



Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

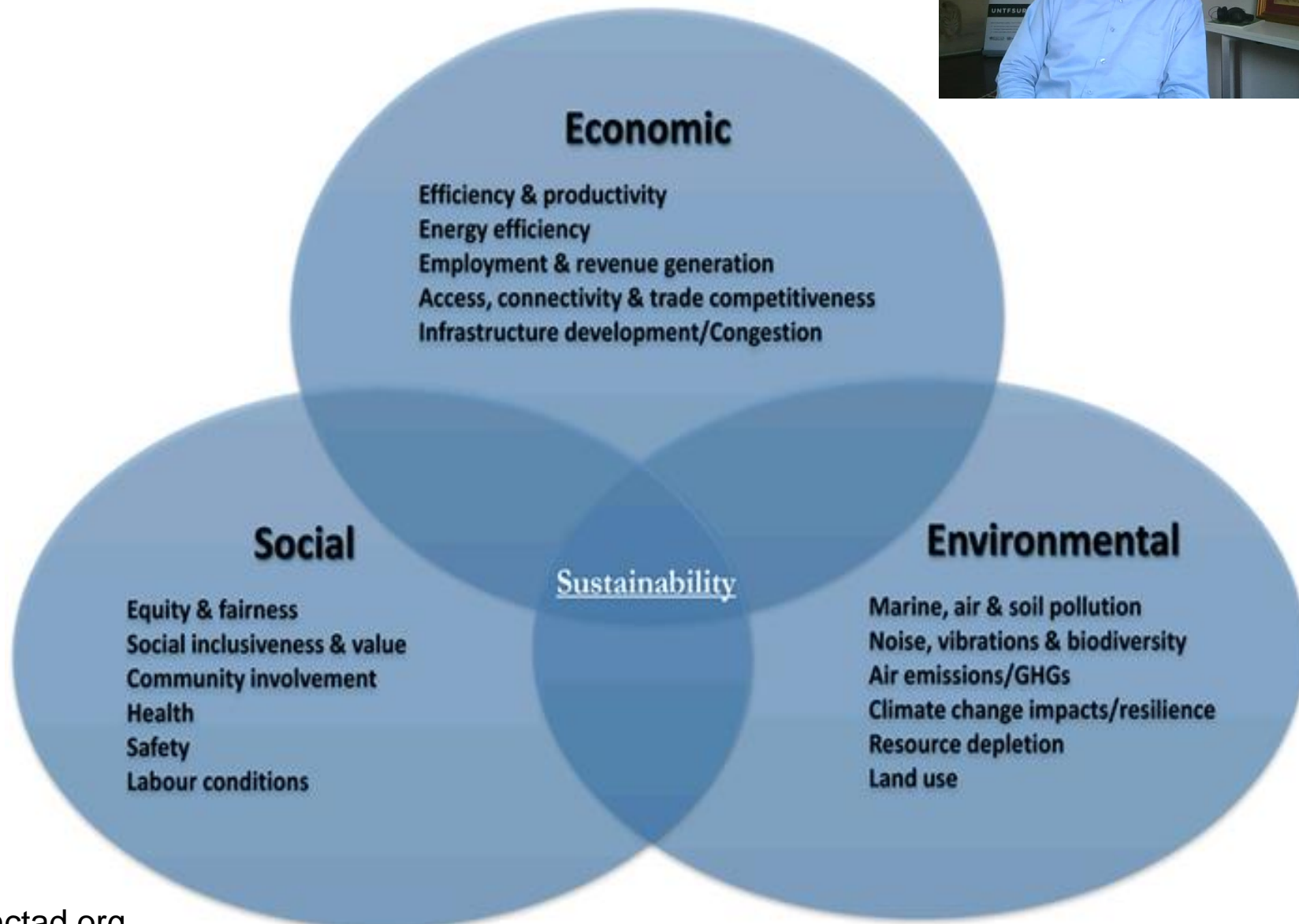
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Sustainable Development?





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

HOME HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM STATES SIDS SDGS TOPICS UN SYSTEM STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PARTNERSHIPS RESOURCES

