

Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Conference 2025: Integrating Technologies for Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Collaborative Solutions for Sustainable Trade Facilitation: Strategies for a Coordinated and Greener Future

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Trade Facilitation

Trade Facilitation is the systematic rationalization of procedures, information flows, and documentation



UNCTAD

Mandate: The Bridgetown Covenant, October 2021, Art 127(c) "Continue to cooperate with member States in implementing the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA)"



Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL)

- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Technical assistance/cooperation
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ ICT Trade logistics

103 ASYCUDA COMMUNITY

38 LDCs / 24 LLDCs / 41 SIDS



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

-  Afghanistan
-  Albania
-  Bosnia and Herzegovina
-  Georgia
-  Gibraltar
-  Kazakhstan
-  Kosovo
(United Nations Administrative Region, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999))
-  Mongolia
-  Republic of Moldova (the)
-  Tajikistan
-  Turkmenistan

MIDDLE EAST

-  Iraq
-  Jordan
-  Lebanon
-  State of Palestine
-  Syrian Arab Republic (the)
-  Yemen

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

-  Anguilla
-  Antigua and Barbuda
-  Aruba
-  Barbados
-  Belize
-  Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
-  Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
-  Curaçao
-  Dominica
-  El Salvador
-  Grenada
-  Guyana
-  Haiti
-  Jamaica
-  Montserrat
-  Nicaragua
-  Puerto Rico
-  Saint Kitts and Nevis
-  Saint Lucia
-  Saint Pierre and Miquelon
-  Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
-  Suriname
-  Trinidad and Tobago
-  Turks and Caicos
-  Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

AFRICA

-  Angola
-  Benin
-  Burkina Faso
-  Burundi
-  Cabo Verde
-  Central African Republic (the)
-  Chad
-  Comoros (the)
-  Congo (the)
-  Côte d'Ivoire
-  Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)
-  Djibouti
-  Equatorial Guinea
-  Eritrea
-  Eswatini
-  Gabon
-  Gambia (the)
-  Guinea
-  Guinea-Bissau
-  Lesotho
-  Liberia
-  Libya
-  Madagascar
-  Malawi
-  Mali
-  Mauritania
-  Mozambique
-  Namibia
-  Niger (the)
-  Rwanda
-  Saint Helena
-  Sao Tome and Principe
-  Seychelles
-  Sierra Leone
-  Sudan (the)
-  Togo
-  Uganda
-  Zambia
-  Zimbabwe

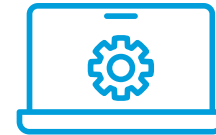
ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

-  Bangladesh
-  Cambodia
-  Cook Islands
-  Fiji
-  Kiribati
-  Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)
-  Maldives
-  Marshall Islands (the)
-  Micronesia (Federated States of)
-  Nauru
-  Nepal
-  New Caledonia
-  Niue
-  Palau
-  Papua New Guinea
-  Samoa
-  Solomon Islands
-  Sri Lanka
-  Timor-Leste
-  Tonga
-  Tuvalu
-  Vanuatu

