FAQ
Policy Hackathon on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic in Regional and other Trade Agreements
18 June 2020

Additional questions may be submitted to danijel.bajt@un.org (substantive issues) and tuntiwigit@un.org (administrative and technical issues).

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Question 1: Where can I find documents/guidance for the Policy Hackathon?


Question 2: How can I connect with other participants?

- The Secretariat has set up a Slack workspace for participants in order to have the possibility to share their ideas, interact with other participants and ask for questions and
further guidance. All the participants that have submitted the abstract received an email with the link to join the workspace.

**Question 3: Is this a capacity building event?**

- No, the main purpose of the event is not to build the capacity of interested participants, but to give them an opportunity to use their expertise in relevant subject areas in support of building back better after COVID19. It is assumed that individual participants and/or team leaders have sufficient expertise and capacity to contribute without detailed supervision or guidance. Students participating in teams are expected to be supervised by their respective team leader. Participation is however expected to deepen the knowledge and expertise of all participants as they work on their written contributions. Reviews of drafts by the Secretariat and core experts participating in the initiative will be provided on a best effort basis only.

**Question 4: Is the Secretariat providing the researchers with access to specific online trade libraries or databases? (other than the documents uploaded to the website)**

- No, the Secretariat is not providing researchers with access to specific trade libraries or databases. All the sources need to be obtained individually by the participants.

**Question 5: What is the copyright and privacy policy of the project? How are the rights of authors treated within the framework of program and how personal data is collected and processed?**

- There is no specific copyright and privacy policy for the project. As the Policy Hackathon is by nature a collaborative and networking event, information and materials submitted by participants to the organizers during the application process and the event itself may be shared with all participants and the expert group by the organizers. The written contributions that will be published on the United Nations (ESCAP) website in the Online Repository will be published under the name and responsibility of their authors and considered work in progress. As such, authors will be able to submit their work for publication elsewhere, e.g., in academic journals. Relevant contributions (or parts thereof) published in the Online Repository will be publicly accessible for all to use. In particular, they may be used in subsequent outputs produced by the organizers as part of the Initiative (e.g., the Handbook on model provisions), in which case a reference to the contribution(s) and authors will be included.

**Question 6: Can I publish independently the outcome in other journals/publications?**
Yes, the contributions can be independently submitted to journals and other publications as well. It is expected that the author will mention the Policy Hackathon as background for the contribution itself.

**Question 7:** What does “Authors of the Top 10 contributions will be acknowledged and receive an excellent contribution certificate, as per recommendation of the expert group” mean in the guidance note?

- The expert group will evaluate all the contributions and award the top 10 with a special certificate recognizing excellence of the contribution. The criteria for selecting the best 10 contributions will include the following: most relevant and pertinent contributions to the overall scope and purpose of the initiative; most innovative, original and forward-looking contributions; contributions that propose the most practical and ready to implement recommendations; contributions that propose the best guidelines or model provisions for times of crisis and pandemic and the best alternatives to the current provisions in trade related agreements; contributions that follow the format and style guidelines.

**Question 8:** What is the Compendium on trade in times of crisis and pandemic?

- The Compendium on trade in times of crisis and pandemic provides guidance to participants on what has already been published by international and other organizations or by individuals on the Covid-19 Pandemic and related emergencies. It brings together ideas, recommendations, measures, commitments, actions, initiatives and existing agreements related to trade in times of crisis and pandemic that have already been put forward. The Compendium is a living document.

**Question 9:** What are the expected types of contribution?

- The expected types of contributions are Policy brief, Research paper and Team report.

**Question 10:** Is there any word limit or page limit for the contributions?

- There is a different word limit according to the type of contribution. 2000-4000 words for Policy brief, 4000-10000 words for Research Paper and 6000+ words (no more than 6000 words per team member) for Team reports.

**Question 11:** What is the preferred referencing style?

- Participants are expected to use footnotes and not in text referencing. The expected footnotes style is the following: (1) J. Smith, ‘The Art of Proper Referencing’. (Palgrave Publications, 2020), p. 17.
Question 12: Can I edit or revise the abstract once I have submitted it?

- Yes, the abstract can be edited or revised after you first submitted it on 15 June, based on evolution of your research during the policy hackathon. Final title and abstract may differ from your final contribution may differ from your first submission.

Question 13: Where do I need to submit the abstract and the final contribution?

- Both, the abstract and the final contribution need to be submitted to tuntiwigit@un.org and copied to danijel.bajt@un.org.

Question 14: Who do I need to contact if I need further information?

- If you need any further information please contact danijel.bajt@un.org for substantive issues and tuntiwigit@un.org for administrative and technical issues.

For more information about the guidelines for the Policy Hackathon please visit https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Policy%20Hackathon%20Introductory%20Briefing.pdf.