Sustainable Development Goals



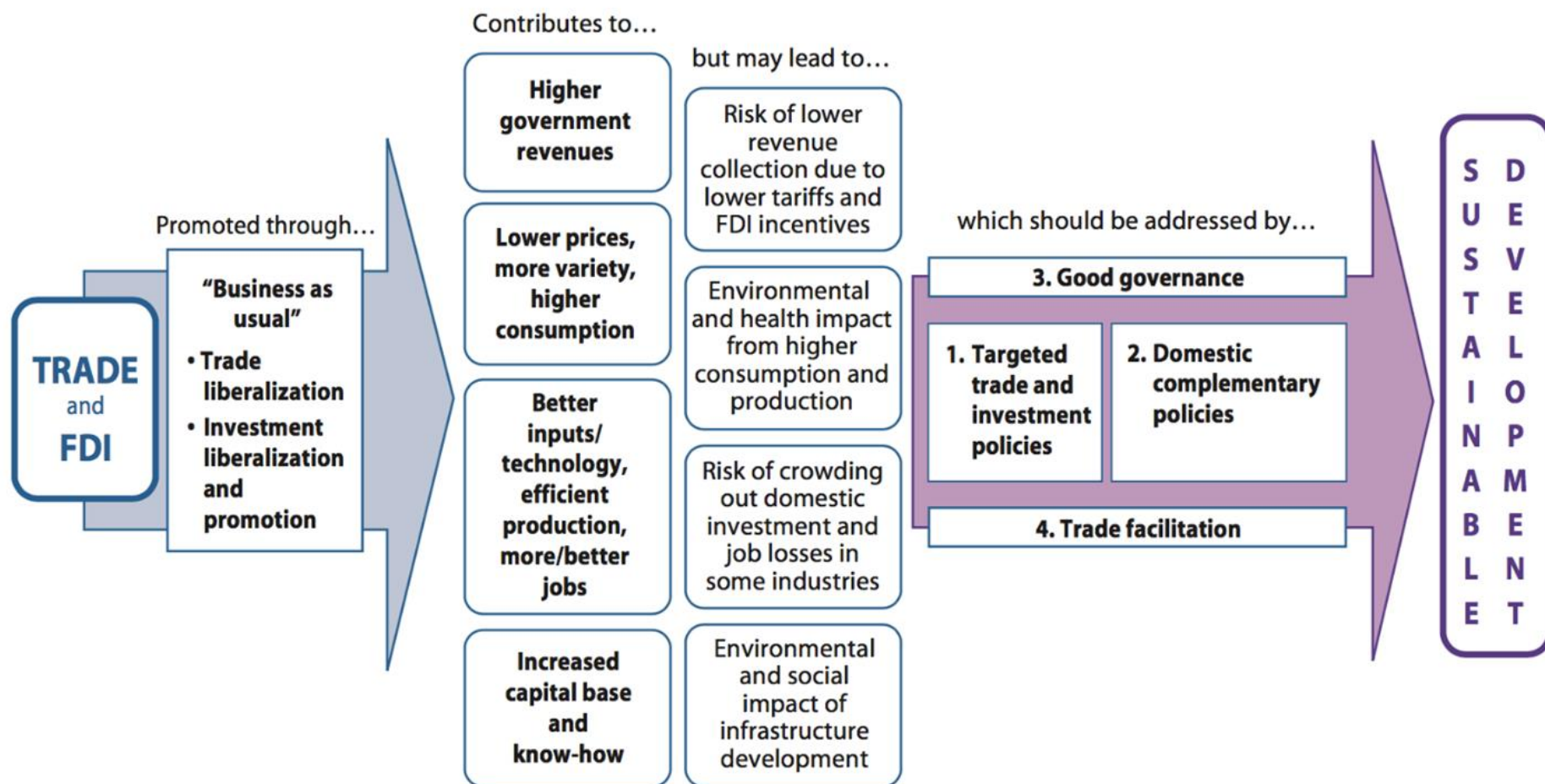
<https://Sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

Trade identified as a key
Means of Implementation



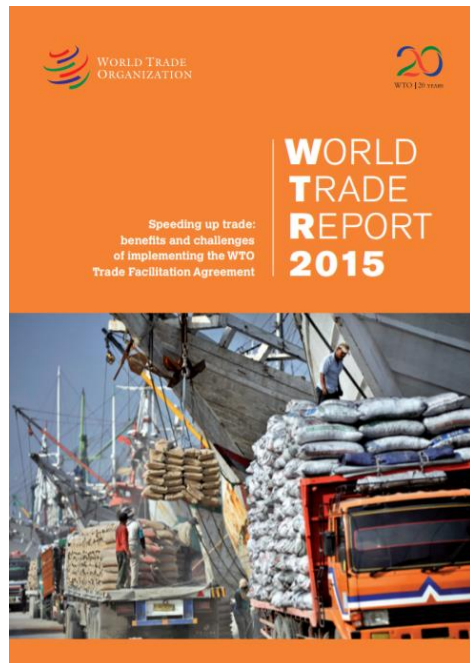


A framework for channelling trade and investment into sustainable development



Trade Facilitation (TF)?