➤ UNCTAD support over next two years



Implementation
support



Digitalization



Coordination

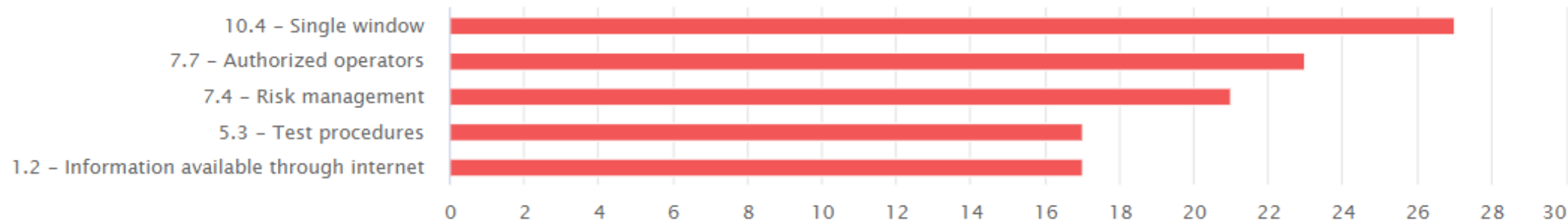


Climate-smart
trade facilitation

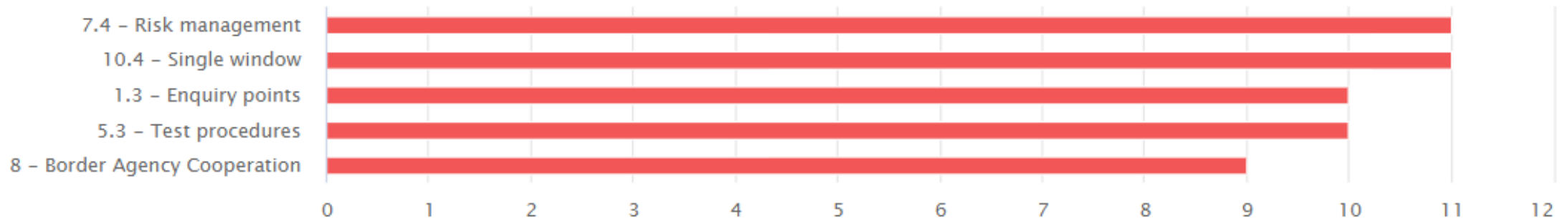
Implementation support



Top 5 measures due for implementation, 2024–2025 (number of members)



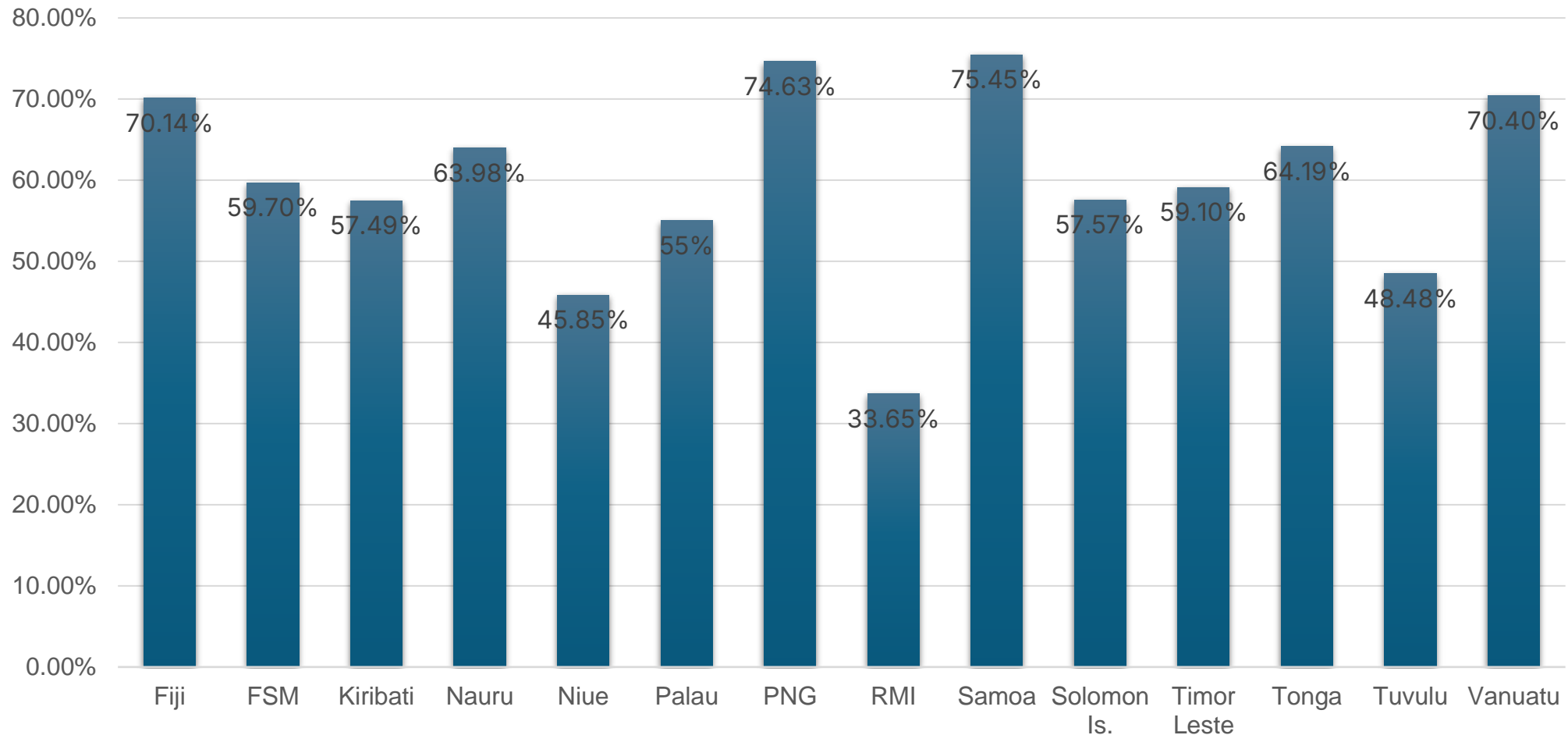
Top 5 measures due for implementation, 2026–2027 (number of members)



