
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Technical assistance package

TRADE FACILITATION

**UNCTAD PRODUCTS TO ASSIST COUNTRIES ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO TRADE
FACILITATION AGREEMENT (TFA) AND BEYOND**

April 2020



OUTLINE

1 General Trade Facilitation Assistance

2 Support for National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs)

3 Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) Programme

4 TrainforTrade Port Management Programme

5 Business Facilitation Programme – Online Trade Portals

6 Transit and Corridor Solutions

7 Non-Tariff Measures Programme

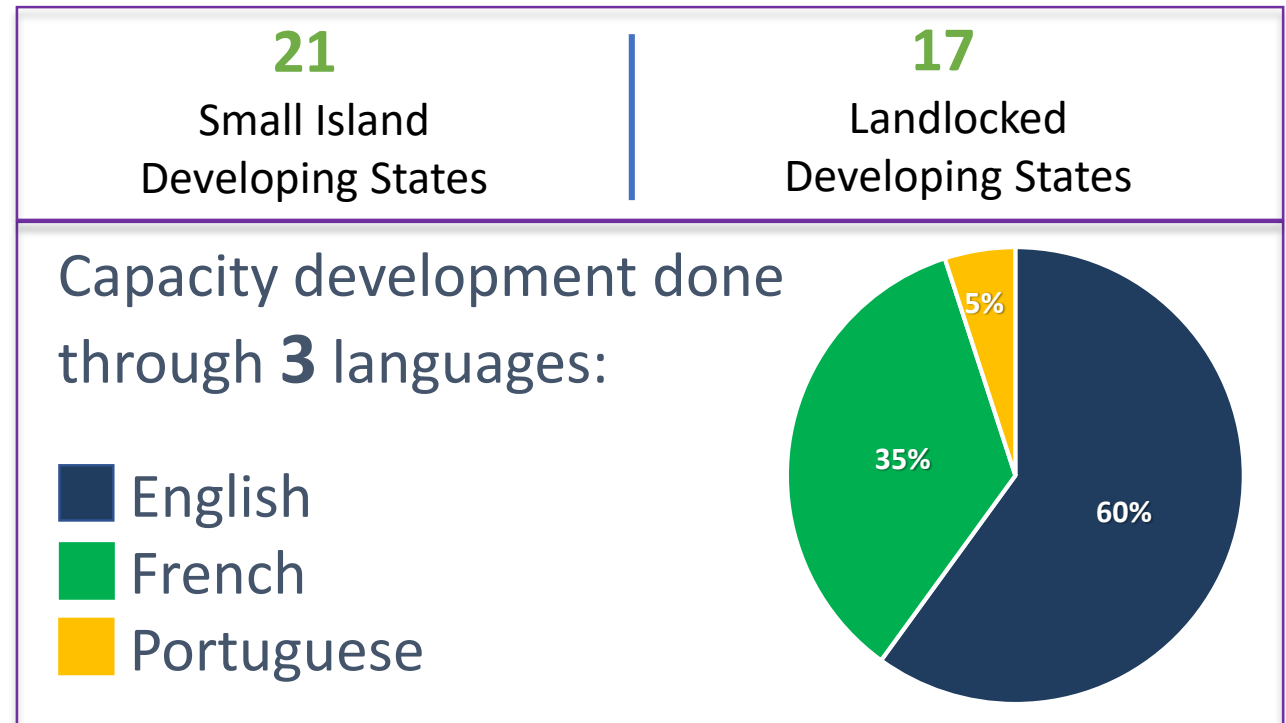
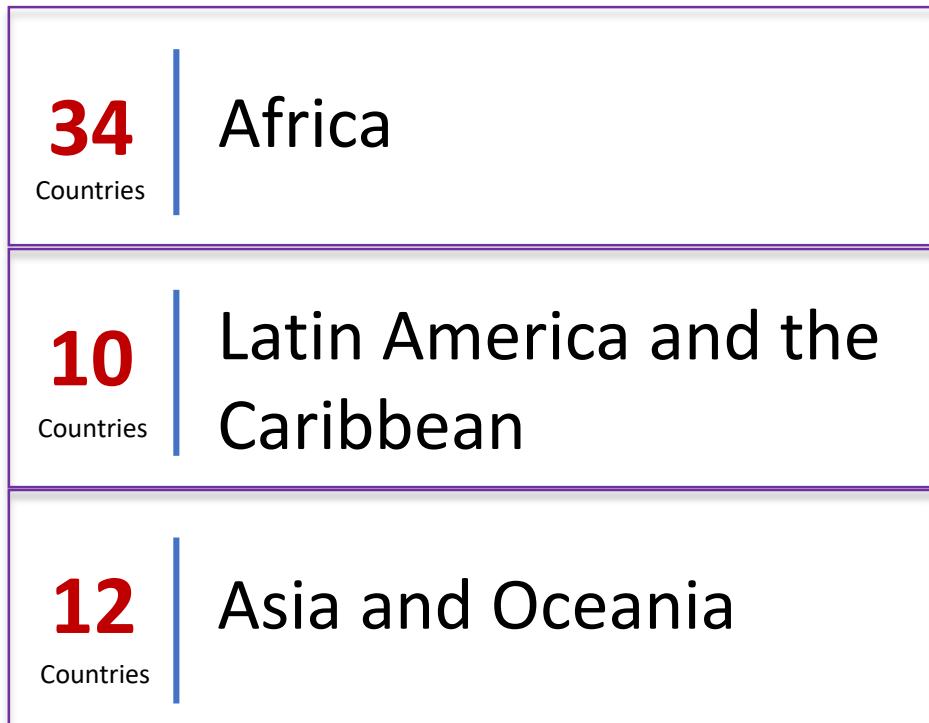


