
Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

13th Session
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Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Establishment and functioning of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for
transport facilitation**

(Item 5.2 of the draft agenda)

1. National facilitation coordination mechanisms enable relevant government agencies to ensure effective coordination, and work with the industry to find solutions that overcome obstacles to the smooth movement of goods. This document reports on the progress achieved since the 12th session of the Working Group with respect to the establishment and functioning of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for trade and transport facilitation.
2. The UNESCAP secretariat has refined and published a comprehensive Study on National Coordination Mechanisms for Trade and Transport Facilitation in the UNESCAP Region.¹ The study provides an overview of regional and international developments of the facilitation coordination mechanisms and recommendations of some international organizations. It also makes specific recommendations on the establishment or strengthening of facilitation coordination mechanisms for the member countries of UNESCAP, including purpose, form and role, organization, membership, direction/accountability, staffing, meeting frequency, functions, work programme, financing and coordination with other national trade and transport facilitation coordination mechanisms.
3. Following the UNESCAP national workshop and advisory services on trade and transport facilitation and UNECE-UNESCAP national workshop and advisory services on the facilitation of interregional transport along the Euro-Asian transport links in Kyrgyzstan in May and December 2006 respectively, Kyrgyzstan has established the National Council on Trade and Transport Facilitation.
4. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister with support of a vice chairperson, Minister of Economic Development and Trade. The secretariat of the Council is in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Its members include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Customs Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, National Institute for Standards, Association of Freight Forwarders, Association of Carriers, Association of Entrepreneurs, Customs Brokers Association, International Business Council and other representatives of business sector.

¹ Study can be viewed/ downloaded from website <http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/PubsDetail.asp?IDNO=198>.

5. At present, the Council is coordinating a facilitation project on single window. The Council will have its first meeting shortly, and will discuss the programme of the Council.
6. Taking into account the importance of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms and the progress made in Kyrgyzstan, other participating countries may wish to report their measures or progress towards the establishment / strengthening / operation of national coordination mechanisms for trade and transport facilitation.
7. Participating countries may also wish to discuss the modalities of establishing a subregional and regional fora of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms to promote cooperation and experience sharing.