Implementation support



Pacific Trade Facilitation Rate



Implementation support



Gap Analysis Report – Pacific Island Countries Compliance with WTO TFA

State of Play for WTO TFA Articles – Legal Gaps

<p>Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information</p> <p>Progressing well. Only 1 country is non-compliant</p>	<p>Art 1.1 Publication</p> <p>93%</p>	<p>Art 1.2 Information Available Through Internet</p> <p>93%</p>	<p>Art 1.3 Enquiry Points</p> <p>87%</p>
<p>Article 2: Opportunity to Comment, Information Before Entry into Force and Consultations</p> <p>Lowest implementation. There is potential to progress further. 2 countries partially compliant and 3 countries non-compliant</p>	<p>Art 2.2 Consultations</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Article 3 Advance Rulings</p> <p>70%</p>	<p>Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review</p> <p>90%</p>
<p>Article 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency</p> <p>Progressing well. 1 country partially compliant and 1 country non-compliant</p>	<p>Art 5.2 Detention</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Art 5.3 Test Procedures</p> <p>87%</p>	
<p>Article 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties</p> <p>Progressing well. 1 country is non-compliant</p>	<p>Art 6.1 General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation</p> <p>93%</p>	<p>Art 6.3 Penalty Disciplines</p> <p>97%</p>	
<p>Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods</p> <p>Progressing well. 91% overall compliance.</p>	<p>Art 7.1 Pre-arrival Processing</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Art 7.3 Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes and Fees and Charges</p> <p>90%</p>	<p>Art 7.4 Risk Management</p> <p>93%</p>
		<p>Art 7.5 Post Clearance Audit</p> <p>90%</p>	<p>Art 7.7 Authorized Operators</p> <p>90%</p>
		<p>Art 7.8 Expedited Shipments</p> <p>93%</p>	
<p>Progressing well. 1 country partially compliant.</p>	<p>Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation</p> <p>97%</p>		
<p>Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit</p> <p>Progressing well. 1 country partially compliant.</p>	<p>Art 10.1 Formalities and Documentation Requirements</p> <p>97%</p>	<p>Art 10.4 Single Window</p> <p>97%</p>	<p>Art 10.6 Use of Customs Brokers</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>Progressing well. 5 countries have the potential to progress further</p>	<p>Article 12 Customs Cooperation</p> <p>80%</p>		