UNCTAD assists developing, least developed countries, economies in transition, and regional organizations with **trade facilitation reforms and measures**, which includes:

- Needs assessment;
- Legal gap analysis;
- Ratification, categorization and notification of national trade facilitation implementation plans;
- Development of project plans;
- Advisory services to NTFCs
- Monitoring and evaluation of trade facilitation initiatives
- Establishing a legal and regulatory framework for trade-related single windows;
- Simplification of trade-related procedures.

Since 2016, UNCTAD has developed capacity in **56 countries** around the world to improve their trade facilitation committees.

These 56 countries are composed of the ff:



Since 2016, UNCTAD has developed capacity in **56 countries** around the world to improve their trade facilitation committees.

Out of the 56 countries:



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

45 are WTO Members

ANNEX TO THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT
ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

89% ratified to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility

96% notified to the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation their Category **A**, **B**, and **C** provisions.

National Trade Facilitation Committees all over the World

as of March 2020

Legend

- Formally established committee*
- De facto committee**
- No Trade Facilitation Committee
- No information

- Access your country's information with this link:
<https://unctad.org/tfc>
- If you would like to update or send your country's experience to this repository, please fill in the questionnaire found here:
<https://unctad.org/en/DTL/TLB/Pages/TF/Committees/NTFBs>Contact.aspx>

Once it is filled in, please send it to
Tfbodies@un.org

UNCTAD Provides Support to National Trade Facilitation Committees

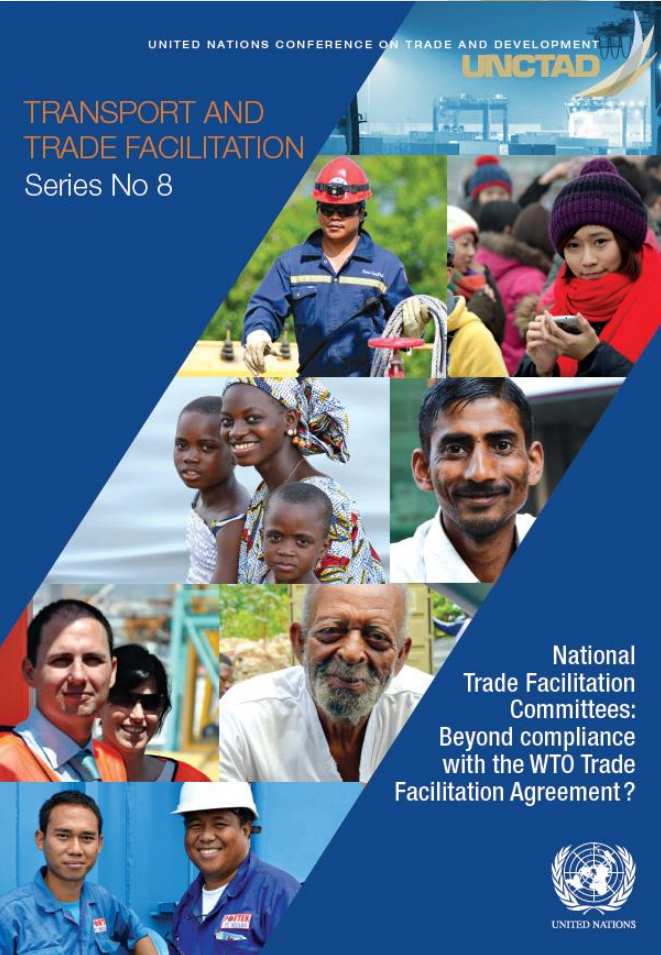
- Research
- Online Repository of National Trade Facilitation Committees
- A new study will be published in 2020

UNCTAD.ORG/TF

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNCTAD

TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION
Series No 8



National Trade Facilitation Committees: Beyond compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement?

