UNECE and the simplification of Customs and Border Crossing Procedures
UNECE’s Work on Transport - overview

For (mandate):
- **Safe and Secure**
- **Environmentally Friendly**
  - Efficient
  - Competitive
  - Transport

Through
- Regulatory
- Analytical
- Capacity Building
- Policy Dialogue

Activities

Specialised in
- Inland Transport (road, rail, inland water, intermodal transport infrastructure and services)
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
  - Vehicle Regulations

With
- National
- Regional
- Inter-Regional
- Global

Application and Cooperation

With impact on daily life of people and businesses

Dushanbe, 19 May 2015
UN Transport Conventions and Agreements
Geographical Scope
Customs and Border Crossing Facilitation

- **Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30)**
- Inter-governmental forum
- Prepares, reviews, modifies and administers 15 International UN Conventions
The Harmonization Convention

- 56 Contracting Parties
- Latest accessions: Jordan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Moldova, Tunisia, Iran, Tajikistan
- Expressed interest to join: China
Objective

- To facilitate cross border transport of goods through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders.
Scope

1. All goods moved across borders (exported, imported or in transit)
2. All control services
3. All modes of transport
4. Specific provisions for certain transport modes and goods
5. Also addresses certain issues with regard to vehicles and drivers
The Convention provides a framework that enables:

- Harmonization of formalities
- Reduction of the number and duration of controls
- Standardization of documentation
- Co-ordination of national and international control procedures
Benefits of the Harmonization Convention

- Reduction of border delays
- Reduction of transport cost
- Reduction of trade transaction cost
- Reduction of border operating costs for State budget
- More efficient investments in border facilities
Structure of the Convention

• Chapter I: General provisions incl. definitions
• Chapter II: Harmonization of procedures
• Co-ordination of controls
• Resources of the services
• International co-operation
• Co-operation between adjacent countries
• Exchange of information, documents
• Chapter III: Goods in transit
• Chapter IV: Miscellaneous
• Operational annexes
• Framework providing for a high degree of flexibility in organizing national and international cooperation
• No universal ‘one size fits all’ solution
• Examples of best practice are essential
• Integrated operational annexes are required
• Annex 8 on road transport came into force in 2008
• A new Annex 9 on rail transport came into force in 2011
Major aspects of border crossing facilitation

- Infrastructure
- Procedures
- Documents and information
- Personnel
Infrastructure

- Necessary equipment and facilities at frontier points
- Minimum list for road border crossings
- Common facilities and shared use of equipment, both domestically and with neighbor countries
- To the extent possible, controls should be moved from the border to other locations (e.g. departure or destination)
- At border crossing points, controls should be replaced by verification of internationally standardized documentation
Domestic intra-service coordination: sine qua none for efficient procedures

- There are many control authorities at the border. Who takes the lead?
- Control mentality is an obstacle
- Each control authority wants to have its share
- A decision should be taken at the highest possible political level
- Establishment of a single agency
- Delegation of authority
Documents and information

- Internationally standardized (UN Layout Key) documents and certificates
- Use of technical/commercial documents
- Use of ICT
- Exchange of information
- Transparency with respect to legislation, regulations and procedures
Personnel

- Qualified personnel in sufficient numbers should be available
- Officers should get instructions for acting in accordance with international agreements and national provisions
- Joint controls
- Delegation of functions
Annex 1 - Harmonization of Customs controls and other controls

- Organization of controls (simultaneous control, opening hours, availability of facilities and personnel, delegation to Customs)

- Result of controls
Annex 2 - Medico-sanitary inspection

- Protection of life and health of persons
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)
- Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination
Annex 3 - Veterinary inspection

- Transport of animals and animal products
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements)
- Organization of controls (availability of facilities, storage, working hours)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination
Annex 4 - Phytosanitary inspection

- Relating to transport of plants and plant products
- Information (types of goods, offices, requirements, restrictions/prohibitions)
- Organization of controls (storage, disinfection, working hours)
- Goods in transit and co-ordination
Annex 5 - Control of compliance with technical standards

- Relating to technical standards of goods (conformity, PSI)
- Information (types of goods, offices)
- Harmonization of standards
- Organization of controls
- Goods in transit and co-ordination
• Information (offices, procedures)
• Organization of controls (facilities, working hours)
• Does not normally apply for goods in transit
• Co-ordination
Annex 7: Administrative Committee

- Decision making body of the Convention
- Composed of all Contracting Parties
- Meets at UNECE in Geneva
Annex 8 on road transport

- Visas for professional drivers (facilitation of procedures and exchange of information);
- Border crossing procedures for goods for urgent consignments, such as live animals and perishable goods;
- Acceptance of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate
- Efficient border crossing points with suitable infrastructures.
Annex 9 on rail border crossings

- simplified procedures for crossing of borders by officials, including granting them visas;
- minimum infrastructure and staff requirements for border (interchange) stations, including information technology and communications systems (advance cargo information);
- cooperation and coordination between adjacent countries at border (interchange) stations; reciprocal recognition of all forms of controls of rolling stock, containers and goods;
- selective Customs controls on the basis of risk assessment and management;
- simplified controls at border (interchange) stations and moving certain forms of controls to the stations of departure and destination;
- setting up time limits for border clearance and monitoring delays at border (interchange) stations;
- reducing paper documents and simplifying documentation procedures by using electronic systems;
- use of the joint International Convention concerning the Carriage of Goods by Rail/Agreement on International Railway Freight Communications (CIM/SMGS) railway consignment note, also as a Customs document.

Dushanbe, 19 May 2015
• Reference material and more than 120 best practice examples at border crossings.

• It covers available legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing of freight, risk management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking.
Thank you for your attention

www.unece.org/trans