State of Play for WTO TFA Articles – Procedural Gaps

<p>Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information</p> <p>Progressing well with 60% towards full implementation</p>	<p>Art. 1.1 Publication</p> <p>29%</p>	<p>Art. 1.2 Information Available Through Internet</p> <p>71%</p>	<p>Art. 1.3 Enquiry Points</p> <p>81%</p>
<p>Article 2: Opportunity to Comment, Information Before Entry into Force and Consultations</p> <p>Progressing well towards full implementation</p>	<p>Art. 2.2 Consultations</p> <p>78%</p>	<p>Article 3 Advance Rulings</p> <p>49%</p>	
<p>Has potential to progress further</p>		<p>Article 4 Procedures for Appeal or Review</p> <p>81%</p>	
<p>Article 5: Other measures to enhance impartiality, non-discrimination and transparency</p> <p>Progressing well with 69% towards full implementation</p>	<p>Art. 5.2 Detention</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>Art. 5.3 Test Procedures</p> <p>39%</p>	
<p>Article 6: Disciplines on Fees and Charges imposed on or in connection with importation and exportation and penalties</p> <p>Progressing well with 91% towards full implementation</p>	<p>Art. 6.1 General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation</p> <p>89%</p>	<p>Art. 6.3 Penalty Disciplines</p> <p>92%</p>	
<p>Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods</p> <p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>Art. 7.1 Pre-arrival Processing</p> <p>80%</p>	<p>Art. 7.2 Electronic Payment</p> <p>59%</p>	<p>Art. 7.3 Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes and Fees and Charges</p> <p>82%</p>
		<p>Art. 7.4 Risk Management</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>Art. 7.5 Post Clearance Audit</p> <p>74%</p>
		<p>Art. 7.6 Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times</p> <p>19%</p>	<p>Art. 7.7 Authorized Operators</p> <p>14%</p>
		<p>Art. 7.8 Expedited Shipments</p> <p>47%</p>	<p>Art. 7.8 Perishable Goods</p> <p>70%</p>
<p>Progressing well towards full implementation</p>	<p>Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation</p> <p>88%</p>		
<p>Progressing well towards full implementation</p>	<p>Article 8 Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control</p> <p>88%</p>		
<p>Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit</p> <p>Progressing well with 75% towards full implementation</p>	<p>Art. 10.1 Formalities and Documentation Requirements</p> <p>91%</p>	<p>Art. 10.2 Acceptance of Copies</p> <p>93%</p>	<p>Art. 10.4 Single Window</p> <p>10%</p>
		<p>Art. 10.8 Use of Customs Brokers</p> <p>70%</p>	<p>Art. 10.8 Rejected Goods</p> <p>93%</p>
		<p>Art. 10.9 Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing</p> <p>94%</p>	
<p>Progressing well towards full implementation</p>	<p>Article 12 Customs Cooperation</p> <p>76%</p>		
<p>Partially implemented</p>	<p>Article 23.2 National Trade Facilitation Committee</p> <p>59%</p>		

➤ Coordination



NTFC support

- ▶ Strategy and Road map
- ▶ Monitoring – Reform Tracker
- ▶ Capacity building – Chair and secretariat

Border agency coordination

- ▶ Implementation support, incl. gender focus

Transit coordination

- ▶ Capacity building - regional

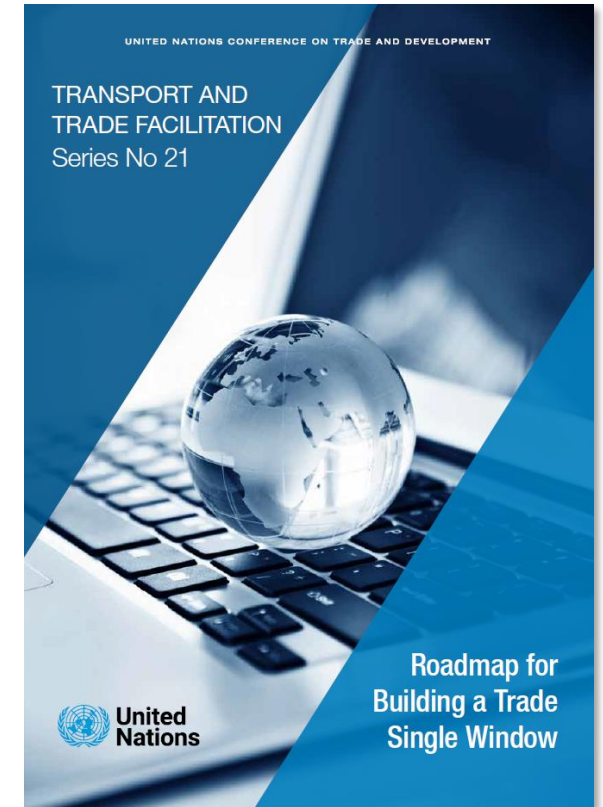
➤ Digitalization



- ▶ Customs and trade digitalization **ASYCUDA**
- ▶ Single Window
- ▶ Cross-border data exchange – e.g. SIGMAT
- ▶ Transparency
 - Trade Portal, Enquiry points
 - Business process and Simplification