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
UNCTAD

No. 65
SEPTEMBER 2019

POLICY BRIEF

FOSTERING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Recent UNCTAD research shows that national trade facilitation committees are far from being gender balanced bodies. Most of these committees consider specific actions for gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation neither a priority nor relevant at this stage. There is a lack of awareness on the importance of gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation at national level. International agencies that support national trade facilitation committees could play a role to address this gap. For that to happen, national trade facilitation committees should place the gender issue on their agendas and, if necessary, request support on this specific subject from international partners.

National trade facilitation committees: A platform to promote gender equality?

National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) are consultative multi-stakeholder platforms that aim at supporting the promotion and implementation of trade facilitation reforms. Although with different objectives, set-ups and memberships, NTFCs have been existing around the world since the 1950s and UNCTAD has been supporting countries in the endeavor of establishing and maintaining them for over 40 years.

Article 23.2 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, stipulates the obligation for countries to set up or maintain a coordination mechanism that will support the implementation of the trade facilitation provisions included in the Agreement.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims, among other goals, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Since NTFCs are bodies working on the development of trade policies and trade facilitation standards, achieving a gender balanced membership is crucial. As explained in UNECE's Briefing note on the contribution of UNCTAD to Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), "guiding women in understanding trade procedures, setting guidelines for standards bodies to ensure a more balanced representation of the interests of women and men, promoting participation and decision-making of women in trade facilitation and standards related activities, could have an enormous success in increasing exports and enable women to achieve higher income opportunities".

¹ More information on National Trade Facilitation Committees and UNCTAD work in this field can be found at <http://unctad.org/ft>.

² UNECE (2017), Briefing note on the contribution of UNCTAD to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, Executive Committee, Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, Twenty-third session.

UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

UNCTAD Provides Support to National Trade Facilitation Committees

- Advisory services
- Support to regional approaches to trade facilitation
- **UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees**
 - Builds on cooperation with other UNCTAD technical assistance programs such as **UNCTAD ASYCUDA** and **UNCTAD Trade Portals**
- Both discussed in part **3** & **5**

Results of UNCTAD support to National Trade Facilitation Committees in 2016-2019

01

UNCTAD has been providing extensive support to National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) of **34** countries in 2016-2019. **26** countries from Africa, and **8** from Latin America and the Caribbean.



Number of countries initiating an UNCTAD project to support their NTFCs per year

Number of workshops delivered per year



UNCTAD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME for National Trade Facilitation Committees

UNCTAD provides an intensive professional programme for the secretariats and members of national trade facilitation committees (NTFCs). The main objective is to help them implement, in a coordinated manner, trade facilitation reforms, including the provisions of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization. Successful committees and its members will be granted a completion certificate.



BENEFITS

- Establishing an NTFC, if needed
- Improving teamwork dynamics within the NTFCs
- Launching a national roadmap for mainstreaming trade facilitation in development policy
- Ensuring impact sustainability by transferring knowledge with a training-of-trainers approach and the preparation of a knowledge transfer strategy
- Providing a sign of quality for donors and international agencies



KEY ASPECTS

- Courses developed by international experts in collaboration with other United Nations and international organisations (in particular, the International Trade Center and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
- Content tailor-made to country-specific needs
- e-learning & face-to-face trainings
- Interactive methodology «learning by doing»
- Technical visits in the field and training-of-trainers module included



FLEXIBLE MODULES

- A total of 4 to 5 modules of 30 hours
- Modules length from 3 to 5 days each, according to country-specific needs
- Possibility of choosing sequence of modules depending on current and future needs
- Optional «start up» module on establishing NTFCs



TARGET AUDIENCE & LANGUAGE

- Current and future members of NTFCs, including their Secretariats and a wide variety of public & private sector members
- English, French and Spanish
- Other languages may be available upon request



CERTIFICATION

- Following successful achievement of the Empowerment Program, NTFC members will be granted an UNCTAD certification of completion
- The empowered NTFCs will be featured in UNCTAD online repository on NTFCs: unctad.org/tfc



MODULES AT A GLANCE

MODULE

Start up

ESTABLISHING AN NTFC

Optional

- General concepts on trade facilitation
- Guidelines and best practices to strengthening NTFCs
- Drafting of terms of reference and applying best practices
- Adoption process of terms of reference and formalization of an NTFC
- Presentation of drafted documents to main political stakeholders to ensure buy-in

MODULE

1

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Standards and international legal framework for trade facilitation
- Legal interpretation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization
- Trade facilitation and global supply chain management and promotion of exports

