**Eleventh meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Trade**

***Implementing Trade Facilitation and the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Asia***

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# Progress in trade facilitation and regional cooperation in trade

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# Republic of Tajikistan and Trade Facilitation Agreement

- December 2013

- Signing the Trade Facilitation Agreement

- Coordination of the TFA related issues with all authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan

- 5 May 2015 – Ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement by the Republic of Tajikistan

- Government Decree of the Republic of Tajikistan from 24 December 2016, №529 “On establishing Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation of the Republic of Tajikistan»

# Role of the Trade Facilitation Agreement for the Republic of Tajikistan

- Insuring transparency
- Facilitation of customs procedures
- Fast delivery of goods
- New opportunities in doing bussiness

# How measures on trade facilitation can assist country regions in implementation of development goals

- Decrease in expenses on trade operations
- Increase of companies competitiveness
- Effective increase in export operations
- Creation of new jobs and new income opportunities
- Economic growth
- Decrease in poverty

# Regional Trade and trade facilitation

- LLDCs' share of trade is very low and not diversified
- Enhanced trade facilitation is required to reduce trade costs
- Ratification and effective implementation of international, regional agreements on trade facilitation
- Simplification and harmonization of customs regulations and border crossing procedures
- LLDCs should fully harness the potential of Aid for Trade in improving their capacity to reduce their trade costs and increasing their competitiveness

# Importance of regional approach

- Undeniable competitive advantage (especially important for small and landlocked countries)
- Closer co-operation of these countries as a single region
- Promoting national products to foreign markets
- Creating favorable conditions for attracting regional investments
- Development of transport corridors
- Better transport connectivity
- More energy resources and trade
- Better customs systems
- Better regional perspective in national planning
- More capacity, networking and best practices
- Greater competitiveness and productivity
- More investment, jobs, higher incomes

# Existing Impediments in Regional Trade

- Underdeveloped transport infrastructure for transit and access to international sea ports
- The non-recognition of certificates issued by the authorities on technical regulation in the region and beyond
- The lack of a harmonized system providing for freedom of transit in the region
- Insufficient level of cooperation between single window systems or similar bodies in the region in the field of information exchange

# Possible ways for solutions

- Deepening the integration of national economies into the world economy by stimulating exports and promoting foreign trade
- The strengthening of trade relations within the framework of existing regional organizations and projects
- Creation and development of predictable transit transport infrastructure with access to international sea ports
- The Harmonization of systems providing freedom of transit within the region
- The harmonization of technical standards and cooperation between relevant authorities in the countries of the region

# The three strategic priorities of Republic of Tajikistan in regional trade in Central Asia

1. The strategy for trade facilitation in Central Asia within the SPECA

2. Trilateral agreement on transit trade between the Republic of Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

3. Active participation of the Republic of Tajikistan in the multilateral negotiations on the accession of the countries of the region in the WTO

# Expectations of the Republic of Tajikistan from the international organizations/UN in support for regional trade in Central Asia

- Comprehensive support for the development and further implementation of the Strategy for Trade Facilitation in Central Asia

- Technical and financial assistance for the implementation of measures of category C of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation

- Technical assistance in the implementation of the program of adaptation of the economy of the Republic of Tajikistan in connection with WTO membership

# Thank you for your attention!