooperation
and Standardisation**

**WP.7
Agricultural Quality
Standards**



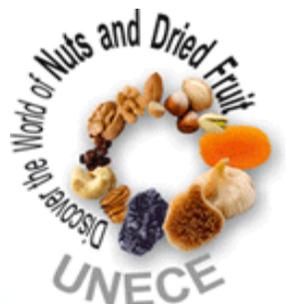
Agricultural Quality Standards (WP 7)

 **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables** (51 standards; explanatory brochures)

 **Meat** (15 illustrated standards) & **Eggs** (2 standards)

 **Seed Potatoes** (1 standard; inspection guide)

 **Dry and Dried Produce** (27 standards; explanatory brochures; colour scales)



Why Agricultural Quality Standards?

- To provide a common trading language
- To create market transparency and international trade
- To guide producers, improve and ensure the level of product quality
- To increase profitability of the sector
(Profitability depends on trading volume and price which are influenced by quality)
- To protect consumers' interests



UNECE STANDARDS ensure consistent quality and help establish lasting trade relations.

Current related work under WP.7



Electronic quality certificates (conformity certificate) for fresh fruit and vegetables

- Very good cooperation between the UN/CEFACT agricultural domain group and WP.7 as the e-quality certificate advancing fast and efficiently
- WP.7 will continue working with the Agriculture domain in the next phases
- WP.7 welcomes further cooperation e.g. on its food loss prevention, reduction and quantification work

- Reducing Food loss:
 - Fighting food loss with better quality has become one of the guiding principle in WP.7's work and messages:
 - Benchmarking good practice, avoiding wrong handling
 - Evaluating the role of standards
 - Providing guidance

- UNDA project for the next 3 years:
 - on 4 continents including 4 regional commissions with UNECE as the lead agency combines analysis, implementation of quality legislation for fruit and vegetables:
 - practical solutions including IT solutions
 - TF measures to speed up the clearance of good in cross-border trade.



Working Party on: Regulatory cooperation & std policies (WP.6)

What is it:

- Intergovernmental body
- Participation by: authorities, regional & int'l org, standards-setting bodies, business, certification bodies, test houses, civil society
- From all UN Member States
- 1970 – 2015: 45+ years

Mandate:

- Standardization Regulatory cooperation Conformity assessment Accreditation Metrology Market surveillance Risk Management in regulatory frameworks Education on standards and standards related issues

Activities

- Develop and share info & best practice
- Capacity-building (trainings and awareness-raising events)
- Develop and maintain a set of recommendations
- Regulatory cooperation in specific industrial sectors/domains

Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP 6) (cont'd)

Forum for Dialogue between UN & Standards Community

- Standards for the SDGs project
- Gender-responsive standards

Sectoral Initiatives

- Remove technical barriers to trade in specific sectors: a current sector of focus is cybersecurity

Market Surveillance

- Fight proliferation of counterfeit and non-compliant goods on the markets

Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks

- Safer and more resilient communities and eco-systems

Education on Standards-related Issues

- Network of universities teaching about standards

Project on “Standards for the SDGs”

Objectives:

- Raising awareness among standards bodies on the 2030 Agenda
- Promoting the use of standards by policymakers, and other stakeholders for sustainable development

Deliverables

A. Case studies:

- Featuring practical experiences of policymakers using international standards for sustainable development, focusing on **SDG6**, **SDG7**, **SDG11** and **SDG13**. Available at: <https://www.unece.org/sdgs-isoweek2018.html>

B. Database, which has **mapped 1,600 standards** and allows users to:

- Identify standards that support sustainable development
- Link standards to the SDGs

C. High-level events, including a conference with ISO which attracted **more than 800 people** all over the world



Can CEFACT support widening the database?

