

Summary of the fourth meeting of the UNNExT Task Force on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange

- **Date: 14 - 16 March 2019**
- **Venue:** Bangkok, Thailand
- **Agenda**
 - 1) Opening
 - 2) Self-introduction of participants
 - 3) Review of progress made since the third meeting
 - 4) Confirmation of next meeting
 - 5) Discussion on next step
 - 6) Introduction to NEA TTF Portal
 - 7) QA on the China Customs new cloud platform
 - 8) Introduction to cooperation between China Customs and Russian Federal Customs
 - 9) Identification of new processes/projects for electronic data exchange Opening
 - 10) Review and revision of templates for initiating and sharing of lessons from (pilot) cross-border electronic data exchange
 - 11) Closing
- **Participants**
 - 1) Mr. Shusen Li, Ministry of Commerce, China
 - 2) Mr. Cao Quan, General Administration of China Customs
 - 3) Ms. Xin Xin, General Administration of China Customs
 - 4) Mr. Yang Dehui, General Administration of China Customs
 - 5) Ms. Cai Yamin, General Administration of China Customs
 - 6) Mr. Sanduisuren Nyamsuren, Mongolia Customs
 - 7) Mr. Bayarsaikhan Delger, Mongolia Customs
 - 8) Ms. Nergui Munkhzul, Mongolia Customs
 - 9) Mr. Sergey Sigachev, Russian Federal Customs
 - 10) Mr. Sungheun Ha, KTNET (Resource person)
 - 11) Mr. Armen Manukyan, WCO (Resource person)
 - 12) Mr. Sanghoon Shin, GTI Secretariat (resource person and partner organization)
 - 13) Ms. Kyeongrim Ahn, ESCAP international consultant and UNNExT expert
 - 14) Mr. Yann Duval (secretariat)
 - 15) Mr. Sangwon Lim (secretariat)
 - 16) Ms. Ma Fideles Sadicon (secretariat)
- **Summary of discussions**

- 1) Opening
 - Mr. Yann Duval, Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP, opened the meeting with a welcome and a wish for fruitful discussion
- 2) Self-introduction of participants
 - All participants briefly introduced themselves each other.
- 3) Review of progress made since the third meeting
 - The ESCAP secretariat provided a progress made by the Task Force in its work plan since the last physical meeting based on the summary of the 3rd physical meeting.
- 4) Confirmation of next meeting
 - The participant of Russian Federal Customs informed the meeting that the Government of Russian Federation approved the request of ESCAP secretariat to extend the current Russian-funded project for another two months to support the Task Force having additional virtual and physical meetings. The meeting expressed gratitude to Russian Federation for the support granted.
 - Noting the approval of the Russian Federation, the meeting sought confirmation of China Customs to host the next physical meeting. The China Customs confirmed that it would like to host the next physical meeting in China.
 - Regarding the dates and venue of the meeting, the meeting reviewed possible dates without any conflict of schedule for the participants. The ESCAP secretariat informed the meeting that the only possible week of May for the secretariat would be the week of 13 – 17 May 2019, due to already scheduled other events and meetings.
 - The secretariat proposed the duration of the next physical meeting to be two days plus one day (two days being ordinary meeting days for discussion and decision, while one additional day being information sharing day for related issues and topics of interest). The secretariat further informed the meeting that the agenda of the next physical meeting would focus on certificate of origin, including its operational practices, data requirements and possible mechanism for cross-border electronic data exchange.
 - The China Customs informed the meeting that it would provide information on the decided dates and venue, soon after further internal consultation. The ESCAP secretariat informed the meeting that it would issue an official invitation letter to all the participants as soon as receiving the notice on dates and venue of the next meeting from the China Customs. The China Customs confirmed that it would issue a visa letter to participants for those who should apply for Chinese visa.
 - The ESCAP secretariat informed the meeting that, in the occasion that the China Customs could not host the next physical meeting due to unforeseen

circumstances, it would organize the next physical meeting in Bangkok in the week of 13 – 17 May 2019.

- 5) Discussion on next step
 - The ESCAP secretariat informed the meeting that, while support from the Russian-funded project to the Task Force would be available only until the end of May 2019, the Task Force would continue its operation using different resources. It further informed the meeting that, after the May meeting, the Task Force were expected to have two additional physical meetings in 2019, one meeting around end of September 2019 in the Republic of Korea (subject to confirmation), and another one back-to-back with the GTI meeting in China in December 2019. The ESCAP secretariat also informed the meeting that the Task Force would have several virtual meetings between physical meetings.
- 6) Introduction to NEA TTF Portal
 - Ms. Sadicon from the ESCAP regional office for East and Northeast Asia presented a plan to develop and operate the Northeast Asia Trade and Transportation Portal and sought feedback from participants on the plan. Several participants made comments and suggestions.
- 7) Q&A on the China Customs new cloud platform
 - Mr. Cao Quan from the China Customs made a presentation on the China Customs new cloud platform, with subsequent questions and answers among the participants.
 - The meeting noted application of cloud computing by the China Customs and decided to continue investigating possible application of cloud computing in cross-border electronic data exchange. The China Customs agreed to share its progress in application of cloud platform for data exchange with Kazakhstan in future meetings.
- 8) Introduction to cooperation between China Customs and Russian Federal Customs
 - The participant from the Russian Federal Customs (Mr. Sigachev) made a presentation on current Customs cooperation initiatives between the Russian Federation and China.
- 9) Identification of new processes/projects for electronic data exchange
 - After successfully demonstrating pilot-based electronic data exchange between the Mongolia Customs and KTNET on a certificate of origin in the Forum on Trade Digitalization for Sustainable Regional Integration held on 14 – 15 March 2019, the meeting agreed to further investigate feasible processes and projects for electronic data exchange in the next physical meeting, especially based on the findings from the ESCAP business process analysis (BPA) study.
- 10) Review and revision of templates for initiating and sharing of lessons from (pilot) cross-border electronic data exchange

- The meeting reviewed and further improved the template for initiating (pilot) cross-border electronic data exchange, using the case of pilot-based electronic data exchange between the Mongolia Customs and KTNET on a certificate of origin.
- The meeting also reviewed and further improved the template for sharing of lessons from (pilot) cross-border electronic data exchange, using the case of China Customs-Mongolia Customs joint cargo manifest.
- Both templates were attached to the current summary as separate files.
- The ESCAP secretariat also introduced a newly developed cross-border Paperless Trade Database (Beta version) and reminded the meeting to consider aligning information items and substance between the database and the template, so that the information in a completed template can be easily ported to the database for wider sharing of lessons learnt.

11) Closing

- The ESCAP secretariat closed the meeting with thanks to all the participants.

*Note: All the participants to the 4th meeting of the UNNExT Task Force participated in the Forum on Trade Digitalization for Sustainable Regional Integration held on 14 – 15 March 2019 to catch up with recent trends in and build their capacity in related issues of cross-border paperless trade and trade digitalization.