➤ Technological Innovation

- ▶ **ASYCUDAWorld v4.4**
 - Dynamic selectivity: Use of **AI/machine learning** to enhance ASYCUDAWorld's risk management
 - Enhanced reporting of customs control results including new graphic interface
 - Automatic management of traders' risk profiles, enabling faster clearance of consignments for Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs)
- ▶ **New Computerized Transit System** for implementing the EU Common Transit Procedure
- ▶ **Single Window** implementation customized approach and guidelines: "Roadmap for Building a Trade Single Window"
- ▶ **ASYHUB** for smart logistics (increased efficiency, greener trade, reduced costs)
- ▶ **ASYREC** for humanitarian aid simplified customs clearance



➤ Innovation in Partnership

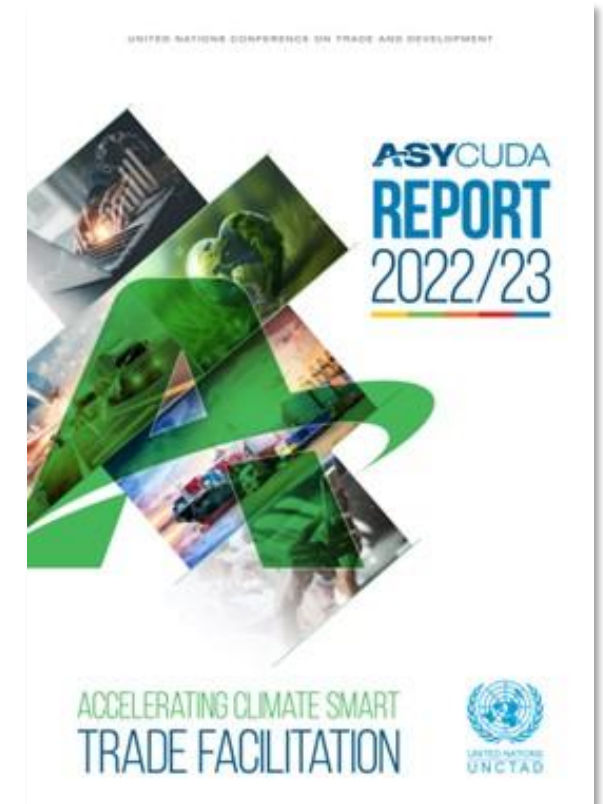
ASYCUDA Partnership Roles

- ▶ **Conceptual Partnership** (*Partners with which new concepts are created*)
 - Leverage ASYCUDA technologies to facilitate trade (from ASYCUDAWorld to Single Window)
 - Develop new concepts to digitalize previously manual trade processes (ASYREC, eCITES)
- ▶ **Implementing Partnership** (Pacific PRISE Programme, SIGMAT in ECOWAS)
 - ASYCUDA accountable for managing and executing projects incl. reaching strategic objectives identified with donors and beneficiaries
- ▶ **Research & Development Partnership**
 - Centre of Excellence at the University of Gibraltar (ASYREC proof of concept, participation in UN/CEFACT Recommendations)
 - ASYHUB with GiZ
- ▶ **Long-Term Partnership**
 - 40+ years of existence; user-countries own systems and data; sustained engagement through updating technologies and capacity building; connecting member States with trade agencies and organizations (WCO, WTO, UNECE, etc.)



➤ Innovation for Customs Reform

- ▶ Catalyst for Trade Facilitation and Customs Digitalization (Single Window)
- ▶ Developing and Facilitating e-Commerce (ASYHUB Post & Express)
- ▶ Supporting Green Transition & Resilient Trade (ASYCUDA Report 2022/23)
- ▶ Ensuring Compliance with Regional and International Regulations and Standards (MOUs with UNEP, UNOCHA, WCO and WTO)
- ▶ Ensuring Supply Chain Transparency Through Advanced Trade Data Analysis (ASYHUB Maritime with GIZ)