Standards & Gender Equality

- **Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative aims to:**
 - Use standards support gender equality & SDG 5
 - Integrate a gender lens in standards and technical regulations
- **Declaration for Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development**
 - Requests standardization bodies to develop gender action plans tailored to own priorities, choosing examples listed in Declaration Annex
- **14 th May 2019**
 - The Declaration opens for signature
 - Over 50 intl, regional, and national sign
 - An innovative no-fly event encouraged to sign remotely through online platform & social media

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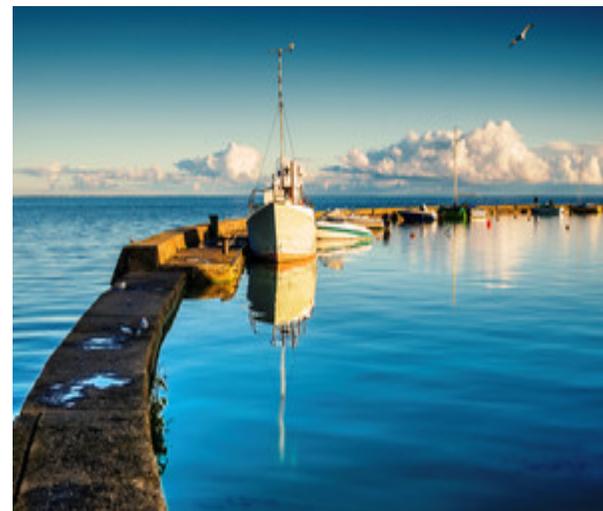
Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development



Will CEFACT become a signatory to the declaration?

Cefact related WP 6 deliverables

- WP. 6 participated in the First and Second Meetings of UN/CEFACT Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists, to present outcomes of Working Meeting on “Tools and standards in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14”, (October 2018, Reykjavik, Iceland) to progress guidelines on using risk management tools for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources
- UN/CEFACT & WP. 6 joint project on “Strengthening the national capacity of trade-support institutions of Kyrgyzstan” (May 2016 – June 2018)
- Ongoing work on the development of common regulatory framework on “Cybersecurity”



Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade

- 📖 **Completed:** Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan

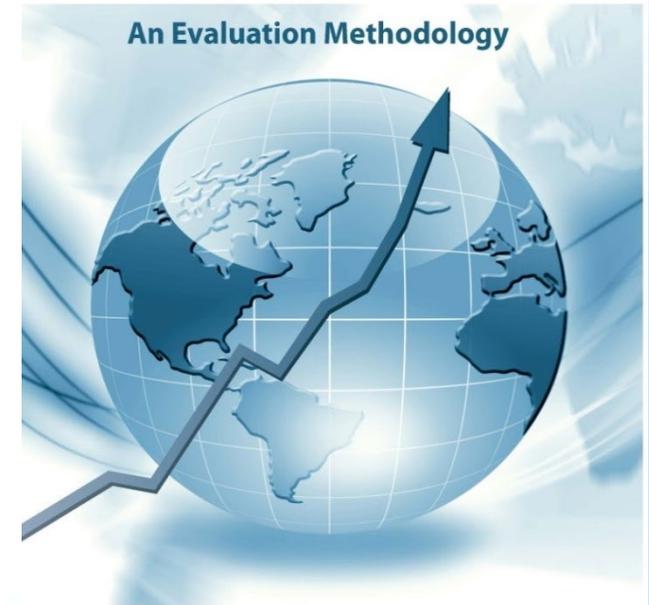
Follow-up ongoing

- 📖 **Plans:** additional countries, a regional review based on the country studies