MODULE

3

STRENGTHENING AN NTFC AND ESTABLISHING A TRADE FACILITATION ROADMAP

- How to improve consultations (with a focus on negotiation skills)
- How to establish a 3-5 year trade facilitation roadmap with key performance indicators

MEASURING AND IMPLEMENTING TRADE FACILITATION

- How to analyse trade data
- Techniques to identify bottlenecks and analyse results
- Introduction to the use of information and communication technologies in trade facilitation
- Introduction to complex measures such as single window
- The role of the NTFC in the evaluation and monitoring of trade facilitation reforms
- Women and trade facilitation

MODULE

2

TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS

- Training-of-trainers techniques
- Training-of-trainers presentations on topics identified during previous modules
- Establishment of a knowledge transfer strategy for training new members of an NTFC

MODULE

4



Online courses on key lessons

The courses consists of 9 videos of up to one hour each, which includes a quiz for each lesson. Will be available in French and Spanish in 2020.

Nr	Topic of online videos
1	National Trade Facilitation Committees
2	Understanding trade facilitation
3	Trade Facilitation and Development
4	Trade Facilitation Indicators

Nr	Topic of video
5	Introduction to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
6	WTO TFA: understanding the provisions – Part 1
7	WTO TFA: understanding the provisions – Part 2
8	Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures in the context of Trade Facilitation
9	Trade facilitation and e-business standards and recommendations by UN/CEFACT

Online courses on key lessons



Key learnings

3 Trade facilitation solutions

2 There are four main approaches to trade facilitation: Transparency, Simplification, Harmonization and Standardization and two main implementation principles: modernization and the collaboration between the public and private sectors

19:53 / 20:49

- Since launch in September 2019 to March 2020, the online courses have registered **3500 views**, cumulating over **1000 watching hours**.

All 34 NTFCs assisted reported making changes during and after taking the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme

10

Countries

Introduced
Supporting
legislation

20

Countries

drafted Terms
of Reference

20

Countries

prepared
trade
facilitation
Roadmaps

26

Countries

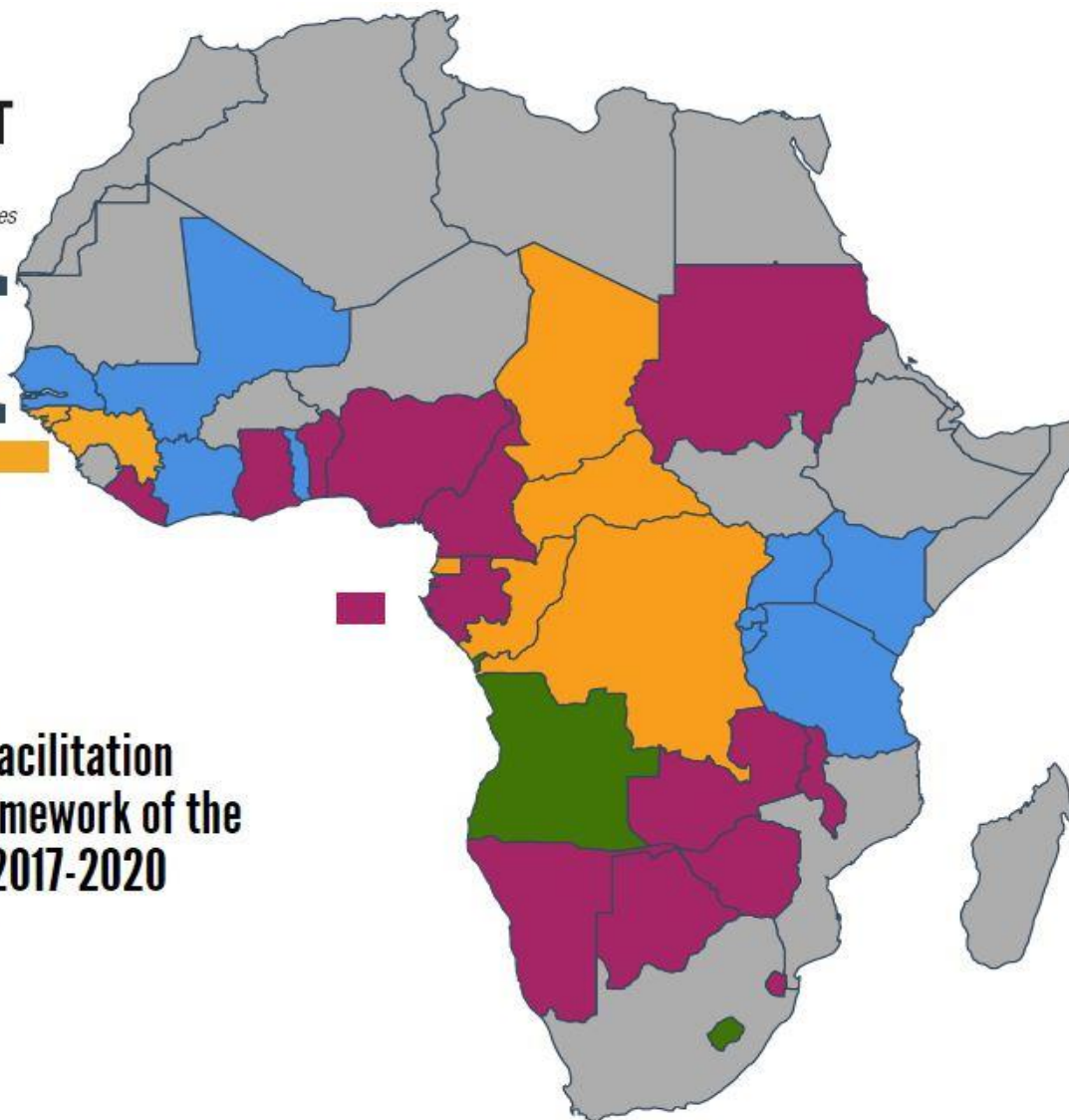
issued
notifications
for the WTO
TFA

UNCTAD SUPPORT TO TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES IN AFRICA



in Africa

-  Empowerment Programme completed
-  Empowerment Programme ongoing
-  Support to National Trade Facilitation Committees outside the framework of the Empowerment Programme 2017-2020
-  Empowerment Programme starting in 2020



In Central Africa

- UNCTAD project that started in 2020 to facilitate regional trade in Central Africa
- Partnership funded by AfDB and in cooperation with ECCAS
- Five Central African countries



Chad

Democratic Republic
of the Congo

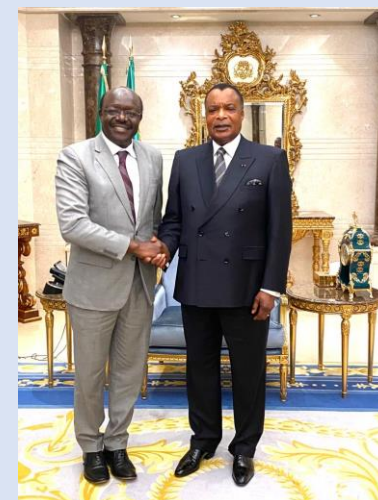
Congo

Central African
Republic

Equatorial Guinea



UNCTAD and Democratic Republic of the Congo NTFC representatives in Kinshasa, DRC.



Left: UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi with President Sassou Nguesso; Right: UNCTAD with Congo NTFC representatives in Brazzaville

In East Africa

- In partnership with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) to ease trade for the benefit of the East African Community (EAC)



TMEA Frank Matsuert and UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi

- The partner states are the ff:



Burundi



Kenya



Rwanda



Tanzania



Uganda

There are two phases of the project

- **Phase I of Project (2016-2018)**
- **Phase II of Project (2019-2022)**

In East Africa

Phase I of Project (2016-2018) results

1

Regional
Trade Portal

5

National Trade
Portals

200 NTFC members
trained in formulating
Action plans and project
proposals for funding

86 policy makers, academicians and members of
civil society and private sector **trained** on creating
gender-responsive trade environment in the region.



Publication of
comprehensive
comparative analysis of
the gender implications
of regional integration
and trade policy in the
EAC member states.



Tanzania NTFC Members

In East Africa

Phase II of Project (2019-2022)

- Extension of the Agreement between TMEA and UNCTAD signed on July 2019
- To enhance the role and capacity of the NTFCs as coordinating entities of trade facilitation reforms
- To assist the countries in focusing on simplifying cross-border trade procedures.

“Our partnership has helped the countries in the region to put trade on an upward trajectory. Through our joint commitment, we’ll achieve even more success.”

Frank Matsaert, Chief Executive Officer of TMEA



Delegation from TMEA with UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi

03

SUPPORT TO TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES IN THE CARIBBEAN in 2019



Antigua
and
Barbuda



Belize



Dominica



Grenada



Guyana



St. Kitts
and Nevis



Saint
Lucia



Saint
Vincent and
the
Grenadines



Technical Assistance in Asia Pacific PACER PLUS

- New **AU\$2 million** UNCTAD project
- Aim is to help **nine Pacific island economies** align transparency requirements for their trade rules and regulations with their obligations under a regional free trade deal.

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus covers goods, services and investment and has been signed by:



Australia



New Zealand



Cook Islands



Kiribati



Nauru



Niue



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Tonga



Tuvalu



Vanuatu



ASYCUDA program provides expertise and powerful ICT tools to implement customs-related WTO TFA provisions

UNCTAD has **over 35 years** of experience in Customs automation and **over 90 countries/territories** are using ASYCUDA.

