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**Technical cooperation Seminar on Implementing**

**Specific Provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;**

**National Trade Facilitation Committee and a Monitoring and Measuring Mechanism for Trade Facilitation**

**Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**

**20 - 22 May 2019**

**Organized by the:**

Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in collaboration with other partners

**Participants**: all stakeholders in trade facilitation in Kazakhstan and participants from the countries of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), as well as international partners working on trade facilitation implementation.

**Venue:** Alanda Hotel & Apartments”, Tauelsizdik Avenue, 33, Nur-Sultan 010000, Kazakhstan

**Note:** This workshop builds on years of support for trade facilitation in the SPECA countries and the results of UNECE supported studies on the readiness of countries to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). It aims to enhance the capacities of national stakeholders, especially the functional capacity of National Trade Facilitation Committees (TFA art.23.2 and UNECE Recommendations 4 and 40) to facilitate trade in four areas covered by the TFA. It will focus on streamlining documentary procedures, using international trade facilitation standards, developing further the enabling environment for Single Window, and measuring progress in achieving trade facilitation. The seminar will use earlier analyses of the readiness of the countries to implement relevant trade facilitation measures, with a view to go beyond the binding provisions in the TFA and provide a vision for holistic trade facilitation reforms (national trade facilitation roadmaps). The seminar will look at the needs of the target countries and their SME communities.

Using a wealth of materials on trade facilitation in UNECE, UNESCAP and other development partners, the seminar will concentrate on four selected measures from the TFA:

* art. 23.2 - support for the functioning of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) - how to ensure its sustainability, self-sufficiency (e.g. by producing trade facilitation instruments for the business community in their countries);
* art. 10.1 - streamlining formalities and documentary formalities;
* art. 10.3 - use of international trade facilitation standards; and
* art. 10.4 - building an enabling environment for Single Window;

This training seminar will also cover the development of a national mechanism for monitoring and measuring progress in trade and transport facilitation (NTTFMM, as described in UN/CEFACT Recommendation 42) and how to develop a national trade facilitation roadmap.

The seminar will assist the ongoing efforts of the countries to develop national trade facilitation programmes, using the platform of the NTFCs. Speakers from UNECE, UNESCAP, and other development partners, relevant regulatory bodies and the business community, will highlight the benefits and challenges of trade facilitation for the subregion. The training sessions will address the organizational issues of the establishment and functioning of a NTFC (ToR, programme of work, setting up a secretariat, financing the activities, etc.), the contents of the work, scope of activities of the NTFC.

**AGENDA**

**20 May 2019**

**09:00 – 09:30** **Registration**

**09:30 – 09:50** **Welcome, opening, and presentation of the agenda of the seminar**

Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan;

UNECE; UNESCAP;

GIZ

Representative of the business community;

**Session I: The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement status and implementation in SPECA countries**

**9:50 – 10:30** **Review of the current status of Categorization of TFA measures and timing for Categories B and C in SPECA countries**

*Mario Apostolov, UNECE, Ministry of National Economy, Alexander Strokatov (consultant)GIZ expert*

**10:30 – 10:45 Coffee-break**

**Session II: Functioning of the National Trade Facilitation Committee**

**10:45 – 11:15 The need for a National Trade Facilitation Committee according to TFA art. 23.2**

*Ministry of National Economy, NTFC, business community, Mario Apostolov, UNECE*

**11:15 – 11:35** **Organizational issues of the establishment and functioning of a NTFC:**

**Terms of Reference, Programme of Work, Secretariat**

*Mario Apostolov, UNECE; the NTFC; Ministry of national economy,*

**11:35 – 12:20** **Scope of NTFC activities and contents of the work on TF / / Financing the NTFC / International best practices; UNECE Recommendations 4 and 40;** Experience in other countries (SITPRO, SWEPRO, BULPRO, etc.)

*Mario Apostolov, UNECE*

**12:20 – 12:30 Experience in the ESCAP region**

*Sang Won Lim, UNESCAP*

**12:30 – 13:00 – discussion**

***13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break***

**14:00 – 14:20** **Effective participation of private sector: the success factor for the NTFCs**

*Atameken,**ITC (t.b.c.)*

**14:20 – 14:40** **Peer learning among the countries in the subregion: exchange of experience:**

*Representatives of Kazakhstan; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan*

**14:40 – 15:05** **Training needs for NTFCs and their members**

*Ministry of Economy, the NTFC, the business community, UNECE, GIZ*

**15:05 – 15:20** **International assistance for trade facilitation and the NTFC – a collaboration framework with the NTFC / current projects**

*UNECE, UNESCAP, GIZ, Representatives of other development partners and assisting countries*

