Experts Group Meeting on Improving transit cooperation and trade facilitation for further integration of LLDCs in global trade

Geneva, 17 October 2019
Background & Objectives

Objective

- To monitor progress on trade facilitation (TF), including paperless trade and other forward looking measures, towards SDGs
- To enable evidence-based policy making, and capacity building and tech. assistance

2015: 1st global survey on trade facilitation implementation; presented at the 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade. [partnerships with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, Subregional org…]  
2017: 2nd global survey; presented at the 6th Global AfT Review.  
2018: Launch of interactive website (now UNTFSURVEY.ORG)  
2019: 3rd global survey – Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
UN Global TF Survey Scope

**WTO TFA related measures +**
- Institutional arrangement and cooperation
- Transparency
- Formalities
- Transit

**Paperless trade / Digital TF measures**
- Paperless trade
- Cross-Border Paperless Trade

**Sustainable TF measures**
- Trade facilitation for SMEs
- Agricultural trade facilitation
- Women in trade facilitation

**Others** (varies by UNRCs, e.g., Trade finance facilitation)

Data collected from **126 countries** in 2019
A Three-step Approach for Data Collection

**Open data collection** - Experts and other interested parties invited to fill the questionnaire or update the pre-filled questionnaire.

**Cross-checking and verification** - UNRCs internally verified the data by cross-checking answers from the experts, desk research, further interviews with respondents and informants.

**Key outcome of step 2:** A set of national dataset for each country surveyed.

**Final validation by countries** - UNRCs sent the preliminary results to countries for final validation.
Implementation of TF Globally: Progress between 2017 and 2019

Averages are based on 31 selected measures

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2019)
Trade Facilitation Implementation in LLDCs and Regions: 2019

Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2019)
Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2019)
Trade Facilitation Implementation in LLDS: 2017 and 2019

**Significant improvement in all categories**

Trade facilitation implementation in LLDCs: 2017 and 2019

- **2019**: Paraguay; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova; Republic of North Macedonia; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Afghanistan; Bhutan; Nepal; Lao P.D.R.; Mongolia; Botswana; Ethiopia; Malawi; South Sudan; Zambia; Zimbabwe

- **2017**: Paraguay; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova; Republic of North Macedonia; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Afghanistan; Bhutan; Nepal; Lao P.D.R.; Mongolia; Zimbabwe; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Eswatini; Lesotho; Mali; Uganda

*Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2017 and 2019)*
Common TF and Digital TF Measures Implementation in Africa, Asia, Europe & Latin America LLDCs: 2019 Survey Highlights

TF implementation heterogeneous across the LLDCs

Trade Facilitation Implementation in the LLDCs: 2019

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2019)
Summary

• LLDCs well into implementation and improved their performances significantly between 2017 and 2019.
• Much of the improvement are in TFA provisions
• Inter sub-regional or intra-sub-regional variation in performance exists
• Physical inspection and cooperation among agencies are much stronger than before but need full implementation across the LLDCs
• Digital measures (cross-border or national provisions) are far behind TFA provisions
UN Global Survey Portal

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade
Visualize & compare implementation of measures across regions and economies

GET STARTED

UNTFSURVEY.ORG IS A JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE UN REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Interactive visualization of Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade data

To help countries benchmark and reduce the time and cost of trading across border, the UN Regional Commissions jointly conduct the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation. The Survey currently covers 128 economies around the globe, and 53 measures related to the WTO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), as well as emerging regional and global initiatives on paperless trade or e-trade, such as the recent Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (FA-CPT). The Survey leads to the production of a Global Report and five Regional Reports, which aim at providing insightful information for policy makers to harness trade as a key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Survey is conducted in collaboration with a growing number of global and regional partners, since 2015 and every two years. On this website you can visualize the results - please make a selection:
Example: Transit Facilitation 2019

(35) Transit facilitation agreement(s)

(36) Customs Authorities limit the physical inspections of transit goods

(37) Supporting pre-arrival processing for transit facilitation

(38) Cooperation between agencies of countries involved in transit

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2019)
Example: Country Profile, Kazakhstan 2019
Thank you!

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TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in North America, Europe & Central Asia: 2019 Survey Highlights

Transparency measures most implemented; Cross-border paperless trade measures least implemented

Source: UNECE, UNRCs Survey 2019
TF and Paperless Trade Implementation in North America, Europe & Central Asia: 2019 Survey Highlights

Moving up the ladder towards seamless international trade supply chains

Source: UNECE, UNRCs Survey 2019