Since its inception, the ASYCUDA programme has built capacity in Customs Administrations of **115** countries / territories

ASYCUDAWORLD CUSTOMS PORTAL
CUSTOMIZABLE, RESPONSIVE, HTML5 AND CSS3



ART 1 PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

ART 3 ADVANCE RULING

ART 5 NOTIFICATIONS ON ENHANCED CONTROLS & INSPECTIONS

ART 6 DISCIPLINES ON FEES AND CHARGES

ART 7 RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS



Eg. 7.4 Risk management

ART 8 BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION

ART 9 MOVEMENT OF GOODS FOR IMPORT

ART 10 FORMALITIES CONNECTED WITH IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRANSIT



Eg. 10.4 Single window

ART 11 FREEDOM OF TRANSIT

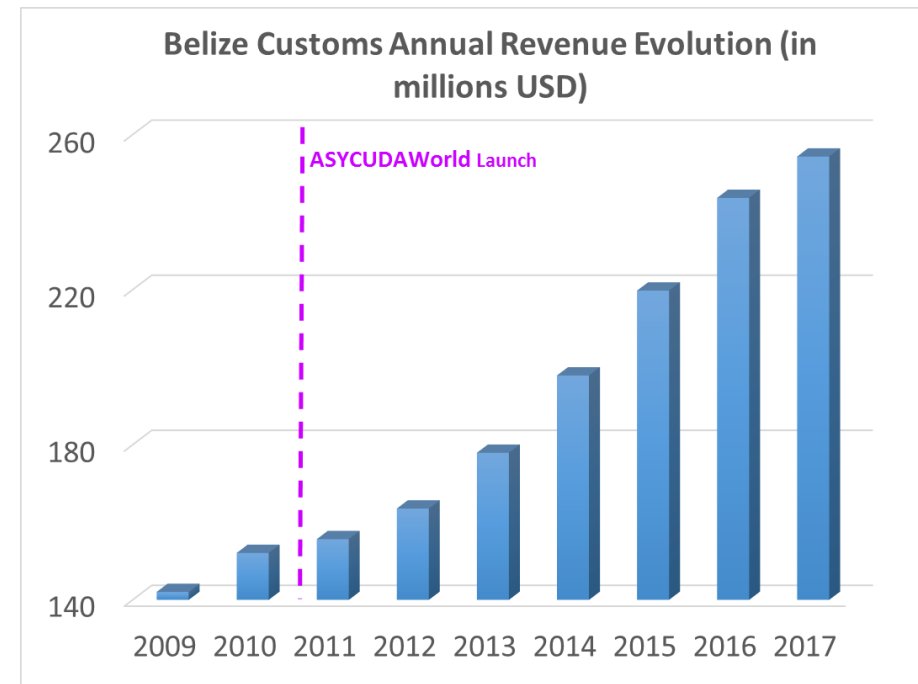
ART 12 CUSTOMS COOPERATION



- In **Jamaica** :
 - enhanced revenue collection by 20%
 - 70% of cargo released within 24 hours after submission of the customs declaration
- In **Angola**:
 - Paper work for goods clearance reduced by 70%
 - Customs clearance process accelerated; reduced from 30 steps to 7
- In **Belize**:
 - Customs revenues increased by 39% in 2015 and 16% in 2016
 - decrease in the overall customs intervention rate from 91% (2011) to 45% (2017)

“ASYCUDA has actually facilitated trade — it has helped us in the region to connect”

Mr. Malas, Director of **Vanuatu’s** Customs and Inland Revenue Service.



The ASYCUDA Electronic Single Window for Trade (ESW) project

ASYCUDA ESW project has been underway in the following countries:



Burundi



Comoros



Jamaica



Kazakhstan



Rwanda



Sao Tome &
Principe



Timor Leste



Uganda



Vanuatu

Case Study: Rwanda



Rwanda Electronic Single Window (ReSW) began February 2011.

- Average clearance time Reduced from 11 days in 2012 to 1.5 days in 2014.
- Export clearance was cut in half from 67 hours To 34 hours during same Period.

US\$ 18
million

Amount saved in trade costs and reduction of delays between 2012 and 2015, as a result of the ASYCUDAWorld Electronic Single Window system.