**15:20 – 15:30** **Discussion,** **summary of** **the session**

*15:30 – 15:45 – Coffee Break*

**Session III: Streamlining Formalities and Documentary Procedures (TFA art. 10.1)**

**15:45 – 16:15** **Streamlining formalities and documentary procedures – introduction; Rec. 1: UN Layout Key for Trade and Transport Documents**

*UNECE*

**16:15 – 16:35** **Streamlining procedures and paperless trade**

*UNESCAP*

**16:35 – 17:00** **Streamlining formalities: state of play in Kazakhstan and the SPECA countries**

*Tour de table: representatives of NTFCs, government agencies and business community*

**17:00 – 17:20** **Projects involving streamlining formalities and documentary**

*other international organizations*

**17:20 - 17:30 Wrap up and summary of the first day**

**21 May 2019**

**9:30 – 10:00 Streamlining tools: Business Process Analysis (BPA) and the simplification of documentary procedures**

*UNESCAP and UNECE*

*Elena Vassilevskaya, UNESCAP consultant*

**10:00 – 10:20 Streamlining tools: data harmonization and standardization**

*UNECE*

**10:20 – 10:40** **Legal and other aspects of streamlining formalities and procedures (t.b.c.)**

*UNESCAP, UNECE (t.b.c.)*

**10:40 -11:00 GIZ projects on BPA – effect on streamlining formalities**

**11:00 – 11:15 Discussion on recommendations to streamline formalities and documentary procedures**

*11:15 – 11:30**Coffee break*

**Session IV: Use of International Standards (TFA art. 10.3)**

**11:30 – 12:20** **Introduction to TFA art. 10.3; international standards; use of UN/CEFACT trade facilitation standards to streamline formalities and procedures**

*UNECE*

**12:20 – 13:00 Discussion with representatives of NTFCs and regulatory bodies of the SPECA countries: the role of NTFCs in the national implementation of international trade facilitation standards**

*Tour de table: UNECE, UNESCAP, GIZ, NTFCs, the business community*

***13:00 – 14:00*** *Lunch Break*

**Session V: Developing a Single Window environment in the SPECA countries**

**14:00 – 14:20** **TFA** **Art. 10.4; Single Window definition; use of trade facilitation standards for the Single Window**

*UNECE*

**14:20 – 14:45** **Presentation on the Single Window in Kazakhstan**

*Kazakhstan Customs*

**14:45 – 15:15 Building the environment for a Single Window; experience in UNECE’s region; Single Window interoperability; UN/CEFACT instruments**

*UNECE*

***15:15 – 15:30*** *Coffee break*

**15:30 – 15:50** **Step-by-step approach to building a Single Window (experience in ESCAP’s region)**

*UNESCAP*

**15:50 – 16:00** **Discussion**

**16:00 – 16:30 State of Play of Single Window projects in the SPECA countries:**

Representatives of the SPECA countries, UNECE, ESCAP

**16:30 – 16:50 Discussion on the next steps to support Single Window**

**16:50 - 17:10 Wrap up and summary of the second day**

**22 May 2019**

**9:30 – 10:00 Overall implementation of trade facilitation in the SPECA region**

*Alexander Strokatov, UNECE consultant*

*Regional Commissions survey of trade facilitation and paperless trade*

*UNECE and UNESCAP*

**Session VI: Developing National Monitoring Mechanisms and Trade Facilitation Roadmaps**

**10:00 – 10:20 Presenting the concept of a National Trade and Transport Monitoring and Measuring Mechanism (UN/CEFACT Recommendation 42). Methodologies of measuring trade facilitation implementation: Business Process Analysis; Time Release Studies; Time-Cost-Distance; etc.**

*UNESCAP*

**10:20 – 11:10** **Presenting the results** **of the Business Process Analysis of exports of grain from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan**

*Elena Vassilevskaya, consultant, Kazakhstan*

**11:10 - 11:30 GIZ projects on BPA and monitoring progress in trade facilitation**

*GIZ*

***11:30 – 11:45*** *Coffee break*

**11:45 – 12:05** **Presentation on Time Release Studies (Azerbaijan or another country, t.b.c.)**

*Representative of Azerbaijan or another country; UNESCAP; Kazakhstan Customs*

**12:05 – 12:30 Possibilities to develop National Trade and Transport Monitoring and Measuring Mechanism in Kazakhstan**

**12:30 – 13:00** **Discussion**

***13:00 – 14:00*** *Lunch Break*

**14:00 – 14:20** **National** **Trade Facilitation Roadmaps – planning activities in the SPECA countries**

*UNECE*

**14:20 – 14:40 Discussion on Work Plans of the NTFCs; Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms; Strategies and Activity planning in the SPECA countries**

**14:40 – 15:00** **SPECA Regional** **Trade Facilitation Strategy: presentation and discussion**

*UNECE*

**15:00 – 16:00** **Closing session and next steps in trade facilitation implementation in the subregion (recommendations on activity planning)**