



**Third High-Level Seminar on Trade in Central Asia,  
and 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Trade**

***Integrating Central Asia into the World Economy through Sustainable  
Trade and Transport Facilitation***

WTO headquarters in Geneva, room S2

4 July 2019<sup>1</sup>

(agenda)<sup>2</sup>

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is organizing the third Geneva High-Level Seminar on regional trade, trade facilitation and sustainable development in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan<sup>3</sup> at the **WTO headquarters**, rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva, on 4 July 2019, with a focus on the following themes supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 17.10 and 17.11 in the region:

- Opportunities and challenges from participation in the multilateral trading system: lessons learnt;
- Trade facilitation and sustainable development: existing projects; implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; exchange of experiences; possibilities for mutual assistance among the countries;
- Partnerships in support of trade facilitation and the Sustainable Development Goals: discussion of representatives of the countries, international organizations and development partners;
- Sustainable and inclusive trade development in the subregion: fostering dynamic economic development, while supporting sustainable and inclusive trade growth;
- Non-tariff measures, non-tariff barriers, and their correlation with sustainable development;
- Involving the private sector in supporting trade facilitation and a regional market development.

The event will review plans and strategies for trade development and facilitation, as well as strengthening cooperation among trade diplomats of the countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

**Target audience:** policy makers from the Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, representatives of other countries, international organizations and development partners.

H.E. Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, and Chair of the SPECA Working Group on Trade, will moderate the seminar. The objective is to foster exchange of experiences and mutual assistance among the SPECA countries, in order to implement trade facilitation and achieve the trade-related SDGs; review a regional trade facilitation strategy and foster a regional private sector network in support of these objectives.

To attend, please register at [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/a4t\\_e/gr19\\_e/gr19\\_reg\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/gr19_e/gr19_reg_e.htm) before 1 June 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> During the 7<sup>th</sup> WTO Aid-for-Trade Review meeting (3–5 July 2019)

<sup>2</sup> For information, please contact Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE: e: [mario.apostolov@un.org](mailto:mario.apostolov@un.org); t: +41 22 917 11 34; and Ms. Mijidgombo Oyunjargal: e: [mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org](mailto:mijidgombo.oyunjargal@un.org), t. +41 22 917 41 47

<sup>3</sup> The countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) are: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Integrating Central Asia into the World Economy through Sustainable Transport and Trade Facilitation High-level seminar under the auspices of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), WTO building, Geneva, 4 July 2019, room S2	
Chair: Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan and Chair of the SPECA Working Group on Trade	
	<b>Opening:</b> Ms. Maria Ceccarelli, OiC, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
10:00 – 11:10	<b>Setting the Scene</b> <i>Trade as an Engine for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Central Asia</i> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, Tajikistan Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE <i>Aid-for-Trade Monitoring</i> <i>Country representatives:</i> exchange of experiences and plans for regional cooperation on trade and transit facilitation, regional sustainable trade, WTO negotiations, trade and transit facilitation. Mr. Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of investment and foreign trade of Uzbekistan and chief negotiator for WTO accession Afghanistan Azerbaijan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Turkmenistan
11:10 – 12:30	<b>Session I. Trade Facilitation: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development</b> <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Regional Strategy for Trade Facilitation</i> Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, Tajikistan, Chair of the SPECA Working Group on Trade <i>Status of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation: implications for the region</i> Ms. Sheri Rosenow, WTO, Trade Facilitation <i>Building Capacity for Trade Facilitation in the sub-region</i> Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE <i>New UN/CEFACT Tools for Trade Facilitation</i> Mr. Lance Thompson, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division <i>eTIR pilot project involving Azerbaijan</i> André Sceia, UNECE Transport Division <i>Transit in Central Asia after China, India and Pakistan acceded to the TIR Convention</i> William Petty, IRU <i>World Bank-supported trade facilitation projects in the SPECA region</i> Mr. Bill Gain, Global Program Manager, Trade Facilitation & Logistics, World Bank Group
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 15:15	<b>Session II: Policy Principles for Sustainable and Inclusive Trade Development in the Subregion</b>

<b>Integrating Central Asia into the World Economy through Sustainable Transport and Trade Facilitation</b> High-level seminar under the auspices of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), WTO building, Geneva, 4 July 2019, room S2	
	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p><i>Making trade work for the environment and the 2030 Agenda.</i>                      Ms. Anja von Moltke, Head, Environment and Trade Unit, Resources and Markets Branch, Economy Division, UNEP</p> <p><i>Aligning Regional Trade Development to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Boosting Sustainable Growth</i>                      UNECE on Policy principles for sustainable trade</p> <p><i>Belt and Road Initiative and sustainable trade</i>                      UNEP, DESA (t.b.c.)</p> <p><i>Tour de table:</i> other representatives of the SPECA countries: implementation of the trade-related SDGs, plans for mutual assistance</p>
15:15 – 15:45	<p><b>Session III: Non-Tariff Measures and Barriers and Sustainable Development in the Subregion</b></p> <p><i>UNECE work on non-tariff measures and barriers</i>                      Mr. Mika Vepsalainen, Chief, and Ms. Hana Daoudi, Market Access Section, UNECE</p> <p><i>UNESCAP work on trade facilitation and non-tariff measures in the SPECA countries</i>                      Mr. Yann Duval, UNESCAP Trade Division</p>
15:45 – 17:00	<p><b>Session IV: Partnerships for Trade Facilitation and Sustainable Development in the Subregion</b></p> <p><i>Speakers / development partners:</i></p> <p><i>ASYCUDA roll-out in the SPECA countries</i>                      Mr. Renaud Massenet, UNCTAD ASYCUDA team</p> <p><i>Trade Facilitation in the Subregion: The private sector perspective</i>                      Mr. Mohammed Saeed, ITC</p> <p><i>Support for AEO implementation, phytosanitary administrations and WTO accession</i>                      Geoff Wright, USAID Competitiveness, Trade, and Jobs in Central Asia</p> <p><i>GIZ activities and main opportunities and challenges for Trade Facilitation in Central Asia</i>                      Asel Uzagalieva, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</p> <p>Other partners</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b> on further work on a Trade Facilitation Strategy; principles of sustainable trade and elimination of non-tariff barriers</p>