➤ Economic & Social Impact

Afghanistan

- ▶ 50,000+ trucks delivered humanitarian aid during 2023

Antigua and Barbuda

- ▶ Customs revenue increased 21% from Jan-Jun 23 to Jan-Jun 24

Gambia

- ▶ 23% increase in customs revenue from 2022 to 2023

Iraq

- ▶ 215% increase in customs revenue at Baghdad International Airport from Jan-Jun 23 to Jan-Jun 24

Moldova

- ▶ Exports validated in 15 minutes using ASYCUDA New Computerized Transit System

Palau

- ▶ 53% increase in customs revenue during Q1 2024 compared with Q1 2023

Timor-Leste

- ▶ 86% reduction in processing time for animal and plant permits in 2023

Vanuatu

- ▶ 400% increase in revenue collection since the implementation of Single Window in 2016

Zimbabwe

- ▶ 379% increase in fees collected by Port Health Authority since Single Window launch in 2023

Climate-smart trade facilitation



UNCTAD support over next two years

New findings from UNCTAD study show that simplifying and digitalizing international trade procedures can reduce CO² emission

Register with Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)

^ See details	Steps	Online	Entities	Requirements	Duration (days)	ABC	Fees
Initial	10	1	3	13	18.825	44,833.13	15,000
Current	5	4	3	3	8.7	6,957.01	15,000
Proposed	3	2	2	2	5.175	6,709.42	15,000

Before digitization, KEPHIS (Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service) estimated 133.3KgCO² of emissions



Following digitization, the estimate drops to 24.4KgCO² of emissions
81% of reduction

➤ Climate-smart trade facilitation



Paperless and
contactless customs
clearance

Improving clearance times
and costs to reduce
emissions

Green transport
and logistics

Enforcement of
environmental regulations



Green Customs Impact



Angola

ASYCUDA World
Simplified customs clearance
processes reduced from **30** to **7** steps



Aruba

ASYCUDA World
e-Payments saved printing
 376 000 ↓
documents in 2022



ECOWAS

SIGMAT reducing transit
paper usage by **88%** ↓



Sri Lanka

@**CITES** processed
 1 178
permits in 2022
Processing time reduced from
5 Days to **27** Hours



Timor-Leste

100% paperless for
vehicle import permits
=
5000 sheets of paper
from 2022 to 2023



Tonga

ASYCUDA World
Manifest module with data available
12 H before the arrival
of shipments

Just in Time methodology enables
 14% ↓ fuel and emissions
savings



Vanuatu

ASYCUDA World
Less physical trips reduced
carbon emissions **67%** ↓

ASY SPS
 99% ↓ Less
paper

ASYCUDA World saved
 15 000 KG CO2
emissions between 2015 and 2022

➤ Highlights



Main Projects

- ▶ **Afghanistan:** UNDP-UNCTAD Emergency Assistance to Support ASYCUDA Exemptions System in Afghanistan
- ▶ **Bangladesh:** ASYPM and ASYCUDAWorld support (Government)
- ▶ **Jordan:** ASYCUDAWorld AEO Module, ASYHUB Maritime & ASYHUB Express (Government)
- ▶ **Kazakhstan:** ASYCUDAWorld Technical Support (Government)
- ▶ **Nepal:** ASYCUDA Support Mechanism (Government)



Main Achievements

- ▶ **ASYREC:** Deployment in Vanuatu, and joint presentation with partners at Humanitarian Networks Partnerships Weeks 2024
- ▶ **Cambodia:** Pilots of Processing of Electronic Advance Data (EAD) through ASYHUB Postal and ASYHUB Express
- ▶ **Cambodia and Sri Lanka:** Pilots of Pre-Arrival Processing for Increased Efficiency Through ASYHUB Maritime
- ▶ **Fiji and Papua New Guinea:** Single Window Blueprint Handover to, and endorsement by Government
- ▶ **Iraq:** ASYCUDAWorld Operational in the nine Largest Customs Offices
- ▶ **Pacific Region:** ASYCUDAWorld Operational in 15 Pacific-SIDS
- ▶ **Papua New Guinea:** Feasibility Study for the Deployment of eCITES Electronic Permitting System
- ▶ **Turkmenistan:** Simultaneous launch of 22 PGAs in Single Window

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

