Trade Facilitation
Instruments & Organizations

Available tools for implementing TF strategies and measures &
Organizations involved in work related to TF
Guiding questions

What is the **use** of **instruments**?
What **instruments** do we have?

What are key TF **organizations**?
What is their **role** and **contribution** to TF?
...In the policy process, instruments:

- provide guidance and inform about best practices
- clarify implementation options and required steps
Use of instruments

.....Instruments can also be:

Driver of change, as countries commit to a certain behavior or practice

Tools to harmonize practices, objectives, and solutions across border
The Guide proposes four categories of instruments:

1. Conventions
2. Recommendations & standards
3. Guidelines & guides
4. Compilations, case studies & best practices
Conventions

- Legally binding on the contracting parties
- Ratification process involves highest political level
- Usually with a process for monitoring implementation
- Possibly also mechanism to address non-compliance

Ex: the UNECE TIR Convention
- Entered into force in 1978, has now 68 contracting parties
- Aim to facilitate international transit through simplified Customs transit procedures and an international guarantee system
- Five pillars: secure vehicles of containers, international guarantee, TIR carnet, mutual recognition of customs control, controlled access
Recommendations and Standards

- No-legal binding force
- Voluntary use
- Propose a given behavior and provide guidance on technical matters
- Developed in a transparent process that is open to governments and interested parties, such as trade associations.

Ex: the Rec. 33 on Single Window Implementation
- Developed by UNECE through its UN/CEFACT in 2004
- Provides guidance to governments and trade in planning and establishing a SW for international import, export, and transit related regulatory requirements
Guidelines and Guides

• No-legal binding force

• Often developed in conjunction with a binding instrument to support implementation on the country level

• Purpose is to provide information on technical matters to encourage countries or other parties to take appropriate action

• Ex: the UNNExT Guide for the Design of Aligned Trade Forms

• Published by UNESCAP/UNECE in 2011

• Provides practical guidance in designing forms that are aligned with international standards and best practice
Compilations, case studies, and best practices

- No-legal binding force
- Purpose is to share experiences and provide information to deepen the understanding of a particular matter in an applied context.

- Ex: the OECD AidforTrade Case Studies
- 48 case stories under the TF theme that OECD collected in 2011
- describe TF projects that can take several forms: (i) integrated TF programmes spanning strategy and investments, sometime with a regional focus; (ii) customs and logistics reform efforts; and (iii) corridor-focused programmes
## Implementation Guidance

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A number of inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and networks are involved in work related to TF.
Role of Organizations

- Develop and administer international conventions and agreements on this topic
- Develop relevant standards, recommendations, guidelines and other instruments
- Provide relevant technical assistance and capacity building to developing and transition economies
- Develop and administer international conventions and agreements on this topic
- Monitor implementation and application and provide a dispute settlement mechanisms
- Provide a forum for discussion of trade facilitation matters
**UNECE Work on TF**

### Policy Recommendations
- Rec.4 on Trade and Transport Facilitation Bodies
- Rec.18 on Facilitation Measures for International Trade Procedures
- Rec. 33, 34, 35 for establishing Single Windows (SWs)
- ……

### Standards
- UN Layout Key for documents simplification
- UNTDED and Codes for data harmonization
- UN/EDIFACT, CCL, XML messages for paperless trade

### Guides
- UNNExT Business Process Analysis Guide
- UNNExT Documents Alignment Guide
- UNNExT Data Harmonization Guide
- UNNExT SW Implementation Framework Guide
- UNECE & UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide

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**Capacity Building & Technical Assistance**
1. Introduction

2. Group Work – 20 minutes to discuss selected instruments

3. Plenary – Presentation of Group Results

- 1- Conventions: Present in depth 1 Convention that relate to cross border management in your countries (date of entry into force, parties, purpose, contribution to TF). Who developed it?

- 2- Standards and Recommendations: Identify Recs and standards for documents simplification and data harmonisation in your countries and explain why they are relevant? Who developed them?

- 3- Guidelines and Guides: Select 2 of the WCO Guidelines and explain their relevance to TF.

- 4- Case Studies: Select 2 case stories and explain what can be learned from them.
Thank you!

For more see: Instruments & Organisations
http://tfig.unece.org/instruments.html
http://tfig.unece.org/organizations.html

Link to: