



LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION ROADMAP OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 2021-2025

Location: Online
Date: 15 June 2021
Time: 10:30 – 12:30 Geneva
14.30 – 16.30 Bishkek

Background

Since the ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in 2016, the Kyrgyz Republic is transitioning to an economy that embraces digitalization including in trade facilitation reforms. A number of inter-related national strategies and policies have been undertaken to progress in this direction. The Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoEF) and the National Trade Facilitation Council of the Kyrgyz Republic (NTFC) are spearheading these policy reforms with participation of the public and private sector stakeholders. Despite the strategies and measures taken so far, there are a number of challenges in order to advance trade facilitation and digitalization.

There has been a need to pull these reforms together in a single conceptual document that provides a common strategic vision for the country and that determines priority areas for action can help monitor and coordinate ongoing and potential measures on trade facilitation by the Government and the NTFC. To address this need, the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2025 has been developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and MoEF. The Roadmap serves as the guiding framework for comprehensive national trade facilitation reforms over a five-year period. This event launches the e-publication of the Roadmap in English and Russian.

The event also highlights the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UNECE and M. Ryskulbekov Kyrgyz Economic University under a grant to build the capacity of the Kyrgyz stakeholders on trade facilitation. These activities are implemented under the UNECE project “Strengthening the capacity of the Kyrgyz National Trade Facilitation Council to implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement”. The project aims at enhancing knowledge and technical capacities of policymakers and experts of the NTFC, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders of the Kyrgyz Republic to effectively implement trade facilitation policies and priority measures under Category C of the WTO TFA. It is also expected to contribute to the sustainable economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. The project is funded by the Russian Federation.

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk

Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Opening Session

- 10:30 – 10:50 (Geneva)** **Opening Remarks**
Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin
Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
Mr. Bekbolot Aliev
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
- 10:50 – 11:00** **Special Remarks**
Mr. Almaz Kadyraliev
Rector, M.Ryskulbekov Kyrgyz Economic University
Ms. Gulnara Uskenbaeva
Co-chairperson, National Trade Facilitation Council, the Kyrgyz Republic
- 11.00 - 11.20** **Presentation on the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap**
Mr. Salehin Khan
Project Manager, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
Mr. Aidarbek Samykbayev
Head of the Department of Customs Policy and Tariff Regulation,
Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

Trade Facilitation in Central Asia: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 11:20 –11:30** Ms. Dolores Halloran
Secretary, Trade Facilitation Committee, World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 11:30 – 11:40** Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo
United Nations Resident Coordinator
United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), Kyrgyz Republic
- 11:40 – 11:50** Mr. Mohammad Saeed
Senior Trade Facilitation Adviser, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- 11:50 – 12:00** Mr. Julian Fraga-Campos
Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD
- 12:00 – 12:10** Ms. Asel Uzagaliyeva
Head of component of the project, German Agency for International
Cooperation (GIZ), Project – Trade Facilitation in Central Asia
- 12:10 – 12:30** Questions and answers, and closing