TrainForTrade supports developing countries to acquire efficiency and competitiveness



TrainForTrade programme on e-commerce law and e-commerce promotion

UNCTAD PORT TRAINING PROGRAMME RESULTS FROM 1996 TO DATE



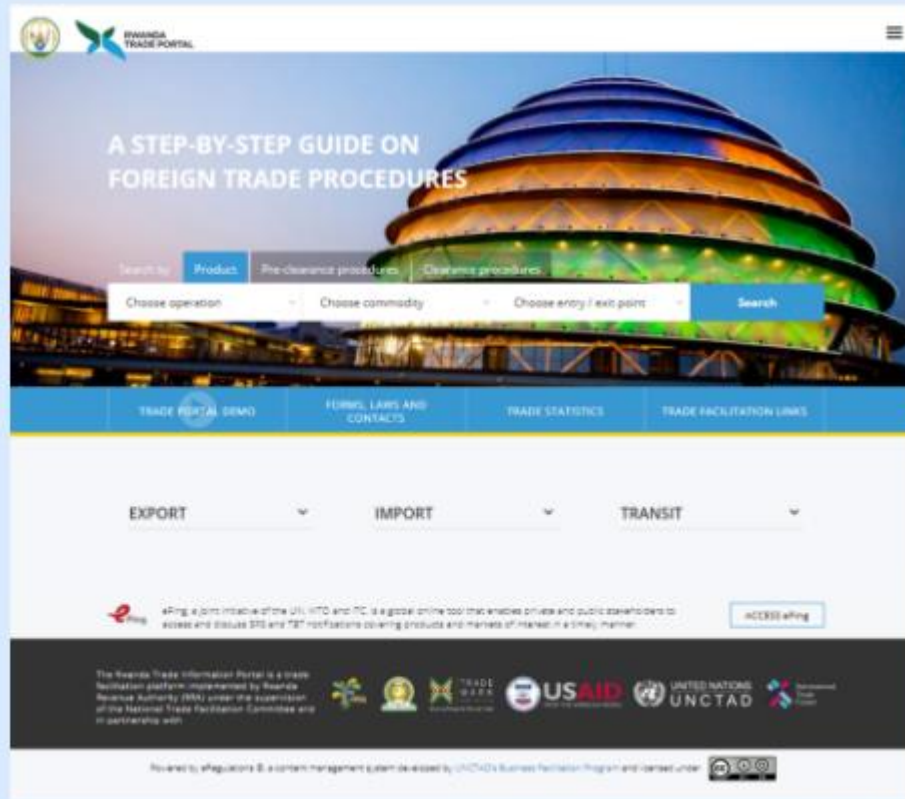
34	countries have participated in the Port Training Programme	74	international workshops to train and coach national trainers
3661	port operators trained and certified	1387	senior managers trained as trainers
1425	case studies drafted by national port operators as a result of training received	4	languages: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish



eRegulations - Trade Portals
an electronic tool to help governments make rules and procedures fully transparent and to facilitate business, trade and investment.



ART 1

PUBLICATION AND
AVAILABILITY OF
INFORMATION

<http://www.rwandatrade.rw>

Online Portals on Foreign Trade Procedures

35 countries

65 systems implementation

2993 procedures documented online

80% reduction of business registration steps, forms and documents

5

TRADE PORTAL

About us | Contact us | fr | en | Select Language

LEGISLATION SINGLE WINDOW PORTAL ONLINE CUSTOMS TARIFF

MAKING TRADE, INVESTMENT AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES MORE TRANSPARENT

Search by: Trade in Goods, Investments, Movement of Natural Persons, IPR Registrations, Lands Management

Choose regime: Trader, Select, Pref. Treatment, Entry / Exit Port

PACER PLUS FORMS, LAWS AND CONTACTS TRADE STATISTICS MORE INFORMATION

Trade Portal is a trade facilitation platform implemented by the government of Vanuatu, in the context of the PACER Plus agreement, with technical assistance from UNCTAD and funding from Australia and New Zealand. This platform facilitates all requirements for trade in goods, investment and migration in Vanuatu.

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRADE

UNITED NATIONS UNCTAD

Vanuatu: <https://tradeportal.gov.vu/>

TRADE PORTAL MALI

Présentation | Nous contacter | Avertissement | Select Language

ACCUEIL PROCÉDURES

Opération, Produit, Point d'entrée/Point de sortie

Recherche

TRAITÉ DE FACILITATION DES ÉCHANGES (OMC) ADMINISTRATIONS, BASES LÉGALES ET FORMULAIRES PORTAIL RÉGIONAL DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR PORTAIL DU CORRIDOR DAKAR-BAMAKO

Mali: <https://tradeportal.ml/>

APIEx TRADE PORTAL BENIN

Présentation | Nous contacter | Avertissement | Select Language

ACCUEIL PROCÉDURES

Chercher par: Tous, Noix de cajou, Tarif douanier

Opération, Produits, Port de Cotonou

Rechercher

TRAITÉ DE FACILITATION DES ÉCHANGES ADMINISTRATIONS, BASES LÉGALES ET FORMULAIRES PORTAIL RÉGIONAL DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR STATISTIQUES DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR

