



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**  
SPECA/WG-Trade/2018/EN/1

**Twelfth session of the Working Group on Trade**  
***“Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in Central Asia”***

Grand Hotel Tien-Shan, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Address: Bogenbai Batyr Street, Almaty, Kazakhstan, tel.: +7 727 244 9600  
19 September 2018<sup>1</sup>  
**agenda<sup>2</sup>**

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) together with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing<sup>3</sup> the twelfth session of the SPECA Working Group on Trade on 19 September 2018, back-to-back with the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum and session of the SPECA Governing Council (20-21 September 2018). The Working Group supports the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Central Asia, in the area of sustainable trade, (notably SDGs 17.10 and SDG 17.11). The meeting will focus on four deliverables of the SPECA Working Group on Trade:

- SPECA regional strategy for trade facilitation;
- Regional cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to trade;
- The link between water management, trade and environment in the SPECA region;
- Non-tariff measures in trade in the SPECA region.

Participants in the meeting and SPECA participating countries are requested to contribute to the background documents on those issues, with which the Working Group will deal in the coming 3-4 years.

The event will review national and regional plans and strategies of the SPECA countries for sustainable trade development and facilitation. It would strengthen cooperation among trade diplomats of the SPECA countries.

**Target audience:** trade policy makers from the SPECA countries.

H.E. Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade will chair meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Trade. Its overall objectives are to foster exchange of experiences and mutual assistance among the SPECA countries, to implement trade facilitation and achieve the trade-related SDGs; review a regional trade facilitation strategy and foster a regional private sector network in support of these objectives.



<sup>1</sup> Back-to-back with the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum and the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the SPECA Governing Council (20-21 September 2018, in Almaty)

<sup>2</sup> For further information, please contact Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Trade (e-mail: [mario.apostolov@un.org](mailto:mario.apostolov@un.org); tel.: +4122 9171134; fax: +4122 9170037) and Ms. Mijidgombo Oyunjargal (e-mail: [mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org](mailto:mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org), tel. +41 22 9174147)

<sup>3</sup> These are the countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA): Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in Central Asia	
9:30 – 10:00	<p><b>Opening:</b>  Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade  Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UN Office in Geneva and the WTO or  Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Director, Department of the International cooperation, Ministry of National Economy  Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP  Ms. Monika Linn, Special Adviser, UNECE</p>
Moderator: Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan, and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade	
10:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Session I. Regional Trade Cooperation and Trade Facilitation. Opportunities and Challenges</b>  <i>Speakers:</i>  <i>Progress report of the SPECA WG on Trade: regional cooperation on trade facilitation and sustainable trade.</i>  Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan, and Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade  <i>Measures and projects on trade development and facilitation in Kazakhstan and the region (t.b.c.)</i>  Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UN Office in Geneva and the WTO or  Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Director, Department of the International cooperation,  <i>Tour de table:</i> representatives of the SPECA countries</p> <p><i>Regional cooperation on trade facilitation and sustainable trade: Draft SPECA Strategy on Trade Facilitation</i>  Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan  Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE</p> <p><i>Coffee break (11:30 – 11:45)</i></p> <p><i>Regional cooperation on trade facilitation and sustainable development</i>  Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Director, Department of the International cooperation, Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Tour de table: discussion:</i> representatives of the SPECA countries: exchange of experiences; establishment and functioning of National Trade Facilitation Committees; possibilities for mutual assistance on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; a regional trade facilitation strategy; Single Window interoperability, and other issues.</p> <p><i>Trade Facilitation and sustainable development in the region: Readiness assessments, status of implementation of the WTO TFA, and capacity-building projects</i>  Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE</p> <p><i>Implementing the Paperless Trade Agreement and connectivity activities in the SPECA region</i>  Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p>

Achieving Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in Central Asia	
	<p><i>The private sector view on trade and transport facilitation in the SPECA sub-region</i></p> <p>Mr. Berik Raimbekovich Bulekbayev, chairman of the Association Transport and Logistics Partnership in Central Asia</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session II: Regional Trade for Achieving Sustainable Development</b></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>Regional cooperation on sustainable trade (background paper)</i></p> <p>Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan</p> <p>Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE</p> <p>Representatives of UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, ADB, GIZ, USAID, and others</p> <p><i>Tour de table discussion:</i> representatives of the SPECA countries</p> <p><i>Regional trade for sustainable development, water and energy cooperation in the SPECA region</i></p> <p>Mr. Bo Libert, UNECE Consultant</p> <p><i>Tour de table discussion:</i> representatives of the SPECA countries: implementation of the trade-related SDGs, plans for mutual assistance</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<p><b>Session III: Handling Non-Tariff Measures in Trade in the SPECA Region</b></p> <p><i>Non-Tariff measures impact assessment and other projects in the SPECA region</i></p> <p>Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP</p> <p><i>Studies on procedural and regulatory barriers to trade</i></p> <p>Representative of UNECE (t.b.c.)</p> <p><i>Tour de table:</i> representatives of the SPECA countries and development partners</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Development partner statements on how to strengthen partnerships for sustainable trade in the region</b></p> <p>Representatives from UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNCTAD, the business community and civil society (National Chamber of Entrepreneurs Atameken, etc.);</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p><b>Discussion on how to integrate the recommendations of the Working Group on Trade into the national policy-making process of the SPECA participating countries</b></p> <p>Discussion led by the Chairperson of the WG on Trade Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Organizational matters:</b> countries may consider dividing responsibilities for the four (and possibly more) subjects among themselves</p> <p><b>Conclusions and Recommendations on the steps ahead</b></p> <p>Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Trade</p>