



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES
OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE SPECA GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 19 November 2019)

**ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SPECA TRADE FACILITATION STRATEGY**

The SPECA countries should concentrate on the following priority activities:

1. Review implementation and identify priority measures for trade facilitation implementation in each country; develop regional cooperation framework to support their implementation.
2. Strengthen the sustainable functioning of the National Trade Facilitation Committees of the countries and the network of cooperation among them. Organize regional and bilateral meetings and training events. This regional network can help coordinate donor support.
3. Strengthen cross-border cooperation on consultations between public and private stakeholders, e.g., on new or revised national legislation.
4. Cooperate on the implementation of international standards for trade facilitation with the assistance of international organizations and development partners, involving the NTFCs.
5. Develop more detailed national trade facilitation road maps/action plans in each country, in compliance with the country's other development plans, and reflecting the goals of this regional cooperation strategy.
6. Exchange best-practice experiences in: electronic payments; appeal systems; periodic review of the use of international standards, fees and taxes, risk management, exchange of information among Single Window systems and, in the Customs area, in implementing pre-arrival processing, separation of the release of goods from the final determination of duties, post clearance audit, priority processing of perishable goods, temporary admission of goods and inward and outward processing.
7. Take steps towards harmonizing risk management systems in the region and establishing risk data exchange between the countries.
8. Cooperate among the countries on reviewing formalities, documentary requirements and procedures, with a view to simplifying them; encouraging the harmonization of procedures among the countries.

9. Share information, organize joint training activities and cooperation mechanisms.
10. Cooperate, if possible, on establishing a SPECA trade facilitation web page with relevant information.
11. Establish trade facilitation enquiry points in each country (using the SPECA guide on trade facilitation enquiry points), and foster exchange of information among these enquiry points among the countries.
12. Implement Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) schemes; and explore possibilities to harmonize criteria for nominating AEOs, in order to allow for developing mutual recognition of AEOs, as well as exchange of information on the status of separate companies as AEO.
13. Harmonize border-crossing procedures among the countries.
14. Enhance internal and external border agency cooperation through putting together mechanisms of internal coordinated management of trade control agencies active at the border and establishing bilateral cross-border mechanisms (e.g., regular meetings or joint commissions) to coordinate border controls at each border-crossing or related border-crossing points.
15. Develop a regional set of testing laboratories, which would allow for using laboratories in other countries for testing and mutual recognition of the results.
16. Enhance free transit in the region, where fees and charges are commensurate with services rendered; reinforce the implementation of the TIR Convention; establish separate infrastructure for goods in transit.
17. When national transit coordinators are nominated, establish a collaboration mechanism of transit coordinators in the region.
18. Use internationally standardized terminology and trade data definitions.
19. Strengthen cross-border cooperation on balancing trade facilitation with compliance, using modern tools and mechanisms to fight against Customs and other regulatory agency offences and smuggling, as part of improving the governance of international trade.
20. Accelerate the establishment of Single Window and/or Port Community Systems, and ensure interoperability in the region, using international standards.
21. Step up work on the digitalization of trade and multimodal transport data and document exchange using the UN/CEFACT semantic standards, notably the Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model.
22. Share experiences among the countries on implementing trade facilitation measures included in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention.
23. Enable regional and bilateral exchange of Customs information among the countries, notably within a Green Corridor approach, and develop projects on mutual recognition of Customs control results.

- 24.** Participate in the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, and in the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements for enabling cross-border mutual recognition of trade data and documents in electronic form.

- 25.** Conduct Time Release Studies (TRS) and Business Process Analyses (BPA) of trade procedures along relevant SPECA corridors, and publish the results.
- 26.** Build trade and transport facilitation monitoring mechanisms (Recommendation 42: www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE_TRADE_437E_Rec42.pdf).

	Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
1.	Priority measures identified in each country and regional cooperation mechanism for their implementation established	a. List of priority measures in each country defined b. A regional cooperation mechanism established c. A network of NTFCs or a regional SPECA TF committee established d. Number of bilateral or regional NTFC meetings e. Number of countries that have defined priorities
2.	Cooperation on implementing international trade facilitation standards established	Mechanism of cooperation on implementing international TF standards (capacity building) established. Number of countries participating.
3.	Adopt national trade facilitation strategies / roadmaps, reflecting the goals of this strategy	National trade facilitation strategies established in at least 3 countries
4.	Countries inform each other on best practices in implementing trade facilitation measures Periodic exchanges of experience on the implementation of the TFA and other instruments.	a. Government regulatory agencies, national trade facilitation committees and other stakeholders participate in at least one peer learning event per year. b. At least one annual exchange of experience organized. c. Number of joint training activities organized
5.	Establish a web page on trade facilitation	A web page on trade facilitation in the subregion set up and maintained
6.	Established cooperation among the trade facilitation enquiry points in the subregion	Exchange of message establishing cooperation among trade facilitation enquiry points. Number of countries participating
7.	Collaboration on risk management established	a. Countries exchanging experience on risk management b. Countries coordinating their risk management systems c. Countries exchanging risk data
8.	Countries establish consultations on documentary procedures	Representatives of regulatory agencies from the SPECA countries carry out at least one meeting to discuss streamlining formalities and documentary procedures
9.	Established cooperation among national trade facilitation bodies and other bodies of public-private consultations on trade facilitation	National trade facilitation bodies and other bodies of public-private consultations participate in joint meetings and exchange information, including on new legislation. Number of countries participating.
10.	Exchange of information on Authorized Economic Operators and mutual recognition of AEOs	a. Customs agencies establish a mechanism for exchange of experiences, at least one meeting to

		<p>discuss mutual recognition of AEOs organized</p> <p>b. Criteria for nominating AEOs harmonized</p>
11.	Regional system of testing laboratories	<p>a. Establish a regional system of testing laboratories with countries recognizing each other's results and being able to send businesses from one country to laboratories in another country</p> <p>b. Collaborate among the countries and major trading partners (e.g. in Europe, South Korea and Japan) on the recognition of results of tests in laboratories in the subregion in major international markets</p>
12.	Countries establish consultations on harmonizing border-crossing procedures	<p>a. At least one national-level consultation on harmonizing border-crossing procedures carried out</p> <p>b. At least four of the countries (their national trade facilitation committees) organize bilateral meetings of border control agencies at border-crossing points to discuss harmonization of border-crossing procedures</p>
13.	Freedom of transit in the region enhanced	<p>a. Increased volume of use of TIR</p> <p>b. Number of countries that establish transit lanes at major border-crossing points</p> <p>c. A network of collaboration of national transit coordinators established</p>
14.	Enhanced use of international trade facilitation standards	Use of more international trade facilitation standards as reported by the regulatory agencies. Number of countries reporting enhanced use of international TF standards
15.	Achieve a balanced progress in facilitating trade and improving the efficiency of official controls	Improved efficiency of trade and of regulatory controls because of trade facilitation, as reported by the countries to the WTO under the TFA
16.	Enhance the use of Single Window and related systems	<p>a. Number of Single Window and similar systems established in the region</p> <p>b. Interoperability of Single Window and similar projects reported by the countries and traders</p>
17.	Regular information exchange among Customs authorities enhanced and mutual recognition of Customs control results established	Regular channels of Customs information exchange realized, as reported by Customs
18.	Foster the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and	Number of countries that have acceded to the agreement

	the Pacific	
19.	Enhanced capacity to facilitate trade using the results of Time Release Studies (TRS), Business Process Analyses (BPA); and to establish national Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms	<p>Number of practical recommendations for streamlining trade procedures resulting from TRSs and BPAs adopted and published</p> <p>Number of national Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms established</p>