Benin: <https://tradeportal.bj/>

RWANDA TRADE PORTAL

About us | Contact us | Disclaimer | rw | en | SELECT LANGUAGE

HOME PROCEDURES INVESTMENT PROCEDURES CUSTOMS SERVICES MADE IN RWANDA LOGO

RWANDAIR FACILITATING TRADE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD

Search by: Procedures, Preliminary registrations, Customs clearance

Choose operation, Choose commodity, Choose entry / exit point

Search

TRADE PORTAL DEMO FORMS, LAWS AND CONTACTS TRADE STATISTICS LINKS

Rwanda: <https://rwandatrade.rw/>

TUVALU TRADE PORTAL

About us | Contact us | Select Language

HOME PROCEDURES LEGISLATION

WELCOME TO TUVALU TRADE PORTAL

Search by: Trading across borders, Starting a business, Tariff

Regime, Commodity

Search

FORMS, LAWS AND CONTACTS FEEDBACK TRADE STATISTICS GENDER DIMENSION

Tuvalu: <https://tuvalu.tradeportal.org/>

UGANDA TRADE PORTAL

About us | Contact us | Disclaimer | SELECT LANGUAGE

HOME PROCEDURES MTIC E-SINGLE WINDOW REPORT NTB

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR TRADE INFORMATION IN UGANDA

Operation, Type of commodity

Search

HOW DOES IT WORK? FORMS, LAWS & CONTACTS TRADE STATISTICS TRADE LINKS

Uganda: <https://ugandatrades.go.ug/>

InfoTradeKenya

About us | Contact us | Disclaimer | Select Language

HOME PROCEDURES SEARCH TARIFFS

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE ON FOREIGN TRADE PROCEDURES

Search by: Procedures, Preliminary registrations, licences and certificates, Clearance, Permits

Trade operation, Type of product

Search

HOW DOES IT WORK? FORMS, LAWS AND CONTACTS EXPORTING TO THE EU? FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

Kenya: <https://infotradekenya.go.ke/>

Online Trade Portals



Trade Portals with UNCTAD technology and methodology

(as of Dec. 2019)

- Afghanistan (**ongoing**) *
- Mali
- Sri Lanka (**ongoing**)*
- Bénin
- Nauru
- Tajikistan*
- Burkina Faso (**ongoing**)*
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
- Burundi (**ongoing**)*
- Niue
- Tonga
- Cook Islands (**ongoing**)
- Paraguay (**ongoing**)
- Tuvalu
- Jordan (**ongoing**)*
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Samoa
- Vanuatu
- Kiribati
- Solomon Islands
- Vietnam (**ongoing**)*

* ITC led trade portal

TRANSIT AND SUPPORT TO LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

<http://unctad.org/tf>



Implementation of policies and measures aimed at economic restructuring and specialization to overcome transport-related obstacles



ART 11

FREEDOM OF TRANSIT



Transit Coordinator Training

- UNCTAD provides an intensive professional programme for national transit coordinators within the context of Art. 11 of the WTO TFA.



Transit Coordinator Course

- Since 2018, this training has been delivered to representatives of the following countries:
 - ✓ Botswana, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

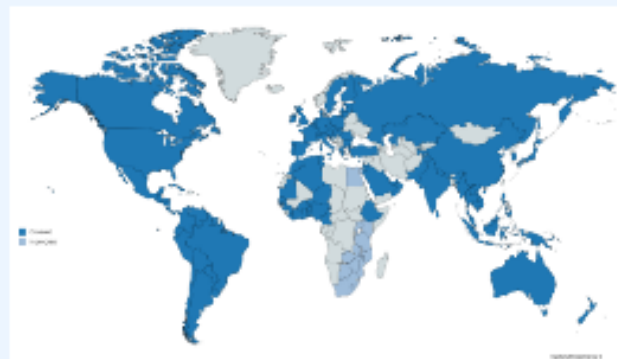


Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

are policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded or prices or both.



Advocating for transparency of NTMs which supports market access and policy reforms



Map of NTM data availability

Data Mapping

UNCTAD collects NTM data from official regulations. The database comprises of **100 countries** and is made publicly available through the **Trade Analysis Information System (TRAINS)**
<http://trains.unctad.org>



Supporting good regulatory practices in regional and multi-regional settings



Training

UNCTAD provides comprehensive face-to-face and online training courses on NTMs and data collection, and on Economic analysis of NTMs.

Donor support



Cooperating with:

- ITC, Global Alliance, UNECE, UN Regional Commissions, UPU, OECD, WB, WCO, WTO etc.
- Regional: EAC, ECOWAS, Trapca, OECS, CEFTA, ECCAS etc.



Questions?

Unctad-TF@un.org



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