- Definitions



https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/world_trade_report15_e.pdf

Table A.1: Definitions of trade facilitation

a) Academic literature

Study	Definition
Duval (2007).	Trade facilitation involves increasing (facilitation involves making customs and infrastructure) more efficient. T to at-the-border or to customs cont are only two of a number of other p the efficiency of a trade transaction
Grainger (2011).	Trade facilitation looks at how procedures and controls governing the movement of goods across national borders can be improved to reduce associated cost burdens and maximize efficiency while safeguarding legitimate regulatory objectives.
Persson (2013).	Trade facilitation refers to making it easier for traders to move goods across borders by making cumbersome cross-border trade procedures more efficient.
Portugal-Perez and Wilson (2012).	Trade facilitation measures can be undertaken along two dimensions: a "hard" dimension related to tangible infrastructure such as roads, ports, highways, telecommunications, as well as a "soft" dimension related to transparency, customs management, the business environment, and other institutional aspects that are intangible.
Zaki (2014).	Trade facilitation includes five main elements: 1) simplification of trade procedures and documentation; 2) harmonization of the trade practices and rules; 3) more transparent information and procedures of international flows; 4) recourse to new technologies to promote international trade; 5) more secured means of payment for international commerce.

b) International organizations

Institution/source	Definition
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Source: APEC (2007).	Trade facilitation refers to the simplification and rationalization of customs and other administrative procedures that hinder, delay or increase the cost of moving goods across international borders.
European Commission Source: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/policy_issues/trade_facilitation/index_en.htm	Trade facilitation can be defined as the simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures including import and export procedures. Procedures in this context largely refer to the activities (practices and formalities) involved in collecting, presenting, communicating and processing the data required for movement of goods in international trade.
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Source: ICC (2007).	Improvements in the efficiency of the processes associated with trading in goods across national borders.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Source: Moisé <i>et al.</i> (2011).	Trade facilitation refers to policies and measures aimed at easing trade costs by improving efficiency at each stage of the international trade chain.