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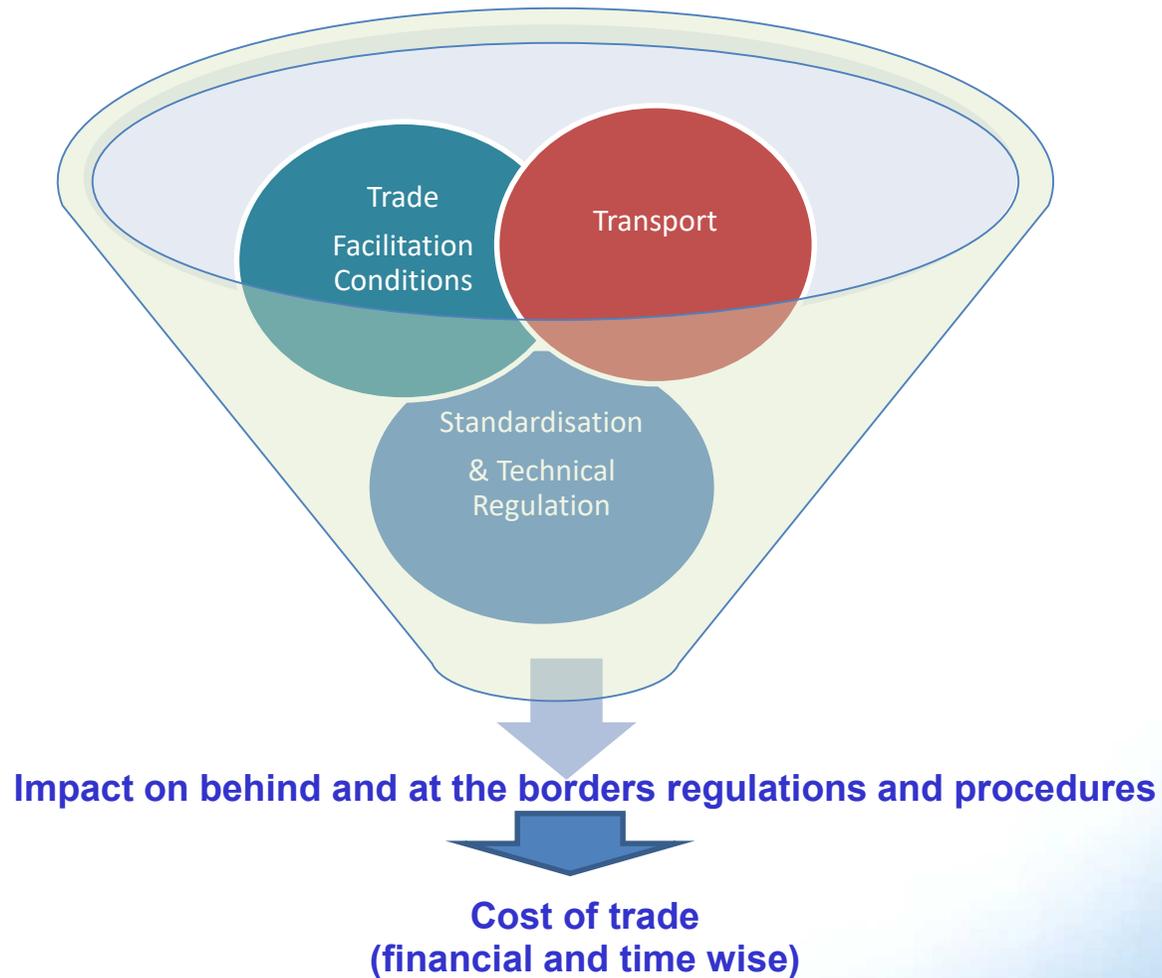
Assessing regulatory and procedural measures in trade:

An Evaluation Methodology



UNITED NATIONS

Comprehensive Evaluation Methodology



Evidence based

Desk research and face-to-face interviews

Desk study

Previous studies

Laws, policy documents and government decisions

Development plans

Face-to-face interviews: representatives of Government & trade support institutions

Officials from the National Advisory Working Group

Logistics service providers, transport operations, trade and enterprise support associations

Face-to-Face interviews: traders

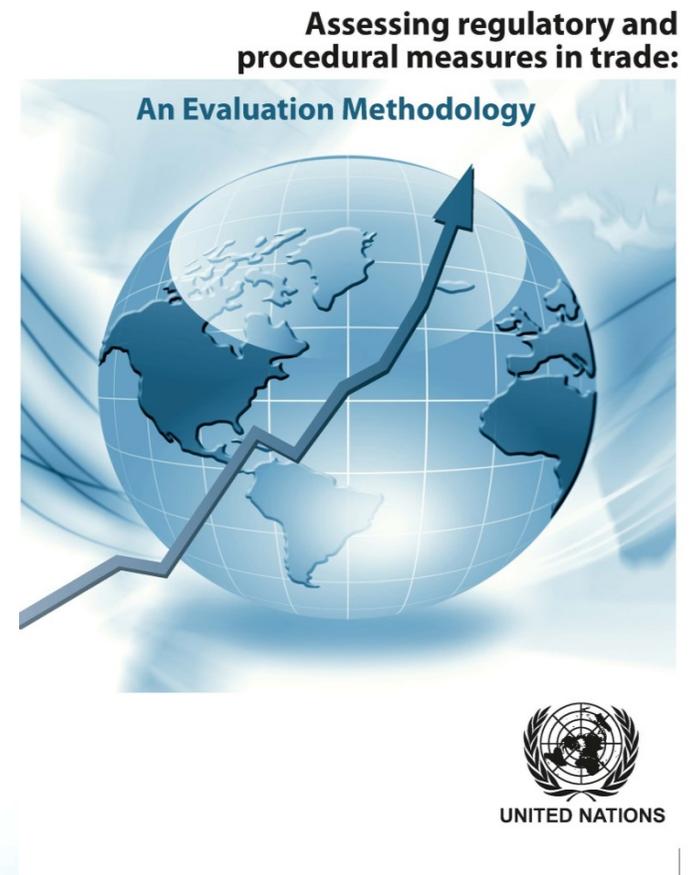
30 traders from priority sectors

The development implications of regulatory and procedural trade barriers

ECE compendium of evidence-based analysis

- **Focuses** on behind and at border regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
- **Survey based:** all supply chain actors are interviewed to discern immediate and long-term needs
- **Participatory approach:** implemented in close consultation with national stakeholders
- **Implemented (since its launching in 2010) in:** Albania (2016), Armenia (2019), Belarus (2012), Georgia (2018) Kazakhstan (2014), Kyrgyzstan (2015), Moldova (Republic of, 2017) and Tajikistan (2014).

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Trade and connectivity

Evidence from ECE region



Fragmented trade reforms: competing policy objectives

Capacity shortfalls: errors and delays

The absence of a vibrant enterprise sector

The impact of geography

Fragmented reforms

| Need | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| Lack of adequate facilities at the main border crossing points | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve road networks leading to main border crossing points• Improve traffic management• Build of non-intrusive inspection equipment |
| Establish a comprehensive cross-border risk management system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enshrine the concept of integrated border management in existing legislation based a holistic approach, which balances supply chain security and trade facilitation (e.g., WCO's Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade)• Establish inter-agency risk management committees |
| Reconsider the pace of moving to paperless trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In several countries there is a rush towards establishing Single Window (SW) facilities (in one undertaking) as a first step to consolidating paperless trading systems.• Coordinate SW implementation with other partners. This is critical for data exchange associated with regional trade/transit. |

Capacity shortfalls

| Needs | Recommendations |
|---|---|
| Strengthen capacities of testing laboratories | Develop the capacities of testing laboratories based on a cost-benefit analysis, and in consultation with trading partners |
| | Intensify efforts to enable accreditation bodies to establish the Multilateral Agreements (MLA) with the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). |
| Help enterprises comply with international quality and safety regulatory requirements | Enterprise development programs should target both labor-intensive industries and those with technology intensive activities and could be tailored to create: (i) horizontal collaboration, such as sharing the costs of expensive equipment or research and development; (ii) vertical collaboration through facilitating the decentralization of the production process; and/or (iii) exchange of information on technology and common problems |

Mutual trust: the first casualty of trade barriers

| Needs | Recommendations |
|--|---|
| In country | |
| A coherent treatment of economic issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole-of-government approaches: shared goals and integrated responses to trade and economic development challenges |
| Build mutual trust and partnership between customs and the trading community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide State agencies with the tools to implement legislative reforms• Encourage traders to carry out regular self-assessments using a checklist provided by the Customs.• Implement the Authorized Economic Operators schemes. In addition, establish a customs to business partnership programme, whereby traders who pass the Customs audit could then be accorded significant benefits similar to those provided to Authorized Economic Operators. |
| With trading partners | |
| Attract foreign direct investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment |
| A conducive environment for consultations with trade partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than anytime in the past, regional and international platforms are needed for the exchange of views, particularly for the benefit of developing, least developed and land-locked countries• Discussions should be evidence based, taking into account the specific conditions of these countries and their stage of development. |

Binding constraints



- **Lack of funds: business community and State agencies**
- **Geography: dependence on the transport facilities of nearby countries and the language barrier**
- **Dwindling demand in main target markets**