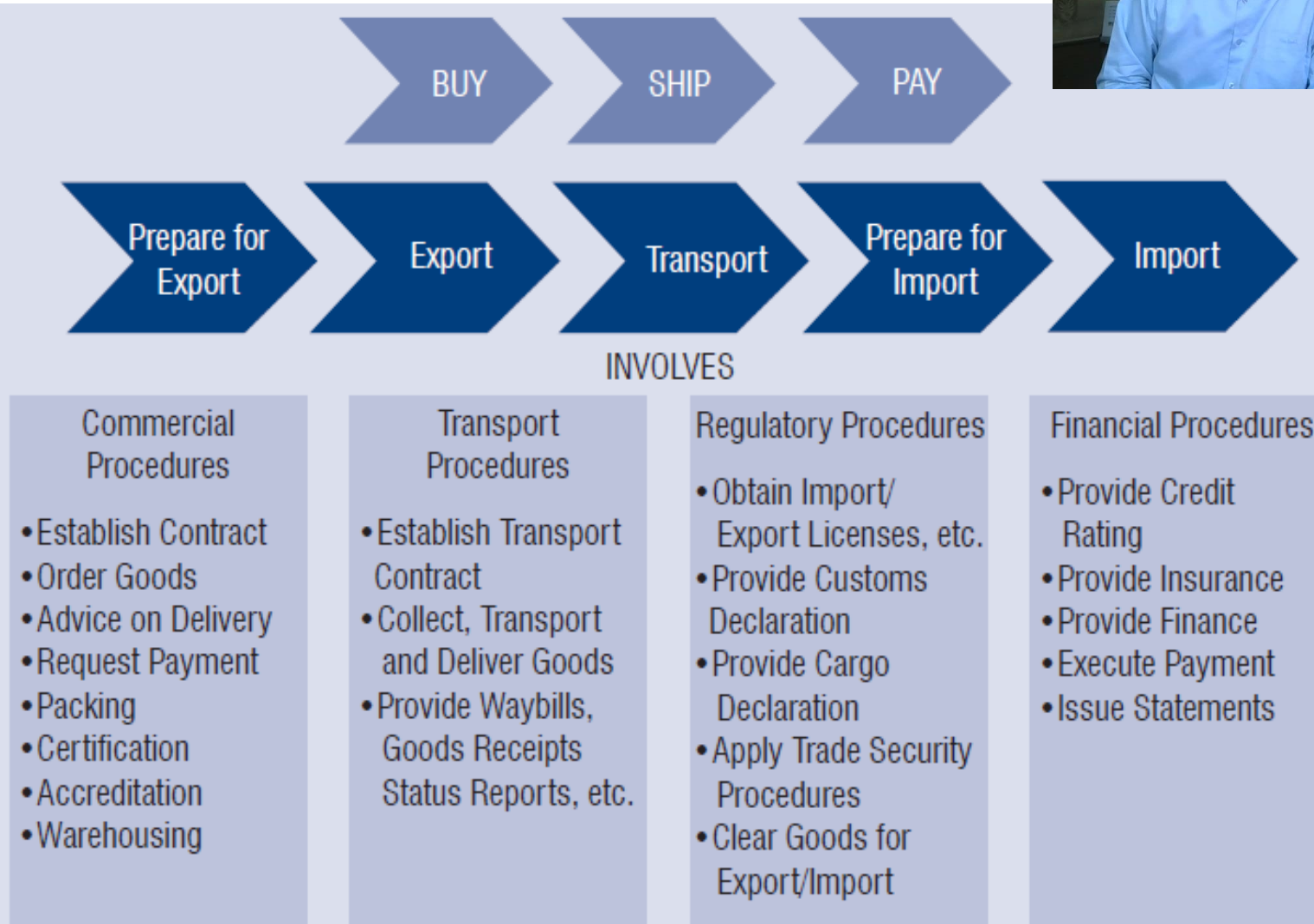


Trade Facilitation (TF)? -



- “The plumbing of international trade” (Staples, 1998)
- “The simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures.”, where trade procedures are the “activities, practices and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating and processing **data and other information required for the movement of goods in international trade.**” (WTO documents)
- “Any measure, or set of measures, that aims to increase the cost-effectiveness of international trade transactions”.
<http://www.gfptt.org/>

Trade Facilitation? → Definition



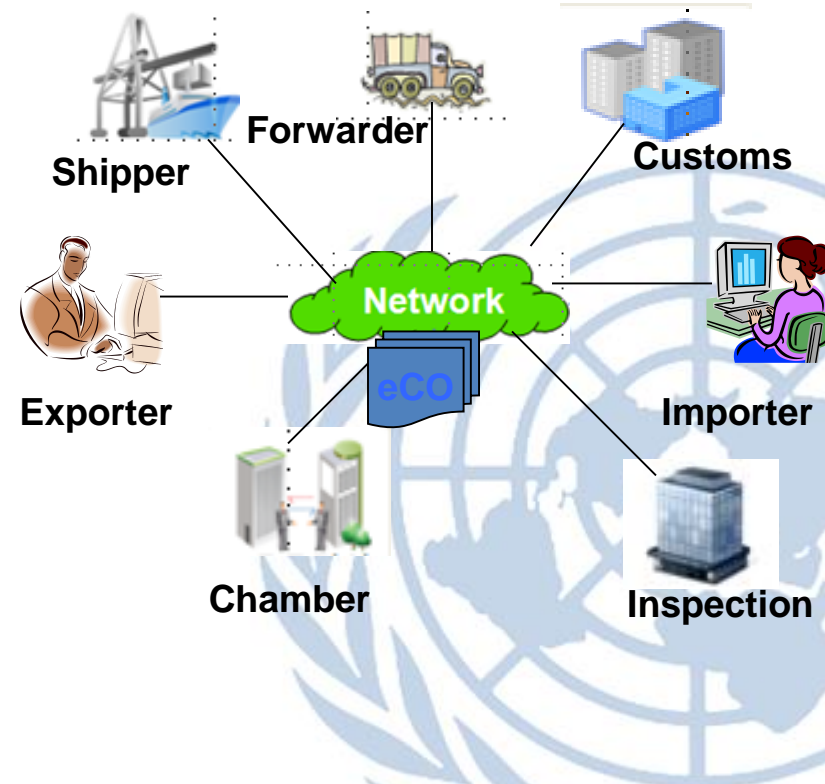
Paperless Trade (Digital Trade Facilitation)?

■ Paperless Trade

Conduct of trade activities on the basis of electronic rather than paper documents *e.g. electronic Customs declaration, electronic cert. of origin*
(application of e-commerce to international trade domain)

■ Paperless Trade Systems

Legal/regulatory and technical frameworks in which paperless trade transactions take place *e.g. Digital customs system, electronic Single Window facility, e-port management systems, Framework Act on Electronic Transaction (in RoK)*



Benefits of Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade

Government

Effective & Efficient
Deployment of
Resources

Correct
Revenue
Yield

Improved
Trader
Compliance

Enhanced
Security

Increased
Integrity &
Transparency

***Trade
Facilitation
&
Paperless
Trade***

Traders

Cutting Costs
through
Reducing Delays

Faster
Clearance &
Release

Predictable
Application and
Explanation of Rules

Effective & Efficient
Deployment of
Resources

Increased
Transparency



Expected gains from trade facilitation

- Direct and indirect costs associated with trade documentation and cumbersome trade procedures:
1-15% of value of goods traded
 - \$350 billion annually for Asia and the Pacific
- A 1 day of delay prior to shipment reduces trade by 1%
- A 5% reduction in direct export costs result in a 4% increase in exports



Questions for Discussion

1. Why have trade facilitation & paperless trade become increasingly important ?
2. How does trade facilitation relates to the three dimensions of sustainable development?



Thank you

www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation

unnex.unescap.org

<http://communities.unescap.org/cross-border-paperless-trade-facilitation>

